

Destiny 1851

Chapter 1851: The Fangs of the Sanguine King (Part 5)

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Boom!

While Alucard was showing off how powerful he was, along with the broken race that he possessed by suppressing his opponents alone, the battle on the other side of the map was taking a slightly different turn.

Vulture, who specialized in taking and creating opportunities in chaotic battles, found it a little hard to deal with Owen and Ithilien.

The individual skills of these two were already not battle, particularly Owen, who had already reached the absolute borderline between Peak Titled Rankers and the gods of the game. Adding their top-notch coordination, Vulture was having some trouble in this match.

Even if he was quite skilled and could be ranked very high among the Maverick Gods of the game, he was still unable to showcase his area of expertise in this match.

Unlike what was happening on the opposing side of the battlefield, where Alucard was ‘casually’ flexing his class, race, and skills, this side was somewhat going in the opposite direction.

With Owen utilizing the ‘Thunderbird Divine Tattoo’ to the fullest, perfectly warding off every attempt of ambush that Vulture tried to throw at Ithilien.

The tank-type classes were supposedly slow due to the set of heavy armor that they were wearing. But at this point, such a class was currently moving with high mobility, matching those with agility-type classes such as assassins and thieves.

This was the greatest headache that Vulture was currently facing. Adding that Ithilien could repeatedly put a mark on him with the help of the surrounding trees, plants, and even grasses, the situation had become a bit trickier to deal with.

The combination of these two people had already been studied by quite a lot of people, but countering their coordination was much harder than what had been formulated with theoretical knowledge alone.

The members of God's Paradise had also analyzed Owen's cards for quite some time, particularly Lia and Ashura, who first realized the threat that Owen could pose to them in Group Battles and Team Competitions.

But they had somewhat overlooked Ithilien's abilities due to her being repeatedly overshadowed in the previous matches.

It was not on purpose, as those who fought alongside her on the field were much brighter than her when performing on the field.

Now that the arrangement that the Empyrean Talons had prepared centered around her, she started to showcase her true talent and real capabilities.

She usually paired with Owen whenever they were sent on the field, so quite a lot of people were aware of what they were capable of doing together.

Most people only gave all the credit to Owen, who was always outdoing himself in every battle and proving to everyone how strong he was.

But now that Vulture was directly standing on the opposing end of the matchup, he realized that the abilities of this elven archer were more than just what they could see from the surface.

Her connection with the surroundings, particularly with nature itself, far surpassed most of the players of the game with the same race.

An elf with such a high connection with nature should be someone with at least Transcendent Race or top-notch Ascended Race at the very least.

The fact that she was able to hide it from everyone was more than enough to make Vulture wary of her, especially when he just realized that they barely had any information about this elven archer despite the initial data that they had about every member of the Empyrean Talons.

“Tsk! It seems like we have fallen quite deep into the trap,” he mumbled after realizing something.

The plan that they had was to somewhat drop the first round, which focused on two Single Matches. It was in exchange for saving more of their key members for the next two rounds, the Group Battle and the Team Competition.

Sheryl and Berit were long-time partners and were quite well-known even from the previous games that they had played before.

Both might have changed their current in-game names right now due to certain reasons, but they were still known as one of the top duos within the virtual world.

But from the look of it, Alucard seemed to be suppressing them to a certain degree, especially when Vulture could tell that those two were forced to use their respective trump cards based on the loud explosions that were coming from a distance.

Those two somewhat expected this outcome, which was why Vulture was also sent out for this round, filling all the gaps and weaknesses that the two had.

Moreover, he could also take advantage of his key expertise to put more pressure on their opponents.

Unfortunately, the opposing side seemed to have already seen through their plan and made certain arrangements ahead of time.

The double marksman, plus a highly mobile tank, greatly countered the lineup that they had.

With Alucard and Ithilien working together, Sheryl and Berit would receive a lot of pressure, especially when Alucard was very familiar with them.

This was the main reason why they had sent out Vulture to target Ithilien to lessen the pressure that the two would be having in the match.

Unfortunately, such a response was what the opposing side wanted them to do, catching them in a trap that was specially prepared for them.

He was still doing quite well against the two of them despite all of this, but he knew that he was not the deciding factor in this match.

It was that battle on the other side of the battlefield!

Thinking about this, he began considering whether he could simply return to that place to assist the two, thereby creating more chaos on that side.

Unfortunately, Owen and Ithilien would not let him go now that he was already trapped here, and he understood this very well.

Moreover, he also had to consider that Ithilien would be free to provide long-range support, further adding to the suppression that Alucard was already pressing on Sheryl and Berit.

If Alucard alone was more than enough to suppress the two, then it was not that hard to imagine how much more Ithilien could add if she joined in as well.

It was at this moment that Vulture realized that there was no escape from their current situation.

“Tsk! This is not going to be a problem if we just send either Dio or Keir in this round,” he mumbled as he continued to dodge the arrows fired by Ithilien while also keeping Owen away from him at the same time.

However, he swiftly rejected the idea as he recalled the other two troublesome opponents from the Empyrean Talons' side.

"But it will be a problem for us because those two are the only ones who can keep Diablo and Charlotte in check for the Team Competition," he clicked his tongue after realizing that.

"Tsk! Tsk! This will not be a problem if the twin or even the mad alchemist is here. Unfortunately, they are currently on an important expedition in the real world," he complained a little before dropping the subject altogether.

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The match continued, and the two sides of the battlefield continued to intensify the more time passed.

However, it was clear to everyone that the tides of the battle were leaning toward the Empyrean Talons' favor, making it more obvious how powerful Alucard was.

The 'brokenness' of his Vampire Race was only known to those top guilds and huge organizations within the game.

Some of the top gods of the game, who remained solo up until now, might also have some idea. But they still did not know about its true significance.

Regardless, the people started to see that this match was almost in the bag for the Empyrean Talons.

So long as no accidents were happening, the Empyrean Talons would most likely gain the first big advantage of the Grand Finals.

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"Tsk! It looks like we have lost the bet," said Lia, sighing a little.

“Well, there’s nothing we can do about that,” smiled Ashura as he stared at Alucard, who was almost completely suppressing Sheryl and Berit all by himself.

“We have already expected this to happen, but it was still quite unexpected that Alucard’s abilities are this broken,” Lia pursed her lips a little after seeing the Sanguine King showcase a variety of vampiric abilities throughout the battle.

“Well, it is still quite worth it. We are now at least aware of his abilities and can find a way to counter most of them for the rematch later,” said Ashura while squinting his eyes.

“Eh!? Now that you put it like this, then I think that it is quite worth it,” she said, clapping her hands along with sparkling eyes.

“If it is like that, then I think that those guys have lost something in exchange,” Susanoo chimed in with a slight frown on his face.

Ashura shook his head when he heard that. “It is. But it is not that much of a big impact since Alucard’s abilities will be revealed to everyone sooner or later.”

“Tsk! Tsk! If only the twin or mad alchemist is here, then things will be more interesting,” said Kallavan after realizing something.

“Those three, huh?” Ashura paused for a moment before nodding. “You may be right.”

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Chapter 1852: Round Ended

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There was not much of a surprise that happened in the latter stages of the match. The side of God’s Paradise still performed well and put up a good fight, but they still lost in the end.

The cause of their loss was the battle on the side where Alucard suppressed Sheryl and Berit. They did show everyone their real capabilities, but it was still far from being enough to match Alucard and his overpowered vampiric abilities.

This result was not because they were weaker, but due to Alucard's great familiarity with these two, particularly their fighting style, they had lost quite miserably in a certain sense.

He had countered the two quite well while also fully utilizing all the strange abilities of his race.

After wrapping up the battle on his side, he swiftly joined Owen and Ithilien, who were still locked in an intense battle against Vulture.

Vulture had no choice but to give up, knowing that there was no way he would be able to win against these three.

Even if he burst with power like how War God Simba had done during their match against the Earners Mercenary Group, doing a stunning 1-vs-4 scenario, he doubted that he would be able to defeat these three.

Ding

System: Victory – Empyrean Talons!

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“Whoa!”

“What an intense battle!”

“Is it truly intense, though!? It seems like Alucard is suppressing the opposing side one-sidedly.”

“Tsk! Tsk! What do you know!? What you are seeing is not everything there.”

“What do you mean?”

“This is just the first round. And what the Empyrean Talons was more than just one card. Having such crucial information, what do you think God’s Paradise will do next?”

“They might have lost now, and they can also lose the Team Competition later, but what do you think will happen after today’s match?”

“With everything they have on the table, the God’s Paradise will not go down that easily, especially when they have the home ground advantage next.”

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While the audience was arguing with one another, Miss Bunny and David took advantage of this little break to rest.

They were preparing for the upcoming Team Competition, which would most likely be a huge banger, especially when the remaining members of each team were filled with all-star players.

They not only had to save as much energy as they could for commenting on the next round, but they also needed to prepare some materials for the analysis segment after the match.

This was going to be a huge collision between titans, so the pace of the match would greatly surpass the previous rounds.

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In the meantime, the rest of the Empyrean Talons were already preparing for the next round.

"Finally! It is our turn!" said Arthur as he stood up and stretched his waist left and right. "I almost died of boredom sitting here. I can finally stretch my body all I want."

"Just don't drag us down later," said Leonard, trying to provoke Arthur into a banter as usual. "I have no intention of carrying baggage right now."

"Hah! Let's see who the useless baggage will be later," refuted Arthur with full aggressiveness.

"How about we decide it right now? There is no need to wait for the match... let's just have a round now. I'll beat you right here and now!" said Leonard, cracking his neck left and right, producing a series of popping sounds.

