

## **Destiny 1591**

### Chapter 1591 Acknowledgement

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Bang! Bang! Bang!

A series of explosions erupted in different parts of the isolated dimension as Sigurd and Arthur flashed in different places while exchanging blows against each other.

Their figures continued to disappear and reappear in different places while executing their respective skills and techniques.

Sigurd had the upper hand most of the time due to the overwhelming difference in terms of battle experience. But that was slowly disappearing as he continued to fight against Arthur.

Arthur might not be as fast as Shin in improving in battle since he was not a Battle Genius, but he at least had some tricks under his sleeves. As a Martial Arts Prodigy, he was able to memorize all the techniques and skills that Sigurd was using just by looking at them.

Adding the tricks that his 'master', who already faded from his memory, he was able to counter every move Sigurd had most of the time.

The trick that this master had told him about his Martial Arts Prodigy Battle Talent gave him the ability to repeatedly counter his opponents by accurately striking the weakness of their technique, which he had already uncovered through it.

After seeing the techniques and skills that Sigurd had used during this battle, Arthur was able to see through its secrets just by seeing it once. Then he was able to uncover most of its mysteriousness after seeing it multiple times, giving him the ability to strike the very core once they were used once again.

So long as Sigurd used it more than once, Arthur would be able to counter it without a problem the next time he used it, giving him serious problems as the battle went on.

Unless Sigurd could continuously improve during the battle like a Shin, who was a complete monster, or at least someone at Owen's level, his chances of winning this battle would slowly dwindle as time went by.

Sigurd, despite his confidence, started to feel some pressure as the battle progressed. He felt that all his secrets were slowly being revealed to Arthur as the battle continued.

He knew that he would be at a great disadvantage the longer they battled, so he wanted to end this as soon as possible.

But as he was doing that, the old Sigurd watching in the distance sent him a mental message, telling him to continue to battle at this pace as he wanted to see how much Arthur could grow in this battle.

Due to this, Sigurd suffered quite a bit, especially when Arthur was slowly getting more aggressive as the battle went on.

This started to put some pressure on him, which annoyed him quite a lot.

Little did he know that this battle was putting a great toll on Arthur's mind, which was slowly affecting his performance.

Even if the effect of being in multiple special states in this place was not as serious as when he was inside the dungeon, staying in this condition where he had to keep everything under control cost him quite a lot, especially since it already exceeded his limit since earlier.

He was just holding on by sheer will, forcefully keeping his mind clear while making sure that he was in full control of everything.

Arthur knew that he would not be able to defeat Sigurd despite all the advantages that he had if this continued longer. All the advantages he had gotten would slowly disappear if he further overworked his mind and body by forcefully maintaining all the special states together.

Combat State Reality Manifestation, Dual Elemental Dragon Fusion, Legendary Grade Mana Manipulation Technique: Dragon Aura, Personal Natural State meant of his Martial Arts Prodigy Combat Talent: Dragon Solace, and Modified Pinnacle Omniscience Peak Talent Ability: Dragon Eyes – any of these could put a great toll on his mind and body, much less using all of them simultaneously.

Adding the fact that he was already keeping them for an extended period of time, Arthur had already reached his limit ages ago. He was only holding out due to his determination to clear this trial since he could not afford to lose everything that he had built up until now.

But he must admit that he had grown a lot since the time he first arrived here.

"It is time to end this," said Arthur as he distanced himself away from Sigurd, preparing for his final move. If he still lost with all of these, then he would most likely fail the entire trial altogether.

"I've been waiting!" said Sigurd as he grinned widely before also preparing for a final move of his own.

Bang! Bang!

The auras that these two released reached their peak, almost filling the air with violent ripples that were caused by the repeated collision of their powers.

"That's enough."

But before they could even perform their respective technique, the old Sigurd suddenly interrupted them. His words might be simple and had been said in a casual manner, but they were like a clap of thunder that exploded inside the head of the two, waking them up from their highly focused states.

The young Sigurd was unwilling to stop here, especially when it looked like he had been beaten up by Arthur from the most recent exchanges. He refused to bend down and accept this outcome. But he could not disobey this old man. He was nothing but a spiritual avatar created to test Arthur.

Arthur, on the other hand, was somewhat confused about what was happening. He could not understand why this old man suddenly wanted to stop them right now when he was the one who insisted Arthur accept his inheritance and bloodline.

"I acknowledge that you are very talented. And I must admit that you are very suited to be a Dragon Knight. Although, it also indicates that you are the perfect candidate to become the most powerful Dragon Slayer as well," said the old man, seemingly able to read what Arthur was thinking.

"It is just a pity that you have chosen a different path," he added before turning to the young Sigurd and waving his hand.

Not long after, that avatar slowly faded before turning into a glowing marble. When it landed on the hands of the old man, he infused something into that marble, making a series of runes appear on its surface.

The old man sighed as he looked at Arthur. "Can you grant this old man its 'dying' wish at the very least?"

Hearing those words, Arthur could not help but have a sense of *déjà vu*. This scenario was oddly familiar as it was somewhat similar to the last words that Grand Marshall Draco had said to him during his Empire Quest in the Frozen Kingdom.

'Don't tell me this old man will give me a part of his inheritance in another form?' thought Arthur, somewhat excited. If he could somehow get that inheritance, then his strength would propel him to a whole other level without sacrificing anything. 'This is also good even if I don't get any clue regarding that piece of Divine Armor.'

The old man did not disappoint him as the next words were exactly what Arthur was expecting. "I have been waiting for a very long time in this place for the perfect candidate to inherit my legacy, but when someone perfectly fits all the conditions and even surpasses it in most of the areas, he is already walking a path that is completely opposite to my past self."

"What a real pity," he added while shaking his head repeatedly. "But as you have already proven your resolve and even surpassed all my expectations, I must respect it and not force it on you."

He then paused for a moment pointed his index finger and shot a beam of light that flew straight to Arthur's forehead.

Arthur wanted to dodge by instinct, but he was unable to do so due to how fast that beam of light was. It already hit the center of his forehead before he could do anything.

Then he suddenly found himself entering a trance as a series of information flooded his mind. An overwhelming amount of information flashed through his eyes, showing a series of frames of someone showing him a spearmanship full of mysteries.

This spearmanship was no weaker than his Imperial Tactics, which were the advanced techniques of his family's Martial Arts. It could even be used with his family's unique Qi Circulation Method as if it were a part of the True Nine Dragon Arts, to begin with.

It was even more advanced compared to the inheritance that he had gotten from the previous game he played before, where he had gotten advanced swordsmanship.

"This is the Dragon Slaying Arts that I have created with all my life. I slightly modified it to fit your style and martial arts."

"It is supposed to be used with a sword since it is meant to be my family's swordsmanship. But since you favor spearmanship more and are more talented in it, I redesigned the entire Martial Arts and covert it into spearmanship to perfectly fit you."

It was at this moment that Arthur finished digesting all the knowledge about Martial Arts. He slowly opened his eyes and looked at the old man with gratitude.

This Old Sigurd might have casually said those words, seemingly saying that what he just did was something trivial, but knew Arthur fully understood that it was not something that could be done that easily.

Old Sigurd ignored the expression that Arthur was making as he continued. "No matter how strong I am during my peak, this Soul Fragment that I have left behind still has its limits. Over time, my power is starting to disappear."

"I don't know when the next time someone like you appears before me will be. I don't even know if I will still be around if it happens."

"So, it is better to leave you everything and help me out in finding the right successor," he added as his body started to turn translucent and slowly faded away.

"Eh!?" Arthur was somewhat taken aback at how fast everything was developing. He wanted to say something to the old man but did not know where to start.

Not long after, this Soul Fragment of the legendary Dragon Slayer Sigurd Dragonborn fully fused with the glowing marble that he was holding.

\*Ding\*

Then a series of notifications bombarded Arthur's ears as the glowing marble flew into his hand.

He ignored most of them as he stared blankly at the spot where Old Sigurd was standing previously, feeling respectful.

He then clenched the marble in his hand before bowing deeply into the spot where the old man disappeared. "I promise to find you the perfect successor, Senior. You can count on me in this."

Chapter 1592 Clear Rewards

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Inside another isolated dimension within the dungeon, Shin and the other top combatants of the team were watching the battle between the Shadow Mountain Drake and the rest of the Empyrean Talons.

Seeing that the battle was about to end, Leonard, who was feeling bored, found a corner to lie down and take a nap.

Lorraine then sat beside him, silently enjoying this situation.

Diablo and Alucard, on the other hand, were closely watching the battle. They focused their gazes on Owen, who suddenly exploded in power earlier. Their interest was piqued by the mysterious powers that Owen had summoned, which seemed to be able to rival the Elemental Spirit Possession of Transcendent Beings to a certain degree.

Alucard possessed a trump card of his own that could also match this special method of the Transcendent Beings. It was something that he had gotten from Dracula, the Vampire Primogenitor of the Frozen Kingdom, which was further enhanced by the teachings that he had gotten from the Vampire Families within the Divine Empire.

It might be brief, but these two happened to see the appearance of the Divine Tattoo on Owen's back as it was releasing an intense light earlier, which passed through his battle armor.

"Interesting~! Maybe we can try testing it later during our training in our team's virtual space," commented Alucard as he was quite eager to test his trump card against the current Owen.

