

Destiny 1531

Chapter 1531 A World Serpent's Fang

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Shin and Gammarus destroyed a huge portion of the sea where they were fighting due to the powerful attacks they had.

Shin still did not dare face the devil lobster head-on as the damage-reflection ability of the latter was much more powerful than before due to the transformation.

He still relied on the elemental powers of his current race along with the specialized techniques that he possessed. The unique skills and abilities of the World Serpent Race greatly complement his Mentalism Techniques, particularly the Heavenly Black Tortoise Method, which shared similar traits.

With this, Shin was also able to modify most of his techniques to complement the Boundless Ocean Technique just like what he had done with the other Mentalism Methods and breathing techniques.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Heavenly Black Tortoise – Turtle General Defense'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A group of hexagonal barriers appeared around Shin and stuck together to form a dome barrier filled with Mana Essence. An advanced rune was situated at the center of each hexagonal segment, which represented the properties of hardness, toughness, and a variety of defensive properties.

Boom!

The barrier blocked the huge water torrent that was directed at Shin, trying to crush him by force.

Fortunately, this barrier was strong enough to withstand the overwhelming strength of the attack along with the unstoppable water pressure that it had.

Swoosh!

As the thick cloud settled, a huge figure appeared beside the barrier, striking it with a powerful attack that carried a dense Mana Essence.

Bang!

The barrier was unable to withstand the attack and crumbled in an instant right after the collision.

Swoosh!

Fortunately, Shin was already a distance away when the huge pincers slammed into the ground where he previously stood.

The speed of a World Serpent could not be underestimated within the water.

Even if Shin did not major in speed unlike the fastest World Serpent that he had seen in the first round of the tournament, he was still much faster than most of the sea creatures due to his unique physique and special abilities.

The talent of this vessel and the breathing technique were very special after all, and even a perfect complement with each other.

Hu~!

Regulating his breathing from the distance, Shin suddenly moved his hands in slow and gentle motion, leaving a series of overlapping afterimages behind.

When his hands stopped, his palms were already pressed against one another while the dense Mana Essence was being channeled into them.

Swoosh!

Gammarus immediately caught up to Shin at this point and suddenly appeared before the latter. He raised his huge pincer and thrust it forward, trying to crush Shin with it.

At this moment, Shin suddenly separated his palms as an icy sword conjured between them.

'Elemental Sword Materialization (Ice/ Water): World Serpent's Fang'

Shin swiftly grabbed the sword and swung it diagonally upwards, deflecting the incoming pincers upwards.

Bang!

Shin quickly retreated as he relieved his muscles from the recoil that he had gotten from the collision.

At the same time, he also wiped the blood dripping from the corner of his mouth. This weapon materialization was an advanced mana control, where he had to channel a large portion of his mana while conjuring the weapon he had projected inside his mind.

He had exhausted more than half of his mana essence reserve just to form it, which also cost him a portion of his life force (HP).

He had spent quite a lot of effort just to summon this sword, which was his 'Racial Soul Weapon' in a sense.

He was still unfamiliar with this transcended technique, which resulted in his current injuries that were further worsened by the earlier exchange.

Regardless, he was not in a position to think about all of these since his opponent would surely not let him recover in immediate time.

"You are giving me more surprises, the more I know you," commented Gammarus as he walked out of the cloud of dirt.

He glared at Shin before casting his gaze at the exquisite sword filled with silver runes in the latter's hand.

Even himself, who was confident with his defensive capabilities, was getting an immense threat coming from that sword.

"The Fangs of a World Serpent is sure dangerous," he commented as he continued to glare at Shin. "To think a hatchling such as yourself can conjure one, albeit being in an incomplete form. I can't afford you to live now, especially after seeing such a crazy potential."

"You can be the most dangerous variable to our great cause if I let you go. Your threat level should be as high as Falan right now," he added before suddenly charging at Shin.

Hu~!

Shin, with now a sword in hand, felt much calmer despite the current state of his body.

Regenerating from his injuries would have to take some time, and it would be hard to move his body with such several injuries within his body.

His opponent might not let him heal his internal wounds, but Shin was confident enough that he could perform much better in this state compared to earlier.

With a calm mind and relaxed body, he raised his ice sword before swinging it multiple times in front of him while infusing a series of sword principles in every swing.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Those seemingly casual swings sent shivers down to the spine of his opponent, making Gammarus halt his advance.

At the same time, he raised his arms in front of him while increasing the defensive qualities of his shell armor. He even created an extra layer of protection over the surface of his armor as an additional precaution.

He got a bad feeling coming from these simple swings from his opponent.

Boom!

Right after he planted his feet into the seabed, a strong current swept through the entire place, following the swings that Shin had thrown.

At the same time, sharp energies mixed with the water pressure and cut through everything on their path.

Even the protective layer that Gammarus had summoned was shredded after suffering repeated strikes from these sharp energies.

Fortunately, his shell armor was strong enough to fend off the rest of the impact from the sharp energies after they had lost a great majority of their momentum.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

A series of metallic sounds could be heard as the sharp energies collided against the shell armor of Gammarus.

The devil lobster was about to charge forward when a voice suddenly rang behind him.

"Damn~! I know that this body is much more powerful than my in-game avatar, but it sure far surpassed my imagination," mumbled Shin as he looked at the icy sword in his hands. "Is it also because of this materialized weapon? Tsk! The abilities of Sea Ancients are 'broken' powerful."

Swoosh!

Gammarus quickly spun around while swinging his arms behind him, planning to smash Shin with it, particularly the spiked armor wrapped around his forearm.

"Huh?"

But to his surprise, despite his fast reaction, he found no one behind him, much less struck someone.

"Sigh~! It is just a pity that I have to wait for a long time before I can achieve similar things with my 'original' body."

"I wonder which is stronger – An Ancient Being or a Transcendent Being?"

Then the same voice sounded behind Gammarus for another time, astounding him.

"This speed-...!" Gammarus was trying to say something when a series of sword flashes bombarded him from every direction, trying to cut through his arm.

Bang! Bang!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

A series of sparks appeared every time the sword flashes struck his armor. But despite the power and special powers imbued with each strike, the shell armor remained sturdy and unbreakable.

"As expected, this shouldn't be enough to defeat someone with a top-seeded status. I guess I have to try something more advanced," mumbled Shin as he rested the icy sword on his shoulder while scratching his head a little.

"Arrogant bastard!" Gammarus was infuriated after being treated as an insignificant being.

Even if Shin did not say anything about it, he could feel the latter treating him as if he were some random creature in the sea.

He was familiar with this feeling as this was how those older World Serpents looked at the other sea creatures.

The current Shin was reminding Gammarus of that unforgettable and humiliating experience that he suffered before.

Roar!

With a deafening roar, he spun for another time and swung his pincers at Shin.

Shin, who could feel some changes in his demeanor after he held the Word Serpent's Fang, seemed to ignore the danger behind him and ducked forward in a very calm manner.

Swoosh!

The water was split when the pincers flew past his head.

"This sword-... It has an odd calm effect that can erase all the negative thoughts flooding my mind," mumbled Shin as he side-stepped to dodge yet another attack from his opponent.

At the same time, he was also getting immense power from the sword, which not only reinforced all his abilities but also amplified the effects of the Boundless Ocean Technique as well.

"What is this feeling? Why do I feel that I can do anything," mumbled Shin as he suddenly turned around.

When Gammarus looked at Shin's eyes, he could not help but freeze, especially after seeing the coldness from those crimson pupils.

This brought him to the time when he experienced that unpleasant event.

Shin, on the other hand, was unaware of the consequences of summoning the World Serpent's Fangs despite not having the ability to properly wield.

He felt that his blood was boiling in excitement while he was keeping a calm and cool expression on his face.

Violent yet cold-hearted.

A sleeping serpent was about to be awake.

Chapter 1532 A World Serpent's Fang (Part 2)

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Shin fought Gammarus with great intensity, unaware of the current state that he was in. He looked like a cold-hearted killer with a calm and nonchalant expression on his face whenever he launched an attack toward his opponent.

Each swing of his sword produced a powerful energy that cut through the water and flew straight to his opponent, who was currently in his colossal form.

After a few exchanges with Shin earlier, Gammarus realized that he could not afford to stay in his humanoid form, especially after experiencing the initial attacks of his opponent.

The sword energies that Shin was sending him were mixed with the unique powers of the World Serpent Race that could make his shell armor somewhat brittle. To avoid this from happening, Gammarus had no choice but to transform into his original sea monster form.

Even if Shin had more places to hit this time due to his humongous body, the defensive capabilities of Gammarus were much stronger compared to when he was in his humanoid form.

Moreover, the attacks he could throw in this form were much stronger and more destructive than in his previous form.

Shin did not back down as he continued to battle the colossus in front of him head-on. He executed a series of skills and techniques of his current race and combined them with those from his arsenal.

The more he battled, the more mature his techniques became. He was also gradually getting stronger, making the opposing party to be wary of him.

Not long after, Gammarus realized that Shin was not only getting better and more powerful but also gradually becoming more of a warrior of the World Serpent Race.

If Shin was nothing but a serpent hatching in his eyes before, then this current opponent before him was slowly becoming a fully fledge combatant of the World Serpents.

The only drawback this time was Shin became lost in his powers as if he was being swallowed by it. He was not only losing his mind but also gradually losing control of his body as the instincts of a World Serpent took over.

He was becoming a mindless puppet.

Uno, who was observing everything inside Shin's Sea of Consciousness, remained silent and continued to watch everything unfold while not showing any signs of interfering.

He squinted his eyes while watching Shin before shaking his head. It was as if he could read what Shin was planning.

Uno could see that Shin was aware of everything. It was impossible for him to just lose his mind when he was already aware of such things. This was not something new since they had already experienced something similar in the real world.

