

## Destiny 2011

### Chapter 2011: Making the Undercurrents (Part 2)

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"You want to form an alliance with us?" Jean Campus smirked after hearing the suggestion.

He started at Diel Hendrickson for a while before asking. "I am curious. Is this your own decision? Or is it an order from the organization behind you?"

Diel Hendrickson stared at the other party in silence, not answering directly and seemingly trying to figure out what Jean was thinking.

The silence lingered in the air for a while with neither side saying anything.

The two sides had a staredown, which lasted for a few minutes. There seemed to be an incredible pressure filling the air and pressing on everyone due to their clashing presence.

After a while, Diel finally opened his mouth and spoke. "We both know that the waves are surging all around the world."

"Now that the unrest has somewhat calmed down due to that big incident, the next battlefield will surely be the virtual world, more specifically within «Destiny's Fate» Online."

"We both have our respective missions for coming to this country and infiltrating the Magic Ace Academy, but I know that you must have noticed that the two of us are being watched closely after the big incidents that the Shadow Alliance, Hextech Laboratory and Black Serpent Mafia have caused during their respective operations."

"We both can't make moves as freely as before. You should know what I am trying to say," he added.

Jean naturally knew what this guy was talking about. In truth, he was also having some problems due to the very reason that the other party was talking about.

He was having some trouble when executing the tasks that his master had left to him, along with the other matters that he was supposed to do.

Putting all these into consideration, Jean responded. "I'm on ears."

Diel clicked his tongue when he heard this, knowing that Jean was trying to see what the cards were that he had in his hands.

After cursing the latter inside, he started laying out his cards one by one, telling the other party about all the proposals that he had prepared for this meeting.

Jean listened calmly without making any changes in his expression, skillfully hiding his thoughts. He remained indifferent the entire time, making it hard for the other party to know what he was thinking.

Diel could only curse a bit more inside, knowing that he was not in the upper hand in this deal.

He knew that he could not provide that much for Jean and his group, knowing that the other party's identity was still a mystery for the top forces throughout the world.

Even the organisation behind Diel was not clear about the true background of this guy.

On the other hand, Diel was in a bit more difficult situation since Nathan was somewhat aware that he belonged to a certain underground organisation. But since he was not doing anything big and keeping a low profile since that incident on the Prison Island during their 'entrance exam'.

Fortunately, he was just under suspicion, so his surveillance was not that tight. So long as he did not do anything too suspicious and dealt a certain damage to any force within the country, anything else was still quite tolerable.

However, he still could not do anything big for the organisation at this moment, which frustrated him quite a little.

This was the reason why he wanted to pull Jean Camus into his ploy, which could benefit both sides.

All they needed to do was attract the attention of the top forces watching them whenever one side was planning to do something for their missions.

Jean listened for quite a while, gaining a general understanding of how Diel wanted to cooperate with him.

He waited until the opposing side finished before making his counterproposal. After all, he could not just let the other party gain an upper hand on everything. He still needed to do something that would greatly help his side as well.

He had yet to hear anything from his master since the big incident caused by the Black Serpent Mafia, but the elders within their organisation reassured him that it was not something that he needed to worry about.

Given that those elders were looking at his master as some sort of god, Jean trusted their words, especially when he himself had experienced how powerful the true powers of his master were.

However, there were still quite a few exemptions that could pose a great threat to his master under the pinnacle of the three major paths.

The discussion about this lasted for quite a while until both sides were satisfied.

"Alright. That should wrap everything for the real world," said Jean after finalising everything before proceeding to another topic. "Now, let me hear about your proposal with the in-game matters."

"I am quite curious how you figure out our identity," he added while squinting his eyes.

"That is not that important, isn't it? After all, you have also figured out my in-game persona as well," countered Diel with a mystifying smile.

"Let's discuss the main businesses that we will be cooperating with," he added.

Jean squinted his eyes further, suspicious of the opposing party, but did not press that much further since his background was equally unusual. "Let's hear it out then."

Diel smirked as he continued. This time, he was more confident since his organisation within the game had more freedom within the game compared to the real world.

"I know that your organisation is preparing to send our main forces to the two dimensions of Hell Realms, namely the Bug Realm, Infernal Realm, and Nether Realm."

"Unfortunately, your organisation only have access to the Bug Realm due to the Demon Gate that you guys have summoned. You even have the monopoly on this entrance due to your achievements within the Evil Faction."

"Once the update fully descends, I am pretty sure that you guys will immediately make your move. Taking advantage of the war in the Aurora Continent to sneak a portion of your main forces to the Bug Realm. It is pretty clever, I must say," he added.

Jean squinted his eyes, seemingly trying to scrutinise the latter with his gaze. However, he skillfully hid some of the emotion behind his intimidating gaze. 'They are still unaware of our connection with the Demon Kings.'

"So, you want me to bring your people along for the early access to the Bug Realm?" he asked.

Diel slightly nodded before continuing. "I do have some people mixed in the Evil Faction that I want to send there as well. If you can bring them along, then I will highly appreciate it."

"However, they are not my main purpose for this collaboration," he paused for a moment, trying to read the expression of the latter before continuing. "I want some quest items from you. I'm sure that you know what it is, given that you are aware of our movements within the game as well."

Jean slightly raised his brows before asking. "Those books? It seems like you have found a way to use them."

Hearing this, Diel could not help but smile and said. "I know that you have them in your vault. I want them. I want all of them if possible."

Jean smirked when he heard that and scoffed. "Do you think that I am a fool? I am quite interested in them as well. Don't think that you can swallow everything on your own."

"How about exchanging the Chapters that we have from each other?" suggested Diel before continuing. "You can keep the volumes of your choosing, while I will keep mine."

"Exchanging Chapters and keeping the volumes of our liking, huh?" mumbled Jean at first before smiling mysteriously. "What if we happen to have the same interest in the same volumes?"

"Whoever has more Chapters or more complete volumes, the entire book will be theirs," answered Diel almost instantly.

"What if we just make a gamble and complete with those books as the price?" suggested Jean grinningly.

"I am not a fool. I know that our organisation is far from matching yours," answered Diel before adding meaningfully. "We don't have as many monstrous individuals as yours."

"Heh!" Jean smirked after hearing that before continuing the discussion. "Unfortunately, I can't see that I will benefit much with this transaction. Unless you show us your sincerity, then I can promise you anything."

Diel started smiling mysteriously at this point before continuing. "How about I say that we do have some clues about the Infernal and Nether Realms as well?"

"You will not be disappointed in this one since I am confident that we have more progress in this area compared to yours," he added before shaking his head. "Unfortunately, our focus is not about developing much in Evil Faction, unlike your organisation. We prefer having a balance of both."

Jean could not help but raise his brows when he heard this. It was quite unexpected that there was someone who had more process than they did when it came to exploring the Evil Faction.

After all, their organisation was centred around the Demonic Churches themselves. They were more familiar with the Demon Kings and their respective Hell Realms compared to the others.

It was quite a surprise that someone was ahead of them in this area.

However, given that Diel sounded very confident in this, Jean could not help but become a bit more interested. "Alright. Now, you successfully piqued my interest."

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## Chapter 2012: Descent of the Thousand Worlds

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It was finally the day that the game servers would be up once again. It was also the time for all the players to return to this virtual world.

Countless players were already lying inside their gaming cabins, wearing their respective virtual helmets, and excitedly and impatiently waiting for the servers to become available.

Watching the countdown before them slowly reached zero, all the players steadied their minds and heightened their focus to the highest level.

They had been away from the game for a while now, so they were currently in a state of 'hunger' at this moment. Their excitement and battle intentions were at the highest level right now, which was about to erupt at any moment.

\*Ding\*

When the notification sound rang in their ears, everyone immediately logged into the game almost at the same time.

"Initiate Login! Destiny's Fate Online!"

Swoosh!

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When everyone logged in, everyone was thrown into confusion after realizing that they were not sent back into the game like they all were expecting.

Instead, they were thrown into the middle of darkness, which seemed to be similar to when they were inside their respective white rooms.

While they were still in the middle of their confusion, their surroundings suddenly lit up and showed them a series of scenes.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

It did not take that long for everyone to realize what was happening. They were thrown in the middle of the cinematics prepared by the World Gaming Organization for the current update, the Decent of the Thousand Worlds.

They had done a similar thing with the previous major update as well, during the patch of the World Mythopoesis.

However, that cinematic was not as big as this one.

This further proved that the current update was a huge turning point in the game.

After recovering from their initial shock and surprise, they all focused on the cinematics, knowing that most of the upcoming continents of the current update would most likely center on them.

The first few scenes were all about the different realms that the players needed to find.

It started from the outer realms and other dimensions, such as the Elemental and Spirit Realms, where the players from the Righteous Faction could find and form a contract with Elemental Spirits.

It was also a place where they could help those contracted with them to improve and evolve.

The players saw a series of beautiful places, where different Elementals live.

The forest realms were the most common ones, which were the home of Wind and Wood Elementals. There were also realms of fire and volcanoes where the Fire Elementals lived. Then there was the realm of a vast and boundless ocean with a variety of Water Elementals dwelt. This was followed by realms of endless barren lands where Earth and Metal Elementals resided.

These five elemental realms were the most common ones since there were still the other elemental realms meant for special elementals such as the Void, Light, Darkness, Storm, and such.

The scenes shifted between these realms until a gigantic world was revealed to everyone, which was also the biggest realm where the strongest and different variety of Elementals existed in harmony.

This was the biggest elemental realm, which was also where the Elemental Kings and Elemental Monarch ruled, and Elemental Supremes reigned supreme.

The players also saw from this realm that the said Elemental Spirits had different forms, such as Humanoid ones, Elemental Beasts, Elemental Dragons, and others.



The players of the Righteous Factions could not help but become excited after seeing how powerful the said Elementals were. They could not wait to unlock these realms and form a contract with such powerful beings.

