

Destiny 1661

Chapter 1661 First Professional Team Competition (Part 2)

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"Are you sure about this?" asked Cloe as she stood before a virtual screen projecting the arena.

They were currently inside the prep room as the first round of the match was about to start.

Shin just gave her a reassuring smile. "Don't worry. There is nothing wrong with my strategy. Since those guys are expecting us to dominate the Single Mathes and planning to give up this round, then why not we take advantage of this and give them some surprises?"

"This will not only increase our points, but it can also give them an unexpected shock," he added chucklingly.

"Shin Bro is right, Cloe Sis," seconded Leonard as he stood beside Shin. "Moreover, it can also make the match more exciting and interesting."

Cloe rolled her eyes at the two before turning her attention back to the virtual screen. "Let's hope that everything will go according to your plan."

Shin's plan was indeed unexpected and quite bold. But if it worked in the end, then they would not only win this match, but they would most likely dominate it as well; a 10-0 score was even possible.

Shin had some history with the Seven Seas Group, which created a bad blood with them. But she felt that humiliating the other side was a little overboard.

Regardless, she was not against the idea either. After all, the opposing side indeed deserved such a 'treatment'.

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The crowd was already very excited as they stood at the audience stand, watching this match live. Even if it was live, the combatants would not be able to hear or see anything from the live audience due to the special barrier that was sealing the entire arena.

The battle arena was more than ten kilometers wide, which was quite huge. Adding the audience stand that was covering its entire perimeter, the number of live audiences shouldn't be that small. It was not that small compared to the viewers watching the live broadcast online for failing to buy the tickets.

Above the center of this huge arena was a huge virtual screen that was projecting the events within the whole battlefield.

Since the Seven Seas Alliance had the home advantage this time, their chosen combatants that would represent them in the Single Matches of the first round had chosen a stage that would be more favorable and advantageous for them.

The arena that they had chosen was a forest swap. It was a wetland dominated by a lot of trees and shrubs. The swap covering the entire land was sticky and filled with dirty water or muddy soil. It formed quite a lot of quagmires and a few sinking muds.

One look at this battlefield was more than enough for the sharp-eyed experts to realize what the representative of the Seven Seas Alliance was planning.

Such a muddy terrain was quite restrictive for heavy armor classes such as Warriors, Knights, and Berserkers. Even some immobile classes such as mages would also find it quite challenging to move around this place given their limited number of movement and mobility skills.

The trickier part was the quagmires and sinking mud that could drag anyone down the moment they accidentally stepped into it. Classes with heavy armor could instantly sink in them due to the weight of their equipment while mages could also find themselves in tricky situations once they accidentally fell on a spot where those quagmires and sinking muds were located.

These thoughts were further proven when the first combatant of the Seven Seas Alliance appeared in the arena.

"Woo!"

"Yeah! It is finally starting!"

"Who will the Empyrean Talons send in for the first round?"

"The lineups for the entire match have already been locked before the start of the match, so they can no longer change it even if they want to."

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The live audience and the online viewers immediately went crazy right after seeing the first combatant, who appeared randomly within the huge battle arena.

They also became even more excited when they saw who it was.

The Seven Seas Alliance might be 'giving up' on the first round, which was composed of two Single Matches. After all, their side had a limited number of experts, who could contend equally against the top gods of the opposing side.

But that did not mean that the person that they would be sending was an ordinary expert. Even if this guy could be considered 'weak' when compared to the apex gods such as Shin and the others, he was still someone with a solid background and a resounding reputation within the professional circle.

'Bowmaster' Himura, a Peak Titled Ranker, could hold himself against most of the Godlike Players aside from those standing at the very peak of the virtual world and ranked at the top of the Godly Ranking List.

It was said that he used to be one of the top generals of Scarlet Monterey, a top guild that used to be one of the Powerhouses of the virtual in the previous game before it was taken over by the Seven Seas Group.

Unlike their leader, who had grown to become a top Godlike Player himself, Himura was stuck in being a Peak Titled Ranker, unable to gain himself a spot in the Godly Ranking Events or Godlike Title Tournaments such as the Hegemon Cup or the Supreme Dominion.

But that did not mean that he was a weak person. He was very skilled and powerful himself. It was just he was a little unlucky when it came to official events, drawing a more skilled expert that eliminated him early in the competition.

But at the same time, he was also not an absolute talent like Shin and the others, who had solidified themselves with their strength alone and convinced all the other players with their might and achievements.

Moreover, he was quite 'old' as well, which considered him as a veteran. This then made him unable to participate in any major rookie events meant for beginners to make their names known to the virtual world such as the Shadow Ranking Cup, Rookie Challenger Cup, and other novice tournaments that could give him a shortcut to becoming an official godlike player.

It was the reason why he had somewhat 'lost' his edge and was unable to even become a Maverick God, which was somewhat equivalent to becoming a Godlike Player. After all, the only difference between

those two was the titles that the one had gotten from official events while the other had none but possessed a strength rivaling those with Godlike Titles.

What a Maverick God had was accumulated fame and a bunch of achievements that could rival the reputation of Godlike Players.

These days, the Grand AI was more than enough to calculate such things through the data that the virtual world had gathered about a certain player, so the modern system could categorize such players as a Maverick God.

The other way was having enough fame and reputation that could earn an individual enough votes from the players to petition them into an uncrowned god, which somewhat happened to Shin before when he became a Maverick Ranker with the title of 'Emperor of the Night'.

A 'little' over it and he could become a Maverick God alongside the accumulated achievements that he already possessed.

But Shin already had his victory against a few famous and top-notch Godlike Players, which he had also earned through his Godly Challenge Rights. This was also a formal and official route, which was why he had earned his current title, especially his past achievements with his dual identity.

Bowmaster Himura failed to meet all these criteria, which prevented him from achieving similar results and earning himself enough reputation to become a Maverick God.

But given his current reputation and battle prowess, he was more than enough to be sent as the first representative of the Seven Seas Alliance. Even if he was not expected to win against the top

combatants of the opposing side, he should be able to put up a good fight, which would then earn him extra 'points' from the online viewers and live audiences.

"I know that no one expects me to win this, but I will still bring out my best. Who knows, I may be able to win by some sort of miracle," he mumbled as he got ready for the battle.

This Forest Swap was his chosen battlefield, and he was very familiar with it as this was where he usually trained his skills along with the other members of their team, who had a good relationship with him.

He knew where all the quagmires and sinking mud were located, which could be his additional weapons in this battle. If he were careful enough, he could lure the opposing party to those places and set up a trap for them.

Adding the high mobility of his class, which was a special path under the Archer Class, and his Dark Elf Race, which had a natural ability to move throughout this forest, he was confident that he would still have the chance.

"Now, all I have to do is wait and see who my opponent will be so that I can adjust my preparations," he mumbled as he patiently waited for the system's announcement, which would tell everyone his opponent and declare the start of the match.

Ding

Not long after, the announcement finally arrived. But the name of the opponent was not on the list of the players that everyone was expecting.

"What the heck!?" he mumbled in full confusion while staring blankly into the air before him.

...or more specifically, to the system window, which was also telling him the matchup.

– "First Round: Single Match – 'Bowmaster' Himura (Peak Titled Ranker) vs 'Herald of Chaos' Chaotic Luck (Maverick Ranker) –

Chapter 1662: Chaotic Luck's First Professional Battle (Part 1)

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– "First Round: Single Match – 'Bowmaster' Himura (Peak Titled Ranker) vs 'Herald of Chaos' Chaotic Luck (Maverick Ranker) –

"Devious, very devious," commented David as he saw the representative that the Empyrean Talons, or more likely Shin, had sent onto the stage for the first round.

He could already see the ugly expressions that the members of the Seven Seas Alliance currently had after seeing the matchup.

"This makes it even more interesting as the entirety of the matches will be dependent on this first matchup," he repeatedly shook his head as he could already tell what kind of scheme Shin was cooking for the opposing side.

He could not help but feel some pity for the side of the Seven Seas Alliance due to this. This junior brother of his indeed turned into a devious evil.

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While everyone were still trying to recover from the 'shock' that they had gotten from Shin's 'surprise', the match was already underway.

Regardless of everyone's reaction, the match still had to continue.

Chaotic Lick, who was suddenly thrown into this situation after the last-minute notice of Shin, was currently focused. He was also very nervous due to this battle being his very first official professional battle since he started playing the game.

He had always dreamt of this having to him before, hoping to become one of the celebrities of the virtual world.

But he did not expect it to happen this so suddenly. His nervousness was somewhat affecting him, making him unable to think properly and almost forgetting why he was there.

'Fortunately,' he suddenly remembered Shin's 'encouragement' before the battle. "If you dare to lose to such a 'weak' opponent, I will give you an extra training session every time you log in to the game. Under my supervision, of course!"

Recalling those worlds, Chaotic Luck suddenly felt an intense shiver running through his spine. Such an 'encouragement' was very effective as he was able to immediately regain his senses.

"No matter how strong this guy is, I am sure that he will not be as scary as the Monster Trio (Shin, Arthur, and Leonard) and that Demonic Duo (Diablo and Alucard)," he mumbled as he recalled the unpleasant experience that he had suffered after training with those five.

After adjusting his mind, he quickly started summoning his famous 'Legion of the Chaotic Sun'.

He first started summoning the armored skeletons with blazing heads, ordering them to scatter in every direction to scout the surroundings. He had also subconsciously formed a net formation, which became a habit for him after training under Shin's instructions.

He even hid some of the skeleton soldiers underneath the swap, purposely submerging them into dirty water and mud, while others climbed on the trees with great familiarity as if they had practiced countless times.

Most of the skeletons that climbed on the trees were Skeleton Archers, who skillfully hid themselves in the dense branches and leaves of the trees and patiently waited for the right opportunity to ambush their target.

While waiting for the special formation to be formed, Chaotic Luck had also summoned some of his special undead monsters such as the blazing corpse golem that he had recently created before also letting them submerge deep in the mud after turning off the flames covering their bodies.

He had also summoned some skeleton snakes and other small creatures that swam through the dirty water and mud and scattered in every direction.

Chaotic Luck's strategy was simple. He just wanted to stay in a single place while letting his legion spread and look for his opponent. He would then let them fight for him, avoiding a confrontation.

But if they were still defeated, then he would choose to lure the opponent deep into his formation if possible.

His remote controlling of his legion was limited to a certain range just like the other professions with similar skills, so the Legion of Chaotic Sun could not leave that area as he would lose his control over them beyond that point.

But this so-called limited range was still so large it encompassed the entire battle, which was very scary for someone of his level.

Chaotic Luck was aware that his skills and talent were quite limited, so he could only work hard to achieve something. He followed all of Shin's arrangements most of the time, especially when it came to his training routine both inside the game and in the real world.

He did not complain as he knew that all of it would be beneficial for him.

But there was something that he did not follow from Shin's advice, and that was when it came to his equipment.