It was even much worse compared to this one since the source of possession was pretty clear in their eyes.

Uno could tell that Shin was planning to use this opportunity to train his mind, trying to strengthen his mind for the upcoming events in the future.

This might be something dangerous as it could also cause the sleeping powers deep within themselves, but Uno knew that Shin had to face it eventually, so he let Shin continue what he was doing.

A controlled berserk state would give them extra power when that time finally arrived.

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Gammarus tried to fend off as many of the attacks coming from Shin as possible, especially when they were gradually getting stronger and becoming more effective against him.

What made him more annoyed was Shin able to mix a series of illusion techniques that confused Gammarus when defending.

Not only did Shin use a variety of illusionary techniques for his body and mix them with his movement techniques to fool the senses of his opponent, but he also incorporated a series of tricks in his offensive attacks, which created fake energies that completely tricked the other party.

Due to these techniques, more and more attacks landed on the areas that Gammarus had least expected, particularly the segments where his shell amors were connected.

The very small gaps in his joints and other connecting segments were being invaded by the cold energy that could affect his healing capabilities.

With this, Shin started throwing attacks in a melee confrontation, where most of his swings were packed with the Yin Force that exploded inside the body of his opponent.

All of these were done through instincts at first, making them somewhat random. But as Shin gradually gained control of his current state, these attacks became more organized and trickier to deal with.

It was at this moment when Gammarus started to realize how scary his current opponent was.

Moreover, he was starting to feel fear for the first time due to these attacks that were gradually gaining momentum on top of being strategically organized.

Aside from these problems, Gammarus also started to feel the effects of the cold energies that Shin had injected into his body.

They were gradually invading the deepest parts of his body while also affecting his shell armor from the inside, making it somewhat brittle.

This damage made his defensive combabilities drop sharply, making him much warier in every attack that Shin had thrown at him.

Moreover, Shin's swordsmanship was slowly getting incorporated with the skills and techniques of the World Serpents, making Shin even more dangerous.

Gammarus also felt that his instincts were telling him to run right now before this serpent in front of him evolved further and devoured him later.

But his pride as one of the top-seeded candidates for this Festival of the Seas was preventing him from doing that. He stubbornly stayed while looking for the opportunity for a comeback from this predicament.

He was much stronger than Shin in terms of raw stats, but the more Shin fought and became accustomed to his current state, the scarier he became.

Additionally, the swordsmanship that Shin was using through the instincts of his body was the sword art that was unique to the World Serpents, complementing his body constitution and overall abilities.

While Gammarus was caught in a dilemma, not knowing what to do, Uno's voice exploded inside Shin's head like a clap of thunder.

[That should be enough. It is time to wake up!]

Shin, who was gradually losing control after holding on for quite a while and about to enter complete berserk, was able to snap out of his current state.

"Hoo~! That was close," mumbled Shin as he dodged the gigantic pincers that were about to crush him into a seafood paste.

Bang!

"It should also be about time to end this," he said as he could feel an intense and violent energy that was trying to overwhelm his mind once again coming from the sword in his hand.

He could not afford to lose his mind again.

Raising his head and using a modified version of his original True Sight Skill by utilizing the unique abilities of the World Serpents, Shin looked at his opponent and saw a lot of areas from the gigantic body of his colossal opponent.

"There are a lot of vulnerable areas now," he mumbled before swiftly retreating to create more space between him and his opponent.

Hu~!

Right after he gained enough distance, he took a deep breath while holding the icy sword horizontally before him with both of his hands.

"It is a pity that I can't use my Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship here neither my Jade Kirin Scripture."

"I have no choice but to settle with the Heavenly Black Tortoise Method of the Four Symbol Scripture. Fortunately, I am able to modify it along with the unique abilities of my current race, or else my main techniques will circulate between my defensive and illusionary techniques."

Boom!

As he was mumbling to himself – or more likely assessing his performance – the blood flowing through his veins suddenly surged like the unstoppable waves of a violent river.

Along with this, the energies circulating within his body also flowed in the same manner, making his veins and mana channels overheat.

His cold body started to become hotter with every passing second, turning his bluish-white scales to turn red. It was as if hot flames were burning under his skin, making the gaps between his scales release a blazing light.

The surrounding water also started to boil, reacting to the sudden heat. There was also hot steam coming out from his body, as the cold water and the heat from his body collided.

This steam then formed an illusionary figure of a gigantic serpent, rivaling the size of the colossal devil lobster before him.

Bang! Bang!

Seeing these, Gammarus knew that this battle would be determined by this final exchange. He quickly spread his feet, planting them firmly on the seabed while urging the energy within his body to also flow according to the special technique of his race.

Roar!

Opening his mouth, a deafening roar quickly resounded in the entire place and repeatedly sent ripples in every direction.

The mana around him also solidified over his shell armor, forming an extra layer of protection.

At this moment, the pressure that he was currently emitting felt like a humongous mountain that could not be moved or damaged by any kind of natural disaster.

It was also at this point that Shin suddenly swung his sword, sending gigantic sword energy that cut through the water.

Swoosh!

The extremely hot temperature that the sword energy swept through the colossal body of Gammarus, who endured everything.

He first thought that he would not have any problem withstanding this attack, but the expression on his face instantly contorted when he sensed that the cold energy within his body that he was unable to expel suddenly reacted to the heat of the sword energy.

Boom!

As if something exploded within his body, the cold energy suddenly 'melted' and became a fuel that enhanced the effects of the hot sword energy sweeping through his body externally.

As if his innards and muscles were lit ablaze from the inside, his entire body became so hot that the surrounding water started to boil.

This lasted for a few seconds until his colossal body shone like a metal that was taken out of the furnace.

When Gammarus realized he could withstand this heat, another wave of energy flew straight to him, making his face grim.

Swoosh!

This time, instead of intense heat, the second sword wave carried an extremely cold energy that froze everything on its path.

Since Gammarus' body was currently burning hot, the sudden appearance of an extremely cold energy instantly froze him.

Due to the sudden changes in temperature, this devil lobster's originally tough and hard shell suddenly became brittle like a fragile glass.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Heavenly Black Tortoise – Breath of the World Serpent'

Releasing what was happening, Gammarus wanted to do something to survive his predicament. But unfortunately for him, it was already too late.

Swoosh!

Shin was already swimming straight to him with unimaginable speed while swinging his sword forward.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Heavenly Black Tortoise – The Fangs of the Sea'

Shin's figure flicked forward a moment before appearing behind his opponent, who remained frozen in place.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then a series of sword flashes appeared behind him, cutting through the colossal body of Gammarus, which exploded like a shattered glass.

Chapter 1533 The Sea Giants (Part 1)

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As Shin was collecting the gemstones that were dropped by Gammarus, he suddenly heard a rhythmic clapping coming from behind.

He quickly went on alert mode, especially when he could not sense the presence of someone sneaking behind him. If the other party wanted him dead, then he would most likely been killed by now.

But when he realized that the other party did not plan to harm him, he somewhat relaxed himself, although not daring to lower his guard.

When he had gotten a clearer look at that individual, he realized that it was Falan, who was still emitting his usual powerful aura. From the lack of injuries from the latter's body, Shin could tell that taking down Darya was quite an easy job for this first-seeded candidate.

"Not bad, huh? You are pretty strong for someone who just awakened," commented Falan as he clapped his hands and approached Shin.

He then looked at the corpse of the giant devil lobster, which now looked like a bunch of broken blocks of ice, before adding. "Even for a World Serpent, aren't you too much of a monster?"

"Complete mastery of bloodline powers on top of summoning your Soul Weapon at such a young age – that kind of talent is something that can only be seen from the greatest geniuses of the Oceanic Races."

He then turned at Shin and looked at the latter from head to toe before shaking his head. "You greatly reminded me of someone. The resemblance is too great to ignore."

He then suddenly disappeared and instantly reappeared in front of Shin. He leaned forward to look closer at Shin's face.

He squinted his eyes while rubbing his chin before asking. "You-... Are you also from the first bloodline? A direct descendant of the First Ouroboros."

Shin was unable to respond as he was not quite sure himself. He just took over this body after the system had sent him for this trial, so he was unaware of the background of this avatar that he currently possessed.

After observing Shin for quite a while, Falan suddenly leaned back once again before nodding his head. "I've decided! I will be leaving the gems in your care."

"Eh!?" Shin was taken aback by the sudden declaration and looked at Falan confusedly.

Falan, on the other hand, chuckled as he explained. "There is no need to be confused. As a Warrior and a Watcher of the sea, our races are meant to work together in times like this."

"As you have already seen, some of the Kings of the Seas have betrayed the Sea Palace and sided with the Demons. As a warrior and a watcher, we must protect the seas from these filthy creatures."

"The Destruction Devils and Demonic Abominations are already hard to deal with, so it will be a great disaster if these traitors join the battle as well."

He then paused and summoned the Sea Gems in his possession extending his hand toward Shin. "The only way to stop these guys from starting another Oceanic War is to collect these gems and transform them into the Emerald of the Seven Seas."

"Only the Champion of the Seas can hold the emerald and use its powers to communicate with the Gods of the Sea, particularly the Great God of Primordial Waters, Lord Hydros."

"These traitors must be planning to snatch the emerald do something about it. I am not sure what they are planning, but we can't afford to let them succeed at collecting these gems."

He looked at Shin with serious eyes as he added. "I am originally planning to collect all of them since it is my duty as a Great Warrior from the Devouring Whale Tribe, but as you can see, I am being targeted by many due to this very reason."

"I have to entrust these gems to someone capable aside from my tribesmen. There is no better candidate than a member of the World Serpent Races, especially when your kind is extremely loyal to the First Ouroboros, who is faithful to the Great God of the Primordial Waters."

