

Destiny 1941

Chapter 1941: The Wanderer and the Junior Dragoness (Part 2)

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Roar! Roar!

Despite Butcher possessing a powerful physique and the defensive capabilities of a Domain Realm Expert, facing such a powerful attack head-on and in such close range was not something that he could underestimate.

Adding the seamless coordination of the two before him and the perfect timing that they had when executing those series of actions, avoiding the twin dragons would be challenging even for him.

BOOM!

Shiella and David swiftly retreated right after throwing their moves, distancing themselves from the center of the explosion.

However, they did not stop moving or wait for the cloud of smoke to settle.

David waved the umbrella in his hand while also throwing yet another batch of paper talismans in the air, while Shiella moved her hands slowly and regulated her breathing to control opposing Natural Forces more easily.

Bang!

Not long after, the cloud of smoke was cleared by Butcher once again. But this time, he did not immediately launch an attack and just stood in his spot while staring intently at David and Shiella.

These two truly lived up to their reputation of being among the leading figures of the top geniuses of their generation.

One was a genius Mentalist, who roamed around the world to challenge those of his peers, while the other was a little monster of a Martial Art Family with a long-standing history.

"The Wanderer from the Dark Continent and the Junior Demoness of the Springfield Family," he mumbled as he exhaled softly.

The earlier attack did not deal that much damage to him, but it still somewhat hurt him to a certain extent.

That combination technique from Shiella was no joke, especially when Butcher had taken them head-on twice in a row.

Moreover, the restraints that David had placed on him earlier also had some hidden effects. They were not only meant to restrain his movements, but also to shred a portion of his defensive capabilities, which he only noticed right after getting hit by Shiella's attack.

Rolling his shoulders a little, Butcher prepared to launch his next attack. This time, he would be going all-out. He could no longer hold back in front of these brats since he knew that he might fall in an accident if he held back his strength when fighting them.

As for accidentally killing them in the process, he would think about it later once he crossed the bridge.

If these two were still able to survive even after that, then he must admit that their talents far surpassed his, especially for overcoming someone like him.

"Three minutes. That's all we have at hand," whispered Shiella while taking a battle stance.

She was sure that their forces would be able to notice her absence now. The timeframe that she had given David was the estimated time when their reinforcements would arrive, so they only had to hold on for that long.

"Three minutes, huh? That is still more than enough for a monster like this guy to kill us more than twice," commented David, especially after seeing that Butcher was preparing something more overwhelming.

Boom!

Right on cue, the two saw Butcher release his overwhelming aura without restraint, dominating the entire space with his presence alone.

This was the true power of someone at the peak of the Domain Realm, which was slowly approaching the Transcendent Realm.

Their presence alone was more than enough to make those before them kneel on the ground.

Seeing this, David and Shiella understood that Butcher would no longer hold his strength back.

"Did you say three minutes? I think we don't have the luxury to have that much time," said David while wearing a solemn expression. "Our only solution right now is to deal as much serious damage to this monster as we can."

"We can't defeat him, but seriously injuring him is possible. It does not need to be a fatal one either. Just enough to discourage him from entangling with us for much longer will be more than enough for us."

Hearing his tone, Shiella could not help but give him a sidelong glance and ask. "What are you planning to do?"

David answered without turning his eyes away from Butcher. "I'll buy you for as much time as I can. While I keep him occupied, prepare the strongest attack that you can muster."

"I'll give you enough opening to launch it to, so be sure to seize that chance once it arises. There are no second chances!" he emphasized before stabbing his fingers on a couple of places in his body.

When his index finger poked his temple, an overwhelming Mental Energy suddenly gushed out of his body like a raging flood.

'Meridian Blocking: Limit Break – Phase 7'

BOOM!

Even Shiella, who was right beside him, was forced to retreat away from him right after this large amount of Mental Energy came out from his body.

The quantity and quality of this particular Mental Energy were much higher than the previous one that he was emitting.

At this moment, this degree of power could be considered reaching the Venerable Realm already if it were about these two factors alone.

However, controlling this power was still beyond David's level, so the drawbacks should be quite serious.

Cough!

An uncomfortable cough briefly escaped his mouth, but he quickly swallowed the rest of it, preventing Shiella from noticing something wrong.

Enduring all the pain that was coming from his veins and meridians, which seemed to be being crushed by his own power.

This was clearly worsening the already-worse internal injury that he had just suffered from Butcher's earlier attack. But he ignored all of it and put up a strong front before Shiella.

"Remember what I said!" he said before taking the initiative to attack Butcher.

Bang!

He kicked the ground to propel himself forward.

Swoosh!

Crackle! Crackle!

He disappeared for a moment before appearing in front of his target in an instant, leaving golden electric trails behind him.

'Spiritual Force (Divinity Grade): Divine Wrath Force'

This was the highest version of Spiritual Force that his Mental Energy could reach, which was more powerful and more advanced than the Storm Force that he usually used.

Whoosh!

While he was thrusting the umbrella forward, an apparition of a knight clad in divine armor suddenly appeared behind him.

It mimicked his actions of thrusting forward along with a divine spear, launching a powerful attack that seemed to be able to affect even the space itself.

The space is being pulled by its spear, forming a vortex on its tip while charging forward.

'Myriad Manifestation Method: Knight King – The Divine Punishment'

Butcher remained unmoved at first despite seeing how overwhelming the Divinity Grade Mental Energy that David was currently emitting was. But after seeing the incoming attack, the expression on his face suddenly turned slightly grim, especially after sensing an immense threat coming from it.

Swoosh!

Despite not possessing the 'Authority' that the Venerable Realm Mentalists acquired after reaching this level of power, the threat this technique, David was throwing at him, still reached high enough to threaten him.

Having that in mind, he swiftly raised his butcher knife while coating it with his Natural Force before placing it before him to block the attack.

He could face it with an attack of his own, but it was a bit too late to throw it now, which would also make him lose his initiative to counterattack afterward.

Boom!

The tip of the umbrella and the surface of the butcher knife collided against one another, producing a powerful shockwave that further destroyed the surroundings.

Butcher only needed to take a couple of steps back to disperse all the strain on his body right after the impact.

David, however, was sent flying despite being the one who had the initiative during the attack. But he immediately regained his balance during his flight by doing multiple flips in the air.

Then, when he was about to touch the ground, he suddenly stabbed the umbrella into the ground and channeled his Mental Energy into it.

Bang!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The Divinity Grade Mental Energy then spread in every direction, heading to different points, where rods wrapped in paper talismans were currently located.

Immediately after, Butcher found himself standing in the middle of a huge mystic formation, which seemed to be much more advanced compared to the previous one that restrained him.

'Myriad Manifestation Method: Shaman King – The Grand Constellation Array'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

A pillar of light suddenly came out from those rods and shot toward the sky before linking with one another.

Within this array, David gained an overwhelming power that reinforced all his fighting capabilities, while those against him found themselves losing a lot of their strength.

"A Grand Array, huh?" mumbled Butcher before suddenly summoning his domain powers.

Boom!

Right after he communicated with the surroundings, the entire place seemed to become his personal territory.

Whoo~!

At the same time, ghostly cries and eerie wails rang throughout the entire place before bones and other remains of different creatures slowly emerged from the ground, turning this place into a slaughterhouse.

"Unfortunately, it is not an 'Authority' that you Mentalists controlled," he said while receiving all the physical enchantments and other forms of reinforcements in his power.

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Boom!

Butcher swiftly charged straight to David, who had just finished setting up his grand array.

Swoosh!

Butcher appeared before David in an instant. He widened his arms, raising the butcher knife with one hand while pointing the palm of the other at David.

He was preparing to cleave David's body with this powerful strike.

However, David also responded quite fast. He placed his hands together before swiftly making a series of hand seals with them.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

Golden chains suddenly appeared around David and swiftly wrapped themselves around Butcher, restraining the latter's movements.

However, these chains only lasted for a moment before snapping one after another as Butcher continued brandishing his butcher knife.

But that momentary pause was more than enough for David to set up defense.

David swiftly hopped backwards while also extending his hand to grab the umbrella beside him, which was currently impaled on the ground.

Swoosh!

He then immediately opened the umbrella and quickly raised it, using its canopy to block the falling knife.

Zong~! Long~! Long~!

The runes on the surface of the umbrella shone brightly once again. But this time, they did not just release their brilliance since they seemed to come alive and flew out of the canopy's surface and spun in the air.

While spinning, they linked with one another before forming a magical sequence that later turned into a defensive formation that blocked the incoming strike.

Boom!

The barrier was instantly broken, but the might of the descending knife had also lost the majority of its momentum, no longer possessing any killing power.

However, the impact from this strike was so strong that David felt the metallic taste of blood rising from his throat once again.

Even though his current Mental Energy could rival the Mentalists at the Venerable Realm, the difference in his physique was still far too wide when compared to a Domain Realm Expert.

David might be a perfect Kaleidoscope Mentalist, who was capable of using both the abilities of a Combat Mentalist and a Psychic Mentalist, but it was still far from being enough to match the monstrous physique of Butcher, who was also known as one of the strongest Body Refining Experts among all the Domain Realm Martial Artists around the world.

It was quite normal for him to be on the losing side despite all the enchantments that he had cast on his body.

Swoosh!

Suppressing all the internal injuries within him that were already getting worse the more he fought, along with the worsening side effects of his 'Limit Break', David cast one healing spell on himself after another before bravely proceeding forward.

Closing the canopy of the umbrella, David swiftly retrieved this sacred relic and the heirloom of the Solomon Kingdom before quickly executing a series of foot techniques to dodge the following attacks from Butcher.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

'Myriad Manifestation Method: Mystic King – The Ghost Illusionary Steps'

Multiple copies of himself scattered in every direction, trying to confuse Butcher with these illusions.

Unfortunately, Butcher did not buy any of this and just used the most straightforward way to crush them.

Boom!

