

Destiny 2041

Chapter 2041: The King's Battle

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Ding

Arthur and the others did not have to wait that long before the familiar ring sounded in their ears. They quickly turned to it and realized that their earlier suspicion was right.

The number of participants for this round was indeed three, just like what they were expecting.

With the notification from the system, Laurent could not help but turn to Riko, who was already somewhat exhausted.

She was definitely not in a good state to continue with the next round. After all, running for hours with such high intensity, as well as under great pressure, was still something that could greatly exhaust their minds despite how mentally tough they were.

Even Leonard was showing some signs of exhaustion.

Their original plan was to let Riko participate in all the remaining rounds due to the nature of her class. Unfortunately, her current situation did not allow her continue with their original plan.

Arthur was quite excited about the current situation because there was a chance for him to join in this round.

Unfortunately, Laurent was determined to save him as their final trump card for the last two trials.

Having this in mind, Laurent turned to Ryoto, which the latter immediately understood.

Since it had been a while since the first trial had ended, Ryoto had rested well enough to participate in the next round.

Understanding their action, Arthur could only click his tongue and pursed his mouth. He could not complain since he knew what Laurent was thinking.

If the opposing side were truly from the organizations that they thought they would be, then it was going to be quite tricky to deal with them.

As a long-time player, Arthur was very familiar with the experts of the top guilds and large organizations within the game. Aside from the hidden forces and new faces who sprouted out of nowhere, and those old people who were just joining the game due to the recent update, he was acquainted with almost everyone.

Even though he could not tell which expert those forces had sent to this place, and the rules of this dungeon prevented them from seeing each other's appearance, he could at least recognize most of them based on their skills and abilities.

It was unfortunate that he could not witness those people in action during the previous trial, making it impossible for him to get to know them.

At the same time, since he was familiar with them, the other parties would most likely be able to recognize him as well, especially those rivals with whom he was constantly competing during his entire gaming career.

If those parties were indeed from the three forces that Laurent had said, the Hydra Guild, Dragon Pavilion, and Black Market, then they were truly familiar with him.

If he stepped into the field and revealed his unique skills and signature techniques, then there was a very high chance that those guys would be able to recognize him in an instant.

What made him even more bitter was the fact that Laurent had chosen Leonard to join them despite the latter just exited from the earlier trial.

If Riko was exhausted, then how about Leonard, who was leading the entire sprint?

Naturally, this guy would be even more exhausted. After all, he had done almost everything and faced the flood of zombies heading his way.

Unfortunately for Arthur, Laurent reassured Leonard that he and Ryoto would handle the third round by themselves. So long as the rules of the third trial let them do as such, then Leonard was free to set aside and leave everything to them.

If they could not do anything about it, then it was better to give up on this round when needed. After all, they were already quite ahead of the other parties, aside from that mysterious individual.

Giving up this round would not hurt them that much in exchange for hiding their strength. It was a worthy investment in Laurent's eyes.

They could also do the same instructions with Arthur. Unfortunately, he did not fully trust the latter due to his current state.

Arthur was quite eager to go into action at this very moment, so Laurent doubted if this guy would be able to stop himself.

It was better to be safe than let the other parties realize their true strength at the final stage of these trials.

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With a sulking look on his face, he obediently sat down and watched Laurent, Ryoto, and Leonard enter the third round. He even specifically gave Leonard a resentful look, knowing that this guy would most likely make his move as well once the situation called for it.

He knew his brother extremely well, so he was sure that Leonard would surely do something like that.

Along with a helpless sigh, Arthur could only watch the next trial while suppressing his urge to fight.

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In the meantime, Chaotic Luck was having a problem since he had gotten some special news from the system.

As a 'special' existence for these trial grounds, Chaotic Luck seemed to be favored by the system itself.

At this moment, he had gotten the notification ahead of everyone else, knowing what kind of trial was waiting for everyone for this one.

With the mix of excitement and nervousness, Chaotic Luck stepped into the teleportation formation once again.

Swoosh!

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Whoosh!

Not long after, he appeared on top of an extremely tall altar that looked like a little ziggurat.

At the bottom of each side of this altar stood the representatives of the other four parties, occupying a side each.

Their respective party could not help but raise their heads, looking at the top of the altar, where they found the mysterious individual standing there and looking at them with a 'haughty' expression.

Before they could even understand what was going on, the system had already sent a notification to them, making them wear a solemn expression.

Ding

System: "The world is full of surprises and hidden danger. When the time comes that you need to set aside all your grievances and prejudices against one another, I wonder what choice you will make."

"Will you remain indifferent and get swallowed by your greed? Or will you choose to unite and fight against it?" – Dark King Tang Hyeon.

Ding

System: The third trial is starting!

System: In this trial, the unity of your team and your willingness to cooperate against a common enemy.

System: The top of this altar represents power and authority! Whoever seizes it from the one sitting on the throne will become the next king!

System: Whoever stood on the top of the platform, occupying that seat by themselves, and defending the throne, will receive a points depending on how long they have endured.

System: Once the throne is destroyed by any of the other parties, the role of the king will be passed down to the party that dealt the final strike.

System: At that point, the trial will reset back to the starting point with a new 'king' defending their throne.

System: The person who was still defending the throne when the final tick of the clock has fallen will be the final winner and receive twice the amount that the highest scorer this round has earned.

Ding

System: "Let's call this trail – The King's Battle!" – Dark King Tang Hyeon.

