

Destiny 1741

Chapter 1741: The Might of a Veteran; Powerful Wizard King

The stage that Julius had chosen for this match was just a normal battlefield.

It was a grassland, where the grasses were only as tall as the knee of a person. There were also some spots where some tall boulders were located, which could be used as a hiding spot or a platform to see the entire filled from every angle.

A couple of corpses of fallen warriors and knights could also be seen scattered in every corner of the grassland along with their broken armors and weapons, filling the air with rotten and bloody scent.

At single glance, there was nothing out of ordinary about this place. But those with rich experience could tell that this stage was meticulous chosen after considering all possibilities.

It was clear that the Wizard King had purposely chosen this place after reading all the data about their opponents.

"As expected of a veteran," Diablo could not help but compliment the opposing side after seeing the battlefield.

Even if he entered stealth to hide from the eyes of everyone, these grasses filling in the plains could expose his location without his opponent putting much of an effort into finding him.

Adding the tall boulders that could be used as platforms, sneaking into his opponent's back would be extremely trick.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Fortunately, there were still some things that he could use in this battle. The wind that was blowing the grasses could be used as his cover if he followed their movements.

It was a basic technique that all thieves and assassins needed to use – fully using the environment, which included the wind and such.

As Diablo entered stealth, he suddenly sensed a sudden drop of temperature in the entire battlefield.

Whoosh!

At the same time, he also saw that snowflakes started to fall from the sky, freezing the grasses within the grassland.

Seeing this, Diablo could not help but smile bitterly as he felt that he had been outwitted by the opposing side to a certain extent.

A field filled with grass was one thing, but adding another factor such as the weather was a whole different matter.

"What a sly old fox," complained Diablo a little as he made his way toward the center of the grassland. "This old man has also chosen an Ice Mage as his main profession. This is going to be very troublesome."

Ice magic was known for its extremely annoying crowd control ability due to its frost effects, so Diablo had to be careful from being hit even once, or he would be dead for sure.

Since hiding was useless in this situation, Diablo had chosen to charge ahead without bothering to enter stealth.

Swoosh!

But this time, he wanted to take advantage of his speed and shadow abilities instead of solely relying on his stealth abilities.

It did not take long for Julius to see him from the distance. This Wizard King did not hesitate as he immediately initiated to attack right after Diablo entered the effective range of his spells.

Swoosh!

With a wave of his magical staff, Julius fired out a rain of ice arrows as an opening move.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A basic spell? This was the thought of everyone when they saw the spell that Julius had chosen to start the battle.

But when they saw what happened next, everyone could not help but feel a sudden chill on their backs.

Those already numerous hail of ice arrows multiplied even more as each arrow split into two before turning four, which swiftly turned into eight.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The Wizard King did not just cast a multi-layered spell but also used a couple of special combat techniques meant for mages to further complicate his spell and made it even more powerful.

'Class Fighting Style: Ice Storm'

This showed his profound understanding of magic and class, which let him manipulate his spell at will.

It was clear that he was using a higher class of combat state just like Shin and the rest.

Swoosh!

Without any hesitation, Diablo activated his 'Demon's Eyes' to closely observe his opponent while also entering his special combat state.

With these two combined, he had created a special version of Hyperactive Immersion!

He suddenly transformed into multiple afterimages as he leaped and dashed in multiple directions to avoid the ice arrows.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

These ice arrows barely missed him, but the icy aura that they released upon explosion caused his body to tremble.

Taking advantage of his extreme speed, Diablo wanted to reach Julius as soon as possible.

Swoosh!

But as his feet touched the ground within fifteen yards away from the Wizard King, a magic circle was suddenly manifested and formed a ring of ice underneath his feet.

The expression Diablo's face immediately turned ugly when he saw this.

'Shadow Dancer Skill (Tier 2): Gale Steps'

Swoosh!

Without any hint of hesitation, Diablo had activated one of his lifesaving skills.

Bang!

Taking advantage of the brief invulnerability and massive boost in speed provided by the skill, Diablo swiftly dashed out of the range of the ice spell, barely escaping a terrible fate.

Julius slightly raised his brows when he saw that his trap regrettfully failed to catch the latter. But he maintained his calm demeanor and waved his staff for another time, summoning a hail this time.

'Class Fighting Style: Ice Rain'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A rain of sharp and pointed icicles suddenly poured down from the sky and landed in the area around him, covering the ground with a layer of ice, which prevented Diablo from approaching him.

At the same time, Diablo was forced out of stealth due to the slight frostbite that he had suffered after being grazed by one of the icicles.

Without any hesitation, he swiftly retreated, not daring to stay in that place even for a second.

This exchange might be short, but it had already given Diablo how scary his current opponent was.

This was the might of the Wizard King!

Julius did not only have a solid understanding of his spells, but he was also capable of manipulating his magic at will, which let him bring out the full potential of his spells whenever he had his move.

At the same time, his timing was also at utmost precision, not giving his opponent any time to react.

As the surrounding temperature plummeted, a thick fog suddenly rose and hid the figures of Julius and Diablo, who were about to escape the range of the spell.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Under the cover of this fog, the explosions of spells could be heard, which indicated how fierce the battle was.

Swoosh!

Not long after, Diablo had finally escaped the range of the fog, revealing his somewhat sorry figure to everyone.

His body was filled with frostbite, which indicated that he was in the backfoot in the entire battle. He was also wearing a solemn expression as he fully understood his current situation.

This old man was strong! Too Strong!

The almost endless barrage of spells forced him to keep on dodging around frantically without having any opportunity to retaliate.

With every wave of the magical staff, a series of spells would suddenly chase after Diablo, who was trying his best to stay alive.

Swoosh!

As Diablo was trying his best to retreat, he suddenly saw Julius appear on the nearby boulder while raising his staff.

"Crap!" he could not help but curse under his breath when he saw this, realizing that these tall boulders were not as simple as they seemed to be.

With a wave of his staff, an enormous sphere of ice suddenly appeared in the air before rapidly spinning and exploding right before Diablo.

'Class Fighting Style: Howling Frost'

Swoosh!

As the sharp fragments of ice were about to reach him and riddled his body with holes, Diablo adjusted his footwork and turned into a blur that escaped the range of the spell.

'Class Fighting Style: Shadow Waltz'

Swoosh!

Diablo closely watched Julius as he sprinted toward another tall boulder, seemingly expecting something.

Seeing that, Julius smirked as he had seen through the trap that the other party was trying to set up for him.

Instead of using Blink toward that boulder to reach Diablo, this cunning Wizard King had suddenly pointed his staff forward and gathered his mana toward its tip, forming an icy sphere compressed by mana.

'Class Fighting Style: Frost Beam'

Bang!

Swoosh!

A beam of light was suddenly fired from the tip of the magical staff, heading straight to Diablo, who was heading toward the nearby boulder.

It was a sure-hit skill that had a locked on feature. It targeted Diablo's back, who was about to reach his destination.

He could not outrun the speed of this icy beam!

Puff!

But when the spell hit his back and pierced through his body, 'he' suddenly exploded and turned into black smoke that dissipated in the air.

'Extra Skill: Decoy'

Some were confused when Diablo had activated this, but those with sharp eyes were able to discern the exact time after seeing the beam of light pierced through the body of the decoy.

Julius, with his rich experience, was among these experts and quickly knelt on the boulder while slamming the bottom of his staff into it.

Bang!

'Ice Mage Skill (Tier 2): Magic Ice'

Swoosh!

A barrier made of crystalline ice was suddenly manifested and enclosed his body, protecting him from all directions.

Swoosh!

It was at this exact moment when a dagger was suddenly materialized before him and about to stab the center of his brows.

'Shadow Dancer Skill (Tier 2): Gale Ambush'

Clang!

The ambush had almost worked, but Julius was still able to respond, making it fail with the tiniest margin.

Right after blocking the attack, the Wizard King immediately initiated a counterattack.

Swoosh!

He detonated the ice barrier with the wave of his hand, making it explode and send strong ripples in the air.

'Ice Mage Skill (Tier 2): Frost Nova'

Bang!

A wave of icy shockwave immediately swept out, trying to catch Diablo, who just finished his attempted ambush.

Everything happened a little too quickly, leaving Diablo with no time to react.

The live audience and online viewers, who had seen this scene, could not help but grasp as they watched the cold air reach Diablo and was about to freeze his body that was already turning rigid.

They all thought that this was the end.

Swoosh!

But before it could even happen, the shadow underneath Diablo suddenly extended a huge hand and grabbed his freezing body.

'Shadowless Art: Shadow Hand'

Swoosh!

That hand was supposed to target an opponent, preventing them from moving and dragging them toward him. But after seeing another spell that already finished forming behind Julius, Diablo abandoned the idea and used the Shadow Hand to bring him out of this place.

Boom!

Right after the Shadow Hand dragged him toward his shadow and spat him out in the distance, a huge explosion suddenly erupted in his previous spot, indicating how devastating the previous spell was.

It did not take long for Julius to appear to everyone's sight once again, walking out of the fog calm and collected.

It was only at this time when everyone watching the match reacted, finally having the time to breathe.

Woah!

They had erupted with an uproar, extremely excited at the series of exchanges filled with intensity.

Chapter 1742: The Dancer of the Shadows

.....

Diablo could not help but stare at Julius intently after the intense battle. He knew that he was on the losing end in any of the exchanges earlier, but he remained calm as he was confident that he believed that he could still turn things around.

The problem was his current assessment of the opposing party. Based on the initial assessment of his Demon Eyes, the latter had yet to fully showcase his true power.

The earlier skills and techniques that Julius had shown earlier were just the tip of the iceberg, yet Diablo was already having a rough time surviving in those exchanges.

The way Julius utilized each spell to their fullest potential along with other magic-related combat techniques reached a certain level of perfection, making it harder to deal with.

Julius was also quite good at fusing and linking his spells, which further increased the difficulty of dealing with him.

Fortunately, Diablo's advantage lay in 'time'. The longer he fought, the 'stronger' he became due to the special features of his Demon Eyes. So long as he managed to survive a little longer and let his ocular skill gather more data and analyze his opponent, his chances in turning the tide would increase by a huge margin.

The issue was what the other party was thinking. From what he could tell, Julius seemed to be aware of his plans.

Even if Julius had no idea about the Demon Eyes that Diablo possessed, he could still tell that the latter liked to drag his battle a little longer after reading through the data their team had gathered about him.