With a powerful stomp into the ground, strong gusts of wind suddenly spread in every direction and swept through everything. These gusts of wind were accompanied by sharp flashes of light, indicating that Butcher had also thrown a few slashes with his knife in the mix.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shing!

Right after destroying the illusions, Butcher swiftly swept his eyes over the surroundings, looking for the traces of the young Mentalists.

When he found David, he saw that the latter was currently standing in the distance while forming a mysterious hand seal.

Whoosh!

He then saw a series of runes flowing through David's body and spread out before forming a sequence of mysterious tattoos that glowed so brightly, outlining themselves throughout his body.

At the same time, the flowing Divinity Grade Mental Energy leaking out from his body formed a series of Mentalism Runes in the air before linking with one another and forming a complicated wheel with multiple layers.

Each layer was filled with a sequence of runes while spinning at a different pace; some were spinning clockwise, while others were moving in the opposite direction.

His pupils had also transformed, forming mandala patterns in them, when he activated his Enlightened Eyes.

Along with these changes, his hair was continuously dancing alongside the flowing energy that his body was constantly emitting.

'Myriad Manifestation Method: Secrets of the Kings – Divine Avatar'

His presence immediately propelled him into a whole different level under these transformations, almost rivaling his opponent.

Bang!

While David was still in the middle of these changes, Butcher had already made his move and resumed his assault.

David, who just finished his transformation, put his palms together while channeling his Spiritual Force into them.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The floating talismans in the air swiftly headed his direction and revolved around him, complementing his actions.

At the same time, a bunch of chains appeared once again, wrapping themselves around Butcher and one another, hindering his movements.

Even if they repeatedly snapped before they could fully restrain him, they were still able to buy enough time for David to prepare.

David slowly separated his palms from one another while a cluster of Mental Energy gathered between them. This cluster of energy slowly expanded alongside the movements of his hands, forming a sturdy rod filled with glowing runes on its surface.

Given that the Mental Energy that he poured into it was at Divinity Grade, it was not hard to imagine how tough this rod was.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, the surrounding talismans rushed toward the rod and wrapped themselves around it, transforming it into an even more powerful Mentalism Armament (counterpart of the Qi Equipment of Martial Arts at the Void Manifestation Realm).

Right after the formation of the staff, David quickly grabbed it before flipping and twirling it around to generate momentum.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

With this Mentalism Armament, David attempted to exchange a few more blows against Butcher, who was already before him and brandishing his huge knife once again.

"Urgh!"

For every collision, David felt that the internal injury within him was rapidly getting worse. Despite all the healing spells and techniques that he cast on himself, he was still unable to keep up with his worsening condition.

Bang!

With a powerful stomp, David forced himself to stop retreating before twirling the staff once again.

A moment later, the muscles on his arms suddenly contracted as he tightened his grip over the staff.

Boom!

An apparition then appeared behind him immediately after.

This apparition had the figure of a monkey donning a set of an army general's armor of ancient times, along with a circular halo over its head that was glowing with intense light.

Mimicking David's actions, this monkey suddenly swung its staff alongside him, leaving a series of afterimages in the air.

At first, there were a total of eighty-one copies of staff in the air. But they later converged and only left nine afterimages that were striking down at Butcher one after another.

'Myriad Manifestation Method: Monkey King – The Nine Heavenly Strikes'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Butcher could feel the immense threat coming from these strikes, making him unable to underestimate them. He could also think that the gravity around him grew at least twofold under the might of these strikes.

Sensing the danger, he faced the attack seriously and struck with his butcher knife with equal respect.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Each strike of the staff was much heavier than the other. It was as if the force that they carried grew at least twice whenever they fell.

Boom!

When the ninth and final strike finally fell, Butcher felt the powerful might that it possessed and was forced to take a step back.

Bang!

At the same time, David's Mentalism Armament also shattered, unable to withstand all the heavy exchanges.

However, he did not stop his advance and continued to be on the offensive.

Roar!

This time, the apparition behind him was a humanoid beast that carried a domineering presence, which seemed to inform anyone who would look at it that it was the king of the world.

David's body seemed to have expanded while he widened up his stance, pulling his right-hand fist behind and channeling an overwhelming amount of Spiritual Force into it.

Crackle! Crackle!

Golden lightning danced around him before converging into his fist.

Whoosh!

Then stomped into the ground and strode forward while throwing a powerful punch with all his might.

'Myriad Manifestation Method: Beast King – The Haymaker'

Roar!

A deafening bestial roar reverberated throughout the battlefield as his fist advanced.

Seeing this, Butcher could not help but raise his brows a little. Regardless, he still strode forward and faced the incoming attack head-on.

Swoosh!

Swinging his fist forward, he threw an equally domineering punch.

Boom!

To his surprise, Butcher was forced to take another step back after the collision. This indicated how powerful that punch was just now.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

David, on the other hand, was forced to take a series of deep and heavy steps back while he was trying to disperse the residual force that his body had gotten from the impact.

Suppressing the cough that was rising through his throat and swallowing the blood that seemed to be trying to escape from his mouth once again, David forcefully fixed his stance.

Pulling out the umbrella from the voice once again, David assumed a rather peculiar stance. He took a sword-drawing stance while holding the umbrella.

The umbrella seemed to contract slightly, releasing an intense light, as he assumed this stance.

At the same time, another apparition appeared behind him. It was a person who looked like an immortal this time. This immortal was holding a sheathed sword and followed David's actions, taking the stance.

Hu~!

After regulating his breathing, he used the umbrella like a sword, seemingly pulling it out from an invisible sheath before swiftly swinging it multiple times before him.

Shing!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Flashes of light dominated the space before him, discouraging Butcher, who had just approached him in an instant, from continuing further.

'Myriad Manifestation Method: Sword King – The Celestial Sword'

This was the main version of the mentalism swordsmanship that his master used to train during her younger days and before she redesigned it into a new set of sword movements and created her own unique version of it.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Butcher repeatedly swung his knife to match the incoming sword flashes, forcing him to take another step back after the final collision.

It was also at this moment that he saw David suddenly taking a heavy step forward, ducking under him along with a glowing fist that was filled with an overwhelming amount of Divine Wrath Force.

Swoosh!

'Myriad Manifestation Method: Secrets of the Kings – The Emperor Fist'

The space seemed to have collapsed when David threw his fist forward, which swiftly connected with Butcher's lower rib.

BOOM!

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Boom!

Right after the punch connected, Butcher could not help but frown deeply. He knew that he had gotten a bit careless during these previous exchanges since David was not holding back in every move that he had thrown at him.

David had even risked worsening his already terrible state just for this final strike.

It might not be able to seriously injure Butcher, but it was still more than enough to deal a decent amount of damage that could make him move uncomfortably later.

He knew that this particular punch from David had dealt some internal injury to him, making it harder to circulate his Internal Qi for the future.

In exchange for just dealing with such an injury, David had overly exhausted himself. He could feel that his body was slowly losing its strength. After all, he had given everything he had for that final strike.

Butcher understood this well, so he swiftly responded and threw a heavy punch infused with overwhelming Natural Force at David.

Whoosh!

David had already lost his strength at this point, but he was still able to barely raise his arms and gather his remaining Spiritual Force to block the incoming strike.

Boom!

Unfortunately, it was already far from being enough to block such a powerful attack from a Domain Realm Expert.

Whoosh!

David was sent flying toward the opposite direction, colliding with multiple trees and only stopping after being buried by the remaining rubble of the collapsed building nearby.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

His life and death were unknown.

Swoosh!

In the meantime, Shiella had already accumulated enough power for a powerful attack. She then used this opening to launch an ambush at Butcher, who was trying to suppress the injury that he had just suffered and prevent it from worsening.

Swoosh!

Shiella appeared beside Butcher, ducking down in the same manner as David earlier, before targeting the same area that had been attacked just now.

On her palm, a beautiful lotus suddenly appeared. Its outer petals were made of ice, revolving gently in two different directions, while the center looked like a cluster of multicolored flames that was constantly releasing some embers that glittered around the lotus alongside the frost flakes that the petals were emitting.

'Song of the Ice and Fire: Fury Lotus'

Swoosh!

Seeing this seemingly harmless flower, Butcher could not help but sense an immense threat that made him retreat as swiftly as he could.

The power that this little lotus possessed seemed to be much stronger and more destructive than the ice and fire 'pill' and the fire and ice dragons that Shiella had 'gifted' him earlier.

When Butcher was about to retreat, a sudden dizziness assaulted his head out of nowhere, triggered by the earlier strike that David had dealt him.

He then frowned deeply, realizing that he had just underestimated that final punch from David.

Boom!

Before he could even recover from it and regain his footing, Shiella had already pushed her palm forward and pushed the ice and fire lotus on him, which resulted in an intense explosion.

"Urgh!"

This explosion triggered the injuries that David had just dealt him, making them much worse than he had expected.

The surface of his body was still relatively fine due to a few scratches on it. Even the burnt and frozen parts of his body did not seem to be that serious from the outside.

However, his insides were quite a mess due to the consecutive attacks that he had just suffered, especially when both techniques were highly advanced and enhanced by top-notch Spiritual Force and Natural Force, respectively.

Butcher tried to control the foreign energies that were wreaking havoc within his body, doing his best to expel them as fast as possible.

But how could Shiella let him do whatever he pleased?

She quickly and courageously advanced, throwing a series of highly advanced Martial Arts from both sides of her family, not giving Butcher enough time or space to recover.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Shiella seamlessly linked the signature Martial Skills of the Springfield Family and the Levina Family.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

She alternated between the sets of ancestral skills while also shifting between the two Natural Forces that she controlled, bombarding Butcher without rest.

The explosiveness and destructiveness of the Flame Emperor Force bombarded Butcher with strong explosions, making him suffer serious burns, while the deadliness and freezing powers of the Ice Spirit Force greatly restrained his movements with stiffness and frostbite.

The alternating heat and coldness of the two forces greatly worsened Butcher's injuries, making him quite miserable.

