

Destiny 1801

Chapter 1801: Rookies' Spirit

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Flouree and Crimson could not help but halt their tracks after reaching the next intersection. It was because they saw Leonard and the others split up and take three different directions without even looking back.

Their burst of speed was so strong that they left the pair in the dust within just an instant.

Flouree could not help but furrow her brows as she could see why Leonard and the others had made this choice. However, she did not expect that these guys would be decisive, boldly taking this choice despite the grave risks that came alongside it.

Crimson also furrowed her brows after being shocked. "What now, Captain? Are we going to continue chasing them?"

It was also at this moment that the rest of the team caught up to them. They looked at the corridors connected to the intersections and did not know what to say.

Flouree went silent for a moment before asking. "Where are Senior Gernard and the others coming from?"

"They are spawned at the northeast part of the map. We will most likely meet them if we take this corridor ahead," replied Matilda after a brief calculation.

Looking over, Flouree knitted her brow once again. It was the place where Leonard and Akailu were heading.

She was considering whether to give chase or not, but she quickly shook her head and dropped that thought. "We are stopping here. We will head to the central hall as per our plan and wait for the others there."

"Why?" Sylas could not help but ask as he felt that was a good chance to take down the opposing side now that they had separated.

They could ignore Alucard and Diablo if they want and chase after Leonard and Akailu, trapping them into a pincer attack with Gernard and his group.

At the very least, they could cripple the strongest force of the Empyrean Talons if they managed to take down the War God with this opportunity.

Unfortunately, reality was far from what he was expecting. It was Lucid who had replied to him. "Do you think it is easy to catch that guy?"

"He is a War God for a reason. His experience is much richer than you expect. If we can think of such a plan, he can obviously think of it as well."

"If we try to chase and push him toward a certain direction, there is a high chance of his seeing through our intention and avoiding the paths that can possibly lead them into a trap," he added before turning ahead.

Flouree also nodded at this point as she added. "Thinning out our forces is also not a good choice since it is no different from falling into their intention."

She then turned to Lucid before asking. "What about Kael and the other two? How's their situation on that side?"

Lucid slightly furrowed his brows before closing his eyes. It took him quite a while before opening his eyes once again.

With an even deeper frown, he replied. "They still seem to be locked in battle against the Battle God and Herald of Chaos."

"Those two other rookies of the Empyrean Talons, the little shaman and the paladin, are also still alive, somehow," he added.

Flouree nodded before issuing her order. "Let's go to the central hall. Once we meet with Gernard and the others, we will immediately head for the Battle God."

"He is the centerpiece of the Empyrean Talons. Once we have taken him down, the rest will be much easier to deal with," she added.

The others also did not question her decision and could only turn and head in the direction of their meeting place.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom! Boom!

At the same time, the battle between Shin's team and the trio from the Earners Mercenary Group had finally reached the most crucial level.

Kael's level of power had already reached an unimaginable level after increasing the number of elemental wisps under his command, further enhancing the efficiency of control over the elements.

But despite all of these, he was still unable to fully overpower Shin, who was clearly advancing and improving during the battle.

The scariest part about this was the fact that Shin was also starting to figure out the logic about his Elven Ancient Powers, which was also being applied to Shin's control over his elemental powers.

He was applying the logic behind Kael's method to amplify the resonance between him and his elemental spirits, which resulted in multiple surprises.

Because of this, Kael started to lose his footing and all the initiative in every exchange. His frown was also growing deeper as he needed more focus in the battle compared to earlier.

This also led to him neglecting the side where Yamamoto and Sakura were fighting.

That was also when accidents happened.

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Samael fully understood that it would be harder for them to catch the two Maverick Gods with their limited strength. If they wanted to catch these two godly experts, they had to lure them into a trap, which could give them the opportunity to defeat them in a single swoop.

Looking around and noticing that they were no longer under the suppression of Kael's overwhelming spell. The said Godlike Player was also quite far from them, dragged by Shin, in the distance, to fight.

If anything, Samael knew that this was the most ideal opportunity that they had, where they could catch Sakura and Yamamoto.

Checking his current position, he realized that he was currently within the center of Huahua's Totem Array and Chaotic Luck's Battle Formation.

He then recalled one of their training sessions and came up with an idea. He then looked over his shoulder and said to his little sister. "Huahua, get ready to activate the Five Sealing Array. I'll be luring them in."

Huahua might have little experience, but she could at least tell what her big brother was planning to deal with this current situation. "Brother, there is no need to..."

But before she could even persuade him, Samael immediately added. "There may be some other ways for it. But given our current situation, having one of us sacrifice ourselves is the only way for us to secure a much higher chance of success."

"We can't always rely on the others to save us all the time. Sometimes, we have to take the initiative to take the risks if we want to achieve something bigger," he added as he also recalled his experiences when participating in the ongoing war between the two major factions of the game in the Dark Cloud Kingdom.

At times, they also had to consider the bigger picture if they wanted to achieve the results they desired.

'Losing the battle but winning the war' was one of the things that he had learned from that chaotic place.

Huahua wanted to say something more, but she quickly swallowed her words after recalling the lessons that their Commander had taught her.

Cloe had told her that it was close to impossible to save everyone in battle, so the healer's main job was to minimize the casualties as much as they could.

Only if she were strong enough could she save everyone and protect them from any harm.

A decisive look suddenly appeared on her face as she nodded heavily. She would be going with the plan that her brother wanted to try this time, while trying her best to assist him. She hoped that she could also save him. But she would not be stubborn about it if it were still far from her capabilities.

She could only train hard and try to do better in the future.

Seeing the look that his little sister was making, Samael smiled before turning his head back to Sakura and Yamamoto, who were locked in an intense battle against the blazing skeletal monsters.

"I'll be luring them in. Prepare yourself well," he said before charging forward.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

On the side of the battle, Sakura and Yamamoto were also starting to gain a decent advantage over the legion of blazing undead due to them not being under the pressure provided by Shin's presence.

They also had more freedom this time, especially when they were gaining enough momentum and tempo in the battle.

Swoosh!

But before they could even overwhelm the skeletal monsters surrounding them, Samael suddenly invaded their area of control, which disrupted their rhythm.

Bang!

"This brat again!" cursed Yamamoto as he was getting annoyed at Samael's presence.

This guy always appeared whenever they were about to gain a better footing in the battle and about to turn the tide.

"Let's deal with him first!" shouted Sakura, feeling the same frustration.

Seeing them focusing on him, Samael swiftly retreated, planning to use the surrounding skeleton soldiers and skeletal monsters as a cover for his retreat.

"There is no running away this time, brat!" yelled Yamamoto as he quickly gave chase.

Meanwhile, Sakura took a detour, trying to block the paladin's retreat path while also attempting to target Huahua, who was in the distance, at the same time.

Samael remained calm when he saw all of this, retreating steadily. He then suddenly stopped when he had lured them deep enough into the Totem Array.

Yamamoto and Sakura could not help but pause their tracks when they saw this, sensing that there was something wrong with the action of the latter.

Unfortunately for them, it was already too late to retreat at this point.

Samael held the sword with both of his hands, placing it vertically before him. He then channeled the blessing of the sun and moon into it while chanting out the unique prayers of the church at the same time.

He did not even wait for the opposing side to fully react as he swiftly raised and quickly flipped the sword before strongly stabbing it into the ground.

'Paladin of the Sun and Moon (Tier 3): Imprisonment of the Solar Storm'

Chapter 1802: First Casualties

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'Paladin of the Sun and Moon (Tier 3): Imprisonment of the Solar Storm'

Bang!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A flood of flames immediately spread in every direction right after Samael's blazing sword stabbed into the ground and created a huge dome that encompassed a huge area.

Sakura and Yamamoto wanted to retreat away from the solar imprisonment, but they found it hard to control their respective bodies due to the intense heat that was filling the entire area.

They also wanted to use their respective transformation to escape before the dome could even fully form itself.

"Activate!"

But before they could even execute their thoughts, Huahua had already activated her Totem Array, which had already been laid out earlier.

'Shamanic Totem Array: Hexagram Prison'

Whoosh!

Immediately after, the totems that were laid around linked with one another, forming a huge hexagram prism that covered a huge area and trapping the pair within the solar prison alongside Samael.

Sakura and Yamamoto understood their current situation well, so they planned to use their respective powers to forcefully break out of the double prison, planning to use everything they had.

Unfortunately, Chaotic Luck quickly made his move at this point, swiftly ordering the skeleton mages.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Blazing chains suddenly appeared around Sakura and took advantage of her current immobility to wrap themselves on her limbs and torso, preventing her from transforming into a flood of pink petals once again.

Whoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At the same time, a bunch of bone spikes suddenly shot out from the ground and locked Yamamoto's movements, preventing him from going anywhere or doing anything.

"What!?"

The two were caught off guard due to the fast responses that these rookies had, locking them in place.

"Argh!"

"Urgh!"

Not long after, the solar storm imprisoning them intensified and started to close in, rapidly burning their respective Health Bars down.

"Argh!"

But at the same time, Samael was also suffering from the same damage despite this skill being his.

This skill was a super advanced skill, which was on the borderline between Tier 3 and Tier 4 skills. It was similar to those powerful Tier 3 Skills that could not be used unless certain conditions were met.

