

## **Destiny 1831**

### Chapter 1831: Patch Notes

While everyone was still busy arguing with one another about the upcoming collision between the Empyrean Talons and the Gods' Paradise at the Grand Finals of the United Cup, the World Gaming Organization had suddenly dropped a huge bomb on everyone.

On the day right before the Grand Finals, they announced the next expansion pack of the game.

Game Announcement: The Game «Destiny's Fate» Online will be undergoing another major update!

Patch Expansion: Descent of the Thousand Worlds.

The player base was suddenly taken aback by the sudden announcement, which also aroused quite a lot of suspicion.

The players had yet to fully explore the Awakened Continent since the last expansion of the game, which was mostly because of the low number of experts who were capable of reaching this second continent.

Aside from the top experts of the game, most of the mainstream players were unable to pass the trials set by the Mysterious Instructors, much less clearing the Tier 3 Promotion Quests.

The majority of the Awakened Continent had not been fully explored yet, which confused most of the players about the upcoming update.

On the other hand, those who were already aware of this sudden expansion remained calm and focused on the patch notes instead.

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“So, it comes!” said Shin as he saw the expansion name – Descent of the Thousand Worlds.

In the previous patch, the World Metamorphosis further enhanced the realistic function of the game, especially the special combat states that the players had discovered.

This then led the true experts to clear their promotion quests and break through to Tier 3 Class.

As for this ‘Descent of the Thousand Worlds’, the game seemed to be focusing on the sudden flood of experts from the real world. They seemed to be taking advantage of the huge influx of players to ‘release’ the ‘trapped’ Beta Testers from the other realms.

The sudden entry of the Void Manifestation Martial Artists, Rulers Realm Mentalists, and Swordmasters from the real world alongside the release of the Beta Testers would greatly affect the balance of the game, making it even more chaotic.

Shin and the others felt such a huge change would greatly affect the current state of the game.

Even the top gods of the game felt a huge pressure coming from the upcoming patch, making them crazily prepare for the upcoming change.

Continuing to read the rest of the patch notes, Shin and the others realized that the so-called Descent of the Thousand Worlds was not that simple.

Based on the background of the patch, the huge Demonic Gate at the Dark Cloud Kingdom had started to affect the membrane or canopy that was protecting the Atlas World, leading to other dimensions to connect a portal into it and descend to the world.

Fortunately, opening these portals was not that easy. The players had to meet certain requirements and complete a series of quests before these portals were opened.

The so-called portal gates were numerous and scattered in every part of the world, so the players needed to explore every corner of the first and second continents before they could even find them.

Aside from gaining access to the resources of different dimensions, the players could also find a lot of benefits by exploring the other side of each portal.

Not only could the creatures and beings from the other side portal descend into the Atlas World, but the players could also do the same to those mysterious realms.

This seemed to be a give and take for both sides, but it would not be that easy.

Those creatures and races from foreign realms were slightly more powerful than the average players of the game.

It was mentioned that the Beta Testers who were waiting for this opportunity had halted their advancement due to the restrictions of the game. Unless they reached the main world (main servers), they were unable to continue leveling up and progress in the game.

Regardless, the average level of these Beta Testers was quite high. The weakest among them were at least Level 200, while the strongest were between Level 250 and Level 260.

It was a piece of common knowledge for everyone that leveling up from Level 150 and up was much harder compared to those below the Tier 3 Mark, so learning that the Beta Testers were at least Level 200 shocked almost everyone.

Even an idiot knew that it was not a good idea to open these portals unless they reached such levels, or else they would be overwhelmed by those people from the other side of the dimensional gates.

New Realms, new opportunities – this was the major slogan of the upcoming patch.

The players could convert into new races, new classes, new abilities, and such after exploring those foreign realms, which greatly enhanced their strengths before coming back to the Atlas World.

This was one of the categories of the realms that the players could explore. Such dimensions would be called the 'Land of Opportunities'.

Among these realms, the largest and most anticipated would be the realms connected to Hell.

That's right! The same Hell that was already connected to the Atlas World.

This major realm – the Hell – was just a cluster of multiple 'smaller' realms that formed a whole new system.

The only realms that would be released were as follows:

The Infernal Realm – the Land of Blazing Demons. It was a world filled with flames, where sinful souls were also burned for eternity.

The Nether Realm – the Land of Extreme Coldness. It was the extreme opposite of the Infernal Realm and hosted the True Ice and Frost and was filled with Dark and Yin Energy, which froze the sinful souls and sealed them forever.

The Bug Realm – the home of Bug Demons. As suggested, it was a land filled with bug-type demons. It was also the realm that was currently connected to the Atlas World.

These were the three 'minor' realms that were released for this patch. The others were yet to be released unless the players found them early.

These three realms were the main target of the players from the Evil Faction, mainly the Demonic and Corrupted Players. Such places would be a paradise for them.

If the Evil Faction had these Hell Realms, then the players from the Righteous Faction had the Spirit Realms.

As the name suggested, it was a realm filled with spirits, most likely Elemental Spirits.

That's right, Elemental Spirits.

In this realm, players with different races, such as Transcendent, Ascended, and Epic Races, could enter these Spirit Realms with one purpose only. It was a chance to form a contract with an Elemental Spirit.

The players were confused about these Elemental Spirits at first, but when they read the description about them, they could not help but go crazy.

These Elemental Spirits were one of the Trump Cards of players with Transcendent Race and Class!

Thinking about the special ‘forms’ that the top gods of the game have during their battles, such as Battle God Sickarius, Dragon God Siegfried, War God Simba, Martial God Ashura, Sword God Zero, the players could not help but fantasize about themselves gaining such forms.

Unfortunately, every player could only form a contract with a single Elemental from these Spirit Realms, regardless of whether they were Transcendent or not.

It was a pity, but the people understood the reason behind this. It was because it would be a cheat if those Transcendent Beings could form multiple contacts within the Spirit Realms.

Given the advantages that they had over the other beings, they could form an unlimited number of Elemental Spirits if they entered these Spirit Realms. Thus, everyone was only given a single contract.

However, it was more than enough for these players. After all, the Ascended Beings and Epic Races already had their Ascended Abilities and Extraordinary Powers, respectively, that could match the Elemental Spirit Possessions of Transcendent Beings. Having an extra card was already a huge boost to them.

It was kind of ‘unfair’ for Transcendent Beings, but they also understood the logic behind the restrictions. Moreover, they already had a lot of advantages over the others, so there was no point in complaining about it.

But the other benefits of these Spirit Realms for everyone were the opportunity to further evolve their contracted Elemental Spirits after staying in these realms for a certain period. So long as they completed the necessary requirements and quests related to those Elementals, then they could proceed to the evolution process.

Of course, it was also quite obvious that such quests would be very challenging to clear. After all, Elemental Spirits were already broken trump cards, so it was only reasonable to have such strict and difficult requirements.

In the end, these realms still became a 'hidden' boost for Transcendent Beings due to this special feature.

The next realm category was called the 'Land in the Sky'.

The realms related to this category were filled with flying mounts. That was right, flying mounts. The game company was finally releasing the flying mounts as a mainstream mount for players.

The Awakened Continent was very huge, so huge that it was almost impossible to explore.

The distance between the cities and the hunting grounds was quite huge, making it hard for the players to explore different maps and such.

The return scrolls and such were quite expensive, making it much harder for the players.

Their pets, which could also be used as mounts, so long as they fit the requirements, were quite helpful.

However, it was still hard to explore such a vast land with just these land mounts alone.

With the release of these flying mounts, the exploration of the Awakened Continent would progress much faster than ever.

The transport of goods and materials would be much easier as well.

These realms made everyone very excited. But the most excited of them all were the huge guilds, who found it extremely greedy for these realms.

Not only could these guilds and organizations make the transport of their goods much easier, but they could also expand their military forces in the air with the help of these flying mounts.

If there were realms related to the flying mounts, then there should be realms related to water as well. The 'Land of the Depths' was the next category, which would be filled with aquatic mounts that could help the players explore the sea and ocean.

Seeing these two realm categories, Shin could not help but frown deeply as he found it troublesome for the arrangements that they had made.

Shin and Shiella had established the secret guild, Deicide, as an elite group specializing in aerial strife, aquatic battles, and jungle warfare. The members of these guilds were soldiers or cadets from the military who specialized in these three areas.

Their races also specialized in such battles, just like the Winged Race, Ocean Naga, and Beastmen, which were complemented with respective classes.

With the addition of the Flying Mounts and Aquatic Mounts, Shin felt that the advantage of this guild over the others would greatly reduce.

But at the same time, he also felt that it was a great opportunity for them. So long as they acquired more Flying and Aquatic Mounts to arm these forces, their advantages would further enhance exponentially.

He felt that he had to remind Shiella to let Deicide focus on these realms rather than the others.

As for the realms where the Beta Testers were 'trapped', they were scattered across these countless realms.

After reading through the entire patch notes, Shin could not help but sigh. He felt that this upcoming patch would be either a blessing or a disaster, depending on which perspective they looked from.

His first guess about the upcoming expansion was right, particularly the exploration of the other realms.

Fortunately, he had already made some arrangements at the Dark Cloud Kingdom, which would help them when the time came.

But all of it needed to be set aside for the time being since they had to focus on their upcoming match for now.

Chapter 1832: Grand Finals!

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At long last, the highly anticipated Grand Finals of the United Cup had finally arrived.

The audience filled the live stand almost instantly, even before the match started. There was still more than an hour before the match officially started, yet these excited players could not wait and logged in early and entered the live stream ahead of time.

Fortunately, Miss Bunny and David seemed to have already been expecting something like this to happen, which was why they launched the program very early. They launched the program 2 hours ahead of schedule to entertain the live audience and online viewers.