Cloe rolled her eyes at the two and ignored them, knowing that they were only doing this to ease the atmosphere.

Even if they were in the lead, she knew that they had somewhat revealed their cards in exchange for these rounds that they had just won.

The little losses that they had suffered would not affect their mentality much, but they still damaged some of their surprise factor for the rematch fight two days later.

Alucard's Vampiric Abilities were one of the cards that were revealed, which was quite obvious for everyone. But the Empyrean Talons knew that Ithilien's true capabilities would most likely be noticed by Vulture after such intensive exchanges.

Akailu might have achieved a decent breakthrough for his style, further increasing his battle capabilities. But he would still need some time to fully digest all his gains from his battle against Cetus.

He still needed some time to grow his strength to a decent level. The time that they had in hand after this match was not enough for it.

They had sacrificed quite a lot just to earn this 3-point lead over their opponents, so they must win the upcoming Team Competition no matter what.

Even if she was confident with their current lineup, the opposing side was still someone that they could not underestimate.

After all, they were the defending champions of the United Cup for a reason.

She turned to Shin, who was still sitting with his eyes closed. He seemed to be meditating, somewhat doing a reboot and organizing all the information that they had about their opponents.

With a slight nod of her head, she turned to Alice, who happened to be looking at her as well.

There was a slight awkwardness between the two before they nodded and exchanged a smile with each other.

Given the aura that they two possessed, anyone could tell that they were currently in their peak form. There was also a slight resonance that came between them, which was caused by their experiences when studying the ancient runes within the sealed hall of the Forgotten Temple.

At the same time, there was also Diablo, who was in the same state as Shin. He was in the middle of meditation, which was a habit that he had picked up after studying under Professor Henry.

Benedict and the other seniors from the Research Department of the Magic Ace Academy had emphasized the importance of meditation in training, particularly for someone like him who had just started to enter the world of martial arts.

The air within the room was somewhat in a mixture of tenseness and ease due to their actions.

However, the rest of the team could sense that this was somewhat of a calm before the storm, especially after feeling the somewhat suffocating aura filling the air.

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In the meantime, the side of God's Paradise was also somewhat at the same level of tenseness.

Ashura stood up and turned toward the team before saying. "I guess this is it. It is that time game."

"We have won the last season against the toughest lineup of the Titan Guild, which is much worse compared to our current situation. All we need to do is to continue doing what we do best, and the result will follow," he added, trying to encourage everyone.

Susanoo chuckled in response. "That lineup is indeed hard to face. Facing all their higher-ups, who are all standing at the top of the Godly Ranking Lists of that time, is such a hellish experience."

"God King Zeus, All-Father Odin, Thunder God Thor, God Trickster Loki, God of Destruction Shiva -... those guys together are already troublesome enough, so if we added the others in the mix-... the experience is truly terrible," nodded Kallavan, completely agreeing with Susanoo.

He might be called the Combat King, who never backed off in the face of any adversity and never ran away from any battle, but there were still some experiences that he refused to remember.

Lia then added with a smile. "But we still won in the end, isn't it?"

Dio, who kept his silence all this time, suddenly chimed in. "But the lineup of our current opponent will not lose to those guys either."

Battle God Sickarius, Dragon God Siegfried, War God Simba, Gentle Goddess Arielle, Elemental Goddess Charlotte, and Shadow Dancer Diablo – this lineup was no way weaker than that lineup.

It might even be a bit stronger in some areas, especially when the mechanics in this game were on a whole different level. The ceiling of these mechanics, in particular, had far surpassed almost every other game that was released before.

"Regardless, we still have to face them with our full strength and fearlessly," said Kallavan while bumping his fist together, which even resulted in a small and gentle shockwave that swept through everyone.

Picking up his sword, Susanoo half unsheathed it and looked at its blade before sheathing it back. A burning fighting spirit was also raging within his chest, wanting to step onto the stage as soon as possible.

Dio smirked a little before lifting his dark spear and resting it over his shoulder, similarly excited for this Team Competition.

Keir, the dark magician, kept silent until now. But there was a noticeable ignition of fighting spirit within his eyes that was somewhat hidden under the shades of his hood.

Lia nodded her head and smiled after seeing that the team's confidence and morale were quite good.

Turning her head at Ashura, she could see that he was quite eager to step onto the battlefield and unable to suppress his hunger for battle any longer.

Noticing her gaze, Ashura gave her a reassuring smile before saying. "Don't worry, I will be fine. I'm just excited to finally face the full strength of those guys in a Team Competition."

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Chapter 1853: The First Collision

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Ding

The system did not tease everyone watching the grand finals and immediately announced the start of the final round of this first match between the Empyrean Talons and God's Paradise.

System: United Cup Grand Finals, First Match!

Third Round – Team Competition – Empyrean Talons (Home) versus God’s Paradise (Away)!

Empyrean Talons:

Team Commander:

‘Gentle Goddess’ Arielle (Godlike Player)

Team Members:

‘Battle God’ Sickarius (Godlike Player)

‘Dragon God’ Siegfried (Godlike Player)

‘War God’ Simba (Godlike Player)

‘Elemental Goddess Charlotte (Godlike Player)

‘Dancer of Shadows’ Diablo (Maverick God)

God’s Paradise:

Team Commander:

‘Martial God’ Ashura (Godlike Player)

Team Members:

‘Origin Cleric’ Lia (Maverick God)

‘Combat King’ Kallavan (Maverick God)

‘Storm Samurai’ Susano (Maverick God)

‘Dark Magician’ Kier (Maverick God)

‘Dominion Spear’ Dio (Maverick God)

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Looking at the respective lineup of each team, which was filled with all-star players, everyone watching the match could not help but swallow hard due to the mixture of nervousness and amazement.

They were unable to take their eyes off the virtual screen projected by the system, which revealed the names of players who would represent their respective teams for this match.

The names on the side of the Empyrean Talons were filled with names of Godlike Players with high ranking in any Godly Ranking List.

All of them had a huge and stunning reputation within the virtual world, including Shin, who was just starting to gain fame after joining this game.

Even Diablo, who was the sole Maverick God within the group, was widely acknowledged after all the amazing displays that he had shown throughout the tournament.

The side of God's Paradise, on the other hand, was a little different. It could also be said to be the complete opposite of the Empyrean Talons since everyone else within the team was top-notch Maverick God, aside from Ashura, who was elite among all of the Godlike Players.

However, the strength and reputation of these people were by no means less than those from the Empyrean Talons, particularly Kallavan and Susanoo, who were equal to most of the elite gods within the virtual world.

Not even those standing at the peak of the Godly Ranking List would dare to underestimate these two, especially when their names were almost with Ashura.

Of course, this did not mean that they were nothing without Ashura. Instead, their true strength and potential were mostly overlooked by most people due to the brightness that the latter had.

But for those who were at the peak of such rankings, they knew that it was a mistake to underestimate these guys, especially when they were working together.

...

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right after being summoned by the system, the members of God's Paradise immediately went into formation in a very organized manner while also sharply sweeping their gazes at the surroundings, surveying everything, and gathering as much information as they could.

Within the group, Dio was currently not present since he was chosen as the sixth man of the team.

Coincidentally, Diablo seemed to have been chosen as the sixth man as well, making the two of them wait within an isolated space.

“Void Gate Map!?” said Lia after checking on the map.

She was very surprised after seeing the specific features of the map, which were the multiple doors scattered somewhat randomly and arranged in a very disorganized manner.

These doors were more like a bunch of door frames scattered everywhere, while 'doors' themselves were 'gates' or 'portals' that were interconnected with each other.

These 'void gates' were linked together, but in a somewhat random way. The destination of each gate was always random and interchanging, making it impossible to guess which gate they would appear at or come out next.

Even if the same person entered the gate at the same time, their destination was not necessarily the same, much less when they entered successively.

But that was not the most annoying part about this map, since even projectiles and magic attacks could also travel through these gates and continue to fly until they directly hit someone or something, or if they have fully exhausted their momentum or magic.

This was one of the maps that had the simplest yet also the most complex design among all the maps within the virtual world competition.

"Don't tell me that they have figured out something about these void gates and analyzed their patterns," mumbled Lia, full of surprise. "That's beyond crazy!"

Keir nodded his head solemnly as he added. "Given the tricks of the 'Devil Strategist' and his shameless and annoying methods, such a thing is very possible. We can't afford to overlook such a possibility."

"Now this is quite tricky to deal with," mumbled Kallavan while frowning quite deeply.

This kind of map was what he hated the most, especially when his opponent would be using strategic plans utilizing such features to the fullest.

"It is not like this map has any weaknesses," said Susanoo as he unsheathed his sword. "We can just directly destroy the gate itself by hitting those door frames."

Lia just sighed in response and pointed at the nearby gate. “Can’t you see that the patterns of these void gates are very complex. It is very clear that they have chosen the highest level of the map.”

“Destroying these things will take a lot of time and effort, so you can forget about it,” she added, fully rejecting the idea.

“Moreover, it will also waste a lot of our stamina and mana, which will affect our combat abilities later,” added Keir as he agreed with her.

In the meantime, Ashura was studying the map quite attentively, seemingly trying to see if there were any modifications to the Void Gate Map that they were usually familiar with.

After all, Vulture had informed them about the strangeness of the Forest Park Map from the previous round, which amplified the elven abilities that Ithilien had.

They had to make sure that this map was the same as what they knew to avoid any accidents and unnecessary casualties.