Swoosh!

Not long after, the scene before them suddenly changed and revealed whole different realms.

This time, the realms that were shown to them were filled with different exotic beasts and a variety of powerful monsters.

Some were huge and powerful land creatures, others were gigantic flying beasts soaring through the boundless sky, while the rest were the enigmatic and monstrous beings hiding in the depths of the ocean abyss.

These realms were the places where they could find and capture a variety of mounts and pets, which could aid them in different situations, such as explorations through land, air, and water.

The scenes for these realms were not as dramatic as the ones with the Elemental Beings, but they were still equally stunning, especially when some of the monstrous and exotic beasts showcased before them were so powerful that the top experts of the game recognized them as the World Bosses within the game.

Shin, who had seen these monsters, had also gotten a clue about one of his quests after seeing these beast realms. He now knew where he could find the world bosses that he needed to take down to gather all the materials meant for his Divine Armor.

It was the same for Leonard, who had a similar quest and had also discovered the same time. From this cinematic alone, he had spotted the three monstrous beings that he had to hunt for his Divine Armor, which were the Behemoth, Leviathan, and Ski.

Right after the Realm of Beasts, the realms meant for the Evil Faction players came next.

The players all saw the three Hell Realms, where the Demons resided.

The Infernal Realm was like a world of fire and volcanoes. But unlike the ones that were revealed for the Elemental Realms that were filled with pure and natural energies of the world, this particular Hell Realm was dominated by tainted and corrupted mana.

Demonic Auras lingered in the air while the infernal demons roamed free throughout the realm.

There were constant battles everywhere as these battle-hungry monsters and demons repeatedly clashed against one another.

Chaos was everywhere.

There were even people within the pools of lava, seemingly being burned alive continuously to repent for their sins.

Some of them became infernal demons while the others remained in the blazing pool, unable to leave it.

At the end, a gigantic figure of an absolute being was revealed. It cast a huge shadow in the entire Infernal Realm, almost covering the entire world.

Everyone could only catch a glimpse of its silhouette, which was covered with the raging demonic flames.

It was a colossal being with the head of a lion, but it had a torso and arms of a human. Its lower body, on the other hand, seemed to be from a lion as well.

It was holding a gigantic, blazing sword, which rivaled its already colossal body.

Roar!

With a horrifying and deafening roar, the entire world was suddenly engulfed in fire, blinding everyone's vision.

Swoosh!

Not long after, everyone found themselves within eternal darkness once again.

However, dim lights appeared all around them one after another, somewhat lighting the surroundings.

Dong! Dong! Dong!

Clank! Clank!

Not long after, the players heard a series of metallic sounds repeatedly clanking against a hard surface alongside a series of terrifying footsteps that shook their hearts.

One after another, the players saw a long queue of zombie-like figures walking toward the horizon.

Raising their heads, the players also discovered that they were now within another realm, which was filled with ice and glaciers. There were also frozen mountains where the players witnessed a horrifying scene.

Within the walls of these frozen mountains, countless people were sealed in ice for eternity. They were unable to move, much less leave the place.

The cold winds breezing through the valleys and gullies between these mountains resembled the eerie cries of agony of these people, who were suffering in ice forever.

There was also a portion of this realm that looked like a boundless ocean where aquatic demonic monsters dwell.

Within the deepest depths of this icy ocean, a huge beast suddenly opened its gigantic eyes, almost scaring everyone immersed in the cinematic.

They then saw a huge 'mountain' suddenly moved within the depths of the abyss and slowly revealed itself.

This colossal shadow rivaled the size of the monstrous being that was previously shown at the end of the Infernal Realm cinematic.

The players then saw a huge whale-like monster opening its humongous mouth that seemed to be capable of swallowing the entire world.

Wail~!

Swoosh!

Right after being 'devoured' by that monster, the players were 'transported' to another dimension.

This time, they were in the middle of a barren world filled with sticky goo and blackened land.

Flies and a variety of eerie insects flew everywhere, and feasted on the corpses of unknown beasts, which had already become a home of horrifying parasites with overgrown sizes.

Not long after, the players saw a few more bugs of different varieties, such as demonic ants, centipedes, spiders, mantises, bees, and such.

Shin even saw a huge centipede, which resembled the Grand Centipedeus that he fought alongside Leonard and Diablo before.

However, this one was much larger and more horrifying than that one. It was a fully grown one, which was obviously more powerful than it as well.

There were also Broodmothers of different insects, which were constantly hatching younglings of their respective tribe.

Without a doubt, this world was the Bug Realm, which was the home of the Bug Tribe Demons and the ones that were trying to invade the Atlas World presently.

Zong~! Long~! Long~!

Not long after, the players witnessed an image of another colossus that could rival the previous two that they had seen from the other two realms.

This time, its figure was much clearer for everyone to see.

It was a giant insect that seemed to be a hybrid between a fly and a mosquito with a few humanoid features in the mix.

It resembled a huge mountain flying in the air due to its size.

Its appearance was disgusting and horrifying. It was as if it were the carrier of an endless and incurable plague.

This colossal monster was overseeing everyone from the Bug Tribe as if it were their sole monarch. They even worship it like a god.

Not long after, the players saw that the camera angle changed and saw a massive dimensional gate in the distance.

The army of bug demons was marching toward it like an army about to launch a war.

However, not everyone could enter the gate due to their size and power. This gate was somewhat unstable, making it only accessible to the much weaker bug demons.

It seemed like it would be a while before the dimensional gate could even stabilize itself and let the slightly stronger bug demons step on it.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, the vision of everyone suddenly zoomed straight to the gate, letting everyone see the endless bug demons slowly pouring inside it and leading them to the other side of the gate.

Whoosh!

Not long after, they had been brought to the Dark Cloud Kingdom, which was currently the center of war between the Righteous Faction and the Evil Faction.

The Dark Cloud Kingdom had been thoroughly corrupted at this point and had been demonized by the scouts that the Bug Tribe Demons had sent ahead of time.

The entire Dark Cloud Kingdom became their main base of operation, slowly corrupting the surrounding regions as well.

However, the huge forces from the neighboring countries had joined the battle as well, preventing the corruption from spreading further.

One of the strongest forces was the Storm Empire, which became one of the frontrunners of the war, with the Stormy Mountain Range becoming their impenetrable fortress.

During this cinematic, the players started seeing a few individuals who were familiar with them. They were the top figures who had contributed the most to the war for both sides.

Some of them were from Evil Factions, while the others were the top experts of the Righteous Factions.

The players could not help but become excited when seeing this. Their blood started boiling as well, wanting to join the battle as soon as possible.

A few moments later, the cinema showed another series of scenes.

This time, the scenes were about the exploration of different parties, which also had a decent reputation within the game.

The God's Paradise Adventurer Team was featured, exploring the depths of the Frozen Kingdom.

There was also the Titan Guild, fighting a slightly weaker World Boss within the outskirts of an unknown region.

Then the Hydra Guild and Dragon Pavilion were featured as rivaling forces fighting over a certain territory, while the Central Order was shown building a massive city, which they were flaunting to everyone through other online platforms.

Multiple scenes were revealed to the players, stunning everyone.

Most of the people featured in these scenes were the top rankers listed in the Hall of Fame. Their less sensitive progress that everyone was already aware of was constantly being featured, seemingly telling the players that the contents of the game were endless and worth exploring.

At the later panels, the peak battle during the United Cup was even featured and injected in the lore of the game as some sort of tournament hosted by the Righteous Faction to raise everyone's morale for the upcoming war with the But Tribe Demons.

This season's champions, the Empyrean Talons, were also featured in this panel along with the montages of their battles throughout the tournament.

At the final panels of the cinematic, the players caught a glimpse of the other dimensions where the Beta Testers were 'trapped' and waiting to be freed by the mainstream players.

When the cinematic ended, the logo of the game was flashed before everyone, along with the name of the current patch.

"Descent of the Thousand Worlds."

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Chapter 2013: Back in the Game

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Shin stood in the middle of the Forgotten Temple when he logged back into the game. He was still trying to recover from the cinematics that they had watched earlier, just like the other players.

The cinematics were quite amazing in themselves, shocking most of the players who watched it. Even the top experts of the game were quite impressed after watching it. It took them quite a while before they recovered from it.

Shin was currently alone in the temple since the rest of the Empyrean Talons had gone to do their respective businesses.

Arthur continued following the clue about the 'Dragon Chain Armor', which was a piece of the Divine Armor from his quest.

Leonard had already gone to the Bestial Mountains to seek opportunities meant for the Beastmen Race.

Akailu had followed him as well. He was following the clues for his Ascended Race, the Dyr Race, which pointed him to one of the regions of the Bestial Mountains.

They had also brought Huahua with them, who seemed to be quite determined to improve herself. She did not want to always rely on her big brother and be protected by the big brothers and big sisters within the team, so she wanted to train by herself.



She had already learned quite a lot from Cloe and Alice, so it was time for her to go on her own adventure. She was a Foxkin Shaman, and the Bestial Mountains were the best place for her to find opportunities.

Archimedes also went in the same direction as them. However, his target was the major region meant for the Winged Race, just like him.

His race was something that he had gotten from the Sky Island during their adventures in the Primal Kingdom, the Garuda's Descendant.

It was quite a special race, which possessed all the special features and powers of the other Tribes in that place.

Based on the clues that he had found about this race, Garuda was said to be from the Awakened Continent. More specifically, from the Winged Tribes of Floating Islands within the depths of the Bestial Mountains.

He wanted to see what he could find from there.

As for Daulla, who was always by his side, she decided to separate from him temporarily to go on an adventure for herself. Although she was quite worried about Archimedes because he would surely be having trouble communicating with others without her, she thought that it would be best for him to learn how to socialize a little.

Their interactions with the members of the team had already improved this for him, so she hoped that it would continue in the right direction.

