

Destiny 1901

Chapter 1901: The Battle for the Crown (Part 5)

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Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A series of explosions repeatedly bombarded Cardinal City as the two battles broke out.

The commotion that Diablo and Susanoo were creating was not as large and destructive as Shin and Kallavan's, since their exchanges focused more on skill and techniques.

Diablo, with the nature of his class that was pursuing the absolute limit of speed, was running around the city while Susanoo utilized his affinity with the wind element to catch up.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

On top of this, Diablo was also utilizing his shadow element to further augment his stealth and cloaking abilities, making it harder for his opponent to keep track of him.

If not for the strange connection that Susanoo had with the city itself, particularly the formation hidden within it, then the situation would be even more troublesome for him.

The two competed with speed and techniques, making their display of powers even more amazing for everyone watching the match.

Diablo was doing his best to gather as much information about the city as possible, drawing the overall structure of the city inside his head, while fighting against Susanoo.

In the meantime, Susanoo was doing his best to limit all these as much as he could, preventing Diablo from reaching the inner parts of the city and forcing the latter to retreat to the outer circle. Unfortunately, the class difference between the two made it harder for him to stop the latter.

Since Diablo was from Twilight Class, a thief and an elf on top of that, he possessed a lot of movement and mobility skills in his arsenal.

Unlike a Samurai Class that he possessed, which was a hybrid of swordsman and warrior class, Susanoo had a distinct disadvantage when it came to this area.

Even though he was able to repeatedly repel Diablo from reaching the heart of the city, the latter was still able to repeatedly find some windows to slip into the inner part of the city.

Even his wind and lightning element was not that much of help in keeping Diablo in check.

Fortunately, he was still able to protect the castle at the center of the city by relying on all the traps and other preparations that they had made ahead of time.

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Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

On the other hand, the situation on the opposite side of the city was a bit more chaotic in comparison.

Given the nature of Kallavan's class, which focused more on strength, toughness, and destructive power, it was impossible to create such a huge commotion during his clashes against Shin.

Moreover, his opponent was not someone he could afford to hold his strength back against. He would pay dearly if he dared to lower his guard even for a moment, much less when the opposing party was constantly eyeing a single mishap in his movements.

Boom!

Shin took advantage of the strength and destructive power of his opponent to purposely create more chaos within the city. He was purposely leading Kallavan toward the places that he suspected had a connection with the hidden formation. He wanted to destroy them ahead of time before it was too late, so he had to lead their battle toward those locations.

At the same time, it was also meant to destroy the traps that the opposing side had prepared to deal with him and the rest of the Empyrean Talons.

Such locations would most likely have a larger number of traps to prevent others from approaching, so he took the initiative to step into them while dragging Kallavan along with him.

Based on the reactions that Kallavan had when he was heading to certain parts of the city, Shin was able to figure out where most of the traps were located and which locations were the key points that he had to keep his eye on.

He was craftily leading Kallavan by nose, gathering as much information as he could.

However, he was still unable to get past the latter whenever he attempted to head to the castle at the center of the city. Whenever he did, Kallavan burst with power, burning as much energy as he could just to prevent him from reaching that place.

He was not sure what these guys were hiding, but he could at least tell that that place was crucial to their plans.

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While Shin was preparing another attempt to break through Kallavan, an intense killing intent suddenly locked into him.

Shing!

Right on the next instant, Vulture suddenly materialized behind Shin and was about to plunge his poison-coated daggers into the latter's back.

Shin swiftly entered a translucent state before dashing backward, passing through the latter in incorporeal form.

'Slayer Skill: (Modified) Moonlight Steps'

Swoosh!

Kallavan was also taken aback by the appearance of this assassin, since they were supposed to have another task that they needed to deal with. But he quickly recovered himself and stomped into the ground, blocking the other party from escaping.

Bang!

Swoosh!

Launching himself forward, Kallavan quickly caught up to Shin and prepared to throw his fist forward.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Unfortunately, Shin used the other charges of 'Moonlight Steps' to further increase the distance between him and those two.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Shin was preparing to make a counterattack when he sensed something coming from above.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Raising his head, he saw a hail of shadow spears falling from the sky. They were not targeting him specifically, but were scattered in every direction and seemingly sealing all the possible routes that Shin could use to escape.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Before Shin could even respond, he immediately found himself trapped inside a cage created by those spears.

They seemed to create a prison formation right after stabbing themselves into the ground and linking with one another.

Zong~! Long~! Long~!

Shin could also sense that the mana fluctuation in the air was getting more chaotic, making it harder for him to control them.

"Trying to trap me with these? Cheap tricks!" he mumbled as his body was suddenly surrounded by dancing arcs of black and white lightning.

Crackle! Crackle!

They flashed across his body while he slowly lifted his right foot before suddenly stomping it into the ground with all his might.

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Foot Technique – Thunderclap Step'

Boom!

A thunderclap suddenly erupted as his right foot fell.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

While the reverberating sounds scattered in every direction, lightning arcs spread in all directions and caused havoc in the already chaotic mana flows within the air.

Crackle! Crackle!

Snap!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The dark spears that were surrounding him also shattered like glass before dissipating in the air.

But despite freeing himself, Shin did not dare to let his guard down, especially when the opposing side had also made their moves almost at the same time.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Kallavan, Vulture, and Dio suddenly appeared around him, flanking him from three different directions.

They were launching a perfectly coordinated attack, trying to take him down with a single strike.

Due to his previous actions, the mana fluctuations in the air made it harder to use any form of teleportation skill. With the unstable mana fluctuations, using such skills would be dangerous.

Even if Shin could still use such skills, it would still take some time before he could establish a stable channel to use them.

While the three surrounded Shin, the latter was already assuming his signature stance once again.

Crackle! Crackle!

The black and white flashes of lightning danced around his body before converging toward his sheathed sword.

Click!

When Shin's thumb flicked upwards and pushed the lid connecting the sword and its sheath, the subtle sound sent shivers down his opponent's spine.

Shing!

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

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

As the three attacks were about to approach him, a barrage of crisscrossing sword flashes suddenly appeared around Shin, protecting him and forcing the three to retreat.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Right after sending the three back, Shin swiftly sheathed the sword in a very cool manner, earning himself loud cheers from the audience, albeit not hearing them.

Click!

Seeing that Shin did not immediately take action after forcing them to retreat, the three swiftly surrounded him once again, forming a three-way formation to trap him.

At the same time, Kallavan finally had the time to ask the two through team chat why they were here. [Why are the two of you back this early? Don't you have your task to deal with?]

[Well, there are some changes in the plan.] started Vulture with a sigh before adding. [That guy is coming already!]

Kallavan was confused at first, trying to figure out who Vulture was referring to.

Swoosh!

But he later realized who it was, especially after seeing a huge silhouette coming from the outside of the city.

Swoosh!

Casting a huge shadow from the sky, a golden figure suddenly came crashing to the ground.

Boom!

Roar!

When the dust settled, Arthur, who was riding his golden dragon, was revealed.

"I am not late, right?!" he asked while casting his gaze toward Shin, acting as cool as possible.

Seeing that, Shin could not help but sigh helplessly and chose to ignore him. 'This showoff sure loves his fancy entrances.'

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Chapter 1902: The Battle for the Crown (Part 6)

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Seeing Arthur, Kallavan understood why Vulture and Dio decided to rush back and give him some assistance instead of continuing with their initial plan.

With another monstrous person here, Kallavan would surely be in deep trouble even if he was taking advantage of his connection with the massive formation covering the entire city.

It would be even more dangerous since his current job was to prevent the opposing side from reaching the castle for as much as he could. With the help of Vulture and Dio, this job would become much easier.

[Since the situation is already like this, we'd better try to catch either of these two into that cage.] whispered Kallavan through the team channel while preparing to charge toward Shin and Arthur.

[That is a good idea,] replied Vulture, but quickly rejected the idea. [However, we don't have enough time for that.]

[The other guy is also coming,] he added.

Boom!

As if those words were a cue, loud explosions suddenly erupted on the other side of the battlefield, where Diablo and Susanoo were fighting.

[Let's retreat to the vicinity of the castle first and regroup with Susanoo. We will be able to defeat these guys much easier that way.] said Dio. [It has been a while since Commander, and the others have entered the underground hall anyway.]

[They will have most likely finished all the preparations there. They may have already rushed back to the surface now.]

Kallavan did not say much after hearing those words since he understood their current situation. The other person would most likely be Leonard, who came to assist Diablo on the other side of the city.

Susanoo would most likely face a dangerous situation if he stayed there and stubbornly held his ground against those two.

Retreating and regrouping would be the most obvious and safest choice.

[Vulture, go and give Susanoo a hand. Dio and I will keep these two occupied while retreating.] said Kallavan before initiating an attack against Shin and Arthur.

Blindly retreating would only put them in a dangerous situation since turning their backs against such monstrous individuals was no different from committing suicide.

If they wanted to retreat to the vicinity of the castle, they had to do it slowly and steadily.

Bang!

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Following Kallavan, Dio made his move as well. But rather than complementing his movements with a coordinated attack, he kept his distance a bit behind, acting as a shadow that mirrored the former's actions.

Seeing Kallavan charging straight at them, Arthur smirked before leaping off the back of his golden dragon and propelling himself forward.

Swoosh!

“Let’s see how powerful that fancy armor of yours is!” Arthur laughed as he underwent a transformation midair.

‘Elemental Dragon Fusion: Tempest (Storm Dragon) – Storm Rider’

Through his ‘Dragon Eyes’, he could tell that the power that the opposing side possessed was not ordinary, so he did not hesitate to use a dragon fusion with balanced abilities and better combat capabilities.

Boom!

The dragon spear and combat gauntlet clashed, producing a massive shockwave that spread in every direction.

Neither side gained the upper hand with the first collision, but the two swiftly retracted their spear and arms respectively before throwing a barrage of attacks against one another.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Repeated collisions erupted as the two threw their attacks at one another, creating violent ripples in the air and making the ground tremble.

Roar!

During these exchanges, Arthur’s dragon pet suddenly made its move. It pounced at Kallavan, seizing the opportunity that its master and the opposing party were in a deadlock to launch a deadly ambush.

Boom!