After a while, he immediately issued his first order. “Keir, use Mana Sight and Spiritual Projection within the hundred-meter radius. Try to find any unique features of this map and see if there are any modifications in them.”

“Understood!” Keir immediately responded, following the command without any hesitation.

At the same time, the rest of the group quickly adjusted their formations accordingly. They were protecting Keir from any distractions and preventing form of ambush against him.

Not long after, he reopened his eyes and shared his findings. “There are no noticeable modifications with the map, but we can’t overlook the possibility of them changing the positions of the void gates.”

“After all, I am not familiar with their positions in the original version, much less in this field,” he added with a somewhat solemn tone.

His instincts as a magician were telling him that these void gates were not that simple. He could even feel some danger coming from them.

"What about the size of the map? Any estimate?" asked Ashura as he was more concerned about this matter than anything else.

It was at this moment that Keir realized what was bothering him. The expression on his face suddenly turned dark as he answered. "Huge! Extremely huge! This map is no smaller than the Starlight Passage with its length alone!"

Right after these words left his mouth, he swiftly shouted at everyone. "Something is coming! Defensive formation!"

The rest of the team did not even show any hint of hesitation as they quickly responded.

Lia and Keir were swiftly surrounded by the trio, forming a triangular formation, before raising their respective weapons.

At the same time, Lia activated a series of buffs and prayers to enhance the overall stats of the team while Keir summoned a dark dome of mana that covered the entire team.

Swoosh!

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

While the magical dome was being formed, the group could see from the closing gaps that a group of elemental dragons suddenly came out from different gates and headed straight to their position.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Successive explosions immediately erupted as the elemental dragons repeatedly attacked the mana barrier by directly slamming themselves into it.

"The heck!? They have indeed found a way to utilize the void gates and use them to attack up!" said Kallavan, fully surprised.

Earlier, right before the magical barrier was formed, he could see that an ice dragon was coming out of the void gate right across him and flying straight to his position.

From the data that they had, he could instantly tell that the elemental dragon was formed through Charlotte's spell.

It was her signature move, the Elemental Dragon Dance.

"More like they are utilizing the random feature of the gates. They let their spells directly fly through the gates and let them 'find' our location," said Keir, almost figuring out the methods of their opponents in an instant.

He was able to quickly discern the logic behind their opponent's attempt to locate them.

"After all, those spells will continue to pass through each gate until they hit something or they have fully exhausted their power and momentum," he added, pointing out.

Recalling something, Lia suddenly giggled as she commented. "Fortunately, that strange lich from their side did not use this map against Mandos, or else he would go completely crazy."

After all, this map was more of an RNG (Random Number Generator) type of map, which would favor Chaotic Luck by an unimaginable level.

The rest of the team could not help but roll their eyes at her for mentioning something completely unrelated to their current situation.

"Can you be a little more serious? You are our strategist, for goodness' sake!" complained Susanoo while suppressing the twitching of his mouth.

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Chapter 1854: The Methods of the Devil Strategist

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The members of God's Paradise did not dare to lower their guard even after seeing that the barrage of attacks finally stopped.

These elemental dragons might have failed to shake the magical barrier set up by Keir completely, but everyone knew that it was nothing but a bunch of probing attacks.

"What's next?" asked Kallavan, quite eager to spring into action as soon as possible.

Ashura slightly frowned, his brows issuing his commands. "They must have found our location with that probing attack. Let's just move for now and avoid confronting them under the traps that they have set up ahead of time."

The rest then quickly nodded before swiftly moving while maintaining their formation.

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In the meantime, Alice just finished her initial attacks and quickly reported. "Found them! There is the eastern side of the map. Slightly at the Northeast, to be exact."

Shin then nodded and ordered. "Move according to the plan. We are taking the strategic path while continuing to harass them."

"Just don't let this round end with them getting bombarded by our attacks," said Arthur as he quickly moved ahead, leading the group in a certain direction.

Hearing that, Cloe rolled her eyes and refuted. "As if you don't know how this map works! Our attacks will not be able to travel that far before they have exhausted their powers."

"Alice's spells are just a bit special because of the unique features of her Elemental Spirit Possessed, as well as those Ancient Elven Runes. That is the reason why the momentum and power of her spells don't get affected despite traveling far and passing through multiple void gates," she added as she buffed everyone within the team with a speed-enhancing blessing.

Arthur rolled his eyes as he knew about it as well. "As if you need to be reminded of such a simple mechanic. Of course, I know about it!"

"Can you just tell that I am doing this just to ease up the atmosphere?" he added with a slightly aggrieved tone.

While the group was moving, Shin suddenly said to Alice. "Three o'clock, middle gate. Eleven o'clock, right gate."

Alice did not even hesitate after hearing those instructions and swiftly sent another group of elemental dragons to each gate, respectively.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Immediately after, the elemental dragons flew across the map. They passed through multiple gates until they found the opposing team once again.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

"They have found us again?" mumbled Keir after blocking the elemental dragons for another time.

"The first may be a coincidence, but the second one somewhat proved our initial guess. They may have found a way to utilize these void gates," commented Ashura with a slight frown.

"Can we just use the same method?" asked Susanoo.

"I doubt that it will work that well," responded Keir before quickly explaining. "The mana coming from those elemental dragons is somewhat special. If I am not mistaken, then Charlotte must have used her unique Elemental Spirit Possession."

"Fusing her elemental spirits with her elven magic, turning her spells 'alive'. This let her spells pass through the gates multiple times without losing their momentum and power," he added, trying to decipher the methods of the opposing party.

As a magician himself, he was very familiar with different magical methods. He might be following and researching the path of dark magic, but he was still aware of the theories and methods of other magical paths within the game.

"This is going to be much more troublesome than what we have expected," said Lia, feeling the pressure coming from their opponents.

"Should we go divide ourselves and look for them separately?" suggested Susanoo before quickly continuing. "This will also make it a little harder for them to find our exact location."

"One side can play as the decoy while the other will actively look for the signs of those guys," he added.

Lia fell into deep thought, considering the suggestion, before turning to Ashura. "It is plausible. But we have to be careful as well."

"My choice is to let Susanoo and Kallavan move alone since they can at least hold their ground or escape against those guys with their respective means," she added.

"They can also at least give us enough time to reach and rescue them that way," she was slightly hesitant with this plan since it also had a lot of risks, which could compromise their chances of winning this round altogether.

"We can also use our reflexes and mobility to avoid the elemental dragons and prevent the opposing side from finding us," added Susanoo, fully supportive of the idea.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

While they were discussing, another group of elemental dragons suddenly came out of the nearby void gates, starting their barrage of attacks once again.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

In response, the group swiftly adjusted its formation to face each side.

Kallavan raised his fist, gathering a huge amount of mana into it, before throwing a powerful and destructive punch forward that obliterated the incoming elemental dragons on his side.

Boom!

Susanoo positioned himself before the incoming elemental dragons, assuming a sword-drawing stance, before suddenly unleashing a series of sword slashes that cut down the incoming attacks.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Ashura, on the other hand, seemed to have casually swung his ruler sword horizontally and sent a powerful energy crescent that annihilated the incoming elemental dragons on his side.

Boom!

"Tsk! Tsk! This is getting annoying. We can't just let them harass us this way," cursed Kallavan, clearly getting annoyed by the repeated 'ambushes' from the elemental dragons.

"Will this waste a lot of mana for Charlotte? Continuously attacking us and keeping this pace will surely burn quite a lot of her mana pool, don't you think?" said Susanoo as he swiftly returned his position.

"It is. But the same can be said of us. After all, such ambushes will also put quite a lot of mental burden on our side since we have to always keep our guards up all the time to guard against them," refuted Lia, shaking her head along with a bitter smile. "Our concentration will be burned quite quickly if they keep this up."

They were clearly in a passive state, which was not good for their current pace. If they let this continue, then the situation would only get worse later.

"What's worse, Charlotte is the only one who keeps on harassing us. The rest of their members will be fully ready to take us on with their peak condition," said Ashura while continuing to analyze the strategy of the opposing side.

"If that is the case, then we will be f*cked if they go straight to the summoning altar to swap one of their members!" said Lia, realizing something.

"Then, if they swapped Charlotte with Diablo later after she has over-exhausted herself with these continuous and repeated attacks, then they will have an extra person with the peak combat strength against us," she added, further making her expression grimmer.

The rest of the team had also realized this, making their expressions darker as well.

It was at this moment that they had realized that the tactics of the opposing side were as devious as they had expected – or even worse.

With that thought in mind, they could not help but turn to Ashura and wait for his instructions.

Seeing that, Ashura could only frown a little before listing out their possible course of action. “The first solution that I can think of right now is to try moving randomly, hoping that we can dodge the ‘detection’ methods of our opponents.”

“Since they can find us and predict our movements through these elemental dragons and void gates, we can only try looking for the most ideal and safest route while advancing.”

“The second is to go with Lia and Sasunoo’s suggestion and move separately. It may have quite a few risks involved, but we can at least deal with it and minimize our losses.”

“Then with these solutions, we can try looking for the summoning altar in both cases and prevent them from swapping Charlotte out of the field with Diablo.”

He then paused for a moment, thinking about something, before continuing. “But since they are more familiar with this map, there is a high chance that they will reach that place first.”

“When that happens, we have no choice but to retreat. We must avoid fighting them near the altar to avoid being played with the ‘Backup Ploy’.”

Backup Ploy was a famous strategy that was usually used in team competitions. It was a tactic where one of the teams would camp on the summoning altar or any other places meant for switching their members to keep swapping their players for a ‘false’ sixth member on the field while fighting.

