

Destiny 1771

Chapter 1771: A Warrior of an Ancient Tribe (Part 2)

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Leonard knew that the person before him was as powerful as Nathan and understood that he would not be able to win against someone with such a massive gap in power. But since the latter was thinking of beating him, he would not go down without a fight.

He naturally fought back despite that being the case.

The outcome was quite obvious already. He had found himself lying on the ground in just a minute, feeling pain all over his body.

But what Leonard found suspicious was that he had not received any serious injuries despite the pain that was covering his entire body.

Moreover, he also recalled that this guy had let him perform all his moves during the 'battle', letting him use his every technique under the 'Supreme Blood Sutra' and 'Thousand Beast Battle Manual'.

It was as if the other party was assessing his current attainments with the two Martial Arts that he majored in.

"Your foundation is quite good, brat. I guess Joaquin Giovanni, the Thousand Beast, has trained you properly," said Scar as he looked at Leonard with some apprehension.

Hearing that, Leonard could not help but frown deeply, almost forgetting about his aching body. "I think Senior is mistaking something. My master is the Blood Slaughtering Fist, Galileo Freeman, and not Sir Joaquin."

"Eh!?" Scar could not help but look at Leonard in surprise as this was different from what he had heard.

Based on what Nathan had told him earlier, this young lad had trained under Joaquin. This was also proven further after sensing that Leonard was training the unique body refinement method of Joaquin Giovanni, the 'Black Beast Refinement Method,' which had originated from the Bestial Mountain Range of their homeland.

Moreover, he had also seen Leonard perform all the famous moves of the 'Thousand Beast Battle Manual' earlier, which was also the specific Martial Arts that Joaquin Giovanni had majored in.

Thinking about this, Scar could not help but recall a certain rumor about Joaquin, which was circulating within their homeland. He started laughing out loud as if he had realized something.

It took him quite a while to calm himself and stop his laughter before turning back to Leonard. "I guess you have been tricked by that guy as well, brat."

Seeing the confused look on Leonard's face, Scar smirked as he continued. "This is supposed to be a matter between you and your master, but since you have the warrior's blood of my tribe flowing within you, then I can only tell you about it."

"Thousand Beast Joaquin Giovanni has a habit of impersonating different people with his amazing disguising skills. His disguising methods are one of the best when it comes to this area, even rivaling the Thousand Faces Old Demon of the Blood Cult and the Ghost Elder of the Specter Tribe."

"Before he was known with his current title, he was first famous with another name, the Shapeshifter. He is one of the warriors of the Bestial Mountain Range before deciding to come down the mountain and venture around the world, challenging all the warriors outside of our homeland."

He then paused for a moment as his lips curved in a devious smile. "I often heard that he is always disguising himself as his master whenever he is creating trouble, throwing all the blame to Elder Blood Slaughtering Fist."

"From the looks of it, he has also done a similar thing when training you," he added as a conclusion.

Leonard could not help but frown deeply as he thought about it. He was trying to recall all his experiences within his 'master' and seemed to have also realized something. But he still could not accept it that easily, feeling a little dubious.

Seeing this, Scar continued. "Elder Blood Slaughtering Fist can be considered as your Grandmaster as the Thousand Beast have learned the 'Blood Sutra' from him, which is also one of the signature and hereditary techniques of all the tribes within our homeland."

"The Blood Sutra has a lot of paths as it has been passed down to all the Warrior Tribes from generation to generation. And seeing that you have awakened your hereditary memories and evolved your Blood Sutra into the 'Supreme Blood Sutra', it is proven that you are a member of our Asad Tribe."

"Asad Tribe?" Hearing these words repeatedly, Leonard could not help but frown a little deeply as he recalled what that mysterious Head Priestess had to him and Shin when he was about to inherit the legacy of the Thunder Lord.

Seeing that Leonard seemed to have become a little interested in the topic, Scar smiled as he watched the latter sit up and face him, seemingly waiting for more.

"The Asad Tribe is a Warriors Tribe, which is also the descendants of the God of War from the Ancient Times. We, Warriors of the Asad Tribe, are from the direct lineage of the greatest warrior god all the ancient era," he continued with full of pride.

But he did not disclose that much information about the Asad Tribe and swiftly changed the topic. "The Asad Tribe is the most familiar with the methods of the 'Supreme Blood Sutra', which is different from the 'Blood Sutra' that Elder Blood Slaughtering Fist and the Thousand Beast have majored in."

"This is why I am here to help you train for quite a while. I have already helped you fix some of your Qi Channels and Blood Vessels, correcting their path and adjusting them with your 'Supreme Blood Sutra'."

Hearing this, Leonard had suddenly remembered that his body was supposed to be aching all over. But he quickly realized that all the pain covering his body had suddenly disappeared before being replaced by a sudden sense of relief and freedom.

His body felt much lighter and unrestrained compared to how he was training.

He swiftly stood up and started performing a series of movements according to the 'Supreme Blood Sutra' from his hereditary memories.

"Amazing," he mumbled to himself after finishing an entire set of marital movements. He now felt that he had unknowingly broken through the bottleneck that he was stuck in earlier.

Even his 'Black Beast Refinement Method' was also adjusting accordingly. He felt that he would most likely have a major breakthrough in his Martial Arts not long after this.

Seeing Leonard's satisfaction, Scar could not help but say. "The Thousand Beast may have trained in the 'Blood Sutra', but he majored in a different path compared to our tribe's method."

"When it comes to the best 'Blood Sutras', our Asad Tribe's Supreme Blood Sutra is the best and the most powerful. And it is our main Martial Heritage within the tribe," he added.

Leonard had started to believe some of the words that Scar had said to him. But he still had not bought it completely, so he could not help but ask. "How can Senior be sure that I am the disciple of Sir Joaquin and not the Blood Slaughtering Fist?"

Hearing this, Scar could not help but smile. "It is because you are training in the 'Black Beast Refinement Method' and the 'Thousand Beast Battle Manual', which are the Martial Arts that the Thousand Beast have majored in, and where also his current title comes from."

"Elder Blood Slaughtering Fist may be the master of the Thousand Beast, but that is only when it comes to the path of his Tribe's Blood Sutra. The Martial Arts that they majored in are still different."

Leonard had somewhat understood the situation, but still wanted to confirm it with his 'master' or 'grandmaster' or whatever later.

Seemingly recalling what Scar had said earlier, he could not help but ask. "Senior seems to have that I will be instructed in mastering my Supreme Blood Sutra?"

Scar smiled as he nodded. "The Dragon King has requested our assistance with this, so our tribe has sent me here to be your instructor for the time being."

"But before we proceed with your lesson-... how about introducing ourselves with one another first?" he added while maintaining his smile.

"Ah!?" Leonard seemed to have realized something and quickly clashed his fist with his other hand before bowing. "I apologize for the late introduction, Senior! I am Leonard Fireheart! As senior has said, I should be the disciple of Thousand Beast Joaquin Giovanni and supposed to be the youngest grand-disciple of the Blood Slaughtering Fist, Galileo Freeman."

There was an inexplicable expression on Scar's face when he heard the name 'Fireheart' from Leonard's mouth, seemingly thinking about something.

"Hearing that name sure leaves a bitter taste in my mouth," he mumbled before quickly regaining composure.

He looked at Leonard as he introduced himself. "I am one of the Heroic Warriors of the Asad Tribe, which is equivalent to what you, 'Outlanders', are calling the Domain Realm Martial Artists or Venerable Realm Mentalists or Sword Saints from the three major disciplines of the modern era."

"People on the tribe call me Warrior Chief Scar." he paused for a moment when he reached this point, seemingly hesitating about something, before continuing. "But since you are not familiar with our customs yet, you can just call me Uncle Scar."

Leonard could not help but feel something strange from the tone that Scar was giving him, but quickly disregarded it after seeing the weird expression that the latter was making.

He then bowed once again as he greeted according to what he had learned from the costumes of Martial Artists from Shin and Arthur. "This martial nephew greets Uncle Scar."

Scar paused momentarily when he heard those words before suddenly starting to laugh. "You lad sure is interesting."

It took him quite a while to recover his composure before becoming serious. "To commemorate our first meeting, let me teach you how the warriors of our tribe greet their juniors before proceeding with our first lesson."

There was a vicious and devious look on Scar's face, sending a shiver down Leonard's spine. He wanted to back down and ran away from this place as far as possible, but it was already too late.

Chapter 1772: A Warrior of an Ancient Tribe (Part 3)

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After another round of beating, Leonard was forced to listen to the lectures of Scar, who started telling him about the root of his 'Supreme Blood Sutra' and his powers.

"The Blood Sutra is known to have endless paths, but only a few have managed to reach the peak since ancient times."

"Aside from the 'Supreme Blood Path' of our Asad Tribe, there are also the 'Blood Devil Path' of the Extreme Tribe of the Bloody Sea, the 'Blood Slaughtering Path' of the Fiend Tribe living in the Cave Dwellings, the 'Frozen Blood Path' of the Barbarian Tribe of the Northen Lands, and the 'Utmost Evil Path' of the Blood Cult."

"But no matter which path one takes, everyone will still arrive at the same point, the Original Root of everything – the Origin. Our tribe calls it the 'Blood Origin' or the 'Primal Blood'."

"Different from the three major paths of disciplines of the modern era, our ancient tribes follow the methods of our ancestors from the ancient era."

"Their root relied on the 'Martial Aura', which is the general term used for the Internal Qi, Mental Energy, and Sword Qi as well as their higher forms such as the Natural Force, the Spiritual Force, and Sword Force."