Kallavan was caught off guard due to the sudden burst of speed of the golden dragon. He was not expecting to make a move, especially when he possessed a Spirit Awe ability that could force any pet and elemental spirit summoned on the field to be recalled.

Aside from monster pets of Beastmasters, spirits of Summoners, an army of undead that the Necromancer controlled, and similar summons from certain classes, other forms of summoned creatures would be forced to be recalled once a Spirit Awe skill or ability was active.

Arthur's dragon pet was supposed to be recalled back to his pet space unless he mounted it during aerial battles.

That was what everyone thought.

Everyone thought that it was a special feature of his secondary combat class, especially when he had already shown it on quite a lot of occasions.

Those experts exploring in Frozen Kingdom of Aurora Continent also made a connection with the Wyvern Riders. It was one of the special classes that the players could convert to after becoming a Dragon Worshiper there.

As one of the main explorers of the Frozen Kingdom, God's Paradise was also aware of this. After all, some of their members had already converted to that religion.

It was quite a good class, especially when it came to aerial battles.

However, none of their members were able to gain a wyvern yet since it required a series of difficult quests before they could learn the set of skills meant for riding one.

Based on their estimate, the players could only finish those quests once the next update was released, especially when the flying mounts would be released on this upcoming patch.

Everyone thought that Arthur had just gained early access to such skills because the Empyrean Talons had pioneered through the Frozen Kingdom first.

This led to everyone threatening Arthur's dragon pet as a regular pet, making Kallavan overlook it.

Boom!

Kallavan collided with the nearby house and caused it to collapse.

Bang!

When he finally walked out of the mountain of rubble, he saw that Arthur was not in a hurry to continue his assault.

This showoff remained standing in the same spot while resting his dragon spear on his shoulder. He was giving Kallavan a provoking gesture while the golden dragon stood behind him, glaring at the latter.

"Do you take my Dragon Cavalier Class as a regular class?" said Arthur before smirking. "My pet is considered a combat summon because of this class. It is not just a flying mouth meant for aerial battles."

He chuckled, seemingly not afraid to disclose such information. Experts of their level would most likely figure out such information anyway, so he did not care if he shared it this early.

He then pointed his spear forward and issued a challenge. "Come!"

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In the meantime, Dio, who was supposedly covering Kallavan's back, was unable to do anything earlier because Shin had prevented him from doing so.

He had never had a frontal confrontation with Shin up until now, so he was not fully aware how scary he was yet. However, after a few exchanges with the latter, Dio could not help but feel extreme pressure.

They had just made a few exchanges, yet he was constantly on the back foot and repeatedly forced to retreat.

‘No wonder everyone is wary of him. This guy is too scary!’ he thought as he was forced to retreat once again.

Even when he was dueling with other top-notch experts of the game and sparring with the other members of God’s Paradise, he was barely able to handle such pressure.

Only a handful of people could pressure him this much in just a few exchanges, given his abilities. Ashura, Zero, Seigfried, and Simba were the examples.

Each expert possessed a unique strength, which made them different from one another.

What made Shin very difficult to deal with was the complexity of his attacks and his insane attack speed.

Shin barely used most of the sword forms of his Mondi’s Style for some reason, but he was still able to put great pressure on his opponent with just a couple of sword forms that he was using.

Just shifting between his dual sword style and the sword-drawing style was enough to put pressure on his opponents, much less when he could use them with elemental swordsmanship.

Dio was directly on the receiving end of this style, which he had faced for the very first time. This put him at a huge disadvantage, making it harder for him to assist Kallavan.

Vulture had already entered stealth at this time and was about to head toward the other side of the battlefield. But when he saw Dio being suppressed by Shin, he changed his mind and said through the team voice channel. [Let’s swap tasks, Dio.]

[That guy greatly countered your style, so it is better if you handle the situation on the other side. Let Kallavan and I take care of this side.] he added as he dashed forward.

He metalized behind Shin right before the latter continued his assault against Dio.

Shin did not even turn around as he adjusted the position of the sheath he was holding in his left hand, positioning it behind him.

Clang!

Successfully blocking the daggers of his opponent with the sheath, Shin suddenly pulled the [Yamato] out of it and swung it forward.

Shing!

Dio, who was about to retreat, was forced to raise his spear to block the incoming attack.

Bang!

Not long after, Dio was sent flying by the impact.

Swoosh!

Fortunately, he reacted fast enough, saving himself from suffering serious damage from that quick draw.

At the same time, he used the momentum of his body to further retreat and disengage from the battle. He then swiftly left the battlefield and headed straight to the other side of the city, planning to lend a hand to Susanoo.

Shin wanted to give change, but Vulture suddenly launched a series of attacks in quick succession, forcing him to stay instead.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

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Chapter 1903: The Battle for the Crown (Part 7)

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Boom! Boom! Boom!

The explosions erupted consecutively within the city as the battle between both sides was escalating to a higher degree.

Houses and other buildings collapsed one after another under the bombardment of these explosions, further changing the structure of the city's interior.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

During these exchanges, the side where Shin and Arthur were fighting reached a whole other level of destruction due to the powerful attacks that they were throwing.

In response, Kallavan and Vulture had no choice but to pick up the pace and exchanged an even stronger series of attacks to match their opposition.

During these exchanges, Kallavan further enhanced his connection with the formation covering the entire city for a stronger power to match the combination of Arthur and his golden dragon pet.

At the same time, Vulture was forced to also activate his connection with this massive magic formation just to keep up with the pace of the battle.

On top of that, he also needed to keep up with Shin, particularly in terms of speed.

Shin was shifting between three elements in this battle, which were the Primordial Lightning, the Void Power, and the Psychic Shadow.

Each elemental power possessed unique characteristics that could be used in different situations.

The Primordial Lightning focused more on speed, which was approaching the limits of speed within the game. There were also the explosive and destructive attributes that enhanced his attacks.

The Void Power manipulated space, which Shin could use to teleport to different places alongside a strong ability to tear through space. If the Primordial Lightning possessed an explosive and destructive force when used to attack, then Void Power could have a penetrative effect that could pierce and tear through most defenses.

Meanwhile, the Psychic Shadow was more of a utility-type power. With this power, Shin was able to manipulate the surrounding shadows and create a veil that could hide his presence and enter stealth.

These shadow powers were a bit different from the ones that Diablo controlled, but also shared common characteristics. However, their offensive properties differed quite a lot since they focused on different areas.

The offensive properties of Shin's Psychic Shadow focused more on mental attacks, which he could combine with most of his other attacks. Coupled with his Demonic Telekinesis, Shin could also use a lot of varieties when it came to this area.

Moreover, he could also use the surrounding shadows to appear in different places, jumping from one shadow to another.

By shifting between these three elemental powers, he was able to make his opponent quite dizzy.

Dealing with insane speed, instantaneous teleportation, and stealth was more than what most people could handle.

If Vulture did not activate his connection with the magic formation, then keeping up with Shin would be quite a disaster.

His main style was creating an opening and taking advantage of the opportunities in chaotic battle, so it was quite hard to match Shin with it.

However, it was much better than leaving Dio to handle Shin since his style focused more on offensive strikes and destructive powers.

Catching up to Shin, who possessed a lot of means to move around the battlefield, would be a disaster for him, who favored frontal confrontations.

Aside from this, the complex attack patterns of Shin's style also countered such a direct style from Dio, only making it more dangerous for him in a prolonged battle.

Moreover, Shin was also a Battle Genius who was constantly improving throughout the battle. Dealing with someone who specialized in frontal confrontation was something he would like to deal with the most.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

With this state of battle, Kallavan slowly retreated toward the innermost part of the city, nearing the castle.

During these last few exchanges, he was mainly dealing with the combined attacks of Arthur and the golden dragon while also soaking some of the attacks from Shin from time to time.

Fortunately, his defenses were strong enough to handle the attacks from these monsters, which were provided by his enhanced abilities.

Vulture then assisted him by launching a series of ambushes against Shin and Arthur, taking advantage of the chaos.

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In the meantime, the situation on the other front of the battlefield was in a similarly destructive and hectic state.

However, the situation was in a bit of the flip side compared to the other side of the city.

On this side, it was Leonard who was dealing with the combined attacks of Susanoo and Dio, who were not holding back on their offensive.

In response, Leonard was getting crazier in his attacks, fighting fire with fire. He was launching a barrage of destructive attacks one after another, warding off the combination and coordinated attacks from the opposing side.

Amid these chaotic exchanges, Diablo was taking advantage of the chaos to launch a series of ambushes much like what Vulture was doing on the other side of the battlefield.

During this time, Susanoo and Dio were also slowly but steadily retreating toward the innermost part of the city.

They planned to regroup with the rest of the team, especially after receiving a signal from Ashura, indicating that they had completed all the preparations.

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Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Not long after, the battle from both sides finally converged and reached the vicinity of the castle right at the heart of the city.

Shin and the others already suspected what the opposing side was planning, but they did not stop them since that was their plan anyway.

Moreover, the other three from their team had also reached the city gates. They were sprinting toward the center of the city with the best of their abilities, making this an all-out battle.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right after the two battlefields converged, both sides swiftly formed a battle line, preparing for an even more intense battle.

Whoosh!

Kallavan, Susanoo, and Dio swiftly went into a battle formation, creating a wall with triple frontline fighters while Vulture quickly entered stealth, hiding in the darkness and waiting for the right opportunity to strike.

Individually, Dio might not be as powerful as the monsters from the opposing side. But if he added his strength with the rest of the team, then he would be able to perform much better and showcase his worth in a team battle.

On the other side, Shin and the others did not care about forming a standard battle formation. Given that the Monster Trio were very familiar with one another, such formations were nothing but simple tricks that would only get in their way when fighting.

Instead, they preferred following their instincts and understanding with one another, maintaining their rhythm and keeping their style so that they could naturally connect with each other's.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The three swiftly charged forward, maintaining their respective momentum, while Diablo also entered stealth and disappeared from everyone's sight.

Bang!

Reaching the ideal range for attack, Arthur and Shin stomped into the ground to halt his charge and leaped into the air while assuming a sword-drawing stance midair, respectively.

Swoosh!

Channeling a huge amount of Dragon Power toward the golden spear, Arthur assumed a spear-throwing stance.