He preferred his equipment to have certain stats that made it easier for him to control his legion, which was why the entire set that he was wearing had bonus stats focusing on 'Control', 'Wisdom', and 'INT' Stats.

Control was his smooth control over his skeletons and the increase of influence he had over them. After all, he was not like Shin who had a powerful mind and could control such a huge army with willpower alone.

Wisdom, on the other hand, was meant to hasten his casting time and increase the mana regeneration as keeping the entire legion on the field consumed quite a lot of mana.

At the same time, the Wisdom Stat also sharpened his mind, which made it easier for him to understand the true nature of his spells. It could also help him at memorizing things, which was very helpful for his class.

INT Stat also had a direct effect on his Mana Pool and Mana regeneration. It also increased the effectiveness of his spells regardless of their type such as offensive, defensive, and auxiliary ones. It also increased his mana sensitivity, which let him absorb more mana from the environment when it was necessary.

It did not take long for Chaotic Luck to complete all his preparations. He was now fully ready to execute his plan.

But even after waiting for quite a while, he still failed to find his opponent. He was not sure if the other party had a special skill that could hide their presence and erase their tracks or if they were still beyond the range that his legion had scouted.

"Just how big is this battle arena if that is the case?" Chaotic Luck frowned deeply as he realized this.

Fortunately, he did not take that long before he finally found Himura.

As a skilled archer, Himura took advantage of his race and class when it came to mobility and jumped from one tree to another while traversing the swamp forest.

He was very careful of his movements as he was scouting the area, carefully checking the surroundings before advancing further.

He naturally found some strange traces such as the skeletons floating and half-submerged on the swamp muddy waters and the ones hanging on the trees. But he ignored all of them as the setting of this arena included such 'features.'

The remains of the dead humans or monsters were scattered everywhere even from the spot where he first appeared.

If he found something strange from this, it was the number of these remains. They surpassed the average number that a certain region had.

When he thought about this, Himura suddenly froze as he realized something. Due to the unexpected 'turn' from the lineup of the opposing side, he almost forgot that his current opponent was supposed to be a 'necromancer'.

But unlike the regular Necromancer Classes that were available to most of the players of the game, Chaotic Luck's Legion of the Chaotic Sun was famous for having special features such as blazing skulls. They were also said to be immune to holy magic or spells, making them a 'true' undying army.

Due to this 'common' knowledge, Himura had almost made a rookie mistake and somewhat fell into the trap of his opponent.

Swoosh!

Without any hesitation, Himura decided to retreat first. The strangeness of this place was more than enough for him to retreat tactically.

His decisive repose caught Chaotic Luck a little off guard.

"Top experts sure are different. Just a little detail is more than enough to be crucial information for them," commented Chaotic Luck in amazement as he watched Himura retreat through his shared vision of his skeletons.

"I can't let him leave now, especially when it somewhat entered my trap formation," said Chaotic Luck as he started issuing orders to his skeletons.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

As Himura was retreating by jumping on the tree branches, he heard a series of sounds that were very familiar to him. They were sounds produced by arrows while flying.

Swoosh!

Without any hint of hesitation, he maneuvered through the trees, dodging left and right while also using the environment as a cover.

Tak! Tak! Tak!

Most of the arrows shot by the Skeleton Archers hit the trunks or branches of the trees as Himura skillfully maneuvered through them.

He even employed some archery techniques to occasionally shoot down some of the Skeleton Archers, lessening their numbers.

Even if the archery skills of these skeleton archers were somewhat lousy in his eyes, Himura could also see some tricks hidden under them. Even if their aim was inferior to him, their number was still huge, making it quite tricky to deal with.

If accuracy was not enough, then make use of your numbers to increase your chances – this was why Shin had told Chaotic Luck before when teaching him some tactics.

Through the barrage of arrows, Himura also noticed that the opposing side was trying to seal his escape path by anticipating his actions and firing to the places where he was heading ahead of time.

This forced him to change his course and run in a different direction!

If only he knew that the live audience and online viewers were already shouting and cursing at him during this time.

He was running straight to a trap!

The direction that he was heading was already packed with skeleton soldiers and archers, lying in ambush!

"Huh!? Since when I did-..." Himura also realized this after running for a while. Even if he still had yet to reach the ambush point, his properly honed senses were already warning about the trap ahead.

"I guess I am underestimating this guy just because he is a beginner in the professional scene," he commented as his expression turned a little more serious.

"If that is the case, then let me show you what I've got!" he shouted as he quickly activated some of his buffs to increase his speed and strengthen his firing power.

He aimed ahead while channeling his mana into the nocked arrow.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

It was at this time that a huge group of Skeleton Soldiers started jumping down from a higher altitude and pounced at him like a swarm of insects.

Seeing them, Himura finally released the string of his bow along with the shining arrow nocked on it.

Whoosh!

A flash of light suddenly flew as the shining arrow cut through the air and left a fading trail behind.

Boom!

Not long after, the deafening roar of the wind shook the entire place, and a disastrous storm suddenly appeared.

It followed through the path of the arrow that flew earlier, forming spiraling gushes of wind that annihilated everything in its path.

Boom!

The descending skeleton soldiers were destroyed by the windstorm along with the trees on its path. Their broken parts flew in the air and were scattered by the wind alongside the destroyed trucks of trees and shattered leaves.

"If you think that you are like Immortal, then you are still a few hundred years early, kid," said Himura as he stood in the middle of the storm in an arrogant manner and trying to act cool.

Chaotic Luck, who had seen this scene through Shared Vission, could not help but tremble as he watched a portion of his legion get annihilated in an instant. "Tsk! A top-notch expert is still a top-notch expert no matter what."

"I have to be extra careful," he mumbled while firming himself with a resolve.

Chapter 1663: Chaotic Luck's First Professional Battle (Part 2)

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As the battle progressed, everyone started to realize that Chaotic Luck was not as simple as he seemed to be on the surface. People might take him as a regular expert majoring in necromancy with slightly special features due to the uniqueness of his Legion of the Chaotic Sun.

But after watching the battle for quite a while, they found out that the legion was not the strong point that Chaotic Luck had. His strategic planning, battle formations, and deployment of tactics were not that simple.

Even if most of the techniques and battle maneuvering of his legion looked rather simple on the surface, especially when most of them were from the most basic tactics from military guidebooks or primary army maneuvers that most of the guilds employed in wars.

Given that Guild Wars were also big events that players regularly watched, most of these army maneuvering tactics were commonly seen by the public, especially when these Guild-Based Tournaments were also highly anticipated events every year.

What made Chaotic Luck's tactics special was the series of formations that he had combined to complement one another.

His method of maneuvering his legion greatly resembled how those big guilds moved their forces during wars, especially when layered his undead monsters with the standard formation of having skeleton warriors and soldiers at the front, forming the frontline, and skeleton archers and mages to fill up the rear, firing their arrows and spells under the heavy protection of those standing at the forefront.

But what his current formation resembled was the one that almost everyone used when raiding a powerful Field Boss in the wilderness.

In this instance, Himura was the said field boss.

Himura fought well while the Legion of the Chaotic Sun was attempting to trap him. Unfortunately, he was too fast and agile to be locked in a single place. Unlike those field bosses in the wilderness with huge bodies, his small size made him a little too slippery to be caught.

But regardless of all his advantages, Himura still fell into the traps that Chaotic Luck had prepared for him from time to time.

The simple-looking formation that Chaotic Luck was using hid multiple layers of traps that could easily be overlooked due to how simple they looked on the surface.

There was even an instance where Himura almost got himself trapped in a formation after accidentally taking a wrong turn during his escape.

He was too focused on how simple the formation that his opponent was using, making him believe that the solution on how to deal with them was the same as those textbooks written online by well-known strategists and highly appreciated analysts of the gaming industry.

Fortunately, he was strong enough to break through the formation and escape in time before he was flooded by the more powerful Chaotic Sun Undead from every direction.

On the surface, this battle looked to be in a deadlock. But those with sharp eyes could tell that there was something more to it than meeting the eyes in the current state of the battle.

For their experienced eyes, this match became a battle of attrition.

Himura would most likely win this battle so long as he kept up with this pace and relied on his superior skills and techniques alongside his great familiarity with the surroundings.

After all, keeping such a huge army was not simple.

"On top of consuming a lot of mana to keep the number of the army high and maintain their advantage in numbers, Chaotic Luck would also have to prolong his control over them, which would burn quite a lot of his concentration and willpower," said Miss Bunny as she voiced out her concern.

In her eyes, a prolonged battle was not advantageous for Chaotic Luck, especially with the size of his Legion of the Chaotic Sun.

"Well, it is a common weakness of classes that are heavily reliant on their summoned monsters in battle," David agreed with her.

But he also added immediately after. "But the burden that Himura is carrying on his back is not something that can be ignored easily."

He paused for a moment as he commanded the virtual screen projecting the battle to split. One was showing the ongoing battle while the other revealed the closeup shot of Himura's face.

"Do you know why his face looks so serious?" asked David.

Coordinating with him well, Miss Bunny asked with 'genuine' curiosity. "Why?"

David gave her and everyone a meaningful smile as he answered. "It is because of his wounded pride."

He did not wait for Miss Bunny to ask more questions as he further elaborated. "As a veteran Titled Ranker with a solid fame and resounding reputation within the virtual world, he was being 'suppressed' by a mere rookie in a competitive scene."

He pointed at the clock as he added. "Look! There are more than 15 minutes in the clock since the start of the match, yet he has not achieved anything up until aside from annihilating batch after batch of skeleton army, which are immediately replenished not long after."

"You said that a battle of attrition is unfavorable for Chaotic Luck," he paused for a moment as he asked before quickly shaking his head. "But it is the same for Himura as well."

"What's more, Himura has more than one reason to finish this battle as soon as possible," he raised his index finger as he started listing out those so-called reasons. "The first is what I have just mentioned. It is his reputation and pride as a 'senior' in this battle."

"Not only he has failed to make any progress at weakening his opponent, but he also has never found any trace of his target since the start of the battle."

Raise his second finger, he continued. "Second, his stamina and concentration are also limited. He is not one of those monsters that can fight all day long without a pause. The longer he insists to continue with this strategy, the worse it can get for him."

"Moreover, who says that Chaotic Luck controls the entire legion through his mind? Can't he just put his thoughts on controlling a couple of key figures in his legion while letting the rest be controlled by the AI? After all, the Battle AI of these skeletons is not that bad. They may not be as good as powerful and

intelligent monsters and NPCs, but they can still put some pressure on their target so long as they overwhelm the opposing party with their superior number."

"No matter how strong and powerful Himura can be, he is still bound to get exhausted if he constantly keeps this state when battling such a huge army of undead."

Hearing these words, Miss Bunny could not help but nod her head, especially when it negated her assessment.

The live audience and the online viewers agreed with him as well.

