

Destiny 1921

Chapter 1921: Academy Summon (Part 2)

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"You're going?" asked Evangeline while looking at Shin.

She did not have to explain to him how dangerous this mission given that her son was smart on his own. He would have most likely guessed that this sudden summons from the academy would not be simple.

Hearing her words, Shin did not need to guess anymore and could already confirm that the sudden summon and the club mission issued by the academy would most likely be related to the recent incident.

The Magic Ace Academy would most likely be retaliating against the Black Serpent Mafia actively after experiencing that sudden attack.

Shin then clenched his fists while recalling that time when Bernard had sacrificed himself for him.

Rage swiftly overwhelmed him, but he quickly suppressed it with great difficulty.

He closed his eyes and calmed his mind before nodding. "I must go, Mom."

Evangeline sighed before nodding. "I see."

She then waved her hand and sent a bundle of talismans and a necklace. "I can't go with you because of certain reasons, but these talismans should be enough to make you safe."

"The talismans are personally made by me, so they should be enough to protect you. Infusing your Mental Energy is more than enough to activate them."

"The necklace, on the other hand, is something that your father and I have crafted before. Its faction is simple; it can help me sense your location and have a rough guess at what is happening around you based on your mood."

"If there is a situation where even those talismans can't save you, then all you must do is infuse your Mental Energy into it as much as you can. From that point, I will handle the rest."

She then paused for a moment before warning him. "But you also must be mindful of using it. You must use this necklace as a last resort and make sure that there are no allies around you, or else they will be in grave danger as much as your enemies."

Shin then nodded heavily while catching the bundle of talismans and the necklace. He first put the talisman in his dimensional bag before looking at the necklace.

The necklace did not look that fancy, only having a simple chain that was regularly used by most of the regular accessories. But that was only on the surface since Shin could sense something mysterious about it.

Activating his True Sight, he could see that the small chains were filled with mentalism runes engraved on them.

His gaze then landed on the pendant that he had, which seemed to be a phoenix or sort. But unlike the chain of the necklace, this pendant seemed to be too simple and did not have anything special in it.

It was at this moment that Evangline suddenly explained. "The chain is made by me, while the crude pendant is crafted by your father."

"But don't get tricked by its appearance. It is much more special than what you can imagine," she added while chuckling, refusing to say more.

Shin briefly nodded before swiftly putting the necklace on, hanging it around his neck.

While he was doing that, Evangline then saw the other necklace that Shin was wearing. It was a necklace with simple black lace and a pendant that looked like a fang of a certain beast, most likely a tiger.

"So, you still have that?" she said.

Shin could not help but pause his action before realizing what his mother was talking about. He lowered his head to look at the old necklace, grabbing the fang and rubbing his thumb on it.

"This is the only thing that I have when I ran away from home. I have been carrying it ever since that day," he said.

Evangline nodded. "It is an heirloom that I have gotten from your grandfather. Even your father and I don't know its origin, but we both can tell that it is special."

"From what your father has investigated about it-... it seems to be a tooth of a certain prehistoric beast," she added. "He has put quite a lot of effort just to engrave your name on it, so you should understand how special it is."

Shin was slightly taken aback when he heard the latter part of her words. Something that could make it hard for his father to engrave his name was indeed not simple, given that person's strength.

"Just what is this thing?" he mumbled while looking at that tooth.

"His calligraphy is still crude, though," joked Evangline before waving her hand. "You can go now. Just remember to always be careful and don't do anything reckless."

"And tell your Senior Brother that if he is going to become useless again and fail to protect you for another time, then I will tie him up and throw him to the Abyssal Trench so that he can become the food of those oceanic beasts."

Shin could not help but smile bitterly when he heard those words, feeling a bit sorry for David. That guy always suffered whenever something happened to him. It was the same when they were living in the Fog Village as well.

He then bowed and said. "Please take care of yourself, too, Mom."

He then turned around and was about to leave when he suddenly heard her words.

"Where's Mom's goodbye kiss?"

Shin could not help but pause his tracks before sighing helplessly.

Shin and the rest of the group were currently riding in a van that had been specially prepared by the Springfield Family.

Since they were already in one place, they might as well return to the Eastern Sea Region together.

The Springfield Family had also arranged for some people to protect them as well, afraid that some accidents would happen again.

The first destination that the group had was not the academy, but to their villa that had already been rebuilt after that certain incident in an attempt to abduct Cloe and assassinate Shin.

It had already been finished ages ago. They just did not have the time to visit it because of the recent events that happened, and their respective families refused to let them go until the situation calmed down.

When they arrived in the neighborhood, the group could not help but sense something strange.

The atmosphere of the place was too different from what they remembered. It was a bit too tense compared to the peaceful and relaxing air that it used to have.

Furrowing his brows, Shin swiftly turned his head and swept his eyes in the surroundings.

The place seemed to become 'livelier' because of the number of people who were walking on the sidewalk. There were even some guys chatting and laughing on certain intersections, while some were walking their dogs around.

But Shin knew that it was what was shown on the surface, especially when the strange air filled the place.

It was then that he realized that most of these people were highly trained soldiers or skilled agents disguised as civilians.

"What the heck!?" shouted Arthur after realizing this as well. He had even seen a few familiar faces among those people. They were cadets and free soldiers from their household. "Why is Big Brother Drakos and others here!"

"I also seem some people from my family!" added Lorraine with a frown.

"Mine as well!" Cloe also found a few people from their family.

Shin then could not help but turn to the driver and ask. "What is the meaning of this, Big Brother Canna?"

The driver, a highly trained special forces soldier under the Springfield Family, could not help but smile bitterly. "There is nothing we can do, Young Master Shin."

"After the series of incidents that happened, your families are too concerned that something similar will happen again. That is why they have decided to buy the entire neighborhood and station a few people here."

Cough! Cough!

David, who was leisurely taking a nap at the back, could not help but cough hard after hearing those words.

Leonard was already used to seeing how the wealthy act after hanging around with Shin and others. But he still could not help but become stunned after hearing those words.

For someone with a humble background, such a 'move' was a bit overboard.

"Too domineering! Too tyrannical!" he mumbled, too stunned to be amazed by the actions of these wealthy families.

Even if Shin and the others felt that this was a bit too much of a response to resolve the situation, they could not help but silently curse inwardly, as they also knew that it was indeed a move their respective families would make.

Just imagining the representatives of the Springfield, Cilvana, and Goldstien Families walking through the administration office of the neighborhood was more than enough to tell them what had happened.

The presence of those people alone was more than enough to scare the personnel of the administration office, particularly the real estate agents.

"Don't worry. The original residents of the place are not forced to leave. They can remain living here so long as their backgrounds are clean," said Canna before adding. "As for the rest of the houses that are originally empty, they are now assigned to our people who have been stationed here."

The corner of everyone's mouth could not help but twitch after hearing those words.

Then Shin voiced the thoughts of everyone. "Isn't it a bit too much? It is not like we are always living here. Moreover, we are going away for a mission this time as well, so there is no need to station too many people here."

"Ah! About that!?" Canna seemed to have understood something before answering. "This has become one of the bases of the Springfield Family in the Eastern Sea Region after 'negotiating' with the authorities here."

"Fine, they won," Shin refused to ask anymore, understanding that their families had already taken care of everything.

David and Leonard, who were sitting in the backmost seat of the van, could not help but exchange glances with each other, wearing a helpless look on their faces.

"D*mn these wealthy and powerful families," cursed David silently, while Leonard could only sigh.

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Chapter 1922: Mission Assignment (Part 1)

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The group stood before the newly built 'villa' prepared by their families.

"Isn't it a bit too much?" said David while suppressing the twitching of the corner of his mouth.

Leonard, who always hung out with Shin and the others, also could not help but smile bitterly after seeing the villa before them.

The rest, on the other hand, were relatively fine. They were quite surprised at the size of the villa, but they were not shocked like David.

After learning that their families had already acquired the entire neighborhood, having such a development was not that surprising. It was instead something that they were expecting.

Moreover, their respective household were much bigger than this. Even their vacation houses were much bigger than this one.

"You call this a villa? Isn't it more like a 'small' mansion instead?" commented David, still unable to recover.

Before them was a pair of huge villas that were connected by a roofed corridor and a beautiful garden between them. There was even a fountain right in the middle of that garden.

Moreover, the design of the villas was quite luxurious and exquisite, seemingly afraid that the other people would not recognize how wealthy the people staying here were.

David could even see a few gardeners and servants busying themselves tidying the place.

The others brushed off his words and calmly walked forward. Shin even patted his Senior Brother's shoulders as he walked past him.

The corner of David's mouth twitched as he complained a little. "You say that you are pitiful for before away from your parents, yet you are living such a lavish life with the Springfields."

"And here I have spent my life frugally when roaming around the world," he added, finding that his life was pitiful despite his fame for being the Wanderer, a genius Mentalist who roamed around the world and challenged his fellow geniuses of the same generation.

Mimicking Shin's actions, the rest of the team patted his shoulders one after another while walking past him.

It was also at this moment that Shiella walked out of the left-side villa and saw them. "You guys are here!"