A huge image of a golden dragon immediately manifested behind him in the process before fusing with the spear while Arthur threw it forward.

Roar!

The spear then transformed into a huge energy dragon that opened its mouth wide and launched itself toward the castle.

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Golden Dragon Soars Through the Heavens'

Roar!

Swoosh!

At the same time, Shin, who was currently suspended in the air, suddenly unsheathed the [Yamato] and swung it forward while releasing a huge amount of Primordial Eclipse Power into it.

Click!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Lightning) – Eclipse Dragon Draw'

Shing!

Immediately after, an energy dragon made of black-and-white lightning was suddenly formed and quickly flew straight to the castle in the distance, carrying an unstoppable momentum and overwhelming power.

Roar!

The golden dragon and black-and-white dragon flew together before intertwining midflight, executing a spiral dragon dance as they continued to advance.

Roar!

On the receiving end, the members of God's Paradise could not help but wear serious expressions as they witnessed Shin and Arthur execute an impromptu combination technique with ease.

"These monsters!"

"This is going to hurt!"

The trio quickly moves, executing a combination technique of their own.

Susanoo swung his sword and summoned a violent storm of wind and lightning while Kallavan channeled his powers, filling the surroundings with vibrating force and chaotic mana fluctuations.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Amid all these, Dio threw a spear made of dark energy, which he channeled with a huge portion of mana.

Swoosh!

The dark spear then spun rapidly as it absorbed all the energy filling the surroundings that was released by Susanoo and Kallavan.

Not long after, the dark spear grew larger and formed a spiraling storm that flew straight to the dancing dragons.

'Unified Force: Combination Technique – Dominion Spear'

Swoosh!

Boom!

A massive explosion quickly erupted when the two sides collided, forming a chaotic storm that dominated the entire region.

Whoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Most of the structures in the surroundings were destroyed, collapsing under the repeated, overlapping, and destructive ripples produced by the explosion.

Whoosh!

Amid all these, a silhouette suddenly broke through the chaotic storm, falling from the sky like a descending meteor.

'Supreme Blood Sutra: Asad Tribe – Sanguine Descent'

Swoosh!

Leonard, who was currently covered with a strong and violent flow of crimson energy, swiftly descended and fell straight to the middle of the opposing trio.

Since the three just threw a powerful combination technique, they were not in a position to protect themselves from the incoming 'meteor'.

If such an attack befell them, the damage that it would deal would most likely put them in a critical condition.

However, they remained calm. It was because their reinforcements had already arrived.

Whoosh!

Right before the 'meteor' descended, a silhouette suddenly flew out of the castle behind them and positioned itself right before its path.

Valerius, who was the main tank of God's Paradise, revealed himself and raised his shield to confront Leonard.

Swoosh!

Starry lights suddenly covered his entire being while a huge energy shield appeared before him, forming a canopy that blocked the chaotic storm of energy and the descending meteor.

'Divine Guardian Skill (Tier 2): The Golden Bassion'

Boom!

Another massive explosion erupted as the two sides collided, further making the storm of chaotic energy to become even more chaotic.

However, that golden canopy protected the members of God's Paradise as well as the castle behind them.

Swoosh!

When everything settled, all the members of God's Paradise were suddenly revealed before everyone, forming a standard battle formation.

Ta-ta!

On the other side, Shin, Arthur, and Leonard gathered, facing the opposing side fearlessly.

Clang! Clang!

Bumping his shield and spear at one another, Arthur smirked and said. "Now, we will be having a passionate 'party' to our heart's content!"

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Chapter 1904: The Battle for the Crown (Part 8)

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"Let's burn with passion!" shouted Arthur as he strongly stomped into the ground and launched himself forward.

Bang!

Swoosh!

Shin and Leonard could not help but shake their heads, finding those words a bit cringeworthy. But given Arthur's personality, it was not surprising for this guy to say something more embarrassing in the middle of the battle.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The two then made their moves, following Arthur's lead.

This guy seemed to be quite impatient and had no intention of waiting for Cloe, Alice, and Owen, initiating a challenge for the opposing side straight away.

They had to keep up with his pace, making sure no accidents would happen.

Whoosh!

Crackle! Crackle!

Shin took advantage of the insane speed boost of his lightning attribute to overtake Arthur.

Shing!

He then pulled out the [Yamato] from its sheath while channeling a huge amount of icy energy into it.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A moment later, he suddenly swung his sword multiple times in the air before him, releasing all the icy energy channeled into the sword, which swiftly transformed into five huge vertical crescent waves that advanced toward the members of God's Paradise and fanned out forward to cover a larger range.

'Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship: Abyssal Moon – Crescent Cleave'

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Seeing the incoming attack, Valerius, the main tank of the team, stepped forward before slamming his shield on the ground and summoning a tall wall of energy that extended toward his left and right, covering an area that matched the five crescent waves.

'Divine Guardian Skill (Tier 2): Bulwark of the Nine Heavens'

Right after the divine wall was erected, it released a divine light that further enhanced its defensive capabilities before the towering crescent waves collided against it.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The simultaneous explosions shook the divine wall intensely, forming deep and wide cracks on it before finally collapsing.

BOOM!

The collapse of the divine wall created a chaotic veil of energy that blocked the vision of everyone from God's Paradise.

Swoosh!

Right at the same time, a huge hole suddenly appeared at the center of this veil of energy and revealed a golden dragon made of energy piercing through it.

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Breaking Through of the Golden Dragon'

Roar!

Seemingly expecting something like this to happen, Kallavan had already gathered a huge amount of energy into his fists ahead of time before suddenly throwing a series of powerful punches into the air, bombarding the incoming golden dragon in the air.

'Fist of the God Almighty: Annihilation'

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The collision between the golden dragon and the barrage of energy explosions repeatedly erupted in the air until both sides nullify each other.

This also revealed Arthur's figure to everyone who was within the golden dragon made of energy earlier.

Susanoo and Dio were about to launch an attack at this Dragon Knight, who was fully vulnerable midair, when they saw Arthur's pet suddenly appear out of nowhere and catch its master on its back.

Roar!

With a majestic roar from his pet, Arthur adjusted his sitting position on its back before ordering it to dive straight to the ground.

Swoosh!

Boom!

Divebombing the members of God's Paradise, Arthur and the Golden Dragon wreak havoc in their battle formation.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The group quickly moved and started pinning Arthur and the golden dragon in place, wanting to control them while fixing their formation.

Whoosh!

At this point, Leonard suddenly followed Arthur's previous attack, launching another descending attack from the air and landing on another spot where it hurt the formation of the opposing side the most.

Boom!

In response, Kallavan quickly disengaged from pinning Arthur and his golden dragon in place and swiftly engaged in an intense melee with Leonard.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The intense collision between the two quickly erupted with a series of shockwaves that spread in every direction.

Roar!

Arthur quickly dismounted from the golden dragon's back right after realizing his opponent's plans and swiftly launched a series of coordinated attacks with it to further disrupt the formation of the opposing side.

After all, it was much harder to contain two individuals in one place than someone mounted on such a fearsome pet.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Valerius controlled Arthur and the golden dragon together, utilizing his top-notch tanking skills, while coordinating with the rest of the team.

Susanoo limited the movements of the two with the sharp and deadly angles of his attacks, while Ashura was pressuring Arthur with his aggressive attacks.

Despite how strong Arthur was and how sturdy his defensive capabilities were, dealing with multiple people at once was still quite difficult for him, especially when each member of the opposing side was among the strongest godly experts of the game.

No matter how sturdy his stance or how good his coordination with the golden dragon, taking damage from time to time was bound to happen.

Even if he could return these attacks along with his golden dragon, the opposing side could afford such exchanges, especially since they had a healer on their side.

Understanding this, Diablo had finally made his move.

He had been patiently waiting in the dark since they arrived near the castle. He was waiting for the right opportunity to make his move while also putting invisible pressure on their opponents.

Lia maintained a good distance away from the main battlefield while constantly positioning herself right behind Ashura, where he could easily provide her an assistance when she required it.

She knew that the opposing side's assassin was still hiding in the air, so she had to be careful of her positioning and keep an eye on her surroundings.

Swoosh!

A moment later, she sensed a sudden dread coming from behind. She did not panic and senselessly used her protective spells, understanding that the opposing side was just baiting her.

She calmly hopped forward, getting nearer to Ashura, before throwing a ball of light in the air to illuminate the surroundings.

Bang!

The ball of light swiftly revealed a blurry silhouette sprinting toward her, informing her teammates of the position of the ambusher.

Whoosh!

Vulture, who was also hiding in the air up until now, quickly made his move and pounced at that blurry silhouette.

He swiftly caught up with the latter before plunging his dagger into their back.

Poof!

However, he did not feel the sensation of stabbing someone since that blurry silhouette turned into black smoke right after being hit.

Whoosh!

Right at the same time, Diablo suddenly materialized behind Lia, stabbing her back with his pointed stiletto.

But before that stiletto pierced her back, Lia suddenly slammed the bottom of her staff into the ground, using the 'Repel' spell to produce a shockwave that pushed the opposing assassin back.

Bang!

Swoosh!

Right after, Ashura swiftly responded and immediately caught up to Diablo. He raised his [Heavenly Meteor] in the air before swinging it down with all his might.

Diablo did not even hesitate and swiftly used 'Gale Steps' to retreat.

Given the 3-second invulnerability and the speed boost that this skill provided, he was able to retreat in time despite how fast the response of the opposing side was.

Boom!

He also could not help but feel a cold sweat dripping down from his forehead after seeing the might of that seemingly simple strike from Ashura.

Vulture tried to catch Diablo by also boosting his speed with a skill, but the latter just jumped into the shadows and disappeared from their perception completely.

Click!

While everyone was in chaos, Shin had unknowingly appeared near Lia, stepping out of his stealth. He swiftly unsheathed the [Yamato] and swung it forward, targeting the neck and threatening to sever her head.

Shing!

Lia was immediately overwhelmed by the sudden sense of dread after sensing the incoming attack, which was not giving her enough time to respond.

Even if she activated a spell that could instantly activate, such as Blink to escape, she understood that she would not be able to stop this deadly attack that Shin had perfectly launched.

Swoosh!

But right before the sword cut her head, a golden barrier suddenly appeared and protected her.