"And as a watcher of the seas, it is your duty to protect these gems and prevent those guys from getting their hands on it."

Shin slightly frowned his brows before saying. "But they will change their target into me since I will be holding on to these gems. What if I am not strong enough to fend them off."

Hearing that, Falan laughed as he continued. "You don't have to worry about that since I will be protecting you against the greatest threats."

"I originally can't go all out since I have to make sure to protect these gems. If something is to happen to me when I am holding these gems, then everything will be all for naught. After all, Octo of the Origin Kraken Tribe and Nuguro of the Serpent Hydras are difficult to deal with even with me."

"I can fight them with my full powers if I have to constantly worry about my well-being due to these gemstones. But it will be a completely different matter if I leave these gemstones in your hands."

"Even if I sacrifice myself to take down those two, then I don't have to worry about the safety of these gemstones."

"Given that you have taken down even Gammarus, who is the fourth-seeded candidate, I am confident that no one among the participants will pose any threat against you other than those two."

Shin understood what Falan was trying to say, but he was still not fully convinced since he was not sure of the full extent of his powers. The same for Octo and Nuguro, who were the second and third-seeded candidates respectively.

Regardless, he still accepted the gemstones since one of his objectives for this trial was to collect the Sea Gems.

Even if Falan did not offer them to him, he would still find a way to get his hands on these gemstones.

Falan nodded his head in satisfaction when he saw Shin taking the gemstones and keeping them with him. He then turned toward a certain direction before signaling to Shin. "We don't have much time left, so I have to ask you to follow me closely."

"I know that you are still quite weak compared to the others from your race but given the insane growth rate along with the overwhelming potential that you had, I am pretty sure that you can catch up to them in no time."

"We will be rushing toward the center of this realm, where the altar of worship is located. That is where you must activate the Emerald of the Seven Seas. That must be the place where Octo and Nuguro are currently located."

"We will not look for my tribesmen and our kind since we are in a rush, but we will regroup with them once we anyone along the way."

"Remember, your job is to collect the gemstones and protect them from being snatched by those traitors."

"You don't have to worry about how to snatch the gemstones from the other participants since they will naturally reveal themselves once they are gathered in one place."

"The gemstones will be attracted to one another, so all you have to do is collect all of them when the battle starts."

"I will make sure that Octo and Nuguro will not interfere with you, so you can focus on collecting them. Once you are done, you must head to the altar as soon as possible and not let anyone touch the emerald once it is formed."

"We will win the war once you become the champion of the seas and receive the blessing from the gods," Falan explained the plan to Shin as they were heading toward the center of this dimensional realm.

Along the way, they encountered quite a few creatures who were trying to snatch the gems from them. They had also found some of the members of the Devouring Whale Tribe, which joined them immediately after.

But the strange part was they had never encountered a single member of the World Serpent Race, which was quite puzzling.

At first, they disregarded these thoughts as the World Serpents headed straight to the center of this independent realm, trying to take down the traitors together.

Given their overwhelming force when they were together, Octo and Nuguro would have a hard time dealing with it even with the help of their people. After all, a group of World Serpents were a force to be reckoned with.

At least that was what everyone believed until they reached their destination.

They all could not help but halt their tracks when they saw the scene in front of them. Right in front of the altar were mountains of colossal corpses.

Moreover, the majority of these corpses were from the giant serpents with snow-white scales, which were now dyed with a variety of colors from the blood of different sea creatures.

On top of the altar, they could also see some poles where more of the World Serpent Race in their humanoid form were currently hanged.

Shin subconsciously clenched his fists when he saw this scene as his blood boiled in anger. He directed his gaze at the pair of figures standing on top of the altar in the distance who were looking back at them with haughty expressions on their faces.

Falan also felt the same anger as Shin as some of the humanoid figures being hanged in those poles were his tribesmen and friends from other tribes.

These two started emitting an overwhelming pressure that almost suffocated those around them.

Chapter 1534 The Sea Giants (Part 2)

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Shin suppressed the boiling anger that was coming from his bloodline before turning his attention to the floating gemstones on top of the altar.

From the look of it, Octo and Nuguro used these gemstones as bait to lure Shin and Falan to come at them, especially Shin who had the rest of the Sea Gems. All Shin needed to get his hands on these gemstones, he would be able to acquire the complete sets of the seven Sea Gems.

Fusing them would then follow so that the Emerald of the Seven Seas would be completed.

"What a bold way to invite us," mumbled Falan after also seeing those Sea Gems.

At the same time, he also felt that this was going to be even more troublesome given that the opposing side would focus more on protecting those gemstones while also trying to snatch the rest from Shin.

He turned his head and looked over his shoulder while instructing his tribesmen. "You guys protect this friend from those filthy creatures while he is trying to get the gemstones. I will handle those two on my own."

"But Young Leader..." one of them tried to say something, but he was immediately silenced by Falan's sharp glare.

"This is going to decide the fate of the Great Ocean and the Seven Seas, so make sure to dedicate yourselves to our duty and forget about everything else," said Falan as he could read what his tribesmen were thinking.

They were already in such a dire situation, yet they were still thinking about the 'glory' of being the so-called 'Greatest' among all the tribes by him being crowned as the Champion of the Seas.

He sighed before turning to Shin. "I will be leaving the rest to you."

Shin nodded his head before directing his eyes at the altar once again. His gaze met Nuguro's, creating invisible sparks in the air.

After a few seconds of staredown, Nuguro smirked at Shin before pointing toward the corpses of World Serpents scattered around the altar and those being hanged on the poles behind him.

Shin gritted his teeth and clenched his fists tightly.

"Let's go!" shouted Falan to signaled everyone. He led the charge as the overwhelming aura that he was emitting instantly enveloped the entire place.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The others followed right behind him alongside Shin, who was only slightly behind Falan. The aura that he was releasing was not much weaker compared to this warrior of the sea.

Seeing them charging toward the altar with a very strong momentum, the pair standing on top of it smirked.

"I will be taking on Falan. I will leave the rest to you," said Octo before jumping off the altar before partially transforming himself into his original form.

Roar!

His body remained in humanoid form, but countless tentacles appeared behind him, charging at the group in front of him while primarily targeting Falan.

Seeing those tentacles aggressively charging at them, Falan increased his speed and suddenly took a deep breath, making his chest expand.

Roar!

A moment later, he suddenly opened his mouth, releasing a powerful shout that sent an overlapping series of ripples that disrupted the advance of the tentacles.

With this, the members of the Devouring Whale Tribe were able to maneuver around the tentacles as they continued their advance.

Falan squinted his eyes as he saw that Octo was purposely letting everyone swim past him while directing the tentacles to obstruct Falan instead.

This disrupted the plans Falan had as he wanted to at least force Nuguro to leave the altar so that he could take them both at the same time.

"I guess I have to find other ways to lure him away," mumbled Falan as he focused on dealing with Octo in the meantime.

Seemingly able to read what was inside Falan's mind, Octo suddenly grinned deviously. "Do you think that it will be the same as that time?"

"Let me tell you something... Do you know why the Lord of the Ocean Depths turned his back on the Sea Palace? It is because he has been promised to get a portion of the powers of your God!"

"It is the same for Lord Leviathan, the Ruler of the Sea Monsters, and Lord Serpentra, the Ancient Hydra!"

Hearing those words, Falan's eyes suddenly contracted as he realized what these guys were planning. "You... You are planning to forcefully summon the Gods of the Seas to weaken their divine powers and rob their Divine Essence!"

"The Lord of the Ocean Depths, the Ruler of the Sea Monsters, the Ancient Hydra must have received the powers from Hell and become a Great Demon King!"

With that, Falan quickly entered his reinforced form and started throwing a barrage of attacks at Octo.

He understood what it meant to become a Great Demon King; it was a ruler from hell that rivaled the powers of the Gods overseeing the Origin World.

All they had was the ascension process where they must rob the Divine Essence of a Divine Being, preferably those who managed to become a True God.

With the current powers of these three former kings of the seas, no one would be able to match them aside from the original guardians of the seas such as the First Ouroboros, the Sea Dragon King, and the Black Tortoise.

But if those three revealed themselves, the Great Demon Kings, who were currently eyeing them and possessed powers comparable to them, would without about join the war.

Once it happened, another Great Oceanic War would start, where their forces would be on the back foot since the opposing side would have more powerhouse than them.

What was even more troublesome about this was the tribes that were under the direct authority of those three newly crowned Great Demon Kings would also receive the portion of the demonic powers that their lords possessed.

This could only mean that-...

Octo grinned as he could tell that Falan had finally realized who he and Nuguro had slaughtered all these World Serpents and other powerful participants that tried to take them down with just the two of them.

"I will show you have powerful I have become!" he shouted as his eyes suddenly shone with a bloody light along with black miasma shrouding his entire body.

Not long after, his new appearance was displayed for everyone to see.

Those sharp and savage-looking pair of horns sticking out from his forehead and bloody eyes made him look terrifying.

There were also thorn-like spikes around his shoulders, arms, and even his tentacles as well.

In this form, the aura that he was currently emitting instantly overwhelmed those around him, making the members of the Devouring Whale Tribe feel uncomfortable. They felt like they were being strangled by an invisible hand that was trying to kill them.

Such an overwhelming demonic power was so strong that it robbed their abilities to move, much less fight.

The Devouring Whales started to fall on one another as they were gasping for air.

Seeing this scene, Falan quickly activated his bloodline, making his muscles expand noticeably. Then his aura quickly increased by threefold and somewhat matched the aura of his opponent.

Boom!

Due to the collision of the two powers, the pressure that everyone was getting quickly rose exponentially, making it harder for them to move.