Meanwhile, Charlotte (Alice) and Ithilien were already doing their respective quests at the Alfheim Kingdom, the land of elves. They were also looking for more clues about the tasks that he had entrusted to them, which was to look for the sister of the Fifth Envoy of the Church of the Sun and Moon.

Diablo also went with them, wanting to see if he could find anything about his class and race from the kingdom. But instead of the main elven tribes, he went for the other branches, which were the more neglected tribes of the race.

From what he knew, Shadow Dancers came from the more secretive side of the world.

When there was light, then shadow must follow – Shadow Dancers came from the shadows and the darker side of the world.

In the meantime, Cloe continued to do her duties in the Church of Light as their Holy Maiden. She was also following a certain quest within the church, which seemed to be a complicated one.

Owen, on the other hand, dragged Samael back to the Aurora Continent. He wanted to see the changes in the Dark Cloud Kingdom, which was the main battlefield between the Righteous Churches and the Evil Faction.

Based on the cinematics that they had watched earlier, the changes in the battlefield would most likely become a perfect place for improving one's battle senses and other prospects, especially for someone like Samael.

After training there for a bit, Owen was intending to look for more clues about the Divine Tattoos concerning his Ascended Race.

Alucard continued his interactions with the Vampire Families of the Divine Empire and had gotten a clue about the other families from other regions. He was intending to look for them to further understand this race and gain more of their special abilities.

Chaotic Luck was in a bit of a peculiar situation. Unlike the others, who had their specific directions to follow, he did not know where to go.

His class, the Solaris Lich, was born from the combination of the inheritance of a powerful Lich King and the blessings of Solus, who was a Fallen Goddess. Because of this, he did not belong to any NPC organizations within the game, which he could use for his springboard of improvement.

He also did not have any quests that he could do for the time being, which made him quite confused about what to do.

He went to the other members of the team, asking for their opinions.

That was when Shin suggested that he go to the Forsaken Islets and learn more about necromancy and dark magic. After all, that incident during the United Cup, where Chaotic Luck's power seemed to have separated from two different classes, was quite shocking.

Shin wondered if Chaotic Luck could bring it out to the main servers as well. How also wanted to see how broken this person could be after gaining both powers at once and learn how to wield them properly.

Coupled with his insane luck, this person would most likely become one of the most feared people within the game.

Following Shin's suggestion, Chaotic Luck went to the Forsaken Islets, where the Undead Race lived.

Then there was Arthur, who was supposed to follow the clues for the piece of his Divine Armor, the Dragon Chain Armor.

He said that he would go greet their newest member first before doing his quest.

Shin still could not believe that this guy had successfully invited Cetus, the Whale God, to join them.

Arthur had practically snatched the guy from God's Paradise, who was working as a temporary member for them during the United Cup.

When Shin asked Arthur what kind of Class he had promised Cetus to join them, the latter just answered him with an ambiguous smile.

"Didn't that guy always want to burn his money? Then let's give him the most expensive class within the game, the Mechanic Class!"

“I happened to stumble upon this idea during my interactions with some old friends. Then Tinker’s fighting style had suddenly inspired me.”

“Along with the clues that our friends from God’s Paradise have found on a certain ruin, which I think is related to a certain mechanical civilization from another realm.”

“Adding this to the current patch, I think we will have a mechanical army sooner or later.”

Hearing these words, Shin could not help but glare at Arthur at that time. He also reprimanded the latter due to this. “You basically promised him nothing, don’t you think?”

Arthur only laughed at that time and responded. “That’s not exactly true. I originally want to offer him the inheritance that I have gotten from that Hatchling Cave Dungeon, Sigurd’s inheritance of the Dragon Slayer Class, and the lineage of the Dragonborn Clan.”

“However, I think that it will be more interesting if we have another army with us.”

“We already have an undead army from Chaotic Luck and the beast elite unit from Akailu, so I think it will be more fun if we gain a mechanical army as well.”

Sometimes, Shin could not figure out this guy, who would have random thoughts about certain things from time to time.

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While everyone was busy with their respective tasks, Shin was left alone once again.

He was considering which quest he would do this time. From the gathering quests that he had, looking for the materials for the creation of his True Phantom and hunting the rest of the monster bosses for the Divine Armor were the only things that he had at hand.

He could set aside the materials for the True Phantom since he had no idea where to find the remaining materials for it. He had already asked Shiella to have her people from Hand of Midas keep an eye on it.

As for the remaining bosses that he needed to look for the Divine Armor Quest, he had already commissioned both the Secret Recipe and Assassin Union to look for the whereabouts of these bosses. Once they were found, he would immediately head to their location and hunt them.

For the other quests that he had, he could not deal with them for the moment since he either lacked more clues on them or he had yet to meet the specific conditions to proceed with them.

He had also contacted Molton for the materials about the outer realms, so he could only trust the latter to send them to him as soon as possible.

“For the most urgent tasks that I have, I guess connecting the Forgotten Temple to the Aurora Continent is a must,” he mumbled before adding. “We can use the temple as our hidden base for the Deicide Guild that we have established.”

“It can also be our springboard to go between the two continents without spending much gold. After all, it was quite expensive to send batches of players through the airships.”

“Moreover, establishing a transfer point that will link the two continents will greatly benefit us. The travel time using the Teleportation Formations will be much faster than an airship as well.”

“The environment around the underwater temple will be perfect to nurture our naval forces as well,” he listed out the benefits that they could get from establishing the transfer point before finalizing everything. “I guess I have to head back to the Aurora Continent first and see where our teleportation formation links to.”

“Tsk! Tsk! Let’s just hope that it is not from a hostile NPC City or anything,” he mumbled, recalling the incident when he was captured by the guards of the Divinity City for the illegal usage of the Teleportation Formation.

Having that in mind, Shin went to the teleportation hall within the temple, planning to follow his thoughts.

"Let's see what surprises you have for me," he mumbled before activating the teleportation formation.

Swoosh!

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Chapter 2014: Another Unexplored Land

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Whoosh!

When Shin opened his eyes and looked around, he could not help but furrow his brows in confusion.  
"What!?"

He was expecting to appear in the middle of a city or at least within a Teleportation Hall filled with people, just like what happened to Divinity City, where he was even captured by the guards for illegal usage and linking of the Teleportation Formation.

He was expecting to appear in the middle of a Royal City in the Aurora Continent.

However, contrary to his expectations, he appeared in the middle of ruins, which seemed to have been dated since ancient times due to how old the marks in the collapsed buildings and such.

The overgrown plants sprouting from the ground had already climbed on the walls, along with the thick mosses that were covering the surface of those walls.

Looking further, he could even see trees growing out of the ruined buildings in the distance.

"Where is this place?" mumbled Shin before opening his map, trying to look for his current location.

He then raised his brows when he found that he was currently in an unknown region, which was outside from explored region. He could not even find any nearby town or village, much less an NPC City.

He was in the middle of nowhere.

Thinking about this, he could not help but pull out another virtual screen and open the official website, trying to see if he could figure out his exact location through the official maps that were released on the site.

Even though these maps were not as detailed as the ones that the players had drawn through their personal exploration of those maps, they were still more than enough to act as a guide for the players.

Naturally, these official releases of maps were only meant for reference and did not leak any other information other than the basic background and history of the said regions.

Unfortunately, Shin could not find any details about the map that he was on. Not even the name of the map was available on the official website, which meant that it was among the unexplored neutral regions that needed to be unlocked by the players, just like the Frozen Kingdom.

"Another unexplored neutral region? Don't tell me an Empire Quest will suddenly follow," he mumbled while furrowing his brows.

An Empire Quest was an insanely high-level quest within the game, which had extremely great difficulty. After all, these quests could change the flow of the game just like the Main Quests. It could also affect the terrain, weather, and other conditions of an entire Empire or Kingdom, depending on the result of the quest completion.

Moreover, such quests needed to be done with a highly elite group or a huge expedition team of powerful organizations or top guilds.

Shin had already experienced how difficult an Empire Quest along with the members of the Emphyrean Talons, which also required them some help from the Slayers Adventurer Team and others.

It also concerned a series of 'minor' quests, which would give them some clues along the way.

"Let's just hope that it is not the case," he mumbled, hoping that he was wrong.

After all, all the members of the Empyrean Talons were already in the middle of dealing with their respective business, making them unable at the moment.

"But if that is really the case, then I guess I can only ask for Big Sister to send some people from Hand of Midas or Deicide to form an expedition team," he said before continuing to explore the place.

He at least had to figure out where he was first before asking for any assistance.

After all, they could not just ask everyone from their forces to head to this place through direct teleportation from the Forgotten Temple.

It would be too expensive even for them, who were said to be the wealthiest guild within the game.

Even if he exempted them from any payment for using the teleportation formation from the Forgotten Temple, the teleportation fee for using the formation from the Teleportation Hall of the Divinity City to the underwater temple was still very expensive.

If it were just a few of them, just like the members of the Adventurer Team, then it should not be a problem. However, an elite expedition team would require at least hundreds of members at the very least, especially when the region that they needed to explore was this huge.

It would cost them at least a limb if they wanted to proceed with it.

Moreover, they did not even know if this region would be profitable for them. Even though it was an unexplored neutral region that could have a lot of opportunities, there was still some chance that it would be just a regular region with regular monsters and such.



After all, such places were not new to the game.

There were even some instances where a top guild had sacrificed quite a lot just to reach a certain unexplored region, thinking that they would profit a lot in return. Unfortunately, all their expectations were crushed by reality after realizing that the said region was a standard hunting map with barely enough profit to sustain their losses.

Not only did they not profit from the exploration, but they suffered a lot of losses in the process as well.

At the very least, Shin needed to confirm that this place was a high-level region that could generate enough profit to cover all their losses or even earn them enough benefits that could nullify their sacrifices along the way.