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When the system had signaled everyone to start the trail, no one immediately made their move.

Despite how alluring that so-called throne was, it was still a throne made of thorns.

Whoever occupies that spot will surely earn quite a lot of points. But in exchange, they would have to defend it against the four parties, who were powerful on their own right.

If they constantly hold that position and stubbornly held into it, then they would only exhaust themselves and lose in the long run.

Even if the first rule that the system had given them was quite alluring, it was nothing but the sweet tongue of the devil.

It might look quite good at first. But once they took the bait and got caught in it, then the consequences would only cause them more problems later.

It was nothing but a trap meant to mess with the so-called king.

After all, the final rule also said something about points. Moreover, it was more alluring than being the so-called throne.

Those who would be standing there last would not only win the trial but would also earn twice the points of the highest scorer for this round.

"What a perfect trial stage for us," commented Laurent after skimming through the rules and realizing the hidden implications of them.

He then turned to Leonard and said. "It looks like were quite lucky this time."

But quickly stiffened and shook his head. "Unfortunately, it will be even better if Riko is the one with us. If only I knew that this would happen, then I would be taking the more conservative choice."

Ryoto nodded as he added. "It feels like the system is toying with us."

Laurent nodded his head once again before turning back to Leonard. "It seems like you will have plenty of time to rest, junior."

"Take your time and rest to your peak. This round will surely be a very bloody one," he added before casting his gaze toward the top of the altar.

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Chapter 2042: The King's Battle (Part 2)

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The other parties might be thinking of buying as much time as possible, not willing to attack the current king until the ticking clock reaches the most critical level.

After all, the last team to stand on top of that altar and occupy the throne would be the one receiving the greatest number of points, which was twice that of the one standing the longest there.

However, their current opponent had a different thought in mind.

Chaotic Luck also understood his current situation. He might not be able to see through all the traps hidden in the rules set by the system for this trial, but he knew that he could not afford to let them kick him out early since it would risk his progress within this dungeon.

Having that in mind, he took advantage of the lack of response from the opposing parties to set up his defenses.

The first round was a siege against him, so it would be better to give his best right from the start.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

His bone staff was currently being shrouded by the mysterious veil of the dungeon, as well as his body. This made it hard for the other parties to even guess what his class was.

Aside from guessing that he was from the magic-related classes, everything else about him remained a mystery.

It wasn't until this moment, when he raised this bone staff and started summoning his undead army.

Swoosh!

Right after, the famous Legion of Chaotic Sun started appearing one after another.

The Skeleton Warriors and Skeleton Knights appeared first and formed a barricade around their master before slowly descending from the steps of the altar, seemingly planning to form a stronghold of undead to ward off their enemies.

The Skeleton Mages and Skeleton Archers appeared next, standing at the top of the altar and facing every direction. They were ready to destroy anyone who would try to challenge their master.

Then the Skeleton Crawlers and Flying Skeleton Beasts followed. The former started jumping down the altar and climbed on the walls surrounding the trial grounds while the latter flew in the air, watching over everything from above and waiting for the right opportunity to strike.

It did not take that long for his legion to form a perfect defensive line, shocking all the other parties.

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The moment when Chaotic Luck summoned his undead army and finished setting up his entire army within almost an instant, everyone from the other parties immediately thought of a certain person.

"Immortal!?"

This was the only person they could think of who could arrange his Undying Army with such speed and possess this kind of intimidating pressure. Alongside the commanding pressure that seemed to make him look like the lord of an army, they became even more convinced of their suspicion.

Moreover, if they compiled all the information they had gathered from the previous rounds, then everyone would click and make sense.

Even though they could not see the appearances of these undead creatures, they were at least very confident of this.

However, to those very familiar with Immortal and his antics, just like Leonard and Arthur, they knew that this person was not him.

This person might have a similar aura due to the mystifying features of the trial grounds, but they were sure that this person was far from being Immortal himself.

"No! That guy is not Immortal," said Arthur with a somewhat raised brow, fixating his gaze on the mysterious person.

"Are you sure, junior?" asked Riko with a hint of doubt. Even her was sure that this person was most likely Immortal.

"Our intel confirmed that Immortal is currently active within the premises of the Forsaken Islets," she added.

Arthur shook his head and denied. "The Forsaken Islets are the home of Undead Races, so classes such as Necromancers, Shadow Priests, Spectral Thieves, and Undead Knights are regular here."

"Among the Transcendent Beings of Undead Race, there are at least three people from the necromancer line. One is Immortal, who is a True Undead, while the other is Jakk, who is the Night Phantom. Then there is Osiris, who seems to be following Immortal as an example to this so-called mysterious expert and always acts alone."

"This Osiris is pretty much the same as that lunatic when he was still starting as a new player."

Hearing this remark, Riko could not help but roll her eyes at him, seemingly telling Arthur that he was not in a position to say such a thing since he was not that old to evaluate a person as such, especially since their ages did not differ much.

Regardless, she did not voice out her thoughts and let him continue.

Arthur paused for a moment, raising his head toward the virtual screen being projected before them, before continuing. "Anyway, what I want to say is I am very familiar with the former two and understand how they think and operate."

"As for the latter one, I don't have that much information about him. After all, he never appears in public and doesn't make any drastic movements that can attract the attention of large organizations to him."

Understanding what he was trying to say, Riko said. "Are you trying to imply that this person must be that mysterious necromancer?"

