

Destiny 1581

Chapter 1581 The Compass of the Lost Soul (Part 4)

...

Ding

System: You have come in contact with the [Compass of the Lost Soul (Incomplete)]! You have the opportunity to get its directions once you completed all its broken pieces.

- Missing Pieces Acquired 2/3

...

Looking at the sudden notification, the group could not help but pause before turning to Arthur.

Just like they were expecting, the guy was on the verge of exploding in anger. "Argh! What the heck is this? It is now giving everyone a special 'quest' when I have yet to find my piece of Divine Armor!?"

The others shook their head as they watched Arthur complain before Cloe voiced out her thoughts. "I think-... this compass is a tool that can tell as a clue about certain quests."

Hearing her words, the group suddenly halted what they were doing and turned to her at the same time.

They knew that she was into something right after realizing that it might be the case.

Whatever this 'direction' meant, it could only be related to their respective classes, races, and progress within the game, which meant that it would always be related to a certain quest.

Shin then turned to Arthur and said. "Then this most likely be related to how are you going to find that Eternal Cave or something, which is why your quest pointed you here."

"Tsk! It is most likely it," Arthur nodded as he turned at the somewhat complete compass on his hand.

Right now, it looked more like a regular compass. The only difference was the pointing needle and the cardinal directions which were now being projected by a special magic diagram that resembled the one that he had just gotten.

Shin then turned to everyone and instructed. "We will be logging out and resting. Then we will continue exploring the dungeon at our usual time."

...

The Empyrean Talons spent the next couple of days exploring the dungeon. They continued to fight against the monsters inhabiting the cave, which were mainly from the Komodo Lizards and Shadow Lizards.

In these few days, they had exterminated quite a lot of these monsters, which varied from common-rank to elite-rank. Some of the Special Elites were also included along with a couple of chieftain-rank monsters that were guarding some special cave channels that lead to certain treasures.

Starting from the first Cave Komodo Drake that they had killed, the group started getting some loot from the cave channels being guarded by the other chieftain-rank monsters, where some treasure chests were located.

They had mostly gotten some natural treasures like high-quality materials that could be used for forging and alchemy. Most of these materials carried some draconic features or auras due to the nature of the dungeon.

Arthur mostly recognized the uses of these materials as he was very familiar with the Draconic Species and Dragon Race.

Most of the materials were some dragon herbs that could be used by draconic pets that carried the bloodline of a dragon species, further enhancing their draconic abilities or awakening the draconic blood in their bodies.

As for the metals and ores that they had gotten from those chests, most of them were Dragon Ores, which were perfect for crafting equipment meant for draconic species. However, the main attributes of these ores were mostly earth and dark elements.

Arthur was the only person who could fully use these materials, but he did not need them. After all, all his equipment was already of the highest quality possible for his current level.

If he wanted to upgrade them, then he would rather swap them out with the ones that his quests would be leading him.

Just like Shin, Arthur's equipment was mostly Inheritance Items from his Race and Class. He also possessed a Sacred Relic that he nurtured since his early days in the game.

Even though he did not have any Dissonant Wish in his possession, he still had an Ancient Artifact of equal grade and value.

After some discussion, the group decided to hand over the materials that they had gotten from chests to the Hand of Midas and asked them to craft the team something useful. Aside from the herbs that Arthur and the others could use, they were planning to hand rest.

But that still needed some time since they were current at the Awakened Continent and the Hand of Midas had yet to build a branch in this place, so he could only wait.

As for the rest of the items that they had gotten, they were equally distributed to the team based on what they needed. It was the same for the Elemental Cores and Beasts Cores that they had gathered from the Komodo Lizards and Shadow Lizards.

But all the Lesser Dragon Cores were handed to Arthur as he had better use for them.

Diablo also exchanged his shares for the Shadow Elemental Cores due to the uniqueness they had. They also complimented his special powers as well, so he had a better way to utilize them.

The others wanted to give all their cores of shadow element to him, but he refused to take them without anything in exchange. The others also had no choice but to accept due to his stubbornness.

The team had spent quite a long time clearing all the major sections of the dungeon, but they had become more accustomed to fighting under the conditions in this place.

The top combatants, which were also the ones with Transcendent Class and Race, could also use the double consumption of their concentration while using both their combat state and elemental possession, albeit for a limited amount of time.

However, the great burden that this put on their minds was also getting serious as they started to stack after they used them multiple times. Unless they fully rested themselves and recovered from their peak condition, then it was impossible to continue using these trump cards together.

Their hardest battle up until now was when they had to fight a Komodo Drake and Shadow Drake together, which not only gave them a lot of trouble but also killed some of their members in the process.

If not for Cloe's revival skills and Huahua's resurrection totems, then they would most likely wiped out during that battle.

Shin, Arthur, Leonard, Alice, and Diablo also took the gamble and simultaneously used their respective elemental possession alongside their combat states.

Alucard also used the special vampiric powers that he had learned from the Vampire Families of the Awakened Continent alongside the inheritance of Dracula, greatly increasing his battle capabilities.

Lorraine also took out a bunch of special ammunition that greatly weakened the two chieftain-rank monsters during the battle.

Cloe also showcased the powerful healing techniques that she had learned from the Church of Light and took part in the offensive while using her unique battle techniques from her previous title as the 'White Witch of Eternal Night'.

The others, who first saw her fight like this, were astounded. They could not believe that someone with a support class could rival mages in terms of offensive and magic prowess.

She more like a great mage rather than a priest, who only supports the battlefield from the backlines.

But what was the most fruitful in this dungeon raid was the fact that the entire team had already become one. They understood each other very well, making the overall synergy of the team reach another level.

Those who were used to playing by themselves and working alone like Diablo and Alucard finally learned how to move with the team as a unit.

Aside from this, Samael and Huahua also reached the level of a true Ranker, albeit barely.

They might not be strong enough to be considered as Maverick Rankers, but they were not far from reaching that level.

...

"Is everyone ready?" asked Shin as he swept his gaze at the team, who just finished doing their maintenance for their equipment.

The team quickly stood up as they were quite itching to clear this dungeon as soon as possible. They were quite sick of dealing with these Cave Komodo Lizards and Drakes as well as the Shadow Lizards and Drakes.

It had been a while since they had gotten some fresh air, so they were eager to get out of this eerie cave as soon as possible.

They had recovered their peak conditions as well, making sure that they were in their perfect state to face whatever they would be facing next.

They were currently standing in front of a metal gate, which seemed to be the end of this cave. Once they defeated the monster boss waiting for them on the other side, they would be able to leave as well.

"Is this the place?" asked Leonard as he stood beside Arthur, who was focusing his Dragon Sense on this gate.

Arthur did not respond immediately as he was trying to feel what kind of monster was waiting for them beyond this gate and trying to gauge its level if possible.

If Shin's previous assessment was correct, then the monster beyond this gate would most likely be a Lord Rank Monster, which was way beyond their current limit.

He was not even confident that they would be able to get through this hurdle easily.

It was just a pity that they had never found any other clues about his quest throughout their exploration of the dungeon. He had never completed the compass either as its last piece seemed to be on the other side of this gate as well.

He was just hoping that Shin was right once again that there would be a special quest scenario once they faced the creature inside.

"This place is reeking of the foul scent of a corrupted dragon-... or at least a draconic species. Let's just hope that Shin is right, or else we will be in deep sh*t later," said Arthur as he squinted him while looking at the gate.

Shin walked over to them after organizing the team and said. "So, what are you waiting for? Open it up so that we can see what surprises this dungeon is waiting for us."

Arthur shrugged his shoulder as he took out a golden key from his inventory, which was filled with dragon designs.

It was one of the items they had gotten from the chests, and from the form of mana that was released, they knew it was not a simple item.

Click!

Right after Arthur inserted the key into the hole and turned it, something unexpected suddenly happened.

Whoosh!

Chapter 1582 Unexpected Development

.....

Whoosh!

Right after Arthur turned the key, a beam of light suddenly swallowed him alongside the other top combatants of the team.

Shin, Leonard, Diablo, Alice – these four Godlike Players disappeared alongside Arthur. Even Alucard, who solidified himself as a Maverick God just recently, was also swallowed by that beam of light.

Lorraine was included as well as she, herself, was a top Titled Ranker, who was comparable to the Godlike Players. She might not have a Godlike Title due to her not participating in any official Godlike events and tournaments, but her strength and abilities shouldn't lose to most of the Godlike Players in the top rankings.

She disappeared alongside those members, leaving only Cloe, who was the sole member of the group that possessed the strength of a top Godlike Player, with the rest.

The group was quite confused at what happened as they quickly went into battle formation.

Owen took the role of the main tank as Arthur mysteriously disappeared, placing himself at the front of the group along with his shield.

Akailu covered the left side while Samael stood slightly behind to the right. They took up a battle stance, getting ready for any surprise waiting for them.

Cloe stood at the center as she was flanked by Huahua and Chaotic Luck on each of her sides while Daulla stood slightly behind her.

Ithilien and Archimedes positioned themselves at the very rear of the group as they had the longest rest and possessed sharp senses that could sense any possible ambush that would come from behind.

But despite standing for a couple of minutes without anything happening, the group became confused and tilted their heads. They surveyed their surroundings and found that no immediate threats were waiting for them. Even the half-opened gate in front of them was not showing any strange signs from creatures waiting from the other side.

"What is happening?" mumbled Owen, voicing out the thoughts of everyone.

Cloe, who was the calmest of them all, quickly assessed their situation and explained. "It seems like we have triggered one of the special conditions of this dungeon. Wherever the others have thrown to, they should still be somewhere within this dungeon."

Right after she said those words, a string of notifications from the system suddenly arrived.

Ding

System: The final trial of the dungeon is commencing!

System: Only one with godly abilities (Godlike Player or Maverick God) can remain with the group. As a default feature, a class with auxiliary and supportive abilities is chosen to be the representative.

Ding

System: The Dragonkin, who possessed the inheritance of Dragons, is sent for another trial specially prepared solely for him.

