

Destiny 1841

Chapter 1841: The Herald of Chaos (Part 4)

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Pathogen Formation.

It was a special battle formation that Shin had created to fight against those veteran players of «War Tactics» Online.

Since Shin was just starting in the game at that time and was quite new to such strategic warfare, he often struggled fighting against veteran players of that game.

He usually used regular formations and standard strategies from the military rule book when competing against those players at that time, but he mostly got countered when he encountered some strong veterans of the game.

If not for his sharp intuition to sense the intentions of his opponents most of the time and respond to each of their tricks correspondingly, then he would most likely lose all those battles.

At the same time, this also led him to create special strategies unique to him to counter specific situations during those battles, particularly when facing the veteran players of the game.

Among the strategies that Shin had created, the Pathogen Formation was one of his signature battle formations.

It neither had a proper form nor a noticeable pattern, but it was very tricky to deal with once it was properly set up.

Just like what its name had suggested, it was a battle formation that seemed to be a disease or illness caused by microorganisms.

It was a type of hidden battle formation that was very hard to catch and could slowly eat away at the formation of their opponents without their notice.

When it was set up properly, it was already too late for the opposing side to do anything since it was impossible to stop.

Shin used this formation to counter certain strategies and battle formations of his opponents. The more complicated the opposing formation, the more effective this formation could be, especially when the 'microorganisms' he had scattered hid themselves among the ranks of his opponents.

It was quite hard to set up since it required quite a lot of preparations, particularly when scattering the 'microorganisms' on the battlefield.

Not only did the person who was using this strategy need to be very familiar with a lot of battle formations and skilled at setting them up, but they also had to be good at grasping certain opportunities that only came in an instant.

Knowledge, timing, and precision were the main requirements for using this strategy.

Shin had no problem with the first requirement since he grew up in the Springfield Household, which was a Military Family. They had a huge library meant for military tactics, especially strategic warfare and battle formations.

He had accumulated enough knowledge in this area, making it easier for him to read the formations of his opponents.

As for the latter two requirements, his sharp instincts and intuition to read the situation were more than enough to compensate for this area.

Then how could Chaotic Luck use such a complicated strategy and battle formation?

The answer had always been simple.

With this guy's luck, scattering the 'microorganisms' was as easy as scattering grains on the fields.

As for the knowledge about a variety of battle formations, Chaotic Luck never needed it since he could just randomly place the 'seeds' wherever he wanted, and things would go according to his plan.

Shin did not tell Chaotic Luck about these requirements and just told the latter about the essence of formation.

Whether Chaotic Luck could learn the essence of such a strategy was all dependent on luck, which was the only thing that this guy had never lacked.

Shin was always curious about what would happen if Chaotic Luck had become proficient at using this battle formation. Even he was not confident of what would happen when that time came.

However, he was quite confident of one thing.

There would be utter chaos on the battlefield once Chaotic Luck started using such a formation actively.

Even Shin, who was the creator of the strategy himself, could not tell where the scattered 'cores' of the formation were located.

Just imagine how hard it was for the opposing side to find them.

"Let's see how this so-called rival of Immortal will handle this," mumbled Shin with interest.

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Back on the battlefield, Mandos was thinking hard about how to deal with the current situation. But despite doing whatever he could, he could not find the cause of the sudden turn of events, making himself somewhat helpless.

He felt like there was some sort of parasite that was eating away at the foundation of his battle formations, making him unable to respond to the scattered attacks of his opponent.

He was not sure what it was, but he was confident that the problem lay in the formation of his army.

“What a scary thing. I guess I have underestimated this rookie a little too much,” he mumbled as he started taking Chaotic Luck even more seriously. “I guess there is a reason why the system kept debating whether this guy is still a rookie player or a maverick ranker.”

With this thought in mind, Mados started shaking his head and mumbled. “I guess I have to reorganize my forces from the start.”

He was originally planning to launch an ambush on Chaotic Luck with the hidden units that he had released earlier. But it looked like it would be a little troublesome given the current situation.

If he let this continue, who knew if the opposing side would be the one launching an ambush against him?

Putting all these into consideration, he decided to deal with the situation at hand first.

He had already figured out the way to escape his current predicament, but it would cost him quite a large amount of mana in exchange.

However, he did not have much of a choice given the current situation that he was in.

“Come back!”

With a loud call, all his summoned undead on the field were recalled aside from the Bone Dragon that was still fighting against the three blazing skeletal beasts in the sky.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

It was at this moment that he noticed some elite skeleton soldiers mixed in the ranks of his forces, seemingly looking dumb after losing their targets.

"Huh!? Since when have these guys mixed into my formation, and how come I don't notice them at all? I can't even find them up until now," he mumbled confusedly, further mystifying the mystery before him.

However, he did not have much time to dwell on this topic as Chaotic Luck had already regained his composure, caused by the disappearance of his opponent's force.

He quickly reorganized his legion and ordered them to launch a coordinated attack.

Seeing this, Mandos quickly resummoned his undead army and swiftly gave out a series of commands to organize his forces.

"Now that I have seen such a trick of yours, I will not fall for it for a second time," he said before casting a series of buffs on his army, which also put a special brand on their back that made them distinguishable.

He might not have the idea about the trick that his opponent had used to 'infiltrate' their ranks, but he believed that he would be able to avoid it from happening again, so long as he was careful enough.

Moreover, he was planning to use a different battle formation this time, utilizing the elven knowledge that he possessed to link the individual strength of his undead creatures and form a unique formation.

With the magic formations drawn on the bodies of the undead creatures that he had summoned, linking to one another, the powers that they possessed suddenly rose by a large margin.

The weapons that they were holding also turned into elemental weapons of different varieties.

At the same time, all the undead creatures had also transformed. Some of them had increased in size, developing a bulky and muscular build, while others became much thinner, yet retained agile bodies.

The rest, on the other hand, had gained more elemental powers. Their appearance also became like that of dark elves.

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Drow were a dark-skinned and white-haired subrace of elves that were connected to the underworld or abyss.

They were different from the usual Dark Elves, who majored in dark magic and shadow elemental powers.

Drow were also commonly called the Fallen Ones of the Elves due to most of them failing to fight against the temptation of dark powers.

However, they still maintained a certain boundary and did not cross the line that led to the power of corruption and demons.

Most of the Fallen Elves were Drows, but it was not always the case.

Some of them were just like Mandos, who walked on the path of necromancy and fused them with other forms of power.

Drows were quite powerful even among all the subraces of the elves.

At this moment, these elven undead that Mandos had just summoned seemed to have shared a great resemblance to the Drows that most people knew.

Having these elven undead on the opposing forces, Chaotic Luck could not help but frown deeply as he knew that this was going to be different from earlier.

He could sense that the opposing side was plotting something, but he could not figure it out.

Remembering the words that Shin had told him to trust his instincts, Chaotic Luck took a deep breath and started summoning a more powerful undead.

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Seeing that his opponent was reorganizing his forces once again, Chaotic Luck immediately responded and did the same for his forces.

Just like what Shin had repeatedly reminded him about battles between necromancers, summoners, and such, the main factors that would ultimately decide the match would be the quality of the forces, the tactics used during the battle, the battle formations that both sides possessed, and how fast each side respond to unexpected changes.

Shin had already done everything he could to build up a solid foundation for Chaotic Luck, so the latter would do everything he could not to disappoint this big brother.

With that in mind, Chaotic Luck waved his blazing scepter in the air, recalling the four skeletal beasts on the ground.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

They seemed to have abandoned the bone dragon in the sky, not willing to engage with it at all.

The Legion of the Chaotic Sun had also responded, reorganizing themselves and forming four major divisions under the lead of these four beasts.

They had also formed a certain formation that linked their auras with one another, just like their opposition, channeling their powers into the bodies of the four skeletal beasts.

Roar! Roar! Roar! Roar!

With this, the power of each skeletal beast rose exponentially, releasing a powerful suppression that overwhelmed the opposing side to a certain degree.

However, the undead army of the opposing side was not to be defeated that easily either. They emitted a powerful aura that fought against the pressure of their opposition, producing an explosion at the point of the collision.

Boom!

At the same time, the bone dragon in the sky, which was now free after being 'abandoned', opened its mouth wide and released a powerful aura of its own.

At the same time, it launched an attack from the sky.

Now it was completely unchecked; it was free to do whatever it wanted and attack wherever it desired on the battlefield.

Roar!

Opening its bone wings wide, it conjured a huge group of bone spikes in the air and sent them toward Chaotic Luck's direction.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

However, before this hail of bone spikes from the sky poured down at him, a complicated summoning circle suddenly appeared before Chaotic Luck, followed by the appearance of a humanoid figure stepping out of it.

Whoosh!

Clank! Clank!

It looked like a skeleton knight donning a set of molten armor with a complicated design and mysterious runes swimming throughout its surface.

Whoosh!

At the same time, its right hand was dragging a huge, blazing sword behind it, drawing deep and melting trails on the ground.

Its teeth kept on chattering because its lower jaw was moving up and down while breathing out hot steam.

Its heat, which was a blazing skull, was also releasing a violent flame that danced alongside the wind as it moved forward.

This skeleton knight paused for a moment and raised its head, seeing the hail of bone spikes from the sky.

Roar!

Releasing a scary and monstrous roar, it held the blazing sword with both of its hands before swinging it wide and sending a blazing crescent in the sky that devoured and melted all the incoming bone spikes.

Swoosh!

Boom!

Amid the blazing rain created by the earlier scene, the skeleton knight raised its head proudly before releasing yet another loud and monstrous battle cry.

Roar!

This blazing skeleton knight was the new alternate version of Death Knight from Chaotic Luck's class. Given its might and power, it was clear that it was among the most elite undead type creatures out there, rivaling even some of the most mysterious and most powerful Death Knights that players had seen.