"They are all just different applications of utilizing the Force of Nature in our surroundings."

"But our tribe's method focused more on our physique and the innate power that we already possessed since birth – our vitality – or more commonly known in the current era as Blood Powers."

"The bases of the Martial Aura and Blood Power are maybe different, but that does not mean that they can not be used together. It's just a little difficult for those who are walking the three paths of the modern disciplines to train in our ancient methods."

"Aside from those with unique bloodlines or lineage factors, training in different disciplines is extremely difficult."

Scar paused for a moment as he stared at Leonard for quite a while before continuing. "As for you, you can be considered as someone who is walking on the same path as the Thousand Beast, who is training in both the Ancient and Modern Methods."

Hearing this, Leonard could not help but ask. "Is this similar to combining the Ancient Cultivation and Modern Martial Arts?"

"Huh!?" Scar could not help but pause for another as he was surprised at the question before suddenly nodding and shaking his head. "Yes, it can be considered like that, yet also not."

"The Ancient Cultivation is following the method of being one with nature through meditation and communicating with the universe. But our ancient tribes focused more on refining our bodies to the fullest and utilizing our innate strength and martial prowess."

"If we are taking the ancient terms that they used during those times, then we can be considered as Body Refiners. It's just that we have taken a little turn in this path compared to the regular Body Refiners of that era, who relied on heavenly treasures and an elixir to strengthen their bodies rather than awakening their innate abilities and unlocking their natural restrictions that are commonly called the 'gene locks' in modern terms."

Leonard nodded before proceeding to ask. "Can Uncle Scar tell me the difference between Bloodline Powers and Lineage Factors?"

Scar thought for a moment, seemingly considering how to answer, before speaking. "They can be considered the same. The only difference that they have is how they are awakened and what they represent."

"Bloodline Powers are the magical abilities that are engraved deep into the genes of a certain family, who is a descendant of a very powerful being of the past or someone who has received the blessing of an absolute being."

"Meanwhile, the Lineage Factor is a 'record' of experiences and insights that a certain ancestor had recorded into their genes, intending to pass it to their next generation. Then these 'records' continue to grow and are passed down from one generation to another."

"If I were to say what the main differences are, then I must say that it is their respective powers. Bloodline Powers are already powerful before it is passed down to their descendants, while Lineage Factors are to grow with time – the longer the history of a certain lineage, the stronger it can be."

"The only 'issue' a Lineage Factor has is the difficulty of making it more powerful. After all, the stronger the Lineage Factor, the harder it is to improve."

"The process of awakening these two abilities is similar, but the application is different depending on which family, clan, or tribe they are from."

"For example, the Springfield Family, the Potter Clan, and the Stuart Clan of the Soaring Continent possessed Bloodline Powers as their ancestors had gotten them from absolute beings such as the Solar Dragon, the Undying Phoenixes, and the Lotus Qilin, respectively."

"On the other hand, our Asad Tribe and those walking on the multiple paths of the Blood Sutras possessed Lineage Factors of our ancestors as we have inherited the hereditary memories they have left in our DNA, particularly in the blood flowing in our veins."

Leonard continued to listen to the lectures before suddenly remembering something. "Then what about the legacy of the 'Thunder Lord' that I have inherited?"

Since Nathan and Joaquin had left him in Scar's care, Leonard believed that this 'uncle' from the Asad Tribe was aware of the inheritance that he had gotten from the Thunder Lord. After all, he would not be able to hide it from Scar if he were training under him.

Hearing that, Scar could not help but sigh and felt a little jealous. "You lad sure is lucky. To think that you will inherit one of the greatest legacies left behind by a disciple of the God of War, who also happens to be among his strongest disciples."

"Eh!? The God of War? The disciple of the God of War?" mumbled Leonard in confusion as he recalled what the Head Priestess had told him before receiving the said legacy.

He seemed to have remembered that the Head Priestess had told him that only the descendants of the God of War could get the legacy left by the Thunder Lord. He was curious about this.

"If you are going to ask any other Outlanders (people who are living outside their homeland), then they may not have an idea about it, but since it is me, whom you are asking, then you are in the right place," said Scar while smiling.

"The God of War is a very powerful expert who has lived during the Ancient Era, who is also our Great Ancestor – or to be more specific, the Great Ancestor of all the tribes walking on the path of Blood Sutra."

"He is comparable to absolute beings such as the legendary dragons, phoenixes, titans, or such that only appeared in ancient texts."

"This is also the reason why our Lineage Factor is much more powerful compared to others," he felt proud when he was talking about this before continuing. "Other people don't know much about this because almost all the records about the Ancient Era have already been lost. But the tribes living beyond the Dark Continent have managed to maintain the knowledge that our ancestors have recorded."

"This is also one of the reasons why our Asad Tribe is greatly respected. Even the so-called World Government and other hidden factions, who have only emerged in the Modern Era, put our ancient tribes in a special position because of this."

"Of course, it is aside from the absolute strength that we possessed!" he added before breaking in a hearty laugh.

It took him another while before calming himself down. After that, he continued. "As for the Thunder Lord, he is also a very powerful expert of the ancient era. The title 'Lord' is something that only a very few can get during that time. It represents their great power and high status during that time."

"As for his achievements and abilities, you will be more familiar with them in the future as you become stronger and digest the hereditary knowledge and memories that you possess."

"Spoiling too much information will make it less interesting, so you should explore this area yourself as it will feel much better," he chuckled, intending to drop this subject.

After some history lesson and telling Leonard about his unique abilities, Scar proceeded to one of the main reasons why he was sent into this place. "For now, I will tell you how to progress in your martial attainments."

"Using the modern terms, you are already in an important juncture of your Martial Arts – you are already close to breaking through the Foundation Building Realm and about to step into the Ascension Realm."

He then cleared his throat before the expression on his face suddenly turned serious. "Even in our tribe, this stage is a very critical stage that can tell you your future progress."

"For now, I want you to drop all your training in Martial Arts. Aside from the Body Tempering Methods of the Supreme Blood Sutra and the Black Beast Refinement Method, I want you to stop training any form of Martial Arts."

"Since you have already built a very solid foundation, we will not take that much time to reach the maximum requirement for breaking through to the next realm."

"I will also help you familiarize yourself with the unique methods of our tribe further to strengthen your body in preparation for the breakthrough."

"Once you have created your War Body, which is equivalent to the Natural Body or Physique to reach the Ethereal Opening Stage but much stronger and more unique, breakthrough to the next stage is nothing but a simple task."

"Remember, the term 'breakthrough' is not a 'point of reaching the next stage', but a 'process' – a long process of achieving the higher form of yourself and stepping into a whole new world."

"You have been taking this process for quite a long time. I must say that you are pretty much ready for your breakthrough."

"But to maximize all the benefits and let you get the best result possible, we must achieve the 'perfect score' before proceeding to the next stage."

He then stopped talking as he let Leonard digest his words first before continuing. "We will stop here for today. Tomorrow, I will teach one of the core abilities of the Warrior Tribe – the Hex Enchantments."

Chapter 1773: Top Eight

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The next day, Leonard finished his regular morning training a little earlier than usual and waited for Scar.

Upon arrival, Scar smiled at Leonard before saying. "You are quite early. It looks like I have to adjust the time for training the other tribe members."

Not long after, he immediately started his lecture. "As I said yesterday, I will be teaching you about Hex Enchantment."

Leonard nodded, ready to listen.

Scar cleared his throat for a moment before continuing. "Hexes are spells used by ancient tribes. It is another application of utilizing the forces around us."

"It can be considered as the mystic arts of the ancient times, which were one of the 'ancestors' of the Mentalism Methods of the current era."

"As for the Hex Enchantments, it can be considered as a combination of a Mentalism Enchantment and a Qi Reinforcement Skill. It's just the source of power is a little different compared to the two."

"Hex Enchantments is also an advanced application of Blood Power that we possessed," he paused for a moment when he reached this point before saying. "Watch closely."

Zong~!

In the next instant, Leonard saw a series of crimson tattoos appearing on different parts of Scar, which was releasing a pulsing light.

He was quite familiar with this sight as he had already seen it from his hereditary memory. But seeming it personally had also let him feel the pressure that Scar was currently emitting. The suffocating pressure that the latter was emitting was heavy enough to affect the surroundings.

"This body enchantment technique not only greatly increases the overall capabilities of your body, but also significantly heightens your senses by a large margin," said Scar. "Moreover, the enchantments that these Hex Tattoos provide are not limited to their activated state, but also greatly nourish your body to make it much stronger."

"You must already be familiar with the formation of these Hex Tattoos. But since you are also a practitioner of modern Martial Arts, we must make a few adjustments to maximize your overall abilities."

"You are not the first member of Ancient Tribes to also have practiced in the modern martial arts, so we are still quite familiar with this area. Just take Joaquin Giovanni as an example. He is also a disciple of an Ancient Tribe, walking the path of Blood Sutra, on top of being a powerful Martial Artist."

Seeing that Leonard nodded, Scar then released his Hex Enchantment and clapped his hands. "Alright, let's first start with conditioning your body so that it will be easier to create a War Body with both your Blood Power and Martial Aura, making the creation of the Hybrid Hex Tattoos much easier."

After a week, the group stage of the United Cup had finally come to an end. The top eight had already been determined.

The first seed was already determined earlier. With the perfect run of the Emyrean Talons, it was impossible to shake their number-one position.

As for the second position, it was snatched by God's Paradise, having a 3-point difference over the third seed, Pandemonium Descendants.

