

## Destiny 1501

### Chapter 1501 Awakened (Part 2)

Shin came out of the shower with a refreshed look on his face. It felt like ages since he had gotten a good bath, making him very satisfied, especially due to the foul stench that his body had released earlier. The expelled impurities, dried blood, and sweat were as unpleasant as they could be when mixed.

But right after he walked out of the shower, he was immediately greeted by the same stench, which made him grimace.

With a sigh, he walked toward his closet and took out a set of clothes to wear before walking out of the room. But he suddenly halted right after he opened the door as he found David leaning on the wall right beside the door, still asleep.

This lazy senior brother of his was no longer taking just a nap anymore but sleeping soundly for real.

Shin was about to ignore David and just leave the latter just like that. But he suddenly remembered something before an evil smile suddenly emerged from the expression that he was wearing.

With that, his leg suddenly shot out silently and flew straight to David's face, who was unaware of the incoming kick.

Swoosh!

But before the sneak attack could even reach its target, David, as if he was fully awake, swiftly leaned his head to the side and barely avoided the kick.

Shin's leg suddenly paused momentarily when he saw his senior brother's movements and forcefully changed the trajectory of the kick midair.

But David's innate reflexes still kicked in and responded accordingly. His somewhat falling body due to his previous unconscious actions suddenly paused and swiftly changed its movements once again.

Swoosh!

But Shin would not give up that easily as he changed the direction of his kick once again.

This series of 'exchanges' continued for quite a while as David needed to sway his body left and right to dodge everything.

With such an intense and continuous 'shaking,' David could not help but wake up.

He frowned deeply during his sleep, showing his displeasure. He then stopped dodging and raised his arm to block the incoming leg.

His eyes were slowly opening as he was planning to teach whoever this guy was messing with him a lesson. He had just fallen asleep since he just confirmed that 'Uno' had finished consolidating his newly found strength, so he felt that there was no need to guard the room anymore. That was why he had chosen to sleep instead while waiting for 'Uno' to come out of the room.

Of course, he also had the idea that the person, who was him waking up, could be Uno himself. David just did not expect that that prideful bastard would play a trick like this when he was sleeping.

"You, brat! Since when did you learn to play dirty tricks on people!"

Bang!

But David was taken aback when the leg of the opposing side connected to his arm.

He was expecting to get hit by an attack reinforced by a higher form of Sacred Qi or a Primal Demonic Energy, which was why he set up a small array around his arms to counter martial art skills empowered by such energies.

However, what greeted him was an attack reinforced by mental energy – and it was a Divinity Grade Mental Energy at that.

Moreover, the kick itself was not something ordinary either as it was a special Mentalism Technique with the application of Mentalism Runes in combat.

David's defense was not that weak, but due to him expecting something completely different, he was caught off guard by the kick, which sent him flying across the corridor.

Swoosh!

David skillfully twisted his body midair and swiftly flipped a couple of times to relieve the force that he just received from the previous attack before steadily landing on his feet.

There was a surprised expression on his face as he raised his head and stared at the other party. Those eyes and the air surrounding the opposing side were things that he was familiar with. "You-...!"

But before he could even say anything, Shin had already beaten him into it. "You haven't changed, Senior Brother. You still love to slack off whenever you have the chance."

"Eh!?" David could not help but swallow back the words that he wanted to say when he heard those words, particularly after hearing that familiar tone that he had almost forgotten.

That tone was filled with energy and brightness.

"You-..." he was still unable to complete his words as he looked at Shin a little for. He even shut his mouth tight when he noticed something strange from the current 'Shin' that was standing in front of him.

He was sure that this was still the Shin that he remembered – or more specifically, a combination of the young Shin that he remembered and the teenage Shin that he had met after a long time.

But at the same time, there was also something different mixed with those two – something new and odd. It felt like Shin's current temperament came from three different personas of himself, which excluded Uno.

What bothered David even more was the fact that even he was getting this deadly threat coming from Shin, which he usually got from Uno, but in a different way.

David could not put his finger on it, but it was at least on the same scale as Uno's in some sense.

"What exactly happened to you?" these were the only words that David could ask at the moment.

Shin slightly tilted his head to the side before saying. "I don't think it is important right now?"

David raised his brows confusedly before noticing Shin was pointing at the other rooms that had been turned into temporary cultivation caves just like Shin's room.

David immediately realized what Shin was trying to say. It was not about the people training inside those words, but the commotion that the Gathering Array had created, which was still going on outside.

Now that 'Uno' had finished stabilizing his realm and consolidated his newly improved strength, it was time to reduce the power of the Gathering Array.

David was left here not long to make sure that no one would bother Uno when he was done with everything, but he was also tasked with adjusting the array once the latter walked out of the room.

When David was about to do the task left to him, Shin suddenly stopped. "There is no need to worry, Senior Brother. Let them finish their training before deactivating the Gathering Array altogether."

"It is not like the situation will change instantly once the phenomenon outside stops. It is better to let them benefit from it for a little longer and finish their training," he added.

Shin had already looked inside those rooms earlier through his Spiritual Sense, which had become stronger after he was awakened earlier. He knew that Arthur, Cloe, Leonard, and Lorraine were in the middle of training inside those walls.

Moreover, the four of them seemed to be in the middle of a critical conjecture in their respective training.

Arthur seemed to have been enlightened by something and trying to grasp it with all his powers while Leonard was digesting more inherent knowledge from his bloodline and the legacy of the Thunder Lord.

On the other hand, Cloe was trying to increase her realm or at least try to awaken her unique force. It looked like she had finally discovered her innate attributes and grasped the unique properties of her martial arts.

Meanwhile, Lorraine was trying to stabilize the balance between her martial arts and mentalism as she was also a Dual Practitioner like Shin, albeit not a perfect one due to her lack of a special vessel.

Shin wanted them to break through their respective circumstances with the help of the Gathering Array.

David was struck dumb by Shin's sudden change, which threw him out of his thoughts, and almost made a mistake. This proved how shocked he was, particularly about that strange deadly feeling that he was getting from the latter.

"You are going to stay here until they finish, right? Then I will be going for a walk for now while letting the servants clean my room," said Shin in a nonchalant manner while leaving.

David wanted to stop the latter and asked for more, but he was unable to call Shin for some reason.

It was at this moment when Shin paused and looked over his shoulder. "One more thing, Senior Brother."

He hesitated for a moment before asking. "Is 'she' here?"

This time, David was truly shocked as he stared at Shin's back with wide eyes. He instantly understood what the latter meant when he heard the word 'she' from the question.

David did not straight up answer the question but asked in return. "Are you going to meet her?"

Shin turned silent as he had already gotten the answer after hearing those words. He lowered his head and contemplated something before saying. "I want to ask her a lot of things, but I don't know if I want to see her right now."

He then turned his head in front of him and resumed his steps while continuing. "For now, I want to apologize to this other family that I have."

His tone was filled with pain, sorrow, loneliness, and self-blame when he said those words.

David could only watch Shin walk away and disappear into the corridor in silence. He did not know how to comfort his junior brother, which somewhat hurt him to a certain extent.

He just hoped that Shin would not blame himself too much for what happened. He also did not want the latter to hate his parents for leaving him 'alone' for such a long time.

Being thrown into this mood, he could not help but lean his back on the nearby wall and look at the ceiling as he was reminded of the burden that he was carrying on his burden. "Who am I to worry when I have my problems to deal with."

He lowered his head with a bitter smile as his back slowly slid down along the wall until went back sitting on the floor once again.

"I feel a little tired," he rested his arms on his knees as he felt somewhat lonely due to the mood that he was in, which made his smile even bitter.

He would rather go back in the past and continue to live peacefully in that little house with his master and her family before it became a village, where the villagers were mostly remnants of the fallen Solomon Kingdom.

"Just why it has to be like this?"

Chapter 1502 Sorry

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Shin knocked on the door of Old Samuel's study. He heard from the servants of the house the old general was currently inside, so he wanted to talk to him first before the others.

"Enter."

Old Samuel had already sensed his presence earlier, but he was not sure if it was still Uno, who had been active for quite a while now, or Shin as the aura that he was releasing was quite different compared to the two.

Shin opened the door and carefully entered the study while Old Samuel observed him. The latter immediately noticed the clear difference between the aura surrounding the young man, which made him somewhat doubtful.

But his doubts immediately disappeared after hearing what Shin had said next.

"Grandfather," greeted Shin while bowing. His tone was filled with different emotions, which made the old general realize that it was without a doubt Shin.

But at the same time, he was still confused as the aura that Shin was currently emitting was completely different from what he remembered. There was also a hint of danger that even an old man like him felt rather dangerous.

This made him recall the time when Shin was under the Demonic Possession when he found him and Bernard during the previous incident, but it was also noticeably different at the same time.

It was closer to what Uno passively emitted just by standing in place.

Old Samuel was not sure whether this Shin in front of him was still the grandson that they had adopted and had grown up with them since he was rescued from the Black Serpent Mafia training camp.

Shin refused to raise his head until Old Samuel permitted him, and the latter also sensed it, so he raised his hand. "What's with the formality? Come here and talk to grandfather. I want to hear a lot from him."

It was only at that time that Shin steadied himself and walked over. He sat on the nearby sofa, which was right across Old Samuel before bowing his head once again. "Grandfather, I am sorry. Because of me..."

He was unable to finish his words when a strong force forcefully raised his body and let him lean back. "What's with the nonsense? It is not your fault. You are a victim as well. Don't blame yourself for this."

"But Uncle Bernard should be able to escape on his own after using his forbidden spell if not for me being there. I am just a burden that-..." Shin tried to apologize once again, but the old general quickly shut him up.

"Little Shin-... You should understand. Something like this is bound to happen sooner or later given our line of job. Maybe it is either me or Nathan next time," Old Samuel smiled at Shin as he continued. "Our job is dangerous. We are ready for something like this time to happen it just comes a little sooner than we have expected."

"But-..." Shin tried to say something more, but he was immediately cut off by the old general.

"Enough with this topic for now. Let's talk about yourself. I want to have a clear understanding of your situation first," said Old Samuel as the expression on his face became a little serious. "You have undergone quite a lot of changes. I can't even recognize you easily. Let grandfather hear what happened to you first."

