

Destiny 1701

Chapter 1701 Dance of the White Witch and the Dark Swordsman (Part 2)

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Naturally, the three assassins were not foolish enough to engage in confrontation with Cloe the moment when they failed their ambush. But that did not mean that they would retreat that easily either.

Given that they were currently surrounded by their enemies from all sides, the three simultaneously took out a black scroll from their respective inventory bags before crushing them almost immediately.

Not long after, a huge group of skeleton soldiers were manifested out of thin air, surrounding the three and forming a formation while facing the NPCs around them.

These Skeleton Soldiers might not be as powerful as the NPCs, but they had a unique ability to draw the surrounding mana to reinforce themselves and grow stronger.

Moreover, the purpose of these skeletons was to distract the NPCs until the three were finished with Cloe.

The scrolls were one of the most expensive items that they currently had as it was a reward from an insanely difficult mission at the Divinity City. Quite a few top guilds had collected some after sacrificing quite a lot, planning to save it as their trump cards in the future.

But who would have thought that they would be using them this early, especially just for the sake of eliminating a single player? However, the said player was not someone that could be underestimated either, especially with the number of achievements that she had under her name.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

The skeleton soldiers were greatly weakened by the domain formation that the Archbishops and Holy Mages had cast earlier. But at the same time, the Plague Energy that was being dispelled from the ground was being absorbed into their bodies, negating the weakening effects of the formation.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The Paladins that were left behind to protect the priests and holy mages quickly moved the moment when these filthy beings appeared. They hacked the skeletons one after another with their sacred powers while those behind them cast a series of buffs and holy spells to assist them.

The opposing side was quickly pushed back by the forces of the Righteous Churches. But the sheer number of the skeletons was quite overwhelming, requiring a lot of attention.

The Cloe's side might have the advantage in terms of might, but these enemies had already pulled everyone at the backline into chaos, which directly affected the state of those fighting at the frontlines.

But this did not mean that the Templars and Holy Knights at the frontline would immediately crumble just because of the absence of the assistance that those at the backline were providing them.

They quickly adjusted their formation as if they had already anticipated the sudden ambush at their backline.

With the wave of Shin's hands, the frontline divided themselves into multiple groups. Some of the groups were made of five heavy-armored knights along with two to three Templars in their ranks as they surrounded the Plague Monster from multiple angles.

The rest of the Holy Knights, on the other hand, retreated almost immediately and rushed to help the backline members.

With additional manpower, Cloe's side stabilized, giving themselves more breathing time. They could also provide some assistance to those at the frontline once again while dealing with these skeleton soldiers.

But at the same time, Cloe was somewhat isolated from the NPCs as they were too busy fending off the attacks of these skeletons.

She was still in the middle of the NPCs, but there was a considerable gap between her and them, giving the three assassins enough space to launch another attack at her.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The three quickly moved as the NPCs were too distracted by the skeleton soldiers.

It was Oblivion, who arrived first this time as he took advantage of the information of Cloe already burning a couple of her defensive skills from the earlier exchange.

But right after he appeared before his target, he was immediately greeted by a glowing sphere at the top of Cloe's holy staff.

Even if she had a limited number of defensive skills, it did not mean that she could not attack her enemies. After all, some said that sometimes offense was the best defensive.

Pointing her holy staff forward, Cloe fired a beam of light from its tip, directing it right at the center of her opponent's face.

There was no time to hesitate. Oblivion swiftly retreated with 'Gale Steps' avoiding the beam of light that almost blasted his head with one shot.

Swoosh!

At the same time, Mamba charged at Cloe with his sickles, swinging them at her without any hesitation.

Swoosh!

But before his attack could even touch her, Cloe used 'Blink' to instantly appear near the NPC Holy Knights, who happened to be free from the distraction of the skeleton soldiers.

But her appearance seemed to have been predicted by Drex as he was already welcoming her with a precise stab directed at her chest the instant she appeared in that location.

She was still a couple of meters away from the Holy Knights, which was more than enough for Drex to land a serious blow on her before they could even respond. Adding that he had perfectly timed his attack, avoiding it through normal means would be impossible as well.

But Cloe remained calm as she stared at the incoming attack with cold eyes.

The sacred aura surrounding her suddenly gathered toward her holy staff, making it release an intense light that almost blinded her opponent. This then caused a slight delay in the latter's ambush, giving her a brief window to cast another spell to free herself from this predicament.

Snap!

With a flick of her fingers, a magic circle suddenly appeared underneath her feet, making her opponent halt his actions.

Danger!

There was an intense sense of dread coming from that magic circle, giving Drex the idea that it was most likely a high-level magic trap.

He did not even hesitate for a second to drop the idea of continuing his attack before retreating as fast as she could.

Swoosh!

It was at that moment when golden chains shot out from the magic circle and almost wrapped his limbs, barely missing with the smallest margin.

At the same time, it was also at this moment when the Holy Knights and Paladins near Cloe responded and surrounded her, putting her under tight protection.

If it was just against one of them, then Cloe was confident that she could hold herself without losing that much ground in her favor. But it would be a little tricky to fight the three of them altogether, especially when their respective class was the absolute bane of hers.

Putting everything into consideration, Cloe chose to take advantage of what she had on her side while fighting these three. At the same time, she could finally test that trick that she had learned just recently.

"Don't expect me to play fair since you guys play it dirty first," she said as she raised her holy staff and cast a series of buffs at the NPCs protecting her.

At the same time, multiple magic circles appeared around her, preparing to cast an advanced holy spell.

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In the meantime, while Cloe was currently under attack, the situation at the frontlines was in a somewhat similar state.

Right after Shin had given the signal to the Templars and Holy Knights, those guys lurking in the shadows of the chaotic battlefield instantly made their respective moves.

Swoosh!

The first to move was Arlo, who was supposed to be the laziest out of everyone targeting Shin. He took the initiative to attack because he wanted to end this task as soon as possible so that he could go back to his nap time.

Clang!

But Shin was not an easy target either as he instantly responded to the perfect ambush, blocking the latter's sword with his sheathed katana.

As the blazing sparks flew in the air, Shin briefly glanced at this swordsman, who just come out of nowhere, before swiftly turning around while unsheathing the sword with his free hand.

Shing!

He then swung the sword and slashed it at the incoming opponent, who was descending from the skies with his huge war axes.

Boom!

Bloodflame was laughing manically as he greeted Shin. "I finally meet you, Battle God Sickarius! I have been meaning to fight you since I noticed your existence!"

"This is a greeting from the Shadow League!" he added as he suddenly put more pressure on his by increasing the strength of his arms and activating one of his buffs.

Shin frowned slightly as he could sense that the heavy pressure pressing on him was forcing his body to stay in place, locking him in a single spot.

Boom!

At the same time, Shin saw an incoming figure a dozen meters away from him, charging straight in his direction with an unstoppable momentum.

Tyrone, the one representing the Golden Dawn, used a powerful charge, making him resemble a literal tank that was charging through everything in its path.

Not only that, Shin could also sense the multiple presences slowly converging toward his direction, seemingly trying to take him down in one fell swoop. Given the auras that they were emitting respectively, he could tell that each of them was a powerful individual that could put him in serious trouble once he let his guard down.

But instead of panicking, Shin could not help but grin widely under his mask as an intense flame appeared in his eyes, igniting his fighting spirit.

Without any hint of hesitation, he activated multiple trump cards under his arsenal, not daring to underestimate his current predicament.

He activated multiple Domain Skills all at once.

'Equipment Skill (Apocalypse Set): Ruler's Authority'

'Grim Reaper Skill (Tier 2): Monochrome Field'

'Sword Heart (Unique Skill/ Trait): Domain – Graveyard of Swords'

'Title Skills: Storm Raider – Domain of Storm'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The moment when he had activated all of these domain skills along with the unique special effects that they each had, a suffocating pressure suddenly enveloped the entire battlefield, affecting even the powerful NPCs present.

It was as if an ancient and powerful beast had been awaked from its deep slumber – and the price of waking it up would be devasting.

Chapter 1702 Dance of the White Witch and the Dark Swordsman (Part 3)

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Right after Shin released his multi-layered Domain Skills, the portion of the battlefield that the skills had covered was immediately transformed, catching quite a lot of attention.

The Templars and Holy Knights near Shin wanted to assist him when they saw that he was under assault by multiple individuals.

He was surrounded.

But before they could even make their move, they saw Shin gesturing at them. His signal was telling them that he could handle himself despite being surrounded by a lot of enemies from all sides.

The NPCs could see the overwhelming confidence coming from Shin despite his current predicament. They hesitated for a moment before following his orders and continued fighting the Plague Behemoth, which was already starting to struggle due to slowly losing the effects of the drugs that it had taken earlier.

Shin knew that the frontline could not afford to lose any of the defensive lines that he had set up. He had to let them keep the formation so that the Plague Behemoth could not find any gap to run away later.

At the same time, the formation that he had arranged was also meant to prevent the other forces from getting near the Overlord Monster later when it was time for the last hit, especially when there were still those Plague Race Players, who were constantly bothering them.

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Shin pushed Arlo and Bloodflame back due to the overwhelming boost of his stats while also halting Tyrone's advance with a powerful shockwave that he just released to prevent anyone from getting near him.

He then swiftly swept his gaze at the surroundings, checking on the emblems of everyone who was attacking him.

A glance at them was more than enough to let Shin know that the guilds that each of them represent. All of them were from those guilds that had some grudges with him or the Empyrean Talons.

Shin might not be that familiar with the top experts within the circle of Godlike Players and Maverick Gods as he was quite 'new' within the virtual world unlike the others within the Empyrean Talons, who were already quite known even before this game.

But it did not mean that he could not recognize who were the apex experts within that circle.

A single glance was more than enough to tell him that each of them was a powerful player, either a Godlike Player with a quite high ranking or a Maverick God with similar strength and achievement.

However, the majority of them were not high enough to be ranked on the same level as Shin and the others. Regardless, their strength was something he could not afford to underestimate, especially Arlo, Tryone, and Bloodflame, who attacked him first earlier, as they were the ones who were emitting the most dangerous scent.

In the meantime, these powerful experts could not help but halt their tracks the moment when they saw the multiple layers of domains that Shin had summoned.

They were his old and new signature domains.

They immediately sensed the massive decline in their stats and the overwhelming boosts in Shin's overall strength.

They were stunned by the overwhelming presence and suffocating pressure that Shin was currently emitting. They were surprised that even with their respective strength and level, they still found it hard to breathe before him.

It might be because of the multiple layers of Domain Skills, but it was still a part of Shin's overall strength, which was why they found it hard to believe.

"Is this his real strength?" mumbled Bloodflame as the fighting spirit within him was further ignited.

But it was just the start as Shin continued to reveal more of his cards. "Light and Darkness Reaper."

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Whitie and Blackie briefly manifested behind him before suddenly possessing the sheathed [Yamato], further enhancing Shin's overall stats.

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Light and Darkness): Chaos Slasher'

At the same time, he entered the Combat State of 'Reality Manifestation' alongside the Natural State of his Battle Genius Talent.

'Natural State: Perfect Zenith'

He knew that he could not afford to lower his guard against these people, especially when every one of them possessed a 'decent' strength according to his standards.