The fourth seed was seized by the Dragon Pavilion after an intense battle against the Slayers Adventurer Team, who had taken the fifth position after that loss. The overall scores of the two teams only had a 2-point difference at the end of the knockout rounds, which indicated their final positions in the leaderboards.

The sixth placer was the Hand of Midas, which had surprisingly reached the top eight despite not having even a single combat player on the field. They had only sent the chiefs of respective departments, further proving to everyone that a lifestyle profession was not just meant for production and crafts – they were also capable of competing against other combat classes.

Another surprising thing was the seventh placer, the Hydra Guild. It was quite unexpected for them to have such a low ranking, especially when they were supposed to be the current number one guild within the game.

But if the people had considered that the key members of the guild had never made their appearance on the stage, then it was still quite understandable.

The place, on the other hand, had become a very sensitive topic. There were some controversies about this since the Central Order, which was one of the Powerhouse Guilds within the game, had conceded their match against the Earners Mercenary Group.

But this did not mean that the Earners were a weak team. They were still powerful, especially when they were an organization with more than a hundred Monster Class Players from the previous games. Their lineup was not inferior to the top four seeds, which had a lot of star players.

This even made them the number one Mercenary Group within the game.

They had just not sent their most powerful members to the tournament, making them struggle a bit in the rankings.

In the eyes of powerful organizations and top guilds, the Earners Mercenary Group seemed to be training their members and adjusting their formations. It looked like they were doing the same thing as the Empyrean Talons, who kept on experimenting in each of their matches.

They had just a slightly worse result compared to that group of godly monsters.

The match between these two groups was supposed to be one of the most intense ones in the lower bracket. But with the Central Order suddenly surrendering before the match could even happen, the imagination of everyone started to run wild.

A lot of people had criticized the two teams and even accused them of match fixing, especially when there were a lot of gambling sites focusing on this tournament.

But none of the officials of the tournament nor the executive of the said teams stepped up to clarify the reason for the Central Order's decision.

But amid the chaos in the online platforms, the Central Order still posted something on their official webpage to calm everyone down, especially their loyal supporters.

From their statement, the Central Order wanted to put all their energy into the next big 'team' tournament, the Guild Wars, which would be held before the end of this year.

They claimed that it was the real stage for all the top guilds and huge organizations within the game, especially when it was a huge-scale tournament that would involve all their forces.

They wanted to tell everyone that the most powerful guild would only be determined in that stage.

This statement somewhat convinced everyone since the might of the guild did not only rely on their key members, but also the power of their army. They would only be able to showcase their true power to everyone if they could access all these resources on the field.

But there were still some people who continued to criticize the Central Order, saying that they were a guild of cowards or whatnot. After all, the impact of the United Cup was not that small.

This tournament was meant to determine which guild or organization had the strongest key members or most powerful 'trump cards.'

But this was just a small episode in the entire tournament since what came next was the draw show for the play-off rounds.

It was much bigger and grander compared to the previous one since the brackets of this stage would continue up until the grand finals.

A lot of people had tuned into the program, further breaking the viewer records that the virtual community had.

The show would be hosted by Miss Bunny and David once again since they were the most sensational duo broadcaster/commentator of the tournament.

Regardless of all the festivities online, the Emphyrean Talons did not pay that much attention to the draw show.

Aside from Chaotic Luck, Alucard, and Akailu, who did not have anything better to do, none of the team wanted to watch it.

Leonard was too busy with his training in the real world and wanted to progress much faster, especially when he had heard that Arthur was about to succeed in his breakthrough.

Shin had also felt a little inspired at the moment, wanting to do a bit of training in the real world. After all, he was only lacking a few pieces before he could proceed with his breakthrough.

He wanted to take it a little easy and let the process flow naturally. But Leonard's enthusiasm in training affected him a little, so he also did a short special training of his own.

After all, there was an entire week's break before the play-off rounds kicked off, so he had more than enough time for this.

He had also told everyone that Samael went back to the Aurora Continent to train. The guy would be participating in the ongoing war between the two major factions in the Dark Cloud Kingdom.

Bored, Cloe dragged Huahua somewhere within the game, saying that she would be training the little shaman and honing her techniques. They would only come back before the play-offs began.

Archimedes and Daulla had also disappeared somewhere, saying that they would also undergo an intense training to prepare for the next rounds.

Alice, on the other hand, said that she had something to do in the real world. She told everyone that her solo agency wanted her to do a certain project, so she had to comply and look into the proposal given to her. As an idol, she still had some responsibilities to do despite the freedom that she had been granted.

Diablo had routine checkups that he needed to do in the real world, so he went to the Research Department of the Magic Ace Academy to look for Benedict and Processor Henry.

Meanwhile, Owen and Ithilien seemed to have gone on a date, making the three single dogs left in the virtual space curse at them.

This was why Chaotic Luck, Alucard, and Akailu were the ones left idle to watch the drawing show.

But it could not be said that they had wasted their time as the show was quite entertaining, especially when Miss Bunny and the tournament organizers had prepared some surprises for their viewers.

Chapter 1774: Top Eight Bracket

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Top Eight Bracket

Empyrean Talons versus Earners Mercenary Group

Pandemonium Descendants versus Slayers Adventurer Team

Dragon Pavilion versus Hydra Guild

God's Paradise versus Hand of Midas

These were the matchups for round 1 of the playoffs, which would also proceed with a double elimination format.

The broadcasting of the matches would also take place on a different day. It seemed like the organizers would like to maximize the profits that they could get from the players, who would be watching the matches.

There would be 2 matches to be broadcast every day, somewhat following the same schedule as the previous round.

At the same time, they also wanted to commission Miss Bunny and David to host each match and be the main commentators. After all, these two were the best duo in the circle to cover such matches.

But since there would be a broadcast every day, the pair could not just take the position straight away. After all, they still have to rest, so they had to fix their schedule.

After a couple of days of negotiations, the duo had agreed to cover the other match that would take place on the same day as the Emphyrean Talons'.

As for the other matches for the next day after that, the organizers had decided to just invite some experts from other top teams that were unable to advance to the playoffs, along with some famous and expert analysts as their partners.

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"Earners?" Shin raised his brows as he heard their next opponent and could not help but say. "It looks like we will be meeting those guys again."

He paused for a moment as he remembered something before chuckling. "According to Uncle Nathan, Arthur will be coming back on the day of our match. I wonder what his reaction will be after learning about this."

"Are you talking about that Flouree, am I right?" Leonard was also unable to hide his smile before saying. "I guess it will be interesting if they do meet each other."

He then paused for a moment before asking. "What do you think is the real relationship between those two? I am sure that it is not as simple as he has told us previously."

"Heh! Of course, there is something more to it," Shin smirked. "I can smell that it is much deeper than that."

"What are you? A dog?" said Cloe as she sat down beside Shin and prepared breakfast.

She was somewhat salivating as it had been a while since she had tasted the food that Shin usually prepared. Due to their busy schedule, Shin was unable to do such trivial stuff, leaving the job to the maids and chefs of the Springfield Family.

This should be his first cooking in a 'long' time.

Shin chuckled after seeing her current expression before changing the subject. "How's the training with Huahua? Any significant progress?"

Cloe paused for a moment, pinching her chin with her thumb and index fingers, before replying. "It is not bad. Little Huahua is quite good and hardworking. She basically has mastered all the fundamental skills needed to be a good support-type player right now. All she needs is more experience to get used to it and the atmosphere in a competitive environment."

Seeing Shin nodded, it was her turn to change the subject, pointing at the two. "How about you two? How's your training?"

Leonard and Shin exchanged glances with each other before smiling.

"I am doing quite well. Due to my solid foundation, the next step for my breakthrough is quite steady," said Leonard before adding. "Training in the ancient discipline of the Asad Tribe is progressing well, so it will not be long before I finish all the basic training."

Shin nodded as he also answered. "On my side, I am only lacking two pieces needed for my breakthrough. One is the formation by Spiritual Force, while the other is an opportunity – an opportunity that pushes me to the edge and helps me with the breakthrough process."

He then paused as he looked at Cloe while activating his True Sight Skill. From his perspective, he could see that the vitality within the latter's body was overflowing. It was strong enough to be seen leaking out.

He could tell that Cloe must have reached a crucial stage of her Martial Arts despite not seeing her master, Martial King Lin Huang, for quite a while.

"The same can be said to you. It looks like you are also looking for this opportunity," said Shin as he smiled.

Realizing that Shin must have figured out her current state, Cloe smiled. "It is not that bad. I just hit a wall that my master is taking about, and I am confused about how to break past it."

She could not help but recall what her master had told her before. – "There is only so much hard work can do compared to a true talent. That is what everyone says. But if you just know which area you are good at and improve it continuously to the limit, then breaking past it, then you will have an opportunity to see something those 'geniuses' and 'prodigies' could not." –

– "There is something that hard-working people can realize that talented people could not. All you have to do is find it yourself and you will gain a unique 'talent' of your own." –

Shin observed Cloe's expression for quite a while, trying to read her thoughts. But after seeing the determined look that she was wearing, he knew that she had already decided on something and did not need any help from the others.

"Looks like the training style of Old Man Lin is quite effective," he mumbled before he recalled another thing – Cloe was supposed to be training in the Auxiliary Department as well before their big mission in that tomb.

He wondered how her studies in that area were. But after recalling that Cloe was also a top healer within the game, he could not help but smile bitterly, telling himself not to worry about something useless.

This girl would be fine by herself.