Moreover, based on his vast experience, Julius was no stranger to this kind of playstyle or situation. He had already met and fought multiple types of people, and among them were those who had a slow start because they needed to 'heat' their engines first before slowly ramping up their tempo.

From his initial assessment, Diablo most likely fell into this category of players.

This was the reason why Julius wanted to finish the battle as soon as possible, but Diablo always got away from his grasp with the tiniest margin.

Diablo's speed was one thing, but this guy's survival instincts were not a laughing matter either. From the earlier exchanges, Julius could tell that Diablo had encountered multiple situations where he was always threading his way between life and death.

Julius did not know what Diablo had experienced, but he could at least tell that it was not something pleasant – torturous even.

At the same time, Diablo was somewhat thinking this same. He could not help but recall the torturous experiences that he had suffered during his sparring matches against the Monster Trio, who were always finding a way to deal with his Demon Eyes.

The calculations that his Demon Eyes made were always somewhat off the mark. Despite considering all the situations and battle scenarios that it had foresaw with the help of all the data that it had collected from all his battle experiences, this monstrous trio would always surpass its expectations and find a way to win the battle.

Even though he had won a few rounds against those guys, all those victories felt like a fluke amid his fierce struggles.

"I guess it was all worth it," he mumbled while mocking himself a little. "Or perhaps, I am relying on these 'eyes' a little too much."

He had already told himself that he would limit himself in using the advanced abilities of his Demon Eyes after experiencing that near-death experience after he had overdriven his mind during his battle against Shin.

It felt like frying his brain during a battle, which could affect him negatively in the long run.

But it seemed like plans never caught up to changes. It was hard to kill such a habit in a short time, so he had to work a little harder.

He then closed his eyes, relaxedly and inhaled deeply while recalling the words that his father had left him when he had created these 'Demon Eyes' and during the times he was being guided to be a good player.

– "You can't always rely on these eyes of yours as it can make your 'early game' somewhat predictable."
–

– "Your assassination techniques are not that bad, but you always fall out of tempo once you are being rushed by your opponent, to which you are responding in kind and turning the battle into a duel." –

– "Your dueling abilities are quite strong too, but it is not your strong point. There are still those who are a better duelist than you, especially those who had advantage in this area due to their classes." –

– "You better find a way to strengthen these two points, and you will be fine in every situation. Even if you encounter those who can counter you." –

– "Taking advantage of your speed is quite good, but you still must find an additional card that you can play because the moment when you encounter someone that can restrain your movements, even in a certain degree, you will be having serious troubles." –

At this moment, Diablo already had those cards that his father was talking about, yet he was still subconsciously relying on his father's creation, which was most likely due to him achieving the ideal Hyperactive Immersion that his old man had always dreamed of.

After refreshing his mind, Diablo reopened his eyes as the expression on his face suddenly changed.

Total calmness was reflected in his face as if the thing that was constantly deluding his mind suddenly became clear before his eyes, and swiftly wiping it away.

...

Shin, who was watching from the team's booth, could not help but lift the corner of his mouth when he saw this. "This is going to be more interesting."

...

David took advantage of the sudden pause that the two combatants on the arena had made to explain to the viewers the earlier exchanges.

At this point, he saw the changes in the air surrounding Diablo, making David's brows rise. Somewhat surprised, he could not help but comment. "Now, the real battle will start."

...

While everyone was still confused at the sudden change in David's tone, Julius, who was currently facing Diablo, also sensed the sudden change in the atmosphere.

Diablo might have briefly closed and opened his eyes, but the series of changes that he had undergone were too sudden that it caught Julius a little off guard.

"Am I wrong?"

While Julius was doubting his initial assessment about Diablo, the latter had suddenly made his move.

Shing! Shing! Shing!

With he opened his arms wide as a group of shadow daggers fanned out behind him. He then waved his hands forward, commanding the daggers to fly forward.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Seeing this, Julius swiftly waved his hand, summoning an equal number of ice arrows behind him before also sending them forward.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

After a series of clashes between the two sides, a thick fog suddenly covered the entire area of collision, blocking the line of vision of the two.

Seeing this, Julius swiftly retreated. He cast a series of Blinks to get away from this place as soon as possible and land on top of a tall boulder in the distance.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Just as he had expected, he could not find a trace of his opponent after the fog slowly dissipated.

He did not even wait as he raised his staff and pointed it into the sky.

Whoosh!

Immediately after, a huge magic circle suddenly appeared on the ground, covering a huge area that almost reached a radius of a hundred meters.

This spell was not an offensive one despite how stunning and scary it looked. Instead, it was a detection spell that let Julius sense the movements of mana in the surroundings, which pointed him in the direction of his opponent.

After sensing the slightest movement within the air, Julius swiftly turned to face that direction and pointed forward.

Swoosh!

An array of magic circles suddenly appeared in a certain direction, all facing a single spot, before firing a barrage of icicles that bombarded that seemingly empty space.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Before the barrage of icicles could hit their target, someone suddenly materialized from that spot and dashed out of the array of magic circles.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Diablo moved at extreme speed, leaving a series of afterimages behind alongside a barrage of explosions created by the icicles after hitting the ground.

Julius skillfully controlled his spells as he locked on Diablo's silhouette that was dashing through the grassland.

He knew that he had the advantage if this continued a little longer as the surroundings were gradually transforming into an icy field filled with ice spikes sticking out of the ground and frozen land.

The temperature within the grassland was rapidly dropping due to the ice spells of Julius, slowly affecting the movements of his opponent.

The moment when Diablo showed some signs of slowing down, Julius suddenly increased the pace of his attack, sending an even stronger spell in the mix.

"Hmm!?"

But when he was about to focus his mind to prepare the advanced spell, he suddenly sensed a sneaky movement coming from another direction.

Without any hint of hesitation, Julius ignored the previous target and suddenly turned around before pressing his palm forward.

'Ice Mage Spell (Tier 2): Repulsive Mirror'

Swoosh!

A smooth wall of ice suddenly materialized in front of his palm, acting as a shield that suddenly blocked the incoming ambush.

Bang!

Another Diablo suddenly materialized before Julius, stabbing his stiletto forward, which was stopped by the ice mirror.

Bang!

Almost instantly, that ice mirror suddenly released a strong repulsion that pushed Diablo and sent him in the air.

Julius was about to throw a spell, taking advantage of the opening that he just created. Given that Diablo was still suspended in the air, it would be difficult to dodge his spell.

But he was interrupted once again as his earlier target suddenly took a sharp turn and swiftly sprinted toward his direction, transforming into a shadowy line that flew through the grass field.

Swoosh!

Julius was caught in a brief dilemma, delaying his offensive spell. This short delay was more than enough for a Shadow Dancer to turn the tables, so this Wizard King decisively abandoned the idea of attacking both sides and decided to take the defensive stance instead.

'Ice Mage Basic Spell: Cold Swallow'

Bang!

An icy fog suddenly surrounded Julius, blocking the view of everyone. He was attempting to delay the attack of his opponent by obstructing his line of vision.

Diablo decisively made his move as well.

The 'Diablo' that was being sent flying suddenly 'melted' and transformed into a cluster of shadow mana. They flew forward and turned into shadow tentacles that charged through the icy fog, attempting to find Julius.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But before they could even find their target, a series of flashes suddenly cut through the fog and sliced the shadow tentacles.

The attempt might have failed, but it was more than enough for Diablo to pinpoint the exact location of his opponent.

Swoosh!

He further increased his already insane speed as he charged straight to the icy fog while pointing the stiletto forward.

'Shadow Dancer Skill (Tier 2): Flickering Stab'

His figure pierced through the icy fog, which was swiftly scattered by the gust of wind accompanying Diablo.

Bang!

But when the fog was cleared, everyone saw an ice golem standing before Diablo, directly receiving the earlier attack. It stayed for a couple of seconds before shattering into multiple pieces.

Julius, on the other hand, did not care about this as he was currently hovering in the air. He seemed to be at the final syllable of his chants, completing his spell.

When everyone finally noticed him, it was already too late. He was swinging his magic staff down while a gigantic iceberg materialized in the sky and fell like a meteor.

'Ice Magister Spell (Tier 3): Secret Method – Winter Burial'

Zong!

The sonic boom reverberated in the entire battlefield as the iceberg fell from the sky.

Diablo raised his head when he saw the giant shadow cast upon him from the sky. When he saw the gigantic iceberg, he knew that it was already too late to dodge.

He still kept calm despite the predicament while commanding the shadow underneath his feet.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The huge shadow moved and converged toward him, wrapping itself around his body.

'Shadow Dancer Skill (Tier 3): Shadow Equip – Divine War Robe'

Not long after, Diablo's figure was revealed before everyone's eyes, donning a majestic robe made of shadows.

His head was hidden underneath the hood hanging over it, only revealing a pair of purple eyes peeking below the shade.

Diablo raised his head a little more while gripping the dagger in his left hand. He then put more strength into it before throwing a powerful slash in the air, summoning all his might.

Swoosh!

'Shadow Dancer Skill (Tier 2): (Reinforced) Shadow Cut'

Shing!

A black energy flew out from his dagger, which enlarged into a giant crescent wave that flew straight to the gigantic iceberg and shattered it into multiple pieces.

Boom!

Chapter 1743: Controlled Magic Versus Speed and Technique

.....

Boom!

When the live audience and online viewers saw the appearance of the giant iceberg, which quickly fell toward the ground like a meteor, they felt that it was the end of the battle. There was no way to escape such a fearsome destructive spell.

But when Diablo donned his shadow robe and threw a powerful attack that crushed that iceberg, everyone could not help but feel a sudden chill down their spines.

This was what a real battle between gods looked like.

These two combatants might not be an official god of the game, but they had already surpassed most of the Godlike Players who had participated in official matches and competitive tournaments.

This pair of Maverick Gods could already be ranked at any Godly Ranking List without being inferior to any of those who were standing at the top of the rankings.

Wizard King Julius and Dancer of the Shadows Diablo – truly an epic battle.

...

Julius could not help but sigh helplessly when he realized that something might have gone wrong with his initial assessment, which led to the current situation.

But it was not much of a big deal. He even felt that this was for the better as he could now enjoy the battle without holding back.

It was quite rare to find a decent youngling with such an absurd potential. Julius had already encountered quite a lot of promising talents in his career as a professional gamer, but only a handful of them could leave a very deep impression on him.