After forming a brief plan inside his head, Shin then proceeded to explore the place.

He first observed the location that he was in, particularly checking the teleportation formation that seemed to have been activated after a very long time.

"The Teleportation Formation is still in good condition despite such a long passage of time and not being maintained at all. The runes are quite ancient as well."

While observing the formation, Shin summoned the two most experienced Elemental Spirits under his command. "Hanzo! Solus!"

Swoosh! Swoosh!

After gaining enough power and establishing a stronger connection with the Reaper's Realm, all his Elemental Spirits stayed in that place most of the time. Aside from perceiving Shin's surroundings from time to time through their deep connections, these Elementals were mostly doing their respective businesses.

"I'm at your command, my Liege!" said Solus while giving Shin a respectful bow.

Hanzo, on the other hand, immediately observed the surroundings right after appearing before saying to Shin. "It looks like you have found a quite interesting place again, brat."

Solus gave him a sharp glare after seeing his attitude and how he addressed Shin.

However, Hanzo just ignored her and asked. "So, what do you need us to do now?"

Shin did not immediately respond to the question and asked instead. "It seems like you have already found something, Old Man. How about sharing it with us first?"

Hanzo stroked his beard for a moment before replying. "As I said before, you are truly blessed with opportunities. Wherever you go, trouble will always be present, but benefits will always follow immediately after."

"This place, if I am not wrong, can be considered as an isolated dimension," he added while looking around.

"An isolated dimension!?" Shin was surprised after hearing that, unable to help himself from thinking about the current patch. 'It can't be, right? I can't be that lucky to stumble upon another realm, can I?"

Seemingly reading through Shin's thoughts, Hanzo shook his head and poured cold water right away. "This place is not the same as what you are thinking, Brat!"

"At most, this can either be an independent pocket space just like the independent world that we have established, a fragment of the main world, or a sealed region just like how the Frozen Kingdom has been sealed before," clarifying what he just said.

"But given the stable spatial fluctuations surrounding the area, I lean more toward the latter," he added after looking at the sky and squinting his eyes.

"Ah!" Shin woke up from his dream.

However, he quickly recovered, realizing that this place was highly likely a high-level region. "If it is the same as the Frozen Kingdom, then an Empire Quest is also possible to appear."

He suddenly felt troubled after realizing this despite his excitement.

He did not doubt Hanzo's analysis since this old man was an Ancient Void Spirit, who was very familiar when it came to spatial attributes and anything related to it.

"If it is either of those two cases, then the only way to send our people here is through the Teleportation Formation of the Forgotten Temple," he mumbled.

If it were just any unexplored region in the Aurora Continent, then he could still find a way to navigate their forces to head to this place through land, even traversing a long journey on foot. Unfortunately, this was no longer possible.

"It has already become this complicated before it can even start," he mumbled along with a helpless sigh.

To make it even worse, Hanzo had given more bad news on top of everything. "Another thing, that Teleportation Formation underneath your feet is a pretty decent one."

"Unfortunately, it is currently a one-way formation, which requires you to break the seal covering the entire region before being able to access the return function."

Hearing this, the corner of Shin's mouth could not help but twitch uncontrollably. "Tsk! Now this has become a headache."

"I guess I am a bit reckless this time."

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Chapter 2015: The Elemental Secret Land (Part 1)

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Given the number of high-level neutral regions throughout the Aurora Continent, Shin would have a hard time pinpointing his exact location on the map, especially when it was currently being sealed by another powerful formation.

He just hoped that it did not concern another Godly existence that would rival the 'Wicked One' that Lycan Steel, Grand Marshal Draco, and Vampire Primogenitor Dracula had mentioned.

After all, dealing with such an existence would most likely be another mighty opponent that could crush him with his current strength.

Speaking of which, Shin could not help but recall another Godly existence that involved the World Quest that he had gotten from those previous incidents.

If an Empire Quest could affect an Empire and a Kingdom, or even a Continent, then a World Quest concerned the two worlds. It was a much higher level than the former, which would most likely involve another global update once triggered.

Even though it might not be as big as the major update of the game, it would still initiate a significant change throughout the game world.

"The Devil Ancestor, huh? That guy seems to be connected to multiple realms and godly existences. I wonder how powerful he is," he mumbled, trying to compare this might to the powerful existences that were featured in the game cinematics earlier.

He was sure that those three powerful existences were the said Great Demon Kings worshipped by the major Demonic Churches, which also had a certain connection to the Pandemonium Troupe.

They were said to be as powerful as the Gods of the Atlas World, so their powers should be equally astounding.

Then, proceeding to his earlier thoughts, the Devil Ancestor, who was said to be the absolute existence that had given birth to these Demons and other dark races based on the information that he had at hand, Shin could not help but shudder when imagining how powerful this existence was.

After thinking about this for quite a while, Shin started summoning all his Elemental Spirits, ordering them to scatter and survey the entire area.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

"Dad!" Silvana swiftly leaped toward Shin and immediately hugged him, clinging to him like a gecko and refusing to let go. She was so happy that Shin had summoned her to the outside world and was very excited to explore it.

"Dad, dad, let's play! Let's play!" she said while clinging to him.

Shin wore a helpless smile, seeing this, unable to do anything about it. He softly patted her head and gently caressed her head while smiling. "Let's do that later. We have other things to do for now."

"Can you use your powers to connect with the surrounding trees and plants?" he asked.

"Un!" Silvana then nodded enthusiastically, swiftly closing her eyes and commanding her elemental powers to establish a connection with the surroundings.

Seeing this, Shin continued to gently stroke her head before saying. "Speak to them and tell me if you find any other creatures residing in this place."

"Un!" Silvana nodded her head repeatedly while focusing on the task that was given to her.

In the meantime, Shin turned his head to the side, where he found Ronan standing still with full elegance. He looked like a noble child who had received a lot of training about etiquette, aristocratic families, and such.

Seeing Shin turning at him, Ronan bowed gently while addressing him. "Father."

The corner of Shin's mouth could not help but twitch after being addressed as such, still feeling a bit uncomfortable.

Thinking for a moment, Shin suddenly asked. "Have you found anything?"

Between these two kids, Ronan obviously looked more mature and acted as such. He was sure that he had already acted just like the other Elemental Spirits, who were surveying the surroundings.

"I can sense a body of water not far from here, Father," answered Ronan. "Based on the water element that it carries, it looks like a lake of a massive size."

At this point, Silvana swiftly opened her eyes and excitedly told Shin her findings. "Dad! Dad! The trees said that this place is huge! So huge! Much larger than our home!"

"And there are a lot of monsters roaming around. They all look scary and powerful!" she added.

Swoosh!

At the same time, Hanzo also returned and reported his discovery as well. "Brat, this place seems to be a massive island, rivaling the size of a kingdom."

"It is a ring-shaped island that surrounds a massive lake," he added, which also confirmed Ronan's initial findings.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, the others also returned to make their report.

"My Liege!"

"My Lord!"

Blackie, Whitie, and Astaroth swiftly kneeled before him right after returning.

"The monsters residing in this region are at least on the same level as the ones from the Frozen Kingdom, and they are all at Lord Rank at the very least," reported Blackie.

Shin gently nodded when he heard that, not bothered by the strength of the monsters. Since they were currently at the Aurora Continent, the strength of these monsters must be around that standard as well.

So long as they were not on the same quality as the ones from the Awakened Continent, where the basic monsters were as strong as Lord Rank Monsters of the Aurora Continent, everything was still within his acceptable range.

The ones that could give him much challenge in this place were only the ones that had reached the King Class Monster and above, especially when they possessed powerful bloodlines.

Regardless, he still could not ignore the strength of these Lord Class Monsters if they were together and forming a horde.

"Within our surroundings, there are at least five huge packs of monsters with a King Class Monster leading them. They seemed to have decent bloodlines as well, which could somewhat affect us," reported Whitie.

"All of them seemed to have the power to forcefully unsummon as well, even the weakest of them," he added after a brief pause.

Hearing this, Shin could not help but furrow his brows. 'Can forcefully unsummon an Elemental Spirit? Then all these monsters must have Spirit Awe Skill. Then I can't rely on my Elementals to hunt in a group.'

"My Lord, the terrain of this place seems to be quite special as well," said Astaroth before continuing. "The ground itself is formed by a special power that is different from Earth Element, but it shares a lot of similar properties."

He then raised his head and looked at Shin with full anticipation. "My Lord, I think this energy is very beneficial for me and my growth!"

Shin further raised his head after hearing this. 'Something that can help him become more powerful!? Now, this is interesting.'

"Alright, you can investigate more about this power and its source. Report back to me once you find anything else," he nodded, giving Astaroth enough freedom to explore the place.

Seeing this, Blackie and Whitie could not help but turn to one another before doing the same.

"My Liege! The bloodline of the monsters residing in this region is also very beneficial to us. They can help us promote our strength to a higher level if we consume enough of them, particularly the ones at the King Class Rank," said Blackie.

"We can also sense a lot of overwhelming presences hiding throughout the region. Their bloodlines will also greatly benefit us, My Liege," added Whitie.

Hearing this, Shin could not help but sense something. He could not help but turn to Silvana and Ronan, seemingly inquiring if they could feel something similar.

Understanding the look that he was giving them, the two little kids immediately responded.

"Un! Un!" Silvana repeatedly nodded her head in excitement. "Dad! Dad! I can also feel something delicious somewhere far from here. It seems to be calling for me and wants me to eat it!"

Ronan nodded as well and respectfully said. "There is something within the depths of the lake that can benefit us as well, Father."



With this, Shin seemed to have basically confirmed something. "Is this place something meant to improve the Elemental Spirits? Similar to the Spirit and Elemental Realms?"

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Right at the same time, the other three elemental spirits returned as well.