Ding

System: The rest are imprisoned in a Dragon Cage to prevent them from joining and can only watch from the sidelines.

...

Seeing those notifications, the remaining members, who were left in front of the gate, could not help but wear strange expressions on their faces.

"Hey! Isn't this a little too absurd? Does this dungeon want us to fail?" complained Owen as with an ugly look on his face. "Based on what the vice commander has assessed, there is most likely a Lord Rank Monster waiting for us inside!"

"Just dealing with those chieftain-rank monsters are already hard to deal with even with our complete team, what's more with our top combatants missing. Isn't this no different from asking us to commit suicide?" he added.

"Calm down. The system will not give us any task that is impossible to complete with our current strength," said Cloe as she was somewhat familiar with these kinds of situations.

They might not have encountered a quest scenario for this, but it shouldn't be that different.

"Let's forget about the others for now since we can't find them anyway. Let's continue and face what's ahead of us," she said, urging the others to move forward.

Seeing her remain calm despite the situation, the others quickly recovered themselves as well, especially the pair of siblings. Samael and Huahua were quite new in the team and were not as experienced as the rest of the team when it came to challenging these high-end contents of the game.

...

After entering the boss' room, the group cautiously advanced while carefully sweeping their gazes within the room.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after they set foot inside, the torches hanging on the walls of the room started burning one after another, lighting up the entire room.

Then they saw a huge monster that looked like an oversized lizard soundlessly waiting for them at the center of the room.

Its body was covered in obsidian scales with a golden glow highlighting its edges. A shadowy smoke was also emitted from different parts of its body, particularly its claws on both its front and hind feet.

Some earthen spikes on its back ran through its spine to the tip of its tail.

There were also some on its head, making it looked a crown-like horn.

A single look at this monster was more than enough for the group to guess that it was a hybrid between the Komodo Drake and the Shadow Drake that they had fought before this.

Cloe was currently wearing a grim expression as she looked at this monster before using her special ocular skill.

[Monster Name]: Shadow Mountain Drake (Hatchling)

[Monster Type]: Beast (Reptilian Family)

[Monster Rank]: Chieftain (Super Berserk)

[Life Rating]: (Mutated) Draconic Species

[Monster Level]: 160

Health Points: 30 Million

Description:

A Komodo Lizard that gained the power of the shadows after consuming a lot of shadow lizards and their core.

It also underwent a series of mutations after an extended exposure to the mysterious power filling its habitat, evolving into a Drake.

Due to the unification of the two powers within its body, this Drake gained the powerful defense of a Komodo Drake and the stealth abilities of a Shadow Drake.

Its offensive powers also doubled because of the mutation of its innate attribute, combining the properties of the Earth and Shadow Elemental Mana.

- It became a scary Drake with tough defenses and destructive powers due to its inherited powers from its root species, the Komodo Drake. But at the same time, it also became a deadly assassin after gaining the powers of the shadows by consuming multiple Shadow Lizard Cores.

Note 1: The body of this monster could not be harvested as it was a dungeon monster, but there was a high chance that a Beast Core or an Elemental Core would drop upon death.

Note 2: There was also a small chance that a Soul Crystal would drop upon being killed.

Note 3: There was also a very certain chance that a fragment of a Lesser Dragon Core (Mutated) would drop upon its death.

Owen gulped hard as he stared blankly at the information of the monster boss in front of them. It might not be the Lord Rank Monster that they were expecting, but it was not that bad either given that it was a mutated monster boss with dual innate attributes.

"Are we sure about this?" he said with a joking tone, trying to ease the atmosphere somewhat.

Even for a veteran like himself and the others, the pressure that they were getting from this monster boss was quite heavy, much less for Samael and Huahua, who were still quite green for these kinds of situations.

Huahua was even having a hard time breathing due to the heavy pressure that the Shadow Mountain Drake was passively emitting. It felt like there was a huge mountain crushing on her.

Step!

Then, all of a sudden, everything disappeared. It was as if someone had lifted that mountain off her shoulder.

When she raised her head, Huahua saw Cloe standing in front of her, blocking all the pressure on her.

Looking over her shoulder, Cloe smiled at the little shaman and said. "It's fine. You will get used to it somehow. But before that happens, let me help you carry some of the pressure."

"T-thank you, Big Sister," nodded Huahua with a smile of gratitude.

Then Cloe turned her eyes back to the monster boss in the distance before giving out a series of orders. "Owen, get ready to engage. Akailu and Chaos, call out your summons and help him hold the frontlines. Samael, buffs!"

The group quickly executed the instructions given to them.

Owen quickly charged forward right after receiving the buffs from Samael and Cloe. He held a battle hammer on his right hand while raising the shield in front of him with the other.

Swoosh!

At the same time, Akailu made a series of seals with his hand, making three huge summoning circles appear around him.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Not long after, three huge beasts walked out of those summoning circles one after another before quickly charging forward right after receiving the orders from their monsters.

The three beasts were a bear, a wolf, and a tiger. They ran right behind Owen, who was almost reaching the Shadow Mountain Drake.

Chaotic Luck did not lose to summoning either as two gigantic skeletons with blazing skulls and a set of protective armors covering their bodies.

These skeleton giants might be slightly smaller compared to the monster boss that the group was facing, but they would not lose that much when it came to raw power.

Boom!

Not long after, Owen clashed against the Shadow Mountain Drake, signally the start of this struggling battle.

Chapter 1583 Owen's New Style and Power (Part 1): Virtual Simulation

.....

Bang!

Owen was forced to retreat once again after another clash against the Shadow Mountain Drake. He had also suffered a huge chunk of damage from that single exchange, reducing his health bar to 50%. If not for Cloe's timely healing and Huahua's healing totems, then he would most likely have been killed already.

He had already lost count of him being in this situation as it kept on happening since the start of the battle. But he never gave up as he was the sole tank of their current team.

Akailu could somewhat take this role as well with the help of his monster pets. But his defense was not as good as a dedicated tank that would be able to hold the front line.

Even those giant skeleton guards that Chaotic Luck was controlling were not as enough to stop this monster boss. Chaotic Luck had been healing them up with his special spells and constantly reinforcing them with the dedicated buffs after repeatedly being destroyed by the drake.

Arthur was no longer present to help him stabilize the situation, so Owen had to do this alone.

He already had the resources to become one of the top tanks in the game. So long as he utilized everything to the fullest, he would then achieve this goal in no time.

Even if he was known as the 'Dark Knight', one of the top Titled Rankers, he still had a lot to learn. Just the gap between him and the Godlike Players and Maverick Gods was huge enough to get close to their level.

He might be able to contend against some unranked Godlike Players and slightly weaker Maverick Gods after getting used to the battle tempo of those at Shin, Arthur, and Leonard's level.

But it was still impossible for someone like him to defeat such gods standing at the top of the pyramid.

He had to improve a lot if he wanted to fight those at that level.

He urgently needs to become stronger, especially when the main stage of the United Cup was right around the corner.

Even if the Empyrean Talons already had top vanguards fighting in the frontline like Arthur and Leonard, Owen was still one of the main tanks of the team. He would be most likely to clash against the top gods with the same role when the main tournament started.

If he was not up to par with their level, then he would be most likely to become the breakpoint of their team, especially when the rules of the United Cup would prevent them from having the same combatant to play in all the rounds.

In the team battle, either Arthur or he could only be the one holding the frontline, which was most likely him since Arthur would most likely participate in the individual or group battles where he could fight the other top combatants of the other team.

Given Arthur's personality, he would definitely choose to fight against the aces of the opposing side rather than join the team battle.

Of course, it would be a different case if the other side chose to participate in a team battle as well. Owen did not have to worry that much once that happened.

But that was not the only problem since the current United Cup had some additional game modes that changed the nature of the tournament. There would be a high chance that he would be facing opponents at that level.

He had already experienced fighting against those from God's Paradise and knew that he was still far from their level.

During their previous scrimmage with those people, they also knew that the chief tanker of God's Paradise was not present, who was on par with the three main combatants of the team.

If the Empyrean Talons happened to meet this defending champion in the United Cup, then Owen's role would be one of the most crucial roles in that battle.

If he did not improve at that time, then their chances of winning would be greatly affected.

The Empyrean Talons were on par with the lineup that the God's Paradise during their scrimmage, so there would be a lot of issues if the latter had their complete lineup for the possible match.

Bang! Bang!

Owen used his shield to redirect the attack of the dungeon boss in a skillful manner before using his battle hammer to deflect the other with a powerful strike.

He then quickly retreated as a bunch of spikes appeared on the spot where he previously stood.

In this battle, Owen was in a state where his mind was in complete focus. He was so focused that he could not even feel the warm light falling into his body to heal his health bar back up.

Hu~!

His breathing was so calm and controlled that he could feel every minuscule movement within his body.

Not long after, his focused mind started to sense all the movements within his surroundings, marking the positions of his allies while monitoring every move that the dungeon boss was making.

He was starting to enter the special combat state that he had just recently mastered.

Unlike Shin, Arthur, and Leonard, who mastered the pure Reality Manifestation, Owen had chosen to modify the combat state a little.

Even if he was also a Martial Artist in the real world, his skills were pretty much at an average level when compared to freaks like the trio, so the effects would not be that much if compared to the three.

He might have a special talent like them, especially when he possessed the Battle Genius Talent and Extreme Senses, which were comparable to the talents of Shin and Arthur.

But they were still somewhat lacking since those two possessed multiple things that he did not have, particularly in terms of Martial Inheritance and Bloodline Powers.

If he wanted to catch up to them, then he had to find a way that would match what they had. That started within the game, he had to match the level of their combat state.

Being inspired by Alice, who created her version of Magical Formation called 'Elemental Ignition', Owen followed her example.

But his modified combat state was more of a combination of Reality Manifestation and Hyperactive Immersion, combining his real-life Martial Arts and talent for virtual reality games.

He had been playing with Diablo for quite some time now and even sparred with the guy during their training sessions, so he picked up a couple of tricks here and there.