Since Samael was forcefully using this skill without full mastery over it, he was suffering from the intense backlash, which resulted in him being slowly burned to death by his skill.

The rapid ticking of damage over their heads was so fast that it might only take them a minute or two before they died from the skill.

The question was whether Samael would be able to last before Sakura and Yamamoto died, especially when the two were also doing their best to free themselves from the restrictions preventing them from moving.

They were also using some of their long-range skills to attack Samael from a distance, trying to break his concentration and hasten the drop rate of his health bar.

But in response, Huahua summoned a bunch of healing totems, trying to save her big brother, while Chaotic Luck ordered his skeletons to continue attacking the two, hastening their death.

Sakura and Yamamoto might be powerful players, but they were too powerless to resist their current situation, which was a very dangerous situation.

All they could do was to struggle a little more, trying to skill Samael with their projectile skills to survive the current predicament.

Unfortunately, not everything went as they had hoped. It did not take that long before their respective health bars hit the absolute bottom and died alongside Samael, who firmly held his ground until the end.

These two Maverick Gods died quite underwhelmingly, which shocked everyone watching the match.

Sacrificing himself in exchange for two Maverick Gods of the opposing side was more than worth it.

Maverick Gods for a single Rookie?

If it were any other players watching the match, then it was more than enough to brag for life. After all, it was a battle between Maverick Gods and Rookies, even if it was a 3-vs-2 scenario.

But Chaotic Luck and Huahua could not help but feel upset due to their unable to save Samael, even doing everything they could.

How Huahua wished that she had more healing spells or healing totems at this point, where she needed them the most.

Chaotic Luck was also knitting his brows as he did not know how to think about the situation. He knew that he was still lacking in terms of tactics and organizing his troops, where he could fully maximize their capabilities and powers.

He knew that if he performed a little better, then overwhelming those two would be much easier, even if they were Maverick Gods.

Having an army of Solaris Undead was supposed to be his greatest advantage over most of the players, yet he could not fully utilize it to its full potential.

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In the meantime, in a few moments before Sakura and Yamamoto died under the combined efforts of the three rookies, Kael was doing his best to ward off the Shin's attempts to catch up to him.

During their intense exchanges, the wheel rotating over his head suddenly stopped, seemingly indicating something.

"At last! I can finally-..."

But before he could even rejoice about this matter, the situation on the other side of the battlefield suddenly attracted his attention.

Seeing that Sakura and Yamamoto had fallen into the trap of the rookies and put themselves in a very dangerous position, Kael could not help but feel a sudden sense of dread.

An ominous feeling suddenly overwhelmed him, warning him about what was about to come.

He wanted to head to that place to assist the two, but he could not shake off Shin, who was sticking to him like gum.

Shin naturally knew what was happening on that side, so he was even more resolute not to let Kael go anywhere.

Realizing that it was impossible to save the two, Kael decisively chose to retreat instead. He knew that once those two died, he would be put in an even more dangerous situation, even if Samael was killed by his skill as well.

He would rather save the fully charged wheel later rather than forcing himself to face Shin and the others by himself.

He might be able to take down the remaining two rookies with him if he used everything he had in his arsenal. But it would also put him in a very risky position, where he had to face the full-on assault of Shin during the process.

It was not worth it to sacrifice himself in exchange for the two rookies of the Empyrean Talons.

He was among the strongest members of the Earners Mercenary Group, so he would rather retreat now than be stubborn.

If it were Shin who would lose his life alongside his, then Kael could at least give it a try since Shin was the core piece of the Empyrean Talons in every way.

With that in mind, he decisively ignored the two and swiftly cast a super large-scale spell to cover his retreat while also hoping to a collateral damage to the opposing side.

'Whispers of Nature: Invoke – Death of the Divine Wind'

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Sensing the destructiveness of the incoming storm produced by Kael's spell, Shin swiftly halted his advance before putting his swords before him.

He channeled all his energy into them before stabbing them into the ground to summon a sturdy energy wall.

It was an even more advanced application of one of his signature defensive skills, the 'Eclipse Pulse', while using the powers of the Enhanced Eternal Flame and Primordial Lightning.

'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship: Veil of the Phoenix and Thunderbird'

Whoosh!

Crackle! Crackle!

The gorgeous flames and destructive lightning fused and formed a huge dome that covered almost the height of the corridor, blocking the incoming cataclysmic storm.

Boom!

The entire corridor shook due to the collision of the opposing powers, making even the huge stone statues sway a little.

It lasted for an entire minute before everything could settle down.

Shin had only removed his barrier after making sure that everything was fine. He swiftly waved his swords to produce a strong wind current that swept through the cloud of dust filling the air.

Not seeing any signs of Kael, Shin could only sigh, feeling a little disappointed. "Tsk! If not because of that mysterious wheel on his head repelling most of my powers, then taking his life will be much easier."

Given their respective classes, Shin was confident that he could take down Kael with his swordsmanship and elemental arts. Unfortunately, the latter powers were somewhat restricted by the mysterious wheel that somehow affected his Elemental Spirit Companions.

Earlier, Shin sensed an intense disturbance in the contract between him and his Reaper's Retainers. If not for his deep connection with them, then there was a high chance that the contract that they had established would be forcefully abolished.

Looking ahead, Shin squinted his eyes, thinking about what the Earners Mercenary Group was planning. "That guy is dangerous. I have to find a way to target him first later, before trouble comes our way."

Chapter 1803: Contact!

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Amid all the battles and chaos happening on the map, there was a group that had never encountered any trouble up until now.

It was the group that Cloe was leading.

They were traversing the corridors without encountering any problems, making their advances somewhat dull and uneventful.

But at the same time, it also made them somewhat confused, especially when they were unable to find even a sign of their opponents.

"This is strange," Owen frowned as he led the group as the sole melee fighter and the tank of the group.

"Even if this map is quite complicated and a little huge, it is impossible not to find any signs of our opponents up until now," he added as he maintained his confusion.

They had been walking around for quite a while now, yet even a sign of battle was not found, which was very confusing for them. Their advance was so smooth that they seemed to be having a stroll rather than having a match.

The group had always maintained their formation and absolute vigilance up until now, making it somewhat exhausting and affecting their overall concentration.

But they did not dare to drop their tempo nor their guards either, especially when the opposing side had chosen this map with purpose.

"Why do we have yet to find anyone up until now?" mumbled Ithilien.

The group continued to maintain their vigilance while advancing through the corridors. It did not take that long before they reached a certain part of the map, which looked like a huge hall.

It was a very spacious 'room', which seemed to be the center of the entire map, especially when there were multiple channels connected to it.

For every channel connecting the corridors to this place, a tall stone statue stood on each side, acting as if they were guards.

These stone statues were very similar to those that were standing in the corridors leading to this place.

The hall was empty. Aside from the torches that the stone statues were holding to illuminate the entire place, nothing else could be found.

"An empty hall?" mumbled Owen as they entered.

The group was curiously and cautiously looking around when Cloe suddenly warned. "Wait!"

Everyone halted their tracks after hearing her urgent voice, turning to her.

Cloe had gotten an ominous feeling right after entering the hall, which was further intensified right after entering.

"This must be the central hall of the map. As the name implies, it is the center of the map, which is also the place where the Earners Mercenary Group will be gathering their forces!" she said.

She only needed a simple deduction to realize what this place indicated. Even the most rookie places could tell that this hall was the perfect place to regroup with the entire team and gather their forces.

"We have to retreat from this place as soon as possible! Given the time that we have spent on the map, there is a high chance that the forces of the Earners Mercenary Group to appear now!" she said, urging the others to retreat.

Fortunately, they were not that far from the corridor that they came from, so retreating would be much easier.

Unfortunately, before they could even go back, a group of people suddenly emerged from one of the corridor channels and immediately noticed them.

There was a brief pause since the two sides were not expecting to see each other. Then silence filled the air as the opposing parties stared, stunned at one another before finally responding.

"Attack!"

"In Formation!"

Flouree and Cloe immediately issued a command as soon as they realized what was happening and started making their moves.

"Oh, God of Light, grant this loyal servant of yours the power to fight the darkness and adversary before me!"

Cloe quickly chanted out a prayer, giving a series of buffs to everyone on their side, which boosted their stats by a large margin.

The rest of the team, on the other hand, swiftly went to their respective positions to adjust their formation while facing the opposing side.

Owen did not step forward as he maintained just enough distance away from the rest of the team, where he could actively protect them whenever it was needed.

It was quite a meticulous positioning as well, especially when he was covering such a huge area that also blocked any incoming opponents perfectly.

Of course, he would not be able to handle a lot of them by himself. To make sure that no one would be able to bypass him that easily, he simultaneously used three of his strongest trump cards.

He first activated his unique combat state, the Virtual Simulation, to further enhance his battle capabilities before proceeding to the other two.

Boom!

'Ancient Protector Skill (Tier 3): Guardian's Apparition'

Crackle! Crackle!

'Sacred Neanderthal Racial Trait: Divine Tattoo – Blessings of the Thunderbird'

A huge apparition of an armored golden immortal appeared behind him. Its size was so huge that it was almost reaching the ceiling of the hall despite only having the upper half of its body. With such a huge area that it was covering, it would not be hard to protect the others behind him.