Crackle! Crackle!

The five elemental lightning immediately followed as he activated his unique Mana Manipulation Technique. The lightning currents danced around his body as its properties were enhanced by the Domain Skill of his Storm Raider Title.

Boom!

As Shin finished all of these, the already overwhelming force that his body was emitting was further enhanced, almost crushing those around him.

These experts could not help but break into cold sweat as they tried to endure the pressure coming from Shin. They tightened their grip over their weapons while activating their respective berserk skills to at least lessen the gap between Shin and them.

Bang!

But Shin took the initiative to attack against them despite being surrounded by multiple Godlike Players and Maverick Gods. He was taking advantage of the current gap that their stats had.

Swoosh!

Shin flew straight to the spot where he felt the least threatening feeling from his enemies, unsheathing the [Yamato] and swinging it forward.

Shing!

His figure turned illusionary during his flight before transforming into a streak of light that flew straight to the opposing side while piercing through everything in his path.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quicky Draw (Lightning): Flash Strike'

Swoosh!

Feeling the immense sense of death coming from the incoming light, everyone on its path used their respective techniques, particularly their reinforced mana manipulation technique, to cover their bodies and weapons while dodging and blocking.

Boom!

A sonic boom quickly followed as Shin went past everyone, blowing those with a slightly weaker strength away and sending them flying in different directions.

Those who managed to withstand the impact, on the other hand, were somewhat pushed back, but still able to hold their ground quite well.

"Now!"

"Attack! Don't let him go around unhindered!"

"Block his course and pin him in place!"

Everyone quickly responded after surviving the deadly opening, launching a series of simultaneous attacks coming from different directions.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin just raised his brows when he saw the incoming attack but remained calm. His eyes, which were reinforced by the fully activated True Sight Skill, swept through everyone as he marked their positions while his brain worked overtime to find the most ideal course of action that he needed.

Swoosh!

Switching the breathing technique that he was using, Shin activated the Boundless Ocean Technique, making his senses sharp.

At the same time, his movements became more fluid, flawless, and formless – becoming like water.

Swoosh!

Additionally, the sheath in his left hand turned into a rapier, which Ronan quickly possessed almost instantly.

'Legacy Skill: Mondi's Style – Conviction Form'

'Elemental Spirit Possession: Depths Devourer'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin dodged every attack with a series of flowing motions. He adeptly avoided all the deadly attacks while also counter-attacking with quick flashes of stabs using the 'Depths Devourer'.

Adding the sword principles of swiftness, sharpness, and flexibility, each of his attacks became much deadlier as he targeted each weakness of his opponents' forms.

His movements were like flowing water in a raging river – forceful yet also graceful; violent yet also restrained.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

As Shin threw a series of exchanges, the experts from the opposing side could not help but feel some pressure despite working together.

They were unable to pinpoint the exact feeling that they were currently experiencing, but they knew that they could not let this continue.

Boom!

Tyrone finally made his move along with those of the knight profession. They raised their shields before them as they charged at Shin with all their might.

Linking their skills together, a huge Shield Wall was suddenly manifested before them as they charged forward like a giant bulldozer that could flatten anything in its path.

Sensing the incoming attack, Shin quickly adjusted his form while switching his breathing technique once again.

This time, he used the Great Dominator Technique, reinforcing his body with the power of the earth element. His body was overwhelmed with strength while his form became sturdier, firmer, and more solid.

The weight of his body seemed to have increased by multiple levels while the rapier in his left hand transformed into a greatsword, which Astaroth had possessed this time.

'Legacy Skill: Mondi's Style – Judgement Form'

'Elemental Spirit Possession: Summit Shaper'

He rested the greatsword on his shoulder for a moment as he took on a stance while staring at the moving Shield Wall.

He then gathered all the Earth Elemental Mana from the surroundings, particularly from the ground underneath his feet, and channeled them toward his sword as he swung it down with all his might.

Boom!

From the perspective of the incoming knights led by Tyrone, the sword in Shin's hand turned into a giant sword that towered over them before suddenly crashing down like a falling mountain.

Their bodies were suddenly overwhelmed by the crushing pressure as if the surrounding gravity had increased by multiple folds, making it harder for them to move.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon – The Great Mountain Crusher'

Boom!

Seeing that it was getting closer and heavier, the knights were forced to halt their advance before using their respective defensive skills to 'catch' the descending sword, which then caused them to kneel on the ground after the impact.

They might have withstood the strike, but the humiliation of making them kneel with a single strike was more than enough to make them explode in anger.

But Shin did not care about their current feelings as he was already facing another attack from Bloodflame and Arlo, who were flanking him from different directions.

He first released the 'Chaos Slasher Possession' before letting Solus take over, changing the form of the [Yamato] once again.

'Elemental Spirit Possession: Divine Constellation'

Along with it, Shin had also switched his breathing technique for another time, using the Solar Breathing Technique instead.

His body was immediately filled with overwhelming strength and explosive power while his movements became unpredictable – flickering, wavering, and pulsating.

With a sudden burst of strength, he suddenly swung the blazing [Yamato] multiple times, filling the air with its fiery trails.

They then intertwined with one another and swirled around Shin, forming an image of a spinning phoenix that was swinging its wings in the air.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Celestial Vermillion Bird – Dance of the Phoenix'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Bloodflame and Arlo clashed multiple times against the blazing wings of the phoenix, forcefully stopping them from their tracks.

Shin had just used a few of his skills yet was already showcasing his dominance despite his current opponents' level of power.

This could only mean that he was not holding back. At the same time, he was also sending a message to everyone that he would claim their lives instead if they did not reveal their true powers.

He was blatantly provoking them into their face, making them explode in anger!

"Bastard! Let's see how long you can act high and mighty!"

"I'll kill you"

"Arrogant! This will be your downfall!"

Hearing their curses, Shin gave them an even more provocative gesture by pointing the tip of the [Yamato] at them.

"I am feeling good today. Let's see if you can dance with my pace!" he mumbled as his burning excitement was ignited to its fullest.

"Today, I will go crazy!"

Chapter 1703 Dance of the White Witch and the Dark Swordsman (Part 4)

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Since the time that Shin had completed the Five Elements for his Innate Attribute and perfected the Four Symbol Scripture along with the respective breathing techniques for each element, he was itching to test everything in real battle.

He was constantly looking for the perfect chance where he could showcase his newly found style and its perfected state while also honing his master over everything.

Combining everything into a single form and creating a single image that included all the aspects of disciplines that he had under his arsenal, Shin started to feel that he could finally create the ideal 'image' and 'form' for his 'visualization' technique.

The Visualization Technique that he had learned from Old Ryong was divided in two major layers. One of them was meant for the individuality of his skills and techniques, which he could use when executing them, while the other was the overall image of the whole discipline, which would become the main model for everything.

Now that Shin had already found all the materials needed for the main canvas, all he needed to do was slowly draw the main image inside his head while also creating an independent form for every skill, technique, and special method under his arsenal.

It might sound a little easy, but doing it required quite a lot of time, effort, and other things just to meet the minimum requirements.

Fortunately, his current situation happened to be the perfect opportunity to put everything into action. He could polish the overall image of his fighting style and draw it within his mind.

On the other hand, those from the opposing side could feel a sudden sense of dread as they looked at Shin and his current form.

They could that they were about to witness the true strength of this particular Godlike Player, who was making his mark and building up his fame just 'recently'.

They subconsciously took a step back when Shin swept his glance at them while also firmly tightening their grip over their weapons.

At three, who were in the lead, could also feel immense pressure coming from Shin even though they were quite familiar with these kinds of situations, especially when they were quite powerful themselves.

They were used to fighting experts of such caliber on multiple occasions, so they were not surprised by the sudden burst of power that Shin had showcased just now. But it was rare for them to feel this 'fear' coming from an individual, especially when they were working together with other apex experts.

"Dangerous! This is his much more dangerous than we have expected," commented Tyrone as the look on his face suddenly turned solemn.

"It doesn't matter! The stronger he is, the better!" said Bloodflame as his competitive spirit burned even brighter.

"Sigh~! What a drag~! I am starting to regret accepting this mission. They should have sent the others instead," Arlo became even lazier when he saw Shin's current form. A glance at the latter was more than enough to tell him that this was not going to be an easy battle, which was something he wanted to avoid.

A moment later, the three suddenly shut their mouth as the air filling the air suddenly changed. It might be small and unnoticeable, but for someone like them who was used to fighting powerful people, such a change was more than enough to warn them about the incoming doom.

"He's coming!" shouted Tyrone as he sensed the small ripple in the air.

Boom!

Right after his words left his body, Shin suddenly disappeared from his current position before reappearing before a person, who was standing the nearest to him.

Swoosh!

Crackle! Crackle!

Lightning surrounded his body as he reappeared, assuming a sword-drawing stance before that person.

"Shi*t!" shouted that person as he faced the incoming attack.

He might have been caught a little off guard, but he was still able to respond in time, blocking Shin's sword that came out of its sheath.

After all, he was still a Godlike Player himself despite not being as high as Shin and the others in the rankings. But he was still quite high when compared to other people. He just became a little average when compared to monstrous players like those at the top rankings.

Bang!

But he was also sent flying in the opposite direction as his form was in an awkward position to defend himself.

Shin did not care about that person, not bothering to chase, as he knew that his current situation did not let him stay in a single location. If he wanted to survive this current predicament, he had to keep on attacking in different places, not staying in a single location.

He had to be in constant movement so that he would not be trapped by his enemies. After all, these people were top-notch experts, so they knew how to form a formation that could trap him despite not being too familiar with one another.

He had to constantly change his location so that they could not have the chance to trap him in place.

Crackle! Crackle!

Lightning surrounded his body as he constantly moved while attacking the others.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Movement Technique – Lightning Steps'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, he had also left a series of lightning afterimages behind, which exploded whenever the others tried to get near them.

There were a total of ten Godlike Players and Maverick Gods attacking Shin with three of them being strong enough to contend against the top-most players in the game. If he wanted to survive this predicament or even win, he had to be careful in his actions while keeping his attacks sharp so that he could eliminate them in a single 'counterattack'.

There were also those weaker people, who worked together with the group. They seemed to be from the smaller guilds or other groups that were working with the major forces that the others were representing.

He might have the initiative in the offensive right now, but he knew that he would be in danger once the opposing side was able to organize itself properly.

For now, he had to take care of the annoying small fries before proceeding with the bigger fishes circling him from different directions.

Activating their respective berserk skills, the group started to counterattack, putting some pressure on Shin. But it was still not enough to overwhelm him and lose his footing.

After working together for quite a while, the opposing party started to organize their formation and had gotten a firm grasp of each other abilities. They started adjusting their strategy and were able to surround Shin after a few more exchanges.

Surrounded from all sides once again, Shin took his signature stance, making the opposing side pause their tracks.

They knew that it was dangerous to engage in a confrontation against Shin when he was taking that sword-drawing stance.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But during this time, Arlo, Tyrone, and Bloodflame swiftly moved, charging straight to Shin with a fearless expression.

The mana surrounding their bodies was ignited with powerful intensity as they circulated their energies with their respective mana manipulation technique.

Whoosh!