During the program, they had also invited some experts in the field of battle analysis and such to chat and discuss the upcoming match.

They presented some arguments and discussions about the possible matchups for the match and the strategies that both sides would most likely use in the upcoming battles.

They had also voiced out their thoughts and biases for this match, as well as what format they wanted to see during the match.

They openly said that they did not want to have a bunch of team competitions that could rob all points from each other. They wanted to see the standard format of the tournament, which was widely agreed upon by everyone.

For them, it was quite boring to have a single team competition all the time. Moreover, having the standard formation would also take a while to finish due to the number of rounds that it had, making everyone enjoy the match much longer.

It would also be much thrilling this way, which was why everyone preferred it.

Aside from the expert analysts, Miss Bunny had also invited some top Godlike Players through her connections. These godly experts were also not your regular gods of the game since they could highly rank in any Godly Ranking Lists.

The most famous ones were the Guild Leaders of the Titan Guild, 'God King' Zeus, and 'All-Father' Odin.

These two gods were not in any Godly Ranking Lists due to them not participating in the most recent ranking matches or the last Hegemon Cup. But no one would doubt their strength, particularly when both of them used to stand at the peak of these rankings before and even dominated most of the title tournaments that they used to participate in.

The program ran for an entire hour and a half, along with some special numbers that Miss Bunny prepared for everyone.

Some of them were the showcase of the two teams' strengths, featuring a music video that she edited, which also showed the magical effects of her skills.

The two music videos featured the matches that both teams had undergone during the entire tournament, along with the highlights that their members had during the process.

Both versions were good and featured the unique strengths and strategies of each side, but the brightest of them all was the feat that War God Simba had done during their match against the Earners Mercenary Group.

Such a 1-versus-4 scenario was quite rare in the scene due to how powerful the players of this game, particularly the apex and godly experts.

Moreover, Simba almost won the battle, making it even more stunning and particularly iconic.

Aside from this achievement, there was also the video of Uno defeating Ashura, which was way beyond everyone's logic, particularly that final strike that seemed to be capable of destroying the world.

In the final seconds of the music video dedicated to the Empyrean Talons, that final strike was featured, engraving it into everyone's mind to remind them of this scene for eternity.

The music videos, enchanted by Bunny's Magic, further enhanced everyone's excitement. The burning passion was now at its peak, waiting for the upcoming match.

Then it was further raised to a higher level when the tournament officials announced the battle format that Empyrean Talons had chosen.

As the one with the higher seed, Empyrean Talons had the home advantage first.

When it was revealed that they had chosen the standard format to challenge the defending champions, everyone could no longer hold their excitement and started shouting like crazy, since the Empyrean Talons did not disappoint them.

The standard format was equivalent to more rounds, which was also equivalent to a longer match.

Moreover, it did not take that long before the match also started.

\*Ding\*

Not long after announcing the format of the match, the system also announced the start of the grand finals.

System: United Cup Grand Finals – Empyrean Talons (Home) versus God's Paradise (Away)

System: Round 1 (Single Matches (1)) – ‘Beastmaster’ Akailu (Peak Titled Ranker) versus ‘Whale God’ Cetus.

...

“Huh!?”

Everyone was somewhat taken aback by the first matchup of the match, not expecting Akailu and Cetus to represent their respective teams in such a very important first round.

This round was not only about being the first champion of the two teams. It was not just to earn the first point of the match, but also meant to set the morale of the teams for the next few rounds.

It was to set the pace of the entirety of the match, which would greatly affect the performance of the rest of the team.

Choosing these two to take on the role as the ‘champions’ of the first round could only mean two things.

It was either that both captains fully trusted these guys or they did not care about the first round, thinking that the result would not affect the performance of the rest of the team later.

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While everyone was still processing the information inside their heads, the guys behind this arrangement could not help but complement one another.

"Tsk! What a tricky guy. It seems like he knows how to set the pace as well," said Ashura after seeing Akailu on the field.

"It looks like they have seen through our plans. That guy is quite interesting," commented Shin right after seeing Cetus representing God's Paradise for such an important match.

The others might not be able to see through the schemes that both sides tried to do by sending Akailu and Cetus for the first Single Match, but each fully understood what the other side was planning to do.

After all, they were the ones who had planned such a setup.

"So, they are focusing on Group Battle and Team Competitions like we have expected," said Ashura while turning to Lia beside him.

"They seem to be planning the same as us, just like what we have discussed during our team meeting," said Shin, fully expecting such an arrangement from the opposing side.

"Then this will all be decided by the matchups of the Group Battle and how well the players at the Team Competition will perform," said the two at the same time, seemingly thinking in sync.

Both sides were quite familiar with one another due to the scrimmage that they had done previously. They were fully aware of the strengths and weaknesses of each team had as well as the hidden issues that were not clear to the others.

This would all come down to how well each team fixed their problems and further improved themselves during the time they last met.

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Meanwhile, back in the field, Cetus was currently frowning deeply while looking at his current opponent.

He ignored the map that Akailu had chosen for this round, which was a jungle. It was a map that heightened all the abilities of the latter and was quite disadvantageous to him.

What Cetus focused on was a whole different matter. "The heck!? Did I lose the roll again? Why against this guy this time rather than one of their key members?"

He was already expecting this to happen since Ashura and Lia had already foreseen such an arrangement. But he still could not help from have a little hope to match against any of the key figures of the Empyrean Talons.

After all, he still wanted to match against a powerful opponent on a competitive stage. The stronger his opponent, the better it was. He would improve much better that way compared to fighting 'less' competitive opponents.

Akailu, who heard those words clearly, could not help his face from twitching. “Is this guy treating the lineup arrangement as some sort of gacha draw or something?”

He was quite eager to take on this match because he wanted to regain himself after his poor performance against the Earners Mercenary Group.

Moreover, his sudden enlightenment during that time had greatly improved his overall strength, which was why he was quite excited to battle someone strong.

Even if he was interrupted during that time, the effects on his mind were not that serious since this was only a game. The system had protected him from some serious consequences, which also somewhat helped him in achieving such an enlightenment.

If it were in the real world, then he would most likely suffer a serious Qi deviation or something after being interrupted during such an important opportunity.

Seeing that his opponent seemed to be underestimating him, Akailu cracked his neck a little, producing a series of popping sounds, before saying. “You look a bit disappointed. But I promise you that this is not going to be an easy battle.”

### Chapter 1833: The Beastmaster and the Whale God (Part 1)

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The recent enlightenment that Akailu had gotten made him feel like an idiot due to how simple the answer was that he was looking for all this time.

He struggled to become like Owen, who had awakened the true ascended abilities of a Sacred Neanderthal and became a true Ascended Being.

He was too obsessed with becoming like that while also blindly copying Leonard, who could let his Elemental Spirits possess him during the battle.

Beast Fusion was one of the main abilities of his class and race, which also became one of his signature techniques up until now. But it was not the only core ability that he had. It was just one of the many abilities that were unique to his race and class.

He was a Spirit Beastmaster who could capture, contract, and summon beast pets during his battles to assist him. He could also fuse with them to further enhance his overall stats and abilities in the process.

His race was 'Dyr', which also referred to an animal or a beast. It was a special sub-race under the Beastman Race.

He was too focused on gaining strength that he had overlooked the main factor of his class and race. Both focused on 'beast', which he had overlooked until now.

He was supposed to focus on controlling his beast pets in the battle rather than constantly trying to fuse with them to gain their abilities and the bonus stats that they provide.

The main abilities of a Dyr were to enhance the powers of his summoned beast on the field while also giving each other some buffs depending on the situation.

The beast fusion was also meant to counter any kind of predicament he faced during the battle.

He had yet to fully explore his true abilities because he was too blinded by those around him, delaying his progress.

It was only during the most recent battle and the enlightenment that he had gotten during that time that he was awakened from such delusions and avoided straying further away from the right path.

It was also at this moment that he was reminded of his title – the Beastmaster!

Bestial Resonance and Beast Fusion were the two main abilities that his race and class possessed. They were also the ones that he had to focus on in the future.

The former was meant for a group battle, which also somewhat enhanced his overall stats as well as his summoned beasts on the field.

Meanwhile, the latter was meant for further enhancing his overall abilities, which was at least at an exponential level.

Now that he had a clearer look at the path he was supposed to take, Akailu was ready to take a step forward and walk further ahead.

While Akailu was reorganizing his thoughts and preparing himself for the battle, Cetus was currently having an internal struggle.

He knew that it was a mistake to underestimate the opponent before him, but he could not help from be a little disappointed as he knew that this was his last battle to represent God's Paradise in a competitive stage.

He was planning to accept Arthur's proposal. He might as well hear what Arthur had figured out about his special race rather than blindly continuing with what he was doing.

He felt like he would be a butterfly breaking out from its cocoon once he learned what Arthur had thought of. He might hate that guy and his guts, but he had to admit that this guy had a unique take when it came to finding ways to fully utilize one's strength and cards within the game.

But before all of that, he had to set the 'hierarchy' first before he truly joined that team. He had to prove that he was still way ahead of these 'mobs' when it came to true strength.

He was still a Godlike Player with a decent ranking after all.

His strength was not just about money.

After adjusting his mood and mindset, Cetus entered a full battle state. He stared at Akailu with calm eyes before extending his arm to the side and conjuring a mana spear.

Seeing that, Akailu immediately realized what the current 'theme' Cetus had for this match.

"A Battle Mage this time, huh? I guess I've got the better roll this time," said Akailu, trying to return the words that the other party had told him earlier.

Magic Knights and Battle Mages were similar in general category since both possessed physical and magical attacks. They both hybrid class in a sense.