Chaotic Luck named this version of Death Knight the 'Infernal Pilgrim' due to it possessing both to powers of a regular Death Knight and the blessings of the Brilliant Sun.

Roar!

Seeing that its attack was easily deflected by the Infernal Pilgrim, the Bone Dragon in the sky suddenly released an angry roar before diving down with powerful momentum.

Swoosh!

Given its overwhelming momentum, the destruction that it was about to unleash when it crashed into the ground would be very catastrophic.

Bang!

However, before the Bone Dragon could even reach the midway point of its flight, the Infernal Pilgrim had already launched itself into the air and dragged its blazing sword behind, leaving a blazing trail behind.

It was fearlessly facing the huge dragon despite the overwhelming difference in size.

Boom!

Not long after, the Infernal Pilgrim swung its sword at the incoming dragon, clashing against the latter and creating a powerful explosion upon impact.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang!

Not long after, the figure of the Infernal Pilgrim was sent back into the ground, landing on its feet at the forefront of the legion's formation.

The ground around it sank quite deep, forming a huge crater.

Boom!

At the same time, the huge body of the bone dragon could be seen rolling on the opposite side, where the undead army of Mandos was gathered, knocking multiple undead creatures in the process.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

However, despite the miserable appearance that it had, the bone dragon did not suffer that much damage and quickly picked itself up from the ground, standing powerful once again.

Roar!

Mandos frowned briefly when he saw that scene, but quickly regained his composure after realizing that his army did not suffer that much damage.

Most of them were knocked over, but none of them were crushed in the process, and quickly reorganized themselves after.

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Standing at the farthest front of the legion, the Infernal Pilgrim stood proudly, placing both of its hands on the hilt of its sword that was stabbed into the ground before it.

A moment later, Chaotic Luck issued a command, urging the legion to start attacking.

Bang!

Pulling the blazing sword from the ground, the Infernal Pilgrim pointed forward and released a powerful battle cry before leading the entire legion to charge forward.

Roar! Roar!

Behind it, the two skeletal beasts lead their respective forces forward, flanking the Infernal Pilgrim from both sides and using a standard arrow formation during their charge.

Roar! Roar!

Meanwhile, the other two skeletal beasts separated themselves from the main force of the legion, leading a detachment respectively and circling the opposing side from two different directions.

From the look of it, they were planning to launch a flank attack from these two different points.

This was one of the basic variations of the standard arrow formation in the book of warfare, where the main force was attempting to pierce through the main formation of the opposition, and the two detachments launched an attack from opposing sides to trap the opposing forces.

Mandos was quite familiar with this formation, so he responded accordingly, adjusting the formation of his forces.

Since he had already lost the initiative due to the previous crash of the bone dragon, he was adapting to a more defensive formation as a standard response.

Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

However, he had underestimated the might of the Infernal Pilgrim a little too much, as it cut through the ranks of his undead army and slaughtered most of his undead creatures standing at the frontline.

It cut through his formation like a sharp sword, throwing his army into disorder.

Boom!

Fortunately, he quickly responded and adjusted his formation into a more flexible one, allowing his forces to defend all three sides.

He naturally would not let the Infernal Pilgrim wreak havoc at the center of his army. To lock this powerful skeleton knight, Mandos sent an elite unit made of Drow-like undead.

He could not afford to let this Infernal Pilgrim clash against his Bone Dragon amid his force, since it would only deal more damage to his army.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The collisions between the Infernal Pilgrim and the elite unit of elven undead were so intense that they caused the surroundings to be affected.

Mandos did not care that much about this side of the battle since he wanted the Bone Dragon to pick itself up and fly in the sky once again, planning to launch an aerial attack from there.

Whoosh!

However, before it could even take flight, Mandos suddenly saw a huge magic circle appear at the center of his army, where the Bone Dragon was located.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

He then saw a bunch of blazing chains coming out of the magic circle and wrapping themselves around different parts of the bone dragon, pulling it into the ground and preventing it from going anywhere.

This was not the end, as Mandos also saw that the sky above was suddenly split open. Then the appearance of a blazing pillar suddenly followed and descended upon the Bone Dragon.

Boom!

Roar!

The Bone Dragon could not help but release a painful cry as it was bathed in the blazing pillar.

The other important factor that could decide the outcome of the battle between the two necromancers or summoners, other than their respective army, was their might and power.

Chaotic Luck had also engraved it into his mind, so he took the initiative to cast an advanced spell and launch such a devastating combo into the Bone Dragon.

He was showing everyone the true might of a Solaris Lich!

However, his opponent was not an ordinary player either. Dubbed as the ‘Undead Preacher’, Mandos also had a lot of cards up his sleeve.

“Finally making a proper move, huh!?” he mumbled before waving his bone staff.

Swoosh!

Right at the same instant, a powerful dark aura suddenly enveloped the entire battlefield, enhancing the overall capabilities of his undead army.

Those who had fallen in the battle had also started rising one after another, resurrecting from the dead once again.

On top of this, Mandos had also unleashed a Tier 3 Domain Skill, the Boneyard Elemental Domain, to further enhance the power of his army.

Boom!

His army, which was slowly losing ground, was immediately resurrected and started fighting back with an even fiercer offensive.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

In response to this, Chaotic Luck had also started casting one spell after another, planning to overwhelm the opposing side with his firepower.

At the same time, he was also scattering some 'seeds' to the formation of his opponent, planning to reestablish the Pathogen Battle Formation once again.

While he was busy with all these, he failed to notice that there was a certain unit of undead creatures that had successfully made their way behind him and were cunningly setting up an ambush.

The air of death started looming in the air, especially when the live audience and online viewers had noticed this chance.

From their perspective, Chaotic Luck was in deep trouble. It was impossible for him to notice such a meticulously laid trap behind him.

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Chapter 1843: The Herald of Chaos (Part 6)

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Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The battle escalated to an unimaginable level, especially when Chaotic Luck and Mandos started summoning their more elite forces one after another.

Mandos had summoned a bunch of elite undead creatures like a Death Knight and a Lich. After all, his Bone Dragon had become somewhat restricted due to Chaotic Luck's spells while the group of Elven Undead was busy holding down the Infernal Pilgrim.

His forces were at a slight disadvantage at the first few exchanges due to the four skeletal beasts that remained unchecked.

Fortunately, he was able to reorganize his forces quite fast and even let some Flesh Golems deal with these skeletal beasts.

The Elven Death Knight was too much for ordinary skeleton soldiers under Chaotic Luck's legion, so he sent the Infernal Pilgrim to deal with it while he added a few more skeletal beasts to hold down the group of elven undead.

As for the Lich, Chaotic Luck unfortunately did not have anyone to match it from his legion since he was still far from creating his fitting alternate version of it, unlike the Infernal Pilgrim.

All he could do was to focus his spells on both the Lich and Mandos in exchange for dropping his suppression to the Bone Dragon.

However, he did not let the Bone Dragon go on a rampage either. He would never let such a creature loose, so he increased the number of his blazing undead legion even if it would burn a larger mana in the process.

He was planning to put numbers against its power.

Among the new batch of skeleton soldiers, some seemed to be little giants that were dragging blazing chains over their shoulders, using them to restrain the Bone Dragon and prevent it from flying into the air.

Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Mandos was still having some troubles despite the difference in experience. He was more experienced compared to his opponent, but he was unable to fully unleash the power of his army.

The main reason was that strange formation once again.

He was not sure what kind of formation it was, but it was eating away at the foundation of every formation that he set up. Even if he repeatedly adjusted the battle formations of his undead army and constantly responded with unexpected changes on the battlefield, a certain point of his formation would mysteriously crumble and lose its overall power.

Moreover, these points that were repeatedly being targeted happened to be the main 'joint' or central 'core' of every formation that he had set up, fully destroying everything.

This quite annoyed him since he was losing against a 'rookie' in terms of 'tactics.' It was a hard pill to swallow for a veteran like him, especially when he was supposed to be one of the former contenders for the title 'Lich God'.

This was such a humiliation. A complete humiliation!

“Damn it!” he could only curse when he saw this happened.

He was also being suppressed by the firepower of his opponent’s spells, which greatly hindered his command over his army.

Unlike Chaotic Luck, who could both become a ‘standard necromancer’ and a powerful ‘fire mage’ at the same time, his specialty was to create undead creatures that possessed a tainted elemental mana and provide powerful and strange buffs to them.

His current title, the Undead Preacher, mostly came to this.

Unfortunately, all these cards were being suppressed by Chaotic Luck by sending powerful spells at him without rest.

Fortunately, he managed to summon the Boneyard Elemental Domain way earlier and cast the Undead Whispers at the same time, or else he would be contentiously losing way ahead of time.

What annoyed him even more was that he could not find the right opportunity to launch an ambush against Chaotic Luck with the special unit that managed to sneak behind the latter earlier.

He was not sure if it was on purpose or not, but the Chaotic Luck repeatedly positioned himself in a spot where it would be difficult to launch an ambush whenever his hidden unit finished setting up their positions.

He refused to believe that it was all due to luck since no one could be this lucky.

He would believe it more if it were due to the opposing side purposely ‘dropping’ their guard to lure him into a trap, rather than to accept this nonsense about being this lucky.

Even the Lucky Dog or any other luckiest person out there should not possess such a fortune of always being lucky all the time.

Regardless, he still had to admit that what Lia and Ashura had warned him before might be true. This guy was truly an odd existence that was very hard to deal with.

"Tsk! My setup at the backline will all go to waste if the initial ambush fails, which is why I keep on delaying it until I find the perfect opportunity to strike. But it has already been a while since then, and I still can't find the right opportunity for it," he cursed as he continued to fend off the attacks of his opponent.