The opposing side would have no choice but to detour from quite a huge distance before they could reach those behind them. But if they did that, they would be immediately greeted by a barrage of attacks waiting for them.

Ithilien and Archimedes took a side each, nocking their arrows at their bows and getting ready for the battle. As the ones with the longest range within the group, they were standing the farthest within the formation.

A little before them stood Cloe, who was the center of this formation, while she was being flanked by Alice and Daulla, respectively.

Alice immediately activated her specialized combat state, the Elemental Ignition, along with quadruple possessions with her elemental spirit companions.

Each Elemental Spirit fused with her magic, further enhancing her control over them and greatly strengthening their respective powers.

Four elemental dragons also circled her as she activated her signature technique, the Elemental Dragon Dance, not daring to underestimate the opposing side.

Roar! Roar! Roar! Roar!

On the opposite side, Daulla was surrounded by an intense storm of lightning, activating her strongest state.

Crackle! Crackle!

The intense lightning currents danced around her while the air started to get filled with dense and violent elemental mana.

A single look at this formation was more than enough to tell everyone how tough and sturdy it was, despite only having a single melee player in the group.

This was a standard Fortress Type Formation that became famous in previous team competitive games.

It was supposed to have a powerful tank that could stand at the frontline while protecting those behind them, who possessed very destructive firepower, such as classes like mages, cannon masters, and such.

But this strategy was uselessly used in huge competitive competitions that involved large groups like guilds and such. The frontline was composed of sturdy tanks that lined up like a wall, while the rest of the classes were made only for firepower, with only a few healers to maintain the healthy state of the frontline members.

The Empyrean Talons, on the other hand, were bold enough to only use a single person to stand at the forefront of the team, intending to hold the opposing side by himself.

It was an absurd idea, but seeing that the Empyrean Talons were serious about it and recalling their strange strategies in the previous matches, everyone was interested in seeing how they would deal with their current situation.

Meanwhile, the Earners Mercenary Group took a more aggressive and offensive stance in response.

Flouree and Crimson possessed a class that focused on firepower, so they swiftly sent a barrage of attacks to the golden immortal, intending to crush him by their destructive spells and skills alone.

Matida and Maris then gave everyone a bunch of buffs to raise everyone's battle capabilities while focusing their healing spells at Sylas and Wang Zhou, who were already charging at their opponent.

The two immediately classed with Owen, trying to overwhelm with their numbers, but they were barely able to move his health bar despite having the assistance of a Magister and Cannon Master from a distance.

Cloe was able to handle all the pressure by herself, especially when she only had to focus on supporting a single person, which was quite an easy task for her.

On the other, Sylas and Wang Zhou were immediately thrown amid the skills and spells coming from the two archers and two mages from the opposition.

Each of them had dedicated support from the dual healers of their team, which put the situation in a deadlock.

Unfortunately, the situation immediately turned when Lucid joined the battle, who relied on his strange class to disrupt the tempo of the opposing party.

With his Illusionist Class, he could send some strange attacks that could not be sensed through normal means. He even created some illusions, which almost broke the formation of the Empyrean Talons.

However, Alice suddenly stepped up at this point, using the knowledge that she had gotten about ancient runes to counter the opposing side.

An intense battle immediately broke out, igniting the passion of all spectators once again.

Chapter 1804: The Roar of the War God (Part 1)

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Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The battle in the central hall continued to intensify as the two sides started to show their cards one after another.

Wang Zhou and Sylas repeatedly tried to go passed Owen, but the latter firmly held his ground and constantly blocking their advances.

They were either fighting him two against one or being blasted by the attacks from those at the backline whenever they tried to take a detour and circle him.

Fortunately, his speed was greatly boosted by the Thunderbird Divine Tattoo, giving him the ability to catch up to either of the two whenever they attempted to get passed him.

At the same time, his synergy with Ithilien far surpassed the rest of the team. After all, her understanding of Owen was quite high. All the gaps that his opponents forcefully opened were always covered by her, giving him enough breathing room.

With the two of them working together, neither Sylas nor Wang Zhou could easily break pass their defenses.

Even when Wang Zhou had summoned his Ancient Suppression Stele, he was still unable to fully suppress Owen, especially when Cloe was constantly providing assistance and actively controlling the entire battlefield unlike the previous match.

During the previous match, Cloe, Alice, and Owen used their combination technique and summoned the Elemental Guardian as soon as the battle became a little heated.

During that time, Cloe could not fully showcase her top-notch abilities as the number one Healer within the game.

But this time, she was able to show those abilities and reminded everyone what she could do, greatly affecting the tides of the battlefield by her presence alone.

Even if Flouree was a good commander in the field and possessed a very destructive class, she could not do that much due to how experienced Cloe was in this area.

They could only take advantage of their team composition, which had a double healer in their ranks, to become more aggressive and show the opposing side their strong offensive prowess.

Unfortunately, the opposing side had Charlotte (Alice), the Elemental Goddess, who could also affect the entire battlefield with the same impact as hers.

If not for Lucid, who was constantly controlling the tempo of the battles with his illusions, then the situation would be even more tricky for their side.

However, Alice's understanding of ancient and elven runes greatly helped her to see through these illusions, which led to his repeated failure.

Moreover, Cloe also had a decent understanding of the ancient runes, which also gave her a decent ability to see through the flow of energy within the air and let her uncover some of the secrets behind Lucid's illusions.

With those two keeping an eye on Lucid, his impact in the battle was greatly weakened. He was supposed to be a wild card of the Earners Mercenary Group to disrupt the tempo and synergy of the Empyrean Talons, along with his strange abilities.

However, they did not expect that this pair of goddesses from the Empyrean Talons would be able to suppress his abilities with their understanding of ancient runes.

Flouree, who was also quite proficient with it, also noticed this. This made her quite troubled as they did not expect that the achievements of Alice and Cloe in terms of ancient runes were that high.

She was not sure where these guys from the Empyrean Talons had found such treasure that could greatly enhance their understanding of the ancient runes. The Great Leader of the Earners Mercenary Group had gone through a lot of trouble just to get his hands on the records of the Ancient Era, which gave them their current understanding of ancient runes.

Their only advantage right now should be Crimson, who had an almost equal destructive force as her. As a Cannon Master, his firepower should be devastating enough to crush the opposing side.

Unfortunately, the teamwork of Archimedes and Daulla was strong enough to contend against his power.

Daulla was a Storm Magister who majored in Lightning Magic. Her firepower and the destructiveness of her spell were no worse than any top-notch mage or cannon master. Alongside the unique properties of the lightning element, she was not having much of a problem affecting the entirety of the battlefield.

She could paralyze the opposing side from time to time whenever her spell exploded near the opposition. Even Sylas and Wang Zhou did not dare to underestimate her spells, which were occasionally flying at them.

A single stray lightning spell was more than enough to immobilize them for a short time, so Owen and the rest could blast them down into oblivion.

At the same time, Daulla was also firing back at the opposing side, affecting their formation and tempo.

Adding the sneaky yet precise shots of Archimedes, the forces of the Earners Mercenary Group were oddly on the losing side.

The Earners Mercenary Group had a better player in terms of quality, but their teamwork and synergy were not as good as their opposition.

Aside from the teamwork of the team, the combination of Owen, Cloe, and Alice was perfect enough to stabilize their situation well.

The three of them had a great presence on the battlefield.

Along with their highly practiced battle formation and tactics, they were able to match such a strong opponent.

This also proved that the arrangement that Shin had when putting all these members into a team was the right choice.

Choosing each member with perfect synergy with one another, along with the team composition that almost covered all their weaknesses, further proved his great foresight.

But despite the optimistic state of the battle, the members of the Empyrean Talons did not dare to lower their guards as they knew that a single mistake could cause them a huge disaster.

Moreover, they had to be wary of any ambush that could attack them at any moment.

The fact that this group was in this place was more than enough to tell them that the other members of the Earners Mercenary Group would most likely arrive at any given moment.

Cloe and the others could not help but feel that sudden sense of urgency as they thought about this possibility.

They could only hope that their other main force would arrive as well before it was too late.

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Boom! Boom! Boom!

In the meantime, in one of the corridors near the central hall, Leonard and Akailu were wandering around, looking for the traces of their teammates.

But as they were walking about, they suddenly heard a series of loud noises coming from a distance.

Turning their heads toward the source of those sounds, Leonard and Akailu could not help but wear a solemn expression on their faces.

"Those explosions! Someone must be fighting! Hurry!" Leonard did not guess what was happening. The fact that loud explosions were coming from that place was more than enough to tell them that their allies were in that place as well.

The two did not even hesitate to start running in that direction, using the best of their abilities.

"Eh!?"

"Huh?!"

But while they were sprinting with the fastest speed possible, they came across an intersection where they bumped into four people, who coming from another corridor.

Calix, Gernard, Morris, and Aiming – these four, whom they had first encountered right after entering the map, bumped into them once again.

At that time, Leonard and the others were forced to retreat, trying to avoid any disadvantage.

But at this point, Leonard and Akailu had encountered them once again, but they were only two people instead of four.

If they try to face the opposing side with just the two of them, then the consequences would be much worse than that time.

But Leonard also understood that they could not back down at this point. An ominous feeling was telling him that if he let these four join the battle on that side, a terrible disaster would befall their allies.