But what Falan had done gave them an idea. They then quickly activated their respective bloodline powers, covering their bodies with it while also supporting one another with a special technique that their tribe had.

The combined energies let them withstand the overwhelming pressure pressing at them, which also somewhat supported Falan, who was getting powerful himself.

"Trying to use the unified force to match my powers? As expected of the greatest genius of the Devouring Whale Tribe," commented Octo as he saw Falan easily nullify his aura suppression with a single trick.

With that, he quickly launched a series of attacks at Falan, ignoring the rest who were swimming past him.

From the look of it, he was fully confident with Nuguro, who would be fighting all of them alone.

...

Watching from the altar, Nuguro shook his head slightly, especially when he saw Octo releasing his Demonic Powers from the very start.

He expected that Octo would not dare to underestimate Falan, who was their greatest threat in this independent realm.

"I guess I have to finish my side fast as well," he mumbled as he looked at the Devouring Whales charging straight at him.

With a similar bloody light that Octo emitted earlier alongside a dark miasma that enfolded his entire body.

When everything settled down, Nuguro, who originally had azure scales, now had black scales along with the shadowy miasma that was leaking out from the gaps of every scale.

There was also a sole horn curving upwards from the center of his forehead while his hair turned into an azure light that seemed to be made of pure mana.

Boom!

With this transformation, the place was immediately filled with another overwhelming pressure that pressed on everyone.

But since they were enduring it 'together', the outcome was not as bad as what happened earlier. They could withstand the pressure, albeit their movements were somewhat affected.

At this point, Nuguro pointed at them, immediately followed by the appearance of a huge group of sea snakes that assaulted everyone from all sides.

These snakes were made of demonic powers, signifying that it was one of his techniques.

Amid this chaos, an individual was calmly advancing forward and seemingly unbothered by what was happening around him.

The sea snakes also avoided him instinctively, acting as if they feared him.

Nuguro smirked when he turned toward this individual, seemingly expecting this scene. "Now, show me if you are any different from the rest."

Shin ignored those words as he extended his hand to the side, conjuring an icy sword out of his Mana Essence.

He then pointed it forward, seemingly inviting the opposing party to come at him.

Chapter 1535 The Sea Giants (Part 3)

.....

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin was besieged by a swarm of sea snakes, covering all the escape routes that he could take.

But that was only if he was planning to escape from them.

Shin quickly took a stance and swung his sword multiple times, sending a series of sword energy in every direction, which cut through all the snakes heading his way.

Few managed to slip through the net of sword energies and tried to attack Shin, but he was able to quickly cut them before they could even reach him.

While he was dealing with these snakes, he was keeping a close eye on Nuguro, who seemed to have no intention of leaving the altar.

Well, the reason was quite obvious already.

"I have to work together with the members of the Devouring Whale Tribe to get near the altar and get my hands on those gemstones first. Dealing with his Hydra can wait," he mumbled as he squinted his eyes.

The problem was the snakes were noticeably getting stronger as they approached the altar alongside the increasing numbers of the sea snakes.

Shin was not sure what this guy was hiding, but he could feel that something was hidden underneath that altar. And whatever it was, it was something that they could afford to deal with given their current powers.

The ominous feeling that he was getting from that altar was increasingly getting stronger as he tried to approach it.

Due to this, he was starting to have second thoughts about whether he would have to get near that place first or not.

As his thoughts lingered around this topic, Shin's attention was suddenly attracted to the corpses of the World Serpents scattered beneath the altar as well as those being hanged on top of it.

For some reason, his uneasiness was getting stronger as he looked at them.

"Could it be the reason why they have lost despite their combined powers was because of what is hidden underneath that altar?" Shin frowned deeply as his eyes swept through the entire battlefield.

The more he thought about it, the more convinced he became.

Even a single member of the World Serpent Race was powerful enough to deal with the top candidates of this Festival of the Seas, particularly those that Shin had seen earlier during the first round.

Even Falan, who was the strongest among all the top candidates acknowledged the strength of all members of the World Serpent Race.

If even the combined forces of all the members of the World Serpent Race were unable to defeat Octo and Nuguro, then this place must be the reason for their crushing defeat, especially with the ominous feeling that he was getting from that altar.

That thing must have something that could restrict the special abilities of the World Serpents or even counter them altogether.

That must be the source of confidence in Nuguro despite Shin possessing a similar level of strength despite his current demonic form.

With this suspicion, Shin could only rely on the members of the Devouring Whale Tribe to test the waters for him.

"I should lend them a hand for now," mumbled Shin as he saw the Devouring Whales having a hard time dealing with the sea serpents swarming at them.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Cut through every snake surrounding him before charging toward the members of the Devouring Whale Tribe to assist them.

Hiss! Hiss! Hiss!

But before he could even reach any of them, five huge snakes suddenly appeared and attacked him from different directions.

Boom!

Nuguro, who was wearing a smug look up until now, slightly frowned as he stared at the cloud of dust that was created right after the humongous snakes attacked Shin.

When the cloud settled down, the five snakes entangled with one another were suddenly revealed alongside a huge ice prism in between their mouths, trying to swallow it.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Heavenly Black Tortoise – Protection of the Sea Turtle'

Holding the sword vertically before, Shin focused his Mana Essence into the sword while the ice prism protecting him shone alongside the glowing runes filling its surface.

A moment later, he swung the ice sword horizontally, releasing a flash of light that cut through the five giant snakes trying to eat him alongside the fabric of space.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Heavenly Black Tortoise – White Serpent Slash'

Swoosh!

Crack! Crack!

The water and the space where the icy light cut through froze for a second before shattering and turning into pieces like fragments of broken glass.

Nuguro could sense a strange power coming from Shin, which made him somewhat different from the rest of the World Serpents that he had defeated earlier.

He had already devoured their Mana Essence earlier, but there was still an unshakable feeling that made him somewhat uncomfortable.

World Serpents and Serpent Hydras had never been on friendly terms with one another, which was why there were a lot of clashes between the two races in most of the encounters that they had.

Nuguro was especially disgusted by their race due to his experience with the greatest talent that the World Serpents had produced.

They were always being compared with one another, and he was also fairing short most of the time, making him unsatisfied with it.

"Fortunately, I have already devoured before the festival started," he mumbled as he stared at Shin with the same gaze when he looked at the fallen genius of the World Serpents.

"I should take care of him as soon as possible before he grows into another problem," he added as he hissed with his snake tongue. "I wonder what kind of ability I will get from devouring you."

He wanted to take action personally, but he had to stay at the altar to avoid the gemstones from being snatched.

Moreover, he also had his feet fixated on the altar to complete the absorption of the Life Essences of the dead World Serpents scattered around the altar and those being hanged on the poles.

If he could only use his original form, he could just swallow everything with his multiple heads. But that would require a lot of time to digest their corpses, making him unable to do anything during the digestion process.

Given their current situation, it would be a dangerous situation for him once Falan attacked him during that time.

This was why he had chosen another method to consume the essence of the World Serpents he had killed. He converted the summing altar into a sacrificial one with the help of the artifact he had gotten from his Lord.

Fortunately, Octo had no interest in the World Serpents since he could not get that much benefit from them unlike Nuguro, who was of a similar species as them.

Instead, he preferred consuming the other sea creatures, which could provide him with a lot of demonic energy by collecting their hearts and sacrificing their bodies.

He had already gotten what he wanted earlier, and it was now Nuguro's turn to consume the rest of the corpses.

"Tsk! This is getting a little more troublesome. To think there is another variable that we have overlooked," mumbled Nuguro before glancing in the direction where Falan and Octo were fighting.

"Tsk! Tsk! And we have also underestimated Falan's power. To think he has already awakened the Whale Tribe's Inheritance Tattoo," he then clicked his tongue repeatedly after seeing Falan not only hold his ground against Octo, who had successfully evolved into a Demonified Creature but also pushing the latter back from time to time.

After that, he turned to the humanoid corpses of the World Serpents being hanged on the poles behind him. "I guess I don't have another choice but to use these guys."

"Tsk! It is a pity that I have to waste such nutritious materials just to deal with this annoying one," he added before turning to Shin. "But I guess what I will get from devouring him will be much better in exchange."

With that, he summoned a bunch of black snakes made from his Mana Essence and Demonic Powers, which rushed toward the humanoid corpses of the dead World Serpents and possessed them.

Not long after, these originally lifeless bodies suddenly opened their eyes, which were now completely dyed with black color.

Not long after, they started jumping off the poles, where they were being hanged, one after another before kneeling behind Nuguro.

Given the respective auras that they were emitting, it was clear that any of them were much stronger compared to their previous strength when they were still alive in terms of physical stats.

They might have lost their innate abilities and unique powers, but their physical stats were much higher than their previous threshold. Moreover, they had also inherited some of the skills from the Serpent Hydras that Nuguro had granted.

"Go! Make sure to bring that annoying serpent's corpse to me," he instructed to which the zombified World Serpents acted.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

"Let's see what you can do this time," he smirked while looking at Shin, who was currently busy saving the rest of the Devouring Whales, before adding. "But even if you survive, the time that they have bought me should be more than enough for me to digest these corpses."

"Let's see how you are going to struggle then."

Chapter 1536 The Sea Giants (Part 4)

.....

As Shin was saving the members of the Devouring Whale Tribe from the sea snakes that were constantly growing stronger in every passing second, a bunch of killing intent were suddenly locked on him, making him swiftly retreat.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, he simultaneously swung his sword around, cutting the group of sea snakes that were trying to coil around his body.

While he was cutting them, a figure suddenly emerged from the swarm of snakes and pounced at him with a saber in hand.

Whoosh!

This figure carried a lot of power despite having a pair of lifeless eyes. There was also an overwhelming dark energy coming from its body, making Shin raise his brows.

