

## **Destiny 1731**

### Chapter 1731 Another God's Fragment

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The blinding light only subsided after shining for quite a while, revealing a white book filled with exquisite and mysterious patterns on its surface. A single look at this book was more than enough to tell anyone that it was not ordinary, especially with such detailed designs.

Moreover, the ancient aura that it was constantly emitting was domineering enough to dominate the space. Shin could even feel the certain level of pressure that was slowly trying to crush him.

Fortunately, this powerful pressure was only targeting his mind, which was why the current him was able to withstand it despite his exhaustion.

Given his monstrous willpower, such a pressure was still within the range of what he could endure.

But this was not the thing that surprised Shin – it was the familiarity that he was getting from it. The appearance might be different, but the ancient aura that he was getting from the book was something that he could not forget.

With this, he could not help but extend his hand at the book, which swiftly landed in his palms as if it was attracted to him.

He could feel the 'joy' that the book was 'feeling' right after it came in contact with his hand.

Without further ado, he used the new powers of his eyes and looked into it.

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[Item Name]: Book of Genesis – I

[Item Type]: Miscellaneous

[Item Rank]: (???)

[Item Level]: Unknown

Details:

A book that has been formed by a fragment of an Ancient God, who had fallen during the Great Ancient Era War.

(???)

- You can sacrifice a portion of your Energy Root (Permanent loss of INT) to awaken a fraction of its true powers.

Note 1: Unlock the Entry Level Ancient Powers to learn more about this item.

Note 2:

Sacrificial Value in exchange for Ancient Powers

100 INT: Entry Level

250 INT: Intermediate Level

500 INT: Advanced Level

1000 INT: Master Level

(???)

Note 3: This item has acknowledged you as its new master, but you still must unlock the Entry Level Ancient Powers to bind it to your 'soul'.

Note 4: This item can still be dropped upon death if the connection is not established.

Note 5: This item cannot be destroyed or traded.

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"I knew it!" Shin felt a series of emotional shifts after skimming through the information of the item. "No wonder it is so 'stubborn'. It is one of those 'Fragments'!"

Even if he was quite surprised that he was still unable to fully uncover the rest of the secrets of this book, he just brushed it off after seeing that it was one of the broken items that possessed the godly powers of those fallen Ancient Gods.

Given how powerful this item once it was fully unlocked, it was only natural for him to be unable to see through its full details even with the help of the 'Eye of Truth'.

Moreover, he just gained this special ability, so his mastery over it was still not that high.

"Another Ancient God Fragment," mumbled Shin as he looked at the white book in his hands.

It was said to have an unfathomable power that could make him ascend to Godhood once its true powers were fully unleashed.

He even had another fragment that he had gotten from that apostle from the Undying Guild. It was still collecting dust at the corner of his inventory bag as he had never touched it since he got it.

With two broken items in his arsenal, it was not an exaggeration to say that he could dominate the game even with just the two of them.

Unfortunately, Hanzo had repeatedly warned him not to use the other book until he was strong enough to wield its powers.

Aside from that, he could also alert those Divine Beings at the higher plane once he had activated the powers of these Ancient God's Fragments, making him a target of their greed.

Those newly ascended gods would surely target him once they realized that he owned such an item.

If it truly happened, then Shin would be a target of the believers of all the Churches that were worshipping those gods.

Moreover, he would also attract the attention of the powerful NPCs of the Evil Factions, making him live a life of being hunted in any place he went.

Based on Hanzo's initial estimate, Tier 3 was the bare minimum where he could attempt to use these books containing the powers of an Ancient God.

But Solus insisted that Shin had to be enlightened first and reached Tier 4 before doing it to avoid being blinded by the overwhelming powers containing these God's Fragments.

It was the safest level where he could attempt controlling these powers.

This was the main reason why Shin never touched that Ancient God Book that he had gotten before. He was patiently bidding his time before trying to use it.

Aside from that, he was also looking for clues about these fragments due to the special quest that he had triggered during that time.

He had already found two of the clues. One of the fragments was suspected to be in Hell, the territory of True Demons, while the other was at the other side of the mysterious dimensional crack within the depths of Abyss Brink.

But clues required him to reach a very high level before attempting to look for those fragments. This alone was more than enough to tell Shin that these fragments were not easy to collect.

However, who would have thought another piece would land on his lap just like that. What's more, these two seemed to come from the same set given the similarities between the auras that they were emitting.

Unfortunately, this was not necessarily a good thing since a single Ancient God Book was already a problem. Having another would, without a doubt, be a huge headache.

Taking a deep breath, Shin could not help but look at the other book sitting at the corner of his inventory space for quite a while before taking it out.

Swoosh!

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[Item Name]: Book of Revelation – VII

[Item Type]: Miscellaneous

[Item Rank]: (???)

[Item Level]: Unknown

Details:

A book that has been formed by a fragment of an Ancient God, who had fallen during the Great Ancient Era War.

(???)

- You can sacrifice a portion of your Life Force (Permanent loss of VIT) to awaken a fraction of its true powers.

Note 1: Unlock the Entry Level Ancient Powers to learn more about this item.

Note 2:

Sacrificial Value in exchange for Ancient Powers

100 VIT: Entry Level

250 VIT: Intermediate Level



500 VIT: Advanced Level

1000 VIT: Master Level

(???)

Note 3: This item will certainly drop once the possessor dies.

Note 4: Upon drop, all the Ancient Powers granted to the wielder will be taken back while all the sacrificed stats would not be reverted.

Note 5: This item cannot be destroyed or traded.

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The book's item description was slightly different from what he could remember, but it was still similar to what the [Book of Genesis—I] had shown him.

"Given their names, it seems like this [Book of Genesis] is the first Volume while the [Book of Revelation] is the seventh one," commented Shin as he compared the two books in his hands – one being black while the other was white.

\*Ding\*

But when he was doing that, a string of system notifications suddenly bombarded his eyes and ears.

System: You have found another God's Fragment of the same set! Your connection with the Divine Authority of the said God has increased!

System: The two Ancient God Books were resonating with one another!

\*Ding\*

System: You have gained the ability to sense other God's Fragments of the same set! So long as you are within a certain range, you will be able to sense their major location.

System: Collect more fragments to increase the range of this ability.

...

"Now I know how that mysterious group, who have ambushed the elite members of the top forces operating in the Plague Lands, realize the others with the same fragments!" mumbled Shin, confirming

one of his initial guesses about that incident. "It is related to the number of fragments in their hands! Such an ability is truly helpful at finding these fragments.

But he quickly frowned when he realized he did not get any notification about God's Fragments nearby. "Strange? Why am I not getting any update about the location of the other fragments of my set?"

"Is it because mine is more advanced and powerful than theirs?" he added as this was also one of his suspicions at that time.

Given that the clues that he had gotten from the other two fragments were pointing him at the depths of the Abyss Brink and Hell, it was not hard to imagine how powerful the Ancient God Books in his hands were.

Staring at the two books in his hands for a couple of moments, Shin sighed before putting them inside his inventory back. "How painful it is to have overpowered items, yet unable to use them."

Cloe, who was resting on the floor near him, could not help but roll her eyes at him after hearing those words. "Yeah, right?"

Chapter 1732 Suffering from Success?

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Shin and Cloe returned to the current headquarters of the Empyrean Talons, which was the underwater temple within the Forgotten Sea.

They wanted to meet with the others before going to the team meeting, where they would review their previous battle against the Seven Seas Alliance in a deeper sense and discuss their next strategies for the next round.

But when they arrived, they were suddenly greeted by a piece of unexpected news.

"What!? They've backed out!? Are they planning to give up the tournament?" asked Cloe after hearing the news.

"No, I don't think so," said Leonard as he tried to guess the thoughts of the opposing team. "I think they just don't want to risk fighting us after experiencing such a crushing defeat from us."

Shin fell in deep thought as he assessed the plan of their enemies. "It may be a little 'cowardly' to the others, but it happens to be the perfect solution for their current situation."

He paused for a moment as he reorganized the information inside his head before further explaining his thoughts. "After what we have done to them – not only crushing them in the previous round but also destroying their spirits by purposely targeting some of their main combatants – giving up is indeed a wise choice."

"They will only suffer further if they insisted on fighting us on the next match and will just suffer a psychological wound that we have dealt. The best choice they have right now is to avoid worsening their situation and affect their performance for the next few rounds – 'running' away is the best choice at hand. It can also be considered as a tactical retreat for the entirety of the tournament."

Hearing his analysis, the others could not help but nod and agree with him.

"That sounds reasonable. This is a double-elimination round anyway," nodded Owen as he found it reasonable as well.

"So, what's the plan now?" asked Diablo.

Shin thought for a moment before continuing. "Let's review our match as plan and fix our little mistakes. Then we proceed analyzing the performance of our other rivals."

"We can do whatever we want after that," he added before logging out of the game and entering their team's virtual space.

The others quickly followed.

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The next day was still a free day for everyone since the next match was supposed to be two days after the previous match.

Adding that the Seven Seas Alliance had conceded for the next match, the Empyrean Talons had become the idlest team in the entire tournament right now.

The decision that the Seven Seas Alliance was also officially announced by the tournament organizers, earning them a few contempt and insults from the players. But none of them cared as it was the best choice available for them.

The top teams within the tournament and the experts had also agreed with the decision that they made after a deep analysis of their match with the Empyrean Talons.

This also made the Empyrean Talons the scariest team within the United Cup, especially when they now had a 20-0 score in the standings.

These points had automatically placed the team at the number one spot in the standings, which would greatly help them when they entered the quarter-finals, where they could choose the opponent from the bottom four of the top eight.

The current bracket would continue until the top eight was determined, which was also where another draw show would take place.

