

Destiny 1721

Chapter 1721 The Final Stage (Part 3)

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Quest Scenario: The King of the Night Kingdom has suffered a crushing defeat against the opposing country, which also led to his citizens being slaughtered. This included his family and the rest of the royal family.

He was the sole survivor as the rival king, who had invaded his kingdom, purposely let him survive to torture him by letting him witness the fall of his nation.

Tormented by guilt and grief, he had committed a taboo that led to a disaster that consumed not only his kingdom and the surrounding countries, but also the entire continent.

He had become the King of the Plague, which spread a variety of illnesses and diseases that could not be cured by normal means. This incident became known in history as the Great Plague.

Due to a variety of reasons, he was feared by everyone. But he also became a symbol of heretics, planning to make him their leader.

Because of him threatening the destruction of the entire continent, the side of the Glorious Light decided to launch a crusade to take him down.

But at the same time, some coveted his powers and wanted to snatch them during the chaos.

Condition: Re-enact the events of the past according to the factions you are assigned with.

Roles:

Axion: The King of the Plague.

Sickarius and Arielle: The Sacred Knight and the Holy Maiden of the Glorius Light.

Immortal: The Head of the Heretics, coveting the powers of the said King.

Azazel: The Ancient Demon who wants to steal the core of the plague to become one of his collections.

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Shin and the rest could not help but raise their brows after skimming through the quest description presented before them.

"A Role-Playing Quest Scenario? This is interesting," this might not be Shin's first time playing a role according to the quest script. But the current setup piqued his interest quite well.

"We have to be a little more careful as this is going to be no different from a royal battle," warned Cloe as she landed gently on the ground.

"The roles fit quite well," commented Immortal as he appeared in the distance.

"Tsk! More time to waste," complained Azazel as he looked around, checking on the place that they were transported to.

The three sides were standing quite a distance away from one another, forming a triangular formation to surround a single entity at the center.

Axion, who took on the role of the King of the Plague, stood at the center very calmly.

Despite being surrounded from all sides by powerful opponents, he oddly remained calm as if the three sides were nothing but small fries in his eyes.

He had this odd feeling overwhelming his mind. He was overflowing with extreme confidence as if he would never lose even if he was facing a god.

This confidence was coming from the power hidden within his body, which was also the source of the plague that he was passively emitting.

Based on his estimate, his current strength far surpassed the strongest Overlord Monster of the Awakened Continent, making him an absolute disaster.

He was most likely at the peak of being a King Class Monster given the overwhelming power and stats that he currently possessed.

He now understood why the system had presented him with such choices earlier. If it was someone else who had experienced such a power, they would never hesitate to choose this power over anything else. They would be blinded by it and lose sight of the risks that came with such powers.

Fortunately, Axion had already prepared himself for this since the time he first saw the system notification when he was first chosen to be the new vessel of the King of the Plague.

This was nothing but an illusion that was trying to lure him to choose to become the next King of the Plague.

He knew that he would lose himself and get an existence wipe once the King of the Plague was resurrected to his in-game avatar, which was the same as character deletion.

He had already made his choice earlier and wanted to let others 'kill' him to complete his quest.

But the candidates earlier were just Immortal and Azazel who were coveting the corpse of the fallen king and the core of the plague within his body respectively, which he could neither give up.

After all, losing either one would lead to the failure of his quest.

Fortunately, Shin and Cloe had arrived in time, giving him another chance. But he could not help them directly and openly either as it would also lead to failure since it would be counted as a 'disqualification'.

As per the instructions given to him by the system, he had to secretly let them 'kill' him and purify the body of the Fallen King so that he could regain his freedom. But that did not mean that he could just let them do whatever they wanted, so he had to also fight them for real, putting up a good show so that the core within him would not sense his plans and go berserk after.

Sweeping his gaze at the surroundings, Axion started formulating a good plan where he could execute his thoughts without communicating with Shin and Cloe and preventing Immortal and Azazel from figuring him out.

Unfortunately, the latter two did not plan to waste too much time this time.

Snap!

Immortal made a snap with his fingers, summoning his huge army of undead soldiers, which now possessed an immense amount of demonic powers compared to the previous version of the Undying Army.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Roar!

Alongside the undead soldiers crawling out of the ground, a huge group of zombies and ghouls gathered in one place before fusing and turning into a huge corpse golem.

Zong~! Long~! Long~!

An array of portals had also appeared behind this army as a variety of Death Knights stepped out one after another.

One of them was even riding a nightmare horse, which was constantly breathing out a black miasma. Its mane was burning with ghost fire along with its four hooves.

At the same time, a Skeleton King appeared in the middle of the skeleton soldiers alongside a Dark Paladin in the midst of the undead soldiers.

As if he was not done yet, Immortal tapped the bottom of his skeleton scepter on the ground, sending a powerful ripple in every direction.

Swoosh!

Not long after, a huge summoning circle appeared underneath his feet followed by a huge Bone Dragon slowly emerging from it.

This Bone Dragon was slightly smaller than the Zombie Dragon that he had first summoned during his battle with Shin, but the might that it had remained powerful.

Roar!

The Bone Dragon carried Immortal and flew toward the sky while its master commanded the Undying Army to launch an attack.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Eerie and dreadful cries of undead resounded in the entire battlefield, shaking this independent dimension as if announcing that they were the strongest.

BOOM!

At the same time, Azazel had pointed his sword toward the sky, creating a blazing pillar that seemed to have pierced through the high heavens.

Not long after, another blazing pillar descended from the sky followed by the appearance of an army of Frostburns. They walked out of the blazing pillar one after another in a very organized manner.

Unlike Immortal's Undying Army, these Frostburns formed an organized battle formation that was usually used in wars.

There were also a few powerful elites among them that could rival the elite undead from Immortal's army. They stood at the forefront of their respective battalion, acting as the generals and leading figures.

Azazel stood in the middle of the army as the purple flame spread in every direction and surrounded the entire army.

Roar!

As a final summon, a monster made of fire appeared underneath Azazel's feet, carrying him on its back.

This blazing monster took the form of an undying bird that resembled a particular Egyptian God but with a hideous appearance alongside the foul and contaminated aura surrounding its body.

Seeing the two summon their respective armies, Shin could not help but shake his head a little before turning to Cloe and saying jokingly. "Maybe we should have brought Chaotic Luck to join us in this mission."

Cloe shook her head repeatedly and smiled bitterly after seeing that Shin still had time to joke around given their current situation.

Immortal and his Undying Army were already troublesome enough to deal with, so adding Azazel and his battalions of Frostburns made their situation even worse.

"I may not have an army of my own, but I still got the best healer in the game by my side," he said as he glanced at the row of trump cards among his skill panel, which were still in cooldown.

Not long after, his eyes landed on the remaining aces under his sleeves before continuing. "And that is more than enough for me."

"After all, I am an army of my own," he added somewhat jokingly to ease up the atmosphere and give Cloe more confidence.

Right after those words left his mouth, Shin did not hesitate to use the final two cards that he currently had, also planning to end this battle as soon as possible just like what Immortal and Azazel were thinking.

Shin unleashed his current most powerful form by activating all the skills necessary for his special berserk skill.

'Racial Berserk Skill (Nephilim): Decent of the Fallen God'

Boom!

Alongside it, he had also activated the Tier 3 Domain Skill that he had almost never used since the time he was promoted to the third tier of his class.

'Grim Reaper Skill (Tier 3): Ultimate Domain – Hell's Inferno'

Boom!

Planning to be more aggressive for this battle, Shin chose the more offensive side of this Tier 3 Domain Skill rather than the supportive one.

This time, he would truly be going all-out.

Chapter 1722 The Final Stage (Part 4)

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Right after undergoing his metamorphosis, Shin's overall power increased drastically alongside the elemental powers of each of his Reaper's Retainers as the special passive effects of his Heavenly Fighting Physique were activated at the same time.

The amplified elemental powers of each Elemental Spirit, particularly the five major elements, were also reflected in the Five Elemental Primordial Lighting surrounding his body.

Crackle! Crackle!

The Primordial Lighting became even more violent, releasing a series of small explosions every time they danced around Shin.

Aside from the series of transformations that he had remembered during his first time using this form when he was battling against Ashura, Shin felt that there were some additional features added to it.

This time, the five elemental spirits that represented the five major elements took their specks of light form and hovered behind him, forming a four-cornered star. They were constantly channeling their elemental powers to his body, seemingly giving him an endless supply of mana.

Whitie and Blackie, who represented the powers of Light and Darkness, suddenly situated themselves at the center of the four and continuously spun as if they were chasing one another. They were amplifying the powers that the other four were providing him.

At the same time, the other three who were representing the powers of the Void, Shadow (Psychic), and Blood Elements formed a triangular formation above his head, rotating above the crown halo floating over there.

In this form, Shin felt that he did not need to initiate the possession of each Elemental Spirit to utilize their special abilities.

He could also feel that he could control the elemental powers that each of them represented without having any issue or resistance.

Boom!

Due to the eruption of powers, Immortal and Azazel could not help but halt their actions and turned their gaze to Shin, temporarily forgetting about Axion.

They both squinted their eyes after seeing the current form that Shin had, sensing an immense threat coming from the latter.

Seemingly having a tacit agreement, the two quickly distanced themselves away from the rest of their army, planning to create enough space where they could both order their respective army while also keeping an eye on Shin.

At this moment, they felt that Shin was even more threatening than Axion, who was overwhelmingly powerful compared to everyone present.

However, this was the end as another individual had created another problem for them.

Boom!

A beam of light suddenly descended from the sky and landed at the center of the two armies, killing those unfortunate ones in the process.

Not long after, they saw a majestic six-winged person, donning the most divine set of armor, standing in the middle of their armies while holding a sacred mace and holy shield.

Cloe had summoned a powerful Valkyrie at the center of the battlefield.

But as if this was not enough, her actions had triggered another special condition.

As the current Holy Maiden of the Glorius Light, she was one of the main characters of this quest scenario.

Her actions had perfectly reenacted the scenario of the past, producing an unexpected result for her and Shin.

The Six-Winged Valkyrie had pointed its mace toward the sky, sending a holy beam of light that pierced through the clouds.

Swoosh!

Not long after, 'meteors' suddenly fell from the sky and landed in the different parts of the battlefield.

She had summoned an army of Valkyries to fight against the army of darkness and the spawn of an ancient demon.

