

Destiny 1791

Chapter 1791: The Professional Stage

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United Cup Playoff Rounds, Day 3

Earners Mercenary Group (Home) versus Empyrean Talons (Away) – All-out Team Competition

Earners Mercenary Group Representatives:

Team Captain:

-Magic Freak Flouree (Maverick God)

Members:

-Exiled God Sylas (Godlike Player)

-Invoker God Kael (Godlike Player)

-Godly Sniper Aiming (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)

-Divine Exorcist Calix (Maverick God)

-Sky Dreamer Lucid (Maverick God)

-Knight King Gernard (Maverick God)

-Void Swordsman Morris (Maverick God)

-Elven's Hand Maris (Maverick God)

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Both the people watching from the live stand and the online broadcast could not help but suck a deep breath after seeing the stunning lineup that the Earners Mercenary Group had.

In terms of the quality of players, there was no doubt that they were among the best within the league. Even those top guilds, huge organizations, or famous adventurer teams might not have such an overwhelming lineup.

Even the Empyrean Talons and the God's Paradise, who was known to have a lot of all-star players in their ranks, might even be slightly inferior compared to them.

In the eyes of the true experts of the game, only the mysterious Pandemonium Descendants were the ones who could have such a huge number of godly experts in their ranks.

The Empyrean Talons and God's Paradise might still have a slight edge when it comes to the quality of their members, as they had quite a lot of godly experts who stood at the peak of the Godly Rankings of the game.

But the Earners Mercenary Group was a huge organization with a mysterious and rich history, which even the hidden experts within the game were wary of.

A lot of people already knew that this Mercenary Group had at least a hundred Monster Class Players in their ranks, who came from different games before. But no one would have thought that it would be this serious.

Three powerful Godlike Players and a bunch of Maverick Gods, such a lineup was truly scary.

When comparing it with the lineup of the Empyrean Talons, which used to be very impressive, people started to think that these guys were in deep trouble.

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Empyrean Talons Representative:

Team Commander:

-Gentle Goddess Arielle (Godlike Player)

Members:

-Battle God Sickarius (Godlike Player)

-War God Simba (Godlike Player)

-Elemental Goddess Charlotte (Godlike Player)

-Dancer of the Shadows Diablo (Maverick God)

-Sanguine King Alucard (Maverick God)

-Dark Knight Owen (Peak Titled Ranker)

-Herald of Chaos Chaotic Luck (Rookie Contender/ Unusual Maverick Ranker)

-Archer Queen Ithilien (Peak Titled Ranker)

-Beastmaster Akailu (Peak Titled Ranker)

-Bird of Hermes Archimedes (Peak Titled Ranker)

-Calamity Witch Daulla (Peak Titled Ranker)

-Samael (Rookie Player)

-Huahua (Rookie Player)

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The Empyrean Talons were truly in serious trouble in this match, given the difference in their lineups.

Even if Owen was on the borderline between a Peak Titled Ranker and Godlike Player, only waiting for the perfect opportunity to gain himself a Godly Title in an official event, their lineup was still far inferior to their current opponent.

There was also Chaotic Luck, who even the system could not properly rank due to his unusual 'ability.'

Even if these two were considered as Maverick God to a certain extent, they were still quite far from matching the current lineup that the opposition had sent for this match.

Moreover, they also have a pair of baggage in the form of Samael and Huahua, who were complete rookies in the professional competitive stage. These two would most likely hold the team back later if they did not perform well, especially with the pressure that the lineup of their opponents had.

The veterans of the Earners Mercenary Group would also not be that naïve to miss such an obvious weakness. So long they constantly put pressure on these two rookies, they would be able to limit the strength of their opponents during the battle later.

This was also not the end of the arrangements of these guys. The map that they had chosen was also quite tricky to deal with, which also somehow countered any kind of response the Empyrean Talons had.

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Twisted Corridor.

This was the map that the Earners Mercenary Group had prepared for this match.

It was kind of a map with a special feature. It forced both teams to divide their forces into three smaller groups before sending them randomly into different locations.

This would greatly weaken the all-star lineup of the Empyrean Talons, which would also affect their overall strength.

They had to divide themselves into smaller teams with good composition to maintain a good balance. But this would also thin out the quality of their all-star lineup, which would make it easier for the opposing side to deal with them, especially when they had a bunch of godly experts in their ranks.

This match would be determined by the all-star members of each group. The Empyrean Talons had a slight advantage in this area because the all-star members that they had in their ranks were much better than the opposition, particularly Cloe, Shin, and Leonard, who ranked quite high in the Godly Ranking List.

Diablo and Alucard were not that bad either, especially when they go all-out with their powers.

Alucard even killed his opponent without anyone noticing in the previous match, which proved his overwhelming advantage over his opponent.

Putting these guys together could also pose an immense threat to the members of the Earners Mercenary Group, so they had to think of a way to force them to divide themselves, since dealing with them separately would be much easier.

But if the Empyrean Talons chose to form a single elite group while leaving the rest with the other groups, then the Earners Mercenary Group would have a huge advantage in isolated battles due to their advantage when it came to the quality of players.

By choosing this specific map, the Earners Mercenary Group was forcing the Empyrean Talons to choose between these choices – whether they would be thinning out the quality of their members to maintain the balance or choosing to form an elite group and hope that they could deal with the experts of their opponents before their overwhelming force was gathered.

Shin understood this very well, which made him frown quite deeply. He understood why a lot of people claimed that the United Cup was not as easy as it seemed.

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The system had given them enough time to make some arrangements for the division of the team before sending them out to the battlefield.

Knowing that it was useless to curse their opponents for being so tricky, Shin started arranging the grouping of their members.

"I will go with Chaotic Luck, Samael, and Huahua," he started.

The others did not comment about this either, as they knew that it was best for him to be with those two, as he had to lead the 'troops' under Chaotic Luck and Huahua to maximize the might of their army.

As for Samael, this guy was a paladin from the Church of the Sun of Moon, so his abilities would synergize well with Shin. He could also make some arrangements during the battle, especially when Chaotic Luck's Legion of Chaotic Sun was also related to the 'Sun.'

"Owen, Ithilien, Archimedes, Daulla, Charlotte, and Arielle will be another group," he continued, arranging the pairs with the best synergy and understanding with one another to maximize their individual and combination abilities.

"You guys will only have to focus on protecting yourself. Don't engage too much with the other side and avoid fighting them if possible. The two groups will do their best to rush to your side as fast as they can."

He then paused as he turned to the rest, who were yet to be mentioned. "Simba, Diablo, Alucard, and Akailu will be the strike team."

"You guys are free to do whatever so long as you are confident with it. Just avoid engaging the battles with much bigger risks," he added, warning them not to get too excited when engaging in battle.

After all, their opponents were not some random dudes that could be seen in the streets.

After confirming the arrangements, the group informed the system that they were now ready to be sent into the battlefield.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, everyone disappeared from the preparation space and appeared in different parts of the map.

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Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right after arriving at the map, Shin first swept his gaze over the surroundings, checking the map.

The expression on his face suddenly became somewhat dark after confirming what type of stage they were on.

"It looks like even the map itself is meant to counter us," he said after observing the corridor.

It was spacious enough to be a stage for an intensive battle, but it was too narrow for an entire army to fit in.

Shin could tell that the opposing side had meticulously chosen this stage to limit the number of solar undead they could summon.

If Chaotic Luck summoned too many of his legion, then maneuvering them in such a tight place would be very hard.

With such a 'narrow' space, Shin knew that he only had a very limited number of choices when maneuvering such a small number of troops.

There was also the concern about the large-scale spells that their opponents had. In such tight places, spamming such spells could easily blow up their army.

"Tsk!" he clicked his tongue before mumbling. "I guess I have underestimated the professional stage a little too much."

Chapter 1792: The Professional Stage (Part 2)

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Shin observed the huge corridor a little more as he found it like a place within a gigantic mansion meant for giant creatures or entities. Regardless, it was still a little small to fit the entire Legion of Chaotic Sun and the army of Ghost Soldiers and Vengeful Spirits of Chaotic Luck and Huahua, respectively.

"Let's just hope that we will not encounter those with large-scale spells or skills from the opposing side," mumbled Shin, truly hoping not to meet Flouree and Crimson, as those guys were the ones who could possibly counter their army, especially in such a 'small' and 'tight' corridor.

But given that Chaotic Luck was on their side, he doubted that their side would be that unlucky. The word 'unlucky' was never applicable to this guy, who they believed to be the 'Mistress' of the Goddess of Luck.

"We will be going with cross (+) formation. I'll be taking the lead. Chaos and Little Hua will be walking on the left and right side, respectively, while Samael will be taking the rear," he instructed, to which the three had immediately executed.

Huahua and Samael were still somewhat nervous. After all, this might be their biggest stage to date.

Fortunately, with Shin's overwhelming confidence, they had gotten enough strength to conquer their fears.

After getting into position, Shin then made some arrangements to further reinforce their formation.

"Chaos, summon two golems and let them walk behind Samael to help him cover our rear. Then, sent out some skeleton soldiers to scout the path ahead. Send some of them behind us as well so that they can inform us if anyone is coming at us from that direction."

"Make sure both sides to at least fifty to a hundred meters away from us so that we can prepare before we encounter any enemies."

Chaotic Luck nodded his head as he seriously put all the instructions Shin had given him in his head, not daring to commit any mistake. But he could not help but pause in the process as he remembered something.