Diablo was also thinking the same as he wanted to see how good this newly found power of Owen was against his Elemental Spirit Possession.

Shin, on the other hand, noticed something else as he watched Owen. "His life rating increased by quite a lot. Did he successfully evolve into an Ascended Race?"

From the information that they had gotten from Grand Marshall Draco and Vampire Primogenitor Dracula in the Frozen Kingdom, Ascended Classes were something that could help the players break through their mortal limits and ascend into a higher being – the Ascended Beings.

So long as an individual understood their Ascended Class well enough and awakened the powers within them, they would evolve into an Ascended Being, which could match the Transcendent Beings in terms of might and power.

Then, along with enough inheritance, these Ascended Beings could fully rival the battle prowess of the Transcendent Beings.

"I wonder which bloodline he has awakened and which evolution path he has been led to," he mumbled as he also became interested in Owen's current race and powers.

Not long after, the battle between the Shadow Mountain Drake and the rest of the Empyrean Talons finally came to an end.

But Shin and the others were still not released from this dimension as the system was informing them that they had to wait until Arthur cleared his trial before everyone could regroup again.

They had no idea where Arthur was sent to. All they knew was he was undergoing a certain trial, which he could only clear alone.

Shin and the others guessed that it had something to do with his quest, so they did not think much about it. They had their confidence in Arthur, so all they could do was wait.

Arthur did not disappoint them as the system had informed them that he had already cleared his trial, not long after, indicating that they had fully cleared the entire dungeon.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Immediately after that, Shin and the others transformed into a streak of light as the system sent them back to the boss room to regroup with the others.

...

\*Ding\*

As the group was resting, a series of notifications bombarded their ears as pillars of light fell on their bodies. This indicated that they had leveled up. It was not just once, but a couple of times.

Aside from Arthur, who was the main initiator of the quest and had gotten a larger share of experience points, the rest of the team had leveled up at least three times.

It might be too little, but for someone like them in the third tier of their respective class, these levels were a massive boost for their progress. Leveling up passed the level 150 mark was much harder than the previous levels after all.

Arthur walked toward the group as he appeared at a distance away from them.

Seeing him, Shin grinned as he asked. "It looks like you have harvested a lot after clearing the trail. How is it?"

Arthur shrugged his shoulders, acting as if what he had gotten was nothing. "Not that much. It is just some inheritance about spearmanship and the final piece for the compass."

No matter how hard Arthur acted nonchalantly and hid his excitement, Shin could still see through the true feelings of this brother of his. "Yeah, yeah. It really looks like it."

"You can try to hide it as much as you can, but that expression of yours is selling you off," he added as he shook his head.

He could tell that the inheritance that Arthur had gotten was something that surpassed one's imagination.

Setting this one aside, Shin focused more on the [Compass of the Lost Soul] as he was more interested in it. "How's the compass? Have you uncovered its true purpose?"

Hearing that, Arthur thought for a moment before answering. "I am not that sure either. I don't know all its uses either, but one of them is to help us improve our 'soul', particularly those who are trying to proceed to the next tier."

He paused for a moment as he remembered something before continuing. "Ah! It can also give me some clue about how I can evolve into a True Dragon."

"True Dragon?" asked Shin in confusion.

Arthur nodded as he explained. "It is not a race conversion or anything. It is just some sort of bloodline awakening that can elevate my Dragon Powers to a higher level."

"Probably something that can rival those Divine Beings in the higher plane?" he added, telling Shin his guess.

After all, his familiarity with the Dragon Race far surpassed anyone within the game. From his understanding of the background of this race, the Ancient Dragons were at least as strong as the Divine Beings of the current era while the Dragon Gods were comparable to the most powerful Gods living in the higher plane.

Not long after, the other members of the group joined the discussion, exchanging their thoughts and assessing their discoveries within the dungeon.

After resting, everyone somewhat recovered their forms and proceeded to the spot where the golden chest was located.

This was the final drops and rewards of the dungeon, and it was now time for the group to check what they would be getting.

But it did not take that long before the group was disappointed. All they had gotten were Dragon Materials once again, which were used for high-quality and special potions as well as dragon equipment.

All these materials were meant for someone like Arthur. No matter how rare these materials were, they were nothing to the group.

Fortunately, there were a couple of special magic scrolls with very high magic spells engraved in them. These scrolls were usually a strategic resource used by large guilds and powerful organizations for large-scale battles or even in wars.

There were only three magic scrolls inside the chest, but each contained Tier 5 Spells in them. That alone was more than enough to reward the team for their efforts.

Two of the scrolls contained large-scale destruction spells while the other was a group defensive spell, which they could use in a lot of situations.

The team had earned quite a lot from this raid with these three scrolls alone.

But they were still not the best loot that they had gotten in their opinion. Instead, it was the [Compass of the Lost Soul], which was a special item that could guide them on how to advance toward the next tier.

Aside from that, there was another item that piqued the interest of the group. It was the final loot that they had gotten from the chest.

"What is this thing?" asked Cloe as she held on to the final item.

As the commander of their adventurer team, she volunteered to loot the chest as it was something that she loved to do.

Everyone looked at the item that she was holding and saw that it was a sword handle with a broken blade attached to it.

The group was unsure what item it was, but they could guess that it was a piece of a powerful sword based on its appearance alone alongside the mysterious runes on the surface of the broken blade.

"I think it is a part of a greatsword. Given the size of the handle and how broad the blade is, this broken sword is most likely a greatsword when it is still in one piece," commented Owen.

The others also nodded their heads as they used their respective ocular skills to inspect the item, but they found nothing from it. The system was telling them that their ocular skills were not high enough to inspect the item.

They then all turned to the monster trio as the three of them were the ones with the highest level of inspection skills, particularly Shin and Arthur who possessed the True Sight and Dragon Eyes respectively.

"Let me try," said Shin as he took the item from Cloe.

Arthur also used his ocular skills as he stood right beside Shin.

Not long after, the two could not help but raise their brows as they first saw the name of the time.

"Eh!? Fragment of Balmung?"

Chapter 1593 Fragment of a Legendary Sword

...

"Fragment of Balmung?"

Hearing Shin and Arthur say these words, the group could not help but repeat their words while looking at them with a somewhat confused expression on their faces.

Then it finally sank in their minds. "Balmung!?"

Their eyes suddenly turned wide and became very shocked. They stared at the two with expressions that seemed to be asking for confirmation.

Leonard frowned as he mumbled. "Balmung? Isn't it the sword in the legends that the Dragon Slayer has used to slay some poison dragon or something?"

Arthur nodded his head in confirmation. "You're right. It is the very name of that sword."

"And it is the Evil Dragon Fafnir, not some random poison dragon," he added, trying to correct Shin.

"Potāto, Potáto. Tomāto, Tomáto. Same difference," said Leonard before asking. "Then, is this thing-...?"

But Arthur did not immediately respond as he mumbled. "No wonder I feel it is somewhat familiar. It is similar to the sword that that guy was using earlier when he was fighting me."

He recalled his earlier battle with Sigurd and remembered that the greatsword that the latter was using carried some resemblance with this sword.

Even if this broken sword in his hands only had its hilt, guard, and a broken blade, the runes that it had on its surface greatly resembled the runes swimming on Sigurd's greatsword.

"Is this a part of inheritance?" he asked himself before shaking his head. "Nah! The old man has already converted his Dragon Slaying Art into a spearmanship art, so there is no need for this sword. Unless it is meant for the person who will I give his full inheritance."

Hearing his words, Cloe suddenly said. "But I don't think this sword is part of that inheritance. It seems to be an independent item."

"Is it a quest item?" she asked.

The others were also quite curious about this. As experts of the games themselves, they were quite familiar with these kinds of situations, particularly when it concerned certain conditions to trigger some quests with extremely high difficulty.

Arthur and Shin looked at the details of the broken sword before them before answering. "Yes and no."

The others could not help but frown their brows when they heard the two before giving them a questioning look.

Shin and Arthur did not respond as they shared the information details of the broken sword with the rest.

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[Item Name]: Balmung (Fragment: Lower Part)

[Item Type]: Weapon (One-handed Sword)

[Item Rank]: Peak Obsidian (Quasi Meteor)

[Inheritance Type]: Incomplete

[Durability]: Indestructible

[Historical Background]:

This was a part of one of the famed swords of history – the legendary dragon-slaying sword 'Balmung', which was used by the First Dragon Slayer Sigurd Dragonborn to slay the Evil Dragon Fafnir.

Balmung became an inheritance item of the Dragonborn Family after their ancestor had died due to the grievous injuries that he had gotten after battling the envoys of the God of Destruction during the Warring Era.

But due to the fame of Sigurd Dragonborn and the insane powers that he possessed; a lot of greedy people started coveting his inheritances.

Multiple powers launched an attack against the Dragonborn Family, forcing them to go into hiding and disappear in the eyes of the world.

The current patriarch of the Dragonborn Family used the Balmung to battle against powerful beings that came to covet the treasures left behind by their great ancestor and annihilated everyone.

But during this battle, the legendary sword was broken into three parts after the patriarch fought against the envoy of the Goddess of Winter.

The patriarch had fallen in battle while covering the retreat of his family while the fragments of the legendary sword were scattered in different places and became lost through the passage of time.