"Thirdly, haven't you noticed that Chaotic Luck has never used his most powerful undead monsters yet? As a special branch of the Necromancer and Summoner Classes, it was impossible for someone like him not to have such a trump card."

"Chaotic Luck has only shown us his tactics and battle formations. And somewhat showcasing his 'control' over his entire legion. Just imagine when they start joining the battle?" he added with a laugh.

This time, Miss Bunny did not immediately agree and somewhat refuted his words. "But isn't that the reason why Himura is constantly moving to different places? He is purposely avoiding those powerful undead monsters to conserve his stamina."

David smiled mysteriously before answering. "That is right. But have you not noticed it yet? These 'powerful' undead monsters are moving somewhat strategically, covering some of the escape routes that Himura is supposed to take and forcing him to head in another direction."

"Eh!?" hearing those words, Miss Bunny could not help but look closely at the movements of those undead monsters.

She then noticed that these slightly stronger undead monsters were taking quite a huge detour whenever they were enclosing their encirclement, covering a decent area that was supposed to be the most ideal route for Himura when retreating.

She just noticed it because Chaotic Luck had quite a lot of time to move these undead monsters to the perfect position before advancing at the right time, forcing Himura to head in the other direction.

"Ah! Isn't this..." Miss Bunny could not help but open her mouth and covered her hands over it after realizing something.

David smiled as he knew that Miss Bunny had found out the true strategy that Chaotic Luck was using. "That is right. It is one of the 'luring' techniques. It is also regarded as a textbook example of 'pushing' your target to your desired location."

"It is commonly used for hunting field bosses in the wilderness. Luring them out of their home and pushing them toward a location that is more favorable for your forces."

He paused for a moment before pointing out. "The only difference is the 'slow' approach that Chaotic Luck is taking."

"Since he is aware that he will be not Himura's match when it comes to a fast-paced battle, he chooses to lay a 'wall' on another location ahead of time before slowly enclosing it step by step."

"This strategy is supposed to be employed during a fast-paced battle since there are a lot of multiple factors and expected variables that need to be considered during the process."

"It seems like Chaotic Luck has found a way to fix his lack of ability to respond to unexpected changes within the battlefield by 'betting' on the future. It seems like he is quite lucky that Himura subconsciously moves in the directions that he wanted."

"I am not just sure whether it is a preemptive move or if it is just a stroke of luck on his side," he added with a mystifying tone before continuing. "Sooner or later, Himura will reach the other reason why he needs to finish this battle."

"That is the pressure. All the factors that I have just mentioned will accumulate; starting from his reputation, the expectations that he has set for himself, and the constant harassment of his opponent's trick style – all of these will come together and become an invisible pressure that will push him to end this battle as soon as he can."

"And this sense of urgency will create a crack in his firm mentality and solid strategy, which will turn into a weakness he had never realized."

Miss Bunny, who was listening to him while keeping an eye on the battle, finally realized something and shook her head. "Unfortunately, it is already too late since he has already fallen into the trap that he has never seen coming."

Right after she said those words, a change occurred on the battlefield. Himura had finally stepped into the area where Chaotic Luck was 'luring' him.

Seeing this, David could not help but shake his head and comment. "Whoever taught this guy how to 'scheme' is a devil."

Chapter 1664: Chaotic Luck's First Professional Battle (Part 3)

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As Himura was running away from another attempt at encirclement of the Legion of the Chaotic Sun, he suddenly noticed that something was amiss. He could not figure out what exactly it was, but his rich experience as a veteran ranker was telling him that something went wrong somewhere.

He was sure that everything was under control. The surrounding area was still within his expectations, especially when this spot was one of the places that he was very familiar with in the entire battle arena.

But this familiarity was also the one that was telling him that something was not right. Everything was too normal, unlike the other areas that were filled with traps and ambush points of his opponent.

He was somewhat aware that he was somehow running within the depths of his enemy's formation, which was supposed to be heavily guarded, especially when the summoner should be somewhere in this place.

This was the reason why he kept on running in this direction aside from finding this route to be the weakest link of the formation.

He then came to realize that he was now locked within an encirclement after using one of his scouting skills. "What!? Since when did I-..."

He was unable to believe what had happened, so he quickly summoned a spirit eagle that flew high up in the sky to confirm his realization.

Swoosh!

Not long after, the eagle circled in the air, looking in every direction, and saw that a huge net formation was thrown at him within his notice.

He also figured out why he had never realized this. The net was so large that it encompassed a huge portion of this section of the battle arena. It was covering an area that was beyond his senses, which was why he failed to notice what was happening.

Chaotic Luck had spent quite a lot of time and effort just to reach this point, so he would never let it slip from his hands.

Shin had always told him that there was no perfect plan for the timing to execute your plan. The opportunity would present itself, seemingly telling him that it was the perfect time to reveal his cards.

Chaotic Luck had never understood this as he was not like Shin who was an intuitive type of strategist, who could sense the right opportunity that was about to arrive. Following his instincts had always been his style.

It was only at this moment that Chaotic Luck understood what Shin meant after seeing this current situation.

"Always seize the opportunity once it arrives!" mumbled Chaotic Luck as he saw that it was the right time to reveal his cards.

Moreover, as if his opponent was 'coordinating' well with him, the spot that Himura had 'chosen' to stand was the same place where he had hidden one of his strongest undead monsters.

"Reveal yourself! Blazing Brilliance!" shouted Chaotic Luck as he communicated with that particular undead.

Swoosh!

As Himura was sharing vision with his spirit eagle, he suddenly sensed the temperature in the spot that he was standing on was sharply rising.

This was a sign that a powerful soldier of the Legion of the Chaotic Sun was about to appear.

"This is bad!" he immediately realized that he had not only got trapped in the net that his opponent had cast, but he also had 'fallen' right into the spot that the opposing side wanted him to be.

He swiftly retreated, getting away from that spot as fast as he could.

Bang!

Not long after, a skeleton knight cladded in exquisite armor with blazing runes engraved on its edges. It was not wearing a helmet to protect its head, but the skull itself was wrapped with a violent flame dancing along with the wind.

Its eyes also had a brilliant ember each, acting as its pupils. Such an appearance made it more ferocious, giving off a suffocating pressure that was added to the heat that its body was passively emitting.

There was also a broadsword in its right hand. Right behind the sharp edges of this blazing sword was the line of blazing runes that highlighted the bade itself.

Roar!

This skeleton knight breathed out blazing steam as it stared fiercely at Himura, seemingly acting like a ferocious beast that locked its eyes on its prey.

Himura immediately sensed an immense threat coming from this particular skeleton knight, especially when it stood 'calmly' in the middle of the raining dirt that was thrown in the air due to its appearance.

Nocking a special arrow on his bow, Himura swiftly raised his arms and aimed forward. Right after he pulled the string of the bow in a full arc, the surrounding air quickly rushed at him and gathered at the nocked arrow.

He did not wait that long before a spiraling tornado surrounded his arrow, signifying the massive amount of accumulated mana on it.

Twang!

Not long after, he released the bowstring and the arrow at the same time, sending a powerful shot toward the blazing skeleton knight.

Swoosh!

Rumble!

A spiraling gust of wind was formed as the arrow flew forward, shredding everything in its path. It fully showcased its destructive power as it flew forward.

Roar!

But despite all of that, this Blazing Brilliance stared at the incoming attack fearlessly. As a skeleton knight equivalent to the Death Knight of the other necromancer classes, it showed its unshakable might and heroic spirit when it was alive!

Boom!

The dancing flame surrounding its body blazed even fiercer, seemingly summoning a pillar of fire. But not long after, this blazing pillar formed an image of a huge skull with its flames, resembling the image of the Blazing Brilliance.

However, it was hard to tell the differences as both of them were skulls already.

Not long after, the skeleton knight tightly gripped its broadsword and slashed it down, seemingly trying to cut down the incoming storm.

This action resembled a man trying to destroy a natural disaster with all his might.

Boom!

A blazing trial was drawn in the air before slashing through the incoming tornado. It was mighty, but still failed to fully cut the violent and destructive wind that the tornado had.

The blazing trail only lasted for a couple of seconds before it was completely devoured by the spinning wind.

The people watching this exchange were anticipating an epic clash, similar to those collisions between the apex gods of the game. Familiar explosions were supposed to appear in this instant, yet nothing special had happened.

The live audience and the online viewers felt that the mighty entrance of that blazing skeleton knight was nothing but a false bravado.

It was slightly better looking compared to regular skeleton soldiers, but its strength seemed to be only a little above them as well.

Himura, who was also feeling a little panic earlier, could not help but furrow his brows due to this scene. It was not something that he had expected to happen.

He did not dare to lower his guard as he was afraid that there was another ambush, but he subconsciously lowered his bow to slightly relax his arms after firing such a powerful shot.

Swoosh!

But right after he did that action, his expression suddenly turned ugly as he felt a movement from the chaotic scene before him.

Due to the violent wind of his 'Tornado Shot,' the area before him was filled with dirt, mud, and broken pieces of trees flying in the air. These substances created a veil, blocking his line of sight.

Swoosh!

Not long after, a dark silhouette suddenly broke through that veil and flew straight to Himura with an imaginable speed.

Shing!

At the same time, the familiar sound of a sharp object cutting through the air suddenly rang in the air, signifying the incoming strike.

Swoosh!

Not long after, that silhouette turned into a blazing image that drew a blazing trail in the air while rapidly moving toward Himura and targeting his neck.

With an ugly expression, Himura hurriedly raised his bow while activating one of the rare melee skills of his class that could be used to protect himself from such occasions.

Bang!

He might have successfully blocked the incoming strike, but the difference in strength was immediately revealed right after the collision.

But instead of panicking, Himura swiftly leaped in the air and skillfully rode the momentum of that strike to fly in the opposite direction.

Swoosh!

Adjusting his position in the air, Himura started firing a series of shots toward the Blazing Brilliance, trying to slow down its movements.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But in response, the skeleton knight swiftly sprinted forward, giving a full chase. It also moved side to side, executing the most basic Z-Shake technique that veteran players in such situations to avoid the incoming arrows and shake off the aim of their opponent.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The Blazing Brilliance left a series of explosions behind as it avoided each of the arrows, letting the dirt fly in the air.

Himura knew that such attacks were not enough to prevent the other party from approaching, so he planned to gamble another powerful skill right after his foot touched the ground.

He quickly squatted his hips, assuming a battle posture, before pulling the string of his bow, which turned into a giant bow after a huge amount of nature's mana was infused with it.

He was about to release the mana-infused arrow when his peripheral vision caught something moving at him from a different direction.

Swoosh!

Its speed was so fast that Himura was forced to abandon the idea of firing the arrow toward the Blazing Brilliance and pointed it at the newcomer instead.

Right after he turned his aim and looked at the incoming figure, his face immediately contorted as he saw an armored giant charging at him.

It had a massive and muscular body covered with armor made of bones from different creatures. The helmet protecting its head, on the other hand, seemed to be made from the skull of a giant hybrid between a goat, bull, and bison.