He felt sick due to the continuous alternation of these two forces with opposing properties. It was as if he was alternatively suffering from hypothermia and hyperthermia at the same time.

His face shifted between going red due to the intense heat and being pale because of the intense coldness.

However, Shiella still failed to push Butcher to the limit despite all these.

This international criminal, who was also a Domain Realm Expert, was not that weak. He kept his calm despite the suppression of attacks from Shiella. This bombardment was far from being enough to defeat him.

Forcefully suppressing all the injuries and illnesses that he was suffering, Butcher took the initiative of letting Shiella land another clean hit on him before suddenly counterattacking.

Boom!

After enduring a powerful punch that Shiella had thrown at his chest, Butcher swung his fist at her, throwing a punch at her abdomen and sending her flying in the opposite direction.

Swoosh!

Shiella coughed up some blood, signifying the serious injury that she sustained during that exchange.

However, the expression on her face remained determined.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Activating her Void Manifestation Abilities, she summoned her Qi Armor that was made of ice, along with the glowing runes on the edges of her armor. It looked exquisite, which also made her more majestic alongside her heroic aura.

Immediately after, multicolored scales also appeared on the surface of her skin, particularly around her neck, which also spread all the way to her cheeks.

Her pupils contracted a little while her irises turned into vertical slits, and her blonde hair released a fiery glow and blazing embers while dancing alongside the wind.

These abilities were the well-known features of the two sides of her family, the Dragon Scales of the Springfield Family's Partial Dragonification and the Glacial Armor of the Levina Family's Secret Art.

Extending her arm to the side, she then conjured an icy spear with a pair of dragons coiling around its shaft and extending all the way to the segment connecting the blade of the spear and its body.

A multicolored flame danced around that segment, acting as a tassel of the spear.

Bang!

Right after her metamorphosis, Shiella swiftly resumed her offense, not willing to rest even for a second.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

During her flight, Shiella twirled the dragon spear to generate momentum before summoning her two Natural Forces to revolve around her.

The two energies then danced around her body before turning into two distinct flows, which later transformed into a pair of ice and fire dragons.

Roar! Roar!

Shiella then swung her spear multiple times, controlling the pair of dragons and sending them to attack Butcher, who was already regaining his footing.

'Song of the Ice and Fire: Dance of the Twin Dragons'

Swoosh! Swoosh!

"Hmph!" Butcher scoffed after seeing the pair of dragons heading his way before raising his butcher knife and swinging it before him multiple times, sending a series of flashes to meet the incoming attack.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of explosions erupted right after the two sides collided, producing an intense storm that chaotically spread in every direction.

Bu!

Shiella bravely charged through the cloud of smoke that the explosion had created, creating a huge hole in it during her descent.

Roar!

The pair of ice and fire dragons still accompanied her during her charge, heading straight to Butcher, who had already expected her move and was patiently waiting for her.

With the huge butcher knife in hand, Butcher threw a series of slashes in the air, sending a storm of sharp flashes toward Shiella.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

These sharp flashes moved along with a strange trajectory, covering a large area. They then spun and intertwined with one another, forming a huge net that encompassed all the possible paths that Shiella was supposed to take.

Under such a domineering attack, Shiella remained unfazed and continued controlling the pair of dragons around her.

Roar! Roar!

They revolved swirlingly around her spear before focusing on its tip. A spear of energy gathered at the tip of her spear before firing a beam of light that blasted a huge hole through the net in front of her.

Boom!

Flying through the gap that she just created, Shiella continued rushing toward Butcher while dragging her spear and controlling the pair of dragons behind her.

Seeing this scene, Butcher could not help but frown deeply before mumbling. "I guess these brats will continue to threaten me as a paper tiger if I don't reveal my fangs, huh?"

After that, a murderous light suddenly flashed through his eyes while staring at Shiella.

The Domain that he just summoned seemed to have also responded to his will. They obeyed his command and moved according to his thoughts.

Boom!

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Bang! Bang! Bang!

Shiella continued with her offense, not daring to slow the pace. She knew that she had to keep up with this intensity, not giving Butcher any opportunity to recover from his current injuries. It was even better if she could worsen his condition, making it much easier for her.

Unfortunately, not everything would go according to plan.

Who was Butcher? He was a notorious criminal feared throughout the world. His martial arts might not be on the same level as Nathan and the others, but his overall abilities were not that worse either.

His expertise was not Qi practice or Martial Arts Prowess, unlike Nathan, who was widely known for his Martial Arts.

Nathan's Martial Arts had also greatly influenced his Domain Abilities, which made him famous throughout the world.

His Domain Abilities might not be as strong, but his physical prowess was among the best in the world. He was the same as Thousand Beast Joaquin Giovanni, who was a physical practitioner and a body refiner, and among the very best at that.

There was a saying in ancient times about Body Refiners – Sword Practitioners possessed the strongest attacks, and Qi Cultivators were said to have a variety of means when fighting, while Body Refiners were known for their overwhelming physique and destructive power.

Even during the era of Cultivators, Body Refiners were among the most notorious group, whom people were unwilling to provoke, particularly when they were at the same level of cultivation.

The attacks of a Cultivator might not be able to harm a strong Body Refiner due to their powerful physique, but a Body Refiner could easily kill a Cultivator with a single strike once they get near them.

This situation remained true even in the current era. A Martial Artist with a powerful physique was still favored when fighting against a regular Martial Artist and a Mentalist.

Unless the Mentalist was someone who practiced both in Combat and Psychic Mentalism, fighting a Body Refiner Martial Artist through normal means would always favor the latter.

Even the Sword Practitioners of the current era, despite their powerful offensive capabilities, were unwilling to clash with a Body Refiner Martial Artist head-on.

The earlier accident might have caused Butcher some trouble, especially with the internal inquiries that he had suffered from these two.

However, he was able to quickly stabilize his situation, particularly the troublesome energies that invaded his body from the two previous strikes that he had cleanly received.

After expelling all those foreign energies, suppressing his injuries became much easier. Curing them with his natural healing factor had also become much faster, which then led him to gradually regain his strength.

With all these under control, he was able to slowly pressure Shiella, making it difficult for her to fight.

However, Shiella did not back down, pouring her all into every attack she threw at him.

She might be inferior to him in terms of realm, Qi, and physical prowess, but that did not mean that she could not threaten him with her attacks.

The Martial Arts of the Springfield Family and the Levina Family were no joke, so she was still able to hold her ground throughout their exchanges, especially when she was taking the initiative to attack.

The physical capabilities of the Springfields were not to be underestimated either. After all, they were said to be descendants of a dragon, so their physique should not be any weaker than most of the Body Refiners.

Unless it was someone who truly majored in this path and pursued its pinnacle, Springfield should not lose in terms of physical strength.

With the combined strength of the Dragon Scale and Ice Armor, Shiella's battle capabilities were promoted to a whole other level.

It was still a bit inferior compared to David, who had the assistance of an overwhelming amount of Divinity Grade Mental Energy and a complete version of Secret Art from the Solomon Kingdom that elevated his overall battle capabilities to match the strength of a Venerable Realm Mentalist.

But the combination of these two techniques was still more than enough to at least match the strength of a regular Domain Realm Expert.

Unless she fully mastered the complete version of these two special abilities or combined them completely, she was still a bit short of matching the special state that David had earlier.

It was a pity that she was still far from achieving this goal. Even if she had created a few Martial Movements based on the insights that she had gotten from Professor Plum's Yin-Yang Arts and Uno's Yin-Yang Cultivation Arts, she was still far from creating a unique Martial Art that could fully complement all her abilities, and she could call solely her own.

At this moment, she could only rely on shifting between the Martial Arts of the Springfield and Levina Families while also throwing a few original moves of her own in the mix.

Unfortunately, however strong her current martial prowess, it was still a notch lower than her opponent's.

The overwhelming difference between their strength was still there. It was a huge wall that she had to overcome if she wanted to escape their current predicament.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Shiella tried her best with her clashes against Butcher, giving her all in every exchange. But just like how David repeatedly suffered a series of drawbacks and rebound effects during his clashes against Butcher earlier, she was repeatedly forced to retreat every time she exchanged blows with the latter.

She was suffering serious internal injuries in every exchange.

However, she remained resolute, keeping her heroic aura while continuing forward. She was fearlessly advancing despite the overwhelming difference.

Butcher, who was also throwing powerful attacks at Shiella, could not help but acknowledge this young princess of the Springfield Family. He had to admit that she truly lived up to her reputation as the Junior Dragoness of the Soaring Continent.

"As expected from someone of the Springfield Family," he commented before adding. "Unfortunately, that's all into it."

Shing!

He swung his butcher knife wide, branching it at Shiella, who was charging at him once again.

Boom!

This time, the spear that Shiella was holding shattered completely right after the collision. She was sent flying a dozen meters away after the impact.

Bang!

Swoosh!

Butcher also did not give any time to recover, charging straight at her immediately after. This battle had already lasted for quite a while now, so he had to end it as soon as possible.

Those exchanges might feel like a long time, but they were only fighting for a minute or so. The two had given their all just to buy enough time for their reinforcements to arrive.

Starting from his exchanges against David, Butcher was only fighting Shiella for almost a minute and a half, which was a bit far from the three-minute estimate that Shiella had for their reinforcements.

They were quite close to reaching their goal, but it was still far from enough.

Swoosh!

Butcher arrived right before Shiella, instantly catching up to her. He then raised his butcher knife and was about to swing it down when he spoke. "This is the end."

Shing!

However, before that huge knife could even fall, the surroundings were suddenly illuminated by a blinding light that was coming from the ground.

Butcher immediately recognized those familiar patterns on the ground. After all, it was the same grand array that David had summoned earlier.

Butcher was once again standing at the center of the array, where the strongest suppression was present.

Glancing at the distance, he saw David, who had just crawled out of the pile of rubble, staring at him.

The young mentalist looked like a mess, especially when there was blood dripping down from his head all the way to his chin. His clothes were unkept and in tatters, signifying his miserable state.