Tyrone overtook the other two as he charged at Shin with a golden aura enveloping his body. Raising his sword before him, he used the 'Shield Charge' skill as the model for his real-life technique while continuing his charge.

He resembled a miniature sun flying toward Shin, burning and melting everything in its path.

Shin adjusted the circulation within his body as he watched the ball of fire heading in his direction while maintaining his stance.

He waited for a couple of moments for the miniature sun to reach his attacking range before swiftly unsheathing his sword, which was currently possessed by the twin tigers.

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Lightning) – Flash Requiem'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin then unsheathed the [Yamato], which was in the state of 'Chaos Slasher Possession', and swung it before him multiple times.

Flashes of lightning filled the area before him, intertwining with one another as they cut through the incoming miniature of the sun.

Boom!

Crackle! Crackle!

Scattered flame embers and lightning currents mixed in the air, dancing around Shin and Tyrone, who were currently in the middle of an explosion.

Shin was maintaining the final posture of his previous attack while Tyrone was standing firmly on his spot after withstanding the bombardment of the lightning slashes earlier.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, Arlo and Bloodflame flew past Tyrone, launching a perfectly coordinated attack that flanked Shin from different angles.

Seeing that, Shin suddenly let go of the sheath he was holding in his left hand while it was transforming into the 'Judgement Form' and being possessed by Astaroth.

He then used the Demonic Telekinesis to control the greatsword midair, executing a powerful technique that fired straight to Tyrone, who was about to work together with the two.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon – Mountain Piercer'

Swoosh!

The greatsword flew fast between Arlo and Bloodflame and headed to Tyrone like an unstoppable missile.

Boom!

The powerful knight representing the Golden Dawn was sent to fly in the opposite direction as he blocked the incoming attack.

In the meantime, Shin released the other form of the [Yamato]. The pair of black and white katana appeared in each of his hands along with the separation of the Primordial Lightning.

But instead of the Powers of the Brilliant Sun and Abyssal Moon, each sword was enveloped by the higher forms of mana representing two of his elemental spirits – the Eternal Flame and the Primordial Waters.

Swinging the swords at the incoming enemies, Shin executed two different techniques on each hand that filled each of his sides with their opposing elements.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

'Four Symbol Scripture: Celestial Vermillion Bird – Pheonix's Talons'

'Four Symbol Scripture: Heavenly Black Tortoise – Serpent's Fang'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The blazing petals scattered and filled the air while the chilling water flowed and complemented the movements other side.

The dance of the two elements swept forward while working with one another.

Shin had created such an illusion as he swung his swords while executing the 'older' version of one of his signature techniques.

'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship: Infinity Edge'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Arlo and Bloodflame were taken aback but the sudden burst of power coming from Shin as they tried their best to defend against such a scary technique.

They felt like fighting a pair of twins working together with seamless coordination rather than a single person.

But at the same time, they felt quite relieved as they had already done their job at pinning Shin in place.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

It was now the turn of the others to attack as they had surrounded Shin from all directions.

With that, the two attack more ferociously rather than retreating from the pressure of Shin's continuous and seamless attacks.

Shin kept his calm despite sensing the incoming strikes that were perfectly thrown at him coordinately.

Seeing that everyone had reached the ideal range that he was waiting for, Shin swiftly used another set of killer cards from his arsenal. "I need to end this fast and help Cloe."

He could sense from the distance that some people were eyeing the two of them. As for their strength, Shin was not sure. But given the threat level that he was sensing from them; he could tell that they were at least strong enough to be ranked in the top 20 of the Godly Ranking List.

Worst, they would be someone as strong as those from the top ten.

Having this thought, Shin suspected that this group attacking him was nothing but cannon fodder aside from the three who were giving him the most trouble.

'Grim Reaper Skills (Tier 2): Doom Verdict'

A huge pillar of fire suddenly sprouted from the ground and swallowed everyone who was within the 20-meter radius.

All of them suffered a huge decrease in their movement speed while suffering a continuous string of damage.

They all wanted to get away from the range of the skill as they could sense the immense threat coming from it. They knew that they would be in great danger if they dared to stay even for a second.

But before they could even use their respective lifesaving skills, they realized that all the skills under their skill panel suddenly turned grey, signifying that they were in a silenced state.

'Extra Skill (Tier 2): Doom Blade'

The group suddenly realized that they were under the effects of another powerful suppression skill. They just failed to notice the appearance of the group of swords covering the 15-meter radius due to the scattered words of one of the active domain skills of Shin – the Graveyard of Swords.

Ten seconds – they all instinctively sensed that they only had seconds to escape from the range of the two skills if they wanted to survive.

It might sound short, but such a short time felt like an eternity when facing such a situation.

A single second was more than enough to change the tides of the battle between top-notch experts, so it was not hard to imagine what could happen in the span of 10 seconds.

Even Arlo and Bloodflame felt an intense sense of death from their current predicament.

Fortunately, all of them were not simple players. Experts of their levels were not that reliant on their skills, so they could still work together while trying to get away from the range of Shin's skills.

Unfortunately, what came after was something they could not avoid as it came a little fast.

Click!

The familiar subtle sound rang in their ears as they saw Shin unknowingly taking on his signature stance.

Shing!

Then they saw him unsheathed the [Yamato] as its blade burst out with the explosive power of lightning and thunder.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Lightning) – Flash Ultimate'

Boom!

Chapter 1704 Dance of the White Witch and the Dark Swordsman (Part 5)

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Nothing happened much when Shin unsheathed the [Yamato] and swung it around. Aside from somewhat freezing the time within the range of his attack, everything seemed to remain the same.

Everyone seemed to have stopped moving side from him, who was swinging the sword in a very relaxed and casual manner. Aside from the flashes of light that passed through everything on its path, nothing noticeable had happened.

This continued until he put the sword back into its sheath, only leaving a small portion of it that was barely visible through the gap.

He then slowly closed the lid connecting the sheath and the guard of the sword, producing the familiar subtle sound.

Click!

The sound reverberated in the entire battlefield, creating a series of ripples that led to a butterfly effect that swept through every direction.

The ripples in the air turned into a storm of energy that revealed the damage that his previous move had just made.

Boom!

The storm of sword flashes spread everywhere, cutting through his enemies.

Aside from the trio with the strongest fighting capabilities, the rest of the ten Godlike Players and Maverick Gods suffered serious injuries.

Regardless, they were skilled fighters themselves, so they were able to raise their guards to protect themselves even though it was a little late. They were skilled enough to survive the intense attack that Shin had thrown.

But those weaker players that were working with them were not as 'lucky'. They were instantly killed by the storm of sword flashes, finding their bodies diced into tiny pieces before turning into specks of light that slowly dissipated in the air.

A single move was more than enough to erase the annoying flies.

After 'cleaning' up the small fries, Shin swiftly swept his gaze at the surviving members, thinking of the best course to eliminate them.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But before he could even execute his plan, the trio swiftly moved as if reading what was inside his head.

Bloodflame appeared behind him with his pair of war axes and slammed it down with all his might. A crimson aura surrounded his body and weapons, leaving a glaring trail in the air as he attacked.

Tyrone was charging straight at him with an unstoppable momentum as a blazing aura of the sun blazed around his body, leaving a blazing trail behind during his advance. Just like earlier, he looked at a blazing sphere that was melting everything on its path.

Arlo seemed to have transformed into the wind as he attacked Shin from a different angle. His arm turned into a series of blurs as he swung his sword at the latter like a storm. The sword strikes turned into sharp gales that were planning to shred Shin into pieces.

In response, Shin swiftly tossed the sheath in his left hand as it transformed into a greatsword while flipping in the air.

He then adeptly caught it once again before placing it diagonally on his back to block the incoming pair of war axes from behind.

An earthen glow also shrouded his body at the same time as he pulled the powers of earth elements from the ground and gathered them toward his greatsword.

His form became sturdier while taking the stance and using the Great Dominator Technique at the same time.

The earthen features of the Judgement Form became even more noticeable under the 'Summit Shaper Possession', indicating the double enhancement that it received.

Adding the sword principle of Sturdy Sword, Heavy Sword, and Domineering Sword, Shin's stance became even more solid and firmer as the incoming war axes slammed into his back.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon – The Immovable Mountain'

Bang!

Shin did not even budge when the attack landed on the surface of his greatsword while Bloodflame was forced to retreat after his war axes bounced off after that attack.

Shin did not stop there as he suddenly jumped into the air, spinning along with his greatsword to gather momentum as he swung it at the incoming blazing sphere, which Tyrone had taken form.

Maintaining the form of his left-hand sword and possession, Shin applied the sword principles of Heavy Sword, Domineering Sword, and Suppressing Sword all at the same time as he continued his action.

From the opposing side's perspective, the greatsword in his hand seemed to have transformed into a huge pillar of stone that was slamming into the ground with an unstoppable momentum.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon – Mountain Crusher'

Tyrone once again felt the heavy feeling that Shin's sword intent was giving him as the towering stone pillar descended from the sky. It was as if the gravity surrounding him had increased by multiple folds, locking him in place and preventing him from going anywhere.

Bang!

The blazing sphere that Tyrone had created was split in half before exploding on both sides of Shin, who was now under the protection of the earth element that formed a transparent barrier around him.

As Tyrone suffered from the backlash of the skill failure and got sent flying by the explosion, Shin swiftly turned and faced the attack that was coming from another direction.

The sword storm that Arlo had created was already upon him during this time but remained calm as he let the sword flash land on the earthen barrier while he reinforced it with more Earth Elemental Mana.

When the storm finally 'calmed' down, Shin suddenly swung the [Yamato] forward and sent a blazing crescent that flew straight to Arlo, who was preparing for a follow-up attack.

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Flame Burst'

Swoosh!

Arlo swiftly halted his advance and quickly formed a wind wall before him to block the incoming attack.

Boom!

The blazing embers scattered in the air as the wind wall warded off the heat coming from the previous explosion.

But as the smoke receded, a cold flash of light suddenly cut through it and flew straight to Arlo's face.

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Half-Moon Slash'

Raising his sword, Arlo swiftly swung it forward, sending a huge wind blade that collided against the crescent wave that was heading his way.

Boom!

Swoosh!

Arlo immediately retreated from the center of the explosion as cold vapor chased after him from the previous attack. There were also some visible frostbites from different parts of his body, signifying that he did not escape from the previous explosion unscratched.

Shin wanted to give chase, but he quickly dropped the idea when he saw the others, who had suffered some injuries from his previous attack, had finally recovered and resumed their assault.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Continuous explosions erupted as the battle continued, where Shin fought ten Godlike Players and Maverick Gods by himself.

The scene stunned everyone who was finally able to recognize the people attacking him. Seeing that ten experts of such caliber were working together just to take down Shin yet still failed multiple times.

There were times when they were so close to trapping him, but Shin always found a way to free himself from their encirclement and even counterattacked from time to time.

He even almost killed some of the opposing side before escaping. If not for Bloodflame and Tyrone's timely assistance, then they might have lost 3 to 5 of their members already.

Regardless, Shin was almost dominating the battle despite being outnumbered. Even though he was under immense pressure, he kept his calm and continued to do what he was good at.

His constant swapping of swords and swift shifting of swordsmanship was a sight to see. The interchanging between his ever-changing and quick draw styles was so flawless and amazing that it made those who watched him in action breathless.