As they were eating, the group was also discussing their next plans for the tournament.

"I should be fine after this entire week," said Leonard as he explained his situation. "Uncle Scar said that because of the inheritance that I have gotten from the Thunder Lord, the progress of my training is accelerating at an insane rate, so there is a high chance that we will be done much earlier."

"Based on his estimate, another week of intensive training will be enough," he added before sighing. "He also said that he can't help but feel a little jealous of my inheritance."

"According to him, there are only a few people who managed to find the lost inheritances of the previous eras. But the people who have been acknowledged by the respective legacies are even fewer."

"In the entire tribe, there are only 3 people who are acknowledged, which includes me," he thought for a moment before continuing. "And in the entire Land of Ancients, there are only 10 people altogether."

Shin could not help but pause for a moment when he heard those words. He could not help but get swept by his thoughts, especially after hearing the words 'Land of Ancients.'

"Land of Ancients?" he mumbled.

Seemingly taking those words as a question, Leonard suddenly explained. "Land of Ancients, it is the homeland of the Asad Tribe. But they are not the only ones living there; there are also the other ancient tribes and other ancient factions."

Little did he know that Shin was more familiar with that place than Leonard.

It was at this moment that David suddenly appeared and sat along with the three. "It is the land beyond the unexplored areas of the Dark Continent.

"It is also very close to the Forbidden Valley, which is being guarded by the Fog Village – the place where I grew up," he added as he helped himself with the delicacies laid on the table.

"Eh!?" Leonard and Cloe could not help but turn to David as they suddenly became curious about this.

But David had no intention of telling them about it for now. He turned to Shin and said seriously. "Junior Brother, come with me after this. I'll be helping you with your training for today."

Shin frowned deeply as he realized something, staring intently at David.

Faced with such an intense gaze, David could not help but sigh helplessly. "It is Master's instructions."

Shin paused and hesitated for a moment before nodding his head. "I see. I'll do it."

David then nodded before proceeding to eat.

The atmosphere immediately took a sudden turn, making Leonard and Cloe feel uncomfortable. The air was quite heavy and made them lose their appetite.

They continued to eat in silence until Shiella arrived.

"Oh! You guys are here-..." she was about to say something, but she suddenly noticed the variety of food laid on the table.

With her 'experience', she recognized that they were made by Shin, so she quickly found a spot and joined them for their 'little' breakfast.

Upon taking her seat, she suddenly added. "Shin, Leonard, and Cloe, come with me later. The academy has summoned us. It seems like there is a big assignment later."

Chapter 1775: Overflowing Undercurrents

.....

Shin and the other went to do their respective routines before going with Shiella back to the academy.

David had also joined them, saying that it was normal for him to attend as well since he was a special-admitted student. However, the truth was he was afraid that something would happen to them, so he accompanied the group.

Even if they were currently being escorted by the experts of the Springfield Family and the Flying Dragon Corporation, having an additional expert would never hurt.

Moreover, he would be punished by his master if something happened to Shin once again. Being scolded badly would be just an appetizer at that time.

Recalling his experiences in the Fog Village, being hanged upside-down at the center of the Forbidden Valley for an entire week, David could not help but shiver.

"There is no Forbidden Valley in this place, so I hope that it will not be that bad. But given Master's personality, it will not hurt to be cautious all the time. Who knows if she will find another cursed land in this place," he mumbled to himself while repeatedly nodding his head. "Yeah. With her abilities, she can find such a place as easily as flipping her hand."

He then shivered as he remembered another thing. "She will not throw me in the middle of the sea or something if something does happen, will she?"

In the meantime, Shin could not take his gaze away from Shiella since their breakfast. It was because he could see something strange through his True Sight Skill.

The Aura surrounding Shiella was in great harmony compared to what he remembered. The supposedly clashing pair of Natural Forces within her were currently forming a cycle that was too familiar to him.

It looked like his Yin-Yang Martial Arts on the surface, but with a hint of noticeable difference when he looked deeper into it.

At the same time, he could also sense a different kind of discipline mixed in her usual Martial Arts.

Based on his knowledge, it must be very similar to the Cultivation Techniques of the cultivators of ancient civilizations, but with a different variation.

'It must be the effects of Uno teaching her the 'Yin-Yang Cultivation Arts,' he mumbled to himself before frowning. 'But based on what I know from his memories, Big Sis must find her way to truly balance the two opposing powers within her first before being able to find the true purpose of this art.'

'Does this mean she can do just that? She must be very close to breaking through to the next stage, the Void Manifestation Stage-... or she is already at that crucial point and purposely suppressing her realm from advancing further,' he thought to himself before subconsciously turning to David. 'If that is the case, then Senior Brother must be at that stage as well, almost reaching the Rulers' Realm.'

His thoughts continued to wander until he recalled something. 'The game can only be played by those below the Void Manifestation Stage and Rulers' Realm to play it. It does not mean that they are forbidden from entering the game, but there must be something more to it-... something that can discourage them from playing the game in that state.'

'It may be something that can negatively affect their respective disciplines or something similar,' he thought to himself, genuinely curious about this.

He felt that the game secrets were getting bigger, the more he saw the others act this way.

'Uncle Nathan and Big Sister said that we are qualified to know the portion of this secret once we reach the minimum requirement of reaching the Ethereal Opening Stage or Peak Grandmaster Realm or something similar in our respective discipline.'

'I wonder what it is that it can even attract all the factions in the real world,' he thought.

Headquarters of the World Gaming Organization

The chairman of the organization was currently having a meeting with someone.

"Since you are appearing before me, that person must be asking me to do the end of my deal," said the chairman calmly, sipping on the tea before him, despite a scary person standing before him.

Across the chairman was a person shrouded in darkness, which thoroughly hid his form. He was staring sharply at the other party, seemingly threatening the old chairman.

Chairman Choi kept his calm despite the pressure that the opposing party was emitting. He just waited for the other person to answer, ignoring the killing intent filling the entire office.

"Mr. Chairman, I must remind you that our organization is not something that you can trick. If you continue to delay that decision, then don't blame us for putting more pressure on you," said the shadow figure with a threatening tone.

Chairman Choi ignored the threat once again as he just smiled. "You don't have to remind me how scary that group of yours can be. I know better than anyone how you guys are stirring trouble in the dark."

"But let me remind you as well-... the current world is not something that you can just provoke either."

"You guys have already failed before and can fail once again. After all, the experts of the current era are much more powerful than that time," added the chairman in a nonchalant tone. "Some of you may have sneaked in, but their influence is still far from being enough to shake our foundation."

He then took another sip of the tea before changing the subject a little. "I have made this game with the purpose of entertainment, watching the young talents to compete with one another without shedding blood."

"But who will expect that some people will attempt to destroy it just because of your little 'suspicions'?" he continued with a helpless sigh.

The shadow figure then injected. "It is not just a 'little suspicion,' Mr. Chairman. You know it better than anyone."

"That person has hidden that 'knowledge' within this little game of yours," he emphasized.

Chairman Choi chuckled as he refuted. "That is just your suspicion. There has never been such a thing in my game."

"Mr. Chairman, you can deny it all you want, but you can't hide it from us," said the shadow figure before continuing. "Our 'Seer' has already confirmed it. You made a deal with that man in exchange for hiding it."

The old chairman could not help but laugh as he heard this part. "You all claim that it is like that, but there has never been such a thing."

"Don't I let you all join the game despite your motives? This is a game with a lot of freedom. You can do whatever you want, but you must follow its rules," he continued as his eyes suddenly turned sharp. "I don't care whatever you guys want to do, but don't drag my game into your mess."

The shadow figure was silent for a moment before continuing. "That is the reason why we are asking the chairman to grant that access for the higher realm experts to enter the game freely."

Chairman Choi raised his brows a little as he spoke. "Don't I have already done that? You guys are free to join the game whenever you want, but you must abide by the rules that I have set."

"We are asking for the early release of the restrictions," the shadow figure finally unable to hold it back.

Chairman Choi shook his head. "That can't be done. It will be unfair for the younglings if you insist on that. I will not let you bully the young ones just because of your greed."

"I have already presented you the timeline for everything. The access without restrictions for certain realm experts will slowly be released along with the progress of the game."

"Until the scheduled 'patches' are released, you guys have to follow my rules," he emphasized, not bending his decision.

Hearing this, the shadow figure had finally lost his calm and released an overwhelming killing intent. "Are you sure that you want to be our enemy?"

Chairman Choi ignored the chilling tone of the opposing party and just smiled. "Why do I have to be scared of you when you guys are nothing but a bunch of oldies hiding in the dark?"

Seeing that the old chairman was not bending his knees, the shadow figure was about to make his body, planning to scare the old man a little.

But before he could even execute his plan, he noticed a pair of shining eyes behind the chairman.

Not long after, he heard a series of mechanical movements before 'someone' walked out from the shadows behind the chairman.

Seeing that 'person', the shadow figure could not help but smirk. "Are you going to rely on these 'toys' to oppose us? I must say, you are quite ambitious."

Chairman Choi continued to smile as he replied. "You can't be sure about that. The technology is advancing very fast in this era. These 'toys' that you are talking about may as well be your downfall before clashing with those 'old monsters'."

He paused for a moment as he turned to the side. "But if my creations are not up to par, then I can only rely on the friends that I have just made to protect me."

Following the gaze of the old chairman, the shadow figure suddenly saw another person within the room. 'Who is this person? How can he appear here without me noticing?'

Focusing his gaze, he was finally able to recognize that person leaning on the wall. "Old Hermit!"