At the same time, one of his arms was hanging powerlessly down, fully indicating that it was broken quite seriously.

However, despite his miserable appearance, David kept a smile while looking at Butcher. His 'Divine Avatar' State was still fully active, which helped him recast the grand array.

He raised his hand and made a seal with it before pointing at Butcher.

Clank! Clank! Clank! Clank!

Immediately after, golden chains appeared in the air and sprouted out from the ground before swiftly wrapping themselves around Butcher.

They tightly wrapped themselves around the latter's limbs and torso and pulled hard, restraining his movements.

This was the opening that David was talking about earlier. It was the opportunity that he was giving her to deal serious damage to this powerful opponent.

Shiella fully understood this well and swiftly reacted, seizing the opening. She forcefully suppressed all the injuries that she had suffered, conjuring yet another spear and summoning the twin dragons around her.

She then kicked the ground, propelling herself and lunging forward alongside her spear.

Roar! Roar!

The two dragons grabbed onto Butcher with their mouths, preventing him from breaking free from those chains.

Butcher could not help but frown deeply, realizing his current predicament. He summoned all his strength to break free from all these restraints, fully understanding the danger that he was in.

Unfortunately, a second was more than enough for an expert to decide the battle.

Both Shiella and David had turned the tide against him at the most crucial moment.

Swoosh!

Shiella then thrust her spear forward, accurately hitting the same spot where she and David had landed their attacks earlier.

No matter how powerful the physique that Butcher possessed, receiving such an attack from a Void Manifestation Stage Expert was still fatal for him.

Moreover, Shiella was not your regular Void Manifestation Stage Expert. The current enchantments that she had on her body were more than enough to match those of the experts at the early phase or middle phase of the Domain Realm.

Puchi!

The cold spear plunged into his ribs, triggering the injuries that he had just suppressed and was starting to recover from.

"Argh!" Butcher could help but grunt in pain, especially when Shiella twisted the spear to further worsen those injuries and widen the wound.

Shiella was not done yet as she quickly channeled her remaining Interna Qi into the spear, planning to detonate it.

Butcher quickly sensed the danger and did his best to escape this predicament. Unfortunately, it was already too late since the spear was already in the midst of exploding.

Boom!

The explosion immediately followed.

Swoosh!

Shiella was even sent flying after getting hit by it. She had already lost her strength after pouring everything into this final attack. She could no longer escape from the range of the explosion.

Seeing this, David urged his body to move.

Bang!

With the final bits of strength that he had left, he rushed at Shiella. He intercepted her mid-flight, using his body as a cushion before gently pushing her away right before they collided on the huge boulder behind them.

BOOM!

David hit his back and head upon impact before fully losing his consciousness.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

His body slid down before being buried by the piles of rubble.

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Chapter 1945: The Young Ghosts of the Valentine Family (Part 1)

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In the meantime, when the battle between Butcher and the duo of Shiella and David was currently underway, another intense battle was taking place on another part of the battlefield.

Spellbreaker was among the main forces that the Black Serpent Mafia had found to deal with certain operations aside from the agents that they had trained.

People like him and Butcher, who were notorious criminals, naturally had a lot of enemies and dozens of forces gunning for their heads.

It was not strange for them to seek shelter under powerful organizations that meet their standards. Their relationship with these organizations would either become a contracted one, as if they were mercenaries, or become a real part of the said organization.

Butcher and the likes were working with the Black Serpent Mafia for two main reasons. One was about their personal agendas, while the other was because they were too scared of the mysterious head behind the organization.

Some of them were forcefully captured, while the others took the initiative to submit to 'them'. Some had been in a worse state, particularly the ones who had turned into mindless puppets, and those became a vessel.

Spellbreaker, Butcher, Coffin Maker were among the most fortunate ones since they chose to submit willingly.

Among people like them, there were also those with specific specialties who had been especially targeted by the Black Serpent Mafia, coveting their respective talents.

Coffin Maker was known for his expertise in espionage and trickery, while Butcher was infamous for his battle physique and combat strength.

Spellbreaker, on the other hand, was notoriously known for his killing methods and assassination techniques. He was quite a rare Mentalist, who majored in assassination.

He was also well-known for abduction and similar criminal records.

His techniques mostly focused on killing his opponents through illusions and other secretive methods.

His name was also quite synonymous with the Butcher's due to a lot of similarities that they had, particularly with their 'achievements'.

Butcher had made his name known for slaughtering famous clans and plundering their treasures and martial arts.

Spellbreaker, on the other hand, had made his name resound throughout the world due to the mass genocide that he had committed in the Lost Soul Continent.

This incident had alarmed the whole world greatly, making him one of the most dangerous wanted criminals throughout the world.

He was also quite feared within the circle, especially when most people who died under his spells suffered miserably. He had a habit of torturing his victims, which made his name quite notorious even within this field of expertise.

His Mentalism Techniques were also quite well-known to all the Mentalists around the world, particularly his Illusion Techniques, which were said to be impossible to break free from once someone was caught in them.

Even though it could be just an exaggeration, these Illusion Techniques were still said to be one of the strongest techniques of their type under the Exalted Realm.

It was also acknowledged by a lot of Mentalist Clans throughout the world, especially so when it became the 'Authority' that Spellbreaker wielded when he achieved the Venerable Realm.

However, no matter how powerful such a technique was, they were still bound to have a certain weakness.

His powerful Illusion Technique could fool all kinds of senses. Even the Spiritual Sense of a Mentalist, the Mind's Eye of a Martial Artist, the Sword Heart of a Swordsman, or any other type of special sense, all of them were useless under this 'Authority'.

Unless the target had had a much stronger will than him or they were more skilled in this area of experience, or someone capable of breaking through, escaping from him would mostly be impossible.

However, some people were immune to such illusions.

Among them were those who wield a powerful talent, the Clairvoyance, who were also known as Clairvoyants. These people were capable of seeing through the truths of the world and foreseeing the future.

There were also the Seers. They were mostly similar to Clairvoyants in several areas, but their main expertise was Divination rather than possessing a natural ability to see through the world.

Then there were those so-called Prophets and Oracles, who had the ability to receive prophecy from a higher entity or the will of heaven itself.

There were also the Sages, who carried endless wisdom and profound understanding of the world.

Aside from these people, there was also a certain group of individuals who were capable of breaking free from his influence through their will alone.

Among these people, one was standing right before him.

"A person with a Killing Star?" mumbled Spellbreaker while looking at Jeremiah with a solemn expression.

A Killing Star – a natural and perfect vessel for killers.

It was said to be one of the greatest blessings of heaven for those who were destined to walk the path of slaughter.

It could also be considered a curse since such people were destined to become a slaughtering demon once they fully awakened this talent.

There were a lot of descriptions about this 'blessing' or 'curse'.

Some even claimed that it was a Divine Body, perfect for Killers and Assassins.

What was a Divine Body? It was a perfect and the highest manifestation of a blessing from the heavens. They had a lot of forms and varieties.

It was said that when the talent that an individual had gained during their birth reached the highest level possible, it would then turn into a perfect vessel meant to pursue a certain path.

The Heavenly Martial Body, which was the perfect vessel for Martial Arts due to its great compatibility with all kinds of arts in the world, was among them.

There was also the Spiritual Embryo, which was a special physique that was naturally nurtured by Mental Energy.

Another example of this was Heavenly Demon Physique, which was a type of body that could devour and contain all kinds of energies of the world.

These were just a few of the said Divine Bodies and Special Physiques.

As for the Killing Star, it was quite a strange one, which could be or could not belong in this category.

The Killing Star was such an odd talent or physique that made a lot of people dizzy, especially when it had a variety of abilities that came alongside it.

A Berserk State was just one of these abilities. But the real reason why the people called it the perfect vessel for the Killers and Assassins was because of the ability to read the Killing Paths.

What about the Killing Paths? It was the general term for the ways to kill an individual.

A person who was said to be a wielder of a Killing Star could see these Killing Paths more clearly and was capable of executing different kinds of killing techniques more naturally than other people.

Those with more proficient mastery over these abilities could even use a more bizarre means to kill their targets, making it much harder for other people to predict their moments.

Aside from reading through these Killing Paths and using all kinds of Killing Techniques, a possessor of a Killing Star was also able to naturally sense the 'life' around them.

Since they were known to be natural killers, sensing 'life', which was also their main target, was one of their core abilities.

They were also capable of distinguishing the differences between all kinds of lives. Different beings and people had a unique life signature, so they were also able to differentiate between these targets.

Since Jeremiah, who was a possessor of a Killing Star, could read through these life signatures, he would not have trouble seeing through all kinds of illusions.

No matter how hard Spellbreaker tried to trap him in his illusions, everything would be useless.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Swoosh!

Fortunately, his other skills were not that bad either. Even though his core abilities were currently useless against a possessor of a Killing Star, his skills as a Venerable Realm Mentalist were still present.

Boom!

However, it still greatly weakened his strength, which was also affecting his combat prowess.

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Looking at Jeremiah, Spellbreaker could not help but frown quite deeply.

Just like how all things had their weakness, a Killing Star had one too. Moreover, this weakness was quite obvious and hard to overcome.

Once the possessor had activated their Killing Star, they would slowly lose their reason, which would eventually consume their sanity over a longer period of activation.

However, it was clear that Jeremiah, who was right in front of him, was not having any of it at all.

The great ferociousness that he possessed after activating the Berserk State, which was supposed to get worse with every passing second, seemed not to be worsening at all.

"Moreover, this brat seems to be getting stronger the more he fights due to the overlapping effects of the Killing Star," he mumbled with a slightly troubled expression. "The number of Killing Paths will only increase as the battle progresses. I have to finish this as soon as I can."

"But there is another problem that is troubling me aside from this one," he added while glancing at the darkness around him.

"The Valentines, the Kings of the Darkness," he mumbled while recalling his time in the Lost Soul Continent.

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Chapter 1946: The Young Ghosts of the Valentine Family (Part 2)

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The Valentine Family.