Details:

Physical Attack: 5000 to 5500

Magical Attack: 3000 to 4000

Stats:

+2000 STR

+500 VIT

-200 AGI

+50% Mana Sensitivity

+50% Focus

Additional Abilities:

**Blood Dragon Awakening (Active):** Once activated, the wield of this sword will enter a berserk state where their overall stats will be increased by five times, and gain the power capable of slaying dragons in exchange for losing their mind.

Duration: 30 minutes

Cooldown: 3 Days

**Dragon Slaying (Passive):** When fighting against creatures under the Draconic Species, all stats will be doubled while all forms of attacks will be twice as effective.

?: While wielding this weapon for an extended period, the wielder will be able to gain some insights about a mysterious power that can rival the powers of the Ancient Dragons.

(Unavailable)

(Unavailable)

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Note: Find the missing pieces of this sword and make the legendary sword 'Balmung' complete once again.

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This broken sword was almost as good as Shin's [Yamato], which was reforged by Saint Blacksmith Berlin, which was an inheritance item of the Church of the Sun and Moon.

It had its advantages and disadvantages, but it was still a good weapon, nevertheless. It was just a little lackluster due to the missing skills attached to it, but it was still understandable since it was a broken weapon in the first place.

Regardless, the skills that it possessed were still very good, especially that 'Blood Dragon Awakening'.

A Berserk Skill that was capable of tripling the stats of the player was already absurd enough, much less something like this that could increase the stats of the wielder five times.

Even though the cooldown time was quite long, it was still worth it, especially when there was a bonus effect that could give the wielder a special power that could kill the dragons.

What was even more absurd about this weapon was it being a fragment of the whole, which meant that its complete state would be much more powerful than any weapons that the group possessed or had seen.

It was hard to imagine how powerful this sword could be when all its broken parts were gathered and fused into one.

But what piqued Shin's interest was this sword being somewhat related to that mysterious God with a lot of names. The god that cursed the Frozen Kingdom with the corrupted curse of immortality along with its king, Dracula.

This mysterious god or goddess was known in different cultures as they were using different names, hiding their real identity.

Even Lycan, Draco, and Dracula were incapable of knowing the exact identity of this mysterious god. They did not even know if they were just a God or a Goddess, thus they just called them the 'Wicked One'.

"It seems to be a good weapon. Anyone who wants to be its owner?" asked Arthur after having a closer look at the broken sword.

It was without a doubt a good weapon, but he was not interested in it since it was a sword. He was a spearman, so this weapon was useless to him.

But the others did not respond to him either.

Among them, the ones who were capable of wielding this weapon were Leonard and Owen, especially when their respective classes focused on STR and VIT.

But Leonard was not interested as he preferred using his battle axes and fists, so he shook his head.

Meanwhile, Owen was not that fond of this weapon either. It might be a good fit for him given his class, especially when it was a one-handed weapon that he could use now. But it would be a different case once he collected all the pieces of this weapon and fused them together.

It would become a greatsword, which was not something he wanted to wield. He preferred his battle hammer and shortsword as they fitted his current battle style.

In the future, if he wanted to wield the complete Balmung, then he would be wielding a shield on his left hand while a greatsword on the other.

Even if he became capable of wielding a two-handed weapon on his right hand in the future, he still did not want it to be a greatsword as it did not fit his personality and style in battle.

Moreover, he already had a targeted weapon that he wanted to be his main weapon. It was a battle hammer that he would get after clearing his 'inheritance quest', which he just triggered after fully awakening the bloodline powers of his Ascended Class and Race.

Based on its historical background, it was a legendary weapon that was not inferior to [Balmung] in its complete form.

Seeing that no one was interested in this weapon, Arthur suddenly frowned as he mumbled. "Then what are we going to do with this? It will be a waste to let it collect dust in our Team Storage."

Shin, on the other hand, was currently in deep thought as a bold idea flashed through his mind. 'Is it possible to sacrifice this weapon for my legacy skill once it becomes a greatsword? What will happen if all the forms of my Mondi's Style are legendary swords?'

He then swept his gazes at the others before saying. "If no one wants it, then let me keep it for now."

Hearing those words, Arthur turned at Shin and could not help but frown. He could feel that this guy was 'plotting' something again. He was unsure what it was, but he could feel that it was not good. "Why do I feel that you are scheming something again?"

Shin looked at Arthur with an innocent expression while defending himself. "I must be your imagination."

He then stretched his hand, asking for the broken sword.

Arthur hesitated as he stared at Shin with full suspicion. "No. I am sure of it."

"Tsk! Just give it to me already. You guys don't have any use of it anyway," said Shin as he snatched the sword from Arthur's hand and kept it inside his inventory.

"This is going to be interesting," he mumbled as he started grinning evilly, sending shivers down to everyone's spine.

Whatever he was planning, the others were sure that was not something good.

Chapter 1594 Awakening Another Set of Dual Profundities

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After clearing the dungeon, the team quickly logged out to rest. This raid lasted for quite a while, making them very tired. They were both physically and mentally exhausted. Even if they took some time to rest here and there, all the hidden accumulated fatigue immediately kicked in, making them feel more exhausted.

They did not want to do anything right now aside from resting. They could also skip their scheduled team training in their team's virtual space since they had been fighting together for quite a while inside the dungeon. They had already built quite a solid foundation for their teamwork and their trust in each other.

Of course, there were quite a few exemptions like Owen, who was quite energetic since he wanted to test his new powers. He wanted to explore the mysteries of his class and new race alongside the newly found powers that came alongside it.

There were still quite a lot of things that he did not know about the Divine Tattoos, and he wanted to understand them as soon as possible, so he wanted to do his research as soon as possible.

Moreover, he also wanted to look for more clues about the other Divine Tattoos that he could get. He had to learn how to acquire the conditions of triggering them or even fully awaken them and draw them into his body.

The powers of the Sacred Thunderbird Tattoo had made him somewhat addicted, so he wanted to discover more about these tattoos, making them his power as soon as he could.

Diablo and Alucard also volunteered to help him as they were quite eager to test his new powers of Owen. They wanted to see how it would work against their respective trump cards.

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Real World, Soaring Continent

Central Region, Springfield Household

Shin walked out of his gaming cabin and immediately went to do his daily routine. He did a quick foundation training followed by meditation training. He also did a round of training that Old Ryong had taught him before doing some visualization training. He only took a shower after doing all of these.

After that, he took out the three natural treasures that Professor Henry had gifted him. He tried to uncover their mysteries through meditation and watching their profoundness by closely looking at them.

He had been doing this for a few days now and somewhat got a rough idea of their properties.

After 'communicating' with them for quite a while, he was able to build a certain level of connection with these treasures, which led him to awaken the properties of his innate attributes.

Out of the three innate attributes that he had yet to awaken their properties, Shin felt that he was close to uncovering the dual properties of his metal element.

But he did not rush it since he knew how hard to awaken these properties. His innate attributes were quite special due to the uniqueness of his Mentalism Method. He was different from most of the people, who usually had one or two innate attributes at most.

Moreover, each of his innate attributes also carried the principle of duality, which made it much harder for him to awaken them.

This also explained why his progress was much slower than the others.

But there were also others, who possessed multiple properties despite only having one or two innate attributes, just like the Springfield Family.

The Imperial Flame of the Springfields was said to be composed of multiple types of flames, which were represented by the different colors and shades that the flame possessed.

The more profundities an individual uncovered from the Imperial Flame, the more powerful they could be. Their powers were directly proportional to the number of properties they uncovered about this multicolored flame.

Zong! Long! Long!

As Shin was pondering about the properties of metal from the Spirit Alloy that he had gotten from Professor Henry, he suddenly felt a strange connection between them. He felt a certain level of resonance with this special material, which seemed to have enlightened him about the possible properties of his innate attribute of metal.

Bang!

He then suddenly felt an explosion inside his head as a series of insights flooded his head and flashed through his eyes.

Not long along, his eyes started glowing with a golden light while a vertical slit suddenly opened from the center of his forehead.

A golden eye suddenly appeared from that opening before releasing a powerful suction force. But instead of pulling the physical things within the, something intangible seemed to have flown out from the Spirit Alloy before him and got sucked into this eye before fusing with Shin.

Shin was unaware of what was happening as he was too lost in the flood of insights flowing inside his head. He also did not know that something had fused with his body as the odd luster that the Spirit Alloy used to possess slowly disappeared and gradually made it dim.

It did not take that long before the Spirit Alloy lost all its properties and transformed into an ordinary lump of metal.

Thud!

This metal landed on the ground as Shin slowly floated in the air while maintaining his meditative state.

Swoosh!

Not long after, he gently landed on the floor of his room as he slowly opened his eyes. He then smiled as he mumbled to himself. "So, that is the dual properties of my metal innate attribute – murderous and restrained."

"'Murderous' for striking down all the enemies that will block my path and 'Restrained' for restraining the sharpness of the sword, sheathing it, and waiting for the right time to unleash all its powers."

As he pondered about the gains that he had gotten from today's training, his eyes were suddenly attracted by the lump of metal before him. "Eh!? What is this?"

While he was observing the metal, he suddenly realized that it was the Spirit Alloy that Professor Henry had given him. "Ah! Isn't this that alloy? What happened!?"

[Your Gift of Devouring has absorbed its profundities and made it yours. Can't you feel the changes in your innate attribute compared to before?]