Dealing with Chaotic Luck's spells was much easier to deal with due to the noticeable gap in experience. Even if Mandos did not major in dark arts and spells, he could at least counter these simple attack patterns with ease.

He would rather waste all the mana of his opponent than waste his cards to deal with such simple offensive spells.

However, his forces were also slowly losing ground due to the stray spells that somehow landed at their formation whenever he dodged or blocked those spells.

With all of these in consideration, Mandos was put in another awkward situation, where he had to repeatedly step back to regain his footing.

Humiliation once again!

Humiliation after another humiliation!

With repeated humiliation, how could Mandos keep his calm, especially when he was supposed to be the senior one in this battle?

Having all these considerations, Mandos decided to finally use that unit hiding behind Chaotic Luck and decisively take the gamble.

But right after he gave out the command, something unexpected happened.

Chaotic Luck, who was focused on sending more spells his way, suddenly bumped into the nearby tombstone and stumbled forward.

“Ah!?”

As he was trying his best to regain his footing, the scepter in his hands suddenly pointed toward the direction of the elven undead hiding behind him, ‘sending’ the ready-to-fire spell to fire in their direction.

Swoosh!

A blazing beam suddenly flew in that direction and blasted that elven undead into oblivion alongside those near it.

Boom!

Chaotic Luck had no idea what had just happened and only lowered his head, ashamed of his mistake.
“It is too embarrassing to trip in such a serious match.”

He was too embarrassed to even look at his opponent, much less after knowing that this was being broadcast to hundreds of millions or even billions of people.

In the meantime, Mados, his opponent, was unable to close his mouth after seeing such a ridiculous move from his opponent.

“Does it really just because of luck?!” he refused to believe that it was just by accident.

Regardless, he swiftly gave out a series of orders and had those elven undead launch an attack.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The elven undead no longer cared about hiding and finally launched their 'ambush'.

The first to move was an elven undead that looked like an Elementalist when it was alive and cast a spell, targeting Chaotic Luck's head.

Swoosh!

But when the barrage of fireballs and icicles was about to reach Chaotic Luck, the guy suddenly stepped on the broken fragments of the tombstone scattered on the ground and tripped over it.

"Ah!? So embarrassing," Chaotic Luck felt like crying after he stumbled and started rolling on the ground.

Little did he know that this trip just saved him from such a disaster.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The barrage of fireballs and icicles landed on the ground behind him as he continued rolling forward.

"Eh!?"

"What the heck!?"

"He dodged that!?"

"You can dodge that way too!?"

"You call that dodging?"

“It works anyway.”

Everyone could not help but stare blankly at the scene, unable to believe that such ridiculousness had happened.

Even Mandos was unable to accept such a thing and went crazy, ordering his elven undead to continue attacking.

It was only at this moment that Chaotic Luck realized what was happening. After all, it was impossible not to notice the explosions that he had left behind while rolling.

“Ah!? There are enemies behind me!?” he was shocked when he tried to pick himself up from such an embarrassing position.

Right after he stood up, he was immediately greeted by a poisonous dagger reaching out to him. It was rapidly magnifying before his eyes, not giving him any opportunity to respond.

Scared, he could only take a step back to dodge. But right after he did that, he stepped on a bone fragment, which made him trip once again.

Swoosh!

While he was falling, the blade of the dagger flew past his face, missing it miss completely.

Midfall, Chaotic Luck cast a series of Blink to escape, trying to distance himself from the ambushers.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

But the speed and agility of those elven undead far surpassed his imagination, which let them almost catch up to him in an instant.

However, he was unable to think that much, especially after seeing that he had somewhat landed on the spot where the number of skeletal remains scattered on the ground was the densest.

Not thinking too much about it, he suddenly slammed his scepter on the ground, making those skeletal remains move and forming a cage that trapped all the elven undead that tried to catch him.

Unintentionally, he had caught almost all the most agile and the fastest elven undead with this single spell.

Chaotic Luck did not know about it and just bombarded them with powerful skills one after another, killing them in the process.

In the meantime, Mandos was unable to think straight, unsure whether the series of events was intentional or not.

He could no longer understand what was happening, especially after seeing how perfect Chaotic Luck had 'lured' his elven undead to such a delicately 'laid' trap.

In the end, he had lost the gamble. Not only failing to catch Chaotic Luck off guard, but also losing the majority of the elven undead that he had sent for this ambush.

"What the hell is happening?"

At this point, he had already lost both the tempo and the control of the match.

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Chapter 1844: The Herald of Chaos (Part 7)

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The more the fight progressed, the more Mandos became confused about what was happening. Forget about the audience who were currently experiencing a mix of emotions; he, himself, who was fighting on the field, was unable to say how he would feel about this match.

He was a veteran god of the game, yet this was the first time he had experienced such a battle.

Even a battle against Immortal, his mightiest wall, shouldn't be like this, which looked like a little one-sided fight. Moreover, he was the one on the losing end, making it even more unacceptable.

Unfortunately, he could not do anything about it, even if he started using all his powerful army buffs and domains or summoned the rest of his most powerful undead creatures.

It was just too bad that nothing was working in his favor in this battle, particularly when he could not find a way to deal with the strange formation of his opponent.

Even if he knew the cause, he somehow could not find the 'parasites' that were slowly eating away the foundation of his formations, making his forces slowly crumble.

At this point, he knew that he would be losing the match even if he tried sending it all to his opponent.

Even the earlier attempt to launch an ambush resulted in a disaster that only made himself like a fool.

In the end, Mandos had to accept that he was no longer as good as before. He might have lost some spirit after losing to Immortal and the rest of his rivals for that title, resulting in his current situation, where even a junior was trashing on him like how he did to the rest.

But at the same time, this woke him up. The moment he accepted his weakness, something inside his mind seemed to have opened, leading him to the right path.

He seemed to have finally realized what he needed to do.

He had to stop being stubborn and continuing to cling to the regret that was always buried inside his heart.

He was clinging too tightly to the title that he had already missed, leading him astray from the path he was supposed to take.

He was too lost in this forest of illusion that he thought the right, when it was actually not the path that suited him.

He then looked at Chaotic Luck, who was still stubbornly doing his best to suppress him, and smiled. "I guess I have to thank this little junior for enlightening me."

"In exchange for what you have given me, let me show you the right path of being a godly necromancer of the game," he mumbled and started using all the tricks that he had learned from his experience of playing the Necromancer Class all his gaming career.

Oddly enough, the moment when he decided not to care about anything but teaching Chaotic Luck all his experiences, his performance became much better and greater than before.

This battle might be the last he would take as a necromancer of the virtual world, so he was intending to pour everything he had before taking on another path.

"If it is this kid, then I guess he may have some hope of surpassing that guy," he mumbled as he continued.

In the meantime, Chaotic Luck had fallen into a strange state of enlightenment as the match continued.

In this state, he seemed to be too focused and constantly absorbing the experiences that his opponent was 'giving' him.

He was unaware of it himself, but he could at least tell that he was growing rapidly for some unknown reason.

He was not the only one who was feeling this way, since even the people watching the match could visibly see his rapid growth.

The godly experts like Shin and the others could instantly see what was happening after the two sides entered such a strange state.

"How thoughtful," commented Shin after realizing what Mandos was trying to do.

"Do you think that he has lost his mind after being beaten by such a rookie in a somewhat one-sided manner?" said Arthur while looking at Mandos with a strange gaze.

Leonard nodded his head, agreeing with such words. "Possible. If not, then how can he just 'teach' his opponent with everything he has? He's gone completely crazy!"

"Teaching an opponent during a match is indeed crazy," Cloe nodded her head in agreement after hearing those words.

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The match progressed quite well until Mandos finally fell and lost the match.

The ending of the match did not have a significant impact, as everyone had somewhat guessed the outcome after seeing how the battle progressed in its final moments.

However, they still had to admit that Mandos truly lived up to his reputation as one of the greatest necromancers of the game, particularly when he showed everyone all the tricks and techniques that he had learned about the class in his entire gaming career.

He just happened to bump into someone who greatly contradicted him.

At the same time, everyone had also started to notice the strange 'abilities' of Chaotic Luck, fully acknowledging him as one of the new rising stars of the game, particularly in the path of necromancy.

This person had started to become a true powerhouse in the eyes of many, engraving the name of the Herald of Chaos in their minds.

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Swoosh!

Right after returning, Chaotic Luck was immediately greeted by his teammates with enthusiasm.

“Good work!”

“Not bad! You did well!”

“That’s quite a show! You truly live up to your name as the ‘Mistress’ of the Goddess of Luck!”

“You have become stronger yet again!”

Chaotic Luck felt a little awkward after being praised by the rest of the Empyrean Talons, particularly after hearing those words from the key members of the team.

Shin then walked and patted his shoulders before saying. “You have done well. You can now rest for now and digest all your gains from this match. I am sure that what you have gotten from it is quite a huge boon.”

Chaotic Luck was taken aback for a moment before nodding his head seriously. “I’ve got it, Vice Commander!”

After that, he went to a corner and started meditating according to the practice that Shin had taught him before. He was planning to reorganize all the tricks and knowledge that Mandos had ‘taught’ him during the match.

He had also gained quite a lot of enlightenment during those final exchanges, so he wanted to turn everything into his own before he fully experienced this strange state that he was feeling.

In the meantime, Shin turned to the rest of the team and said. "Now, let's talk about the next match."

He then looked at the three people who would be representing the team for the Group Battle.

"Owen, Ithilien, and Alucard – you three get ready. It is your turn next," said Shin as he signaled the three to prepare for the match.

...

In the meantime, on the side of God's Paradise, the atmosphere seemed to be a little relaxed compared to what everyone was expecting.

"It's a one for one now. I guess this is not going to be an easy match," mumbled Susanoo after seeing the second Single Match had ended.