The speed and the timing of this ambush were so perfect that it instantly put Shin in a predicament. Moreover, the expression on his face suddenly changed when he saw who was attacking him all of a sudden.

"That bastard," he cursed as he glanced at Nuguro, who was looking at him mockingly.

He could also see the movements of the latter's mouth, seemingly purposely trailing his words for Shin to read them.

"Go enjoy getting killed by your kin."

The blood flowing through Shin's veins immediately boiled in response as if the body that he was currently hosting was responding with that provocation.

This somewhat affected Shin, who was doing his best to keep the World Serpent's Fang under control.

The berserk reaction of his bloodline made the icy sword release a crimson hue, seemingly showing its killing intent.

But this killing intent was not directed to the individual who was ambushing him, but instead to Nuguro, who was watching everything from the top of the altar.

Shin suppressed the overwhelming killing intent that was slowly getting stronger with his willpower, seemingly saying – "Keep it down. I will take your revenge later." –

Clang!

"For now, let's free your people from his control and let them rest," he mumbled as he deflected the saber directed at him before swiftly spinning while moving sideways.

Swoosh!

He narrowly dodged an attack directed at his back. He did not have to look at who it was as he was familiar with the technique and aura that the assaulter had used.

It was the same technique that one of the World Serpents that he had seen from the first round of the festival. The individual possessed an unrivaled assassination technique, which could rip the lives of his victims without making a sound.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

After dodging, Shin quickly turned toward another direction blocking a series of slashes that were trying to cut him from a blind spot.

While he was engaged in an intense exchange, an overwhelming presence suddenly appeared him behind, resembling a giant mountain.

A huge zombified World Serpent with a muscular build appeared behind him with wide-spread arms, trying to catch him.

If he was caught by those thick and muscular arms, he could tell that his bones would be crushed within an instant.

With a quick turn, Shin forced the one wielding the saber before him and faced the muscular World Serpent.

Then he suddenly threw his elbow toward the abdomen of the other party, which channeled a huge amount of force into it, especially a Yin-Type force.

Bang!

The attack did not deal that much damage to the muscular World Serpent on the surface, but when the Yin Force it contained exploded within the body of the latter, the huge World Serpent was forced to retreat due to the impact.

Even if the World Serpent did not have a sense of pain due to its having a zombified body, the strong force that exploded within its body created a mess within its innards, which made the snakes made of demonic energy within to be thrown in chaos.

Despite that being the case, Shin was still not clear yet because there was another series of attacks besieging him from every direction.

Shin slightly frowned his brows as he started to feel the pressure that a World Serpent had toward their opponents. Even if these zombified bodies lost the unique abilities of their previous owners, their physical capabilities were still present.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Shin tried to fend off the attacks by swinging his icy swords while dodging the rest that he could not afford to face head-on due to the overwhelming strength that they carried.

The members of the Devouring Whale Tribe wanted to help him, but they could not lend him a hand due to the increasing number of sea snakes.

Since Shin was too occupied to lessen the number of the snakes, there was no one who could keep their number in check, making it hard for them to hold their ground.

The abilities of a Serpent Hydra were already troublesome. But when it was enhanced by the demonic powers granted by a Great Demon King, it became even more powerful and absurd to deal with.

...

While Shin focused on defending himself from the attacks of the five zombified World Serpents, he suddenly sensed something coming from the bodies of his opponents.

It felt like some sort of unique signal that his mind was picking up...or more like a unique connection between the World Serpents due to their bloodline.

Shin knitted his brow in confusion before paying more attention to this 'signal'. It did not take that long before his eyes suddenly turned wide due to what he just discovered.

It seemed like the 'souls' of these dead World Serpents were still 'alive' somewhere and trying to communicate with him.

After 'listening' to them for quite a while, he finally understood what they were trying to tell him.

He then looked at the altar from the corner of his eyes before glancing at Nuguro, who was still standing on it while watching the battle.

"I see. So that is the real reason why that guy refused to leave the altar despite possessing enough power to kill all the Devouring Whales. It is because he doesn't want to, but he just can't because of the sacrificial ritual. It is not because he wanted to defend those gemstones."

"So, I can stop it if I somehow force him to step away from the altar?" mumbled Shin as he was dealing with the attacks of the five zombified World Serpents.

Shin was having a lot of pressure from these five but somehow did not feel threatened despite how aggressive and powerful their attacks were.

He was not sure about it, but it seemed like these zombified World Serpents were restraining themselves from harming him to a certain extent, despite not being too obvious from the surface.

"Is it because of those 'souls?'" mumbled Shin as he looked at them.

Somehow, he felt that those lifeless and eerie eyes seemed to be begging him to end their suffering.

Hu~!

Shin took a deep breath as he held the icy sword with both of his hands while channeling his Mana Essence into it.

Seeing that Shin was preparing for another ultimate move, Nuguro quickly urged his puppets to attack, telling them to disturb Shin before he could accumulate enough energy for his technique.

But the expression on his face immediately turned grim as he sensed something strange coming from those zombified bodies of the fallen World Serpents. The response that he was getting from the demonic snakes that he had planted in those bodies was telling him that they could no longer control the corpses.

It was as if some forces were preventing them from moving.

Hearing those responses from the demonic snakes, the expression on Nuguro's face suddenly turned ugly as he realized what was happening. "This annoying bloodline!"

For a reason, These corpses he was trying to control were the top talents of the World Serpent Race. Even after death, the power of their souls and bloodline still stubbornly hold on and continuously fight.

With this, Nuguro suddenly got an ominous premonition, making him urge the altar to hasten the absorption process of the dead World Serpents that he had already been absorbing.

This made the entire altar tremble, creating a visible ripple underwater, which also made the mana within the surroundings gather toward the altar.

The colossal corpses scattered around the altar also started showing some signs of drying up at a visible rate.

Falan, who was engaged in an intense battle against Octo, sensed this and could not help but glance in the direction of the altar.

But before he could even get a clear look at what was happening, Octo quickly launched a series of attacks that he could not ignore and forced him to defend.

"Dare to get distracted while fighting me? Are you looking to die?"

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Falan managed to fend off the attacks, but his expression was quite grim. He was not sure what was happening on the other side of the battlefield, but he was getting an ominous feeling that was hard to ignore.

He just hoped that Shin would be able to save his tribesmen from whatever it was.

Chapter 1537 The Song of the World Serpents (Part 1)

.....

As could sense the sudden shift of the energy flow within the surroundings, making it somewhat difficult for him to gather more Mana Essence for his skill.

But since the accumulation of energy was already approaching its peak, he did not have much trouble completing it.

Swoosh!

When everything was ready, Shin suddenly swung the icy sword horizontally while turning around, drawing a full circle with it.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Heavenly Black Tortoise – Full Moon of the Abyssal Depths'

Roar!

Along with the roar that seemed to come from both a serpent and a turtle, circular energy was released around Shin while carrying a brilliant light.

It extended outwards, expanding until it released at least a hundred meters away from Shin.

Swoosh!

Everything that the circular energy went through turned into ice right after the cold vapor accompanying it swept through them.

The strong pressure of water, the sea snakes made of demonic energy, the surrounding mana essence, a portion of the colossal corpses of the dead World Serpents, and the ones that were attacking him earlier – all of them froze.

Within the range of the skill that Shin had used turned into a frozen world, where everything turned into ice sculptures or a huge block of ice.

Crack! Crack!

This scene lasted for a couple of seconds before cracks appeared on the surface of the frozen world. Then it shattered into pieces like broken glass before being swept by the strong water current that started gushing in from every direction.

It was at that moment when Nuguro also finished absorbing the remaining powers and energies from the corpses of the World Serpents that he previously killed.

Even though it was a little forceful due to the current situation, Nuguro was still able to convert everything into his powers, making the demonic energy circulating within his body grow stronger alongside it.

Roar!

With a deafening shout, a huge silhouette of a monster with multiple heads manifested behind him for a moment before dissipating after a couple of seconds.

From the appearance of the monster, it looked like a snake with dozens of heads with arms, legs, and body of a reptilian creature.

It shared a great resemblance with the Serpent Hydras, but the heads of this creature also had a striking resemblance to a dragon, particularly the crimson horn sticking out from the center of each head.

It was no longer a simple Serpent Hydra, but a Demonified Multi-Headed Sea Dragon!

Boom!

At the same time, Nuguro also underwent a significant transformation that separated him from the rest of his tribesmen.

After absorbing such a large amount of blood and energy from the World Serpents, his bloodline had also undergone a massive transformation.

Adding the demonic powers that he had received from the leader of the Hydras, who just became a Great Demon King recently, his current powers far surpassed anyone within this realm.

Aside from Falan, who had a complete inheritance from his tribe and full mastery over it, and Octo, who was in a similar situation to him, no one would be able to match his current self.

Boom!

An overwhelming and suffocating pressure quickly enveloped the entire place, adding to the already powerful demonic pressure that Octo had constantly released.

"Argh!"

"Ugh!"

Due to this, the members of the Devouring Whale Tribe were finally unable to withstand the pressure despite their united powers.

They started collapsing one after another, robbing their ability to continue fighting.

"Urgh!" Shin, who just finished the zombified World Serpents, also suffered a backslash from overstaining his body when using the previous move.

It was one of the most advanced techniques that he used from his arsenal, so it put quite a lot of burden on his body.

He would normally have no problem using these techniques due to the powerful capabilities of his current vessel. Moreover, it had a strong regenerative ability that could heal his internal injuries in an instant, so it shouldn't be that much of an issue using them twice or more.

But he had been using such techniques since he was fighting Gammarus earlier. He was also trying to keep the World Serpent Fang under control, which was constantly trying to affect his mind, so most of his abilities were being restrained from time to time.