Bang!

At the center of the battle, Valerius had noticed the danger that Lia was in and swiftly raised his hand and pointed at her. He had activated the skill 'Sacrificial Bastion' to protect their healer in exchange for receiving the damage that she was supposed to get.

(-40,523)

Huge numbers appeared above his head as he suffered serious damage from that attack despite his extremely high defense.

A huge chunk of his health bar disappeared, almost consuming a quarter of his huge Health Bar.

(+20,000)

(+2,000), (+2,000), (+2,000), ...

In response, Lia swiftly raised her staff and quickly returned his health bar to full.

Whoosh!

Taking advantage of his opportunity, Arthur swiftly attacked Valerius, sending the latter flying with a powerful strike that caught the knight off guard.

Bang!

But before Arthur could even break through the formation of the opposing side, Vulture, who was supposedly chasing after Diablo, had suddenly appeared behind him to launch an ambush.

Clang!

Arthur quickly responded and blocked the deadly attack with his shield, forcing the latter to retreat after the failure of the ambush.

Whoosh!

Susanoo was about to coordinate with Vulture, but he was immediately obstructed by the golden dragon under its master's command.

Roar!

Bang! Bang!

At the same time, Ashura had also returned on Lia's side and quickly engaged in an intense melee with Shin.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The two had already exchanged dozens of strikes in just a span of seconds, producing huge explosions in every collision.

The chaotic and explosive exchanges between the two sides had finally erupted, officially signaling the real collision between these titans.

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Chapter 1905: The Battle for the Crown (Part 9)

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Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The battle between the two sides continued to escalate the more they clashed against each other. Each collision produced a massive reaction that affected the surroundings as well as those quite far from the center of the city.

The side of God's Paradise had the advantage in terms of numbers, but the Monster Trio of the Empyrean Talons relied on their great teamwork and coordination to fight against the pressure, covering each other's backs.

Diablo was also launching a series of ambushes from time to time, either providing a cover for the trio or pressuring the opposing side with his deadly attacks.

He was mostly targeting Lia, forcing the opposing side to give up some of their advantages just to cover her side. His timing was always perfect, making it harder for God's Paradise to solely focus on the three.

Fortunately, Vulture was doing the same, which made it hard for Shin and the other two to solely focus on their counterparts.

Even if the Monster Trio was able to keep their pace, they still found it hard to keep that pressure for long due to their limited health bars.

Even if they were able to hold their ground for that long, they still got hit by a few strikes, chunking a portion of their health bars during the battle.

With Lia on the opposing side, fighting at the same pace would only put them at a disadvantage since God's Paradise could just heal before continuing the battle.

Even if Arthur fully utilized the usage of his golden dragon in the fight to cover the lack of manpower, it could barely match what they needed. It was just a pet after all, it could not do that much against such high high-caliber opponent aside from coordinating with Arthur to perform some combination techniques.

Roar!

Shin and the others were starting to feel the pressure of not having a healer on their side, particularly Arthur, who was in the center of their opponent's formation to keep them busy.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

While the trio was on the verge of being pushed back by the opposing side, a barrage of icicles suddenly appeared in the sky before pouring like rain.

These icicles were not your regular ones, either, since they were made of three different colors. The tip was made of ice element, while the middle section seemed to carry the wind element. The bottommost part was entirely red due to the pure fire element that it carried.

The bottom part was pushing the icicles forward with small explosions, propelling itself forward with the help of the wind element on the middle section. Meanwhile, the sharp and pointed tip made of pure ice cut through the air while continuing to fall.

These tri-colored icicles did not just fall from the sky either. They moved along tricky paths in the air, making it harder to read their trajectory.

Moreover, they were skillfully manipulated by the caster, making them avoid the spots where the Monster Trio were fighting and only targeting the members of God's Paradise.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Not only were these icicles deadly sharp, but they also started exploding right upon contact, dealing a considerable amount of damage to the opposition.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

In the meantime, they took advantage of this chaos to launch a coordinated attack, further adding pressure to the opposing side.

Whoosh!

Amid the chaos, healing lights also appeared on the bodies of the three, restoring their health bars to a healthy state. This further enhanced their confidence, starting a strong counterattack.

Roar!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Seeing the current situation, Vulture swiftly moved and quickly sprinted toward a certain direction.

Swoosh!

He immediately reached where those spells were being cast, seeing the pair of goddesses casting their spells one after another.

He did not dillydally and swiftly approached the two, wanting to target Cloe and Alice. Even if he was unsuccessful at ambushing them, attracting their attention was more than enough to at least disrupt their tempo.

Swoosh!

Unfortunately, right before he could even reach the two, Owen suddenly appeared and swiftly intercepted him.

Bang!

Raising his shield, he collided against the Scavenger King, coming out of nowhere.

However, Vulture responded quite well, swiftly crossing his arms and placing them to block the sudden ram along with his daggers.

Swoosh!

He then flipped in the air multiple times, relieving most of the force from the impact before landing steadily on the ground with his feet.

Ta-ta!

Vulture did not have the luxury to adjust himself since Alice swiftly split her attention toward his direction and bombarded him with a series of spells.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, Cloe had marked him with 'Revealing Mark', making it impossible for him to enter stealth for its entire duration.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Vulture did his best to dodge the spells thrown at him, moving around and distancing himself from the trio. He flipped, rolled, and jumped around while looking for an opening that he could use.

However, approaching those two girls would be impossible under Owen's protection. He could not do it alone.

Swoosh!

Understanding the situation, Dio swiftly sprinted and quickly reached the battlefield, helping Vulture.

“Ha!”

Seeing another one coming, Owen swiftly activated his Ascended Ability.

Crackle! Crackle!

Activating the ‘Thunderbird Divine Tattoo’, Owen clanked his sword and shield against one another, welcoming the challenge.

...

Bang! Bang! Bang!

With Vulture forcing Alice to split her attention, the pressure on the other side of the battle was greatly lessened.

But with Dio leaving the formation, the Monster Trio and Diablo could now move more freely, using the gaps in the opposing side’s battle formation to go crazy.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Due to the combined forces of the Monster Trio, the sides of God’s Paradise were forced to move closer to one another, closing the gaps and fighting in a more stable formation.

Susanoo was in charge of protecting Lia from Diablo’s ambushes while Valerius, Kallavan, and Ashura created a triple front to ward off the advance of Shin, Arthur, and Leonard.

Since the situation was getting worse for God's Paradise since their reinforcements arrived, they were forced to all use their connections with the hidden formation covering the entire city.

Along with their respective Elemental Spirit Possession, Ascended Abilities, and Extraordinary Powers, they gained a larger edge compared to their opposition.

This then led to Shin and the others being on the back foot due to the disparity when it came to firepower and defensive capabilities.

Realizing this, the Empyrean Talons forced more of their cards on top of their respective Elemental Spirit Possessions.

Swoosh!

Shin summoned a monochrome world that covered a large area, signifying that he had activated one of his domain skills.

'Grim Reaper Skills (Tier 2): Monochrome Field'

He did not even stop there, as he also released an overwhelming pressure coming from his body that restrained most of the powers of their opponents, activating his second domain skill.

'Equipment Skill (Headgear): Ruler's Authority'

Boom!

In response to this, Arthur swiftly recalled his golden dragon pet back to his side before placing his hand on its head, enhancing the connection between the two of them.

Roar!

Through this, the golden dragon seemed to have also received the powers of all the Elemental Dragons that had possessed Arthur's body through Elemental Dragon Fusion.

The golden scales of the dragon pet gained a different luster that represented the elements that Arthur's current possession had.

'Dragon Cavalier Skill (Tier 2): Dragon Partner – Unification'

Roar!

Boom!

It then released a powerful presence that did not lose to any of the individuals present on the battlefield.

Boom!

On the other hand, Leonard further enhanced the circulation of blood and mana within his body, entering a berserk state.

Swoosh!

The shades of the crimson tattoo throughout his body deepened, while his eyes released a stronger sanguine light.

Roar!

At the same time, his canine teeth also grew a bit larger, while the Lion Helm that he was wearing seemed to fuse with his head, turning its mane's color deep crimson.

'Unique Racial Trait: Primordial Beast – Awakening'

Seeing that the three were taking the initiative to use those cards, Diablo had to keep up with the pace and activated one of his killing cards as well.

He had already activated his 'Shadow Equip – Divine War Robe' earlier, along with his Elemental Spirit Possession. To keep up with those three, he had to use an equally strong trump card.

Swoosh!

Activating the Ancient Shadow Powers that he controlled, he activated a domain skill that was a grade higher than the two skills that Shin had activated.

'Ancient Shadow Power: Domain Skill – Shadow World'

The surrounding shadows seemed to have responded to his words, enclosing a huge part of the city with dark powers.

Swoosh!

It created a huge dome that sealed the battlefield from the outside world.

Whoosh!

What surprised everyone was when this 'Shadow World' slowly fused with the domain skill that Shin had just summoned, the 'Monochrome Field'.

With these four activating such trump cards, the side of God's Paradise was able to sense the pressure coming from them instantly.

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Chapter 1906: The Battle for the Crown (Part 10)

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Right after the four key combatants of the Empyrean Talons had activated those trump cards, the side of God's Paradise immediately felt the pressure coming from those four.

Moreover, Cloe and Alice had also coordinated with those four with their blessings and elemental spells, respectively.

Cloe had activated a large-scale buff, summoning a sacred zone that buffed the stats of her allies by a large margin. This sacred zone was similar to a domain skill, which produced a special area that enhanced all the abilities of her allies instead of suppressing their opponents.

Moreover, all the other blessings that she cast within the boundaries of this zone would undergo a double-boost effect, making them even stronger.

As for Alice's side, she bombarded the members of God's Paradise with even stronger spells, which varied from different elemental spell fusion and elemental unification.

Each spell was powerful enough to change the terrain and conditions of the entire battlefield, but Shin and the other three were not affected in the slightest under her skillful control.

Naturally, they still had to be wary of Vulture, who was lurking around them and launching a series of ambushes from time to time, and Dio, who kept on attacking them crazily.

Owen was able to hold those guys down most of the time, but there were also instances where those two managed to slip through his defenses, forcing the girls to also keep an eye on them.