Their army might still be slightly at a disadvantage as their numbers were much lower than the opposing side. But since they possessed the blessings of the holy light, their powers were greatly effective against the creatures of darkness and demons.

There was no standoff this time as a chaotic battle was immediately initiated as all sides issued their respective orders.

Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Seeing the three armies were too occupied to battle against each other, Axion took advantage of the situation and summoned an army of his own.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

A huge horde of Plague Monsters emerged from the ground and joined the already chaotic battle. They swarmed forward, attacking anything that encountered them.

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Amid this ongoing chaos, Shin hovered calmly in the air while observing the opposing parties with his sharp eyes.

He particularly locked his gaze on Immortal and Azazel as they were the ones who could give him enough threat on the battlefield.

Axion was quite threatening himself, especially with that overwhelming power that he currently possessed. The pressure that he was passively emitting was also suffocating enough, signifying how powerful he currently was. He might be the strongest 'monster' that Shin had encountered in battle in terms of stats.

But for some unknown reasons, Shin could not feel that much animosity coming from the other party despite the strong front that he appeared to be.

While he was doing that, Immortal and Azazel could not help but put their guard to its highest level as they could sense how dangerous Shin was at this moment.

Sensing that a horrifying amount of power was currently boiling within the other party's body, Immortal and Azazel quickly made their move.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Immortal waved his hand and bone staff while chanting out a series of necromantic words. Then a pair of black summoning circles appeared behind him, releasing an ominous and terrifying aura.

'Emissary of the Underworld Skill (Tier 3): Summon the Hell Pilgrim'

'Emissary of the Underworld Skill (Tier 3): Summon the Forsaken King'

He had summoned two of his most powerful undead.

These two undead creatures were emitting a dense and overwhelming amount of corrupted and demonic auras, which quickly overwhelmed the entire battlefield.

They had even attracted the attention of the leader Valkyrie, who was fighting at the center of the battlefield where the Undying Army and Frostburns were clashing.

The Valkyrie wanted to fly into the sky and clash against these two powerful undead, but she was quickly obstructed by the Undead Knight and Death Knight, which were currently possessed by two of Immortal's Abomination Spirits.

In the meantime, Shin could not help but squint his eyes when he saw the two powerful undead. These two were among those undead monsters when he saw Immortal clashing against that Elder of the Corrupted Cult on the island where he had rescued the missing villagers of his dukedom.

He could also tell that they were currently much stronger than the time he had first seen them. Adding that they immediately underwent a possession process along with Immortal's Abomination Spirit, Shin knew that he could not afford to underestimate either of them.

Boom!

At the same time, another commotion occurred on the other part of the battlefield.

Azazel, who was currently standing on the shoulder of the blazing giant bird, suddenly wrapped himself with the purple flame from hell while turning it into a new set of armor.

His power quickly rose exponentially, almost rivaling the current stats that Axion currently possessed.

Alongside it, he had also activated his Demon's Contract, further amplified his already powerful stats, and propelled it to a whole new level.

The purple flame with bluish-white hues all over it also became even more violent, which also enhanced the powers of his Frostburn Army.

A pair of blazing wings spouted out of his back, carrying him into the air while the Undying Bird underneath his feet flew straight to Immortal seemingly planning to clash against the Bone Dragon that the latter had summoned.

Swoosh!

Seeing Azazel taking the initiative to attack, Immortal welcomed him. He urged the Bone Dragon to fight against the incoming blazing bird while ordering the Hell Pilgrim and the Forsaken King to attack Shin.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Roar!

Shin started the incoming enemies for a moment before glancing at Cloe. "Cloe, take care of the battlefield. I'll deal with the other two."

Swoosh!

After that, he flapped his wings and straight toward the incoming enemies while carrying the sheathed [Yamato], which was now emitting powerful energy from a variety of elements despite not being drawn.

Azazel was the first to reach Shin as he swung his blazing sword forward. "Let me witness how strong the greatest variable that can't be read."

Swoosh!

The flame covering his sword was released from its tip, turning into a giant beast that seemed to be a hybrid between a bird and a goat before heading straight to Shin.

'The Emyrean Rectifier: Wrath of the Sinful Bird'

Shriek!

With an eerie cry of a bird and goat, the giant beast made of the strange flame flew straight to Shin with its wide-open mouth, seemingly trying to devour him.

Click!

But before it could even reach its target, Shin suddenly flicked the sheathed sword with his thumb, which then released a blinding light through the gap between the guard of the sword and its sheath.

Crackle! Crackle!

Along with the dancing electric currents in the air, the blazing beast was shattered and turned into little embers that dissipated in the air.

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

Azazel could not see what just happened clearly as he could only get a glimpse of a lightning crescent that cut through his attack before Shin continued to fly toward him with the 'still' sheathed sword in his left hand.

"Fast is an understatement such an insane speed," commented Azazel in silence as he prepared for another attack.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

But before he could even execute his plan, the Hell Pilgrim and the Forsaken King had arrived before them, swinging their swords with all their might.

Shin and Azazel had no choice but to swing their swords in response, creating an intense collision.

Bang! Bang!

Not long after, a chaotic battle broke out in the sky as these guys repeatedly clashed against one another along with the giant blazing bird and the bone dragon.

Shriek! Roar!

Chapter 1723 The Final Stage (Part 5)

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Swoosh!

Due to the battle in the sky, the battlefield became even more chaotic due to the stray attacks that landed on those fighting on the ground.

Immortal was fighting the blazing beast that the Azazel had summoned alongside his bone dragon. Most of the stray attacks came from them as they maneuvered in the air during their battle.

Shin and Azazel, on the other hand, were forced to fight in aerial melee due to the constant advances that the Hell Pilgrim and Forsaken King. The two powerful undead were throwing a series of coordinated attacks at the two, making it hard for them to use any attacks that needed larger movements.

Shin could not help but re-evaluate the battle prowess of these two undead creatures, particularly their martial techniques that seemed to be from powerful experts.

From what he had learned from Solus and Hanzo, the Hell Pilgrim was an undead that was made through the fusion of a Death Knight, an Undead Knight, and a Dark Paladin. It then ventured through hell to find powerful opponents to prove itself, which was how it had gotten its name.

This undead was supposed to be a bane of demons as it was a champion who hunted them down in hell.

Shin did not know how exactly Immortal had gotten his hands on such a powerful undead, but he could tell that the latter was planning to use this against the Demonic Churches.

As for the current battle, Shin could see that Immortal was trying to use Azazel as a 'test subject' to see if his plan could work.

He could see that the Hell Pilgrim was constantly Azazel, seemingly trying to overwhelm the latter with its special abilities that could suppress the powers of a True Demon.

On the other hand, the Forsaken King that was constantly targeting him possessed a unique power that seemed to be able to nullify all kinds of energies.

From what the two veteran elementals had said, the Forsaken King was someone who had thrown the entire continent into chaos. It was a disaster that was no worse than the one that the King of Plague had created.

"It was no wonder why Immortal was interested in the body of the fallen king," Shin could tell that Immortal planned to create yet another overpowered undead monster just like how he had created the others under his arsenal – just like why he had taken the body of Grand Marshal Draco in the Frozen Kingdom.

Realizing how powerful these elite undead were, Shin could not help but think about the rest of the undead creatures that he had seen during that time when he had 'worked' with Immortal's Disciples on that island near the coast of the Sky Decieving Valley.

Thinking about this, Shin could not help but have to look at Immortal in a new light. This guy, who had suffered losses against him time and time again, had never surrendered or lost his confidence. Instead, he continued to improve and strive for more things that could make him even more powerful.

Lost in his thoughts, Shin had somewhat overlooked that their current mission was to take down Axion, the one taking on the role of the King of Plague.

Recalling their main task, Shin set aside his enjoyment of exchanging blows against Azazel and the two elite undead. He dragged the battle toward where Immortal and his bone dragon were fighting the blazing beast.

As if this was not enough, Shin had even pulled them to the direction where Axion was currently directing his forces to fight against the other armies.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Due to his actions, the situation became even worse, turning the already chaotic battlefield into a complete mayhem.

Moreover, Cloe had even ordered the leader of the Valkyries to fly in the air and join the already chaotic battle there to assist Shin.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Lighting) – Eclipse Tiger Draw'

Roar!

Shin had unsheathed the [Yamato] and sent out a huge blast of energy that turned into a colossal lightning tiger that pounced at Immortal and his Bone Dragon, throwing the latter in disarray.

Azazel took advantage of his situation to swing his sword and released a giant crescent wave made of purple flames that swiftly turned into a blazing bird that coordinated with Shin's attack.

Shriek!

Swoosh! Swoosh!

But before their attacks could even cause even stronger damage to the Bone Dragon, the Hell Pilgrim, and the Forsake King made their respective moves and intercepted the attacks.

Boom! Boom!

Meanwhile, Axion was planning to cast everyone off guard by launching a powerful strike with his giant sword made of dense plague energy.

Swoosh!

But as he swung the giant sword horizontally, the Valkyrie had suddenly positioned herself at the trajectory of the attack while summoning a giant shield to block it.

Boom!

Shin quickly ditched the rest as he swiftly turned around and flew over the Valkyrie General while conjuring a greatsword with his left hand which was formed with dense Earth Elemental Mana.

At the same time, the huge apparition of Astaroth had manifested behind Shin, tightly holding a similar-looking greatsword in his hands.

As Shin raised the greatsword in the air, Astaroth did the same action.

A huge amount of Earth Elemental Mana gathered the sword before Shin swung it down along with Astaroth behind him.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon – Great Mountain Cleaver'

Swoosh!

Axion instinctively raised his weapon to block the incoming attack while enveloping his entire body with dense Plague Energy that formed an extra layer of armor all around him.

Boom!

The massive shockwave that was caused by the clash spread in every direction, pushing every away from the point of impact.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

But there were two who were bold enough to face the violent storm produced by the earlier collision and pounced at the two, who were still in the middle of regaining control over their bodies.

Roar!

Immortal and his Bone Dragon launched a direct attack at Axion, who quickly raised his huge sword. Unfortunately, the bone dragon quickly bit his sword while clutching its talons in his arms to prevent him from moving freely.

The two of them wrestled against one another, somewhat rolling in the air and then onto the ground immediately after.

Azazel, on the other hand, swung his blazing sword at Shin, who was left in the air.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

His actions left a series of blazing trails in the air, which intertwined with each other and created a net that blocked all the possible routes that Shin could use to retreat.