Its body movements resembled a mixture of a galloping bear and a knuckle-running of a gorilla while charging at Himura.

This undead monster was something equivalent to a Corpse Golem of a regular Necromancer Class.

Chaotic Luck called it the Sol Behemoth!

Seeing the incoming giant, Himura knew that the other elite undead was heading his way, changing the tides of the battle.

Starting from this moment, he was not riding the waves of his opponent's tides, signifying the final countdown of this match.

Twang!

While he was thinking of ways to escape this current predicament, Himura released the mana-infused arrow and sent it toward the incoming giant undead, forcing it to halt its advance.

Boom!

With an ugly expression, Himura finally accepted that he had lost all his face after being forced into such a situation by a rookie on the professional scene.

He had never seen even the shadow of his opponent since the start of the battle, making him a laughingstock within the veteran circle.

In such a situation, he could no longer afford to hide his trump cards. He was hoping to use it for the future, saving it for crucial situations.

"Combination Technique."

'Dark Elf Racial Skill and Class Innate Blessing: Cursed Mark of the Exile'

Chapter 1665: Chaotic Luck's First Professional Battle (Part 4)

Dark tattoos appeared on Himura's pale grey skin, resembling some ancient patterns. They glowed with dim and gloomy lights as his stats rose sharply alongside his connection with nature and mana in the surroundings, particularly with the element of darkness and wind.

These tattoos were one of the natural gifts of the elves, which varied depending on which tribe they belonged to. It was similar to the other innate racial class that the elven tribes had, but these tattoos were much more powerful and had direct and noticeable effects once activated.

Moreover, these tattoos could only be awakened once the players reached Tier 3 of their respective class and awakened the bloodline powers of their race. Regardless of whether they went through the direct evolution of their basic and common race or if they used the path of Ascended Beings, these tattoos would always appear, tracing their original roots.

Boom!

Adding the special features of his class, the changes in his appearance and the aura surrounding him became more noticeable.

The wind and shadow intertwined and wrapped themselves on his bow, changing its appearance. The already longbow became a bit longer with its shaft being covered with shadow elements along with the green runes that represented the element of wind.

Each tip of the bow also formed a small blade that was curving outwards, somewhat resembling a hook.

The bowstring, on the other hand, turned a little translucent as the power of wind enveloped it, occasionally blowing with its gentle breeze.

All these only took an instant, giving him plenty of time to avoid the incoming sword strikes of the Blazing Brilliance that finally reached him.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The bright traces of the flame filled the air as Himura agilely avoided every one of them, leaving only his shadows behind.

After failing to hit Himura even after multiple tries, the skeleton knight suddenly stopped before its left hand let go of the handle of the broadsword and extended it forward.

Swoosh!

A moment later, the bright embers filling the air suddenly became 'alive' right before they were about to dissipate. Then they gathered and focused on a single point, which they turned into a slender hand that stretched forward and flew straight to Himura.

Seeing that, Himura suddenly halted, especially after realizing that it was impossible to escape from the blazing hand given its speed.

He spun while twirling his longbow, using the sharp and dagger-like tips of the bow to slash the incoming blazing hand and shred it into embers.

Swoosh!

Seemingly expecting this to happen, the Blazing Brilliance was already sprinting forward and reached its target within an instant.

It stopped before Himura while swinging its broadsword.

Shing!

Clang!

But before it could even reach far, something hard blocked its path and halted its advance.

Himura anticipated the attack had raised his blow. He was also pulling the bowstring and taking aim at point-blank range with an arrow fully formed by mana, loading with a lot of power.

This skeleton knight might be tough, but he did not believe that it would be able to withstand such a close-range attack.

Twang!

Swoosh!

Boom!

The arrow released such a range could be either easy or hard to avoid depending on the capabilities of the opposing party. But given that Himura had superior fighting capabilities and richer experience, he believed that Chaotic Luck would have a harder time trying to save this skeleton knight.

"Huh!?"

Unfortunately, his expectation was slightly off the mark as the one who had trained this guy was a devious guy much scarier than him.

If you could not match your opponent with superior combat prowess even with multiple undead monsters, then create a powerful undead that could cover all your weaknesses – this was what Chaotic Luck had learned from Shin.

Not only it could solve his weakness when it came to controlling a huge group of undead monsters at once, which was supposed to be the major style of his class, but it could also let him focus on fighting without thinking about any consequences.

The Blazing Brilliance, which was a Death Knight Variant, followed the principle of undead monsters which encompassed almost all the requirements meant for a perfect soldier.

It had powerful abilities, superior combat prowess, great offensive power, and strong defensive capabilities. It was like an elite soldier, meant to protect its master, which was why a Death Knight was a necessity for a Necromancer Class.

It was a trump card of the said class.

Then what would happen if you focused on nurturing something like this into an even more perfect protector? Focusing most of your resources and time on making it stronger, transforming it into the greatest guardian that you could ask for?

Chaotic Luck had spent most of his funds just to nurture these skeleton knights, so it shouldn't be something that could be taken lightly, especially when the main channel of resources of the Empyrean Talons was the best among anyone else.

The current equipment that this Blazing Brilliance was wearing was something that the 'common' people could only dream of. Its armor and main weapon were crafted by the best of the best, the Chief Blacksmith of the Hand Midas, Black Hammer!

Adding the resources that Chaotic Luck had provided, including his 'allowance' from the Empyrean Talons, this set of equipment would be able to rival even the equipment of most top experts of the game, if not surpass them.

Roar!

The skeleton knight roared as it pressed forward, resuming its insane assaults.

Himura could not help but frown deeply after seeing that the skeleton knight barely suffered any damage from such a powerful skill.

He only realized what had happened after seeing the blazing barrier protecting the skull of the other party. It was a very advanced equipment skill that could rival even the most powerful defensive skill of a top tank of the top-notch forces.

As he was busy dealing with attacks of the Blazing Brilliance, a huge shadow was suddenly cast upon him, making the surroundings somewhat dark.

Slightly raising his head, he saw that the Sol Behemoth that he had barely stopped earlier finally arrived before him and swung its massive fist downward.

Swoosh!

Without any hesitation, Himura used one of his movement skills to retreat!

Boom!

Dirt and mud flew in every direction as the Sol Behemoth slammed its fist on the swamp.

This was the start of an intense battle between Himura and the two elite undead monsters under Chaotic Luck.

Boom! Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Himura moved like a ghost as he fought against the Blazing Brilliance and the Sol Behemoth. The two worked together to try taking him down, but the former was still a veteran Peak Titled Ranker regardless.

But compared to the earlier exchanges when he was fighting the cannon fodders of the Legion of the Chaotic Sun that lasted for dozens of minutes, the pace of this battle was so fast that people watching from the live stand and official broadcast were unable to follow completely.

This signified that regardless of the situation, an expert was still an expert. But at the same time, Chaotic Luck also showed not only his real capabilities but also his insane potential.

After quite a while, some of the experts watching realized that this battle became a 'showcase' for this rookie on the professional scene rather than an official match.

Aside from that, it seemed to be a form of training to help Chaotic Luck to improve throughout the battle. Some areas signified a noticeable growth from this rookie, particularly when it came to battling a famed individual and experienced veteran in such an intense and competitive competition.

They did not know whether it was just an accident or if it was purposely 'arranged' by the person behind sending Chaotic Luck as the first combatant for this match.

...

Boom!

Chaotic Luck could not help but frown deeply as he let Himura slip away once again. Even if he was confident that the other party would never be able to find him due to his current location being too far from the battlefield, he still felt very troubled by the current situation.

He might have the advantage in this situation, especially when his legion was already enclosing the encirclement, which was someone of a countdown for Himura. But he knew better than anyone that he was also in a similar situation.

He had already somewhat surpassed his current limit when supporting his entire legion. Even if the tournament rules did not forbid anyone from using potions during the battle, it would still require him quite a lot to keep everything.

He had already made some calculations and knew that he would not be able to keep everything on the field even with the help of the Master Rank Potions filling his inventory bag.

It was because he had to transfer more of his mana to supply enough energy for the Blazing Brilliance and Sol Behemoth to the field. Even if these two had their respective mana reserves, he still had to give them his mana for them to execute more complicated moves.

Aside from that, keeping the 'Shared Vision', 'Long-Distance Enchantment', and 'Remote Controlling' active consumed quite a lot of mana as well, further increasing his consumption.

On top of these, his consumption and willpower would not be able to keep up with him. He was even feeling dizzy right now for doing all of these at once.

Based on his current limit, he could only summon one more elite undead monster to help the other two on the field while also having a spare to keep all his soldiers.

He could not give up anything on the field as it would affect his plans. He could not even lessen the number of the legion as it would weaken the encirclement, which Himura could use to escape.

Thinking about this, Chaotic Luck finally decided to take a gamble and bet everything by adding more elite undead in the formation.

Starting that time, he would only have a few minutes to end the battle or else he would lose.

Chapter 1666: Chaotic Luck's First Professional Battle (Part 5)

.....

The intense battle between Himura and the two elite undead monsters of Chaotic Luck continued, as they ravaged through the surrounding, changing the terrain of the area completely.

Through this battle, Himura was able to somewhat grasp the overall capabilities of his opponent. Even if the latter possessed some decent scheming ability and quite a decent control over his summoned undead monsters, there were still quite a couple of distinct flaws that could be seen.

Chaotic Luck's skills were only above the average if he excluded the overly absurd Legion of the Chaotic Sun. He was confident that he would be able to deal with this guy so long as there were only these two elite undead monsters.

But the main problem remained; he was still unable to find the exact location of his opponent. He had already sent his spirit eagle to scout the surrounding area earlier, looking for traces of Chaotic Luck. But despite sweeping through the more than a kilometer radius, he still could not find his target at all.

The same happened even if he increased his range up to 3 kilometers, which was already absurd.

Such a range was already beyond the maximum range that most of the necromancers, summoners, or tamers could have. It was already beyond the capabilities of such players. Even the most powerful ones shouldn't have a larger range than this, so Himura refused to believe that Chaotic Luck would be able to do that as well.

Little did he know, Chaotic Luck's range of control reached the entire battle area, which was unheard of. Even Immortal shouldn't have such an absurd range.

Even the live audience and online viewers were unaware of Chaotic Luck's maximum range as they could see that he was only sitting cross-legged behind a huge boulder while controlling his entire legion.

This location was quite 'far' from the main battlefield, but it was not that absurd in the eyes of everyone. It was still in an acceptable range, which was why they did not realize his real limits yet.

But what made the faces of these people contorted was the fact that the spirit eagle never found him despite flying over his head multiple times.

He always happened to be in the 'blind spot' of the spirit eagle whenever it flew past his location.

They did not know whether it was deliberately chosen by Chaotic Luck or he just happened to choose it randomly, which turned out to be the perfect hiding spot. Regardless, he always dodged the vision of the spirit eagle, which was why he was never found by his opponent.