Arthur pursed his mouth a little before nodding. "Actually, I still have quite a few names who may fit the bill. However, not all of them were Transcendent Beings, so we can just write them off."

"Moreover, there is another special feature that makes me believe that this person is not immortal," he added, earning himself an inquiring look from Riko.

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"So, you are saying that this person is not Immortal since that is not his style?" asked Laurent after hearing the assessment from his junior.

Leonard nodded his head and continued. "You must trust me in this one, Senior. I have been clashing with Immortal for quite a lot of times already since I started playing this game. Our adventurer team is very familiar with his style."

"Moreover, we have also confirmed that this guy has earned himself quite a few super undead creatures that can threaten even the highest and strongest player within the game."

"Given his personality and way of doing this, I am confident that he is not Immortal. If he is, then he must have already summoned his extremely powerful undead creatures to flaunt it to everyone present."

"It is his way of telling everyone how powerful he is and his Undying Army," he added while squinting his eyes.

Laurent still had his doubts, but he chose to trust Leonard. "Let's say that it is the case. But it still does not change the fact that we are currently in quite a tricky situation."

"If we let this guy build up his army and further strengthen his defenses, trying to snatch that throne from him is going to be almost impossible."

Leonard raised his head and looked at the clock before asking. "Stopping all of four parties may not be impossible for him, so long as he tries to last for at least an hour or two. But an entire six hours? I doubt that he will have the strength to hold that long against us, much less his mana pool."

"An hour of continuous battle against the combined assault of people on our level is already amazing, but any longer than that is more than just a challenge."

Laurent nodded his head in agreement but swiftly asked a question in return. "Then what if he manages to eliminate all of us before that timer ends? Or what if he suddenly initiates a deal with one of the teams, asking for their help along with the idea of letting them take over the throne later?"

Hearing these words, Leonard could not help but pause and raise his brows, realizing that he had not considered those thoughts.

"I guess I am still shortsighted, Senior. I apologize for that," he quickly asked Laurent to excuse his words, admitting to his mistake.

At the same time, he could not help but move toward the top of the altar, feeling that this person seemed to be a bit familiar.

Unfortunately, he knew that it was impossible since this trial ground was only meant for Transcendent Beings.

The person that he was thinking of was neither from an Ascended Race nor from an Epic Race, which made that person quite a special one, just like the special race that Cetus had, the Blessed Human.

Regardless, this person was not the one he was thinking of, especially after recalling the special conditions needed just to enter the trial grounds, which were something that person would not be able to meet.

"Unless he suddenly falls at the center of the dungeon due to some coincidence like a protagonist from those novels, he will most likely not appear in this place, much less command such an overwhelming presence," he mumbled before focusing on recovering his strength and relieving his mental fatigue.

Whatever he was thinking, it would be proven sooner or later, anyway. He did not have to strain his brain thinking about such complicated things and focus on what he did best.

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Chapter 2043: The King's Battle (Part 3)

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"Should we go and test this guy?" asked Ryoto, seemingly a bit eager to test the strength of the current 'king' of the trial while also weakening the opposing forces before it could even reach a much higher level.

Laurent pursed his lips a little, seemingly considering this matter, but he suddenly shook his head immediately after. "There is no need for that. The other parties will surely do the testing for us."

Given his bit of familiarity with the opposing teams' organizations, he knew that those people would surely have more impatient ones in their ranks, particularly those from the Dragon Pavilion due to their military nature.

He was right. The other parties were already making their respective moves before they could even discuss it.

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From one of the four sides of the altar, there was a trio of people who seemed to have a reptilian-type race.

They had different colors of scales, which represented their unique features and abilities.

One of them had a blue-colored scale, which was similar to what the Ocean Nagas had.

However, the difference between these two sets of scales was the shape that they had. Those from the Ocean Naga races possessed round and smooth scales, while this person's scales were sharp and in a rhombus shape.

It was clear that he was from a different race, especially when there was a series of crackling sounds coming out from his body alongside the arcs of lightning dancing through these scales.

He was carrying a spear on his back, which was also constantly being engulfed by lightning. His intimidating and commanding pressure truly lived up to his name.

"Tyrant Dragon, let me remind you that we may be teammates this time, but I have no intention of following your orders," said the one standing beside this person.

Compared to the previous person, this guy had red-colored scales, which seemed to be constantly emitting a series of fiery embers. They were rough and hard at a single glance, which indicated that his defense was extremely tough.

His sharp glare and snapping tone could also indicate that his temper was quite a fiery one. It seemed like he was the type to always head into the battle first before thinking about anything else.

Adding the huge pair of battle axes hanging on his back, it was clear that he belonged to a very strong combat class.

Tyrant Dragon gave this person a sharp glare before ignoring him completely.

Seeing this, this person with a fiery temper seemed to have snapped and was about to explode.

Fortunately, the third person in their group suddenly stepped in and mediated. "You have to calm down, Berserk. You should remember what Nemesis has said before sending us for this round together."

Berserk Dragon stiffened for a moment before turning around and dropping the matter. He respected Nemesis Dragon a lot, so he had to suppress himself and control his anger before creating trouble later.

He had to wait until they were back at the headquarters before settling this score.

Tyrant Dragon, on the other hand, turned to the mediator before saying. "Luminous Dragon, you'd better keep this guy in check before he causes any trouble later."