Seeing the attack, Shin let go of the greatsword in his left hand, which then crumbled into dust. He then clutched the [Yamato] with both of his hands before swinging it as hard as he could, which then produced a blazing tornado while using the Solar Breathing Technique in the process.

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

Swoosh!

The gorgeous flame of Shin and the otherworldly flame of Azazel clashed against one another, creating a violent storm of fire that swept through everything around it.

Boom!

They then engaged in another round of intense aerial battle.

The Hell Pilgrim and the Forsaken King wanted to join them, but they were obstructed by the Valkyrie General who brandished her sacred mace at them, forcing the two to retreat.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The chaotic battle between these four had given Immortal enough time to further battle against Axion, seemingly trying to take down the latter by himself.

But not long after, Immortal suddenly sensed an intense chill coming from behind, making him halt his actions.

He ordered the bone dragon to continue attacking Axion, who was currently in a giant form, before taking a glance behind him.

He then could not help but freeze as he saw that his current position was perfectly aligned with the Hell Pilgrim and the Forsaken King as well as Azazel, who was supposedly exchanging glows against Shin.

On the other end of this 'line', Shin paused for a moment after pushing Azazel in retreat. He held the [Yamato] with both of his hands as he poured all the elemental powers that he could get from all his elemental spirit companions into it.

Crackle! Crackle!

The Primordial Lightning suddenly became violent, dancing around his body and his sword.

With the amplification of his current form, the current might of this skill that he was about to use reached an unimaginable level, almost freezing the entire atmosphere.

'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship: Eclipse Slash'

Boom!

A powerful sword beam was released right after he swung the sword forward, carrying the most destructive force he could muster.

The eyes of Azazel suddenly contracted as he saw that this attack far surpassed the previous techniques that Shin had used earlier.

Moreover, it carried multiple sword principles and a variety of elemental powers, which created the power of chaotic destruction.

Its might was slightly inferior compared to the two ultimate moves that Shin currently possessed, the Ragnarök and the Armageddon. But the destructive power that this move currently possessed was quite near, making it easy to imagine how powerful it was.

Not daring to confront the attack head-on, Azazel chose to avoid it. He used one of his instantaneous skills that could help him escape the range of the attack.

Swoosh!

But when he saw what was in the path of the destructive sword beam when he appeared in the distance, he could not help but tremble, finding that Shin had meticulously arranged the attack to take down everyone in one fell swoop.

Immortal quickly urged the bone dragon to fly away from the trajectory of the sword beam while ordering Hell Pilgrim and Forsaken King to combine their respective powers to defend against it.

Swoosh!

Boom!

It did not take long for the two elite undead to be swallowed by the sword beam while Immortal and his bone dragon were barely able to escape its trajectory.

In the meantime, Axion, who was the last to realize that he was right in front of the incoming sword beam, was unable to respond in time.

He could only raise the greatsword in his hands to block while abandoning the Plague Giant that he was controlling to battle against the bone dragon earlier to escape.

Boom!

It did not take long for everyone to see the outcome after that.

They all saw that only the lower part of the Plague Giant was left after taking on the destructive power of the sword beam despite guarding itself with the plague sword that it had conjured earlier.

As for the Hell Pilgrim and the Forsaken King, they had miraculously survived but also suffered serious damage.

The Hell Pilgrim had lost an arm while its entire body was filled with scorches. It was also visible that it had lost a lot of its energy as its corrupted and demonic powers were constantly leaking from different parts of its body, which were filled with injuries.

The Forsaken King, on the other hand, seemed to be in a slightly better state as its majestic armor was only filled with cracks and burnt marks. But it was also quite noticeable that it had lost a decent amount of power since its mighty aura had greatly weakened.

Immortal could not help but squint his eyes as he summoned the two beside him through teleportation magic and healed them with his dark spells.

The two returned to their peak forms, but Immortal had used quite a lot of Mana in the process, limiting his choices for what was about to happen next.

Azazel conjured another set of armor and sword with his otherworldly flames, further enhancing his stats in exchange for a huge burden for his willpower and concentration.

Axion licked his lips after seeing how powerful the previous attack that destroyed his Plague Giant was. He then collected the remaining Plague Energy and summoned another giant monster of the plague, which was much stronger than the one that Shin instantly killed.

The three surrounded Shin from three different directions, understanding that this person was the greatest threat on the battlefield at this moment.

Chapter 1724 The Final Stage (Part 6)

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"Come!" said Shin as he gave the three an inviting gesture.

Seemingly having a tacit agreement, the three moved all at the same time, throwing a coordinated attack at Shin.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Axion fused with the Plague Giant for another time, jumping high up in the air while swinging its massive sword, which was made of the densest plague energy.

A single scratch from the sharp edges of the sword was lethal enough to infect its victim with a variety of diseases that could not be cured.

'King of the Plague Skill: The Howling Plague'

Cries of agony quickly filled the air as the massive plague sword approached Shin. The eerie wails of the spirits that had fallen victim to the plague accompanied this powerful attack, seemingly trying to drag Shin into the pits of despair alongside them.

Before this horrifying attack, Shin stood still as the crown halo floating above his head released an intense light that was created by the Powers of the Primordial Eclipse.

A huge magic circle appeared behind him, carrying the might of the Great Sun, as he raised the [Yamato] in the air.

A huge emblem of the sun shone brightly at the center of the magic circle as Solus possessed the sword, initiating the 'Divine Constellation' Possession.

Swoosh!

A giant sword made of Solus' gorgeous flame was suddenly formed above Shin before he swung it down to confront the incoming sword of the plague.

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

Shriek!

The immortal phoenix bathed in holy flames came diving from the high heavens along with the descending sword, fusing with it in the process.

Boom!

When the two swords clashed against one another, the gorgeous and holy flames purified the relentless souls crying in agony. They had stopped crying as they were bathed in the holy flames before dissipating in the air.

Swoosh!

Amid the blazing chaos, an otherworldly flame suddenly broke through everything, creating a path straight to Shin.

Shing!

Azazel did not give Shin enough time for another powerful attack as he flew straight to the latter while swinging his sword with all his might.

The powers of the Eternal Flame surrounding Azazel were unable to approach him due to the otherworldly flame protecting his body.

Midflight, Azazel's body enlarged along with the otherworldly flames. He transformed into a blazing beast that seemed to be a hybrid of an undying bird and a demonic goat.

Hong~!

The strange cry that seemed to come from both a bird and a goat resounded in the entire battlefield as the blazing demonic beast flew straight to Shin.

'The Empyrean Rectifier: Otherworldly Flame – Blazing Beast of War'

Seeing the incoming blazing demonic beast, Shin retreated a little as held the [Yamato] with both of his hands.

Swoosh!

Solus separated herself away from the sword as the little reincarnated God of Primordial Waters took over, activating the 'Depths Devourer' Possession.

Roar!

As Shin switched with the Boundless Ocean Technique, a huge circular Diagram of a Sea Serpent appeared behind him. A giant serpent also appeared immediately after, rivaling the overwhelming size of the incoming blazing beast monster.

Snowflakes started to form around him as he breathed out a cold vapor from his mouth.

Swoosh!

Watching the incoming attack, Shin suddenly swung the [Yamato] forward while fusing with the Ice Sea Serpent behind him.

Roar!

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

Boom!

The strange mixture of heat and coldness created by the otherworldly flame clashed against the absolute frost of the Primordial Waters as the two beasts of destruction clashed against one another.

Cold vapor and hot stream spread in every direction as Shin and Azazel were thrown in opposite directions.

None of them had gotten the upper hand in this exchange as they both suffered some damage from that collision of powers.

But as Shin was trying to regain his footing in the air, the Lich God had taken advantage of this opportunity and launched his attack.

Immortal, who was still riding on the back of his bone dragon, accompanied the Hell Pilgrim and Forsaken King to launch a series of coordinated attacks that came from all directions.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin, who was in no position to counter these attacks with his current situation, had no choice but to defend.

He curled his body as the wings on his back folded and wrapped themselves around him while he was activating his defensive skill.

Swoosh!

A transparent barrier was suddenly formed around him as he activated the 'Eclipse Pulse' Skill while infusing the Power of Earth Element into it, further strengthening its defensive capabilities.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon – Earth Guardian'

As he used the earth version of the 'Eclipse Pulse' and reinforced it with the Powers of the Metallic Earth, a construct in the form of a dragon wrapped itself around the barrier while facing the incoming attack.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The continuous barrage of Immortal and his group's attack landed on the barrier, but they barely did anything due to how sturdy it was.

Being familiar with Shin's skills and tricks, Immortal quickly treated along with his summoned undead monsters before the opposing side could even detonate the barrier.

Boom!

Right after Shin emerged from the debris and rock fragments created by the explosion, he was immediately greeted by the huge maws of the Bone Dragon, which was currently accumulating a huge amount of energy for its breath attack.

'Bone Dragon's Breath: Undead Fire'

Roar!

Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, the Hell Pilgrim and the Forsaken King launched another coordinated attack on him, preventing him from going anywhere.

Seeing that he was currently trapped in their formation, Shin suddenly spread his wings and before strongly flapping them while executing movement technique – converting a foot technique into an aerial one.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Holy Azure Dragon – A Flight Through Nine Heavens'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin executed a series of aerial maneuvers along with this technique to dodge the series of attacks from his opponents.

But before he could even prepare for a proper position to counterattack, Azazel and Axion had joined the battle once again, attempting to trap Shin within their impromptu battle formation.

Unfortunately, they were unable to trap him completely because Shin was taking advantage of the unique features of the Primordial Lighting and combining it with the 'Breath of Nature' that he had learned from the special inheritance that he had 'stolen' from the Black Serpent Mafia to maintain his focus and willpower.

Cloe, who was currently on the ground, wanted to lend Shin a hand, but she understood that she could not help him at this moment as she would only be targeted by the three once she joined the battle in the air.

She knew that she was not as skillful as these guys when it came to aerial battle, especially after seeing how rich the experience that they had in this area was.

She could only command the Valkyrie General to assist Shin from time to time, dealing the Hell Pilgrim and Forsaken King to limit their movements or interrupt their attacks to lose their battle tempo.

She did not have much help in this battle aside from assisting the Valkyrie Army with her healing spells and buffs while also purifying the surrounding land to weaken the plague energy filling the air.