She then pointed at the right-side villa and said. "Boys, go to your place first. Girls, follow me."

The group then separated and went to their respective places. They visit here first before going to the school because they want to check out the place.

David wanted to cry after looking around and learning about the facilities that the villa had. There was a meditation room for each bedroom along with shared cultivation and training rooms, and even a highly advanced gym to build up their physiques.

These alone were more than enough to make him curse repeatedly, especially after seeing the materials used to build each of those rooms.

He could not help but look at Leonard and pat the latter's shoulders. "You sure have good friends."

Leonard could not help but laugh out loud after hearing those words and seeing the expression that this big brother was making.

"Aren't you quite close with Big Brother Vincent and Big Brother Jeremiah? I hear that they are also young masters of the Valentine Family," said Leonard, recalling something.

The corner of David's mouth twitched once again after hearing those words. "The Valentine Family, you say? If you want to experience their 'hospitality,' then I can bring you there and introduce you to their unique customs."

Leonard immediately sensed that there was something wrong with those words and politely refused.

It was then that David remembered something. "Speaking of them, are we going to invite them to live with us again?"

Shin heard him and replied. "I have already contacted them earlier, but they replied positively. But they also say that it has to wait until we are back from the mission."

"It seems like they are also invited by the academy to join," he added after a brief thought.

David nodded before hearing Arthur.

"Should we invite the Potter Twins as well?"

Shin thought for a moment before answering. "It's up to you. But the more, the merrier. You go invite them later. But I think it will also have to wait until the mission is finished."

After checking the place, the group then proceeded to head to the academy together. They rode the same van as earlier, with Canna driving for them.

In the academy, Shin could not help but complain a little as he was sent by the group to be the club representative for the mission deliberation.

The rest dodged such a responsibility as they found it troublesome, especially when they could dump it into Shin, who was already used to it.

They had also met up with the Potter Twins and Alice, who were already waiting for them for quite a while.

The trio also agreed to send Shin to be the representative, making him quite helpless.

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Right after entering the meeting room, Shin immediately saw David, who had come ahead of him, lazing in his seat. He slumped on the rectangular table in the middle, seemingly asleep.

There were also Vincent and Jeremiah, who turned to him at the same time and gave him a slight nod.

Turning to the other side, he saw Shiella sitting silently with her eyes closed, seemingly in meditation. There was also another girl in glasses standing behind her. From what he could guess, this girl in glasses should be the secretary of the Club Hand of Midas.

Moving on, he saw Dayna waving at him with a smile, along with Benedict standing right behind her. The two should be the representatives of the Sleeping Dragons, the club that his seniors from the Research Department had created.

On the next seat beside Dayna, he found Elijah, whom he had seen before. From what David and Shiella had said to him, this guy was from the Wings of Dawn, which was another secret club within the academy and on the same level as the Sleeping Dragons and Hand of Midas.

There was also another person behind Elijah, whom Shin barely noticed due to their being shrouded in darkness. He immediately put this guy on the same level as the rest, especially after sensing an immense threat coming from the latter.

Seeing this group, Shin could not help but feel a bit confused. These guys were all either newly promoted Void Manifestation Stage Experts or Ruler's Realm Mentalists, so he found it strange that their club was included in the meeting when most of them were a stage or realm lower than them.

Even if they were also very talented, the people before him were equally talented and much more powerful than they were in every aspect.

He suppressed this thought for now and saved it for later, waiting for the mission deliberation to start before raising his doubts.

Right after he sat beside David, the door of the meeting room opened once again, followed by a person who was currently in a military uniform.

Shin recognized this person since they were one of the head guards of the academy.

This person walked at the pendulum and briefly swept his gaze over everyone before nodding. "It seems like everyone is here. Let's start."

He did not even bother to introduce himself and swiftly started the meeting. "As all of you know, the Academy is now officially starting its counterattack against the Black Serpent Mafia, who have attacked us, along with their allies."

"The Academy has decided to work with the Springfield Family, who are currently at war with the Black Serpent Mafia, and the Top Military School, who are also quite eager to join the fray."

"There are also quite a few forces who will be working with us, but I will not disclose them to avoid any leaks."

He paused for a moment as he opened the virtual projector right at the center of the rectangular table.

"This mission is going to be quite a big operation that concerns a lot of faculty members and clubs, which we have divided into different assignments."

"We have also decided to make each group independent, making sure that no leaks are going anywhere. After all, we have yet to thoroughly clean our ranks of those spies."

"Each group has assigned an independent mission that will not affect the others, so there is no need to come in contact with any of them."

"The independent assignments that each group will have can also converge with one another, but that is none of your group's concern since your assignment is fully independent from everyone else."

"Your mission will be one of the most important among all since it concerns a major operation of the Black Serpent Mafia."

"This has been delayed repeatedly because the other side keeps changing the exact location of their operation, making it hard for us to design a thorough plan to sabotage them."

"It is not until recently that everything is settled," he added as a series of information was displayed on the virtual projection.

He then pointed at Shin, who was sitting in the farthest seat. "The core of this operation will be the One Day Diary Club, while the rest will be the supporting forces, so I hope that you guys will fully prepare yourselves."

Chapter 1923: Mission Assignment (Part 2)

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The person in charge swept his gaze over everyone within the room before starting the mission deliberation. "Your mission will be one of the most important among all the missions assigned to all our forces."

"While the other forces are launching their attacks on different places, your group will be infiltrating the Sun-Moon Continent to sabotage an important trade that the Black Serpent Mafia will be conducting."

He paused for a moment as the information displayed on the virtual projection changed once again. "We have been delaying this operation because the opposing side keeps changing the details of the trade, particularly its location."

"They must have realized that we are on to them through some unknown channels and figured out that Coffin Maker must have spit out some information about them and their most important operations."

"Their recent actions are also concerning about these matters, particularly their attempt to abduct Professor Henry and steal some information about the major projects of the World Research Center."

The display on the virtual projection changed once again, showing brief details about the research project that had most likely been stolen.

"Even though we have stopped most of their attempts and even captured one of their keep members, Coffin Maker, they seem to have managed to steal a few things from us," he continued before listing out the names of the projects.

"The Black Heart Project, the Project Newborn, and the Cell Project – these were some of the major projects that we have confirmed that seem to have been stolen or at least copied by them."

"They are all very sensitive and highly classified projects that are being worked jointly by the World Research Center and the Federal Laboratory."

"They all concern the research about special bodies or physiques, talents, and their relationship with one another."

"Based on the clues that we have, the Black Serpent Mafia seems to have gotten their hands on a very important and sensitive piece of specimens that are most likely related to these projects, which is why they have targeted these projects."

With a pause, he changed the display on the virtual projection once again before proceeding to another topic.

"Your assignment will also concern these since the transaction that they will be conducting is mostly related to them, particularly when they are putting a lot of importance on this."

"Based on the information that we have gotten from Coffin Maker, this operation from their side will most likely affect the overall result of the project, which is why our forces have chosen this time to make our move."

Shin and the rest listened attentively so that they could gain a full understanding of their upcoming operation. It was important for them to know about it as much as they could so that they could respond to unexpected changes that would most likely occur during the process.

Knowing as much information as possible would also help them gain some versatility during the operations whenever they have to decide on doing something.

Accidents could always occur during such a big operation, so having a thorough background of the mission is necessary.

Even David, who seemed to be lazing on his side, was also paying close attention to whatever the officer was explaining.

"Your initial job was to infiltrate the Sun-Moon Continent in different disguises, while most of our forces will be distracting them with the attacks that we will be launching in different places."

"We purposely ignored their operations around the Sun-Moon Continent to give them a sense of security in that place. Of course, we can't ignore that they also have a rough idea of what we are thinking."

"This is the reason why the higher-ups have decided to have your group infiltrate the place instead of our main forces."

"You don't have to worry about the other things aside from focusing on your respective jobs, and leave the most troublesome part to our agents that will be moving in a high-profile manner on the same operation field as yours."

He paused for a moment, letting everyone digest all the information that he had just given them, before proceeding to give their respective assignments.

"The core of this operation will be the One Day Dairy Club," he started while looking at Shin. "Your club will be entering the continent under the disguise of being a 'band'."

"Your group will take advantage of the idol identity of one of your members, Miss Alice Stuart."

"She is a well-known idol throughout the world at such a very young age, which is why her fame has greatly spread in different places."

"The higher-ups have come up with the plan of using this identity to our advantage. She and your 'band' will be having a collaboration and launching a world tour concert. Your first destination is the Sun-Moon Continent, particularly its largest and capital cities."

"This will be your main disguise during the infiltration. This is also the most suitable identity that your group can use, which will also make it easier for everyone to move around the continent and visit certain places without arousing too much attention."

He then paused for a moment as he recalled something before continuing. "Of course, we also can't overlook that the opposing side will find this suspicious. After all, letting a group of young talents go for a world tour despite the tension and ongoing war with them is a very suspicious move."

"But the higher-ups have already prepared for all these. A portion of the main force will be targeting the most important bases of the opposing side as well, attracting most of their attention."

"We will make sure that they will not have any time to think about your 'little' group."