Not long after, everyone noticed that Chaotic Luck summoned yet another elite undead monster, which was slightly different from the other two that were already fighting Himura.

It looked like an undead archer but with more stunning features compared to the rest. It seemed to be an elf when it was still alive and turned into an undead.

Aside from its blazing eyes and somewhat fiery hair, everything about this particular undead archer was normal.

But what made the people speechless was the quality of the equipment that this undead elf was wearing. It only required them a single glance to tell that this set of equipment was comparable to the one that the Blazing Brilliance was wearing.

Those with artisan professions had sharp eyes, so they immediately noticed that the leather used to craft the armor of this undead elf was among the best qualities.

Adding the long bow that seemed to be made from the bone of a strange monster. It looked like a spine due to the segmented sections of the shaft while the bowstring itself seemed to also come from the same monster due to the perfect resonance that could be seen by the naked eye.

"Such an extravagance!"

"This is how a rich master spends his opponent."

"D*mn! First, it is an overpowered Death Knight donning with the best of equipment. And now, it is an Undead Archer equipped with a similar level of items. How rich!"

...

...

...

The live chat was immediately filled with such comments after seeing how Chaotic Luck 'casually' summoned yet another undead monster of similar quality.

...

Back on the battlefield, Chaotic Luck was currently wearing a solemn expression. He could instantly feel the drawbacks of summoning this additional undead monster. Not only his mana regeneration was able to keep up with the mana consumption, but it was quite draining for his concentration and willpower as well.

He knew that he had to finish this as soon as possible if he wanted to win, and not disappoint Shin who had entrusted the first match to him.

"It is a pity that I can't summon my Lich yet. Not only does it consume a lot of mana but keeping it under control is quite troublesome as well," he sighed before giving a series of orders to the half-zombie half-ghoul Elf before him.

What before him was a type of Deathwalker, which had the capability of fighting the reapers after their death. They had defeated the beings that came to guide their souls to the afterlife and reclaimed their bodies and life in the process.

But this Deathwalker before him had lost its memories and self-awareness and turned into a puppet-like creature with immense power.

Chaotic Luck had acquired this body as a reward for passing his Tier 3 Promotion Quest, which then transformed into its current appearance after infusing the powers of the Sun of his Solaris Lich Class and equipping it with the equipment that he had commissioned from the Hand of Midas.

He called it the Fiery Deathwalker.

"Triple Control is my current limit setting aside the skeleton leaders leading the smaller units of the entire legion that barely consume my mana and concentration. But given the current situation, I will most likely get exhausted in just 5-10 minutes before I become drained completely," he mumbled as he sent the Fiery Deathwalker to the battlefield.

...

Boom! Boom! Boom!

At the main battlefield, Himura was still fighting intensely against the Blazing Brilliance and the Sol Behemoth, continuing to hold him and waiting for something.

He had already realized that there was no other elite undead monster joining the battle, so he suspected that this was the current limit of his opponent.

He also ignored the encirclement that was trapping him in this place. It had already shrunk a lot, covering an entire kilometer.

He was waiting for it to come a little closer so that he could take advantage of his strong firepower to blast their formation, creating an opening where he could escape.

It was quite troublesome for him to do this earlier since the range of the encirclement was quite large, which would take him a lot of effort to break through.

The legion was quite spread at that time, having a 'thin' line of defense, which he could take advantage of. But at the same time, it was easier to replenish that line due to their scattered forces that could be easy to maneuver due to the lot of space that they had.

Adding the pressure that the two elite undead monsters that were stuck to him, he would only be trapped within the encirclement again and again if he insisted on doing that.

However, executing that plan when the encirclement shrunk to the point where the forces became a little more 'compact' and more solid.

He could just blast one of the walls in that instance and even use the destructive power of the two elite undead monsters as collateral against the legion.

He could wreak more havoc in their formation at that time, which would be more favorable to him. It might be more dangerous as well due to the larger number of enemies besieging him in all directions, but it was worth the risk so long as he was careful enough.

Moreover, as the saying goes, 'When the gods fight, the mortal suffers.' – In such an intense battle, it was impossible for the weaker ones to just jump in as they would only be a burden for their allies or an extra layer of 'wall' that the opponent could take advantage of.

Everything had already been planned, but Himura was taken aback when Chaotic Luck purposely stopped shrinking the encirclement and just maintained enough distance away from the battlefield.

He just set up a 'wall' that entrapped Himura like a caged beast.

Himura did not expect that this rookie was this tricky to deal with. It was normal for such rookies to commit a mistake after seeing their opponent at a disadvantage. They were supposed to feel a little greedier and end this battle with all their strength.

But contrary to his expectation, Chaotic Luck refused to do that and just kept his calm.

The pressure started to build up, making Himura somewhat anxious. What David had analyzed earlier started to kick in and come true.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As Himura was starting to feel a little nervous, a series of sharp sounds suddenly sounded from the distance, which was very familiar to him.

A hail of arrows was fired from the distance and headed at him. Adding the might that each of these arrows had, Himura knew that an 'expert' had fired all of them.

With an ugly expression, Himura responded and used everything he could to escape the arrows raining from the sky.

Coordinating well with the Fiery Deathwalker, the Blazing Brilliance, and the Sol Behemoth cut off his advance and started putting more pressure on him.

"F*ck!" Himura could not help but curse after realizing that another elite undead monster had joined the battle.

He was not sure whether he had miscalculated it or if the other side was just conserving their strength. Regardless, he was currently in an ugly predicament that seemed to be impossible to solve.

"Ahhh!" he became arranged as he felt very humiliated.

Not only he had never found his opponent, not even their shadow, but he was also being suppressed by a bunch of undead monsters that were supposed to be 'weaker' than him.

But he still put up a good fight and despite battling three powerful undead monsters, even suppressing them from time to time.

But at the same time, he knew that it would be pointless as he was only waiting for his end at this time.

At one point, he was tempted to just stay still and let the other party kill him and hid more of his cards next time at their away match, planning to redeem himself there.

But his pride would not permit him to do that, which was why he continued to persevere.

In the end, he still started showcasing his real capabilities, which proved that his reputation was not just for show.

The only problem was he was showing this while fighting a rookie, which still elevated Chaotic Luck's name a little higher.

But when everything was lost, a miracle happened!

Out of nowhere, the entire Legion of Chaotic Sun stopped moving, including the three elite undead monsters that were suppressing Himura.

Everyone was stunned and confused at what happened. The entire legion turned into dust and dissipated in the air.

"What!?"

Himura stared blankly in the air for quite a while before regaining his senses. His somewhat dead eyes suddenly became alive as he started sprinting in a certain direction.

When the Legion of the Chaotic Sun dissipated, his spirit eagle was able to sense an unknown source of mana coming from this distance. It might be faint but the sensitivity of the spirit eagle when it came to mana signature was quite keen, especially in instances like this where the sudden disappearance of mana flow supporting the entire legion of undead was cut off.

It was able to instantly lock on the source of mana where all these 'strings' were connected.

Himura did not have to guess what it was as it should be the sign of Chaotic Luck 'ending' his skill. He did not show any signs of hesitation when he sprinted toward that location as his spirit eagle also headed to that place to investigate.

It was also at this moment that everyone realized what had happened. They could not help but sigh in regret immediately.

It was an opportunity for a rookie to defeat a veteran in their debut fight, which was a noble thing. Unfortunately, the Goddess of Luck seemed to be against Chaotic Luck somehow and ended up in this situation.

"What a pity," commented Miss Bunny from the broadcast.

Everything was going smoothly earlier, but it seemed like it was still not enough. In the end, Chaotic Luck would still be defeated just like any other rookie in their debut.

On the other hand, David beside her remained calm. He did not see anything as his eyes were fixated on the ongoing battle. It was as if he could do something that no other people could.

...

It did not long for the spirit eagle to find Chaotic Luck, who was currently sitting on top of a boulder with a sad face.

His mana somewhat regenerated due to his insane mana regeneration. It was enough for him to cast a couple of skills, but he knew that he would not be able to fight someone of this caliber with his current abilities.

Even if his mana was more than enough to cast a powerful Tier 3 destructive spell, it would be useless since Himura could just cancel it while he was chanting the spell.

The result seemed to have been decided already.

"Bastard! I have finally found you!" shouted Himura in the distance. It seemed like all his accumulated frustration was about to explode at any given moment.

Because of excitement for revenge, he did not immediately kill Chaotic Luck even if he could do it in such a distance. His arrow would be enough to defeat the latter so long as he wanted.

Instead, he leaped into the air, flying straight to where Chaotic Luck was. "I will make you pay for all the humiliation that you have given me!"

He was growling like a crazy beast, and he fell from the sky.

Chaotic Luck just stared at him, seemingly accepting his fate. But another unexpected twist had happened.

Bang!

As Himura touched the swamp, his feet seemed to have stepped into a quagmire, making it collapse. Then his entire body fell into it, half burying him.

"Eh!?"

"What!?"

"The F***!?"

"Huh!?"

Everyone was also caught off guard at the sudden turn of events, making them stare blankly at the scene.

They all stared at Himura, who currently had the lower half of his body buried inside the mire. Moreover, he kept on sinking until it reached his chest.

Himura and Chaotic Luck stared at each other, seemingly unable to process what just happened. But the latter quickly reacted as he already had some experiences encountering such 'unexpected' circumstances.

He slowly raised his bone staff and pointed it toward the sky, casting an advanced spell.

"W-w-... wa-... wait!" Himura wanted to say something, but a pillar of light was already descending from the sky, and he landed at the spot where he had gotten himself stuck.

BOOM!

...

Both the people watching from the audience stand and the online broadcast stared blankly into the air as the system flashed the result with huge letters.

"Victory – Chaotic Luck!"

Chapter 1667: Second Match: Beastmaster vs Peerless Summoner (Part 1)

....

Silence enveloped everyone for quite a while, lasting until Chaotic Luck disappeared from the battle arena and got sent back to the lounge where the participants were staying.

But it did not last that long as everyone was able to quickly recover themselves.

BOOM!

An uproar immediately erupted as those in the live audience were unable to suppress their shock, excitement, conflict, and every other feeling that they had.

Their shout resounded in the entire stand, almost shaking the entire place. It was like a thunder that exploded in the sky, shaking the heavens.

The online viewers did not let themselves get outclassed as they flooded the live chat with reactions, reflecting their current feelings. Emojis, texts, and any other form of expression flashed through the chat panel.

Everything was moving fast to the point that the site almost crashed by the flood of messages coming from hundreds of millions, if not billions, of viewers.

Even Miss Bunny was unable to regain her composure as she was unable to believe what just had happened.

If not for David, who remained calm since the very beginning, 'waking' her up, then she would take quite a long time before she could recover.

...

Meanwhile, in the lounge where the Empyrean Talons were currently staying, Chaotic Luck was immediately greeted by his teammates.