However, there was a distinct difference between the two.

The former was a hybrid class between a Mage and a Knight. Its style also focused more on either a defensive style or a tanky attacker due to its innate high defense that came from the Knight Class.

On the other hand, Battle Mage was more of an aggressive bruiser, who led the charge with their powerful offensive capabilities and decent defensive capabilities that came from the Warrior Class.

It was a hybrid between a Mage and a Warrior.

The logic behind these two hybrid classes was quite similar, but also had their respective uniqueness when it came to their strengths and weaknesses.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

While Akailu was still a little distracted on Cetus' current 'class', an array of Mana Spears suddenly appeared behind the latter and formed a strange offensive formation.

Seeing that, Akailu finally snapped out of his thoughts before making his preparations.

Joining his palms together, four huge magic circles suddenly appeared around him.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, four monster beasts suddenly walked out of those magic circles.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

The first three were still the same beasts that he mainly used in his every battle – the Shadow Wolf, the Grizzly Bear, and the Fierce Tiger.

However, each of these beasts now possessed a unique set of armor meant just for them. It was a little different from what they previously possessed, but still somewhat shared a great resemblance to what they used to wear.

In truth, these were the same set of beast armors. However, due to his recent awakening and complete evolution into an Ascended Being, a strange power was awakened by his beast pets that started to affect their respective armors.

Akailu was not sure what had just happened during that time, but he could at least make some guesses. From what he could see, this was one of the unique abilities of a 'Dyr'.

Unfortunately, he was still far from understanding the abilities of his Ascended Race completely, so he had to explore it more in the future, just like everyone else.

Meanwhile, the fourth beast was a giant eagle, wearing its own set of armor filled with magical runes.

Shriek!

With a loud cry, the eagle beast suddenly flew high up in the air while the other three beasts took their respective positions in the formation.

This was a map with a jungle setting, so it was more favorable for Akailu. However, the people were quite confused as to why he had to summon a flying-type beast monster to the field when its flying capabilities would be greatly hindered in such an environment.

These tall trees would greatly limit the abilities of this eagle, particularly the thick and densely packed branches covering the area above.

While the audience and Cetus were confused about this matter, they failed to notice that Akailu had suddenly disappeared from the field along with the Shadow Wolf.

The master melded with the environment while the Shadow Wolf entered the shades created by the surrounding trees, erasing their respective presence.

When Cetus realized this, the expression on his face suddenly turned serious, especially when the Fierce Tiger had also disappeared when it entered the nearby bushes.

Tigers were natural predators and capable of stealth, especially when it came to such an environment.

With the three disappearing from his sight, Cetus immediately responded. He waved his hand and summoned a series of summoning circles around him.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Not long after, a group of armored knights stepped out of these summoning circles and formed a solid defensive formation around him.

“Fortunately, I come prepared this time. This skill is quite costly when I learned it, but I think they are quite worth it,” he mumbled after seeing the elite knights surrounding him.

Roar!

It was only at this moment that the Grizzly Bear started charging at him, carrying an unstoppable momentum and savage aura.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The surrounding bushes were split along with the smaller trees and plants by the Grizzly Bear. It was also making the ground tremble with each step it took, seemingly showcasing its overwhelming power.

The surrounding mana seemed to have resonated with it as well, creating a pressuring atmosphere that even affected the spirit knights that Cetus had summoned.

Sensing something odd from this beast monster, Cetus knew that this was not going to be an easy battle compared to what he was expecting.

“I guess this is not going to be as boring as I have expected,” he mumbled before ordering the knights to charge at the incoming Grizzly Bear.

Roar!

Boom!

Not long after, the two quickly clashed, creating a massive collision.

Chapter 1834: The Beastmaster and the Whale God (Part 2)

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Roar!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom!

The might of the Grizzly Bear was so strong that it could overwhelm the seven spirit knights that Cetus had summoned.

Fortunately, the latter was quite skilled with tactics as well, utilizing the numbers and unique composition of the knights that he just summoned and using a strong battle formation to contain the movements of the bear in a single area.

But in exchange, all the twelve knights that he had summoned earlier were now busy dealing with this monstrous beast.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

While Cetus was preparing to launch a powerful spell to assist the knights, the shadow behind him suddenly flickered.

Swoosh!

Immediately after, a huge, back wolf suddenly jumped out of it and pounced at Cetus' back with its wide-open mouth.

“Hmph!”

As a Battle Mage, Cetus was quite sensitive when it came to any mana fluctuations in the air, making him aware of any sort of stealth movements from the surroundings.

Unless it was an assassin or a thief, who were skilled at stealth and sneak attacks, Cetus could easily sense an attempted ambush.

Swoosh!

With a quick turn, Cetus greeted the pouncing wolf with the swing of his spear, which was now covered with dense, blazing mana.

His mana manipulation technique might not be top-notch, unlike those from high-ranking gods of the game. But it still had a decent effect and special features.

This mana manipulation technique might be quite weak compared to those specialized ones, but it still unique strength, which was versatility.

It fitted all kinds of techniques, skills, and such. It did not have any specific weaknesses. Adding that he did not have any specific class due to the slight restriction of his race, such a mana manipulation technique fitted him very well.

At the same time, it could also be much easier to manipulate compared to those advanced mana manipulation techniques, despite its complexity.

It was another feature of the Blessed Human in its racial abilities to complement its overall kit.

Shing!

During the swing, the mana covering the spear further contracted and solidified, causing its blade to grow larger midflight.

Poof!

But despite the perfect timing, the spear only cut through nothing because the Shadow Wolf turned into black smoke and dissipated in the air.

Swoosh!

Immediately after, the Shadow Wolf reappeared behind Cetus once again, being spat out by a shadowy smoke that appeared out of nowhere.

Roar!

“Hup!”

However, Cetus responded to it quite well. By borrowing the momentum of his previous actions and continuing the trajectory of the spear, he suddenly spun midair and strongly slammed the spear down right at the head of the wolf.

Swoosh!

Adding that his actions were carrying a double momentum, the might of this attack was strong enough to crush a huge boulder with a single strike.

Poof!

Once again, the Shadow Wolf prevented its head from exploding from this strike, dissipating into a cloud of smoke and disappearing from the opposing party's sight.

Boom!

This then led to the spear to slam into the ground, resulting in a huge explosion. The ground was crushed, sending countless fragments into the air.

Roar!

Taking advantage of his awkward position, the Fierce Tiger finally revealed itself.

Swoosh!

Leaping out of the nearby bushes, the Fierce Tiger pounced at Cetus' fully exposed back.

But was it truly exposed?

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

A barrage of spears suddenly flew out from the ground behind him, shooting straight at the pouncing tiger, particularly at its exposed belly.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Fortunately, the Fierce Tiger was protected by a set of tough armor that blocked the spears and nullified almost all the damage from the team.

However, its ambush failed completely, which also resulted in it being launched into the air.

Roar!

Right after landing back on the ground, the Fierce Tiger growled at Cetus angrily before stepping back to the bushes and disappearing in the jungle once again.

As the Grizzly Bear was being pinned down by the spirit knights in place, the Shadow Wolf and Fierce Tiger teamed up to fight Cetus, preventing him from controlling the spirit knights freely.

So long as he lost his focus and dropped his command over those spirit knights, the Grizzly Bear would have a much easier time breaking through them.

However, it was much easier said than done.

It was because Cetus showcased why he was entitled to become one of the Godlike Players of the virtual world.

He was showing everyone the standard of a Godlike Player, fighting against these two powerful, monstrous beasts without losing his footing.

Even though they could not see Akailu on the field, they could still tell that he was the one controlling these beasts, especially after noticing the tactics hidden behind each coordinated attack that the two monstrous beasts executed.

Bang! Bang!

After pushing the Fierce Tiger back and warding off yet another ambush from the Shadow Wolf, Cetus had finally created an opportunity for himself to cast a more advanced spell or skill.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

With a wave of his hand, an array of mana spears suddenly fanned out behind him while pointing toward the direction of the Grizzly Bear.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Pointing his index finger forward, the mana spears flew out and headed straight in the bear's direction.

Roar!

Seeing the incoming barrage of spears, the Grizzly Bear firmly planted its four feet on the ground before suddenly releasing a deafening roar.

At the same time, the surrounding earth elemental mana suddenly rushed toward it, forming an extra layer of armor to cover its body.

Boom!

Not long after, the spears finally arrived and produced a series of explosions that blasted away the surrounding spirit knights.

The explosions were so devastating that their sounds reverberated in the entire jungle. But when the figure of the Grizzly Bear was revealed before everyone's eyes once again, they were shocked to discover that it did not suffer any serious injuries aside from the broken earthen armor wrapped around its body.

This showed everyone how tanky this Grizzly Bear was.

However, Cetus did not care, as he was already preparing something else. By raising the spear in his hand, a sudden mana pulse erupted and reverberated in the entire jungle.

In the next instant, the spirit knights that were blown away earlier exploded into specks of light and swiftly rushed toward the spear.

When all the specks of light were gathered, the spear suddenly released a powerful aura, seemingly evolving into a higher rank.

“This!?”

“Eh!?”

Seeing that scene, Chaotic Luck and Huahua from the Empyrean Talons' lounge could not help but exclaim at the same time.

“Huh!? What’s wrong?” asked Cloe, who was nearby.

The two exchanged looks with one another before answering.

“That skill-... I think I know what it is,” said Huahua after a slight hesitation. “If I am not wrong, then it must be the Spiritual Sacrifice of a ‘Spirit Dancer’ from the Summoner Class, a Tier 3 Class.”

She paused for a moment with some confusion before continuing. “It is one of the advanced spells of the Spirit Dancer, which is a mighty Tier 3 Skill.”