Uno's voice suddenly sounded inside Shin's head, explaining what happened to him.

"Eh!? Really!?" asked Shin as he quickly cast his attention to the innate attributes within his body and realized that his mental innate attributes had become much stronger and tougher compared to what they used to be.

It was losing little compared to the other two innate attributes that had been awakened previously. "Ah! It is true!"

"You can also do that!?" he then asked as he felt that this Mentalism Gift that he possessed was becoming more absurd the more he experienced its powers. "Not only can it consume the Superpowers of other people, but from heavenly treasures as well?"

"I know that Professor Henry told me to use this gift to assist me when I consumed the 'Goddess Tears', but... to directly consume the profundities of an object? Isn't it a little too... broken?" he mumbled as he looked at the lump of metal before him.

Just like that, the heavenly material that could make the people from the Lost Soul Continent kill one another just to get it as the main component for their weapon transformed into a useless metal.

"Tsk! Isn't it too much of a waste of fortune?" even if he was not sure of the real value of a Spirit Alloy, he could at least guess that it was something that could not be bought with money.

At the same time, Shin could not help but glance at the other two heavenly treasures before him, particularly the special ore that carried different properties of earth elements. "Don't tell me the same thing will happen to this thing."

He then sighed before collecting the treasures and putting them inside his spatial storage. "Let's forget about it for now. I will consolidate my gains about the metal attribute before proceeding with the other two."

Knock! Knock!

As he was collecting his thoughts and planning for the next course that he would be taking, someone suddenly knocked on his door.

"Yoh, Shin Bro! Arthur is leaving today. Are you not going to send him off?" Leonard's voice suddenly sounded from the outside, carrying a hint of laughter.

"Ah! That's right! That guy is going to the Ancestral Land of the Springfield Family for his breakthrough!" Shin suddenly remembered what Arthur had told them while they were raiding the dungeon.

Since the quest had already been cleared, it was now time for Arthur to face the thing that he kept on delaying.

"Alright! I'll be there in a second!" replied Shin as he tidied up the room a little before walking out.

...

"Hey! How many times do I have to tell you guys that this is nothing? You don't have to set me off as if I will be away for a long time. It will take a couple of weeks to a month at most. There is no need for all of this," complained Arthur as he watched the group of friends before him.

Shin chuckled after seeing Arthur's embarrassed look. "It's fine. It is quite entertaining to see you clown yourself."

"Why are you so embarrassed? Just go already! And don't forget to come as soon as possible, or else we will win the championship in the United Cup without you," said Cloe as she giggled.

"Actually, I think it is better to take me as his substitute for the tournament," teased Lorraine, joining the fun.

"Don't worry. We will not need you to win the whole thing," added Leonard with a huge grin.

Arthur rolled his eyes as he listened to them before seeing Nathan appear in the distance. He then turned back to the group and bade his farewell. "Uncle is here! I will be going then."

He then jogged while backpedaling and pointing at Shin and Leonard. "Get your \*sses ready as I will kick them once I get back!"

Chapter 1595 Industrial Competition

.....

Real World.

As the main stages of the United Cup approached, multiple entertainment companies were having their battle, trying to snatch the position of being the main broadcasters to cover the rest of the tournament.

The organizers of the tournament and the higher-ups of the World Gaming Organization were also having some problems with who to choose among them.

They could continue doing their channel for the broadcast just like how they did in every season and any other tournament.

But it would not be as profitable as they wanted. They needed some profits that they would gain from the tickets for being in the audience stand and watch the battle live.

These profits would be their future funds for the further development of the game, so the gaming company had to be very meticulous in choosing their partnered company.

The organizers of the United Cup were already reading through the proposals of all the companies that wanted to partner with them and found that most of them were very good.

Unfortunately, none of them meant the required popularity that the organizers had set.

Even the previously most popular channel under the banner of True Sight Industries could no longer stand at the peak of the industry despite its popular hosts. They were not even at the trend in any online platforms and were thrown at the bottom of the pack.

There were even some rumors that the entertainment company would be bankrupted in the next couple of months as they were losing money almost every day.

Compared to these entertainment companies on the lists, the most popular channels that discussed the game online were those influencers posting on different online platforms and the ones that were contracted with famous adventurer teams and powerful guilds to manage their respective official websites.

But despite all their popularity, the tournament organizers could not contact them since they wanted to prevent some biases, particularly those contracted under the powerful guilds.

There were quite a few, who could still be neutral despite the side that they were on, but they were too busy to attend the respective channels that they were managing, or they were restricted by the contracts that they signed with.

The organizers already had a list of people that they wanted to cover the entire broadcast. Unfortunately, most candidates in the list on the same case as those neutral hosts and influencers.

"Sigh~! If only one of these companies has a decent personality that can be the face of their company and cover the broadcast," said one of the organizers while massaging his temples.

"Tsk! I say... if only those fools from the True Sight Industries did not kick out Miss Bunny, then this would not be a problem. After all, we have been partnering with them for quite a few tournaments before," commented another after skimming through the list.

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Meanwhile.

Real World, Soaring Continent, Central Region

Miss Bunny was currently having a meeting with one of her old colleagues from True Sight Industries.

"Big Sister, you should accept the offer of the True Sight Industries. Not only you will have full control over all the operations regarding the game, but you can also do any content that has and even post them on their official website without any problem. You can even be the Chief Producer if you want," said a female employee who used to work with Miss Bunny.

Miss Bunny shook her head as she turned at the person sitting beside this little sister of hers in her previous company. She could not help but feel disgusted at how they worked, especially when they were forcing one of the closest people she had in that place.

She then turned to the female employee and said with a gentle smile. "Little Layla, you don't have to force yourself into this. You should know better than anyone that I am very happy with where I am right now."

"Everything that your company is offering, I can do all of them in my current work. And you should also know that I am being sponsored by the Flying Dragon Corporation right now, so there is no need for me to accept these 'small' offers, much less be tempted by them," she added in a mocking tone while casting her gaze back at the person beside the other party.

"And Mister Edmon, there is no need to play these tricks just to pull me over. I will never come back again in that hellhole," she sharply glared at the man sitting across from her, who was acting as if everything that was happening had nothing to do with him.

This person was the true owner of True Sight Industries and the one controlling everything that was happening within the company and also manipulating some news they released to the public just to gain more popularity.

She felt disgusted at doing such work, which was why she only chose to work as a broadcaster, who covered battles between famous players or some high-end tournaments.

The man named Edmon calmly put the tea that he was sipping before turning to Miss Bunny. "There is no rush to decide, Miss Bunny. I know how respected you are within the industry, but you should also know how I work."

"You may be sponsored by the Flying Dragon Corporation, but you are nothing but one of the many that they sponsored. I don't think they will mind a small fish like you to give me some face. After all, I still have some influence within this country despite my main base being in the Silver Wing Continent."

"I will not be able to build such a successful company if I am a nobody," he added as took another sip of the tea before continuing. "And this True Sight Industries is nothing but a hobby of mine, so I don't care what happens to it."

"But I also don't want my toys to be broken that easily, so I am trying to make an offer here so that we can coexist within this industry."

"I am sure that you don't want to see what I can do," he added while casually giving Layla a sidelong glance.

Layla shuddered when she felt his gaze. She then looked at Miss Bunny with a pleading expression, seemingly asking for help.

Seeing that, Miss Bunny could not help but glare fiercely at Edmon. She was feeling a fit of intense anger and wanted nothing but to slap this guy, who was using her little sister in the company to threaten her.

Click!

As Miss Bunny was trying to suppress her anger, someone suddenly opened the door of the private room followed by the entrance of a beautiful young lady.

Edmon could not help but feel displeased as he instinctively shouted at the door. "Didn't I say that no one can enter unless I give my permission!?"

"I am sorry, Mister Edmon. Your people can't understand human language, so I ask my secretary to put them to sleep for the time being," said Shiella as she entered the room before walking straight to them and taking a seat beside Miss Bunny.

"I must apologize, Mister Edmon, but I can't help but overhear your conversation from outside. Do you want to poach my people? I am sorry to disappoint you, but I treasure everyone who works under me, so I can't hand her over to anyone else," she continued, ignoring the expression that the other party was giving her.

Edmon stared at Shiella for quite a while before forcing a smile. "So, it is the young heiress of the Flying Dragon Corporation, Miss Shiella. I apologize that I couldn't receive you properly earlier."

He then showed a hint of hostility as he continued. "But are you sure that you want to offend me just because of a small figure?"

Shiella frowned deeply after hearing how the other party addressed Miss Bunny, not hiding her displeasure.

She then squinted her eyes as her tone suddenly turned cold. "I think you are forgetting my other identity aside from being the young heiress of the Flying Dragon Corporation."

She did not wait for Edmon to reply as she quickly added. "I know your real purpose for coming here to our country, so I don't think you have the time to play around like this."

Hearing those words, Edmon's expression suddenly turned serious as he asked. "Is the Springfield Family still having some free hands after declaring war with the Black Serpent Mafia?"

"Are you sure that you will risk offending 'us' as well?" said Edmon as his gaze suddenly turned fierce as well.

Shiella smirked as she responded provokingly. "You can try me. It is not like your organization is anything near to any of our other enemies, so adding a little pebble in the pod will not cause too much of a ripple."