When it was first introduced by certain strategists and analysts, many teams had abused it during their competitive battles.

Although it has become less famous these days, as such a ploy would be nothing in comparison to absolute strength, this shameless strategy was still quite well-known to almost everyone.

Given how devious the strategist of the opposing side was, the members of God’s Paradise would not believe that the guy would be aware of such a tactic.

“Which choice do you think you will perform well? We will go with it all the way once we have agreed to it unanimously.”

.....

Chapter 1855: The Monster Trio Show

...

After launching another attack, Alice swiftly recalled her elemental spirits and rested to recover some of her mana.

Calculating the time, Shin turned to Leonard and Arthur before saying. “It’s time. You two can go.”

The two could not help but feel a little excited after hearing that.

“Finally! I thought I would die of boredom doing nothing but running around,” said Arthur while stretching his body left and right.

He twirled his spear around before resting it on his shoulder while fixing his grip over the round shield that he was holding with his other hand.

Leonard, on the other hand, spun his war axes and played with them for a while, producing a series of gusts that blew the air around them.

Not long after, the two turned to Shin and the two girls before teasing him a little.

“Don’t bite more than you can chew, alright?” said Leonard, chuckling.

“Don’t die on us while messing around,” seconded Arthur while suppressing his laughter.

Bang! Bang!

They did not even wait for Shin to refute their words, swiftly kicking the ground. They immediately disappeared within the map, seemingly afraid that Shin would suddenly catch up to them and fight them instead.

Watching their backs disappear, Shin smiled bitterly and shook his head repeatedly. He knew what they were talking about, but he refused to say anything, ignoring the topic completely.

He turned to the girls somewhat awkwardly before saying. "Let's go. We must reach the summoning altar within two to three minutes before the opposing side can gather themselves."

Even though he was confident with their plan, he also understood that the opposing side was not some random group that they could underestimate.

These guys were the defending champions for a reason.

"Alright," the girls nodded their heads before running closely behind Shin, following him toward the summoning altar that was located in the middle of the map.

At the same time, Shin continued to instruct Alice which void gate she would fire her spells, continuing their harassment against the members of God's Paradise.

...

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom!

Right after warding off yet another ambush, Ashura and the rest swiftly regrouped before continuing to move forward.

In the end, they had chosen to stick together, not willing to give the opposing side the chance to pick off their members one by one.

After all, this was the chosen map of the Empyrean Talons, so it would not be hard to guess what kind of arrangements the opposing side had made.

Ashura could tell that those from the Empyrean Talons were forcing them to divide themselves into two groups. This would give the opposing side an easier time picking off their members one after another.

Taking advantage of their great familiarity with the map, Ashura refused to believe that Shin would just rely on this 'simple' harassment to take them down.

After watching all the matches of the Empyrean Talons and studying them, he realized there were quite a lot of underlying traps and arrangements behind each move and formation that they used in battles.

He could also sense that something terrible would happen once they had taken the initiative to divide their forces.

Instead of doing it now, Ashura was waiting for the right opportunity for it.

"I have found the summoning altar. It is right at the center of the map," said Keir after collecting the shadow mites that he had released earlier.

"How far are we from it?" asked Ashura, seemingly waiting for this news for quite a while now.

"It seems like we are quite lucky. We somehow get near it through our random pathing," said Keir after confirming their position.

"Lucky! Lucky!" said Susanoo, finding it quite fortunate given their current position.

Lia, on the other hand, was thinking differently. "Or is it?"

Hearing her, the team turned to her, giving her questioning looks, aside from Ashura.

It was Ashura who had answered it for them. "She is thinking that we are forced to take this path rather than us stumbling to this place by luck."

"Eh!?"

"Huh!?"

"Impossible!"

The other three could not help but deny it instinctively, thinking that it was ridiculous. But after putting more thought into it and recalling everything that happened earlier, they all realized that it might be truly the chase.

"What the heck!? They have thought that far ahead?" mumbled Susanoo by instinct, did not know whether to feel impressed or scared about it.

"More like, 'that guy' has arranged it very well," said Lia, correcting his thoughts.

The group suddenly fell silent after realizing that traps might be waiting ahead of them. They hesitated whether to continue moving forward or avoid the path ahead of them, taking a slight detour.

While everyone was lost in thought, Ashura had already decided. "We will be continuing. Stick to the plan."

He paused for a moment to turn to Susanoo and Kallavan. "You two will continue with your arrangements. Just take a detour while trying your best to avoid the 'detection' methods of the other party."

"We would flank them later if things worked according to plan," he added before signaling everyone to continue.

They had already wasted quite a lot of time due to the continued harassment of their opponents, so continuing to waste more time with these little pauses would only delay them further.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

While they were moving ahead, they failed to notice that there were pairs of eyes that were currently watching them.

Arthur and Leonard, who meticulously positioned themselves on a spot where they could both hide and observe the opposing party quite safely, had already spotted the group and reported to Shin.

"They have chosen not to separate themselves from each other," said Arthur before quickly adding. "I must admit that Ashura's intuition is still as good as ever."

[Coordinates.]

Shin ignored the side comment and urged the latter to report the main point.

"Tsk! As boring as ever," complained Arthur before sending the coordinates.

[Alright, continue with the plan.]

Shin then quickly closed the channel, ignoring all the complaints from the latter.

...

On the other side of the line, Shin and the girls, who were already standing before the summoning altar, turned at them and gave out their final arrangements. "Alice, keep sending your spells to gate number 1, 3, 5, 7, respectively."

"You don't have to always fire them. You can just keep your pace while also trying to recover as much mana as possible."

"If you've exhausted everything you have or if anyone suddenly appears for an ambush while you are down with mana and concentration, you can just jump into the altar and swap places with Diablo."

Alice nodded her head as she quickly sat on the ground, not planning to fire any spells yet, and wanted to recover as much mana as she could. She wanted to do it with meditation as well to hasten the process.

In the meantime, Shin turned to Cloe and continued. "Cloe, take the second gate to your left and wait for two to three minutes before jumping on the next gate right across it."

Cloe rolled her eyes when she heard that. "I know. You don't have to tell me that since I am the one who told you about the patterns."

"And I am the one who has perfected it," Shin chuckled while teasing her.

He then ran toward the void gate on his right and leaped into it. Midair, he turned his body to face the two and waved at them. "See you later~!"

Swoosh!

Cloe rolled her eyes at him before walking toward the gate that Shin had pointed out and leaping into it without any hesitation.

Alice slightly opened her eyes and looked at the two gates where the two had disappeared into before sighing. She then continued to meditate to recover as much mana and concentration as possible before making her move later.

...

In the meantime, on the side of God's Paradise, Ashura could not help but halt his tracks and swiftly signalled the rest to stop.

His instincts were telling him that there was danger right ahead of them, making him frown quite deeply.

They waited for quite a while, doing nothing but keeping their guards up.

When Susanoo and Kallavan were about to raise their doubt and ask Ashura what was wrong, the latter suddenly picked up his [Heavenly Meteor] and swiftly charged behind the group, striking with all his might.

'Mystic Cosmic Method: Meteor Crusher'

Swoosh!

Heading straight to the void gate situated right behind their group.

Roar!

At the same time, a golden dragon suddenly emerged from that void gate, about to launch an ambush toward their rear.

Boom!

Swoosh!

Ashura was immediately repelled and sent back to his team right after the collision.

He was looking warily at the settling cloud of smoke until a blurry silhouette walked out of it.

“It has been a while, Siegfried,” he said, greeting the opposing party.

Arthur, who had just walked out of the cloud of smoke behind him, smirked as he looked at the group provokingly. “That’s right, so you better be prepared for the souvenirs that I have brought.”

“Just you alone?” asked Kallavan as he stepped forward aggressively.

“Nah~! I’ve brought my brothers this time,” he added while pointing his chin behind them.

Susanoo, who did not keep his eyes away from ahead of them, saw Leonard walking out of a void gate while playing with his war axes.

He tightened his grip on his swords, preparing to launch an attack, when Keir suddenly grabbed his shoulder.

Confused, Susanoo looked over his shoulders and gave the dark magician a questioning look. But before he could even complain, he saw that the latter was looking sharply to their right, not daring to keep his eyes away from that direction.

Looking over, Susanoo saw Shin walking out of the shadows calmly and silently. He looked like a ghost that had suddenly come out of nowhere.

“You have yet to see us, the Monster Trio, fight together, right? Let me give you the honor then,” continued Arthur with the same provoking tone.

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Chapter 1856: The Monster Trio Show (Part 2)

.....

With the trio of the Empyrean Talons surrounding the members of God's Paradise from three different directions, the latter group could not help but frown a little.

They knew that they could not underestimate this trio, particularly when their respective strength could be ranked at the peak of any Godly Ranking List out there.

Moreover, they also realized that what Arthur had just said was true. They had never seen these three work together before.

From what they knew, these three had known each other for quite a long time, and their understanding of one another far surpassed regular teamwork.

The coordination between Arthur, Leonard, and Cloe was already quite troublesome enough for them during those scrimmages, so the group was quite wary of these three working together.

But it was still quite an insult that these three truly think that they could take on their group with the three of them alone.

Their side also had a trio, who had far surpassed the simple understanding and coordination with one another.

There was also Lia, who was working with these guys for a very long time, particularly Ashura. Their coordination would not be weaker than any other duos or trios at the top of the rankings. Their partnership could also be ranked high up in any ranking lists.

Feeling a little insulted, Keir and Kallavan took the initiative to attack.

Bang!