Those rounds would still have a double-elimination format, but there would be a seeding system, where the top four would be the seed teams while the bottom four would fill the rest.

With the current points that the Empyrean Talons had, their advantage over the rest of the teams would be quite huge, especially when they were the only team that managed to do a perfect-point game.

When some content creators and expert analysts analyzed the decision that the Seven Seas Alliance had made, a lot of people started to understand their choice.

But at the same time, this also gave everyone just how scary the Empyrean Talons were when it came to strategizing against their opponents, targeting key players and focusing on the weakness of the opposing teams.

Moreover, they had also realized how devious the arrangements that the Empyrean Talons had made, especially after understanding what the team had done to the Wild Brothers – particularly the eldest brother.

This earned Shin yet another nickname – the Devil Strategist – adding to the already long list of nicknames and titles under his belt.

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The first thing that Shin did right after re-logging in the game was to open his skill panel and check on the changes that the 'Mondi's Style' had after setting the legendary sword [Durendal] as its 'Meteor Form'.

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Skill Name: Mondy's Style

Skill Rank: Legacy – IV

Requirements: One needs to have a Sheath Wielding style to use this skill.

Historical Note: Mondī is a famous swordsman during the time of the Warring Era. He became one of the top 10 swordsmen of that time because of his specialized style.

Skill Details: Transform the sheath of your sword to different kinds of bladed weapon depending on the form of this skill.

Available Form/s:

1. Meteor Form: The sword-sheath will transform the longsword that you have sacrificed for this form.

- Assigned Sword – Legendary Sword [Durendal (Sealed)]

2. Conviction Form: The sword-sheath will transform the sword rapier that you have sacrificed for this form.

- Assigned Sword - None



3. Abyssal Form: The sword-sheath will transform the chain-blade/whip sword that you have sacrificed for this form.

- Assigned Sword - None

4. Judgment Form: The sword-sheath will transform into the greatsword that you have sacrificed for this form.

- Assigned Sword – None

5. Sacred Form: The sword-sheath will transform into a ritual sword such as seven-branched swords that you have sacrificed for this time.

- Assigned Sword – None

6. Ethereal Form: [Locked]

Cooldown for changing forms: 1 Second

Bonus unlocked abilities: Using this skill will not only replicate the form of the sword that has been sacrificed but also reproduce all the skills and stats they originally had.

Each sword transformation will give the wielder different kinds of buffs depending on the form used.

Note 1: The items will never be recovered once they were sacrificed. The last sacrificed items for each form will be the only ones that are going to be replicated.

Note 2: Only a Legendary Sword can be sacrificed for this skill – any swords of lower quality will only become a nourishment for the skill.

Each Sword of Obsidian Quality will be equivalent to a Legacy Point while anything worse to it will be disregarded for decimal value depending on their ranks.

Note 3: If there is no sacrificed sword for a certain unlocked form, a default spiritual sword will be used during the battle.

Note 4: Upgrade this skill rank to unlock more forms.

Note 5: If this skill has reached its peak potential, then it can unlock all the seals of the Legendary Swords set for each form.

Hint: Find Mond's Tomb to inherit all his skills.

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There was not much difference between the current description of the skill and the one he had previously, aside from the new form that was added into it.

"Eh!? It has leveled up? And A new form? I wonder what it looks like," Shin was curious about this new form, especially when he saw that it was meant for ritual or ceremonial types of weapons.

He had yet to unlock the other form, yet another form was added into the skill. Fortunately, he did not spend any LP (Legacy Points) to unlock it. A freebie was always welcome.

But his mood immediately became ugly when he focused his gaze on the newly added 'features' of the skill.

"The heck!? It can only take the form of a Legendary Sword now!? Moreover, any sword of lower quality will be nothing but an extra point now!?"

"Then are all the previous swords of each form nothing but nourishment to it now?" he could not help but curse when he realized that his 'simple' idea had come biting him.

Earning an extra Legacy Point of this skill was good, especially when it was very hard to grind LPs at this stage of the game. Even a high-ranking quest rarely gave a Legacy Point these days.

The problem was the exchange value. A single Obsidian Rank Sword was only equivalent to a single LP, which was crazy!

A sword of that quality was more than enough to make the players crazy, yet it was nothing but a Legacy Point before this skill!

Even the current rank of his main weapon, the [Yamato], was only at the peak of the Obsidian Rank right now, which was considered as the Meteor Rank!

"This is insane," mumbled Shin as he started to somewhat regret his actions.

Fortunately, there was also some good news that came with it. He could unlock all the seals cast on each Legendary Sword of every form so long as the 'Mondi's Style' reached its peak potential, which was a very good thing.

Unlocking the seal of such items was supposed to have him go through a series of quests or special conditions just like the [Durendal] where he had to purify an unknown number of Evil Beings or Dark Creatures just to unlock all its seals.

But with the help of this broken Legacy Skill, he would be able to bypass all of that and earn himself another set of overpowered items.

This thought calmed Shin down, taking the situation positively.

"It is not that bad I guess," mumbled Shin, trying to comfort himself.

...

With no better things to do, Shin was now free to do the things that he kept on delaying up until now.

He took a scroll from his inventory, which was something that he had gotten from Longinus, the leader of the Mysterious Instructions stationed at the Aurora Continent.

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[Item Name]: A Scroll of Eclipse

[Item Rank]: Special

[Item Type]: Miscellaneous

Description: A scroll containing the map of the hidden inheritance of the Fifth Envoy of the Church of the Sun and Moon, Altus.

Historical Note: It was said that Altus possessed the [Ring of the Brilliant Sun] and hid it along with his inheritance before he died in the battle against the Fallen Dark Dragon, Kardama.

Note: This is a special Instance Dungeon Scroll (Solo).

Requirements: Level 150, Tier 3 Class, and a high-ranking official of any churches of the righteous faction.

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Shin was supposed to do this as soon as he was free from his 'duties', but it kept being delayed because of multiple things that kept on happening.

"Finally! It is time!" he said right after making sure that there were no urgent things that he needed to do.

After informing the rest of the Emyrean Talons that he was going for a mission within a Solo Instance Dungeon.

Without further ado, he crushed the scroll in his hands and was teleported by it into the Instance Dungeon.

Swoosh!

...

Not long after, Shin opened his eyes and found himself in a foreign world, which was filled with brilliant flames.

\*Ding\*

System: You have used the Scroll of Eclipse!

\*Ding\*

System: You have entered the Brilliant Sun Dungeon, an independent place created by the Fifth Envoy of the Sun and Moon – Altus, the Seeker of the Sun and the Slayer of the Fallen Dark Dragon Kardama.

\*Ding\*

System: Dungeon's Trial has been activated!

System: Altus' Inheritance has been initiated!

...

Seeing the expected string of notifications from the system, Shin readied himself to clear the dungeon and get his hands on [Ring of the Brilliant Sun] as soon as possible, further enhancing his powers.

But before he could even do anything, another string of notifications interrupted his thoughts and made him halt his tracks.

\*Ding\*

System: It has been detected that the challenger's level, power, and achievements have far surpassed the limit of the trial – initiating the necessary adjustments.

\*Ding\*

System: The [Yamato] – the inheritance sword of Zepthus, the First Envoy of the Church – has been detected! More adjustments are needed.

\*Ding\*



System: It has been detected that the challenger has undergone a special God's Trial – further adjusting the difficulty of the trial.

\*Ding\*

System: It has been detected that the challenger has more than one inheritance – adding another level of difficulty.

\*Ding\*

System: It has been confirmed that the challenger has many Reaper's Retainers – the Trial's difficulty has become much harder!

\*Ding\*

System: The Trial's Difficulty has been set to the Highest Level (Chaos Difficulty)!

\*Ding\*

System: May the God of the Sun bless you.

...

The corner of Shin's mouth kept on twitching after seeing the next set of notifications before his eyes, especially after seeing the 'familiar' difficulty level given by the system. "Chaos Difficulty again? I should have expected this already."

"Well, this is not like my first time. I should be used to it," he added, trying to comfort himself, especially when he believed that this was not a good sign to start the day.

It felt like his day did not start right.

But when he recalled all the previous difficulties of his missions and quests, he realized that all of them were on the same level of difficulty – Chaos.

"Is this what they call suffering from success?" he said mockingly before opening the trial's description. "Let's hope that it is not as hellish as the others."

Chapter 1733 The Fifth Envoy's Trial

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[Dungeon Mission]: Altus' Trial

[Mission Type]: Eradication

[Mission Difficulty]: Chaos

Historical Note:

Altus had struggled to fight against the Fallen Dark Dragon Kardama due to the interference of one of the apostles of the 'Divine Being' with multiple names.

But he was barely able to win the battle against the two of them by exhausting almost all his life force in exchange for more power.

However, due to the mysterious power that was formed by the union of Kardama's soul and the divine fragment of the apostle, another evil being was born.

Altus was already at the point of burning the final embers of his life at that time, so he borrowed the powers left behind by the First Evoy of the Church of the Sun and Moon, Zheptus, to seal this being within an isolated dimensional pocket.

Additional Note: Before his life came to an end, he had left his inheritance in an isolated dimensional pocket that he had created.

Alongside it, he had also hidden the [Ring of the Brilliant Sun], which was his greatest masterpiece, within the independent world.

[Mission Details]: Due to being suppressed for a very long time, the Evil Being sealed with this independent world was greatly weakened, especially after being bathed with the purest Powers of the Brilliant Sun.

But at the same time, the power of the seal was slowly becoming weaker due to the resistance of the Evil Being.

This being had become smarter as more time passed, making it create a plan to break out of the seal and escape this place.