"And to make sure that everything will be fine, we will be assigning two world-class experts to be your guards. One Domain Realm Expert who specializes in disguise and infiltration, and a Venerable Realm Mentalist with a similar expertise as well."

He proceeded to highlight a few more specifics regarding their assignments, making sure that Shin understood them very well.

"All these have already been set in motion for quite a while now, so the suspicion your group will be having is not that much troublesome."

He then paused for another time before looking at the other attendees of the meeting. "The main concern will be the rest."

"The members of the Sleeping Dragons and the Wings of Dawn are not well-known to the public, so they can move with the One Day Dairy Club as their security personnel."

"They are responsible for protecting the members of the One Day Dairy Club while also looking for clues about the movements of our target."

"You are free to move however you want, but your main priority is still to protect your juniors."

"Your group has been chosen because your size is not as big as the other major clubs, with a dozen or so members, and also works in utmost secrecy. This makes your clubs more suitable for the job."

"Since identities of the others are quite sensitive, we have to make other arrangements for you." he paused briefly before turning to Shiella, David, Vincent, and Jerimiah. "The fame of the Junior Monsters of the Soaring Continent, the Young Ghosts of the Lost Soul Continent, and the famous Wanderer are not small, so your infiltration method needs to be a bit different."

"Miss Shiella can take advantage of her identity as the heiress of the Flying Dragon Corporation to infiltrate the place. The Springfield Family, particularly their military forces, also has a joint project with a major faction of the Sun-Moon Continent."

"Miss Shiella can use either of these identities to disguise your infiltration. Your identity will also make it easier to bring a few more world-class experts, disguised as protection."

"Miss Shiella will lead her club, the Hand of Midas, with either of these identities to attract as much attention as possible, giving the main group's job a bit easier."

"Alongside the other agent groups that we will be sending there, we will be able to create multiple fronts of misdirection that can confuse the opposing side."

Hearing the arrangement, Shiella briefly nodded. She was already aware of these since Nathan had already informed her ahead of time. They had also finished all the preparations, so they could head out at any given time.

After discussing Shiella's group's assignment, the officer proceeded to look at the last trio before sighing. "The young masters will be the free agent group for this operation. You will be the independent group that will be assisting either side when necessary."

"But since the three of you have resounding names throughout the world, it is inconvenient to let you infiltrate the continent the same as the others."

"The higher-ups have decided to give you three a lot of freedom during the operation, so that you can also use your respective methods to infiltrate the place."

The corner of Jeremiah's mouth could not help but twitch when he heard words, while Vincent beside him chuckled. David, on the other hand, was fully awakened by those words.

"Isn't it a roundabout way of telling us that we are on our own?" asked David while suppressing the twitching of his mouth.

The officer looked at him innocently while replying. "I am not sure what you are talking about, Young Master David."

He paused for a moment as if he recalled something before continuing. "Ah! One of the leaders has also left a message just for you."

"You always want to sneak around, right? Then we will be giving you the freedom to do whatever you want."

David did not need to guess who it was since he could tell from the tone alone that it was his master's words. He could tell that it was her way of punishing him for sneaking away from her and also for letting his Junior Brother suffer under his watch.

David gulped hard before turning to Vincent and Jeremiah, who were glaring at him sharply. It was as if they were blaming them for putting them in such a situation.

"I suddenly feel like backing out," he mumbled along with a helpless sigh.

The officer then replied. "That higher-up also has said that you can go back and guard the Forbidden Valley if you don't want to do the job, saying that there is no need to have you around if you are going to become useless."

The harsh words made David feel like crying. 'She is clearly abusing her power to bully me!'

Chapter 1924: Mission Assignment (Part 3)

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The meeting lasted for quite a few minutes due to the team discussion. They polished a few more details and made sure that they would be able to coordinate well with one another once the operation started.

Since they would be divided into 3 smaller groups before they could work together, they had to time their actions well and make sure that they did not overlook anything.

Even the smallest details needed to be discussed if needed, which made the deliberation of the mission take hours.

With Shiella, Shin, and David together, polishing the plan was not that hard, especially when Dayna and Elijah were also around.

The officer who was heading the meeting was quite pleased after seeing them doing well. This was the advantage of having talents. They would be able to do well in anything they did, without even needing his input.

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"Alright, that should be all," said the officer after hours of discussion.

He looked at everyone and nodded. "You are dismissed. You will have 2 days to prepare before we leave."

"Everything has been covered, so there is no need to go over them again. I trust that you all will be able to perform your respective assignments well."

After that, he swiftly picked up his things and quickly left. He still had to report to the higher-ups about the conclusion of this meeting and the arrangements that the team would be using during the operation.

He had to inform them of everything that had been discussed so that the main force would be able to coordinate with them well, particularly when timing their attacks.

Right after he left, Elijah and the person behind him immediately followed, nodding to everyone.

Dayna also stood up and waved at Shin before leaving along with Benedict, who gave him a brief nod while also nervously glancing at David.

It might be brief, but it did not escape Shin's sharp eyes. 'It seems like Senior Benedict is afraid of Senior Brother. Did something happen to them?'

After that, he saw Shiella standing as well and walked over to him. "Let's go back home for now."

Shin looked at her and asked. "You are not going to make preparations first?"

This was unlike Shiella.

He knew her very well. She was someone who would put everything into action first before going anywhere. She was the type of person who would like to prepare for everything and make sure that there were no problems with the arrangements before proceeding to do anything else.

Shiella nodded. "There is no need to do anything else from my side. Uncle Nathan has already informed me about this ahead of time, so I have already finished all the preparations long ago."

"As expected of Big Sis," mumbled Shin before standing up as well.

"Let's go, Senior Brother," said Shin to David, who was about to doze off in his seat. He also turned to Jeremiah and Vincent before asking. "Are you two going back with us as well?"

"They have given us two extra days of preparation; you can still check out our place before anything else," he added while chuckling.

The pair of cousins exchange glances with one another before nodding.

"Alright," simply replied Vincent.

Meanwhile, Jerimiah swiftly gets near Shin and wraps his arms around the latter's neck before starting to become a chatterbox. "Ay~! Ay~! It has been a while, hasn't it? You have improved quite a lot."

"Do you want to try exchanging some blows against me and Vincent? Didn't you say before that you must challenge us at least once and survive? You said that it is an assignment that your Martial Arts Master has left for you."

The corner of Shin's mouth twitched when he heard that. "You still remember it?"

He then started cursing. "Tsk! I have almost forgotten about it already. But I guess this is a good change."

"Right! Right! We can help you train before going to the mission," said Jerimiah while nodding his head repeatedly.

"But I also must do some rehearsals with the rest as well. We can't just sloppily form in the concert, can we?" said Shin before quickly adding. "Even if it is a cover for the mission, we can't just head on stage to embarrass ourselves."

"I guess it can't be helped," nodded Jerimiah, understanding the situation.

He then suddenly recalled something and swiftly changed the topic. "Ayia~! It is a pity that our team can't meet each other inside the game. I have been looking forward to fighting you and your team in the playoffs."

The corner of Shin's mouth twitched when he heard that before reminding the latter. "Aren't you guys the ones who backed out of the tournament to prepare for your breakthrough?"

"Speaking of which, how does it go?" he could not help but become curious about their strength.

"Do you want to experience it yourself?" asked Jerimiah with a grin.

A shiver then ran through Shin's spine after seeing that grin. He could not help but recall the recent training sessions that he had with David.

"I think I will pass for now," he refused, not willing to get beaten up again.

He knew that this guy's strength should be no weaker than David's and Shiella's. After all, he was dubbed the Young Ghost of the Lost Soul Continent alongside Vincent.

In the meantime, Shiella looked at David and frowned. She hesitated for a moment before asking. "Are you fine? You seem to be tired. Your energy signature is also quite unstable. It is fluctuating up and down."

David could not help but pause his steps. He turned to her with wide-open eyes and asked in disbelief. "What's this!? You are worried about me!? Wow!"

Shiella then glared at him before proceeding to ignore his presence. "Forget about it, then. Hmph!"

David smiled bitterly before catching up to her. "It is not that serious yet. This usually happens to be whenever I break through, particularly in a major realm."

"My Mental Energy will repeatedly fluctuate in an unstable manner due to my peculiar situation," he added, explaining it to her.

Shiella pretended to ignore him and not listen, but could not help but ask. "Meridian Locking?"

David shrugged his shoulders while replying nonchalantly. "This is my fate. At least, I am not in any danger because of my master."

Shiella stopped her tracks and stared at him silently, causing David to also halt his steps. He turned to her with a confused gaze.

After a while, Shiella resumed her steps and ignored him once again.

"Eh!? What was that?" David was left confused before mumbling. "Women sure are mysterious creatures."

In the meantime, the trio of Shin, Jerimiah, and Vincient was currently standing on the sideline while enjoying the show. They even have popcorn in their hands, who knew where they had gotten it from.

"What was that?" asked Jerimiah while munching a handful of popcorn. "Are they dating already?"

"It is clear that he has been rejected," answered Shin before adding. "How many times is it already?"

Even Vincent, who was usually silent, joined in. "Five-... six-...?"