Solus was the first step forward and bowed before Shin. "This region seemed to be quite massive, my Liege. It is as big as a kingdom and even rivals some of the huge empires."

Then, Grimrace, the nutjob of the group, followed. "There are quite a lot of interesting things within this place."

"Tsk! Tsk! Unfortunately, nothing is useful for me," he complained a little, seemingly unsatisfied with his discoveries.

Vladimir, who was always at odds with this nutjob, smirked. "The bloodline of these filthy beasts is quite decent. They have quite a lot of nutrients in them. I wonder how their blood tastes."

Based on their words, Shin seemed to have realized something more from them.

He looked at Hanzo and Solus, who did not mention anything about something that could improve themselves from this place, unlike the others. There was also Grimrace, who had directly said that nothing could improve his strength from this place.

"I guess there are still some who belonged to a special case," he mumbled, trying to figure out the reason.

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Chapter 2016: The Elemental Secret Land (Part 2)

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Realizing that this region would most likely relate to Elemental Spirits, Shin could not help but think about something related to it.

"Could this place share a similar background to Phantom Island? A fragmented island that came from the huge continent of ancient times?" he mumbled.

From what he could remember about the background of the Phantom Island, it was a part of a supercontinent that got smashed and fragmented due to one of the massive wars from ancient times.

The Phantom Island had the remnant thoughts and lingering spirits of the ancient Elemental Beings that had fought during that war.

He had personally seen their overwhelming powers and stunning abilities before, which he even used to train his control over his elemental powers and create some special moves and tricks based on his understanding of them.

That place was also said to be the 'laboratory' where Regan, the Legendary Magic Knight, had created his unique skill, the Elemental Swordsmanship that was known as Regan's Method.

He originally wanted to bring the other members of the Empyrean Talon to that place for training. Unfortunately, he was the only one who could go there at the moment due to the token that Phantom King Kentas had given him.

Until he found a way to create more tokens that he could give to the others, he could not bring anyone else to the island.

Traveling toward it through the sea was impossible as well since the Phantom Island was called as such for a reason.

If not for Kentas bringing him to that place, it would be impossible for him to find that place as well.

That was, unless he was as lucky as Chaotic Luck, who could stumble upon it by accident.

"If this place is another Elemental Land, then it is worth exploring for," he mumbled before listing out the number of tasks that he had to deal with in this place.

"The first is exploration and investing more in this place. Then I have to help these 'kids' improve themselves by looking for the treasures and hunting monsters that can benefit them."

"Unfortunately, they can't help me much during the battle since all the monsters here possessed the Spirit Awe ability that can forcefully unsummon any assisting creatures of a player."

"Unless I have the 'Beast Command' that Beastmasters have or the 'Summoning Call' of Summoner Class, or something similar from the same class category, fighting with summoned creatures is impossible."

"Fighting a bunch of Lord Rank Monsters of Aurora Continent is not much of a problem, given my current abilities. The same for Overlord Rank Monsters. So long as it was a one-on-one battle, I could even hold my ground against King Class Monsters."

"But it will be a different case if it is a King Class Monster commanding a huge pack or horde under them."

"Do I really have to call for reinforcements?" he mumbled with a slightly troubled face.

But he quickly shook his head and encouraged himself. "No, I have to explore the area at the very least and gather more information before deciding on anything."

"At the same time, I have to find a way to go back if possible. If not, then looking for clues about the Empire Quest related to this region is a must. That is the only way to undo the seal covering the entire region and free me from this 'prison'."

After reorganizing his thoughts, he started making arrangements for his Elemental Spirits, asking them to survey the area once more, while he was doing his exploration.

Even if they could not help them fight the monsters residing in this region, they could at least help them in other areas, such as scouting missions.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin traversed the forest with Silvana acting as his guide and Ronan following closely behind them.

During his initial observation, he realized that the place was reached in elemental mana, which coincided with his initial guess about the region.

"This place is indeed perfect for helping Elementals grow," he mumbled as he observed the surroundings.

He had even found quite a few herbs of the highest quality along the way. Most of them were something that could make most of the players with the Alchemist Profession go crazy just by thinking about them.

Unfortunately, his gathering skill was not high enough to harvest these herbs, making his heart bleed.

He had listed out dozens of these high-level herbs along the way, which indicated how rich this region was with such high-quality materials.

He could only look at the helplessly before marking all their positions on the map for later.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Not long after, Shin and the two little elementals finally encountered their first monster in this place.

Shin and the pair of little elementals stopped in the distance, hiding behind the bushes, and observed the beasts ahead of them.

From his position, Shin could see a group of monsters feasting on the body of another monster with a much larger build than they were.

These monsters looked like a pack of hyenas of overgrown size, reaching a height of three meters. Their build was quite slim, but possessed muscular legs and tough bodies.

Their fangs seemed to be very sharp as well, which they used to feast on the massive body of an unknown beast before them.

The body of that beast was already mutilated, so Shin was having a hard time guessing what kind of monster it was.

However, based on its size alone, he could at least guess that it should be an Overlord Rank Monster when it was alive. It could even be a King Class Monster after observing the mutilated body a bit closer, especially after seeing the lingering mana coming from its flesh.

Seeing this scene, Shin could not help but furrow his brows. "Did these hyenas hunt down that Overlord by themselves, or did they just stumble upon that dead body?"

After observing the surroundings, Shin immediately rejected the latter case, especially after seeing the battle traces left everywhere. He could even see a couple of hyena corpses littered on the ground, which were either smashed flat by a strong force or ripped into shreds after being bitten by a set of sharp teeth.

Based on these battle traces, Shin could tell that these hyena beasts had hunted down that powerful monster by themselves.

Realizing this, Shin could not help but furrow his brows even deeper. "Now, this is a bit troublesome."

If it were just a pack of Lord Rank Monsters, Shin would not feel any pressure dealing with them. Even if they had hunted down an Overlord Rank Monster, which was a notch higher than them.

However, it would be a completely different case if the monster that they had hunted was someone of King Class Rank.

The gap between Lord Rank and Overlord Rank was already quite huge, much less the gap between an Overlord Rank Monster and a King Class Monster, which was supposed to be insurmountable.

If these hyenas truly had taken down such monsters despite such a big gap, then these monsters were not as simple as they seemed.

"This is going to be a bit more troublesome," he mumbled after thinking about this.

With that, he squinted his eyes, activating his True Sight on the hyenas and trying to see their basic information.

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[Monster Name]: Gluttony Beast: Hyena

[Monster Type]: Beast (Glutton Family)

[Monster Rank]: Lord (Berserk)

[Life Rating]: Elemental Beast Hybrid, Behemoth Race

[Monster Level]: 200

Health Points: 10 Million

Description:

A dog-type beast that had constantly evolved through multiple mutations caused by Elemental Over-poisoning.

They had experienced a series of Elemental Illnesses that changed their constitutions and produced special elemental powers that were unique to their race.

Their skins were extremely tough with powerful defenses, while their strength surpassed most of the strength-type monsters and others with a larger size than they were.

Due to the series of mutations that they had undergone, they had also gained special abilities that rivaled ancient races such as the Glutton Family of the Behemoth Race.

Due to their bloodline being related to the Glutton Family, they had become extremely aggressive and predatory, targeting any kind of monsters from other races or lineages.

They specifically targeted monsters with traces of the Dragon Race in their bloodline or similar ancient and prehistoric races from previous eras. They had even targeted those from the same sub-races of the Behemoth Race.

Note 1: The bodies of these Gluttony Beasts were extremely resistant against elemental powers, but highly nutritious for creatures from elemental races.

Note 2: Due to their multiple mutations, they have formed a powerful Beast Core within their bodies that could be used to promote the ranks of Elemental Races.

Note 3: There was also a very low chance that a Fragment of Behemoth Core would form within their bodies, which could rival the cores of the Dragon Race.

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Skimming through the details of the monsters, Shin could not help but gulp hard, realizing what kind of shithole he had fallen into.

"I guess I'm f\*cked!"

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Chapter 2017: The Elemental Secret Land (Part 3)

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Twitch!

While Shin was observing the Hyenas from a distance, one of them seemed to have perceived something, which made its nose and ears twitch a little.

Its eyes suddenly turned sharp before snapping toward the direction from which the invisible sensation was coming.

Swoosh!

It then directly stared at the spot where Shin and the two little elementals were hiding. It squinted its eyes while locking its gaze at Shin, seemingly able to see him through the bushes.

Hoo! Hoo! Hoo!

Immediately after, it started releasing a series of scary and eerie howls, seemingly attracting the attention of the others.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

It was already running straight at Shin and the others. The others immediately followed these particularly hyena beasts and swiftly sprinted right behind them.



Seeing this, Shin could not help but wear a serious expression before cursing under his breath. "Sh\*t!"

Immediately after, Shin hopped back and made a swift retreat, not even thinking of getting entangled in a fight against this bunch.

He was not clear about it earlier due to the distance between him and the pack of hyenas. But now that they were rapidly approaching him, he could clearly feel how scary their presence was.

The overwhelming aura that they carried alone was more than enough to put a very heavy pressure on Shin.

With just this alone, Shin could already tell how powerful they could be. They could instantly tell that they were no ordinary Lord Rank Monsters based on the aura that they were carrying.

Moreover, they were still quite far from him.

If he was still doubtful that this pack of hyenas had hunted a King Class Monster earlier, then he was very sure that it was the case now that he could directly feel the pressure.

Swoosh!

While retreating, Shin swiftly unsummoned the two little elementals. However, he did not directly send them back to the Reaper's Realm despite them being able to sense his surroundings clearly, even though they were in there. Instead, they turned into a pair of specks of light that revolved around him.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Crackle! Crackle! Crackle!

Enhancing his movements with the Five Elemental Lightning, Shin transformed into a flash of lightning that coursed through the forest with extreme speed.

Hoo! Hoo! Hoo!