It had separated itself into multiple fragments, aside from its main source of life and power, to trick the seal before scattering them into different parts of the dimensional pocket to further exhaust the powers of the seal.

[Mission Condition]: Stop the Evil Being from successfully doing its plans by eradicating all its fragments.

[Additional Condition]: Destroy the main body of the Evil Being completely to thoroughly eliminate its threat to the outside world.

[Mission Progress]

Eliminated Evil Fragments: 0/5

(Optional): Destroying the Main Body: 0/1

[Mission Rewards]:

- +2 Levels

- [Ring of the Brilliant Sun]

- Inheritance left behind by Altus, the Fifth Envoy

- Clues for the whereabouts of the [Ring of the Abyssal Moon]

- +15 LP and +20 SP

[Mission Penalty]:

- Decrease of level by 10

- Destruction of the [Ring of the Brilliant Sun]

- Permanent loss of the inheritance of the Fifth Envoy

- Escape of the Evil Being to the outside world

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Shin skimmed through the mission details and could not help but sigh a little. "Even though the rewards are good, the penalty that comes with failure is still as harsh as ever."

But at the same time, he also could not help but feel a little interested in it due to the mission background, particularly about Altus, the Fifth Envoy.

Since Altus was one of his predecessors in being an Envoy of the Church of the Sun and Moon, it was natural for him to become interested in their history, particularly the powers that he possessed.

To understand more about his Transcendent Class and Race, he had to know more about the previous Envoys.

From what he had learned, there was a total of seven envoys of the church, including himself. Two of the previous generations were still alive, which were the sixth and the third envoy, while the rest were either dead or still missing.

It was still not confirmed that the First Envoy was dead as he suddenly disappeared after establishing the Church of the Sun and Moon alongside his close comrades, which were the first Templar and Inquisitor of the church.

There were a lot of rumors circulating about his disappearance, but the church believes that he had already ascended to the higher plane, where the Divine Beings resided, and was fighting another battle to avenge his parents.

As for the Second Envoy, she disappeared while following the traces left behind by Zheptus as she was looking for him.

The Third and Sixth Envoys, on the other hand, were managing the Church and its forces at the hidden headquarters in the depths of the border between the Divine Empire and Alfheim Kingdom.

...

While Shin was lost in his thoughts, his surroundings started to undergo some changes.

The originally brilliant flames of the Sun started to lose their luster and became a little pale as dark and ominous powers suddenly spread from multiple directions.

These brilliant flames tried to fight back, but their source was starting to lose its powers due to the constant corruption of these dark powers.

Aside from suppressing the main body of the Evil Being with a powerful seal, this independent world also had to keep the five fragments of evil under control, which resulted in its powers spreading thin.

"An Evil Being, huh? It should be counted as a dark creature, I suppose," mumbled Shin as he recalled that he had multiple items that required him to fight such creatures.

The [Durendal] that he had recently acquired and the [Mysterious Grimoire] he had gotten during his hunt in the Plague Lands alongside Cloe – it was one of the loots that the Plague Behemoth had dropped.

"One requires me to purify more dark creatures and evil beings while the other wants me to absorb their powers. They seem to be working perfectly well," he commented before choosing a random direction.

Not long after, he had encountered his first batch of monsters.

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[Monster Name]: Drakon (Hatchling)

[Monster Type]: Quarter-Undead, Quarter-Ghost, and Half-Dragon (Ghost Dragon Clan)



[Monster Rank]: Regular

[Life Rating]: Lesser Abomination Species

[Monster Level]: 170

Health Points: 2 Million

Description:

An Abomination Beast that underwent multiple series of mutations after being exposed to the powers of the Corrupted Soul of a Fallen Dark Dragon.

They had gained a very long lifespan due to the 'blessing' of the tiny Divine Fragment of a God's Apostle.

But they have turned into an undead ghost after being sealed in this place for a very long time, which was also abundant with the powers of the Brilliant Sun.

Due to the conflicting powers of the Brilliant Sun and the Evil Being filling the entire dimension, these creatures became an abomination known for its hunger for the living and destruction.

Note 1: Normal means of attack were ineffective against them due to the special nature of their bodies.

Note 2: Their bodies possessed a dense amount of mutated powers that were formed from the constant clash of the Powers of the Brilliant Sun and the Evil Beings, which could be beneficial or harmful to those that came in contact with them.

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The health bar of the monster was not much of a problem for Shin. Given his current attack power, such an amount was nothing to him, especially when he possessed the legendary sword [Durendal].

The problem was the special note indicated at the bottom of the monster's description, which was telling him that this monster was not as simple as it seemed.

Moreover, their numbers were quite huge, which was somewhat of a headache for him.

"Fortunately, I have the [Durendal], or else I will be in trouble doing this mission," he commented, ignoring the possibility that the sword itself was one of the reasons why the trial had become this difficult.

Setting that aside, Shin swiftly unsheathed the [Yamato] before summoning the 'Meteor Form' of 'Mondi's Style', excited to test how powerful the might of a legendary sword.

It was also not the end as he let Solus possess the [Durendal], further enhancing its powers with the help of her 'Eternal Flame'.

Swoosh!

The appearance of the legendary sword did not change much when Solus possessed it. However, all the runes engraved on its translucent blade glowed with more intensity while the flame covering it transformed into gorgeous flames that Solus wielded.

At the same time, Shin had also let Whitie and Blackie possessed the [Yamato], activating the 'Chaos Slasher Possession' along with the mighty black and white lightning – the Primordial Lightning.

Crackle! Crackle!

He instantly activated the triple possession before making his move.

With the blazing sword in his left hand and a lightning blade in the other, Shin suddenly charged at the group of Drakons, who also noticed his presence.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Deafening roars came out from the mouths of these abomination creatures before charging at the prey that came out of nowhere.

Starting intently at the incoming monsters, Shin suddenly swung the swords in each of his hands multiple times, leaving a series of intertwining flashes in the air.

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

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Third Movement – Trinity Strom'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The trails of gorgeous flames and mighty lightning danced in the battlefield while forming a series of crisscrossing lines on their path, slashing through everything blocking them.

(-50, 299), (-65,226), (-59, 882), ...

(-57, 332), (-76,521), (51, 454), ...

Huge numbers appeared over the heads of the abomination monsters as he flashed through their ranks.

He stopped only in the middle of the swarm, crossing the two swords before him while adjusting his breathing techniques.

He then suddenly swung the swords left and right, sending a series of sword waves, which resembled the blazing feathers of a fire bird and dancing arcs of raging lightning in the sky.

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

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Sixth Movement – Sword Gale'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A storm of attacks bombarded the monsters as Shin bravely stood in the middle of their ranks with a pair of swords in his hand.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

In the midst of this violent storm of gorgeous flames and dancing lightning arcs, Shin stood like a god of destruction, who had descended into the world to destroy everything.

Chapter 1734 The Fifth Envoy's Trail (Part 2)

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Bang!

After taking down the final Drakon of the group, Shin twirled the [Durendal] in his left hand, leaving a series of blazing trails in the air.

He then pointed at the somewhat translucent body of the monster before him, acting the Divine Purification Ability of the legendary sword.

He then frowned slightly after seeing that the progress bar of the unsealing process remained as it was. "This is quite frustrating."

"Not only am I not making any progress with this scam, but I am also not getting much experience points," he complained as he looked at his experience bar, which barely moved despite hunting a lot of monsters in this place.

"Fortunately, farming karma points for the Divine Rebirth Skill is not that hard," he added after seeing that the Good Karma Points that he had farmed were equivalent to the amount of monsters that he had killed, numbering a whole 2,000.

...

Shin had spent an entire day (in-game time) to hunt as much Drakon as he could, which varied from regular-rank monsters up to elite ones.

He had harvested quite a lot of negative energies – dark and evil – for the [Mysterious Grimoire], but he could still feel that it was far from being satisfied to reveal its true form. This black book dropped by the Plague Behemoth sure looked like an endless pit that could not be filled.

Fortunately, Shin could still feel some reaction from it, albeit being so little to the point that it was barely noticeable. He might still be far from unlocking the true form of this grimoire, but there was still some hope at unlocking it.

On the other hand, the progress for the [Durendal] was way too slow. The 'Divine Purification' of the sword seemed to be too much of a scam as the unsealing process barely moved despite him hunting a lot of Drakons within this place.

He was not sure if it was because of the nature of these monsters, which grew and evolved within the special dungeon that was rich with both the Power of the Brilliant Sun and the Corrupted influence of the Evil Being sealed within it.

With the constant collision of these opposing powers, the creatures living or sealed within this place had slowly mutated and started to become somewhat immune to them.

This was the only reason for his super slow progress with the legendary sword. Despite having an army of Drakon to hunt, he was barely able to purify due to the mutation that they had undergone and the decent resistance against sacred purification that they had achieved within this place.

With that, the progress bar for unsealing the sword remained at the 0.0001% despite hunting for a huge number of Drakons for the entire day, which was too far from his expectations.

Regardless, he also found it somewhat acceptable as it was about a legendary sword. If it was too easy to unseal such an overpowered weapon, then there was no point to call it as such.

This was also where he revealed how overpowered the 'Mondi's Style' was in another sense. If he was able to release its true powers by leveling it to the 'maxed level' and fully unseal each of the sword forms of the legacy skill, then he would truly become overpowered within the game.

Adding that his current fighting style fully complemented the skill – alongside the swordsmanship style that he had created to perfectly match its features – his might and combat prowess would multiply exponentially with each legendary sword of every form.

But what made Shin more excited was the other benefits that the legacy skill provided aside from the sword formations and transformations.

He was already aware of it before, but it was just a hidden feature of the skill during that time. Moreover, he had to only swap the forms at a specific time if he wanted to activate these effects.