Those who managed to do it were now standing at the peak of the virtual world, overlooking everyone.

Then here was another, who was trying to challenge that mountain and wanted to reach the same sky as them.

Thinking about this, Julius could not help but smile at Diablo before saying. "Let me be your 'gatekeeper' then. I'll test if you are worthy to join 'us.'"

With that, he waved his hand to command the mana in the air.

Swoosh!

Responding to his call, the shattered pieces of the iceberg – both small and huge – suddenly stopped falling. They hovered in the air for a couple of moments before suddenly moving at extreme pace, forming a hailstorm.

'Legendary Magic Technique (Self-Created): Magical Manipulation'

The entire area seemed to be enfolded by a fierce storm of ice and snow while a gigantic tornado dragged the fragments of the iceberg and turned them into deadly weapons.

'Class Fighting Style: Domain of Ice and Frost'

Standing at the center of this storm, Julius willed the glaciers spinning around him to attack Diablo with just a casual wave of his hand.

'Class Fighting Style: Glacial Erratic'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Diablo, who was enveloped by his Divine War Robe, adjusted his posture. He watched the flying glaciers with his sharp eyes, waiting for an opportunity.

He then swiftly moved right after these glaciers reached his desired location.

Swoosh!

'Class Fighting Style: Death Dance'

Boom!

His figure disappeared as he dodged one of the giant glaciers that first reached him. He then continued to sprint forward, avoiding the rest of the glaciers.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

His figure was constantly moving around, leaving an utter destruction behind with these glaciers. He did not stop there as he continued to increase his already insane speed.

He then started using his signature combat technique to dodge the huge glaciers while shattering the smaller ones with his dagger and stiletto.

'Legendary Combat Technique (Self-Created): Darkness Excursion'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

His footwork suddenly went with an unpredictable tempo while his body movements turned irregular, making it hard to read.

After realizing that the ice storm would never stop due to it being a domain spell, Diablo changed his approach and decided to take down the eye of this storm.

Swoosh!

His body turned into a shadow before he leaped into the air and started using the incoming glaciers as a platform to jump and elevate himself toward the sky, where his opponent was currently located.

Seeing this, Julius swiftly retreated while firing even stronger spells toward Diablo, who was rapidly climbing toward him.

He even removed the 'platforms' that Diablo was using to prevent the latter from moving freely in the air.

But he had underestimated the power of this guy. Right after realizing that the glaciers had stopped approaching him randomly and getting farther from one another, Diablo changed his approach and summoned a group of shadow daggers in the air, which became his new foothold to climb higher.

Shin had used the 'Mondi's Jump' multiple times during their sparring matches, which gave him some inspiration.

Diablo originally had Demonic Powers and Skills as he was previously a member of the Demonic Churches. He would be having a much easier time in this battle if he still possessed them.

Unfortunately, he had already disregarded them as he now focused more on his Demon Eyes and Ancient Shadow Powers that he had previously acquired after fighting alongside Shin and Leonard against the larvae of the Grand Centipedeus.

He even removed all hint of demonic powers within him with the help of the Church of Light after asking a favor from Cloe and the Assassin's Guild within the Divinity City.

In exchange, he put all his efforts at studying the Martial Manuals that Shin had given him when he officially joined the Empyrean Talons.

The Shadowless Art and Ultimate Assassination Method had created a new Martial Manual after he combined them, thus he called it the Ultimate Shadow Art.

Unfortunately, his mastery over it remained at entry level, making it somewhat useless in battle for the time being.

Aside from the shadow techniques of Shadowless Art that had practical use in battles, he did not dare to use the enhanced versions due to his lack of mastery over them.

It was better to use the techniques that you had full mastery in battle rather than those you had yet to fully understand.

...

Bang! Bang! Bang!

This somewhat aerial battle continued for a while longer, showcasing the skills of the two Maverick Gods even in such a situation.

This dragged on for a while longer before Julius was forced to land on the ground by Diablo, who almost caught up to him.

People thought that it would be over for Julius. After all, if he could not fully suppress Diablo in the air, where there was not much of a foothold, then it would be even harder on the ground as the latter could move with much freedom on the ground.

But they were later proven wrong as Julius started casting a series of spells with large area-of-effect, which forced Diablo to be in a constant retreat.

With this, Diablo could not help but admire the other party due to his insane control over his spells and full understanding of them.

Diablo had to admit that he was inferior to the Wizard King when it came to this area.

In the end, he could only sigh helplessly as he understood his weakness was still not something that he could solve with a single enlightenment.

He would not be stubborn and a hypocrite in this time as he decisively used the third phase of the Demon Eyes.

But this time, the meaning and purpose of using this special ocular skill were different. Instead of using it to defeat his opponent, he was using it to further improve himself and his fighting style.

Swoosh!

With the sudden change in tempo, Julius could not help but match his opponent, forcing him to increase his pace. This led to a messed up tempo, making it harder for him to keep up with Diablo.

Realizing that he was slowly losing his footing in the battle, Julius abandoned the idea to keep up with Diablo's pace and focused on his own tempo, which resulted in an even more intense battle that blew the minds of everyone watching the battle.

This was a peak contest between somewhat with pinnacle speed and complex attack pattern and mage with absolute control and complete understanding of his magic.

The clashes between the two were so stunning that the blood of those watching this battle boiled with full intensity.

This situation continued for quite a while, making it much harder to breathe.

While their eyes were starting to focus intently at the ongoing battle, the main characters of this battle were about to reach their limit.

Pausing a little, the two prepared their final move respectively, planning to end this match.

...

Julius suppressed the fatigue weighing his mind and solidified his will. He slowly hovered in the air while chanting incomprehensible words along with the glowing runes around him.

In response to his actions, the Domain of Ice and Frost stopped and gathered at a single point. It formed a cluster of energy floating above him, spinning rapidly and violently.

A moment later, it turned into a huge magical sphere that shot out a swarm of dragons that suddenly plunged from the sky and flew straight to Diablo.

'Ice Magister Spell (Unranked): Forbidden Magic – Arctic Dragon Nest'

Roar! Roar! Roar!

In the meantime, Diablo adjusted his stance as the stiletto and dagger in his left and right hands respectively transformed into shadows and melded with his shadow robe.

He then joined his palms together, controlling all the shadow elemental mana in the surrounding.

Swoosh!

A huge block of dark ravens suddenly emerged from the shadow underneath his feet and flew into the sky.

They circled in the air, forming a spiral storm that spun around Diablo and made the Divine War Robe wrapped on his body flutter violently with the chaotic wind.

Diablo's figure was suddenly devoured by the black feathers, transforming him into a giant black bird that flew straight to the sky.

'Class Fighting Style: Ultimate Move – Dawn of the Shadow World'

Shriek!

Challenging the swarm of dragons, the black bird flew straight to the sky!

Swoosh!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of explosions immediately followed as the two sides clashed against one another, forming a violent storm of energy.

This continued for quite a while until a pair of figures were revealed before everyone's eyes.

Julius, who used to look majestic with his mage robes, was currently riddled with shadow swords that looked like feathers of a raven. It was clear that he was already on the verge of dying just by looking at his miserable appearance.

But his opponent was not in a better position either.

Diablo was currently standing on a shadow platform a couple of distance away from his rival. There was a huge hole in his abdomen as a massive ice spike punctured its way through his body.

Everyone did not know if he was still alive, especially after seeing the frostbites covering every part of his body.

It was hard to guess who the winner was with just this information, so everyone subconsciously raised their heads and looked at the health bars displayed there, reflecting the current states of the two combatants.

Seeing the two empty health bars, everyone knew the result even before the system had announced it.

Ding

"First Match Result – Draw!"

Chapter 1744: Kings of the Night

...

Ding

System: First Match Result – Draw!

There was a silence at first as the live audience and online viewers took some time to gather their thoughts, process the full details of the entire match, and collect their emotions.

It was only after a while before everyone released all their feelings and started a crazy uproar!

"Whoa! That is crazy!"

"An amazing fight! A satisfying battle!"

"And this is just an opening match!"

"More! I want more! We want more!"

"This is what we are looking for! This is what a real battle looks like!"

"A clash between gods! This is a true battle of gods!"

It took them another while before they managed to calm themselves down, listening to David and Miss Bunny, who were already dissecting the entire battle and explaining it to everyone.

It took them quite a while to discuss everyone before voicing out their thoughts about the recent match.

"This is indeed a true battle between godly experts of the game. Truly an eyeopener!" said Miss Bunny excitedly, voicing out all her suppressed emotions during the entire match.

David nodded as he also agreed. "Senior Julius is still sharp as ever, but Diablo has also showed us what the new generation is capable of."

At the same time, we have also witnessed a true battle between the two wielders of high combat state – the Magical Formation and Hyperactive Immersion," he added, which swiftly attracted the attention of everyone.

"That's right!" nodded Miss Bunny as she quickly added. "We are already familiar with the Hyperactive Immersion since it is already a legend within the virtual world. What it can do to a player is truly magical."

She paused for a moment to consider her next words before continuing. "As for the Magical Formation, it is still a mystery for everyone. Care to share your thoughts, partner?"

David thought for a moment before giving his answer. "This is quite complicated. The combat state of Magical Formation is a very complex subject as it varies from one person to another."

"Unlike the Reality Manifestation, Hyperactive Immersion, and Perfect Demonification, which have specific targets to meet – the Magical Formation can branch out in multiple paths based on the understanding of an individual."

"It is impossible to cover all these with the little time we have. But I can say that this combat state focuses more on the mind, specifically in the imagination, wisdom, and understanding of an individual about 'magic'."

"I see," Miss Bunny nodded in understanding as she complimented David. "As expected of the King of All Games. You make such a complex topic into a simple one – truly an absolute expert!"

David played along as he waved his hand at her. "Don't praise me too much, I'll get conceited immediately."

...

At the same time, inside the team's booth of the Empyrean Talons, Diablo appeared with a somewhat disappointed look on his face.

But before he could even say anything to mock himself, Shin immediately walked forward and patted his shoulder. "That's a good match. It is a very close one too."

Not waiting for Diablo to say anything, he immediately added. "It may be a pity that you did not earn us the opening round, but what you have gained during the match is much more important than that measly point."

Diablo suddenly raised his head when he heard those words, looking at Shin with a surprised gaze. It took him quite a while to fully digest those words before smiling. "You are right. What I have gained during the match is much more important."