His stunning display quickly attracted a lot of people, especially those who were live-streaming the ongoing battle through their terminals.

What surprised everyone even more was when they recognized each of the players fighting Shin. They might not be very high in the ranks, but these people were still famous in their own right and even ranked decently in the Godly Ranking List while the Maverick Gods were on the same level of reputation.

There were also Arlo, Tyrone, and Bloodflame, who could easily be ranked as one of the top-notch gods of the game.

Shin still kept on moving constantly so that the other side would not be able to read his movements and lock him in place.

It took him quite a lot of effort just to eliminate two out of the ten opponents that were currently surrounding him.

It was because those two had used their respective two-fold berserk skills, which gave him a lot of trouble. But due to their current states, they became the temporary frontliners of the other side, putting them fully exposed to Shin's attack.

Everyone was caught off guard by Shin's sudden burst of attacks immediately after that instantly killed the duo in a single cycle of his skills.

Even Tyrone, who was right beside the two to support them, was unable to respond due to how fast Shin had executed them.

Shin's explosion of powerful combo almost caught him as well during that time, which made him sweat profusely. If not for his 'fast' reaction to save himself instinctively, then his ending would be no different from the other two who had just fallen.

Regardless, this still proved how scary Shin could be once he put his mind to it. If not for the strength of Arlo, Tyrone, and Bloodflame, then this battle would have already ended ages ago.

At the same time, this battle had proven that Shin was good enough to be ranked in the top five gods of the game, putting him on the same level as Zero, Ashura, Siegfried, and Immortal in terms of overall might.

He might have defeated Immortal multiple times before, but this publicly recognized villain of the virtual world was still ranked fairly high in the list, especially when his true strength had never been revealed during those battles.

His famous and notorious Undying Army had yet to make its appearance during those battles due to the nature of the battle.

As for Ashura, Shin had already scored a draw during the most recent Godly Challenge Rights. Even if the battle was satisfying, there were still a lot of people, who believed that Shin was slightly behind the current title holder of the Hegemon Cup.

After all, Shin's reputation was still not as solid as Ashura, who had built his name through different games that he had played previously and won multiple championships now.

Zero and Siegfried had similar feats under their belt, which they had built throughout their careers and still building up.

But with this current achievement, no one would dare to question his reputation once again.

...

During the battle, Shin realized that it was going to be harder to cut down the numbers of the opposing side. It was because the other party had become warier of his moves after the earlier explosion.

Realizing this, Shin knew that there was no point in continuing this battle. He now had to focus on helping Cloe, who was definitely suffering a similar ambush.

He was confident that these guys would not dare to attack the NPCs on their side as they still had to rely on the powers of the Templars and Holy Knights to fight the Plague Behemoth, so he did not have to worry about them.

Thinking bout this, Shin wanted to put his plan into action. "Let's help her first before dealing with these guys. Then we can focus on completing the quest later."

Chapter 1705 Dance of the White Witch and the Dark Swordsman (Part 6)

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As the thought of regrouping with Cloe crossed Shin's mind, the girl happened to be thinking of the same thing.

It was not because she could not handle the three assassins that were trying to get her. After all, the NPCs around were protecting her quite well. Adding the top-notch assistance that she was providing, her situation was much better compared to Shin, who was currently being besieged from all sides.

The issue that concerned her was the chaos that these three and their skeleton soldiers were creating at the backline.

The Skeleton Soldiers were not much of a problem at first, but she noticed that every time the NPC Priests and Holy Knights killed one of them, a curse would suddenly fly straight to those NPCs and try to attach itself to the bodies of those who had killed them.

Such curses could not do much against these powerful NPCs, but the accumulated curses could cost some hidden threats later, which could put the raid at risk.

Those high-level scrolls were not that simple. After all, those top forces would not take such a gamble if they did not have that much confidence in their plan. The investment that they had poured into this operation should not be that cheap.

Due to the NPC Archbishops and Inquisitors focusing on purifying everyone's body to erase any traces of those curses, the battle at the frontlines was slowly getting affected.

Left without a choice, Cloe decided to pull these three away from this place and lured them to the direction where Shin was fighting another group of enemies.

Right after this thought crossed her mind, she suddenly saw Shin briefly glancing in her direction. This simple gesture was more than enough for her to know that Shin had a similar thought.

Having a tacit understanding of one another, the two simultaneously moved toward each other.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin shifted the direction of his movements. He skillfully avoided the attacks of their opponents while meticulously leading them to the direction where he would be meeting Cloe.

As they were chasing after Shin, they noticed something strange in the latter's movements. He was counterattacking less and less as if he no longer wanted to continue fighting them, which was impossible, especially when he currently had such an overwhelming advantage over them.

The trio of Arlo, Tyrone, and Bloodflame had also noticed the strange actions that their target was doing. But it was already too late to realize the plot hidden behind their opponent's actions as Shin suddenly had already prepared everything before they could even warn the others.

Swoosh!

Shin suddenly stopped retreating, making the group chasing after him follow his actions.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

However, due to his unexpected actions, they were unable to fully stop themselves from moving forward and only stopped after a couple of moments.

But what confused them even more was the fact that Shin was now standing right in the middle of their encirclement.

They still maintained their formation even though they were running at full speed earlier during the chase while also constantly harassing Shin during the process, which was why they were surprised when they saw the latter let himself be trapped by their encirclement.

They might have lacked the full understanding of their current opponent, but they still understood that he would never do something meaningless during a crucial moment, especially on this kind of occasion.

They had already crossed blades with him earlier, so they at the very least had a decent knowledge of his style, particularly on how cunning he fought.

They quickly raised their weapons, preparing themselves for the sudden counterattack that was about to come.

But what came after was beyond their expectations.

"Careful!"

Mamba, who was currently chasing after Cloe, was the first to notice what was happening as he was seeing everything from a third person's point of view.

Unfortunately, it was already too late as Cloe had already reached the ideal range of her spell.

It was as if Shin and Cloe had already agreed to meet in this spot, which was just perfect for her to launch an ambush without being noticed by his pursuers.

Swoosh!

"Holy Judgement!"

As she chanted the final words of her spell and pointed her holy staff forward, a huge pillar of light suddenly fell from the sky and hit the area where Shin and his enemies were standing.

Boom!

The area that the pillar of light covered was just enough to lock everyone within the enemies' formation in place, signifying that it had already been calculated meticulously earlier.

A sudden chill ran down the spine of everyone who was seeing this as they all realized how far Shin had read into the future, especially after seeing him take the stance that everyone was very familiar with.

Arlo, Tyrone, and Bloodflame swiftly scattered into three different locations as they were planning to intercept Shin's attack just like how they had been doing since earlier.

They were the only ones who were fast enough to respond against the pillar of light, making their movements much freer compared to the rest, who were still struggling to regain their control over their bodies.

But what happened next was another surprise that they were not expecting.

The possession that Shin had used this time was different from the rest that he had shown up until now.

"Void Reaper!"

Right after calling out Hanzo, the Ancient Void Spirit manifested behind Shin for a second before turning into a light that fused with the sheathed [Yamato].

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Void): Dimension Cutter'

At the same time, his figure suddenly disappeared from his current position before appearing in multiple directions in flickering forms.

They surrounded everyone with the pillar of light while assuming the same sword-drawing stance that Shin was taking earlier. Then they simultaneously stepped forward while swiftly unsheathing the sheathed katana in their hands.

Their figure hovered in the surroundings for a second before suddenly transforming into a purple streak of light that dominated the space with the pillar of light.

They were intertwined with one another as they cut through the void and everything on their path.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Void) – World Splitter'

Due to the unexpected change in attribute, everyone was caught off guard, making a few of them fall victim to the skill.

They were unable to do anything aside from watching their bodies be split into multiple pieces by the purple lights flying from every direction.

They were a few lucky ones, who managed to survive the deadly blow. But they were barely hanging in their lives, trying to do their best to heal themselves.

The trio, on the other hand, relied on their experience to survive the earlier devastating attack. They used their respective strongest defensive skills to defend themselves or movement skills to escape from the range of the attack.

Seeing that another two of their current teammates had fallen from the earlier attacks, the three quickly moved to save the others.

But before they could even move, another spell fell on them.

"Holy Binding!"

Cloe shouted from the distance while pointing at the receding energies of the pillar of light.

She controlled the residual energies and gathered them around Arlo, Tyrone, and Bloodflamme to restrict their movements.

It might be brief, but the could of seconds delay that she had provided Shin was more than enough to eliminate the rest of the weaker opponents.

Shin coordinated with her well as he swiftly sheathed the [Yamato] in a flawless movement while switching possession from 'Dimension Cutter' to 'Chaos Slasher'.

Immediately after, he unsheathed the sword while also releasing the accumulated Five-Elemental Primordial Lightning at the same time.

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Primordial Lightning) – Eclipse Dragon Draw'

Roar!

The Primordial Lightning turned into a ferocious dragon that opened its mouth while following the movements of Shin's sword, which guided it to devour the remaining survivors of his previous attack.

Roar!

The lightning dragon danced alongside Shin's movements, ending the lives of those three, who were currently powerless to protect themselves.

The expression of Arlo, Tyone, and Bloodflame's faces suddenly turned ugly as they watched the others get devoured by the lightning dragon.

They were currently on the verge of exploding in anger as such a humiliation was unacceptable.

Unfortunately, they could no longer do anything about it as it had already happened. What they needed to do now was to focus on what was in front of them, especially when they were about to regroup with the others.

...

Swoosh!

While all of that was happening, Mamba had finally caught up to Cloe, planning to stop her from regrouping with Shin.

Bang!

Unfortunately, Cloe had already set up a trap magic behind her, which he had triggered. It delayed his advance for a couple of seconds, which was more than enough for Cloe to cast another spell.

Swoosh!

But Oblivion and Drex had also caught up to her, flanking her with their respective attacks.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Unfortunately, a barrage of flying daggers flew straight to their respective positions, accurately targeting their weak points.

They did not know where these daggers came from, but they knew they could afford to risk exchanging blows with them, so they were forced to stop their actions.

Whoosh!

This then gave Cloe enough time to cast 'Blink' to get away from this spot and appear near Shin, who swiftly reached her in a single breath.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, the flying daggers returned to Shin's side before returning them to the tactical belt that he was wearing.

He was the one who sent them earlier by using his 'Demonic Telekinesis' to control them remotely.

It had been a while since he had last used these items due to the lack of opportunity. But it seemed like he would be utilizing them to the fullest later, especially when he had finally reached the ideal form of his fighting style.

He glanced at the series of timers at the corner of his eye, which were indicating the remaining duration of his active domain skills.

"Five minutes?" he frowned a little before smirking. "That's more than enough, I guess."

He then swept his gaze at the surroundings, looking at the six peak-level Godlike Players and Maverick Gods surrounding them before turning to Cloe, who seemed to be checking the available spells that she could currently use.

He smiled behind his mask as he asked. "Shall we dance?"

Chapter 1706 Dance of the White Witch and the Dark Swordsman (Part 7)

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Six top-notch Godlike Players and Maverick Gods surrounded Shin and Cloe. They had a Tier 3 Blade Demon, a Tier 3 Guardian Knight, a Tier 3 Beastman Warlord, a Tier 3 Executioner, a Tier 3 Shadow Blade, and a Tier 3 Moonlight Sword.