Shin went silent for a moment before sighing. He could tell that Old Samuel was determined to avoid the topic for the time being and quite worried about him at the same time, so he had no choice but to comply.

"Where should I start?"

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It was already quite late at night when Shin finished talking with Old Samuel. The sky was already too dark but the phenomenon above the Springfield Household had yet to disperse as Old Samuel and Nathan wanted to use this for something.

He only heard it from the old general earlier, but it was a brief mention before the topic was back to himself once again.

But from what he could guess, they seemed to be plotting something to lure out some people from the dark. They also seemed to be targeting a particular group, after overhearing bits of information from the brief conversation between the two earlier.

Shin walked toward his room, which was now tidied by the servants. Given that the foul stench had already disappeared and been replaced by the familiar smell that was neither too strong nor too light for him.

He was about to enter when he noticed that one of the rooms was now empty and the supply of energy from the array had also been cut off.

Looking at it, he realized that it was the room where Arthur was supposed to be training. "Is he done already?"

It was at this moment that he saw David coming back from the other side of the corridor. Given that he was rubbing his belly in satisfaction, it seemed like he just came back after having a satisfying meal.

"Oh! You finally come back? I thought you were going to chat with the old man until tomorrow," greeted David after noticing Shin.

Shin ignored those words and pointed at the empty room. "Did Arthur finish his enlightenment? That is quite fast."

"Oh! Him? I can't say that it is fast since he has already been on the verge of breaking through that bottleneck for quite a while now," answered David before continuing. "He just happens to get stuck in it due to the imbalances resulting from the inheritances that he accidentally receives and their conflict with the purest bloodline of the Divine Golden Dragon that he possesses."

"But it seems like something happened to him recently, which leads to a complete enlightenment after having this opportunity."

"I heard that he has fortified his foundation and even created an enhanced version of Dragon Core after he reinforced it with both of his Imperial Flames and Divine Lightning," he added as he was trying to recall what he heard.

Shin fell silent after hearing that before asking. "Did he go back to his room?"

David started at Shin for a few moments before sighing. "I heard he went to the backyard where he usually trains these days. He is probably beating himself up with another training."

"I understand," Shin nodded as he closed the door of his room and turned around.

'Hey, lend me some of your memories with Arthur. Stop acting as if you are dead,' Shin communicated with Uno's consciousness inside his head as he headed out of the mansion.

[Heh! Not only does your overall temperament somewhat change. It seems like 'that' side of yours is slowly disappearing.] Replied Uno.

'I can't stay the same after everything that happened. It is the third time already... no, it should be the fourth, so this should be something you have expected, don't you think?' replied Shin. 'Enough with nonsense and share me some of your memories.'

[Tsk!]

Uno did not say anything more and just did as he was told.

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Not long after, Shin reached the spot according to 'his' memories.

He did not need to look for Arthur that long as he could instantly sense the latter through the enhanced Spiritual Sense that he currently possessed.

He enveloped his entire body with his mental energy to get rid of his smell and hide his body heat. On top of that, he also controlled his breathing while hiding his presence as much as possible.

He did not do this to sneak on Arthur. He just did not want to disturb the latter with his presence. If Arthur was in the middle of intense concentration during his training, and his sudden appearance disturbed his brother, then the consequence could be disastrous.

Even more so if Arthur suffered an unexpected reverse Qi flow if he happened to be training an advanced Martial Art Skill.

Shin quietened his steps as he headed toward the source of energy that he was sensing. It did not take him that long until he finally caught the familiar figure from afar.

Arthur was currently training his control over the multicolored flames and trying to wield with it golden lightning. He was sweating profusely as the concentration that was required to maintain their balance was still far from what he could handle.

He was pushing himself to the limits, which was putting quite a lot of burden on both his mind and body.

Shin absorbed quite a while before sighing. He could tell that Arthur was trying his best, but his mind was too distracted with a lot of things. His state of mind was also not ideal for this kind of training.

Arthur was wasting too much effort while getting little gains in return.

Shin could feel Arthur's guilt, self-blame, and helplessness. "This is not good."

Shin knew that he could not let this continue. 'Hey! How can you let him stray off the rail this much?'

[I am not going to babysit a weakling and an idiot like him. He is wasting his potential with such a lot of distractions. He is not worth my time.]

Shin sighed before walking out of the shadows after seeing Arthur pause his training.

"You call that training? How are you going to compete with me and Leo with that?" said Shin as he revealed himself.

Hearing those words, Arthur frowned deeply as he turned his head. After seeing who it was, he first thought that this 'Shin' was 'Uno', especially after sensing that dangerous feeling that he was getting from the other party.

He was about to tell the latter to get lost when he noticed something different. He swallowed his words back to his throat and observed the familiar person a little closer before realizing something.

His eyes turned wide while his mouth was left agape. Countless words were stuck in his throat, but nothing came out as his thoughts were suddenly thrown into a mess.

Shin chuckled after seeing Arthur recognize him. "I have only been away for a short while, but you already look like a mess."

"You bastard! You finally dare to come back!" shouted Arthur as he dashed at Shin while enveloping his fist with a multicolored flame.

Shin's face contorted a little when he saw Arthur charging at him very aggressively before chuckling. "I just came back, but you are already starting a sibling squabble?"

"What a real brother you are," Shin laughed as he welcomed the incoming attack with a punch of his own.

Bang!

The two dashed around the place, exchanging a series of blows without pause. They turned the entire place into a complete devastation and only stopped when they no longer had the energy to continue.

They lay on their back at the center of the destruction that they had created while staring at the sky. There were no stars to see, but the gathering and spiraling clouds that could be seen even in darkness were still something that they could watch.

"Fortunately, we are not in Auntie Jane's garden or else we will be dragged to do another extra job," said Shin as he tried to catch his breath.

"Big Sis is also not around to beat us up," added Arthur as he nodded his head.

After that, they burst into intense laughter that reverberated in the entire place. This lasted for quite a while until they stopped and fell into silence.

They quietly stared at the sky until Shin finally forced out the words that he had been meaning to say since the very beginning. "Arthur-... I am sorry."

Arthur did not immediately reply as he continued to stare at the sky in silence. This lasted for a couple of minutes until he sighed deeply.

Shin was about to say something more when Arthur suddenly opened his mouth. "Do you remember what Dad always said to us when he first sent us to a special operation that required us to participate as undercover agents?"

Shin shut his mouth and waited. He knew that Arthur was finally opening himself up, so he could not disturb him.

He knew from Uno's memory that Arthur had been bottling up since Bernard's death. The only way that this brother of his could do to suppress those surging emotions was to distract himself with intense training in repetition.

Arthur did not have the right person to share this pain or sorrow. He was too scared to open up with his elders, not even his mother. Neither for his big sister as he knew that she was most likely be carry the same pain.

He did not want to further burden them when they were suffering all the same.

There was Leonard, but this guy also had a problem of his own. He also needed to take care of Laura, who was still a very young girl.

The little girl was staying in the Springfield Household after the trio went to the Eastern Sea Region for their studies. After being away from each other, Laura naturally wanted to stick to his brother for as much as she could.

Even if she was being treated very well by the people in the household, Leonard was still different as he was the only family member that she had or knew.

Given the atmosphere surrounding the Springfield Household after Bernard's death, it was natural for Laura to notice that something was wrong, which was why she clung to Leonard for a sense of security.

This left Arthur with no one to talk with.

Shin, who had been with him since they were nine, was different from the others. He was his best friend, a brother, and a rival.

They shared too much to hide anything from each other.

Now that Shin was back, Arthur finally found someone, who could at least listen to him.

With this string of thoughts, Shin listened to Arthur's next words.

"He said that the soldier's greatest honor is to die in battle while holding their head high while protecting something important to them."

"Can I ask you? How are his final moments? Did he die honorably? Did he look heroically just like he always tells us how he would?"

Tears were already gathering at the corner of Arthur's eyes as he continued to ask. "Did he think of us before his death?"

Shin remained silent until Arthur finished all his questions before slightly nodding his head with teary eyes. "Yeah. He is quite the hero that he always envisioned. And..."

He trailed his words a little as he suppressed his tears. "...and he said that he was sorry."

Chapter 1503 Returning to the Game

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Shin and Arthur chatted for quite a while, although it was the latter who mostly did the talking while the other listened attentively.

Arthur poured out everything that was stuck inside his chest, which made him feel at ease. It was as if a huge rock had taken off from his shoulders and chest.

Not long after, the two felt that it was now time to go back. Arthur sat up as he said. "Let's go. It still has a few things that I need to do inside the game."

"Speaking of which, I heard that your character is in the middle of the ocean. How are you going back to such a place?" he added as he remembered what Alice had told them inside the game.

Hearing that, the corner of Shin's mouth suddenly twitched as he suddenly whipped his head to the side. "Say what?!"

Arthur shrugged his shoulders as he started narrating all the events that happened inside the game while Shin was away.

Shin did not have any issue with most of the parts that he had heard since most of them aligned with what he was planning to do anyway. The problem was Uno jumping off the airship and falling in the middle of an endless ocean.

"What is this nutjob thinking about?" cursed Shin as he was about to confront Uno.

But Arthur suddenly stopped him with his next words. "Another thing. You should talk to Cloe and Leo later. Especially Cloe since she has been dying to talk to you since the time you fell 'asleep'."

"You also should prepare for some scolding from the others later," he added as he stood up and offered his hand to Shin.

Shin sighed before taking Arthur's hand to stand. He then asked after recovering himself. "How is your progress in the Awakened Continent then? Is it as hard as what we have suspected?"

Arthur groaned as if an unpleasant memory flashed through his eyes. "It is much worse than that. Our calculations about the monsters are about right, but the mana density there is much worse."

"By worse, I mean it is so dense that it felt like we are stuck in the deep abyss of the ocean. Even a simple breeze is more than enough to cause serious damage to us if we are not careful."

Hearing that, Shin could not help but raise his brows as he looked at Arthur with full doubt. "Are you for real?"