That was when he was able to create his modified combat state. Even though it was supposedly impossible due to the nature of the two combat states being different and somewhat opposite from one another, Owen still managed to achieve it.

But, at the same time, what he just created could not be considered as a complete combination of Reality Manifestation and Hyperactive Immersion. It was more like he had created a new combat state that shared some features with the two. Thus, the system had categorized it as a new category of combat state.

Virtual Simulation – that was how he called this new category of combat state. It was a state where he 'simulated' the ideal performance that he had in mind for his Martial Arts in the real world within his head before performing them in the game.

Since he had already the ability to perform Martial Arts in the real world, he was able to do more complex movements within the game by adding stats and the in-game abilities he possessed within this virtual world.

It sounded somewhat complicated, but with the help of the system and the nature of his Ascended Class, he was able to perform those series of complex steps with each.

Moreover, he was using the feature of 'Class Fighting Style' of the game as his main base of skills rather than his real-world Martial Arts.

Swoosh!

Aside from that, Owen also possessed a new fighting style that he picked up after watching Shin use one of his Legacy Skills to the fullest, the Mondri's Style, which could transform the sheath of his sword into different types of swords.

Bang!

After being pushed by the series of claw swipes from the Shadow Mountain Drake, Owen repeatedly stepped backward before slamming his shield into the ground which transformed into a rectangular shape.

Whoosh!

A huge golden wall appeared in front of him, blocking the tail of the dungeon boss that was coming after him like a giant whip.

Bang!

The transparent wall was instantly destroyed by the attack.

But Owen was already teleported away by Huahua's Space-Manipulation Totems, sending him at a safe distance.

Owen did not waste any more time in that spot as he quickly charged toward the dungeon boss once again.

Swoosh!

His speed was so fast that he did not resemble a heavy armor class but rather an agility-type class instead. At the same time, his right hand was currently holding a shortsword rather than a battle hammer.

Not long after, he reached the dungeon boss. He then quickly swapped with his battle hammer once again before slamming his shield into the huge body of the monster.

Boom!

Then he was engaged in an intense melee with the dungeon boss once again.

Owen was swapping between a kite and rectangular shield as well as a shortsword and a battle hammer depending on the situation.

The transformation of his shield was a unique feature of his Ancient Protector Ascended Class. Each form had a special feature unique from the other, which he could use in different predicaments.

As for the swapping between a shortsword and battle hammer, he had picked up from Shin's ever-changing style.

The shortsword was meant to increase his speed and mobility as it was not easy to carry but also possessed a movement speed boost and weight decrease buff attached to it.

On the other hand, the battle hammer increased his VIT and STR stats along with a boost in defense, which was perfect for a defensive stance.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

After repeatedly being pushed back by the Shadow Mountain Drake and constantly coming back once again, Owen sensed a strange power appearing within his body.

It was as if something was being awakened within him. His blood felt like boiling while the skin underneath his heavy armor started to glow – a series of divine tattoos spread through his skin, especially gathering a huge group on his chest and back.

Boom!

Due to this sudden appearance of power, Owen was somewhat taken aback, making him pause for a moment and receive a direct attack from the dungeon boss.

But instead of being sent flying, he stood his ground as a visible flow of golden aura moved upward on his body.

"I don't understand what is happening, but I think I can beat anyone right now," said Owen as he slowly lowered the shield blocking the tail of the dungeon boss.

"It looks like we are going to eat good tonight. Grilled or deep fry? Which do you prefer?" he asked as an overwhelming power suddenly filled his body.

Chapter 1584 Owen's New Style and Power (Part 2): Sacred Neanderthals

.....

Ding

System: You have comprehended the true meaning of your Ascended Class, understanding its mysteries and profoundness.

Ding

System: Congratulations! You have awakened the Ancient Power hidden within your veins!

System: Congratulations! Through your understanding of your Ascended Class: Ancient Protector, you have evolved into a higher form of being.

Ding

System: Congratulations! You have become an Ascended Being!

System: Ascended Race: Sacred Neanderthals – an archaic human, who branched out from the lineage of Immortals and Giants, inheriting some of their abilities.

They had powerful physiques that greatly enhanced their natural talent for battle and hunting.

After awakening the power of the ancients, these archaic humans gained special abilities that they had inherited from their ancestors.

When condensing these powers, they became Divine Tattoos, which could greatly enhance their innate abilities and strengthen their already powerful physiques.

System: Divine Tattoos – innate powers that Sacred Neanderthals that they used to match those opponents that greatly surpassed their level.

Different types of Divine Tattoo possessed different kinds of abilities.

Each Divine Tattoo could be awakened through different situations and circumstances. So long as the conditions were met and the right materials were used, the Divine Tattoo could be formed.

Ding

System: Your (Default) innate Divine Tattoo is activated!

...

'Racial Ability: Divine Tattoo – Sacred Thunderbird Tattoo'

Swoosh!

Crackle! Crackle!

Owen did not have the time to check on the string of notifications that flashed through the corner of his eyes as he was too focused on the battle. But he could at least feel the overwhelming powers that were being awakened within his body, particularly the appearance of the golden bird made of lightning on his back.

As he sensed this power, he subconsciously used his unique mana manipulation technique.

'Legendary Combat Technique: Divine Avatar'

Swoosh!

His mana manipulation technique was somewhat different from most of the apex experts as he focused his unique mana powers on his entire body rather than his weapons.

Boom!

His presence within the battle rose sharply alongside his aura that grew by several folds. The golden flow of aura moving upwards around his body also gain a hint of electricity as the Divine Tattoo mixed its powers with it.

With all the boost that he currently had, Owen felt that even the level of his concentration reached an unimaginable level.

However, due to the multiple special abilities and the combat state that he was in, the consumption of his concentration also reached a whole other level, which negated almost everything.

But at the very least, he was confident that he would be able to last against the Shadow Mountain Drake in front of him before he was mentally exhausted.

Bang!

Pushing the tail of the dungeon boss back, Owen quickly stepped forward before slamming his battle hammer down.

'Class Fighting Style: Divine Smite'

Bang!

The moment when his battle hammer hit the ground, spiderweb cracks appeared on its surface before spreading in every direction.

Boom!

At the same time, a golden lightning fell from above and hit the spot where his hammer landed.

Not long after, the seemingly little spark in front of the humongous body of the dungeon boss suddenly grew larger and became a huge lightning pillar that swallowed the monster.

(-562,523)

Huge damage also appeared over the head of the dungeon boss, signifying that it was hurt by that attack.

In their entire battle, this was the first high damage that they had dealt to this monster boss, signifying that this attack was not just a simple attack.

Roar!

Enraged, the Shadow Mountain Drake suddenly raised one of its claws and slammed it down, trying to crush Owen with it.

Swoosh!

Shadowy flame also appeared on those claws, seemingly having the ability to burn even the space itself.

If something like this fell on Owen, then he would not only get crushed by it but would most likely be burned into nothing as well.

Bang!

While he was preparing to raise his shield and activate a defensive skill to block the blazing claws that were about to descend on him, the ground underneath his feet suddenly shook before swiftly shooting upwards.

The ground that he was standing on turned into a stone pillar that was trying to send him toward the incoming attack of the dungeon boss.

"Eh!?" he was slightly taken aback as even his senses that were being enhanced by the 'Super Sensitivity' innate trait did not notice the sudden development.

(-10,000), (-12,000), (-14,000), (-16,000), ...

A series of damage appeared over his head as the heat coming from the blazing claws started to affect the space, much less him who was rapidly approaching it along with the stone platform underneath him.

Each tick of the damage was growing stronger as he got nearer to the shadowy flames covering those deadly claws.

He was preparing to face the incoming attack head-on while using one of his strongest defensive skills, but three totems suddenly appeared in the air around him and formed a magic circle after being connected by a string of mana.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

In the next instant, the magic circle summoned a dimensional rift that pulled him inside and sent him to a safe location.

Huahua had timely saved him with her spatial manipulation totems once again.

"I know that you are quite excited to test your current abilities because of the new powers that you suddenly acquired, but there is no need to rush it," Cloe scolded him as she cast a series of heals on him to restore his health bar back to a healthy state. "That thing is not something that you can challenge alone even with the help of those powers."

"Even though these new powers of yours are somewhat comparable to elemental possession, it still does not guarantee that you will win against it."

"Even the others will be in deep through facing that monster by themselves even with their respective elemental possession, much less you, who have yet to fully master such powers."

Being scolded, Owen could not help but scratch his head awkwardly and smile apologetically. "Sorry, about that. I just got carried away by my previous state."

Due to the previous series of events, Owen was pulled out of the highly focused state that he was in earlier. But that did not mean that his sense became dull as it became much sharper instead due to the series of boosts that innate traits of his current race possessed.

His innate trait, the 'Super Sensitivity', already increased all his senses by a great margin, so the bonuses that he was getting from his racial traits further enhanced his overall battle capabilities.

Roar!

As he was being scolded, a roar from the distance suddenly reverberated in the entire boss room, attracting his attention.

Right after he cast his gaze in that direction, he saw that the three monster pets of Akailu were engaging in an intense battle against the dungeon boss alongside their master.

There were also the two giant skeleton soldiers of Chaotic Luck, who were trying to restrict the movements of the monster boss while the four were fighting.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At the same time, the spells and skills of the mages and marksmen of the team were also landing constantly on the huge body of the Shadow Mountain Drake, steadily dealing damage.

"Commander Arielle, you can save the scolding for the latter. Let's deal with this overgrown lizard first. I can't hold much long against this dungeon boss," complained Akailu after the monster threw his black bear pet into the ground right after sending the savage tiger with a tail whip.

Bang!

Owen smiled bitterly as he quickly stomped into the ground and kicked it to propel himself back to the dungeon boss.

Swoosh!

His burst speed was so fast that he reached the frontline almost in an instant and collided with the monster.

Bang!

The strong impact forced the dungeon boss to retreat a couple of steps and saved the horror wolf pet of Akailu, which the Shadow Mountain Drake was stepping on.

The dungeon boss shook its head a little for being dizzy due to the collision. It then turned at Owen and glared at him right after shaking off the dizziness before opening its mouth.