He could not afford that to happen!

Akailu knew about this as well, so he was already preparing for a battle, flashing a decisive look on his face.

But before he could even take a stance, Leonard suddenly stepped forward and blocked his path.

Akailu was stunned at first and felt a little confused. But he later saw Leonard's resolute expression from the side, letting him understand what the latter was thinking.

"You-... can't-..." he wanted to say something, but Leonard's commanding tone immediately cut him off.

"Go!"

A single word, a simple command, and a tone filled with confidence – these were the things that overwhelmed Akailu after seeing that expression and hearing the command.

He knew that he could not afford to hesitate, as Leonard had already decided to block the four all by himself.

Akailu knew that he would only be a burden if he insisted on staying here, so he solemnly nodded his head and turned around. He then fused with the Shadow Wolf and started sprinting toward the central hall.

Seeing this, the four from the Earners Mercenary Group wanted to stop Akailu. But Leonard stood in their path, blocking them by himself.

These three Maverick Gods and one Godlike Player could not help but raise their brows after seeing this. They could see through these thoughts of the other party, which somewhat upset them.

In their eyes, Leonard seemed to be trying to underestimate them by blocking their path alone.

But they also knew that this was not going to be quick work since the reputation of Simba, the War God, was not for show.

"Give everything you've got. We are wrapping this up as fast as we can," ordered Gernard, not daring to underestimate Leonard.

On the other hand, Leonard cracked his neck a little, creating a series of popping sounds.

Along with it, the apparitions of four powerful elemental beasts manifested behind him – a dark wolf, a savage lion, a gigantic mammoth, and a majestic eagle.

They then turned into a stream of light before fusing with his body after he activated his quadruple possession.

Chapter 1805: The Roar of the War God (Part 2)

.....

Boom!

The pressure that Leonard was currently emitting was so intense that it even affected the entire surroundings.

But this was not the end yet, as he proceeded to further enhance his strength.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

His pair of war axes released an intense light the crimson mana surrounded his body. He had activated his unique mana manipulation technique, Blood Power Acquisition, alongside his version of Reality Manifestation.

Whoosh!

At the same time, crimson tattoos also appeared in different parts of his body.

Adding his already acquired abilities within the game and combining them with his newly gained knowledge about Blood Power in the real world through his Reality Manifestation, these tattoos became vastly different from what they used to be.

They now gave him a much stronger boost in stats and other abilities.

The four standing on the opposite end could not help but furrow their brows deeply, especially after realizing that the current War God before them was vastly different from what they remembered and what their data had gathered.

His current powers seemed to be much more devastating than their gathered data they had collected.

They did not dare to neglect this power and immediately used their respective Ascended Abilities and Extraordinary Powers.

They would never dare to lower their guard or underestimate such a legendary figure of the current generation of top-notch gods.

While they were organizing themselves and getting information, Leonard had suddenly made his move.

Bang!

A loud explosion could be heard as he kicked the ground behind him and propelled himself forward, charging at the opposing rank fearlessly.

Swoosh!

The expression of Gernard and others suddenly contorted, especially after sensing the immense destructive force accompanying Leonard.

Gernard immediately stepped forward, raising his shield and activating one of his strongest defensive skills to protect the others behind him.

Bang!

Right after his shield slammed into the ground and erected a thick energy wall, Leonard finally appeared and swung his war axe with all his might.

Boom!

The energy wall was instantly shattered by the powerful force behind Leonard's strike. The shockwave even pushed Gernard back while Calix and Aiming swiftly retreated.

Morris, on the other hand, also stepped into the void to hide and waited for the opportunity to strike.

Gernard quickly tried to stabilize his footing and regain his stance. But before he could even do anything after that, a shadow was suddenly cast upon him, making his vision slightly darkened.

Swoosh!

He then raised his head and saw Leonard standing before him, raising his war axes and slamming them down with all his might.

From Gerard's perspective, Leonard seemed to have transformed into a gigantic silhouette of a god, who had descended into the world and tried to crush him.

'Thousand Beast Method: Might of the Hundred Beast'

Roar!

There seemed to be a deafening bestial roar resounding in the entire corridor, shaking the walls and the ceiling, as he swung the war axes along with their destructive powers.

Gernard was not in the position to raise his shield at this point, nor counterattack with his battle hammer, due to his still awkward position.

If he were hit by this attack, he knew that there was a high chance that he could be killed in an instant, or at least seriously injured.

Fortunately, he was not alone. His colleagues quickly made their move and saved him in time.

Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Morris suddenly emerged from the void and grabbed Gernard, pulling him toward a safe location, while Aiming stared, firing his rifle with great intensity.

Whoosh!

Calix had also thrown a bunch of talismans in the air, scattering them around Leonard. He seemed to be planning to seal all the routes that the latter would possibly take to escape.

But contrary to their expectation, Leonard had no intention of doing that. He was not going to let the tempo drop as he knew that only when he was fighting at a high pace would let him have a high chance of surviving the battle against ThreeMaverick Gods and one Godlike Player.

While holding the pair of war axes, Leonard crossed his arms before him, raised them in front of his face, and expanded his diaphragm to inhale a huge amount of air.

Not long after, he suddenly uncrossed his arms strongly while releasing all the air with a bestial roar.

Roar!

'Thousand Beast Method: Roar of the Beast King'

Boom!

A powerful shockwave was quickly released alongside that roar, spreading in every direction and pushing all the talismans away from him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The magic bullets that came from Aiming's rifle were also repelled, unable to pierce through the violent storm.

Shing!

Amid this storm, a tear in the void suddenly appeared. Then Morris emerged from it and came slashing with his swords, planning to take advantage of this opportunity where Leonard was fully focused on releasing such a powerful roar and attack the fully exposed back of the latter.

Heh!

But how could Leonard leave such an obvious opening?

A dangerous glint flashed through his eyes as he tightened his grip over his war axes, relying on his Bestial Instincts to sense that incoming danger before striking the ambusher with a destructive smash.

"Careful!"

Leonard's back was facing Morris, so the latter was unaware of the sudden counterattack that was about to catch him off guard.

Fortunately, Calix and Aiming responded quickly, using their respective means to restrain Leonard's movements and giving Morris enough time to retreat.

Hearing the warning, Morris knew that there was something wrong with the situation, so he quickly dropped the idea of the ambush and swiftly jumped back to the void and decisively retreated.

Swoosh!

Boom!

Not long after, Leonard broke the spirit chains that were restraining his limbs and ignored the magic bullets bouncing on his aura armor, finishing his strike.

Unfortunately, his target was no longer there, resulting in his attack hitting nothing but the ground.

In the meantime, the opposing group swiftly retreated, planning to reorganize themselves at a distance.

After seeing the initial might of the current War God, they did not dare to face him head-on and formulated a plan on how to deal with him.

A wolf's speed and agility, the lion's might and strength, the mammoth's power and toughness, and great mobility and sharp eyes of an eagle were what they had observed from Leonard's movements.

These alone were more than enough to make them wary of him, yet they also knew that it was only the tip of the iceberg.

Leonard was still not showing most of his more advanced techniques.

Unfortunately for them, Leonard had no intention of letting them reorganize their ranks. He swiftly turned toward their direction and threw one of his war axes.

Swoosh!

The expression of the four quickly turned ugly after seeing the incoming war axe. It was emitting a dangerous light along with an intense bloody scent that was more than enough to tell them how dead this simple-looking weapon throw was.

The four had no choice but to scatter once again.

Calix and Aiming retreated, pushing their father away from the interaction, while Gernard stepped forward and raised his shield. Morris had once again hidden himself in the void, waiting for another opportunity.

Boom!

The impact that Gernard had received from the collision of his shield and the war axe was strong enough to almost force him to kneel to the ground.

Fortunately, his form was sturdy enough to withstand the devastating impact while sending the residual force into the floor through his feet. This then resulted in the floor caving in and creating a huge crater.

Swoosh!

The war axe then bounced off into the air right after the collision, to which Leonard caught midair, already expecting it to happen.

He then spun in the air, following the momentum of the war axe, before sending it back to Gernard with an even greater force.

Swoosh!

Seeing this, the expression on Gernard's face became uglier as he could tell that it was impossible to dodge the incoming war axe due to his current posture.

Without a choice, he could only take another defensive stance and use another defensive skill in the process, saving himself from the impending doom.

Whoosh!

A dome of energy was quickly summoned when he raised his shield in the air, facing the incoming attack.

Boom!

Yet another explosion erupted as the two sides collided.

This time, the barrier survived, proving how strong it was, while the war axe returned to Leonard's hand.

In the distance, Calix and Aiming saw that Leonard was about to repeat the same actions, seemingly trying to break the barrier this time, and followed with an even stronger attack immediately after.

The two did not hesitate as they quickly used their respective means to restrain the monstrous individual.

But before they could even complete their actions, they suddenly saw Leonard turning at them, before sending the war axe in their direction.

Whoosh!

The eyes of the two quickly turned wide, realizing what Leonard was trying to do.

The earlier action was meant to pin Gernard down in place, preventing him from assisting the others with his defensive skills.

Meanwhile, this current attack was meant to force the two to further retreat into the deeper parts of the corridor, pushing them further away from the central hall.