But with the most recent upgrade of the legacy skill, these effects turned into different buffs depending on the form that was activated.

The Meteor Form provided him a bonus offensive power in both physical and magical attacks while an explosion of power would erupt for a moment upon activation.



The Conviction Form then gave him a boost in willpower that helped him withstand any mental attacks or illusion techniques alongside an instant removal of any crowd-control skill cast upon him.

The Judgement Form, on the other hand, made his physique much stronger to enhance his physical prowess and defensive capabilities as well as giving him an ability to control the gravity within 5-meter radius around for a couple of seconds.

Meanwhile, the Abyssal Form could amplify his affinity with the Dark and Shadow Elements alongside a massive increase of his agility and dexterity. He would also be able to move at extreme speed for a second if this form was used.

As for the Sacred Form, which was the new form added after the most recent upgrade of the skill, Shin still had no idea what kinds of buffs or special abilities it could provide him once it was activated.

Then there was the Ethereal Form which was still a mystery for him since he had never unlocked this form yet.

The passive buffs that each form provided him would last so long as the specified form was activated, while the instant skill that every form possessed could only be triggered once in every 10 minutes, which was neither too short nor too long.

This would require Shin to manage the switching of sword forms during the battle if he wanted to take advantage of those instant skills.

But if he wanted to just spam the swapping of sword forms while fighting, then he could just ignore those skills and focus on defeating his enemies.

...

After another day and a half (In-game Time) of grinding, Shin had already accumulated enough Good Karma Points for the Divine Rebirth equipment skill, but everything else barely moved.

This included the progress of his dungeon mission, which was looking for the five fragments of the Evil Being.

He had never gotten any clue about these fragments, making him roam within the dungeon aimlessly. All he did was to blindly hunt monsters, thinking that they would lead him to the locations of these fragments, especially when he encountered a larger pack of Drakons as well as more powerful ones.

But despite hunting for two and a half days straight and encountering some super elite monsters along the way, he still unable to find any clues about these so-called fragments of Evil Being, which made him doubt his initial guess.

"I guess this strategy does not apply to this place," mumbled Shin as he looked around.

The dungeon was still filled with the colliding flames of the Brilliant Sun and dark energy of the Evil Being, which made his senses somewhat 'dull'.

Aside from the limited area around, he could not sense anything beyond a certain boundary, which made it hard for him to locate the energies of the said evil fragments.

There was still a 'land' and 'mountains' around him, but he was not sure whether they were real or not.

The True Sight of his Eye of Truth helped him see through all kinds of illusions, so he could at least tell which path he had to take despite the chaotic energies filling the air.

This was also what helped him locate the pack of Drakons, which he constantly hunted.

He first thought that he had to look for the main 'nests' of these monsters to find the location of the five evil fragments. But he now realized that there was something wrong with this place, which seemed to be leading him in circles.

He did not immediately look for another batch of Drakons to kill. Instead, he sheathed his sword before sitting cross-legged on the ground to meditate.

"Since it was these clashing powers that are the ones preventing me from finding these fragments, then all I have to do is to study them in a deeper sense and use them as the 'guide' that will lead me to the places I am looking for."

Remembering that this was supposed to be a trail 'prepared' by the Fifth Envoy of the Church of the Sun and Moon, Altus, Shin realized that this shouldn't be as simple as eradicating all the monsters within this place, including the five evil fragments and the Evil Being itself.

He was sure that there was a deeper meaning in this trail than he could see on the surface.

The mission description misled him a little as he was too used to doing quests based on what their description and backgrounds had described in the quest panel.

This 'habit' had led him with a misconception that all quests must be done according to these 'rules.'

"Since the Fifth Envoy is the master and the creator of the [Ring of the Brilliant Sun], his powers must be related to this power as well."

"And as a 'member' of the Nephilim Race, I must learn how to properly wield their powers," he mumbled as he entered the deep meditation state, seemingly trying to connect himself with the surroundings.

"The Power of the Brilliant Sun."

Chapter 1735 The Fifth Envoy's Trial (Part 3)

...

Shin set quite a lot of time meditating within the dungeon, trying to connect with the Power of the Brilliant Sun filling the air.

He first thought that it was going to be easy, especially when he was quite familiar with it. Aside from that, he had also mastered the Power of the Primordial Eclipse to a certain extent, which was the product of combining the Powers of the Brilliant Sun and the Abyssal Moon.

Moreover, he also had the assistance of Solus' Eternal Flame, which was an elemental power that shared a similar root as the Powers of the Brilliant Sun.

But to his surprise, he found it quite difficult to achieve. Connecting with the Power of the Brilliant Sun within this dungeon was much harder than he originally thought.

At first, he thought that it was because of the continuous clash of the Brilliant Flames against the tainted energy released by the main body of the Evil Being and its fragments scattered in different places. The clash between the two powers was constantly interrupting his attempt to connect with the Power of the Brilliant Sun.

But he later realized that it was not the case, especially after finding out that his understanding of this power barely touched its true capabilities. He just figured out that he was only touching the surface of this power, which was the root of his Transcendent Race and Class.

This was the main issue that most people with multiple powers or styles encountered throughout their journey – becoming a Jack-of-all-trades, but a master of none.

This was why Shin had created a unique system where he could utilize all his powers to the fullest while also complementing one another.

Due to his current style of complexity, Shin preferred focusing on the main Five Elemental Powers that he possessed alongside the elements of Light and Shadow, following the principle of Five-Elemental Cycle of his Four Symbol Scripture while reinforcing it with the principle of Duality and Unity from his Yin-Yang Arts.

This resulted in the formation of his newly found powers, which were the Five Elemental Primordial Lightning.

As for the special elements such as Blood, Void, and Shadow or Psychic – he was planning to use them to cover the areas that his current style could not achieve.

At this moment, Shin was planning to use all his achievements with the Power of the Brilliant Sun to enhance the elemental prowess of his Eternal Flame, letting it match the might of the original Primordial Lightning.

At the same time, his understanding of the Powers of the Primordial Eclipse would also enhance, which would directly affect and further strengthen the Five Elemental Primordial Lightning in return.

This was his original plan after realizing the nature of this dungeon trial.

Due to the Brilliant Flames and the Eternal Flames sharing the same root, achieving this feat shouldn't be that hard.

However, he needed to first build a connection with the Powers of the Brilliant Sun filling the place before he could achieve all of these.

But he did not expect that communicating with the Powers of the Brilliant Sun within this dungeon would be this hard, much less understanding its nature and learning how to utilize its powers to the fullest.

Kring! Kring! Kring!

Not long after, the alarm that he had set up earlier to remind him of the time suddenly rang in his ears.

It was time to log out.

Frowning his brows quite deeply, Shin could not help but sigh dejectedly. "I guess that's it for today. Let's see if I can achieve something later."

Due to the nature of this quest being a little different compared to the previous trials that he had gone through, which had a direct condition to clear, he was having some trouble completing this one.

If he could think of the 'trial' with the closest conditions to this one, then it should be similar to what he just experienced on the Phantom Island, where he had fully unlocked the true powers of one of his Legacy Skills – the Regan's Method.

This legacy skill had contributed a lot to his current style, so he was looking forward to what would happen if he also passed this trial of the Fifth Envoy.

"Let's log out for now to refresh my mind. After all, I have been hunting for those Drakons without rest for two straight days before this, so I am quite fatigued mentally," he mumbled before looking for a safe spot to log out of the game.

Swoosh!

...

After doing his daily routine and doing some scheduled training for his swordsmanship and mentalism, Shin went straight to resting.

He wanted to rest to the fullest so that he would be at his peak state once returned to the game.

This was indeed effective as he had made a lot of progress right after such a satisfying nap and returned online.

"So, the Brilliant Flames is basically an Eternal Flame that had the sacred properties of the Light Element, if I ignored everything else and focused solely on its nature," he mumbled as he reorganized his gains while resting.

"But at the same time, it also possesses tiny bits of darkness within, which could somewhat 'corrupt' those who touch it."



"The purification properties that it has were more like a flame burning all the impurities on its target, which could only also be used reversely where it absorbs all the 'good' energies and leaves the opposing party with impurities alone, hence 'corrupting' them instead."

"Interesting," he mumbled as he learned about this.

Shin did not stop there as he knew that this was just the start. He continued to meditate, attempting to communicate with the Powers of the Brilliant Sun more to further enhance his understanding with it.

He even invested all his online time just for this, making his harvest more fulfilling.

...

On this day, Shin had to pause what he was doing reluctantly as he had to watch the next matches of the United Cup with the rest of the Empyrean Talons.

He wanted to stay here a bit longer, but he knew that he also needed to watch the matches with the team so that they could further understand their rivals.

Swoosh!

The moment when he logged into the virtual space of the team, he was immediately greeted by Leonard, who was sitting right beside the spot where he appeared. "You are late."

"Just what kind of quest are you doing this time for you to be so cooped in that solo dungeon?" he added with a slight frown.

He knew that Shin had always been lucky at finding a lot of good stuff within the game, but such things also give the latter a lot of trouble in exchange.

Shin smirked as he sat beside Leonard. "It is fine. I am making quite a lot of progress this time."

Leonard further deepened his frown as he asked. "You said that is a trial dungeon that rewards you another inheritance item – an accessory to be exact. You sure are a lucky dog, huh?"

Accessories were one of the hardest to farm within the game as they were considered as special items most of the time, especially so when it came to high quality ones.

But items in exceptional categories such as Divine Armors, Sacred Relics, Dissonant Wish, and Inheritance items were much harder to find as they were considered as end-game items all the time.

A single piece of item within this category was more than enough for huge guilds and powerful organizations within the game to wage war against one another, which reflected how hard it was to find these items.