Seeing that Diablo understood his intention, Shin nodded his head in satisfaction before gesturing. "Go on. Digest all your gains and consolidate everything. It will make you a whole other person once you are done."

Diablo nodded. "Thank you!"

After that, he proceeded to greet the others, who gave him thumbs up for showing them an amazing round, which made him a little warm. He could feel that the invisible wall that he was constantly placing between the others and himself was slowly crumbling in this atmosphere.

It might not be torn down completely, but he could feel that he became somewhat closer to everyone.

He then subconsciously recalled the words of his father, which he had almost forgotten. – "Home is not a place where you stay or just sleep. It is where you feel peace and warmth." –

"Thank you," he mumbled to himself, not knowing whom it was meant for.

Watching Diablo settled in his usual corner and started meditating, the rest of the Empyrean Talons turned their heads toward their next combatant, who was already preparing for his match.

Alucard just finished sharpening his rapier and currently cleaning and inspecting his guns.

Seeing this, Akailu, who was quite closer to him compared to the rest of the members, suddenly walked over. "You have already done it multiple times. There is nothing wrong with those."

"Are you that nervous?" he chuckled as he teased this old 'partner' of his.

"Nervous? Heh! You better perform well later, or I will laugh at you for a while if you guys lose later," said Alucard as he finished reassembling his guns.

He then stood up, waiting for the system to summon him.

It was at this moment when Shin suddenly approached him and chuckled. "You can go all-out as well. It is not like we are hiding those titles of yours."

Alucard glanced at Shin before shaking his head. "How many times do I have to say that I am neither of those guys."

He fully understood what Shin was trying to imply, but he refused to admit it since it was the truth.

However, it was somewhat contradictory to the things he had said before.

This guy was being a little too inconsistent.

"We will think that you are both unless you explain your relationship with them and how you know both their styles and techniques," said Leonard, joining the fun.

Alucard paused for a moment before nodding. "When the time is right – I'll share my story as well."

Seeing that Diablo was slowly getting closer with the rest of the team, albeit slow and unnoticeable, Alucard knew that it would be his sooner or later to establish a more solid trust with everyone.

There was also Archimedes and Daulla, who had a strange relationship with one another. But it would take quite a while before this pair could open with the rest of the Empyrean Talons.

Not long after, Alucard was informed by the system that it was time for his match.

He turned to the rest of the team and said with full confidence. "Expect the same level of competition."

Swoosh!

He then hit the accept button immediately, not waiting for the others to say anything else.

...

Immediately after, he appeared in the same battlefield as the previous match.

"Tsk! These guys from the Hien Workshop sure know how to plan their cards well," he commented after being greeted by the familiar grassland.

In this battlefield, the advantage of his class was greatly weakened.

Even if he could also take advantage of the decently tall grasses as a cover and tricking his opponent with the corpses scattered in the entire field, things would get a little trickier once he missed his first shot.

As a sniper, position was the utmost importance. Once he had failed the first shot, he had to leave as soon as possible as he had already exposed his position.

So long as his opponent kept a close eye on his major direction, taking them down would be quite difficult even for someone like him.

Moreover, his current opponent was not that simple as well.

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

"First Round: Single Match 2 – 'God of Nightfall' Nacht (Godlike Player) versus 'Sanguine King' Alucard (Maverick God)"

Boom!

Another fast-paced battle given the nature of their respective classes.

One of them was a legendary thief, who made his name in an assassination game called «Thieves Guild vs Assassins Family».

It was a game with a medieval setting, where magic was absent while technology was still in its infancy.

As the name suggests, it was a battle between two major NPC factions that were constantly competing against one another. The main competition was a battle between the group of thieves and assassins that were tasked to eliminate a certain target.

It was similar to the famous FPS (First-Person Shooting) Games. But instead of using guns, explosives, or superpowers, each team would be using daggers, bows, and crossbows alongside a variety of stealth and assassination skills.

The game was not only focused on eliminating the target, but also a constant battle between the two teams as they prevented one another from taking the bounty.

Among these players, Nacht was one of the best and had won multiple titles under his belt. He was one of the main pillars of the Hien Workshop.

He might not be as famous as Julius despite being a Godlike Player himself. But he was still one of the strongest players among the thieves and assassins within the game.

Adding that he was from the same generation as Julius, his experience in professional competition was quite rich.

On the other hand, Alucard was among those who had already established his name after his previous battles, especially the most recent matchup, where he had outclassed Murong Qi completely.

Moreover, he had only shown his Gun Fighting Techniques and a few sword techniques during that time, saving most of his cards with the Blood Arts.

Those who understood that Alucard had yet to reveal his true powers, knew that this was a good chance to truly understand him.

Facing a powerful opponent like Nacht would be a perfect opportunity to see his full capabilities.

Chapter 1745: Kings of the Night (Part 2)

...

A Godlike Player with a well-established name against another 'rising' star within the virtual world, who had a strength comparable to highly ranked gods of the game.

This was another exciting match!

One was a legendary thief with a lot of titles under his belt, while the other was a top-clash gunner, who seemed to specialize in sniper profession yet also highly skilled at wielding his rapier.

This was going to be a high-pace battle!

That was what everyone thought until reality slapped them in the face.

When the battle started, Alucard did not go that far as he looked for a slightly elevated ground before lying on his stomach.

He adjusted his position while setting up his sniper rifle.

He was lying in ambush while hiding his figure behind the grasses that were as tall as a person's knee.

He had positioned himself perfectly as he was just on the right height to cover his figure with these grasses while having a decent view of everything upfront.

With his enhanced eyesight that could be ranked as one of the best ocular skills of marksmen within the game as well as the further enhancements that he had gotten from his race, his sniping abilities were further elevated into a higher level.

With these sharp eyes, nothing could escape his sight, even the slightest disturbance of the grasses. A little oddity in the movements of these grasses dancing alongside the wind was more than enough to tell him a hint of his opponent's movement.

He stayed completely still, acting as if he was a dead person, while waiting for the time to pull the trigger of his sniper rifle.

Meanwhile, Nacht immediately entered stealth right after the system signaled the start of the match.

He moved with utmost caution, not daring to underestimate his opponent. As a very experienced veteran within the professional circle, he never let his guard down or looked down to his opponents as he knew that it would only be asking for trouble.

A single moment of carelessness would always lead to accidents. Adding that his rivals were mostly on the same level of skill, he always gave his all whenever he was competing in any kind of tournament or league.

He skillfully moved along the blowing wind, following the movements of the grasses to hide his tracks.

A sniper and an assassin – this would be a battle of patience, which was completely the opposite of what everyone was thinking.

This boring 'battle' continued for quite a while, making the live audience and online viewers complain.

"What the heck is this? A hide and seek battle?"

"How long do they want to continue? I feel like I am going to sleep."

"Get some action!"

"Tsk! Nacht is still on the other half of the field. How long is this going to take?"

"Boo! Get moving already! We don't have the time to waste in this useless match!"

...

As everyone was voicing out their complaints, David could not help but smile at them as he said. "Look! Everyone is already losing their patience when the match has just started, 10 minutes ago. If any of them is fighting either of those two, they have most likely died ten times over."

Miss Bunny giggled as she knew that David was only doing this to lighten up the mood a little. She knew that she had to play along. "But ten minutes is indeed quite a long time."

"This is a battle of patience. Ten minutes is nothing. They can keep this up all day long," laughed David, almost scaring everyone.

"It can't be, right?" Miss Bunny continued to play along, acting with a little exaggerated reaction.

But David just smiled mysteriously as he continued. "But this will not take that long."

He paused for a moment as he pointed at the sky of the battle arena. "Have you noticed that despite having the same field, the time settings of the two matches are different?"

The moment when he mentioned this, the sky in the arena slowly got dark, marking the fast-approaching night.

As dusk started to settle in, David continued to 'mystify' things. "It seems like someone has made a miscalculation this time."

Hearing this, people started to notice that the grass field was slowly turning dark due to the time setting.

When the night approaches, thieves and assassins would step up and announce their supremacy.

When the dark approaches, they would become the kings, being feared by everyone.

Even if a sniper could also take advantage of this environment, their field of vision would be greatly limited given that it was much harder to see in the dark.

Adding that the sky was quite cloudy, hiding the moon and blocking its light that could illuminate the darkness of the night, the odds of the match instantly favored the opposing side.

Putting all of these into consideration, the people watching this match seemed to have come into a realization. This was purposely set up by Nacht, who had yet to cross the 'line' where his opponent could 'see' him.

Once the night arrived, Nacht – also known as the God of Nightfall – would bare his fangs and sink in deep into his opponent.

Everyone was already anticipating what was about to happen next, particularly excited to end this 'boring' match.

In the meantime, David, who had 'given' this idea to everyone, maintained his mystifying smile. Whether he was talking about Nacht or Alucard when he said those words was still unclear.

...

As the darkness enveloped the entire grassland, Nacht immediately increased his pace and rapidly approached the 'other side' of the field.

But he had just taken a couple of steps forward when a bad premonition suddenly halted his tracks.

His foot was firmly planted into the ground, refusing to budge even for an inch.

He squinted his eyes as he sharply scanned the surroundings but failed to find anything. He did not know what it was, but he knew that something was not right.

He was sure that he and their team's strategist had overlooked something. But he could not put his fingers into it exactly. The tip of his fingers kept on touching it, yet unable to fully grasp what he was looking for.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

It was at this moment when he finally realized where the uneasy feeling was coming from. That feeling that someone was looking at him finally settled in.

Swiftly turning his gaze at his surroundings, he noticed that the grass field had a lot of bats scattered in every direction.

Some of them were standing on the tips of the weapons of the fallen warriors while the others were on the rock boulders scattered in the entire field. Then the rest were watching 'him' from the sky as they flew freely in the night.

These bats had never been there during their team mock battles! These bats were the oddity!

Trusting his instincts, Nacht swiftly retreated while using a series of speed-enhancing buffs to further increase the distance between him and this current location.

Swoosh!

Bang!

Right at the same instant, when he left his previous location, the thunderous roar of a sniper rifle reverberated in the entire field and shook the silent night.

Bang!

The ground where Nacht was previously standing was blasted by a powerful shot, signifying the overwhelming firepower of the opposing side.

"Tsk! I am a bit slow," said Alucard to himself.

It took him quite a while to scatter the shadow bats, which was one of the skills that he had learned just recently. It was a special skill that could be used for scouting, monitoring, and escaping.