At the same time, they would be having a much harder time assisting Gernard from a distance since they were farther away from the battle.

Even if they provided some long-range assistance, Leonard would have a much easier time responding due to the distance. Even if it would be harder to take down the two due to this distance, Leonard would be able to handle it well due to his Bestial Instincts Innate Trait.

Moreover, his goal in this battle was to stall them in place for as long as he could, buying enough time for the rest of the Empyrean Talons.

This was like hitting multiple birds with a stone!

Boom!

"Tsk! He is hard to deal with. His combat strength is one thing, but his battle IQ and battle senses are on another level," said Calix as he quickly retreated along with Aiming.

Chapter 1806: The Roar of the War God (Part 3)

.....

Boom!

As Calix and Aiming were forced to move further away from the center of the battle, Leonard suddenly extended his hand forward and pulled the war axe back to him.

Swoosh!

Right after that, he started bombarding the barrier protecting Gernard with powerful attacks, causing it to collapse not long after.

Aiming tried to hinder Leonard with his long-range attacks, but Leonard had slyly positioned himself behind Gernard, hiding himself from the firing line of this Godlike Player.

"Tsk!" Aiming could not help but click his tongue after seeing Leonard playing this match in such a tricky manner. He knew that even if he tried repositioning himself for a clear firing line, the latter would just continue to circle Gernard to limit his choices.

Naturally, Calix could also work with him in this area, taking the other side, where he could freely fire his spells at Leonard. But since spells needed some time to cast and they were much slower than a bullet, the latter would have a much easier time dodging them.

Gernard and Morris could also try controlling Leonard's movement by forcing him into a corner where those two could freely fire at him.

But Leonard was aware of this, so he kept on repositioning himself and skillfully pulling the two into his desired location instead.

The four were somehow pulled into his tempo, making him control the battlefield to his liking.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Leonard was exchanging serious blows against Gernard, creating a series of shockwaves for every collision.

Swoosh!

When he was about to push his advantage over the latter a little more, the space behind him suddenly flickered before a tear in the void appeared.

Morris then emerged from it and was about to launch an ambush, attacking the exposed back of the latter.

Whoosh!

But before he could even land his attack, Leonard had already turned around right after forcing Gernard into retreat.

Clang!

Leonard raised one of his war axes to block the incoming swords while his other war axe was already cutting through the air horizontally, threatening to cut the latter in half.

Whoosh!

A serious expression immediately washed over Morris's face after seeing how dangerous the incoming strike was. But he was not an ordinary player either, so he quickly hopped back into the void before appearing on the other side of Leonard to coordinate with Gernard to assault the latter.

Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

As the three were exchanging blows with one another, Gernard and Morris swiftly repeated at the same time, opening a firing line for Aiming, who had been waiting for quite a while now.

Without any hesitation, Aiming swiftly pulled the trigger of his rifle multiple times, firing a series of shots according to his unique gunfighting technique.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

However, Leonard was already expecting something like this to happen, so he swiftly adjusted his posture and swung his war axes at the incoming storm of bullets.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Clang! Clang!

He had either blocked, deflected, or destroyed all of them in the process.

While he was busy dealing with the storm of bullets, Gernard and Morris were already moving into positions, planning to pin him in that spot.

Whoosh!

At the same time, the floor underneath his feet suddenly released an intense light, revealing a magic array drawn on it. A bunch of talismans had somehow appeared in that place, forming the array and trapping him in place.

But before this array could even be fully triggered, Leonard suddenly raised his right foot, focusing a huge amount of force and crimson energy into it before stomping into the ground.

Boom!

That stomp resulted in a huge shockwave that made the floor cave in and created a huge crater, also destroying the magic array in the process.

Seemingly expecting this, the four godly mercenaries swiftly moved and coordinately launched a series of combination attacks one after another.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Swoosh!

This would be the first time, since the start of the battle, that these four would be able to launch a coordinated attack against Leonard.

Their teamwork was not that bad, given that they were godly experts themselves. Their coordination and combined strength were more than enough to overwhelm any other gods of the game out there.

But it was different for the War God.

Leonard had gained this title for a reason. He would be fearlessly stepping forward rather than shying away from any form of adversary.

Bang!

With a firm step, Leonard had planted his feet into the ground before fixing his grip on his war axes.

Waited for a moment before suddenly brandishing his war axes around. His series of strikes looked so random, as if he was only planning to create chaos amid the coordinated attacks of the opposing side.

It was as if he were only trying to break the tempo of his opponents before breaking through their formation.

But for those with keen eyes, they could see a mysterious rhythm coming from these seemingly random attacks. There was a sense of profoundness of nature despite the chaos that he was creating.

Seemed to be a wild beast attacking all those who were attempting to cage it.

No-...

His attacks were more like a group of savage beasts that were launching a horde attack on his enemies despite being alone.

Roar!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Moreover, this series of attacks was slowly gaining an even stronger momentum with every swing of his war axes.

He might look trapped within the formation of his opponents, especially when he was never leaving more than the five-meter radius of the crater that he had created. But in truth, none of the attacks of his opponents were touching even a strand of his hair.

The four had never landed a proper attack on his body due to the crimson flashes created by his war axes.

His chaotic attacks were even suppressing Morris and Gernard while the crimson slashes and auras were constantly repelling the bullets and spells of Aiming and Calix.

For those who had a slight understanding of the Empyrean Talons, they felt that the current method that Leonard was using was somewhat familiar.

If they looked a little closer into it, this technique seemed to have shared some resemblance to the signature techniques of the two other gods of the Empyrean Talons – Battle God Sickarius and Dragon God Siegfried.

This technique that Leonard was showcasing shared some resemblance to the Infinity Edge and Dragon Dance that those two Godlike Players had.

Given his close relationship with those two, it was not strange for him not to pick up some things from them, just like how Arthur had mimicked Shin's swapping of weapons and applied some of the insights from the Infinity Edge to the principles of his Dragon Dance.

Leonard had applied some of those principles to this technique but added some of his insights in battle to suit his style.

Leonard had added to this technique the principles of the Yin-Yang Stance and Yin-Yang Twists of Shin's swordsmanship, which controlled every muscle within the body and the absorption and release of the force from every collision he made with his opponents' attacks.

As for what he had learned from the Dragon Dance of Arthur, it was the application of the combination of foot technique and other body movements with all kinds of offensive maneuvers.

But instead of using the 'Dragon Ascension Steps', which Arthur majored in, Leonard applied this principle with his unique foot technique, which was the 'Devil's Footprints'.

Leonard called this new battle technique the 'Bestial Barrage' because of the nature of his martial arts.

...

It was quite hard to notice these small details from another person's perspective due to the mixture of the unique tempo and pattern that Leonard was using, especially when he made it like that to suit his crazy, brutal, and straightforward personality when it came to fighting.

But for those with a great understanding of the three, they would be able to realize how these three were pushing each other to the limits and made one another stronger.

"These three brothers sure know how to take advantage of each other's rivalry to fuel their passion to become stronger," mumbled David to himself as he watched the intense battle between Leonard and the four members of the Earners Mercenary Group.

He could not help but admire their brotherhood while also treating each other as rivals.

There was an old saying that the path of genius was lonely due to not having anyone worthy enough to become their rivals.

But those who were born into the same era as another with equal talent were truly blessed since they could push each other to reach greater heights.

"Tsk! This sure brings a lot of memories," David clicked his tongue, acting as if he were some old monster from ancient generations.

But there was some truth in it, which was why he chose to become a 'Wanderer', who roamed through the world and challenged other geniuses from overseas.

This was also how he had built his reputation around the world and become one of the brightest stars of his generation, rivaling the great talents of those major continents.

After that, he paused for a moment before turning his head to another part of the map, where a certain individual was about to break out of his shell and reach a greater height.

"It might be a struggle, but this will truly help them greatly in the long run," he chuckled before continuing his job as a commentator of the match.

Chapter 1807: The Roar of the War God (Part 4)

...

The people in the audience stood, and the live broadcast could not help but go crazy after seeing Leonard doing a 1-vs-4 battle against three Maverick Gods and one Godlike Player.

They could not stop themselves from shouting wildly and flooding the live chat with different memes and emoticons to show their reactions.

Even the top experts watching the battle could not help but feel amazed by the display of the War God. They knew that there were still some gaps between godly experts of the game, but the ones that Leonard was fighting were all top-notch experts in their respective fields, making this battle even more stunning.

None of these four godly experts was weak, so showing that he was able to fight against them without losing his ground showed how overpowered he was.

He truly lived up to be one of the Godlike Players standing at the very pinnacle of the Godly Ranking List.

He was ranked fifth at the moment, so it was not hard to understand how amazing his feats were.

Naturally, the top expert analysts of the game also realized where this gap was coming from.

The Transcendent Race and Class, the Elemental Spirit Companions, and great mastery of the combat state, along with pinnacle martial arts – these were the main factors that greatly separated Leonard and the rest of the top gods from the rest of the experts within the game.

As someone with Transcendent Race and Class, Leonard naturally had a lot of advantages compared to the rest of the players.

Even if this gap was being narrowed down by the current progress of the game, such as the newly acquired abilities of those who had managed to reach the Tier 3 Classes, there was still a gap that had been built up through the earlier stages of the game.