"Ah~! What a pity, Old Mandos has been suppressed by that guy's strangeness as well!" said Kallavan with a sigh.

They had fought the members of Empyrean Talons before during their little scrimmage, so they knew how annoying the strange abilities of Chaotic Luck were. That guy was still a mystery even for them.

Swoosh!

It was at this moment that Mandos returned to the team.

He looked at everyone before smiling bitterly. "I am sorry. It seems like I have disappointed you all."

Ashura was the first to talk, waving his hands. "It is not a big deal. It is just a single point after all."

He then paused for a moment as he looked at the latter with meaningful eyes. "Instead, I am more curious about what you have just gained after that match."

Surprised at first, Mandos suddenly started smiling. "It is not that big yet, but I at least realized something. It seems like I am clinging too much to the regret that I have experienced before."

"That kid just opened my eyes and made me realize my true worth," he added with a mystifying smile.

"That's good," nodded Ashura.

Mandos paused for a moment, seemingly hesitating about something, before saying. "Commander, I think I can participate in any of our future operations for quite a while. I want to do something first and realize these gains that I have just gotten."

Ashura did not think that much and nodded. "Go! I am sure that you will be much stronger once you return."

Lia then chimed in and said. "Just don't forget to deal with the remaining quests in the Frozen Kingdom! Your role there is very important."

"I've got it! Don't worry, I will make sure to finish everything before proceeding with the rest," nodded Mandos.

At the same time, Kallavan could not suppress his curiosity and asked. "Hey! But why do you have to teach that kid?"

Mandos paused his steps, thinking about something, before smiling. "That kid's potential is much scarier than you can see from the surface. I just want to help him a little so that he can help me teach Immortal a lesson in the future."

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Chapter 1845: Group Battle of the Finals

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The first two matches were quite intense in their own right, making the live audience and online viewers very satisfied.

They might not be big collisions between absolute gods of the game, but they had a charm of their own that made everyone enjoy the battle more than they had expected.

Because of this, everyone highly anticipated the upcoming Group Battle, especially when it was a 3-vs-3 format. Regardless of their thoughts, this battle should be much more intense compared to the previous two matches, particularly when the remaining members from the lineup of the two teams were full of superstars.

Ding

Not long after, the system had finally announced the start of the next round, the Group Battle, making everyone crazy once again.

“It is here! It’s here!”

“Here it comes! I wonder who the representatives of the two teams this time will be?”

“I think it will be another intense battle!”

“You bet!? It is already obvious, don’t you think!?”

“You don’t have to say it either.

...

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

System: Round 2, Group Battle!

Representatives:

Empyrean Talons:

Sanguin King Alucard (Maverick God)

Dark Knight Owen (Peak Titled Ranker, rivaling Gods)

Archer Queen Ithilien (Peak Titled Ranker)

God's Paradise:

Shield God Berit (Godlike Player)

Storm Bullet Sheryl (Maverick Player)

Scavenger King Vulture (Maverick God)

...

Just like the previous matches of the Empyrean Talons and God's Paradise, the former had gotten the shorter end of the stick with their 'less' powerful members, while the latter always possessed a better lineup and higher quality of combatants over everyone.

But only the foolish ones would think that this would be a one-sided victory for God's Paradise, given the history of the Empyrean Talons. This was not their first time having the less favorable side in the matchup, but they repeatedly proved that it was not always the case.

The previous battle between Chaotic Luck and Mandos was the perfect example of it. There was also the long battle history of the Empyrean Talons, where they repeatedly broke the expectations of everyone and proved their strength to the virtual world.

Regardless of how it looked, no one would guarantee that their side would lose the match.

As for God's Paradise, it was already a given that they were powerful. Just the fact that they were the current defending champions was more than enough to tell everyone that they were not to be trifled with.

Their reputation as the current defending champions was not just an empty title.

Even if Ashura was defeated quite brutally in the previous match against the Empyrean Talon, everyone just thought that it was just an exception since the Evil God was an anomaly himself.

He might be absurdly strong, but it would not have any meaning if he were not representing the Empyrean Talons in this match.

After all, Shin had already announced before the grand finals started that Evil God would not be able to join them due to certain circumstances.

No one believed it at first, thinking that it was just a trick to catch God's Paradise off guard in the competition.

But after putting everything into consideration, people also accepted that it might not be the case. After all, there was no reason for the Empyrean Talons to lie about it. The individual power of each member of the team, as well as the overall strength of the team itself, was more than enough to put them on the same level as their opposition.

Others thought that it was just a hype that the Empyrean Talons that was trying to raise, while some people believed that it was just a 'handicap' that the team had purposely set since it would be a one-sided battle once the Evil God took the stage.

This ignited quite a huge commotion online, particularly with the supporters and haters of both sides.

Regardless, the match continued, ignoring the arguments that were circulating online.

...

The map that the side of the Empyrean Talons had chosen this time was quite a standard one. It did not have any special features or unique terrains.

The Forest Park.

This was the map that Owen and Alucard had decided to use after careful consideration.

Ithilien was an elven archer, so it was quite a waste not to utilize her features to their advantage. The Elven Race was a race that was closest to nature, so their familiarity with the forest and other types of environment was the highest.

To use all the racial traits that Ithilien possessed to their highest potential, they had to choose a map that was the most comfortable for her.

Forest-type maps were the best choice for this.

Owen and Alucard did not care about the map choice that much since they could fight in any kind of terrain and environment.

Given their respective race and class, they did have some maps that could greatly amplify their respective strengths. However, they only needed the key factors from such maps and chose something that could be shared among the three of them.

Alucard only needed the setting to be held at night, particularly with the presence of a full moon, while Owen could fight in all kinds of terrains since Sacred Neanderthals were natural warriors.

The other reason that they had chosen this Forest Park Map was because of Ithilien's great familiarity with it, particularly the overall structure of the map, as well as its unique terrains.

She knew this map better than anyone else. It was like the back of her hand, making it no different from home for her.

She had been training on this map since she started playing virtual games, so this map was like her backyard to her.

Owen, as her close partner, was also very familiar with the map, so it was quite an obvious choice for them.

Moreover, they had also done some modifications to some of the parts of the map, making it different from the regular ones that the players used in the Divine Arena.

It might be a regular map on the surface, but those with sharp eyes and great experience could tell that this was not the regular Forest Park Map that everyone was familiar with.

...

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right after being summoned on the map, Sheryl and the other two from God's Paradise swiftly scanned their surroundings, getting familiar with it as soon as they could.

"Forest Park? Aren't they underestimating us a little too much? Do they think that we will not get familiar with such a regular map on the Divine Arena?" mumbled Vulture after sweeping his eyes on the surroundings.

"I don't think that it is that simple," Berit frowned deeply as he looked at the surroundings a little closer.

Unfortunately, he could not find any strange features or any other suspicious points about this map.

Meanwhile, Sheryl ignored everything else and looked at the sky.

The night was deep, and there was the huge and round moon hanging high up in the sky above them. It was illuminating the silent night, yet also giving a strange pressure to those who were staring straight at it.

Realizing her silence, the other two could not help but turn to her and see her staring silently at the sky, particularly the beautiful moon hanging over there.

"What's wrong, Sheryl?" asked Berit, unable to help himself from turning his head to the sky and looking at it as well.

Vulture frowned deeply as well before turning his head toward the moon alongside them.

The other two were initially quite confused and unable to figure out what was wrong with her. But the longer they stared at the moon, the clearer their eyes became.

It was also at this moment that they saw a silhouette standing high up there!

Their eyes contracted a little as they saw a humanoid silhouette standing at the center of the moon alongside a pair of huge batwings on its back.

They did not have to guess who it was, as there could only be a single person who could possess such features from their opponents.

Sanguine King Alucard!

“Is he finally going to show his true powers on this round?” mumbled Vulture solemnly as he also stared at the silhouette in the sky.

Among all the people that their team had repeatedly warned them to be careful of, the Monster Trio were the most dangerous among them all, while Chaotic Luck was the oddest member that they were unable to figure out even up until now.

As for Diablo and Alucard, these two were the ones who possessed the most mysterious air among all the members of the Empyrean Talons.

Diablo was the previous Commander of the Sweepers of the Pandemonium Descendants, so his strength and power remained a mystery for everyone.

As for Alucard, it was his identity that piqued the interest of all the people within the circles of the gods of the game.

But because of this mysterious identity, most people had overlooked the true strength of this person. It was clear that he was a Vampire Noble, yet he rarely showed everyone his true capabilities, which was also repeatedly overshadowed by his mysterious background.

Seeing that Alucard was currently standing high up in the sky and acting in such a way, the trio from the God’s Paradise suspected that this guy was finally willing to show everyone what he was truly capable of.

“Get ready,” mumbled Sheryl solemnly before adding. “It looks like we have to show all our cards in this battle as well.”

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Chapter 1846: Group Battle of the Finals (Part 2)

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As the group from God's Paradise was looking at Alucard in the sky, the latter suddenly flapped the edge of his trench coat and turned into shadow bats that scattered in every direction.

He had already found their opponents and made his presence known, so it was now time to make their move.

But this time, instead of supporting the team, he became more like the initiator. He was the head of the offense for this fight, taking the initiative to engage with their opponents.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The shadow bats suddenly turned into a violent colony that got disturbed and went crazy. They swarmed at the trio from God's Paradise and started attacking them from every direction.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Sheryl quickly responded, taking out a pair of submachine guns and starting to fire at random, making the magic bullets fly everywhere and even ricochet off one another, creating a storm of bullets in the process.

'Legendary Combat Technique: Random Firing – Twilight Dance'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

These seemingly random bullets looked like they had become alive and started annihilating the surrounding shadow bats swarming at them.

Vulture and Berit still did not make their moves, seemingly expecting this to happen.