They had a similar faction as the Hawks or Falcons of the Rangers and other related classes.

The tricky part when using this skill was the mode of scouting of the bats as they were two sets of them.

The first set focused on sound waves, which was what the regular bats used to 'see' in the dark, while the other was the sanguine bats that relied on their special eyes to see and share what they were seeing with their master.

The first set was more flexible and more effective during special scenarios, but the range that they could cover was limited.

Meanwhile, the second set of bats had a larger range of operation but consume a lot of mana and concentration.

But had their respective pros and cons, which could be used in different situations.

Alucard originally wanted to rely on the sound bats to locate Nacht. But due to his unfamiliarity with them, he messed up the direction of his shot a little, leading to the current situation.

His location had already been exposed to his opponent, so he had to leave and change his sniping point as soon as possible.

This was the basic rule for snipers.

But Alucard did not do that because he had other plans. He continued lying in the same position as he aimed, locking on the predicted route of his opponent.

Bang!

Right after he pulled the trigger, a streak of light flew across the air, heading straight to a certain direction.

Swoosh!

Nacht, who had already pinpointed the location of his opponent, was currently making his way when he sensed the second shot.

He did not hesitate as he quickly jumped to the side and rolled on the ground, dodging the crimson bullet with the skin of his teeth.

Right after standing up, Nacht borrowed the momentum of his previous actions to continue running toward his opponent while enhancing his speed with a series of buffs.

Whoosh!

He knew that the other party had a special means to see through his stealth despite the huge distance between them, so continuing to hide with it was useless.

Instead, it was better to rush toward his opponent with the best of his ability.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At the same time, Alucard had started firing his shots more frequently, continuously suppressing his rival with his firepower alone.

Another form of battle was immediately initiated.

One was running at full speed, gliding across the grassland, while the other was calmly firing his sniper rifle, locking on the blurry silhouette that was rapidly approaching him.

The long-lost excitement that those watching the match immediately returned as the two combatants finally 'formally' started the real battle.

Chapter 1746: Kings of the Night (Part 3)

.....

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The intensity of the battle immediately ramped up alongside the sudden change of pace.

Each sound that the bullet coming out from the chamber of Alucard's rifle felt like a strong beat of a war drum that was hitting the chest of everyone.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As Alucard continued to pull the trigger, Nacht sprinted toward the location of the opposing side with the best of his abilities. He had used a series of strange movements, signifying his high-end foot technique.

He was not planning to be a practice target that his opponent used to showcase his superb sniping, so he immediately used one of his signature techniques that made him one of the well-known gods within the virtual world.

His rapidly moving body turned into a series of blurry silhouettes that were almost a hundred in number.

'Personal Movement Technique: Phantom of the Night'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Seeing the huge number of phantoms swarming toward Alucard, the people watching the match could not help but gasp as this was their first time seeing Nacht utilize this technique to this level.

With such an overwhelming number of phantoms, even a top-notch sniper would most likely encounter a huge problem.

There were legends about powerful gunners and snipers fighting against hundreds of opponents and emerging victorious by slaughtering everyone. Some myths were also foretelling about a certain sniper who managed to force an entire army in retreat, giving up the idea of invasion.

These incidents told how fearsome a gun could be in the hands of fearsome individuals along with their unique strategies.

But those cases only took place on certain terrains, which were either favorable to the said individuals or perfect for guerilla warfare.

Alucard's current situation did not fall to either case, which was why most of the people felt that this was the end of the match.

Unfortunately, they were all proven wrong right on the next instant.

Alucard's pupils suddenly turned crimson as he activated his special ocular skill while watching a hundred of the phantoms swarming at him.

These phantoms might be realistic and could confuse most of the people, but they were ineffective before Alucard, who could see through such illusions with ease.

He ignored all the phantoms and focused solely on a lone figure, which was emitting a certain 'light' within his body.

As Alucard stared on this figure, his eyes were able to see the flow of the blood within the veins of the latter. This pointed him to the true body of the latter, which were 'lifeless' despite how alive they appeared on the surface.

'Vampire Exclusive Skill (Unique): Sanguine Vision'

Without any hesitation, Alucard pulled the trigger of his rifle, firing an even stronger shot compared to the others.

Bang!

Nacht had already sensed the danger when Alucard had locked into his figure, giving him the idea that the opposing party was able to see through the trick of his technique.

Swoosh!

Without any hint of hesitation, he swiftly adjusted his foot technique, dodging the incoming bullet enveloped with blood energy.

Boom!

Right after the sanguine bullet flew past his previous location, it hit the huge boulder right behind him and blasted it into fragments.

At the same time, the number of phantoms that he had 'summoned' noticeably decreased due to the sudden interruption of his foot technique.

Seeing this scene, the people who believed Nacht's victory could not help but rub their eyes at what they just witnessed.

But they quickly disregarded it as a fluke as it was close to impossible to choose the right target in just a single attempt.

Unfortunately for them, the process repeated itself, proving them wrong.

Alucard indeed had the ability to see through the phantom technique that Nacht was using and even suppress the latter with it.

Nacht was forced to constantly dodge, putting himself in the perfect range of Alucard's Death Shooting Gallery.

But he was still steadily approaching the latter with the help of his techniques, mostly relying on the strange foot technique that let him constantly change the direction and rhythm of his movements, making it harder for Alucard to lock onto his figure.

The constant shift in his movements' pattern became his main weapon to reach his target.

But with just a couple of minutes, Nacht suddenly sensed something locked into him, forcing him to change his technique once again.

Bang!

A crimson bullet flew and pierced through Nacht's chest, accurately hitting his heart.

But before everyone could even react to what just happened, his figure slowly faded away, signifying that only his afterimage was hit by that terrifying shot.

'Modified Movement Technique: Ghost Steps'

It was one of the advanced combat techniques that most of the players of the thief and assassin classes knew. But he modified it a little to complement his style, making it almost impossible for his opponents to realize that he had already used it.

It was a perfect technique for this kind of situation.

Swoosh!

Alucard, who was originally lying on his stomach, suddenly picked up his sniper rifle and jumped backwards, dodging the hail of throwing daggers that came out of nowhere.

Shu! Shu! Shu!

While he was midair, he suddenly adjusted his posture. He seemed to be sitting in the air as he kept his sniper rifle and pulled out a pair of magic pistols, pointing them forward.

He waited for a second before pulling the triggers of the pistols repeatedly, firing a series of shots at the 'empty' space before him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Swoosh!

With the crimson trails in the air, Nacht's figure suddenly appeared, barely dodging them with the slightest margin.

The moment his feet touched the ground, Nacht immediately kicked the ground and propelled himself forward with an even stronger momentum.

Swoosh!

But right before he could reach the five-meter mark away from Alucard, he was forced to halt his tracks due to the series of gunshots fired at him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The shots accurately predicted his speed and route, so he had to stop his tracks before his body turned into a Swiss Cheese.

But he also did not give up as he adjusted his footwork for another time, swaying his body left and right and making his figure an illusionary ghost while moving forward.

'Modified Movement Technique: Spectral Steps'

Swoosh!

With his strange and unreadable movements, he was able to avoid the crimson bullets fired by his opponent while trying to approach the latter with the best of his abilities.

But to his surprise, he was still able to cross the five-meter mark of his opponent despite his insane speed and complicated movement techniques.

It was as if there was an invisible wall that he could not cross no matter how hard he tried.

He even tried to swap with a series of movement and combat techniques, mixing them perfectly, to confuse the opposing side.

But despite all of that, Alucard maintained such a not-so-far and not-so-near spacing, showcasing his kiting ability.

Moreover, he was also responding with a series of gunfighting techniques of his own, which came from both the game and the real world.

The five-meter mark seemed to have become an invisible barrier that Nacht was unable to approach despite trying his best to cross it.

Those with experienced eyes were able to recognize this technique as it was one of the signature techniques of the famous Gun King of the «Sword and Guns» Online.

Gun-Fu!

Nacht had also realized this, so he slightly raised his brows before switching with an even stronger technique.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

His body suddenly flickered before 'separating' into multiple figures that surrounded Alucard from every direction. They hovered in the air and stayed on the ground for a second before suddenly pouncing at him all at the same time.

'Class Fighting Style: Hundred Ghost Assassination'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Despite being surrounded by these ghostly figures, Alucard maintained his calm expression as he halted his 'retreat.'

His crimson pupils moved left and right as he read the movements of the ghost attacking him from every angle before extending his arm and pointing his magic pistols outwards.

He then started pulling the trigger as he spun steadily and used the slightly modified 'Random Firing' Skill to fire in every direction.

'Black Ops Military Arts: Gunfighting – Hundred Bullets'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The crimson bullets that came out from the barrels of his pistols seemed to have a life of their own as they found their targets accurately.

Puff! Puff! Puff!

The ghost surrounding him exploded one after another, showcasing Alucard's extreme precision despite firing his guns somewhat randomly.

But when all the ghostly figures were annihilated, Alucard could not help but pause a little to catch his breathing.

It might be brief, but it was more than enough for Nacht to launch a deadly ambush!

He suddenly appeared behind Alucard as his daggers shone with a dangerous glint while slashing toward the latter's back.

But before he could even reach his target, a familiar sense of dread suddenly washed over his body.

He was forced to change the trajectory of his attack!

Clang!

Blazing sparks flew in the air as his daggers collided against a deadly rapier that almost pierced through his chest without making any sound.

It was at that moment when Nacht saw Alucard holding a silver rapier in his right hand, replacing one of his magic pistols.

Nacht skidded back as he tried to regain his footing after blocking the previous attack.

He could not help but squint his eyes a little further as he stared at Alucard standing a few meters away from him while holding a silver rapier in one hand and a magic pistol with the other.

He fully understood that this would be one of the hardest battles he had encountered in his entire professional gaming career.

Chapter 1747: Kings of the Night (Part 4)

.....

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The battle between Alucard and Nacht continued to escalate as the latter managed to find a way to get near the former.

Their battle might not be as flashy as the previous match due to the visual effects of their respective skills and techniques.

The earlier battle was a clash between magic and speed, where the former had a variety of powerful spells that could stun everyone while the latter showed an inhumane speed and technique that matched the opposing side in terms of 'special effects.'

But that did not mean that the flashiness of these two and their skills were not comparable. Their battle and exchanges just had a different charm in them.