She might not have much help at this moment, but she knew that her role would be more crucial later once the situation reached its most crucial stage.

All she needed was to drag those guys in the sky down to the ground so that she would be able to provide more help later.

Under her command, the Valkyrie Army now had a slight advantage over the other armies, which now lost their respective leaders commanding them. After all, those three were now busy trying to shoot down Shin from the sky through their efforts.

If this continued, then she would be able to wipe up their armies and help Shin with these Valkyries on their side.

...

Meanwhile, the battle in the sky continued to intensify, especially when the other three started launching sneak attacks on one another while chasing after Shin.

Shin might be their greatest threat, but their main purpose remained the same.

Axion was the one who was suffering more attacks as he was the main target of the mission. But due to him having the home advantage and possessing an overwhelming might in this place, taking him down was never easy.

After seeing the current deadlock, Immortal and Azazel's craftiness and slyness started kicking in.

As if they had a silent agreement with one another, the two simultaneously stopped chasing after Shin before suddenly taking a turn and swiftly heading toward Cloe.

If they could not trap Shin in their formation, then they had to force him to chase after them instead before trapping him in the place where they could catch him.

Cloe was the perfect bait for this, which was why they charged at her at the same time.

But this plan had also some risks. They could not afford to let Shin and Cloe reunite and team up with one another as it would be more disastrous for them.

They had to make this plan work fast before it could happen, which was why they chased Shin far enough from Cloe before making such a sudden turn, leaving him behind.

Little did they know, the moment when they took that turn, an evil grin formed on Shin's lips while being hidden under his mask.

Axion, who was left with Shin, could not help but halt his actions as he could sense a very dangerous air coming from the latter.

He even subconsciously took a step back due to it. "What is this chill?"

Chapter 1725 The Final Stage (Part 7)

.....

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Seeing that Immortal and Azazel were rushing toward her, Cloe immediately waved her holy staff while ordering the Valkyries to gather around her and form a defensive line.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

In response to her actions, the Undying Army under Immortal's command and the Army of Frostburns summoned by Azazel suddenly stopped fighting one another and simultaneously launched an attack toward her.

Seeing the incoming enemies, the Valkyrie Army lined up while raising their shields before them while simultaneously channeling their holy powers into the shields, erecting a tall wall of holy light to block the incoming armies.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Explosions immediately erupted right after the collision between the armies.

Not planning to give any chance for Cloe to organize her forces or set up a solid line of defense, Immortal waved his hand while chanting a series of necromantic words, which was followed by a series of dark runes floating around him.

Runes spun in the air before forming a magic circle behind him, which seemed to connect with some of the undead soldiers that detonated themselves before the Wall of Holy Light erected by the Valkyries.

Zong~! Long~! Long!

Cloe then found she and the Valkyrie Army were currently standing in the middle of a dark magic circle that was releasing an eerie and dreadful light.

Immortal had used the bodies of the undead soldiers as a medium for this spell!

'Emissary of the Underworld (Tier 2): Sabbath of the Dead'

Woo~! Woo~! Woo~!

Eerie cries of evil spirits could be heard as Cloe and the Valkyries found themselves at the center of a sea of dead spirits, whose hands were coming out from the dark magic circle underneath their feet and trying to drag them into the underworld.

But before they could be fully dragged by those ghostly hands, Cloe suddenly slammed the bottom of her holy staff into the ground, which produced a loud sound that overwhelmed the cries of agony from the evil spirits alongside a holy ripple that purified them.

'Holy Maiden Spell (Tier 2): Mercy of the Saintess'

Bang!

The powerful ripple of light swept through everything, turning all the evil spirits into dust while purifying the undead soldiers who were trying to approach her and the Valkyries.

The undead army might not be able to break through the blockade of the Valkyries, but they had already served their purpose at this point.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The Hell Pilgrim and Forsaken King possessed by Immortal's Abomination Spirits had already arrived and blasted the defense line that the Valkyries had set up.

Boom!

They had created a path for the rest of the Undying Army while continuing to charge forward.

Bang!

But before the two elite undead could even advance further, a shining spear suddenly fell from the sky and blocked their path.

Swoosh!

Bang!

Not long after, another Six-Winged Valkyrie suddenly appeared, grabbing the spear. She then stood before the two elite undead as the Valkyrie General with a sacred mace suddenly descended from the sky and stood beside her.

There was not much of a standoff as the two Six-Winged Valkyries swiftly charged forward and strongly clashed against the Hell Pilgrim and Forsaken King.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The series of clashes immediately produced consecutive shockwaves that somewhat disrupted the surroundings, affecting the rest of the Undying Army and Valkyries.

At the same time, these clashes and disruptions created an opening for the Frostburns, who were attacking from a different angle. They took a detour, avoiding the two clashing armies, and they headed straight to Cloe, who was hiding at the back of the Valkyries.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Amid the crazy cries of the Frostburns charging at her from two different directions, Cloe remained calm as she slowly raised her holy staff, which released a blinding light.

Swoosh!

Almost at the same time, an array of magic circles appeared behind her, which aligned themselves into a circular formation before linking one after another.

They then shone with an even brighter light that further halted the advance of the Frostburns before firing a barrage of beams of light immediately after.

'Priestess Basic Spell: (Enhanced) Lights of Glory'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The damage of these beams of light might not be much, but they were also unable to continue advancing.

Boom!

But not long after, a huge Frostburn suddenly charged through the barrage of beams, tanking everything with its sturdy and thick metal armor that it was wearing.

Roar!

With its hideous face that was covered with otherworldly flames, this giant Frostburn opened its mouth wide and breathed out blazing air in a very intimidating manner.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As if they were responding to its call, the Frostburns near him suddenly turned blazing embers that were sucked into its mouth and turned into nutrients that nurtured it.

Boom!

This armor immediately changed as more demonic runes appeared on its surface. The runes particularly spread at the edges to highlight every section of the armor, making it more intimidating and scarier at the same time.

It also extended its hand to the side, summoning a huge saber made of demonic metal filled with dark runes and otherworldly flame that danced violently along with the wind.

Dragging the huge demonic saber, this giant Frostburn charged at Cloe, who was now right before it.

Roar!

But despite being placed in front of such a dangerous attack, Cloe kept her calm, facing the attack with unfazed eyes.

Swoosh!

Right before the giant saber was about to reach her, a golden summoning circle suddenly appeared before her followed by a huge shield that blocked the incoming attack.

Boom!

The Evolved Frostburn was forced to retreat after the collision. It was even sent skidding back due to the strong rebound caused by the impact.

Raising its head, it saw an armored giant that was half human and half horse. It was a knight centaur donning a full set of sacred armor and wielding a celestial spear and holy shield in each of its hands.

'Holy Maiden Special Spell: Arrival of the Glorious Knight'

This Glorious Knight seemed to have glared at the Evolved Frostburn behind its helmet before raising its front hooves and kicking in the air before suddenly galloping forward.

Roar!

Seeing the incoming opponent, the Evolved Frostburn released a deafening roar before also charging forward right after summoning another giant saber with its other hand.

Swoosh!

Boom!

The collision between these two giants instantly produced a powerful shockwave that blasted the Frostburns who were still in the vicinity, attempting to reach Cloe.

Cloe might have survived the attempts of the two armies, but she was still not out of the woods yet as both Azazel and Immortal had simultaneously arrived.

They arrived with such perfect timing.

They both knew that Cloe must have already exhausted most of her lifesaving spells that could stop them from bursting her. Both the Six-Winged Valkyrie and Glorious Knight were powerful cards that she could use to delay them from eliminating her fast enough before Shin could arrive and lend her a hand.

Given the nature of her class, she would not survive the combined assault of Immortal, who was riding his Bone Dragon, and Azazel, who had activated his Demonic Contract.

One was the Lich God, the King of all Necromancers, while the other was one of the strongest combatants of the Pandemonium Troupe in terms of martial prowess and military might.

Surviving from this combination was almost impossible, especially when she was only supposed to be a 'healer'.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The two arrived, flanking Cloe from different directions.

Azazel was coming from her left side, brandishing his sword that was covered with the Otherworldly Flame at Cloe.

Immortal and his Bone Dragon were coming from the right and slightly behind Cloe to prevent her from going anywhere.

They were already attacking her as they had already calculated everything. They had to take down Cloe as soon as they could to force Shin's hands.

One of the scenarios inside their head was to lure Shin toward them and save Cloe, which then gave them the perfect opportunity to trap him in their formation.

The other one was where Shin would have to stay behind and fight Axion with all his might, attempting to take down the main target as soon as possible, while trusting Cloe and her abilities to survive against the two.

The two leaned more toward the former as they did not believe that Shin would leave Cloe alone, especially when she was facing the two of them. Moreover, he also needed her to complete the quest scenario as she was the only one who could purify the King of Plague.

This was one of the hidden conditions of the scenario for those from the opposing side of the Glorious Light. So long as they eliminated Cloe, the Holy Maiden, then they would 'win' this battle by default.

At the same time, Azazel and Immortal did not believe that Shin would be able to kill Axion that fast even if he burst the latter with powerful skills. After all, Axion was not a pole that would stand and do nothing while being beaten one-sidedly.

This was why the two were convinced that Shin would chase after them and save Cloe.

But they had miscalculated a couple of things.

Shin did not even bother to look at them when they turned their backs on him. His eyes were focused completely on Axion before him.

He even initiated the one-on-one battle against Axion, who also somewhat put up a good fight, but he was still unable to keep up with the series of attacks from the opposition as they were insanely fast and too complex for him to respond properly.

He might be planning to let Shin and Cloe purify him as the vessel of the King of Plague, but he still had to fight with all his might to prevent the core within him from noticing his plans. He had to find the perfect opportunity to do where neither the core could catch him nor let Immortal and Azazel get the last of him.

The current situation was not suitable for it yet as Cloe was still too far from him to purify his body after Shin took him down.

Despite him giving his all, Shin still chunked quite a lot of his health bar during the short time Azazel and Immortal traveled toward Cloe.

He was not sure why this guy was ignoring Cloe, who was now trapped between those two.

But when he was still trying to figure out what was in Shin's head, he suddenly 'saw' the latter grin despite the expressionless mask hiding Shin's face.

Boom!

After forcing him into retreat, Axion saw Shin doing the same, putting a decent distance between the two of them.