However, their expression immediately turned weird after sensing something strange from the movement of the shadow bats.

These shadow bats cunningly stopped swarming at them after seeing most of them got annihilated by the bullet storm and formed a dome-like formation.

The expression on Sheryl's face suddenly turned grim after seeing that, and she quickly shouted. "Berit, Astral Protection!"

Berit did not dare to delay after hearing the urgency in her words. He swiftly positioned himself in front of the two and slammed the two shields in both his hands with one another, summoning a dome barrier that protected them from every direction.

Bang!

Shriek! Shriek! Shriek!

It was also at this moment that the shadow bats suddenly opened their mouths and released a sonic attack that attempted to shake the group.

Boom!

The barrier that was summoned by Berit shook violently as it was repeatedly bombarded by the sonic attacks.

Unfortunately, the sonic attacks did not do that much aside from that.

At least that was what everyone was thinking at first after seeing the first few seconds, but it immediately changed when something strange happened.

After a couple of seconds, the sonic attacks that the shadow bats were releasing resonated with one another, intensifying the shaking of the barrier and making it resonate with them.

Berit, as the caster of the shield, immediately realized this and suddenly made his expression turn grim. "This is bad."

He just started warning Sheryl and Vulture when a buzzing sound suddenly started invading the barrier and gave them a serious headache.

Realizing that they would be put in a very dangerous position if they let this continue, Berit swiftly raised his shields in the air before suddenly slamming them down into the ground, producing a loud explosion that disrupted the resonance that the sonic attacks were trying to build.

Boom!

Sheryl had also finished her preparation at this time, pulling out a bunch of tools from her inventory and building a heavy machine gun, and started firing at the shadow bats once again.

Du du du du!

As the storm of bullets annihilated the shadow bats surrounding them, Vulture suddenly disappeared from some point without anyone noticing.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

It was at this moment that a volley of arrows suddenly appeared in the sky and started pouring down in their direction.

"Seven o'clock!" shouted Berit while swiftly protecting Sheryl from the magic arrows raining down at them.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Swoosh!

In the meantime, Vulture, who had suddenly disappeared, swiftly headed in the direction that Berit had indicated. He moved so fast yet also quite stealthily, barely making any sounds while also erasing all the traces he left behind.

Not long after, he reached a certain part of the forest park, where Ithilien was standing on top of a tree house and firing a series of attacks with her bow and arrows.

"Found you~!" he mumbled to himself before suddenly dashing toward the tree and seemingly climbing it to ambush Ithilien.

But before he could even reach the tree, he suddenly sensed something flying toward him at insane speed.

Swoosh!

Without further ado, he instantly halted his advance and raised his shortswords, crossing them before him and blocking the shield that was heading straight to his face.

Bang!

The impact was so strong that Vulture was forced to skid multiple meters back despite successfully deflecting the shield away.

Right after regaining his footing, he swiftly turned his head toward the direction where the shield bounced off to and suddenly saw Owen catching the shield midair while charging straight at him.

Whoosh!

There was a moment when Owen paused briefly before golden lights illuminated his body. This light turned into golden tattoos, which released golden lightning that danced around his body.

Crackle! Crackle!

In the next instant, Vulture saw Owen suddenly zooming right before his eyes. The latter was raising his battle hammer and about to slam it down with all his might like the God of Thunder.

‘Ancient Protector Skill (Tier 2): Wrath of the Thunderbird’

Crackle! Crackle!

Vulture’s eyes turned wide for a moment, along with his contracting pupils, watching the battle hammer slam toward his head.

Swoosh!

But when the battle truly slammed down, it just passed through his body, only smashing an afterimage before crushing the ground.

Boom!

The ground exploded and was crushed by that powerful strike, sending debris into the air.

“I do want to fight you, but this is the right time and place for that,” said Vulture as he could be seen flying in the air and heading straight to Ithilien, who was still busy firing arrows toward Sheryl and Berit’s direction.

But during his flight, Ithilien suddenly adjusted her position and aimed the bow and arrow in his direction.

She did not take that long to aim before releasing the arrow, which was fully enchanted with elemental mana, particularly the wind element.

Swoosh!

‘Mystic Elven Archery: Power Shot – Wind Strike’

The wind-enchanted arrow left a trail of light during its flight, creating a beautiful scene for everyone watching the match.

But it was a different take for Vulture, who was on the receiving end as he could sense an immense sense of dread coming from it.

Without further ado, he swiftly used one of his lifesaving skills, escaping such a predicament.

‘Shadow Assassin Skill (Tier 2): Soaring Escape’

But instead of going backwards or any other direction, Vulture chose to proceed forward, turning into a streak of light that brushed past the flying arrow and heading straight to Ithilien.

Ithilien was slightly taken aback by his actions, but she quickly responded and leaped off the tree house while firing a series of shots at Vulture midair.

Vulture, seeing this, swiftly used the unique feature of his class that was capable of stepping into the air for a few seconds to catch her. “Want to challenge me in a midair battle? You are in tough luck.”

“Is it?” responded Ithilien with a smirk despite seeing Vulture stepping in the air and agilely doing a series of aerial maneuvers to dodge her arrows while trying to catch her.

Vulture was about to reach her when his vision was suddenly blocked by a huge hammer that was rapidly magnifying right before his eyes.

“How...!?” he was unable to complete his words since he had to activate another lifesaving skill to escape swiftly.

‘Extra Skill (Tier 2): (Modified) Gale Steps’

Swoosh!

Just like before, he chose to move forward, taking advantage of the brief invulnerability that the skill provided to tank the damage of the incoming hammer and reach Ithilien.

Bang!

Despite getting grazed by that attack, Vulture continued to move forward while swinging his shortswords that were currently coated by his unique energy signature through his mana manipulation technique.

‘Soaring Slayer Art: Soaring Killer – Rampage’

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The shortswords left a series of crimson lights in the air, rapidly approaching Ithilien, who remained calm and composed despite her current predicament.

She continued to aim forward, seemingly ignoring the threat of the incoming attacks.

Right after the crimson slashes shredded her body into pieces, she swiftly released the bowstring and the mana-enchanted arrow, releasing a devastating attack.

‘Mystic Elven Archery: Power Shot – Piercing Wind’

Swoosh!

At the same time, her body suddenly disappeared from her position, swapped with Owen, who was already holding his shield before him and ready to block the barrage of sword strikes.

‘Ancient Protector Skill (Tier 2): Sacrificial Swap’

Bang! Bang! Bang!

As the crimson sword struck, bombarding his shield, the piercing arrow that Ithilien fired earlier suddenly pierced through Vulture’s body, which was already turning illusory.

“Tsk! He also escaped from that, huh?” Ithilien clicked her tongue when she saw that.

She landed gently on the roof of the tree house once again.

“The name Scavenger King is not for show. That guy did not just get his title by sitting around and doing nothing,” said Owen as he also landed beside her, protecting her from any possible ambush.

“He earned that title through chaotic battles, where he always emerged victorious,” he added before locking his gaze on a certain direction.

It was at that moment that Vulture materialized once again before clicking his tongue. “What a sharp sense. I guess this is not going to be easy.”

“You do have very powerful stealth abilities, but I can name at least two people who are on another level,” commented Owen, clearly talking about Diablo and Faker, whom he constantly sparred with during the preparation week.

"I guess I have to work harder then," said Vulture as his eyes suddenly turned serious, along with a dangerous glint that flashed for an instant.

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Chapter 1847: The Fangs of the Sanguine King (Part 1)

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Vulture looked at the two, who were looking at him from the roof of the tree house, before asking. "So, you two have purposely revealed your location to lure me away from Sheryl and Berit."

Owen paused for a moment to have an internal debate about whether to answer that question or not before sighing. "Well, this is not our original plan if we are being honest. But after seeing your lineup, we have no choice but to do this given your fierce reputation."

He looked at Vulture with full seriousness before answering. "Among all the members of God's Paradise, you are one of the most annoying ones when it comes to Group Battles or Team Competitions."

"The more chaotic the situation is, the more your skills shine, so we can only choose to lure you away and fight you in isolation rather than picking an unfavorable battle for us," he added, not caring whether the other party understood their side or not.

After all, they had already achieved their initial goals.

They had already experienced how annoying this guy was during their scrimmages, giving them enough information about him aside from the reputation that was already known to the public.

He was quite a menace to his opponents when it became chaotic on the field. He was a natural opportunist, which made him shine the more chaotic the battlefield was.

Siezing and creating such opportunities in battle was his expertise, so group battles and team competitions were like a home advantage for him, regardless of the map they were on.

Given their decent familiarity with this person, the trio from the Empyrean Talons decided to avoid fighting him on his turf. After all, once the battle became more chaotic, his playground would be fully set up.

If not for Cloe constantly marking this guy with her spells during that time, then they would have most likely lost more rounds during those scrims.

Hearing the honest answer, Vulture could not help but chuckle a little. He knew that their commanders were quite in a 'friendly' relationship with one another and even built up an alliance, albeit it being an 'unofficial' one.

The forces of God's Paradise had garrisoned themselves on the Gold Mountain, particularly at the Gold City, so the relationship between the two adventurer teams was quite close, even if it was just from a business perspective at the moment.

Regardless, competition was competition. They were currently on this stage, so he could just sympathize with them. "Heh! Are you not worried that your Vampire friend will turn into a Swiss cheese fighting alone on that side?"

"Those comrades of mine are not easy pickings, you know? They have been partners for quite a long time, so they are not to be underestimated," he added, trying to see where the confidence of the opposing party was coming from.

Hearing that, Owen chuckled as he answered. "Don't worry about that guy. He is the one who has suggested this anyway, so I believe that he can handle that side himself."

"For now, you should worry about yourself," he added before jumping off the roof of the tree house.

Bang!