Arthur shrugged his shoulders as he said. "I will not blame you if you don't believe what I just said, but it is the truth. Everything in that place is out of the world."

"You will feel like drowning just by standing in that place. We almost collapsed when we first arrived in that place. Fortunately, some places inside the city help people like us who are still not used to such a place filled with the densest mana."

"We are still trying to get used to the mana density of that place before heading out. Trying to hunt in such a condition is no different from committing suicide."

Shin slightly knitted his brow as he asked. "So, you guys are doing nothing but training within the city that you are in?"

"Yeah. But the good thing about this is we are the pioneers of the continent, so we are given the privilege to have more advantages among the others," nodded Arthur before continuing. "The training grounds that are prepared for us are perfect for each of our classes."

"The set of training equipment and series of training tasks that are prepared for us to complete are also making us adapt to the place quickly. It will not take that long before we get used to that place."

Shin nodded before asking. "Which city are you guys in? It is a starting city meant for 'beginners' or something like that?"

Arthur paused as he was trying to recall which city was in before saying. "I think there is not such a city in the Awakened Continent. We are dropped by the airship on the capital of the Divine Empire, which was at the center of the continent."

"It is the Divinity City, which is an Imperial Rank City," he paused as he showed his amazement when he first saw the massive city that seemed to be as large as ten to fifteen Capital Rank City altogether.

Arthur described how amazing and advanced an Imperial Rank City looked while also sharing his brief experience when strolling on its streets.

The more Shin listened, the more he found this city interesting, especially when he heard that the city had a lot of advanced facilities and places that could not be found in the Aurora Continent.

"I'm sure Big Sis will like that place," commented Shin.

"Tsk! She will treat it as a paradise without a doubt since the place is filled with opportunities that can give her profits," nodded Arthur as he agreed.

'Just where have you brought my avatar when you are playing the game?' asked Shin in his mind, communicating with Uno.

[My priority right now is different from them. You will like that place more than that fancy city.]

As Shin and Arthur continued to chat while walking back to the mansion, Old Samuel was watching them through his Divine Sense.

The old general smiled as he saw that Arthur had finally become somewhat bright once again. Even if there was still this gloominess surrounding him, it was no longer corrupting Arthur's mind but instead became his dedication and encouragement to continue walking toward his goal.

Old Samuel could not thank Shin enough for being a brother to his grandson.

Leaning his back on his chair, the old general looked outside his window and looked at the sky. "It seems like our family is fated to be sworn brothers with yours."

Old Samuel went through the memory lane as he recalled his younger days along with the earlier years of his sons and their friends.

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When Shin reached his room once again, he found that the other three rooms were still in the same state. "It seems like they are still not done."

He then turned his head toward another direction and sighed. David was still napping right beside the door of his room.

Shin was planning to ignore him when David opened his mouth all of a sudden. "Are you not planning to see your mother? She is worried about you and misses you so much."

Shin paused his steps and thought for a moment before sighing. "Maybe not now. I still need some time to..."

He did not complete his words as he entered his room and closed the door behind him.

David was silent for a moment before leaning his head on the wall behind him and staring at the ceiling.  
"What are we going to do now, master?"

Not long after, a voice suddenly sounded inside his head. "Hmph! I will beat his father later for making my baby mad at me! He is the cause of all of this!"

David could not help but smile when he heard those words before adding. "It doesn't look like he hates you yet, master. He just needs to organize himself before facing you."

"At least, that is how his face is telling me," he added.

"Hmph! I will still beat that useless husband of mine regardless!"

...

Inside the room, Shin did not hear the conversation between the two as David was using a mini-silencing array to isolate his voice and prevent others from hearing him.

Shin walked toward the center of his room and found an empty space before sitting on the floor with his legs crossed. He regulated his breathing before entering a meditative state.

He was planning to do a short meditation for now and looked at his \*Mind Realm since it had been a while since he had seen it. He also wanted to stabilize his current realm now that he had awakened another innate attribute after digesting the inheritance that he had gotten from the previous incident.

(A part of his Sea of Consciousness where his Niwan Palace/ Spirit Pagoda was located.)

He was planning to increase his realm a little. He had already met the conditions to promote a stage higher in his current realm.

But before he could even start, Uno's voice suddenly sounded inside his head. [Are you planning to increase your minor realm?]

"Why bother asking when you already know the answer?" said Shin as he frowned. It was rare for Uno to bother him like this, so there must be a reason why he was trying to him. "What do you want?"

[I suggest delaying it a little longer. At least until you see what I have prepared for you inside that game.]

"Heh! Have you become so addicted to it that you want me to play now rather than train?" sneered Shin as he recalled something. "I remember you telling me to get stronger as soon as possible from our most recent 'encounter' inside the game."

Uno did not bother to explain as he urged Shin to enter the game as soon as possible. [You will know why once you enter. You will also proceed faster and further once you receive my gift.]

"A gift? That's very unlike you," exclaimed Shin as he could not believe what he just heard. He then squinted his eyes as he 'looked' at Uno suspiciously. "Tell me honestly, what happened when I was gone for you to change this much?"

[F\*ck off!]

Shin chuckled as he found something interesting. He then exited his meditation and headed to his gaming cabin.

He fully trusted Uno, so he did not need to ask any more questions.

Uno always meant good for him, so Shin wanted to see what this 'gift' this guy was talking about.

"It has been a while since I have gotten online. I wonder about the current events."

Chapter 1504 Blood Pilgrim Equipment Set

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Whoosh!

Right after Shin logged in to the game, he immediately found himself in the depths of an ocean. He did not dare to dillydally as he quickly searched for an Underwater Breathing Fill inside his inventory before swallowing it before the invulnerability duration of newly logged-in players ran out.

After making sure that he was safe from any kind of sea creature that might attack him, he suddenly cursed at Uno. "Where in the world have you brought my avatar?"

Uno did not respond as he was too lazy to explain.

Shin frowned deeply before opening the system log to see the recent events that this 'character' had done. His frown grew deeper as he read more of the string of notifications recorded in the logs.

"You have done quite a lot, don't you think?" said Shin as he shook his head.

He then turned his head around, scanning everything. It did not take long for him to notice the underwater temple in the distance.

Raising his brows, he could not help but mumbled. "The Forgotten Sea? And a temple of a forgotten god?"

"Is this the place that Blacksmith Berlin is talking about?" asked Shin as he found this place interesting.

Uno still did not respond, making Shin smile bitterly and shake his head repeatedly.

"From what the old dwarf has told me, I will find something that will complement my 'Solar Breathing Technique'. I guess it is another breathing technique," mumbled Shin as he finally understood why Uno wanted him to delay promoting his realm and enter the game first.

"A gift, huh?" Shin chuckled as if he was teasing Uno before swimming towards the temple.

But when he extended his arms, he suddenly noticed something else. He finally noticed that the equipment that he was wearing was completely different from what he remembered. "Eh!?"

He looked at his entire body and realized that he was indeed wearing a different equipment set altogether.

"Yoh~! You have commissioned someone to craft you a full set of equipment? On top of that, it is even a set with a rank that is not known to the public! Based on the stats and effects, it is most likely in the middle of Peak of Black Mithril Rank and Obsidian Rank."

"It is a growth type equipment as well, so its potential is most likely to be at Meteor Rank to Stellar Rank at the very least," commented Shin before asking. "I wonder how much of my money you have spent on this one."

[Heh! I have earned it myself. You can ask your Elementals for the details.] Uno finally responded to Shin.

Shin smirked before asking Hanzo and Solus what happened when he was 'gone'. What he heard next had somewhat shocked him.

Forget about the battles that Uno had when through since Shin had full confidence in Uno. He knew that Uno would win against anyone as long as the gap in strength was not overwhelmingly large such as a battle between a Core Formation Stage Expert and a Domain Realm Master.

What surprised Shin was Uno robbing a safe of a noble NPC, which was filled with countless pieces of gold and a variety of treasures. Among the treasures, were the blueprints of the equipment that he was now wearing. There were also quite a lot of other blueprints for other things like advanced facilities for a city or a guild-related facility like Master Rank Stables, Training Grounds, and others.

"Is this the real gift that you have prepared for me?" asked Shin as he grinned widely.

[How about looking for more clues about the 'True Phantom Skill' that you have?] said Uno in return.

"Huh?" Shin paused for a moment before finally realizing what Uno was planning to do. "You-...! Do you think it will work?"

[We will never know until we try. Just look for more clues about the materials first, then we will get our answer later.] answered Uno before adding. [And don't touch my things.]

The corner of Shin's mouth twitched when he heard that before saying. "Since when you have become petty? I am just joking about you using my money. You can use it all you want – we are the same after all."

[No one wants your money.] scoffed Uno before going back in silence.

Shin shrugged his shoulders before looking at the effects of the equipment set that he was wearing.

He ignored the design altogether as he was more interested in the effects that made Uno want this set. His interest was immediately piqued when he saw that it was a unique equipment set designed by a mad blacksmith from the Ancient Era.

It did not have any active effects like the other equipment as it only had a bunch of passive skills that reinforced the physical capabilities of the wearer, particularly their strength and agility.

All the effects were passive boosts targeting the pinnacle of speed and destructive power.

"No wonder Arthur said that your attack speed and mobility were so fast that it is out of this world on top of a crazy raw power – you have equipped yourself with such a set," commented Shin as he skimmed through the effects of each piece of the equipment set.

What made him interested was the set effect, which somewhat surpassed his [Apocalypse Set] to a certain degree.

Moreover, the background of the set itself was also quite intriguing.

---

[Set Name]: Blood Pilgrim Equipment Set

[Rank]: Ancient Rank

[Level and Type]: 155 – Growth Type

Historical Note:

A set of armor designed by a famous blacksmith during ancient times named Andre of the Land of Stars.

He was also known as the 'Star Forger' as all the equipment that he forged and crafted was at least at Stellar Rank. Even those that he treated as a failure were at Meteor Rank at worst.

But despite his fame and skills, he was unable to reach the pinnacle of the art of blacksmithing due to his unique condition.

He was unable to communicate with nature and the metals and ores he was using. For a blacksmith, this skill was one of their unique abilities that separated them from the rest.