“Its main purpose is to sacrifice all of the summoned spirits on the field, turning them into dense and pure mana to reinforce their weapons, which in turn enhance their overall stats.”

Chaotic Luck then nodded before quickly adding. “What is even more troublesome with this spell is that it can be cast repeatedly so long as the Summoner has enough mana.”

“After all, the main drawback of this spell is the absurd amount of mana that it consumes. It is almost half of the total mana of the caster,” he continued with a weird look on his face.

The two also possessed similar spells in their arsenal, but with a different version to complement their respective classes.

They were quite familiar with this type of spell, so they knew that it was supposed to be used as a last resort, particularly when there was a huge number of summoned creatures on the field.

After all, the consumed mana in exchange for it was no joke.

But before they could even satisfy their curiosity, everyone saw that a blinding blue light suddenly showered over Cetus' body.

This time, it was Cloe's turn to wear a weird look on her face. "Mana Refund?"

She was very familiar with this spell as it was one of the most common spells that priests and clerics used since the early stages of the game.

The purpose of this spell was quite simple. It was to recover all the mana spent by the cast from the last three seconds. It was a core spell by the supports and healers since it was very useful in their kit, particularly when they also spent their mana almost all the time.

Moreover, this spell had a very reasonable cooldown time of two to three minutes, depending on the level.

Seeing him cast these two skills, the group seemed to figure out the general idea of what Cetus was trying to do.

They did not have to wait that long to confirm their guesses since Cetus summoned another group of spirit knights on the field.

Seeing this, Shin could not help but compliment the opposing party. "I think this guy is trying to do the same strategy every time the cooldown of that Summoning Spell resets."

Arthur nodded and chuckled in response. "I must admit that this guy still has a creative mind when spending his money. This Blessed Human Race seems to be a perfect fit for him."

"He does spend his money wisely," commented Leonard from the side.

Shin then grinned as they focused on the ongoing battle. "Now this is going to be more interesting."

Chapter 1835: The Beastmaster and the Whale God (Part 3)

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After seeing the series of spells that Cetus had used, Akailu, who was hiding behind the surrounding trees and bushes, could not help but have a sudden sense of urgency.

He was not sure what the other party had done, but his instincts were telling him that it was not good for him to let this match go on for long. If he did, then the consequences would be very serious.

Thinking about this, he decided to adjust his strategy a little earlier.

With this thought in mind, Akailu swiftly issued a series of orders, commanding both the Grizzly Bear and Giant Eagle at the same time.

The two monstrous beasts then responded almost instantly. The bear charged ahead with an even stronger momentum while also gathering the surrounding earth elemental mana toward its body and forming a thick and sturdy armor.

Roar!

Meanwhile, leaped off the tree branch and flew over Cetus and the spirit knights' heads before hovering over them.

Shriek!

It then released a deafening roar before flapping its wings hard and sending strong gushes of wind that swiftly turned into a destructive tornado to surround the opposing side.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The spirit knights swiftly reorganized themselves right after being summoned and went into a defensive formation.

Those holding a shield formed a circle around Cetus and raised them all at the same time, summoning a huge dome of energy that sheltered them from the tornado.

At the same time, the ones that looked like paladin knights raised their swords and placed them before their chests, casting a series of blessings to enhance the overall stats of everyone.

Boom!

Right after pinning the group in place by the tornado, the Grizzly Bear suddenly broke through the violent wind and rammed into the dome barrier, shaking it intensely.

However, the dome-shaped barrier still stood sturdily despite the bombardment of the two attacks. Aside from the constant shaking and bits of scratches appearing on its surface, nothing much happened.

At this moment, Cetus had also completed all the buffs that he needed. He then detonated the barrier to force the Grizzly Bear to retreat and disrupt the spinning tornado that surrounded them.

Boom!

Immediately after, the spirits reorganized themselves and adjusted their formation. At the same time, those with shields and spears in hand swiftly charged and chased after the Grizzly Bear to pin it in place once again.

Seeing that his opponent was going with a similar strategy as earlier, Akailu responded accordingly and let the Spirit Eagle in the air send a barrage of wind blades toward the opposing ranks.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The wind blades cut through the ranks of spirit knights, disrupting their formation.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At the same time, the Shadow Wolf and the Fierce Tiger made their move, launching a coordinated ambush almost at the same time.

Roar! Roar!

Cetus was already expecting that, so he swiftly responded. He swiftly assumed a battle stance before swiftly engaging in an intense battle against the two once again.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom!

A chaotic and destructive battle quickly erupted between the two sides, almost flattening the surroundings due to the powerful exchanges between the two.

Both sides did not want to hold back on this round of exchanges and started using more advanced skills and spells in the process.

Cetus revealed more of the cards under his sleeves, using a series of powerful and large-scale spells and skills one after another to force the opposing side to reveal themselves.

Akailu, on the other hand, remained hidden as he continued to issue commands from the dark while closely observing his opponent.

He was waiting for the right opportunity to strike, but that did not mean he was taking it easy either.

He was letting his beast pets use their most powerful skills, other than their evolved forms that he had yet to fully control.

He was going all-out with his beast pets, yet it was still far from being enough to take down the opposing side.

Adding that he knew that it was unfavorable for him to let this battle last a little longer, Akailu understood that he was on a timer.

It was then that he decided to make his move finally.

Swoosh!

While Cetus was busy warding off the combined attacks of the three monstrous beasts around him, the Grizzly Bear suddenly went berserk and threw the surrounding spirit knights in the air, which allowed it to break through their formation.

Roar!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

It galloped straight to Cetus, who was not trapped in the formation of the Shadow Wolf and the Fierce Tiger.

The three beasts flanked him in three different directions, further trapping him with their triangular formation.

In the meantime, the Spirit Eagle in the air started firing a barrage of wind blades at the spirit knights, preventing them from catching up to the Grizzly Bear.

Seemingly expecting this to happen, Cetus suddenly stabbed his spear into the ground before joining the tips of his fingers together.

Right at the same time, the ground underneath his feet suddenly trembled as a magic array appeared on it. No one knew when he set it up, but it was already in its active form when it appeared.

When the three beasts stepped into the range of the array, a powerful pressure suddenly descended from the sky and pressed into them, locking them in place.

Cetus did not immediately attack the three when he trapped them and instead sacrificed the spirit knights once again, transforming them into specks of light and absorbing them into his spear.

Boom!

Right after the spear absorbed all the specks of light, it released a powerful aura that could even affect the four monstrous beasts on the field.

Seeing this scene, Akailu, who was already prepared to make his move, could not help but frown deeply as he finally realized what his opponent was trying to do. "Don't tell me he is planning to do this until the level of that weapon can kill all of my pets in one shot?"

Seemingly conforming to his words, Cetus used the ‘Mana Refund’ to restore all the mana he just spent before summoning another batch of spirit knights.

Such a combo was truly disgusting for those who understood what was going on. It was a simple yet brutal play for a pay-to-win player.

But this was not the end, since Cetus immediately followed it with another spell that made all the expressions of the people watching the match ugly.

Boom!

Not long after, a massive spear suddenly appeared in the sky above the jungle, pointing at the exact location where the battle was currently taking place.

Akailu might not be able to see it due to the canopy of the giant trees filling the map. However, his senses as well as his beast pets were able to pick up the danger filling the air, realizing what was going on.

‘Battle Mage Spell (Tier 4): Forbidden Series – Spear of Destruction’

Swoosh!

The pressure coming from the presence of this giant spear alone was more than enough to overwhelm the map, freezing all the living creatures in place.

Seeing such a powerful skill, the expression on Arthur's face could not help but turn serious a little. "Where did this guy find a Tier 4 Spell to learn? And how much money does he spend just to get his hands on it?"

The 'passive' effects of this skill were almost on the same scale as the sword skill that Uno had shown everyone during his match against Ashura, which gave everyone a rough idea of how powerful that sword strike was.

The maximum tier that the players reached in this current patch was Tier 3, since leveling up past Level 150 was a hellish experience.

Tier 4 was still way beyond the abilities of everyone, yet this crazy whale had already gotten his hands on such a very advanced and destructive spell.

It was not much of a surprise to find a powerful skill or spell since the godly experts could just match it through their powerful combat abilities and special combat states, just like how Uno had achieved it previously.

But it was only possible because Uno was the one doing it.

Shin, Arthur, Leonard, and the rest of the godly experts standing at the peak of the Godly Ranking Lists understood this fact.

Yet here was a wealthy dude who managed to achieve a similar feat just by spending his money.

“No wonder that guy prioritizes stacking up that sacrificial spell over anything else. He is trying to meet the required stats to activate this Tier 4 Spell.” Shin was able to analyze what had just happened after recalling the small details in the battle.

“Isn’t this dangerous for Akailu?” asked Cloe after seeing the giant spear hovering over the jungle.

Given the range and the destructive power that the spear carried, she could at least tell that Akailu couldn’t escape from it. All he could do was face it head-on, which would lead to an obvious outcome.

Just recalling the final exchange between Uno and Ashura was more than enough to remind everyone of the destructiveness of such an attack.

Even if it was hard for everyone to judge which attack was more powerful, the scale of destruction should still be close to one another, making them believe that Akailu couldn’t survive such a predicament.

However, Shin and Arthur did not dare to confirm such thoughts.

It was because they both knew that even if this Tier 4 Spell was powerful, it was still far from reaching the level that Uno had achieved, which further confirmed how scary the guy was.

Then the two turned to Leonard at the same time, seemingly trying to ask something.

They might be familiar with Akailu and his style, but they could not fully understand the peak of his capabilities, especially after the most recent awakening of the latter.