Nacht repeatedly tried to breakthrough the 5 to 3-meter range of his opponent's Gun-Fu, which gave him quite a lot of trouble.

But by relying on the variety of special techniques under his arsenal, he was able to breach that radius and launch a series of attacks.

Unfortunately, he was repeatedly greeted by the barrage of deadly strikes from Alucard, who was using a variety of rapier techniques to ward off his attempts.

Nacht's afterimages that perfectly mimicked himself and his techniques were repeatedly being crushed by either the crimson bullets or sword flashes coming from Alucard.

Moreover, Nacht had also experienced the other form of fighting style that Alucard possessed. Aside from the Gun-Fun that seemed to be almost impossible to breach, there was also the 'Sleepwalk' Combat Technique, which further made the suspicions of those who believe that he had some close connection with the Gun and Sword Kings of the game «Guns and Swords» Online stronger.

Even if these certain ideas running in everyone's mind were somewhat crazy, they still could not help but suspect something more after seeing Alucard use all the techniques of the previous Kings of Gun and Sword of that game.

He was even acting as if all those skills were his own.

But what made everyone even crazier, or somewhat warier of Alucard, was the fact that he had never used his blood arts aside from the crimson bullets infused with blood power and Sanguine Eyes that constantly locked on Nacht's figure.

The rest of the skills and techniques related to Blood Arts seemed to be 'locked'.

It might be his confidence that he would be able to defeat Nacht without their help, especially when the two were currently in a complete deadlock.

Due to the nature of Alucard's race, many had already figured out that he belonged to a unique and special race, which was still unavailable to everyone.

The Vampire Race was an overpowered race with a variety of unique skills and strange abilities. People had already encountered some in the Frozen Kingdom, but they were just a variety of low-class vampires and infected ones.

Regardless, those vampires were still very hard to deal with due to their powerful physique and strong regeneration abilities.

That was just the beginning as the slightly stronger ones had special blood powers that made everyone break in cold sweat.

These vampires were just the lowest of the low, yet they were already powerful enough to be comparable to Chieftain Rank Monsters or even Lord Rank Monsters by Aurora Continent's standards.

There were still the high-ranking ones and noble ones, which possessed an even stronger power.

Using this as their base of comparison, many believed that Alucard still possessed a stronger power that the public had yet to see.

Nacht was also aware of this fact, which was why he was currently wearing a very solemn expression on his face during the entire battle.

He was not upset that Alucard might be underestimating him. He was just disappointed in himself that he was unable to force the latter to use everything he had in this battle.

Realizing that he would not be able to force Alucard to go all-out without relying on the special method that he had recently mastered, Nacht had no choice but to take the initiative to reveal more of his trump cards.

"I am planning to use this in the quarterfinals, but I guess there is no other choice," mumbling to himself.

After hardening his resolve, Nacht suddenly took out a worn-out dagger from his inventory space before stabbing himself with it.

Ding

System: The Sacrificial Dagger has been used! Activating the Inheritance Item – Phantom Soul!

Boom!

Right after the dagger pierced through Nacht's heart, another copy of himself suddenly emerged from his shadow and stood silently beside him.

The clone remained still for a couple of seconds before slowly opening its intelligent eyes. A single look at its eyes was more than enough to tell everyone that it was no ordinary clone. It was giving off a feeling that it was alive.

Seeing this, Alucard could not help but suddenly distance himself away from the two while pulling out his pair of magic pistols and started firing at Nacht and his clone.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

But right before the crimson bullets reached their targets, the two suddenly turned into a blur and disappeared from everyone's sight.

"Tsk! This is going to be a little troublesome," mumbled Alucard before suddenly halting his retreat while also keeping one of his pistols back and swapping it with his rapier once again.

He then stood still while holding the rapier vertically in front of his chest. The pistol in his left hand was held horizontally across his stomach and pointed toward his right side.

He seemed to be meditating as he continued maintaining this stance despite the two deadly shadows approaching him from the distance.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

When the Nacht and his clone reached Alucard, they suddenly released a bunch of afterimages to confuse the latter while attacking from every direction.

'Class Fighting Style: Phantom Storm'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

When the attacks were about to reach him, Alucard suddenly opened his eyes, which released a sharp and bloody glow.

He suddenly stretched his hand holding the magic pistol outward and started pulling the trigger repeatedly, firing a series of random yet accurate shots.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Each bullet pierced through the heads of the phantoms surrounding him as he spun rapidly, creating a storm of bullets.

At the same time his hand that was holding the rapier suddenly 'disappeared' as he threw a circular slash that followed his actions.

Shing!

Those phantoms that managed to break through the storm of bullets were cut in half after being sliced by the rapier.

Clang! Clang!

Not long after, consecutive collisions could be heard as the rapier clashed against the daggers that were silently approaching him from a certain angle.

This revealed the real bodies of Nacht and his clone.

They might have failed the first ambush, but they were successful at stopping Alucard's movement.

At this point, it was his turn to dictate the rhythm of the match.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Clang! Clang!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The two quickly engaged in an even more intense battle against Alucard, working together with perfect and seamless coordination that pushed Alucard into constant retreat.

It felt like Alucard was fighting a pair of Godlike Players with unbreakable teamwork. He was immediately on the back foot, forcing him to find his footing repeatedly.

But despite all of these, Nacht was still unable to completely suppress Alucard since the latter repeatedly revealed a series of advanced techniques that belonged to neither the Gun King nor the Sword King.

Instead, the skills felt like a combination of the two as he always utilized the gun and rapier in his hand to the fullest.

If Nacht and his clone were showcasing perfect coordination along with a series of his signature techniques, then Alucard was showing everyone how to fight with a gun and a sword in his hands without any conflicts.

Nacht even felt that he was fighting a pair of opponents due to how perfectly Alucard shifted between the two styles, which even included a combination move between the range and melee techniques.

If the earlier match almost stunned everyone speechless due to how fast the exchanges between Diablo and Julius, making them unable to breathe, then this match was putting everyone in a constant state of craziness as they continued to shout despite not being heard by the two combatants or showing a variety of reactions in the chat box of the online broadcast.

They kept cheering on the two, telling them to continue showing an even more intense battle.

Due to the dark environment, the people could not see Nacht and his clone, who kept on appearing and disappearing while chasing after Alucard. He was showing everyone how the thief class was supposed to be played.

Meanwhile, Alucard was telling everyone that guns and swords could be used together so long as they had the proper form and techniques. The storm of crimson bullets coming from his magic pistol and the sword flashes of his rapier danced around him, forming a 'defensive line' that was very hard to crack.

With the setting of the match, the people started calling the two the Kings of the Night.

On the other hand, while everyone was crazy about the battle details, Shin, who was watching the match from the team booth, was squinting his eyes as he stared at Nacht – or more specifically, the clone that the other party had summoned.

He stared intently at the clone as he mumbled to himself. "That clone-... Is it possible that it is an inferior version of True Phantom?"

Chapter 1748: The Result and an Unusual Lineup

...

As the battle between Alucard and Nacht progressed further, the clashes between them grew more intense, especially when they were starting to showcase more of their more advanced techniques.

Nacht was still the one who had the advantage in terms of speed and illusionary techniques, especially with a variety of footwork and stealth skills that he had under his arsenal.

But despite all of those, Alucard kept the invisible 'barrier' within the five to three-meter radius around him. Moreover, his rapier and gun kept on 'working' together to ward off all the advances that his opponent was making.

Even if Nacht had the help of his 'alive' clone, he was still unable to launch a proper hit against Alucard, who gave him a couple of injuries instead.

The damage that he had gotten during those exchanges might be a little shallow, but the blow that Alucard was dealing with was strong enough to affect the mentality of his opponent.

But these small advantages did not mean that Nacht was inferior to Alucard. It just happened that his style and class were being suppressed by Alucard's techniques and main profession.

Realizing that the battle was being dragged on a little longer, Alucard decided to show everyone a glimpse of his true power.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Forcing Nacht and his clone to retreat with a barrage of crimson bullets, Alucard suddenly increased his speed and created a decent distance between himself and his opponent.

Nacht sensed that there was something wrong, especially after feeling the ominousness filling the air.

He swiftly forced himself to chase after Alucard, who was steadily increasing the distance between him and his opponent, while constantly urging his clone to do the same.

Bang! Bang!

Swoosh! Swoosh!

With a powerful stomp onto the ground, the pair propelled themselves toward Alucard at insane speed, transforming into a pair of shadows that flew across the dark grassland.

But right before they reached the halfway mark between them and their target, Nacht was suddenly assaulted by a strong sense of dread, seemingly telling him that it was already impossible to prevent what was about to come.

Even his clone, who seemed to possess an extremely high AI and combat IQ, could not help but pause briefly due to the sudden killing intent that enveloped the entire grassland.

Nacht trusted his instincts as he ordered his clone to return and fuse with him. Since it was already too late to prevent Alucard from executing his killing move, Nacht decided to face it head-on to the best of his abilities.

Boom!

The aura surrounding him immediately propelled to an unimaginable level after the clone fused with his body, breaking through his current limit.

Taking advantage of the momentum and his newly enhanced state, Nacht held his daggers tightly as he threw another powerful stomp into the ground and sent himself flying toward Alucard.

Bang!

Swoosh!

He transformed into a flickering silhouette that turned into hundreds of shadows, filling the grassland with themselves.

They looked like an army of shadows that was launching themselves at their opponent, planning to annihilate his existence.

'Incomplete Heritage Skill (Weakened Version): Phantom Calamity'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Seeing the incoming army of shadows, Alucard took away his magic pistol while keeping the rapier in hand.

He stood straight as he held the rapier vertically in front of his chest while his other hand was hidden behind him.

Closing his eyes, he summoned all the blood power within him, forming an invisible vortex in his surroundings.

This vortex slowly turned crimson as they converged behind him and formed an eerie yet also majestic pair of bloody wings.

'Vampire Primogenitor Blessing: Crimson Wings of Sovereignty'

When the pair of bat-like wings spread themselves, an intense and dreadful suppression suddenly filled the entire battlefield, affecting the movements of the incoming army of shadows.

Nacht could not help but pause his actions for a moment, trying to withstand the strong suppression that was pressing on him and the entire army. He must maintain his sharp mind and solid concentration to keep the skill active, preventing it from being forcefully canceled.

He was planning to continue his assault right after he regained his footing, but it was unfortunate that this brief pause was more than enough for Alucard to end this battle.

Swoosh!