Then he watched Shin toss the [Yamato] in the air before forming a seal with his hands.

Swoosh!

It was at this moment when the attacks from Immortal and Azazel were about to reach Cloe.

But during the process, the two could not help but knit their brows after seeing the calm expression that Cloe was making.

Then they saw her slam the holy staff into the ground with both of her hands while chanting out something.

'Holy Maiden Special Spell: Sacred Relocation'

Swoosh!

Then the two could only watch Cloe disappear from their sight along with the sudden appearance of Shin, who was now facing their attacks.

They had swapped places!

But it was not the end as they also saw Shin, who was currently making a seal with his hands, activate another skill.

It was neither a defensive skill that could block their respective attacks nor an offensive one for a counterattack.

Instead, it was a special movement skill under his elemental skills, which was currently empowered by his current form.

'Elemental Skill (Shadow/ Psychic): Shadow Mark'

Swoosh!

In that instant when their attacks were about to catch Shin, the latter suddenly disappeared before them, letting them face each other instead.

Boom!

The blast created by their clash was so strong that it led to massive destruction. After all, they did not hold back from this attack in an attempt to eliminate Cloe.

Swoosh!

In the meantime, Shin returned to the place where he was fighting Axion earlier, grabbing the [Yamato] that was still hovering in the air.

Axion was caught completely off guard by the series of events, unable to fully comprehend what just happened.

But he did not have that much time to process everything inside his head as Shin resumed their battle.

This time, he had Cloe behind him, who just appeared out of nowhere.

Chapter 1726 The Final Stage (Part 8)

.....

The current situation before Axion was the perfect opportunity that he was looking for. The outcome of this battle would most likely be decided in this situation.

Shin and Cloe were floating not far from him while preparing for powerful combination skills to attack him, so it was the perfect time to execute his plan, especially when he did not have to worry about Azazel and Immortal since they were still quite far from this place and suffering from the powerful attacks that they had 'thrown' at 'each other'.

But he still had to worry about something.

He had to make sure that the attacks that Shin and Cloe were throwing at him were powerful enough to end his life in an instant, or else he would suffer from the penalty from the core of the plague injected within his body.

He had to time it perfectly as well, making sure that 'they' would avoid any unnecessary trouble.

"I have to exchange a couple more blows before executing the plan," he said to himself as he also prepared a skill of his own to counterattack.

While Azazel and Immortal were still recovering and trying to regain their footing after suffering serious damage from their respective attacks, Shin and Cloe were already making their next move as if they had already rehearsed it thousands of times.

Cloe made a series of gestures and chanted out some prayers to cast a multi-layered buff to Shin, while the latter turned the [Yamato] into its twin-blade form.

Shin did not wait that long as he channeled the Powers of the Five Elemental Primordial Lightning into his swords before releasing all the accumulated energies with a cross slash.

'Myriad Manifestation Swordsmanship: Eclipse Cross'

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The swords released a pair of crescent waves that suddenly intertwined with one another and spun rapidly as they grew larger and advanced.

Whoosh!

The initial might of this attack could not be compared to the 'Eclipse Slash' that Shin had used earlier to wipe out half of the Plague Giant and almost killed Azazel and Immortal in the process.

But when the cross grew larger, reaching the size of dozens of meters wide, the pressure of the skill alone was more than enough to crush anything before it.

Without further ado, Axion tightly gripped the greatsword with both of his hands before suddenly swinging it at the incoming cross, which was then mimicked by the Plague Giant that he was currently controlling.

Boom!

The clash immediately produced a strong impact that forced Axion and the Plague Giant to retreat, particularly relieving the numbness of his arms.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As he was retreating to make more room for himself, an array of magic circles suddenly appeared out of nowhere and surrounded him from all sides before shooting thick and sturdy chains that wrapped in the arms, legs, and torso of the Plague Giant.

'Holy Maiden Spell (Tier 2): (Modified) Divine Restriction'

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Swoosh!

Immediately after, Shin suddenly broke through the cloud of smoke produced by the previous explosion while holding the [Dusk Blade] and [Dawn Blade] with each of his hands, leaving a trail of lightning currents behind.

The moment he reached the Plague Giant, he suddenly swung the pair of swords multiple times, linking a series of skills and techniques one after another.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Third Movement – Trinity Strom'

'Grim Reaper Skill (Tier 2): (Modified) Purgatory Slash – Penta Slash'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

His arms turned into blurs while his swords left a series of sword trails in the air that cut through the body of the Plague Giant and chunked out a huge portion of its health bar.

There was a brief pause with Shin's movements in the air as he returned the [Yamato] to its original form before swinging it down to release a powerful sword wave that rivaled the size of the sword cross that he had sent earlier.

Swoosh!

'Grim Reaper Skill (Tier 2): (Modified) Purgatory Slash – Final Slash'

Boom!

(-3, 202, 521)

Axion managed to form a barrier that blocked the huge sword crescent, but he was still unable to fully block the attack as he still received a lot of damage in the process.

Swoosh!

He wanted to catch his breath a little after suffering such serious damage, but he was immediately greeted by golden lightning falling from the sky, devouring the entire body of the Plague Giant.

Crackle! Crackle!

'Holy Maiden Spell (Tier 2): (Modified) Divine Retribution'

Boom!

(7, 201, 195)

Aside from the direct contact with the golden lightning pillar, the nature of the attack carried a huge amount of sacred energy, which was the bane of all dark creatures. This multiplied the damage of the spell, causing the health bar to drop by a huge margin.

Swoosh!

It was not the end yet as Shin took advantage of the paralyzing effects of the golden lightning to launch another powerful attack.

He held a greatsword in 'Judgement Form' with his left hand while accumulating a huge amount of Earth and Metal Elemental Mana in the air with the help of the 'Great Dominator' and 'Golden Immortality' Techniques.

Alongside it, he had combined the principles of the Sacred White Tiger and Divine Yellow Dragon Method of the Four Symbol Scripture as he prepared his sword.

He combined the basic Sword Principles of swiftness, sharpness, heaviness, and toughness into the greatsword to create an advanced principle of the sword – the Domineering Sword – and poured it into a single strike.

Swoosh!

'Myriad Manifestation Swordsmanship: Unified Series – Titanic Dominion'

Roar! Roar!

The roar of a tiger and howl of a dragon intertwined with one another as Shin swung the greatsword in his left hand, which was now as tall and wide as a mountain.

Boom!

(-6,922, 782)

The damage of this particular attack was not much worse than Cloe's earlier spell, chunking another huge portion of Axion and Plague Giant's health bar.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Axion just freed himself from the restriction of the golden chains and the paralysis caused by the golden lightning when a huge magic formation appeared underneath him. It was carrying a dense sacred aura, which immobilized his and the Plague Giant's movements for another time.

Zong~! Long~! Long~!

'Holy Maiden Spell (Tier 2): Holy Imprisonment'

Shin then took advantage of his opportunity for another round of attack where accumulated the powers of the fire and metal elements, switching with the combination of the 'Solar Breathing' and 'Golden Immortality' Techniques.

At the same time, he combined the principles of the Celestial Vermillion Bird and Sacred White Tiger Methods.

He then poured the Sword Principles of swiftness, sharpness, heaviness, and explosiveness into the sword to reach the advanced principles of the Destructive Sword as the greatsword in his left hand turned into a longsword unknowingly.

Swoosh!

'Myriad Manifestation Swordsmanship: Unified Series – Crimson Slash'

Boom!

The blazing trail that was left behind by the [Yamato] and the longsword in 'Meteor Form' resembled a liquified metal that was melted by intense heat!

(-7, 001, 637)

...

"Tsk!"

Axion could not help but click his tongue when he saw how fierce Shin's attacks were. Not only that, but all the attacks were also too fast for his eyes as well, reaching the level that Axion could never imagine.

Shin had already given Axion bombarded with powerful sword techniques, causing his Health Bar to drop at an alarming rate in such a very short time.

But that was not the most problematic and most annoying part of it. It was the assistance that Cloe was providing from the rear, perfectly matching Shin's movement and seizing the most effective way and timing to maximize her partner's power.

Axion felt that he had been fighting the two for a very long time after experiencing the barrage of combination moves that the two had thrown at him. But when he glanced at the digital clock in the

corner of his eyes, he was shocked that only a couple of minutes had passed since Shin and Cloe started attacking him.

It felt like he was suffering from their attacks for centuries after experiencing their seamless teamwork.

The barrage of attacks from Shin was too fast and complex for him to respond properly, which then became worse for his opponents when Cloe and her perfect assistance were added to the equation.

It was a total disaster!

In just a short span, these two had almost chunked the combined health bar of Axion and the Plague Giant down to its critical state!

It was even in the condition where Axion was truly trying his best to fight back, which seemed to be extremely useless due to the perfect coordination of the two.

Glancing in another direction, Axion saw that Azazel and Immortal were currently being delayed by the Valkyrie Army in the stance.

Moreover, they were being focused by the two Six-Winged Valkyries, greatly slowing them down.

Given the distance, it would take them quite a while to reach this side of the battlefield. Adding that Shin and Cloe were skillfully pushing Axion and his Plague Giant toward the opposite direction, it was almost impossible for those two cunning wolves to join the 'party' on this side.

Their earlier plot was not being used against them.

Looking back at Shin and Cloe, who did not pause even a second to deal as much damage as they could, Axion felt that this battle had already been decided.

Even with the great power that the current Quest Scenario had given him, Axion could not endure the combined forces of these two monsters before him.

This further reminded him of the huge gap between him and the top Gods of the game.

He might also be a Godlike Player himself, who had a decent ranking within any list. But he was still far from rivaling those unparalleled and peerless talents of the virtual world.

"It seems like my little plot is unnecessary to begin with," he bitterly laughed and purposely made fun of himself.

But the expression in his eyes suddenly turned fierce and decisive as he glared at the two. "Since that is the case, then I guess I can also try to give my all with this final strike."

As he talked to himself, he suddenly forced himself to disengage from the barrage of attacks from the two.

Boom!

This might have required him to tank a couple of skills and spells from the two in the process, but it was still worth it as he had created enough opening to retreat a little.

He then clutched the greatsword tightly and poured the remaining plague energy into it.

Zong~! Long~! Long~!

It did not take long for the plague weapon to turn into a giant beast of the plague that hovered before Axion.

But he did not stop there as he squeezed all the powers that he had from his arsenal, which even required him to sacrifice the Plague Giant in the process.