Right after he landed, some mechanism seemed to have been activated, making the ground tremble due to the appearance of a tall wall surrounding and sealing the area, spanning up to a hundred-meter radius.

“Is this all the modifications that you have done to this map? Just a simple method of sealing the place?” commented Vulture, seemingly understanding the intention of his opponents.

“I guess, I have to showcase a bit of my skills and prove that my expertise is not just limited to assassination,” he added before getting ready for the battle.

Owen and Ithilien, on the other hand, readied themselves in response before swiftly launching a coordinated attack.

...

Meanwhile, on the other side of the map, Sheryl and Berit were still busy dealing with the swarm of shadow bats that were attacking them from every direction.

“It seems like there is no end to this. This is getting a little annoying!” complained Sheryl, a little before taking out a bunch of spherical objects from her inventory.

Seeing her action from the corner of his eyes, Berit could not help but wear a panicked expression before scolding her. “Are you crazy? Using such powerful bombs in this place!?”

“Shut up a just set up the barrier already!” Sheryl snarled back, not caring about the reaction of her partner.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Immediately after, she threw the spherical bombs in different directions, centering on the part where the greatest number of bats were gathered.

“This lunatic woman!” Regardless of his complaints, Berit still raised his shield and summoned a thick and sturdy barrier that was obviously much tougher than what he had just summoned earlier.

‘Shield Master Skill (Tier 2): Protection of the Land King’

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Right after the barrier appeared, the bombs immediately exploded almost at the same time, producing a destructive aftermath.

Rumble!

The barrier shook violently due to the chained bombardment of the explosions, but it remained tough and sturdy despite how powerful the successive explosions hitting it.

When everyone settled, Berit still maintained the barrier, not daring to lower his guard even for a second.

They knew that the earlier swarm of bats was nothing but a mere distraction, creating an opening for Alucard to strike.

Now that their vision was currently being obstructed by a thick cloud of smoke produced by the earlier explosion, ambushing them would be much easier than before.

At the same time, Sheryl was already spreading her senses everywhere, attempting to find any signs of their opponents. Not even a single movement of the wind or a small fluctuation of mana could escape her perception.

Bang!

It was at this moment that a resounding gunshot rang from a distance, fully alerting the two.

Berit was quite confused at first, but he just resumed infusing more mana into the barrier, making sure to block the incoming attack.

But while he was doing that, Sheryl, who was behind him, suddenly grabbed his shoulders and swiftly pulled him to the side.

Bang!

It was also at that moment that a crimson streak of light suddenly pierced through the barrier without any sort of obstruction and passed through the place where Berit previously stood.

Given his sharp eyes, he could tell that his head would have most likely exploded if Sheryl had not pulled him away and let that shot hit him.

He was still in the middle of processing everything inside his head when Sheryl swiftly pulled out her pair of submachine guns and started firing in another direction.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The magic bullets flew out and put holes in the thick cloud of smoke, somewhat clearing it.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

When Berit turned his head toward the direction from which she had just fired, he suddenly saw a barrage of crimson daggers hovering in the air got annihilated by the storm of bullets, and crushed like pieces of fragile glass.

Swoosh!

He just recovered his composure when a dashing silhouette brushed past him and headed straight to Sheryl.

“Shit!” he could only curse himself when he saw Alucard appearing before Sheryl and throwing a forward stab toward her.

Shing!

Sheryl swiftly retreated when she sensed the sudden ambush, distancing herself from the incoming opponent.

Swoosh!

Her swift response saved her from having a hole in her chest.

Berit had also responded in time and charged at Alucard with all his might, resembling an unstoppable truck while he raised his pair of shields before him.

Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

At the same time, Sheryl started firing a series of shots in his direction, blocking all the possible retreat paths that he could take.

Poof!

However, Alucard just let his body explode his body into black smoke and transformed into a swarm of bats that flew in every direction.

Shriek! Shriek! Shriek!

At the same time, the bats had also released a simultaneous cry to produce a series of sonic attacks that disturbed the two.

The two ignored the fact that they failed to catch the slippery opponent and just took advantage of their respective actions to regroup with each other instead.

Shing!

However, before they could even reach one another, Alucard's figure materialized right beside Sheryl, along with the same stabbing posture from earlier.

Sheryl swiftly reacted, spinning her pair of submachine guns with her fingers before fixing her grips over them. Then she used their respective barrels to redirect the incoming rapier.

Clank!

Blazing sparks flew in the air as she let the blade of the rapier grind through the metal barrels of her guns before swiftly throwing a powerful knee kick toward her charging opponent.

Bang!

Unfortunately, Alucard just calmly placed his palm on the incoming knee, leisurely blocking the attack.

Taking advantage of the rebound force, Sheryl swiftly rode the momentum to slide backwards while firing a series of shots toward her opponent.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Alucard swiftly pulled out his magic pistol in response, firing in return.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

However, instead of exchanging fire with his opponent, he purposely hit the incoming storm of bullets, deflecting them with each of his shots.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Unfortunately, the firing rate and the number of bullets of his opponent's submachine gun were far superior to his single pistol.

However, the earlier shots were just to buy himself enough time to fix his stance, where he could freely swing his rapier and deflect the incoming storm of bullets.

"Just stay where you are!"

Berit then appeared behind Alucard, raising both his shields in the air before slamming them down with all his might.

Unfortunately, this supposedly perfect ambush turned into a dangerous situation when Alucard suddenly turned toward him, staring straight into his eyes.

"Shit!"

He knew that he had fallen into the trap once again, especially after seeing the eerie and bloody aura surrounding the opposing party.

'Sanguine Swordsmanship: Blood in the Moonlight'

Shing!

Berit swiftly adjusted his posture in the air, forcefully canceling his previous actions to place his shields before him and quickly reinforcing them with all his mana.

Swoosh!

Boom!

In the next instant, Alucard's rapier, whose blade had turned completely crimson, suddenly stabbed forward and strongly hit the center of his shield before sending him flying in the opposite direction.

Whoosh!

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Chapter 1848: The Fangs of the Sanguine King (Part 2)

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Boom!

"The heck!? That 'simple' stab is that powerful!?" Berit complained a little after being sent flying right after a single stab.

Even though most of the reason was because he was unable to gain a proper footing in the air, the other reason was mainly because of the power behind that attack.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

While he was distracted with his thoughts, Sheryl had taken advantage of the situation to fire another barrage of shots at Alucard.

Swoosh!

Alucard then moved, charging ahead to face the hail of bullets head-on instead of dodging.

During his charge, he raised his magic pistol and fired a barrage of crimson bullets that collided against the magic bullets of the opposing side before continuing to head toward his opponent.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

From the look of it, he was intending to exchange shots against Sheryl, who was already assuming a battle stance and continuously firing at him without pause.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Seeing the incoming crimson bullets, Sheryl continued to increase her firing rate, facing the high quality of her opponent's attacks with a larger quantity of her bullets.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

A series of blazing sparks started flying in the air as the bullets from both sides started clashing against one another.

Alucard's firing rate was obviously at a disadvantage due to him only using a single magic pistol compared to the pair of submachine guns of his opponent.

However, he was still able to hold his ground by just deflecting the incoming bullets with his rapier while also dodging the rest with his complex maneuvers.

Swoosh!

Not long after, he almost reached his opponent, getting ready to launch a barrage of intense attacks.

But before he could even perform what he was thinking, Sheryl immediately released her stance and started hopping backwards while continuously firing at him.

She was not just planning to kite Alucard but also applying a series of gunfighting techniques in the mix to ward him off from reaching her.

However, Alucard just responded in kind, showcasing his amazing footwork that was created after fusing the famed 'Gun-Fu', 'Sleepwalk', 'Silent Steps', and other techniques that made both the Gun King and the Sword King famous.

It was the very first moment when Alucard sword everyone the true combination of these two styles that seemed to come from the same root and shared true essences despite being way too different from the surface.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Clank! Clank! Clank!

During the cat-and-mouse chase, the two showcased a series of techniques that not only amazed everyone watching the match but also felt somewhat complicated.

For those who played the famous game «Gun and Sword» Online, they felt like they were seeing a battle that was oddly familiar to them.

“Sheryl!? Are the rumors true? Is she that famous Gunner Goddess of that game!?”

“Gunner Goddess? That famous Goddess that almost defeated Gun King Roger in a duel?”

“That’s not the only feat she has achieved. She also almost defeated Sword King Sairen as well.”

“She is also one of the top rising stars, even before the release of «Guns and Swords» Online. She rivals those Monster Class Players from «True Era» Online!”

“But why did she change her name?”

“Not only that! If the rumors are true, then it can also be said that she is the one who has disbanded the Everlasting Guild from «Guns and Swords» Online!”

“D*mn! Forget about that! She is now more powerful compared to her previous reputation! Bullet Storm Sheryl, she is said to be more powerful than Gun King Roger now.”

“Is it true, though? Look at how she struggles to fight the Sanguine King Alucard!”

“Is Alucard weak then? It is already confirmed that he has surpassed both Sword King Sairen and Gun King Roger from the analysis of the top powerhouses of the guilds.”

“Even the Mystery Pavilion has evaluated him to be above those two previous kings combined.”

While the people from the live stand and online chat were arguing with one another, those people who were the most familiar with the subjects could not help but shake their heads.

“What a bunch of idiots. They all know shit!” said Moyong Qi as he could not stand the speculations of those around them.

Moyong Gui, the second eldest among the Wild Brothers, could not help but ask. “Tsk! Tsk! Sheryl is indeed the rumored Gunner Goddess, and she has become much powerful than before.”

“The same can be said of this mysterious Sanguine King, especially when he is now showcasing the true combination of the variety of techniques that the Sword and Gun Kings used to have.”

“I don’t have any idea about it since I still have yet to become a true expert during their time,” said Moyong Han, the youngest of the three.