Flapping his crimson batwings, Alucard suddenly propelled himself forward and launched a series of attacks at the entire army of shadows with his rapier.

'Vampire Racial Technique: Blood Art – Crimson Annihilation'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Alucard transformed into a streak of light that flew in the air in a crisscrossing manner, cutting through everything in its path.

Shing!

When everything ended, Alucard's figure could be seen standing a few meters away from Nacht, who stood still on his spot.

The two maintained their respective postures for a couple of moments before a series of negative numbers appeared over the latter's head, signifying the terrifying damage that he had suffered from the previous exchange.

His health dropped rapidly as the stab wounds and deep cuts started to appear all over his body one after another. It did not stop until his health bar was completely emptied.

Nacht forcefully turned his as he asked. "Does that move belong to your strongest techniques?" – his body was already turning into a speck of lights at this point.

Alucard flipped his wrist and twirled his rapier before sheathing it. He then turned around as he thought for a moment.

Grinning somewhat deviously, he suddenly answered. "Far from it."

Hearing that answer, Nacht could not help but smile bitterly as he mocked himself. "I see. It seems like the new is about to replace the old."

But he later raised his head as a decisive look washed over his face. "But that does not mean that I will give up that easily. Let's meet again some other time."

Swoosh!

Not long after, his body dissipated in the air completely alongside the announcement from the system.

Ding

"Second Match Result – Victory to Alucard, the Sanguine King!"

...

"Whoa!"

"That is intense!"

"Right! It may not be as flashy as the ending of the previous match, but it is still equally stunning, nevertheless!"

"Especially the final moves that the two have showcased in the last moment!"

"Tsk! It looks like the Blood Arts of Alucard is as broken as the rumors say."

"It may even be an underestimation as what he just shown us is a single technique. Given the nature of his race, it is not impossible to have a variety of them under his arsenal."

"You can't be sure either. It may be his strongest move for all we know."

"But you can't also deny that it is powerful. Others will not risk underestimating his skills when facing him in the future."

It took quite a while before the people reacted to the result of the match. It might be because of the strong impact of the previous match, which was why everyone was able to quickly regain their composure.

But they still started arguing among themselves as they gave their respective opinions about the previous matches.

Since there was a short break between the First Round and the Second Round, the live audience and online viewers seized this opportunity to argue with one another, relieving their slight boredom and calming themselves after watching the two consecutive battles filled with intensity.

David and Miss Bunny had also taken this opportunity to discuss the previous battle as much as they could before slightly comparing it with the first match.

At the same time, they also played a guessing game along with their audience to build a certain connection with them.

The guessing game was about the lineups that the two teams would be sending respectively.

Given the previous performances of the two teams, the two tried to guess the players that would be representing the two teams in the Group Battle.

Just like everyone else, the Hien Workshop had chosen a standard 3-vs-3 for the Group Battle, which somewhat game everyone their strategy.

With the data that everyone had in their hands, they could guess that the Hien Workshop would most likely go with the standard composition, which had a strong tank, a powerful damage dealer, and decently skilled support.

After all, their team members covered almost all the roles fitted in all kinds of situations. They had also a pair of solid tanks in their team. They could just send one for the Group Battle while the other was saved for the Team Competition.

Taking a look at the strategy that the Empyrean Talons had used in the previous round, everyone felt that they would proceed with the same strategy, especially when Shin and Leonard were strong enough to hold the frontline in the team competition.

Adding Cloe's top-notch supporting abilities, it would not be hard for them to win the match with the same pattern and lineup.

It was unless Arthur was present, which was another solid frontline for the Empyrean Talons.

But it was known that Arthur was currently absent from the lineup due to special reasons, which the Empyrean Talons had admitted during the previous interview after their first match with the Seven Seas Alliance.

It seemed like they were not trying to hide this information from everyone and even using it as a weapon against those who were planning to take advantage of the intel.

It did not take long before the next match started.

The system also showed the lineup of the respective teams for the Group Battle, making everyone look at it excitedly as they wanted to see who had 'won' the guessing game.

There was nothing strange with the lineup that the Hien Workshop had sent. It was the same standardized team composition that they had used in their previous match.

But when everyone looked at the names of the players who would be representing the Empyrean Talons, they could not help but stare blankly at them for quite a while because they found them strange.

"What the heck!?"

"Are they madmen? What is the meaning of this?"

"Quick! Pinch me! I am dreaming, right!?"

Everyone could not believe what they were seeing.

On the other hand, David was slamming his hand on the table while laughing so hard that he could not talk straight. "Devil Strategist! That guy is truly a devil. What a devious plan he has!"

– "Second Round: Group Battle (3-vs-3) – Hien Workshop versus Empyrean Talons" –

Hien Workshop Lineup:

'Grinding King' Heavenly Shield (Maverick God)

'Swordmaster of Light' White Silver (Peak Titled Ranker)

'Sacred Priestess' Pia (Peak Titled Ranker)

Empyrean Talons Lineup:

'Herald of Chaos' Chaotic Luck (Unusual Maverick Ranker)

'Beastmaster' Akailu (Peak Titled Ranker)

Huahua (Rookie Player)

Chapter 1749: Despicable and Devious

.....

A single look at this unusual lineup was more than enough for David to realize what Shin was planning for this round. Sending a group of summoners for the round and letting them summon an entire army to overwhelm their opposition with sheer numbers.

David could already picture inside his head how much torture the other side would have suffered under the assault of such a huge army with only three of them.

He could not help but pity them for what was about to come, especially when they had chosen a battlefield with a not-so-complex but still complicated terrain.

It was easy to tell that they had chosen this stage to be favorable to them, especially when they were very familiar with everything. Unfortunately, the complicated terrain that was supposed to work in their favor became the biggest factor that could lead to their loss.

Given the data that they had gotten from Chaotic Luck's last performance, the people who had studied his style realized the absurdly long distance where he could control his army. All he had to do was to continue hiding far from the center of the battle while supporting Akailu and his combat pets with his army.

As for Huahua, everyone could already tell the main reason why she was chosen despite being a complete rookie. She was supposed to enhance the stats of Akaliu, his pets, and the entire Legion of the Chaotic Sun with her totems while also increasing their numbers further with her ghost and spirit soldiers.

With the combined numbers of their army, it was not hard to imagine how torturous the battle would be for the side of the Hien Workshop.

...

"We have been played," said Heavenly Shield right after seeing the lineup of their opposition.

White Silver could not help but nod his head in agreement as he could also see that they were already at a complete disadvantage just by looking at the compositions of the teams. "No matter what angle we look at... this is a losing battle for our team."

"Our only opposition is rushing the opposing side with brute force, killing their main summoners as fast as we can and preventing them from summoning more soldiers and increasing the size of their army."

"After all, their army will only grow larger if we give them too much time," he added with a helpless sigh. "Unfortunately, it will be hard to find them with such a complicated terrain."

"Isn't it such a broken lineup then?" said Pia as she also felt a little helpless from the side. "If they continue using this strategy, then their team will be unbeatable in Group Battles."

But Heavenly Shield shook his head as he denied the idea. "It is not necessarily the case. Such a strategy can only work against team compositions like us, especially with our basic class composition."

"If they are facing an opponent with strong firepower and powerful AOE (Area-of-effect) skills or spells, such a strategy will be useless."

"Take Julius for example. If he is at least one of us, then blasting those skeleton soldiers will be quite easy. Adding a top-notch assassin, who can hide in the dark and take advantage of the complicated terrain of this stage, hunting down Chaotic Luck or Huahua will be much easier as well."

"There is also Moyong Qi from the Wild Brothers. His Cannonier Style, bombarding this army with powerful blasts of his high-caliber guns and cannons can make this composition quite useless."

"This is one of the reasons why they can't always use this strategy," he added as he could already see what the opposing side was thinking.

White Silver also nodded as he added further. "Moreover, their opposing team can also use the traditional 1-vs-1 group battle format, where the winner stays and the loser is out, to avoid fighting such a lineup."

"There are many ways to deal with this despicable composition. It just happens that we are unlucky to be the first one to face it," he commented full of helplessness.

"But it can also be because we are targeted by the opposing side, expecting us to go with the standard team composition," said Heavenly Shield, implying that the strategist of the opposing team had most likely figured them out.

"So, what are we going to do? Give up and concede the match?" asked Pia dejectedly.

The match had not started properly yet, but they had already lost the round with the lineup alone.

"Of course not! We are going to give our best and lose with dignity. It is better than running away," said White Silver with full righteousness.

"But it is still quite humiliating to lose miserably," she said with a helpless sigh.

After adjusting their mentality, the trio formed the standard formation before rushing straight to the direction where they had predicted their opponent would be summoned.

They did not have to strategize that much for this match since there was nothing much they could do. They just hoped that they would be able to rush their opponent before they could summon their huge army and increase their size to an unstoppable level.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But expectations would always be slapped by reality.

Unlike everyone's expectation, the trio from the Empyrean Talons did not follow the usual 'script' and initiated an all-out attack right from the start.

They did not wait for their army to grow larger as they quickly charged ahead, heading straight to the opposing side.

From the look of it, they were planning to face their opposition head-on.

Swoosh!

Chaotic Luck was riding on the back of a huge skeleton falcon with a pair of blazing wings and a long tail made of fire. They flew across the sky, being the scout to find their opponents.

But he still did not stop summoning his legion of blazing undead despite this current task. He did not even hold back at summoning a huge number of blazing undead despite being in the sky.

The Legion of the Chaotic Sun was steadily advancing toward the direction of their opponent while being led by Akailu, who had already fused with his War Bear, along with the Shadow Wolf and Fierce Tiger pets.

Meanwhile, Huahua was currently riding the back of a huge skeleton giant that seemed to be made from the remains of a huge mammoth. This blazing undead would act as her main guard that would protect her from any harm alongside the sub-elites surrounding it.

Rumble!

Sensing the intense tremors of the ground, the trio from the Hien Workshop immediately assumed a battle formation, expecting an intense battle.

They did not expect that the opposing side would take the initiative to attack when they could just wait on their 'base' while steadily growing their army.

But the three quickly shivered when they saw the incoming Legion of Chaotic Sun, which greatly resembled a monster horde during a city defense event.

"F*ck!" Heavenly Shield could only curse out loud after seeing the army of the opposing side.