This also granted them a special ability to 'grant' life to whatever they crafted.

And those who harnessed this ability to the fullest were able to reach another realm that all blacksmiths could dream of at that time – the realm of Soul Forging, the Divine Rank.

Mocked and ridiculed by others who are above him, Andre of the Land of Stars designed a set that could give anyone the ability to slay even the gods.

He was successful, but he was unable to forge the set with his own hands.

When those Divine Blacksmiths learned about this, they were unable to accept the fact that someone without the ability to Soul Forge could potentially rival them.

Moreover, the said equipment set was so powerful that it could surpass all the masterpieces that the Divine Blacksmiths of that time.

Not willing to accept their inferiority, they had accused Andre of turning mad, who used the lives of innocent people as the main material for all the weapons and equipment that he had crafted.

They say that it was the reason why everything that he had forged and crafted far surpassed other blacksmiths of the same rank despite not having the ability to communicate with the ores of metals.

He was then executed for the crimes that he did not commit.

As for the last blueprint that he had designed before his death, it was highly coveted by everyone due to its abilities.

But it became 'cursed' as some of its contents disappeared, making it incomplete.

Later, this unnamed blueprint was called the 'Blood Pilgrim' due to the 'mad' blacksmith that designed it.

---

"What an interesting background," commented Shin before 'turning' to Uno. "And you are planning to bathe the set with the blood of those you killed to awaken its full potential?"

[It is a complete blueprint through and through. Those idiots mentioned on the note are unable to fully awaken it because they are following the orthodox way of blacksmithing.] responded Uno.

[It can be just a setup of the system to give an interesting, but it can also be a clue.] he added.  
[Regardless, we will know in the future once it comes.]

Shin lowered his head and looked at the back of his left hand, starting at the 'Mark of the Evil God' tattooed on it.

Just like when the 'Mark of Eclipse' lost its luster and abilities when Uno took over the main vessel, this mark was also unable to show its powers and became an ordinary tattoo.

"I am guessing that you are also planning to use the abilities of this mark for it, don't you?" asked Shin with a smirk.

But Uno did not respond to him.

Shin shrugged his shoulders before proceeding to the other details of the set.

-----

[Stats]:

Base Damage:

Physical Attack: 25,245 to 30,123

Magical Attack: 20,552 to 25, 235

Base Armor:

Physical Defense: 30,200 to 50,200

Magic Resistance: 50,500 to 50,000

+500% to all stats

+250% AGI and STR

+150% Attack Speed

+150% Elemental and Magical Defense

+100% Physical Defense

+100% Mana Sensitivity and Affinity

+200% Movement Speed

[Set Effect]:

2 Pieces – Enhanced Sensitivity (Passive): Reflex +100

4 Pieces – Lethal Arts (Passive): Hitting a target at their vital parts caused more damage – (+1000% Critical Strike upon hitting the said vitals)

6 Pieces – Blood Baptism (Passive and Active):

Passive: Upon killing an enemy, a special energy gauge would slowly fill up which boosted the stats of the wearer.

Active 1: Consume some of the Blood Energy Gauge to reinforce each strike of the wearer with Blood Elemental Mana.

Active 2: Consume the entire energy gauge to unleash a powerful attack that would deal True Chaos Damage to anyone who got hit by it. (This attack ignored all kinds of dense unless it was at the Rank of Forbidden Spell, Divine Protection, or similar level of defensive skills and spells.)

8 Pieces: Blood Pilgrimage (Passive): This set grew along with its wearer by consuming the blood of those who had fallen to [Scarlett Slasher (Right-Hand Sword)] and [Crimson Slayer (Left-Hand Sword)].

10 Pieces: Descent of the Blood Pilgrim (Berserk Skill): Enter a Berserk State where all the senses and stats of the wearer are enhanced threefold.

Increase movement speed by 200% and attack speed by 150%.

Note: This Berserk Skill could be used alongside other Berserk Skills.

---

The corner of Shin's mouth twitched repeatedly as he read through everything. "Hey! Isn't this a little too broken? What's with those absurd stats?"

"It can even grow as well," he added as he felt like he understood how much of a monster could be with this equipment set. "This set can indeed slay gods once it reaches its peak potential."

Then his thoughts halted for another time when he recalled that Uno was trying to 'awaken' a hidden feature of this set as well. "Maybe I should start gathering the materials for my Divine Armor so that I will not lag too much behind."

Chapter 1505 A 'Warm' Welcome

.....

After complaining about how broken Uno's equipment set, Shin continued swimming toward the temple in the distance.

While doing so, he also swapped his equipment with the [Apocalypse Set] and weapon with the [Yamato]. The same goes for the bloody cloak and the ghost demon mask as they were swapped with the [Death's Shadow] and the [Nephilim's Gemini Mask] respectively.

Even if the [Blood Pilgrim Set] was quite powerful better than his [Apocalypse Set] to a certain degree, he was more familiar with his current set and he liked his style with this more, especially when his Myriad Transformation Swordsman ship worked quite well with this set.

Moreover, the multiple buffs and boosts that the [Blood Pilgrim Set] were too much for him to handle when they reached their full stacks. Even if they gave the wearer more power, such power was too much for most of the people to handle.

Controlling the insane speed while also making sure that they would not lose their balance when swinging their weapons with such powerful strength along with unstoppable momentum.

In Shin's opinion, Uno was the only one who could handle such a burden to the mind and body while not suffering from it. He could take advantage of the full stacks of his buffs without encountering any drawbacks.

As Shin swam toward the temple, he felt an unknown power wash over his entire body as if it were scanning his entire being. He did not feel any resistance from the barrier as he went past it nor any ill intent from this foreign power, so he let it scan his body as he continued to swim toward the temple.

But the more he swam, the more confused he became. It felt like he was swimming in the abyss with nowhere to go.

That underwater temple that he was seeing in the distance remained distant despite how much he swam toward it. It felt like the distance was never decreasing.

It was either it was too far despite seeing from his stance or he might remain in the same position all this time.

There was also a possibility that the temple was just a mere illusion, which was also moving alongside him. But he suspected that it was most likely the second case since he felt he remained stationary despite swimming with his strength.

Tilting his head to the side, Shin felt that he was up for a test. It was a trial that was meant to test whether he was worthy or not to set foot on that temple.

Thinking about this, Shin suddenly stopped before calming his mind. He then closed his eyes to empty his mind before heightening his senses to feel his surroundings much clearer.

He was trying to enter the state of being one with nature, trying to 'merge' with the sea so that he could see the 'paths' that were invisible to his eyes.

As he communicated with his surroundings, his consciousness blended with it until he felt like he became the sea itself.

Seeing this, Uno, who was silent up until now, raised his brows. [Hoh~! You have learned quite a trick.]

Shin ignored the voice inside his head as he put all his attention on sensing the surroundings, particularly reading the flow of water.

It did not take that long until Shin noticed a strange movement of mana in the water. It was different from the usual mana and water flow as this mana was moving in circles as if it was forming a twister.

Shin observed this flow of mana for quite a while and noticed that this spinning flow of mana was heading deep into the ocean even if he was already at its deepest point as the seabed was right under him.

But from what he could 'see' through his senses, this spinning flow penetrated the seabed itself and headed toward a deeper part of the ocean.

Slightly frowning his brows, Shin swam toward it before letting himself get dragged by the spinning flow.

He did not open his eyes as he tried to observe a little more with his other senses. But doing that made him nauseous due to the spinning current that was gradually getting stronger as time went by.

Along with his heightened senses, which made him feel his surroundings much clearer, the nausea that was assaulting him became much worse.

Helpless, he could only release his state and let the spinning current drag him wherever it wanted.

After what felt like a year if not months, the water current finally lost its momentum and gradually slowed down.

Not long after, the sensation that Shin was feeling suddenly changed. From being inside the water and being swept by the current, he felt that he was thrown into the air – falling from a high place more specifically.

Shin's eyes immediately opened as he swiftly adjusted himself in the air and looked at his surroundings.

Right after he turned around, he discovered that he was now right above the underwater temple that he had just seen from the distance earlier.

He was falling straight into its center, where a huge emblem that resembled a drop of water was located.

Upon closer inspection, he saw that this emblem was filled with strange markings that came from the ancient era. He felt that it was somewhat familiar, but he could not remember where exactly he saw those markings.

After recovering himself from the brief distraction, Shin quickly summoned his wings to hover in the air and observe the surroundings.

But he quickly frowned as he realized that he could not fly in this place despite having his amazing wings.

He continued to fall toward the temple with a gradually increasing momentum. It was as if the gravity within this place was constantly getting stronger as he approached the ground.

He kept his wings before assuming a sword-drawing stance in the air. He was planning to send a powerful attack toward the ground to lessen his momentum so that he could land much easier and safer.

But before he could even accumulate enough energy for his move, Uno's voice suddenly rang inside his head. [If I were you, then I would not try such a foolish move.]

Shin slightly frowned as he heard those words before his senses picked up something strange. He felt that someone had locked onto him, watching every move he would be making.

It was as if he would be killed the instant he dared to defile the temple.

"Tsk!" clicking his tongue, he quickly dispersed the accumulated energy and took off his hand away from the hilt of his sword.

He then stared at the ground closely while calculating his distance away from it along with the speed of his descent.

When he felt that it was finally the right moment, he quickly kicked the air behind him to change his direction.

'Legacy Skill: Mondi's Jump'

He did this multiple times to weaken his momentum as he approached the ground. When he felt that it was enough, he leaped toward the air inside continuing to the ground.

This killed the residual momentum that he had, making it easier for him to land in a very steady manner.

Coincidentally, he landed at the exact center of the huge engraving of a waterdrop on the floor. Then, right after his feet came in contact with it, a string of notifications immediately rang in his ears.

\*Ding\*

System: All conditions have been met! The first challenger has been detected!

\*Ding\*

System: The player has been identified as a Transcendent Being! Adjusting the difficulty of the trial accordingly.

System: The player has been detected to be contracted with multiple Elemental Spirits.

System: Identifying the Elemental Spirits' Potential.