"Not bad," said Alucard as he patted the latter's shoulder.

"That is an awesome fight!" said Huahua in full excitement. Her eyes were also filled with adoration, seemingly finding yet another idol. She 'learned' under Chaotic Luck for quite some time, learning his style and tactics on how to maneuver an entire army, so he was half of a teacher for her.

"I never doubt you (your luck) even a bit," nodded Leonard from the sofa at the corner of the room.

"It seems like extra training is not needed," chuckled Shin as he walked over.

The rest of the team also congratulated Chaotic Luck for winning his debut fight. Even if he was somewhat ashamed of the ending of the battle, a win was still a win, so he would take it regardless.

But Shin and the rest of the top contenders of the team did not dwell too much on this win as they knew that it was still far from a complete victory. They quickly recovered themselves before turning to the next repetition for the next Single Match.

Akailu, who was chosen to be the second representative of the team, slowly rose from his seat. He was meditating earlier to condition his mind and body.

He was not a stranger to this as he was a Titled Ranker himself. He had participated in multiple tournaments already, so he no longer felt any nervousness. Anxiety was unavoidable, but it was not that serious. Moreover, being a little anxious was not necessarily a bad thing.

"I'm going," he said to the others while nodding at them.

He then pressed the accept button floating before him, which was the invitation of the system.

Swoosh!

Not long after, Akailu disappeared from the room and got sent to the battle arena.

...

The chosen arena was still the same Forest Swamp as it was what the Seven Seas Alliance wanted. Their next representative was also very familiar with this map as it was one of the arenas that they used for their regular sparing matches within the team.

This time, the one representing the Seven Seas Alliance was a player from a Human Race and taking the Summoner Class. His class was branched from the Summoner Class called Spirit Caller, a Tier 3 Ascended Class.

This match was going to be more interesting from the eyes of many as it was a matchup between a Tamer Class and a Summoner Class.

Moreover, both combatants were well-known Titled Rankers. Neither of them ranked that high in the previously released Rankers List issued by the Mystery Pavillion, but that did not mean they were weak.

It just happened that neither of these two was too active in spreading their fame as they focused more on improving themselves.

Not long after, the system finally announced the start of the second match of the round.

– "First Round: Single Match – 'Peerless Summoner' Vendetta (Peak Titled Ranker) vs 'Beastmaster' Akailu (Peak Titled Ranker) –

One was a summoner of spirits while the other was a trainer of beasts and monsters – such a matchup was indeed interesting for the people.

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Right after receiving the signal from the system, both sides immediately made their moves.

Akailu took the more standard route as he summoned a huge eagle that flew in the sky and surveyed the surroundings along with a group of slender and nimble wolves that scattered in every direction to scout.

His current race was still a subrace of the Beastmen Race, but it was a little different compared to his original Bearkin which was known to most of the people.

When he passed his Tier 3 Promotion Quest, his race took a massive transformation, especially when he first underwent special training from a high-ranking Mysterious Instructor who specially designed a unique training routine just for him.

The combat state that he had felt to be the most perfect style for him was the Perfect Demonification, which was a specially designed technique by mimicking the bodies of the monstrous beasts in the real world and recreating them inside the game.

This was the most suitable combat state for him, especially when his style of combat mostly involved monsters, particularly when he fused with them.

After everything, his race became an Ascended Race that seemed to be formed after fusing multiple types of beasts, creating a hybrid race that could carry the different features of multiple beasts when necessary.

It was different from the Druids, which were both a race and a class at the same time. But it still shared a great deal of similarities, particularly in the same physical features.

His upper body seemed to be the body of a tiger with the waist of a bear. He also had a pair of antlers on his head while the corners of his eyes were highlighted by some reptilian scales.

His lower body was still of a human, but they were slightly thicker and more muscular. It perfectly matched his upper body, making his overall features to be somewhat fierce and intimidating.

His arms, which were covered with furs also had a mysterious jade tattoo that was extending up to his chest area and back, which was somewhat forming a pattern of wings.

This race was called Dýr while his class was called Spirit Beastmaster, which greatly complemented his current Ranker's Title.

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On the other hand, the opposite side sent Vendetta, a well-known summoner since the start of his career as a professional gamer.

He had won quite a few titles under his belt when he started, although most of the competitions that he had participated in were only meant for Rankers. Regardless, he was still crowned a champion during those times.

He was still regularly participating in these tournaments until he was recruited by the Seven Seas Alliance and became one of their key players.

His style was quite distinct and easy to recognize as he was one of the pioneers when it came to creating unique combat styles meant for summoners.

He was not as famous as those Godlike Summoners and Necromancers such as Immortal, the Lich God. But he still had a solid reputation and had a decent number of supporters.

He was quite old as well as he was already in his early thirties this year, but his passion for playing games was still as strong as ever. Moreover, he was a wage earner with a decent salary, so why he would stop when he could make the game his job?

He was neither a martial artist nor a mentalist in the real world, so he would not be able to find a decent job there, especially when he was only an undergraduate person.

Playing games was the only thing he was good at, which was why he regularly participated in any competition that he found. He could win a decent amount of money from the prizes while accepting some commissions in the game as a mercenary.

He was a respected veteran, which was why he was widely accepted in any job. This was also the reason why a lot of people were shocked when he joined the Seven Seas Alliance, especially when he was doing quite well at being a mercenary.

Just like Akailu, Vendetta summoned his spirits one after another before issuing an order to spread in every direction.

But at the same time, he had also started setting up a battle formation for the rest of his Spirit Warriors and Avatars as he felt that the battle would start not long after.

After Himura's loss from the previous match, Vendetta did not dare to take this round easy. He put a lot of importance on this match, especially when their big boss was giving them a lot of pressure.

He could not afford to lose miserably, especially when he was facing a Titled Ranker much younger than him.

A powerful opponent with a similar style as him – aside from the slight pressure from their boss, Vendetta also felt a little excited as it had been a while since he last partook in a professional tournament.

He knew that he never got rust as he regularly fought with some old friends and grind in the ladder at the Divine Colosseum, but he was not confident that he would be able to wind this battle that easily, especially after what happened at the previous round.

Chapter 1668: Second Match: Beastmaster vs Peerless Summoner (Part 2)

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Given that the two were professional gamers, and Titled Rankers at that, it did not take long for their forces to meet.

The giant eagle that was summoned by Akailu quickly took the initiative to attack right after it had spotted the wind spirit under Vendetta's command.

Shriek!

Woo~!

The two quickly clashed against each other, firing a series of wind blades at one another while executing a sequence of complicated aerial maneuvers.

The two showcased their amazing flying abilities while fighting against the other party. Their speed was quite out of the world as well, only leaving a trail of green light in the air as they moved.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Boom! Boom!

Explosions filled the sky as the wind blades coming from each side clashed against each other.

Awoo~!

At the same time, the shadow wolves that were scouting the area finally picked up the scent of their enemies.

Those leading the smaller packs pointed their noses to the sky while releasing a resounding howl that reverberated in the entire battle arena.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The terrain was quite tricky. Due to the watery and muddy swamp, moving was quite challenging, much less running through it.

But since the shadow wolves were half elemental and half beast, they could shift their bodies between physical and incorporeal bodies.

They did not have to forcefully run through the swap as they could just use the shadows or shades of the surrounding trees as some sort of portals or springboards.

On the other hand, the Spirit Warriors that were under Vendetta's command were pure spiritual beings, so they could just float through the swamp or fly in the air, making it easier for them to move.

The size of this spirit army was incomparable to Chaotic Luck's Legion of Chaotic Sun, which covered quite a huge area when they were setting up the net formation without any gaps.

This group of Spirit Warriors only had a dozen members, but their individual strength far surpassed the ordinary skeleton warrior of the said legion. However, they were also right beneath the elite undead monsters that Chaotic Luck had summoned in the previous battle.

They had a much stronger fighting capability compared to the Shadow Wolves that they were facing.

Grrr! Grrr! Grrr!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

As the two sides clashed against one another, the difference in forces was immediately revealed. The quality of members from the side of the Spirit Warriors outclassed the shadow wolves despite being outnumbered by the opposing side.

But at the same time, these shadow wolves continued to attack relentlessly as if they did not care about their lives. They continued to pounce at the Spirit Warriors nearest to them, ignoring the injuries that they just suffered no matter how serious they were.

They stubbornly maintained this state until they turned into black smoke that slowly dissipated in the air, which signified that they 'died'.

But despite all of that, they seemed to be unbothered by their deaths as they could just 'revive' immediately after before quickly resuming their assault.

Vendetta arrived at the scene at this point and quickly furrowed his brows. As someone who had a close connection with the spirits, due to the nature of his class, he was able to quickly notice the source of this 'phenomenon'.

These shadow wolves were nothing but a bunch of 'puppets' being controlled by a single entity, which was their source and master. They were just a part of a skill similar to the summoning skills of a boss monster or a player but with a lower cost due to their special properties.

Casting his gaze toward the direction where he could sense the power of the source of this Shadow Powers, Vendetta saw a huge silhouette of a beast hiding within the shadows, moving calmly and slowly while watching the battlefield.

It was as if this monster was orchestrating the entire battle from a distance, watching the prey and playing with them before making its final move.

Seeing the pair of bloody eyes, Vendetta squinted his eyes while focusing his mana on them, activating his ocular skill for a clearer look. He then saw that there was a giant wolf shrouded in darkness.

The black smoke coming out from its body seemed to be connected to surrounding shadows, which was also where the shadow wolves were coming from.

Compared to the other classes with summoning-type specializations such as the Summoners, Necromancers, Spirit Dancers, and Summoning Shamans, which had their respective armies, Tamers were walking the path of the limited number of members but filled with elites.

Unlike the other summoning-type specializations, Tamers only had a limited number of summoned creatures. But each one of them was elite and possessed unique abilities. They could also be considered Mini-Bosses to a certain extent, which could even evolve into real Boss Monsters so long as they were nurtured properly.

Aside from this, the Ascended Class that Akailu had was a special one, especially when he underwent special training from an Elite Mysterious Instructor and received a unique blessing due to him being a member of the God Slaying Army.

Additionally, he also became an official member of the Beast Association Branch in the Divinity City after grinding some reputation points during their pioneering period, which gave him extra points and made his current stats quite insane.

Moreover, each of his main beasts wore a set of armor with the best qualities. One of them was specially crafted by a Siant Blacksmith, Draft Berlin, which Shin had introduced to Akailu. On top of that, the materials used for that monster's armor were from the Salamander Boss that Shin had killed within that volcano.

The rest, on the other hand, were also crafted by Black Hammer, who was the Chief Blacksmith of the Hand of Midas and the greatest Player Blacksmith of the game.

He could not ask for more from this, especially when each of the monster armors perfectly complemented his beast pets. It did not just double their powers but got enhanced by multiple folds.