Roar!

The horrifying beast of the plague released an eerie cry immediately after turning into a more vivid creature.

It even gained a physical body instead of remaining an apparition.

Roar!

It was a complete abomination with multiple eyes and mouths all over its body.

'King of the Plague: The Howling of the Thousand Evil Spirits'

With a powerful swing of his greatsword, this abomination of the plague charged at Shin and Cloe, who could not help but halt their tracks right after seeing it.

Understanding that Axion wanted to end this battle with this final exchange, Shin and Cloe tacitly agreed.

Shin separated the [Yamato] into [Dawn and Dusk Blades] once again before taking on a stance. He pointed the swords toward the ground and the sky respectively while activating all five breathing techniques as well as the elemental powers that corresponded with each of them.

He was using that ultimate move that he created just recently.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The entire sky suddenly turned dark as the clouds became heavy and gathered above him, signifying the impending storm.

'Ultimate Elemental Skill: Armageddon'

Boom!

A huge, devastating, and chaotic elemental storm was immediately formed, sweeping through everything on its path and destroying anything that encountered it.

It was swiftly spreading in every direction and rapidly growing at an unstoppable rate. It did not take long before it became a catalytic typhoon that dominated the entire region.

Swoosh!

At the same time, Cloe flew high up in the sky as she chanted out a series of prayers during the process.

When she reached the final syllable of her chants, she reached the highest point she could reach with the pair of angelic wings on her back.

Zong~! Long! Long~!

A huge magic circle suddenly appeared in the sky as she raised the holy staff in her hands.

'Class Fighting Style: Final Chapter – Divine Sword of Heaven'

Swoosh!

A colossal sword suddenly emerged from the magic circle almost covering the entire sky. Its tip slowly stuck out of the circle before revealing its entire body while accelerating toward Axion, who was on the ground.

Swoosh!

The typhoon of the five elements shredded the abomination of the plague along with the surroundings while the colossal divine sword descended from the sky and further destroyed the land, also purifying in the process.

Axion, the main target of these two attacks, could only watch the horrifying yet beautiful sight that they created with a bitter smile.

Chapter 1727 Sudden Ending

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Azazel and Immortal were forced to recuperate after clashing against each other. After all, they did not hold back earlier because they were expecting either Shin or Cloe to be caught in their trap.

The most ideal outcome was obviously to catch Cloe or even eliminate her in the process. Their previous attacks were among their most powerful skills and techniques as they were meant to kill, which was why the aftermath of their collision was much more serious than they had estimated.

They were expecting Shin and Cloe to do something against the trap that they had plotted earlier, but they were still caught off guard by the sudden turn of events, especially with how fast the pair had executed everything.

The two did not give them time to respond, especially with such perfect timing.

When they regained themselves, they realized that they had been tricked by Shin and Cloe. They swiftly turned their gazes at the place where Axion was supposed to be and saw that the latter was already being beaten up by the two.

Not only that but based on the direction where Shin was forcing Axion into retreat, Immortal and Azazel knew that he was purposely 'dragging' the latter far from them.

They swiftly acted and wanted to stop Shin from what he was planning, but they were quickly obstructed by the two Six-Winged Valkyries, preventing them from going anywhere.

They naturally controlled their respective summons while trying to shake off the two.

But the Six-Winged Valkyries went crazy and ignored the Elite Undead and Evolved Frostburn that the two had summoned respectively. They even purposely let themselves get hit just to obstruct the two of them.

Given the still-growing distance between them and Axion, the two knew that it would be almost impossible to stop Shin and Cloe, especially with how fast they were draining the health bar of Axion and the Plague Giant.

They were still halfway through the distance when they saw the three in the distance using their most powerful trump cards for a final exchange.

Realizing that it was already too late to change the outcome, the two did not bother to reveal more of their cards and just prepared for the second-best solution to their current situation.

Immortal was targeting the corpse of the King of Plague, which he planned to use to create another powerful undead.

Azazel was coveting the core of the plague that was currently inside Axion's body. He wanted to put it among one of his collections and use it as another form of trump card that he could use for the future.

Boom!

They were letting Shin and Cloe end Axion with their combined attacks while preparing to steal their respective targets.

But there was another thing that they had forgotten to consider.

The purifying powers that Cloe possessed were much more powerful in this place due to the Quest Scenario.

This caused the purification process of the corpse of the King of Plague to become much faster than it was supposed to be. It even purified the core of plague within Axion's body, triggering all the necessary conditions for his hidden quest.

Ding

System: The Core of the Plague has been purified, revealing its true form.

System: The Heart of Fortune is acquired.

Ding

System: Congratulations! All conditions have been met!

System: Proceeding to the next stage of the Class and Racial Conversion.

Ding

Quest Update: Proceed to the Land of Spring within the Alfheim Kingdom, the Elven Kingdom, and seek the guidance of the Blind Sage.

...

Glancing at the string of notifications before his eyes, Axion could not help but sigh in mixed emotions.

With this, it was confirmed that the side of the Plague Race had failed. This would lead to the end of the Plague Event, which would also affect the remaining members of his team such as Magnolia and Berdugo.

They were different from the players who voluntarily chose to become a Plague Race. Their current accounts would be deleted once the event had ended as a form of punishment for their failure.

They had already expected this to happen, but it still felt quite bitter when it finally happened.

It would take them quite a lot of time before they could recreate their accounts, making them fall behind the rest of the players.

Their foundation would be greatly affected, putting them at a great disadvantage when they 'returned'.

As his body was slowly dissipating into specks of lights, Axion could not help but look at Shin with complicated emotions before asking. "I heard that you are inviting my team to your territory. Is it still valid?"

Shin, who was currently hovering in the air not far from him, could not help but raise his brows in surprise. He then smiled beneath the mask as he realized something. "You are more than welcome."

"Just look for me at the Gold Mountain once your friends have decided to accept my offer," he added as he sheathed the [Yamato].

Axion was silent for a moment, staring silently at Shin, before saying. "I'll discuss it with them, so please prepare a few slots for us."

Swoosh!

He then turned into specks of lights not long after, dissipating in the air.

"Recruiting more people? Can't you at least discuss it with me before deciding such things? I am still the Commander of the team even if you guys just forced me to take on that role," complained Cloe as she appeared beside him.

Shin chuckled when he saw the cute pout that she was making before pinching her cheek a little. "That guy is not that bad. He just doesn't have the right stage to showcase his talent – and I am only helping him for that."

"As for the rest of his members-... I am only planning to recruit them as an affiliate of Gold Mountain. I find one of their members rather interesting. He is quite good at setting traps and plotting against a huge number of people and different forces. I believe that he is perfect for a specific job within our main forces," he added as he recalled about that particular assassin in Axion's group.

"You are planning to give him a special role within the Gold Mountain main forces? Isn't it a little too hasty? You don't even know him. It is too early to give him your trust," said Cloe as she frowned.

Shin smiled mysteriously as he added. "But I feel that I know him from somewhere already."

As they were converging with one another, they turned to the direction where Azazel and Immortal were coming from, preparing for another round against them.

Unfortunately, the two suddenly halted their tracks after seeing that the two had already purified the body of the King of Plague.

"Tsk! What a pity," Immortal clicked his tongue after seeing Axion dissipate in the air as specks of light.

Even if there was still a corpse left later when they got out of this place, it would be useless for him as it had already been purified by Cloe's Sacred Powers.

Azazel, on the other hand, could not help but frown deeply after seeing that scene. He could already tell that the core of the plague had 'disappeared' from Axion's body as he could no longer feel the plague energy from the latter.

This mission was a failure for him as well.

He started at Shin for quite a while before saying. "Let's meet again at the United Cup."

After that, he crushed a special scroll in his hands, which sent him out of the quest scenario. He did not even wait for the system to send them out of the special settings as he knew that it would be a disadvantage for him to appear in that place now that Shin and Cloe were working together.

He also did not want to take the risk when Immortal was nearby. This guy was too cunning to let his back wide open. He did not want to get stabbed in the back and turn into a new elite undead under Immortal's Undying Army.

Swoosh!

...

Not long after, Shin and Cloe were set back to the tomb hall alongside Immortal.

The two never let their guards down as they knew that dealing with this guy would never be easy. They had to always be prepared when facing this god of necromancers within the game.

Seeing the two glaring at him, Immortal could not help but chuckle a little. "This is not the right time yet. Let me accumulate more of my forces before we face each other gain."

After that, he hopped backward, entering a door of death behind him.

Swoosh!

He then disappeared alongside his army which was filling the entire hall, leaving the pair alone.

The two did not dare to let their guards down even after seeing Immortal disappear. They wanted for quite a while before finally relaxing their must but still keeping a sharp eye in the surroundings.

Shin scanned the entire hall with his gaze before landing his eyes on the half-open tomb at the center.

He exchanged glances with Cloe for a moment before deciding to walk over it.

Chapter 1728 Items to get

.....

The Plague Event came to an end at the most unexpected timing.

While the war between the Plague Race and the Righteous Churches was at its peak, the system had suddenly announced that someone had already purified the body of the Fallen King, marking the end of the event.

Everyone was caught off guard by the sudden development, suspecting that the system was only playing a prank on them.

But after double-checking the system announcement and seeing the newly updated leaderboards, they had no choice but to accept everything.

They could only curse under their breath after seeing that the name sitting at the number one spot did not change. Moreover, the points of the guy that had accumulated far surpassed everyone.

If it was just a couple of hundred or thousands of point gap, then they might still be able to accept it to a certain extent. But seeing that he had racked up tens of millions of points, not giving anyone a chance to catch up to him, the players could not help but feel helpless.

Those big shots from the top forces felt the bitterness even better as they had been grinding a lot of event points nonstop while following the forces of the Righteous Churches. It was even painful when they were about to overtake Shin during the last minute before he suddenly turned the tables around.

What made these people even crazier was the fact that Cloe's name was not occupying the second spot despite being late to join the event. To make it even worse, her points were slightly inferior to Shin as she had also accumulated millions of points herself.

But everyone could do nothing about it, so they could only curse the two while returning to the Divinity City to submit their achievements and exchange the points that they had accumulated during the entire event.

It was only that moment when the players were overwhelmed with happiness, especially after seeing the rows of items displayed or exchanged.