They were one of the ruling families of the Lost Soul Continent, which even the local government was unwilling to provoke.

In terms of prestige, they were equivalent to the Springfield and Stuart Family of the Soaring Continent, as well as the Potter Clan and the Green Family.

They possessed a lot of influence despite not showing much interest in the political struggle within the said continent.

In terms of might, they were one of the most feared families around the world due to their way of doing things.

They were an assassin family. However, unlike most of the assassin families, who had turned into cold-blooded murderers and bloodthirsty killers, this family refused to abandon their feelings and emotions and remain humane.

They possessed a bottom line despite their profession.

Moreover, they also became proficient in wielding those feelings and emotions as some sort of weapon that could greatly enhance their strength.

Most people were used to seeing assassins, who were capable of suppressing their emotions, or those who had lost their emotions.

It became much easier to recognize such people.

On the other hand, the assassins of the Valentine Family were capable of masking their real intentions through genuine smiles and unrestrained laughter, perfectly disguising an assassination by showing genuine emotions.

For experts around the world, the latter group of people was naturally harder to deal with.

Aside from this, the Valentine Family was also proficient in all kinds of assassination techniques, putting them at the peak of the said profession.

They also had a unique and natural talent for assassination, which could help them erase their presence to the point that they seemed to have disappeared out of existence.

It was because of this family that Spellbreaker did not dare to run wantonly in the Lost Soul Continent during his time there. Even though he had slaughtered an entire city on that continent, the area that he had chosen to conduct his activities was always far from the Valentine Family and avoided any area under their control.

He could afford to provoke any other powers in that continent and even fight the branch of World Government there, but he would never take the initiative to provoke those from the Valentine Family.

After all, being hunted down by their assassins was something that he could not afford to deal with at that time.

It would be a completely different experience this time since now they had the ability to at least fight against their top-class assassins and had the support of the Black Serpent Mafia.

However, he did not expect that he would meet one of his natural nemesis in this place when doing this important operation.

"A possessor of the Killing Star and the Young Prince of the Valentine Family, huh? This sure is going to be a bit trickier than we have expected," mumbled Spellbreaker.

Swoosh!

Jeremiah continued to advance fearlessly, not caring about the so-called difference in strength.

Seeing that this possessor of the Killing Star was charging straight at him once again, Spellbreaker swiftly responded.

He waved his hand, summoning a blockade of ramparts made of Mental Energy to obstruct the latter.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, his other hand was forming a series of hand seals to control the surrounding Mental Energy that he just summoned. He scattered this Mental Energy, forming unnoticeable threads that later formed a web-like net around him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Jeremiah charged through the Mental Energy ramparts, destroying them by either swinging his cursed axe or ramming through them with his body, which was currently donning a set of crimson armor made of Natural Force.

This armor was not formed through any ordinary Qi Armor technique of those at the Void Manifestation Stage. It was a variation that those killing machines from the Valentine Family, a Qi Armor made of Death Qi, which was a special type of energy that those with the assassin profession could build up through killing and combining it with their personal Internal Qi.

Adding that Jeremiah possessed the enchantments coming from the Killing Star alongside the special powers provided by the cursed artifact that he was wielding, his current battle prowess was sure beyond regular Void Manifestation Experts.

Boom!

Destroying the final rampart, Jeremiah arrived before Spellbreaker and brandished the axe in his hand immediately after.

Shing!

Spellbreaker calmly responded by raising his hand, facing his palm forward.

Swoosh!

An invisible wall immediately appeared to block the incoming attack.

Boom!

The wall of Mental Energy instantly collapsed in front of such a powerful attack, but it still served its purpose of killing the momentum that the axe had.

Immediately after, Spellbreaker thrust with his other hand, using it like a spear by coating his Spiritual Force over it.

Swoosh!

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Following his actions, the Mental Energy behind him moved as well, turning into Spiritual Force and taking the form of deadly tentacles.

They pointed forward before swiftly charging forward, attacking Jeremiah alongside the forward thrust that Spellbreaker threw.

Seeing the swift counterattack from the opposing side, Jeremiah became even more ferocious instead of backing out.

His eyes released a dangerous glint as he stared intensely at Spellbreaker while a series of thin lines appeared in the air from his perspective.

These lines were intertwined with one another while being connected to different parts of his opponent. Some were quite vague, while the others were glowing intensely with crimson light.

Jeremiah's pupils moved left and right at an unimaginable speed, reading through all these lines and trying to find the most optimal path that he could use to escape his current predicament or kill his opponent.

He then decided in an instant, choosing the path where he could achieve both outcomes.

He tightened his grip over the cursed artifact, making the muscles in his arm bulge and revealing his veins in the process.

He then forcefully changed the trajectory of his swing, leaving a trail of light behind.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

His arm seemed to have transformed into a series of blurs alongside his cursed axe, leaving a series of crimson flashes in front of him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A moment later, all the tentacles were cut by the cursed artifact and the crimson flashes that it left in the air.

Clang!

At the same time, the trajectory of the axe stopped right after hitting Spellbreaker's arm that was about to pierce through his chest.

Jeremiah was forced to take a couple of steps back due to the strong impact, while Spellbreaker stumbled back a little due to the rebound force from the exchange.

Even though his strength was not bad for a Mentalist, especially as someone from the Venerable Realm, his physical prowess was still behind that of a Martial Artist.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Heavy steps left a series of deep footprints on the ground while Jeremiah was dispersing all the residual force from the impact.

Spellbreaker recovered a bit faster due to the auxiliary techniques of a Mentalist. He was about to launch another attack when he sensed that the web he had laid earlier sensed something.

Someone had stepped into the invisible threads.

Without guessing who it was, Spellbreaker knew that Vincent had made his move.

Swoosh!

He was preparing for the upcoming ambush, planning to capture Vincent with his Illusion Technique. He was also planning to reinforce the illusion with his unique Authority, the 'Authority of Mirage', as a Venerable Realm Mentalist.

So long as he captured Vincent with it, he would have a much easier time dealing with Jeremiah.

After all, the most dangerous factor in battle was something that was hidden and untraceable.

He was confident that Vincent would not be able to escape from his grasp once the young assassin was caught with his Authority. Even the Assassin Heart that Vincent had cultivated would not be able to help him at that time.

Unfortunately, the expected ambush did not come. It was just a mere distraction to give Jeremiah enough time to recover his balance.

How could Vincent and Jeremiah not think about such a problem? They were from the Lost Soul Continent as well, so they naturally knew what Spellbreaker was capable of.

Since they had a possessor of Killing Star on their side, which was the bane of their opponent's abilities, they would have to use it to their advantage.

Vincent also did not have to actively launch an ambush since he understood that his threat was at its highest when he hid in the dark.

The real threat of an assassin was not its ability to launch an ambush. Instead, it was their unbreakable patience and perfect understanding of when to attack.

Patience and timing were the main weapons of a top-notch assassin.

Waiting, creating, and seizing the right opportunities to kill their target were the real expertise of assassins.

Realizing that he had fallen to the little tricks that these brats, Spellbreaker, could not help but feel a bit ashamed. Such a rookie mistake for a veteran like him.

Regardless, he was still able to quickly regain his composure and turned his attention back to Jeremiah, launching a series of techniques one after another, while also keeping a close eye on his surroundings.

Dealing with either one of them should be manageable if he were fighting them alone. Unfortunately, the two seemed to perfectly understand one another, creating a perfect opportunity that they could use to mess with his rhythm and overall control of the battlefield.

Jeremiah was also using more aggressive attacks that covered larger areas, destroying some of the invisible threads that he had scattered with his Mental Energy to create a net for Vincent.

Meanwhile, this young assassin was constantly drawing his attention by purposely stepping on these traps and threads, forcibly pulling a portion of his attention away from the main battlefield.

Vincent never truly launched an ambush since the start of the battle, but every move he took was dangerously deadly and perfectly timed.

Spellbreaker knew that if he let his guard down even for an instant, he would find a dagger plunging into his back or neck.

Any moment of carelessness would be fatal even for someone like him.

Such pressure was so impactful that Spellbreaker had to acknowledge this young assassin.

A combination of a Master Assassin, who mastered an Assassin Heart, and a Void Manifestation Expert, who possessed a Killing Star, was indeed troublesome to deal with.

"I guess I have to show more of my cards," he mumbled after glancing at the other side of the battlefield and sensing that the situation was getting worse with every passing second.

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Chapter 1947: The Young Ghosts of the Valentine Family (Part 3)

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Seeing that Jeremiah was charging at him once again, Spellbreaker had no choice but to confront him for another time.

But this time, he no longer chose to fight Jeremiah head-on and instead focused on his other Mentalism Techniques.

He was not a Combat Mentalist, who specialized in melee combat, so he naturally had a weaker physique compared to his opponent, who clearly had powerful body techniques.

He still majored in spells and mental techniques as a Psychic Mentalist. Even though he used a few melee techniques to cover most of his weaknesses, he was still far from being a Kaleidoscope Mentalist, who majored in both expertise.

Staring intently at Jeremiah, Spellbreaker snapped his fingers, summoning an array of spheres made of Mental Energy behind him.

With a slight gesture with his hand, he controlled and sent these energy spheres forward, bombarding Jeremiah from every direction.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Each sphere was packed with powerful energy that was enough to blast an entire house into smithereens. Adding the immense momentum that they generated through their insanely fast speed, getting hit by either of them would surely be disastrous.

However, regardless of the threat that they carried, Jeremiah still lunged forward and charged through them with full ferociousness.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

He either swung his arms and axe to directly destroy them and deflect their trajectory or used his insanely tough body to endure all the explosions along with his Qi Armor.

Boom!

Jeremiah ignored all the injuries that he was suffering from those explosions, especially when most of them were visibly healing at an insane rate. The Healing Factor that the Killing Star provided him had also reached an unimaginable level after he had broken through the Void Manifestation Stage.

Of course, the pain that he was suffering from each of those injuries was still present. They were so painful that they could make most people collapse just by feeling them.