Luminous Dragon seemed to be from a similar race as these two, but his scales were smooth and elliptical compared to those of the two. Moreover, they were constantly releasing a sacred luster which seemed to be his innate trait.

At the same time, his class was a bit different compared to the other two. Instead of a combat-oriented class, his class leaned more toward auxiliary-type.

His weapon style leaned more toward dual-wielding. In his right hand was a magical wand, while his left hand was holding a small, round shield.

This class seemed to be a variation of the Cleric Class from the Human Race, based on what he was wearing alone, especially when he was wearing a set of cloth-type equipment.

He briefly nodded before turning toward the growing army of undead, before saying. "It seems like we are in luck this time. Our classes and attributes work against undead and dark creatures. This is going to be quite favorable for us."

He then swept his gaze at the adjacent sides of their position before pursing his lips. "It seems like they are still not planning to make their move."

"Well, if that guy is truly Immortal, then dealing with him is more than just troublesome, so it is quite understandable for their side," he added before turning to Tyrant Dragon and Berserk Dragon. "Should we do the honor of testing the waters for our old friends?"

"Hmph!" Berserk Dragon snorted on the surface but did not say anything else.

Tyrant Dragon, on the other hand, directly pulled his spear out and prepared for battle. There was no better response to it than to show his answer with actions.

When Berserk Dragon saw this, he also took out the pair of huge battle axes on his back and stepped forward, not willing to be outshone by the other.

Seeing their actions, Luminous Dragon shook his head before preparing as well. He raised his wand and started chanting out a series of draconic words, which was immediately followed by a holy light bathing their group.

Under the baptism of this light, the attributes that Tyrant Dragon and Berserk Dragon wielded were mixed with the sacred element. This somewhat changes their innate elemental attributes, changing their appearances.

The azure lightning that was surrounding Tyrant Dragon's body gained a golden luster, while the flames covering the surface of Berserk Dragon's scales turned into holy fire.

Roar! Roar!

Right after, the two warriors simultaneously left their respective spots, disappearing from everyone's sight.

Aside from the two distinct and deafening roars that were still reverberating throughout the place, everyone else seemed to have been put under a spell and froze in place.

It was as if these roars were announcing the arrival of two apex predators in the scene.

Crackle! Crackle!

The first to make his entrance was Tyrant Dragon, who suddenly flew into the air, seemingly planning to reach the top of the altar in a single leap.

He had left arcs of lightning behind while flying straight to the top of the altar, which also assaulted the flying beast skeletons trying to block his path.

At first, he was confident that he would be able to fly past them, especially when his lightning attribute was the bane of all evil.

Adding the sacred properties that the buffs Luminous Dragon had provided him, dealing with these filthy undead creatures should be quite easy.

Boom!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

However, he was a bit too confident in himself and the power he possessed.

Roar!

Right when he was trying to fly past the flying beast skeletons, he was immediately obstructed by a fierce series of assaults, forcing him to halt his dragons.

"What!?" He could not help but look at this bunch of undead creatures, re-evaluating their strength. "They seem to be unbothered by our special attributes."

Bang!

Right after landing back on the ground, he realized that Berserk Dragon was also being obstructed by a similarly powerful resistance, if not more.

Luminous Dragon frowned deeply as he could see more deeply than the other two. He could tell that despite the effects of their respective attributes being the best counter against undead creatures, the opposing side remained unflinching and even faced their attacks with welcoming arms.

If he were not seeing wrong, then he would most likely think that their innate attributes were extremely beneficial to these undead creatures, particularly Berserk Dragon's draconic flame mixed with his holy attribute.

"What is happening!?" mumbled Luminous while furrowing his brows, extremely confused with the current situation.

He was even suspecting that they were not currently facing an undead army due to such an odd sight before them.

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In the meantime, Arthur, who was currently paying close attention to the battlefield, could not help but frown deeply, especially after seeing the actions coming from the trio.

"Dragons. They are indeed from the Dragon Pavilion," he mumbled after seeing the abilities that the three possessed.

Even if their overall appearances and the special effects of their abilities were currently being hidden by the mysterious veil of the trial grounds, he could at least recognize the movements and tricks that these three possessed.

Additionally, his understanding of the dragon race was much deeper than anyone else's. He naturally knew that almost all the Transcendent Beings were under the Dragon Race.

From what he knew, aside from his Dragonkin Race, which had the chance to evolve into a Divine Golden Dragon Race once the conditions were met, there were also four other dragon-related Transcendent Beings.

One of them had that Dragon Slayer Class, which was another branch of the Dragonkin Race. It also shared the same class name as Sigurd Dragonborn's legacy.

The other was the Dragon Race that Yuan had, the Pavilion Master of the Dragon Pavilion. Even Arthur was not sure what kind of dragon it was, despite his knowledge about dragons.

The three Transcendent Dragons before him were most likely from the other Draconic Tribes that he had been hearing about, which were the three from the four Transcendent Beings of the Dragon Pavilion.

"Someone from the Lightning Dragon Tribe, another from the Fire Dragon Tribe, and there is an interesting guy with the rare Light Dragon Tribe," he mumbled after observing their abilities a bit closer.

He then pursed his lips, adding a remark. "Quite interesting. To think that Yuan can help his people to secure these Tribe's legacy. I wonder if he also knows how to evolve them into Blue Storm Dragon, Red Infernal Dragon, and White Sacred Dragon."

"I guess I have to invite him for a chat later," he nodded his head, seemingly plotting something.