Even though it was not affecting his battle capabilities when he was fighting, the accumulated stress within his body was instantly triggered right after a pressure stronger than what he could endure assaulted him.

Shin bit his lower lip to endure the pressure before releasing a strong aura of his own to fight back.

He had spent quite a lot of energy fighting those zombified World Serpents, so his current state was not suitable to battle someone like Nuguro, who just finished his transformation.

The moment when Nuguro was done with his physical transformation, he started floating from the altar and headed toward the center of the battlefield.

It was as if that thing was no longer of help for him.

But at the same time, the Sea Gems floating above the altar also moved, following closely behind him. They formed a circular formation while moving as if they were trying to create a magic formation with them as the center.

They rapidly spun before slowly gathering around his left arm. They gently revolved around his arm as a series of runes connected them from each other.

Boom!

Right when it happened, a very strong mana pressure enveloped the entire place, adding to the already powerful pressure that Octo and Nuguro were emitting.

This new pressure was an indication that someone within the vicinity possessed a very high level of magical powers.

"This-...! It can't be!" Falan, who was busy fighting Octo, could not help but freeze when he sensed the powerful magical presence that descended in the place.

Bang!

He launched a powerful attack to push the tentacles that were assaulting him back before riding the impact to create enough distance to disengage from the battle.

He then turned toward the direction where Nuguro was and saw Sea Gems revolving around the latter's arm.

"You-... how are you able to wield the powers of the Seven Seas while the Emerald is still in an incomplete state!" shouted Falan while glaring sharply at Nuguro.

Nuguro gave him a sidelong glance before ignoring him. Falan was no longer his main target. In his eyes, who was the unknown variable, was the more urgent situation that they had to deal with.

Instead, it was Octo who had answered. "Do you think that the authority of the Primordial Waters is absolute? That is only true for those who are blindly following that Guardian God of yours, who disappeared after his ascension."

"How dare you defile the name of the Great God Hydros!" shouted Falan, fully enraged.

Boom!

Alongside it, the already weakening aura that he was emitting as a sign of exhaustion exploded and started fighting back against the three auras that were trying to overwhelm the entire place.

Seeing that, Octo started grinning widely before saying. "Let's forget about anything and enjoy this battle."

"After all, you will become my nourishment after I defeated you and finally become the greatest genius of the Seven Seas!" he added before launching another series of attacks at Falan.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

...

Shin ignored the commotion happening on the other side of the battlefield as his eyes were fixated on Nuguro, who was currently floating right above them.

Through his True Sight Skill, he was able to see two types of powers coming from the opposing party. One of them was the dense demonic powers that the latter had received from Great Demon King while the other was the overwhelming magical powers that were coming from the seven gemstones revolving around his left arm.

Ignoring the innate abilities that Nuguro had gotten from his original race, which was currently reinforced by the demonic powers, this magical power alone was more than enough to slaughter everyone within this place.

Even if the fallen warriors of the seas and the World Serpents scattered around were to come back to life, Nuguro would still have no problem fighting all of them at once.

Shin frowned deeply as his grip on the icy sword turned tight.

Taking a deep breath, he started mumbling to himself. "Great! This should be the mark of the end of this trial. Or should I say the climax?"

"I wonder how difficult the other two were," he started to feel a little worried about the other trials due to this reason.

He had grown quite strong throughout this trial. He might not have gotten anything physically like some sort of powerful equipment, or a broken artifact, or ultra-rare material.

But what he had learned from the experiences that he had gone through did not only help him improve his battle capabilities within the game but also affected his abilities in the real world.

"Let's squeeze this trial until the last drop before leaving this place," he mumbled as he licked his lips.

Despite being at the center of such adversity, Shin still wore a calm and fearless look, which annoyed his opponent.

On the other hand, Shin's chest started to grow hot due to the rapid beating of his heart.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

And as if responding to his determination, the World Serpent Fang Sword that he held in his hands started emitting a brilliant light, which somewhat relieved his fatigued mind and granted him additional strength.

Even if it was far from being enough to match Nuguro's current powers, the resolve that the sword was giving him let him fight against the overwhelming pressure of his opponent.

Instantly Sensing this and seemingly understanding its thoughts, Shin started grinning as he said to it. "Let's go wild for one last time!"

Chapter 1538 The Song of the World Serpents (Part 2)

.....

Bang!

Shin kicked the seabed, leaving a deep footprint on its surface alongside an intense tremor that spread in every direction.

Swoosh!

Then his body turned into a streak of light that flew straight to Nuguro, who was arrogantly looking at him from a higher altitude.

Nuguro now had an overwhelming confidence due to the newly acquired powers that he possessed. He believed that with these powers, he would be able to defeat anyone in his generation or even those adults of the other Oceanic Tribes.

He had already tested some of the effects of the demonic powers that he possessed, so he wanted to try the magical powers that he newly acquired.

He slowly raised his left hand and pointed toward Shin, who was heading in his direction, before focusing his Mana Essence at the tip of his finger.

Zong~! Long~! Long~!

Not long after, a tiny sphere of light was formed while emitting a blinding light.

Swoosh!

Then, suddenly, a beam of light flew out from that sphere and flew forward. It appeared right in front of him almost in an instant, magnifying before his eyes at a slow yet also rapid pace.

Shin's pupils contracted as he stared intently at the beam of light that was heading his way. It was just a couple of feet away from his face when his body reacted to it. Fortunately, he was fast enough to respond and managed to raise the icy sword horizontally in front of him.

He slightly inclined the sword to deflect the trajectory of the incoming beam while summing a huge amount of Mana Essence to protect his body.

At the same time, he also leaned toward the opposite direction of the sword to minimize the damage as much as he could.

Boom!

But despite his efforts, he was still blasted by the beam of light right after it hit the sword. The impact was so strong that it sent him flying back to the bed of the sea and getting buried by the collapsed corals and rock boulders.

Whoosh!

A huge cloud of dirt spread in every direction due to the collapse, blocking the sight of everyone.

Those from the Devouring Whale Tribe were blasted away due to the strong shockwave, sending them crashing against the surrounding boulders and corals and getting buried under the collapse during the process.

Nuguro ignored the rest and focused on the direction where Shin was buried. He squinted his eyes when he sensed that there was still a signal of life coming from that spot.

Seeing that, he quickly gathered more energy on the tip of his fingers and started firing in that direction continuously like an artillery barrage.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The spot where Shin was buried was bombarded by a series of explosions, further spreading the cloud of dirt that was formed alongside them.

After a while, Nuguro stopped when he felt quite satisfied with the bombardment and watched the cloud of dirt settle. But he suddenly frowned deeply when the water became clear once again.

As the cloud of dirt settled, a thick dome of ice was erected at the center of a huge crater that the previous explosions had created.

The dome of energy was made of pure Mana Essence that solidified and turned into a solid ice that also resembled the hard shell of a turtle along with a serpent coiling around it.

Shin was also revealed standing within it while holding the icy sword horizontally before him while releasing a dense Mana Essence.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Heavenly Black Tortoise – Blessing of the Northern General'

Seeing that, Nuguro deepened his frown before sending another series of beams that immediately bombarded the barrier.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

But this time, the power behind each beam of light was much stronger than the previous ones. For each explosion, the barrier dome protecting Shin shook violently.

Crack! Crack!

Multiple cracks also appeared on its surface after enduring such an intense bombardment. It would not last that long before it completely collapsed.

Cough!

Blood also started to leak from the corner of Shin's mouth due to the backslash of the broken barrier.

When he was no longer able to endure, Shin quickly released the technique before swiftly executing a series of foot techniques to escape the bombardment of those powerful beams.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

He left a series of explosions behind him as he ran. He had executed multiple maneuvers while dodging the bombardment by a narrow margin while also avoiding the collapsing seabed and corals on his path.

Despite his desperate appearance when running, Shin remained calm. He kept an eye on his surroundings with the help of his Spiritual Sense while also keeping Nuguro in check with his gaze.

He was releasing the patterns of the attacks while looking for an opening to escape this predicament.

He knew that he could not let this continue, so he had to make haste to find the solution. But he also could not be reckless in his actions as it could instantly cost his life if he made a single mistake.

On the other hand, Nuguro was getting impatient after seeing Shin repeatedly escape from the clutches of death despite being so close to it.

With that, he started waving his other hand, commanding a huge swarm of sea snakes toward Shin's direction.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Hiss!

Hearing the series of hissing sounds, Shin did not even need to turn his head around to know how large the swarm of snakes was. Listening to the sounds alone was more than enough for him to know that their size was much larger than previously.

It was clear that Nuguro was directing all the sea snakes toward him, completely ignoring the members of the Devouring Whale Tribe.

Due to the fast-approaching sea snakes from every direction, Shin had to slow down and deal with them while dodging the range of each explosion of the beams raining down from above.

Swoosh!

He cut through everything to create a path for survival while also taking advantage of the huge range of explosions to get rid of the majority of the snakes.

But their number seemed to be endless as they constantly swarmed at him out of nowhere.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Heavenly Black Tortoise – The Breeze of the Northen Wind'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As multiple flashes of light cut through the swarm of serpents besieging him from different directions, Shin dashed out of the encirclement in an unpredictable moment.

But right after he got out of the serpent swarm, he was immediately greeted by the huge mouth of a giant serpent.

It widely opened its mouth as he was flying straight to it.

Shin forcefully stopped his advance before swinging his sword. But instead of targeting the serpent's mouth, he slashed the sword at the seabed before raising it as if he were summoning something.

Bang!

Immediately after, a huge and thick wall of ice suddenly erected from the seabed and blocked the incoming serpent.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Heavenly Black Tortoise – Heavenly Wall of the Northern Sea'

Boom!