...

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom!

In the meantime, Ashura and the rest of God's Paradise swiftly responded to the challenge that the opposing side had issued to them.

Valerius activated a powerful strengthening skill before clashing against the combined forces of Arthur and his dragon pet, producing intense collisions in every exchange.

He was able to hold his ground against those two, which surprised most of the spectators, especially when the combination of techniques that Arthur and his dragon pet were showing everyone was not that simple.

Seeing how Valerius held his ground against those two to showcase that he was among the top tanks within the game, the spectators could not help but compare him with the other players in a similar position within their respective teams.

Through this, he had even overshadowed Arthur's tanking capabilities by a certain margin.

After all, that showoff liked to aggressively attack the opposing side's frontline most of the time, acting more like a vanguard fighter rather than a standard tank.

In the meantime, the side where Leonard and Kallavan fought did not change that much; instead of the increasing intensity of every attack they were throwing at each other. They seemed not to care that much about their surroundings since they were throwing everything they had with each of those punches.

Meanwhile, Susanoo was dealing with Diablo, who kept launching a series of ambushes one after another, putting pressure on him and Lia.

This guy was utilizing both his insane speed and control over the surrounding shadows to come and go whenever he wanted. He was like a ghost that kept on appearing and disappearing without a trace throughout the battlefield.

If not for Susanoo's connection with the wind element and his insane reaction speed, then Diablo would have most likely assassinated one of their members on the battlefield, particularly Lia, who was busy providing support to everyone.

However, these sides of the battlefield were still a bit lacking compared to the intensity of the battle between Shin and Ashura.

These two were going all-out with every exchange, showcasing their true capabilities to everyone.

Shin mostly relied on the complexity of his style, particularly the Myriad Manifestation Swordsmanship and Sword-Drawing Style, but he was also utilizing his other sword style to the fullest, just like the Elemental Swordsmanship and Assassination Style of his Phantom Swordsman Class.

The variety of his attacks became so complex that it became harder for others to figure out what he wanted to do next.

However, Ashura was still able to hold his ground through his steady style of fighting.

He might lack the complexity of his opponent's style, but his style relied on the standard and steady style of fighting that would never be broken so easily.

He was like a wall that stood tall in front of hordes of monsters, despite how large their army was.

Shin was even forced to summon his clones during their exchanges, attempting to affect the other parts of the battlefield.

Unfortunately, Ashura seemed to be already expecting something like this and summoned the apparition of a golden immortal to match the pace. Only the upper half of the golden immortal appeared, and it was also obviously the inferior version of the original one, but its size and strength were still enough for Ashura to cover the entire battlefield.

Even if Shin and his clones tried to launch some ambushes against the other members of God's Paradise, they were still being repeatedly obstructed by Ashura and this massive apparition of the golden immortal.

As the battle progressed, the other parts of the battlefield were also slowly converging. They were starting to affect the battles of the others, turning it into a real Team Competition.

Both sides were starting to showcase their coordination with their teammates, along with their respective combination techniques.

The Monster Trio, along with Clone, shone the brightest on the battlefield due to their seamless coordination and tacit understanding with one another.

They never needed to say anything for the others to understand their intentions. All they needed to do was to proceed with the plan inside their heads, and the others would swiftly respond to coordinate with them.

The scariest part was when Shin, Leonard, and Arthur almost took down Valerius and Kallavan with their series of coordinated attacks that caught everyone off guard.

If not for Ashura and Lia's fast responses, then those two would have most likely been killed in the process, making their side the first one to suffer a casualty.

However, despite the strong connection that the Empyrean Talons possessed, the side of God's Paradise refused to back down and fought back with the same ferocity.

Their connection might not be as strong as those four from the Empyrean Talons, but that did not mean that they would lose one-sidedly.

They showcased the strengths of their team along with the combination techniques that they had been hiding all this time.

Regardless, it was still far from being enough to match those four completely. They would have most likely lost as well if not for the advantages that they were getting from the formation covering the entire city.

Vulture was also showcasing his real strength in this match as well, reminding everyone why he was called the Scavenger King.

Such chaos on the battlefield was the best 'home ground' advantage that he was looking for.

He repeatedly launched a series of ambushes that almost took the lives of some from the side of the Empyrean Talons.

He was no longer focusing on targeting Cloe and Alice, understanding that it would be hard to take anyone of them down under Owen's protection.

Instead, he started shifting his focus to the other sides of the battlefield, relieving some of the pressure from his teammates and creating more chaos that would further heighten his techniques.

He then became a headache for Shin and the others due to all this.

Fortunately, Diablo, who was on their side, was also doing the same. Launching a series of ambushes and threatening Lia from time to time, putting another form of pressure on the opposing team.

...

Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

"This is bad. If we continue like this, then we will only exhaust ourselves before we can use our Unification Technique," said Lia through the team channel, worriedly.

Given their current situation, their initial plan would most likely go awry if the state of the battlefield continued to be like this.

Ashura understood this as well, understanding that they had to change the pace of the match a little if they wanted to take the initiative back to their side.

“We are using the Unification Technique now!” Ashura decided, knowing that they could not afford to delay it any longer.

They first wanted to exhaust most of the cards of their opponents as much as possible before using their strongest card, giving themselves more leeway later when the absolute climax of the match was reached.

They might have achieved some of it since Shin and the others had summoned their domain skill and other forms of trump cards during the most recent exchanges. But they knew that it was still far from being enough.

However, they could not do anything much about it since they were also being forced to do the same.

“Sir Valerius!” called Ashura, telling the latter to cover for them so that they could initiate the activation of the Unification Technique.

“Leave it to me!” replied Valerius before forcing Arthur and the dragon pet to retreat with a powerful push of his shield.

Boom!

Not long after, he slammed the shield on the ground, summoning a huge dome of energy that swiftly took the form of a fortress.

‘Divine Guardian Skill (Tier 3): The Fortress of Divine Heavens’

In response, the rest of God's Paradise quickly gathered on Ashura's side while he held his ruler sword with both of his hands.

Seeing all these, Shin and the rest of the Empyrean Talons immediately figured out what the opposing side was planning to do.

"It looks like it is finally time!" said Arthur before swiftly mounting his dragon pet and quickly flying into the air.

Roar!

Shin nodded while recalling the two clones to his side and fusing with them immediately after. He had also signaled the others to move according to the plan.

Swoosh!

Cloe, Alice, and Owen swiftly moved into a triangle formation before initiating their Unification Technique, preparing to summon the Elemental Guardian.

Meanwhile, Leonard and Diablo moved to their side to protect them while also activating their respective Racial Traits, unique to their Transcendent Race.

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Chapter 1907: The Battle for the Crown (Part 11)

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Swoosh!

The sky above the city was suddenly pierced through by the familiar pillar of light that seemed to come from the high heavens. It swiftly descended toward the heart of the city, where the battle was currently taking place.

Whoosh!

This pillar of light then pierced through the multiple layers of domains that Shin and the others had cast earlier before suddenly engulfing Ashura and the rest of the Empyrean Talons.

Then the colossal body of the Golden Immortal was slowly manifested, kneeling like a knight of heaven.

Right after its figure stabilized, Lia swiftly jumped into it and merged and positioned herself right on the abdomen of the golden immortal while Ashura took the center of its chest.

Everyone was somewhat surprised that Lia was the first to fuse with the golden immortal, especially when they saw a massive reaction coming from the city.

Particularly, the hidden formation that was hiding beneath it.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The massive magic formation revealed itself right after Lia situated herself on the abdomen of the golden immortal, seemingly focusing herself while communicating with this magic formation.

All the surrounding energy was swiftly pulled toward their direction and gathered at the center of that abdomen, seemingly forming a magic core.

The magic formation and the golden immortal seemed to have formed a connection through Lia, summoning a series of mana circuits at the latter's body that seemed to become its mana channels.

Seeing this, everyone immediately realized that there was something wrong with this situation, especially after seeing that the size of the already colossal body of the golden immortal became even larger.

It was already almost twice its original size.

"It is already too late to stop them, right?" asked Arthur while in the air.

Shin, who had already summoned his pair of wings right after fusing with his clones, was also flying not far from him. "You should know that summoning a creature has a few seconds of invulnerability while being summoned. This is the same for all classes that could summon such beings."

"Unless we directly target the summoner itself to interrupt the summoning process, stopping it is pretty much impossible."

The corner of Arthur's mouth suddenly twitched after hearing that. He naturally knew about this; he just asked to make it somewhat dramatic for the audience, despite knowing that they could not be heard by them.

They knew that it was already too late to stop the opposing side, especially when Valerius was protecting the others with a powerful defensive skill earlier during the initial process of the summoning ritual.

They then saw Kallavan fused with the golden immortal next. He provided a steel armor that fused with the sacred armor that the golden immortal was already wearing. The fusion dyed the armor with dark steel color in the process, while its edges were filled with glowing golden runes.

The little gaps that the armor had from its segments also released a pulsing golden plume.

Swoosh!

One of the arms of the golden immortal had also become a bit larger, seemingly having a double-layered armor along with razor-sharp claws.

Immediately after, Vulture jumped in and fused with the golden immortal as well. But unlike what everyone was expecting, the change that he had provided along with the fusion was a bit different.

The golden immortal grew a new pair of arms from the back of its shoulders. The original shoulders moved forward a little, giving a space for the newly grown shoulders and arms.

This was also not the end. Since the entire process was going along with Kallavan's fusion, another neck and head grew from the back of the golden immortal's neck.

All this made the golden immortal a twin sharing a main body.

Taking advantage of this transformation, Susanoo and Dio swiftly joined it as well, fusing with the new golden immortal.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right at the same time, a sword and a spear suddenly appeared in the air, which the two newly formed hands grabbed.

It was only at that moment that Valerius released the divine fortress protecting everyone earlier before fusing with the golden immortal as well.

Swoosh!

A giant shield then appeared on one of the arms of the golden immortal, which he represented.

Boom! Boom!

Immediately after, the golden immortal slowly stood up, producing shockwaves that further destroyed the surrounding structures that were barely standing and on the verge of collapse.

Aside from the castle that seemed to be protected by something, everything in the surroundings turned into ruins.