The corner of David's mouth twitched when he heard their words and glared at the trio. "If the three of you don't have anything better to do, then how about going for a round with me? We can reserve the training ground of the academy or even use the one in the villa if you want."

The three then swiftly turned around and ran away from him as far as possible while laughing out loud.

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Back in the villa, Vincent and Jeremiah could not help but stare blankly at the small mansion before them.

"D*mn! So luxurious! So extravagant! As expected of the Springfield Family," commented Jeremiah after being stunned for a couple of seconds.

Even Vincent, who had a high status within the Valentine Family, could not help but sigh.

"Let's go. Let's go. I will prepare a big feast for everyone before resting," said Shin, inviting the two to come inside.

Swoosh!

Right after Shin opened the door, something suddenly appeared in front of his face to greet him.

Shin instinctively formed a wall of Mental Energy before him, blocking whatever was heading his direction. At the same time, he also prepared himself to counterattack.

But the expression on his face immediately changed when he saw the thing that was heading his direction. It was a flowerpot, a very expensive flowerpot.

The expression on his face immediately turned tense when he saw that thing and swiftly adjusted the wall of mental energy, making it soft and flexible.

Boink!

It then turned into a cushion that caught the flowerpot, which Shin swiftly grabbed and placed on the rack beside.

With a sigh of relief, he turned his gaze inside and saw that the room was almost in a complete mess.

Arthur was running around while being changed by Jilian. Leonard, Molton, Cloe, and Lorraine, on the other hand, were busying themselves to catch and protect the things within the house from being destroyed.

All the furniture and decorations within the villa were expensive, so they would be in deep trouble if any of them were broken.

With an exhausted sigh, Shin did not know what to do with these guys. He had sent them back first since he knew that the meeting would take quite a while to finish, but he did not know that trouble would immediately greet him once he came back from it.

"These guys-... really-..." helpless, he could only stop them before the situation became even more serious. "I hope that the mission will go smoothly with these people."

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Chapter 1925: Before Heading Out

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Shin sighed after seeing the situation.

He then glanced at the others, who were busy catching the vases that were flying everywhere while also protecting the other furniture within the house. But despite that being the case, it was clear that they seemed to be enjoying the show.

With yet another side, Shin decided to interfere.

Swoosh!

He disappeared from the door and appeared between the two before waving his hand.

Whoosh!

Immediately after, a powerful pressure from his body was suddenly released along with the dense Mental Energy.

Whoosh!

The space seemed to have been solidified when this happened, restraining both Arthur and Jilian, who were still immersed in their cat-and-mouse game.

"I think that's enough for the two of you," said Shin while increasing the restraint of his Mental Energy prison on them after sensing that they instinctively fought back against it.

He then turned to Arthur and said. "Big Sis came back with us just now. She will be coming over any time now."

After that, he turned to Jilian with a helpless smile while speaking. "I know that this guy is annoying, but can you save it for later? Or at least bring it outside or to the training ground? The furniture here is quite expensive."

"No one wants to be scolded later," he added before turning to the rest of the group and glaring at them sharply. "As for you guys-... can you do something more reliable?"

He looked at Cloe and gave her a helpless smile. "I can't believe that you will join the others and not do anything."

Cloe shrugged her shoulders as she answered. "Well, everyone is quite bored earlier, so-..."

Shin sighed once again before signaling everyone to tidy up the place before Shiella arrived. All of them would be in trouble once she saw this mess.

It was also at least a moment that David led the pair of cousins from the Valentine Family, Vincent and Jeremiah, inside.

"The place is quite lively, huh?" commented Jeremiah right after entering and seeing everything.

Vincent remained expressionless while David chuckled.

"I will be preparing our dinner. Let's eat first before going to the meeting. I'll discuss the details of our assignment for the club mission later," said Shin before heading to the kitchen.

While doing that, he also glanced at Alice. Given the description of the mission, it was highly likely that she was aware of the entire mission. After all, the higher-ups needed to coordinate with her agent and company for everything to work well.

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Shin prepared quite a feast for everyone. After all, there were quite a lot of them, so he had to make sure that everyone would have their fill, especially when everyone had quite an appetite, given that they were either a Martial Arts or a Mentalist.

Everyone was very satisfied with the meal, eating to their heart's content.

"Tsk! Tsk! I miss this kind of meal," said Jeremiah before volunteering to take care of the dishes. "Let us handle these. I will feel guilty if I do nothing after such a meal."

Vincent also stood up and started helping Jeremiah while David remained unmoved and lazily watched their actions.

Shiella then stood up and left after thanking Shin for the meal and reminding the girls to go back right after their team meeting. She was planning to train them a little during these two days of preparation.

"Alright! Everyone else, to the music room!" said Shin after thanking Jeremiah and Vincent.

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In the music room, Shin had just finished discussing all the details of the mission along with their main job during the operation.

"So, you are telling us that all we have to do is launch a concert in the midst of that 'battlefield' while everyone else is fighting?" asked Arthur.

"This will be fun!" he added excitedly, especially after thinking about how they would be performing in front of a huge crowd during the concert.

Shin nodded his head while answering. "Sounds about right."

However, he quickly added. "But that is just one of our roles. We also act as a reserve unit, ready to respond to any development that may occur."

"Our 'guards' in particular are the main force, who will be moving around in secret while everyone else is focusing on our band and the other forces that will be making commotion in other places," he emphasized, knowing that Arthur was pointing out the most 'useless' information.

"This cover sure makes it easier for us to move around," commented Jilian while nodding her head.

She could also see how much preparation the higher-ups had prepared for this operation, just hearing about the three teams that would be moving around the Sun-Moon Continent.

Lorraine then turned to Alice and said. "This is going to be fun! To think that we will be performing in front of a huge crowd, in our debut, no less! Our debut as a band sure is stunning!"

"I am surprised that Shin Bro has agreed to this. He hates such crowds after all," commented Leonard.

"I don't have a choice, do I? I can't just refuse to obey the commands from the higher-ups, especially when they have put a lot of effort into making it happen," replied Shin with a helpless sigh.

He then turned to others and continued. "So, for the next couple of days, we will be doing some rehearsal sessions for as long as we can. We will also continue to do it during the three-day travel to the Sun-Moon Continent."

Cloe then focused more on this topic. "So, which songs are we going to play?"

She paused for a moment, turning to Alice, before continuing. "Are we going to perform her songs? She is meant to be the main star, after all. Or are we going to perform other songs as a band?"

Hearing this, the others also became curious and added their respective ideas.

Lorraine. "Should she perform a band version of her songs?"

As a street performer who likes to play saxophone, Leonard added. "Performing some instrumental solos will not be bad either."

"I think performing our band's original songs will be fun too!" said Molton excitedly. This was his first time doing something like this, so he was quite excited.

He was also quite nervous, but since he was doing it with everyone, he found it quite fun and exciting.

"Should we perform the song that we use during the music video to promote the Emphyrean Talons?" asked Arthur.

"It's not going to be good, right?" said Cloe with a frown. "After all, it will expose our real identities."

"I think so as well," added Jillian.

"We are not using that song," said Shin.

As someone who knew more of the truth about the game, Shin was not willing to expose themselves to the world.

Given the current situation in the real world, they would only be putting themselves in danger if they did something like that.

Even if their respective appearances were somewhat modified inside the game, it would not be too hard to guess their respective in-game identities once they had exposed themselves.

Adding that everyone was mostly using masks, veils, helmets, and other forms of headgear that hid their respective appearances within the game, it would be harder for anyone to figure out their identities.

"Then, should we use some of Shin Bro's songs during the concert?" suggested Leonard.

Arthur, Cloe, and Lorraine swiftly turned to Shin before simultaneously nodding their heads. They were all familiar with the songs that Shin made and knew how good they were. They felt that it would be a pity not to let the world learn about it.

Even Alice, who was already known as the youngest diva around the world, could not help but be curious about this guy's music.

The first time he heard him sing was during that time she had attended the party organized by Arthur's and Shiella's mother and the current president of the Flying Dragon Corporation, Jane Lavana.

During that time, Shin had even criticized her singing skills, which infuriated her. But she later heard him sing while playing the piano quite well. He had even captured the attention of everyone during the party and unconsciously became a star during that time.

Shin thought for a moment after hearing those words before turning to Alice. "What do you think?"

"Eh!?" Alice was taken aback by the sudden question and was unable to respond.

Shin then clarified immediately after. "This is supposed to be a concert centering around you and your 'collaboration' with the band. Isn't it only right to ask your opinion about this?"

"This also concerns your fame as a young idol, after all," he added.

"Ah!" That was only when she recovered herself and immediately shook his head. "I am fine either way."

"But I think it is better to have a few of your songs during the concert along with a few originals that are meant for the band," she added.

Shin thought for a moment before quickly nodding his head. "It will take some time to write new songs, so I think it is better to use most of your songs during the concert. It will be our cover."

"Then I will find some time to recompose some of my songs and convert them into a band song later," he added before turning to the rest.

The meeting continued for at least a couple of hours before Shin dismissed everyone. Tomorrow, they would try rehearsing the songs.

"Tsk! I guess this night is going to be long," he mumbled before going to the recording room to do some compositions.