\*Ding\*

System: All Elemental Spirits have been recognized as special rank!

System: All Elemental Spirits are either at Supreme Elemental or Elemental Monarch Ranks – the Player is recognized as 'Master of Elementals'! Adjusting the trial difficulty accordingly.

\*Ding\*

System: The trial is sent to the highest difficulty – Chaos.

\*Ding\*

System: The player is now unable to use any external help aside from weapons, equipment, and other items you wear yourself.

...

Right after the last notification rang in his ears, all his elemental spirits disappeared and were sent back to his Reaper's Realm, where their respective rebirthing place was.

But before he could even complain about it, another string of notifications followed the previous ones.

\*Ding\*

System: Analyzing the most ideal trial for the challenger.

\*Ding\*

System: The player is recognized as a 'Master of Elementals' – the trials will be presented accordingly.

System: The player is asked to choose which trial he wants to take first.

System: Please consider your choice as the next trials will become harder as you pass the previous one.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Three choices were presented in front of him.

Trial of the Primordial Waters, Trial of the Transcendent Beings, and Trial of the Forgotten God.

Shin paused as he looked at the choices, and he got a bad feeling about this just by reading their names.

At first, he felt a sudden déjà vu when he heard the notification. He immediately shook his head as he listened to the system more. "This quite a greeting, don't you think?"

"I just came back and wanted to relax a little. But it looks like I am thrown into another pit of despair and hardship right after returning," he complained as he stared at the three choices presented before.

Chapter 1506 Trial of Primordial Waters (Part 1)

.....

Shin stared at the three choices for a while and started considering which he should be picking first seriously. Based on their names alone, he could already guess that each of them was quite challenging.

If he could rank them based on their names alone, then the easiest one would without a doubt be the first one – the Trial of Primordial Water. This name alone was already informing him that this must be the 'thing' that Blacksmith Berlin had mentioned before.

He suspected that this must be the one that would 'teach' him about the breathing technique.

If not for the additional information the system had given him about the next quest that he would be taking after the first one would become harder, then he would most likely chosen this trial to complete his breathing technique and further strengthen his already perfected Four Symbol Scripture.

He could also start awakening his fifth and final innate attribute in the real world with its help, which would also let him create his 'Spiritual Force' immediately after.

Even if he did not particularly need it since his Divinity Grade Mental Energy was already on par with most of the Spiritual Force, forming one would further strengthen his power.

A Spiritual Force that was formed from a Divinity Grade Mental Energy would surpass most forms of Natural Force and Spiritual Force.

David could do it too, but he had to wait until his body could fully unleash his Divinity Grade Mental Energy. After all, such a power could put a lot of burden on one's body.

Shin just happened to be in a special case due to his special bloodline, which came from his mother. This bloodline created by Evangeline possessed mysterious abilities that let Shin wield the Divinity Grade Mental Energy, albeit somewhat weakened, in the early realm along with an inexhaustible willpower that was very powerful.

Setting that aside, Shin turned to the other two choices that he had – the Trail of the Transcendent Being and the Trail of Forgotten God.

These two gave Shin an ominous feeling, particularly the latter since he knew that anything that had a connection with the gods of this game would always be trouble.

He could already guess that this trail was connected to the owner of this temple with the clues that he currently had.

This quest was without a doubt the hardest among the three, which would become a horror if he saved it for the last.

Shin ignored the second trial since he already decided to take it for the last. It was most likely related to his race, and probably also with his class, which he was already familiar with. It would not surprise him much if he encountered another situation like when he was doing his recent promotion quest.

Shin was having a hard time choosing between the Trials of Primordial Water and Forgotten God.

Fortunately, the system was not pressing him to choose immediately. It did not have any timer, so he could at least take his time for as long as he wanted.

After contemplating about it for quite a while, Shin finally decided to still choose the Trail of Primordial Waters.

Once he was done with this one, he would try his best to master the breathing technique as soon as possible to complete his unique breathing technique that would complement his Four Symbol Scripture and Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship.

This would make him a lot stronger along with the perfected mentalism and swordsmanship.

His overall strength would far surpass his current self since his flaws would now be fully covered while his techniques would have the fewest number of weaknesses possible.

As for the Trial of Forgotten God, Shin somewhat had an idea of what kind of rewards he would get from it given the experiences that he had from this game.

Thinking along this line, Shin suddenly remembered something. "Eh!? Now that I think about it, It seems like I have almost forgotten about the dragon egg in the Reaper's Realm."

"If I have calculated it correctly, it should be about time for it to hatch," he mumbled to himself before turning to Uno. "Hey. Have you checked it?"

Unfortunately, Uno ignored him completely.

Shin could only click his tongue and shook his head repeatedly before turning his attention back to the system panel in front of him.

After a brief pause, he raised his finger and pressed on the Trail of the Primordial Waters.

\*Ding\*

System: Trial of the Primordial Waters has been chosen.

\*Ding\*

System: Sending the player to a special dungeon for the trial setting.

System: Chosen setting – Ancient Battlefield: Deep Sea Island!

...

The corner of Shin's mouth could not help but twitch when he heard the final notification. "An ancient battlefield?"

He was quite familiar with these words as he had heard them from the system on multiple occasions already and he had been in these Ancient Battlefields in the process.

Whenever he was sent in one, a battle was waiting for him.

Swoosh!

As he clicked his tongue, his avatar suddenly disappeared out of the underwater temple and was sent to another dimension.

When he opened his eyes once again, he found himself standing in the middle of a huge stadium, where a lot of people stood.

He looked left and right and noticed that everyone was either a humanoid sea creature or a sea monster.

He could see Ocean Nagas, Mermaids and Mermen, Murlocs, and other sea creatures that seemed to be a hybrid of a human and a sea monster.

As he observed a little more, he realized that all these 'people' were carrying their respective weapons, seemingly preparing for a battle.

He could even find a few 'people' donned with a full set of armor, which gave them an intimidating presence.

There were also those individuals who were suppressing their powers to avoid any unnecessary attention from other creatures.

Shin could even pick up a few individuals with overwhelming power. Most of them did not bother to hide their domineering auras as they were too confident in their strength.

It would not take a genius to realize what was happening. He was sent to a battle arena where a tournament was about to take place.

Shin continued to look around and observed the place where he was. From what he could see, the entire stadium was a gigantic platform deep in the ocean.

There was a transparent barrier enclosing the entire place from the water on the other side. He could even see the fishes and other sea creatures swimming right outside of the barrier and circling it.

This was when Shin realized that those sea creatures inside the barrier and 'standing' on the gigantic platform were able to move 'outside' the water with ease. Even the Mermaids and Mermen were able to 'swim' in the air as if they were in deep water itself.

As he was observing everyone, he suddenly felt an odd feeling coming from his back. Then, seemingly responding to his thoughts, the odd sensation intensified along with some movements.

When he turned around, his body responded and moved. The odd sensation continued as he spun around for quite a while as he was 'chasing' something.

He literally became a dog chasing after its tail.

Shin realized that he had grown a reptilian tail with a sharp fin running right above it. It was then he turned his head down and looked over his body.

He realized that he had become a sea creature that seemed to belong to the sub-category of Ocean Nagas.

Or is it the sub-category?

As Shin was trying to adjust to this new body of his, a thunderous sound reverberated in the place. There was even a brief earthquake due to it, making the gathered creatures raise their head toward the source of the sound.

Shin also raised his head and saw a humongous whale entering the barrier without any resistance.

At first, he thought it was one of the participants of this tournament, but he realized that it was not the case as he saw a person sitting on top of the whale.

He at least thought it was a human as the appearance of that person was very human-like and did not carry any features of a sea creature unlike the ones 'standing' on the gigantic platform.

As everyone was standing still and looking at the whale and the human sitting on it, that person suddenly opened his mouth. "The Kings of the Seas have decided!"

"The champion of this gathering will be granted with the title of the Champion of the Seas. And they will get the chance to accompany the kings to an audience with the Gods of the Seas."

Right after that person finished talking, a barrage of notifications bombarded Shin's ears.

\*Ding\*

System: The Trial of the Primordial Water is starting.

System: You have been sent to the Forgotten Era of the Gods.

System: The first objective has been identified – participate in the 'Gathering of the Seas' and pass as many rounds as possible.

\*Ding\*

System: Being eliminated from the tournament will result in the failure of the trial.

...

Right after the system finished its 'explanation', Shin was immediately thrown in the middle of attacks that were sent by the creatures around him.

"Tsk! The beginning is always a royal rumble."

Chapter 1507 Trial of Primordial Waters (Part 2)

.....

Dong~!

A loud sound of a bell reverberated in the entire place right after the final notification sounded in Shin's ears.

This signaled the start of the tournament.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then, right after that, Shin was immediately greeted by multiple attacks coming from every direction.

"Tsk!"

A royal rumble was always the start of these kinds of tournaments because it was the fastest way to eliminate as many participants as possible.

Shin was immediately subjected to being one of the main targets to eliminate as he was one of the 'weakest' participants around.

Forget about him being unfamiliar with the abilities that he had on this body; he did not even know what level of strength he had. He also did not know how to move properly with this body since some structures differed from a human body. Even if it was mostly the same as what a regular human had, there were still some organs and parts that were working differently.

One of them was the lungs, which were not the same as a human since it was meant for a sea creature. However, their functions were almost the same.

Most of the creatures of the sea had a completely different respiratory system compared to creatures of the land, particularly land animals and humans since their oxygen came from water while the latter came from the air.

Sea creatures mostly did not have noses. What they had for breathing underwater were gills.

Shin finally noticed this as he could feel that his body that he had was not working on the same function as his original body.

This could also mean that he would not be able to move his body like he was doing before. He could not regulate his breathing to use the martial skills and combat techniques that he possessed, much less use the breathing techniques to complement his Mentalism Techniques and unique Swordsmanship.

He was robbed of most of the abilities that he had, so he was currently weakened by a large margin.

Regardless, there were still some things that could not be taken away from him despite all of that. Just like his battle senses and other talents.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin strongly urged his body to move after sweeping his surroundings with his Spiritual Sense. He read the trajectory of every spell and other attacks heading his direction before dodging accordingly.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

He did his best to avoid as much damage as possible, but there were still some that landed at him due to his unfamiliarity with this body.