Roar!

A powerful shockwave was released with that roar, pushing those near it away.

But Owen remained standing on his spot steady while letting the strong gust of wind wash over his body.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Owen pointed his hammer at the dungeon boss in a provoking manner while saying. "Come!"

Roar!

Accepting the invitation, the Shadow Mountain Drake aggressively charged forward, planning to smash this arrogant human.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

As Owen watched the monster boss charge at him, a group of totems landed behind one after another before releasing warm pulsing lights to strengthen him.

Strengthening Totem, Agility Totem, Vitality Totem, Empowering Totem, and many other totems that were providing buffs to Owen were layered behind in a meticulous arrangement.

Boom!

Owen planted the rectangular shield in front of him and blocked the charging dungeon boss, preventing it from advancing any further.

A couple of meters pushed him, but Owen was still able to stabilize his footing not long after.

Grr!

The dungeon boss growled as it tried to push Owen further with its huge head that was pushing against a transparent wall in front of it.

Taking advantage of that pause, Owen used one of his special skills and summoned a huge manifestation of an armored warrior with the golden aura that he was releasing.

'Ancient Protector Skill (Tier 2): Avatar of the Ancient God'

Boom!

Roar!

Sensing the ancient presence of the golden warrior in front of it, the Shadow Mountain Drake was further enraged and summoned the draconic powers that it had.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

It did not take that long before the two giants started clashing against each other, wreaking havoc within the boss room.

Chapter 1585 Final Battle

.....

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Owen continuously battled the Shadow Mountain Drake. He might still be losing in terms of raw power due to the huge gap in stats, but he was able to take advantage of his superior speed to dodge the attacks that were too heavy for him to withstand and reposition himself in a more advantageous position.

Whoosh!

The Divine Tattoo that he currently possessed, the Sacred Thunderbird Tattoo, did not provide him that much of strength or defensive capabilities. Instead, it granted him an immense boost in speed and provided him some control over a higher form of mana, which he fused with his innate mana.

With the help of these buffs, he became more mobile despite wearing such a set of heavy armor. He was also able to execute a more complex series of maneuvers due to the lightness that his body possessed.

The advantage of the Knight Class relied on their ability to withstand powerful attacks, which were enhanced by the heavy armor that they were wearing.

The set of armor that they donned provided them a huge boost in defensive capabilities and a certain level of strength, making them the perfect frontline that would tank all kinds of attacks from their opponents.

But in exchange for their high defense and protective skills, their bodies became less mobile due to the set of heavy equipment that they were wearing.

This was one of the weaknesses of their class, which made it easier to be targeted by players with range class, particularly Archers and Mages, who specialized in crowd-control skills.

But what would happen if such a slowpoke class that could withstand a good beating suddenly became extremely mobile?

Such an outcome would be a horrible nightmare for those squishy classes since they would be having a hard time kiting such an opponent.

Owen was that kind of nightmarish tank right now. However, the first to experience this was the dungeon boss that they were battling rather than a player.

This battle continued until the team finally dropped the health of Shadow Mountain Drake to a quarter of its total value.

Roar!

When this happened, the conditions for this dungeon boss to enter a berserk state were finally met.

It roared violently while continuously releasing a violent ripple of mana, which quickly turned into a storm of dark energy that surrounded it along with flying debris in the air.

Not long after, these energies slowly formed a group of humanoid figures made from shadow elemental mana.

They did not have a face, which made them quite scary. The surrounding rock fragments in the air also merged with these humanoid creatures and formed earthen armor and weapons immediately after.

The mixture of Shadow and Earth Elemental Mana that these humanoid creatures wielded was so pure that they would not lose to elemental creatures that could be found in the land of elves and spirits.

The threat level that these creatures were emitting was comparable to common-rank monsters with some reaching the level of elite-rank monsters.

Roar!

These hybrid elemental golems released an immense killing intent that filled the entire boss room, accompanying the roar of the dungeon boss.

...

The Empyrean Talons, on the other hand, were already expecting something like this to happen. They had been fighting the Komodo Lizards and Shadow Lizards since entering this dungeon and even dealt with quite a number of Drakes along the way, so they were not strangers to this situation when the dungeon boss went berserk.

Right after seeing the signs that the Shadow Mountain Drake was entering its berserk pace, the group quickly executed their preparations.

Bang!

Chaotic Luck, who had been waiting for this opportunity, suddenly slammed the bottom of his bone staff into the cave floor.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A huge summoning circle suddenly appeared on the ground underneath their feet, almost covering the entire cave floor of the boss room.

The symbols that filled his huge summoning circle carried the properties of the Powers of the Bright Sun and Decaying Death.

There was a huge sun diagram at the center of the summoning circle while blazing skull diagrams were situated at the four cardinal directions of this circle.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, skeleton soldiers with blazing skulls and equipped with a variety of weapons appeared one after another along with the intense heat that filled the entire boss room.

This heat did not affect the members of the Empyrean Talons, but it suppressed the shadow abilities of hybrid elemental golems that the Shadow Mountain Drake had summoned.

'Solaris Lich Advanced Skill: Call of the Solar Undead'

Even if the effects were not that much due to the overwhelming stats of these monsters, it still somewhat affected them.

Chaotic Luck had finally summoned his famous 'Legion of the Chaotic Sun', which the people labeled as one of the most powerful summoned armies alongside Immortal's 'Undying Legion'.

But that was not the end since Cloe, who was also preparing for this situation, suddenly raised her staff in the air, which released a blinding light that illuminated the boss room.

'Holy Maiden Skill (Tier 2): Blessing of the Light'

When this light finally subsided, specks of gentle light filled the entire room before falling into the bodies of the summoned legion of special undead.

As these lights merged with the bodies of the blazing skeleton soldiers, their stats rose by several folds, almost matching the stats of the hybrid elemental golems of the opposing side.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

To further enhance the layering of these buffs, a group of totems suddenly appeared in the air before falling on the ground and forming a special formation.

These totems pulsed with a gentle light that covered a huge area within the room as they further boosted the stats of the Legion of the Chaotic Sun.

Huahua, who just finished laying down the totem formation, gently controlled her breathing before doing a series of gestures with her free hand and the staff that she held on the other.

After a series of chants, she opened her eyes and activated yet another spell.

'Grand Shaman Skill (Tier 2): Ghost Gates of the Netherworld'

Whoosh! Whoosh!

A pair of incorporeal gates appeared behind her, which quickly opened and suddenly released a swarm of ghost soldiers and vengeful wraiths that flew in every direction.

The all these armies filling the boss room, the place suddenly a little too tight and narrow to move freely.

At the same time, both sides quickly began to attack the opposition and immediately waged war with one another.

Roar! Roar!

Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A chaotic battle quickly erupted as the two sides battled out, turning the boss room into a complete warzone.

Boom!

At the center of this warzone, Owen was battling against the Shadow Mountain Drake with the help of Akailu, who already used the unique abilities of his Ascended Class and merged with his monster pets.

Bang! Bang!

Owen was taking the main role of tanking the attacks of the dungeon boss while Akailu was in a supporting position.

Owen, who just awakened the special powers of his Ascended Class and ascended to become an Ascended Being, was quite excited to fully explore his new potential and test his current limit.

Even though he was aware that he was still far from being able to solo this dungeon boss, he was quite confident in this battle, especially when he had reliable support from a distance.

With this, he was free from worrying about anything and focused on holding the Shadow Mountain Drake in place so that their DPS could deal as much damage as they could.

Akailu, on the other hand, was closely observing Owen while supporting the latter.

He was not sure where this new power of Owen came from, but he could at least guess that it had something to do with the latter's Ascended Class.

He wanted to learn what this guy had done to awaken such power and find a clue on how he would be able to do the same.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The dungeon boss tried to sneak an ambush on Owen, who was trying to avoid a frontal confrontation with it due to its current berserk state, with a bunch of earth spikes that appeared on the group while being enfolded by shadow energies.

But Owen was quick enough to respond and used a protection skill to defend against those shadow-earth spikes, which were instantly destroyed right after the collision.

But that pause was more than enough for this dungeon boss to take advantage of for its next attack.

Swoosh!

After raising its claws that were releasing a shadowy flame, the Shadow Mountain Drake suddenly slammed it down, trying to crush Owen with it.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

But before it could even slam down, a pair of mana-enchanted arrows flew over Owen's head. They landed on the shoulder and arm of the dungeon boss respectively, changing the trajectory of the attack and landed on the ground near its target instead.

Boom! Boom!

(-50,323), (-51,123)

Archimedes and Ithilien saved Owen in a timely manner before continuing to fire more arrows, which were reinforced by their respective skills.

The former was even flying in the air current to have a better view of the entire battlefield while firing in every direction, targeting the surrounding elemental golems that were trying to approach the group while also supporting Owen from time to time.

Ithilien, on the other hand, focused more on giving Owen a cover from the distance, firing an enchanted arrow after another, and using most of her offensive skills.

Then there was Daulla, who kept casting one spell after another, constantly blasting all those elemental golems around them and mostly supporting Samael, who was mostly acting as their main defense alongside the skeleton soldiers that Chaotic Luck had summoned as well as the ghost soldiers and wraiths of Huahua.

This raid was getting more intense with every passing second, signifying that it was already about to end.

Given the current state of the battle, it was clear that the rest of the Emphyrean Talons were in control and steadily ending this raid.

But no one dared to lower their guard as they could tell that something ominous was about to happen. They were silently and patiently waiting for it while preparing their respective trump cards in response.

...

In the meantime, Arthur, who was separated from everyone, was facing a predicament that he did not expect to happen.

Chapter 1586 A Dragonkin and a Dragonborn (Part 1)

...

Within a pocket dimension of the dungeon, Arthur was currently standing across an old man clad in a set of antique-looking equipment.

This old man was full of white long hair, which he left hanging behind him. The wrinkles at the corner of his eyes were quite deep, which indicated how much of an old man he was.