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Chapter 1926: Arrival at the Sun-Moon Continent

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Five days later, Shin and the others finally arrived at the setting for their operation. During these last few days, they had prepared thoroughly, particularly for the upcoming concert. They had even rehearsed throughout their journey here.

Naturally, they had also prepared for other situational scenarios during the mission. But since their main assignment was to launch a concert, most of their focus was on rehearsals and such.

During these days, those who were not that familiar with Shin's talents when it came to music could not help but look at him in a different light.

Even Alice, who was supposed to be an 'expert' in this field despite her young age, could not help but admit that Shin was way talented compared to her in this area.

His composition and music arrangements were impeccable and flawless. He even made her songs feel like a whole different song with such skillful arrangements. Their covers of her songs sounded like whole new songs and much better versions to some extent.

Even her manager and company agent could not help but covet their talents, wanting to sign an official contract with them.

Right after disembarking from the ship, Shin turned to the others and said. "The concert will be in two days, so we still have a lot of time on our hands. Do you guys want to relax first or do some more rehearsals?"

The others thought for a moment before voicing their respective thoughts.

"I think we should take advantage of this time to practice more and perfect everything," said Jillian.

Their band's composition was quite strange, mixing classical and modern instruments, so she found it hard to believe that Shin was able to make arrangements that made them sound in perfect harmony.

In classical instruments, Cloe played a violin, Jillian played a harp, Molton played the cello, while Leonard got his hands on a saxophone.

For modern instruments, Lorraine had her hands on the electric keyboard and was handling it very well, while Arthur always went crazy on the drums.

As for Shin? He could practically play anything. So long as the band needed it, he could change into any kind of instrument and jam with everyone as if it were nothing.

He could even play different versions of the songs with different instruments that he was playing.

What was even more absurd was his singing skills. He was so good at singing that he could instantly become an idol on the stage, especially with that kind of face.

This guy was also a monster, even in this industry.

Arthur was originally feeling a bit lazy and wanted to hang out, but suddenly changed his mind and supported Jillian. "That's right! We are still lacking in many areas. Let's practice a bit more."

Shin, Leonard, and Cloe, who were very familiar with him, could not help but roll their eyes at him. They could instantly see through his intentions.

Arthur ignored their gazes with his thick skin and immediately dragged Molton with him. "What do you think, Junior Brother?"

Molton could not refuse him, especially when Arthur's arm was already wrapped around his shoulders. He could only meekly answer while slightly nodding his head.

Jillian glared at Arthur, seemingly telling him to corrupt her twin brother. However, the latter just ignored, acting like a fool.

Alice also wanted to do more rehearsals. After all, this was one of her professions in the real world, and she loved to sing as well.

Leonard did not care, planning to go wherever the group wanted to go. The same for Lorraine.

But Shin was more concerned about Cloe, especially when he knew that she was quite worried about her father. After all, the Cilvana Family was still at war against some of the major forces of the Sun-Moon Continent.

Cloe understood what Shin was thinking, especially after seeing his worried gaze. She smiled at him while saying. "I am fine. I have already given my father a call earlier. He said that it is better to stay with everyone. He said that it is safer that way."

Even if she did not tell her father about the mission, her father could still guess what was going on, especially after all the undercurrents looming around the Sun-Moon Continent.

He was also informed by the Springfield Family about the storm that was about to sweep through the Sun-Moon Continent, so he could make some guesses about it.

Even though he was quite worried about his daughter, he felt more assured if she was with the forces of the Soaring Continent. After all, that country's strength was among the best in the world.

While the group was acting like a band, their guards were already doing their respective jobs, scanning the surroundings sharply. They were acting like real bodyguards.

Not long after, they immediately spotted quite a few people watching them from the dark and observing every move they made.

Marking these people, Benedict immediately mumbled through the comms. "Agents at nine o'clock, second-floor window of the café; three o'clock, the butcher on meat stall and the vendor of the fish stall; and one o'clock, those two acting as a couple."

Rock, who was quite uncomfortable with his sleek tuxedo, acknowledged the report. "Copy! Copy!"

Dayna, who looked like a dwarf beside him due to the massive difference in size, suddenly waved her hand and smacked the back of this giant's head with her Mental Energy and scolded. "Can you act a bit more professionally? You useless musclehead!"

She then turned to the skinny and sick-looking person behind her and said. "Dominic, keep an eye on this useless fellow. Don't let him wander around!"

"Senior Dayna, aren't we supposed to be protecting our 'VIPs' and not our people?" asked Dominic.

Dayna was about to say something when Selene, who still looked stunning in her professional outfit, suddenly said. "Big Sister Dayna-... I mean, Captain, I think we are missing someone."

"What!?" Benedict swiftly swept his eyes around the surroundings, looking at Shin and the others. But after seeing that everyone was here, he suddenly frowned. "But everyone is here."

"Not them. It is our people! Mahon is not around!" corrected Selena.

The expression on Benedict's face suddenly turned dark while Dayna suddenly kicked Dominic's butt and yelled. "What are you waiting for!? Go back and drag that sleepyhead before the ship leaves!"

Shin, who overheard everything, could not help but wear a weird look on his face. These guys seemed to be somewhat unreliable. He felt that it would not be long before they exposed themselves.

In the meantime, Elijah, who was following right behind the group, shook his head and tapped the comms while issuing his orders to his team. "All units, secure the perimeter. Don't make any unnecessary moves. Marking the targets will be more than enough."

The people who were following him swiftly scattered, leaving only a couple of people around Shin and the others, while the others went to their respective positions.

Dayna, who saw all of these, could not help but give Elijah a sidelong glance before sighing.

The difference in discipline was way too huge. Compared to the professional movements of the people from the Wings of Dawn, her team, the Sleeping Dragons, looked like a bunch of vagrants trying to pretend to be from a security company.

This upset her very much.

The true guards, who were protecting the group, mixed themselves with everyone else. They were acting as subordinates of these two under their respective disguise.

Shin had some guesses about one of these 'guards'. He was most likely Joaquin Giovanni, a peak Domain Expert like Nathan and Leonard's real Martial Arts Master.

As for the other person, Shin did not have any idea. All they knew about him was his strength rivaling Joaquin Giovanni since he was a peak Venerable Realm Mentalist.

Both disguising abilities of the two were top-notch, making it almost impossible for anyone to see through them. Even those with the same strength would have a hard time uncovering their disguise.

...

In the meantime, on a private port of the Sun-Moon Continent, a military ship docked. Then a bunch of fully armed soldiers started disembarking from it, securing the area.

After making sure that everything was safe, Shiella disembarked from the ship, followed by her secretary, and under the tight protection of another batch of soldiers, who were highly trained from special forces.

"The others?" asked Shiella.

Anna, her personal guard and personal assistant, swiftly stepped forward and whispered. "The Young Masters and their group have also arrived. They are now being escorted to the hotel."

Shiella briefly nodded before adding. "Tell those from my club to start their assignments. We will be moving ahead of schedule."

Anna was slightly taken aback by the instructions since this was different from what was discussed before. However, she did not question the order and swiftly executed them.

"Keep an eye on any news from those three as well. Immediately inform me once they contact you," she added.

Anna nodded, acknowledging the instructions.

...

At the same time, the trio in question was currently riding a private yacht, which seemed to be highly modified with advanced equipments.

"I am impressed that you guys can get your hands on this bad boy! It is not bad at all," commented David as he was acting quite relaxed on the yacht.

He was even sunbathing on its deck, seemingly unbothered by the current assignment that they were supposed to do.

Jeremiah had also joined him, who even had a plate full of fruits between them. "This is life. Should we do some fishing while we are at it?"

"Not a bad idea!" said David, agreeing straight away.

Vincent, who just reached the deck and heard their conversation, rolled his eyes at them. He then urged them to get ready. "We are picking up our speed. The other teams are already in the area. We must hurry."

"Can we slack off a little? It is not like they will immediately make their move since the date of the transaction is still a few days away," complained Jeremiah a little.

Vincent ignored him before tossing something at David.

When David caught it and saw what it was, the expression on his face suddenly turned ugly before he suddenly jumped up from his position. "Alright! Alright! Let's go!"

"How dare you threaten me!" complained David, which Vincent just brushed off before walking back inside.

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Chapter 1927: Start of the War

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During the couple of days before the concert, Shin and the others had rehearsed quite a lot, thoroughly preparing for their performance.

At the same time, the other teams that came alongside them had started moving as well, investigating the areas that were marked by the scouting forces. They were looking for the traces of the Black Serpent Mafia as well as their partners for the trade.

It was quite hard to catch the people of Black Serpent Mafia. Their side seemed to have found something strange with the atmosphere within the Sun-Moon Continent. They were acting as lowkey as possible, preventing their enemies from finding them.

These guys were truly tricky to deal with, especially when their information network seemed to have covered everything.

Fortunately, the forces of the Soaring Continent had made a lot of preparations. They immediately launched a coordinated attack on multiple bases and hideouts that the Black Serpent Mafia had, officially signaling the all-out war between the two sides.

The Springfield Family was heading all the operations, aggressively attacking the opposing side. They had even bravely launched an intense attack on some of the well-known bases of the Black Serpent Mafia in the Dark Continent.