Those who had passed the trials of Tier 3 Classes through regular races and classes to become Epics had managed to gain the Extraordinary Powers, which could somehow rival the contracts of the Transcendent Beings with the Elemental Spirits.

But these powers still needed to be nurtured through a lot of trials before the individual could perfectly wield them to their full potential.

It was the same for the Ascended Abilities of Ascended Beings. After all, becoming an Ascended Race was not easy, as it required an individual to fully understand their Ascended Class before they could fully become an Ascended Being.

The Ascended Class was only a guide to the process of evolution, and only those with great talent and deep insights could hasten this process before reaching the desirable outcome.

Even then, it still required quite a lot of time and effort to fully master the newly acquired powers of the players would get through this process.

This was the gap that had been built up by those Transcendent Beings compared to the others.

But given the current process of the game, it would not take that long before this gap was slowly bridged by the most talented players, who happened to have terrible luck in the early stages of the game.

Adding all of these factors alongside Leonard's top-notch combat prowess, it was not that strange for him to somewhat overpower his opponents.

But everyone also knew that this situation could not last that long. After all, it was impossible for Leonard to keep this up for a long time.

Even if he was the unparalleled War God, he still had his limits.

...

Leonard understood his current situation more than anyone else. Knew that despite his current oppression toward his opponents, his limits would still arrive sooner or later.

He knew that he had to do something else before it was too late.

"I have to at least drag one or two of them with me before I fall," he mumbled to himself before a decisive look flashed through his eyes.

Considering all the options that he had on the table, he knew that it was somewhat impossible to reach Aiming and Calix given the current situation.

Having that thought, his eyes suddenly turned fierce as he looked at Gernard. At this moment, the best options were to trade blows for blows.

He would be trading his Health Points to deal more damage against these guys.

Roar!

Activating three-fold berserk skills, Leonard started focusing his attack on Gernard while ignoring all the damage that was being dealt to him.

Bang!

(-100,231)

"What the heck!?" Gernard was almost terrified after seeing the damage that Leonard had dealt to him, despite somewhat nullifying the force behind that strike with his shield.

But it did not end there as Leonard started swinging his war axes down without rest.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

(-50,235), (-69,231), (-75, 203)

Leonard repeatedly pounded Gernard with a series of heavy strikes, forcing the latter to almost kneel on the ground.

Naturally, Leonard had exchanged this series of damage with a series of blows coming from the other three people. But due to his decreasing health bar, his attack speed, physical damage, and resistances were rapidly increasing due to the Berserk Passive that most of the Berserker Classes possessed.

Leonard possessed the Destroyer Class, which was a Transcendent Class, so the multipliers that he was getting from this passive were much higher compared to the regular classes.

Adding that he was under the effects of Elemental Spirit Possession, these multipliers reached an absurd level that caused his opponents to be terrified.

"Go! Deal as much damage as we can!" shouted Aiming as he started firing with more advanced skills with the best of his abilities.

Unfortunately, the damage that they were dealing seemed to be helping Leonard more due to the broken stat boosts that he was receiving, the lower his health bar got.

Moreover, due to these boosts in stats, he could also move much faster than before. This gave him the ability to at least avoid getting hit by much stronger skills or spells while maximizing his damage to Gernard.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Gernard did everything he could to defend himself, but it was also getting harder to avoid his opponent's attacks due to Leonard's overwhelming strength.

Leonard was already a powerful monster earlier. But adding these broken passives of the Berserker Classes, this monster slowly became an unstoppable Primordial Beast that could strike fear into anyone who was fighting it.

Boom!

When Leonard's health bar reached the fifty percent mark, the damage that he was dealing reached an unparalleled level.

(-200,782)

The final strike that ended Gernard's life had also landed, causing the other three to pause their movements.

In their eyes, Leonard had fully become a horrifying beast of the legends.

Shiver!

When Leonard turned his eyes on them, the three could not help but tremble intensely, causing them to take a step back subconsciously.

Their instincts were telling them to run away from this place as fast as possible, especially after those terrifying eyes of the beast locked on their figures.

But they still gritted their teeth and held their ground while looking at Leonard with full caution.

Bang!

The next instant, Leonard suddenly disappeared from their sight, sending an even more intense shiver down their spines.

When they finally regained their senses, his figure was already upon Calix, dragging his war axes in the air and about to slam them down at the latter.

"So fast!?"

Calix was almost frozen in shock after seeing the terrifying figure before him. He knew that it was already too late to run after seeing the war axes cleaving down at him.

Shing!

But before those war axes could even cleave his body in half, Morris suddenly appeared in between them while raising his swords.

Whoosh!

Boom!

(-150,213)

When the war axes collided against the pair of swords, Morris could not help but kneel to the ground, trying to withstand the heavy force hidden behind the destructive strike.

He was even spitting out blood after receiving huge damage from the collision. Even the hard floor underneath him was almost shattered into powder after he transferred some of the force into it.

He now understood how scary it was for Gernard to face such a monster head-on. Now that he was in this situation, he knew that he would not last that long, especially when his class did not focus on defense, unlike Knight Classes.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Not waiting for Leonard to continue, Aiming swiftly raised his rifle and started firing without restraint.

Swoosh!

But Leonard just tilted his head to the side, dodging those bullets targeting his head while ignoring the rest.

He then proceeded to his offense.

...

Boom!

When Leonard's health bar finally hit zero, Aiming was almost at the critical state, only having a quarter of his total health bar.

He could not help but stare at Leonard with full awe and fear. His eyes were filled with respect and amazement, unable to say anything.

It took him quite a while before he mumbled in a low voice. "Truly worthy of the War God Title."

Sweeping his eyes at the surroundings and seeing the devastated place, Aiming could not help but get reminded of the terrifying experience that he had just undergone.

On the ground, there were the corpses of his three other teammates, who had struggled against Leonard.

That's right! Leonard had managed to kill three of the four godly experts before he finally fell. He had even almost killed Aiming in the final moments if not for Aiming having a range class.

It took Aiming quite a while before he was finally able to regain his composure before heading to the central hall.

The match had yet to end, there were still those guys that they had to deal with. This was not the end.

Chapter 1808: Breakout of Shell

...

The moment Leonard had fallen, the audience was already beyond crazy due to the amazing display that he had just shown everyone.

He might have fallen under Aiming's gun in the end. But the fact that he had almost killed the latter on top of already defeating the three Maverick Gods was more than enough to tell everyone of his battle prowess.

The prestige of War God Simba was truly worthy of his name.

But the people had no time to fully appreciate his amazingness due to what was happening in the other part of the map, the Central Hall.

The battle happening in this place had already reached a whole new level.

The side of the Empyrean Talons had also suffered some casualties from this side. Ithilien, Daulla, and Archimedes had also fallen due to the strange skills that Sylas had used, copying the skills of everyone and using them against their original users.

This resulted in a massive shift in the situation on the battlefield.

With only Owen, Cloe, and Alice on the field, the situation was not looking good for them, even if they had also taken down one of the healers of the opposing side due to Diablo suddenly appearing and launching a perfect ambush.

Unfortunately, the opposing side had responded well, forcing him to retreat immediately after.

Akailu had also arrived at this point, helping the rest of the team to stabilize the situation. He had worked with Owen to protect Alice and Cloe.

Sylas had dropped everything else as he swiftly chased after Diablo, pinning the latter down and preventing the Shadow Dancer from creating chaos on their side.

But when the situation had stabilized, everyone could not help but pause for a moment after receiving the notification from the system about the deaths of their team members.

The faces of the Earners Mercenary Group could not help but turn somewhat ugly after seeing Gernard, Calix, and Morris die one after another.

Adding Sakura, Yamamoto, and Maris, who were just killed recently, their group had already lost six members.

They might have also taken down some members of the opposing side, but those guys were not the key players of the Empyrean Talons, making the 'trade' unfavorable for them.

They might have taken down Leonard, but he had traded his life for three Maverick Gods, making their losses much worse.

Even if those three were not their strongest members, they were only a level or two below Flouree, Sylas, and Kael, who were among the top-notch gods of the game.

Moreover, there was also Aiming, the Sniping God, on their side, who was not weaker than the top-ranking gods of the game. This loss was not only about the trade, but it could also affect the morale of their members to a certain degree.

Flouree knew that they had to find a way to restore their confidence or at least mend the crack in their morale.

Meanwhile, the members of the Empyrean Talons could not help but wear a solemn expression after learning that Leonard, the War God, had fallen.

Even if the trade was quite worth it, the blow to the other members of the team was still quite impactful, somewhat affecting their morale.

Especially for Akailu, who felt that he was truly useless since the start of the match. He could not help but feel a little guilt as he was unable to help Leonard previously and had no other choice but to run.

He felt that if he was a little bit more useful in that instance, then they might be able to wipe out the other side without needing Leonard to sacrifice himself.

Or at least, Akailu could have traded himself in exchange for those four, allowing Leonard to survive, which was also a much better outcome.

Unfortunately, there was no such thing as 'what ifs' in the battle, so there was no time for regret.

All they could do was focus on what was in front of them and continue what they were supposed to do.

All Akailu could do now was to make up for his earlier uselessness and find a way to be useful in this battlefield.

While he was thinking about all these, his mind could not help but wander a little, making him recall all his training sessions with Leonard and the rest of the key figures of the team.