"Tsk! No wonder this trial is sent to the Chaos Difficulty. This is no different from throwing me in the middle of a slaughterhouse while sealing my skills and nerfing my stats," complained Shin a little as he kept his surroundings in check.

What upset him more about the situation was the fact that everyone seemed to be purposely targeting him whenever he got near them. He even suspected that this was most likely a setting from the system.

Fortunately, the other ongoing battles from the other parts of this gigantic platform were much more intense than what he was experiencing, so he was still in a somewhat better situation.

Regardless, it was still hard to keep himself alive on this battlefield despite doing his best, so he was unable to do much. He could not even throw any kind of attack in retaliation.

During the entire process, Shin was doing his best to adjust himself to this body and get familiarized with its abilities.

This was the trickiest part of this trial if he were to pick one. He did not know anything about this body, much less what it could do, so he was having a more difficult time during the battle.

He had to experiment to look for what it was good at while also trying his best to get used to this body at the same time.

...

Not long after, Shin gave up on immediately looking for what this body was good at and started focusing on the other participants near him.

He was particularly looking for someone of the same race so that he could get an idea of what he was looking for.

Not long after, he finally found his target.

He did not even hesitate to change his direction and charge toward that direction. He was not going there to join that battle and help this fellow of the same race. He was heading in that direction to have a closer look at this Naga and what they were capable of.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

As he approached that individual, the explosions around him became more intense as more and more sea creatures joined in. Along with the ones that he had dragged with him, the battlefield became even more chaotic as everyone attacked whoever was near them.

Shin then finally reached the ideal distance to observe the Naga through his Spiritual Sense.

The moment when Shin got near that individual, the latter immediately noticed. The two of them locked their gazes at each other for a very brief moment before Shin saw the Naga slightly nodding at him.

It seemed like the Naga had misunderstood Shin's intention and thought that Shin had lent him a hand to escape his previous predicament.

Shin was confused at first, but he suddenly noticed that all the Nagas or any race related to them were mostly being targeted by other sea creatures, both humanoid and non-humanoid ones.

At first, he thought that it was just his imagination, but as the royal rumble progressed and more and more participants got eliminated, the more the other Nagas got targeted by the rest.

"Are we a bunch of criminals for them to constantly target us or is it because we are just too powerful for them to gang up on us," mumbled Shin as he observed the situation a little more.

Even though the Nagas were not the strongest among all the participants, almost every one of them was as strong as those leading participants. Each one of them was fighting against a group of five to six people or confronting opponents who looked to be the strongest among the bunch.

Shin then realized that this race that he currently had should be much stronger than he expected.

With that, he started focusing more on these Nagas while trying his best to survive. But as he observed them more, he suddenly realized another problem. He just found out that despite them being from the same race and somewhat similar classes, they still had a unique ability that solely belonged to them.

Shin had never seen any of them having the same type of abilities despite possessing a similar body structure. Even the weapons that they were using were different from one another, making him think that they had different classes.

This was not the end as he also noticed that every one of them was also using a unique breathing technique – though, he was not sure if he really should call them a breathing technique.

One of them was using a breathing technique that utilized the overall strength of their body to overwhelm their opponents with it. There was even this instance where this Naga contended against a huge creature that seemed to possess the raw power of a giant, yet the Naga never lost their ground in the slightest.

There was also this individual who seemed to be a master of cold weapons. His breathing technique complemented his style which kept on swapping weapons in the middle of the battle. His style was so complex that it was hard to read his intention. He always caught his opponents off guard with countless variations and combinations of his style.

Shin almost wanted to copy this particular Naga since this style was very similar to his Myriad Manifestation Swordsman ship. He guessed that he could use this breathing technique to complement his fighting style.

But he quickly shook his head and immediately rejected the idea as he knew that this was not what he lacked.

He proceeded to look at another and saw another Naga who was using a breathing technique to enhance their speed to the point that it was impossible to perceive them. If not for his powerful Spiritual Sense and enhanced 'Sensing Circle', then it was impossible for him to notice this speedy Naga.

The other Naga was similar to the previous one as they were also almost impossible to find. But instead of having an insane speed, this one possessed a breathing technique that could erase their presence – a technique that was perfect for assassination. This individual was constantly reaping life wherever they went without leaving a single trail behind.

There was another Naga, who seemed to be a mage given the constant barrage of water spells that they were sending to their opponents. This powerful mage was among the most outstanding participants that Shin had seen as they seemed to be unstoppable. Not even those other Nagas that he had seen earlier were a match for this individual.

As Shin continued to observe the others while also doing his best to survive this round, he finally realized what the unique ability of the vessel that he currently possessed – it was the ability to see through the secrets of others and read their actions.

It was similar to having an observation talent like David's Enlightened Eyes and Uno's Foresight. But at the same time, it was also somewhat different as it seemed to be a variant or a product of combining a unique talent and a special technique.

It was much closer to Arthur's Dragon Eyes and shared similar characteristics with his True Sight Technique.

Shin suspected that this was the product of his Spiritual Sense and the unique ability of this host, which was why he could see through the breathing techniques of everyone in a much clearer way than how he usually perceived the others while using this technique.

As he thought along this line, a sudden flash of inspiration struck his head. "Flexible."

This was the only word that he could describe after watching the other Nagas fight. Moreover, his first impression of them not having any similarities somewhat changed after realizing another thing.

All their breathing techniques seemed to come from the same root. Despite them ending up walking on different paths, they seemed to come from the same origin.

He thought about this as he felt a similar 'scent' from each of them.

When this string of thoughts entered his mind, another inspiration came to him. A heavy, overwhelming, and endless wave of pressure seemed to have enveloped him.

He felt that the ocean was embracing him.

This was not an ocean in physical form, but something different.

While he was stuck with this feeling, he could not help but utter another word to describe this 'ocean'. "Boundless."

Chapter 1508 Trial of Primordial Waters (Part 3)

.....

"The Boundless Ocean," Shin mumbled as the inspirations continued to flash in his eyes while his body was moving automatically to avoid all the attacks of the other participants.

He then closed his eyes while moving left and right to dodge the attacks directed at him. His mind was focusing on the flow of energy within his body while his body continued to move on its own, dodging everything.

As he was doing this, he imagined himself as the part of the 'ocean' that embraced him. He then felt that the energy that was flowing within him became formless and unpredictable like the water of the ocean.

This flow of energy sometimes resembled the raging waves of the sea or the calm surface of the lake. It could even solidify itself like a frozen river or possess an unstoppable force of a fall.

It constantly changed depending on Shin's will.

As his breathing repeatedly changed according to his thoughts – seemingly looking for its real form – he entered a state similar to when he was using the other three breathing techniques that he already possessed but with a different sensation.

In this state, Shin could sense his surroundings. It further heightened his already sharp senses that were being reinforced by his powerful Spiritual Sense.

Everything in his surroundings was reflected in his mind. It was as if his physical world was reflected by the clear surface of a mirror-like water.

This gave him the ability to read the movements of his opponents along with the intentions hidden behind every action.

It felt like he was standing on the surface of a calm water while the other participants and their movements were creating countless ripples on it like how even the minuscule actions within the water produced countless disturbances.

These disturbances became the root that made their future actions somewhat foreseeable.

Swoosh!

The moment Shin opened his eyes and activated his True Sight along with this state, everything around him became much clearer.

This was different from the Foresight Talent which could accurately read the intentions of the opposing side and could read the actions of other people in an instant since it had its flaws.

But Shin could just patch those errors with his Immediate Response Talent by reacting to the constant and unpredictable changes much faster.

This was the unique breathing technique that this vessel Shin possessed. It gave him a clearer mind for fast and accurate judgment, which could also read the changes in the surroundings.

On top of that, he could also use this technique to read the flow of disturbances in the air caused by both physical actions and energy flow to further strengthen his prediction.

At the same time, his control over his energy flow became much easier and smoother. However, the element that he could currently use at this moment was water.

But in exchange for not being able to control the other elements, Shin was able to command the Water Elemental Mana with complete ease as if he was a sovereign of the sea.

With this breathing, he could also replenish his already exhausted and almost empty energy core.

The moment when Shin successfully entered this state, his control over this unfamiliar body quickly followed. His control over his limbs and other parts of his body became second nature as if it was his true body to begin with.

He could even control even the smallest cell within his body, giving him absolute control over it.

He then realized how those other Nagas were able to move their bodies that well and possess such a powerful and almost inexhaustible energy.

With such elaborate control over their bodies, unleashing their potential to the fullest was an expected result.

Possessing the ability to read the flow of energy in the air and having complete authority over their respective energies gave them a better edge against other mages. After all, they could read the intentions of their opponents while also having a faster casting time due to their superior mana control at the same time.

This breathing technique was without a doubt one of the best techniques that Shin found. But he could not say that it was far superior to the other three breathing techniques that he had already learned since they had their respective charms.

He just could not showcase their full potential due to his lack of true understanding of them.

Unlike this breathing technique that he currently using, which also happened to perfectly compliment his current vessel, Shin had yet to fully explore the true capabilities of those techniques.

He just realized this after experiencing this mysterious breathing technique along with the inspirations that he had gotten just now.

Countless ideas started floating inside his head that he wanted to try with the other techniques at this moment. But all of them had to wait until later since he could not do them with the current situation.

The unique ability of the vessel Shin had was the superior senses that it possessed, so Shin had to take advantage of it to survive as many rounds as possible in this tournament.

But he would not just blindly follow the system. Since he was already in this, he would do his best to win it all. However, he knew that it would be challenging since the other participants were much more powerful than his current self, particularly those other Nagas and the ones leading the rankings.

If he wanted to stand on the same ground as them, then he had to pour quite a lot of effort into it.

First, he had to familiarize himself more with this vessel and explore what other abilities it had. He also had to make this mysterious breathing technique his own. After all, he did not know whether he would forget about it once he exited this place and returned to his true avatar.