Forgotten about the unlimited number of super and ultra rare materials presented before their eyes, the limited growth-type equipment set was more than enough to make everyone crazy. These sets were not much worse than the top-notch equipment offered in the event shop offered in the ongoing war at the Aurora Continent.

Those who knew about the special armies in the Awakened Continent even compared these limited equipment sets to the ones offered by those armies as some sort of uniform.

The top twenty players in the leaderboards had even gotten an exclusive set in their exchange windows, while those at the top ten players had a unique set that was specially customized just for them.

The top three, on the other hand, had gotten special offers that were exclusively for them.

Aside from these sensational sets, there were also a variety of special tools that could be used in multiple occasions or situations.

But what made the top forces even happier were the different blueprints meant for engineering, architecture, and such. There were also a variety of potion and pill formulas on top of these, which made the higher-ups of the top forces to be overjoyed.

However, there was one issue that they were currently facing. Aside from these blueprints and formulas being too expensive, they also had limited stocks.

The leaders of each group swiftly looked for partners that could share the amount of points to buy them.

But while they were still busy doing the negotiations or coming up with a good plan to scheme against one another, all the stocks of these special blueprints and formulas were swept clean by someone.

It was not even the end as the stocks of the super and ultra rare materials were not spared alongside the special tools.

Those who were hesitating, which was to buy from the event shop, had already lost their chance as the items in the event shop that caught their eyes had already been snatched away from them.

They all could only cry in bitterness and regret after seeing those things disappear from their eyes.

Aside from the limited equipment set that could be granted to everyone, they had almost nothing else to get.

Curses and wailings were the only thing that these people could hear after seeing all the exclusive items from the event shop disappeared before their eyes.

...

In the meantime, the culprit of this event was currently caught in a dilemma. After sweeping the entire shop clean, Shin had almost lost all the points that he had accumulated, only leaving himself enough points to exchange one more product from the event shop.

As the number one player from the event, he had gotten quite a lot of offers that the other players could not get. Adding that he was so rich in points, he did not shy away from sweeping the entire shop, which included the special offers.

Naturally, he was fully aware of the consequence of his actions. But he could not just watch on the side and let those enemies get their hands on those blueprints and formulas, especially when he fully knew that these could be used against them in the future.

While everyone was still struggling to pick their choice or busy with the negotiations, Shin had already taken the step ahead and brought anything that he could find at the shared shop.

But despite his fast and decisive actions, he still had missed quite a few things, which indicated that others were thinking the same as him.

"With how expensive those materials, blueprints, and formulas are, only those at the top rankings can buy them," mumbled Shin as he realized this before taking note of the names at the entire top one hundred of the leaderboards.

He had recorded their names and the guilds or organizations that they were affiliated with. The list could come in handy later.

At the same time, he faced the current problem that he was facing. After spending almost everything, Shin could only choose one more item from the special event shop exclusive for him.

He only had three choices before him, yet he was unable to fully decide which to get as all three of them were quite good.

One of them was the growth-type equipment set that was tailor-made for him, which was also the most advanced version among all the event armor offered to everyone.

When he saw the stats of the equipment, he could also tell that it was comparable to the [Apocalypse Set] that he was currently wearing and slightly superior to his secondary set, which was the [Dusk and Dawn Set].

The overall features of the set even reached the exclusive armor of the God-Slaying Army, particularly those meant for high-ranking officials.

Unfortunately, Shin was not interested in this equipment set as he could also get another with a similar quality.

If there was anything that would regret, then it must be the 'limited edition' series of this equipment, which he did care about.

The other item was an unidentified orb. Based on the basic description of the item, it was told that this orb came from one of the eras of the gods.

Shin could not exactly figure out the real purpose of this item as he barely got a clue from its description. But he could feel that it was no ordinary item, especially when his instincts were telling him to pick it up.

But since he was not too sure about it, he was also somewhat considering the third item that was exclusively offered to him.

It was a mysterious sword without a name. Just like the orb, it was another item with unknown origin or uses.

But unlike the orb, not even a simple background or clue was presented for this sword. Aside from a simple description that it was extremely sharp and had an unbreakable toughness, nothing else was presented to him.

At the same time, his instincts were also telling him that he had also picked this sword just like the orb. This was the main reason of his current 'problem'.

Unfortunately, he could not make a clear conclusion as he had too little information about the two items.

Unless he had gotten his hands on them physically and used his True Sight Skills on these items to uncover their true value, he would never be able to see their real capabilities.

While he was having trouble, Cloe suddenly approached him as she had already finished 'choosing' her rewards from the event – this excluded the rewards that she would be getting from the Church of Light.

Unlike Shin, she did not have to buy anything else, which was why she had gotten all the special items offered to her as the number two player of the leaderboard.

"What's with the frown? Is there something troubling you?" she asked as she leaned over.

"I only have enough points to buy one more item from my event shop, but there are two items that have caught my eye. I am deciding which one to choose," he said, supporting his chin with his hand.

Seeing his troubled expression with such a 'simple' matter, Cloe could not help but laugh at him. "Silly! What's there to decide? Just pick them both! I'll give you all my excess points. I still have plenty."

Without waiting for him to say anything, she quickly initiated a 'trade', where she put more than two million points, which was also more than enough for Shin to get both items.

He felt really stupid after realizing he had forgotten about the points exchange system.

Chapter 1729 Legendary Sword: Durendal

.....

With his excitement, Shin could not help but quickly use his True Sight Skill at the mysterious sword to see its details and reveal its true form.

Swoosh!

To his surprise, the sword suddenly transformed right after he activated his ocular skill to identify it.

The rust covering the 'blade' of the sword started to peel, revealing a whole other form.

At a single glance, it looked like an ordinary dagger due to its below average appearance. It seemed to have a wooden hilt with a circular pendant at the body, while the guard looked like an ordinary round, slightly elongated, wood.

Even the short blade looked too shabby due to its dull and uneven edges, making it look like an old rusty knife.

The overall design of the weapon looked very disappointing at a single glance, but those with discerning eyes could tell that it was not the case.

The entire blade was filled with holy runes that formed a special holy formation. This formation granted the dull-looking blade an unknown number of enchantments, reinforcing its toughness and sharpness.

Then there was a very complex emblem engraved at the circular pendant attached at the bottom of the hilt, giving its wielder a variety of buffs, letting them wield the sword more perfectly.

This was just the initial appearance of the sword as its true form was revealed, it came in contact with Shin's hands, who possessed the powers of the Eternal Flame and the Brilliant Sun.

Shin felt that the sword instinctively absorbed these two powers before fusing them, then injecting the product energy into his body, which possessed the purest form of holy powers.

At the same time, the 'dagger' adjusted its wavelength, seemingly matching Shin's powers, habits, and preference. The short blade was coated with a blazing mana, which suddenly extended and formed a translucent blade, transforming it into a longsword.

Shin could not help but get mesmerized by the sword, especially when it was giving him the impression that it was tailor-made just for him.

"Such a good sword," he commended as he stared at the constant flow of blazing mana forming the blade.

[Item Name]: Durendal

[Item Type]: Weapon (Longsword)

[Item Rank]: Legendary (Sealed)

Current Effective Rank: Peak Obsidian

Level: Sealed

Durability: Indestructible

Physical Attack: 5,000 to 6,000

Magical Attack: 7000 to 10,000

Stats (Reduced):

+600 INT

+200 STR

+250 AGI

+20% Mana Sensitivity

+500% Critical Strike

+20% Holy Power

Historical Note: This is a legendary sword owned by a Legendary Hero during the Ancient Era –Ronald, the Holy Paladin.

This sword is said to be forged with sacred relics of four saints, granting it an overwhelming amount of holy powers.

And after defeating and exorcising multiple evils of the world, this sword became a holy sword, the bane of all evil.

This sword is also known for its insane sharpness that could cut almost anything and extreme toughness that made it indestructible.

It was said that Ronald had used this sword to cut down a lot of evil spirits, ghost kings, and even defeated an army of one-hundred-thousand-strong men that tried to invade his homeland during his prime.

Additional Abilities:

1. Holy Blessings (Passive): The sword is blessed with the sacred relics of four saints, granting the wielder their power.

+50% Willpower and +50% Holy Powers

- Immunity to all kinds of negative statuses from dark race, creatures, or beings (So long as your willpower passed the certain threshold based on the powers of your enemies.)

2. Bane of All Evil (Passive): Deal more damage against Darkins, Demons, Corrupted Monsters, and Void Creatures – (x2 Damage).

3. Ronald's Bravery (Active): Increase the Willpower of the wielder by twofold upon activation.

Duration: 1 minute

Cooldown: 1 hour

4. Force Equalizer (Passive):

- For every mana you lose, 1% will be converted into health.

- For every direct damage you suffered, 0.5% will be converted into mana.

5. Divine Rebirth (Passive/Active): Consumes all stacks of 'Good Karma' to resist death and comeback to life.

Skill Note: Resurrecting on the same spot where you have died and avoiding all the penalties of being killed.

Good Karma Points: 0/5,000

Note: Kill any dark creatures (Darkin, Demon, Corrupted Beings, Void Creatures, and such) of the same level or higher to gain one stock for regular ranks, two for elite ranks, three for special elites, four for chieftains and so on.

(???)

Special Ability:

- Divine Purification: Killing more Evil Beings or Dark Creatures will help you lift the seals cast onto this sword.

Unsealing Process (0%)

Shin could not help but raise his brows quite high after seeing the full description of the sword.

It was a legendary sword!

Moreover, the overall stats and abilities of this sword were comparable to his main weapon, the [Yamato]. He also felt that most of the skills were passive skills, which was perfect for his current style.

He already had a complex style, so having more active skills attached to his weapons would only make it harder for him to choose which skill to use during the battle, especially those fast-paced ones.

At the same time, he rarely used any of his equipment skills, especially after discovering the new mechanics of the game, particularly the special combat states.

He preferred using his skills as a model for his sword techniques, mentalism methods, and martial skills from the real world to recreate them within the game.

Most of the equipment skills were useless in this area, which was why he preferred having passive skills attached to his weapons at this point.

As Shin was looking at the sword, he suddenly thought of his earlier plan during the first dungeon raid of the Emyrean Talon here at the Awakened Continent.

He was planning to use the [Balmung] to be the 'Judgement Form' of his 'Legacy Skill: Mond's Style' once he had collected all its scattered pieces.

It was a bold idea, but he felt that it would give him a huge surprise once he turned all the forms of Mond's Style into a legendary sword.