At the same time, due to its colossal size, the domain skills that Shin and the others had summoned had also collapsed, especially after being affected by its overwhelming pressure.

"Sheesh~! Quite intimidating," commented Arthur, seemingly unfazed despite seeing the powerful, this current version of the golden immortal that the opposing side had summoned.

"It seems to be the real version of this Unified Technique," added Shin while looking at the fading powers of the magic formation that was supposedly covering the entire city. "They could not summon its real form in the previous match, so they seem to have used the magic formation to help them achieve such a result."

"I guess we have to respond in kind," said Arthur while nodding his head.

He then communicated with his strongest Elemental Dragon. [Old Dragon. It is your turn to shine!]

[Hmph!]

Archon, the Chaos Dragon, did not respond and straight-up answered the summon.

Swoosh!

A huge summoning circle appeared behind Arthur, followed by an overwhelming pressure that dominated the entire battlefield.

Arthur was not directly summoning the Chaos Dragon. After all, he was still incapable of withstanding the true powers of this legendary dragon that lived for countless years.

Even if Archon was still far from recovering its original power, the fraction of its strength was more than enough to make Arthur explode if he forcefully fused with it.

Instead, this summoning circle was just building a connection with Arthur, who then used it to redirect this fraction of powers toward his golden dragon pet.

Through the special abilities of the Dragon Cavalier Class, this chaos power slowly fused with the dragon pet, releasing the original possession that it shared with Arthur.

The powers of the other elemental dragons were forcefully ejected by this domineering power before it took over the body of the dragon pet.

In response to it, the dragon pet rapidly grew, rivaling the size of the Eclipse Dragon that Shin summoned.

Its golden scales also grew darker, turning into an obsidian color with a golden luster on their surface.

The overall appearance of the dragon pet was slowly transforming into the appearance of the Chaos Dragon that Arthur had seen during their first encounter.

Roar!

Through this, Arthur could share some of the powers that the dragon pet was receiving and underwent a special Elemental Dragon Fusion.

He was able to achieve the fusion with Archon with this method, which he also took advantage of to use his strongest trump card.

'Dragonkin Racial Skill: Bloodline Awakening – Dragon'

'Elemental Dragon Fusion: Chaos Dragon (Archon) – Chaos Harvinder'

Boom!

Roar!

Right after he finished his transformation, the dragon pet had also finished its transformation into a Chaos Dragon.

Shin was not idle either. He immediately summoned the Eclipse Dragon while he also activated his strongest trump card.

'Legacy Skill: Duplicator's Eye – Summoning the Eclipse Dragon'

Roar!

While the iconic dragon stepped out of the summoning gate, Shin had also raised his hand, where the Eclipse Mark was currently tattooed.

'Eclipse Mark Ability: Metamorphosis – Descent of the Fallen God'

Boom!

Immediately after, he underwent a transformation that made everyone remember during his first match against Ashura.

These two stood haughtily and majestically in the air, the two giant dragons, creating an image that everyone would never forget.

The two dragons might be much smaller than the golden immortal standing in the distance, but their majestic air did not lose in the slightest in comparison.

The Eclipse Dragon underneath Shin glanced at the other dragon and mumbled in a heavy tone. "Archon."

Chaos Dragon under Arthur gave the Eclipse Dragon a sidelong glance but did not do anything else after, much less say anything. It seemed to have ignored the other dragon completely.

Shin and Arthur could not help but knit their brows after seeing the brief exchange between the two dragons. They felt that these two dragons seemed to be acquainted with each other and shared a certain connection before.

However, they did not have the luxury to delve deeper into it, especially when the opposing side had immediately started making their move.

...

Boom!

On the ground, the Elemental Guardian was also successfully summoned. It swiftly took a battle stance while Leonard and Diablo also entered their strongest state.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Seeing that the four-armed golden immortal was charging straight toward them, the Elemental Guardian swiftly responded and raised its elemental spear forward, pointing it toward the opposing side.

It then raised its front hooves before charging forward suddenly.

Whoosh!

The golden immortal raised its shield to block the charge, producing powerful shockwaves in every direction.

Boom!

It then followed up with a sudden swing of its sword, targeting the head of the Elemental Guardian.

Roar!

But before the sword could even reach its target, the Chaos Dragon had suddenly fired a series of breaths, sending purple fireballs at the golden immortal.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The golden immortal had no choice but to change the trajectory of its swing, targeting the fireballs instead and hitting them midflight.

Roar!

The Chaos Dragon then pouched it, biting on its arm that was holding the sword and preventing it from moving freely.

Roar!

On the other hand, the Eclipse Dragon had also made its move, attacking from another direction.

But before it could even launch a series of attacks, the arm of the golden immortal that was covered with more armor and possessed razor-sharp claws suddenly stretched forward and grabbed its head before slamming it to the ground.

Bang!

The Elemental Guardian then circled it and fired an elemental beam that pushed the golden immortal back before it could even pierce the Eclipse Dragon with its spear.

Boom!

A chaotic battle broke out between these colossi, as they wrestled and struck the opposing side with powerful attacks.

Meanwhile, the other four from the Empyrean Talons circled the battlefield, waiting for the right opportunity to strike.

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Chapter 1908: The Battle for the Crown (Part 12)

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Roar! Roar!

Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The four colossi destroyed almost the entire Cardinal City in their battle. The Elemental Guardian from the side of Empyrean Talons worked together with the Chaos and Eclipse Dragons to fight the Four-Armed Golden Immortal summoned by God's Paradise.

However, despite working together, the three were still unable to fully suppress the opposing side.

The difference in sizes was just one of the reasons.

Even if the Four-Armed Golden Immortal towered over the three titans, its strength was not overwhelming enough to fully suppress the other three. Instead, it was its four arms and two heads that became the main factor for the current situation.

Due to it having two heads, there was no clear blind spot that the three could use to launch their attacks. Adding the other pair of arms that it had, even its back was no different from fighting it up front.

Ashura and the rest of God's Paradise were able to take advantage of this situation to gain the upper hand in the battle.

However, that was also when the rest of the Empyrean Talons had made their moves.

Shin and Arthur, who were flying in the sky, launched a series of attacks to disrupt the movements of the Four-Armed Golden Immortal and prevent it from controlling the tempo of the battle.

Meanwhile, Leonard and Diablo, who were on the ground, were constantly targeting the legs of the four-armed giant. They were particularly targeting the joints whenever they attacked, forcing the latter to lose its balance.

The four of them might look like bugs compared to the gigantic size of the four-armed colossus, but the damage that they could deal was still deadly enough to force the opposition to constantly be wary of them.

Every time these four made their moves, the Four-Armed Golden Immortal lost most of the force from its attack due to its unstable balance. This weakened the power that this colossus had whenever it tried to do something.

The collisions of both sides always produced powerful shockwaves that swept through the surroundings, further destroying the city and turning the place into complete ruins.

...

Roar! Roar!

The Chaos Dragon and Eclipse Dragon swiftly adjusted themselves after being pushed back by the Four-Armed Golden Immortal.

They dug their claws deep into the ground while concentrating their energies toward their throats.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, the two dragons coordinate with one another, positioning themselves on opposite sides of the four-armed giant before simultaneously opening their mouths and launching a powerful breath.

‘Eclipse Dragon’s Breath: Unity Ray’

‘Chaos Dragon’s Breath: Atomic Destruction’

Roar! Roar!

Seeing that, the Four-Armed Golden Immortal swiftly retreated. It was attempting to angle itself to face the two dragons’ breath toward its front, making it easier to defend against them.

Immediately after, Valerius used one of his strongest defensive skills, which was quickly amplified by their Unified Technique.

Whoosh!

Under Ashura’s skillful control, the four-armed giant managed to get a better angle to face the incoming breaths before swiftly raising its massive shield.

‘Golden Immortal Skill: The Immortal Bastion’

Boom!

The two breaths arrived almost at the same time, hitting the massive shield and the barrier that protects it immediately after.

Seizing this opportunity when the Four-Armed Golden Immortal was currently pinned in position, the Elemental Guardian came charging from a different direction.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

It sprinted with its hooves, further destroying the surrounding structures, while thrusting its elemental spear forward.

Swoosh!

Not satisfied with ordinary attacks, Alice, who was one of the three controlling the guardian and in charge of its energy circulation and offensive properties, swiftly manipulated the surrounding elements before coating the spear with them.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Different elements swiftly spiraled around the spear, forming an elemental drill while thrusting forward.

'Elemental Guardian Skill: Elemental Piercer'

Whoosh!

In response to this, the other head of the four-armed giant turned at the incoming Elemental Guardian before slightly adjusting the position of its body to face the incoming attack.

Whoosh!

Dark and crimson energy swiftly covered the spear that one of its hands was holding, which quickly turned into a chaotic storm.

A moment later, it thrust the spear forward while manipulating the surrounding storm to amplify the strength behind this attack.

‘Golden Immortal Skill: The Domination Spear’

This skill came from Dio’s skill set, which was also further strengthened and evolved due to the special effects of the Unified Skill.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The other four from Empyrean Talons originally wanted to launch a coordinated attack at this time so that they could obstruct it once again.

Unfortunately, the four-armed giant took the initiative to attack them this time, forcing them to dodge instead.

Shin and Arthur had to avoid the flashes of lightning that came from the four-armed giant when it swung the sword in one of its hands.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Crackle!

Meanwhile, Leonard and Diablo were forced to retreat after seeing that the ground underneath their feet trembled before being trampled by the beastly arm of the Four-Armed Golden Immortal.

Bang! Bang!

Boom!

Repeated explosions erupted as the Four-Armed Golden Immortal faced the coordinated and relentless assault of the opposition, enduring everything with its powerful body and suppressing them when their overwhelming strength.

...

As the battle continued, both sides started showcasing their respective strengths.

However, neither side had gained the absolute advantage yet.

Both sides had suffered quite a lot of injuries during the battle, but neither were serious enough to threaten them nor affect their fighting capabilities.

The four individuals from the Empyrean Talons were still fine since they could just agilely escape from the range of the destruction that the colossi were creating during their exchanges, but they were also constantly teetering away from the grasp of death whenever they tried to make their move.

The Four-Armed Golden Immortal was much stronger than everyone was expecting.