He then turned to the chairman and laughed. "So, you have chosen to rely on the Elder's Council for protection! That is quite sly of you."

He then looked at the old person leaning on the wall for another time before saying. "It looks like the old monsters are finally making their move. I wonder what chance this time?"

The Old Hermit smirked as he answered. "You guys know the reason better than anyone. You are the ones who break the agreement first."

The shadow figure sneered when he heard that before returning his gaze to the old chairman.
"Chairman Choi, I must say that you have come prepared this time. I will be taking my leave then."

Swoosh!

In the next instant, his body turned into smoke that slowly dissipated in the air.

Making sure that the other party had already left, Chairman Choi had finally heaved a sigh of relief before turning to the Old Hermit. "I must thank the council for having my back this time."

The Old Hermit went to sit across from the old chairman and said. "We can only do this much, but I must warn you to be always on guard. We, old people of the council, have already become stagnant water. It will not be long before the passage of time swallows us just like the others."

Chairman Choi nodded his head before turning to another corner of the room. "Troy, make some preparations. It seems like we have to bring up the schedule a little. Those people are getting more aggressive as they grow impatient."

"Which time is the appropriate one for the first restriction to be released?" he asked.

Troy, who seemed to have melded in the surroundings, slowly 'appeared' and respectfully bowed with the two old men. He cleared his throat for a moment before answering. "Based on my estimate, we should release the 'update' right after the United Cup."

The old chairman frowned deeply as he became concerned about something. "Then his will greatly affect the Hegemon Cup, then?"

Troy nodded. "That is precisely the chase, Sir Chairman. But this will also let those who are suppressing themselves also take the next step."

Chairman Choi thought for a moment before nodding. "Then let's proceed just like this. Just make sure to make it as natural as possible, letting the younger ones adjust themselves properly with the change."

"Understood, Mr. Chairman," nodded Troy before disappearing from the room.

Chapter 1776: Getting Acquainted?

.....

Walking out of the Magic Ace Academy's Dean's Office, Shin and the others could not help but wear a confused look on their faces, unable to understand what had just happened.

They were supposed to be asked about the special mission that Shiella had mentioned, but all Old Man Lin and Professor Henry had done earlier was to check on the progress of their respective realms and disciplines. The School Dean did not even say anything and just observed everything from the side.

Shin could not help but turn to Shiella and ask. "I thought you said that they are going to discuss some special assignment or something, Big Sis? But why did they not mention anything about it?"

Shiella fell into deep thought before shaking her head. "I don't know either."

She had some guesses, but she did not voice any of them and kept them from the group. David could also see what the elders were planning, but also chose not to say anything about it.

However, he still could not help but think to himself. 'Should I tell this to master?'

But he quickly shook his head and mocked himself. 'Of course, I should. Given her abilities, it is not hard for her to know about this. If she learns that I have deliberately hidden it from her, the consequence will surely be worse than being thrown in the middle of the ocean.'

Having his back sweat profusely, David silently decided that the old foxes were planning something regardless of whether Evangeline already knew about it or not.

While he was lost in his thoughts, Shin, beside him, suddenly said to the group. "Since we are already here, and nothing better to do, I plan to go to my department and check on my seniors. I can also use the training facilities when I'm at it."

Hearing that, the group also nodded their head and decided to do the same.

"Then I'll visit the Combat Department and greet my instructor," nodded Leonard.

"I'm going to visit the Auxiliary Department and greet Granny as well," said Cloe.

Her main instructor in the department was the legendary Lotus of Death of the Elder's Council and the Potter Clan. The old lady had told Cloe to just address her as 'Granny,' making their relationship feel a little closer and intimate. Cloe had no issue with this as well, so she just complied.

Shiella thought for a moment as she nodded. "I'll go check on my club and check on what they are doing."

It had been a while since she had visited the Hand of Midas Club, making her quite curious about their activities. She might be getting an update from them on a daily basis, but it would not hurt to give them a surprise routine check, making sure that they were not slacking off.

"Let's meet again here later before going home together. I'll inform you of the time later," she said before leaving.

Seeing the group separated, David was left alone and did not know what to do. But after a brief contemplation, he decided to follow Shin as the latter's situation was quite dedicate at the moment. He had to make sure that this junior brother of his would not encounter any accidents again.

...

Arriving at the Research Department, Shin had bumped into Wade (Diablo) and Benedict, who seemed to have finished the routine checkup of the former.

"Eh!? You're here? It is quite rare. Did the Springfield Family let you come back earlier?" said Benedict with a smile.

Shin greeted his senior for a moment before replying. "It is not like that. Professor Henry just wants to see me and check on my progress. Then I have to go back to the Central Region immediately after."

"Tsk!" Benedict could not help but click his tongue when he heard this before shaking his head. "Well, we can't blame them either for being too protective after what has happened."

He then pointed behind him as he asked. "Are you here to use the training facilities? Go, the others are busy with the task that the professor has given them, so the place is pretty much empty."

"Eh!? Again? They are not always around," commented Shin as he felt that he had rarely met his seniors in the department aside from their first meeting.

Benedict chuckled as he added. "Well, those guys don't have a choice since it is the professor's word. They can't do anything about it."

Shin then turned to Wade as he asked. "So, how is your progress in the real world?"

He knew the risk of using the Hyperactive Immersion in the game could cause some serious consequences in the real world, so this guy had to keep his health closely monitored.

But along with those risks, the benefits that Wade could get from them would be of great help for his journey in the respective discipline that he chose to practice in the real world.

Wade smiled bitterly before replying. "It is not that bad. We have just encountered some problems in certain things. It seems like I have to restrain myself from using the Demon Eyes a little too much."

Shin was already aware of his secrets anyway, so Wade had no issue sharing a little more with him.

Hearing this, Benedict suddenly remembered something. "Ah! That's right! Since you are already here, let us record your parameters again. It will be a great help for our progress at improving his training routine and diet," pointing at Wade.

"Sure," nodded Shin with a smile, not having any issue about this small favor.

...

After looking at Shin's parameters and the results from different training apparatuses that he had used, Benedict could not help but curse a little. "Tsk! Your improvement sure is so monstrous. You are now very close to breaking through."

In response, Shin smiled bitterly. "Why don't you try what I have experienced and see if you will not improve exponentially?"

Hearing that, Benedict could not help but pause a little, recalling the events that had happened recently. He then sighed helplessly before nodding. "You are right. If you don't improve after all of that, then the word 'monster' will be a waste for you."

The corner of Shin's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard that. But before he could say anything else, Benedict suddenly added. "The professor always says that disaster and fortune always come together. Since you have experienced such a 'disaster', the 'fortune' will surely come immediately after."

...

Shin decided to stay a little longer to train a little more since Shiella had yet to tell them the time to gather up.

He was already familiar with the place, so Benedict let Shin and left the secret base along with Wade.

Right after stepping out of the Research Department, Benedict could not help but frown deeply before telling Wade that he could go to the dormitory alone. "I forgot to do something, so you can go back first."

Wade did not suspect anything and just nodded before leaving.

Benedict waited until Wade's back disappeared from his sight before finally opening his mouth. "What are you doing here, sneaking around like a thief?"

David then suddenly materialized, squatting and sitting on his feet right beside the entrance. He did not immediately reply, seemingly lost in his thoughts.

He only opened his mouth after quite a while. "We have been 'seeing' each other before, but never formally greeted each other."

"There is no need to introduce yourself. I know the great prestige of the 'Wanderer'," said Benedict.

David smirked when he heard those words, but did not say anything. Instead, he suddenly asked. "I am not expecting to see a member of the Void Clan here. What a Voidwalker like you, doing in a place like this?"

Benedict did not answer and asked a question of his own. "Haven't you met my older sister as well? You haven't asked her about it yet?"

"Dayna? That 'Spirit Speech' user? I do see her," nodded David. But immediately after, his gaze turned sharp as he activated his 'Enlightened Eyes'. "But she doesn't have that foul aura leaking out of her body."

"Just who are you, really?" asked David with a slight cold tone.

Benedict did not reply as David wanted and just said, "I am nothing but a mere student here. Professor Henry picked us up when we were young and accepted us as his students. That is the only thing that I can say to you."

David went silent for a moment, thinking deeply about something. It took him quite a while to organize his thoughts before saying, "I do trust Sir Henry, but I can't say the same thing for you."

"You should be aware of the matter between our Fog Village and your clan, so I trust that you understand by doubts," he added.

Benedict smiled bitterly as he nodded helplessly. "The Fog Village."

He then turned to David as the pupils behind his eyeglasses suddenly turned purple. "I am clearly aware of it. Not only your village, but the entire world as well."

"I seem to remember that there are customs in a certain country, saying that friendship can be made by crossing fists with one another," said David, staring straight into the eyes of the latter. "How about we look for a quiet place to get 'acquainted' with one another?"

Benedict grinned as he replied. "There is no need to go that far. How about I give you a little tour of our humble department?"

"Lead the way," said David, not refusing the offer.

Chapter 1777: A Warning

.....

Later that day, Shin walked out of the Research Department, somewhat exhausted. He looked at the sky that was already getting dark and sighed a little. He had lost his sense of time during his training and almost forgot the arrangement he had with the others.

Fortunately, Shiella had just sent him a message, informing him that it was about time to gather with everyone.

He felt quite satisfied with the progress of his training, especially after using the elemental rooms. He had discovered that he had already balanced all five major elements within his body, which were seemingly waiting for him to combine them and form his version of Spiritual Force.