The amount of investment he had poured on his three main pets was not less than the amount that Chaotic Luck had spent for his elite undead monsters if not more.

Awoo~!

Seemingly realizing that it had been spotted, this giant wolf suddenly howled.

Whoosh!

Right after the shadow wolves heard the call of their Alpha, they paused for a moment before sprinting toward it.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Vendetta did not know what they were planning, but he got a bad feeling about it, so he quickly gave an order to his Spirit Warriors to give chase while keeping the stronger ones near him in case of any possible ambush.

Such a thing indeed happened! It even happened way faster than he had expected.

Swoosh!

Right after his Spirit Warriors chased after the shadow wolves, something fast suddenly fell from the tree branches above him. It was descending fast, almost reaching him in an instant.

Vendetta had only caught the shadow above, barely able to discern the exact silhouette, before he instinctively raised his arms while using one of his defensive skills.

'Spiritual Summer Skill (Tier 2): Spirit of the Earth'

Boom!

A muscular figure was instantly manifested behind him. It was a bald and bulky spirit with rock-like muscles.

Roar!

It swiftly punched its fist upwards, meeting the descending figure with its huge fist, which then created a massive explosion.

Boom!

Vendetta quickly retreated along with the Eathen Spirit floating behind.

Swoosh!

The veil created by the mixture of mud and wet pieces of earth had yet to dissipate when a silhouette suddenly pierced through it, leaving a huge hole behind.

This time, Vendetta did not have to guess who it was as Akailu's unique figure was already revealed before his eyes, charging straight at him.

Roar! Roar!

The two yelled so loud as they swung their fists forward with all their might.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The Earthen Spirit behind Vendetta threw its huge rock fist forward, creating a series of sonic booms that pushed and dragged the surrounding mana.

It even created a spiraling current of mud and dirt around its fist while advancing.

Akailu, on the other hand, released an equally earthen glow from his body as the jade-colored tattoos drawn on his body changed into a golden color.

He then swung his fist while riding his forward momentum. He was like a ferocious beast that was charging ahead without any hint of hesitation.

Boom!

Yet another explosion erupted as the two sides collided.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

This time, the muddy waters and pieces of shredded vegetation flew outwards due to the powerful shockwave.

The land underneath their feet was also cleared momentarily, showing slightly dried soil, before the dirt slid back again along with the pouring of the dirty and muddy water.

The two maintained their current postures for quite a while as they were trying to push one another back with all their strength.

But in the end, they were only of equal strength.

Bang! Bang!

The two quickly retreated, taking a series of deep steps back while trying their best to maintain their balance.

Akailu was the first to recover, but he did not immediately resume attacking. It was because the surroundings were currently filled with Spirit Warriors, which were fiercely glaring at him.

"Charging straight to your enemy when you are supposed to give orders to your summoned monsters from a safe distance? You are still too green and impatient, young man," said Vendetta as he regained his footing.

At the same time, he also started summoning more Spirit Warriors, which were much weaker but had greater numbers compared to the first batch.

"My apologies, Senior. But I am not the passive type unlike the little brother earlier. I tend to be more proactive when I am fighting, especially against a worthy opponent," replied Akailu while waving his hand.

Not long after, two huge summoning circles were before him, occupying his left and right sides while the shadow behind him flickered.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Then three huge beasts appeared to surround him from different directions, forming a triangular formation.

The Alpha Wolf with pitch-black fur, which was supposed to be hiding in the shadows of the forest from the distance, emerged from his shadows.

The two summoning circles, on the other hand, slowly summoned a huge Ferocious Bear donning a crimson and scaly set of armor and a giant Savage Tiger with a set of golden armor, looking lofty and majestic respectively.

The three stood like royal guards around him, moving and circling him calmly while watching the army of Spirit Warriors surrounding them.

Despite being completely outnumbered, these three haughty beasts remained unfazed. They even arrogantly looked down at the opposing side, seemingly telling everyone that it was beneath them to face such lowly creatures.

"Moreover, you can't take me as your average player with a Tamer Class," Akailu smirked as he continued. "So, you better be careful, Senior."

Chapter 1669: Second Match: Beast Master vs Peerless Summoner (Part 3)

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The expression on Vendetta's face contorted a little after seeing the three beast monsters guarding Akailu while facing three different directions.

A moment later, Vendetta gave a signal to his Spirit Warriors, telling them to start attacking. "Go!"

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The first to make the move were those Spirit Archers, firing a volley of arrows at the center of their formation, where their enemies stood.

Seeing the arrows pouring from every direction, the armored tiger suddenly stepped forward. It spread its feet, planting them firmly on the wetland and almost digging deep into the swamp.

It then released a deafening roar that produced a powerful shockwave that extended outwards and created a barrier of wind that protected them from the incoming rain of arrows.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Not long after, all the arrows from the volley were destroyed and deflected away.

But the assault of the opposing side did not stop there as the Spirit Warriors also made their move at the same time.

Those with shields and swords, looking like a knight, were the first to advance. They formed a perfect line of defense with their shields, not willing to let anyone escape from their formation.

Right beside these knights were those with other melee weapons. Some wielded regular sword-type weapons like greatsword, longsword, broadsword, and such. Others had a mix of axes, sickles, hammers, and polearm weapons.

Those at the rear were naturally composed of marksmen, mages, and healers to support the frontline with all their powers.

Despite this huge group of Spirit Summons, their ranks were still far from being considered a 'real army'.

Regardless, their team composition was still quite solid enough to meet the ideal and most basic requirements for a 'large-scale' battle.

In response, the alpha wolf took the initiative to summon its shadow wolves from its shadows, not waiting for Akailu's orders. It then released a series of low growls, seemingly giving out its orders.

Awoo~!

The group of shadow wolves quickly executed the orders given by the leader while the alpha wolf itself remained on its spot, faithfully guarding its master.

On the other hand, the armored tiger jumped out of the formation and started sprinting toward the incoming Spirit Warriors. It led the shadow wolves to attack their enemies, which was quite strange given that it was supposed to be the job of the black alpha wolf.

Strangely, this strategy became more effective. The armored tiger and the shadow wolves tore through the supposedly solid defense of the other side. Their momentum was like an unstoppable force, resembling a pack of wolves wreaking havoc in a hen's house.

They truly lived up to being wolves themselves.

For the rest of the spectators, the Black Alpha Wolf and the Armored Tiger looked like a cunning strategist, who were orchestrating the battlefield from the shadows, and a great general leading its troops fearlessly in battle and even committing an absolute slaughter at the frontlines.

This made the people curious about the other monster pet standing beside Akailu. That ferocious and scary-looking bear donned in crimson armor. The sharp-eyed experts were even excited about it, especially when their discerning eyes could tell that this monster was much stronger than the other two.

Moreover, the gap between their strengths shouldn't be that small, especially when the ferociousness of that bear could even reach them through the screen whenever they 'looked' at its eyes.

Vendetta could feel it as well. Even more so when he was currently on the battlefield and directly exposed to the passive pressure that the bear monster was emitting. "It seems like that big guy is quite a real trouble."

With a sigh, he decided to adjust the formation. He reorganized the position of his forces, planning to go with the most standard formation rather than continuing with this encirclement that covered all directions.

Since his forces were somewhat spread out, the shadow wolves and the armored together took advantage of the weakest link in their formations. It was to break through those 'joints' rather than facing the 'main bones' head-on.

Instead of insisting on dealing with the other part with such a 'weak' formation, he would rather give up on the full encirclement and focus all his forces at a single 'point'.

Seeing such a response from Vendetta, Akailu could not help but smirk as if he was already expecting this to happen.

Seemingly 'coordinating' with the other party, the shadow wolves and the armored tiger adjusted their formation.

With the armored tiger leading the group, and the alpha wolf directing its underlings from the distance, their side immediately clashed against the opposition before the latter could even reorganize their forces.

Due to having larger numbers, the Spirit Warriors took quite some time to reorganize their formation, giving a rare opportunity for the opposing side.

Perfectly grasping this opportunity, Akailu moved his forces like a spear thrusting straight to the weakest wall of all and obliterating it in an instant.

Even if the Spirit Warriors had a better composition in theory and had a decent advantage on paper, their weaknesses were still something that could be seen by the experienced eyes of an expert.

Given that Akailu was regularly being 'tortured' by the top combatants in their team during their sparing sessions, he still learned quite a lot from them, especially when dealing with a huge number of people by themselves.

One of the tricks that he had picked up was why he watched Chaotic Luck get toyed with by Shin and Diablo by constantly targeting the weakness of his formation. The other was when Leonard was, and Owen was brute forcing their way through the Legion of the Chaotic Sun itself.

Then there was a time when Alucard and Alice just straight-up bombarded the undead army with their astonishing firepower, empowered by their most powerful skills and spells.

There were also some instances where he was the one standing at the receiving end of everything. He did not just suffer from those methods himself, but he also experienced a whole different method of 'treatment' as the right way to deal with his forces was somewhat different from Chaotic Luck's Legion of Chaotic Sun.

Putting everything together – those bitter experiences and the accumulated lessons that he had gained – it would be impossible for him to not learn how to deal with similar situations or at least use it against other people.

At this moment, Vendetta was the person standing at the receiving of such a devious method from Shin and the others.

Naturally, the ability to pull it off was also a whole different matter. The fact that Akailu had learned it from the others and put them into practice, particularly in the more competitive stage of the professional battle, signified his true talent.

Extensively understanding those battle tactics and fully grasping the right timing was the real challenge for this, especially when it came to the competitive scene.

Moreover, the skills and abilities of each side were roughly on par with one another, excluding the special and unique methods that they hid under their arsenal.

This instance was the real challenge for either side. Whether Akailu would be able to ride in this momentum to utterly crush his opponent or if Vendetta could find a way to solve it before everything was too late.

Sensing that the tide of this match had already started oaring toward his opponent, Vendetta knew that he had to reveal more of his trump cards to turn the momentum back toward his favor.

With that in mind, Vendetta called his mind and summoned a pair of chakrams from his and started waving them left and right, seemingly performing a ritual.

The ribbons tied around the chakrams danced along the air as he moved them around, which then turned a magical thread that connected to the ground where a ten-meter radius summoning circle appeared.

Roar!

Not long after, a huge spiritual being slowly emerged from it and kneeled before Vendetta.

It was a Spirit Warrior with a noticeable difference compared to the others, particularly with the set of armor that it was wearing and weapons that it was wielding.

The spirit armor itself seemed to have life itself but without a proper conscience. It was as if this armor was a spirit itself and turned into what it was now.

The weapons seemed to be in a similar case, particularly when the auras that they were emitting were on a similar level and wavelength.

It did not take that long before Vendetta placed his chakram before the forehead of this newly summoned Spirit Warrior, seemingly transferring something into it.

A moment later, this unique Spirit Warrior opened its eyes, releasing a powerful pressure that spread in every direction. This pressure quickly spread throughout the entire battlefield, seemingly suppressing everyone.