Even if he was dubbed the Grinding King, known for being relentless and very difficult to take down due to his steady, powerful defense, it was still impossible for him to withstand the incoming 'horde' by himself.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

He just finished assuming a defensive stance when a rain of fireballs suddenly came falling from the sky, bombarding them with powerful explosions.

Seeing that, he could not help but raise his shield and summoned a huge dome-like barrier that protected their team from the intense bombardment.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

But he had underestimated the might of these fireballs, which contained the power of the sun.

The barrier did not last that long before it collapsed under the constant bombardment.

Heavenly Shield was about to activate another defensive skill when a huge 'monster' suddenly cast its shadow from above, pouncing straight at them.

Roar!

Seeing Akailu, White Silver planned to face him head-on but was stopped by Heavenly Shield. His job was to protect Pia, who would be the main target of their opponent, so he had to hold his ground.

Raising his shield, Heavenly Shield cast his version of 'Shield Wall' to block the incoming attacks while also warding off the Shadow Wolf and Fierce Tiger that suddenly came out of nowhere.

Roar! Roar!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Heavenly Shield was about to continue his defensive stance, but he suddenly noticed a formation of different spiritual totems surrounding them.

"D*mn it!" he could only curse a little more due to the perfect timing and positioning of these totems, which released a series of intense pulses that weakened their stats while boosting the opposing side.

Boom!

It was at this moment that the Legion of the Chaotic Sun had arrived.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Chaos quickly enveloped the entire battlefield as Heavenly Shield, White Silver, and Pia tried their best to defend against the opposing army.

They were still able to showcase their respective brightness, holding out against the unstoppable horde.

They still proved that they were not regular experts, who would bend down before such a predicament. They planned to continue fighting until the very end.

Unfortunately, their resolve and relentlessness were not enough to defeat the overwhelming force of their opposition.

It did not take long before Pia fell under the claws of the cunning Shadow Wolf that constantly lurked in the chaotic battlefield.

White Silver could do nothing against it as he was under the constant pressure of the combined forces of the blazing undead legion and ghost soldiers that Huahua summoned with her 'Spiritual Gate of the Dead'.

Heavenly Shield was also unable to hold a hand as he was dealing with Akailu, who was holding anything back.

This match did not last that long as the result was immediately revealed to everyone. It was a crushing defeat and a complete victory.

The live audience and online viewers were unable to express their emotions properly due to how the match had ended.

They did not know if they would be impressed with the 'despicable' strategy of the Empyrean Talons or pity the trio from the Hien Workshop for such a torturous experience.

"Devious!"

That was the only word that everyone could think of after watching such an overly one-sided massacre.

Chapter 1750: Fighters of Both Sides

...

The Group Battle did not take everyone by surprise only because of the unusual lineup that the Empyrean Talons had used, but also how one-sided the battle had ended.

Everyone could already imagine the outcome of the battle after seeing the despicable lineup that the Devil Strategist prepared for the match – truly living up to his name – but they still did not expect that the battle would be that one-sided, resembling a hideous slaughter.

Despite the outcome this round, everyone could not help but feel pity for the trio from the Hien Workshop.

But they also could not blame the other side as it was indeed the perfect strategy for the current situation. It just happened to be too brutal for the current matchup.

Regardless, the people still discussed the battle alongside the previous two Single Matches. After all, there was still another vacant time for a brief break and strategic planning for both sides.

With no better thing to do, the people watching from the online broadcast and live stand could not help but start discussing and arguing with one another.

Given that both sides had already sent out five of their members, it was not that hard to figure out the lineup of their opponent for the Team Composition.

Even if both teams had already sent their lineup for the entire match, which could no longer be changed, this did not stop everyone from speculating and guessing the possible members for the upcoming round.

There was no need to guess that hard about the possible lineup of the Empyrean Talons as the key figures of their team were already laid before everyone.

– "War God Simba, Gentle Goddess Arielle, Battle God Sickarius, and Elemental Goddess Charlotte." – these familiar names would be included in the line, who were also included in the previous match of the Empyrean Talons for the Team Competition.

If they followed this pattern, then they would most likely be sending Owen, who did not participate in the previous round, for the Team Competition.

As someone in the knight class, it was his role to be the tank of the team, especially when Arthur was not present. Adding the defensive prowess that he had showcased in the previous match, it would not be strange for him to be the main tank even if Arthur returned from wherever he was.

This would not be demoting Arthur to another role. Instead, he would be changing his role into a more flexible one, where he was free to do whatever he wanted. He could either be a strong vanguard, who

would be spearheading the attack of the team, or another steady tank, who would be another solid wall for the team.

Meanwhile, the sixth man on the team was not that important. After all, with such a solid starting lineup, the fighting capabilities of the team would be strong enough to hold their ground against the opposition.

The importance of the sixth man would greatly decrease this way. It was very similar to what Shin had arranged for the previous match against the Seven Seas Alliance.

But the problem was, this might not be the case.

Given how devious Shin could be, it would be possible for him to arrange another strange lineup, where he could catch everyone off guard once again.

Whatever it was, it would most likely be another hell for the opposing side.

No matter how he would arrange the lineup and the strategy of the team, there had always been a certain 'magic' that could shock the opposition.

This made it hard for everyone to guess what kind of lineup the Empyrean Talons would be using, much less figuring out their plan.

The fans and haters could only wish their current and future opponents a bit of good luck when facing them.

Giving up on this, the people started guessing the next lineup of the Hien Workshop as it was much easier and less stressful.

With the current lineups of the Hien Workshop and their available members, the people figured out that the team would most likely be sending their strongest members, especially when this was an important match for them.

They had to earn as many points as they could to rank higher in the group, dodging the much stronger teams at the next stages of the knockout rounds.

Given this, the Hien Workshop would most likely be sending their strongest member for this round.

Starting with the team captain, Cielo would most likely be included in the lineup. As a monstrous veteran, who was of the same generation as Wizard King Julius, his strength and battle prowess were not something that could be underestimated.

'Sky King' Cielo – the king of the sky and aerial combat.

He was known to be a top-notched marksman, who was famous for his sniping abilities.

Unlike Julius who followed the standard style of a mage, which was reinforced by his insane control over his magic and strategies, Cielo became known for his unrivaled and unique style of archery.

His class was always an archer or a hunter, who utilized all his tools to the fullest.

As for the title that he had gotten – it was something that he had earned during his legendary battle against a huge organization in the air.

He was only relying on a regular flying mount of that game while the forces of the organization that he was fighting were riding a colossal airship filled with powerful players.

They were also riding a small but very advanced aircraft at that time, overwhelming him with the size of their army.

But that epic battle ended in his victory by relying on his insane strategy and peerless marksmanship, thus earning him the title of Sky King.

This then led to multiple battles of similar feat, solidifying his name in the gaming industry.

However, due to his duties as one of the leaders of their gaming studio at that time, he had never participated in any official competitions or ranking events, making him unable to ascend to being an official Godlike Player.

Regardless, his achievements in the virtual world were more than enough to earn him a spot in the top rankings, which was why he was currently dubbed as one of the strongest Maverick Gods within the game.

In terms of fame, he might not be as famous as Wizard King Julius. But if it was about his achievements and battle prowess, everyone recognized him as one of the most notorious names to look out for any official tournaments.

The next member was most likely the other ace of the Hien Workshop aside from the Wizard King.

'Strong Lord' Griff – the Overlord of the Fortress – another old veteran god of the virtual world, who was from the same generation as the other two.

If Pantheon of the Slayers Adventurer Team, the Immovable God, was known for his unbreakable and impenetrable defense; and Grinding King Heavenly Shield was famous for his steady and solid style of defending; then Strong Lord Griff was someone recognized by many apex and godly experts as a 'moving fortress'.

He was someone with a very powerful defensive style while also possessing a very strong offensive capability.

He was dubbed as a moving fortress due to his resembling a giant fortress that could not be destroyed by ordinary means while also possessing some 'cannons' hidden behind his walls.

As another old veteran within the gaming industry, his battle capabilities were something that could not be underestimated.

Following the list, the young talent of the team would surely be included as well.

'Young God' Thirteenth Massacre – the young superstar of the team.

He was a young prodigy who was nurtured by the Hien Workshop and became one of the leading talents of the team. He was known for his genius attainments when it came to spearmanship, almost rivaling those geniuses from big Martial Arts Families with a long history.

He was also able to steal a couple of Godlike Titles in the previous games that he had participated in.

Those title competitions might not be as big as the official tournaments that the big companies had organized during that time, but the rivals that had participated in that tournament were not small figures either.

Those rivals that he had taken down during those few tournaments were well-known Godlike Players, who just joined the fun, but did not expect to encounter such a young prodigy.

This attracted the attention of a few huge organizations within the virtual world, trying to tempt and invite him to join their ranks. But all of them were rejected as he was very loyal to the Hien Workshop, who had nurtured him since the very beginning of his gaming career.

Due to his young age, he was given the title of the 'Young God'.

He was in the same generation as Shin, Arthur, and Leonard, only a little younger by a couple of months in comparison.

But since his achievements were not as solid and stunning as the Dragon God and War God, his title was not as cool or domineering as theirs.

He was also not ranked that high in the Godly Ranking List, but this did not mean that he would be losing to those in the top 20, especially when he was under the guidance of such godly veterans within the Hien Workshop.

He just not actively participated in any other competitions recently because he was undergoing serious nurturing and training within the workshop.

As for the other two members, they were the twin supporters of the team, who were also the key factors for their previous victories.

Faith and Grace – the Twin Heavens.

They were both Peak Titled Rankers if it was just about their skills and talents. But when they were together, their battle prowess could rise exponentially, almost rivaling or even surpassing most of the legendary Supports or Healers of any game.

As a Dark Priest and a Holy Priest, the auxiliary support that they could provide for the team could reach an unimaginable level.

One majored in weakening their enemies with her debuff and controlling spells while the other was highly skilled at healing and buffing their allies.

Complementing one another, they could also perform a series of combination spells on top of having perfect teamwork with each other, especially when they were a twin who could read each other minds without taking or gesturing the other.

With their combined forces, they could strengthen their team's performance by multiple folds.

As for the sixth man of the team, they could just choose from the number of highly skilled experts within their workshop, which had quite a long history within the world of virtual games.

Based on the data that everyone currently had, these were the possible lineups of the teams, which were also highly accepted by most of the analysts and experts watching the match.

Even David and Miss Bunny had come up with the same arrangements, as it was the most logical choice and had the highest chances of victory.