Among all the members of the Empyrean Talons, Leonard would be the most familiar with Akailu since they were the ones who trained together almost all the time.

Understanding the looks that the two were giving him, Leonard thought for a moment before shaking his head. "I am not sure if he can survive such a powerful spell, but I can at least say that there is still a decent chance for it."

"That guy has a decent trump card under his sleeves," he added, with a tone that was purposely trying to mystify things.

Chapter 1836: The Beastmaster and the Whale God (Part 4)

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Boom!

As the giant spear descended from the sky, Akailu immediately responded by recalling all his beast pets on the field while he swiftly summoned another.

The people were unable to see what kind of monstrous beast Akailu had summoned because the spear was fast enough to descend, pressing on the jungle and crushing all the tall trees within the range it covered.

Boom!

Not long after, a massive explosion erupted, covering a very large portion of the map, flattening the jungle first before sinking into a huge crater.

At the center of all of these, Cetus stood while maintaining his earlier posture.

He was unaffected by all the destruction around him. He was at the dead center of the crater, standing like a majestic figure of medieval times.

Regardless, he could not help but frown deeply as he could not hear the announcement from the system, which told him that Akailu still somehow survived such a massive and destructive Tier 4 Spell.

“How the heck did he survive that?” he furrowed his brows deeply, unable to believe or accept the result.

Everyone was also thinking the same. They were all confused at how Akailu could withstand such an overpowered spell.

They did not believe that Akailu escaped the area, given how massive the range of the spell, particularly the explosion. Even if he tried to fuse with the Spirit Eagle and flew away, he would still be swept by the shockwave that came alongside that explosion.

Moreover, everyone saw that Akailu had unsummoned the Spirit Eagle alongside the other three monstrous beasts.

If they could have a good guess, then it must be the other monstrous beast that Akailu had summoned earlier.

No one could have had a clear look at it earlier due to how quickly everyone had taken their place. All they could see was the huge magic circle that appeared on the spot where Akailu was hiding before the spear of destruction had descended.

Among all those who were watching, Leonard was the only person who could have guessed what had just happened.

He did not have to guess what kind of monstrous beast Akailu had summoned during those final moments because he was fully aware of all the pets the latter had in his arsenal.

He did not share his thoughts with the rest of the Empyrean Talons either and just maintained a mystifying smile that annoyed both Arthur and Cloe.

Back on the field, Cetus surveyed the surroundings sharply as he could sense a life signature nearby.

Crack! Crackle!

Not long after, he heard some breaking sounds coming from a certain location, which then made his head turn.

Bang!

It was at this moment that the ground on a certain spot of the massive crater, where something crawled out of their way.

When the dust settled, a silhouette of a humanoid figure could be seen, which seemed to be neither human nor a beast but a hybrid of both.

This humanoid creature stood on two feet with a lean yet muscular body and a pair of long and slender arms. On the tip of its hands, long and sharp claws could be seen that seemed to have been used to claw its way out of the ground.

Its head seemed to have a long and pointed nose, which was more than enough for everyone to guess what kind of 'Beastman' this person was.

"A mole!? A Moleman?"

This was what everyone was thinking after having a clearer look at the full appearance of that figure.

They could also make their respective guesses about how Akailu survived such a massive and destructive explosion.

It was quite obvious that he had dug toward the ground for as much as he could, trying to escape the range of the explosion underground.

Adding that the earth itself was a natural barrier that 'protected' Akailu from the full brunt of the explosion and prevented it from reaching him.

Realizing what just happened, Cetus could not help but click his tongue and complain a little. "You can still live with that? Don't tell me you also have a cockroach transformation or something?"

In response, Akailu released his fusion with the mole beasts before replying. "Is that your strongest card? Then you can as well surrender now."

The mole beast might be helpful for this instance, but it was not something that he could use in battle since its combat capabilities were still far from ideal. This was just a normal beast pet from his arsenal, so that it could do that much.

Unless he managed to find a way to evolve it to the same level as his other beast pets or at least find and capture a beast of the same rank, he would not be able to use this monstrous beast in battle.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Immediately after, another group of summoning circles appeared around him, followed by the appearance of the four core beast pets that walked out of them.

Seeing that the other party was already preparing for another round, Cetus smirked as he responded. "Trump cards? I have plenty of it!"

"How about you? Now that I have cleared the area, how are you going to hide this time?" he asked as he also summoned another batch of spirit knights.

At the same time, a light suddenly surrounded his body, donning him with a layer of protective barrier that covered his armor.

"Cleared the area? Don't you think it is also a perfect environment for my Spirit Eagle?" said Akailu as he readied himself for another round of battle.

Bang! Bang!

Right at the same time, the two started charging at one another once again.

The Spirit Eagle took flight and flew high up in the air, firing a barrage of feathers at the opposing side.

Whoosh!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Meanwhile, the Fierce Tiger and Grizzly Bear charged straight ahead with unstoppable momentum. The former covered its body with metallic mana while the latter covered itself with earthen energy.

Roar! Roar!

As for the Shadow, it still transformed into a shadowy smoke and disappeared from everyone's sight.

Akailu ran closely behind the two fierce, monstrous beasts ahead of him while setting up a trap inside his head.

In the meantime, Cetus led his spirit knights to charge ahead of their opposition while dragging his spear behind him.

They formed a strategic formation during their advance. Moreover, in this formation, the spirit knights were also releasing a flow of energy that linked them to one another and focused on Cetus.

This linked flow of energies provides Cetus a huge load of power, making his aura grow stronger and reach a very high level.

Bang!

After charging for a while, he suddenly leaped into the air and faced the two monstrous beasts that were pouncing at him from the opposing side.

Twirling his spear in the air, Cetus executed a series of maneuvers in the air before throwing a series of strikes at the two monstrous beasts that sent the two flying back to where they came from.

Bang! Bang!

Underneath, the spirit knights divided themselves and charged at the two, planning to strike them while they were down.

Swoosh!

But at the same time, a shadowy smoke suddenly appeared behind Cetus, followed by the appearance of the Shadow Wolf that jumped out of it.

Grr!

With a savage and angry growl, the huge wolf opened its mouth, trying to crush Cetus' body in one bite.

However, this Whale God was not so simple either. He adjusted his body midair, suddenly twisting his waist while throwing a curving stab behind him, targeting the Shadow Wolf attacking from there.

This particular stab was well timed and perfectly executed, targeting straight at the wide-open mouth of the monstrous beast.

Poof!

However, the Shadow Wolf turned into smoke once again before the spear could even hit it.

Whoosh!

Grr!

But this time, instead of disappearing completely, the Shadow Wolf continued to attack from another angle.

It appeared behind and in front of Cetus, launching the same ambush.

Swoosh!

Such an ambush was also timed very well, but Cetus reacted to it quite well. He twisted his waist toward the other direction while swinging the spear in his hands with all his might.

Shing!

The tip of the spear even left a trail of light in the air while slashing toward the incoming monstrous beast.

Poof!

Yet the same thing happened.

This scene repeated for a couple more exchanges before the Fierce Tiger and Grizzly Bear finally broke through the encirclement of the spirit knights and pounced at Cetus once again.

Poof!

Right after the Shadow Wolf dissipated into black smoke once again, Cetus found himself trapped between the attacks of the Fierce Tiger and Grizzly Bear.

Roar! Roar!

Shriek!

At the same time, the Spirit Eagle also used this chance to launch a charging attack, attacking from above and preventing Cetus from going anywhere.

However, he did something amazing at this moment, swinging his spear multiple times and warding off the coordinated attacks from the three monstrous beasts, pushing them back.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

He was about to finally land on the ground when the familiar black smoke appeared in front of him.

Whoosh!

Responding quickly, Cetus stabbed his spear, expecting the Shadow Wolf to launch an ambush once again.

Swoosh!

However, something unexpected happened this time around.

Instead of the huge body of the Shadow Wolf that was easier to target, a humanoid figure suddenly came out of the smoke.

Swoosh!

Akailu, who fused with the Shadow Wolf, dodged the stab skillfully before throwing a powerful punch straight to Cetus' abdomen, landing his first clean hit of the match.

Bang!

(-52,232)

Swoosh!

Unfortunately, the damage was a little lower than expected because Cetus was fast enough to reinforce his body with a decent defensive spell to nullify the majority of the damage.

However, this was just the start of Akailu's onslaught.

Poof!

He disappeared from his current spot and caught up to Cetus in the distance, who was already prepared to greet him with a series of stabs.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Unfortunately, these well-timed stabs did not deal that much damage as Akailu had unexpectedly fused with the Grizzly Bear as well, giving a huge boost in defensive area.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

(-3,231), (-2,331), (-5,556), ...

Regardless, the accumulated damage was still good enough to chunk out a decent portion of Akailu's health bar.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Not long after, the two began exchanging a series of blows, fully showcasing their respective skills.

Akailu was coordinating with his beast pets while also swapping between different fusions during the exchanges, making it quite flashy yet also destructive.

Meanwhile, Cetus matched this series of attacks with a huge number of spells and skills under his arsenal, which also came from different classes under the mage and knight-related paths.

The number of skills was so absurd that most of the players were unable to name all of them, despite most of the skills being regularly used by mainstream players.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom!

The two truly picked up the pace, finally making this battle worthy of being the opening match of the Grand Finals.

Chapter 1837: The Beastmaster and the Whale God (Part 5)

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The battle between Akailu and Cetus rapidly escalated into a higher degree as they continued to exchange blows against one another.

The pace of the battle also steadily rose the longer they battled each other. It was also at this moment that a certain gap between the two started to reveal itself.

Even if Akailu was rapidly growing and improving his skills after his most recent awakening, he was still far from reaching his full potential and standing on the same level as a ranked Godlike Player.