The other warriors from the Spirit Army momentarily paused their movements after sensing this unique aura. They also gave it a salute unique to their forces, seemingly bowing in awe and respect.

On the other hand, the beast monsters summoned by Akailu paused their movements for a different reason. They seemed to sense an immense threat coming from that Spirit Warrior, making their instincts tell them to run away from it as far as possible.

Even the Alpha Wolf and the Armored Tiger, who looked like the kings of the battlefield, show their wariness toward this monster.

But before all the monsters lose their movements, the originally calm and quiet bear finally shows some reaction.

Boom!

It casually moved its front paw and lightly tapped it on the ground, producing a powerful earthquake.

Swoosh!

Immediately after, a strong energy current swept through the entire battle, nullifying the pressure released by the Spirit Warrior and erasing all its traces.

Roar!

Chapter 1670: Second Match: Beastmaster vs Peerless Summoner (Part 4)

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Bang! Bang!

As if the powerful Spirit Avatar and the fierce bear beside Akailu had an agreement, both kicked the ground and pounced at each other with all their might.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

They only left a flickering shadow on their path as they charged at one another before colliding against one another.

Boom!

The collision produced the expected explosion, which then produced repeated and overlapping shockwaves that swept through every direction.

Even the surrounding Spirit Warriors and Shadow Wolves near the epicenter of the explosion were caught in it, either sending them flying or directly getting obliterated in the process.

This temporarily made the battlefield filled with a curtain of dirt and mud, which even blocked the vision of those watching it from the live audience stand and online broadcast.

The Monstrous Bear and the Spiritual Avatar paused for a moment after the collision, letting the chaos around them continue for a couple more moments, before resuming their attacks.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Each collision of their paws and weapons produced shockwaves that overlapped with one another, which further made the surroundings more chaotic. These collisions might be incomparable to the first collision, but the overlapping shockwaves made the clash more stunning.

Despite being affected, the Spirit Warriors and Shadow Wolves resumed their fights. Some of the Spirit Warriors even worked together just to forcefully pin down the armored tiger in place, preventing it from going it anyway and further destroying their ranks.

Amid this chaotic battlefield, Vendetta, who distanced himself away from the center of explosions, quickly swept his gaze at everything and tried to look for the traces of his opponent.

But even after looking for a while, he failed any signs of Akailu, who suddenly disappeared from the side of the Alpha Wolf right after the first collision between the Monstrous Bear and the Spirit Avatar.

It seemed like the Beastmaster had used the veil of dirt and mud as a cover, hiding his presence, so thus his tracks.

While Vendetta was trying to locate the opposing side, he suddenly sensed an air fluctuation behind him. He did not even think twice as he quickly turned around and swiftly threw his fist alongside the Earthen Spirit.

Swoosh!

Boom!

A strong collision produced another shockwave, adding to the already chaotic battlefield.

Akailu remained standing on his spot right after the collision while Vendetta was forced to skid backward for a dozen meters before he was able to nullify the impact.

"I have told you, Senior. I am someone who wants to proactively participate in battle rather than waiting for my pets to do the work," said Akailu provokingly as he retracted his still extended arm.

He was about to say something more when Vendetta suddenly smirked. "As I said earlier, you are still too green, young man."

Right after those words left his mouth, Akailu's expression suddenly changed as he found himself surrounded by a group of magic circles.

They might be small individually, but they were forming a huge array that completely covered every direction.

Then with a casual gesture from Vendetta, golden chains came out from those magic circles and wrapped themselves at Akailu, making him look like a tightly leashed beast.

His arms, legs, neck, and even his entire body were wrapped with these chains. They were tugging hard, making sure that he would be fully restrained and unable to do anything.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Akailu tried to pull them, but he was unable to make any ideal movements due to how tight the chains held him. Moreover, they were also slowly pulling his limbs in different directions, seemingly trying to break him apart.

'Spirit Caller Skill (Tier 3): Chains of Spiritual Restriction'

Seeing that it was useless to use pure strength to fight to free himself, Akailu decided to use one of his skills meant for removing debuff skills cast on him.

Grrr!

A horrific growl came out from his mouth as the tattoos drawn on different parts of his body started moving as if they were alive. They also released an intense light, which then transformed into multiple mouths of beasts that started chomping on the chains that were restricting his movements.

Their speed of eating was quite fast, but it was still far from enough.

While Akailu was busy dealing with the chains, Vendetta was already casting a few more spells while aiming them straight at his opponent.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Multiple magic circles appeared behind him, forming an array layer facing forward.

Not long after, a huge group of apparitions appeared behind Vendetta, carrying a bow and an arrow right before each of the magic circles.

They then aimed and started firing at the same time, sending a volley of magic arrows infused with a variety of elemental powers that poured down at the spot where Akailu was located.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

'Spirit Summoner Skill (Tier 2): Call of the Vengeful Spirits'

But before they could even reach their target, Akailu's appearance suddenly changed. His body became much larger and bulkier. His height also became a lot taller than before, making him look much bigger than the Monstrous Bear and the Spirit Avatar.

Roar!

Right after he opened his mouth, a deafening roar was released and sent multiple layers of shockwaves that swept through everything and repelled all the incoming arrows.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Immediately after, the sounds of chains getting snapped could be heard one after another as he had finally freed himself from the restriction of those spirit chains.

Vendetta had already expected something like this to happen, which was why he was already preparing another magic array in the process.

Row after row of magic and summoning circles appeared behind him as well as on the ground.

This time, a huge group of Spirit Warriors appeared one after another, which then charged at the huge silhouette shrouded by a blinding light.

This batch of Spirit Warriors was different from those that were fighting against Akailu's monstrous pets. Instead, they seemed to be a bunch of disposable warriors that could only be used once and would immediately disappear right after they completed their respective 'task'.

'Spirit Summoner Skill (Tier 2): Might of the Hundred Spirits'

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

In response, the huge silhouette behind the curtain of blinding light suddenly opened its mouth.

Immediately after, a ball of energy was formed in front of his mouth, which then swallowed all the blinding light that was hiding his body.

The entire process was so fast that the scene made it look like in an ultra-fast forward mode while watching a moving. It had only taken an instant for all of it to happen before Akailu fired the ball of light in front of him.

'Beastmaster Skill (Tier 2): Beast Energy – Shockwave Blast'

Swoosh!

Seeing the ball of light made of compressed energy with the highest density charging straight to his Spirit Army, Vendetta knew that his side would be on the losing end. He quickly waved his hand upward, erecting a towering wall of light.

That light then turned into a group of Spirit Knights lining up before him while raising their shields to block the incoming attack.

'Spirit Caller Skill (Tier 2): Bulwark of the Undying Spirits'

Boom!

Not long after, the two sides met and produced an even more terrifying collision compared to the previous ones.

An even stronger storm of violent energy swept through the surroundings while the swamp itself started shaking as if a high-intensity earthquake was assaulting it.

Amid this chaos, the shadow beneath Vendetta suddenly flickered. It was as if something was moving within an isolated void and used his shadow as the gate to come out from it.

"Huh!?" Vendetta, a veteran in the professional competition, had never lowered his guard since the first ambush. His senses remained sharp as he constantly surveyed his surroundings for possible ambushes that might come at him.

Even with the current state of the surroundings, he always kept his guard up, anticipating any kind of ambush.

"Just in time!" he smirked as he suddenly turned around along with the apparition of a massive Spirit Warrior behind him.

The Earthen Spirit, which he had kept on his side finally made its move and swung its fist toward the shadow on the swamp behind him. "Eat this!"

Roar!

Right at the same time, the huge body of the Alpha Wolf suddenly came out of that shadow and pounced at Vendetta with its wide-open mouth.

With such perfect timing, the Alpha Wolf was instantly greeted by the huge fist of the Earth Spirit right after it came out.

But the wolf was quite clever as well. It turned its body into a shadow, making the fist pass through its body, before retreating into the distance.

The Alpha Wolf glared sharply at Vendetta and the Earthen Spirit while releasing a series of low and threatening growls.

Vendetta was about to charge at it, not caring what was behind him as he fully trusted the wall that he just set up to block the earlier blast.

But right before he made his move, he suddenly saw the 'smirk' coming from the Alpha Wolf as if it was mocking him and his stupidity.

An intense shiver suddenly ran down Vendetta's spine when he saw that, realizing something. He then quickly tried to turn around, attempting to guard himself from the real attack.

Awoo!

But the Alpha Wolf had made its move at the same time, making him hesitate for a second. After all, this monster pet was quite tricky to deal with especially with its high intelligence and cunning mind.

Unfortunately, such a hesitation cost him a lot as something happened behind him.

Boom!

The wall formed by the Spirit Knights was blasted apart by a huge 'monster' that charged through it like an unstoppable train.

When Vendetta turned his head, he saw Akailu, who was currently in one of his Beast Forms, pouncing at him like a ferocious and hungry beast.

There were quite a lot of burn marks on different parts of Akailu's body – some were even serious enough to chunk off his flesh. His body was also smoking hard due to the intense heat that he was emitting after charging through the center of the previous explosion and storm of chaotic energy.

Some embers of flames could even be seen from some of his furs, signifying that he did not just charge through the explosion unscratched.

He fought his way, bravely charging through the epicenter of the explosion just to reach this point.

But at the same time, Akailu did not just foolishly choose this strategy. He had the courage to pull this off because of his Combat State, which he was very proud of.

'Perfect Demonification' – a state where the body of his in-game avatar mimicked the tough, powerful, and insane physique of those Monstrous Beasts in the real world.

Hoawin had already showcased its prowess for the very first time when he fought against Shin. However, Akailu was taking a slightly different approach to match his current class and race, which happened to be the perfect match for this specific Combat State.

Urging the beast power deeply engraved in the bloodline of his race, the wounds and burns all over his body visibly healed.

The dead and burnt tissues peeled themselves off as new ones grew and recovered his peak state, showcasing an insane regeneration speed comparable to that of the game's boss monsters.

While all of these were happening, Akailu was also swinging his arms at Vendetta, which now had sharp claws on them. He was planning to shred the latter into pieces!

Realizing that it was already too late to use any of his advanced skills, Vendetta chose the contingency plan and crushed a talisman that appeared in his hands out of nowhere.

Snap!

Akailu quickly sensed the immense danger, especially when his instincts were heightened in his current state and almost rivaling Leonard's Bestial Instincts.

But he also understood that it was already too late to go back given the current situation. All he could do was trust himself and his powerful body to tank whatever was coming head-on while further enhancing his overall capabilities with powerful buffs.

Roar!

Opening his mouth, he released a terrifying beastly roar that shook the entire place.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

At the same time, all the Spirit Warriors, who were currently in the middle of fighting, started exploding one after another.

The chain of explosions recreated a resonance, which made an even greater explosion that extended into the sky and formed a giant mushroom cloud that extended up to hundreds of meters along with a comparable radius.

Boom!