"I see. Then I am looking forward to how you are going to stop us," said Edmon as he stood up before signaling to Layla. "Let's go."

Hearing his cold words, Layla trembled as she could already see what would happen to her since she had failed her 'mission'.

Fortunately, Shiella intervened and said, "The girl can stay. She has been friends with Miss Bunny, and they want to catch up, so I suggest you not bother them."

Edmon paused as he glared at Shiella, but quickly left after seeing that Anna was eyeing him sharply from the door. "Hmph!"

They waited until Edmon left before Miss Bunny tried to say something. "Young Miss, this..."

Shiella raised her hand to prevent Miss Bunny from saying anything. "This is nothing. You are working under us now, so it is natural for me to protect you."

"As for that guy, don't worry about him. His group and the organization behind him have been taking advantage of the chaos happening within the Soaring Continent, which is why they are being proactive with their movements."

"What he is doing right now is just an attempt to further borrow their foothold in the soil of this continent. It is not something you two have to worry about."

She then paused for a moment before continuing. "But I also can't leave the two of you alone either. You can come with Auntie Anna later. She can arrange your accommodation while we are dealing with Edmon and his people."

She then turned to Layla as she added. "You don't have to worry about your paperwork either. My people will deal with it and handle your transfer. For now, all you have to do is work with Miss Bunny."

"I still have some other appointments, so will you excuse me, ladies," she added as she stood up coolly and left.

Miss Bunny and Layla stared at her back for quite a while before the latter commented. "Your new boss is so cool, Big Sister."

Miss Bunny, on the other hand, shook her head in response. She then recalled some details from Shiella's words earlier before mumbling. "It seems like a hidden undercurrent is going on between the top organizations. I wonder what it is."

Chapter 1596 Industrial Competition (Part 2)

.....

Shiella went straight to the office of her mother at the headquarters of the Flying Dragon Corporation.

"Mom, it's me," called Shiella as he knocked on the door.

She did not have to wait that long before a mature woman's voice answered from the other side of the door. "Come in."

Click!

Right after entering, Shiella immediately saw her mother busily reading through all the piles of reports before her.

"Mom, I know how you feel. But can you at least rest? I don't know what Arthur and I will do if something happens to you as well from overworking," said Shiella as she sighed.

She then walked over and glanced at the reports that her mother was checking before walking back and sitting on the sofa.

She patiently waited until her mother finished.

"How is it?" asked Jane as she walked over and sat across her daughter.

Shiella sighed before replying. "You are right, Mom. They are all making their moves. Some of the big companies overseas are trying to set foot in our country."

Jane nodded. "That is only to be expected. After all, the Soaring Continent become the center of this storm due to our family's conflict with multiple underworld organizations."

"We have to be careful now, especially when we don't know which company is being backed by our enemies," she added as she watched her daughter pour her cup of tea before continuing. "The main problem is the Black Serpent Mafia disappearing."

She then paused for a moment to take the cup of tea and took a sip before continuing. "They have covered their tracks very well, so our army is having a hard time tracking them."

She then stared at Shiella with her motherly eyes before saying. "You must be careful as well. Now that we are at war with the Black Serpent Mafia, you, as the heiress of both the Springfield Family and the Flying Dragon Corporation, will be one of their main targets."

"I understand, Mom. But please, you have to take care of yourself as well," answered Shiella as she looked at her mother worriedly.

"I'll keep it in mind," smiled Jane before changing the topic. "Tell me more about the proposal that you have sent."

"You want to take over the True Sight Industries?" she asked with interest.

Shiella rolled her eyes as she knew that her mother was dodging the previous topic before sighing. "That's right. The game has become the main stage after the discovery of the tomb of the King of Thieves. Everything that is related to the game will be our main advantage over the others."

"I've read the proposal. It is pretty good, especially when you are planning to connect the channel with those boys' teams and promote your guild after the tournament. It is good," nodded Jane before frowning. "But the True Sight Industries is under the Octagon Group."

"Their main base may be at the Silver Wing Continent, but their global influence is not that bad. They are comparable to ours. How are you going to take that entertainment company from them?" she added as she stared at her daughter, wanting to see how she would deal with this issue.

"Don't worry, Mom. I have already set up some traps here and there. I am sure that they will catch one, especially with their current situation." Said Shiella with full confidence before adding. "We also have a lot of advantages given that our boys are doing pretty well within the game."

Jane nodded as she also acknowledged Shin and Arthur's achievements within the game. She might not be paying too much attention to the game, but when it came to her boys, she was always updated.

She then slightly frowned as she asked. "But I heard that Arthur is brought by Nathan to our Ancestral Land to break through."

"It is fine. Shin and their friends will be enough until he comes back," answered Shiella.

"I will leave this project in your hands. I hope that you will do well as you have always been," nodded Jane before pausing as she recalled some. "How is your progress with your Martial Arts? Can you break through now?"

Shiella paused for a moment, hesitating, before nodding. "The Yin-Yang Cultivation Arts that I have gotten is what I perfectly need right now. I am able to stabilize the balance between the Flame Emperor Force and Ice Spirit Force, so I think I can break through any time now."

She then frowned as she continued. "But I don't think that it is a good idea since I can't play the game once I step into the Void Manifestation Stage."

Jane shook her head as she added. "Just get ready for now. You will understand in the future. But I can say that the time when Void Manifestation Stage Experts and Ruler Realm Mentalists join the game is near."

Shiella frowned deeply as she asked. "What do you know, Mom?"

Jane avoided directly answering that question but continued. "I can't tell you anything for the time being since the exact time for it is not set in stone yet, but I can say that it will come."

"One of the reasons is your discovery within that tomb. It is the main root that triggered all of this, so you must be extra careful," she added before showing an expression that she would no longer answer any questions regarding after.

"I understand," answered Shiella solemnly as she could feel the gravity of the situation given the tone that her mother had.

While Shiella was trying to think what would happen to the game once these top experts started joining in, she suddenly heard her mother changing the topic once again.

But the main topic this time made Shiella frown deeply.

"How is your relationship with that boy David?"

Cough! Cough!

Shiella almost spat out the tea that she was drinking after hearing those words. She quickly wiped her mouth while glaring at her mom.

Jane remained calm as she took a sip of her tea, ignoring the resentful glare of her daughter.

"What do mean by that, Mom? There is nothing going on between me and that bastard!" said Shiella, quite agitated.

"But I heard that you two are quite close," answered Jane calmly before glancing at her daughter once again and adding. "And based on your tone, I think that it is true."

"Mom!" yelled Shiella.

Jane laughed as she saw her daughter unusually losing her composure. "It is quite rare to see you act this way. This is the first time."

"I'm leaving!" said Shiella as she stood up.

Jane continued to laugh as she further teased her daughter. "I know that you are still young, but getting into a relationship is a part of youth. There is nothing wrong with that."

"I said-... nothing is going on between me and that guy!" refuted Shiella, fully annoyed.

"Alright, alright. I believe you~! You can go now but don't forget to visit your grandmother. She misses you a lot," said Jane as she also stood and went back behind her desk to continue her work.

Shiella slightly nodded her head as she left the room.

Jane waited for quite a while, making sure that Shiella had left, before turning to the long sofa where she had sat earlier. "It seems like my daughter does have some uncertainty about her feelings."

A moment later, a beautiful woman suddenly materialized on the sofa, sitting gracefully while sipping tea calmly. "My disciple is not that bad either. But I do have to admit that he also has some problems that give me some headaches."

"What about your other disciple? I thought their relationship was not like a normal brother-sister apprentice disciple either," said Jane.

"Alyssa is Alysson's eldest daughter, who ran away from home," answered Evangeline nonchalantly.

Jane paused for a moment before laughing. "So, the little first princess of the Stuart Family is under your care all along."

Evangeline knitted her brows a little before continuing. "But that little girl does have some problems with her family. I am not sure what happened exactly since she refuses to tell me anything."

"She even asked me to seal all her memories with a mentality of wanting to live a new life," she added after a brief pause.

Jane looked at Evangeline for quite a while, unable to believe those words, before asking. "Sealed? Not erased?"

"Then it only means that she doesn't mean those words," she added.

Evangeline nodded. "Hmm. In fact, she can break that seal on her own if she wants to. All she needs is to acknowledge her existence and accept her fate."

"What a poor girl," she added as she stood up.

Seeing the actions of the latter, Jane could not help but ask. "Leaving already? It has been a while since we see each other. There is still a lot to talk about."

Evangeline smiled as she turned at the latter. "It is not like I am going anywhere. I'm currently staying at the Springfield Household. You can see me any time you want, as long as you come home regularly."

"Your daughter is right. We understand your grief about losing Bernard. And I am sorry for being unable to save him. But you also must take care of yourself. You have to think of your children as well," she added before disappearing from the room.

Jane stared at the spot where Evangeline disappeared before mumbling. "You are talking as if your husband is not in any danger."

She then turned to the window and stared at the sky outside. "Since you went ahead of us. Just look over everyone and make sure that they are safe from that place."

Chapter 1597 Five Cycle Embryo (Part 1)

...

Shin and the others proceeded to do their respective businesses in the next few days. Some went to train while hunting in the wilderness while others continued doing their quests.

They also continued having team training within their team's virtual space, working on their teamwork and further strengthening their synergy.