He turned to Shin as he asked. "I have some crawlers and flying-type undead as well. Should I send some of them out as well?"

Shin thought for a moment before shaking his head. "Let's not use any flying skeletons for now, as they can make some sounds that can attract our opponents. But the skeleton crawlers will do. Let them scale the corridor wall and follow through the corners between the ceiling and the wall while moving."

"Make sure to turn off their Solar Flames as well and move as discreetly as possible. We don't want to get noticed by them as well."

Chaotic Luck nodded as he followed Shin's arrangements while the latter continued. "Little Hua, you can also send out some ghosts as well and let them roam around the corridor."

He paused for a moment before explaining. "They can be our second scouts. You don't have to remotely control them. Just letting them roam aimlessly will be more than enough. You can also let them have a corridor each whenever they come across an intersection."

"Keep your connection with them and inform me as soon as they find anything strange," he added, easing up the tenseness that the little shaman had.

After that, he turned to Samael and said. "Samael, just keep your senses sharp and focus on our rear. But you can't be too tense either since we have some scouts at the back, who can help you with your job."

After arranging everything, the group advanced, walking through the corridor with great caution.

Their main task right now was to regroup with the others as soon as they could. Unfortunately, they could not send each other's coordinates within this map as it was one of its unique features.

Moreover, the Earners Mercenary Group was more familiar with the map compared to they, so they would have a much easier time meeting up with one another, further heightening their advantages in this match.

Shin now understood how the top teams played their cards when it came to home advantage. Aside from being familiar with the maps, they were also taking advantage of their features to the fullest.

Shin and the others could not fully utilize the features of the Starlight Valley in the previous match as they relied on their overwhelming power and combat prowess to fight their opponents head-on.

It was also their most familiar and effective method since they had not been fighting together for that long.

Aside from Shin, Leonard, and Cloe, the rest of the team still had some minor gaps in their teamwork, which prevented them from fully utilizing each other's strengths.

Even if Cloe and Leonard were also familiar with some battle maps in professional competitions, they were not used to team competitions, as they mostly participated in Solo Competitions like Hegemon Cup and such.

Cloe also randomly teamed up with some of her friends, just like those from Silent Night, when participating in team competitions. But despite her rich experience, it was impossible to be familiar with all the virtual maps available for these competitions.

Moreover, she was a healer as well, so she was not that good at fully utilizing the advantages of these unique maps.

This was where the experience of their current opponent lay.

Shin and the Empyrean Talons were now experiencing that disadvantage. He was not learning an important lesson that they could use later.

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While Shin's group was still moving cautiously through the corridor that they were in, an intense battle had already broken out in another part of the map.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom!

The strike team of the Empyrean Talons had already engaged in an intense battle with one of the small groups of the Earners Mercenary Group.

They did not know it was by chance or intentional, but this coincidence had already pulled this group into a very intense and chaotic battle.

Godly Sniper Aiming, Divine Exorcist Calix, Void Swordman Morris, Knight King Gernard – these were the guys that Leonard's group had encountered. One was a Godlike Player and among the top marksmen of the virtual world, while the rest were well-known Maverick Gods due to their fame from the games that they previously played.

The most eye-catching sight from this battle was the showdown between Alucard and Aiming, who were constantly executing a series of gunfighting techniques while firing against one another and assisting their allies.

Aiming seemed to possess a special class that branched out from the Gunslinger Class. But unlike the Cannon Master and Artillery Classes, which focus more on destructiveness and strong firepower, his class seemed to focus more on accuracy and fast firing rate, along with his rifles and pistols.

"It looks like our vampire friend is quite active this time," commented Leonard after seeing how aggressive Alucard was with his attacks.

He was not just covering his teammates this time. He was more active on his offense, making his attempts look more like an attempt to snipe down their opponents in every shot, forcing them to either dodge or take cover behind the statue at the side of the corridor.

On top of that, he also had plenty of time to have a direct showdown with Aiming, who was also doing the same.

"Of course, he is. His current opponent is among the top marksmen of the virtual world! If he wants to prove that he belongs to that class, then he must showcase his true capabilities," said Akailu as he glanced at Alucard before adding. "Can't you see? He is neither using his Blood Power Manipulation nor his swordsmanship. He is eager to show everyone who is the better marksman in this battle."

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Not wanting to be outshone by the two, the others had also picked up their pace and started increasing the intensity of their attacks.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Leonard and Gernard clashed against one another, producing a series of shockwaves with every collision.

Leonard was forced to take a couple of steps back, trying to stabilize his footing. He raised his head and looked at his opponent before saying. "Tsk! Tsk! Don't get too impatient, Senior Gernard. There's plenty of time yet."

"You've changed, Simba. You've become more talkative," said Gernard as he also stabilized his footing after a series of heavy steps.

"Or are you Siegfried in disguise?" he added with a slight mocking tone.

...

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

On another part of the corridor, two silhouettes were dashing and clashing against one another at extreme speed.

It was Diablo and Morris who were showing everyone what a peak battle was when it came to speed. One of them possessed the pinnacle of speed while the other relied on teleportation to keep up with the former.

Their clashes were silent and deadly, only revealing themselves when their weapons collided against one another.

Roar!

In the meantime, Akailu was trying his best to hold his ground against his opponent.

Divine Exorcist Calix; Akailu was aware of this person. The fame of this veteran was quite resounding within the gaming community as he was one of the top experts of the gaming community during the peak of his time, along with the old veterans like the Wizard King and the Sky King.

Among all the matchups on this side, he was the only one struggling to survive at this stage.

He could not help but clench his fist when he thought about this, especially when he could see that he would most likely drag the team down if this continued.

His race had yet to fully awaken and evolve, unlike Owen, who unlocked the full capabilities of his Ascended Class and became a true Ascended Being.

If he did not want to drag his teammates down, then he must fully understand his Ascended Class and have evolved into an Ascended Being through it.

Having this resolve, he urged all the strength within his body while also summoning all his most powerful pet monsters at the same time. "If I can't improve in this battle, then I will write my name backwards."

Chapter 1793: First Disadvantage

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Roar!

As Akailu tried to do his best to fight against Calix, the latter repeatedly found a way to restrict his movements, casting spells and sending a variety of talismans that were meant to counter the Beastmaster.

Despite summoning all his pet monsters to fight alongside him, Akailu was still unable to break through the spells and techniques of his opponent, who seemed to be able to predict all his moves.

Under the gaze of this Divine Exorcist, Akailu felt like a little beast trapped within a cage and unable to do anything.

Calix was a Conqueror, which was an Epic Race that evolved from the Human Race after passing through the trial of the Tier 3 Promotion Quest.

Akailu had yet to evolve into an Ascended Being through his Ascended Class, so his stats were still quite inferior compared to his opponent. His abilities were also a level lower than his Calix, who received perfect boosts from his race.

Dyr was a special Beastman Race that Akailu had received alongside his Spirit Beastmaster Ascended Class. It had quite a lot of potential, just like Owen's race, the Sacred Neanderthals.

Unfortunately, he had yet to fully understand his class, restricting him from taking another step toward evolution.

He remembered that Owen was inspired during their battle in that Hatchling Lair Dungeon, which enlightened him to fully unleash the potential of his Ascended Class and fully helped him to step into becoming an Ascended Race.

Dyrs and Neanderthals were both combat-related races, so Akailu suspected that he would be able to awaken the hidden powers of his race once he accumulated enough battle experience or suddenly got enlightened in a life-and-death battle, just like what happened to Owen.

This was the reason why he kept on holding his ground. He was even using a double fusion with his pet monsters, giving him more stats and extra abilities.

Unfortunately, it was still far from being enough to match the battle prowess of his opponent.

Due to him being constantly at a disadvantage, the rest of the group had to spend some effort to cover him, resulting in them having to take a step back when fighting their respective opponents.

Naturally, the members of the opposing side also noticed this, using the mismatch to their advantage.

Alucard became even busier due to this, needing to focus more on covering Akailu's side. This led to him losing some control over the battlefield.

His tempo was now a little off, giving Aiming more initiative during their showdown.

Alucard knew that he could not afford to be constantly in the passive state, but he could not do anything about it either, since they would most likely lose Akailu in the process once he dropped the pressure on Calix.

Morris and Gernard also understood this, which was why they upped their pace to put more pressure on Diablo and Leonard, respectively, while also looking for opportunities to assist Calix whenever it appeared.

But Leonard and Diablo did want to drop their pace as well since they were unwilling to be in the same passive state as Alucard and Akailu. They both activated their respective Elemental Spirit Possession to keep the pressure on their respective opponents.

Morris and Gernard almost lost their tempo from this, forcing them to use their Ascended Abilities and Extraordinary Powers, respectively, to match the paces of their opponents. They knew that these guys would be able to turn the tide against them once they found even a hint of an opening.

In the meantime, Alucard was currently in a dilemma, thinking whether to stop being stubborn to compete with Aiming with gunfighting techniques and use his Blood Power Manipulation instead.

His pride, or more specifically the pride of the Gun King, did not let him be on the losing end when it came to gunfighting.

There could be many Sword Kings in the virtual world, as swordsmanship had a lot of variation and was divided into multiple paths, but there could only be a single Gun King – a true king of guns and gunfighting.

The path of the sword had a lot of variations and principles. The essence of each sword differs from one another.

Even though they would be converging at a single point later, reaching their True Origin, all the paths needed to be walked separately to avoid the conflicts and maintain the balance.

Guns, on the other hand, were a little different. Even if they had a lot of types with different purposes and usage, their root essence was still the same.