The serpent slammed its mouth on the sturdy ice wall, completely halting its advance. There were multiple cracks appeared on the surface of the ice wall due to the powerful impact, but that was all into it as it was strong enough to withstand the force of the collision.

Shin did not even have the time to look at what happened next as he quickly changed his direction while running.

Boom!

It was at that moment when another beam of light landed on his previous location, creating yet another devastating explosion.

Such scenes repeated multiple times as Shin tried his best to survive the bombardment and encirclement of the explosions and the swarm of snakes.

He had not launched any counterattack yet as there was no opportunity to do so. He focused on keeping himself alive while switching from dodging and defending with his techniques.

His current appearance was already a complete mess after suffering from Nuguro's attacks. Even the ice armor that he was wearing was already full of cracks along with the broken edges.

It would not take that long before he became trapped by his opponent's attacks and got caught by them.

Hiss!

While he was cornered in such a predicament, he suddenly heard a series of hissing sounds from a certain direction.

These hissing sounds were completely different from the ones that he was hearing from the snake swarm under Nuguro's command as he could not feel any ill intent coming from them.

Moreover, they seemed to be guiding him toward something.

"Huh!?" When he focused his ears to listen to these hissing sounds, he realized that the source was where the altar was located.

When he raised his head and turned toward that location, the hissing sounds became louder as if it was calling for him.

He was unsure what it was but trusted his instincts and followed the sound. He charged his course and swam toward the altar to the best of his abilities.

The more he got near the altar, the louder the sound and the clearer he felt that something was calling him.

Nuguro, who was somewhat attacking from above leisurely, suddenly noticed Shin's strange actions. Then, when he heard that the latter was trying to head toward the altar, a sudden ominous feeling warned him about something.

Realizing this, he quickly intensified his attacks and even used more advanced techniques to prevent Shin from reaching the altar.

But as if something was guiding Shin to dodge those attacks, none of his spells nor his serpents managed to touch Shin.

Not even a scratch!

Seeing this, Nuguro quickly changed his target. He summoned a colossal serpent with his demonic powers before ordering it to destroy the altar.

Roar!

But as the black serpent was about to reach its target, Shin suddenly appeared right in front of him, blocking its path.

Shin summoned multiple layers of ice walls, trying to halt the advance of the black serpent to the best of his abilities.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

But all of it was meaningless as none of them managed to stop the colossal serpent from advancing.

Shin then gambled his life as he summoned a huge sphere that was filled with mysterious runes. The sphere resembled a shell of a turtle while a huge serpent coiled around it.

Boom!

When the black serpent collided with it, the powerful momentum that it carried finally dropped before continuing to weaken as it pushed the spherical barrier toward the altar.

Bang!

When the barrier finally reached the altar, the momentum of the black serpent finally died down. The barrier was full of cracks and on the verge of collapse, but it completely stopped the colossal monster.

Shin, on the other hand, already had his feet touching the top of the altar at that time. There was a cold energy that traveled from his foot toward his heart when he came in contact with the surface, making him shiver.

When he raised his head again and looked at the widely opened mouth of the black serpent, his eyes were completely dyed with a bloody color while the aura he carried rose by several folds.

Roar!

Not long after, a deafening roar shook the entire realm as he opened his mouth and shouted.

Chapter 1539 The Song of the World Serpents (Part 3)

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Shin could hear the wails of anguish and resentment from the souls of the dead World Serpents right after his feet touched the surface of the altar.

They were telling him to revenge their deaths and punish the traitor of the sea, who had killed them and turned their bodies into nourishment for his demonic powers.

Right after Shin agreed, these souls climbed toward his body leaving a portion of their power left in them along with the unique abilities that they possessed when they were still alive.

At the same time, their respective World Serpent Fangs also fused with his ice sword, changing its appearance. The originally brilliant white blade was dyed by bloody color, seemingly symbolizing their resentment toward the great enemy.

As all of these were happening, a flood of information suddenly surged inside his mind, seemingly technique him how to utilize these newly acquired powers and abilities to their fullest potential.

"Rest assured, seniors! I will avenge you with these powers that you have lent me," mumbled as he raised his head and glared at the colossal black serpent in front of him.

His eyes were completely crimson due to the bloody hue that mixed in them.

He then swung the newly transformed sword forward, stroking a straight line that was immediately followed by a beam of light that flew forward.

Swoosh!

The light beam went through the body of the black serpent by entering its widely opened mouth before exploding and turning the colossal monster into shattered fragments of ice.

Then a blindingly light donned Shin's body before slowly dissipating, leaving a crystalline armor filled with mysterious runes on its surface. A crimson line of runes was also engraved on its edges while pulsing with a certain rhythm and shining like a flowing liquid.

Hiss!

This armor was also constantly releasing a cold vapor, which manifested a colossal figure of a World Serpent behind him.

The image of the serpent looked straight at Nuguro, sharply glaring at the opposing party with a murderous aura.

Nuguro could not help but narrow his eyes, washing his face with a solemn expression. The current aura that Shin was currently emitting was no weaker than what he currently possessed.

Even with the combined forces of his Demonic Powers and enhanced Magical Powers, Nurugo could still feel an immense threat coming from Shin.

He knew that something must have gone wrong. It seemed like he had underestimated the determination of the World Serpent Race, which still clung to their duties and faith despite their death.

Moreover, the great resentment that they possessed right before their deaths was so strong that it transcended the death itself and manifested into a new type of power that Shin currently possessed.

"World Serpents... you guys have always been a great obstacle to our grand plans," said Nuguro as he glared at Shin, who was currently in a completely different form compared to earlier.

The crystalline armor also became filled with scale patterns along with the glowing runes swimming on its surface.

Nuguro was still in the middle of talking when Shin's figure flicked from the top of the altar before suddenly appearing right in front of him while hacking with the crystalized sword in his hand.

Swoosh!

Nuguro's pupils shrunk when he saw Shin before him before quickly raising his left hand forward and summoning an invisible barrier between the two of them.

Bang!

A powerful shockwave erupted right after the collision, sending violent ripples in every direction.

The barrier was sturdy enough to block the attack from Shin, but the expression on Nuguro's face turned ugly as he could feel how much power was behind that attack.

But before he could even recover from his surprise, Shin suddenly took a deep breath and held the air in his lungs before suddenly swinging the sword multiple times.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The expression on Nuguro's face instantly turned grim when he sensed the overwhelming might coming from those swings, which was why he urged the Seven Sea Gems revolving around his arm to release more power to reinforce his barrier.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A series of explosions immediately followed as Shin repeatedly hit the barrier, bombarding it with mana-infused attacks with every swing of his sword.

The barrier shook violently every time the sword hit it, but there was no visible damage to it, signifying that its hardness and sturdiness were very strong.

But as time went by, Shin started to become accustomed to his newly improved strength and adjusted himself on how to utilize it.

He started pushing Nuguro back due to this, making the latter enraged. "How brazen! I will show you what my real power can do!"

After infusing more Mana Essence into the barrier, further enhancing its defensive capabilities and turning it into a crystallized wall.

Roar!

At the same time, five gigantic heads of Sea Serpents appeared behind Nuguro, which quickly swam past the barrier and attacked Shin from different directions.

They opened their mouth wide as they tried eating Shin whole in a single mouthful.

Boom!

The entire place turned silent for a moment after the brief explosion. The huge serpent heads were pressing against each other, trying to crush Shin if they failed to swallow him.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

This scene lasted for a brief moment before beams of light shot out from the gaps between the mouths of the five giant serpents.

Boom!

Not long after, something exploded from the spot where they were pressing sending multiple layers of shockwaves that crushed the five giant serpents.

Swoosh!

Nuguro was forced to retreat due to the might of the explosion while protecting himself with the crystalized barrier before him.

Swoosh!

But as he retreated, someone appeared in the direction where he was ahead of time and blocked his escape path.

Shin ducked forward as he lowered the ice crystal sword beside his waist, seemingly trying to initiate a sword-drawing stance.

The crimson blade of the sword released a blinding light as Shin channeled his Mana Essence into it. He then swung the sword diagonally upwards when the accumulation of powers reached its peak, releasing everything into a condensed crescent energy.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But that was not the end as multiple such crescent waves flew forward and stacked on one another like the surging tides in the stormy ocean.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Heavenly Black Tortoise – Endless Tide of the Great Ocean'

Swoosh!

Nuguro quickly spun around when he sensed the danger behind him and swiftly swung his left arm, summoning a barrage of crescent waves that bombarded the huge sword energy that Shin had sent.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of explosions erupted as the crescent energy continued to fly forward while losing its momentum and energy with every passing second.

When it finally lost the majority of its strength, a colossal monster appeared right in front of it while opening a huge mouth that swallowed the rest of the energy that the crescent wave had left.

Roar!

The sword energy that Shin had sent disappeared from its mouth as if it was devoured by the endless abyss itself.

Seeing the deep darkness within the mouth of this colossal creature, Shin felt like his soul was being dragged into it.

Shin suppressed the fear that the darkness was trying to pull out from his deep consciousness while clutching the crystalized sword tightly.

Whoosh!

As the colossal monster was approaching Shin, he focused the energy within his body and circulated it alongside his blood through the special technique of the World Serpents.

Then his body was set ablaze by a white flame that swiftly grew as large as a mountain before turning into a manifestation of a giant serpent, which rivaled the incoming colossal monster in terms of size.

Holding the sword horizontally in front of him, Shin focused all the accumulated energy into it before suddenly swimming towards the monster.

Swoosh!

Following his movements, the World Serpent that was manifested by Shin's Mana Essence opened its mouth wide to match its opposition.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Heavenly Black Tortoise – The Serpent Devours the World'

Roar! Roar!

The two monsters entangled against one another for a moment before exploding.