The results were very rewarding as they not only built up a solid foundation for their teamwork along with a tacit understanding with one another but also created a series of strategies under Shin's directions alongside the multiple strategic maneuvers with the formations they had, which covered different scenarios depending on the state of the battle.

During this time, Shin also consolidated his gains from the profundities of metal that he had previously and perfected his mastery over the two properties of his metal innate attribute.

Then he proceeded to awaken the properties of his earth's innate attribute along with the ore that Professor Henry had given him, which was called the Mineral Fragment.

The same thing happened again when he was trying to study the ore and communicate with it. His Gift of Devouring acted once again, absorbing all the properties of the Mineral Fragment just like what happened with the Spirit Alloy previously.

He had already expected this, which was why Shin was not that surprised.

As for the properties that he had gotten from it, they also fell in the category of duality. One was heaviness while the other was lightness, which also somewhat gave him a certain control over gravity around him.

It took him quite a while to get used to these newly found powers and consolidated his insights after awakening these properties, particularly putting them into his system.

He patiently waited until he had gained full control over these powers before proceeding to consume the Goddess Tears to awaken the dual properties of his water innate attribute.

The process this time was much smoother compared to the previous two as he only needed to consume the Goddess Tears and thoroughly absorbed them. With the assistance of his Gift of Devouring, he did not even waste a single drop of the heavenly treasure.

The gains that he had gotten from this were not only awakening the dual properties of his water innate attribute. His body was also cleansed by the Goddess Tears, removing all the impurities that his body had.

He felt like being reborn after the entire process was completed, making his mind and senses to be insanely sharp alongside the huge boost for his physique.

Meanwhile, the dual properties that he had gotten from his water innate attribute were the properties of softness and hardness, which he somehow expected. Softness for flexibility, which is what water attributes commonly had, while the hardness property was from the water solidifying and turning into ice.

Right after he awakened these properties for his fifth innate attribute, Shin instantly sensed that something within him moved.

The five elemental attributes converged at his center right after the fifth and final attribute awakened its dual properties.

They formed a cycle unique to the five elements, following the laws of nature, which was also what his Mentalism Method carried.

The Perfected Four Symbol Scripture instinctively moved as Shin went into a deep meditation state. He followed the Cycle of the Five Elements while integrating all the innate attributes that he had alongside the Mentalism Method.

This created a whole new system for his Perfected Four Symbol Scripture as his entire body was being nourished by the five elemental attributes.

As he entered this state, the Grand Gathering Formation installed within his room was automatically activated, pulling all the Force of Nature within the entire Springfield Household to support him.

With the assistance of the formation, Shin took the initiative to use the special method that he had learned from Professor Herny in the Magic Ace Academy to nurture his body to create the Spiritual Vessel needed for this breakthrough, the Five-Elemental Body.

But due to his innate attributes possessing dual attributes, this Five-Elemental Body that he was trying to cultivate became way different from the original.

Shin could feel it too, especially when he thoroughly studied the Spiritual Vessel when learning under Professor Herny's guidance.

This version of Spiritual Vessel was not only much more powerful compared to the original one, but also firmer and more stable.

Feeling that he needed to complete this Spiritual Vessel as soon as possible before he exited his current state, where his mind was much sharper than it usually was.

He just worried that the Grand Gathering Formation would not be enough to support the amount of energy that he needed to fully build this modified Spiritual Vessel. After all, the formation was currently not in full power.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But as he was worrying about this issue, he suddenly sensed that the amount of energy that the formation was providing him increased by a large margin and was much purer compared to earlier.

With this much energy and how pure it was, Shin felt that he could even try to solidify his Spirit Pagoda within his mind to stabilize his realm and reach the late stage of the Grandmaster Realm.

With that, he would only need to combine all his innate attributes and integrate them with his Divinity Grade Mental Energy to create his version of Spiritual Force. Then he would reach the peak of the Grandmaster Realm for his Mentalism, which was equivalent to Martial Artists at the Ethereal Opening Stage.

"Don't worry about anything else. Just focus on your thing while I control the entire formation."

That was when Shin heard David's voice, who mysteriously appeared inside his room.

Shin did not say anything as he smiled and started absorbing all the energies provided by the Grand Gathering Formation.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

As Shin hungrily absorbed the Force of Nature, his Perfected Four Symbol Scripture worked overdrive and started fueling the changes within his body.

Zong~! Long~! Long~!

At the same time, his special physique, the Spiritual Embryo also activated subconsciously. It seemed to resonate with the five innate attributes that his body now possessed as well as the Five-Elemental Body that he was trying to create.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, a series of runes started to appear on the surface of his skin, seemingly forming a special formation after they connected from different parts of his body.

Shin might not be able to see them as his eyes were currently closed as he meditated. But his Spiritual Sense could sense the outside, giving him a clear image of what was happening to his body from the outsider's perspective.

He could not help but frown deeply when he 'saw' this. He could not remember when he had drawn these Mentalism Runes, especially when most of them were unfamiliar to him despite the knowledge he gained about Rune Mentalism Methods from Grandmaster Benn.

Shin was sure that he did not engrave these runes in his body, which led him to another possibility.

It was his parents, or more specifically his mother, who should be a very powerful Mentalist based on what he heard from David and from what he could vaguely remember from his fragmented memories that he had unsealed just recently.

Regardless, he could feel that this rune formation drawn in different parts of his body was supporting the creation of his Spiritual Vessel.

Or more specifically, it was assisting his Spiritual Embryo to evolve and transform. It seemed to be trying to make this special physique become a Spiritual Vessel as well.

Seemingly sensing Shin's confusion, David's voice suddenly sounded inside his junior brother's head. "Even if Spiritual Vessels or Natural Vessel are separate features that Mentalists and Martial Artists possess when compared to Special Physique, they could still be put in the same category."

"The two vessels were meant to host an individual's martial arts and mentalism techniques, matching all the characteristics and styles of an individual. But that was only for most of the people, who did not possess special physiques or divine body."

"But for people like you, who possessed the two different physiques which were perfect for Mentalism and Martial Arts respectively, you have to be careful of creating a Natural or Spiritual Vessel to make sure that either physique would not be affected."

"This Body Formation drawn into your body is not only meant to assist you in creating a perfect Spiritual Vessel. It can also help you thoroughly fuse the created vessel into either of your body's two special physiques."

"It will not only make your Special Physiques stronger, but it will also make sure that no conflict will happen between the two during the process."

"As for who set this powerful formation up... I think there is a need to tell you that," added David.

Shin did not say anything as he only briefly nodded his head. He then started focusing to make sure that he would be able to do everything perfectly.

Chapter 1598 Five Cycle Embryo (Part 2)

.....

After a long time of absorbing the energies provided by the Grand Gathering Formation and relying on the mysterious rune formation drawn on his body to modify his special physique and strengthen it, Shin slowly opened his eyes.

Both his eyes were glowing with a pale golden light and his grey pupils resembled a grey sky filled with stars as they constantly twinkled behind the mental energy leaking out from them.

Feeling the changes that his body had alongside the new strength that it now possessed, especially the five elemental properties it now passively possessed, Shin felt like he was reborn.

This new power that became part of his body and Mental Energy was now in a perfect blend in his entire system, especially with the Perfected Four Symbol Scripture that was now passively circulating within his system as easily as breathing.

The five elemental innate attributes were now a part of his body due to them fusing with his Spiritual Embryo special physique.

As Shin was observing the changes within his body, David, who had been sitting on the sofa since earlier, suddenly explained. "The state that you are in is called the Unification Synthesis. It is a special condition when the special physique of an individual perfectly fused with the Spiritual Vessel or Natural Body that they prepare for the next realm breakthrough."

"As for your current physique-... it should be the same as what Master has. The 'Five Cycle Embryo'. It is an upgraded version of Spiritual Embryo after fusing with and being reinforced by the five elements," he added after a brief pause.

Hearing those words, Shin could not help but raise his brows and turn at David.

Seeing the look that Shin was giving him, David could not help but chuckle as he answered. "Do you think that Master will randomly draw something on your body without a thorough plan?"

"Even if I have said that this rune formation is meant to stabilize the balance within your body and make sure that there will be no conflict between the two special physiques that you have once you created your Spiritual Vessel and Natural Body in the future, their main purpose is to perfectly fuse each pair without any problem."

"You have already drawn the Mentalism Enchantments in different parts of your body before, which now integrated themselves into the special system that Master has prepared ahead of time."

He paused for a moment as he thought of something before continuing. "This is not supposed to happen, but Uno had already done something similar for your other 'vessel'."

"After fusing the two permanent Qi Reinforcement Skills and creating a new and more powerful version of them, he has basically created his Natural Body. Along with the higher form of Qi that he now possesses, he is waiting for an opportunity to break through to the next realm."

He then pointed at Shin as he added. "And since you have already completed the Five Elemental Cycles after awakening all their properties and fusing them, the formation that Master had drawn must have been triggered, especially when you have created your Spiritual Vessel."

"I will not be surprised to know if Uno has also fused his 'Natural Body' with his special physique, the Heavenly Martial Body, and promoted it into its more perfect state."

"Now, the two of you are in a great position to break through towards the next realm. After all, your progress in respective disciplines needs to always be close to one another."

"The flawless Five Cycle Embryo and the perfected Heavenly Martial Body... I wonder what it will become once these two special bodies merge," mumbled David before turning back to Shin. "Anyway, you should have gotten my point."