Each of these godly experts was famed for their respective styles and impossible achievements. It was clear that this was going to be a hard battle even for Shin and Cloe, who were at the monstrous level of their own.

"There is only a bit of time before the duration of his domain skills ends. We can just hold out until then, and we will have a much easier time," said Arlo as he lazily put one of his swords on his shoulder.

"Tsk! There is no need to wait. That is for cowards! Let's take them down now and get this over with," said Tyrone as he slammed his sword and shield against each other.

"I like what you just said for the first time! Let's fight them head-on!" nodded Bloodflame as his burning fighting spirit blazed even more.

Mamba shook his head as he refuted. "Idiot! Is getting humiliated once not enough? Get your head together. If beating you up is not enough, then you can go ahead and let him beat you a bit more."

Oblivion, on the other hand, impatiently rolled his eyes at them as he asked. "Are we going to fight or just argue with each other? I'm leaving if it is the latter."

Drex nodded his head, agreeing with what Oblivion had said. "Shall we go? This is getting pointless away."

While the group surrounding them were arguing with one another, Shin and Cloe were already preparing their next course of action.

Cloe waved her holy staff and cast a series of buffs to Shin, further enhancing his already broken stats.

Boom!

The pressure that he was passively emitting just got even stronger, making the six turn their gaze at him at the same time. They looked at him with wariness, fully understanding that this was not going to be an easy battle.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Seeing that Cloe had quickly kneeled on the ground and started praying to prepare for a large-scale holy spell, the three assassins quickly made their moves, planning to stop her.

They could instantly tell that it was a powerful spell that could threaten the six of them, so they had to stop her from activating that spell.

The other trio understood their thoughts as well, so they coordinated with them, planning to attack Shin from a different angle so that he could not help Cloe.

Surrounded, Shin knew that it was going to be a little tricky to stop all six of them alone. After all, each of these guys was a powerful expert, so ordinary means would most likely be ineffective against them.

"Talking about numbers, huh? I have that as well!" he mumbled as he made his move.

'Equipment Skill (Headgear: Nephilim's Gemini Mask): Spirit Release + Spirit Fusion'

'Phantom Swordsman Skill: Phantom Apparition'

The Sun and Moon Clones were instantly summoned before merging and transforming into the Eclipse Clone, which released an overwhelming aura due to the fully enhanced stats that it had that were reflected by Shin's current parameters.

The Phantom Apparition, on the other hand, appeared like a ghost. It was not emitting even a hint of its aura, making it look like an ordinary 'human' rather than a clone. It was easy to overlook its existence due to the faint aura that it had, making the others almost miss his appearance altogether.

One was releasing an overwhelming magic power while the other was hidden behind the 'light' that the former was emitting. They complimented each other's existence perfectly, making the opposition look at them warily.

But that was not the end as Shin and his two powerful clones suddenly released nine phantoms each, perfectly resembling their original forms and emitting a similar level of auras. They were absolute phantoms that reflected their original bodies to perfection.

Even if these phantoms still did not have any fighting capabilities just like before, their forms were more than enough to confuse their opponents due to their perfect mimicry.

'Phantom Swordsman Skill: (Enhanced) Phantom Dance' x3

Shin did not wait for the opposing party to regain themselves as he and his clones made their moves respectively, covering all three directions to protect Cloe from the three assassins while also blocking the advance of the other three.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin and the two clones moved and started attacking the six godly experts while swapping places from one phantom to another.

Due to the phantoms covering all directions, Shin and his clones could stop any attempt of the other side to reach Cloe.

The Eclipse Clone inherited his ever-changing style alongside his application of elemental powers. It controlled all the elements that he possessed, especially the elements of fire, water, wood, metal, and earth.

It applied the elemental control and switches along with the swapping of swords with the help of the 'Legacy Skill: Mondi's Style'.

It showcased the overwhelming magical prowess and exquisite swordsmanship of a magic swordsman while fighting the opposing side.

It combined elemental magic and his swordsmanship perfectly, even surpassing its real body to a certain extent.

The Phantom Apparition, on the other hand, was taking a more secretive approach – or more specifically, it was using the stealthy style of battle, which resembled an assassin rather than a swordsman.

If the Eclipse Clone was combining magic and swordsmanship, then the Phantom Apparition possessed the style that was born from assassination and swordsmanship.

It was utilizing the nine Phantoms that it had summoned to the fullest, making its movements and ambushes unpredictable. Adding that it was also using all the stealth skills under its arsenal, the Phantom Apparition became a deadly assassin that even made the three godly assassins from the opposing side an immense threat.

Aside from that, the Phantom Apparition also used a variety of skills that even the original body did not possess. It felt like a whole different 'person' rather than a clone.

It was showcasing the true might of Phantom Swordsmanship that even its original body could not achieve yet.

Due to the completely different styles that the two clones were showcasing, the opposing side felt like they were fighting two additional people rather than clones of Shin.

They were having a hard time to adjust with these styles, which Shin took advantage of. He was launching a series of ambushes that targeted the opening that the two clones had created with their respective styles.

Since he had scattered his nine Phantoms in every direction, mixing them with the ones that the two clones had created, Shin could basically appear anywhere and unexpectedly attack the others from different angles.

But despite having the advantage, Shin did not press further as he knew his current priority. He had to focus on protecting Cloe rather than pushing himself to take all these guys at once.

Due to him only taking on a defensive stance, the six guys were having a hard time advancing even with the help of their respective tricks.

Shin poured everything he had into defense, which made it hard for them to find a way to stop Cloe from finishing her holy spell.

Due to that, the six shifted their focus away from her to Shin and his clones. They grouped themselves into two while fighting Shin and his clones.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

This gave Shin some pressure as he could tell that the six wanted to eliminate him rather than Cloe this time. The six were even focusing on targeting him rather than his clones as they understood that these overpowered clones would just disappear once the original body was killed.

But it was easier to say than done as Shin was utilizing almost everything he had when fighting them.

Moreover, Shin also knew that he only had to hold them for a while as Cloe would finish casting her holy spell soon enough.

Zong~! Long~ Long~!

Not long after, Cloe finished casting the spell. She raised her head toward the sky and a brilliant pillar of light suddenly descended, landing on the exact spot where she was praying.

Boom!

There was no explosion or a powerful impact upon the descent, but a holy aura immediately swept through the entire battlefield.

The formation that sealed all the entrances and exists from this place was further enhanced by her holy spell. Everyone marked as enemies suffered a huge drop in their respective stats while those recognized as allies gained a massive increase in strength and power instead.

Shin swiftly changed from a defensive stance to an offensive one right after gaining a huge boost in stats and started the counterattack.

At the same time, Cloe coordinated well as she started casting one spell after another to assist Shin.

Their teamwork was flawless and did not require any verbal signal as they understood each other's intention by seeing their respective actions.

They were communicating with just their actions, which then produced a series of specialized combinations that overwhelmed their opponents.

Shin's fearless assault and relentless attacks were complimented by Cloe's timely assistance and perfect healing.

The pair worked with perfect teamwork, which resembled a dance in the eyes of those watching the battle from a distance or through the live feed provided by some scouts.

The perfection of their teamwork did not just look stunning but mesmerizing as well.

Cloe looked like a conductor, waving her staff and hand to dictate the pace of the battle, while Shin and his clone's actions resembled those of a great performer, dancing in front of millions of spectators.

Chapter 1707 Dance of the White Witch and the Dark Swordsman (Part 8)

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Shin and Cloe had already exchanged a lot of blows against the six top-notch Godlike Players and Maverick Gods in just two minutes.

In just a short amount of time, the two sides had already exchanged a hundred exchanges that made the surrounding area unrecognizable. Even those NPCs and players from the sides of the Plague Race and the Righteous Churches were swept by their battle, killing those with weaker capabilities.

It was just a short time, yet the impact of the battle was already that huge.

This was how much of an impact a clash between top Godlike Players or Maverick Gods on a battlefield.

Boom!

Shin and his clones had stopped the advances of the six from the opposing party once again, pushing them back with combined techniques that almost killed them in the process.

The group had almost exhausted all the cards from their arsenal during that short time as they tried to break through Shin's defenses. But despite all the effort that they had poured into the battle, they still failed due to the perfect teamwork that Shin and Cloe had.

The pair did not only showcase an absolute trust to one another but also showed everyone how powerful they were, especially when they were teaming up.

"Don't worry! The duration of his domain skills is about to end. We only have to hold out for a little longer and we will win this battle," said Tyrone after blocking another attack from Shin.

"Tsk!" Bloodflame clicked his tongue as he heard those words as he did not like the idea of defeating Shin when he was at his weakest.

Given his personality, he wanted to defeat his opponents when they were at their strongest form as the sense of achievement that he got during that time would be way more meaningful.

Ganging up at Shin and Cloe was already against his nature. But the motto of his organization was to always be ready all the time to face all kinds of situations on the battlefield, he could say anything against their current situation, especially when they were in a chaotic battle such as this one.

Mamba might have a similar temperament as Bloodflame on the surface, but he was a cunning snake just like the rest of the Hydra Heads of the Hydra Guild. He was constantly plotting something against anyone regardless of if they were his current target or if they were working together with him.

Scheming against anyone was deeply engraved in his bones.

Each member of their group was familiar with the temperament of each other, which was why they were always on guard against one another despite working together in this operation.

This was also the reason why they were not revealing all the trump cards they had under their arsenal. Having a secret weapon would always be their safety measures against unexpected accidents during the battle.

Even if they were giving their all during this battle, following the commands of their respective lords and leaders, they still kept something to themselves as a form of protections against those wanted to take advantage of this situation.

Since Shin had a healer on his side while they did not, their current state was quite miserable, especially after seeing fighting in such an intense manner.

They had to find a way to somehow get rid of Cloe while or busting Shin with a single cycle of powerful skills, which they were somewhat reluctant to do because they had to watch out for any backstabbing of their temporary teammates.

This delayed their operation for quite a while, which resulted in their current state. But they also knew that they now had to finish the battle as soon as possible because the battle between the Plague Behemoth and the NPCs of the Righteous Churches was already about to end.

They had to act fast now if they wanted to get some share from the pie called 'Plague Behemoth'.

As the group were planning to something to turn the tides of the battle, there was only a minute before the duration of the domain skills that Shin had activated came to an end.

The six were planning to go into an even stronger offensive once the domain skills that were restricting them and boosting the stats of their opponent came to an end.

But before they could put their plans into action, Shin took the initiative this time.

He released the Eclipse Clone ahead of time and let them fuse with his body, further enhancing his already broken stats.

'Equipment Skill (Headgear: Nephilim's Gemini Mask): Spirit Possession'

At the same time, the Phantom Apparition seemed to have taken the initiative to 'unsummon' itself. But instead of disappearing altogether, it suddenly turned into a cloud of black smoke that fused with Shin's body – or more specifically his 'soul'.

Shin could sense that his willpower was elevating into a higher level, erasing all the hint of fatigue that his mind had suffered after pushing himself to the limit when utilizing the Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship alongside his ever-changing breathing technique and Elemental Spirit Possession.