Yet, here was a guy who not only possessed multiple items of such caliber but also found them left and right like cabbages in a marketplace.

Moreover, the thing that Shin had 'found' this time was both an accessory and an inheritance at the same time, which was the hardest to find.

However, Leonard was not in a position to complain about it either, as he was in a similar situation. He might not be as lucky as Shin, but he was not that bad either.

Shin rolled his eyes at Leonard as he was aware of this. "You have no right to say that to me."

He then pointed at Owen and Alucard, who were sitting nearby, and said. "Look at these poor guys. They only have a piece for themselves."

Those two tried their hardest to suppress the twitching of their faces after hearing those words, complaining that they were behaving in their respective seats yet still catch some stray bullets.

"I do have quite a few, though," said Chaotic Luck, who was sitting nearby.

"No one asks, you 'mistress' of Goddess of Luck," snarled Owen, ready to unsheathe his sword and cut Chaotic Luck with it.

While waiting for the live broadcast to go online, Leonard suddenly remembered something and turned to Shin. "Ah! I have some news for you."

Raising his brows, Shin urged. "Spit it. Stop acting like Arthur and mystify it."

"The Wing's Alliance is in trouble. I heard that their Supreme Elder has succeeded in a plot against their Alliance Leader and caused a clear division between the internal factions," said Leonard.

Shin frowned as he spoke. "Didn't you lend them a hand alongside Arthur and the others before? I seem to remember that you guys have already helped them solve that problem."

"That's what we have thought too. But who will think that the Supreme Elder has already planted his spies deep in the camp of the Alliance Leader," explained Leonard.

He paused as the expression on his face suddenly turned serious. "That is not the end. I also heard from my source within the circle that the Alliance Leader has suffered an assassination attempt in real life."

This time, Shin was truly shocked as he did not expect it to reach that point. "It has escalated that far?"

"It is very normal for such huge organizations to resort to such methods to eliminate their rivals. Others are even worse," said Leonard while shrugging his shoulders.

Shin then recalled the incident where that dude Justin had sent some mercenaries to assassinate him. He could only nod as he understood why most of the people within the game hid their identities in the real world. It was to avoid such situations.

"So, why are you saying this to me?" asked Shin as he was not that interested in this matter.

Leonard shrugged his shoulders for another time as he continued. "Just sharing, I guess? Well, it will also greatly affect the structure of the United Cup as Wing's Alliance is one of the main contenders within the tournament."

"Moreover, it is confirmed that the Pandemonium Descendants are greatly involved in this matter, so we have to look out for them," he added, warning Shin seriously.

"Those guys again? They sure are everywhere," nodded Shin with a solemn expression.

Chapter 1736 The Might of Slayers

...

After watching the features battles, the members of the Empyrean Talons were left with their respective thoughts as they now had an idea of how powerful their rivals in this tournament were.

The matchup that the tournament organizers had chosen to feature on the official broadcast was the match between the Titan Guild and the Slayers Adventurer Team.

This match was so intense that it had left a deep impression on those who had watched it.

Each matchup for every round were so intense, where the contenders from each side were always finding ways to take advantage of their respective strengths. They were also trying their hardest to find the flaws from their opposition, forcing the other side to commit a mistake.

After taking turns in having an upper hand during the battle, the side that remained composed and steady until the end was the one who emerged victorious as they limit the number of mistakes they had committed in the entire battle.

The Titan Guild won the first round since their representatives for the individual matches were much better than the Slayers Adventurer Team.

The two matches were quite close, but it was clear that the Titan Guild had better combatants when it came to individuals.

But when it came to the second round, which was the group battle, the Slayers Adventurer Team had made a comeback.

The trio representing the Titan Guild put up a good fight from the start until the end, but they were unable to withstand the ferocious firepower of the twin mages of their opposition.

Ravier and Ember let the world remember why they were one of the best duos within the virtual world. The terror of the Winter Demon and the Flame Witch was revealed to the entire gaming community once again.

The Titan Guild had a lot of powerful trios within their ranks, but due to how huge the guild was, they were unable to summon all of them to attend this tournament.

They had only sent a few people, who would represent their respective factions within the guild, to join the unified team.

Regardless, the ones representing them here in the United Cup were among the best.

The three that were chosen to represent their team for the group battle were Athena, Apollo, and Artemis, who were all Godlike Players.

On paper, their team was supposed to one of the strongest trios within the entire gaming community, especially with such a strong composition for a three-vs-three battle – a powerful tank who soak all the damage, an aggressive fighter who could act as a secondary tank and destructive force at the frontline, and an godly archer who could freely and safely fire at their enemies under the protection of the two.

Such a scary lineup was supposed to beat their opposition one-sidedly. But who could imagine that the result was the exact opposite of what everyone was thinking.

It might not be a beatdown, but the three gods of the Titan Guild had gotten a tough time during the entire battle.

All of these were attributed to the third person that the Slayers had sent alongside one of their power duos for the group battle.

Pantheon, the Immovable God!

He was one of the greatest tanks that the virtual world had acknowledge due to his unshakable technique and impenetrable defense, which even the top Godlike Players admitted that only an exceptional few could break through.

He was even dubbed as one of the standards of being the perfect tank within the gaming industry due to his achievements.

He used to be the chief tank of the Dark Hero Adventurer Team, which Lawless and Faker used to lead.

He was one of the main pillars of the team, known for his steadfastness and unshakeable will.

God Slayer for absolute strength, Death God of the extreme speed, and Immovable God with unbreakable defense – these three gods of the virtual world were feared even among the Monster Rank Players of that era.

Alongside the two, who were known as Tora and Yami at that time, the Dark Hero became one of the powerhouse groups within the virtual world mostly because of the three of them.

Naturally, there were still others, who were equally powerful and the pillars of the legendary adventurer team. But these three spearheaded all their campaigns, which led to unstoppable victories.

These three became an absolute legend during those times. But all of it came into an end when the two gods disappeared within the gaming community for more than two years.



It might be a short time for others. But for the fast-growing industry such as the gaming world, these two years were long enough to bury most of the legends and get replaced by the new generation.

Due to the disbandment of the Dark Hero Adventurer Team and the disappearance of their two leaders, its members scattered everywhere – either joining another power or going solo.

The traitors of the group attempted to find the others to either lure them to join the forces that they each joined or hunt them down to eradicate such future threats completely.

Pantheon was among those who disappeared and never appeared again in the public until recently. He sought his previous leaders, who were also the only ones that he had acknowledged, the moment when he heard the news about their return.

Many had thought that he had already lost his touch for disappearing for such a very long time. He was nothing but a mere washup legend, who was already forgotten by many.

But who would have thought that his comeback would be so stunning that even the combined forces of three top-notch gods of the Titan Guild were unable to break through his defense.

He did not only ward off their attacks and created enough space for Ravier and Ember behind him to throw all the spells they wanted.

It was a close fight, but Pantheon had shown everyone his dominance. It felt like he was announcing to the world 'they' had returned.

Shin was not familiar with the previous members of the legendary Dark Hero Adventurer Team as he was quite new to the gaming world. But after listening to the explanations of the veterans around him, he understood that these guys were not as simple as he originally thought.

At the same time, he also could not help but be impressed with Lawless and Faker, who had been acknowledged by someone strong and loyal as this Pantheon dude.

In the next round of the match, which was a team battle, Lawless and Faker had led the team to victory without losing a member.

Morgan, the Golden Bullet, worked perfectly well with these two. As long-time partners of those two, his teamwork with them was more than enough to bridge the gap between him and the godly marksman of their opposition.

As for Hayden, the Immovable Mountain, the dude had outperformed himself by a huge margin. He had showcased a foreign version of himself as he strive to get an acknowledgement from one of his role models.

Pantheon was one of the best tanks within the virtual world, so it was not strange for Hayden to take him as his idol, especially with the similarities of their titles.

As for their fifth member, it was another person that Shin did not recognize. But based on what Leonard had said, it was another scary guy that seemed to disappear from the gaming world after the incident in «True Era» Online.

Shin was confused at first, but he later realized what made the said person scary. This dude had a very faint presence that made almost everyone neglect him.

If this guy was an assassin, then his targets would most likely die without them knowing what happened.

'Fortunately,' this guy did not have a class meant for stealth and assassinations. Instead, he was a shaman – a shaman who lacked any presence within the battlefield, making others almost neglect his existence.

But upon closer inspection, Shin realized that this guy's timing when using his debuffs on their opponents and placement of totems had always been perfect.

It might be unnoticeable for others. But for Shin, who kept his eyes on the guy and very familiar with strategic battles, the actions of this guy were a terror for those standing opposite to him.

Malison, the Witch Doctor – Shin had engraved this name in his mind as he knew that they could face this guy in the later stages of the tournament.

Compared to the powerful trio and duo of this team, Shin felt that this guy would most likely be the one to give them the most trouble.

After all, the others were pretty much straightforward while this dude felt like a mystery for Shin.

...

The Slayers Adventurer Team had advanced to the next round of the bracket after defeating the Titan Guild in a very convincing fashion. But that did not mean that the latter was a weak team. They just encountered a stronger and more united opponents, which happened to be their current weakness.

The other matches were also quite satisfying to watch, but most of them were not as stunning as the battle between these two giants.

Shin and the rest of the Empyrean Talons discussed the performance of every team while also trying to put themselves in each team's shoes, discussing some strategies that they could use to break free from certain situations.

At the same time, their next opponent had also been determined. It was a 'familiar' team as Shin and the others had also watched one of their matches before.

Hien Workshop – a powerful organization with a solid background and history. It was a team with quite a lot of powerhouses as well.