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Kallavan launched himself forward, gathering a huge amount of mana toward his fist that formed an energy sphere around it.

He left a trail of light in the air as he dragged it behind.

Whoosh!

Not long after, he reached Arthur and threw a powerful punch forward, producing a repeated and overlapping shockwave around his fist.

‘Combat King Art: Fist Series – Destruction Fist’

Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

On the receiving end of such a powerful attack, Arthur calmly raised his shield while gathering his unique mana manipulation technique, the Dragon Power.

The golden aura around him flowed violently and danced fiercely, forming a golden flame that covered his entire body.

With a thought, Arthur controlled the golden flame, letting it form a layer of energy over his armor, shield, and spear. Patterns like dragon scales even appeared over them while the pressure that was coming out from Arthur’s body rose exponentially, pressing on everyone within the field.

Boom!

Roar!

A deafening roar of a dragon reverberated throughout the field as Arthur further reinforced his round shield with Dragon Power.

‘True Nine Dragon Arts: Dragon Scale Absorption’

Boom!

The collision seemed to have become the signal for the rest of the field to make their respective move.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Lia swiftly raised her staff, casting a series of basic healing spells to Kallavan, who was forced to retreat due to the reflective effect of Arthur’s skill. He had taken on the full brunt of the attack, which he threw himself.

His health bar took a decent chunk, which was why Lia had to heal him.

Immediately after, Lia cast a series of buffs to everyone within the team, enhancing their overall stats and combat prowess.

Keir had also cast a series of spells at the same time, summoning a bunch of shadow bugs that spread in every direction while also conjuring an array of dark spears that were ready to fire at any given time.

Ashura and Susanoo, on the other hand, went to mark Shin and Leonard, respectively, preventing them from targeting their backline.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

In response to their movements, Leonard suddenly kicked the ground and propelled himself high up in the air.

Bang!

From what the members of God's Paradise had understood about this War God, they were expecting him to aggressively jump into their ranks. He was most likely planning to shake off their formation with his crazy rampage.

That was his usual style, particularly in these Team Competitions. His job was always to wreak havoc at the center of their enemies' ranks while his companions took advantage of the distraction that he created to deal with the rest of the opposition.

"Keir and Susanoo, keep Siegfried occupied. Kallavan, mark Simba. Lia, cover everyone. I'll deal with Sickarius," Ashura gave out a series of orders, which the rest of the team quickly responded to.

Bang!

Kallavan quickly kicked the ground and launched himself into the air, planning to face Leonard head-on, not backing down even for a bit.

Boom!

His fist and Leonard's war axe clashed while they were midair, producing a massive shockwave upon impact.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Kallavan was sent back to the ground, landing quite far from the rest of the team. The impact was so strong that the ground caved in a little while the surrounding void gates were somewhat affected.

Leonard, on the other hand, was sent flying even higher into the air. He flipped and rolled midair, trying to adjust his stance and regain his balance.

When he finally stabilized himself, he then spread his limbs wide to hover in the air for quite a while before gathering his mana.

Activating his unique mana manipulation technique, he entered a dual elemental spirit possession, which was the fusion of the 'Crimson Sovereign' and 'Golden Mammoth'.

Roar!

A moment later, he suddenly kicked the air behind him, sending himself down like a descending meteor. He then raised his war axes midflight, gathering his crimson mana into them, before slamming them down with all his might.

'Supreme Blood Sutra: Killing Movement – Crimson Decent'

Swoosh!

Seeing the bright, crimson 'star' descending from the sky, Kallavan quickly squatted his hips, gathering his mana and transforming it into a spiraling energy around him.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, he had also activated his extraordinary powers to the max, matching the dual possession that Leonard had initiated and further enhancing his combat prowess.

Bang!

A moment later, he suddenly kicked the ground, sending little debris and stone fragments in the air, while dragging his fist behind.

Swoosh!

During his flight, the spherical energy that was formed to cover his fist glowed more intensely, even forming a huge apparition of an immortal being wearing an ancient royal robe.

‘Combat King Art: Fist Series – Emperor Fist’

Swoosh!

Boom!

...

As the massive explosion erupted in the sky, the rest were already busy with their respective roles.

Susanoo and Arthur were exchanging moves one after another, locking in intense clashes that affected even the surroundings.

Fortunately, Keir kept everything within an area a controlled area, not letting their exchanges affect the other battles.

“Tsk! Putting two people on me?” said Arthur, provoking the opposing side with his trash-talking. “Are you that afraid of me, Susanoo? Tsk! Tsk! Since when have you become a coward?”

The corner of Susanoo’s mouth twitched uncontrollably, trying to suppress while refuting. “This is a Team Competition, not a solo battle! Why do I have to comply with your words? We must use the advantages that we have.”

“Aren’t you confident taking us one with just the three of you? Where is that confidence now!?” he added, attempting to fire back.

“As you wish!” said Arthur with a mocking tone before forcing the Storm Samurai to retreat with his intense combo.

Right on cue, a purple dragon suddenly emerged from the void gate right beside Susanoo, catching him completely off guard.

Roar!

“What the f-...!?” Susanoo could only curse after seeing the huge jaws that were coming after him, unable to respond in time.

Boom!

Fortunately, Lia and Keir were fast enough to respond, summoning a double barrier that protected him from the unexpected ambush.

“What was that! That’s cheating!” complained Susanoo after distancing himself from that void gate.

“What are you complaining about now? Aren’t you the one who says that we should use our advantage?” Arthur smirked before continuing his attack.

Wary of another ‘ambush’, Susanoo made sure to put a considerable distance away from the surrounding void gates while warning his teammates. “Be careful of those void gates. These guys indeed know how to utilize them.”

“Wait! Where did that attack come from? It is different from Charlotte’s Elemental Dragons!” he paused, realizing that the earlier attack was different from the spells that had been harassing them earlier.

“Sorry!”

It was at that moment that he heard Ashura apologizing to him.

Taking a casual glance from that direction, he saw Ashura engaging in an intense battle against Shin.

There was still a residual mana left behind by one of Shin's skills, which was similar to the mana signature of the attack that 'ambushed' him just now.

Realizing what just happened, Susanoo complained. "Mark your opponent well, commander!"

Ashura ignored those words as he resumed his attack against Shin, which the latter swiftly repelled quite easily.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

After exchanging moves for dozens of seconds, Shin suddenly retreated to have a clearer view of the battlefield before signaling to Leonard and Arthur. "Formation!"

The opposing side felt a little tense after hearing Shin's signal, so they quickly put their guards up, preparing for what was about to come.

There was no immediate response to Arthur and Leonard, which confused the members of God's Paradise. But Ashura felt that there was something wrong, so he quickly retreated.

He put some distance away from Shin while also getting near Lia and Keir, making sure that there was nothing that could threaten them.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

It was at this moment that he saw Shin summon his clones.

The Sun and Moon Clones quickly fused right after being summoned, while the Phantom Apparition swiftly entered stealth.

It was quite rare for Shin to use his clones in his recent battles. It was mainly because the Battle AI of his clones was not enough to match the top godly experts of the game, while manually controlling them would only put quite a lot of burden on his mind.

Keeping the multiple states that he was in was already challenging enough, which was burning his concentration at a rapid rate. Adding more burden to his mind would only weaken him rather than helping him.

But since his recent breakthrough, he felt that he could at least attempt to use them again, increasing his cards in battle.

The number of clones he could control while fighting was quite limited, currently only two. However, he felt that it was sufficient to enhance his battle capabilities and options in combat.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

On the other hand, the expression on Ashura's face turned solemn for a moment before suddenly placing his ruler sword before him and activating an advanced skill.

Boom!

In response to the clones that Shin had just summoned, Ashura summoned an apparition of a golden immortal behind him.

It was an inferior version of the real Golden Immortal, but it was more than enough to increase his overall stats, along with the range of his attacks.

With this, he could at least match Shin and his clones with a larger range and enhanced stats.

Raising his ruler sword, the half-body golden immortal mimicked his actions, pointing their respective weapon at Shin. "Come!"

.....

Chapter 1857: The Monster Trio Show (Part 3)

...

Hearing the challenge from Ashura, Shin smirked before welcoming it with open arms. "Fine!"

Bang!

With that, Shin and the Eclipse Clone suddenly kicked the ground, propelling themselves forward. They seemed to be wanting to face the opposing side head-on.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

During the charge, Shin and the Eclipse Clone left a series of afterimages behind while dodging the barrage of spells thrown by Keir.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

It did not take that long for Shin and the Eclipse Clone to reach the opposing side, which was also the time for Ashura to make his move.

Whoosh!

Swinging his ruler sword, the apparition behind him mirrored his movements, brandishing its weapon with powerful momentum.

Swoosh!

Seeing that, Shin controlled the Eclipse Clone, letting it overtake him while swinging its sword with all its might and sending a huge crescent wave filled with cold energy.

'Slayer Skill: (Modified: Eclipse Clone Version) Half-Moon Slash'

Swoosh!

It was supposed to be a basic skill under Tier 1 Class, but the might of this attack far surpassed any basic skills and even rivaled those at the Tier 2 category.

With the stats and special enchantment of the Eclipse Clone, this version of the skill was greatly enhanced, especially when all the clone's energy was the unification of the Powers of the Brilliant Sun and Abyssal Moon and producing the Power of the Primordial Eclipse that was slightly weaker than Shin's.

Boom!

The icy crescent wave was annihilated by that attack, but the attack from the golden immortal apparition was also repelled successfully, causing its weapon to bounce strongly.

Ashura was also in the same situation, surprised by how powerful that attack came from a 'mere' clone.