"Hmph! This bunch of idiots only knows about the strength and reputation of those three, but not the true history behind them," said Moyong Qi, the eldest brother, before continuing. "Those guys may look like rivals on the surface, but the truth is far from being that simple."

He paused for a moment as he reminisced before adding. "From what I know about them, those 'three' used to study from the same tutelage and somewhat have a sibling-disciple relationship."

"I am not sure about the exact details, but I am sure that it is around it," he said with a frown.

"I am still not sure about Alucard. I still can't tell what his relationship with Roger and Sairen is, but it must be similar to it or something," he added with some uncertainty in his words.

He then looked at the ongoing battle and squinted his eyes before adding. "But given how they performed, I become somewhat confident of this analysis."

...

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Going back on the battlefield, Sheryl and Alucard were still locked in an instead chase, where both sides were showing almost all their cards, particularly their combat techniques and such.

Berit, who was sent flying earlier, had also returned to the battlefield at this point. He swiftly charged forward, placing himself between the two.

He had both cut off the advance path of Alucard and blocked Sheryl's line of sight.

But coordinating with him quite well, Sheryl had already stopped firing ahead of time, expecting her partner to arrive at that time.

At the same time, she had changed the guns that she was using to a high-caliber assault rifle. She seemed to be also planning to use a very advanced skill to lock on to Alucard while Berit pinned the latter in place.

But Alucard had no intention to use his usual style to fight the two of them alone because he knew that they had already studied him quite well.

He was familiar with Sheryl quite well, so he did not want to let her use the knowledge she had about him for this battle.

This time, he was planning to show everyone his current capabilities, baring his fangs.

He first took a couple of steps back to distance himself from Berit, catching the latter off guard.

“Eh!?” Even Sheryl was somewhat taken aback since she knew that Berit was still hadn’t fixed his position, so there was still a high chance for Alucard to bypass him with those strange vampire abilities.

While they were still quite confused at the situation, Alucard had finally used a skill that everyone would only see from him for the very first time.

Poof!

Shriek! Shriek! Shriek!

At first, the duo thought that Alucard was planning to use his shadow bats and their sonic attack once again.

But when they were preparing themselves to annihilate the shadow bats before they could fully surround them, they suddenly saw that these bats transformed into human form.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Looking around, the two then saw that each bat took the form of Alucard while holding a variety of weapons.

Some were holding a pair of magic pistols, others were carrying a sniper rifle, while the rest were wielding a rapier in their hands.

The two were still processing the formation of the group when the opposing side suddenly launched a coordinated attack.

‘Vampiric Ability: Dark Phantom – Shadow’

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Seeing that different attacks from all directions were besieging them, the two swiftly responded.

Sheryl fixed her grip on her assault rifle before firing with powerful and rapid shots, covering the left and back side.

Ra ta ta ta!

In the meantime, Berit swiftly fixed his stance before suddenly throwing both his shields in different directions like a boomerang, annihilating everything on their path along with the violent cyclone that they created.

He was covering the right and front side, where the densest number of phantoms were gathered.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

While the two were busy dealing with these phantoms, the surroundings seemed to have grown even darker, caused by the crimson color slowly staining the field.

When Sheryl and Berit noticed this, they swiftly swept their eyes over the surroundings, finding out that there were a bunch of weapons floating in the air.

These crimson weapons seemed to have been made with blood.

‘Vampiric Ability: Blood Alchemy – Limitless’

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, these blood weapons suddenly started dropping from the sky and violently rained down on the two.

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Chapter 1849: The Fangs of the Sanguine King (Part 3)

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Bang! Bang! Bang!

The pair from God’s Paradise were doing their best to defend themselves against the barrage of combination attacks that Alucard was throwing at them.

The combination of the phantoms and the blood weapons was not as simple as everyone had thought.

Everyone first thought that the phantoms were nothing but a bunch of illusions to distract Sheryl and Berit, while the blood weapons raining down from the sky were meant to be the real attack.

But contrary to what everyone was thinking, these two were meant to work well with each other.

The phantoms were not just a bunch of illusions that could be eliminated easily. They were more like a group of clones that could repeatedly resurrect so long as the mana pool of the user of the skill could be maintained for as long as they desired.

Meanwhile, the blood weapons that were summoned in the air were not just meant to attack the duo from the sky. They were also meant to be the mobile armory of these phantoms.

Moreover, it was not just your regular phantom clones with above-average combat capabilities. These phantoms were among the top-notch clones that anyone could find alongside their very advanced AI, particularly in terms of their battle IQs.

Moreover, Sheryl and Berit also noticed that every phantom possessed very high combat techniques that could rival most of the peak Maverick and Titled Rankers out there.

If it were just those regular rankers, then it might still be a fight since these two could handle them, however many they were. Unfortunately, these phantoms seemed to have shared their minds, possessing perfect coordination and combination techniques.

“Tsk! Tsk! So, he is finally utilizing the real powers of his race, huh?” commented Sheryl while retreating toward Berit, who immediately protected her.

Berit threw the pair of round shields in his hands, letting them roll while blazing wheels around them, revolving them and forming a firestorm that warded off the incoming phantoms.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

‘Shield Master Skill (Tier 2): (Modified) Blazing Tornado’

The heat generated by the blazing tornado also melted most of the blood weapons that were currently scattered on the battlefield, as well as those that were still falling from the sky.

To make sure that the blood pool created by the melted blood weapons would not be able to pose any threat later, Berit had also used another skill to further amplify the effects of the previous one, triggering a combination skill stacking.

Whoosh!

The blood pool boiled and evaporated due to the sudden intensification of the temperature, creating a blood mist instead, which also swiftly dissipated not long after.

At the same time, Sheryl suddenly kept the assault rifle that she was holding before pulling out a gatling gun, which was noticeably much larger than her somewhat petite body.

She pulled this heavy gun with her skinny arms, somewhat shocking everyone, before resting it over her shoulder.

She did a pose for a moment before lowering the tactical goggles and fixing them a little. It was only after that that she held the gatling gun once again and fixed her posture before starting to fire along with her skill.

‘Military Gunfighting Technique: (Enhanced) Random Firing’

Du du du du!

Flashes of light were repeatedly released from the tip of the rotating gun barrels, firing a barrage of magic bullets everywhere that annihilated the surrounding phantoms right outside the blazing tornado.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Poof! Poof! Poof!

Almost all the phantoms were eliminated right after the barrage of bullets rained down on them. Even if they managed to dodge the initial attacks due to their fast reaction, they were still unable to hold it for that long, especially when Sheryl applied a very advanced technique on top of everything.

Seeing how fast his phantoms were falling one after another, Alucard no longer had the intention of resurrecting them because it would only be a waste of mana.

Even if he could remotely control most of them and kept the pressure on the opposing duo, the burden on his mind would only go worse if he continued using this vampiric ability.

Instead, he used another ability along with the arrangement that he had just set up earlier.

“If they are thinking that the blood elemental mana containing my blood abilities will dissipate that easily, then they are up for a surprise,” he mumbled while sitting on his feet quite leisurely on a nearby branch of the tree.

The surrounding darkness seemed to have also moved toward him, creating a veil that hid his presence from his enemies.

He took the initiative to unsummon his phantoms before waiting for the blazing tornado to dissipate.

Whoosh!

Right after Berit retrieved his round shields, the blazing tornado had slowly disappeared and revealed the pair to everyone once again.

Sheryl cast an ice spell on her gatling gun, which was currently emitting a thick cloud of smoke due to the continuous firing earlier. It was to lower the heat and prevent it from jamming later.

At the same time, she also swiftly scanned the surroundings with the tactical goggles that she was wearing, trying to find Alucard.

Unfortunately, despite how advanced her tools were, they were still unable to find the opposing party.

"How is it possible that my tactical goggles are unable to find even any signs of mana fluctuations?" she mumbled with a clear sigh of confusion.

These tactical goggles were made from the most advanced technology that their team had found in a certain ruin.

That ruin seemed to be from an ancient civilization that focused on mechanical technology. This technology was so advanced that the team believed that it came from another dimension or realm, especially after seeing the patch notes that were released just recently.

Aside from that, this ruin from an ancient mechanical civilization possessed a certain inheritance that could also help someone convert into a certain class centered on advanced technology.

Unfortunately, none of their members were experts in this area. Not even one was interested in this expertise, especially when each of them already had the path that they were interested in.

As for the regular members of the Adventurer Team, aside from their key members of the main force, none of them were yet qualified to access such information and benefits.

Sheryl had met almost all the qualifications for the said class, but she also rejected it because the slots for her main and secondary combat classes had already been filled, and both classes satisfied her quite well.

This was why their team was thinking of selling the inheritance for quite a hefty sum. Their team was already in contact with quite a few fat sheep, which were on the same rank as Whale God Cetus.

Regardless, Sheryl still had taken some of the tools that they had gotten from the ruins, adding them to her arsenal.

While she was confused about the current situation, a sudden thought flashed through her mind. With her sparkling eyes, she swiftly adjusted the settings of the goggles before scanning the surroundings once again.

It was at this moment that she noticed a certain part of part that was too devoid of anything. It was as if there was a certain gap in the space filled with nothing.

“Found you~!” she smirked before keeping the gatling gun and swapping it with a high-caliber sniper rifle.

She then took on a sniping stance and aimed at a certain ‘void’ in the place.

Zong~! Long~! Long~!

The mana particles in the air were slowly gathering at the muzzle of her sniper rifle as she adjusted her breathing.

While she was preparing to fire a powerful shot, the veil of darkness that was covering Alucard suddenly revealed himself, while also assuming the same posture along with his sniper rifle.

Wong~!

At the same time, the tip of his rifle also had a gathering of mana mixed with his blood power, applying his unique mana manipulation technique.