It was only at this moment that he turned his attention toward the undead army of the opposing side. "These undead creatures are odd. They seem to be as strange as that guy's legion."

He then suppressed the twitching of his mouth while denying the possibility. "It can't be. His luck shouldn't be enough to bypass such an odd condition from the gate. Probably."

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Chapter 2044: The King's Battle (Part 4)

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Leonard was staring intently at the ongoing battle, falling into deep thought. He knew that what he was thinking was impossible, but he could not help but think that it might not be the case.

"Don't tell me, he truly fell into the trial ground by mistake?" he mumbled, still unable to believe such a possibility.

Moreover, now that he had become aware of it, he could not just ignore it. Regardless of their relationship with that guy, they still had to respect the work etiquette. He would not be showing mercy later.

"I guess Arthur is also aware of it," he mumbled before casting his gaze toward the ongoing battle.

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The other parties refused to make any move despite seeing the members of the Dragon Pavilion struggle against the opposing army of undead.

Since there were people who were willing to volunteer as the guinea pigs, they would welcome it with open arms. They would be able to gather as much information as much as they could, and without spending much effort.

Standing a bit far from the battlefield, the group who were suspected to be from the Hydra Guild were currently watching the ongoing battle with an amused expression on their faces.

"It seems like they have sent both Tyrant Dragon and Berserk Dragon at the same time," said one of them while watching their old rivals struggle hard.

The members of the Hydra Guild were unique since most of the higher-ups of their guild were from assassin or thief-related classes.

Even the ones that they had sent for this operation were from such a class, which came from different Transcendent Races.

This person seemed to come from a Wolfkin Tribe of the Beastman Race. He was wearing a set of leather armor alongside a pair of deadly daggers that looked like the sharp fangs of a beast.

He was emitting a savage aura, filling the air around him with overwhelming bloodlust.

His nose twitched a little, making the expression on his face to contort a little. He seemed to have been itching to go into action as well. He was trying his best to suppress such an urge, preventing any unnecessary trouble.

The guy beside him, who was wearing a cloak to hide his entire appearance, seemed to have noticed this and said. "You'd better be careful, Echis. The Guild Leader will not be happy if any more problem arises during this operation."

Echis glanced at the latter before snorting. "You don't have to remind me, Viper. If you want to keep an eye on someone, then you'd better keep that guy in check."

Turning toward the direction Echis was pointing at, Viper saw another assassin, who was different from the two of them.

Echis was the type to fight his opponent with all his strength whenever ambushing them. A fierce and savage attacker, who always took advantage of his quickness whenever he attacked. He was quite easy to provoke and had the urge to quickly retaliate whenever he felt like being challenged.

On the other hand, Viper was the type to always move sneakily and wait for the perfect time to ambush his targets. He was capable of completely erasing his presence, making it harder for his opponents to sense him.

In the meantime, this other person, who teamed up with them, seemed to be from another type of assassins. This guy was neither stealthy nor fierce on the surface. He was instead a balance of both.

He also possessed an air of authority, which he was passively emitting even by just standing there.

This was Cobra, one of the more authoritative figures within the guild and also their top combatant, even among all the thirteen heads of their main force.

As the one entrusted by their Guild Leader, Serpent, to head this operation, Viper found it hard to manage the current group they had.

If it were just Echis, Anaconda, and the others, then he would have a much easier time dealing with them, even though they were a bunch of troublemakers.

However, it was a different case when it came to Cobra, who was dubbed King Cobra by all the members within the guild due to his special status in the real world.

He was among the 'royalties' within the organization supporting their guild in the real world and was said to be among their most talented geniuses alongside Serpent and Black Mamba, who were another level of monstrosity.

Moreover, there was a rumor going around the guild that the secret unit that the organization behind them had created was already getting active recently.

It was said that this was because of the most recent update of the game, where the old experts would most likely be flooding into the game servers.

As for Cobra, he was said to be part of that unit alongside Serpent and Black Mamba.

With such a special status, Viper did not have any authority to order this royalty around. This was why he was having some trouble when he was organizing the lineup earlier.

"Your Highness, it is better to follow the arrangement before making your move," he said with the humblest tone possible.

He was not familiar with this person, so it was better to keep it low before the situation turned into a more serious consequence later.

Cobra just nodded his head a little while fixating his eyes on the person, who was controlling the army of undead from the top of the altar.

The information that they had did not mention anything about such a person, who seemed to have a powerful army of undead, rivaling Immortal, present in this place.

From the people that they knew, there were only quite a few people who could claim that their army of the undead was comparable to Immortal's Undying Army.

The most famous one recently was the said Legion of Chaotic Sun from the strange lich of the Empyrean Talons.

Based on the characteristics of that army, the one before them perfectly fit the bill.

"Could it be that guy?" he mumbled before furrowing his brows. "But based on the information that we have, that person is not a Transcendent Being, but more of a special race like Blessed Human and Corrupted Drows."

"Could it be that the information is wrong and that guy has evolved into a Transcendent Being after acquiring that legacy from the Lich King?" he thought before shaking his head. "No. That is impossible. That stolen legacy is supposed to be the complete opposite. It is meant for members of the Corrupted Cult, particularly their Messengers."

"Is it because of the mutated version of the legacy?" he was trying to figure this out.

In the meantime, on the other part of the trail ground, the members of the Black Market were similarly observing the ongoing battle.