He was about to shut up when he saw the questioning gaze that Shin was giving him. Understanding what the latter wanted to know, he continued. "As for the Five Cycle Embryo. It is something that master has created after combing her Five-Elemental Spiritual Vessel and Spiritual Embryo, which you have inherited from her."

"Your mother is a student of Professor Henry during her younger days, after all, so it shouldn't be that surprising," he added.

Shin went silent for a moment before nodding his head.

Snapping his fingers, David deactivated the major faction of the Grand Gather Formation before standing up. "Anyway, my job here is down, so I should be going now."

"Consolidate all your gains from this and do your best to perfect your version of Spiritual Force so that you and Uno can break through together," he said as he walked towards the door.

But before he could leave, he suddenly looked over his shoulders and added. "One more thing.... you should visit your mother now. I know that you are disappointed and a little mad at your parents, but you should also understand that it is the only way that they have in mind for your safety."

Shin did not immediately respond as he fell in deep thought before nodding his head. "I understand."

Shin watched David close the door before going back in silence. He stared at the ceiling for quite a while before shaking his head. "I'll think about it later. For now, I should focus on consolidating my strength and preparing for my breakthrough."

After that, he closed his eyes and calmed his mind before going back to meditation.

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At the same time, Wade Paige, more known as Diablo inside the game, walked out of the headquarters of the Research Department.

He just underwent his usual checkups and received some of the nutrient serums to support the needs of his rapidly growing body under Benedict's supervision.

Based on the tests that he had undertaken, he was not eligible to train the Martial Manuals that he had gotten from the game, which was also given to him by Shin.

The two high-level martial manuals were slightly modified by Professor Henry and converted into more suitable Martial Arts for him to use.

The old professor had combined the two and created a whole new Martial Manual that perfectly matched his style and flawlessly fit characteristics. In a sense, it was now a tailor-made Martial Arts, specifically created just for him.

Wade could not believe the sudden turn of his life, especially after seeing how the seniors in the Research Department were treating an orphan like him.

"I guess I have to thank Uncle for this," he mumbled to himself as he turned his gaze to the streets of the academy.

Almost the entire campus was being renovated due to the attack that was launched by the Black Serpent Mafia not long ago.

Aside from the heavily guarded facilities like the World Research Center and the Dean's Residence, almost all of the Magic Ace Academy was destroyed.

Fortunately, the technology of this day was very advanced, which made the construction of the destroyed facilities very easy.

Even though some places required some time to rebuild, most of the facilities within the academy were now fully operational. It would not take that long before the classes resume once again.

As he thought about this, he could not help but remember what Benedict had said to him earlier. – "Your talent is not that bad, but since you are way behind the others, catching up with the rest will be quite challenging."

"But it shouldn't be that hard if you fully take advantage of your gains within the game. Your real in Martial Arts will likely lag behind in the real world, but your skills will not lose that much as long as you convert everything you have learned within the game into the real world."

"If you chose a regular discipline, then catching up with the rest of your peers will surely be impossible. But if you choose a different one, especially those unorthodox methods, then I guarantee you it will not be a problem."

"Moreover, you are studying under Professor Henry now. Even if you are not an acknowledged student, you will still be considered as a nominal disciple if we follow the ancient customs of those big sects in the past."

"Regardless, the professor will surely make some arrangements for you, so you don't have to be too anxious about all of these."

"But let me warn you... once you have stepped into this field, there is no turning back. Going back to your previous life will be impossible, so you must consider this carefully."

"Choosing to walk this path will surely be rewarding once you reach the peak of either Martial Arts, Mentalism, or Swordsmanship, but it is equally dangerous."

"What's more, this is an endless journey, so you will most likely be pursuing the peak of your chosen discipline until the day you die."

"Additionally, you will most likely be following the professor, so let me warn you. He has a lot of enemies, who can target you as well. It may not be now, but it will in the future."

"So, if you want to continue to walk this path, then you better be prepared. All you have to do is become stronger to protect yourself in the future if none of us is around." –

Wade could not help but feel something ominous after hearing those words. It was as if Benedict was trying to tell him that they were preparing for 'something' and were not sure if they could handle the consequences.

"Let's just hope that I am overthinking things," he sighed as he walked toward his dormitory.

Little did he know that he had already gotten some unwanted attention from a certain individual, who unexpectedly discovered him.

#### Chapter 1599 The Dawn of the New Age

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Shin finally stopped meditating when the sun was already setting outside. He was trying to consolidate his gains after combining all the five elements within his body and getting the Five Cycle Embryo when his special physique and spiritual vessel.

He was trying to master these new powers, especially when it fused with his Divinity Grade Mental Energy. It might have become a higher form of energy, but it was still a little short compared to a full-fledged Spiritual Force or Natural Force, especially when Uno's Brilliant Sacred Qi and Primal Demonic Energy came into play.

Those two powers that Uno controlled were already comparable to the Natural Forces of most elites of Martial Arts while even surpassing the rest.

If Shin wanted to match that, he had to create a perfect Spiritual Force. But he also got a feeling that once he completely integrated all his knowledge, particularly in terms of Mentalism Runes, his newly enhanced Divinity Grade Mental Energy would be further strengthened.

Then, if he added his gains from that 'place' within his Sea of Consciousness, the Spiritual Force that he would be forging would far surpass both the Brilliant Sacred Qi and Primal Demonic Energy individually.

But if those two energies were used together, especially for someone like Uno, the effects would be much different compared to the other people.

Moreover, it would also be paired with the 'Yin-Yang Cultivation Art' that Uno had personally created to perfectly match himself.

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After exiting the meditation state, Shin opened his eyes before breathing out slowly. He then turned his head to the window and saw that it was already dusk.

He slightly raised his brows before standing with difficulty due to the numbness of his legs. He stayed seated in the group with crossed legs, making him lose the feeling in his legs.

He stretched a little before going for a quick shower to clean the sweat all over his body.

After walking out of the bathroom with a new set of clothes, Shin slightly frowned his brows as he felt the rumbling of his stomach. He had not eaten anything since the morning, so he was feeling very hungry right now.

"I guess I go cook something simple before going back online," he mumbled as he walked out of the room and headed to the kitchen.

Not long after, he bumped into Shiella, who seemed to have come back from work.

"You just come back, Big Sis? It seems like you have been busy these past few days," greeted Shin as he saw her.

Hearing those words, Shiella could not help but roll her eyes as she complained. "And whose fault it is? If not for you constantly giving me work both inside and outside the game, then I should have enough time to relax."

She somewhat had a resentment for Shin as he kept on giving her certain 'jobs' whenever she was planning to rest and relax a little. The latter was always giving her these troublesome jobs at the exact time she was free, making her suspect that he had some hidden alarm that informed him whenever she did not have anything to do.

She then suddenly paused and somewhat knitted her brow after sensing something different from Shin.

Squinting her eyes, she activated her ocular skill while staring intently at Shin, particularly the strange aura that was currently enveloping the latter.

"You-...!" Shiella looked at Shin with a questioning gaze as she realized something. "You have successfully formed your Spiritual Vessel and almost reached the Peak of the Grandmaster Realm!?"

Shin smiled as he nodded his head. "I just got a little lucky."

Shiella slightly frowned before nodding. "Not bad. Your energy is not that weak as well, so I can tell that you will instantly reach the elites of the Mentalist in Grandmaster Realm."

She was quite familiar with Shin's strength, so she could get a good grasp of his level after breaking through. He should be on the same level as them when they were in the same realm.

"It looks like our country will be getting a few more Junior Monsters," she commented after remembering that her younger brother was also on the verge of breaking through as well.

The title of Junior Monsters was given to the talented members of the younger generations, who were way ahead of their peers in the Soaring Continent.

At this moment, the Soaring Continent currently had two since the previous Young Lion was killed during the huge incident in the Central Continent and when the Leon Clan was taken down by the military forces.

Given the talent that Shin and Arthur had, they would, without a doubt, qualify to get their respective title so long as they broke through to the Ethereal Opening Stage and the Peak of Grandmaster Realm in their teens.

Moreover, there was also Leonard, who was not that far from these two. He also had the potential to take over the title that the fallen young master of the Leon Clan.

Then there was Alice from the Stuart Family and that pair of twins of the Potter Clan, who had talent no less than this Monster Trio.

Even though the Potter Clan was not exactly from the Soaring Continent as their Ancestral Land was located at the Silver Wing Continent, the branch of the family based in the Soaring Continent was from the direct line, so they should still have a strong standing within the main branch.

This batch of geniuses was not bad. But at the same time, Shiella was somewhat having an ominous feeling.

There was a saying that when geniuses started to appear in batches, a huge calamity was about to descend into the world.

She kept hearing from the elders that something was coming into this world, so they had to be ready for it.

Professor Plum and Grandmaster Benn were already doing their task to prevent it while the rest of the Elder's Council were also doing their respective responsibilities.

Something big was going on under the surface, so the younger generation had to prepare themselves while the elders were temporarily holding the sky.

'No wonder Mom says that the game is about to let the Void Manifestation Stage Experts join in. The real experts were about to step onto the stage,' She thought before recalling something. 'The next Hegemon Cup will be a huge mess. I guess me and the others need to step in and join the competition this time.'