Moreover, the path that the Gun King Roger was walking at that time was to be the master of all guns, making him the true ruler of this area.

During his peak era of «Sword and Guns» Online, no one came close to his mastery over all the guns, which earned him the title of the Gun King.

No matter which gun it was, he had a great mastery over it, surpassing everyone who was wielding the same type of gun.

The Sword King, on the other hand, just happened to have the strongest swordsmanship in that game, which gave him the ability to defeat all his competitors.

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As Alucard was stuck in the dilemma between dropping his pride and continuing to compete with Aiming in terms of gunfighting, Leonard, who was the acting leader of this group, had finally decided to retreat.

"We are pulling back!" he said in the chat to prevent the opposing side from knowing their intentions.

The others could not help but pause briefly due to they did not expect Leonard to issue the command to retreat. From their understanding of him, he was the type to continue moving forward without fear, even in the face of insurmountable adversity.

Understanding their thoughts, he quickly added. "We may be the strike team and granted the freedom to do whatever we want. But we must remember our other purpose in this match."

"The Vice Commander has told us to only pick the battle that we can afford to win. We must retreat as soon as the situation is not in our favor."

He paused for a moment to create himself some breathing space against Gernard before continuing. "Our opponents are more familiar with his place than us. They must have some special means to communicate with their teammates since they have chosen this place as their home map."

"We have been fighting against them for quite a while now and have yet to gain any advantage. We don't know if they have already informed the others about our clash."

"The longer we stay in this place, the more dangerous it is for us." he then took another pause to push his opponent further back before quickly adding. "Don't be too disappointed that we are retreating. We still have plenty of time to deal with them later."

"For now, we have to take a tactical retreat and reorganize ourselves before the next battle!"

Hearing his words, the others had also calmed themselves a little, adjusting their pace so that they could prepare to retreat as soon as Leonard had signaled it.

Akailu, on the other hand, could not help but feel a little bitter as he knew that he was the sole reason why they were currently in this situation.

He knew that the others could find a way to at least eliminate one of their opponents if they were not covering for him.

His earlier fear had truly become reality, becoming a hindrance to the team and restricting their overall abilities.

He even believed that the three would be able to hold themselves against the others in a 3-vs-4 scenario if they were not being burdened by him.

Lost in his thoughts and guilt, Akailu committed a mistake in his movements, giving Calix enough opening to launch a powerful attack.

"Sh*t!" it was already too late to dodge at that time as the spell that Calix had sent was already right before him.

Swoosh!

Fortunately, the shadow behind him suddenly moved and swallowed him up, along with his pet monsters, and sent them in a safe location.

"Hey! Keep your mind sharp! It is not like you to commit such a rookie mistake!" scolded Alucard as he resumed firing at Calix and Aiming with a stronger momentum, forcing them into a defensive stance.

Whoosh!

At this point, Leonard finally found the opening that he was waiting for and leaped into the air before forcing his body to land at the center of the formation of their opponents, who happened to be near one another.

Boom!

This produced a huge explosion that swept through dozens of meters around him, forcing the four to scatter.

At the same time, the shadow surrounding the entire corridor seemed to come alive and swarm toward the group, forcing them to use their respective means to protect themselves.

When everything settled down, the members of the Earners Mercenary Group found that Leonard and the others were already nowhere to be found.

"Tsk! They escaped," Morris clicked his tongue after realizing what had just happened. "A little bit more and we will be able to trap them with the team that the Captain is leading."

"It is my fault. I don't expect that they will be this decisive at retreat as it is not the style the War God is known for," said Gernard as he looked at the dark corridor where he suspected Leonard and others ran off to.

"What's next?" asked Aiming as he rested his assault rifle on his shoulders.

Gernard turned to Calix and asked. "Have you put a tracking talisman in them?"

Calix was currently furrowing his brows as he signed. "I originally put them on Akailu and his pets, but it seems like Diablo has discovered them in the last exchange through his Shadow Powers."

"They are all ineffective now," he added with a sigh.

Gernard did not blame him and just raised his brows. "It is already lucky that we have encountered them this early, so there is no need to be too disappointed."

"We are moving according to the plan. We are regrouping with the Captain and the others at the Central Hall. Everything else will be based on our situation," he ordered before turning his back and walking in the opposite direction where Leonard and others had disappeared to.

Chapter 1794: A Strong Opponent (Part 1)

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"I am sorry!"

Akailu immediately apologized right after the group gained enough distance away from their opponents and was unable to sense any signs of being chased.

The group could not help but pause their tracks and look at Akailu with a surprised expression on their faces. They did not expect this guy to act this way, especially when they were aware that he was quite prideful, just like the rest of the team.

"Hah! It is unlike you to act this way. What? Feeling some guilt about what just happened?" said Alucard jokingly.

Among the members of the Empyrean Talons, he was the closest to this guy, especially when they were together, when they decided to accept Shin's invitation. Moreover, they were also from the same Shadow Ranking Cup and fellow competitors who were defeated by Shin.

But to his surprise, Akailu seemed to be determined and apologized for another time. "I am the one who drags our group down. If not for me being suppressed by Calix earlier, we would most likely be winning that battle just now."

Alucard was suddenly lost for words and unable to respond. He did not expect this guy, who was also one of his rivals, to act this way.

Diablo kept his mouth shut as he did not know what to say either. He was not that close with this guy either, making it harder to communicate.

Leonard, on the other hand, thought for a moment and chose to be a little more direct. "That may be right, but we can't blame you either since that guy's abilities greatly restrict your skills and techniques."

"Even if I face him myself, I am not sure if I can do that much either, especially when he is from the top Monster Class Player of the previous generation."

"Adding that most of his spells seem to be a counter for summoned beasts or any type of summoned creatures, it is not that strange for you to be fully countered by him."

He then paused for a moment before asking. "As for your Fusion Skill... what is the greatest number of monster pets you can fuse with?"

Akailu thought for a moment before replying. "Three is my current limit. If I attempt to go beyond that, a restriction will be placed upon me, making me unable to maintain the fusion state."

Leonard fell into thought before replying. "Your race is from the Beastman Race just like mine, while your Fusion Skill is somewhat similar to our Elemental Spirit Fusion. But instead of Elemental Spirits, you can directly fuse with your pets, which gives you a lot of freedom."

"Your potential is much larger than you think. From what I can see, you should try fusing with as many pet monsters as you can."

"You are also using the combat state of Perfect Demonification, right? I feel like you already have the perfect requirements to reach your full potential. What you need is an opportunity and a little bit of enlightenment."

Akailu understood what Leonard was talking about, but he still could not help from smile bitterly. It was much easier to say than to achieve it.

He had been trying to surpass his limits as well, especially after seeing that every member of the Empyrean Talons was constantly improving themselves. Unfortunately, he remained stagnant even after doing his best.

This resulted in him doubting himself and his abilities.

Diablo stared at Akailu for a while before saying. "It is not that you are weak or untalented. You are just lacking confidence in yourself. Have some more confidence in yourself and stop doubting your abilities."

"Getting anxious after seeing the growth of the others is natural. Having the fear of being left behind is also scary. But if you keep on dwelling in those useless thoughts and stop believing in yourself, then you will not be able to break through your shell and remain in that forsaken place."

He knew what Akailu was feeling very well. He had been in that situation as well, especially when he repeatedly bumped into walls that he could not surpass when trying to carry the legacy that his father had left him.

Akailu fully understood what Diablo was trying to say, but he could not help but feel this way, especially when he was in the midst of monstrous individuals.

Who would not feel the loss of confidence before these guys?

Being within a group of powerful people could help an individual strive to become stronger, since the competition will fully arouse their competitiveness. But this could also backfire as well once they had encountered a stumbling block, regardless of its size.

Once they had been left behind, they would instead lose their confidence, making them stop moving forward.

At this point, it was all up to the person in question whether they would continue striving forward or remain stagnant forever.

Fortunately, Akailu was quite a stubborn one, choosing to struggle a little more on this path and try to chase these monstrous guys.

"I'll do my best," replied Akailu as he smiled bitterly.

Meanwhile, Leonard was also lost in thought, thinking of the current situation. He had also been sparring with Akailu during their free time and found that the latter was also somewhat struggling to achieve the ideal form and style that he was looking for.

While he was deep in thought, Diablo suddenly asked. "What's next?"

Leonard was then brought into reality as he turned to the others. He then set his gaze in the direction from which they had come earlier before saying. "Let's proceed to the plan. Let's look for the other groups as fast as we can."

After that, he turned toward the direction where they were heading.

"Diabo will be scouting as usual, along with Akailu's Shadow Wolf. We will be maintaining the formation as we move forward," he instructed, to which the others swiftly acknowledged.

Even if Leonard was not the Commander or among the two Vice Commanders of the Empyrean Talons, his authority within the group was still quite high, equal to those three.

He would be the acting commander if those three were not around.

In the meantime, Shin's group had already been walking through the corridor for quite a while now, yet they still had not encountered any enemy. They did not even find a single sign of the Earners Mercenary Group despite crossing multiple intersections and scattering a huge number of skeleton soldiers.

"This is strange. It has been a while since we have traversed these corridors, yet not even a hint of our opponents is found," Shin frowned deeply, somewhat confused.

He did not know how huge this map was, but he was sure that it could not be any bigger than Starlight Valley since that map was among the largest maps within the professional scene despite its 'simplicity'.