However, for someone like Jeremiah, who had endured all the torturous training from the Valentine Family, something like this was far from breaking through his pain tolerance.

Heck! He had even experienced the feeling of losing his limbs before healing them, which was not even the worst form of training that he had suffered.

He had also experienced being burned alive when training his Healing Factor, which was much harder to endure.

All those inhumane training sessions were like living in hell, but all of it was worth it given the current situation.

Boom!

Jeremiah broke through the bombardment of the energy spheres, catching up to his target once again while dragging his cursed artifact behind.

Hu~!

Hot steam was coming out from his body while he was urging his heart to pump his blood even faster, giving him an unimaginable strength.

Boom!

This technique was something that he had learned from Joaquin Giovanni, who had seen his potential, especially after learning that he was a possessor of a Killing Star.

It was a technique that only a select few could learn, even from those in his warrior tribe. After all, training such a technique could kill an individual by bursting their heart.

This was also one of the rewards that Jeremiah had gotten after that special operation launched by the Magic Ace Academy and the Springfield Family to secure the Thunder Lord's inheritance and those Artificial Mutants.

Thump! Thump!

Jeremiah's eyes suddenly turned wide while his pupils contracted a little. The blood flowed more violently in response to the sudden acceleration of his heart's pumping.

His body also started to generate intense heat, causing his muscles to produce a mixture of steam and Internal Qi.

'Thousand Beast Method: Secret Art – Heart of the Thousand Beast'

BOOM!

The force that Jeremiah carried intensified alongside the adrenaline rush. He went crazy and attacked like a wild beast, swinging his cursed artifact with all his might.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Spellbreaker started frowning deeply after seeing all these. He first thought that Jeremiah was finally losing his mind. After all, using both the Killing Star and the cursed artifact together was no different from committing suicide.

Both could consume the mind of the wielder, transforming them into a killing machine who knew nothing but slaughter.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

However, Spellbreaker later realized that it was far from being the case. For some unknown reason, Jeremiah was still able to keep his mind intact despite the intense and prolonged usage of those two. It was as if he were in full control of everything.

"Does he fully control his Killing Star and make that cursed artifact acknowledge him as its master?" he mumbled in doubt.

But he later shook his head and denied it. "Impossible! Controlling the Killing Star will only grow more difficult the stronger the possessor becomes. Unless someone reached transcendence, fully controlling its power will always be impossible."

"As for that cursed artifact-..." he paused for a moment while looking at the crimson axe in Jeremiah's hands before continuing. "It seems to be an item especially designed for a possessor of a Killing Star, amplifying all their abilities."

"Where does he get it?" he asked while wearing a solemn look on his face.

Swoosh!

With another wave of his hand, the spheres around him expanded and stretched, taking an elongated form before transforming into spears.

With a slight gesture, all the spears pointed forward and started flying at Jeremiah at insane speed.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Sensing the immense threat that these spears possessed, Jeremiah did not dare to lower his guard. He further tightened his grip over the cursed weapon before channeling his Qi into it.

Zong~! Long~! Long~!

In response, the cursed artifact gave him intense feedback. It released a violent light, which was accompanied by a strong flow of energy that swiftly rushed toward his body.

This energy he assimilated with his Internal Qi, changed the nature of his Natural Force, which was reinforced by the Death Qi.

The Natural Force then became more violent and aggressive, resuming a monstrous meant for slaughter.

The energy that was coming from the cursed artifact was called a Slaughter Qi, which had a similar root to the Death Qi.

Both were Yin-Type Energy, which could be accumulated by killing or being surrounded by the dead. Then they would be fused with an individual's Internal Qi through special methods, transforming them into a specific Qi.

They fell into the same category but possessed different features. The Death Qi was silent but deadly, while the Slaughter Qi was violent and murderous.

The Death Qi smoothly assimilated with the Slaughter Qi before transforming into another form of Qi, which quickly fused with his unique method and swiftly transformed into a higher form of Natural Force.

'Natural Force (Hybrid Type): God Slayer Force'

Boom!

With the awakening of this powerful force, the aura that Jeremiah was emitting rose exponentially alongside the noticeable transformation of his Qi Armor.

He then swung his battle axe, leaving flashes of light in the air that annihilated all the incoming spears of light heading his direction.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

No matter how tricky the angle that they were coming from, all the spears were destroyed by the swing of his battle axe.

However, those spears of light had already served their purpose of stalling Jeremiah and pinning him in place.

Snap!

In the distance, Spellbreaker made a snap with his fingers, activating all the array points that he had set up since the start of the battle.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Pillars of light suddenly appeared from the ground one after another before shooting into the air. They linked with one another and formed a Mentalism Array that covered dozens of meters around him, capturing everything within.

Jeremiah immediately sensed a heavy force pressing on his body when the array appeared, trapping him in place.

At the same time, Vincent instantly realized the problem and swiftly retreated outside the range of the array. He knew that he would be in trouble once he was captured by the array as well.

Even though he could hide his presence, being caught by that array would pose a lot of problems for him, especially when he could sense that it was not an ordinary array.

This array seemed to have multiple purposes. They could trap any target within, weaken them, and even greatly restrict their movements. It seemed to be capable of finding all hidden entities within it as well.

With the heavy pressure pressing on him, Jeremiah further increased the flow of blood and energy within his veins and meridians, overloading them.

Boom!

Hot steam and violent energy were constantly being released by his body, signifying the powerful and raging power within him.

Boom!

With a powerful stomp, the ground shook and sank, throwing rock fragments in the air.

Swoosh!

A moment later, his figure suddenly disappeared. He also left a series of crackling trails behind while dragging the cursed artifact behind.

He then appeared before Spellbreaker in an instant, who seemed to be already expecting his sudden burst of power.

Snap!

With another snap of his fingers, his figure also turned into a series of blurs before splitting into multiple copies of himself.

They surrounded Jeremiah from all sides while simultaneously talking. "The Authority of Mirage is not just about Illusions."

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"The Authority of Mirage is more than just illusions."

These words reverberated throughout the battlefield after Spellbreaker, alongside his clones, spoke all at the same time right after surrounding Jeremiah.

Jeremiah tried to activate the special abilities of his Killing Star to sense the lifeforces around him, trying to look for the true body of his opponent.

However, what greeted him was completely different from what he had expected. No matter how hard he looked, all these clones seemed to be alive. They all seemed to be the true body of his opponent.

They all possessed an equal amount of lifeforce with one another, signifying that they were all 'alive'. They all seemed to be the real body of his opponent, who was also sharing the same soul.

From his perspective, Spellbreaker seemed to have torn his soul in pieces and let his clones host them, making all these mirages a real living being.

The Authority of Mirage was truly not just about illusions.

All these clones seemed to be the real thing rather than being mere illusions made of mental energy.

If the Martial Artists, who had reached the Domian Realm, achieved the pinnacle of integration with nature, then Mentalists at the Venerable Realm were all masters of bending the rules of nature.

The Domain Abilities of the Martial Artists on this level were the reflection of their will and martial arts that merged with nature.

The unification of the will, the martial arts, and all the energies within their body would produce an absolute territory where they could set up rules such as weakening and restraining their opponents while also amplifying and strengthening all their other innate abilities.

Meanwhile, the Venerable Realm Experts took a different approach when it came to reaching such a realm. Instead of pursuing the path of being an integral part of nature, Mentalists in this realm used their powerful mentality to control and bend the rules of nature around them.

This would then result in a manifestation of power that could command certain rules of reality, which then became the unique 'Authority' of all Venerable Realm Mentalists.

The Authority of Mirage that Spellbreaker controlled was using the power of illusions to affect reality. One of the most powerful abilities of this Authority was manifesting the images he had inside his head into the real world.

Naturally, such a powerful Authority had serious drawbacks as well. The stronger the image that he wanted to manifest, the more Mental Energy it consumed. Even his concentration would be burned during the process, putting a lot of burden on his mind, the longer he used these powers.

Normally, he could minimize the drawbacks of his Authority by trapping his opponents with illusions, greatly limiting his consumption in battle.

Unfortunately, his luck was not that good for meeting one of his natural banes in battle.

"You should give up!"

All the clones spoke at the same time while also releasing powerful spiritual currents in the air.

His words then seemed to have echoed in the air before invading Jeremiah's mind. They reverberated and shook his sea of consciousness, trying to influence his mentality.

“A mental attack?” Jeremiah frowned briefly before smirking. “Don’t you think that it is a foolish move against a possessor of a Killing Star!”

Roar!

Immediately after, Jeremiah released a deafening battle cry that shook the surroundings. This roar echoed through the air as well, colliding with the spiritual current that his opponent had released before canceling one another.

At the same time, an image of a ferocious statue suddenly appeared inside his head, cleansing his mind while also fighting against the foreign power that was trying to influence his mind.

Boom!

There seemed to be an even stronger collision inside his head when the two willpowers clashed against one another.

However, despite freeing himself from the control of the mental attack, Jeremiah was still put in another dangerous predicament.

Right after freeing himself, he immediately saw that all the clones of Spellbreaker simultaneously moved.

They all raised their hand and pointed at him, firing a barrage of beams from the tip of their index finger toward his direction.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Based on the threat level of each beam of light, Jeremiah could tell that none of them was just a mere illusion. All attacks were real and meant to kill him.

Realizing his predicament, Jeremiah swiftly responded.

Bang!

He stomped on the ground, sending more pieces of rock into the air, before releasing his Battle Spirit.

Roar!

A demonic figure appeared behind him, which carried the appearance of the demonic statue that they had found in the abandoned and ruined temple of a fallen Demon Sect.

(Reference Chapter 1341-1344)

After being acknowledged by the cursed artifact as its new master, Jeremiah had also integrated the lingering spirits from that temple with his Battle Spirit, transforming it into a whole new entity.

He had devoured all those spirits along with the powers that they had left behind as the previous possessors of the Killing Stars of their era.