He was also not sure if the sensation and the overall feeling would be the same, so he had to familiarize himself with this technique as much as he could and turn it into a breathing technique that he could use both inside the game and the real world without any issues.

"Since this is no different from the breath of the ocean, let's call it the Boundless Ocean Technique for the time being."

As he mumbled these words, Shin felt an intense killing intent directed at him.

He did not even hesitate to halt his steps before jumping backward to dodge.

Swoosh!

But to his surprise, the trajectory of the attack changed midway, and chased after him as if the other party was already expecting this to happen.

If it was Shin from a few moments earlier, then there was no way for him to survive this attack as it accurately predicted his movements and was fast enough to surpass his Immediate Response.

Unfortunately, Shin had already surpassed his previous self, who could not even properly control his body.

His mind was clearer while his reaction speed was much faster, so dealing with this kind of attack would never be a problem.

With that, Shin suddenly laid himself in the air to dodge the sharp sword that was threatening to cut his neck.

Swoosh!

He then twisted his body in the air and did a spin-roll while swinging his tail toward his assailant.

Swoosh!

His counterattack came a little too fast, which caught the opposing side somewhat flustered. But they quickly recovered themselves and used the momentum of their previous actions to continue moving forward, flying fast Shin.

Shin then landed on one foot with his body facing the ground. He did not even lift his head when he kicked behind him, sending another participant flying with a kick, who was trying to take advantage of his situation.

Not long after, Shin was assaulted from every direction by the other participants nearby.

Shin became confused when this happened. He was already being besieged from every direction earlier, but all those assailants were not as aggressive as these guys.

Moreover, their attacks were also becoming well-coordinated on top of being more intense and much more powerful compared to the previous ones.

It was as if someone was organizing their battle formation and orchestrating everything.

But instead of being flustered by the sudden change, Shin smiled and welcomed all the pressure. He would be treating this challenge as an opportunity to further familiarize himself with this 'Boundless Ocean Technique' that he just learned.

It was also at that moment when he heard someone's voice coming from behind the participants who were attacking him.

"I wanted to ignore you at first, but it seems like I have to eliminate you early as you carried the most dangerous scent among everyone here."

From that place, Shin could see a sea creature that seemed to be a hybrid of an octopus and a human.

It had a humanoid head but possessed sticky tentacles around its chin and jaw, seemingly acting as a beard. It also had four arms similar to humans while having multiple tentacles on its back.

Before Shin could even ask what kind of abomination it was, another voice suddenly came from another direction and chimed in the conversation.

"You Krakens have always been shrewd. Trying to use numbers to exhaust others before taking advantage of the situation has always been your dirty work."

When Shin turned his head toward that direction, he saw a familiar Naga walking toward them. It was the same Naga that he somewhat helped during the early stages of the royal rumble.

The sea creature addressed as a 'Kraken' turned its head to his Naga and squinted its eyes. "If we are talking about being shrewd, then I must say Murlocs are the number one in such aspect."

He then paused for a moment before continuing. "And you, World Serpents, will never understand the struggles of weaker beings."

As the Kraken said those words, another creature joined in and laughed. "A Kraken claiming himself as a weaker being? If Octo hears that, he will kill you for being such a disgrace."

This sea creature was another humanoid one. This sea creature had a muscular build, which seemed to be similar to those bodybuilders from the real world.

Shin did not need to know which race this one came from as it was already displayed above its head.

"Whale Tribe?" Shin mumbled as he started turning his head toward other directions and saw that the other powerful participants were starting to gather at this spot.

He did not know why they were heading here, but he knew that this spelled trouble.

"Tsk! I just want to 'peacefully' familiarize myself with my new technique. Why are you guys taking this too seriously?" he complained along with the twitching corners of his mouth.

Chapter 1509 Trial of Primordial Waters (Part 4)

...

Shin swept his gaze at his surroundings and observed all the sea creatures heading in this direction. He did not know why these creatures were gathering this way, but he could at least tell that they had some sort of feud with the 'World Serpent Race', which was the race of this temporary avatar that he currently had.

From the domineering name alone, Shin could already tell that this was not a simple race, especially after seeing how the other participants did their best to eliminate those who were from this race.

Shin suspected that they were the actual ancestors of the other Nagas available to the players. However, he could also tell that this was still not the origin of this race as he could feel something missing from their existence.

Regardless, this was also more than enough to make those other sea creatures somewhat scared of them.

Shin could not blame them either since the breathing technique of the World Serpents was too powerful.

But that did not mean they were the strongest since Shin could also see some of the creatures that were not afraid of these Nagas.

One of them was someone from the Whale Tribe and the category of Devouring Whales. It was the muscular humanoid creature earlier, who mocked the Kraken.

There was also a blue-skinned humanoid creature that was carrying a bone spear that resembled the bones of a fish. This creature also did not have a nose, but instead breathed through the gills on its cheeks.

Then there was the mermaid that was holding a long scepter with shattered crystals floating above it. This creature was emitting an overwhelming magical power that became visible to the naked eye.

There was also another Naga that seemed not to belong to the World Serpent Race, but possessed a breathing technique that was not weaker than what Shin called the 'Boundless Ocean Technique'.

Moreover, this particular Naga was emitting an overwhelming aura of slyness. Shin could tell that this might be the sliest creature that he could find in this place.

This Naga might not be the strongest that he could find, but it was without a doubt the most dangerous one.

There were still others, but these were the ones that Shin felt that he should be wary of.

...

As the atmosphere was getting heated by the intense fighting intent that everyone where releasing, the voice of the person who appeared at the beginning of the tournament sounded once again.

"Fifty percent of the total participants have already been eliminated. You can now proceed to the next round."

At the same time, the system also informed Shin about his successful survival of the first.

\*Ding\*

System: Congratulations! You have survived the first round.

System: You have been rewarded with a chance to choose a special benefit. Would you like to accept?

Please take note that you can get greater rewards at the end of the trial if you give up on accepting these special benefits.

...

Shin raised his eyes when he saw the notifications before smiling. "Is there any need to ask? Of course, I will pass on this one."

"Getting an additional reward at the end is nothing but giving me so freebies," he mumbled as he turned to the surroundings, observing everyone.

He wanted to see how the next round should start. He also wanted to take this opportunity to familiarize himself with the Boundless Ocean Technique.

As he was trying to expand the range of his sensory field with the help of his Spiritual Sense and the newly acquired breathing technique, Shin felt that the space suddenly became unstable and distorted.

But he did not feel any danger from these occurrences, so he did not panic and kept his calm while looking around.

He then saw that the others seemed to have sensed the distortions too, but they kept their stances and let the spatial fissures swallow them.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, the remaining participants who survived the first round were sucked by the nearby fissures and disappeared one after another.

Shin then finally realized why these sea creatures wanted to gather in one place when the first round was about to start. It was for them to choose which fissure they wanted to enter.

Or to be more precise... the creatures wanted to enter the fissures where their targets would be heading.

Those with grudges with one another would enter the same fissures while those who wanted to target someone would just follow them to the fissures that sucked them in.

The weaker participants were sucked by the spatial fissures without any resistance while those with higher ranking were able to withstand the suction forces and resisted until their respective targets entered.

Some of the arrogant and confident ones just picked a random fissure and jumped into it voluntarily. They did not care who would be their opponent for the next round as they believed that they would not lose to anyone.

Shin watched all of these unfold with a slight frown on his face. Up until now, he was still not aware of the true nature of this trial and why he was sent into such a setting right after it started.

If he wanted to uncover some of its clues, then he had to investigate the reason for this competition.

"I seem to hear that the champion will be granted an audience with the Kings of the Sea or something," he mumbled as he was trying to recall what the 'host' of the tournament had said earlier.

"If that is the case, then winning the title is most likely the best way to take it," he continued to talk to himself before picking a random fissure near him.

The one that came from the Kraken Race, who was picking a fight with him earlier, saw Shin disappear in one of the fissures. It smiled creepily before extending one of its tentacles toward that fissure cleverly.

The moment his tentacles touched the fissure, the sea creature was immediately sucked and sent to the same location as Shin.

The World Serpent that Shin had 'helped' earlier also followed them with a nonchalant expression on his face.

\*\*\*

As Shin was busy with his sudden trial, the rest of the Empyrean Talons were busying themselves with their respective training routines.

They all realized that they were still too weak to explore the Awakened Continent, so they had to do their best to promote their respective strengths as soon as possible before the other players caught up to them.

Fortunately, the entire team gained the pioneering rights due to being the first to arrive on the continent.

The team had already explored quite a few places within the city that they were currently in and even visited quite a lot of advanced facilities that they had never seen before from the Aurora Continent.

But what made them even more intrigued by this place was the chance to be sent to the other regions that were ruled by the other races.

The Divine Empire was a neutral region, where most races could go. But it was still ruled by humans which was why most of their facilities and other places were meant for accommodating those from of Humans.

The other major regions would greatly help the players of the same race as the ruling race of the said region.

After all, their facilities were meant to be utilized by their race and train their capacities to their fullest potential.

Among these major regions, the Alfheim Kingdom of the Elves, the Atlantis Kingdom of the Sea Creatures, and the Bestia Mountain of Beastmen Race were the largest aside from the Divine Empire, which covered almost half of the entire continent.

Of course, the sea was also larger, but Atlantis Kingdom was just one of the regions there as there were also other sea creatures and tribes that formed their faction.

The Nidavellir Kingdom where the dwarves and gnomes lived and the Forsaken Islets which was the home of the undead, were slightly smaller in comparison to the other four regions, but their harsh terrains and special environment made them unique.

There were also unknown regions that were ruled by hidden races, particularly those of the Transcendent Races who distanced themselves from most of the civilizations just like the Dragon Race.

...

Alucard kept his magic rifle after a series of shooting training. But he was yet to be satisfied as he sheathed his rapier next for his sword training.

Akailu, who just come out from the adjacent room, saw him and could not help but shake his head. "Still training? Are you not tired of it?"

Alucard did not even turn his head as he took a stance. "Should I say you are too laidback, or you just don't feel any pressure?"

"Have you seen how much those monsters are improving? If we don't put more effort into our training, then we will be left behind by them and unable to catch up," he added not waiting for Akailu to respond.