Unfortunately, the hyenas were still able to keep up with him. They were even catching up to him despite his speed, incredibly fast.

Hoo! Hoo! Hoo!

"This is bad!" he mumbled after seeing that there were a few hyenas that had already overtook him from each of his sides, seemingly planning to cut him off before surrounding him.

Seeing this, he swiftly leaped into the air, using the 'Mondi's Jump' Skill to step into the air and propel himself higher.

He then climbed into the trees, using their branches as platforms to jump from one to another.

Hoo! Hoo! Hoo!

Seeing his actions, the hyenas swiftly responded.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Some of them started jumping high in the air and climbed the trees skillfully before chasing after Shin while hopping from one tree to another. The rest, on the other hand, continued to run on the ground while chasing after him.

When Shin saw this, he could not help but curse a bit more before shouting at the monsters chasing after him. "Brother Hyenas! Can we just be friends? Look at my poor body. I am not even enough to fill the gap in your teeth!"

Hoo! Hoo! Hoo!

Shin did not know whether they could understand him or not. But based on the strange sounds that they were making, he could tell that they seemed to have become more excited after hearing him and chased after him with much stronger intensity.

"The Heck!?" Shin cursed a bit more after seeing this. "I guess I don't have any choice but to fly then."

Swoosh!

Leaping higher into the air, Shin activated one of the skills attached to his main weapon, the [Yamato], summoning his 'Nephilim Wings'.

Swoosh!

He then transformed into a streak of light that broke through the tall trees, flying in the sky.

Hoo! Hoo! Hoo!

The hyenas seemed to become enraged after seeing this, but they still did not give up and continued to chase after him.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Others even jumped from the trees, trying to catch him in the air. Unfortunately, they failed due to Shin flying higher.

Shin was about to fully escape their case when another accident happened.

Whoosh!

His expression suddenly turned grave after sensing an even stronger presence swiftly approaching up ahead of him.

Whoosh!

He could only hear the wind being split apart when he raised his head and saw a massive silhouette casting a huge shadow over him.

Without even thinking about anything else, he swiftly used his strongest defensive skill, the 'Eclipse Pulse,' while reinforcing it with his elemental powers to further strengthen its defensive capabilities.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Divine Yellow Dragon – Earth Guardian'

Swoosh!

A huge cluster of earth elements gathered around him and formed a spherical barrier that protected him from the incoming attack.

Boom!

This was his strongest defensive skill, which could withstand almost all kinds of attacks, despite how powerful they were.

Boom!

However, this particular attack instantly surpassed the highest limit of this barrier with just one impact and made it explode.

Swoosh!

At the same time, Shin was sent flying toward the opposite direction, sending him back to the place where he came from.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

(-25,002), (-20, 234), (-15, 624), ...

He collided against multiple trees, which dealt a series of huge damage to him, before he crashed into the ground.

Boom!

A huge pit was formed upon impact, which he forcefully withstood by redirecting all the force toward the ground through his feet.

He stood with a bit of difficulty while maintaining his stance at the center of that pit.

Swoosh!

He then immediately used his healing spell, the Sacred Light elemental skill, to restore his Health Bar to full instantly.

He then raised his head and looked at the creature that just attacked him, which was currently hovering in the air and watching him with haughty eyes.

It was a huge bird that seemed to come from the Albatross Species. Its size was so massive that it dwarfed the hyenas that were chasing after him.

From the aura that it carried alone, Shin could tell that it was much more powerful than the pack of hyenas behind him by a large margin.

Without any hesitation, he used his True Sight to look at the details of this particular monster.

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[Monster Name]: Skyfire Albatross

[Monster Type]: Beast (Bird Family)

[Monster Rank]: Overlord (Berserk)

[Life Rating]: Elemental Beast Hybrid, Phoenix Race

[Monster Level]: 200

Health Points: 20 Million

Description:

A bird-type beast that had constantly evolved through multiple mutations caused by Elemental Over-poisoning.

This monster had experienced a series of Elemental Illness that changed its constitution and produced special elemental powers and awakened the lineage factor of its ancestor.

Due to the awakening, it had become a powerful bird of prey that targeted any monsters that it could find. Even monsters that had a bloodline that came from Dragons and Behemoths of the ancient era had become its main target.

Because its bloodline came from the Phoenix Race, its nature had become very proud, especially when it came to the sky. As the ruler of the sky, Phoenix Race was extremely sensitive to anyone who flew over their territory.

For them, anyone who flew over its territory was a sign of a challenge, a challenge to its authority.

Note 1: This monster had high resistance against fire elemental attacks due to its bloodline. At the same time, its flesh and blood were highly nutritious for creatures with fire elemental attributes.

Note 2: Due to the multiple mutations that it had undergone, it had formed a powerful Beast Core within its body that could be used to promote the ranks of Elemental Races.

Note 3: There was also a very low chance that a Feather of Eternal Embers would form from its body, which could rival the Behemoth Core, Dragon Heart, and other important features of ancient beasts and prehistoric monsters.

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Seeing the description of the monster, Shin could not help but curse his tough luck once again. "I just want to fly to escape from those hyenas, but I happen to fly over the territory of this Skyfire Albatross?"

Feeling a bit troubled about how to deal with his current situation, something unexpected once again.

Hoo! Hoo! Hoo!

The pack of hyenas that were chasing after him earlier finally caught up and started 'cheering' during their sprint.

A moment later, they started pouncing on the Skyfire Albatross, completely ignoring him.

Shriek!

On the other hand, the Skyfire Albatross suddenly released a deafening cry when it saw the pack of hyenas that were trying to catch it.

It could sense the deep disgust and resentment emanating from its bloodline after seeing this group. It particularly hated the Behemoth Race bloodline flowing through the veins of this monster.

With the fire that the Skyfire Albatross was breathing out, an intense battle broke out against this many Gluttony Beasts.

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Chapter 2018: The Elemental Secret Land (Part 4)

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Seeing that the pack of Gluttony Beast Hyenas was pouncing on the Skyfire Albatross swiftly retreated away from the battlefield, climbed the trees, and watched the ongoing battle from a safe distance.

Hoo! Hoo! Hoo!

The hyenas were excitedly pouncing on the giant albatross, trying to take it down through their strong coordination and combined efforts.

Shriek!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Unfortunately, all their efforts were in vain since the Skyfire Albatross seemed to be capable of fighting them by itself. It relied on its extreme flying speed, ignoring its enormous size. It was as if its mass was extremely light, flying across the forest despite the multiple trees obstructing its path.

Moreover, it was repeatedly spitting out breaths of fire that swept through everywhere and burned anything that it touched.

Even the hyenas, which were highly resistant against elemental attacks, seemed to be scared of these flames.



"The hyenas are afraid of its fire!? Don't they have powerful elemental resistance?" mumbled Shin after seeing the scene of the hyenas jumping around and doing their best to avoid the flames that the Skyfire Albatross were spitting out.

While he was thinking about this, Solus suddenly appeared beside him and immediately answered. "That is the Undying Flame of the Underworld, my Liege. It is the unique flame of the Phoenix Race, which they have acquired after dying from the flames and rising from the ashes."

"Other races call it the Immortal Flame as well," she added.

"The Undying Flame of the Underworld? The Immortal Flame?" mumbled Shin before asking. "How does it compare to your Eternal Flame?"

Solus thought for a moment before replying. "The Immortal Flame and the Eternal Flame share quite a lot of similarities, my Liege."

"However, since the Eternal Flame is bestowed upon me by the Great Sun God, it is a notch or two higher than the Immortal Flame."

"The Immortal Flame is just the sign and proof of immortality for the Phoenix Race, while the Eternal Flame is everlasting and the root of everything," she added with a somewhat ambiguous tone.

Shin raised his brows a little, seemingly picking up a few clues from her words. 'Solus is a fallen Goddess, which means that she once was a Divine Being. However, the Sun God has bestowed her the Eternal Flame that she wields. This means that the Sun God is a supreme being even among other Divine Beings.'

While he was lost in these thoughts, Solus suddenly commented about the ongoing battle. "It is a pity that this bird monster is only a little fledgling and has recently awakened a bit of its bloodline powers. If it is a bit more powerful, then dealing with these little glutton beast will be much easier for it."

Hearing this, Shin could not help but feel that the corner of his mouth twitched a little. "A fledgling, you say?"

Looking at the massive size of the Skyfire Albatross, which had a wingspan of dozens of meters wide and a height of twelve to fifteen meters tall, he would never associate it with the word 'fledgling'.

But since it was what Solus had accessed, Shin could only trust her words. After all, Solus was one of the most experienced Elementals under his arsenal, who also used to be a Goddess in her prime, so her words carried weight.

"What about those hyenas?" asked Shin curiously.

Solus then turned her eyes toward the pack of hyenas, who were chasing after the Skyfire Albatross and trying to hunt it down.

Solus pursed her lips while observing the pack before replying. "Even though this bunch of beasts has undergone a series of mutations and evolutions, they have only awakened a little bit of Behemoth Bloodline."

"Compared to the bloodline density, they are far from reaching the level of that Skyfire Albatross. If not, then they should have already won this battle earlier. After all, Behemoth races are among the most predatory beasts during ancient times. Even the Ancient Dragons and Phoenixes have to be wary of them."

"In terms of potential, this Skyfire Albatross far surpassed this bunch, especially since they are already fully grown adult and barely have any room for improvement."

"However, since they possessed the bloodline of the Behemoth Race, they are highly aggressive and extremely predatory. They will never back down from a fight or a hunt, especially when their target is someone who have powerful bloodline in them," she added before turning to Shin. "My Liege, it is better to stay away from them as far as possible since they can easily sense you due to your Traits as a Transcendent Race, which is highly attracted to them."

Hearing the latter part of her words, Shin was immediately enlightened about how he was discovered by this bunch of hyenas earlier, despite being quite far from them.