The giant statue at that time seemed to be the strongest leader of the said sect, which also possessed a potent power and complete inheritance.

After integrating all those inheritances into his martial art, Jeremiah had created a whole new system that was currently being reflected in his Battle Spirit.

Roar!

The apparition of the demon behind him released a deafening and eerie roar that reverberated on the entire battlefield while mimicking every action Jeremiah made.

Boom!

An invisible aura swept through everything around him, transforming into a tidal wave that blocked all the beams of light for him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Spellbreaker could not help but frown even deeper after seeing the demonic apparition behind Jeremiah. He seemed to have realized something as well and wore an even more solemn expression.

“A Blood Demon!?” he mumbled grimly, realizing that the current situation was much more troublesome than he had expected.

He knew what a Blood Demon stood for. It was an absolute ruler of a demonic sect during the ancient era, which was also an overlord during that era.

A Blood Demon was also the ultimate manifestation that a possessor of the Killing Star could make. Anyone who possessed such a power was more than enough to dominate an entire era.

There was also a Blood Demon in the current era, which was the leader of the Blood Sect in the depths of the Forsaken Sea near the Dark Continent was such as an example.

If it were during the ancient era, then they would be one of the most notorious forces throughout the world, threatening to conquer everything under their reign.

If not for the suppression of the World Government and the presence of the Heavenly Demon, then the Blood Sect should be another enemy of humanity aside from the Voidwalkers and the ‘Remnants of the Past’.

Seeing the apparition behind Jeremiah, Spellbreaker knew that this young possessor of a Killing Star must have received an inheritance from an ancient Demon Sect. Moreover, it was not just an ordinary inheritance as well.

“No wonder he possesses such a powerful cursed artifact in his hand and did not lose his mind despite wielding it in battle alongside his Killing Star,” he mumbled before increasing the pace of the battle.

He no longer had the intention of entangling with them for much longer.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Boom!

A series of Mentalism Techniques were cast one after another, wanting to eliminate Jeremiah as soon as possible.

Roar!

Unfortunately, Jeremiah only became more ferocious as the battle progressed, attacking with a much stronger intensity and aggression.

This time, Jeremiah did not suppress the murderous intent that was influencing him. He seemed to be purposely letting Killing Star, the Cursed Artifact, and the Blood Demon Apparition influence his mind, and became a true Blood Slaughterer.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

“Crazy!” commented Spellbreaker after seeing all these. He thought that Jeremiah had fully lost his mind.

He tried to restrain Jeremiah with other techniques under his arsenal, such as summoning mentalism chains and such.

Since he could not influence the latter's mind nor trap him with illusions, he thought that other forms of sealing techniques should be effective.

Unfortunately, the effects of the cursed artifact and the demonic apparition were much stronger than he had expected.

Roar!

Realizing that none of them were effective, he had no choice but to spend more Mental Energy and create a much stronger Mirage to fight.

His clones were far from being enough to suppress this young demon, so a much stronger summons should be more effective.

Roar!

A gigantic beast then appeared, pouncing out of the mirage plane and manifesting into reality. It swiftly attacked Jeremiah, who was busy dealing with the clones.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Clank! Clank! Clank!

However, before it could even get near its target, black chains suddenly shot out from the ground and surrounded the mirage beast.

Roar!

Clank! Clank! Clank!

They pierced through the flesh of the beast and wrapped themselves on its limbs and body before dragging it down.

Bang!

Its massive body was forced to slam into the ground while the black chains tightened themselves, trying to crush its body.

Seeing this, Spellbreaker knew that Vincent was finally making his move.

What did it mean when an assassin moved? It meant that they finally found the perfect opportunity to strike their targets.

Spellbreaker could not help but shudder a little upon thinking about this. He was from the Lost Continent as well, so he was familiar with the fame of the Valentine Family.

Even though the other party was still young and currently a realm lower than him, a Master Assassin was still someone who could not be underestimated, particularly those from the Assassin Family with a long history and tradition.

His instincts were telling him that he was in immense danger, particularly when the air within the battlefield changed.

It felt that Death itself was personally paying him a visit to fetch him toward the underworld.

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Chapter 1949: The Young Ghosts of the Valentine Family (Part 5)

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Bang! Bang! Bang!

While Jeremiah was on a rampage, Spellbreaker kept on summoning more clones and mirage beasts to overwhelm him.

However, the battle prowess that Jeremiah was showcasing was already approaching the level of a real Domain Realm Expert if it were just about his physical capabilities alone. Even his destructive power and combat techniques were already reaching that level.

Aside from that, Vincent had also made his move. Aside from summoning those dark chains to restrain all the mirage beasts that Spellbreaker summoned, he was also repeatedly appearing and disappearing within the battlefield, taking down one clone after another.

Even though Vincent was within the Mentalism Array, Spellbreaker was still having a hard time locking him in place, much less trapping the opposing party with his illusions.

Vincent seemed to have already figured out how most of Spellbreaker's techniques worked after a period of observation.

Even though Spellbreaker had never succeeded in trapping Jeremiah with his illusions, he was still trying to throw a few attempts from time to time, testing the mind and willpower that the latter had.

He was trying to see if he could affect Jeremiah's mind and disturb his consciousness, attempting to create a distortion for the latter that the Killing Star and the Cursed Artifact could take to seize his body.

Fighting a mindless demon was much easier to deal with compared to a conscious monster before him.

Through close observation, Vincent managed to find the pattern in how Spellbreaker set up his illusion traps and such.

He found out that so long as he was able to dodge Spellbreaker's line of sight and didn't get caught by the latter's Spiritual Sense for more than two or three seconds, he would be fine.

So long as he was much faster than the Spiritual Sense of his opponent, he would not be able to get caught by those illusions.

It was quite simple based on how it sounded, but such a feat was much easier said than done.

Saying that he only had to move much faster than the Spiritual Sense of a Mentalist was not something that an ordinary individual could do, much less when the said Mentalist was someone at the Venerable Realm.

A Spiritual Sense was no different from a thought, so Spellbreaker only needed an instant to lock on a specific target once his Spiritual Sense caught on to them.

Trying to escape from it was close to impossible.

Vincent was doing his best to pursue the limits of speed. He was challenging the absolute limits just to outrun the instantaneous locking of his opponent's Spiritual Sense.

With his current speed, saying that even his shadows could not catch up to him was not an exaggeration.

He was indeed not leaving any shadows whenever he moved throughout the battlefield. Even the array that Spellbreaker had sent up could not catch him, despite his feet needing to touch the ground where the array was drawn.

Vincent did not even leave an afterimage whenever he was on the move. The clones would just shatter like broken glass and scatter in the air whenever he struck them. He would then disappear as if nothing had happened and proceed to his next target.

Seeing all these happen, Spellbreaker, who was on the receiving end of the combined forces of the two, could not help but feel some pressure.

He could not believe that he would be in such a situation when facing a pair of greenhorns of the younger generation, who had just broken through the Void Manifestation Realm.

Moreover, he was even losing to them at a steady pace.

Even though he could tell that Jeremiah was slowly reaching his limits, he still felt that he would be the one losing in the end, especially when Vincent started being active on the battlefield.

The assassination technique of this young assassin was truly scary, forcing him to constantly summon more clones and mirages on the battlefield.

Spellbreaker was also forced to constantly swap places with some of his clones during the process, purposely avoiding being discovered by Vincent.

He knew better than anyone how scary it was when an assassin from the Valentine Family had locked on their target.

"This brat sure is talented," Spellbreaker could not help but comment after seeing Vincent in action.

"Judging by his techniques, he seemed to have mastered two of the major paths of assassination under the Valentine Family, the Art of Sleath and the Pursuit of Speed," he mumbled, trying to study the techniques of the young assassin.

"I wonder if he has also mastered the other paths as well," he added.

There were multiple subdivisions when it came to everything, and the art of assassination was not an exception.

Aside from the Art of Stealth, which majored in hiding and erasing one's presence, and the Pursuit of Speed, which was challenging the limits of speed, there were still other subdivisions of assassination.

There were also the Poison Alchemy, which involved the study and use of poisons; the Art of Hidden Weapons, which focused on the creation and utilization of hidden weapons; the Art of Deception, which specialized in deceiving others through disguise and similar means; and many more.

The Valentine Family was said to have mastered multiple arts of assassination, which made them one of the most notorious families in the said field.

Based on what Spellbreaker was seeing, Vincient seemed to have mastered at least three types of assassination arts at the very least.

"No wonder he is one of the chosen Young Ghosts of the Lost Soul Continent," he commented before turning to Jeremiah. "And this one is worthy of his reputation as well."

Seeing the current situation, he fully understood that he was not in a good position at all.

BOOM!

That was when a massive explosion erupted on another part of the battlefield.

Turning his gaze, Spellbreaker saw Butcher receiving a serious injury from the final struggle of the pair from that side of the battle.

Moreover, that injury on Butcher's lower rib seemed to need immediate treatment, especially when the powers of Shiella's unique Natural Forces seemed to be invading his partner's system at an unimaginable speed.

Butcher did not even have the luxury to care about Shiella and David, who were currently in a terrible state.

Spellbreaker could not help but frown deeply when he saw that.

He was in the middle of dealing with a tricky situation when his partner seemed to have suffered a serious injury.

"This operation is a bust! We must retreat now," he mumbled, realizing their current position.

This thought had just crossed his mind when he suddenly felt something amiss. He swiftly swept his gaze in the surroundings, trying to find the source of the sudden unease that he was feeling while also preparing a counterattack to deal with it.

However, he failed to find the source even after a few seconds.

Then, a sudden thought flashed through his mind, making him move almost instantly.

Bang!

Swoosh!

He swiftly ditched Jeremiah, not caring about this little demon anymore. He just left his clones and Mirage Beast to deal with him while swiftly running toward Butcher, who was currently kneeling on the ground while also trying to suppress his worsening injuries.

During that brief pause, Spellbreaker had realized that the pressure coming from Vincent had sharply dropped. It was as if the young assassin had suddenly disappeared altogether.