Once he was done with this, he could immediately initiate his breakthrough process.

...

Right after organizing his thoughts, he suddenly noticed David, who was doing a series of stretching exercises, near the entrance of the department.

"Senior Brother? What are you doing here?" asked Shin with a somewhat frown.

David turned to him and smiled. "You're finally done with your training?"

"I'm just walking around when I notice that this is your department. I came to get you since your Big Sister has already messaged us," he added as he walked over.

Shin squinted his eyes as he could tell that David was somewhat hiding something. But he did not ask further questions as he could also see that the latter had no intention of sharing it.

He just nodded his head and left the place along with David.

...

In the meantime, Benedict had just come back to the living quarters meant for him and his older sister.

He immediately collapsed on the ground as he had lost all his energy to continue walking. Even crawling toward his room was quite impossible.

He had no visible injuries on his body, but he was thoroughly exhausted after his little sparring with David. He was too tired to do anything right now.

Dayna, who was lying on the sofa lazily, noticed his strange state and flew over while using her Spirit Speech Mentalism.

She then frowned deeply when she saw that Benedict was thoroughly beaten up. "Who has the guts to beat you within the academy? Is there anyone that bored to live a little longer?"

His voice was so cold that it could even freeze the space around her. Her Spirit Speech was resonating with her words, making her will to materialize into the physical world.

But she quickly calmed down after realizing that Benedict was not in any danger. He might have been beaten up, but the perpetrator seemed to know what he was doing, only hitting where it hurt the most but not dealing any serious damage.

Benedict had no energy to argue with his sister, so he just said as casually as possible. "I've bumped into the Wanderer earlier. We've sparred a little to get 'get to know each other.' This is the result?"

"David Solomon?" Dayna frowned when she heard about it. She knew very well how powerful the famous Wanderer of their generation was, so it was not a mystery that Benedict had lost badly.

Even she, herself, was not confident in fighting him. She had to do her best if she wanted to fight him on an equal footing, but even that did not guarantee her victory.

Within the academy, only the Student Council President and the leaders of the Hand of Midas Club and Wings of Dawn were the ones who could reach his level other than herself.

"Why did he want to fight you?" asked Dayna confusedly before suddenly realizing the answer immediately after. "Don't tell me he discovered that you are a Voidwalker!?"

"That is impossible! Even those old monsters in the faculty are incapable of seeing through the barrier that Professor Henry has cast around your body," she said in disbelief.

Benedict could only smile bitterly when he thought about this. "It seems like we have underestimated his 'Enlightened Eyes' and the techniques of the lost kingdom of Solomon."

Dayna fell silent when she heard about this before nodding. "The Royal Bloodline of the Solomon Kingdom is indeed as powerful as ever."

"But what did he say after?" she asked, feeling that this was not going to end like this.

Benedict recalled what David had said to him after beating him up and could not help but sigh helplessly. "He said that we will be keeping an eye on us and asking the professor why he is hiding someone like us under his wing."

He paused for a moment before quickly adding. "But I think he already knows the reason and just wants to confirm it with the professor."

Dayna nodded as she sighed. "We have been exiled by that place since we were young, so we have no relation with them. If not for the professor picking us up and taking us under his care, then our fate has already been determined by those people."

"Heh! We can't blame everyone since our Clan did commit a grave sin, which also became the spark that started the war of that time," said Benedict with a helpless sigh.

"It is not like it is our fault as well!" refuted Dayna before flying over the sofa and sulked there. "So, what if we have the blood of those filthy people flowing in our veins? We are nothing but a pair of halflings in the end!"

Benedict maintained his smile as he stared at the ceiling before mumbling. "I do hope that the promise that the professor has given us will come true."

...

World Research Center.

Coffin Maker was currently being held at the deepest part of the research center, heavily guarded. The ones who were guarding him personally were the Domain Realm Experts sent by the Top Military School and Magic Ace Academy, who had jointly decided to work together.

Given the most recent incident that happened in the Eastern Sea Region, all the factions within the Soaring Continent were on guard for any possible incident.

The Top Military School was worried that another spy would lurk within the research center, so they sent an expert who had been working in the military for a very long time.

There was no need to doubt the loyalty of this person, as he was one of the commanders who had launched a continuous attack during that massive war, Leonel Luther.

As for the other person, it was Manuel Morales.

As former comrades, who fought side by side during that war, the two were quite familiar with one another.

These two had also volunteered to take on this post as they knew that it would be dangerous for the continent if Coffin Maker had broken out of the jail, especially when he had already seen what was inside the research center.

Given the abilities of this notorious criminal, stealing the most important data that the World Research Center had, especially from the highly concealed and restricted project, was quite easy.

This was why these two old monsters decided to guard the place, making sure that any accidents would be prevented if someone powerful tried to break in to rescue Coffin Maker.

At this moment, Professor Herny had just returned to this place to check on the status of this criminal, making sure that he was still alive.

After a series of tests, the old professor stood before Coffin Maker and said. "The information that you have provided us still needs to be verified."

"If you are just luring us for a trap, then you can already prepare yourself for the consequences," he added with a threatening tone.

Coffin Maker, who was sealed inside a huge cylindrical glass container, slowly opened his eyes and smirked. "I know better than anyone how scary the methods of the current technology to extract information from the brain. I am not that foolish to try it for another time."

He paused for a moment, staring straight into the professor's eyes, before continuing. "But let me warn you – you may have prevented that device and poison from spreading through my body, but the organization still has some means to keep their secrets forever."

"Moreover, it is impossible for the 'Snake Head' not to guess it. I am sure that they will be having extra precautions when doing that important deal, so you better be prepared."

Professor Henry smirked as he heard that and spoke. "We already know about it, so you can rest assured that we have also made our preparations."

The old professor was about to turn and leave when Coffin Maker suddenly opened his mouth once again. "One more thing, professor."

Professor Henry could not help but pause and turn back, only to see that the other party was looking at him with a savage smile.

"Let me warn you as well," started Coffin Maker before quickly adding. "You are the most crucial piece that all the organizations around the world are lacking, so be mindful of your surroundings next time."

"We may have failed this time, but you can't say that it will be the same next time. After all, the Heavenly Demon seemed to have already left to guard that place after this incident."

Hearing those words, Professor Henry could not help but squint his eyes. After all, not many knew about Adam's movements. He was quite confused as to how these guys knew about it.

Seeing the expression that the old professor was making, Coffin Maker suddenly lifted the corner of his mouth even further. "I am quite curious about who will be protecting you this time."

Chapter 1778: First Round of the Playoffs

...

After an entire week of intensive training, Leonard had finally mastered the formation of the Hex Tattoo. He had also fused his Blood Power and Internal Qi when creating the tattoos through the unique techniques of Joaquin Giovanni, making a much advanced version of it.

Looking at Leonard, Scar nodded his head in satisfaction. "It looks like your foundation is much more solid than I expected. You have already created your version of Hex Tattoo at a much faster rate compared to most of our tribe members."

He paused for a moment as he thought of something before continuing. "You must keep these tattoos active as much as possible when you are training so that your body can fully adjust to them and the new strength that you possess."

"Starting tomorrow, you will be training to learn the much more advanced movements of our tribe's techniques."

"That's it for today. Let your muscles rest for now and come back again at the same time tomorrow," he added before leaving.

Leonard bowed and thanked the latter for the instructions that he had received over the last few days.

After that, he looked at the time and sighed. "There are only a couple of hours before the match starts, I'd better head back and take a quick shower before logging in. Cloe Sis will surely scold me if I am late for the final discussion."

Today was the first day of the playoff rounds, so he had to hurry and regroup with the others, especially when they were up for the first match.

The entire team was fully prepared for this match, following the arrangements that Shin had prepared for their opponents.

What surprised the group was Arthur's absence. Nathan said that Arthur was supposed to arrive early this morning, but it was already noon, yet the guy was still nowhere to be seen.

There must be some things that have delayed his arrival.

...

"Father! Why is Arthur not here yet? Is there some problem during his breakthrough?" asked Nathan as he entered his father's study.

Samuel already knew that this was going to happen, so he was not that surprised. He smiled and calmly said. "Don't worry, Nathan. Your nephew just happens to encounter some mishaps during the breakthrough, but your grandfather is there to handle the situation."

"Is there an accident?" asked Nathan solemnly.

He knew that the purer and stronger the bloodline of an individual, the harder for them to break through to the next realm.

Arthur possessed the purest draconic bloodline in the entire history of the Springfields, so it was hard to guess how difficult the breakthrough process would be.

Carrying the bloodline of the Divine Golden Dragon, which was even higher than their ancestral guardian, the Solar Dragon, might be a blessing for Arthur. But it could also cause a disaster if he failed to endure the challenges during the breakthrough.

The difficulty of Nathan's breakthrough when he was still trying to step into the Ascension Realm was already quite disastrous compared to most of the members of the family, as he also possessed such a pure bloodline.

Given that Arthur's bloodline was even purer than his, Nathan could already imagine the difficulty of his nephew's breakthrough.

Understanding his son's concern, Samuel smiled as he reassured the latter. "Don't worry, Nathan. Your grandfather and the other transcendent experts of our family have decided to let Arthur use the Dragon Pool during his breakthrough, This will increase his chances of success during the process."

"Moreover, he can also get a lot more once he is successful. After all, the Dragon Pool is our ancestral treasure, which carries the true blood of a dragon," he added.

Hearing that, Nathan could not help but be surprised. "The Dragon Pool!? But we only have a few chances to use it! Isn't it only for Domain Realm Experts who are about to step into the Transcendent Realm to use?"