He was also reminded of his previous Tier 3 Promotion Quest, which started to give him some clearer ideas about the nature of his race and class.

Then his line of thought returned to the time when Leonard was instructing him about the different and unique features of every beast form and such.

It was at that moment when something seemed to have clicked inside his head. Along with the intense sense of guilt and internal struggle that he had been suffering since the start of the battle, the pressure had thrown him into a mysterious trance.

He had fallen into a deep sense of enlightenment.

Because of this, he could not see the spells and skills raining down at him, causing him to get killed in a single round of attacks and die in such a foolish manner.

Even the people watching the match were too surprised by what had just happened, causing them to throw a series of insults at him.

They felt that Simba's sacrifice was disregarded by this useless scum, throwing the opportunity that had been given to him.

Even the rest of the Empyrean Talons did not know how to react to what they had just seen. But unlike the audience, they did not immediately blame Akailu as they had realized the strange state that the latter was in.

They did not know what had happened, but they felt that it was something good in the long run.

Meanwhile, Akailu was oblivious to all these due to his falling into a state of deep enlightenment. He did not even know that he had already been killed. He was too lost in these thoughts and unable to pull himself out until everything ended.

Those with sharper eyes and keener senses immediately noticed the strange state that Akailu was in. But due to everything happening a little too fast, they were not too sure about their thoughts and only took it as some sort of misconception.

They were thinking that it was just their minds playing tricks on them.

But for David, who had been paying close attention to everyone, he had a rough idea of what had happened, especially when he was already somewhat aware of Akailu's situation.

He had already foreseen this happening, but he was still not expecting it to be this early. It was supposed to be a few more days, or at least after this match. However, things seemed to be a little more serious for Akailu to reach this state.

David was not sure what exactly had happened, but he could at least some guesses about the situation.

As for the situation within the match, David found it a little more interesting, especially after seeing that everyone was about to gather at the Central Hall.

Since he could see it, the live audience and online viewers naturally could see it as well.

They then started fixing their posture and eagerly awaited what was about to happen next.

...

Bang! Bang!

Bang! Bang!

As the battle between the Earners Mercenary Group and Empyrean Talons was reaching the highest point of intensity, a series of gunshots suddenly reverberated in the entire place.

This series of gunshots came from two different directions and headed toward different targets.

Aiming and Alucard had arrived almost at the same time and started firing at each team's key members. The former targeted Cloe and Alice while the other was trying to take down Flouree and Matilda.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

As the rain of bullets were heading to their respective targets, Owen and Wang Zhou moved almost at the same time, protecting their respective members.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The two marksmen did not think about anything else. They ignored the fact that their earlier attacks were blocked and directed their aim at each other.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Not long after, they started firing at one another, having another shooting contest.

They had resumed utilizing their respective sets of gunfighting techniques, trying to test who would be the true king of guns.

This made the situation within the central hall even more chaotic, testing each other's limits.

But this was not the end yet, since more people arrived after it.

The first was Kael, who came rushing into this place after running away from Shin and the others. He immediately started bombarding the members of the Empyrean Talons with his elemental spells that were not weaker than Flouree's spells.

This quickly put the Empyrean Talons on the back foot.

But before the Earners Mercenary Group could even capitalize on their advantage, Shin led Chaotic Luck and Huahua into joining the battle and started turning the situation around.

However, the situation was quickly put in a stalemate right after each team had reorganized itself before preparing for the fighting exchange.

Chapter 1809: Total Chaos (Part 1)

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Right after reorganizing themselves, Shin quickly issued a series of commands. "Arielle (Cloe) will be taking over the command. Lead Chaos and Little Hua at organizing their forces."

"Owen will still hold the front while Charlotte (Alice) and Alucard provide support in the distance. Diablo, try to sneak into their backline and eliminate their healer and the others if possible."

"I will keep their key members busy," he added as he stepped forward, seemingly planning to charge at the opposing ranks by himself.

The aura that he was currently emitting was so suffocating that it even affected his teammates to a certain degree.

There seemed to be boiling rage within him that was ready to erupt at any given moment. It was like a hyperactive volcano that was about to erupt.

Crackle! Crackle!

The raging Five Elemental Primordial Lightning danced around his body as he continued to step forward.

The other members were not sure about the situation as it was quite rare for them to see Shin this agitated. They did not believe that it was because of what happened to Leonard, as they all knew that it was just a part of the competition.

Moreover, Leonard had also exchanged his life for three strong members of the opposing side, which greatly helped them offset the advantages of their opponents in terms of the quality of their members.

The audience could also see somewhat the strange state that Shin was in. They felt that he was blaming himself for not doing well in the previous exchanges with Kael.

They were thinking that Shin was somewhat regretful that he did not manage to take down Kael, who seemed to be a key figure in the opposing ranks.

If he managed to do that, then their job would be much easier than what they were facing right now. In that case, the sacrifice that War God Simba had would be much more effective.

Other than these reasons, everyone could not think of any other reason why Shin was this worked up.

Meanwhile, it was a completely different view from Cloe's perspective. She could not help but smile bitterly and sigh helplessly after seeing Shin act this way.

It was neither Leonard's death nor the self-blame that everyone was thinking of. Instead, it was excitement.

That was right!

She could see that Shin was currently in a very excited state that she and his two sworn brothers rarely saw in him.

Shin was currently in a state where he was too eager to test the abilities of these people, who had managed to force Leonard into such a state.

Shin might still be unfamiliar with the true prestige of Leonard within the virtual world, as he was still quite 'new' in the gaming community. But he could at least tell that the latter was very powerful and quite ahead of him within the game.

He might have already caught up to Arthur and Leonard in terms of strength within the virtual world, but his prestige was still somewhat lacking when compared to the reputation that those two had built up by playing multiple games in the last few years.

Particularly Arthur, who loved to show off and jumped into the center of the spotlight all the time.

At this moment, Shin was having an urge to go all-out and challenge the opposing side by himself.

Or at least all their key members.

Crackle! Crackle!

As the lightning surrounding his body became more violent, each of his steps became more hurried and heavier in response.

Whatever was hidden within him seemed to be about to erupt at any given moment now.

...

In the meantime, the members of the Earners Mercenary Group quickly reorganized themselves after regrouping.

They were planning to set up their formation as soon as they could before the opposing side could even lay down their forces.

After all, the fame of the Legion of the Chaotic Sun was not just for show. Kael had even told him what most of them could do with their forces.

Moreover, the group was also aware of the notorious combo of this legion along with the Gentle Goddess.

Arielle was known for being the number one healer within the game, which was why she could showcase her true abilities in group battles.

But when it came to warfare, which involved huge armies or legions, the impact that she could make was much more devastating than what a normal healer could do.

Her healing spells were not just meant for team battles but were also very effective in large-scale battles. Her massive buffs and large-scale healing were such a cheat in wars.

What made it worse for them was the type of army that the Empyrean Talons possessed.

Undeads.

These were the undying creatures that could not be killed that easily.

Usually, Undead Creatures were countered by Holy Powers and Sacred Attributes. Sometimes, there were also fire and lightning elements that could harm them to a certain degree.

These were the known counters for Undead Monsters.

Unfortunately, such weaknesses did not apply to the Legion of Chaotic Sun. Holy Powers and Sacred Attributes were more like a buff to these strange creatures rather than harming them.

Adding Cloe into the equation, the might of this legion had risen exponentially.

But still, it was not the end yet since Huahua was now added to the mix, who majored in shamanic spells. Her totem formations and ghost army had directly made the forces of the Empyrean Talons more powerful.

Even if Cloe could not heal the ghost soldiers, vengeful spirits, and such, she could still assist them through other means.

She could also ignore these forces and treat them as some sort of cannon fodder while she focused on supporting Chaotic Luck and his legion.

These were the reasons why the Earners Mercenary Group was avoiding facing the Empyrean Talons and the might of their army.

They had arranged multiple countermeasures to suppress the legion and weaken their forces to the lowest point.

The presences of Flouree, Kael, and Crimson were all meant to counter this legion with their overwhelming and destructive firepower.

Unfortunately for them, the main factor that would decide this battle was not about Chaotic Luck's the Legion of the Chaotic Sun, Cloe's healing and auxiliary spells, and Huahua's totem formation.

Instead, it was the might of a single person, whom they had 'neglected' due to the presence of the huge army.

Boom!

As Flouree was organizing their formation and giving out her orders, a loud explosion from the opposing side had suddenly erupted, followed by a flash of light.

They had been keeping their eyes on every member of the Empyrean Talons, so they knew what had just happened.

They all saw Shin moving toward them before erupting with an explosive charge that released a strong current of lightning.

The flash of light was also produced by this lightning, which somewhat blinded them for an instant.

It might be short, but it was more than enough for Shin to reach their ranks while taking advantage of their temporary blindness.

Swoosh!

Crackle! Crackle!

The scorching scent of the air immediately assaulted the noses of everyone as Shin approached them.

Fortunately, Wang Zhou, who had always kept his guard up until now, swiftly responded and placed himself in front of the incoming streak of light before it could even reach the center of their force.

Even if he was blinded by that flash of light, he was still able to respond accordingly by relying on his memory and rich battle instincts.

Swoosh!

BOOM!

His shield had greeted the incoming strike, almost blasting him from his position.