Given the familiarity that the other side had with this map, it was impossible for them not to make some arrangements to meet one another.

This made Shin somewhat uncomfortable. If they could not find their opponents even up until now, then there was a high chance that those guys would be meeting with each other first, gathering their forces, before coming at them at full force.

"Tsk! This is bad," Shin was having a bad feeling about this, especially when they could not find their enemies despite covering such a huge area with skeleton soldiers and crawlers that Chaotic Luck had sent out.

Speaking of Chaotic Luck, Shin could not help but give this guy a strange glance from time to time, thinking whether the 'luck' that they were having was good or bad.

Forget about the enemies with large-scale spells or strong firepower that could counter their little group. Even a shadow of the other members of the Earners Mercenary Group was nowhere to be found.

They might have had good luck up until now, but this luck could also work against their favor if it continued a bit lower.

It would be troublesome if it truly happened. After all, the quality of players on the other side was much better than theirs.

It would be better if they could find the others from the Empyrean Talons first, before the opposing side gathered their forces.

While he was lost in these thoughts, Chaotic Luck had suddenly called him out. "Big Brother! My skeleton crawlers have found some movements!"

"Eh!?" Hearing this, Shin could not help but feel a little strange as he was just thinking about meeting the others from the Empyrean Talons, yet Chaotic Luck's summonses had picked up some signs of other people. "It can't be, right?"

As he was thinking about this, he turned to Chaotic Luck and asked. "Is it the others?"

Unfortunately, Chaotic Luck gave him an apologetic smile. "I am afraid that they are not. It looks like one of the small groups of our opponents."

He had seen those two from the previous match – Sakura and Yamamoto – walking through the corridor discreetly.

Along with those two, there was also another person, who seemed to be grouped with them – Invoker God Kael.

"Of course, it is not that kind of luck, thought Shin after hearing the report.

He then slightly furrowed his brows as he felt something ominous about this. "Just three of them?"

He squinted his eyes before issuing his commands. "Prepare for battle. Let's give them a warm welcome."

Chapter 1795: A Strong Opponent (Part 2)

.....

Invoker God Kael – he was another person who was not in the database that the Hand of Midas and Miss Bunny's channel had created.

Even though there were still some gaps between Godlike Players, just like those with multiple championship belts or those with a lot of achievements, or even those standing at the top of the Godly Ranking List, there were still some chances that hidden dragons were staying low and did not want to be discovered yet.

Those Godlike Players with slightly lower rankings were much weaker than those at the top rankings.

But given what Sylas had shown in the previous match, Shin could not underestimate this new guy who appeared before them.

Given that, Shin asked Chaotic Luck to arrange his forces in a strategic manner. At the same time, he asked Samael and Huahua to hide themselves behind the huge statues at the side of the corridor.

...

The trio from the Earners Mercenary Group was walking through the corridor when Kael suddenly sensed something strange in the surroundings.

He was not sure what it was, but he could feel that it was something ominous, making him halt in his tracks.

His sudden pause also halted the tracks of the other two, making them look at him. But when they saw the grim expression on his face, they immediately realized that there was something wrong with the place.

They were about to make their move when a series of swooshing sounds suddenly rang in the air.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The two immediately respond to the sudden ambush. Sakura transformed into petals of cherry blossoms while Yamamoto swung his swords, deflecting the incoming arrows.

Meanwhile, Kael waved his hand summoned an array of fireballs behind him, before sending them in every direction.

Whoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Not long after, a series of explosions filled the corridor as the fireballs bombarded the entire place.

The three paused for a moment as they waited for the cloud of smoke dissipate. They gathered at the center of the corridor, maintaining a triangle formation with their backs against one another.

As the cloud of smoke was settling, they saw a bunch of silhouettes surrounding them.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Immediately after, they saw heads of these 'people' suddenly set ablaze by a gorgeous flame, giving them the idea of what they were.

"It is the Legion of the Chaotic Sun!" said Sakura after seeing the blazing heads of those silhouettes.

Given how famous this legion was within the game, it was quite easy to recognize them, especially with such a unique feature.

They then later found themselves being surrounded from all sides, which include the ceiling of the corridor as there were a bunch of skeleton crawlers stuck on it.

There were also some skeleton archers and mages standing at the heads and shoulders of the tall statues.

They immediately realized that they were currently in a difficult position. But Sakura and Yamamoto remained calm due to the presence of the person that they had on their side.

Kael scanned the surroundings, seemingly looking for the signs of their opponents. He then later found Shin and Chaotic Luck standing and watching them from a considerable distance.

"Tsk! Looks like our luck is not that good. We have bumped into the most troublesome pair," he said to the two, understanding that the combination of Shin and Chaotic Luck was the hardest to deal with in this current match.

The Devil Strategist, along with an unusual necromancer, who was leading a huge and strange army of undead that could not be countered by sacred or holy elements, was more than enough to conquer an entire map by themselves.

An army with such a troublesome strategist was more than enough to discourage a guild from facing them.

Fortunately, Flouree had already foreseen this situation, which was why she had chosen this map for the match.

Moreover, his class was meant to counter these guys. His large-scale spells were more than enough to blast a large portion of the army, especially in such a tight space.

Regardless, Kael knew that he could not afford to underestimate the opposing side, especially when the guy he was up against was the rising star of the current generation, who became a Godlike Player not long after winning the Shadow Ranking Cup.

Possessing multiple titles under his belt even before becoming a Godlike Player was also quite something. The titles Angel of Death and Emperor of the Night were just a few of the titles that he had. There were also the Grim Reaper and Devil Strategies that came up not long after.

Battle God Sickarius was indeed someone who could not be underestimated.

...

Meanwhile, as Kael was assessing Shin, the latter was also doing the same.

"Tsk! I know that our luck is not going to be that good. We have met one of the guys who can counter us," said Shin after seeing Kael using that magic spell earlier.

He knew at that instant this guy was one that Flouree had added to counter the possible advantages that the Empyrean Talons had.

Thinking about the 'bad luck' that they currently had, Shin could not help but give Chaotic Luck a strange gaze before asking. "Hey, tell me... are you in a lover's quarrel with your 'wife'?"

Hearing that, the corner of Chaotic Luck's mouth could not help but twitch before giving Shin a helpless smile. "Big Brother, I don't think it is the time to be joking around."

He pointed at Kael, who just summoned a group of wisps of different elements to surround him, getting ready for the battle. "That guy seems to be impatient to fight us."

Shin had never taken his eyes away from that guy, so he naturally knew that Kael was preparing for the battle. He even saw the latter issuing some commands to Sakura and Yamamoto, who seem to be preparing to use their combination technique once again.

He had already reviewed the previous match for quite a few times already, so he knew quite well their combination techniques. Along with the others, they had studied the techniques that they had looking for a way to counter them.

"Those two will most likely use that Storm Blossom Technique or something. Prepare your Blazing Sun Spell to hinder them," said Shin before adding. "If my guess is right, that domain-like combination technique will most likely get affected once the surrounding mana is too disturbed by a strong disturbance."

"Another thing... let's take the initiative this time," he said before giving the command. "Archers, successive volley. Mages, fireballs, and icicles barrage. Soldiers, three-way formation."

Hearing those words, Chaotic Luck did not even hesitate and immediately commanded according to the words that Shin had just said.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Seeing that the legion of the Solaris Lich began to move, Kael and the other two immediately responded.

Sakura used her signature technique and transformed into a storm of cherry blossoms, dodging the volley of arrows coming at her.

Yamamoto, on the other hand, summoned a powerful gust of wind that surrounded his entire body and converged into his swords. He then swung them around, blocking and deflecting the incoming spells and arrows.

Meanwhile, Kael did not even move from his spot as the elemental wisps floating around him suddenly fired a series of spells to block and counter the incoming attacks.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

They might have successfully repelled the initial attack of the opposing side. But it did not long before the skeleton soldiers finally closed in and started besieging them from different directions.

Kael just glanced at the swarming skeleton soldiers, but it was enough to give him a sudden chill, especially after seeing the formation and the timing of each unit that the opposing side was using.

"Scary," he could only come up with these words as he could tell how meticulous the arrangement was that the opposing party had used in this wave of attacks.

Realizing this, he quickly raised his index finger before waving it around, seemingly writing in the air while also guiding the elemental wisps around him.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The elemental wisps then respond to his commands. Some of them formed walls of different varieties to block the incoming projectiles from above and halt the advance of the swarming army of skeleton soldiers.

At the same time, he had also called Sakura and Yamamoto to initiate their combination technique and complement his moves. "Now!"

But before the two could even fully make their moves, they heard Shin's voice from the distance, coming in perfect sync with Kael's call.

"Now!"

Not long after, the surrounding legion suddenly released an intense flow of blazing mana, summoning a powerful firestorm that surrounded the three.

'Solaris Lich Skill (Tier 2): Solar Storm'

Sakura and Yamamoto could not help but halt their actions, especially after sensing the intense heat filling the atmosphere.

They knew that they would suffer a serious consequence once they tried to fuse with the surroundings.

Realizing what was happening, Kael also responded as he cast an advanced spell immediately after.

'Elven Invoker Spell (Tier 2): Breath of the Northern Lands'

Swoosh!

Not long after, a cold and freezing wind suddenly emerged and clashed against the solar storm, cancelling each other's powers.

Boom!

A mixture of hot stream and cold fog immediately enveloped the entire place as the two storms dissipated.

"Go!" he commanded while calling the wisp that represented the element of the wind and ordering it to scatter the stream and fog surrounding them.