The Dark Continent was the most chaotic place in all the continents since a lot of underworld organizations were based here.

Some of the most ancient clans and hidden organizations also had a few bases here. After all, this was the main battlefield when everyone was trying to repel those unknown and mysterious existences coming out of the Forbidden Valley and the Abyssal Trench.

Intense wars were regular in this place, so the residents of the continent were not disturbed when another war broke out.

But this time, the size and intensity of the current war were much larger and more intense compared to the regular ones that they usually experienced.

After all, hegemony like the Springfield Family and Black Serpent Mafia were no ordinary power, so the war between them was expected to be much more extreme than the ones that regularly occurred in the Dark Continent.

Most of the underworld organizations residing on the Dark Continent did not lend a hand to their 'friend', the Black Serpent Mafia, sitting back and enjoying the show.

They welcomed this war with open arms, planning to be a complete bystander.

They would want the Black Serpent Mafia to get crushed in this battle to lower the number of competitors in their field.

After all, this organization was such a big fish within the underworld organizations. If this organization were destroyed, then its competitors would be feasting on what would be left.

However, it was the same reason why the Black Serpent Mafia was hard to deal with. They were one of the most powerful organizations within the underworld, so their roots ran too deep, making it harder to eradicate them completely.

The Springfield Family may be able to deal a huge blow to the Black Serpent Mafia, but they also had to sacrifice quite a lot during the process.

The other forces around the world were sitting back and enjoying the show. They wanted these two superpowers to wrestle it out and wound each other before they reaped the benefits later.

Moreover, this was not just between the Springfield Family and Black Serpent Mafia since they had also dragged their allies as well.

This war was bound to be chaotic.

...

In a certain location that was not known to most of the people around the world, a huge city was situated in the middle of mountains that were acting as a natural barrier around it.

This was one of the hidden bases of the Black Serpent Mafia, which was also one of the most important bases of the organization.

In the main headquarters of this city, the high-ranking officers were currently gathered while monitoring the situation that they were in.

Multiple virtual screens were projected before them while the others were busy rushing back and forth from one computer to another.

"How is the situation?" asked a man in a sleek tuxedo right after entering.

There was a person who was wearing a military uniform, standing at the center of the room, and scanning through all the information that was being projected on the virtual screens.

"General~!" added the man in a tuxedo after seeing the other person giving him a fierce glare.

"Hmph!" the general took his eyes away before replying. "The situation is not that optimistic. We are being hit in a lot of places, and all of them are much fiercer than we originally expected."

"Then those guys must be much more prepared than what our information has told us," said the man in a tuxedo while standing beside the general and reviewing the number data and reports that were being displayed on the virtual screens.

A moment later, his leisurely expression suddenly shifted to solemnness before saying. "It seems like we have to adjust the distribution of our people."

The general did not reply while solemnly listening to the reports that kept on flooding their way.

Not long after, the door opened once again, followed by the entrance of a man wearing a laboratory gown.

The two furrowed their brows when they saw this person.

The tuxedo guy could not help but ask. "What are you doing here? Aren't you supposed to be overseeing the transaction with those people?"

This person, who looked like a scientist due to his attire, glanced at the tuxedo guy before replying. "Orders from the higher-ups. They seem to be quite concerned that this place will be attacked after the leak that Coffin Maker has given the other side."

The general frowned even deeper and refuted. "That's impossible. Even Coffin Maker is unaware of this place."

"You are right about that, but that does not mean that the Celestial Phoenix will not be able to figure out this location based on the clues that they have gotten from that useless cosplayer," said the scientist.

"But two of the 'heads' have already been stationed in this place. Those people are way out of this world. I doubt that even we working together is enough to match them," said the tuxedo guy.

"They are chosen for a reason," added the general before turning his focus back to the projected reports on the screens.

It was at this moment that another person entered the room and said scoffingly. "Hmph! They are nothing but a bunch of vessels who have lost themselves in exchange for power."

The three turned at the newcomer before shaking their heads. They were too familiar with this person, who was also known for looking down even on those people known as the 'Snake Head.'

"Careful there! The leaders may send you to that hell hole once they hear you again," said the tuxedo guy.

The newcomer looked at this person and said. "I only recognize one true Snake Head among them, and that is the Leader."

The other three shook their heads when he heard his words, but they did not refute him either.

This newcomer then turned to the scientist before asking. "Are you sure that those guys will be able to handle themselves on their own? That 'thing' that they are carrying is quite important."

"It is a kind of vessel that has never been seen before. It may even surpass that person's body to certain areas," he added.

The scientists shrugged their shoulders while replying. "There is nothing I can do. It is the orders from the higher. This place is more important than that 'thing'."

"Moreover, Butcher and the others are all sent to guard it. If they still fail to guard that vessel and bring it back, then there is no need for them to come back as well," his words suddenly turned sharp and cold while a dangerous glint flashed in his eyes.

"I will turn them into another vessel if that truly happens," he added with a smirk.

At the same time, they suddenly heard one of the personnel closely monitoring the series of reports on the screens. "General, we have finally found the location of the key figures of the Springfield Family!"

"Is that so?" said the general, somewhat nonchalantly, before asking. "Have you found the locations of Nathan and their group as well?"

That personnel rapidly tapped on the virtual keyboard before him before reporting. "The Dragon King seems to be staying on the Soaring Continent alongside the main forces of the Springfield Family."

"The 'Sword Saint' is seen on the Silver Wing Continent alongside the 'Warrior Sage'. We still have no clue about the whereabouts of the 'Hundred Beast'."

The general frowned deeply before asking. "What about the old fogeys from the Elders' Council? Have they shown any suspicious movements yet?"

Everyone tried their best to look for any clues about those old monsters, but were still unable to find any clues about them.

"There is no news about them, General," said someone from the monitoring team, making everyone frown deeply.

"Those old monsters are the ones who have launched an ambush on our cities, right?" asked the tuxedo guy.

"More specifically, they are Old Monster Plum, Grandmaster Benn, and Demon Fist General Samuel," answered the General.

While they were discussing, a series of alarms suddenly rang in the base, making the three look at each other.

"It looks like our guests are already here," said the general before signaling to project the situation on the outside.

"I wonder which unlucky people have chosen to mess with this place," smirked the tuxedo guy.

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Chapter 1928: Start of the War (Part 2)

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Above the hidden city of the Black Serpent Mafia, Manuel Morales was standing in the air alongside Lin Huang.

The academy was putting a lot of importance on this place, which was why they sent two of their most powerful people for this operation, the Undefeatable General and Martial King.

Even if these two did not get along that well and hated each other's guts, they still decided to work together, making sure that no accidents would happen.

The academy had suffered serious losses during the previous attack that the Black Serpent Mafia had launched at them. No core member had fallen at that time, but quite a lot of faculty members died during that disaster.

The elders within the academy were quite furious, which was why they were taking this matter very seriously.

Professor Henry had even asked for some help from Evangline to use her powerful divination abilities to find this location, which was one of the most important bases of the Black Serpent Mafia.

Even if Evangline had suffered some drawbacks to break through the powerful mystic spell that was preventing her from finding this place, she was very determined to make those guys pay for messing with her son and friends.

If not for other reasons that were binding her, then she would even pay them a 'visit' personally.

"It seems like the information is very accurate," said Manuel Morales while looking down at the huge city underneath them.

"It should be. Henry said that he had even asked a powerful seer to get his hands on this information," said Lin Huang while calmly looking at the massive city in the middle of the mountains.

"I must admit that those guys from Black Serpent Mafia are quite capable. To think that they can build such a massive city in such a place," he commented before turning to another direction.

There were two silhouettes walking out of the void and arriving at the scene.

"The people from the Top Military School are here," he said before moving toward the new arrivals to greet them.

One of the two was wearing a military uniform unique to the members of the Top Military School. Along with the five-star badges on his shoulder, the standing of this person with the school and the military should be very high.

This general was quite old, seemingly of the same generation as Manuel Morales and Lin Huang.

There was a quite disturbing scar on the left side of his face, which seemed to have affected his left eye as well. This left eye seemed to have been replaced by an artificial one as well, which had its pupils keep on contracting and adjusting.

The air surrounding this general was quite intimidating, making it hard for those people around him to breathe.

Meanwhile, the other person who came alongside him seemed to be quite ordinary. Aside from wearing a pair of camouflage pants and a black fitted shirt that highlighted his lean yet muscular build, there seemed to be nothing special about this person.

However, this seemingly laidback person seemed to carry a hidden danger underneath his 'harmless' appearance.

"It has been a while, Uncle!" greeted the laidback person after seeing Manuel Morales.

Compared to these three, this person seemed to be quite young. He was most likely in the same generation as Nathan and the rest, who were known as the monstrous talents of their generation.

Manuel Morales looked at this person before frowning. He slightly nodded his head before turning to the general. "It seems like the Top Military School is taking this seriously as well."

He glanced at the laidback person before adding. "To think that you will come here personally, along with your school's Devil Instructor, you guys sure are not holding back."

"That's cold, Uncle. I volunteer to come here after learning that you will be going as well!" said that laidback person with an aggrieved expression.