Regardless, he swiftly adjusted his center of gravity and stabilized his stance. A moment later, he swung his left hand down, which the golden immortal behind him copied.

Swoosh!

The giant palm of the golden immortal suddenly came slamming down at the Eclipse Clone, which was already assuming the familiar stance that Shin was known for.

Click!

'Eclipse Clone Skill: Quick Draw – Solar Flare'

Shing!

Swoosh!

Right after unsheathing and swinging the sword forward, a blazing crescent was released from its sword this time and flew straight into the descending palm, producing another explosion.

Boom!

This time, Ashura stumbled a little, trying his best to regain his footing.

While doing this, he did not dare to take his eyes away from Shin and the Eclipse Clone, especially after seeing that both were swinging their swords multiple times and releasing five vertical energy waves respectively.

'Slayer Skill: (Modified) Crescent Cleaver'

'Slayer Skill: (Eclipse Clone Version) Crescent Cleaver'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The five energy waves that the two released respectively fanned out, attacking not only Shin but also targeting Keir and Lia, who were right behind Ashura.

Seeing that Ashura was in trouble, Keir and Lia swiftly lent a hand, casting a dark wall and a holy barrier, respectively.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

As the successive bombardment of the energy waves was blocked by the double defensive spells, cold waves spread in every direction and made the surrounding temperature drop sharply.

Swoosh!

Right at the same time, a shadowy figure suddenly appeared behind Keir and Lia like a ghost. It silently raised its dual swords down, targeting the healer, who was too occupied with monitoring the entire battlefield and supporting them.

Shing! Shing!

Bang!

Unfortunately for the Phantom Apparition, another shadowy figure appeared before it and blocked the phantom swords, barely saving Lia.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, multiple dark shadows pounced at the Phantom Apparition one after another, not giving it any time to respond and making it hard to escape.

Bang!

Clang! Clang!

However, the Phantom Apparition was not that simple either, as it calmly blocked and repelled each of the attempts of the surrounding dark shadows before stepping into the shadow and disappearing into it.

Swoosh!

When everything calmed down once again, the true appearance of those dark shadows was finally revealed. They were humanoid creatures that seemed to be summoned through a dark ritual or something.

They had slender bodies with long and bony arms and legs. Their eyes were vacant and unfocused, but possessed an eerie gaze that seemed to always lock on living creatures. They were similar to zombified creatures or spawns of darkness.

Keir, who seemed not to be paying attention to this side, had somehow summoned these shadow mites, which were a unique summoned creature of his class.

Boom!

While everyone's attention was briefly attracted to this side of the battlefield, another commotion swiftly pulled their gazes away from it.

Turning their gaze toward that direction, they saw that Susanoo was forced to activate his unique Ascended Powers to the fullest just to match the triple elemental dragon possession that Arthur had used.

Arthur used the elemental dragons of Storm, Sea, and Snow with this triple possession. These elements complemented each other very well, propelling his overall powers to an unimaginable level.

There seemed to be a violent storm surrounding Arthur, standing in the middle of it haughtily.

Seeing that everyone on the field was somewhat attracted to the commotion that he had just created, Arthur was very pleased with himself. "I am sure that the camera is focused on me right now. Everyone should be in awe of my aura farming."

Adding that his current appearance had undergone a massive transformation, particularly his armor, shield, and spear, he did look quite stunning and majestic at the moment.

Everyone must admit that he truly looked cool right now.

Hearing those words from this conceited person, the rest of the field could not help but roll their eyes at him.

"How about we leave this guy and let him get beaten up for a while?" suggested Leonard after shaking his head repeatedly and smiling bitterly.

"I have a better suggestion! How about you help us beat this guy up and teach him a lesson?" said Kallavan shamelessly.

The rest of God's Paradise loved the idea very much and repeatedly nodded their heads.

Shin and Leonard were quite tempted and eager to give it a try. Unfortunately, it was just a fleeting thought as the two shook their head.

"We are just in the warmup, but this guy wants to heat the battlefield a bit too early," mumbled Leonard while shaking his head.

Right after that, he also went to go all-out. He planned to unleash his strongest form along with quadruple possession.

There were no noticeable changes to his appearance aside from the crimson tattoos that were spreading in different parts of his body. However, the pressure that he was currently emitting was quite terrifying, even resembling a true primordial beast of ancient times.

The four elemental beasts that he had just summoned might not have any resonance effect, unlike Arthur's elemental dragons, but their unified force was noticeably stronger by quite a margin.

Roar!

With a deafening roar, Leonard stood proudly and savagely, rivaling the aura that Arthur was currently emitting.

Not wanting to be outshone by his sworn brothers, Shin smirked underneath his mask and summoned four of his elemental spirits, initiating the quadruple possession.

The [Yamato] on his right hand was possessed by Blackie and Whitie for the 'Chaos Slasher Possession' while Solus possessed the [Durendal] on his left hand for the 'Divine Constellation Possession'.

His [Death's Shadow] cloak was also possessed by Grimrace for the 'Soul Eater Possession'.

Grimrace originally possessed Shin's whole set of armor. But he had gotten inspired by Diablo's 'Shadow Equip – Divine War Robe' and let this nutjob of an Elemental Spirit possess the sacred relic cloak instead.

It was at that moment that he realized that this was the best choice since this possession could bring out the best potential of the cloak.

With an inheritance sword covered with the black-and-white lightning in his right hand, a divine sword enfolded with gorgeous flames in his left hand, and wearing a sacred relic cloak fused with the psychic shadow, Shin's divine figure was revealed to everyone once again.

He was not weaker than Arthur or Leonard in terms of aura, even surpassing them a little due to his godly appearance.

Leonard shook his head repeatedly when he saw that, while Arthur clicked his tongue in dissatisfaction, admitting that Shin's current appearance was indeed much cooler than either of them.

"Tsk! If only I can freely let Archon possess me and let him fuse with the rest, then my appearance should be much cooler than this guy," mumbled Arthur while glaring at Shin with full resentment.

He hated how Shin stumbled upon multiple lucky encounters without even trying, and even gained 'little' treasures along the way.

In the meantime, the members of God's Paradise also started using their trump cards one after another when they saw the trip undergo such transformations.

Ashura also activated his full set of possession while Kallavan and Susanoo used their Extraordinary Powers and Ascended Abilities to the fullest, along with some other racial buffs.

Keir and Lia did the same, finally showing everyone what kind of abilities their receptive class and race possessed.

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Chapter 1858: The Monster Trio Show (Part 4)

...

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom!

The next few minutes of the match were a feast for the eyes of everyone watching it. Not only was the face of the battle so fast, but the collisions and exchanges were also at the top of the gaming world.

After having gauged the strengths of each side earlier, both teams did not dare to hold anything back and revealed most of their cards during the battle.

What surprised everyone was how godly the coordination between the Monster Trio of the Empyrean Talons was. Their connection was one thing, but their understanding of each other had far surpassed anything anyone watching the match had witnessed before.

Shin, Arthur, and Leonard were no longer initiating a three-way flank and fighting the members of God's Paradise at three fronts.

Instead, they were doing a series of assaults that seemed to be done randomly on the surface, but had a systematic pattern and insights into them.

They were doing a series of coordinated attacks that were not only complex and complicated, but very deadly as well in every attempt.

Leonard and Arthur sometimes acted as the frontlines, with Shin and his clones supporting them with their magic swordsmanship and assassination ambushes.

At times, it was Shin who was taking the initiative to fight God's Paradise all by himself. He was attacking them from three points while manually controlling his clones that were fighting with two different styles – one was utilizing his magic swordsmanship, while the other was using an assassination swordsmanship.

At these times, Leonard and Arthur were taking on the supporting role, assisting Shin with every attempt he made during the battle.

There were also instances where Leonard was just creating chaos in the ranks of the opposing side, attacking with great destruction and wreaking havoc. Shin and Arthur would then take advantage of the chaos to seek opportunities to take down the rest.

Then there was also the time when Arthur was leading the charge, acting as the greatest frontline that would never fall, despite how powerful the attacks that were thrown at him.

Leonard and Shin would then coordinate with him and launch a series of complicated and destructive attacks that forced the opposing side to repeatedly retreat.

What made it worse for the members of God's Paradise was the great familiarity of the trio with the map. They were fully utilizing the void gates to their great advantage, further enhancing the danger of their coordinated attacks.

Fortunately for the side of God's Paradise, their strength and coordination were not that weak either.

They were constantly finding ways to escape any dangerous situations by relying on one another. Their teamwork was truly top-notch, helping them to keep their stance and hold their ground.

Their greatest weapon in this match was not their combat strength, but their great trust in one another, along with their sturdy mind.

They were calmly and steadily responding to any attempt that the trio was throwing at them.

Even though they were repeatedly thrown in front of danger due to the great coordination of their opponents, they were still able to constantly respond in time and even regularly throw counterattacks that forced the trio to retreat from time to time.

They also persistently held on to their formation that had never been broken despite the chaos that the Monster Trio had thrown at them.

They were also utilizing their great advantage, especially Lia's healing and buffing spells, along with the debuffs and curses that Keir had from his arsenal.

They might be on the backfoot during the entire battle, but they were steadily regaining their footing as the match progressed and even chipping down the health bars of the opposing side.

For the people watching these exchanges, they felt that it had already quite a long time since the direction collision between the two sides.

However, the truth was completely different from that. There was only a little over five minutes since this direct battle had started. It was far from dozens of minutes that they felt through their perception while focusing on the battle.