The next match was not going to be that easy even for them, especially after seeing how the team had performed just now.

"It looks like I have to prepare a serious strategy this time around," commented Shin as he looked at the matchups projected on the virtual screen.

## Chapter 1737 Plans for Information Network

Shin stayed at the virtual space of the team for a little longer to watch the matches of their next opponents and discuss their initial assessment about these rivals.

They did not dwell too deep into it as they still had other things to do, especially Shin who was still in the middle of his dungeon mission.

Shin scheduled another team meeting tomorrow, while assigning every member about the things that they had to focus on when studying the members of the Hien Workshop. As for studying the team tactics and how to deal with them, it was left for Shin to deal with.

He promised that he would find a time to take care of it despite his busy schedule.

Well, the others trusted him even though they did not believe that he would be able to free some of his time given how 'busy' he was.

Regardless, the strategies that he came up with were always the best choice they had when encountering any kind of situation.

Most of the members of the team were still far from being fully familiar with Shin despite acknowledging how good he was at dealing with all kinds of situations regardless of the problems that he was facing.

They were unlike the core members of the team, who knew that this was still far from what he was truly capable of.

Attracting troubles and solving them was just one of his 'talents'. It was the same for finding a way how to mess with other people along with how he would benefit from it.

This guy was a nightmare for those who were standing opposite to him and a devil in disguise for those who offended him.

Given their understanding of him, Cloe and Leonard could tell that the next match would show everyone the true capabilities of the guy they called the 'Devil Strategist'.

"He is quite excited. I wonder how he will make those guys suffer," said Leonard after sensing the excitement of this sworn brother of his.

Cloe pressed her index finger under her lower lip, thinking. "Given the strength of our opponents and his personality, I am sure that he will be cooking something devious despite the odds."

"We will know about it once he chooses the 'champion' who will be representing us on the first solo match," said Leonard before proceeding to do his own thing. "I will be visiting Mister Jiang in the Divinity City first. I heard that the kid has already settled well in the Awakened Continent."

"I'll also try to convince him with that plan that Shin has entrusted me. That kid is quite stubborn when it comes to these things, so I hope that my strategy works this time," he added as he turned to leave.

"A plan assigned by Shin!?" Cloe was confused at first, but she quickly realized what Leonard was talking about. "Ah! Are you talking about the information network that he is trying to make?"

Leonard paused his steps as he nodded. "Jiang is quite a talented information broker, which is why he is one of the 'in-demand brokers' within the game. Especially when he does not belong to any major forces."

"As a broker, who often likes to play alone, he is the best choice when it comes to neutrality within the field."

"But working alone also has its limitations, especially when he is competing with huge names within this line of business."

"The Assassin Union, the Secret Recipe, the Black Market, and the Heavenly Resto-Bar are the best in the business. Even if being an information broker was just a 'side job' for them, mainly focusing on their main businesses, their information network was still something that a small force could achieve, much less a small-time individual."

"Luring him to the information network that Shin is trying to build is a better choice," commented Leonard.

"He will shine even brighter once his talent is added to the network that Miss Bunny has built during her earlier days as an information merchant," nodded Cloe, completely agreeing with the plan.

"But we already have the Hand of Midas, though," she continued. "Even if their information network is slightly worse compared to Assassin Union and Secret Recipe, it can still match the other two forces within the business."

"They are even better than most of the Powerhouse Guilds and Top Organizations within the game," she added with slightly pursed lips.

"Having another information network other than the one that is already in existence also has its advantages," Diabo, who happened to overhear their conversation.

"Even if it is few, there are still some forces that are already aware of our team's close relationship with the Hand of Midas. This piece of information, albeit a little, can be used against us. Just leading the spies of the Hand of Midas into a slightly altered information is more than enough to delay our channels for hearing an important news."

"Creating an extra channel where we can get another flow of information is a common move that the top forces within the game. I bet even the Hand of Midas has multiple channels for themselves, especially with such a huge organization."

He paused for a moment to shake his head, complementing Shin's insight. "This move will not only benefit us, but our allies as well."

"But everyone is already aware of our close relationship with Miss Bunny, so her network can also be used against us," commented Cloe, seemingly trying to expose the flaw of this plan.



But Diablo had only given her a meaningful look, which took her a couple of minutes to understand. "Ah! But this piece of information can also be used as another 'weapon' to trick and confuse our enemies."

"And that is where Mister Jiang will come in play. He will use his little network and experience as a solo information broker to crosscheck the information networks of the Hand of Midas and Miss Bunny, filtering the most reliable ones and those that could be trusted," said Leonard as he also realized this fact.

"Since he has his circle of friends within this line of business, he can also be another channel of information for our team."

"Moreover, since he is known as a lone wolf within the circle and famous for his 'neutrality', not many will suspect about our relationship with him," he added with a bitter smile. "It is indeed a good plan."

"This Vice Commander of ours is sure amazing and scary at the same time. He always aims for multiple targets with just 'one' stone at hand," commented Diablo. "It may look greedy for the others, but for those who can see how meticulous he arranges things, they will realize that it is not as simple as it seems."

"If someone underestimates even a single move from him, then they will suffer greatly in his hands. But even if they figure out what is truly happening during that time, it is already too late to escape his grasp since everything is already laid at that point – making them believe that they have 'found' about it," he sighed as he suddenly recalled a few people who had a similar ability.

"Let's just hope that he will not be the same as them," he mumbled to himself before telling the two that he would be going.

Leonard and Cloe stared at Diablo's back as he left before looking at one another.

"That guy sure has some history. With such a deep sigh, anyone can tell that something has happened to him in the previous 'place' that he's from," commented Leonard.

"He looks lonely and still looking for a place where he truly belongs," nodded Cloe.

Even if Diablo had adjusted well in the Empyrean Talons, he still could not feel the sense of belonging. It was mainly because of his previous experience in the Pandemonium Descendants, which led him to restrain himself from fully trusting others.

He might like the atmosphere in the team and working quite well with them. But still refrained himself from building a true bond with them. He was always putting everyone at arm's length purposely or unconsciously.

Him joining the team was more like a business, where they somewhat shared the same goals.

But this might change in the future as he was starting to accept being a part of this place, albeit at a slow pace.

Leonard and Cloe could feel it as well, but there seemed to be an invisible wall preventing Diablo from fully committing himself and accepting them as his true teammates and not just business partners.

"Let's just hope that we will fully overcome it," said Leonard, as he excused himself for needing to finish the task Shin had given him.

Cloe, on the other hand, ran toward Lorraine, who just logged in the virtual space.

"Why did you call me just now? I should have joined you in the meeting earlier," complained Lorraine after failing to see Leonard.

Cloe giggled as she brushed off the complaints of the latter and dragged this lovestruck girl to one of the training rooms. "Help me with my training for a moment. I want to try something."

Chapter 1738 Evil Fragment: Ghostly Lindwurm

...

The moment when Shin returned to the solo dungeon, he immediately sat on the same spot he logged in and started meditating soon after.

This time, he had spent an entire day (in-game time) to make a connection with the Powers of the Brilliant Sun filling the dungeon. It might be somewhat faint compared to his target, but it was more than enough to communicate with them.

After adjusting himself with it and stabilizing a steady connection with the Brilliant Flames, Shin 'asked' a favor. He wanted it to lead him to the places where the fragments of the Evil Being were located.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, the surrounding Brilliant Flames that were constantly fighting against the evil and corrupted powers suddenly flickered before separating and creating a path for him to take.

Opening his eyes, Shin smiled as he stood and before walking down the path paved by the Brilliant Flames.

He followed it, which led him to a series of places filled with a lot of Drakons. Their ranks were the same as the ones that he had encountered since he entered the dungeon, ranging from common-rank up to elites.

There were also a couple of Special Elites in their ranks, which made Shin use some strategies when dealing with the entire pack of Drakons.

He first attacked those at the outer layer of the pack, aggroing them and luring them to a distance before dealing with them. He started with the common-rank Drakons before proceeding with the elite ones.

He had to save the Special Elites for the last as fighting them alongside the others would be troublesome. He could handle one of them at most, which was his current limit.

These monsters were not regular ones as they had special bloodlines. Ghost Dragons were not easy to deal with, especially in this kind of environment where they could showcase their powers.

It took Shin quite a while to wipe out the first pack, which made him somewhat worried. Given the size of the pack and the number of elites and special elites in their ranks, he could already guess that the fragments of the evil beings were at least at Chieftain Rank with a special bloodline.

It was clear that he would most likely find it hard to fight them alone given his current strength. Even if he used most of his cards, he would barely be able to defeat one.

It would be easier if he used his Racial Berserk Skill, the Decent of the Fallen God. But he had to save that skill for the last boss of this special dungeon, which was an evil being. It would also have a special bloodline just like these Drakon, especially when it was formed after the fusion of the soul of a fallen dark dragon and a remnant of a god's servant.

It would not be worth it to use that trump card against the mini bosses of this solo dungeon.

Shin tried to count the number of trump cards he had under his arsenal and realized he barely had enough to cover all five evil fragments that he needed to defeat.

While he was caught in this dilemma, he suddenly recalled that he had possessed something that could be considered as the bane of all dragons.

That sword fragment that they had gotten from the Hatchling Lair Dungeon – the fragment of the legendary sword [Balmung]!

Wielding this sword might be slightly difficult since it was only the lower part of the broken sword. Moreover, he also had to wield the [Durendal] to cleanse these Drakons along the way, so he would be lacking in terms of equipment slot if he used another sword.

"Tsk! This will be better once I have the complete [Balmung] since it is categorized as a greatsword. I can assign it as the 'Judgement Form' of my 'Mondi's Style, '" he clicked his tongue as he realized this problem.