But due to the age of this old man, his vast experience was also reflected by his presence alone. The air surrounding this old man was so heavy and overwhelming that it could affect the atmosphere itself.

The old man was sitting cross-legged with his left hand pressed on his left knee while his other arm was resting on his right leg.

He was looking at Arthur with a deep frown while saying. "Kid. Do you understand what kind of opportunity you are letting go right now?"

Arthur, who was standing a couple of meters away from this old man, rolled his eyes and said. "How many times do I have to tell you that I am not interested in your legacy? You go look for other candidates and offer it to them."

It was at this point that the old man showed an enraged expression and yelled. "You, brat! Do you know how glorious is to be my descendant!? My Dragonborn Clan is one of the most powerful clans of humanity!"

"We are the Dragon Slayer Clan! We have the power to slay dragons and beings of similar levels! Our bloodline inheritance is one of the greatest legacies of human history while our combat and martial arts are the peak of this realm!"

"We are a few who have managed to pull humanity into the peak of this realm! We belonged to the strongest Ascended Humans to match those arrogant Transcendent Beings alongside the Conquerors, Neanderthals, Barbarians, Seekers, and others!"

He then paused for a moment to calm himself down before continuing. "And what I am offering you is not just a chance to become a Dragonborn Clan member, but to be a true Dragonborn, who possessed the genuine Dragon-Slaying Powers that I have when I am alive!"

"You will also become an Ascended Being with boundless potential that can surpass your current race! Even if you are a Dragonkin, you are still not a true dragon! You are nothing but a puny human, who come to possess the powers of the Dragons after the Racial Baptism!"

"Don't waste your time and potential by trying to evolve into a real Dragon since it is impossible with the current resources of this realm! It will take you a very long time and a lot of effort before you truly become one" he added with a mocking tone.

"On the other hand, accepting my inheritance and becoming a Dragonborn will help you to continuously become stronger and reach that level in a steady yet faster way. So long as you kill enough enemies, particularly those Evil Dragons and Demons, then you will reach unimaginable heights that you cannot dream of."

Arthur was currently wearing an indifferent expression as he felt like he would die of boredom if he continued to listen to the rumblings of this old man.

He was even picking his ear with his pinky finger in a lazy manner. He then blew the tip of his finger after before sighing. "You have already said that countless times already, old man. How many times do I have to tell you that I am not interested in it?"

"You have said it yourself-... I am a Dragonkin, belonging to the Dragon Race, while you are a Dragon Slayer of the Dragonborn Clan, so we are supposedly mortal enemies."

"Much worse, you are the ancestor of that Dragon Slayer Clan. Why don't you just disappear now and head to the underworld? You have been dead for who knows how long now anyway. People most likely have forgotten you right now," he added, seemingly trying to provoke the old man purposely.

He was quite annoyed right now since he had been sent to this place while they were about to challenge the final boss of the dungeon. He did not know why in the world there was a special condition that only one Godlike Player or Maverick God could join the final battle, which upset him quite a lot.

Moreover, he also did not understand why he would be sent to this place, where this old man kept on pestering him to abandon his current Transcendent Race and become an Ascended Being instead.

This old man was also repeatedly told that becoming a Dragonborn was much better than staying on being a Dragonkin.

What's more, this old man kept on telling him about his biases regarding the 'advantages' of a Dragon Slayer over a Dragon Knight.

Arthur was already getting tired of it as this old man was like a broken recorder that kept on repeating this for quite a while now.

But he also had to admit that this old man was very powerful. At the very least, this fragment of soul that he had left before dying was as strong as those old dragons that he had met in the headquarters of the Dragon Sanctuary.

Just imagine how strong this old man was when he was still alive. He would surely be stupidly strong.

What somewhat annoyed Arthur even more was the name of this old thing.

[NPC Name]: Sigurd Dragonborn (Soul Fragment)

[Titles]: First Dragon Slayer, One of the Pinnacles of Humanity, Dragonborn Ancestor

[Race]: Ascended Human – Dragonborn

[Life Rating]: Sovereign Being

[Tier]: 5

[Level]: 500 (Suppressed)

Historical Background:

A fragment of soul that the first Dragon Slayer had left behind to pass on his legacy to future generations. It carried a portion of his powers before dying after suffering serious injuries from his final battle during the Warring Era.

As one of those who have reached the pinnacle of humanity, a lot of people coveted his legacy, which was why he had hidden it with extreme caution.

He was also one of the humans who had ascended in power, matching the Transcendent Beings.

Having created a new power that could slay dragons while being an Ascended Human, he refused to be called a 'Conqueror' and named his race Dragonborn instead.

It was not just because of his pride, but also because of the unique power that he and his descendants wielded, which was very different from what the 'Conquerors' and other Ascended Humans possessed.

The name of this old man was very similar to his, although it was a different version from the legends that they had in front of the real world.

It also confused Arthur why such a person would appear in a place that was supposedly one of the trials for his race.

A Dragonkin and Dragonborn were supposedly mortal enemies given their history, so it was quite strange why this old man appeared in a place like this.

But after putting some thought into it, Arthur found it quite clever if this old man put his legacy in such a place. After all, who would have thought about the legacy of the first Dragon Slayer in a place that was supposedly known for the Dragons?

It was quite similar to the saying 'the most dangerous place is the safest place'.

"That's enough, you old thing. You will never be able to coax me to become your descendant," said Arthur after seeing that the old man was about to start rumbling and bragging about his past once again.

"I already have a path that I want to take, and I will never change my mind," he added resolutely.

He would not mind taking the inheritance if he could just take this old man's legacy. After all, from how it sounded, it was definitely a powerful class. He could try giving up his Dragon Cavalier Class and make this Ascended Class his secondary combat class.

He was also quite curious about what he would be like if the Transcendent Class Dragon Knight and Ascended Class Dragon Slayer merged somehow.

But given that the system was repeatedly telling him that he had to give up his current race if he wanted to convert into a Dragonborn as the core powers of the two were negating each other.

Such powers could not be contained within the same host.

Moreover, he seemed to remember that there was another Dragon Slayer from the list of the Transcendent Race and Class.

However, from what he could remember, that person was also a Dragonkin like himself. He wondered the differences between the two classes, especially when their races were from completely different branches.

'Is that Dragonkin managed to find the Dragonborn Clan and gained their inheritance to become a Dragon Slayer somehow? Or is it just a different variation of the class?' Arthur wondered while maintaining the determined expression that he was wearing.

Seeing the resolute expression on Arthur's face, Old Man Sigurd could only sigh and express his disappointment. "What a pity. Such a talented Dragon Slayer is wasting his potential to become a Dragon. What a shame-... such a regrettable thing."

He repeatedly glanced at Arthur and constantly shook his head after along with a bitter smile.

Not long after, he slowly stood up and said. "Since that is the case, you have left me with no other choice."

The demeanor of this old man suddenly changed, making the atmosphere within the entire dimension become too heavy for Arthur to withstand.

"I will engrave in your body that a Dragonborn is the bane of Dragons."

Chapter 1587 A Dragonkin and a Dragonborn (Part 2)

...

As Arthur was watching Sigurd Dragonborn stood up and released his overwhelming aura, a mysterious power suddenly descended upon him and entered his inventory space.

He did not have the time to check on it when a sudden string of notifications flashed through his eyes.

Ding

System: You have completed the [Compass of the Lost Soul]!

Ding

System: As the owner of the compass, you are eligible to give direction to the lost souls.

Ding

System: You are now setting off to walk the path of the enlightenment of your soul.

Ding

System: You have refused to abandon your roots and denied being a Dragonborn!

System: You are currently facing your first trial of the soul – the Trial of the Blood!

System: Prove your resolve and gain the acknowledgment of Sigurd Dragonborn by defeating his Lesser Avatar!

Possible Reward: Elevation of your soul and improvement for racial traits.

Additional Rewards: ???

...

Arthur stared blankly at the string of notifications as he was trying to understand most of them.

He then realized the true usage of this [Compass of the Lost Soul]. It was a special item that could guide someone to the path of enlightenment.

For players who had managed to become an Ascended Being, this item could lead them to the next step of reaching the pinnacle of this realm, being an Enlightened Being.

As for someone like Arthur, who was already a Transcendent Being who did not need step-by-step improvement to gain absolute powers, this compass could help him elevate his soul to a higher level and improve the thickness of his racial bloodline.

As Arthur was thinking about this, the old man across from him suddenly pointed to the ground before him and shot a beam of light that suddenly materialized into a humanoid figure.

A few moments later, the materialized silhouette slowly solidified and became a young man of the same age as Arthur.

They had long blonde hair that was hanging on his back and his silver armor was filled with mysterious runes that were flashing in a certain rhythmic pattern from time to time.

On the back of this person was a double-edged greatsword that was as tall as him. The surface of the sword was covered with mysterious patterns that seemed to have created an image of a dragon and a human battling each other while the sharp edges were filled with flashing runes.

A single glance at this person was more than enough for Arthur to know that he was the younger version of Sigurd Dragonborn.

Not long after, the old man behind the younger version of himself crossed his arms in front of him while saying. "I have created this avatar with a similar physique as yours. His skills and techniques are also limited to the time when I am in your age."

"If you manage to defeat him, then I will acknowledge your choice. But if you lose-..." he paused for a moment as a dangerous glint flashed in his eyes. "...-I will forcefully erase every hint of Dragon Blood within your veins and then turn you into a True Dragonborn."

Hearing this, Arthur could not help but frown his brows deeply while mumbling to himself. "What a stubborn old man."

At the same time, another notification rang in his ears.

Ding

Quest Update: Defeat the Avatar of Sigurd Dragonborn and clear the Dungeon 'Lesser Hatchling Lair' to clear the entire quest!

...

Arthur did not have to concern himself about the other side since he believed that Cloe and the others would be able to handle the situation by themselves.

What he needed to worry about was how he would be able to defeat this person in front of him, especially when he could feel an immense threat coming from the opposing side.

"What a monster. He is already this strong when he is still at a very young age. Just how much talent and power does this person possess when he is still alive," wondered Arthur as he squinted his eyes while observing the other party.