Sakura and Yamamoto were about to make their moves once again, but they could not help but halt their tracks for another time as they saw what happened next.

"Sealing Totems!" commanded Shin, to which Huahua immediately executed.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The trio from the Earner Mercenary Group then found themselves in the middle of totem formations hidden among the swarming skeleton soldiers.

The totems established a link between one another, forming a dome that sealed the surrounding mana, making it harder for the three to use any skill or spell.

"The previous attacks are nothing but a cover for these totems!? Tsk! We have fallen into a trap," said Kael after realizing what the previous arrangements were truly meant for.

"The Devil Strategist, his tactical methods are truly hard to deal with," he added before telling the two.
"Cover me. I'll be using the Mystic Wheel."

Chapter 1796: A Strong Opponent (Part 3)

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As the skeleton soldiers started advancing and attacking the trio, Sakura and Yamamoto quickly made their moves while Kael sat on the floor and started meditating while holding a wheel in his hand, which was small enough to cover his palms.

Sakura left trails of cherry blossoms in every move she made, which also turned into sharp objects that started attacking the surrounding skeleton soldiers.

She was also creating a curtain of petals to block the volley of arrows and rain of spells coming from the skeleton archers and mages standing on the heads and shoulders of the giant statues at the side of the corridor.

Yamamoto, on the other hand, was releasing a storm of wind with every swing of his swords, sending all kinds of attacks coming from every direction.

The two did not use their combination techniques recklessly because of the sealing formation that was covering the area. They did not want to risk getting injured seriously, afraid that they would fall into another trap of their opponents.

The two started showing their respective individual skills that they could not show in the previous match. They were now showing everyone the true standard of a Maverick God.

With their skills, a regular skeleton soldier was not a match for them, putting the current state of the battle into a stalemate.

But Shin had yet to make his move at this point. Aside from giving Chaotic Luck a series of orders and a few to Huahua, he had not done anything serious yet.

The three knew that the true trouble would only arrive once Shin started moving and coordinated with the Legion of the Chaotic Sun. This was why they had never shown their true powers yet, waiting for the right time for it.

Shin understood this very well, which was why he decided to slowly chip away at the strength of the three. He was putting an invisible pressure on them before making his move.

The pressure that he was passively giving them was more than enough to hasten the consumption of their strength and concentration, especially when they had to constantly keep an eye on him all the time.

...

While keeping an eye on the actions of their opponents, Shin could not help but squint his eyes a little after seeing what Kael was doing.

When he activated his True Sight to get a closer look, he saw the strange wheel floating between Kael's hands, which was slowly generating a rhythmic pulse every second.

Shin immediately got a bad feeling about this, making him issue another command. "Shift to Beast Trap Formation!"

At the same time, he signaled to Huahua, who was waiting for his orders from behind the statue. "Little Hua, set up the Buff Totems! Use the position of the Sealing Formation as a guide while placing them."

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right after the two had executed his commands, Sakura and Yamamoto immediately noticed the change in the movements of the legion. They were no longer attacking like a swarm of insects but instead using strategic maneuvers like an experienced army.

The skeleton soldiers wielding a variety of melee weapons suddenly stopped coming at them, only leaving those with shields and spears at hand.

These skeleton soldiers formed a wall, raising their shields in front while placing the spears at the little gaps between those shields.

They then started moving uniformly, slowly enclosing the encirclement as the trio was trapped in the middle.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The heavy footsteps of these skeleton soldiers resounded in the entire corridor, sending shivers to those who had heard them.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Yamamoto wanted to create an opening through force, but he was immediately hindered by the barrage of arrows and spells coming from the skeleton archers and mages from above.

"Tsk! We have to do something to those guys!" said Yamamoto as he deflected the attacks, protecting Kael.

Sakura looked above them and saw the skeleton crawlers that were stuck at the ceiling and had yet to make their moves. She frowned deeply before saying. "I'll do something with the arrows and spells."

"But you can try blasting their formation first. I have a feeling that they are much stronger than they looked," she added before leaping into the air and transforming into a storm of cherry blossoms once again.

She formed a canopy that blocked the pouring arrows and spells from above, giving Yamamoto enough time and space to gather his strength for a more advanced skill.

Yamamoto quickly made his move as well and started gathering a larger amount of energy towards his swords, forming a powerful storm.

As he was doing this, he could not help but slowly furrow his brows as he found it hard to maintain the ideal state to perform the skill. He was now starting to realize the effects of the formation created by the sealing totems surrounding them.

"We also have to deal with those totems later," he mumbled as he forced himself to complete the skill before swinging his swords and sending a powerful gust toward the closing formation of the skeleton soldiers.

Swoosh!

Boom!

The aftermath of his skill was devastating enough to send an almost catastrophic shockwave that spread in every direction.

In response to this, Sakura and Yamamoto swiftly gathered around Kael, who seemed to be unaffected by the commotion.

The two immediately gathered their powers to create a powerful barrier made of swirling wind and flying cherry blossoms.

It took a while before everything calmed down.

But when all the chaotic energies started settling and the cloud of smoke began to dissipate, the pair could not help but wear a grim expression due to what they saw before them.

"What kind of nonsense is this? It is a Tier 3 Offensive Skill!" said Yamamoto in shock. He even began to doubt himself for failing to execute the skill due to the effects of the sealing formation.

Sakura was also thinking the same after seeing the troops of skeleton soldiers closing in on them. But she quickly threw that idea away after seeing that there was another set of totems set up in the middle of the legion.

These new totems were releasing a rhythmic pulse that provided some buffs to the skeleton soldiers. These buffing totems were providing a variety of buffs like those that boosted the physical traits of the skeleton soldiers, such as defense, strength, speed, and power.

Sakura could tell that the totems were meticulously arranged into a tactical formation that could bring out the highest value and strongest effects that they could possibly have.

She did not know whether it was Shin's arrangements or the shaman of the opposing side who was truly that good.

She was leaning more for it to be the latter since their information network had already investigated the background of every member of the Empyrean Talons within the game. That little shaman was truly a rookie without any history in any games before.

But if it was truly the skill of that shaman, then the members of the Empyrean Talons were complete monsters. They might not be as strong as the Monster Class Players from the Earners Mercenary Group, but their potential was quite stunning.

"I think we have to reassess our understanding of their members," she said as she prepared herself for another round.

Yamamoto did not say anything but still nodded his head in agreement. After all, the proof was already before them.

But before the two could even prepare themselves, Kael had already opened his eyes. He slowly stood up as the wheel floating between his palms earlier was now floating over his head.

This wheel released an invisible energy that constantly cleansed Kael's mind and provided him with firm concentration.

"I will be dealing with this Legion of Chaotic Sun now. The two of you can find an opportunity to take down the others," he said as his body started floating in the air.

With a series of movements of his hands, an array of magic circles suddenly appeared behind him before converging at a single point and forming a huge magic formation.

'Whispers of Nature: Invoke – Electromagnetic Pulse'

Crackle! Crackle! Crackle!

Not long after, a huge electromagnetic field formed underneath him, swiftly expanding outwards to completely cover the skeleton soldiers' incoming encirclement.

Boom!

In the next instant, a blast of electric explosion erupted, sending out a strong electric current that paralyzed all the skeleton soldiers within its range.

At the same time, the effects of the sealing totems were also rendered useless due to the strong explosion.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Sakura and Yamamoto had taken this opportunity to break free from the encirclement and charged straight to Chaotic Luck and Huahua, respectively.

Shin was already prepared for this and told the two, so they quickly reacted and moved according to his commands.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

A blazing storm prevented Sakura from transforming herself into cherry blossoms. She was forced to halt her tracks and take a detour to attack Chaotic Luck.

But right after she had taken that path, she was immediately surrounded by a group of skeleton mages that summoned a magic cage that trapped her inside.

Meanwhile, Samael charged forward to confront Yamamoto despite his anxiety. Now that his little was directly targeted, he had to step up and protect her.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Around him, a series of totems of different varieties aligned themselves, forming a special formation to assist him.

The strength that they provided gave him some courage to face a much stronger opponent head-on.

Boom!

As his blazing sword clashed against the swords of his opponent, Samael firmly stood and stubbornly held his ground.

Yamamoto, on the other hand, was quite surprised at that sight. He did not expect that this other rookie would be able to withstand a head-on attack from him. "I guess we truly have to re-evaluate these hatchlings from the Empyrean Talons."

Chapter 1797: A Strong Opponent (Part 4)

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After seeing that Sakura and Yamamoto were immediately restrained by the opposing side, Kael knew that they had to take this situation more seriously now.

"Use your special powers now. Don't hesitate any longer," he added as he raised his hands in the air, controlling the movement of the elemental wisps around him and letting them form another magic formation.

This time, the wisps released a cold current that was immediately reflected by the magic formation.

Deducing the flow of mana that the magic formation, Shin could tell that it was meant to cover Sakura and Yamamoto to break free from their respective positions.

In response, Shin immediately issued a series of commands to the group right before the spell could even blow them. "Chaos, Solaris Blessing. Samael, Sun's Blessing. Little Hua, Fire Totems in Hexagon Formation!"

The three quickly responded, not daring to delay his commands.

Chaotic Luck tapped the bottom of his staff on the ground a few times, sending a rhythmic pulse in every direction.

Swoosh!

Not long after, the paralyzed skeletons were immediately awakened and regained their movements before converging on a single point. They formed a defensive formation while facing Kael, who was in the air, before raising their shields to face the ceiling.