"Are you afraid of being thrown away just like what happened to your old organization from the previous games?" asked Akailu before shaking his head. "I don't think our leaders will end up like those people."

"You should already know that their background is not simple, yet they are unlike those young masters and princesses that we have seen up until now."

"They also don't care about any profits, so what is there to worry about?" he added with a bitter smile.

"That is because they are too young," refuted Alucard as he proceeded with his training.

Akailu smiled bitterly as he heard that. "But so we are. We are only two to three years older than them we just happen to be part of a professional gaming workshop and experience a little more of the industry than them."

"Have you seen Diablo and that Evil God? Who recently joined us?" countered Alucard while swinging and stabbing his rapier. "If you continue to laze around and do nothing, then more people like them will come and your spot will be taken away."

"Tsk!" Akailu could only click his tongue as he could not refute those words.

He then complained after a brief silence. "Damn! You remind me that you are at least on the same level as Diablo! I should be the one complaining about you!"

## Chapter 1510 Alucard's Astonishment

...

Inside one of the high-class training grounds within the Divinity City, Arthur was currently waiting for the other members of the Empyrean Talons to arrive.

He was here to inform them about the next plan that they had to prepare for the upcoming United Cup.

The tournament was already in progress as those who wanted to enter the main stage of the competition where all the top dogs and leading groups were gathered.

The groups with lesser fame and not quite known in the virtual world had to go through a lot of struggles just to climb into the main competition.

As for those famous and widely recognized teams, they were directly sent to the main stage, waiting for it to start.

Of course, these teams were not idle either as some of them were already in the process of preparing themselves for the main competition while the others were paying close attention to the early rounds to take note of those teams with a decent potential.

After all, there were instances where those teams from the early rounds continuously improved while climbing their way toward the main stage. There was even a time when an unknown team climbed to the playoffs and almost won against a top-seeded team.

Arthur usually enjoyed watching the early rounds, but he was quite busy these last few days and too distracted to pay attention to it.

But after being able to pour out everything earlier with the help of Shin, Arthur was able to somewhat regain his usual self and started getting ready for the United Cup more seriously.

He felt quite bad for Cloe, who was so busy due to his unable to help.

Clank!

Not long after, the door of the training ground opened followed by Leonard who seemed to have just finished his training.

Leonard immediately noticed Arthur, who seemed to be in deep thought. "What are you thinking that hard? It doesn't suit you at all."

Arthur glanced at him and said in a nonchalant manner. "Shin came back. I just talked to him earlier."

Leonard could not help but pause his steps when he heard those words and looked at Arthur with an astounded gaze. "Is it true?"

Arthur shrugged his shoulders. "There is no reason for me to lie. You will meet him later once we log out anyway."

Leonard tilted his head to the side as he mumbled. "Then why he did not greet us earlier? We are just right beside his room."

Arthur stared at Leonard as if he was looking at an idiot before saying. "Have you already forgotten? You are in the middle of training earlier."

"Ah! That's right," Leonard smacked his head with his palm.

Then he suddenly paused as he recalled something. His eyes turned wide and raised his head, looking at Arthur. "Then... damn! Cloe Sis will be very upset when she learns it. Will she beat him into a pulp later?"

As he said those words, a silhouette appeared to him.

Arthur felt a sudden shiver down his spine as he saw that person, who seemed to appear like a ghost by not even making a sound.

From Arthur's perspective, he saw a demon with crimson eyes along with a steaming breath coming from its mouth.

"What did you say? Who should I beat into a pulp?"

"Ah!" Leonard did not even need to turn his head around to learn who it was.

Regardless, he still turned around to face that person. His neck was moving so slowly as if it was a broken toy. The stiff smile on his face looked so ugly as he said. "Cloe Sis, you're back. How is the application for the training raid from the administrator's office?"

Cloe ignored his words and pressed. "I am asking you who are you two talking about."

Leonard wanted to look at Arthur for assistance, but he did not dare to turn his head away from Cloe after seeing those sharp and scary eyes.

This girl had been on edge since Shin had fallen asleep, making them meet Uno for the first time. It felt like she was on that time of the month, making the two walk on eggshells when around her.

What was scarier was she had started showcasing the result of her training under Martial King Lin Huang's tutelage.

During their little sparing matches, the usual gentle yet cheerful personality of Cloe disappeared as it was replaced by an overaggressive and fearless amazon who they never met before.

It was not even the end as this situation also extended inside the game. Cloe's style of fighting also somewhat changed. It was as if it was affected by her new knowledge of fighting in the real world.

Her style no longer focused on just supporting every member of the team with her buffs or assisting them with her spells during difficult times. She was now taking the initiative to attack, treating her class as a real mage.

Her previous identities as the 'Witch of Eternal Night' and the 'First Holy Mage' started to appear once again.

At this time, Cloe was known as the 'Gentle Goddess Arielle', the number one priest and healer of the virtual world. But people forgot that she was the first player to showcase that the 'Priest' or 'Healer' class was not just a class meant for healing or supporting others.

This class could also fight on their own and defeat other classes so long as they used their cards perfectly.

It was only possible in theory, but Cloe was the first person to show it to everyone in the previous games that she played.

After being in a bad mood due to the recent events, Cloe had to find a way to vent her frustrations and the poor target were the members of the Empyrean Talons, who were always caught off guard due to her sudden change.

But that was even not the end as the previous style that she usually had did not disappear. Instead, she combined it with this particular style and created a whole different one, which was also quite a headache to those who were dealing with it.

As Leonard was hesitating about how he would reply, Cloe grabbed his shoulders with her hand and asked for another time. "I am asking--- who are you talking about?"

With a sigh, Arthur shook his head and saved Leonard from the hands of this witch. "We are talking about Shin. He came back."

Hearing those words, Cloe felt like her head cleared up a little, erasing her hot-headedness. At least for a brief moment before her eyes turned sharper and colder. "That guy came back and dared not to tell us anything?"

"Hmph! Let's see how I beat some sense in him," she added as she turned around and prepared to log out of the game.

Swoosh!

But before she could even press the button, Arthur and Leonard grabbed her hand, preventing her from doing so.

"What are you doing?"

"Where do you think are you going?"

Cloe snapped at them and glared. "What do you think? I am going to drag that guy out of his gaming cabin and demand him to explain!"

Arthur sighed as he said. "Don't you think there is a reason for him not to tell us anything yet? You will hear about it when he is ready. Just give him some time."

"Moreover, he said he would talk to the two of you tomorrow. There is no need to rush," he added as he let go of her hand.

Leonard, who was on the side, also let go of her wrist and nodded. "That's right. Shin Bro will tell us about it eventually. There is no rush."

Cloe slowly lowered her head and hand before sighing.

She was about to say something when Diablo suddenly entered the training ground and found the three of them almost blocking the way.

He tried to open his mouth to ask what they were doing but quickly shut it close when he noticed the gloomy mood.

Then the atmosphere became even more awkward as the four of them stood still and blocked the doorway in silence.

As they were stuck in that situation, the other members of the Empyrean Talons arrived one after another.

"What are you guys doing here, blocking the way?" asked Owen as he arrived alongside Ithilien. It was clear that their relationship had gotten better these last few days given that they were almost insuperable.

"Ahm... we are not late for the meeting, aren't we?" asked Samael, who was accompanied by his younger sister, Huahua.

As the new members-... or more likely 'trial members', he still felt a little awkward when around the other members.

As he was waiting for the others for their response, another duo of the team arrived. It was the so-called 'father and daughter' duo as they had introduced themselves when they first met the founding members of the team – Archimedes and Daulla.

They only greeted everyone with an acknowledging nod before entering the training ground.

Then Alucard and Akailu also arrived along with Chaotic Luck, who bumped into them when heading here.

Alice was the last member to arrive as she just came back online after dealing with matters in the real world.

Now that everyone had gathered, Cloe had to calm herself down before signaling Arthur to lead this meeting.

Arthur shook his head as he turned to the others. "I know everyone is busy with your respective training, so I will make it quick."

He then paused and opened a virtual screen in front of him before sending a program to the group through the team channel.

"This is a special program that we are using for our group training. You can just download it for your gaming cabins, and it will produce a special virtual space where we can train or gather."

"We will no longer need to go through all the hassle of going from one place to another just like this whenever we are having a meeting. He can just enter this shared virtual space."

"It took some time to finish the program as we want to add as many features as possible to it. But we can promise you that it is on the same level as those you can find from the top guilds and other organizations out there."

"We even added a few special programs that are being used by the military, so training there will be equally good when we are playing the game."

The others did not put much thought into it as they did not have much experience in these kinds of teams, but those who were familiar with such programs as Diablo, Alucard, and Akailu could not help but become impressed.

But the one that was surprised the most was Alucard when he heard that the training system of this program used the technology of the military. Given his background, he was very clear about how good the effects could be when someone was training inside such a virtual space.

That kind of special program was meant for the soldiers to train in life-and-death experiences in a realistic environment without facing that much risk. It was similar to the battles within the game but to a much more intense degree.

Moreover, these programs could also affect their bodies in the real world to a certain degree, which would somewhat improve their overall physique.

Even if these effects were quite slow and small to be noticed, they would still greatly boost their abilities when accumulated enough.

This was why the young cadets of the military forces had to be trained and undergo this virtual training when they were still young.

Alucard just felt a pity that they could not use the special serums made from worldly treasures in the real world to take advantage of those changes to the fullest.

He was about to sigh in regret when Arthur suddenly added. "Please send us your information so that we can apply for you for the serum enhancers."

"Don't worry about it being leaked or about the serums being fake. I can bet my entire family's honor that it is all safe. We can even apply for special guards to ensure you will be guarded when using the serum, especially when all are still young."

"We can also assign some trainers in the real world so that you can adjust to the effects of the serums as soon as possible."

"We have to deduct all the cost of these extra services from your salary, though. But it will be worth it," he added before raising his head and gazing at everyone.

This time, Alucard could not help but stare blankly at Arthur with an astounded gaze. He also started to wonder just what kind of background these group of youngsters had to be able to provide them such a benefit.

'Just who are these people?'