As the battle continued to grow more intensely, some of the spectators from both the live audience and online broadcast had finally regained their composure and were subconsciously arguing with one another, particularly those fans of each team.

"God's Paradise seems to be being suppressed completely."

"They have been in serious backfoot since the direct battle started."

"A bunch of idiots! Can't you see what is happening clearly? It is the side of the Empyrean Talons that is in danger!"

"Look at their health bars! Even though they had some time to recover, their health bars are constantly dropping after those from God's Paradise have adjusted to their style."

"Meanwhile, Ashura and the others are still in a relatively healthy state."

"Tsk! Tsk! Lia and Keir had wasted quite a lot of mana in the process, though."

"The Gentle Goddess is still not making her move. There is also the Elemental Goddess, who has somewhat recovered her mana and concentration."

As if taking it as a cue, Cloe, who had never moved from her position, finally stepped into the void gate before her and appeared quite a few meters from the battlefield.

"I knew it! You guys are on it again!" she shouted right after appearing and started scolding Shin. "You said that you will give me a signal after three minutes! It has been a freaking seven minutes already!"

Shin took the time that Arthur had just blocked a barrage of spells for him to retreat and turn toward her direction, apologizing sincerely. "Sorry! Sorry! We've just got a little immersed in the heat of the battle!"

Cloe rolled her eyes at him before sweeping through the battle and understanding the state of the battle.

She then gave the trio a smirking look. "So, you guys don't need my heal and buffs, huh?"

She then turned to the members of God's Paradise and offered. "Should I lend these idiots a hand or let you beat them a bit more?"

She had just gotten a clear understanding of the battlefield, so she knew that this trio of troublemakers could still hold for at least a dozen minutes before their health bars got chipped down to a critical level.

She had plenty of time before that, so she was teasing them that she could just stand on the side and watch them suffer a little more, acting it as her 'revenge' for not letting her join the fun earlier.

Moreover, these three were also winning some small victories during the process, such as the constant consumption of Lia and Keir's mana pool, so it was not accurate to say that the Monster Trio was losing.

They were also constantly draining the concentration of their opponents with their somewhat random yet well-coordinated series of attacks.

Everyone on the field knew that she was only teasing the three and treating this match as a friendly competition, just like they had during the scrimmages previously, so they played along.

"Sister Arielle, that's a good idea! How about you give this round to us while you are at it as well?" said Lia with a giggle while restoring the health bars of Kallavan and Susanoo to full.

"Big Sister! We are sorry!" said Arthur before pleading. "How about you just heal me and ignore these two idiots!"

He even pointed his chin at Shin, throwing his brother under the bus without any hint of hesitation.
"This guy is the one who is supposed to give the signal anyway. He is the one at fault!"

As the one who mostly saved Shin and Leonard from the barrage of attacks, Arthur was the one who suffered the most.

His total health bar might be the greatest as the main tank of the group, but he was also the one tanking all the serious damage, making his health bar drop the greatest during these exchanges.

There was also Leonard. However, he was taking advantage of his low health bar instead due to the unique features of his Class Category, which was a Transcendent Branch of the Berserker Class.

The lower his health bar, the stronger he became. He was truly a monster of this, particularly when he paired it with his newly improved martial arts.

"Actually, you can also forget about that lion-obsessed guy. He doesn't need any healing at all," added Arthur as he blocked yet another series of spells and attacks.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Taking advantage of this, Shin and Leonard swiftly charged ahead, launching a counterattack toward the opposing side.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

It was only after they retreated that they snarled back at their traitorous brother.

"You traitor! We are all in this together!"

"You dragon fanatic! Who are you to call someone with obsession issues with lions?"

This then sparked a series of banter between the three. But even if their mouths were cursing and scolding one another, their coordination never dropped. It even increased instead, especially after they had forgotten the burden of their health bars.

Now that Cloe was present, there was no need to hold back and launch an even crazier barrage of attacks.

Seeing the three idiots acting like that, Cloe could only shake her head before sending a message to Alice, who had been waiting for quite a while now. "You can resume your attacks. We are at the final stage already."

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Chapter 1859: Battle of the Peak (Part 1)

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Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A series of intense explosions overwhelmed the entire battlefield as the sides of Empyrean Talons and God's Paradise clashed against each other.

They were no longer holding anything back and started throwing their powerful moves one after another.

Neither side backed down before the challenge and bravely gave their all in the battle.

Whether it was a powerful move, skills, techniques, or anything else, everything was thrown toward the opposing side with the thought of destroying the opposition.

The Empyrean Talons had shown their true might. They showcased not only their best offensive prowess but also their seamless understanding of one another and unrivaled coordination.

The teamwork that the Monster Trio had shown earlier had already far surpassed the standard understanding of everyone about the words 'teamwork' and 'coordination'.

What they had shown was the bond of a brotherhood that only very few people could understand.

Now that Cloe, the Gentle Goddess, was added to the equation, things took another interesting turn.

Her understanding of the three was no less than what the three had with one another. She did not need to hear what they wanted since she could already provide what they needed in certain situations.

Her coordination with them was also out of this world, assisting them with everything to perfection.

The live audience and online viewers have already been shocked by the trio, but she further shocked everyone when she finally showcased her true capabilities.

Even though most of the top experts watching the battle knew that it was the product of her understanding of the trio and her amazing abilities as the top healer within the game, they still could not help from be amazed by her.

Her situational and environmental awareness was at the peak of the game, so when it was added with her complete understanding of this group of monsters, the result was something that could even scare most people.

As for Alice, all she needed was to repeatedly fire her spells through the void gates without knowing the situation on the side of the main battlefield.

Given that Shin and the others had already trained on this map along with the members of the Slayers Adventurer Team, their experience and understanding of this special feature had already surpassed the basic standards that everyone could see.

This combination of skills, spells, and techniques that the Empyrean Talons were showing would most likely be the new standard of team battles in the future, particularly when it came to understanding one another, their perfect coordination, and the utilization of the special features of the map.

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On the other hand, the side of God's Paradise was showing everyone the current standard of a 'team' that everyone was familiar with.

Aside from their strong understanding of each other and trust with one another, they were also showing everyone their steadiness in battle and perseverance to hold their ground.

The wise men always said that victory was not an instant success. But it was a combination of multiple factors such as patience and hard work, perseverance and determination, and courage to face whatever the outcome, and enjoyment of the entire process.

This was the mantra or maxim that God's Paradise had told everyone in every battle they faced. It was even often mentioned by Ashra and Lia whenever they accepted an interview before.

They live up to this maxim throughout their journey in the virtual world, which has made them the current defending champions of the United Cup.

They were once again reminding everyone that they were the current holder of this title.

The mindset of every member of their team never bent in front of any adversary. It was even proven when they faced the strongest lineup of the Titan Guild during the previous United Cup.

Despite the amazing coordination of their current opponents and the overwhelming power that the opposing side was showing them, their members never backed down and continued to persevere and show everyone what they were truly capable of.

Their teamwork and formation might not be as amazing and complicated as the opposition's, but their steady mind and complete trust with one another helped them to face all the attempts of the Empyrean Talons and respond to them accordingly.

They repeatedly survived the dangerous predicaments and steadily countered from time to time.

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One of the tactics that God's Paradise used was to use large-scale and destructive spells and skills, attempting to destroy the surrounding void gates through collateral damage.

These void gates were quite sturdy due to the ancient and advanced runes protecting them, so destroying them would take quite a lot of effort before they got distorted, much less destroyed.

Through the collateral damage that their skills and spells to the surroundings, most of the surrounding void gates started to get unstable and became no different from a ticking time bomb.

Some of the more unstable ones even exploded, sending powerful and destructive shockwaves in every direction, which also further affected the surrounding void gates and made them even more unstable.

This alleviated the pressure coming from the void gates for God's Paradise, particularly Lia and Keir, who shouldered the most pressure.

The two of them never dared to let their guards down, nor dared to make a slight misstep, since it could lead to serious consequences later.

Due to this, their concentration was rapidly dropping, making it harder for them to keep up with the intense and rapid pace of the match.

Regardless, the trio of Ashura, Kallavan, and Susanoo lived up to their names as the strongest members of God's Paradise, matching the opposing side on equal footing.

Their coordination and formations might be inferior compared to what the Monster Trio and Cloe were capable of, but their combination techniques and unified strength were slightly stronger to a certain extent.

The techniques that Shin, Leonard, and Arthur might be very advanced and could be said as one of the strongest Martial Arts and Mentalism Techniques in the real world. But such techniques still had a lot of differences and conflicts when together.

Such powerful skills and techniques far surpassed the most, but they also possessed a stubborn 'personality' and a strong sense of 'individuality'. This was the main reason why combining them was close to impossible.

If not for a great understanding of the Monster Trio of one another, then performing to such a degree would have been even more impossible.

They were using their great understanding of each other, as well as their bond, to link their techniques and such in the battle. This made their coordination close to perfection.

On the other hand, the side of God's Paradise was taking the opposite route.

Their techniques might look different on the surface, but they all came from the same root. All three of them came from the same homeland, so their techniques would most likely share a certain sense of closeness.

Ashura's technique, which was one of the attempts to unify ancient cultivation and modern martial arts, was the most advanced among the three methods.

Kavallan was walking the ancient body refining method and the modern external arts, which shared similar roots.

Susanoo's swordsmanship also came from the so-called sword cultivators of ancient times and the sword practitioners of the current era.

Sharing such roots made it easier for them to create combination techniques compared to the monster trio of the opposing side.