"It seems like the members of Dragon Pavilion are still having a hard time despite adjusting themselves to this army of undead," said a person who seemed to be from the Human Race.

He was carrying a box filled with multiple weapons on his back. Along with the set of light armor that he was wearing, it was clear that he came from a warrior or combat-type class.

He was the other High Human other than Zero. As for his class, he was a Weapon Master, which was clearly indicated by the box of weapons on his back.

He then turned toward the young man beside him and said. "Brat. We have done a lot just to get you out of that trash party and save you from their pursuit in the real world, so you'd better do your part this time."

The young man beside him did not say anything else and just stood there obediently. Instead of observing the ongoing battle, he was more focused on staring at the engravings on the wall, the floor, and the ceiling of the trial ground.

He was also looking at the patterns drawn on the altar itself, seemingly trying to peer through its mysteries.

He knew what this person wanted him to do. They were only using him after knowing that he was a poison expert.

Moreover, his expertise came from the combination of ancient teaching and modern methods, which could greatly help them in the exploration of this place.

He did not show any respect for this person since he was only being seen as a tool from the place where he came from, alongside his brother.

After learning his knowledge about poisons and historical legends about them, these people forced him to go with them.

His previous party, which was also a long-time friend of his elder brother, had abandoned him, losing itself to the so-called benefits that these people had provided.

He knew that if his elder brother was still alive, then such a thing would never happen. Unfortunately, his elder brother had suffered an unfortunate end after the organization that he had escaped from had found him.

He first thought that they would be able to live a normal life when his elder brother came back after missing for almost a decade.

Little did they know that it would lead to another disaster.

Not only was the orphanage where they lived destroyed, but everybody there was also massacred ruthlessly.

Thinking about this, he could not help but tightly grip his fists in hatred. He was not angry because of his elder brother bringing such a disaster to them, but rather at the situation itself and the organization behind the incident.

He knew that if only they were stronger, then they could at least prevent it from happening.

It was also the same people whom this person was talking about.

If not for the urgency of the situation in the real world, he would never have sold himself to these people from the Black Market, since he could tell that they were no better than anyone else.

At the same time, he could not help but think of two people at this moment. "There are only two people I can trust based on what my elder brother has said."

"One is Big Brother Arthur, who has a very powerful background, while the other is the friend that Elder Brother is talking about."

"I can somehow find a way to contact Big Brother Arthur, but how can I contact that friend of his when I know nothing about them?"

"All I know is the key to finding that person is using the techniques that my elder brother has taught me. But doing so will also put me in the same situation as before since those people will find me through it as well."

Reaching this thought, he suddenly paused for a moment before sighing. "Just what have you stolen from them, Elder Brother, for those guys to refuse letting us go?"

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Chapter 2045: The King's Battle (Part 5)

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Seeing that the young man seemed to have lost in his thoughts, the leader of the Black Market's group snorted. "Brat, remove all those distracted thoughts of yours and focus on your job. You are only here for one job, which is to study all these engravings and tell us whatever you find."

"You should know the consequences if you do anything funny. We may not know who is chasing after you, but we can just hand you over to them once we find that you no longer have any value."

Hearing this, Lawrence, the young man, snorted silently while cursing inside his head. 'That is more reason for me to keep everything to myself since you guys can just throw me away right after getting everything you need from me.'

At the same time, the other member of the group suddenly chimed in. "Branch Manager Gunner, are we still not going to make our move? It seems like those people from the Dragon Pavilion will not be able to break through this undead army."

"We have already collected enough information about the opposing forces anyway, so I think it is better to force them to use their hidden cards now so that we can prepare later," he added with a respectful tone, afraid that the latter would find his suggestion an overstep of his position.

Fortunately, Gunner did not mind it at all and just turned toward the other side of the altar. "Those sly snakes of Hydra Guild have yet to make their move. Let's wait a little more before making our move."

"I don't want to be taken advantage of by those people," he said before turning back to Lawrence beside him. "Brat, make sure to recover everything. Once we make our move, you don't have to do anything. Just continue studying those engravings and leave the battle to us."

Lawrence just nodded his head while continuing to look at the patterns engraved all over the place.

...

Boom! Boom! Boom!

In the meantime, Chaotic Luck could not help but furrow his brows while looking at the members of the Dragon Pavilion attempting to break through his legion through brute force.

He was quite confused at first, thinking why these people looked a bit 'weaker' compared to what he was expecting, especially after seeing the strength of a few individuals fighting during the first trial.

However, he later realized that it was most likely because of the overpowered buff that he had gotten earlier when he first arrived in the trial ground.

Given all the strengthening effects that his legion had gotten from this so-called blessing, their overall power had reached an unimaginable level.

He felt very powerful at this moment, especially when he could continuously summon more blazing undead creatures without caring about anything else. He could constantly replenish his forces without encountering any issues with his mana.

Moreover, controlling his army had also become much easier due to the commanding traits that the buff had given him.

The size of his army had also grown much larger due to the extra buff as well, which was why he was able to set up his legion quite quickly earlier.

It was just a pity that he did not have any commander-type undead creatures that were capable of commanding his troops, which would further strengthen the entirety of his legion.

Having this in mind, he could not help but turn toward the other benefit that he had gotten when he 'accepted' his currently ongoing quest.

It was a temporary skill that could summon a commander-type undead, which was supposed to be a Lich, and someone that he truly needed for his army.