But it would not be much of an issue if he utilized all his cards to the fullest. He could just control the [Durendal] as a third sword if he used the 'Demonic Telekinesis' to control it.

At most, he would spend more concentration and willpower during the process, which would mentally exhaust him twice as much.

Regardless, this 'delay' would be worth it so long as he would be able to advance further without spending much of his trump cards.

To save his energy, Shin did not immediately use the new strategy that he came up with and just proceeded with his regular pace of wiping out the nests of the Drakons along the way.

He had also regularly spent some time to rest, trying to recover as much energy and concentration as possible before proceeding with his hunt.

It did not take that long for him to find the place where the first fragment of the evil being was located.

The place looked like a cemetery due to the tombstones filling the entire place. Some of them were broken while the others remained intact. Some of these graves seemed to have been excavated just recently by some unknown creature due to the messy digging.

The corpse of those graves was all missing, seemingly eaten by whatever had dug them.

Even though Shin was curious why there was a cemetery in this place, he had to forget about such thoughts as he advanced deeper.

While he was proceeding forward in full caution, he suddenly heard a series of crunching sounds coming from the distance.

He swiftly entered stealth and followed the sound, which led him to a certain place where a corpse of a huge monster with somewhat rotten flesh was being feasted on by a certain creature.

Shin did not have to guess that this creature was one of the 'fragments' that he was looking for.

This so-called fragment was in the form of a giant serpentine dragon, which had a pair of legs on the upper part of its body. The talons that it had looked like slender daggers that could pierce through anything it grabbed.

Its head resembled a lizard with sharp fangs and a pointed set of teeth that could rip and cut the flesh of those huge monsters underneath its feet.

Its slender body was covered in tough leather along with sharp bony scales on its back, which greatly resembled the scutes of a crocodile.

Squinting his eyes, Shin activated his True Sight as a form of habit to see the details of the monster.

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[Monster Name]: Ghostly Lindwurm

[Monster Type]: Dragon (Lesser Dragon Family), Undead (Ghost Clan), Dark Creature

[Monster Rank]: Chieftain (Mutated)

[Life Rating]: Lesser Draconic Undead (Corrupted Hybrid)

Monster Level: 170

Health Points: 5 Million



## Description:

A ghost serpent that liked to stay in a graveyard or cemeteries to eat the corpses of the dead. After being exposed to a special energy filling the entire dungeon, it had undergone a series of mutations that let it evolve into a Lindwurm, a draconic species.

Due to its undead and draconic features, it gained a special body that was so tough that it could barely get any scratches from normal weapons.

Its ghostly nature could also transform its body into a spiritual form that made it immune to all kinds of physical attacks.

Due to its special nature, it possessed a ghostly poison that was so lethal that it could kill powerful beings such as Draconic Species and Bestial Behemoths.

Note: Killing this creature could drop a Ghost Core, that could be used as a main ingredient for creating or summoning a Ghost Dragon.

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Shin raised his brows a little when he saw the description of the monster, especially after seeing that it was another Ghost-Type Draconic Species. "This is going to be a little tricky."

Fortunately, his powers were greatly effective against Ghost-Type Creatures. The Eternal Flame, which was reinforced by the Powers of the Brilliant Sun, and the Primordial Lightning were both the bane of dark creatures.

Adding the special effects off the fragment of [Balmung], which was the bane of dragons, Shin was confident that he would be able to fight this monster.

He first adjusted his mind and regulated his breathing before summoning the [Durendal] as sneakily as possible.

He wanted to take advantage of this situation where the Ghostly Lindwurm was still busy on its meal to deal some decent damage.

After letting Solus possess the legendary sword, Shin held the [Durendal] as if he was holding a javelin before throwing it with all his might.

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

Swoosh!

The sword left a blazing trail in the air, resembling a fire beam, as it flew straight to the neck of the lindwurm.

The monster was caught by the flash of light from its peripheral vision, making it stop its meal and preparing to dodge, especially after sensing the threat coming alongside it.

Swoosh!

But it was already too late to dodge that time as the sword had already found its way to find its target.

Bang!

All the lindwurm could do was to avoid the lethal strike by adjusting its body. This led to the sword to pierce the joint of one of its legs rather than its neck.

(-502, 023)

Roar!

Regardless, the damage that it had suffered was still huge enough to make it wail in pain.

Swoosh!

Shin had also reached the Ghostly Lindwurm to engage in battle, not giving the monster time to recover from the pain. "It's time to hunt!"

Chapter 1739: Crazy Ideas

.....

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Shin was forced to disengage from the battle against the Ghostly Lindwurm due to the numbness of his arms.

He had to admit that he had underestimated this monster, which had exchanged a series of intense blows against him.

He first thought that it he would have an easier time dealing with this monster after wielding the fragment of the legendary sword [Balmung], which was he best choice when dealing against draconic species.

But to his surprise, he was only able to barely hold his ground against the monster due to his lack of understanding of this legendary sword. He was unable to fully wield it unlike his other legendary sword, the [Durendal].

He had to spend an extra effort control the powers of the broken [Balmung], which also consumed a decent amount of concentration during the process.

His thoughts of saving as much willpower and trump cards seemed to be coming to bite him instead.

"I guess I am quite impatient at clearing this dungeon when I can clear it for as long as I can since it does not have any time duration," Shin admitted his mistake immediately after.

"A Chieftain Rank Monster with bloodline powers is still too strong for me to deal with without any help from my strongest trump cards," he mumbled with a helpless sigh.

A monster of this level far surpassed those Emperor Rank Monsters at the Aurora Continent, so it was normal for it to be this powerful.

Shin had to admit that he somewhat became a little overconfident after getting his hands on powerful weapons and his recent improvements.

"Since this is the case, then I will take my time exploring this dungeon and hunting these guys with a steady pace," he said before glancing at the skills attached to the broken [Balmung] in his left hand.

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

Duration: 30 minutes

Cooldown: 3 Days (In-game Time)

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

...

These skills were perfect with his current situation. But he debated internally for a couple of moments, deciding whether he wanted to use the 'Blood Dragon Awakening' or the 'Decent of the Fallen God' to deal with his current opponent.

After all, the three-day cooldown time was still too long. It consumed almost all his online time before he could use it again.

This would let him hunt at least one of the fragments a day (real-world time), which had a very low efficiency for his requirement.

Compared to the skills of [Durendal], this berserk skill was too overpowered despite its drawbacks. The only problem was its long cooldown.

He could guess that this cooldown time was most likely due to the broken state of the legendary sword, which could be lowered so long as he found the other two fragments.

Meanwhile, the [Durendal] was in a sealed state, which was why its broken skills were still unavailable for him. He wondered how powerful it was when compared to this core skill of the [Balmung].

Setting that thought aside, Shin calculated inside his head while continuing to fight the Ghostly Lindwurm with full intensity.

After considering it for a few moments, he decided to endure the struggle against this fragment of evil being with regular means, most of his trump cards. He would then save the 'Blood Dragon Awakening' for the latter, when he was hunting another fragment, while doing the same for the 'Decent of the Fallen God' for the third one.

This way, he would be able to increase the efficiency of his hunt up to three Evil Fragments for today, saving himself a lot of time for later.

Tomorrow, he would then hunt the other two fragments with the two overpowered berserk skills, earning him the minimum requirement for Altus' Trial.

After that, he would proceed in hunting the Evil Being the next day for additional rewards. At that time, he would have both trump cards available, giving him more confidence to defeat that final boss of the dungeon.

Finalizing the plan inside his head, Shin slightly nodded. "Alright. This is good enough."

\*\*\*

Shin proceeded with his plan, which exhausted him quite seriously.

Forcing himself to fight the Ghostly Lindwurm through normal means required him a lot of time and energy, but he was still able to take it down in the end.

However, he spent an entire day (in-game time) during the entire process before forcing himself to rest immediately after.

During his idle time, he was watching the battles of their next opponents for the United Cup, which barely required any energy.

He then continued to hunt, following his plan.

When he first used the 'Blood Dragon Awakening', he experienced how overpowered he could be in that state. He felt like a god for having all his stats increase by several folds, gaining himself a series of boosts for his movement and attack speed, powerful defense, and an enhanced strength for attacking.

The only drawback of this skill was the constant mental attacks that he was suffering during the activation of the skill.



It felt like he would lose himself in rage if he stayed in that state for too long.

Fortunately, the blessings that his other legendary sword, the [Durendal], possessed focused more on mind and spirit.

This made him stay in the state of 'Blood Dragon Awakening' for an extended period of time without losing himself.

He was able to deal with the second evil fragment, Undead Salamander, with all these advantages.

He had encountered some issues during the battle, but it was still at a manageable level. This gave him enough time to recover himself before proceeding to hunt the third fragment, which was a giant Deathworm.

He had some trouble dealing with it since it was constantly diving into the ground, which quite annoyed him during the battle.

Even with the 'Descent of the Fallen God' being fully active, Shin was still having a hard time taking down the annoying worm.

In this battle, he had gained a huge breakthrough with his connection with the Powers of the Brilliant Sun, which strengthened his understanding of the Brilliant Flame.

This increased his control over the Eternal Flame and enhanced its powers.

He then borrowed the Brilliant Flames in the surrounding before plunging the [Durendal] into the ground and channeling his powers at the same time.

This forced the deathworm to come out of the ground, which gave Shin an opportunity to fight it properly.

After another series of struggle, he managed to kill the Deathworm, earning himself another special core upon its death and destroying the third fragment of the evil being.

...

Shin did not linger in that place for that long as he quickly logged out to rest.

He then continued studying the videos of the Hien Workshop to prepare for the next round of the United Cup.