He knew that this was going to be a very difficult battle, especially when he could feel that this avatar before him could already match the Demonified Draco that they had encountered in the Frozen Kingdom in terms of might alone.

Grand Marshall Draco was someone who also became an Ascended Being by his efforts. He was even one of the humans who first became a Conqueror during his era. He also majored in Martial Arts inspired by Dragons and founded an Ascended Class, Wyvern Rider, though he became the sole Dragon Rider.

In comparison, Arthur felt that Grand Marshall Draco at peak should be somewhat weaker than this Dragon Slayer Sigurd Dragonborn.

That was what Arthur thought at the very least when he compared Draco and this soul fragment of an old man before him.

After all, this Dragon Slayer was absurdly stronger since even a fragment of his soul was already comparable to Draco when he was at his peak, which was also at the pinnacle of this realm – a Sovereign Being.

"Ah~! Why do you have to wake me, old man?" said the young Sigurd as he tilted his head to the side while rubbing the back of his neck, somewhat massaging it.

'He is sentient as well?' Arthur could not hide his surprise after seeing that the avatar seemed to have his thoughts and personality.

"And who is this weakling? Someone from the modern tribe of those overgrown lizards?" said Sigurd after seemingly noticing Arthur standing a couple of meters away from him.

Hearing such a comment, Arthur could not help but raise his brows. He felt that he could not coexist with this person in the same space.

Swoosh!

Arthur then summoned his dragon spear and round shield as he got ready for the battle. "Let's get this over with already. Staying here and breathing the air as a minor being is getting suffocating."

The corner of the young Sigurd's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard those words. He then stared at Arthur while raising his brows. "You have such a sharp tongue for being a hatchling. I wonder if your skills are up to par."

"Why don't we put it on a test? Though, I doubt that you can put up a good fight given that you have nothing but your fancy equipment," said Arthur provokingly.

Young Sigurd smirked as he heard those words before his mouth curved into a huge grin. "Hah! You know how to use your mouth. I wonder if you can keep this up when I start beating you."

He then turned toward the old soul fragment and asked. "Hey, old man. Can I kill this guy?"

"You can do everything, but you have to keep him alive," said the Old Sigurd as he found a spot to sit conformably.

"Tsk! What a pity. It has been a while since I have tasted a grilled dragon," said the young Sigurd before turning to Arthur. "Anyway. You better get ready since you are up for the pain since the old man permits me to go all out!"

Swoosh!

Arthur was about to say something as a counter to his words, but the opposing side suddenly disappeared and reappeared before him with a hand on the hilt of the greatsword hanging on his back.

"You're dead!" said the young Sigurd as his body was suddenly enveloped by a blue-colored flame. This flame seemed to be made of the purest form of mana that took the form of a fire.

At the same time, Arthur could also feel an immense threat just by the appearance of that blue mana flame. It was as if something within him was somewhat afraid of this power that was current surrounding his opponent.

He could feel that his powers were being suppressed to a certain extent just by the appearance of that flame.

Swoosh!

This was the Dragon-Slaying Power that Sigurd Dragonborn had created to defeat the dragons that he had slayed during his time. It was said to be the bane of all dragons during that era and what made him feared by most of the Dragon Tribes.

But Arthur was not from any ordinary tribe of Dragons. He was from one of the mightiest tribes of the Dragon Race, the Divine Dragon Tribe, and even received a direct inheritance from the current king of Dragons.

Bang!

To negate the power of his opponent who was trying to suppress him, Arthur released his unique mana manipulation method while also entering the combat state of Reality Manifestation without any hesitation.

He knew that he could not afford to hold back right now given that he pretty much pissed this young version of Sigurd Dragonborn.

Bang!

A golden flame covered his entire body as a mix of golden lightning danced on its surface, elevating his presence to a higher level and matching his opponent's.

Seeing the sudden change in his opponent's aura, the young Sigurds started smiling broadly as he commented. "So, you are not all talk."

Swoosh!

It was also at this moment when he suddenly unsheathed the greatsword from his back and swiftly swung it down.

Shing!

The sword left a blazing trail in the air as it almost reached Arthur's head in an instant.

But Arthur was not that slow either as he was already taking a step back ahead of time while also raising his round shield at the same time.

Bang!

The collision of the two sides resulted in a massive explosion that sent a series of shockwaves that spread in every direction.

Arthur slightly lowered his shield as his opponent slowly landed on the ground. He stared straight into the eyes of the opposing side.

His eyes were also currently releasing a golden glow as he activated his Dragon Eyes, which was why he was fast enough to respond to the quick attack of his opponent.

But, of course, he did not forget about his trash talk to further infuriate the other. "You, on the other hand, seem to be quite mediocre. Are you sure that to continue this? You may get your ass kicked; you know?"

"You should surrender early to avoid some embarrassment," he added as he further provoked the young Sigurd.

Chapter 1588 A Dragon Knight Versus A Dragon Slayer (Part 1)

...

Bang!

Arthur was pushed by Sigurd, forcing him to take a couple of steps backward. Each step was quite heavy which left deep footprints on the ground as he tried to disperse the force from the impact.

"Let's how far that sharp tongue and take you," said Sigurd as he held the greatsword with both of his hands, placing it in front of his chest horizontally.

At the same time, the blue flame surrounding his body became more violent and blazed in rage.

"Ha!"

With a shout, the flames suddenly gathered toward his sword as he swung it before him multiple times and released them at the same time.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A series of blazing crescents flew toward Arthur as he was trying to recover his footing. They left long trails in the air as they advanced.

Arthur quickly raised his shield before him and activated his skill. The shield also released a golden glow as he infused his power into it. Then a magic circle appeared and projected itself in front of that shield, acting as a wall that blocked the incoming blazing sword waves.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Arthur was immediately swallowed by a thick cloud of dust as he was bombarded by the sword waves. His figure immediately disappeared within it, preventing the opposing side from seeing him.

Sigurd slightly knitted his brows as he could feel that Arthur remained unharmed despite the attacks that he had just thrown.

Whoosh!

Not long after, a hole appeared from the center of the cloud, which slowly expanded and suddenly revealed Arthur, who was thrusting his spear forward.

The speed of the charge was so fast that it almost reached Sigurd, forcing him to take a couple of steps backward to prevent the tip of the spear from reaching him.

Clang!

At the same time, he twirled his greatsword in front of him, deflecting the spear and changing its trajectory upwards.

Bang!

He then stomped one of his feet and suddenly planted itself on the ground behind him as he halted his retreat. He then suddenly spun while using the spinning momentum to swing his greatsword.

Shing!

The sharp edge of the sword cut through the air it left a flash of light behind while heading straight to his opponent.

Arthur, on the other hand, followed the momentum of the earlier deflection and let his spear to deflect. He then let it land on his shoulder as his other arm raised the round shield and blocked the incoming strike.

Bang!

The collision sent another violent ripple in the air as the two of them paused their actions for a brief moment.

"Hmph!" Sigurd then retracted his sword back and was about to retreat. But his eyes never left Arthur, closely observing every movement of the latter.

From the earlier exchanges, he could tell that this kid was quite talented in terms of Martial Arts and possessed such a rich experience in battle. Even if the gap in experience was still quite large, Sigurd could not afford to let his guard down.

That was when he saw Arthur slightly lower his shield, revealing his head, which was now covered with a dragon helmet.

The golden glow that was leaking out from the gap of the helmet meant for the eyes indicated that that ocular skill was still active.

These eyes gave Sigurd an ominous feeling as it reminded him of when a dragon was looking at him. That familiar cold and indifferent gaze reminded him of his experience when he was fighting against the dragon race during his early years in life when he was still alive.

As his eyes were attracted by the gaze of his opponent, he did not immediately notice the tip of the spear pointing straight at him.

The dragon spear was horizontally placed over Arthur's shoulders and behind his neck. It resembled a venomous viper laying in wait and ready to attack at any time.

Shu!

Not long after, Arthur pushed the spear forward, stabbing straight at his opponent.

Swoosh!

It was at this moment when Sigurd noticed the sudden attack. He swiftly leaned to the side, barely dodging the tip of the spear. "Cheap tricks!"

He was about to counterattack when Arthur swiftly pulled the spear back and slightly retreated.

Arthur adjusted his posture and somewhat tilted his body before stabbing the spear once again, sending it toward Sigurd, who was still in the middle of re-establishing his state.

Shu! Shu! Shu!

A series of stabs flew in Sigurd's direction, making him repeatedly dodge and constantly retreated.

Arthur, on the other hand, steadily chases while constantly attacking. He did not give Sigurd enough time to regain his footing, taking full advantage of the initiative that he had gotten.

This stance that Arthur had, which both possessed an offensive and defensive stance was not easy to break. The shield placed in front of him was perfectly covering his body and ready to defend any time

while the stabbing spear was constantly harassing his opponent and not giving them the time to counterattack.

This made Sigurd somewhat enraged and humiliated. He now took Arthur seriously. "I must admit that you indeed have some skills, but don't underestimate me either!"

Bang!

The blue flame covering his body suddenly blazed more violently as the runes of his armor and greatsword shone brightly so suddenly.

Sensing the danger, Arthur quickly halted his actions and retreated.

Bang!

But Sigurd, who exploded in power, did not let him. He transformed into a streak of light that appeared before Arthur while swinging his sword down.

Rumble!

The surrounding air seemed to have exploded as the greatsword drew a blazing arc in the air while cleaving toward Arthur. It carried an immense amount of power that seemed to be able to destroy everything on its path.

'Dragon-Slaying Art: Dragonic Pursuit – Cleave'

Realizing that it was impossible to escape, Arthur halted his retreat and stomped his feet on the ground, firmly planting them on it.

Bang! Bang!

He then summoned his mighty Dragon Powers, which turned into a manifestation of a dragon head that swallowed him and protected him inside.

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Protection of the Divine Dragon'

Boom!

The blazing greatsword tried to slice through the dragon's head but was unable to break it. However, the collision between the two sides resulted in a massive explosion that made the ground sink greatly, creating a huge crater with them as the center.