"Even though they are weaker than that Skyfire Albatross when it comes to individual strength, their ability to hunt as a group is still extremely powerful."

She paused for a moment to look at the pack for another time before continuing. "Given the size of their pack, they will not have any problem hunting a King Class Monster of the same level, or even those with slightly higher levels than them."

"After all, the Gluttony Tribe of the Behemoth Race is more dangerous the larger the size of their tribe. They belong to the category of monsters who loved to hunt in groups."

Hearing this remark, the mystery shrouding the sight earlier when he first saw this pack was instantly solved.

Then, something struck him, and he could not help but ask. "Does that mean they can also hunt this Skyfire Albatross down?"

Solus thought for a moment before shaking her head. "That is not necessarily true either. After all, that flame bird possessed a much denser ancient bloodline compared to them. However, given the size of their pack, there is also a high chance that they can catch it."

"It all depends on luck, the situation, and the surrounding terrain," she added after observing the ongoing battle.

Shin then nodded while watching the hyenas try to catch the flame albatross, which was flying at extreme speed.

If it were just about the aerial abilities of the albatross, then he could already tell that these hyenas would never catch it.

However, the surrounding terrain was a bit more favorable for the hyenas, especially when their extremely skilled abilities to climb those trees, which also happened to obstruct the albatross and limit its freedom to fly.

Swoosh!

While the two were watching the battle, Hanzo happened to return from his scouting as well.

Shin knew that it was impossible to fully scale the entire region with his Elemental Spirits, given its massive size that it had. After all, it was comparable to the biggest kingdom and even some of the empires as well.

However, having a better understanding of the surrounding areas near them would always be helpful for their exploration and could give them a direction to go.

"How is it?" he asked.

Hanzo looked at the ongoing battle in the distance before giving his report. "This place seems to be filled with monsters that have undergone a series of drastic mutations or bizarre evolutions."

"Due to this, they have gained some elemental powers or certain immunities to certain elements due to this."

"Some of them have even awakened the hidden bloodline within their veins just like those guys before you," he added while pointing at the pack of Glutton Beasy Hyenas and the Skyfire Albatross.

"Such situations are extremely rare and hard to come by, especially in the current era. After all, Elemental Spirits like us have already existed and controlled most of the regions filled with our respective elements," he added while thinking about something.

"From my observations, there is only a single reason why this place has existed and what has caused these beasts to mutate," he continued.

At this point, Solus suddenly chimed in. "That is, if something or someone is filling the air with rich elemental mana, which causes the surrounding creatures to become infected by Elemental Poisoning, which is a special condition that ordinary creatures suffer after being extremely exposed to a highly concentrated mana of certain elements."

"After enduring such a condition for a long time, the exposed creatures can only have two outcomes. They can either die due to excessive poisoning or live while gaining a special ability or immunity to the same element that poisoned them."

"However, such occasions are only applicable to creatures that have been exposed to a single element."

"The creatures living in this place have a variety of elemental powers or abilities, which means that they have been exposed to multiple elemental poisonings, something that is impossible to happen."

"After all, a place that can cause Elemental Poisoning can only have a single element present in it. It is the most basic requirement since an elemental can only reach the 'extreme' level when the other forms of elemental mana are erased or ejected from such places, leaving that sole element behind."

"It is a similar condition to the Rebirth Places of the Elemental Spirits of the current era."

Pausing for a moment, Solus wore a serious expression before continuing. "For all elements to reach an extreme level of denseness all at once and concentrate in a single place, there can only be a single instance in which it can happen."

"That is, if the place is the Elemental Realm or the Spirit Realm, where the Elemental Kings live," Hanzo finished her words for her.

He then proceeded to shake his head. "However, even those realms are divided into multiple regions, and each of the Elemental Kings controls."

"As for the region where all those territories intersect and converge, that is where the Elemental God resides, the Father of all Elements," he added with full seriousness. "However, that land has already been brought by the Elemental God to the Divine Realm during his ascension eons ago."

Hearing this, Solus also wore a serious expression after hearing about the Elemental God. She seemed to have recalled a certain incident during her time in the Land of Gods, which made her entire body tremble.

"That is also the reason, when the Elemental World splits and becomes the current Elemental and Spirit Realms," she added.

Listening to them, Shin seemed to have gained a certain understanding of the world and realms.  
'Elemental World? And the shattered and scattered Elemental and Spirit Realms?'

'From what I remember, the System calls the main server the 'Atlas World', not Atlas Realm. I guess there is more to it than what we players can see on the surface. After all, the main server itself is also divided into Higher and Lower Planes, which separates the Divine Beings and those beneath it.'

'Are they somewhat related?' Thinking about this, Shin could not help but feel that this place where he was currently trapped had a greater secret than he originally thought.

"If that Elemental Land that the Elemental God brought to the so-called Divine Realm or Land of Gods shared similar properties with this place, then there must be something connected to it somewhere in this place," he mumbled, which the old elementals had heard.

They simultaneously turned their gaze at him while nodding their heads.

"The Liege is wise and knowledgeable!" said Solus, praising Shin with bright eyes.

"That is what I am thinking as well," snorted Hanzo, somewhat unimpressed.

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Chapter 2019: The Elemental Secret Land (Part 5)

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"An object related to the Elemental God or something that came from the land that he had brought to the so-called Divine Realm?" mumbled Shin, feeling that this might be bigger than what he originally expected.

Even if he was wrong, whatever that thing must be, he knew that it had a lot of significance, especially when it somewhat recreated the environment of the center of the Elemental World to a certain degree.

It might not be the exact environment of that place, but it at least mirrored the most important feature of that place, which caused enough Elemental Poisoning to make the creatures living in it to mutate and evolve.

Having another goal to explore this place, Shin felt a bit more motivated.

He watched the ongoing battle for a while, planning to launch an attack when the two sides had thoroughly exhausted themselves fighting each other.

However, he was immediately discouraged by the two before he could even reach that point.

"I don't think that it is a good idea, my liege. Both sides possessed powerful bloodlines in them, so there is a high chance that they will have the trump cards of those ancestors of theirs once they are cornered," said Solus, trying to convince Shin to retreat instead.

"I am not sure about those Gluttony Beast Hyenas because of their thin density of Behemoth Bloodline in their veins, but I am sure that this Skyfire Albatross will surely have one, given how dense the Phoenix Bloodline that it possesses," said Hanzo.

Shin slightly knitted his brows after hearing this, still a bit unconvinced.

However, Solus immediately added. "There is also the strong suppression that they have against you, which comes from the level difference."

If it were based on their racial trait and bloodline, then Shin would never lose against these monsters since he was from a very strong line of the Transcendent Race.

Unfortunately, the level difference was something that he could ignore.

These monsters were a bunch of Level 200 Lords and a powerful Level 200 Overlord. Even though the suppression that they could give him was not as strong as those monsters from the Awakened Continent, they could still give a considerable amount of pressure given the life rating that they respectively had.

Looking at his current level, which was only at 181 despite all the missions and hunting that they had in the Awakened Continent, the difference was still quite huge. This even included the bonus levels that they had gotten from winning the championship of the United Cup.

This only further proved how hard it was to level up after reaching the Level 150 mark and surpassing this borderline.

The 19-level difference was something he could somewhat manage if he were against regular monsters of the Aurora Continent. Even if he was facing a King Class Monster of this level, he would not back down and stand his ground without facing that much of a problem.

However, the monsters of this place were mostly out of the ordinary due to the series of mutations that they had undergone within this place.

Even though they had to reach the level of absurdity of monsters from the Awakened Continent, they were still equally troublesome on their own right.

If he put all of them in a list, then the monsters from this place would most likely be right in the middle of the monsters from those two places.

Putting everything into consideration, Shin decided to follow the suggestions of the two veteran elementals and retreat from this place.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

They then proceeded to a safer location, where they could discuss the next plan.



"The most ideal way to deal with the current situation is to grind more levels," he mumbled before feeling a bit strange. "But it still needs me to go hunt for those monsters."

It all came to the same conclusion when he was thinking earlier.

"That is right, my liege," Solus chuckled before saying. "However, there is a more efficient way to hunt in this place."

"Not all monsters from this place have successfully undergone their respective mutations, much less their evolution and awakening of the bloodline. Some have failed thoroughly and become a bunch of defective products," added Hanzo before pausing for a moment to find the right words to describe these monsters. "You can consider them as some sort of abominations given their failed mutations."

"We have found a few places near us, which you can use as a training ground for the time being while trying to grind more experience," he added.

Hearing this, Shin could not help but feel a bit more excited. After all, this could only mean that this place was not only beneficial for Elemental Spirits but could also become a perfect place for players to grind levels.

Given that it was beneficial for his current level, it would become another perfect hub for players of his level.

This could also become the secret training for their forces, such as Deicide, the guild that he and Shiella had established while recruiting the young cadets of the Springfield Family and a few elites from the Top Military School.

"Alright, let's go to those places first," he said.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Under the lead of the two Elemental Spirits, Shin reached a certain location a bit far from where they came from, which seemed to be another ruin similar to where they first appeared in this place.

However, compared to that place, which had the teleportation formation that brought him to this place, this ruin seemed to be a more standard place where certain residents could live.

"A residential district?" mumbled Shin after seeing the place.

It might be in complete ruins and currently filled with trees, mosses, and other plants covering it, but Shin could still vaguely see the image of this place inside his head right after seeing the 'silhouette' of the district.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Midair, Shin also saw a bunch of monsters roaming throughout the district. Some of them were walking alone, while others were gathering and forming a pack.

Using his True Sight against them, Shin could see that most of them were around Level 185 to Level 190 monsters, which was not too far from his current level.

They were also around Lord Rank and Overlord Rank monsters, but dealing with them would be much easier compared to the ones that he previously encountered, since none of them possessed powerful bloodlines.

The level difference was not that huge, which was something that he could easily overcome.