On the brighter side, Shin and the others could also rely on this strategy to waste the energy of their opponents. After all, keeping such a powerful being and controlling it in such an intense battle would surely consume quite a lot of energy and burn a serious amount of concentration.

The burden that Ashura and the others could seriously exhaust them for an extended period. Keeping their current state for quite longer would surely burn their willpower quite heavily compared to the opposition.

A prolonged battle would only put them at a disadvantage when it happened.

Shin was about to make a few more arrangements for their next round of attacks when his intuition suddenly kicked in and immediately warned him about an imminent danger. "Not good!"

"Danger!" Arthur and Leonard, through their draconic and bestial senses, were also able to sense the danger.

The same for Alice, who was communicating with the surrounding elements. Her connection with them was suddenly severed by an unknown cause, making her aware of the upcoming danger.

Naturally, the Chaos Dragon and the Eclipse Dragon were able to sense it as well, but it was already too late at that time since the opposing side hid it quite well.

Roar! Roar!

...

The spectators of the match were already on the edge of their seats while watching. The intensity of the match was slowly escalating, seemingly building up for the absolute climax.

All of a sudden, something happened.

While everyone was holding their breaths and anticipating how the match would proceed to the next stage, something happened on the battlefield.

Roar! Roar!

The two dragons, realizing the current situation, swiftly pounced on the four-armed giant without caring about their safety. Since they knew that it was already too late to prevent the impending disaster, it was better to do as much damage as possible while sacrificing their lives.

The two dragons bit on an arm each while scratching and swiping with their claws.

The four-armed giant tried to throw them off with its remaining arms, but the two dragons seemed to be determined enough to fall alongside it.

No matter how hard the four-armed giant tried, stabbing and slashing with its spear and sword, the two dragons refused to let go and even fought more ferociously.

They were even charging their respective energies toward their throws, seemingly planning to use their dragon's breath to commit suicide.

The trio that was controlling the Elemental Guardian realized the situation as well. They seized this opportunity to charge forward, lunging straight to the 'exposed' back of the Four-Armed Golden Immortal.

Cloe and Alice had also channeled all their mana toward the guardian, planning to pour everything toward this one attack.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The four-armed giant wanted to move away once it saw the guardian charging at it with such aggressiveness. But no matter how it struggled, it was unable to throw the two dragons off it.

Without a choice, it resolutely stood its ground, seemingly trying to welcome the incoming elemental guardian.

Roar!

With a deafening roar, it stabbed its spear straight to the Elemental Guardian while also receiving the thrusting spear of the latter.

Bang!

While all these were happening, the entire city was suddenly illuminated by a blinding light that was coming from the ground.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The massive magic formation that disappeared earlier when the Four-Armed Golden Immortal was summoned suddenly reappeared once again, shining so brightly that it almost made everyone blind.

Those with a magic profession from the live stand and watching from the online broadcast immediately realized that this massive formation was being detonated.

It was not hard to imagine how powerful the explosion this magic formation would produce, given its massive size and the amount of mana that it carried.

Erasing the city was nothing compared to it. The radius of the explosion would surely consume quite a large portion of the map.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Understanding that they would not be able to do anything to stop the explosion, the other four from the Empyrean Talons did their best to escape from the radius of the upcoming explosion.

They did not know why those from God's Paradise were committing suicide, but they understood that they would also die instantly once they were caught by the upcoming explosion.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin and Arthur flapped their wings and flew as fast as they could, distancing themselves from this place as far as possible. They swiftly transformed into a pair of streaks of light while flying away.

Bang! Bang!

Leonard repeatedly kicked the ground, leaving a series of footprints on the ground as he ran madly. His mobility might not be as good as Shin's and Arthur's, but his burst speed was no slower than theirs. Every stomp he made, he covered quite a lot of distance.

He even bulldozed his way forward, crushing every obstacle before him. Quite a lot of trees had fallen due to his mad rush.

Swoosh!

In the meantime, Diablo covered himself with the shadow before dashing away from the city. He transformed into a blurry silhouette that was running across the dark forest. His speed was so insane that he made himself meld with the world of darkness covering the map.

His presence seemed to have disappeared because of this as well, making it hard for the others to know whether he was still in this world or not.

Not long after, the mana that was supporting the magic formation finally collapsed.

Boom!

The massive explosion followed immediately, rapidly extending outward and swiftly swallowing everything in its path.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The deep night seemed to have become day in an instant due to the intense light produced by the explosion, forcing everyone watching to either close or cover their eyes.

BOOM!

...

Chapter 1909: The Adversary versus the Monster Trio (Part 1)

...

Boom!

The explosion covered quite a massive area, continuing to spread in every direction and swiftly swallowing everything in its path.

Not long after, all its strength had finally been exhausted, leaving only a thick cloud of smoke and dust that was slowly receding and settling.

It also did not take that long until the aftermath of the explosion was revealed to everyone.

"D*NM!"

This was the word that expressed all the mixed emotions that every spectator of the match was feeling.

They had already seen quite a lot of powerful skills that could change the terrain of the surroundings. Such skills were not much rarer in their eyes, particularly those highly skilled experts.

Some of them had even witnessed a much larger and terrible destruction compared to most the people.

But even then, none of them were as terrifying as this one.

That strike that Uno had shown everyone during the upper bracket finals against Ashura might be among the most absurd and terrifying sword techniques that everyone had witnessed in their lives.

But even then, that one time was just a rare event caused by an absurd monster, even among the monstrous individuals and gods within the game.

Comparing that incident to the aftermath of this explosion, people concluded.

Both were terrible and almost on the same scale.

However, there were also some differences between the two.

Uno had absolute control over his technique, which was why he was able to control everything and focus his strength solely on his opponent. That was why no one had fallen victim to that strike aside from Ashura.

In the meantime, this explosion was like a raging storm without control. It swept through everything without restraint and ignored everything else.

Right before everyone's eyes was a land void of anything aside from the scorched ground and ashes.

The scale of the explosion was so large that it erased everything within its range. Everything around the city disappeared alongside it, including a river that was supposed to be running near it.

Even the nearby mountain was chunked, leaving only a portion of it that was not caught by the explosion.

...

While everyone was still trying to recover from shock, the four from the Empyrean Talons immediately assessed the current situation.

The four of them managed to survive, but that was at a cost.

Both Leonard and Diablo barely escaped the center of the explosion, but they still failed to fully escape its grasp. Both were caught by the very edges of the explosion, resulting in their current sorry figures.

Leonard was able to withstand most of the damage due to his insane physique and the rest of his defensive skills, but his body was still on the verge of collapse in exchange.

His HP Bar was almost empty, barely holding on to a sliver of health.

Fortunately, his Transcendent Class, which was based on the Berserker Class, had its special features. So long as his willpower was firm enough and he could still stand, then his body would still be able to recover while maintaining a berserk state.

Berserkers were a class that loved to fight dangerously and danced along death all the time. The closer they were to die was also the stronger they were.

Leonard's absurd regeneration was also starting to kick in right after stabilizing his body and the raging energy within him.

On the other hand, Diablo was in a miserable state. Even if he was quite fast, the edge of the explosion still caught up to him. Then, under the protection of his shadow powers, he was able to barely survive.

However, this totally exhausted him. After all, defending against such a terrifying explosion was not something that he could face head-on.

When it came to defensive capabilities, he was still far inferior compared to those with defensive class and those with focused on powerful physiques, such as Knights and Warriors.

His strengths lay in speed, stealth, and deception, which was why he was in such a terrible state compared to Leonard.

Shin and Arthur were relatively fine. They flew fast enough to outrun the explosion and escape its maximum range right before it reached its peak.

Hovering in the sky, the two swiftly swept their eyes over the surroundings to look at the aftermath and search for the signs of their opponents.

Given that the system had yet to announce the winner of the match, it was quite clear that the opposing side still somehow survived such an explosion.

Glancing at the greyed-out names of Cloe, Alice, and Owen, it was quite obvious that they had already fallen.

The two did not care much about these details, as well about what happened to the surroundings. Since they were the only ones who were still in a somewhat perfect state to continue to fight, it was their job to finish the match.

Refuse to believe that all the members of God's Paradise would survive such a massive explosion.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

While the two were searching for the signs of their opponents, two golden streaks of light suddenly flew out from the still receding thick cloud of smoke where the heart of the previous explosion was located.

"Not god!"

Both Shin and Arthur swiftly flapped their wings when they saw those streaks of light, especially after seeing the directions where they were heading.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Those two streaks of light were heading straight to the locations where Leonard and Diablo were located, respectively.

Given the current state that those two were in, it was not hard to imagine what would happen when those two attacks reached them.

Arthur utilized the powers of the Storm Dragon to enhance his speed, transforming into arcs of lightning to head straight to Diablo.

Intercepting the streak of light was already impossible given its speed, so he could only do his best to race against it. Whoever reached Diablo first would decide the fate of the latter.

Swoosh!

At the same time, Shin used similar powers to do the same. However, he had the slight edge over the opposing side since he could also use the Void Powers to travel through space and reach Leonard faster.

Boom! Boom!

Simultaneous explosions erupted as those golden streak of light reached their destination almost at the same time.

Everything happened a bit too fast, so the audience was unable to fully react to what was happening yet.

They were still in the middle of digesting what had just happened earlier when those two attacks appeared, attempting to ignite yet another round of battle.

"D*mn it!" cursed Arthur since he was a bit too late. The streak of light had already pierced through Diablo's body when he had arrived, emptying the remaining health points of the latter.

Given Diablo's current situation, he couldn't move his exhausted body, especially when he was in a critically wounded state.

Avoiding that attack would be impossible.

"Hu~!"

In the meantime, the other side had a better result.

Shin managed to arrive in time and repelled the incoming attack, saving Leonard. Moreover, the latter was in a bit better position due to his class, so moving around was not that hard despite his critical status.

He was able to buy a little bit of time for Shin to arrive.

Right at the same time, the three immediately sensed an overwhelming presence coming from the center of the earlier explosion.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin and Arthur flew in the air to have a better view, while Leonard stood still while directing his gaze at the receding cloud of dust at the heart of the explosion site.

Since everything where already been cleared from the earlier explosion anyway, there was nothing much to obstruct his line of vision.

...

Swoosh!