Bang!

Swoosh!

Bang!

Sigurd was repelled by a strong repulsion force, sending him and his sword flying, while the dragon head protecting Arthur was shattered into pieces, revealing his figure once again.

"Hu~!"

Arthur inhaled deeply as he circulated the flow of energy within his body. He then kicked the ground and propelled himself forward, chasing after his opponent.

Bang!

Swoosh!

At the same time, his body, which was constantly releasing a golden aura and lightning currents, exploded in power as the mana surrounding him twirled and enveloped him.

Roar!

Not long after, a huge golden dragon was formed as he charged forward and thrust his spear toward his opponent.

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Breaking through of the Golden Dragon'

Swoosh!

Sigurd flipped multiple times in the air to disperse the force that he had received from the earlier impact.

Bang!

Right after he landed, the ground underneath his feet sank further and created another small crater while sending rock fragments into the air.

Raising his head, he stared at the incoming dragon made from draconic aura before squinting his eyes.

"Hoo~!"

He then took a stance and assumed a stance, placing his left foot forward and twisting his waist backward. His hands both held the hilt of his greatsword, placing it behind him, while the blue flame surrounding his body blazed even more violently.

Swoosh!

Not long after, all the accumulated energy suddenly rushed toward the greatsword, making it shine brilliantly and illuminating the whole place intensely.

"Ha!" not long after, he retwisted his waist toward the other direction while swinging the greatsword with all his might.

'Dragonborn Swordsmanship – Draconic Culling'

Shing!

At the same time, he released all the accumulated energy, sending a giant and blazing sword crescent toward the incoming golden dragon.

Swoosh!

BOOM!

A massive explosion erupted once again the two powers clashed against one another and yet another thick cloud of smoke enveloped the air at the point of collision, which was also where Arthur was currently located.

Silence befell in the entire place right after the rumbling sounds of the explosion subdued.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

But immediately after that, enraged roars of dragons reverberated in the entire dimension as a group of golden dragons, which seemed to be a smaller version of the previous one, broke through the cloud of smoke and dust and flew to Sigurd.

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Dance of the Nine Dragons'

They danced in the air while heading straight to Sigurd, who was already preparing his next move.

Right before the nine golden dragons reached him, Sigurd suddenly swung his greatsword multiple times and created a net of sword flashes in the air, which cut through everything.

'Dragonborn Swordsmanship: Dragon Slaying'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The golden dragons were cut by the sword lights, transforming them into specks of light that slowly dissipated in the air.

Whoosh!

But as it was happening, the cloud of smoke and dust in the distance was split open as another huge golden dragon broke through it and flew straight to Sigurd while opening its huge mouth wildly and planning to devour him.

Roar!

Within this golden dragon was the spear that Arthur had thrown from the opposing side. It carried an unstoppable force, amplifying the speed and momentum of the golden dragon formed by draconic mana.

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Golden Dragon soars through the Heaven'

Sigurd slightly frowned as he saw the incoming golden dragon. The timing was too perfect for him to dodge or counter it. It was sent out when he was still in the middle of ending his previous move, not allowing him to properly prepare for a counter-move against it.

"This little hatchling indeed has some skill," commented Sigurd as an excited face washed over his face. "It has been a while since someone made my blood boil! This can be entertaining!"

Boom!

At the same time, his aura exploded as he stopped suppressing his powers. The blue flame that was covering his body grew larger, almost reaching a dozen meters, and became even more violent.

The corner of his eyes seemed to have been filled with scales that were formed by mana while his pupils turned golden with vertical irises.

Swoosh!

Then he casually swung his greatsword with one hand, sending a sword crescent that easily cleaved through the incoming golden dragon and instantly destroyed it.

The dragon spear was also sent flying back to where it came from.

Whoosh!

Arthur, who was standing in the distance, swiftly extended his right hand to catch the Dragon Spear.

"Eh!?"

Boom!

But right after he grabbed it, his body was suddenly sent flying further away due to the powerful force that the dragon spear carried.

The spear dragged him until he reached the end of this isolated dimension and collided against the invisible wall that it had.

(-200,423)

"Urgh!"

At the same time, he vomited a lot of blood as a huge number appeared above his head, signifying that a huge chunk of the health bar disappeared.

He was barely hanging on his life as he tried to support himself with his spear. "What the heck!? What kind of power is that?"

He did not even receive the direct hit from the earlier attack. It could not even be considered a residual force from the explosion, yet he was left with a sliver of health.

If his health bar was slightly lower, he most likely had been killed just now.

Taking out two Master Rank Potions from his inventory, Arthur chugged their contents in his mouth to recover his health back to full.

After wiping his mouth and throwing the bottles, he stared at Sigurd, who was currently releasing an absurdly strong mana from his body. "Tsk! This is going to be a real pain in the *ss."

"I guess I have to use my Elemental Possession. And the strongest one at that," he mumbled as he stared solemnly at his opponent.

Chapter 1589 A Dragon Knight Versus A Dragon Slayer (Part 2)

.....

Looking at the Sigurd, who was still standing on his spot and did not plan to move, Arthur could feel an immense danger that he had never felt before.

The aura and power of the opposing side might not be the greatest compared to the ones that he had met up until now, but the threat level coming from this person was still the most dangerous of them all for some unknown reason.

Arthur's guess was it was because of the blue flame that was raging around Sigurd, which seemed to be the full release of the Dragon-Slaying Power of the player. The suppression that it was giving him was multiple times stronger than what he was feeling earlier.

Even the Divine Dragon Blood that his race possessed was somewhat weakened just by the presence of this power.

"I guess I have to summon Archon for this one," mumbled Arthur as he felt that only fusing with the Chaos Elemental Dragon was the only way for him to match the current powers of his opponent.

He doubted that even the double fusion with the other Elemental Dragons would not be enough to match the current Sigurd, which was already his limit.

Triple fusion was impossible with his current strength, much less a quadruple one, which should be the strongest state possible for his current powers excluding his fusion with Archon. But that was only possible when a Quest Scenario was triggered, which would lift the restrictions that the system had for him and his elemental dragons.

But before he could call out Archon, the Chaos Elemental Dragon suddenly said to him. [Brat. I discourage you from using my powers at this moment.]

Arthur suddenly paused and frowned when he heard those words and could not help but ask. "Eh!? Why is that?"

[This is a trial for yourself. It is supposed to make you stronger, particularly to further awaken the Dragon Powers within your veins and discover more potential of your soul. It will be a pity to miss this chance.] Answered the old dragon.

Seeing that Arthur was still not fully confused, he added. [You may be able to match the powers of this little Dragon Slayer if you use my powers, but it will not give you much benefit by doing so. It is better to struggle in front of adversity and surpass your limits rather than going through it with ease.]

[At most, you can use others and fuse with them for your possessions, then slowly explore their true potential and surpass your current self.]

[This is a good opportunity for you to fully awaken the slumbering potential within your bloodline and truly embark on the path of evolution to become a True Dragon.]

[Your bloodline belonged to the most noble bloodline of all the Dragon Tribes. So long as you realize its true powers and awaken what it is capable of, you will be able to reach the same height as the most ancient Dragons of this world and follow their steps of becoming a Divine Being just like the Dragon Gods that emerge during the Era of Gods and Immortals.]

[You may be a Transcendent Being, but that is nothing but a starting point that puts you in the lead ahead of the others. Transcending the limits of this realm and reaching the higher plane will still be challenging even for yourself.]

He then paused as he focused on Sigurd, more especially the older Sigurd watching in the distance, before continuing. [From what I can see, this Dragon Slayer is someone from the Ancient Era, or at least his direct ancestors are from that period.]

[He is most likely become known during the Warring Era when all races of this plane are waging wars against each other due to the will of the Gods that they served and have fallen when that era is about to end and transitioning toward the Repelling Era when the True Demons of the Seven Hells tried to invade.]

[I know little about Dragon Slayers that he is talking about since I have been imprisoned much longer before he emerged in providence and became what he is during his time.]

[But I do know some about the powers that he wields. It may be a little different from what I know, maybe because he said that he has created himself, but it is way similar to that particular power that existed during my time.]

Hearing this, Arthur could not help but become a little more interested. "What is it?"

[I will tell you more about it later, but it is called the 'Void Bane'. It is a legendary power that was used by the archivals of the Dragon Race during the Ancient Era and the eras before it – the 'Void Creatures' with those who stood at the apex called the 'Void Beasts'.] answered Archon.

[It is said to be lost through the passage of time along with the disappearance of those creatures from the Great Void of Chaos.]

...

After talking, Archon was finally able to convince Arthur not to use his elemental dragon fusion with him.

The one that he had chosen-... or two-... was the combination of Tempest and Eira, which were his strongest dragons right beneath Chaos Dragon Archon.

'Elemental Dragon Fusion (Storm and Glacial Dragons): Calamity Harbinger'

Right after he initiated the possession, the set of armor that he was wearing suddenly changed. The black and golden armor changed into a mixture of white and blue while the crimson-red cape on his back turned into a pair of blue dragon wings.

The armors on his forearms, shoulders, sheens, and legs now carried scale-like patterns, which were filled with mysterious and ancient runes.

The round shield turned silver-white, and the patterns on its center became a set of runes forming a snowflake pattern. The edges of this shield also carried a crystalline highlight and a constant release of icy fog.

Meanwhile, the Dragon Spear he was holding with his other hand became filled with lightning currents while its color turned deep blue. Its blade also curved into the shape of lightning while releasing a pulsing light filled with electricity.

His dragon helmet disappeared, revealing his face, while a pair of horns grew from his forehead. The corners of his eyes were also filled with scales, with those on the left being silver-white while the other side was sky blue.

The color of each of his pupils also possessed different colors with one looking ice-cold while the other was glowing with lightning currents.

Boom!

At the same time, the aura that he currently possessed was not much weaker than Sigurd, who just released his true powers.

...

Seeing all of that, Sigurd, who was patiently waiting in the distance, could not help but frown his brows.