Alongside them, the mages standing on the heads and shoulders of the stone statues raised their staffs to gather their magical powers, forming a transparent barrier that protected them.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

At the same time, Samael raised his sword in the air while chanting out a series of prayers.

Swoosh!

Immediately after, a hot current was released from his body, turning into a flow of hot mana that was moving upwards. It then gathered over his head, forming a miniature sun, which released an intense heat that affected the surroundings.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Meanwhile, Huahua summoned another batch of totems and meticulously placed them in every spot where the largest number of skeleton soldiers were gathered, letting them protect these totems.

These fiery totems released a constant pulse of energy that spread in every part of the battlefield, enhancing the elemental powers of everyone, specifically those released to the fire element.

The blessings of Chaotic Luck's spell and the buffs that Huahua's totems released complemented one another before further enhancing the abilities of the miniature sun floating over Samael's head.

All these effects created something similar to a combination technique, which was usually used by top-end experts of the game.

Boom!

It was only at this moment that Kael had finished casting his spell and let it detonate.

'Whispers of Nature: Invoke – Winter's Breath'

Boom!

The magic formation released an intense cold that threatened to freeze everything on its path, almost affecting the surrounding mana in the process.

Boom!

Unfortunately for this spell, the preparations that Shin had made were already enough to withstand the cold.

The combined forces from Chaotic Luck, Samael, and Huahua fought fiercely against the cold wind, producing an intense reaction.

A hot steam and cold vapor immediately swept through the 'small' corridor, blocking the sight of everyone.

Shin and the others might have stopped the powerful spell that Kael had cast, but the opposing side had already achieved their goal and even earned themselves an extra opportunity.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Sakura and Yamamoto swiftly moved and decisively took advantage of the veil to cover their tracks.

This time, they were both heading toward Samael and Huahua, targeting the two least powerful players on the field.

After all, Chaotic Luck was under Shin's protection, so there was a low chance of eliminating that strange lich. They would rather pick on these rookies and push their advantage a little higher.

Moreover, they believed that Kael would make Shin a little busy to give them enough time to execute their plans.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Kael did not disappoint them. He had already cast a series of spells, summoning a bunch of fireballs in the air.

The huge fireballs revealed themselves behind the veil of hot steam and cold vapor, clearly targeting Shin and Chaotic Luck. This situation was meant to tie the two in place while Sakura and Yamamoto do their jobs.

Unfortunately for them, this was long anticipated by Shin.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Roar!

Four giant skeletons suddenly fell from the ceiling and surrounded the two from different directions.

These four giants seemed to resemble the skeletal remains of huge, monstrous gorillas. They also did not look ordinary due to the violent flames covering their bodies that seemed to be acting as their new flesh.

But Sakura and Yamamoto were no ordinary experts either. They swiftly responded to the situation and started executing a series of techniques to get rid of these obstacles as soon as possible.

Sakura executed a mesmerizing dance while swinging her daggers and leaving a trail of pink, flowery petals with each swing she made.

Yamamoto then swung his swords, seemingly turning them into violent storms that were ready to leave everything in their paths in ruins.

Fortunately, these skeleton monsters were not simple either. They moved in a very strategic and uniform manner while working with the nearby skeleton soldiers to hold the two in place.

Huahua and Samael, on the other hand, were constantly giving some debuffs or buffs to their opponent and the skeletons, respectively.

The battle on this was already reaching a crucial point where neither side did not dare to lower their guard.

In the meantime, on the other side of the battlefield, the giant fireballs were already raining down on the rest of the Legion of the Chaotic Sun.

Seeing this, Shin frowned deeply as he knew that it was now time to make his move.

He kept his eyes on the falling fireballs while saying to Chaotic Luck. "Chaos, keep an eye on the battlefield and react accordingly."

"I'll lend you a hand later if the situation is dire," he added before leaping into the air.

Bang!

There was a small shockwave from the point where he came from, sending dust flying behind him.

Crackle! Crackle!

At the same time, his body was suddenly surrounded by the Five Elemental Primordial Lightning while he was assuming his signature sword-drawing stance midair.

Click!

Not long after, his thumb pushed the guard of the sword, opening the lid connecting it to the sheath.

Crackle! Crackle!

The lightning currents swiftly rushed out of the sword peeking out of the gap between the guard and the sheath, forming a spherical storm around him.

Shing!

When the fireballs were about on the same level as him, he fully unsheathed the sword and swung it in a full circle, sending a circular sword wave filled with the Five Elemental Primordial Lightning out.

Swoosh!

The circular lightning arc cut through all the fireballs, letting them explode in the air and preventing them from reaching the blazing skeleton legion.

Seeing that, Kael smirked as he finally lured Shin to move.

Immediately after, he ordered the ice wisps surrounding him to attack the legion with cold spells such as icicles, ice arrows and spears, and frost spheres.

Chaotic Luck quickly responded and started fighting back. The skeleton soldiers raised their shields to protect themselves before throwing their blazing spears at Kael as a counterattack.

They even coordinated with the skeleton archers and mages, who were also under the bombardment of the ice spells of those wisps.

Kael ignored those attacks as he focused his attention on Shin, who was charging at him.

He raised his hand as the fire wisps formed a huge magic circle over his head, releasing a strong heat that even melted the surrounding mana.

Not long after, he swung his hand down, pointing at Shin.

Swoosh!

Shin could not help but stop in his tracks in the air as he saw that the huge magic circle fired a literal meteor toward him.

'Whispers of Nature: Invoke – Meteor Descent'

Swoosh!

Shin furrowed his brows deeply as he knew that this was not going to be easy. The size of the meteor was large enough to cover all possible escape routes that he could take, and it even threatened to crush the army of skeletons underneath.

But it was also small enough not to get stuck in the walls of the corridor.

Seeing this, Shin swiftly raised the [Yamato] behind him, channeling a large amount of energy into it. He tightened his grip before his arms seemed to disappear as he swung the sword down.

Swoosh!

Releasing all the accumulated energy, a humongous lightning arc was sent flying, charging straight to the descending meteor.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Sevent Movement – Lightning Eclipse'

Boom!

The collision resulted in a huge explosion, sending intense shockwaves in every direction.

The lightning arcs danced in the air while the fragmented pieces of the meteor fell onto the ground like hail.

But the exchange did not stop there was Kael immediately followed with another powerful spell, sending beams of light at Shin.

'Whispers of Nature: Invoke – Spectrum Lasers'

Shin was already assuming his sword-drawing stance at this point, waiting for the light beams to reach him.

Click!

Not long after, he suddenly unsheathed the [Yamato] before swinging it multiple times in the air. The crisscrossing flashes form a spherical barrier that cuts through the incoming attack.

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

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Chaotic Luck, who was watching from the ground, could not help but feel amaze at the exchanges between the two. He did not know when the time would be he would be able to do the same.

But those thoughts were immediately interrupted by the rain of spells that were coming at him, forcing him to summon his skeleton soldiers to protect him.

He fully understood that his role in this battle was no longer that of a spectator, unlike before.

Chapter 1798: Elven Ancient Powers

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The battle on this side was growing more intense as more time passed.

Shin and Kael were exchanging blows against one another, with the latter able to hold his ground despite dealing with both Shin and the Legion of the Chaotic Sun.

Chaotic Luck might not be able to fully follow the movements of the two, but he was still able to rely on the AI of the legion to handle those he could not. He was regularly providing timely support, which was quite suspicious. They either did done on purpose or just landed by luck.

Aside from this side, he was also providing some assistance to Samael and Huahua, who were doing their best to keep themselves alive against Sakura and Yamamoto.

Due to this, he became the 'busiest' person on the battlefield.

The other was Kael for obvious reasons. He had to keep Shin busy while also considering the overall state of the battlefield.

The number of elemental wisps that he was summoning was continuously increasing, rapidly approaching his limit. But at the same time, he was also able to cast more spells due to their presence.

He was able to cycle between multiple basic and intermediate spells alongside some of the more advanced spells that were destructive enough to cover the entire battlefield.

If not for Shin, who stuck with him like a gum and prevented him from affecting the overall situation too much, then the situation would have most likely tilted in their direction already.

But despite all of these, Kael kept a calm expression. After all, he knew that the longer they kept this up, the better it was for them.

As the ones who had chosen this map, they were more familiar with it than the opposing side. They knew that this place was the farthest from the central hall, which was the center of the map.

Aside from that, it also indicated that they were farthest compared to the rest of the teams on the map.

Based on the information that they had gotten from the other groups through special means within the map, the other teams were coming from the opposite direction of this place.

The other two teams, led by Flouree and Gernard, were also coming that way. They were about to reach the central hall before heading to this place to meet with them.

Once their forces were gathered in this place, it was already the end of Shin and the others.

No matter how powerful Shin could be, he couldn't hold several Maverick Gods on their side.

Even if Shin and the others realized this and decided to retreat, there was no way for them to meet with the rest of the Empyrean Talons, as they had to go through the central hall before they could reach the corridors from the opposite side.

With this, Shin would have to face the other two teams from the Earners Mercenary Group before they could reach their allies.

Once it happened, Shin and his team would be trapped in a pincer attack where neither side was easy to deal with.

At that time, the victory was already within their grasp.

...

While Kael was thinking about this, Shin, who kept on chasing him, finally sensed that there was something wrong with the situation.

He could not put his finger on what exactly it was, but he was sure that something was going on under what he could see on the surface.