He might be able to contend against some other godly experts of the game, just like the regular Godlike Players with low ranking or Maverick Gods with decent fame and strength.

Unfortunately, he was currently facing a true god of the game, who ranked quite well in any Godly Ranking List.

Cetus was not an ordinary god of the game. He was quite stubborn and repeatedly competed in any ranking or title tournaments before, forcing himself to fight against those monstrous individuals, even among the gods of the game.

His experience was much richer than Akailu's, who was just starting to find the road to greatness and barely able to step into the ranks of godly experts.

The gap between apex experts and godly experts might be a single level, but it was still an insurmountable gap for most people.

Akailu might have the potential to join the ranks of those gods, but he was still at his growth pace, which put him at a slight disadvantage in this matchup.

Adding the money that Cetus had poured into the game to earn himself the best equipment and a huge number of skills and spells from different classes, Akailu started to run out of gas the longer the match continued.

Even if he tried to bridge this gap with his better technique application and superior combat state, it was still a bit short in front of his opponent's vast experience and overwhelming power (wealth).

Regardless, he still had to find a way to turn the situation around.

He already knew that he was in the timer since earlier, so he understood that he could not afford to let this situation continue for a while longer because of the unexpected strength that his opponent was showing.

He could not do that much if he could not finish off his opponent that fast.

However, he could at least prevent Cetus from continuing to use his disgusting 'combo' and stat farming during the battle.

He was not sure how long the duration of the acquired stats that Cetus had gotten from a previous sacrificial spell to enhance his spear and boost his stats was, so he did not dare to risk it.

He did his best to kill as many spirit knights as possible while also preventing Cetus from casting that disgusting spell by relying on his fusion states with the Shadow Wolf and Spirit Eagle.

These two monstrous beasts were his best bet in such situations since the former was perfect for launching fast sneak attacks while the latter majored in insane agility and high mobility.

He had to rely on these two fusions to repeatedly stop Cetus from initiating the same trick all the time.

Unfortunately, these were not just the tricks that Cetus had up his sleeves. He still had a variety of disgusting spell or skill combos that gave Akailu an immense headache during the entire match.

There were the totem formations of the Shaman Class, which could provide both buffs and debuffs right after being set up.

There were also the blessings that came from Paladins and Priests alongside the curses from the Dark Paladins and Shadow Priests.

He had even gotten an inspiration from Shin's previous arrangements during their battle against Hien Workshop and summoned a variety of summoned beasts, spirits, ghosts, and undead in the battle.

Even if the level of these summoned creatures was not that strong, they were still annoying enough to deal with.

Fortunately, Akailu fought fire with fire, summoning almost all the tamed monsters under him, which quickly fought against this small army.

Even if the quality of these monstrous beasts was the worst, it was still more than enough to deal with such a weak and disorganized army from his opponent.

Adding the passive Ascended Ability of the Dyr Race and the Spirit Beastmaster Class, Akailu had received a huge boost in stats that barely helped him suppress Cetus to a certain degree.

However, he was not a big fan of such massive buffs since they also had their serious drawbacks after crossing the limit of his current strength.

If he dared to summon a much larger beast army and received buffs that were beyond his control and the capacity of his abilities, then he would receive the opposite effect.

He would explode due to the overloading of power that was beyond his control.

It was the same for fusing with more beasts, which was beyond his limit. He would become weaker instead of growing stronger if he insisted on sticking to such a strategy.

That was why he stuck to improving himself rather than relying on external forces. So long as he was powerful enough, particularly his mind, the rest would naturally follow.

In the meantime, Cetus continued to engage against Akailu and kept his pace.

Aside from having multiple tricks under his sleeves, his abilities when it came to close-combat-quarters were not that bad either.

Along with the buffs that he was receiving, he regained his footing in the fight, fully matching his opponent's raw power.

In the eyes of everyone, this was the most disgusting 'Battle Mage' that they had seen in their entire life.

People who spent money in the game did have certain advantages when gaining strength. He might not have all the necessary skills to reach the absurd level of monstrosity of the other 'broken' gods of the game, but he at least had easier access to this 'overwhelming strength' that those guys had.

A fraction of it at the very least

...

"This is bad. Akailu has already lost the initiative for quite a while now," mumbled Cloe after seeing the match.

After a healer of the team, her insight when it came to the state of the battlefield was better than almost everyone's.

She could already see that Akailu would be losing his ground after a few more exchanges at most.

Leonard paused for a moment before sighing. "At least, this is not all for nothing. He at least gained something from this match."

"Not just something," injected Shin with a smile. "Starting today, he will truly embark on a martial journey that was truly his own."

Arthur clicked his tongue as he complained. "Actually, I want him to win against that guy. As you know, I have invited him to join us."

He then looked at the three before asking. "You don't have any complaints, right? Even if that guy looks like that, he is still quite trustworthy."

"Given his wealth, he will not betray us for money at the very least," he chuckled, trying to ease up the atmosphere.

"Don't tell us that you want to lure him as an investor or something?" sneered Leonard while throwing a mocking look at the same time.

The corner of Arthur's mouth suddenly twitched before swiftly refuting. "Do you think that we still have such an 'investor' given the wealth that our team has?"

"There is also our background, don't you think!? We don't need to milk money from such a guy! We are very wealthy ourselves!" he snarled aggressively.

"Why do you want him!?" Shin, on the other hand, just asked for the reason straight away. He knew that Arthur must have a reason for doing this.

Arthur just shrugged his shoulders when he heard those words. "Well, I am not like you, who is always finding the way to improve the team and look for possible talents."

"I just want to invite people who I find more interesting and more fun to play with," he chuckled as he continued. "Since I am in a team now, I at least want to form the perfect team that I always envision inside my head."

"And the most fun as well," he added, refusing to reveal any more to keep the suspense up.

"I don't care about that, actually," Shin pursed his lips before continuing. "But I must admit that I am quite curious about the 'deal' that you are offering him."

"What 'class' are you trying to introduce to him? Don't tell me it is that Dragon Slayer Class that you have gotten from that dungeon?" asked Shin, trying to guess what Arthur was planning.

Arthur thought for a moment, considering whether to tell Shin and the others about his plan for the time being. But he later decided not to tell them that much since it would be more fun that way.

“It is one of the choices that I am going to suggest to him, but it is not the best way to utilize his strength (wealth) to the fullest potential,” he chuckled, refusing to say more.

Chapter 1838: The Herald of Chaos (Part 1)

.....

The first match of the United Cup’s Grand Finals had concluded in the same way as Shin and the others had predicted – Akailu was defeated in the end.

However, it was not an easy win even for Cetus, as Akailu was constantly improving during the battle, particularly in the final moments of the battle.

The latter had shown everyone that he would not lose without putting up a good fight. He refused to fall even after learning that he was on the losing end during the battle.

This forced Cetus to use another Tier 4 Skill from his arsenal, which was slightly different from the previous one.

If the earlier Tier 4 Spell, the ‘Spear of Destruction’, was meant for destruction, then this particular Tier 4 Skill was only used for elimination.

It was another Tier 4 card under the Battle Mage Class. However, it was not a spell meant for magical uses, but a skill executed with the physical prowess of the user.

During this final exchange, Akailu fused a four-way fusion with his beast pets, reaching his absolute limit at the current stage.

He gave his all, yet still lost due to the overwhelming power of his opponent.

Regardless, the battle was still quite good, reaching the intensity that not only satisfied everyone but also made it very entertaining to watch.

Swoosh!

When Akailu returned to the lounge, he acted as if it was not a big deal to lose. But everyone could tell that he was just acting tough on the surface, but was quite disappointed inside.

Walking over, Leonard patted his shoulders and said. "Not bad. You at least now know where you are headed."

Hearing those words, Akailu could not help but suddenly raise his head and look at Leonard with a surprised expression. These words might be simple, but they greatly relieved the negative thoughts filling his head, and he became enlightened once again.

"I guess you are right!" he nodded before silently repeating the words inside his head. "I at least now know the path that I must take."

This would not only help him improve as a player but would also be a great help for his martial journey in the real world.

He felt like the door to the new world was suddenly opened before him and leading him to a better future.

Seeing that Akailu understood his intention, Leonard nodded before returning to his seat.

Seeing this, Shin and Arthur could not help but tease him a little.

"This is unlike you. Did you eat something wrong earlier?"

"Tsk! Tsk! You are acting like an old dude just now. Don't tell us that you're going senile early too!"

Hearing those words, Leonard could not help but glare at the two before giving them a middle finger.

In the meantime, Cloe turned to the next player, who would be representing them for the next match.

"You don't have to be too nervous. Just take it as another sparring match. At worst, your opponent will not be as scary as those monstrous guys," she said while pointing to the Monster Trio.

Chaotic Luck, who was feeling very nervous previously, suddenly regained himself and nodded. "That's right! The opponent should not be as scary as those guys!"

During the intense training sessions that the team had undergone during the entire week, Chaotic Luck was among those who suffered quite a lot.

These guys did not give him any mercy at all and gave their all to bully (train) him. He was not sure if the trio had some hidden complaints about him or even some grudges, but they truly liked to focus on him whenever they were doing a team competition or battled him one-on-one whenever they were bored.

To make it even worse, there was also the sudden addition of Faker and Lawless, who also enjoyed bullying him. Those two guys were having fun 'training' him for some reason and always chose to spar with him during their free time.

He had suffered very badly during those training sessions.

But in return, he had also found it quite worth it since he was among the members who had improved the most.

Maybe it was true that the more you suffer, the greater the returns you would get after.

At least, it was proven with his torturous experience.

Unlike the previous matches in the tournament, there was at least five to seven minutes of a break before the next battle started.