Lin Huang observed this person before nodding his head. "Not bad, not bad. It seems like the Generation of Monsters truly lives up to its name."

It was only that the laidback person greeted this Martial King. "Senior Lin Huang."

He also tried to deny Ling Huang's words, but the general who came alongside him raised his hands, preventing him from saying anything further.

"Let's get in business. There are a lot of things that we still need to do," said this general, unwilling to do any more useless chatter and wanting to finish the job as quickly as possible.

Looking at the massive city underneath, this general frowned deeply but did not say anything else.

"Heh! As expected of the Ruthless General of the battlefield," said Manuel with a somewhat mocking tone before turning his head back to the city.

"Are your people already in position?" asked the general while his body started to emit an overwhelming Natural Force.

"Our people are already waiting for ages," replied Manuel Morales with a scoff.

"Leonel, inform our people. We are starting," said the general without taking his eyes away from the city.

"Understood, General Gun!" Leonel, the laidback instructor, nodded his head before executing the command.

He then sent a bunch of messages through the highly advanced watch wrapped on his wrist.

Swoosh!

At the same time, General Gun suddenly dove down, not even informing Manuel Morales and Lin Huang about his actions.

Boom!

Not long after, they saw this general throw a powerful punch in the air, instantly destroying the invisible barrier that was protecting the city.

The energy force field that was covering the city tried to repel the powerful strike, but a strange pounding force came from the fist of the general and repeatedly bombarded it, leading to its complete collapse.

Boom!

Right after breaking through the barrier, General Gun continued to descend toward the city while the Natural Force that his body was emitting continued to grow.

BOOM!

A powerful shockwave blasted the surrounding buildings right after he hit the ground, destroying them in the process.

Seeing all this in the air, Manuel Morales shook his head. "Tsk! He is as impatient and hot-headed as ever."

Swoosh!

Right after that, he also dove down and struck another side of the city, which seemed to be the busiest district.

Lin Huang, on the other hand, just shook his head along with a sigh. He then turned to Leonel before instructing the latter. "Go with your general. Make sure to avoid any accidents."

"I understand, Senior Lin Huang," nodded Leonel before diving down in the same direction as General Gun.

This was the main reason why the Top Military School had let him accompany General Gun. They were too familiar with the personality of this general, who had always been fearless yet also reckless at the same time.

This Devil Instructor of the Top Military School had the same fame and strength as the Dragon King of the Springfield Family and the others, so there was no need to doubt his abilities.

He was the perfect person who could keep up with General Gun while keeping his safety.

Swoosh!

In the meantime, Lin Huang was more relaxed as he scanned the entire city with his powerful senses, seemingly looking for something.

At the same time, he was also keeping a close eye on Manuel Morales, who was already starting to demolish the surrounding buildings and killing all those foolish people who tried to stop him.

After a while, Lin Huang slowly descended from the sky, heading in the same direction as his current partner.

Based on the life signatures that he had picked up, there were at least three people with the strength of the peak of the Domain Stage in terms of Martial Arts, and a powerful Mentalist at the peak of the Venerable Realm.

At the same time, two life signatures seemed to be capable of threatening the three of them, who were half a step away from reaching the Transcendent Realm of Martial Arts.

"Henry's warnings are on point. Those two should be among the people who came along with 'Snake Head' to 'save' Jan Mateo from that brat Adam," he mumbled as he descended from the air.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Chaos immediately broke out due to these old monsters attacking the city.

But that did not end there, since the forces that the Magic Ace Academy and Top Military School had sent suddenly appeared outside the walls of the city and launched their siege as well.

The Magic Ace Academy carried strange tools and advanced devices that helped them with the siege. At the same time, the Top Military School brought some huge artillery and other military weapons to attack.

With their siege, the people from the city were barely able to stop them, especially after being caught off guard by the unexpected attack.

Naturally, they also had their preparations in such cases, but all of them seemed to have been rendered useless from within. Most of the devices that were supposed to activate upon sensing any kind of movement from the outside seemed to have stopped working at the same time.

Emergency alarms rang throughout the city as the opposing forces flooded in from the main gates.

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Chapter 1929: Start of the War (Part 3)

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While the Undefeatable General Manuel Morales and Martial King Lin Huang launched an attack on one of the core cities of the Black Serpent alongside General Gun and the Devil Instructor Hathaway of the Top Military School, similar events were happening in different places around the world.

Aside from targeting the hidden bases of the Black Serpent Mafia, the forces under the leadership of the Springfield Family were also launching serious attacks on the known allies of these underworld organizations.

Whether they were official or unofficial allies of the Black Serpent Mafia, no one was spared.

Even if this could cause unrest in different places around the world and raise complaints from other forces, the military forces under the Springfield Family did not care, as they had already collected substantial evidence to support their claims.

They had even been involved in quite a lot of shady businesses and immoral projects that the Black Serpent Mafia had launched over the last couple of years, which these allies of theirs had gotten involved with.

Some of them sponsored the projects while the others actively participated in these businesses.

The Springfield Family was quite crafty as well, working alongside a few organizations to reveal all the evidence to the public, condemning all those forces involved.

The other forces that originally wanted to take advantage of the situation immediately dropped the idea, especially after realizing that Springfields had prepared quite a lot just for this confrontation.

Once they tried to mediate for those organizations involved, they would immediately become another suspect for the conspiracy, which would be no different from digging their own grave.

Due to this, quite a lot of forces immediately cut off their relationships with all the organizations involved. Some of the huge corporations and international companies that had been mentioned on the list even found themselves alone and isolated by their former partners.

Among these corporations and companies, there were quite a few that had a huge influence throughout the world. One of them was the Seven Seas Group, which was one of the biggest financial corporations internationally.

They suddenly found themselves being besieged by multiple forces, who took the initiative to 'help' the Springfield Family and their allies in taking them down.

In just a couple of hours, the entire company was destroyed while most of their assets were ransacked by the hungry wolves that were eyeing them from the sidelines.

The Springfield Family did not care about these. After all, the Levina Family had the Flying Dragon Corporation, which was no weaker than the Seven Seas Group.

Aside from the other business that the Flying Dragon Corporation was interested in, the rest were divided among the other organizations in the area.

The Flying Dragon Corporation had no intention of setting up a main base here since it was too far from its influence. It was better to give them to the local forces, showing them their goodwill and intention of working together later.

As for the hidden projects that the Seven Seas Group, the Magic Ace Academy, and the Top Military School 'confiscated' them, preventing them from landing in the wrong hands.

After all, these projects concerned serious and sensitive subjects that could not be disclosed to the public.

Fortunately, the Springfield Family had been stalking these people for quite a long time now and had even planted a spy within the core of the corporation, and was working on the secret projects that they were working on.

This made them secure the most important data and seize all the other information that they needed, such as the core members of the Seven Seas Group and their higher-ups, both official and unofficial ones, ahead of time.

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Everything was working well until something unexpected happened.

"What do you mean that the core members of the Seven Seas Group have escaped!?" asked a man in military attire, shouting at his subordinate.

From the look of it, he seemed to be the commander of this operation and the one who was leading all the forces in the air.

His subordinate did not dare to raise his head and accepted all the yelling from his commander. He only continued his report once the latter finally let him talk. "We don't know what happened either, Commander Fisher. They seemed to have disappeared in thin air when we entered their houses."

"Then what about the ones that we have captured earlier!?" pressed the commander.

"They-... they are all mechanical puppets disguised as-..." the lieutenant barely able to complete his words when his direct superior suddenly exploded in anger.

"F*ck! How come we have never noticed it earlier!? And how come they have escaped the detection tools of the World Research Center!?" pressed the commander, suddenly finding the situation strange.

"That-..." the lieutenant tried to explain the situation, but he also realized that he could not answer that question. "We also don't know what happened, Commander."

Commander Fisher started pounding the metal desk before him, crushing it completely. "How do you want me to report it to Supreme Commander Nathan and Grand General Samuel!?"

He then suddenly recalled something and asked. "What about our contact inside!?"

The lieutenant suddenly felt nervous when he heard that question, especially after sensing the intense crushing pressure that the commander was currently emitting.

Gulp!

Swallowing hard, the lieutenant carefully answered. "We-... We found him dead, Sir."

BOOM!

Commander Fisher finally lost it and turned his metal desk into a power with his pressure alongside the other things within his temporary office.

Swoosh!

The tent was also shredded into pieces after his aura exploded.

"What did you say!?" his hoarse voice suddenly rang throughout the temporary base that they had set up, making those who heard him tremble.

The lieutenant before him was also having a hard time breathing while trying to endure the pressure that was directly pressing on him.

He could even feel that his bones were about to shatter if this continued.

"That should be enough, Fisher. You will kill everyone in the base at this rate."

It was at that moment that the lieutenant heard the voice of the person who could contend with his commander.

The lieutenant felt like he had found his savior, especially when the latter freed him from that crushing pressure.

"You are free to go, Havier. Leave it to me," said the newcomer, making the lieutenant thank him repeatedly inside.

"Thank you, Sir Kaito," the lieutenant bowed at the newcomer deeply before swiftly running away from this place as far as possible.