The accumulated toll in his mind and body seemed to have been relieved by the sudden fusion of the Phantom Apparition.

Shin was not sure what was happening, especially when he saw that all the Phantoms that he and his clones had summoned seemed to have merged with one another, forming another Phantom Apparition that fused with himself as well.

This time, the fusion did not do anything about his stats or his mental strength. Instead, it was his full set of armor, which underwent some transformation.

Not only that, but they also seemed to have changed their design, carrying some hint of shadow-like designs that also highlighted the engraved runes at the edges of the armor.

At the same time, a string of notifications had rung in his ears, catching him a little off guard.

Ding

System: All conditions have been met! Phantom Swordsman Skill (Tier 2): Phantom Equip has been unlocked!

Ding

System: A new medium for Shadow Elemental Possession has been detected!

System: The 'Soul Eater' Possession could now be used to armors under the 'Phantom Equip' activation.

...

Shin was not sure what had happened, but he could understand that he had now unlocked some hidden features of his secondary combat class, which remained a mystery even for him up until now.

Setting aside his question for a moment, he followed the 'instructions' of the system and summoned Grimrace for additional possession.

Dual Possession was his limit up until now, but it seemed like he had broken through some limit after the Phantom Apparition and the Eclipse Clone had fused with him, letting him meet the 'minimum' requirement for an additional possession.

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Shadow): Soul Eater'

The Apocalypse Set that he was wearing transformed into a set of shadowy armor that seemed to be made mainly of shadow elemental mana. They still had the silver runes that were roughly glowing at the edges of the armor segments, highlighting their forms and design.

The Sacred Relic that Shin possesses, the cloak called the [Death's Shadow], seemed to have reacted to the transformation as well. It complemented the current shadow-like design of his armor, transforming into a cloak of shadow that was filled with a deadly aura.

Shin current appeared to look even scarier from the perspective of his enemies, especially when the mask that he was wearing under the shade of the hood complimented the designs of the current shadow-like armor he was wearing.

She had instinctively used the 'Chaos Slasher Possession' for his sword as well, which further enhanced the handsomeness of his current appearance.

Those watching from the live feed of the battle, could not help but look at Shin with wide-open eyes due to how cool he looked right now.

The six were not sure what had just happened, but they relied on their experience to respond in the current situation.

They swiftly moved right after seeing Shin was undergoing a strange transformation.

The three assassins quickly moved toward Cloe, who kept on casting her holy spells one after another, while the remaining three were aggressively charging at Shin, planning to prevent him from helping his partner.

Shin naturally would not let them do what they wanted. He sheathed his sword as he raised his right foot while focusing his mana on it.

Swoosh!

Not long after he suddenly stomped that foot into the ground, producing a powerful explosion that erupted with a strong shockwave that spread in every direction.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Foot Technique – Thunderclap Step'

Boom!

A thunderous explosion erupted as the shockwave that was produced by his stomp filled the air with electric currents that paralyzed the group and halted them from their tracks.

Seeing that, Cloe quickly raised her holy staff and slammed it into the ground, sending another intense tremor on the ground.

Bang!

At the same time, a ring of holy light suddenly extended outwards which quickly swept through the bodies of their enemies.

'Holy Maiden Skill (Tier 2): Holy Light Binding'

As each of them was locked in place, Shin suddenly lowered his stance, assuming his signature sword-drawing stance.

He stared at Mamba and Drex, who were relatively close to one another, as he focused his energy on the sheathed sword.

Bang!

He then kicked the ground to propel himself forward, flying straight to the pair. He swiftly unsheathed the sword when he was about to reach the two and quickly swung it forward.

Boom!

A powerful explosion erupted alongside his actions while he was brushing past the two.

Bang!

His speed was so fast that the time seemed to have stopped. The two could only see Shin go past them with their eyes while they were still trying their best to use their respective lifesaving skills to escape this current predicament.

He stopped a couple of distance away from them as he put the sword back into its sheath in a calm and unhurried manner.

Click!

When Shin finally closed the lid connecting the sheath and the sword, another powerful explosion followed his actions along with a beam of light that swept through Mamba and Drex, who was still trying to recover from what just happened.

Boom!

The lightning beam started from where Shin stood previously before moving straight to Shin's current location and 'merging' with his body, obliterating everything in its path.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Lightning) – Flash Burst'

Due to the other side not having any healer, the state of their Health Bars was quite in the worst case, making it easier for Shin to eliminate them with a powerful burst of his killer skill.

Shin did not stop there as he quickly turned toward another direction and dashed toward Oblivion this time.

He had to ignore Tyrone and Bloodflame as those two were still in a relatively healthy state due to the nature of their classes. The former possessed a powerful defense while the other had insane regenerative abilities and strong resistance the lower his health was.

Swoosh!

Shin turned into a shadow as he headed to Oblivion, who just freed himself from the bindings that Cloe had thrown at him earlier.

He was quite fast as well given that his class and race focused on speed, but all the boost that he had activated to further enhance his speed became meaningless as Shin had already caught with him in just an instant.

Shin seemed to have combined the powers of lighting and shadow to enhance his speed and allow himself to travel through the shadows.

He extended his hand forward, utilizing the powers of 'Demonic Telekinesis' that was enhanced by the 'Soul Eater Possession' to immobilize Oblivion and prevent him from going anywhere.

Oblivion felt like there was a giant hand squeezing his body as he watched Shin at straight to him while swinging the [Yamato] down.

Crackle! Crackle!

A huge pillar of lighting suddenly descended from the sky as Shin swung the sword down. It then transformed into a huge head of a monstrous beast that opened its mouth while heading straight to Oblivion, devouring him.

Roar!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Eighth Movement – Lightning Decree'

Boom!

"Twenty seconds," mumbled Shin as he turned at the remaining three before continuing. "That's three for twenty seconds. And I still have under forty left – that should be plenty enough."

He stood coolly while the shadow cloak flapped and danced alongside the wind, creating a stunning image that mesmerized everyone.

But rather than the heroic appearance that everyone loved to see, his current form seemed to be leaning toward the darker side.

Yet, everyone seemed to become crazier due to how handsome this look, which was further enhanced by lightning sword that he was wielding.

A different side of the Battle God, but still as stunning as before.

Chapter 1708 Dance of the White Witch and the Dark Swordsman (Part 9)

...

Arlo stared at Shin for quite a while before sighing powerlessly. His laziness was engraved into his bones, but that was not because he did not want to do anything aside from sleeping and lazing around. Instead, it was because he rarely found anyone capable of awakening his competitive spirit.

As he was tightening his grip over his swords, the light in his eyes suddenly changed. They were now burning with excitement and competitiveness.

"Let's see how powerful the said Battle God is," he said as a green aura suddenly surrounded his body.

He had activated his two-fold berserk skill as he walked forward.

Whoosh!

At the same time, Bloodflame, who was staring at Shin with his savage eyes, grinned widely. "I can't miss this opportunity either!"

"Did you say that you have under forty seconds? Let's see you can kill us during that duration," he said while maintaining his wide grin before adding. "Then I will kill you if you fail to do so."

Whoosh!

At the same time, a blazing aura of crimson color suddenly surrounded his body as he also activated his remaining berserk skill.

Given that his current health bar was also quite low after the intense fight earlier, his passive Berserk Skill was currently activated, which was further enhanced by the other skills that he just used.

The pressure that he was currently emitting was way beyond the limit that most of the players of the game.

At the same time, his war axes were suddenly set ablaze with an intense flame as he dragged them behind him while walking forward.

Tyrone, on the other hand, did not say anything as he directly activated all his remaining buffs to further enhance his strength. He also activated some of his secret skills just like the other two as he understood that this was not the time to hold anything back.

Mamba, Oblivion, and Drex – these three powerful assassins died without being able to protect themselves from those last few moves from Shin.

A golden glow surrounded his body, forming a miniature sun as he slammed his sword and shield against one another.

"Under thirty seconds," mumbled Shin as he glanced at the digital timer from the corner of his eyes before turning back at the three.

Boom!

"Cover me!" he said as he suddenly kicked the ground and propelled himself forward.

Swoosh!

Cloe suddenly raised her holy staff sending a barrage of spells toward the three from the opposing side.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Golden balls of light suddenly flew at the three as they charged at Shin.

These glowing spheres were moving much slower than Shin as they trailed behind during his charge. They hovered behind as they followed his movements while also leaving a series of glowing trails behind.

Swoosh!

Tyrone was first to arrive in front of Shin as he charged forward with his shield raised before him. The ground on the path that he had taken was scorched black as the blazing flame surrounding him became even more violent.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The glowing spheres trailing behind Shin overtook him and bombarded Tyrone with powerful explosions.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

They might have failed to stop Tyrone, but they still managed to slow down his charge due to the impacts that they had created from each explosion.

Shing!

At that same, Shin's sword cut through the cloud of smoke and slashed forward, targeting the small gap from Tyrone's defense, which was created by the earlier explosions.

Tyrone just saw a flash of light right beside his eye to which he had responded instinctively by redirecting the angle of the shield, blocking the incoming strike.

Bang!

The impact forced him to halt his advance as he was trying his best to regain his footing.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin was about to press forward, taking advantage of the widened opening that he just created. But Arlo and Bloodflame arrived just in time, flanking him with their respective attacks.

Swoosh!

Shin ignored Arlo as he suddenly turned toward Bloodflame, who was carrying a stronger momentum from his attack.

Shin twisted his wrist a little as he raised the [Yamato] over his shoulders, angling it downwards as he let the war axe of his opponent slide through its blade and let it land on the ground behind him.

Bang!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Second Movement – Returning Wave'

Absorbing some force from that attack, Shin suddenly twirled the sword as he adjusted his stance.

Swoosh!

Holding the sword with both of his hands, he suddenly stomped forward while swinging the sword down.

Bang!

A strong gust of wind was pulled by his strike, revolving around the blade of his sword as he slashed it down with all his might.

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: First Movement – Collapsing Wind'

Due to his sword hitting the ground earlier, Bloodflame was unable to quickly pull himself back to block the incoming strike.

Adding the swift actions of his opponent and the perfect timing during the execution of the strike, it was impossible to find a counter for this attack.

Swoosh!

Clang!

Fortunately, Tyrone had already regained his footing at this time and swiftly extended his sword forward to block the descending sword and save Bloodflame from being struck down.

While this was happening, Arlo was about to strike Shin's back with his dual blades, transforming his arms into a series of blurs as he swung them at him.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But before they could even reach their target, a bunch of golden shields suddenly appeared between him and Shin, blocking the series of strikes with extreme precision.

Whoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At the same time, Shin suddenly turned around, borrowing the momentum of his earlier actions to swing his sword upwards.

Swoosh!

The sword left a trail of lightning currents on its path, drawing a beautiful arc in the air, as it headed straight to Arlo.

Arlo swiftly raised his twin swords before him, crossing them, while also focusing his mana on his arms and swords to block the incoming strike.

Bang!

Arlo was sent flying in the opposite direction, leaving a green trail behind.

In the meantime, Tyrone and Bloodflame took advantage of the opening to target Shin's back, which was now fully exposed before them.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

But before they could even do anything, a magic circle suddenly appeared beneath their feet, sending an intense chill down their spine.