Not long after, the three were able to see a 'dot' of light shining from the center of the cloud of smoke.

When the veil was slowly unveiled, the three saw that the light was coming from a 'star' floating in the air there.

This 'star' was a bit blinding, making it hard for everyone to have a clear image of it.

However, the light surrounding it slowly receded, revealing the figure behind it.

It was a fully armored person with a glowing eight-sided star at the center of their chest. They looked majestic angel, along with the eight wings on their back and the crown-like halo over their head.

There was also a floating diagram of an eight-sided star on its back, which was releasing an invisible pressure.

In a sense, this person seemed to be quite similar to Shin's current form, but also emitting a whole different presence.

They were holding a long spear with an emblem of the eight-sided star on the segment that connected its head and shaft.

There was also an array of similar-looking spears made of energy fanning out behind him, which he seemed to use to attack earlier.

Right at the same time, the trio simultaneously received a series of warnings from their respective elemental spirits.

[That person does have a bit of strength,] said Archon somewhat solemnly, but still carried a prideful tone.

[My Liege! You must be careful! That guy is not simple!] warned Solus with a heavy tone.

[A spawn from the camp of the Wicked One!] snarled Lycan Steel, growling with full hatred.

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Chapter 1910: The Adversary versus the Monster Trio (Part 2)

...

[My Liege, that person is at least at the borderline of the peak,] said Solus.

"Peak!? The Sovereign Being!?" asked Shin in disbelief.

They were not known with the term since they had already learned about it from their expedition to the Frozen Kingdom. Those in this realm were standing at the peak of the plane within the game.

Draco and Dracula were in this realm when they were at their peak. Lycan Steel was also close to reaching this absolute peak of the lower plane.

It was supposed to be a being at Level 599 or 600 at the very least.

If that 'being' was in that stage, then there was no need to fight anymore. Even if they used all their strength, fighting that being was no different from committing suicide.

If it were truly the case, then it was better to pack their bags now and go home.

It was at this moment that Hanzo chimed in. [Close but not quite.]

He paused for a moment to organize his words before continuing. [To reach the stage of a Sovereign Being, one must reach the peak of their physicality and spirituality, which is equivalent to reaching the peak of Ascended Being and Enlightened Being.]

[But that person has only borrowed the energy that came from their earlier ritual and the explosion to gain such power. It is far from being enough to reach that stage.]

[In other words, they can use the powers and abilities that a Sovereign Being possesses, but can only use a fraction of it due to their lacking its actual form.]

[However, it is still much stronger than what those on the same level have. It is more than enough to crush the current you,] he added quite harshly. [In terms of Level, they should be a Lord Class Monster around 200 or so.]

The corner of Shin's mouth twitched when he heard that. Level 200 was indeed a lot for him to handle, especially when it was clear from Hanzo's tone that it was based on the Awakened Continent.

It was indeed troublesome.

[My Liege. Even if that is the case, they shouldn't be able to maintain this state for quite long since the burden of carrying such power is far from what those on your level can carry,] said Solus before adding. [A few minutes is at most their limit.]

[But the rest of the other party's comrades must have sacrificed themselves to prolong this state, so the duration will most likely be a bit longer. A dozen or so minutes at most.] she added. [They are most likely unable to freely move right now because they are trying to stabilize their state and keep such overwhelming power under control. But it will not take that long.]

It might sound short based on how she worded it, but it was still quite a long time for Shin and the other two.

At the same time, Arthur and Leonard were also receiving the same explanation from Archon and Lycan Steel through telepathic communication.

The expression on their faces was quite heavy, but far from losing hope. Instead, they seemed to be looking forward to it, welcoming such a challenge.

They then exchanged glances with each other before starting to grin.

"It has been a while since we have seriously battled someone together. I guess this is a good opportunity," said Arthur while stretching his body.

"It is just a single person. It is quite embarrassing if we lose, right?" asked Leonard while bumping his fist with others.

"I guess so," answered Shin while putting his sword back in its sheath.

...

"Let's go!" said Shin while arching his body in the air and before flapping his wings strongly to propel himself forward.

Swoosh!

"A head start? That's not fair!" shouted Arthur before swiftly chasing after Shin.

Whoosh!

Leonard slightly shook his head while wearing a bitter smile. He had somewhat recovered already, but he purposely left his health bar hovering at 'red state' to keep all the bonuses that he was currently getting from it.

Bang!

He then kicked the ground and propelled himself forward, rapidly chasing after the two from the ground.

Swoosh!

He could fly as well if he wanted, since he had already gotten a flying elemental beast for the fifth contract, that Elemental Eagle.

However, fighting with a pair of wings made him feel a bit uncomfortable when fighting. He still preferred fighting on the ground or jumping in the air if needed during aerial battle.

Moreover, quadruple possession was also his current limit. With the Crimson Sovereign (Lavi), the Divine Mammoth (Tusk), the Dusk Bear (Orpheus), and the Sacred Fenrir (Lycan Steel), there was no space for it yet.

...

While the three were rapidly approaching, Ashura, who had just received the baptism from all their preparations earlier, was able to see them as well.

"This power is a bit too much for me to control as expected," he mumbled while tightening his grip over the divine spear that he was holding.

"Ten minutes. That is the most I can handle before I lose control," he continued before turning his attention back to the incoming opponents.

Raising his other hand, he controlled the floating spears of light behind him. He waited for a few seconds before suddenly waving that hand down, sending those spears straight to Shin and Arthur, who were rapidly flying straight to him.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The spears suddenly flew toward the fast-approaching pair, hindering their flight and slowing them down.

Seizing this chance, Ashura prepared for a powerful skill, wanting to test his current powers.

Whoosh!

Raising the divine spear, he pointed it toward the sky while channeling his powers into it.

Whoosh!

A blinding light suddenly illuminated the surroundings, coming from the eight-sided emblem on the spear.

'Mystic Cosmic Method: Secret Technique – Solar Storm'

Boom!

A storm of raging flames suddenly appeared around Ashura and started spinning violently while expanding outwards.

The tongues of these golden flames then transformed into blazing whips that lashed in every direction while spinning around Ashura like tangling threads.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Shin could sense a powerful, destructive power coming from these blazing whips, forcing him to slow down his flight.

Swoosh!

On the other hand, Arthur took the initiative to fly past him, heading straight to the storm of blazing whips.

Roar!

A dragon's roar resounded as his body emitted a cold light.

Whoosh!

Along with the hazy fog coming from his body, Arthur suddenly raised his shield while charging straight into the blazing storm.

'True Nine Dragon Art: Breaking Through of the Ice Dragon'

It was the same signature technique that he liked to use all the time. But there was a distinct difference with this technique compared to the original version, particularly with the cold and freezing energy coming from his body.

Instead of the regular golden dragon that everyone usually saw, an ice dragon was suddenly formed as he advanced through the midst of the blazing storm.

Moreover, it was much larger compared to the original version and seemed to focus more on defensive capabilities rather than offensive ones.

Roar!

Boom!

A huge hole appeared in the spherical storm right after the ice dragon collided with it, making it lose the majority of its power.

Whoosh!

Along with the cold air that the ice dragon produced right after its body exploded, the raging storm slowly receded, losing all its momentum completely.

At the same time, Arthur and Ashura's figures were revealed to everyone, showing their respective positions.

The former was holding his shield, blocking the spear of the latter that struck right at its dead center.

Arthur then flapped his wings, taking the initiative to retreat.

Whoosh!

These actions forced Ashura to forward. "Huh!?"

Before Ashura could even stabilize his balance in the air, Arthur suddenly moved aside, revealing and giving way for the person right behind him.

Click!

Shin, who was slightly behind Arthur earlier, had suddenly unsheathed his sword and swung it forward, releasing all the accumulated energy that he had gathered.

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Dragon (Lightning) – Eclipse Tiger Draw'

Roar!

The storm of energy that he just released swiftly turned into a huge lightning tiger that pounced forward, opening its jaws to devour the enemy before it.

Ashura swiftly responded, flipping the spear in his hand. He then quickly extended his other hand, where his [Heavenly Meteor] was manifested and became a shield to block the incoming attack.

'Golden Immortal Skill: The Immortal Bastion'

A barrier suddenly appeared and stopped the advance of the lightning tiger.

BOOM!

He was capable of using the inferior version of the earlier four-armed golden immortal!

Ashura quickly flicked his wrist right after blocking the attack. He caught the ruler sword with his free hand, preparing for intense exchanges against Shin and Arthur.

Whoosh!

However, before he could even do anything, he suddenly sensed a dangerous existence right behind him.

Grr!

It resembled a savage predator pouncing at its prey right after the latter lowered its guard.

'Supreme Blood Sutra: Asad Tribe – The Hunt'

Swoosh!

Ashura swiftly turned and raised his ruler sword, using its surface to block the incoming strike.

Boom!

However, due to his somewhat delayed reaction and slightly awkward position, he was blown straight to the ground.

Whoosh!

At the same time, he had also sent Leonard higher in the air by applying a repelling force with his previous action.

Bang!

The scorched land below cracked and exploded right after his feet landed on it, sending rock fragments and ashes into the air.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Raising his head, he saw Shin and Arthur flanking him from two different directions while launching an attack almost at the same time.

One of them unsheathed his sword and swung it forward, sending a wave of lightning energy that transformed into a massive black-and-white dragon.

Shing!

'Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Lightning) – Eclipse Dragon Draw'

Roar!

Meanwhile, the other threw his spear right after channeling his energy into it.

Swoosh!

The spear transformed into a beam of light that swiftly became a huge golden dragon while fighting straight at Ashura.

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Golden Dragon Soaring Through the Heavens'

Roar!

The two dragons danced in the air, circling Ashura before diving at him with powerful momentum.

This was not even the end since Leonard, who was sent high up in the air, took advantage of his situation and forced himself to descend.

Whoosh!

He dove like a falling meteor that came from the universe. He left a trail of crimson light behind him while his body was constantly releasing a huge amount of energy that swiftly transformed into a gigantic primordial beast.

'Thousand Beast Method: Killing Move – Beastial Destruction'

Roar!

The two dragons seemed to coordinate with this beast and launched a simultaneous attack with it, covering all possible escape routes that the opposing side would most likely take.

ROAR!

BOOM!

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