"They are going to open it for Arthur, who is only transitioning to the Ascension Realm!?" he could not believe it. He knew better than anyone how important Dragon Pool was, especially when there was only limited usage of it for every one hundred years.

From what he knew, there were only three more slots available for it. Seeing that the elders of the family were letting Arthur use one of the slots, Nathan realized how much importance they put in this matter.

"The significance of the True Blood of the Divine Golden Dragon is much bigger than you can imagine, Nathan. The elders have given this opportunity for Arthur as they believe that he is the key to our family's future," said Samuel with full seriousness.

"The process is taking a little longer, which surpassed the expectations of the elders. But it is not a bad thing since the longer Arthur stays in that pool, the better the benefits he can get."

"There is no need for you to worry about this. You can proceed with what you are doing and leave the other matters to us," he added.

Understanding this, Nathan nodded. "I understand, Father."

...

Virtual World

In the meantime, the people who were impatiently waiting for an entire week for the playoffs were very excited at this moment.

They could not help but shout on the top of their lungs while waiting for the matches to start.

The current stadium was shaking violently due to their loud shouts. The live audience showed their excitement, which was so contagious, which affected all those around them.

The online viewers, who failed to buy the tickets for the live show, could only settle for the live broadcast. But their enthusiasm and excitement were not lost to those watching on the live stream.

They were flooding the live chat with a variety of emoticons and memes that represented their respective emotions.

The chat was moving so fast that it was almost impossible to read their contents.

The live broadcast was still in the introduction image, yet the number of viewers was already rising at an insane rate. The number of viewers was already at billions, almost crushing the website.

Fortunately, the current technology was already advanced, making it possible to host such a large audience.

The organizers of the tournament were almost on the verge of tears after seeing the current rating of the broadcast. They could not help but be thankful for their 'wise' decision to commission Miss Bunny and David to cover both matches of the day.

However, this also made them quite worried about the matches for tomorrow.

Fortunately, God's Paradise had quite a huge fanbase as well, making them somewhat relieved of the situation.

...

At this moment, the members of the Empyrean Talons were currently gathered at their private lounge, discussing their final arrangements.

"As you already know, our current opponent is not as simple as it seems," started Shin as he looked at everyone. "We have already gone through all the members and possible arrangements that they possibly could be using in this match for an entire week, so we are pretty much prepared for all the possible surprises that they have prepared for us."

"Fortunately, we have secured the first seed from the previous rounds, so we have the advantage in choosing the home ground and the mode for this match."

He paused for a moment as he swept his gaze over everyone before continuing. "As per what we have discussed earlier, we will be going with the same strategy as our most recent match – an all-out team battle. After all, Arthur has yet to return to fill one of our most crucial spots."

"It is the same seven-against-seven format, so we are only sending our key members on the field. But this does not mean that the rest, who are not fighting on the field, will not be doing anything."

"I want you guys to pay close attention to this match and analyze our opponents as much as you can. You can also discuss it with one another or listen to the analysis of Miss Bunny and Khing in the live broadcast."

"This match will give you an overall view of our opponents' strength as well as the depths of their abilities."

He frowned a little as he continued. "The Earners Mercenary Group is among the bunch with the largest number of top-notch experts in their ranks, so predicting their possible lineups will be very difficult."

"So, it is a waste to look deeper into it. Our main purpose in this match is to do what we do best and finish the match as fast as possible. After all, it will be disadvantageous for us to let them gather as much information from us as they can."

He then turned to those who would be representing the team for the match and added. "We will be going all-out right from the start. But at the same time, we will only be showing the cards that everyone already knew about us."

"We will save our combination techniques as much as we can and only rely on Elemental Spirit Possessions or other means that have already been revealed to the public."

Shin watched everyone nod their heads before smiling. "We will show everyone our individualities for this match."

Chapter 1779: Against the Number One Mercenary Group (Part 1)

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Playoffs Match Number 1:

Empyrean Talons (Home) versus Earners Mercenary Group (Away)

Match Mode: All-out Team Competition (7-versus7) – Winner-Takes-It-All!

Team Representatives:

-Empyrean Talons:

Commander:

Gentle Goddess Arielle (Godlike Player)

Members:

Battle God Sickarius (Godlike Player)

War God Simba (Godlike Player)

Elemental Goddess Charlotte (Godlike Player)

Shadow Dancer Diablo (Maverick God)

Sanguine King Alucard (Maverick God)

Dark Knight Owen (Apex Titled Ranker, rivaling Gods)

-Earners Mercenary Group

Captain:

Magic Freak Flouree (Maverick God)

Members:

Exiled God Sylas (Godlike Player)

Healing Saint Matilda (Maverick God)

King Slayer Yamamoto (Maverick God)

Human Artillery Crimson (Maverick God)

Titanic Fortress Wang Zhou (Maverick God)

Thousand Daggers Sakura (Maverick God)

...

The lineup of the Empyrean Talons was still as stunning as ever. Having six godly players on their roster alongside a powerful Titled Ranker, who could rival gods, was more than enough to intimidate any team from the competition.

This even excluded Siegfried, the Dragon God, who was still absent up until now. Adding him to the lineup was more than enough to murder any teams that they would encounter.

But this did not mean that their team was unrivaled in the entire competition.

The other teams in the top eight were equally stunning if it were just about the lineup. Every team that managed to reach this stage of the tournament was a force to be reckoned with.

Just like their current opponent, for example.

The Earners Mercenary Group was not planning to play around this time, sending an equally powerful lineup.

If it was just about reputation, the players that they had sent on the field were people who could stand proudly before the top Godlike Players, especially when these individuals were a living legend of their own.

A few of their members were from the current generation of Godlike Players, such as Flouree, who was known to be unrivaled in the field of magic research and said to be the current 'Wizard King' of this generation.

Her talent was said to be on the same level as Wizard King Julius during the absolute peak of his career.

If it was about the older generation, then these people were said to be the Monster Class Players of the famous game «True Era» Online.

Some of them were on the generation as the top gods of the game, just like God Slayer Lawless, Death God Faker, Frost Goddess Snow White, or Khing, who was known to be the God of Virtual Games.

Then the rest of the team were from an even older generation, who were already known before these 'newly' emerged gods of the game made their names.

The people watching the match could not imagine how intense the upcoming battle would be just by looking at the respective lineups of these two teams.

Thinking about this, everyone could not help but become even more excited for the match.

...

System: Chosen Battlefield – Starlight Valley

...

Seeing the map that the Empyrean Talons had chosen, everyone could not help but feel even more shocked.

The Starlight Valley, despite its name, was one of the easiest and simplest maps within the entire competition.

It was composed of a single path that resembled a wide bridge that was connecting a pair of meteors in space. Then, around this 'bridge' was the boundless galaxy filled with a stunning sight.

The bridge was wide enough to put three football fields adjacent to one another, which was neither too big nor too small to be a battlefield between powerful experts.

As for its length, it seemed to be an endless path that extended all the way to the edge of the observable universe.

Despite the simple design of this battlefield, there was a special rule applied to the competition once it was chosen. Whoever got knocked off the edges of the bridge would be swept away by the powerful Cosmic Stream, sending them into the boundless universe.

This was equivalent to being killed on the spot.

That was unless they were fast enough to return to the bridge before the Cosmic Storm hit them and disappear from everyone's sight.

...

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, the two teams were sent in the middle of the Starlight Valley, standing a couple of miles away from each other.

Neither team did not even waited for the system to signal them about the start of the battle as they quickly made their moves.

They instantly went to adjust their respective battle formations while advancing through the Starlight Bridge and heading straight to each other.

When there was only under two-hundred-meter distance between them, the agility-type members of each team swiftly accelerated their speed and suddenly disappeared from everyone.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin and Diablo entered stealth as they advanced toward the other party, seemingly intending to meet the incoming representatives of the opposing side.

Sakura and Yamamoto, who were the Executioner (Tier 3 Assassin) and Blade Demon (Tier 3 Dual Blader) of the opposing group, swiftly executed their respective techniques during their advance.

Sakura's figure suddenly disappeared as she turned into thousands of flower petals. The powerful gust of wind swept these pink petals toward the Empyrean Talons, resembling a violent yet beautiful storm.

'Thousand Sakura Method: Blooming of the Spring'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Seeing the incoming storm, Diablo suddenly revealed himself, donning his robe made of shadow energies.

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

He had fused this skill with his Elemental Spirit Fusion, further enhancing its abilities to control the shadows and his overall stats.

He held the dagger and stiletto with each of his hands before accelerating his speed.

Swoosh!

Along with his actions, the shadow filling the bridge seemed to have moved under his command, expanding and contracting at the same time before turning into a 'tidal wave' that swept through the incoming 'Sakura Storm'.

Boom!

The collision between the two powers created a strong shockwave that spread in every direction, which also made the pink blossoms scatter in the air along with the residual energies of the shadow tide earlier.

At the same time, Shin suddenly appeared in the middle of this storm, leaping into the air and assuming his signature sword-drawing stance.

He waited for a couple of moments while accumulating a large amount of lightning energy toward his sheathed sword and initiating the dual possession with Whitie and Blackie.

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

He then pulled the sword out of its sheath and slashed it forward, releasing all the accumulated energies.

Roar!

This powerful energy then turned into a huge lightning tiger of black-and-white color, pouncing into the space before Shin.

Sakura, who was forced out of her earlier form, was suddenly placed in a difficult position. She was still trying to regain her balance in the air when the huge tiger pounced at her.