If not for his superior defensive stats and sturdy build, he would have most likely been blown away by this attack.

Unfortunately, Shin had already flown over him and landed at the center of their formation before anyone could react.

That blinding light earlier was more than enough for him to reach them and break through their ranks without a problem.

Of course, it was also because he had caught them off guard. They did not expect him to be this decisive while the rest of his team was still in the middle of organizing their formation.

Shin did not even wait for them to respond, as he suddenly raised his right foot and accumulated a huge amount of lightning energy into it.

Swoosh!

He then stomped into the floor, sending a destructive shockwave that made the hard floor to sunk and create a small crater that extended up to 10-meter radius.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Foot Technique – Thunderclap Step'

Boom!

Crackle! Crackle!

At the same time, a violent storm of lightning currents spread in every direction, attempting to paralyze the group.

"Nature's Stream!"

But before the paralyzing effects could even affect everyone, Matilda had already reacted and used a buff that protected them from being immobilized by the lightning currents.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

At the same time, the group had swiftly distanced themselves from Shin, particularly those meant to stand at the blackline, while Sylas and Wang Zhou charged at Shin.

The two were planning to trap Shin while the rest bombarded him with their respective attacks. They were planning to punish him for being too bold to charge at them all by himself.

Click!

But before they could even execute the plans inside their head, they suddenly heard a subtle sound of the [Yamato] being separated from its sheath.

A sudden premonition befell everyone, warning them about the danger.

Swoosh!

They quickly responded as they further retreated away from Shin while still firing their skills and spells at him.

But this time, Sylas and Wang Zhou did not dare to get near him, choosing to guard the others over pinning Shin in place.

Shing!

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

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom!

It was at that moment when a series of sword flashes suddenly surrounded Shin and formed a dome that both cut through and protected him from the skills and spells that were raining down at him from every direction.

This scene stunned everyone as he stood in the middle of the chaotic explosions while maintaining the final posture of his previous technique.

This then ignited the start of another round of chaotic battle.

Chapter 1810: Total Chaos (Part 2)

.....

Chaos!

Utter Chaos!

These were the only words that could describe the current situation on the battlefield.

With Shin's initial assault, the formation that the Earners Mercenary Group had prepared had turned into a serious mess. He not only broke their formation, but he had also messed up their tempo in battle as well.

Taking advantage of the situation, the rest of the Empyrean Talons jumped into action and started attacking the opposing side with their respective means.

Due to the combination of the Legion of the Chaotic Sun, the series of Totem Formations, and Cloe's healing and buffing abilities, the side of the Earners Mercenary Group had suffered serious damage.

Fortunately, they were strong enough to ward off most of the attacks of the blazing skeletons and the rest of the Empyrean Talons, reorganizing themselves.

But before they could even fully regain their footing, Shin had created another chaos, where he was constantly attacking any member of the mercenary group near him. There was no specific target in his mind as he would only attack those that could be attacked.

It was as if he were planning to challenge all the members of the opposing side all by himself.

This threw the members of the Earners Mercenary Group into complete chaos, not knowing how to deal with this crazy Battle God in the midst of their ranks.

Since the strongest members of their mercenary group in this competition needed to suppress the legion of blazing skeletons with their firepower, one of Flouree and Kael needed to focus most of their attention on that side of the battlefield.

Crimson's Cannon Master might be able to deal with most of the forces given the destructive nature of his class, but it was not enough, especially when Cloe and Huahua were assisting the entire legion with their auxiliary spells.

The illusions that Lucid was creating were not effective on the blazing skeletons either, since they were already dead, did not possess a mind of their own. Illusions were useless against 'dead' creatures.

This was why one of them needed to assist the cannon master to avoid being swarmed by the legion from all sides.

But even after that, the other one needed to deal with the destructive spells that the Elemental Goddess was throwing at them.

Kael chose to fight Charlotte (Alice) in a magic showdown, where both majored in Elemental Magic of the Elves.

The battle between the two was beyond imagination, almost affecting the entirety of the battlefield.

The stray spells from their clashes exploded in different parts of the central hall, which Kael had taken advantage of to deal some blow against the legion of their opposition.

At the same time, another matchup continued between Aiming and Alucard. Neither side wants to admit defeat nor their inferiority to one another.

They continued to showcase their gunfighting techniques, trying to take each other down while also assisting on the entire battlefield.

Matilda was under the constant threat of Shin, who was responsible for this chaos, and Diablo, who was taking advantage of the chaos for his assassination.

If not for the combined efforts of Sylas and Lucid, who remained by her side and protected her, then she would have most likely been assassinated earlier.

On the other hand, Wang Zhou, who had already revealed most of his cards like the Ancient Suppressing Stele, was busy at warding off the advances of the legion and preventing them from reaching the backline.

Each side was already using their respective trump cards at this point.

Alice, Shin, and Diablo were already using their respective Elemental Spirit Possessions while Owen had fully activated his Divine Tattoo.

On the side of the Earners Mercenary Group, everyone had also activated their respective means, just like their Ascended Abilities and Extraordinary Powers enhanced by Ancient Methods.

This made the battle even more intense and chaotic.

In the meantime, in one of the VIP Rooms at the live stand, there was a pair of players watching all these with calm eyes.

"It looks like we have lost, Black Phoenix," said the person, who was sitting on the sofa in a somewhat comfortable and haughty manner.

The woman standing behind him gave him a respectful bow, followed by an apology. "It seems like leaving this job to Flouree is still too much for her, Boss. She is still too young after all."

The man sneered when he heard those words before shaking his head. "It is not like that."

He then focused his gaze on the battle, particularly putting a lot of attention on the key members of the Empyrean Talons. "We have just not expected to bump into these guys this early."

He then focused more on Shin as he continued. "Especially with such a monstrous guy."

"Simba and Sigfried are already plenty enough. But adding this guy in the mix only makes things even more difficult," he added with a sigh.

It was as if he had already expected their loss despite the stalemate on the battlefield.

He then dropped the subject as he asked. "How about the job that I have asked you? Have they found the other inheritances of the four guardian beasts?"

Black Phoenix nodded her head as she answered. "We have gotten the clue about the Black Tortoise Inheritance."

"But it seems to be in the hands of a certain elderly NPC at the Alfheim Kingdom. It will not be easy for us to launch a large-scale operation in there."

She then paused for a moment, hesitating. She then gritted her teeth and continued. "As for the Yellow Qilin Inheritance, I am afraid that we have yet to find any clue about it."

The man nodded his head before waving his head.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, a pair of miniature beasts appeared and flew around his hand. It was a vermillion bird and an azure dragon.

"I've heard that one of the rewards of this season's United Cup is a clue about the White Tiger Inheritance, which is why I sent those guys. But it seems like our chances of winning it are quite slim, given that we are already losing the first matchup in the playoffs."

"I originally wanted to win that item to prevent others from participating in the trial, but it looks like we have to adjust our plans for it," he mumbled as he thought of something.

After a few moments, he suddenly said. "Issue a Black Grade Command. Tell everyone with Elven Bloodline or Inheritances to drop whatever they are doing in the Divine Empire and shift their area of operation to the Alfheim Kingdom."

"Eh!? But Boss-... isn't this a little too early to pull our forces from-..." Black Phoenix wanted to say something first, but the man quickly cut her off.

"Don't worry. It is not 'early' as it seems," he paused for a moment as he continued. "A huge change is about to sweep the entire game. I am sure the other forces are also already preparing for it."

"As for the Trial of the White Tiger. Let the Second Command participate in it himself. Tell him that he can bring the Black Grade Mercenaries if he wants them."

"He has been too idle lately. It is better to let him handle these things so he can stretch that body of his, or else he will only gain more weight, even if it's just a game," he added with a sigh.

Black Phoenix did not immediately respond to it, as she could read some hidden implications in those words.

She hesitated for a moment before finally asking. "But what about Flouree?"

The man sneered as he heard that and answered. "Didn't you say that she is still too young to handle this? Then go bring her to do missions and further train her foundations."

"Eh!? But Boss! I am also busy with a lot of things," she said dejectedly, half complaining.

Giving her a sidelong glance, the man sneered. "What!? Do you also want to be fat like the Second Command?"

The expression on Black Phoenix's face immediately turned dark when she heard those words. She gritted her teeth as she responded. "I may like sweets, but I am not fat, Boss!"

The man chuckled as he waved his hand. "Anyway, just do what I said. The rest, do as you see fit. I know that you can handle them well."

Black Phoenix nodded her head before remembering something. "Ah! There is also another serious matter, Boss."

They did not need to know what she was trying to say, as he was also fully aware of it. "Is it about Zero? I know that he has been giving us a lot of trouble since that incident, but we can't do anything to quell his anger."

"Let's tolerate him for now. He can throw as many tantrums as he wants for now, since we have too many things on our hands. Once we are done, then I will personally deal with him."

He then waved his hand, signifying that he did not want to hear about this matter any longer. He then turned his gaze to the match and watched for a while before shaking his head.

He stood up and prepared to leave, seemingly knowing the outcome of the match. "Let's go. There is no need to watch this any longer. Our side has already lost since the War God has dealt that blow in their minds."

There was a disappointed look on his face as he left the VIP Room. But the target of this disappointment was still unclear.