Based on his ongoing quest, he would get this summon after he completed it, which was why he prioritized doing this quest above everything else. If not for the previous accident, then he would have most likely cleared the quest already.

He knew that this Lich summon would most likely be the key to finishing that quest, especially when he only had three chances to use the skill.

"If the situation calls for it, I will use this skill at the final two trials. I can just give up this stage later if I can no longer hold that long. After all, I have already survived the previous two rounds and earned myself a decent number of points."

"Given that I have already held my ground for more than thirty minutes, my ranking later will not be that bad, especially when these people will most likely fight against each other for the final spot."

Chaotic Luck was considering his options after seeing that the other parties were about to make their move and join the battle.

Regardless of his current situation, he would refuse to hand over the throne that easily. He knew that this was going to be a difficult battle; he would not go down easily!

He wanted to become a great expert just like the Monster Trio and Demonic Duo of their team.

"Come! I'm ready for anything!" he mumbled after noticing that the trio from a certain team simultaneously disappeared from their respective positions, making him shiver a little.

Their disappearance alone was more than enough to tell him about their respective class.

Even though he did not know that they were the Transcendent Beings of Hydra Guild, he could at least tell that they were powerful experts, especially when even his legion of undead was unable to find any of their trances.

He could also feel the danger lingering in the air, despite his standing quite far from the spot where the trio disappeared.

It was as if the death itself suddenly descended from the sky and came after him.

Chaotic Luck was very familiar with this feeling, as he was always subjected to this level of pressure whenever he trained with those monstrous individuals from their team.

"This feeling-... Those guys are truly not regular experts," he mumbled before finally summoning his strongest creature, the Hell Pilgrim.

Swoosh!

Right after appearing, it stood before its master with the intention to protect. It sharply swept its eyes in the surroundings, looking for any fluctuation in the air that would tell it the movements of the enemies.

The moment this Hell Pilgrim appeared, the opposing parties immediately realized that their opponent was finally taking them more seriously.

Even if they could not fully see its current appearance, it was still clear that this undead was a highly elite creature, which was most likely a Death Knight.

After all, summoning a Death Knight was one of the core abilities of the necromancer class.

At the same time, Chaotic Luck had summoned his other elite creatures, which were a notch higher than regular blazing skeletons.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

They were the blazing giants made of the skeletal remains of ape beasts. He had summoned eight of them at once, which quickly paired up with another and headed to different corners of the altar, facing all directions.

At this point, Chaotic Luck was still unaware that there were already three people standing at platform of the altar, silently watching and patiently waiting for their opportunity to strike.

Even the sharp senses of the eight blazing apes were unable to sense their presence despite them standing very close to those three.

As for the Hell Pilgrim, the three assassins of the Hydra Guild were unable to tell if it was able to see through their stealth due to it not moving an inch away from Chaotic Luck.

There were quite a few openings that the three could take advantage of, which were the perfect opportunity to strike.

Unfortunately, these three were top assassins and were able to 'tell' that those openings were nothing but a 'trap' to lure them.

Such a huge and deadly opening caused by a mere 'carelessness' was such an obvious trap.

It was not going work against them!

Only a bunch of beginners and lesser assassins would fall into such a trap.

Little did they know that it was a true opening created by Chaotic Luck since he was still not familiar with complicated setups when facing a group of highly skilled assassins.

After all, the feeling that these three were giving him was different from the ones Shin and Diablo generated during their training sessions.

Even though the pressure that he was receiving was the same, the way he dealt with it was still a bit immature.

Chaotic Luck was hesitating whether to use the illumination spells that he had to reveal if there were any hostile opponents around him. After all, he did not want to waste such spells, which could greatly help him deal with opponents in stealth.

It was better to save them until the right moment.

He had learned it the hard way when dealing with Diablo, who kept on toying with him during their training sessions. He had always wasted such spells at the most crucial moments.

Unfortunately, he had yet to fully grasp what the others were telling him about the so-called 'feeling'. The 'feeling' that would tell him whether it was the right time to use such important spells.

He could not help but be lost in thought while thinking about those tips.

At the same time, he was unable to help himself from doing a few simulations inside his head, which was another trick that he had learned from those great experts.

The problem was that he was unable to properly cast the illumination spell in his mind, accidentally triggering it for real.

"Ah!"

He was taken aback by his own actions, snapping out of his simulation in the process.

Swoosh!

A ball of light suddenly appeared in the distance where his bone scepter was pointing, revealing a hazy silhouette standing at that spot.

Due to how unexpected his actions were, Echis, who was standing in that spot, suddenly froze. He was greatly caught off guard by the sudden development.

He was still thinking about how Chaotic Luck had found him when he suddenly saw a blur appearing right before him.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The two blazing skeletal apes nearby swiftly moved and instantly reached him, swinging their fist with all their might.

Boom!

...

Chapter 2046: The King's Battle (Part 6)

...

"Huh!?"

Chaotic Luck was as confused as his opponent, so he did not immediately make his move right after he accidentally revealed the location of one of the assassins who were trying to take him down.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Fortunately, most of his elite undead creatures possessed advanced AI, swiftly making their own decisions according to the situation.

Right after Echis' blurry silhouette appeared, the Blazing Skeletal Apes immediately made their move, locking their gazes at him swiftly made their move.

Whoosh!

The ones nearest to him immediately made their move, reaching his side and swinging their giant fist almost at the same time.

Boom!