Fortunately, Yamamoto suddenly appeared before her, facing that incoming lightning together with his dual blades.

He crossed his blades before him before throwing a series of slashes in the air, sending a group of wind blades that cut through the body of the lightning tiger.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

'Dance of the Mountain: Storm Wind'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Whoosh!

Amid the violent smoke created by the series of explosions, Shin's figure suddenly broke through it while carrying a greatsword in his left hand and slashing it down with all his might.

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

Boom!

Sensing the strong pressure locked in their figures, Yamamoto and Sakura felt like they were unable to move their bodies. It was as if a strong gravitational force was pressing down on them and forcing them to kneel on the ground.

This advanced application of the sword principle was the combination of multiple principles, with the Heavy Sword acting as the center.

The two were about to be crushed by the strong force when a towering figure suddenly appeared before them and blocked the incoming attack.

Boom!

Wang Zhou, also known as Titanic Fortress, arrived in time and raised his shield to block the powerful strike from Shin.

Due to the sturdy defense of the other party and the repulsive force behind that shield, Shin was sent flying in the opposite direction.

His attack was greatly reflected, making him fly like a broken kite, especially with the double force that bounced from that shield.

Wang Zhou was about to fix his footing and adjust his posture when the corner of his eyes caught a glimpse of a person flying in the air and came crushing at his position like an unstoppable meteor.

'Warlord Skill (Tier 3): Planetary Destruction'

Swoosh!

Leonard, who was under the 'Crimson Sovereign Possession', immediately used a powerful skill as an opening move.

Without a choice, Wang Zhou quickly raised his shield and activated one of his strongest defensive skills.

'Knight Lord Skill (Tier 3): Lord's Protection'

Boom!

A massive explosion immediately erupted as the war axes and the huge shield clashed against one another.

It blocked everyone's view, including those watching from the live stand and the online broadcast.

But before the people could even catch their breath, the action continued!

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Five Elemental Dragons broke through the cloud of smoke, carrying five different elements while advancing.

This was the signature technique of the Elemental Goddess, the Elemental Dragon Dance!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

But before these dragons could even advance, an intense rain of spells suddenly bombarded them, destroying their respective forms.

Flouree had also made her move with her version of signature techniques.

'Symphony of Magic: Grand Solo'

The match had just started, yet the greetings that both sides had sent to one another were already reaching their peak!

Chapter 1780: Against the Number One Mercenary Group (Part 2)

...

Boom! Boom! Boom!

After the first series of exchanges, both sides had already suffered a decent damage due to the powerful skills and spells of the opposing side.

During this time, both the healers of the teams quickly raised their staffs and cast a series of healing spells to restore the health of everyone, followed by a series of buffs to boost the overall stats of everyone.

During the first few exchanges, the side of the Earners Mercenary Group learned that they were at a slight disadvantage due to the opposing side going all-out.

Shin and the others had instantly gone using their respective Elemental Spirit Possession, putting their opposition in serious trouble.

Fortunately, the members of the Earners Mercenary Group had already prepared themselves for this situation. They had used their respective means to boost their strength while also relying on the special combination techniques that they had learned from their Great Mercenary Leader.

They were not that worse compared to the members of Empyrean Talons if it was just about their individual abilities. But their respective classes and additional means were not as good as the latter, particularly when compared to Shin, Alice, Leonard, and Diablo, who had Transcendent Classes and Races.

But they had already expected this to happen, which was why the mysterious leader of their Mercenary Group had granted them the special items and equipment that they could use in this very situation.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

They might be losing when it came to solo battles. But together, their side had a huge advantage due to the equipment set that they were wearing.

"Tsk! They are using a special equipment set! And they have the ability to make each member of their group stronger," commented Diablo as he circled behind their opponents, planning to target their backline.

"I thought that they were only using a similar-looking set of equipment as a uniform and trying to look cool," Leonard chuckled as he retreated from the barrage of spells Flouree was sending him. "But it looks like it is the Formation Equipment that has become famous recently."

"Formation Equipment?" asked Shin as he warded off the attempts of Sakura and Yamamoto to break through him.

"Yeah. It is a special set of equipment that has a series of magical arrays engraved within it. This magical array can resonate with one another so long as someone with a similar set is near them. The more players with such equipment set on their side, the stronger the effects they can get from it," replied Leonard.

"It has also been very famous recently," commented Alucard as he attempted to shoot Flouree from his position, only to be blocked by Sylas, who was left to protect their backline members. "I think it is

revealed to everyone right after that Plague Lands Event that the Commander and Vice Commander have cleared."

"The top guilds and other huge organizations are trying to find as many sets as they can during these last few days, as it will be a great opportunity to increase the strength of their forces. But who will think that the Earners Mercenary Group is already quite ahead of everyone?"

"Not only that, but their equipment set also seems to be at the very best quality on top of everything," he added as he looked for another spot to slide down the opposing side.

Hearing that, Shin could not help but slightly furrow his brows under his mask, finding the situation a little troublesome.

He had already noticed the special features of the equipment set that the opposing side was wearing through his True Sight. He could also 'see' the intangible link that they had from one another, which seemed to be connecting their powers.

He only thought that it was their special technique, but who would have thought that it was a linked magical array of their equipment?

Aside from this, Shin could also see that the power that this special formation possessed was slowly growing stronger as the battle progressed.

Moreover, they were centered at Flouree and Sylas, who were only staying at the rear of their opponent's battle formation.

Shin had been observing the movements of the opposing side and had almost learned their respective abilities throughout the battle. Only that Sylas guy was the only person who had yet to showcase his powers to everyone.

As a Godlike Player with an official title, his details were supposed to be available for everyone. Leonard, as a veteran god of the game, should also be familiar with such a person.

But who would have thought that even the Godlike Players on their side would have no information about this guy?

'How does he become a Godlike Player and earn such a title if no one knows about him?' mumbled Shin in suspicion.

Unlike the others, who were wary of the Magical Arrays engraved on the equipment of everyone, Shin was more concerned about this mysterious Godlike Player and Flouree, who had yet to reveal her true capabilities.

As he thought along this time, he could not help but recall the conditions to become a Godlike Player. Aside from winning and participating in official tournaments of the game, the other means to earn such a title was to possess a Godly Challenge Right and challenge some famous and powerful Godlike Players.

Either surviving the fight and ending it in a draw or winning altogether in three matches would be more than enough to earn themselves the title of being a Godlike Player, similar to what he had done.

'Could this guy be someone who has won an official ranking battle just like me, Archimedes, and Daulla? Then he challenged some powerful Godlike Players in secret to earn himself his current position from the system.' He suspected.

The more he thought about this, the more convinced Shin became.

"Let's test his skills for a moment," mumbled Shin before giving an order to Diablo. "Diablo, try testing the waters with that Syllas guy. Let's see his skills."

"Roger that!" Diablo quickly accelerated his speed while hiding in the shadows, charging straight to Flouree and Matilda.

Since Syllas was in charge of protecting the rear, Diablo intended to lure him toward him, which would also give Alucard a perfect opportunity and a clear shot in return.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But before he could even reach his target, a series of magic circles suddenly appeared on the ground, seemingly traps that had been triggered right after being stepped on.

Despite realizing that he was in trouble, Diablo initiated contact with the traps while accelerating his speed.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

He left a series of afterimages behind him, barely dodging each of the spells that were triggered right after he stepped upon them.

Those at the backline of the Earners Mercenary Group quickly responded, adjusting their positions in response.

Crimson, who was the marksman of the group took over Flouree's role of supporting those at the frontline with his powerful firepower, using his cannons to provide cover for Sakura, Wang Zhou, and Yamamoto, who were fighting Shin and the others head-on.

Meanwhile, Sylas charged straight to Diablo, who was about to reach them from a tricky angle.

Flouree had also focused her spells on the incoming Shadow Dancer, limiting the options that the latter could choose from, while Matilda focused her healing and buffing spells on Sylas.

While Diablo was dodging the spells sent by Flouree toward his direction with the help of his movement techniques, Sylas suddenly enveloped his entire body with a blinding light, which swiftly moved toward his arms before turning into a pair of broadswords.

Diablo knitted his brows for a moment as he could sense the intense threat coming from the latter.

But he continued to charge forward while enveloping his weapons with Ancient Shadow Energy.

He then transformed into multiple shadows that charged at the group from different angles, confusing the opposing party with his insane speed and complex movements.

Seeing this, Sylas suddenly adjusted his advance before suddenly swinging his broadswords made of light, which produced a series of crescent waves that flew in every direction.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Diablo paused for a moment as he found those movements a little familiar. He felt that he had seen these movements somewhere before.

After destroying all the afterimages that Diablo had created, Sylas suddenly clashed with his real body, forcing him to retreat a little.

But before Diablo could even retreat, Sylas had suddenly increased his speed and heightened the pace of his attacks.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

This forced Diablo to exchange a few more blows against Sylas, which delayed his retreat.

But what confused Diablo was the movements that the other party was using. It was too familiar for him not to notice. 'These movements-... they are similar to what Shin and others are using, but with a slight variation to complement his style.'

Thinking about this, Diablo could not help but frown grimly. 'Don't tell me, this guy is copying their movements?'

That was when his gaze locked on the latter's eyes. It was also when he noticed Sylas's strange pupils, which gave him the same feeling as his 'Demon Eyes.' 'Don't tell me this guy also has a system similar to my father's.'

Realizing this, Diablo quickly went to inform Shin and the others about his discovery, warning them that they could not let this match drag on for much longer.