Cloe had sent another spell to hinder them!

Without any hint of hesitation, Bloodflame swiftly jumped to the side while Tyrone used his powerful defense to forcefully withstand the ambush.

Boom!

Tyrone was devoured by a powerful explosion, but his body remained strong as he forced himself to step forward while slamming his shield on Shin's back.

Swoosh!

But Shin had already his body at this point and the [Yamato] before him to block the incoming attack.

Bang!

Shin was sent skidding back by the impact, leaving a pair of deep parallel trails on the ground with his feet.

Swoosh!

As Shin was trying to regain his footing, Bloodflame suddenly broke through the cloud of smoke while dragging his war axes behind.

He then stopped briefly before Shin while slamming the war axes toward the latter as a huge apparition of a demonic beast manifested behind him, opening its mouth wide as if it was planning to devour the swordsman before it.

Roar!

Shin released the 'Chaos Slasher Possession' at this point while letting Solus take over the sword possession, transforming it into a blazing katana filled with divine runes.

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Eternal Flame): Divine Constellation'

Pulling the sword back along with his shoulders, Shin gathered a huge amount of fire elemental mana toward the [Yamato]. He then took a step forward before thrusting the blazing sword all his might, sending a fiery beam that transformed into a blazing phoenix.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Celestial Vermillion Bird – Pheonix Obliteration'

Shriek!

The demonic beast and the blazing phoenix clashed against one another, producing a powerful explosion that sent a series of overlapping ripples in the air.

Boom!

Shin was forced to retreat right after the collision, skidding his feet on the ground for another as he moved in the opposite direction.

The blazing embers flew around his body as the shadow energy of his possessed armor protected him from the residual energy from the previous explosion.

Swoosh!

As he was trying to fix his stance, Arlo, who was sent flying earlier, suddenly appeared beside him while swinging his pair of swords that were surrounded by an intense storm of wind energy.

Shin swiftly turned his body when he sensed the incoming attack while pulling the sheath of his sword hanging on the side of his waist and flipping it along with his wrist.

The sheath transformed into a greatsword, taking on 'Judgement Form', as he raised it over his shoulder.

At the same time, Astaroth possessed the greatsword, activating the 'Summit Shaper Possession'.

Shin adjusted his breathing, switching into the 'Great Dominator Technique', before swinging the greatsword down.

Boom!

Following his action, the earth behind him suddenly shot toward the air, forming a tide of dirt and rocks. The tide towered over Shin before compressing and turning into an image of an earth dragon that suddenly dived down as Shin swung the greatsword toward his opponent.

Roar!

'Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon – Might of the Mountain Guardian'

Seeing the descending earth dragon, Arlo changed the trajectory of his sword, sending a violent storm toward it.

Boom!

Despite the powerful attack, Arlo was buried by the dirt as if he were devoured by an unstoppable landslide.

Finishing him off, a huge pillar of light suddenly descended from the sky and landed on the spot where Arlo was buried, wiping his existence with its crushing force.

Cloe had finished casting a powerful destruction spell and targeted Arlo right after he was locked in place by the collapsing earth dragon.

Boom!

Shin ignored Arlo right after he buried him with dirt. He was already charging toward Bloodflame, who was just regaining his footing after the earlier collision.

His body was currently covered by an overwhelming pillar of blazing mana, signifying that his passive berserk skill had reached its pinnacle state.

His Health Bar was already rock bottom, which was why the passive berserk skill reached its maximum effect and provided him with unimaginable power.

His current stats were at their highest value, which was immediately reflected by the deep crater that was created by his simple step.

Boom!

The ground caved in as he took another step forward while dragging his war axe behind him.

Boom!

With a powerful explosion, his body suddenly disappeared leaving a thick cloud of dust and dirt on the spot where he was previously standing.

Swoosh!

Seeing that, Shin also kicked the ground and propelled himself forward.

During his flight, the greatsword in his left hand transformed into a longsword while maintaining the 'Summit Shaper Possession'.

But this time, instead of the 'Great Dominator Technique', he was using the 'Golden Immortality Technique' to control the power of metal instead of earth.

At the same time, he was also utilizing the 'Solar Breathing Technique' to control the power of fire before combining it with the metal element.

He adjusted his position in the air to fly sideways as he placed one of his swords over his shoulder while the other was positioned right beside his waist.

The powers of the two elements merged as he swung the swords forward, meeting the incoming attack of his opponent head-on.

Swoosh!

'Myria Transformation Swordsman: Crimson Slash'

Shing!

Boom!

A powerful collision was produced during the clash, sending a strong and repeated shockwave in every direction.

But this time, Shin was neither sent flying back to where he came from nor forced to retreat.

His swords pressed forward, cutting through the war axes of his opponent before proceeding to slice through the body of the latter.

This wiped out the sliver of health that was left in Bloodflame's HP Bar, killing him in the process.

Shin flew past the Beastman Warlord right after their final exchange before suddenly kicking the ground and bouncing in another direction.

Bang!

This time, he was heading straight to Tyrone, who was restricted by Cloe's binding spells. He was unable to help the other two as he was too busy warding off the restrictions that were binding him in place.

Bang!

Right after he freed himself from those restrictions and binding spells, Tyrone saw a huge shadow cast upon him as Shin descended from the sky.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Tyrone wanted to raise his shield while casting another defensive skill, but he was suddenly interrupted by the holy chains that came out of the ground and wrapped themselves around his limbs.

If it was just these holy chains, then he could still free himself by utilizing the buffs that enhanced his overall strength.

Puchi! Puchi! Puchi!

But a group of golden spears suddenly manifested in the air around him before drilling themselves into his body and impaling him on the ground.

Their damage might be a little weak, but each spear contained a debuff that robbed all the buffs cast in his body, weakening him to rock bottom.

He was unable to do anything aside from watching Shin fall from the sky while unsheathing his sword and swinging it down at him.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Lightning): Flash Descent'

Shing!

Right after Tyrone was cut in half, the final tick of the clock finally descended, signaling the end of all his domain skills.

Swoosh!

As all the effects of his domain skills receded, Shin sheathed the [Yamato] back before turning his head toward the Plague Behemoth, which was also at its final struggle.

A slight headache assaulted him as a side effect of using multiple domain skills at once, but he endured all of it as he knew it was not the end.

"It is time for the final course. Let's finish this up," he said as Cloe used 'Blink' to arrive beside him and cast a series of healing spells to restore his health to full alongside some other spells that somewhat relieved the headache that was assaulting his head.

She looked at him for a moment before shaking her head. "No. It is my turn this time."

She did not wait for Shin's reply as she quickly floated in the air while chanting a series of mantras for a powerful spell.

Given the strong response of the Light Element in the surroundings, Shin could tell that she was preparing a grand spell that could end the life of the Plague Behemoth in a single strike.

Instead of helping her, he was preparing to pick up all the loot that the Overlord Monster would drop once it was killed.

He examined his current state for a couple of moments, especially checking on the buffs that the 'Soul Eater Possession' provided.

He then swept his gaze at everyone, who was surrounding the Plague Behemoth from all sides before smirking. "Let's see who will dare to steal the prey from us."

Chapter 1709 Conflicts In All Sides

...

The next battle might be a bit more chaotic as the side of the Plague Race, Demonic Churches, and Corrupted Cult started attacking more aggressively, throwing the formation of the forces under the Righteous Churches in disorder.

But with Shin returning to the frontline and Cloe organizing the Archbishops, Holy Mages, and Inquisitors at the backline, the tides of the battle return to their favor once again.

With the NPC Elders of the Evil Factions being occupied with the commanding general of the Righteous Churches, they were unable to issue any commands to help their forces.

With this, Shin was able to secure the last hit for the Plague Behemoth despite the crazy attacks of those player forces that tried to steal it for themselves.

At the same time, Shin was able to sweep through all the loot that the Overlord Monster had dropped, which only included three items. They were the quest items that Shin and Cloe were looking for alongside a strange book that looked like a grimoire meant for Necromancers or related classes.

Shin might not have any use for that grimoire, but it was better to secure it himself rather than giving it to other forces around, which were mostly composed of those with a deep grudge against him and the Empyrean Talons.

Shin and Cloe did not linger that long on the battlefield after securing what they needed, they quickly disappeared right after dumping all the responsibilities back to the commanding NPCs on their side.

Under the protection of these NPCs, the pair was able to retreat safely and discreetly, disappearing from the sight of everyone completely.

...

In the meantime, right after Shin and Cloe had collected all the cursed items they needed for the latter's quest, something happened in the tomb where the fallen king was currently 'resting'.

Immortal raised his brows as he could sense that the supply of Plague Energy that was nurturing the vessel of the Fallen King suddenly dropped sharply. "The supply has been cut off?"

Azazel also turned to the side, seemingly able to see through all the obstacles, as he squinted his eyes. "Someone seemed to have destroyed the cores."

"The Plague Behemoth, which is holding some of the pieces required for the revival of the Fallen King, has also fallen," he added as he tilted his head to the side.

Axion, who had currently in a difficult predicament earlier, had also sensed what was happening. After all, he was currently holding the main piece for the rival of the Fallen King on top of being the main vessel.

This news could be good or bad news for him.

Good in the sense that he would be able to further delay the revival of the king, buying himself more time for his hidden quest, as well as saving himself from these two monsters standing before him.

On the other hand, it was also a piece of bad news since this indicated that the side of the Righteous Churches was currently winning, which would further lessen his time limit to complete the quest.

As Axion was having an internal struggle, Immortal put his hand on his chin, rubbing it a little before saying. "I think know what has happened."

He did not have to guess what was happening on the outside as he could already figure out the 'reason' for the current situation.

He then turned to Axion and said. "Hey! Since it has already come to this, let me give you a proposition."

"Come to my side and join me – and I will help you escape this predicament of yours," he added as he suddenly stepped forward.

"Hah! Do you think I will let you do that?" Azazel suddenly appeared in front of Immortal as he gave the latter a threatening glare.

Immortal chuckled when he heard the threat before trying to further provoke the opposing party. "You want to stop me? Well, I don't mind fighting you here. But unfortunately, you don't have the luxury of wasting more time with me given that your side is already losing."

"In case you have forgotten, I am no longer a part of the Corrupted Cult, so I am not obligated to help them," he said smirkingly.

Azazel squinted his eyes as he observed the aura that was currently surrounding Immortal. He could see that the aura that the latter current had was the mixture of the Corrupted Mana of Corrupted Creatures and the Demonic Powers that Demonic Beings possessed.

These two types of energies shared the same root as they both came from the True Demons from Hell, but their natures and characteristics remained different. One was created by a corruption that the Demonic Energies caused to the natural mana of this world while the other was the powers were directly bestowed by Demon Kings of Hell to the creatures that sold their souls to them.

Immortal currently possessed both powers, so Azazel could only assume that this crazy guy had joined a Demonic Church, which granted him the second source of power.

He could only think of a single place, which could let Immortal join them.

"But it seems like you have joined the Church of Greed, so you can't be sure that you can just watch from the sideline while the Demonic Churches require some help," said Azazel, trying to probe Immortal.

Immortal could see through what the other side was trying to do, so he just chuckled. "It is a nice try since all churches have some sort of hidden agreement when it comes to these situations."