It was to give everyone time to digest, recover, and prepare themselves for the next match. After all, this was the Grand Finals, so the matches would be very intense.

Moreover, it was also to give the next representatives time to readjust their mindsets and get ready for another intense battle.

During this window, Shin neither gave any suggestions to Chaotic Luck nor gave the latter any special instructions.

In his opinion, there was no need to tell this guy anything else, as they had already been preparing for this for more than a week.

Any more would be more damaging for someone like Chaotic Luck, as he would only fill the latter with useless thoughts and unnecessary worries during the match.

Chaotic Luck understood this very well, so he went into a corner and meditated a little to clear his mind.

\*Ding\*

Not long after, the system sound finally rang in everyone's ears, informing them about the next match.

“Good luck!”

“That guy never needed luck! He is the ‘Mistress’ of the Goddess of Luck.”

“Tsk! I guess you are right.”

“Just do whatever you can!”

Hearing the ‘encouragements’ of his teammates, Chaotic Luck could only smile bitterly before saying.  
“I’ll be heading out.”

Swoosh!

Right after saying that, he swiftly accepted the button before him, letting the system teleport him onto the battlefield.

Whoosh!

\*Ding\*

System: First Round (Single Matches 2) – Empyrean Talons (Home) versus God’s Paradise (Away)

System: ‘Herald of Chaos’ Chaotic Luck (Rookie Player/Maverick Ranker) versus ‘Undead Preacher’ Mandos (Maverick God).

...

After seeing the name of the opponent, Arthur, Leonard, and Cloe could not help but furrow their brows and say, respectively.

“Eh!? Is that guy?”

“This is trouble.”

“Looks like this is going to be quite difficult even for Chaos.”

Hearing their words and seeing their reactions, Shin could not help but ask. "What is it? Is there something wrong with that guy?"

Arthur paused for a moment before replying. "It is not that there is something wrong with that guy. But I must admit that this match-up is going to be a little tricky even for Chaotic Luck."

"That guy is one of the strongest necromancers of the virtual world. He used to be one of the main rivals of Immortal. They even fought a quite intense battle for the title of the Lich God," nodded Cloe with a solemn expression.

"He is that powerful!?" Shin could not help but raise his brows when he heard that, thinking that this was indeed a difficult matchup.

Fortunately, they had tortured... or rather trained Chaotic Luck quite well during the entire preparation week.

"Well, it shouldn't be that much of a risk since Chaotic Luck has already some experience fighting a fellow necromancer. He has even fought Immortal in the Frozen Kingdom before," said Shin, feeling that this would be a much more interesting and entertaining match to watch.

Recalling their Empire Quest, the group could not help but nod their heads, recalling the time that Chaotic Luck had held his ground against Immortal during that time.

However, the latter was not showing all his cards at that time, as he was also plotting against Silent Night.

But at the same time, he was also feeling quite conflicted because he did not know whether the opposing side was lucky or not for matching their second fighter.

Putting Chaotic Luck against a fellow necromancer? Such a matchup would be terrible for the opposing side unless they had a special undead army like Immortal's Undying Army.

The Legion of the Chaotic Sun was not as simple as everyone thought.

...

In the meantime, the people could not help but wear weird expressions after seeing the map that Chaotic Luck had chosen for this match.

It was a cemetery, which was quite a common choice for Necromancers.

Unfortunately, this would not only benefit him, since his opponent was one of the most famous and most powerful Necromancers of the game.

He might be giving himself a boost for this map, but it was also directly giving his opponent a similar advantage.

The people then could not help but think that God's Paradise had read the Empyrean Talons like a book for this round, especially after seeing such a matchup.

In their eyes, this match would most likely be a one-sided battle in favor of Mandos.

They could not help but sigh a little, thinking that this round would most likely not be as intense as the previous one.

...

In the meantime, Chaotic Luck quickly tried to observe his opponent right after being summoned to the field.

Realizing that his opponent was also from the Necromancer Class, he could not help but wear a weird look on his face, unable to describe what he was feeling.

He did not know whether to laugh or cry after seeing the matchup.

"I guess I am truly that 'lucky,'" he could not help but smile bitterly, seemingly extremely close to accepting the teasing words of his teammates. "Am I really the 'Mistress'?"

## Chapter 1839: The Herald of Chaos (Part 2)

...

Chaotic Luck was still feeling a little nervous, especially after appearing on the field. Even if he knew that he had somewhat countered his opponent, who was from the Necromancer Class, he still knew that he could not afford to be too confident and underestimate his opponent.

After all, the other party was still a member of one of the strongest Adventurer Teams of the game.

Moreover, given the announcement of the system, he also knew that the opposing side was someone with a solid reputation.

He was still a Necromancer, who also admired those gods of this class. Just like how he admired Immortal before, he also knew the rivals of this Lich God from the previous games.

Mandos was one of the fiercest competitors of Immortal for the title Lich God of that time. Even if he was still defeated in the end, he continued to persevere and stuck to his passion for as long as he could.

There were rumors that this guy had changed his profession of choice when he started this game, but who would have thought that he still stuck to it and still became one of the strongest necromancers of the game?

Chaotic Luck was not sure which specification Mandos had chosen while walking the path of necromancy. But since all necromancers shared the same major in this profession, it was not that hard to guess the strength of the opposing party.

What he was worried about was the tactics of the opposing side, which was said to be one of his strongest points when he was still fighting Immortal.

If he could fight Immortal in terms of battle strategies and cunning tactics, then this person would most likely be on the same level at the very least.

Immortal was dubbed as one of the most cunning strategists within the game, ranking quite high in the Godly Strategist Rankings. If Mandos could match him, then his tactics shouldn't be that bad.

Fortunately, Shin emphasized his training on battle strategies and combat tactics, so Chaotic Luck was quite confident in himself.

All he had to do was stick to the plan and continue what he did best, just like how he performed during training.

...

In the meantime, Mandos could not help but furrow his brows a little after seeing his opponent. "He appeared just like what the Commander had expected."

"Tsk! But still, it will not be easy for me to defeat this guy, given his strange 'powers'." The God's Paradise had scrimmaged with the Empyrean Talons before, so the team was quite familiar with the opposing side.

From all the recordings that they had, Mandos paid quite a lot of attention to this person since they were from the same profession.

Moreover, Lia and Ashura had repeatedly warned him about this guy before due to his unpredictability. The two were not sure how to judge the abilities of this strange necromancer, but they always had an odd feeling about the latter.

Chaotic Luck was such an oddity that they could never comprehend, no matter how they tried to understand him.

After watching the other battle videos of Chaotic Luck, Mandos was sure that there was something 'wrong' with this guy that no other people could comprehend.

But what made Mandos take Chaotic Luck even more seriously was his noticeable growth throughout his battles.

He was constantly improving and showing some rapid growth during his entire journey, which was quite impressive.

He was not sure if it was because Chaotic Luck was always around monsters like the Battled God, the Dragon God, and the War God.

After all, being around these monstrous individuals almost every day was more than enough to influence other people over time.

Other than that, almost everyone was also aware of the strangeness of Chaotic Luck's clash, particularly his Legion of Chaotic Sun.

It was common knowledge that Necromancers and their summons were weak against scared elements and such. They could also get hurt once a priest tried to heal them or their summoned undead.

This was one of the main weaknesses of the Undead, particularly those with the Necromancer Class.

However, Chaotic Luck did not have these restrictions, which made him a 'broken' character within the game.

A necromancer without such weakness was truly unfair. Even Immortal, the Lich God, did not have such a 'privilege' or 'immunity' over holy magic or sacred elements.

If it were any other Necromancers, then they would most likely lose to this guy, get crushed even, especially with the Power of the Sun that Chaotic Luck and his legion possessed.

"Fortunately, I am not a simple necromancer either," he mumbled as he adjusted his mind.

His race was the standard Fallen Elf, which was available at the start of the game when the players chose the Undead Race as their starting race.

He liked this race since it had most of the special perks from both the Elven Race and the Undead Race.

He might not have the unlimited stamina of the Undead Race since the branch that he had taken, the Fallen Races, was still a little different from the rest of the race. However, he at least possessed some of the Elemental Gifts that the Elven Race possessed and combined them with the dark powers of the Undead Race.

Undead Race was not majorly related to Corrupted Cults or Demonic Churches, but most of them chose to walk that deviated path since their powers were closely related to them.

This was the main reason why most of the players with Undead Race were 'deported' to Forsaken Islets right after arriving at the Awakened Continent.

It was to avoid being infiltrated by those people from the Evil Factions.

Of course, there were still some NPC organizations from the Evil Faction situated in different parts of the Divine Empire, just like the Evil Fox Tribe near the Divinity City.

As one of the Undead Players who stuck on the 'light' path, Mandos researched his class and race with a different perspective.

When he got promoted to Tier 3 Class and became an Epic Fallen Elf, he quickly volunteered to head to the Awakened Continent. He separated himself from the rest of God's Paradise, who were mainly operating at the Frozen Kingdom at that time, for his research.

At this point, his class had also evolved into a special type of Necromancer. The Elven Elemental Magic influenced his necromancy, so his undead monsters were also quite different from normal people.

He combined his knowledge with the elemental magic of elves with necromancy, infusing such elemental powers into the bodies of his undead monster, producing a whole different undead creature.

After a slight preparation, Mandos started summoning his undead monsters one after another. "Come forth, children of darkness!"

Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Immediately after, undead creatures started crawling out of the ground one after another and swiftly filled the area around him.

These undead creatures were not your average undead, particularly when they were compared to the regular army of other necromancers.

Instead of skeletons, zombies, and ghouls, these undead creatures seemed to be more ‘human’ since they retained most of their features and did not have any rotting parts on their bodies.