Even if he was 'young', he still had fought against the Dragon Race multiple times within the memory he possessed in this avatar. He could not even count how many Draconians and Dragonkins he had killed during those times.

With this, he should be very familiar with the powers that the Dragons possessed. He could also tell that the density that Arthur had in his bloodline was far from being on the same level as those that could pose any threat to him.

But Arthur was showing them these powers that he had seen for the first time. It was not in the memory that this avatar possessed.

With that, he could not help but turn to the old man behind him with a questioning gaze. But right after he turned, he saw that even this Old Sigurd was also frowning his brows while looking at Arthur with great interest.

He had died during the Warring Era, so he did not know about the great invasion of the True Demons, which also indicated that he was unaware of the events that occurred during the Repelling Era.

He did not know that the Transcendent Beings formed a contract with the Elemental Beings, joining forces, to repel the common enemy.

Old Sigurd had no idea about what happened during that era and that contract, much less about the Elemental Spirit Possession ability that the Transcendent and Elemental Beings possessed.

But Old Sigurd was still an ancient monster, so he was able to recover himself quite fast. He just found that the ability that Arthur had used was interesting, but nothing else.

Given his vast experience, he possessed a variety of skills and techniques to match such an ability.

To him, what Arthur had shown him was nothing but a little trick of the Dragonkins.

He turned to the young Sigurd and signaled to test how good this ability was.

Seeing that, the young Sigurd shrugged his shoulders before turning his attention back to Arthur. He grinned widely as he said. "It is much better. It will be too boring if he loses that easily anyway."

"Let's see how good this trick of yours is!" he said as he summoned a pair of wings behind him that were formed by the dense mana that he was releasing.

Chapter 1590 A Dragon Knight Versus A Dragon Slayer (Part 3)

.....

Bang!

Swoosh!

Sigurd had waited enough, so he initiated the opening move once again. He disappeared from his spot and reappeared right before Arthur and swung his great sword down.

Arthur, who was already expecting this, quickly raised his shield to block the descending sword. As he did that, a layer of magic circle appeared over the shield, acting as a magic barrier. Runes with ice-elemental mana filled its surface, further reinforcing its defensive capabilities.

Boom!

The ground sank once again as the sword and the barrier clashed. The impact even caused countless rock fragments to fly in the air before turning into dust.

The two sides stayed like this for a couple of moments as they maintained their respective positions.

Bang!

Not long after, the greatsword in Sigurd's hands finally bounced off from the repulsion force while the barrier was shattered into pieces.

Amid the falling shattered fragments of his barrier, Arthur appeared, holding his spear with both of his hands while the shield on his left arm slowly turned translucent before completely disappearing.

Crackle! Crackle!

Lightning currents danced around his spear as he suddenly thrust it forward.

Swoosh!

Sensing the danger coming from that strike, Sigurd, who was still in the air, skillfully adjusted his body and swiftly twisted to dodge.

Boom!

The thrust missed its target, but a powerful beam of lightning was released from it and flew past Sigurd, who could feel the paralyzing sensing caused by the lightning current filling the air.

Ta-ta!

Right after landing on the ground, Sigurd spun around while using the momentum to swing his greatsword down.

Swoosh!

The greatsword was covered by a violent mana flame formed by his Dragon-Slayer Powers. The space seemed to have burned by it as the sword drew a beautiful arc in the air.

Arthur quickly retracted his spear with one hand while raising the other in front of him. He was taking a defensive stance as the round icy shield materialized on that arm once again.

Swoosh!

At the same time, the magic barrier appeared once again but with a much stronger mana fluctuation, signifying the large amount of mana infused with it.

Since it was enhanced with the Dragonic Ice of a Glacial Dragon, the defensive properties of this magic barrier reached a whole other level.

Bang!

The two sides clashed once again, resulting in another explosion.

Swoosh!

Bang!

(-100,321)

This time, Sigurd was sent flying toward the opposite direction while Arthur was slammed on the edge of this dimension behind him once again as the magic barrier shattered into pieces.

"Cough! Cough!" vomiting some blood, Arthur wiped the corner of his mouth as he cast a healing spell on himself to recover health.

(+100,00)

As a Glacial Dragon, who belonged to the rulers of the cold elements, Eira further enhanced the Dragon Spell that Arthur had gotten from his Ocean Dragon, Oceana.

At the same time, he used a dragon spell from Eira's arsenal. Since he was currently under the Elemental Dragon Fusion, he had access to some of her spells and did not hesitate to take advantage of them.

Swoosh!

In the distance, as Sigurd was stabilizing himself, a huge shadow was suddenly cast on him from above, making him raise his head.

That was when he saw a giant ice boulder suspended in the air right above him. It did not even wait for him to respond as it suddenly came crashing down like a meteor.

Whoosh!

"Hmph!" firmly planting his feet on the ground, Sigurd held his sword with his hands before throwing an upward slash in the air.

Swoosh!

A blazing flash of sword flew toward the descending iceberg and cut it in half.

Bang!

But that was not the end as multiple sword flashes followed it and sliced through the two huge segments of the iceberg that he just cut, further dicing them into smaller segments.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But as the small fragments of ice fell, they suddenly transformed into sharp and pointed icicles that were directed at him.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Not long after, they turned into an unstoppable hail that was raining from the air.

Raising his brows, Sigurd could sense some threat coming from his hail of icicles. Not daring to underestimate this spell, he suddenly waved his greatsword left and right and summoned a blazing barrier made from the blue mana flame surrounding him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The icicles exploded when they collided with the barrier before evaporating.

In the meantime, Arthur had already recovered at this point, taking a stance with both of his hands holding his spear.

"Hu~!"

After taking a deep breath, Arthur used the lightning-elemental mana of his Storm Elemental Dragon to further amplify his already mighty Dragon Powers before infusing it into his spear.

Crackle! Crackle!

Lightning currents danced around him as he suddenly started throwing a series of stabs in the air, which left multiple spear shadows that filled the space.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Not long after, these spear shadows turned into a swarm of lightning dragons that opened their mouths wide while heading straight to Sigurd.

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Imperial Tactics – Dragonic Oblivion'

Seeing the incoming dragons, Sigurd slightly raised his brows as he could feel an impressive might coming from each other, signifying that he could not afford to underestimate them.

"Hoo~!"

Regulating his breathing, he suddenly held his greatsword with both of his hands while placing them before his chest.

Whoosh!

The surrounding blue mana flame blazed more violently, forming a towering pillar of fire, which then turned into a blazing warrior with a sword made of mana flame.

He waited a little until the swarm of lightning dragons reached the ideal range before swinging his greatsword multiple times, which the blazing warrior copied.

'Dragonborn Swordsmanship: Dragon Slaying – Sword Flame Destruction'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A huge crescent wave sliced through the air and burned even the space due to the mana flame that surrounded it.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Not long after, the entire swarm of the dragons was obliterated.

Sigurd did not even wait for Arthur's next move as he immediately stomped into the ground and propelled himself toward the latter, transforming into a streak of light that cut through the cloud of smoke created by the previous explosion.

Whoosh!

Midair, Sigurd held his greatsword and dragged it behind while the apparition of the blazing warrior was yet to disappear.

On the other side, Arthur extended his left hand forward, manifesting the icy shield before behind.

Infusing his mana into it, a thick and towering wall of ice was suddenly erected and blocked Sigurd's advance.

Bang!

"Cheap tricks!" Seeing the ice wall, Sigurd smirked before swinging his greatsword horizontally, which the blazing warrior behind him did as well.

Swoosh!

A flash of light sliced through the wall of ice before disappearing within an instant. Then the entire ice wall was cut in halves with the upper portion melting due to the blue mana flame and evaporating immediately after.

Arthur, who was also preparing for his next move, was revealed.

The entire body of the spear in his eyes was currently enveloped with electric currents, almost turning it into lightning itself.

Sigurd was preparing to defend the incoming attack from Arthur, expecting it to come in front of him.

Crackle! Crackle!

But when he was doing that, he sensed a series of electric currents filling the air around him, giving him an ominous feeling.

Trusting his instincts, he decided to take a stronger defensive stance alongside the blazing warrior behind him.

Bang!

Right at that moment, a clap of thunder suddenly resounded within the entire dimension while a flash of lightning suddenly descended from the sky, striking straight at Sigurd.

This lightning strike also turned into a dragon that opened its mouth wide, planning to devour its target.

Roar!

In response, Sigurd and the manifestation of the blazing warrior behind him raised their swords above them as the lightning dragon bit into the blazing sword that the warrior was holding.

Bang!

While Sigurd was enduring the barrage of lightning strikes from the sky along with the lightning dragon suppressing the blazing warrior, Arthur finally made his move.

He twirled his spear's head a little before flicking with it multiple times, which transformed into nine dragons heading straight to Sigurd, who was currently being suppressed.

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Imperial Tactics – Nine Dragon Obliteration'

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Sigurd slightly frowned when he realized that he had fallen into a trap, but did not show any signs of panic. He calmly held his ground before twirling his wrists to control the greatsword in his hands, moving it in a circular manner.

The blazing mimicked his actions, making it drag the lightning dragon that was biting its flame sword.

The two seemed to have manipulated the space while burning it. The lightning dragon biting the flame sword seemed to have been dragged into the void along with the lightning strikes falling from the sky.

'Dragonborn Swordsmanship: Dragon Slaying – Draconic Rending'

The movements of his sword did not stop there as he suddenly swung the greatsword multiple times, slashing the nine dragons that were trying to attack him from different angles.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Blazing flashes filled the air, cutting through the nine dragons that Arthur had sent and obliterating them.

'Dragonborn Swordsmanship: Dragon Slaying – Sword Flame Obliteration'

Arthur and Sigurd did not immediately attack each other as they stared at each other with provoking expressions on their faces.

They knew that both sides were currently close in terms of power, which indicated that the victor of this battle would be decided on who had the better skill and techniques.

It seemed like they were trying to agitate the opposing side and telling them if that was all they were capable of with those looks.

A moment later, they simultaneously charged at each other, engaging in an intense battle against each other.