Given his understanding of his commander, a fight might even break out once he truly lost his mind in anger.

Commander Fisher squinted his eyes as he looked at this newcomer, who was wearing loose Taoist robes and casually conjuring a chair with his mental energy before sitting on it.

"There is no point throwing tantrums, don't you think?" asked Kaito as he leisurely took his seat.

"Are you telling me that you don't understand what this means, Oh~! Great Mentalist Instructor of the Top Military School?" asked Commander Fisher before adding. "Our people inside are found dead while our core targets escape. Don't tell me you don't know what it means?"

Kaito shook his head before replying. "I know and understand it very well. If we don't handle this well, things will get a bit troublesome."

"A bit troublesome? Did I hear you right? Did you just say, 'a bit troublesome'?" asked Commander Fisher with a pressuring tone.

Mentalist Kaito sighed before shaking his head. "It is useless to talk with bullheaded people. I guess I will be wasting my time here."

He then slightly opened his naturally narrow eyes before continuing. "Let me remind you, 'Commander'. Our current enemies are the Black Serpent Mafia."

"If you have already forgotten, they are known as the masters of infiltration," he added scoffingly before continuing. "We are already expecting some accidents like this to happen, so you'd better calm yourself down and reassess everything that happened during the entire operation."

He then stood up and tossed something at Commander Fisher before turning around to leave. "Anyway, we have already secured everything that we needed from this place."

"I am sorry for the loss on your side. I know that the spy that you guys have sent to infiltrate their core is among the best."

"I know that you are known for being protective of your people and treasure your subordinates well, but what happened already happened."

"You are free to vent your anger on the other forces around, but we have to move to our next target as soon as possible," he added before disappearing.

Commander Fisher squinted his eyes while looking at the spot where the mentalist disappeared before looking at the object in his hands. It was a version of an advanced watch that was usually used by the military.

Understanding what Kaito wanted to say, Commander Fisher swiftly turned around and headed in a certain direction.

"Vent my anger? Heh! Those people from the cold system of the Top Military School will never understand us from the Springfield Family."

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Chapter 1930: Each of their Schemes

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"Qilin died?" asked Nathan with a deep frown after hearing the report from Commander Fisher, who was leading the operation to take down the Seven Seas Group.

He would be lying if he said he did not care about this loss. After all, Qilin was one of the best spies that the Springfield Family had nurtured. He was even the most reliable spy that they had on their side, which was why he was sent to infiltrate the Seven Seas Group's core.

The infiltration ability of this person was not only the best among the ones that the Springfields had, but his strength should not be that weak as well.

He was a Domain Realm Expert, who specialized in infiltration and disguise. Even though he was not as good as Joaquin Giovanni, his abilities should not be that bad.

Everything on the operation was going according to the plan until recently. They had even stolen quite a lot of information from the database of the Seven Seas Group along with their most important projects.

Yet he just received terrible news right when they were about to succeed with the operation.

Not only had they lost the higher-ups of the Seven Seas Group, but they had also lost one of their most important and most powerful assets in the process.

"Given his strength, he shouldn't have died without putting up a struggle. That is, unless the one who has killed him is someone who can absolutely overpower him, or it was a sneak attack from someone with similar level," mumbled Nathan while squinting his eyes.

No matter how much he thought about it, the situation was too suspicious.

He then reviewed all the details that were described in the reports, trying to find where this feeling was coming from. He also looked at the photos that came alongside the report, refusing to overlook even the tiniest detail.

He had even run a few 3D simulations projected in front of him.

Fisher, on the other hand, did not dare to make any sound during this time because he knew the significance that Qilin had within their forces and the effects that his death could cause to them.

After a while, Nathan's eyes suddenly went cold because he noticed that Qilin's death seemed to have been caused by a betrayal. He seemed to be killed while conversing with someone, before the one conversing with him suddenly acted.

Moreover, it was not done by a single person. It seemed to be a group of people with at least three to four people.

He knew that Fisher had not overlooked such a scenario either. It was even indicated in the report, but there were too many things that they had to consider before making their conclusions.

"How is the data that we have secured? Are they authentic? Any signs of tampering?" asked Nathan.

Understanding what Nathan was implying, Fisher immediately reported. "We have done multiple checks on it. The experts at the World Research Center have also authenticated everything. There seems to be nothing wrong with it."

"They are a hundred percent match to the initial materials that we have gotten ahead of time," he added.

Nathan went silent for a couple of moments before nodding. "I understand. That should be it for now. You can return to your post and proceed according to plan."

"Keep an eye on everyone. We can overlook that this can be an inside job. Be careful," he frowned briefly before adding. "You can leave the rest to me. Send Qilin's body back, and I will handle his funeral."

"I understand, Supreme Commander," replied Fisher before ending the call.

Meanwhile, somewhere in the Sun-Moon Continent.

Inside the temporary base that the Black Serpent Mafia had set up.

Butcher, who was leading the operation at this place, just finished reviewing all the reports sent to him and suddenly frowned.

Belladonna suddenly sat on the nearby sofa before asking. "It seems like we have encountered a problem for you to frown that deeply."

Butcher glanced at her before shaking his head. "It is not that bad. I just find a few things a bit strange."

This piqued Belladonna's interest, and she could not help but ask. "It sounds interesting. What is it?"

Butcher projected a virtual screen for Belladonna, which showed a series of reports for her to read. "Read it yourself."

Belladonna gave him a sharp glare before casting her gaze at the series of reports and skimming through them.

It did not take that long for her to realize what Butcher was talking about.

She turned to Butcher and asked in disbelief. "A concert? At this point, and with the current situation? Are those guys crazy?"

Butcher nodded before inputting his suspicions. "What's even crazier is that they have sent such geniuses to such a dangerous place. It seems like they are presenting these people to us on a silver platter."

"More like they are serving them as bait to lure us out," scoffed Belladonna before cursing. "That d*mn Coffin Maker sure has a big mouth, spilling everything out!"

"There is nothing we can do about it. After all, we have only gathered with different purposes," said Butcher with a laugh before adding. "We are only using each other anyway. Aside from our fear toward 'Snake Head', there is nothing much that truly ties us together."

Belladonna refused to comment, but it was clear that she was agreeing with him.

She then went back to the topic and asked. "So, what is your plan with these guys?" pointing at the report concerning the concert that the One Day Dairy Band would be launching alongside the young diva, Alice Stuart."

"Heh! It is obviously a trap, so why are we going to bite that bait?" scoffed Butcher before continuing. "It is pretty much obvious what they are thinking; they are here to lure us out and reveal our locations. There is no need to concern ourselves with them."

"If the organization is putting a lot of importance on these little fledglings, then they will send another team to the job."

"Our main goal right now is to make sure that we deal with those Voidwalkers and not get distracted with anything else."

Belladonna frowned slightly before asking. "Can we really trust those Voidwalkers?"

Butcher sneered when he heard those words before continuing. "There are a lot of tribes among the Voidwalkers. Naturally, we chose those with the thinnest 'scent' on them."

"After all, even 'Snake Head' is too wary of them. Those guys are the offspring of those 'remnants', so getting entangled with them is too dangerous."

Hearing this, Belladonna could not help but squint her eyes before saying. "But I hear that-..."

However, Butcher immediately cut her off and said. "I know what you are trying to say. Who is not suspicious of them?"

"But let me remind you that we are only here for our respective agendas, so just focus on your goal and do your job well," he added.

He then dropped the topic before proceeding to discuss their operation. "Coffin Maker has most likely spilled a lot of information, but we can also use it to our advantage."

"Those guys only know that we are having a 'trade', but they do not know exactly who we are working with. Moreover, they are unaware that we have just gotten our hands on a better vessel, so we are using it to lure those guys away."

"There will be two trades, one meant for the original vessel, while the other will concern that special vessel that is made of demonic energy."

"Make sure that Boris and the others will not make any mistakes and act accordingly. Even if they do not have any idea about the second trade, they will only focus on their side."

"While they are luring those people that the Springfield Family and the Magic Ace Academy have sent, we will be conducting another trade in secret."

"This is the assurance that the higher-ups have, which is why they have sent the new Professor back to Base 1-03 to deal with the situation that may arise there."

Belladonna pursed her lips a little before nodding her head. "I understand."

"Has the time and place been decided yet? We can't keep on postponing it due to the current situation. We will only expose ourselves sooner or later if we keep on dragging this on," she added.

Butcher thought for a moment before turning his gaze to the projected screen, particularly on a certain report that was displayed.

He then smirked. "I do have some ideas."

Sun and Moon Hotel.

Shiella just finished going through all the reports before turning to her assistant/bodyguard. "Auntie, have we finished all the preparations yet?"

"Don't worry, young miss. We have already finished all the necessary preparations. We are only waiting for your signal before making our move," replied Anna.

Shiella pursed her lips a little before asking. "What about those three? Have they arrived yet?"

Anna hesitated for a moment before replying. "They said that they are already in location, but none of our people have made any contact with them yet."

The corner of Shiella's mouth suddenly twitched when she heard that, before briefly nodding. "You can proceed with the plan. Just make sure to avoid unnecessary attention later."

"Understood, young miss," Anna then bowed before suddenly disappearing.

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