This was their main card to fight Shin and the others in this match, which was also the main reason why they were able to hold their ground up until now.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

"Tsk! Tsk! Their combination techniques are getting stronger over time," Arthur clicked his tongue repeatedly after blocking another barrage of attacks, protecting Cloe behind him. "It is getting annoying."

"More like they are slowly digesting the experience in battle and perfecting their techniques through it," corrected Shin after warding off both attacks that came from Susanoo and Kallavan.

"Aren't we the same?" said Leonard, returning to the side of the group after annihilating another batch of shadow spawns that were attempting to surround their group.

Since all three of them had just broken through and stabilized their respective realms recently, they had quite a lot of insights and inspirations about combat that they wanted to try.

Due to this, they were unable to fully unleash their peak potential in battle. They were still unable to fully control their respective powers, afraid that it would break the harmony between their coordination once they slip up, and unable to fully control their strength.

Looking around, Cloe quickly informed the group. "The void gates are getting more unstable. Alice will no longer take advantage of them sooner or later."

"It is fine. It is a part of the plan anyway," reassured Shin after sweeping his gates in the surroundings.

He then glanced at the time before warning everyone. "Be careful. Ashura will most likely summon the True Golden Immortal any time now. Who knows if they also have the same combination technique or skills like ours?"

"They should have. Have you forgotten about the golden giant that Little Jiang has reported?" said Leonard.

"The one that appeared in the depths of Frozen Kingdom fighting some sort of Ice Golem?" said Cloe.

"These guys have never set foot on the Awakened Continent since the 'World Metamorphosis Update' and instead stayed in the Aurora Continent to explore those high-level neutral regions," said Shin before adding. "They must have discovered something major like us."

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On the other side, Ashura and the rest had finally gained some breathing time after the pause of the opposing side.

"Our situation is getting worse," said Lia as she tried to regulate her breathing as much as she could. She was not only physically exhausted but mentally as well, especially after experiencing the pressure that the Empyrean Talons had put on them.

Sweeping her gaze at the surroundings, she noticed that there were fewer void gates within the area.

"I think it is time to use our Unification Skills," she suggested, thinking that it was the perfect time for it.

Ashura thought for a moment before nodding. "Susanoo, Kallavan – you two block them for a moment. We will summon the 'guardian' now."

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Chapter 1860: Battle of the Peak (Part 2)

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Hearing the orders from their commander, the rest of the team swiftly made their moves.

Keir and Lia went behind Ashura. The former was chanting a series of dark mantras as if communicating with something from the darkness, while the latter was praying, seemingly trying to summon something.

At the same time, Susanoo and Kallavan swiftly charged ahead, planning to clash against the opposing side. They wanted to initiate another battle, wanting to buy some time for the rest to complete the summoning.

Ashura, on the other hand, swiftly raised his ruler sword and pointed it toward the sky, sending a beam of light that pierced through the dark clouds.

The side of Empyrean Talons was already expecting this and swiftly responded.

Leonard and Arthur swiftly engaged Kallavan and Susanoo, respectively, while Shin led his clones to launch an ambush on Ashura and the girls, who were focused on summoning their 'guardian'.

The Phantom Apparition entered stealth while the Eclipse Clone entered the void gate near it before appearing behind the opposing side.

But before it could even reach its target, it was pounced on by a bunch of shadow creatures that were coming from every direction.

Shin slightly raised his brows, trying to control the Eclipse Clone remotely to fight against these shadow creatures.

At the same time, he launched an ambush along with the Phantom Apparition, which was already near Ashura and the others, attacking from a tricky angle.

But before he could even do anything, he noticed that the ground underneath the opposing group had a huge magic circle that was waiting to be activated.

Shin immediately realized that it must be a trap, particularly when his instincts were telling him to stay away from it.

It must be a magic circle that was set ahead of time, at least during the intense and chaotic battle earlier.

But he could not let the other side cast their combination skill in peace, so he had to think of a way to at least disrupt them or force them to expend more mana and burn more concentration.

Thinking about that, he released his control over the Phantom Apparition and let its Battle AI take over.

But he still issued a command for it to continue launching its ambush.

Right after being released, the Phantom Apparition swiftly unsheathed its version of [Yamato], releasing its twin sword form, before suddenly charging ahead.

At the same time, its body split into nine phantoms, activating one of the signature skills under the Phantom Swordsman Class.

'Phantom Swordsman Skill: (Phantom Apparition Version) Phantom Dance'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not only did they spread in different directions right after being summoned, but they also took a specific route that was on a high tactical level.

Keir, who was keeping an extra eye on the situation in their surroundings, could not help but frown deeply after seeing the incoming phantoms.

He originally wanted to use this opportunity to at least catch the clones of Shin, forcing them to be unsummoned or destroyed during the process.

It would be even better if they could catch the other clone as well, or even Shin, in the process.

But they also knew that it was quite impossible to catch Shin with such a trap, especially when the battle senses and combat instincts of that guy were on another level.

At the same time, Keir could also sense an immense pressure coming from Phantom Apparition, along with the phantoms that it was leading. It was as if he were being hunted down by a terrifying predator the moment its gaze locked on him.

Trusting his instincts, he could only activate the trap formation underneath their feet ahead of time, hoping to stop this scary clone.

Bang!

However, right before he fully activated the magic formation, he suddenly witnessed something terrifying.

The Phantom Apparition and its phantoms executed a series of complex maneuvers that skillfully avoided the core traps of the magic formation.

They seemed to be having a stroll while avoiding these traps and continuing to move forward.

A little panicked, Keir expended more of his concentration, dividing his mind – one was focusing on the forbidden spell that would complement Lia and Ashura later, while the other was meant to deal with the Phantom Apparition and its phantoms.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Keir skillfully controlled the magic formation, attempting to catch all the phantoms and their real body.

Unfortunately, the Phantom Apparition was quite skilled on its now. It was not only dodging the traps quite easily, but it was also constantly swapping places with the other phantoms to avoid being trapped by the shadow cage that Keir was trying to build around it.

"What the heck!? Just how scary is that guy's mentality and willpower to control this group to such a degree!?" shocked, Keir could not help but give Shin an astounded look.

In the meantime, the 'culprit' was quite shocked himself.

Shin felt that the Phantom Apparition had freed itself from some sort of restriction right after he released his control over it.

He also noticed that its Battle AI had improved quite tremendously right after it was realized. It was as if it had gotten upgraded the moment he realized his control over it.

Moreover, it was adapting the battle strategy and complex maneuvers that he was using when he was manually controlling it.

"Don't tell me that it had absorbed all the experience that it had when I was controlling it earlier," mumbled Shin, having suspected that this must be the reason for the sudden change.

"If that is the case, then this Phantom Swordsman Class is more mysterious and powerful than what I originally thought," he said to himself, wearing a solemn expression.

He had also spent quite some time researching this secondary combat class of his during his free time, especially after seeing that the Phantom Apparition could use some other skills that were not in his arsenal.

But his attempts never bore fruit, making him give up on it for the time being.

It was even delayed further after realizing that the basic combat AI of his clones was incapable of matching the combat prowess of those top-notch experts, particularly those at the godly level.

However, when he saw the sudden 'upgrade' of the Phantom Apparition right after he realized his manual control over it, he felt that the secrets that his secondary combat class held were much greater than before.

"But this never happened before when I was sparring with the others during our last training session," he frowned deeply while watching the Phantom Apparition showcasing another batch of Phantom Swordsman skills that he had never seen before.

He was confused, but he did not have the time to dwell on it, especially since the current result was much better than he wanted.

"I guess I also have to find Lord Kentas as well to understand this Phantom Swordsman Class better," mumbled Shin before realizing the problem. "But finding that high-level NPC will be much harder."

He just remembered that this NPC liked to disguise himself and roam anywhere without a purpose in mind.

That NPC would only reveal himself to anyone if he wanted to.

Setting aside this thought, Shin resumed to battle, continuing to harass the opposition.

Unfortunately, Keir was quite stubborn and continued to hold his ground despite burning quite a lot of mana and concentration.

This might be what Shin originally wanted, but he felt that the other party was planning to sacrifice himself in the first place.

Looking at the other side of the battle, he saw that Kallavan and Susanoo were holding their ground quite well, especially when Alice's spells became less effective due to the destruction of the void gates in the air.

"You can swap with Diablo for now," Shin sent a message to Alice, informing the latter that she had already done enough.

Alice pursed her lips a little when she saw that, but did not say anything else. She understood that her role was already done, so she could either continue guarding the summoning altar or swap with Diablo right now.

Putting everything into consideration, she knew that it was best to let Diablo take on the stage, especially when she could also recover her mana and willpower in the isolated dimension.

But before she could even turn around and enter the altar, a sudden pain in her chest disrupted her thoughts.

Cough!

Confused, she looked down and saw a dark spear sticking out of her chest, which was also rapidly consuming her remaining mana along with her still full health points.

She then heard a cold voice coming from behind.

"Tsk! Tsk! I guess we are forced to do Plan D in the end."

She did not need to guess who it was since there was only a single person who could be coming out of the summoning altar at this moment.

What confused her was why Shin and the others did not inform her that they had taken down one of their opponents.

That-... or one of God's Paradise took the initiative to commit suicide, catching them off guard.

This was the most obvious answer that she could come up with.

She wanted to fight back first, especially when she still hadn't died yet. But she also realized that all her spells were suddenly greyed out, signifying that the opponent had put her in a silenced state.

At the same time, she also realized that even her Possession State had also been forcefully and unknowingly ended, giving her no chance to fight back.

She could only helplessly watch her health bar drop to zero before she was forced off the map.

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