If they manage to win a clean victory in this match, at least earning themselves an 8-2 or 7-3 score, then they would be able to secure the top spot in the upper bracket of the top eight matches.

Given the current standings, the Emyrean Talons were somewhat ahead of everyone else. But they could not relax yet as the other rivals were closely behind them.

The Pandemonium Troupe had an 18-2 score alongside the God's Paradise. These two teams also had a dominant performance in their previous matches, convincing everyone that they were the top powerhouse in the tournament.

The two scores that they had lost were from the Single Matches, where their representatives encountered powerful Godlike Powerhouses. However, those matches were very close, where both sides only had a sliver of health during the final exchanges.

Then there were the Slayers Adventurer Team, Earners Mercenary Group, and Hand of Midas following closely behind with 16-4 standings.

The other top teams such as Hydra Guild, Dragon Pavilion, Central Order, and Assassin Unions had encountered some slips during the Group Battles, which left them with 14-6 scores.

But from the eyes of the experts, most of these teams with slightly lower scores had purposely dropped a round or two to avoid facing stronger opponents for the next matchups.

With all these powerful teams closely behind, Shin and the rest of the Emyrean Talons had to prepare for as much as they could, especially when the real competition was only starting.

Later this day, the members of the Emyrean Talons were currently gathered for a strategic meeting.

Everyone was silent as they stared at Shin with a weird gaze after listening to the strategy that he just presented to them.

It took some time for someone to finally voice out their concern.

"We understand the arrangement for the Single Matches and Team Competition. Going strong with our strongest lineup," started Owen before suddenly asking. "But for the Group Battle-... are you sure you want to do this?"

Shin just gave everyone a reassuring smile as he nodded. "How can I be careless when I also know that the Group Battle is very important for us if we want to secure the first seed of the standings before proceeding to the top eight matches."

He then paused as he pointed at the virtual screen project before everyone, specifically pointing at the names he arranged for the Group Battle. "Trust me. This composition is the best to deal with those guys from the Hien Workshop."

"They will surely go with the standard composition, expecting us to do something similar to our previous match."

Alucard frowned quite deeply as he considered Shin's words. He then sighed as he asked. "But isn't this a little too risky?"

Shin chuckled as he heard that before assuring them once again. "It may be risky on the surface, but it has a lot of advantages if you look at it from a different angle."

He then looked at the three people, who he assigned for the group battle, and said. "Follow me at the training room for a moment. We will do a simple training to let you adjust to this strategy."

Seeing the devious smile that Shin was wearing, Lorraine, who joined the meeting for fun once again, could not help but shake her head. "This guy is evil. He will not stop until he embarrasses his opponents enough."

Cloe nodded her head in agreement while Leonard just chuckled. "But the arrangement for the group battle is indeed interesting. This will make everyone go crazy after learning about it."

Chapter 1740: The Next Match

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It was the time for the next round of the United Cup. On this day, four out of the thirty-two teams would have to say goodbye on the competition while another four teams would directly head to the top eight, qualifying for the quarterfinals as seeded teams.

As for the rest of the teams, they would wrestle their way to occupy the remaining four slots in an intense knockout stage.

This time, the Empyrean Talons were not chosen to be the featured matchup despite having a very competitive match due to their powerful opponent, the Hien Workshop.

Even if they were now favorites in the tournament, there were still others who were in a similar situation. Moreover, the opponents of those teams were also equally powerful.

The featured matchup of this round was the match between the Slayers Adventurer Team and the Purple Crows Adventurer Team, which could be considered as an old rivalry due to the veteran members of each team.

The hype of this match far surpassed the rest based on the estimate of the organizers. The only problem that they would be facing was the commentators who would be hosting the match.

Their best choices such as Miss Bunny and Khing (David) were committed to cover the matches of Empyrean Talons.

Due to these two online personalities having huge influence within the virtual world, alongside the total fans of the Empyrean Talons, the tournament organizers were worried that the audience would choose this matchup instead.

But they could not be too biased with the Empyrean Talons as it could cause them negative impacts in the long run. It would make their official website of the game a broadcast channel for the team.

This concern of the tournament organizers did not go unfounded as the number of viewers flooding the official page of the Empyrean Talons was steadily growing. The rate of the increasing audience was so sharp that the displayed numbers were flickering nonstop.

The opening song of the special program had just started, yet the number of online viewers had already reached millions.

When the Miss Bunny appeared alongside David, the chat box was already flooded with messages full of nonsense and spam of emojis. There were barely a few who were voicing their thoughts about the match or showing their excitement.

"Hello, hello! What a good day for all of us! Here we are for another match of our beloved team!" greeted Miss Bunny as she smiled beautifully at the camera, making those watching online feel their chest being shot by cupid.

Both males and females alike loved her, which made the effect of her killer smile even more deadly.

Seemingly aware of this, David suddenly 'joined' and teased her a little. "Did you know that you are killing our viewers with that smile? Especially the boys. What are you going to do if our rating drops?"

Miss Bunny chuckled as she played along. "It can't be that bad, right?"

The two chatted with the online viewers while waiting for the match to start. They read some messages from their audience and reacted with some memes that were circulating online about the previous match that the Emyrean Talon had against the Seven Seas Alliance.

They had also voiced out their thoughts about the 'strategy' of the Seven Seas Alliance, where they had given up fighting the Emyrean Talons in an away match and voluntarily headed to the lower bracket.

After that, they discussed their thoughts on today's match and trying to guess the possible strategies that each team would use against each other.

It did not take that long before the system had announced the start of the match, making the live audience and online viewers cheer like crazy.

Especially so when they saw the first representatives that each team had sent for the Single Matches.

– "United Cup: Knockout Stage – Hien Workshop (Home) versus Empyrean Talons (Away)" –

"First Round: Single Match – 'Wizard King' Julius (Maverick God) versus 'Dancer of the Shadows' Diablo (Maverick God)"

...

Boom!

The audiencestand in the live venue shook violently due to the uproar that everyone made after seeing the matchup while the channel of the broadcast was immediately flooded with strings of emojis, reflecting the emotions of everyone.

This was a very intense matchup right off the bat!



Diablo was just a powerhouse that was recently making his name within the circle. He was quite known in the circle of the experts of the game, particularly at the ranks of godly experts.

Due to him being a commander of the Sweepers previously when he was still at the Pandemonium Descendants, the Godlike Players and Maverick Gods of all top forces were keeping an eye on him.

He was also being targeted by these forces during that time as they wanted the information that he had about the Pandemonium Descendants, particular those belonged to their strongest force – the Troupe Members.

The top guilds and powerful organizations of the virtual world had lost track after Zero had given up his chase.

Then these top forces had learned that Diablo had joined the Empyrean Talons, further heightening their wariness against the said adventurer team, which was already filled of monsters.

He then further established his name after showcasing his assassination prowess during the incident in the Divinity City, when the Empyrean Talons had made their move against the plot that Blood Carnival and other dark guilds and underworld organizations.

Then, his combat ability was further showcased during his battle against Florence, the Warrior Goddess, in the previous match.

Warrior Goddess Florence was a very strong powerhouse within the game, especially when ranked as seventh place within the Godly Ranking List.

His insane speed was just one of the factors that made the people acknowledge his strength. The other one was his ability to control the shadows, hence he had earned his current nickname.

Due to this name being too famous, the system had judged him as a highly graded Maverick God that could contend against Apex Gods of the game, without losing his footing.

Even if he had only participated in a single official match, the system had acknowledged the judgement of the public and had given him the title of 'Dancer of the Shadows'.

Everyone thought that the Empyrean Talons would be saving him for the later stages of the match, just like what they had done previously. But from the look of it, the team seemed to be planning to go all-out from the very beginning.

But what made this first match even more interesting was his current opponent.

Wizard King Julius was a very powerful mage within the circle, who had stabilized his name solidly. He might not have joined any official tournament in his career, but his strength was something that could not be underestimated.

He had built up his fame in a very steady manner, defeating multiple opponents in his wake and winning a number of wars under the banner of the Hien Workshop.

His playstyle was so unique that not many could match him in terms of magic competition. His special techniques, where he could link a series of spells to create an even more advanced spell, were so iconic that he became a legend in the games that he had played previously.

He was quite old for being a thirty-year-old player, but he was still in his prime.

Age did not matter in this kind of competitive game, so long as you were powerful enough to compete.

Moreover, being thirty was still very young in this age. He was just a 'little' older when compared to these talented and young players playing the game.

But that did not mean that he was weaker to any of them. Age might be a disadvantage when it came to certain things, but it could also be an advantage for multiple areas.

Experience was a powerful weapon – very deadly even – especially for veterans of certain areas.

This so-called disadvantage was his main weapon when facing younger opponents, who were still too green in his eyes.

Adding his extra advantage for having the home ground in this match, his chances of winning this match was not that low.

...

Seeing this mature man with handsome features in his mage outfit, Miss Bunny could not help but give a compliment. "Sir Julius is still as dashing as ever. It feels like he is getting more handsome the older he gets."

Chuckled David as he teased her. "Don't expose yourself. You are basically revealing to all boys out there your preference."

Miss Bunny did not mind his teasing as she even played along. "Well, who will not like someone like Sir Julius? I have a chance to have him as a guest in my previous shows, and he is quite a gentleman."

But they did not linger too much in this topic as they quickly focused on the main issue in this match.

"I am sure that Senior Julius will use this opportunity to show us that he is still in a very competitive age," commented David as he recalled how he fought against this senior in one of the games he had previously played.

"It looks like Diablo will also experience how a true veteran fights," he added, not hiding his anticipation on this battle.

"A rising star and an 'old' veteran! This is going to be a very interesting match!" said Miss Bunny as she watched the two combatants immediately make their move right after the system signaled start of the match.