The situation on the battlefield was still within his expectations, so he could not see where exactly this ominous feeling was coming from.

"Unless it is coming from the other teams," he mumbled as he seemed to have realized what the opposing team was thinking.

He did not know about the gathering spot of the Earners Mercenary Group, but he could at least get the gist of it. With just a simple deduction method, he could at least guess what the plans that the opposing side was planning.

"He is neither fighting with all his might nor buying time for the other groups from their side," mumbled Shin as he looked at Kael with a slight frown.

He then started smirking while activating a quadruple possession in an instant. "If you don't want to go all-out, then I will be claiming the lives of your allies."

Holding the legendary sword [Durendal] and the inheritance sword [Yamato] in his left and right hands, respectively, along with a set of armor cloaked with the power of the psychic shadows, Shin revealed the form that stunned everyone once again.

Seeing this godly form, the expression on Kael's face immediately turned serious, fully understanding that he could not afford to continue hiding his strength before the current Shin.

He swiftly summoned the largest number of elemental wisps he could and gathered them around him, preparing for a powerful attack.

But as he was preparing to reinforce his strength and defense, he suddenly noticed that Shin was actually not aiming at him. The latter was charging straight at Sakura and Yamamoto, who were being held by another batch of more advanced skeleton creatures.

"Sh*t!" knowing that he was duped by Shin, Kael swiftly activated all the buffs that he could possibly have while the elemental wisps fused with his body and further strengthening his overall stats.

Elven Runes also started to appear on different parts of his body. These runes were emitting a jade light along with an ancient aura that could suppress even the surrounding mana.

Shin, who was already on his way toward Sakura and Yamamoto, could not help but furrow his brows deeply as he could sense the ancient aura that he had felt when fighting against Flouree during the previous match.

Now that he had seen it from a different source, it had given him a clear view of what they were.

"Ancient Mana Essence," he was now sure that it was the same mana essence that he had sensed from those creatures from the Trial of the Primordial Waters.

But he did not stop his tracks as he continued to charge toward the pair, who were busy dealing with the blazing skeletal monsters and the duo of Samael and Huahua.

Swoosh!

Sakura and Yamamoto immediately sensed the strong fluctuations coming in their direction.

They did not need to turn their heads to know how dangerous the incoming attack was.

The two quickly moved and decisively decided to use their combination technique despite being surrounded by the chaotic, blazing mana.

They were taking the risk for survival at this point.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Yamamoto first created a powerful tornado that somewhat cleared the surrounding flames, producing a stable area where they could fully unleash their combination technique.

Sakura immediately transformed into a flood of cherry blossoms along with hundreds of flying daggers in the mix.

Yamamoto then became a violent tornado that dragged the pink petals and hundreds of daggers in the air, fiercely spinning and strongly attacking everything around them.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Due to the violent storm, the surrounding skeleton soldiers and blazing skeletal monsters were forcefully pushed away, and Samael was also forced to retreat.

However, the group of rookies from the Empyrean Talons would not let themselves get pushed back this much, so they quickly responded immediately after.

Huahua summoned another group of totems, placing them around the spinning tornado and trapping it in place.

Chaotic Luck then summoned a miniature sun over this tornado, letting it fire an intense barrage of light beams, turning the surrounding mana even more chaotic. He was planning to disrupt the combination technique of their opponent by breaking the mana equilibrium within the air.

Samael was not idle either as he coated his sword with a Sun Blessing before swinging it multiple times in the air and sending a series of sword slashes in the spinning tornado, further turning the mana in the air more chaotic and hotter.

It was also at this moment that Shin arrived at the scene swinging his pair of swords that were covered in Enhanced Eternal Flame and Five Elemental Primordial Lightning.

Swoosh!

Crackle!

Shin landed at the eye of the tornado, where it was the calmest, before executing a sword dance along with the [Durendal] and [Yamato].

'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship: Dance of Fire and Lightning'

Sword flashes made of fire and lightning elements flew in every direction, cutting through the storm of cherry blossoms and violent tornadoes.

Boom!

Sakura and Yamamoto were forced to separate from their technique and reveal their true forms.

They then found themselves at the center of the chaotic attacks coming from every direction. There was no path for escape, especially when they were suffering from the drawbacks of being forced out of their combination techniques.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Fortunately, a dome made of ice and stone was formed around them, saving the two from being annihilated by the incoming attacks.

Kael, who was now releasing an almost blinding jade light, was floating above the dome along with a mystic wheel hovering and spinning over his head like a halo.

Seeing the current form of Kael and sensing that familiar ancient aura, Shin was now sure that the Earners Mercenary Group had found the way to gain and utilize that broken power of the ancient beings.

"Interesting."

Chapter 1799: Unlucky Ones

...

"The Ancient Powers of the Ancient Elves," mumbled Shin as he frowned deeply while looking at Kael.

Ancient Elves were known to be a Transcendent Race. Among the people that Shin knew, Alice was the only person who had this race with her class being an Elven Sage.

He was very familiar with the aura that this race had, which was why he could not help but frown deeply while looking at Kael. The latter was currently emitting an oddly similar power as a Transcendent Race.

However, he could also sense a hint of differences coming from the current opponent, especially when this Ancient Aura was more like an aura from a Sea Beast that he had encountered during the Trial of the Primordial Waters.

At the same time, he was also sure that Kael's race was not a Transcendent Race since the latter was not emitting the same aura unique to the Transcendent Races. All Kael possessed was the ancient powers of the said race and not the true essence of the race.

From what he could see, Kael possessed an Ascended Class related to elves and had also achieved full enlightenment of the class. This then resulted to the evolution of his race and promoting himself into a true Ascended Being just like what happened to Owen.

Closely looking at the current appearance of Kael and particularly paying a close attention to the runes running through the skin of his opponent, Shin suspected that it was these runes and the tattoos that he had seen from Flouree in the previous match were the reason why these guys were capable of wielding the said Ancient Powers.

Fixing his grip on his swords, Shin stared at Kael before signaling the rest of the team to attack.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Kael also responded as he freed Sakura and Yamamoto from the dome that he had created and let them go on a rampage.

Right after being released, the forms of Sakura and Yamamoto were currently under the effects of their respective berserk states on top of using the special powers of their respective Ascended Race.

Their overall powers might not be as amazing as Kael's current form nor Owen's when he was under the activation of his Divine Tattoos, much less Shin's godly form.

However, when compared to the rookies of the Empyrean Talons, their forms were in a much higher dimension.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom!

As the chaotic battle broke out between those five, Shin and Kael immediately made their moves, almost bringing down the entire corridor due to their intense exchanges.

From time to time, they were also creating opportunities to send some help to assist their respective teammates.

Kael had a slight advantage in this area as his spells covered a larger area, and he had several of them in his arsenal.

But Shin compensated for this gap with his absolute speed and powerful swordsmanship.

Kael used a variety of elements along with the elemental wisps surrounding him, while Shin contested them with the elemental powers of his Elemental Spirits.

The former had a greater variety of attacks due to the insane number of spells under his belt and a large quantity of elemental wisps on his side.

However, the quality of Shin's elemental powers was a notch higher. The Enhanced Eternal Flame, the Five Elemental Primordial Lightning, and the Psychic Shadow were higher forms of mana that surpassed most of the elemental powers within the game.

One relied on quantity while the other had quality. This battle was quite a textbook example that was used as a guide by famous analysts and experts online.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

While retreating, Kael sent a barrage of blazing rocks at Shin, which seemed to be a bunch of little meteors. They covered almost all directions, attacking the latter from different angles.

Seeing their tricky trajectories, Shin slowed down his approach before executing one of his signature techniques, the 'Infinity Edge', to either block or deflect the attacks away.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Whoosh!

As he finished blocking the little meteors, a huge ice spike suddenly flew at him. Its speed was so fast that it was almost upon Shin's face before he could even respond.

Fortunately, Shin's reflexes were quite fast as well, thanks to his Ultra Instinct Innate Talent. His arms were already moving on their own before the tip of the ice spike reached him.

Crossing his swords before his face, the ice spike was deflected upwards right after hitting the surface of the swords.

Bang!

But before that ice spike could even fly over Shin's head, it exploded and sent a barrage of broken and sharp pieces of ice at him.

However, as they poured down at him, the sharp pieces of ice shards flew passed his body. They hit nothing but an afterimage that Shin had left behind.

Kael's eyes suddenly turned wide as he realized that he had lost track of Shin, putting him on full alert. He then swiftly gathered his hands and commanded the elemental wisps to cover himself with crystallized ice to protect himself.

Swoosh!

It was at this moment when Shin suddenly came descending from the ceiling, leaving trails of light behind as he slashed his swords down.

Bang!

The crystalline barrier was immediately filled with cracks right after getting hit by the [Durendal] and the [Yamato], but still managed to remain intact.

Crack! Crack!

Hearing the snapping sound of the crystalline barrier, Shin immediately used the 'Void Steps' Elemental Skill to get away from that place.

Boom!

Right after he disappeared into the void and reappeared in the distance, the barrier immediately exploded and sent sharp ice shards in every direction.

Shin was stabilizing his footing on the ground, around the skeleton soldiers, when the floor of the corridor suddenly trembled and moved.

Not long after, a pair of giant hands made of dirt and hardened bricks emerged from the floor, encompassing the area with its palm and trying to grab him.

"Tsk! This control over elemental mana is really troublesome," Shin clicked his tongue as he mumbled. "It may not be on the same level as Alice, but that is only because of the difference between the essence of their techniques."