If he could pinpoint anything strange about these monsters, then it would be the appearances that they all had.

Most of these monsters did not possess the appearances of the standard monsters that most players could encounter in most of the games that they had played before.

The majority of them seemed to be a crossbreed of multiple monstrous beasts, while the others were straight-up abominations that neither had a standard form nor came from any sort of monster lineages.

Looking around, Shin felt like having multiple choices to choose from.

"Tsk! Tsk! It looks like a buffet," he mumbled, seemingly having a hard time picking which spot to choose from.

After looking around for quite a while, Shin finally chose a spot that seemed to fit all the conditions that he needed.

Swoosh!

Heading straight to it, Shin saw the group of minotaurs that did not look much of a minotaur at all. He just suspected that they were supposed to evolve into such monsters, but failed in the end.

He just temporarily put them on the same category as a minotaur due to them sharing most features.

Swoosh!

Sensing his rapid approach, these monsters simultaneously turned toward his direction.

Moo!

They then opened their mouth and roared out loud, especially after seeing his aggressive approach.

They could also sense the traits of a Transcendent Being coming from his body, which further provoked these monsters.

They could feel that they would successfully evolve once they ate him and consumed his bloodline.

Moo! Moo! Moo!

Realizing this, the whole pack suddenly became excited and started going crazy. Their eyes turned bloodshot while their bodies started emitting a black miasma, which swiftly engulfed their surroundings.

They seemed to be creating a more favorable environment, where they could fully showcase their overall abilities.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Not long after, they started charging straight at Shin like an agitated horde of bison.

"What!?" Shin was taken aback by this sight, making him slow down a little.

Given how aggressively and violently the opposing side was, he felt that he had chosen the wrong opponents to be his lab rats in this place.

He suddenly recalled the warning that Solus had given him earlier, before he charged at this pack. – "My Liege, don't underestimate these monsters. Even though they have failed their mutations, they were still exposed to a high density of Elemental Mana, which thoroughly changed their overall features and powers." –

– "Each of them possessed enough power to threaten you if you got a bit too careless." –

Realizing his mistake, Shin immediately entered his strongest state, along with a series of buffs and a few domains in the process. "Let's see how powerful this bunch is."

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## Chapter 2020: The Elemental Secret Land (Part 6)

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Swoosh!

Shin charged forward and dived into the black miasma that the ugly monsters were releasing.

Whoosh!

When he was about to be swallowed by the incoming miasma tide, he suddenly flicked his thumb on the guard of his sword, opening its lid and pushing the sword out of its sheath.

Click!

A blazing breath spat out of the gap of his mask while regulating his breathing. He then fully unsheathed the sword and swung it horizontally, sending out a huge and blazing sword crescent forward.

Shing!

‘Jade Kirin Scripture: Quick Draw (Blazing) – Solar Flare’

Boom!

An explosion erupted when the black miasma and the blazing crescent collided against each other, creating a straight path for Shin.

Swoosh!

He then swiftly charged ahead while covering his entire body with the gorgeous flame dancing around him.

Before the black miasma could even recover and close that gap once again, Shin swung his sword multiple times and sent out a series of blazing slashes in every direction, which formed a firestorm that warded off the closing miasma.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Moo!

At the same time, the abomination monsters suddenly charged at him, launching a series of coordinated attacks coming from every direction.

Moo! Moo! Moo!

They seemed to have come out of the black miasma that he just warded off.

Seeing this, Shin swiftly sheathed the sword and switched his breathing technique alongside the active elemental possession.

Swoosh!

This time, Hanzo took over the possessions, activating the 'Dimension Splitter Possession' and the power of the Void.

Click!

Flicking his thumb once again, he unsheathed the [Yamato] once again and swung it multiple times, sensing a series of sword flashed around him that transformed into a dome-like net after intertwining and crisscrossing with one another.

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

Shing!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Dimensional tears suddenly appeared in the surroundings and attacked the surrounding abomination monsters, warding off their coordinated attacks and pushing everyone away from him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

“Their strength is not that strong,” he commented after feeling their respective strikes during the collisions.

He was about to pursue one of those who tried to enter the black miasma in retreat, but he was suddenly forced to halt his tracks due to another ambush that came out of nowhere.

Moo!

This time, an abominable monster that looked more like a minotaur compared to the rest of the horde and possessed the strongest and most overwhelming presence among everyone else suddenly jumped out of the black miasma and swiftly launched an attack at Shin with its massive axe.

Sensing the heavy pressure coming from this abominable minotaur, Shin could instantly tell that it must be the leader of the horde.

Without backing down, Shin took a step forward and swung the [Yamato] with all his strength, facing the incoming attack head-on.

Shing!

‘Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship: Void Slash’

Swoosh!

The sword tore through the space and created a huge dimensional fissure with its tip.

Boom!

The explosion erupted, causing the surrounding space to crumble and forming multiple rifts that tore through the space.

Shin and the abomination minotaur stood on their respective spot, refusing to back down even for an inch.

The point of impact where their weapons meet had a crumbling space, preventing the sword and axe from fully touching one another.

This collapsing space spread in every direction, increasing the number of spatial tears that the colliding forces had created earlier.

Most of the black miasma were also swallowed by most of the spatial tears, limiting the number of places that the abomination monsters could use to escape from the shockwaves.

A moment later, Shin and the leading abomination monster finally retrieved their respective weapons, taking a brief step to relieve the tension in their arms before continuing their exchange.

Moo!

The abomination minotaur swung its huge axe with all its might while surrounding its weapon with thick miasma that was capable of devouring all the surrounding elemental mana, seemingly forming a miniature black hole.

Swoosh!



In response to this, Shin suddenly flipped the sheath that he was holding in his left hand, changing his grip to forehand while also changing its form into a blazing longsword.

‘Legacy Skill: Mondí’s Style – Meteor Form (Legendary Sword Durendal)’

“Solar Reaper!”

At the same time, along with his call, Solus immediately dived into the legendary sword, fusing with it.

‘Elemental Spirit Possession (Eternal Flame Goddess): Divine Constellation’

With the Legendary Sword [Durendal] in his left hand and the Nephilim’s Inheritance Sword [Yamato] in his right hand, Shin pushed the elemental energies of the ‘Eternal Flame’ and the ‘Void Power’ to the fullest extent before swinging them forward.

‘Myriad Transformation Swordsmanship: Infinity Edge’

Shing! Shing!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Flashes of gorgeous flames and spatial tears suddenly appeared in the surroundings while he repeatedly swung the two possessed swords and constantly clashed against the huge axe of his opponent.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A series of successive explosions erupted in every direction they made, causing a chaotic storm that swept through the surroundings.

Boom!

Shin was able to slightly overpower the opposing side with the help of the enchantments that he had received from all his transformations.

He was also able to push the abomination minotaur back with the last explosion, forcing it to retreat a little.

He was about to give chase and launch an even stronger series of attacks, planning to finish off this monster as soon as possible.

Moo! Moo! Moo!

Unfortunately, the other abomination monsters suddenly charged at him once again and launched another series of attacks.

They all seemed to have received an order at the same time, instantly moving according to it.

Shin was forced to halt his tracks, especially after seeing how tricky the angles from which the incoming attacks were coming. He felt that he would have focused on dealing with them first if he wanted to finish off their leader.

Having that thought in mind, Shin swiftly moved and immediately started exchanging blows against the surrounding abomination monsters.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

From every collision, Shin could tell that they had more edge against them when it came to overall stats.

They might have a slightly stronger build and be a bit more powerful when it came to raw strength. Unfortunately, their innate application of such techniques was significantly inferior to that of their leader, which led to them losing every exchange against Shin.

Their average Health Bar was only around 10 to 15 million, along with a somewhat passable physical defence and magic resistance.

Regardless, Shin was still able to deal damage around a hundred thousand to one hundred and fifty thousand on average, so he was able to make quick work of them despite the black miasma healing them from time to time.

The leading abomination monster tried to launch a series of ambushes from time to time, which he repeatedly repelled without problem.

However, despite all the advantages that he had against them, Shin still spent quite a lot of time clearing the entire place due to the sheer number that they had.

Fortunately, these monsters were not that intelligent, blindly charging at him and attempting to consume him due to his Transcendent Traits.

They only sought mutation and evolution, not caring about anything else so long as they caught him.

Due to their crazy and relentless series of attacks, Shin spent quite a lot of energy just wiping out this horde of monsters.

Even though their number was not that overwhelming and their strength was only subpar compared to his abilities, Shin still felt thoroughly exhausted just to finish them all off.

One of the main reasons was his constant activation of breathing techniques to ward off the black miasma, avoiding being thoroughly exposed to it.

The other reason was his constant usage of advanced combat techniques throughout the battle, which surprisingly lasted much longer than he had expected.

He had also expended more energy and concentration than he supposed.

“Strange. How does it end up like this?” mumbled Shin while frowning quite deeply. He had overreached the limit that he had placed upon himself when taking on this horde earlier.

He was sure that the environment in this sealed region was far from being as restrictive as the one in the Awakened Continent, where they could barely hold using their Elemental Possession and usage of highly advanced Combat Techniques for an extended period of time, yet he felt quite exhausted for some unknown reason.

“What’s happening?” he asked the two highly experienced elementals under his command, asking for their insights.

“If I am not wrong, it must be because of the high density of elemental energy filling the entire region,” started Hanzo before continuing. “It may not be as noticeable as the high mana density in the Awakened Continent, but it must be putting an invisible stain on your body and mind.”

“You have to be careful, my liege. You may suffer a serious Elemental Poisoning just like the creatures residing in this place if you get exposed to this environment for an extended period,” added Solus worriedly.

“Even if you have the elemental blessings from our contracts protecting you, it is still better to be careful. After all, this place may have something related to the Elemental God and his personal territory,” warned Hanzo.

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