Aside from their hollow-like eyes that were filled with darkness, their entire body was also filled with elven runes. These runes formed a mysterious formation that filled the bodies of these undead creatures with special mana of different elements.

However, instead of regular elemental mana, these elements leaned more to the darker side. They seemed to be a polluted mana, but not corrupted or demonic.

Boom!

Right after these undead creatures appeared on the field, they filled the entire map with their dark and overwhelming presence.

They were showcasing their powerful might, trying to suppress the opposing side with such powers alone.

Seeing this, Chaotic Luck accepted the ‘challenge’ and raised his scepter high in the air to summon his famous Legion of Chaotic Sun. “Reveal yourselves, dwellers of the Sun!”

Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Right after he said those words, the ground underneath him trembled violently, followed by the appearance of the skeleton creatures with blazing heads crawling out of it.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

These blazing skeletons quickly organized themselves and swiftly divided into different groups and ranks.

The skeleton soldiers lined themselves up at the front of the formation, followed by the skeleton mages behind them and the skeleton archers standing at the farthest rear.

It was just the standard battle formation, but everyone could feel the overwhelming pressure coming from this legion of undead, even with the isolation barrier that separated them from the battlefield.

The other half of the map was also illuminated by the bright light due to the blazing flames of this legion, dividing the map into two distinct parts.

One was bright where the Legion of the Chaotic Sun stood, while the other was filled with dark miasma released by the opposing army of undead creatures.

The match had just started with such a simple standoff, but all the live audience and online viewers could already sense the intense competition between the two sides.

A battle of two armies would be a different taste for everyone, making them quite excited, even though they had their respective biased opinions.

Chapter 1840: The Herald of Chaos (Part 3)

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Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom!

It did not take that long for the two armies of undead to clash against one another. The two did not even use any complicated formations when commanding their respective armies, seemingly trying to gauge the strength of each other's army first before making big moves.

They straight up ordered their undead armies to fight right after the brief moment of staredown.

The two undead armies had also showcased their respective powers and uniqueness during the battle.

The Legion of Chaotic Sun had once again shown everyone their signature blazing powers that came from the sun, countering the opposing side to a certain degree.

However, the undead army under Mandos used powers of the tainted elemental mana to fight back, helping them against the blessings of the sun that the opposition had.

The intense battle between these armies continued for quite a while until both sides had gained a decent understanding of their opponents and the special features of their armies.

Seeing that he was slightly losing ground, Mandos took the initiative to change the pace of the battle.

Tap! Tap!

With gentle taps of his bone scepter on the ground, he summoned a huge summoning circle, which was immediately followed by the appearance of a giant figure.

Roar!

A giant bone dragon appeared behind him, releasing a powerful and pressuring aura that made the surrounding undead monsters tremble.

“Go!”

Mandos did not even wait for his opponent to react. He immediately ordered the bone dragon to fly into the sky and head straight in the direction where Chaotic Luck was standing.

Boom!

Swoosh!

The bone dragon produced a powerful gust of wind when it flew into the air and created a series of sonic booms when it headed straight to its target.

It had opened its mouth wide, planning to devour all the little creatures that would be attempting to block its path.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But before it could even reach its target, four large magic circles suddenly appeared around Chaotic Luck, and four huge figures jumped out of them.

Roar! Roar! Roar! Roar!

Not long after, four skeleton giants appeared in the air and clashed against the incoming bone dragon.

Boom!

The collisions sent the four skeleton giants back and forced the bone dragon to retreat.

The combined strength of these four skeleton giants was quite strong, even if their size was only a fourth of the bone dragon's size at most.

Given their appearance, they seemed to be made from the skeletal remains of gorilla or monkey-type monsters. They were quite agile and possessed powerful strength, matching the overwhelming might of the bone dragon once they came together.

Summoning a Bone Dragon required at least a Tier 3 Summoning Spell or a special type of spells under Transcendent Races, just like how Immortal summoned a Zombie Dragon and a Bone Dragon before.

Given this, the might of these dragons far surpassed most of the players, even rivaling some of the King Class or even Emperor Class Monsters at the Awakened Continent, depending on the power of the necromancer that summoned it.

Unfortunately, Mandos only had a limited power, so the might of this Bone Dragon was only comparable to a Chieftain Rank Monster of the second continent, far from what Immortal's elite undead were capable of.

Regardless, it was still quite powerful when compared to most of the players.

Meanwhile, the power level of the four skeletal beasts that Chaotic Luck had summoned was only as strong as the peak Special Elite Monsters of the Awakened Continent at most.

Their individual strength might be weaker than the bone dragon's, but their combined powers were at least more than enough to hold such an overwhelming opponent down.

Roar!

Roar!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

It did not take that long for the two sides to resume the battle, clashing with intense collisions in every strike they made.

The bone dragon had a slight advantage since it could fly in the air, but the skeletal beasts from Chaotic Luck's side were cunning enough to throw one another into the air, seemingly juggling each other midair to compensate for their inability to fly.

Such an amazing display shocked everyone, especially when they did not know whether it was manually controlled by Chaotic Luck nor it was the ability of AI that these skeletal beasts possessed.

Either way, both were stunning enough to impress everyone.

Even Mandos was unable to recover for quite a while, especially when he was fully aware that he could not achieve the same feat himself.

It was the same if it were the battle AI of these skeletal beasts. Possession of such high and advanced AI was more than enough to make him take this opponent even warily.

If even the summoned creatures of the opposing side were this strong despite being only at the Special Elite Rank, then how powerful were the more advanced undead this guy had?

Seeing that this was not going to be easy, Mandos adjusted his plans and started dividing his forces into different groups.

His undead army started taking tactical maneuvers under his command.

Their first actions were some adjustments to their battle formation. It looked like some simple army maneuvers on the surface, but it had greatly changed the flow of the battlefield.

His forces that were steadily losing earlier had started regaining their footing and were able to fight back once again.

Seeing this happen, Chaotic Luck also adjusted his army's formation, dividing them into smaller units that were composed of skeletons with different specializations.

The team composition of each unit seemed to be the standard classes of regular teams formed by players when hunting or doing dungeons.

With multiple teams with such composition, the legion under Chaotic Luck looked like a guild's main force that was going for a huge raid or a massive expedition.

Mandos was quite confused when he saw the actions of his opponent. If it were any other circumstances, then such a move would indeed be reasonable.

But dividing his forces into such units in a massive battlefield like this, particularly in war, would only weaken his army by a great margin, since they would lose the 'combined' powers.

Mandos could only command his undead mages to concentrate their spells at a certain point where these small units were close to one another and blast them in one shot.

Even if Mandos had also divided his forces to a certain degree, he did not make it so small, especially when smaller units could just be overwhelmed by huge numbers of the opposing side.

It was just the standard rule when fighting on a huge scale, such as battles in war.

He was not sure if it was just a rookie mistake or something, but Mandos knew that he had to take advantage of this situation and gain the upper hand.

He just summoned the bone dragon earlier to distract Chaotic Luck and lure his more elite summoned undead, using a classing misdirection to hide his hidden unit that could assassinate the latter.

Fighting a rookie could be a little troublesome sometimes because they had a lot of tricks and unique ideas when fighting. However, they were also quite easy to deal with due to their lack of experience.

Simple strategies like this were the most effective against such newer players on the competitive stage.

Mandos was about to increase the pace of attack of his army when he suddenly noticed something strange on the battlefield. “Huh!? What is happening?”

He just realized that he was losing more of his undead soldiers despite surrounding Chaotic Luck’s forces from all sides and overwhelming them with their numbers.

His forces were attacking the smaller units of his opponent’s army with their superior numbers, yet his side was the one suffering the most damage.

“How can this happen?” Mandos could not help but frown deeply as he was quite confused at what was happening.

His battle formation and the number of his divided forces were way superior to the scattered units of his opponent.

Compared to those disorganized groups with smaller numbers, his forces should be the ones that were winning this battle.

But contrary to his expectations, his side was the one who was suffering losses after losses everywhere.

His mind was working overtime, trying to find the cause and figuring out how to solve the current situation.

However, no matter how hard he tried, he still could not find where the problem lay.

...

"He must be going crazy right now," commented Cloe as she watched the battle from their private lounge and sat in the current situation.

"Who will not? Having your formation slowly crumble 'without' a cause is truly scary for any strategist out there. That guy is surely losing his mind right now," said Arthur with a mocking smirk.

Hearing that, Leonard could not help but roll his eyes. “You talk as if you understand the situation. I bet that you can’t even figure out what is going on.”

“What are you talking about! I can least tell that Little Chaos is using that signature strategy that Shin usually used to bully those people from «War Tactics» Online!” Arthur snarled back when he heard those words from Leonard.

“Heh! I bet that you don’t even know what it is called,” Leonard continued to mock, provoking Arthur further.

“Hmph! I know what it is! It is called a parasite or a mole or something!” said Arthur while glaring at the other party.

“Hah! See!? You don’t even know its name!” laughed Leonard, seemingly already winning this argument.

“It is called Pathogen Formation,” he added with a triumphant look on his face.

“Heh! All you know is what it is called and don’t know how it works,” sneered Arthur, confident that neither Leonard knew the true essence of this formation.

“I at least know how it is called,” Leonard answered back, not admitting Arthur’s words.

In the meantime, Shin was focused on the battlefield, seemingly wearing a proud look on his face. He could not hold back his smile as he looked at Chaotic Luck. "Not bad~! He at least learned a thing or two properly during our training sessions."

"I guess there is no need for extra torture-... I mean training for now," he added, sending shivers down the other's spine.

His true thoughts had almost slipped out of his tongue.

It was clear that he enjoyed torturing the group with his training methods.