"That girl is worshiped by the elements and heeded her commands at will, while this guy is forcefully manipulating the surrounding elemental mana through those elemental wisps, which had a close connection to it."

As Shin dwelt in these thoughts, trying to understand the powers of his opponents, the giant earth hands were already closing in. They were trying to trap him inside and crush his body later.

But before they could fully close their palms, Shin's swords suddenly flashed multiple times, cutting through them and turning these earth hands into crumbling pieces of rock.

He then raised his head and looked at Kael once again, who was already preparing for his next barrage of spells.

"This guy should be able to control much stronger elemental powers, given that they control that Ancient Power and Mana Essence, yet he was still not showing any signs of it," Shin squinted his eyes as he became somewhat suspicious of the other party. "Is it because he has yet to fully master that power? Or is it because he can only use it with a certain limit?"

"Or is he trying to lure me into a trap before suddenly exploding with his greatest power?" he could not help but become suspicious as he could sense the oddity within the current situation.

This guy was indeed strong, but it was not overwhelming enough to put Shin and the others in a helpless state.

It was at this moment that the corner of his eye caught a glimpse of the rookie trio struggling against the pair of veterans from the opposing side.

"I see. So that is what they are trying to do," he mumbled after seeing the current situation.

He started grinning as he tightened his grip on the two swords. "Let's see who will be faster than."

After that, he suddenly kicked the ground and launched himself into the air, clashing against Kael once again.

Bang!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

In the meantime, on the other side of the map, another battle was currently going on.

Unfortunately, it was Leonard and his group once again who got caught in a battle after bumping into the team that Flouree was leading.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

"Tsk! Tsk! What kind of bad luck is this? We have just bumped into the other earlier, now we are up against the other?" complained Leonard a little as he was covering the rear of the team while they were running.

The opposing side had the numerical advantage this time, which was why they could not just fight them head-on. The other side also had Crimson and Flouree, who had a very strong firepower, so they had no choice but to run.

"Given that the other group is taking the opposite direction earlier, there is a high chance that they are meeting their teammates on that side. How come we bump into the other group not long after?" mumbled Alucard as he thought of this matter.

"There are only two reasons for that," said Akailu. "Either these guys are coming from the other direction and moving toward their meeting place, or we somehow took a wrong turn while crossing the intersections earlier, which resulted in us bumping into them."

"If that is the case, then we are in danger," commented Diablo as he realized the gravity of their situation. "If we truly took a wrong turn, and we are near their meeting place, then there is also the chance of us encountering the other group."

Hearing this, the others could not help but have a solemn expression on their faces. Fully understanding their current predicament.

If they could not break free from the pursuit of Flouree and her group, then there was a high chance that they would be trapped in a pincer attack later.

Chapter 1800: Unlucky Ones (Part 2)

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Sylas, Flouree, Crimson, Matilda, Wang Zhou, Lucid, Maris

With the sheer number disadvantage alone, Leonard and the others were not in a good position to fight back. They were forced to run away from the opposing side without having any thoughts of fighting the opposing side.

They had Flouree and Crimson on their side, who had a very strong and destructive firepower. Under the suppression of these two, it was close to impossible for the four from the Empyrean Talons to find any opponent to fight back.

There was also Wang Zhou, who could hold the line with his strong defensive capabilities. Under the two healers on their side, Matilda and Maris, fighting back was already an impossible task.

Then there was Sylas, who was capable of suppressing Diablo's abilities to a certain extent, and Lucid, who had a strange class called the Illusionist and was capable of using odd techniques and skills to mess with the senses of his opponents.

Seven Maverick Gods with such a team composition were more than enough to defeat Leonard and their team.

Staying and trying to fight was no different from suicide.

...

"We can't continue like this. We will be caught sooner or later if we just run around in circles. After all, these guys are more familiar with the map," said Alucard as he tried firing back while running with the best of his abilities.

Diablo and Leonard also agreed with this, but they could not figure out a good solution to their current predicament.

At the same time, the people watching this scene could not help but feel a little worried for Leonard and the group. After all, they were still the favorites for this match.

The side where Shin and Kael were fighting might be quite interesting and entertaining, but this chase that was currently going on the other side of the map was much more intense.

Everyone understood that this side of the battle could affect the state of the match greatly.

"It looks like Simba and his group are in trouble," said Miss Bunny worriedly.

They might be commissioned to cover the live broadcast of the match and have to be unbiased in their comments. But it was understandable for her and David to lean more on the Empyrean Talons due to their relationship with the adventurer team.

No one would trouble them with it as well since everyone was already used to them acting that way.

Moreover, the analysis and commentating that these two were doing in every broadcast were not only professional when it needed to be, but they were also quite entertaining to watch due to the good synergy that they had and the jokes that they were throwing here and there.

Hearing her words, David nodded his head as he answered. "Well, it is hard to fight against this group given that they had a dual healer on their side."

"Running away is quite tricky as well since Flouree and Crimson are experts in such of battle as well. After all, the range of their attacks covers such a huge area," he added with a little solemnness on his face to make the people watching feel the gravity of the situation.

At this moment, Miss Bunny had also started analyzing the situation. "But they have no choice but to run away since turning back and facing the group will only result in their defeat."

"They can take one or two with them if they go all-out, or even three at most. But is it worth it to exchange themselves with it? After all, these guys are one of the main forces of the Empyrean Talons. Losing even one of the three Gods will be a great blow to their overall strength and terribly affect the result of the all-out battle later."

David nodded once again as he added. "That is why they have to run away even though it is quite against their personalities."

Alucard, Diablo, and Leonard – these three were all top-notch gods within the game. The two could rival the Gods at the top of the peak of the Godly Ranking List, while the latter was among those gods.

It was quite natural for them to have some pride when it came to these kinds of situations. Running away was truly against their personalities of not backing out from a fight.

Looking at the other part of the map, where Gernard was leading his small group was coming from, Miss Bunny could not help but feel a little more worried. "If they continue this way, then they will be caught sooner or later."

"The sounds of the battle will surely reach Gernard and the rest, alerting them. If they work with Flouree's group, then catching Simba and his team will be quite easy," she said with a deep frown.

David agreed as he also sighed. "The time is ticking against them. If they can't find a way to escape this predicament, then there is a high chance that they will be trapped in a pincer attack sooner or later."

He then paused as he turned to the other side of the map, where Cloe was leading her team and steadily moving forward. "The Gentle Goddess and her team are quite far from the commotion. Hoping for them to suddenly come and save Simba and the rest is nothing but wishful thinking."

"The Earners Mercenary Group is very familiar with the map, and they are using it well to their advantage. They sure have prepared for this re-match quite well," said Miss Bunny, showing her troubled face.

After a brief pause, she turned to David and asked. "Mister Khing, as the former number one player of the virtual world and also known as one of the greatest strategists known in the gaming community, what do you think about this situation?"

"How do you think they will be able to escape this predicament?" she quickly added.

Hearing that, David slightly raised his brows, briefly reorganizing his thoughts before answering. "It is indeed a little tricky to deal with. But there is still some hope for the team to escape."

"Really!?" Miss Bunny suddenly showed her excitement as she continued to inquire. "What is it? Is it dangerous? Are there any risks?"

David chuckled after seeing his reaction. "There are always risks when it comes to these kinds of situations."

"But once successful, they may even be able to turn the tables around," he continued, giving everyone a mysterious smile.

"Stop teasing us, Mister Khing! What is the solution that you have thought about?" asked Miss Bunny with an adorable pout, making the men watching the live broadcast fall in love with her charms once again.

Maintaining his mysterious smile, David answered. "That is to split up."

Going back to the battlefield, the Alucard, Diablo, and Akailu could not help but turn to Leonard with weird expressions on their face.

"Are you sure about this?" asked Alucard solemnly as he could not believe the proposition that Leonard had presented to them.

Meanwhile, Diablo fell into deep thought as he considered all the possibilities inside his head before nodding. "It has a lot of risks, but it is worth trying."

"What!?" Alucard and Akailu could not help but turn to him as well, unable to understand the thoughts of these two.

Diablo then answered. "It is indeed worth trying."

He paused for a moment as he turned to the people chasing after them before continuing. "Think about it, we are running at our pace because we can't afford to let any of us be left behind."

"Our pace is much faster than theirs, especially when they have to maintain their formation while running. But because of Crimson and Flouree's harassment, we can't fully shake them off, especially with their movement boost."

"In a sense, only two people are chasing after us, which is why they are much faster than us, who have to maintain our formation."

Then Leonard took over. "But if we spit up now, the two will not be able to chase after us separately since they will have to risk getting assassinated in return."

"Our speed will also far surpass them since we no longer have to maintain our formation, so outrunning their chase will no longer be that troublesome."

Alucard understood this well, but he was still not fully convinced since the risks were also there.

During this time, Leonard immediately added. "They will not dare to split their forces that thin since they have to worry about the safety of their healers. With you and Diablo on our side, the chances of those two being assassinated are quite high."

"They will have to maintain a decent formation if they want to chase us separately, so their speed will be greatly behind us," said Diablo.

Seeing that the two had already decided, Alucard could only agree with them. "So, how are we going to split?"

Leonard thought for a moment before deciding. "Alucard and Diablo will be going alone."

He paused for a moment as he added. "Akailu and I will be going together. Our classes and races resonate with each other quite well, so we will be able to do more together."

The other three did not say anything about his arrangements and waited for further instructions.

"We will split at the next intersection. Prepare yourselves."