As Shiella was lost in her thoughts, Shin slightly knitted his brows, especially when he saw the changes of expression that kept flashing on her face. "Is there any problem, Big Sis?"

Sheilla finally snapped out of her thoughts after hearing him before smiling. "It is nothing. I just remember that I still have something to do."

She was about to turn around and walk away when she suddenly recalled something. "Another thing! The batches of experts arriving in the Awakened Continent are rapidly growing. You and your group better work hard and maintain the gap that you have built over everyone."

"The big guilds and huge organizations immediately realize the importance of the Awakened Continent after experiencing the benefits it can provide them, particularly the top and apex experts."

"A huge competition is about to break out in the hunting grounds around the Divinity City. You better be careful, especially when your team is currently a hot potato in the eyes of everyone."

She paused as she thought about the ongoing United Cup, in which Shin and the others were counted as one of the 16-seeded teams in the top 32 round. "Your team is also one of the top spots in the tournament, so those guys who like to use underhanded tricks will most likely try giving you some trouble."

Hearing that, Shin pursed his lips before shrugging his shoulders. "If they come, then they come. It is not like we are afraid of them."

"It will also be a good opportunity for us to test our gains these couple of weeks. We are itching to fight some other group to see how much we have grown during this time of 'peace', " he added with a smug face.

Seeing the confident look on Shin's face, Shiella could tell that the Empyrean Talons must have gained a lot during their time in the Awakened Continent ahead of the others.

These past few days, when Shin and the rest of the Empyrean Talons were doing their respective quests, batch after batch of experts started to arrive at the Awakened Continent, making the atmosphere within the Divinity City 'livelier'.

The group might not have noticed the intensity of the competition within the Divine Empire yet since they were busy dealing with their respective quests that they had gotten during their time in the Divinity City.

But once the population of the apex experts reached a certain level, they would not be able to avoid bumping into them and fighting, especially when they encountered one of their greatest rivals in the main stages of the United Cup.

"I will come looking for you inside the game later once I am done with my business. Let me see how much you have improved then," said Shiella before turning around and walking away.

Hearing that, Shin suddenly shuddered. He felt that he had shot his foot with his words, putting him in a troublesome situation.

"Whatever. I am quite curious about how strong Big Sis is inside the game as well. I heard that she had defeated Zero previously. I wonder how will I do against her."

Chapter 1600 Trouble in Calm Waters

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Later that night, Shin logged back into the game.

Whoosh!

Right after appearing inside the room prepared for him by the Church of the Sun and Moon, Shin went into deep thought as he recalled all the ongoing quests that were currently pending in his quest panel.

He wanted to check which among them needed the most urgent attention. He then found four quests that could make progress with his current strength.

The 'easiest' one would probably be the quest that he had gotten from the Forgotten Temple of the God of Primordial Waters.

This quest was the simplest of them all, which only required him to look for decent Runemasters to crack the Rune Formation sealing that little reincarnation of the God of Primordial Waters.

After clearing this quest, he would get another Elemental Spirit which possessed the powers to control the Primordial Waters to a certain extent.

If he combined it with his ability to control the same powers, then the produced result would most likely surpass the other special powers that he currently had.

Eternal Flame, Metallic Earth, Earthen Metal, Natural Wood, and Primordial Waters – these five powers, which also corresponded with the five-elemental cycle of his Mentalism Method, would produce a whole different power.

This could also lead him to some clues on how to create his version of Spiritual Force, which would be containing the Five Innate Attributes of his body in the real world.

Moreover, he could also use that mysterious power of 'Origin' after the five elements fused and transformed into Primordial Lightning.

It was a different version of Primordial Lightning that was formed by the Primordial Eclipse after fusing the powers of Brilliant Sun and Abyssal Moon, which followed the duality of the Yin and Yang.

This intrigued Shin, which was why he wanted to free that little reincarnation of the forgotten God first, before proceeding to the other quests at hand.

But looking for a suitable Runemaster would be quite hard, especially when he did not only need them to be highly skilled, but he also needed to make sure that they were someone that he could trust.

After all, the secrets of that forgotten temple were not something that he could leak from the outsiders, especially when it was related to a powerful God that lived during the Era of Gods and Immortals, which was said to be much farther than the mysterious Ancient Era.

"Tsk! Tsk! This is going to be a little troublesome. Should I go ask for some help from Elder Berlin again? But even if I trust that old dwarf, I can't say the same for the people that he will be inviting," mumbled Shin as he thought of other possible candidates.

"Cloe is my best choice. But I don't think her Runemaster subclass has reached the Saint Rank yet," he continued. "She may also be not that familiar with those runes that came from such a lost knowledge."

Reaching this point, he suddenly recalled something else. "Speaking of runes, I seem to remember that Alice has gotten an old grimoire that is created by an Ancient Being or something. I wonder if she can recognize those mysterious runes."

Thinking about this, Shin planned to contact the two, trying to see if his luck was on his side.

Little did he know that this would lead to a disaster.

...

But before that happened, the two girls in quest were currently within the virtual space of the Empyrean Talon.

They decided to stay in this place a little to train by themselves as they were trying to digest the gains of their training in the outside world.

Alice just underwent special training with her father and mother, so she wanted to incorporate them with her techniques within the game so that she could train them properly without the restrictions she had in the real world.

Meanwhile, Cleo wanted to test some of the special techniques that she had learned from her master, Martial King Lin Huang.

The techniques of the Martial King were different from most of the Martial Arts around the world, which focused on cultivating their Internal Qi within their dantian before using it to nurture their bodies and make them stronger.

Instead, the techniques that he had focused more on body strengthening. He was more of an Ancient Body Practitioner rather than a modern Martial Artist.

But the difference he had from the ancient style of body strengthening, he combined the techniques of the modern times with the ancient knowledge of body cultivators.

Moreover, he also combined the nurturing techniques of modern times with the ancient era, which produced special effects.

He was able to connect with nature naturally as he had been a part of it for a very long time. He was able to use the Force of Nature more naturally than the others, without transforming it into his Internal Qi within his dantian.

He was able to directly use the Force of Nature to nurture his body without processing it with complicated steps.

In a sense, this technique was somewhat of a shortcut to becoming an integral part of nature, which was equivalent to the Ascension Realm in the domain of Martial Arts.

It was some sort of a cheat in a sense, especially when he could use a variety of his techniques to fuse with the environment and utilize the strength of nature like those experts of Domain Realm despite being in the lower realms.

So long as an individual met all the conditions to train it, they would have smooth sailing toward the Domain Realm in the path of Martial Arts.

But the conditions of learning these techniques were quite harsh for most of the people. The foundation that an individual needed to practice his methods needed to reach a certain level that far surpassed most Martial Artists on the same level.

Moreover, the person who would be training in this method needed to have an elementless body, which did not follow the basic knowledge of modern Martial Arts that said that every individual possessed an innate attribute which they were born with.

An Elementless Body could also be considered a special physique, but it was not something that an individual innately had when they were born.

Having an Elementless Body meant that an individual trained their bodies with the most basic movements of Martial Arts without being influenced by advanced techniques or any other special methods.

People who possessed such physique only trained their bodies with the natural flow of nature without their knowledge and built a very solid foundation without the support of any martial discipline that could lead them to build an 'innate attribute' that most Martial Artists possessed.

Cloe happened to have this kind of physique, which made Old Man Lin take her fancy of her. She was the perfect successor of his legacy, especially when her knowledge of Martial Arts was still 'pure'.

Even if she did not possess any innate talents unlike most of the geniuses and prodigies within their class, she was still the brightest gem in Old Man Lin's eyes.

Moreover, those peak Battle Talents and Special Abilities that the other 'geniuses' were nothing in the old man's eyes.

In his perspective, such talents were nothing but a shortcut that most people took to gain an advantage over most of the people.

Martial King Lin Huang could cultivate abilities with similar effects so long as they had enough experience.

Sharp battle awareness was born from continuous training and battle. Battle knowledge was the same since it could be slowly accumulated through time, which was similar to situational and environmental awareness that most combat experts possessed.

So long as an individual possessed these and was hardworking enough, they would be able to contend against those so-called geniuses within the field of Martial Arts.

Cloe possessed almost all the requirements that Old Man Lin was looking for in his legacy, so he only needed her to accumulate enough battle experience to build enough combat knowledge.

Fortunately, the world within the virtual reality provided the same environment that she needed for this kind of training, especially the life and battles that she experienced inside the game.

The only issue should be her class within the game, which was a magic-related class and even belonged to the support and auxiliary domain.

In this class, she would not be able to showcase the techniques that she had in the real world, which were mainly meant for melee combat.

Fortunately, among the special methods that Old Man Lin had passed down to her, this special technique granted her the ability to easily connect with nature and let her use the energies within the atmosphere to assist her in battle while reinforcing her body.

Right at this moment, Cloe was trying to look for a way to integrate this special method with her playing and fighting style within the game, which was more of a mage style when she was battling and not supporting the others with her heals and buffs.

Since she was very close with Shin and the others, her chosen combat state leaned more toward Reality Manifestation, especially when she was more familiar with it.

But at the same time, she felt that she somewhat lacked something. She also felt that this combat state was not the best for her, especially when she was still in the middle of finding a way to integrate her Martial Arts in the real world with her style within the game.

Alice and Owen's personally created combat states inspired her quite a lot, so she wanted to create a version of her own.