Boom!

As Shin protected himself with a spherical barrier in the middle of chaotic and violent energies created by the huge explosion, multiple snakes swarmed at him from every direction to try coiling around his body and bite him.

Hiss! Hiss! Hiss!

In response, Shin swung his sword multiple times, sending a series of sword energies in every direction that cut through everything.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But when he was done annihilating the swarm of snakes, he suddenly sensed a huge concentration of mana from the distance.

The purpose of those snakes was not only to lock him in that place but also to distract him from noticing the powerful magic spell that Nuguro was preparing.

When Shin's line of sight was finally cleared, he saw huge heads of serpents around Nuguro while opening their mouth wide and gathering a large amount of energy in them.

They were currently facing Shin's direction while Nuguro was pointing at him.

The absorption of energy accelerated for a moment as the accumulation reached its peak. Then all the energy spheres in the mouth of all the serpents fired a beam of light that flew toward Shin at unbelievable speed.

They twirled and spiraled around one another before merging into a giant beam of light that flew straight to Shin.

Swoosh!

Shin took a deep breath when he saw this before exhaling a cold vapor from his mouth.

The residual energy from his previous technique gathered once again before forming a spherical barrier filled with mysterious runes on its surface.

It seemed like a combination of multiple hexagonal barriers that were connected while an extra layer of energy ran over its surface along with the scale-like patterns in them.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Heavenly Black Tortoise – Divine Protection of the Northern Heavens'

He looked like a dwarf in front of the giant beam heading in his direction, but Shin fearlessly jumped into it while channeling the rest of his mana toward his sword.

Swoosh!

Boom!

Shin looked like a marble going against the violent current of a raging river as he advanced under the protection of the spherical barrier.

But against all the odds, he managed to go through the beam of light and appeared before his opponent, who was looking at him in full astonishment.

Regardless, Nuguro was still able to regain his composure within an instant and pressed his left hand forward while shooting a powerful spell at a close distance.

At the same time, swarms of snakes besieged Shin from every direction alongside the huge black serpent that emerged behind Nuguro and tried to devour the two of them.

Shin ignored everything else. He slashed his crystalized sword down and released all the accumulated energy that he gathered in it.

'World Serpent Swordsmanship: The First Fang'

Shing!

Chapter 1540 The Song of the World Serpents (Part 4)

.....

Shing!

A flash of light blinded Nuguro as Shin's sword fell on him. But at the same time, Shin was also swallowed by the huge serpent coming from his back as well as getting bitten by the sea snakes that were swarming at him from every direction.

Despite the study and powerful defense of his ice crystal armor, the bite of each snake still left a deep mark on it some even breaking the area where they had bitten.

Boom!

An explosion erupted in the belly of the colossal serpent, making it cry in pain before its body was severed in half by a sharp flash of light.

Not long after, Nuguro and Shin were revealed standing a dozen meters away from each other.

Their respective appearance was kind of a mess, but Shin was doing quite well compared to his opponent. His ice crystal armor was completely broken, leaving only a few somewhat intact areas.

Bite marks from the snakes could be seen from different parts of his body while also bleeding profusely. But his body was also somewhat recovering from those injuries as he started to showcase his newly improved regenerative powers.

But even with those powers, the healing of the wounds was noticeably slow compared to what he used to have because of the black energies that were trying to invade his body.

The demonic powers from the snakes earlier were like a venom that was trying to kill him.

On the other hand, Nuguro looked completely beaten up despite only suffering from a single attack from Shin.

His magic barrier was sliced by Shin's sword like a hot knife cutting through butter. It then slashed him, leaving a huge wound that started from his shoulder up to his waist.

Nuguro was trying to heal the gruesome wound with his innate regeneration abilities alongside his healing magic and demonic powers. But the previous slash left a very potent venom on the wound, making it hard for Nuguro to heal himself.

Moreover, the venom was spreading within his body at an insane rate, damaging his organs and muscles from within.

If Nuguro did not expel this venom fast enough, then it would kill him soon or even cause his death later due to the restricted movements that he had.

But despite seeing his opponent in a weakened state, Shin did not attack and started explaining instead. "The barrier that blocked and went through that powerful attack of yours is a special technique derived from Jafaar's secret skill, the muscular World Serpent that you call weak."

"Then the earlier slash is from the technique of that World Serpent Swordsman that you said has lousy swordsmanship, Severus."

"While that venom is concocted by Slytherin by combining his venom with the other poisonous and venomous creatures of the sea. You said that it is too weak to be called venom, right? How does the taste of it?"

From the souls that had merged with him earlier, he had read their memories starting from their experiences alongside the enlightenment that they had gone through. This made him able to master their techniques in such a short time.

At the same time, he had also seen their memories right before their deaths as Octo and Nuguro used a despicable method to kill them.

The two had suppressed the World Serpents that were fighting them with the blood of the First Ouroboros, which possessed a powerful suppression effect against them.

They did not know where the two had gotten the blood of the ruler of the World Serpents, but it cost them their lives right before they won the battle.

"Heh! Those weaklings. They should have remained dead if they were already dead," said Nuguro as he tried to expel the venom from his body.

At the same time, he took out a vial of blood, which quickly spread an overwhelming pressure in the entire place.

The other creatures within the vicinity were still fine, but it quickly brought Shin down right after it appeared.

But despite that being the case, Shin remained calm while looking at Nuguro mockingly. When the latter saw that expression, his face immediately turned ugly as an ominous feeling suddenly befell on him.

Cough!

It was at that moment when he started coughing violently with blood coming out from his mouth. Moreover, the injuries that he was struggling to heal became worse all of a sudden due to losing his control over his innate abilities.

He was able to quickly recover himself and swiftly use the Sea Gems revolving around his left arm to protect himself from the pressure while panickily using his demonic powers to heal his body.

At the same time, he had also dropped the sealed vial of blood due to what happened.

"What an idiot. You have consumed a lot of blood and mana essence from the World Serpents that you have killed, so it will be quite strange if you don't get anything from them."

"It just a pity that one of the quantities that you have shared with us now is our faith toward our king."

Nuguro could hear Shin's voice from a distance. Even if the latter was also struggling, he still forced himself to say those words to mock Nuguro.

"How does it feel that the power that you were so proud of earlier after acquiring it has now become your serious weakness."

Shin struggled hard to stand up while extending his hand forward.

Swoosh!

At the same time, the vial of blood suddenly flew toward his hand as a strong suction force came from it.

Cough!

But right after he grabbed the vial, the already terrible state that he was in became even worse. He fell on his knee due to the powerful suppression coming from the blood within it and started coughing blood.

His current appearance was no different from Nuguro, who was also struggling to recover from his current state.

Shin then did his best to point the vial toward the altar in the distance before throwing it in that direction.

Swoosh!

The vial traveled at unbelievable speed, reaching the altar within an instant before embedding itself into it.

Bang!

The vial was quite sturdy itself. After all, it could not be something ordinary if it could hold the power of an existence like the First Ouroboros.

Boom!

Right after it entered the altar, a powerful aura exploded from within before a colossal apparition of a World Serpent appeared on top of it before shrinking at a rapid pace and turning into a scimitar that seemed to be made from a fang of a serpent.

The moment the scimitar appeared, the suppression that the vial of blood was releasing earlier suddenly disappeared, making Shin and Nuguro regain total control over their bodies and abilities.

Then, in the next instant, the two simultaneously made their moves.

Bang! Bang!

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Nuguro flew straight to the altar while summoning a large number of sea snakes along with giant serpents with his demonic powers while reinforcing their abilities with the help of the gemstones revolving around his left arm.

The moment he laid his eyes on that fang-like scimitar, he immediately realized what kind of weapon it was.

It was a soul weapon that was created from the remains of the World Serpents around the altar alongside the vial of blood of the First Ouroboros.

It would not be hard to imagine how powerful that soul weapon was.

Moreover, it was currently ownerless. Whoever grabbed it first would be its master right after it was grabbed by anyone with the blood of the World Serpents.

Originally, Nuguro would not be able to wield such a weapon. But after his mutation earlier, such a thing would now be possible.

Just like what Shin had said earlier, he now shared some of the quantities of a World Serpent, making him somewhat of a World Serpent of his own.

Once he got his hands on this soul weapon, then he would not have to worry about anything.

Naturally, Shin was also aware of it. After all, he was the one who 'summoned' that soul weapon.

It was something that he had received from the memories of the fallen World Serpents had passed to him. That was why he did what he had just done earlier.

However, his main reason was to get rid of the vial of blood since it would restrict his movements and prevent him from killing Nuguro.

He suppressed all his injuries while picking up his World Serpent Fang as he forced himself to stand up.

The swarm of snakes and the giant serpents were already about to reach him at this point, but he remained called as he focused his mind.

He took a deep breath while holding the sword horizontally before him.

He collected all the experiences and enlightenment of the previous owners of the memories he had inside his head before converging them at a single point.

He combined all the techniques before turning it into a new one.

Bang!

He then stepped forward, making the seabed underneath his feet sink along with rock fragments that were sent flying in every direction.

Swoosh!

A moment later, his figure flicked briefly before disappearing altogether.

Swoosh!

He then suddenly appeared right beside Nuguro, who was still attempting to head toward the altar to the best of his abilities, while holding the shining sword over his shoulder.

Shing!

Right after he swung the sword down, a flash of light suddenly cut through Nuguro, who was still unable to believe how Shin appeared beside him.

Roar!

At the same time, manifestations of colossal serpents appeared from the spot where Shin initially stood, which charged toward the swarm of sea snakes and giant serpents until they reached Shin.

Boom!

Then a strong current of energy swept through everything – freezing, slaughtering, and crushing those blocking its path.

'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship: The Song of the World Serpents'