Looking at the [Durendal] in his hands, he could not help but be tempted to try it.

He was hesitating for a moment as he did not know if the sword would break once he did it. It would become a huge waste if it indeed happened.

He could only blame himself for being greedy at that time.

"Let's just hope that I am right!" he said to himself before closing his eyes and sacrificing the legendary sword.

Ding

Warning: It is detected that the sword you want to sacrifice is a legendary sword! Unknown outcome may arise during the process and lead to the destruction of the sword.

System: Are you sure that you want to continue with the process?

All the tension that Shin was feeling suddenly became messed up due to the system warning. His anxiousness reached the sky as he could tell that something big was going to happen during the process.

Gulp!

Swallowing a mouthful of saliva, Shin could not help but think twice about this. But he later shook his head and continued with the process, throwing all the negative thoughts into the window.

*Ding!

System: Legendary Sword [Durendal] is being sacrificed for the 'Meteor Form' of 'Mondi's Style'.

System: The Digestion process is required to fully convert the legendary sword.

System: The 'digestion' process is estimated to last for an entire day (In-game time).

System: The Legacy Skill – Mondy's Style will be temporarily sealed during the 'digestion process'.

System: Starting the countdown 23:59:59↓

...

"Eh!?" Shin could not help but stare blankly at the string of notifications before his eyes, unable to do or say anything else.

He had already expected that something big was going to happen when he took the gamble, so he was not that surprised. But he had to admit that this was somewhat beyond his expectations.

Having one of his trump cards sealed was quite a big deal, but it did not weaken him that much as his quick-draw style and the other sword movements of the 'Jade Kirin Scripture' were not that weak.

The duration was not that long either. It was at least within the acceptable range, so he did not have anything to complain about. So long as the entire process was successful, then everything would be worth it.

"It looks like I have to pay more attention to my legacy skills," he mumbled as he rubbed his chin. "These skills are not limited to what we know about them."

This was already proven when he had fully unlocked 'Regan's Method', which was a great help when he was stabilizing his elemental techniques. The new subskills provided by the legacy skill were useful within the game and in the real world, since he could use the principles in real life.

"There is also the secondary combat class that I have, the Phantom Swordsman Class," he continued to rub his chin as he added. "I feel like this is a special class filled with legacy skills, the more I learn about it – a Legacy Class."

"Phantom King Kentas," he mumbled while squinting his eyes.

But he set aside that thought for a moment as he turned his attention to the other item that he had exchanged from the event shop. "If that mysterious sword turns out to be a Legendary Sword, I wonder what kind of treasure this orb is."

He grinned as he took the item out of his inventory bag before acting his True Sight Skill to inspect it. "Let's see what you have in store for me."

Chapter 1730: Eye of Truth

...

[Item Name]: Unknown Orb

[Item Type]: Miscellaneous

[Item Rank]: Special

[Item Level]: Default

Details: A mysterious orb that came from the distant Era of Ancients. It was said that an unfathomable power of the Ancient Era was hidden within this time.

Note: Due to the long passage of time, the seal containing the said powers lost its effectiveness and started to crack.

Shin looked at the item curiously, checking it from every angle. He found the orb quite heavy as he weighed it with his hand. A black orb, as big as a basketball, to weigh a couple of tons was beyond being just 'heavy'.

He became more and more interested in it, so he quickly activated his True Sight to the fullest to inspect it.

Ding

System: Identification is in progress...

Shin could not help but raise his brows when he saw the progress bar was moving at a snail's pace. It was so slow that it would not just take a couple of minutes to be completed.

"The heck? Why is it taking so long?" Based on his estimate, it would take at least a full hour before the entire progress bar was filled.

He knew that this was no ordinary item, but it was still beyond his expectations that it would take this long just to identify the item.

What was even more frustrating was he had to put all his focus on the item and not move until the entire progress bar was filled, or else the entire process would return to zero.

"Tsk!"

But that was not everything as he felt that it was getting harder to fill the progress bar the more it was filled.

Shin felt that an unknown pressure was suddenly pressed down on his body, trying to crush him. His Willpower was also going through a series of system checks, draining his concentration at an unbelievable rate.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, his mana was also rapidly being sucked by the orb, making it harder to maintain his focus.

"What a stubborn thing," commented Shin as he felt that the orb seemed to become 'alive'.

Through the connection that had been built due to the orb absorbing his mana, Shin could tell that whatever inside it was trying to break free from the restrictions cast upon it and destroy the seal drawn all over the surface of the orb.

Swoosh!

To make the situation even worse, the absorption rate of his mana increased, making the expression that he was wearing to become even more serious.

Gulp!

He quickly took out a bunch of Mana Potions of different kinds and drank them one after another to replenish all the mana he had lost while avoiding the cooldown time.

Calculating inside his head, Shin knew that he would not last that long if this continued, especially when the absorption rate of the orb was gradually getting stronger the more the progress bar was filled.

"Cloe!" he could not help but call Cloe, who was busy organizing the items that she had gotten nearby.

Raising her head, she quickly noticed that something was wrong, especially when she sensed that the Mana within the surroundings was getting restless.

"What is happening?" she asked as she ran toward Shin.

Bang!

But before she could even reach a couple of meters away from her, an invisible energy suddenly blocked and pushed her back.

"Eh!?"

Upon closer inspection, she noticed that the waves of mana in the surroundings form a 'wall' around Shin, preventing anyone from approaching the vicinity near his body aside from any forms of mana.

Shin did not dare to cast his gaze away from the orb as he was afraid that the entire process would reset to the beginning once his gaze left the stubborn object in his hand.

He could only grit his teeth as she instructed Cloe. "Cast any mana regeneration spell you have on me. Transfer as much mana as you can!"

Cloe did not ask anything else as she swiftly took out her holy staff and started casting a series of mana-regeneration or recovery spells from her arsenal.

She had even used the mana transfer spell attached to her necklace to build a mana bridge between her and Shin to share mana with him.

As a magic class, who focused solely on intelligence and wisdom stats, Cloe's Mana Pool was quite large. She would not have any trouble casting her spells multiple times in a high-intensity and fast-paced battle while not worrying about draining her mana.

But right after connecting her mana pool with Shin, she felt an immense pressure, especially after seeing that her mana was dropping at an insane rate. "What?"

Without further ado, she mimicked Shin's actions and took out a variety of mana potions and pills to regenerate, maintaining a steady pace.

But this was still not enough as the orb in Shin's hands was constantly devouring their mana at an even stronger rate.

"Come out!" Shin had no choice but to summon all his Elemental Spirit Companions and instructed them to channel as much elemental mana as they could into his body, replenishing the constant loss of energy within his body.

The Elementals did not hesitate as they swiftly formed a mana formation around him while maintaining their forms as specks of light.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As it was not enough, Shin swiftly adjusted his breathing, activating the Five Elemental Cycle and summoning the Five Elemental Primordial Lighting.

Crackle! Crackle!

With their combined efforts, they were barely able to maintain a decent mana consumption, saving Shin from suffering a mana exhaustion.

They maintain this for almost an hour, making Shin and Cloe sweat profusely.

With Shin's monstrous level of willpower, maintaining such a state was not much of a problem. Even if his mind was quite exhausted, he was still able to hold his ground in a very steady manner.

Cloe, on the other hand, stubbornly held her ground. Even if her mind and body were beyond exhaustion, she unyieldingly kept her stance alongside a determined expression on his face.

She did not know what Shin was trying to do, but she could tell that it was something important, especially after seeing how equally stubborn Shin was maintaining his stance.

Boom!

Not long after, an explosion of mana erupted, sending her flying away and colliding at the nearby wall.

Fortunately, they were currently inside the training hall that the Empyrean Talon had regularly rented when they were staying at the Divinity City, so the explosion did not affect the surroundings that much.

The defensive formations set up within the hall immediately activated at their strongest state when they sensed how powerful the explosion was.

This saved Shin and Cloe from attracting any unnecessary trouble.

Shin, who was standing at the center of the explosion, had miraculously 'survived' as he stood on the same spot without moving.

He waited for the blinding light to subside before he cast his gaze back at the object before him.

But to his surprise, the orb was no longer present as it was now swapped with the glowing white book floating in the air.

"Eh!?"

Confused, Shin subconsciously extended his hand on the book.

Swoosh!

As if recognizing his mana signature, the white book suddenly flew toward his hand 'joyfully' as if it was a long-lost child that reunited with its father.

Ding

At the same time, a string of system notifications suddenly bombarded Shin's ears.

System: Identification Successful!

System: You have successfully identified a divine relic of the ancient era, your mastery over the True Sight Skill has greatly increased.

System: The said skill is now promoted into (Personal) Unique Legacy Skill!

Ding

System: The 'Legacy Skill: Duplicator's Eyes' was resonating with your newly promoted ocular skill!

System: Initiating Skill Link!

Ding

System: Congratulations! You have acquired a (Unique) Innate Trait – Eye of Truth!

...

Shin could not help but stare blankly at the series of notifications before his eyes, unable to properly process everything due to his mental exhaustion.

Regardless, his subconsciousness suddenly kicked in and opened the information panel for the new innate trait that he just acquired.

Innate Trait: Eye of Truth

Trait Description: It was the eye of the seeker, who constantly chases after the Truth of the Universe.

Attribute: Truth

Rank: Ancient

Ability Type: Ocular Skill

Ability Activation: Passive

Ability Description:

- An eye that could see through all kinds of illusions.

- Any deception is ineffective to the wielder.

- Able to see through stealth.

- True Sight – able to uncover any secrets of an object or living being, revealing their true forms.

- Duplicator's Eyes – able to see through the secrets of any skills or abilities depending on the 'Wisdom' and 'Willpower' of the Wielder.

The overall ability was similar to the original version of his True Sight Skill aside from the Duplicator's Eyes, which came from one of his Legacy Skills.

The only difference of this ability from the original True Sight Skill was this ability being a passive skill.

He no longer had to constantly activate the skill on different occasions, as it was now permanently activated.

This was a big bonus, especially since he could feel that his innate trait had much more to offer than the descriptions provided by the system.

But Shin had to set it aside for the time being as he was curious to see what kind of item had caused such a reaction.

"Eh!? What the heck!?"

But what greeted him was something beyond his imagination.

Ding

Alongside it, another series of system notifications bombarded his eyes and ears.