"Unfortunately, my contract with the Great Demon King of Greed is a little different from what you guys have," he added, ignoring the threats hidden behind Azazel's words.

Azazel seemed to have remembered something when he heard those words. His eyes then suddenly turned serious as he said. "I see. So, you are that person who keeps on peeking at the forbidden realm and gathering that 'being's powers.'"

Immortal suddenly grinned as he could tell that Azazel must have also touched that forbidden realm. "That Great Being is the Origin of Darkness; the Ancestor of Demons; the Creator of Void Creatures; and the Father of Darkins."

Azazel squinted his eyes while looking at Immortal. "I don't expect that the one that our Great Leader is wary of is the same defective product, that managed to run away from that place."

Immortal continued to laugh as he heard those words. "You people continued to call me a defective product who runs away when you don't exactly know what happened during that time."

"That person is not the only-..." He was about to continue when he suddenly sensed something, forcing him to stop. He turned his head toward a certain direction before shaking his head.

His long bone scepter suddenly appeared in his right hand while a back grimoire manifested on the other. He looked at Azazel and spoke. "We don't have much time. It seems like an annoying person is already heading to this place."

"You have to decide now if you want to stop me or help those you have brought here," he added as a mocking expression appeared on his face. "But first, let me give you a piece of advance-..."

".... If you don't want your mission to fail, then I suggest you head out and help those weaklings outside. I doubt that they will be able to stop that monster by themselves," he added as he could sense that a familiar aura was rapidly approaching the tomb.

But Azazel remained unfazed as unsheathed the sword hanging on his waist. He then shook his head a little before saying. "Do you think that I am the only one sent to this place given the importance of this mission?"

"Trying to get my hands on that thing may be my selfish habit, but I will not dare to leave my post if I am the only person sent for this mission," he added before pointing his sword at Immortal. "Come! Let's see how strong you have become after acquiring that power."

Swoosh!

A purple flame with hints of bluish-white hues all over it suddenly surrounded Azazel as he activated his unique Mana Manipulation Technique.

Boom!

At the same time, the surrounding temperature sharply increased, almost making the entire hall into hell.

Seeing that, Immortal smirked as he opened his dark grimoire, which released a thick miasma that spread in every direction.

Swoosh!

Alongside it, he tapped the bottom of his bone scepter into the ground, sending a gentle ripple that extended in every direction.

Crack! Crack!

Immediately after, skeleton soldiers covered with thick demonic powers crawled out of the floor of the hall one another and filled the entire place aside from the spot where Azazel stood and the location where Axion and the coffin containing the body of the Fallen King were located.

"This is going to be a little annoying if we continue with this, so let me give you a proposition as well," said Immortal as he spread an energy that contained the Corrupted Mana and Demonic Powers that he possessed toward his army of undead. "You need the core while I want the corpse to feed to one of my creations. Let's take what we need and leave this place quietly."

"I don't want to get entangled with that person yet. There are still a lot of things that I need to do, so wasting too much time dealing with him will delay my plans."

Azazel smirked as he rested his sword on his shoulders. "You are not getting anything from here. Since you are getting in our way as well, I have no choice but to interfere with your plans."

Immortal shrugged his shoulders after hearing that response, seeming to expect it from the beginning before turning to Axion, who had been forgotten until now. "You have 10 minutes at most. You better decide when the time is up, or things will get ugly..."

"Not only for you but for those comrades of yours as well," he added before signaling his undead army to start attacking Azazel.

Chapter 1710: The Mysterious Grimoire

...

[Item Name]: Mysterious Grimoire

[Item Type]: Miscellaneous

[Item Rank]: Special

[Item Level]: N/A

Description:

- This mysterious book was said to be a container that was used to seal a Legendary Beast Monster that slaughtered an entire Kingdom during the Dark Age.

- It was an item that used to be wielded by a powerful Dark Mage who had managed to build the Kingdom of the Dead, which was one of the greatest kingdoms of the Warring Era.

The said Kingdom was also one of the rare kingdoms that did not worship any Gods yet still possessed a might that could against its counterparts.

- This mysterious book was said to be lost after the Dark Mage had died under the sword of a Legendary General of the Warring Era.

Rumors said that it was destroyed during that time while others believed that it was stolen by some scavengers lurking in that battlefield.

Note 1: This book is no longer the same as it used to be, but it still retains its unique ability to consume any negative energy from its surroundings.

Note 2: This book was hiding its new form from the outside world. Collect enough negative energy to reveal its true form.

Shin kept on looking at the grimoire, especially its details, to make sure that he did not miss anything. "It is a consumable item, which means it will disappear once I manage to awaken its true form."

He then clicked his tongue as he shook the item due to some issue. "But how much negative energy does this thing need for it to happen? If you want to place such a special condition, then at least leave a progression bar that indicates my progress!"

He understood that he could only see these detailed descriptions and special notes because of his True Sight Skill, which could uncover more of the secrets of any item that he used its identification features on.

He could see more compared to other people, who only had basic identification skills. But it required him to have more Wisdom Stat if he wanted to increase the level of the skill alongside its special effects.

While Shin was shaking the grimoire violently, Cloe suddenly walked over and stood before with her crossed arms and pouted lips. "Are you looking at that useless thing again!? I thought we would head directly to the center of the Plague Lands and finish this quest as soon as possible?"

Even if she loved to spend more time with Shin and share more experiences for their adventures and questing, she still had to maintain her regular schedule in the real world, or else her master would give her more troublesome tasks during their training sessions.

Even if they were not attending the academy due to the issues that they had there, her master, Martial King Lin Huang, kept a close eye on her training progress. If she slacked off and failed to show any progress in their next meeting, then she would most likely be beaten up through a rigorous training session.

She might want to become strong, but she did not want to sacrifice her beauty rest during the process.

Becoming stronger was important, but maintaining her beauty and figure was even more so.

Shin chuckled after seeing her current expression before shaking the grimoire a little harder. "This thing has devoured all the cursed objects that we have just collected, yet it is not giving us anything back."

"Fortunately, that pace of your quest has already passed, so we no longer need them for the subsequent quests, or else it will be even more troublesome to deal with," he added as he stood up.

Looking ahead of them, he could already see an ancient ruin that seemed to be the place where the tomb of the said fallen king was located.

Given how heavily guarded the place was, he was sure that they were in the right place.

Fortunately, there was no Overlord Rank Plague Monster Boss guarding the place, making it a bit 'easier' to infiltrate. However, there were still a bunch of Lord Rank Monsters patrolling the perimeter alongside some Plague Monsters and Players.

Aside from them, Shin could also see some people who seemed to be from the Corrupted Cult and Demonic Churches waiting in the dark, acting as another layer of defense.

"It is going to be a little tricky. Sneaking inside is going to be difficult given how tight the security they have," he said as he looked at the ruin from a distance.

Cloe pouted her lips a little before sighing. "I guess we still have to wait until the forces of the Righteous Churches arrive and create a distraction for us."

Shin thought for a moment before shaking his head. "That is not necessarily true. Think I we can sneak inside without alerting any of them."

This was not his first time infiltrating such a heavily guarded place. Moreover, he had infiltrated the island that the Corrupted Cult was occupying for their special operation in the seas near the shores of the Sky Decieving Valley, which was now a part of the Calderock Port.

Even if he had some help from Immortal's underling during that time, recreating such an achievement shouldn't be that hard, especially when he was now much stronger compared to that time.

Additionally, his Elemental Spirit Companions had also become much stronger alongside the improvements that he made during this time.

They could now use some of their more advanced skills and techniques after he had made huge progress in the Tier 3 Class and understanding of it.

"Hanzo! Grimrace!" Shin then proceeded to summon the two elemental spirits before instructing them. "Go and scout that ruin. Memorize all the paths, corridors, rooms, and halls they had."

"Be as discreet as possible, we don't know if they have powerful beings stationed to guard the most important places. But since this so-called Fallen King is just starting to revive, his forces are most likely not that great, which is why the Corrupted Cult and Demonic Churches are involved."

"Those two factions will be our main concern in this mission, keep a close eye on them while you are scouting the area."

He paused for a moment as he looked at the ruin in the distance before continuing. "Once you find the exact location of the tomb of our main target and have secured the path that we can use for use to sneak in, immediately return here and guide us inside."

"Tsk! Aren't you working these old bones of mine a little too much? You better use the young ones for such an operation since they have more vigor and are a little livelier," complained Hanzo but continued to proceed with the commands given to him.

"Hehe! You better summon me more often after this. It has been a while since I have gotten my fill of entertainment!" said Grimrace, who was surprisingly a little more cooperative this time.

This nutjob had become a bit more obedient after Shin had constantly used the 'Soul Eater Possession' in earlier battles before coming here. It was meant to familiarize himself with the newly acquired possession and learn a few more about the special abilities that it provided.

What surprised him more was the fact that it provided him a stronger boost when it came to controlling the shadows. All his abilities related to stealth and shadow control were greatly enhanced alongside his Demonic Telekinesis.

Both his in-game skills and the ones attached to his equipment were greatly enhanced so long as they were related to shadow elements.

Aside from that, the boost in his mentality and agility was quite big as well, which further enhanced his other abilities, albeit indirectly.

At the same time, Shin had also gained an additional ability during the possession. It seemed like he had gotten Grimrace's devouring skills, which was an innate ability of an Abomination Spirit.

Shin could devour all the negative energies from his surroundings, particularly anything related to dark or shadow elements. He could also absorb the Death Aura from those he had killed before transferring everything to Grimrace.

He might have no use for these energies, but he could sense that Grimrace was slowly getting stronger, albeit slightly, whenever he transferred those energies.

Grimrace truly lived up to his reputation as an Abomination, which was the bane of all consumable energies.

After watching the two disappear, Shin then proceeded to summon another elemental spirit, which had similar abilities as them. "Blackie!"

Swoosh!

Not long after, a half-human half-tiger with a seductive body manifested before Shin. She quickly knelt in front of Shin while waiting for his orders.

"Go scout the surrounding area of the ruins. I have a feeling that we are not the only ones who have found it. Mark all the locations where you find any suspicious individuals while avoiding any confrontation with them."

He paused for a moment before continuing. "We can use them later after making our move."

"I hear and obey!" responded Blackie with a resolute tone, sending shivers down his spine. He was still not used to such a response, making him cringe all over his body.

He then sent Blackie away before nodding his head. He felt quite satisfied with his current arrangement.

But it did not last that long as he sensed an immense killing intent coming from behind. Suppressing his trembling body as he stiffly turned around.

He then saw Cloe with her arms crossed before her, giving him a bright smile. The smile was so beautiful that it could mesmerize any man who saw her. But for some reason, Shin felt an ominous feeling coming from that smile, making him ask stutteringly. "Is there something wrong?"

"That beautiful servant of yours-... I think you have more explaining to do," asked with her charming yet chilling tone, making Shin gulp a mouthful of saliva.

This was not her first time seeing that Elemental Spirit, but for some reason, that elemental looked more beautiful compared to what she had remembered.

"First, a secret daughter-... now, a beautiful servant. I don't know that you were such a type of man," she added before clasping her fist, creating a series of popping sounds. "I wonder how many more are they."