Through her tactical goggles, Sheryl could see the smirk that Alucard was wearing, giving her an ominous feeling.

“Ah!?”

It was at this moment that Berit suddenly slammed his shields with one another, creating a series of overlapping sounds.

This snapped Sheryl out of her concentration. But before she could even complain to Berit, the latter immediately shouted with a grim expression on his face while also summoning a barrier to cover the two.

“This is bad! We have been poisoned!?”

“Eh!?”

Somewhat taken aback, Sheryl swiftly looked at her status window and immediately realized that she was indeed under the effects of a certain poison.

“Since when did-...!?” She was quite confused at first, but the realization swiftly kicked in right after. “The blood weapons!”

Berit nodded his head with full solemnness. “I think it also has gotten worse when I tried to burn the blood pools and made them evaporate.”

“Not only that, the phantoms seemed to have also meticulously arranged them well,” she added, realizing that all the series of events were nothing but an arrangement of their opponent.

“That guy knew us quite well,” she added along with a deep frown.

“Should we use our hidden cards as well?” asked Berit.

Sheryl nodded before looking forward once again and assuming her stance once more. Fortunately, her concentration was quite high, making it quite hard to break.

The earlier skill was still in the process, along with the gathering of mana particles at the tip of her sniper rifle.

"This guy is still as annoying as ever," she added as she saw Alucard maintain the smirk on his face through her goggles.

From the look of it, he was teasing her by purposely not taking advantage of the earlier situation. He seemed to be waiting for her to pull the trigger of her sniper rifle before doing the same.

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Chapter 1850: The Fangs of the Sanguine King (Part 4)

...

Bang! Bang!

Almost at the same time, Alucard and Sheryl pulled the triggers of their respective sniper rifles, firing the fully charged shots that they had prepared earlier.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The blue and crimson beams of light flew straight to one another before colliding and producing a devastating explosion.

Boom!

The shockwaves from the collision repeatedly overlapped with one another, creating a chaotic storm that annihilated everything on their path.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The surrounding trees and little structures started falling one after another, almost leveling the entire place before sinking to create a deep crater.

When everything settled, the figures of Shery and Berit were slowly revealed. Both were wearing masks that covered the lower half of their faces.

Sheryl was wearing a somewhat modern tactical mask while Berit had a traditional metallic mask filled with mysterious runes.

On the other side of the crater, Alucard stood quite menacingly and arrogantly, along with the sniper rifle resting on his shoulders.

Seeing him, Sheryl could not help but frown deeply, clearly showing her annoyance.

“The poison is spreading quite slowly yet steadily. This is quite dangerous for us. We will lose because of this if we don’t find a way to deal with it,” said Berit with full solemnness.

“We neither have a priest nor anyone who can dispel for us,” she said with a frown. “Even my cleansing syringe is ineffective against it.”

“Maybe it is more like a curse rather than a poison?” said Berit, voicing his thoughts.

Regardless, we are now on a timer. We can’t let this match continue any longer. Let’s use the trump card now,” said Sheryl after a brief analysis.

“Tsk! This is still early, but I guess we have no choice,” said Berit before getting into position.

A moment later, he positioned himself in front of Sheryl before crouching down and curling his body while holding his shields on both sides.

The shields then grew larger, almost covering him entirely. In between these shields, Berit suddenly pulled the shields a little closer to himself, making them join and hiding him inside completely.

This formed a wheel-like object that slowly swayed forward and backward before suddenly rolling down the deep crater before it.

It continued to gather momentum as it rolled further before turning into a huge spinning wheel of destruction that could annihilate everything on its path.

Swoosh!

‘Shield Master Skill (Tier 3): Forbidden Technique – Rolling Dragon’

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Alucard raised his brows when he saw the ‘wheel’ rolling, bouncing, and dancing within the crater to gather an even stronger momentum.

“Interesting,” he commented before looking at Sheryl, who was standing at the opposite end of the crater and seemingly preparing something.

Squinting his eyes a little, he activated his ‘Sanguine Eyes’ to see what she was doing more clearly before frowning once again. “Constructing an advanced firearm?”

“It must be the particle cannon that she keeps on bragging to her elder brother,” he mumbled before shaking his head.

This weapon might be quite destructive and could put quite a pressure on him, given the large range that it possessed.

But there was also quite an obvious weakness that came alongside it, which was her unable to move and becoming a sitting duck for her opponent.

But Alucard highly doubted that it would be that simple, making him look at the ‘wheel’ rolling within the crater.

“So, that’s it, huh?” he smirked.

He could tell that this ‘wheel’ would have more than one purpose in this match. Not only was the offensive power that it had quite decent, but its defensive prowess shouldn’t be something that could be underestimated either.

“Since you are showing me something interesting, then let me show more as well,” he mumbled before casually waving his free hand in the air.

Swoosh!

With this movement, he conjured a bunch of sniper rifles made of blood power behind him, fanning out quite stunningly.

‘Vampiric Ability: Blood Alchemy – Annihilator’

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

He then aimed forward, targeting Sherly, who had just finished setting up the energy cannon and assumed position behind it.

Along with his actions, the blood rifles fanning out behind him also aimed forward, locking on whoever his main rifle was at.

“Let’s test what you can do first,” he mumbled before pulling the trigger.

‘Military Gunfighting Technique: Lethal Move – Meteoric Barrage’

Bang!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Right after he pulled the trigger of the main sniper rifle, the rest of the blood rifles fired almost at the same time and sent a barrage of shots at Sheryl.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As the beams of light were heading straight to her location, Sheryl kept her calm as she aimed back at Alucard and charged the energy particles for her first attack.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Right before the crimson beams of light reached her, a huge energy wall was suddenly erected before their path, blocking them.

Rumble!

The energy wall trembled quite violently due to the bombardment of those beams of light, but it remained standing strong and tall, not showing any signs of crumbling.

“Quite sturdy,” commented Alucard after seeing that.

“Then how about this!?” he added before adding another ability.

‘Vampiric Ability: Dark Phantom – Mirror’

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, multiple copies of himself suddenly appeared and spread out, aiming at Sheryl along with their respective array of blood rifles.

“Damn! This is dangerous!” commented Sheryl after seeing the multiple ‘Alucards’ from the opposing side of the crater, but still maintained her calm.

It was because she was not alone.

Swoosh!

Not long after, Berit, who was currently in his ‘rolling wheel’ form and started attacking Alucard and his clones, preventing them from targeting Sheryl and killing most of them in the process.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Unfortunately, the rest still managed to fire their respective shots and bombarded the energy wall with successive attacks.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

However, Sheryl had already finished charging the energy of her cannon and swiftly pulled the trigger, firing a destructive energy beam that had destroyed everything on its at.

BOOM!

Even the residual parts of the energy wall and the remaining crimson beams raining down on it were erased right after coming in contact with the huge energy beam that Sheryl had just fired.

Boom!

Right after the energy beam dissipated, everyone saw the huge scar that it had left behind.

The aftermath was quite serious as the energy had erased everything on its path, even leaving a scorching land to tell everyone how strong it was.

However, the main target of this energy beam was nowhere to be found, seemingly surviving the destruction.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Not long after, a series of resounding sounds suddenly reverberated on the map as multiple copies of Alucard started firing from different directions.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

It was clear that Alucard was intending to pull Berit away from Sheryl by scattering multiple clones of himself to different places.

However, Berit did not bite the bait and continued to roll around, even bouncing high up in the air to collide against some of the shots that Alucard had fired, lowering the number of attacks that could bombard the newly erected energy that protected Sheryl.

Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A series of exchanges then followed as both sides started firing at one another.

Alucard relied on his phantoms and clones to attack the opposing side from multiple directions. He was also applying most of his combat techniques in the mix for more complicated attacks and combinations.

He was also utilizing the environment quite well, particularly the night setting of the map, to hide his presence.

This made it hard for Sheryl to lock on him, especially when Alucard's utilization of darkness was no weaker than those top-notch and godly assassins and thieves out there.

Even though Sheryl's firepower was quite devastating, her firing rate was not that fast. This limited her options, particularly when Alucard was starting to use more of his Vampiric Abilities aside from Shadow Bats, Dark Pathom, and Blood Alchemy.

One of the most annoying abilities was 'Vampire Psychokinesis', which worked perfectly well with Blood Alchemy.

With the flying weapons everywhere, Berit was unable to fully utilize his abilities, particularly when his rhythm was repeatedly being disrupted by the combination of these two abilities.

There was also the 'Night Curtain' ability that not only amplified the stealth abilities of Alucard but also created some illusions that further confused Sheryl, who was already having a hard time monitoring the phantoms and clones that were firing at her from every direction.

This was not even the end, as the 'Blood Poison' that was already affecting was getting worse due to the continuous 'supply' of blood weapons summoned through 'Blood Alchemy'.

This show of abilities made everyone realize how scary Alucard was when he truly and fully showcased the abilities of his race.

But what made those from the top guilds and huge organizations worried were the 'Vampiric Abilities' themselves.

They might not be familiar with the Vampire Race, but it did not mean that their information network was that weak. They had already built a database about different races and classes, especially after learning the importance of such information.

Quite a lot of forces had already tried to figure out the races of every member of the Empyrean Talons and other top players within the game.

From the information that their scholars had learned, the Vampire Race was divided into multiple families, where each family had a unique ability of their own.

It was similar to other major races, which were divided into multiple subraces.

However, after seeing Alucard use multiple Vampiric Abilities one after another, which were supposed to be unique to certain Vampire Families, these forces could not help but doubt the information that they had gathered about the Vampire Race altogether.

That... or Alucard was just different from everyone else.

If it was the latter, then it was more than just a problem if they clashed with the Empyrean Talons in the future.

Aside from that, there was another question that flashed through their minds.

“Just how many Vampiric Abilities does this guy have?”