Spellbreaker did need to guess what was about to happen next, especially given the nature of Valentine Family's teaching.

That young assassin would, without a doubt, shift his target to someone easier to kill.

"Butcher, watch out!" shouted Spellbreaker as he flew straight to his partner at breakneck speed.

Whoosh!

Butcher did not hesitate either after hearing those words. He swiftly urged the energy within his body, forgetting about the berserk foreign forces wreaking havoc within, and formed a Qi Armor to protect himself.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Dark chains suddenly appeared on the ground, wrapping themselves around Butcher.

Hiss! Hiss!

The Qi Armor that Butcher had barely formed started emitting smoke due to the corrosive substance coating the chains, trying to melt it in the process.

Butcher was able to immediately break free from those chains due to the timely reminder of his partner.

However, he could not he but become a bit confused since no follow-up attacks came immediately after, especially when it was such a perfect opportunity.

Spellbreaker noticed it as well, making him frown quite deeply.

It was at this moment that a sudden sense of dread enveloped Spellbreaker, making him realize something.

"It is a trap!"

He instantly realized that Vincent had most likely used that opportunity to lure him out of the array that he had sent up and reveal his true body.

"Sh*t!"

Spellbreaker tried his best to escape, but it was already a bit too late to realize the trap now.

Shing!

A deadly flash suddenly came out of nowhere and headed straight to his neck, threatening to take his head.

Swoosh!

However, his reaction was not that slow either. He swiftly leaned his head backward while also raising his arm, which was coated with his mental energy to block the incoming strike.

Shing!

Unfortunately, that little defense was far from being enough to stop the incoming attack.

A deep cut wounded his arm right after the bone dagger slashed through it.

Moreover, the wound immediately became hideously looking, indicating that an extremely potent poison was spreading through it and invading his body.

Puchi!

Spellbreaker did not even think twice and decisively cut his arm off from his shoulder, preventing the poison from spreading further and invading his system.

Seeing that even Spellbreaker was injured, Butcher instantly realized that this operation was already beyond salvation, so he immediately ordered their retreat.

They had already spent quite some time here, so the reinforcements of the opposing side should be coming at any moment now.

Adding that they were currently seriously injured, they were not in a position to fight any stronger opponents now.

They had no choice but to retreat, abandoning their initial plan.

"Retreat!"

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The two then ran away from this place as fast as they could, fearing that the experts of the Springfield Family and the Flying Dragon Corporation would catch up to them.

Vincent and Jeremiah did not try to pursue them, knowing they would not be able to fight those two together, despite their injuries.

Moreover, Shiella and David were seriously injured and needed immediate attention. The safety of the two was much more important than capturing those two criminals.

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Chapter 1950: Follow-Up Operation

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Right after the concert, Shin and the others immediately went to the prep room and started changing their clothes with combat gear meant for special operations.

They did not care about the success of the concert now, after hearing the sudden news right after they finished thanking the audience.

"What do you mean that Big Sis is injured and currently unconscious!?" asked Arthur with a heavy tone right after putting on his combat gear.

"They have been ambushed by Butcher and another world-class criminal after they learned that their entire operation is compromised. They have even brought some Voidwalkers to deal with her guards," replied Shin while tightening the strap of his twin swords around his waist.

"Don't worry. According to Senior Benedict, she is just unconscious and far from any danger," said Shin, trying to reassure Arthur and himself as well.

"Thanks to the timely arrival of David and the twin ghosts of the Valentine Family, they can prevent the worst-case scenario," Benedict suddenly chimed in while entering the room.

He then gave Shin an odd look after recalling what he heard from the reports. It seemed like this junior of his had predicted such a situation and asked David and the rest to head to Shiella's location instead of assisting any other battlefield.

Setting this thought aside for now, Benedict proceeded to another topic. "Let's forget about this for now and focus on what's on our plate."

"The battle between the World Government people and the agents of the Black Serpent Mafia outside the city has already ceased, but we still don't know the specifics since they just disappeared from our area of observation."

"Our scouts are currently trying to look for their traces as we speak."

"On the other hand, our people have already made some contact with the other side of the continent. The Green Family is also already on the move, so they are in an intense confrontation right now."

He then paused for a moment before proceeding. "For now, our current goal for now is to deal with the people that the Lufus Family has sent."

"We have to lessen the burden on forces so that they can focus more on their respective tasks."

"From our information, they seemed to have hired quite a few mercenary groups as well, while their main target is Shin and Cloe."

"These guys will most likely take advantage of the chaos to make their move, so we must be prepared for whatever comes our way."

"Given the current circumstances, we can't go back to the hotel, so we will be using the underground passage and head to the safehouses that we have prepared ahead of time."

"The Alpha and Beta Units will be going through the surface and creating a distraction while we move through the secret passages under the escort of the rest of the units."

Hearing the instructions, Shin could not help but frown a little before asking. "We have just finished the concert, so the people must be flooding throughout the city. The entire city must be extremely busy right now."

"This should be enough to discourage those guys from doing anything big within the city. The information has said that they are currently working under the World Government, so they can't do anything serious within the city."

"They can't do anything that can cause that much unrest within the city, given the current circumstances. They will be provoking the local government of the Sun-Moon Continent otherwise."

Hearing this, Benedict found it quite reasonable. "So, we should be using the surface then?"

Shin then shook his head and said. "No. We will do both."

He paused for a moment, trying to organize his plan before continuing. "Instead of using both the Alpha and Beta Units to cause a distraction for those guys, we should be doing something more 'productive' instead."

"Let one of the teams disguise themselves as us and let them blend in with the crowd or in the traffic outside. Then they will proceed to 'sneak' out of the city to head to our supposed next destination."

"If they can lure some of our enemies out, then it will be good. If not, then they can just be a distraction."

"Then the other team will be using the underground passage, using it while heading to one of our safehouses. They are also meant to lure our enemies and another form of distraction."

"As for us, the real team, we will be leaving through the underground passage as well. But we are not going to leave the city," he added.

"You want to stay within the vicinity to confirm something, which is also a perfect place to respond to any development later," said Cloe while entering the room. She seemed to understand what Shin was thinking.

"Using a dual bait strategy to lure the snakes out while we are hiding in the dark, huh?" mumbled Benedict while thinking to himself.

After a few moments of thinking, he suddenly nodded. "It is quite a good plan. I will rely on your thoughts to our superiors and tell them about your plan."

"For now, you guys should finish your preparations," he added before quickly leaving the room to report to Dayna and Elijah about Shin's plans.

The rest of the team, on the other hand, gathered around and discussed among themselves.

"We will most likely get into action later, so everyone must be fully prepared. Avoiding it will be impossible," said Shin, emphasizing the situation.

"Do you think those guys will really strike us? In the middle of the city?" asked Arthur with a slight frown.

"If we are only thinking about securing the package that the Black Serpent Mafia has in their hands, then I can say that those guys will not dare to deal with us, given the current situation," answered Shin.

"But given the enmity that we have with the Lufus Family, I am sure that they will risk everything just to get back at us, especially after Big Sis has practically forced those guys to hand their young master to her," he added.

"Moreover, they have hired some mercenary groups with them," Jillian, who had also finished gearing up, had chimed in on the discussion.

Leonard recalled their experience when they were attacked by those mercenaries when attempting to kidnap Cloe and assassinate Shin previously.

He then nodded solemnly and added. "That's right. Those guys know no bounds when doing the job. So long as they have been paid enough, they will do anything just to finish the task that they have been commissioned."

Shin nodded as well, especially when he was also greatly involved in that matter.

Alice, who was also somewhat involved in that incident, slightly furrowed her brows as well.

Cloe, on the other hand, felt something strange when she recalled everything, especially when her family was supposed to be quite close with the Lufus Family before all these happened.

With a sigh, she shook her head and forced herself to forget about those unpleasant memories and move on.

Arthur clapped his hands to attract everyone's attention before saying. "There's that, but we have other matters at hand, so we have to focus on the job and kick their *sses again!"

The others turned to him before giving him scornful looks. This guy truly liked to show off, trying to seize this opportunity to act cool.

In the meantime, somewhere within the city, there was a certain warehouse used for storing huge cargoes.

This warehouse was a private property that used to belong to the Lufus Family and their Weapon Arms Group when they were still operating in the Sun-Moon Continent.

It was quite a huge property and highly protected by very advanced security measures.

This place was supposed to be an abandoned warehouse, given that the Lufus Family had already pulled out all their operations from the continent.

However, the place seemed to be still in full operation despite the Lufus Family not being around. However, instead of the usual weapons and firearms that the family used to store in this place, the warehouse seemed to be filled with different products.

Within this warehouse, there was a hidden room where a group of people was currently hiding.

There was a man who was currently wearing a police uniform, answering a call from his advanced watch.

He listened to the instructions of the party from the other side of the line before acknowledging everything. "I understand, Boss. We are heading there as soon as possible."

Beep!

After ending the call, this man walked toward his colleagues, who were currently in different kinds of outfits that did not seem to fit as a group.

Some of them were in police uniforms, others were wearing military ones, a few dressed like traffic enforcers, while the rest were in civilian clothing.

He gave them a series of instructions before walking toward a certain person, who was currently sitting on a corner isolated from the rest of the group.

This person noticeably had a very savage and deadly air surrounding him. The atmosphere around him seemed to be very suffocating due to his presence.

One of this person's arms seemed to be an implant. It was a mechanical arm that was commonly used by the disabled soldiers from the military forces of the Sun-Moon Continent.

Based on the features of this mechanical arm, it seemed to be one of the most advanced versions of the implants available to the military forces.

This person seemed to be playing with a huge military knife, pitching its blade and grinding it with his metal fingers.

"Mad Dog, we are moving now," called the person in a police uniform before adding. "We have already lost the package, so we are changing targets now. We will be dealing with the kids."

A dangerous glint flashed in the other person's eye when he heard the update of their assignment.

He then started grinning savagely before nodding his head.

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