However, despite their instantaneous response, Echis remained as one of the top combatants of the Hydra Guild. Aside from his Transcendent Being identity, his skills and abilities were more than enough to put him on the same pedestal as the apex gods of the game.

He was able to quickly respond the instant he realized his predicament. He did not even think twice to use one of his lifesaving skills to escape from the coordinated attacks of those two blazing skeletal apes.

At the same time, the other two assassins took advantage of the distraction that Echis had created to launch their respective attacks.

Viper silently appeared behind Chaotic Luck, wielding his daggers and about to plunge them at the latter's back.

Shing!

The daggers were about to be silently stabbed on the exposed back of their target when a sudden blur blocked them.

Clang! Clang!

The Hell Pilgrim, which seemed to be standing like a statue earlier, suddenly made its move.

Right after blocking the ambush from Viper, it swiftly stepped forward, trying to catch the latter during his awkward stance.

Shing!

It swung the blazing sword in its hands, leaving a scorching scent while cutting through the air.

Swoosh!

Viper immediately retreated, dodging the deadly attack.

Bang!

The blazing sword landed on the sturdy floor of the platform, not leaving even a dent on it. This showed how tough the materials used to create it were.

Swoosh!

The Hell Pilgrim did not pursue Viper despite the latter purposely slowing himself down and leaving a huge opening meant to harm himself.

It was quite obvious that he was baiting the Hell Pilgrim to chase after him. Unfortunately, he had underestimated the Combat AI and Battle IQ of this special undead creature.

Instead of chasing after him, the Hell Pilgrim suddenly turned and appeared on another side of its master, blocking yet another deadly ambush.

Clank!

A loud metallic sound reverberated in the air due to the collision of weapons.

Cobra suddenly materialized in the spot near Chaotic Luck, giving the latter a huge scare.

"Ah!?"

If not for the quick response of the Hell Pilgrim, Chaotic Luck had most likely been taken down by this soundless ambush from Cobra.

Seemingly expecting this to happen, Cobra calmly retreated, disappearing in stealth once again.

The moment he entered stealth, all his traces instantly disappeared, while the air was suddenly filled with the scent of death.

This clearly indicated that Cobra was way above the others, including the two others with him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A series of explosions erupted throughout the platform on top of the altar due to the intense battle taking place there.

The members of the Hydra Guild worked together, trying to take down Chaotic Luck. However, they found it hard to believe that they were unable to do anything to him, even after trying for almost a dozen minutes.

They could not figure out this person at all!

Oftentimes, he was full of openings, making them believe that he was luring them into a trap while also possessing a watertight defense from time to time.

They did not know if they were facing someone as cunning as Immortal, who was good at creating traps and luring opponents into committing mistakes, or if it was another person in the Strategist Rankings, who was filled with unpredictability.

However, Cobra told the two that his guy was not as complicated as they saw on the surface or as mysterious as everyone thought. He was just a bit hard to read due to his instability, which was the major factor in his unpredictability.

Cobra told the two that so long as they continued doing what they were good at and didn't get swept by his strange rhythm, then everything would be fine.

If there was something that they needed to be wary of when facing this person, then it would be his powerful undead creatures, which were quite special on their own right.

Dealing with them was extremely tricky, especially when the battle dragged on.

Not only were the senses of these undead creatures becoming sharper the longer they battled, but their movements and combat strength were slowly getting stronger, particularly the version of Death Knight protecting their target.

The Hell Pilgrim never left Chaotic Luck's side, dedicating everything it had to protecting its master.

Moreover, it was continuously growing stronger during the entire battle, making it harder for the trio to deal with him.

Their strategies were also becoming more predictable for this strange undead, which seemed to be capable of reading through their tricks after seeing them do a few of them multiple times.

Naturally, the trio had yet to give their all during these exchanges. After all, they need to conserve as much strength as possible, saving it for the latter stages of the trial.

In their eyes, the only ones that they needed to face were the other top-notch experts from the Dragon Pavilion, who were their archrivals.

They did not want to show their hand this early, giving those guys enough information against them later.

They also knew that those three from the rival group were doing the same, hiding their strength until they face each other again.

They were so proud that they ignored the other parties involved.

As for this mysterious expert before them? They just treated him as one of the stumbling blocks on the round that they needed to crush.

If other things made them quite impressed with this person, aside from his strange army of undead and the other oddness that shrouded him, then it must be the way he adjusted in unexpected situations, which made him truly look like a mysterious expert.

If not for the occasional questionable decision that this guy was making, then they would truly believe that he was some sort of NPC or robot meant to mess with them.

At the same time, they were also surprised that this person seemed to be capable of controlling his army despite being under a constant threat from them.

Or so they thought, since Chaotic Luck was unable to do such a thing. If only they could see the current expression that he was currently making, they would most likely curse themselves for thinking too much about the situation.

Chaotic Luck, just like most of the time, let his army do their own thing. Aside from constantly replenishing their numbers during the entire battle, he had set them free to deal with the opposing forces by themselves.

...

While the two forces were finding a way to deal with Chaotic Luck, the remaining two parties were considering their choices.

"It has been two and a half hours since the start of the trial. I must say that I have quite impressed," commented Laurent while enjoying the show.

Seeing that the members of the Dragon Pavilion and the Hydra Guild struggled against this opponent made him feel quite good.

"Forty-five minutes of those two and a half hours is mostly because everyone else refuses to make their move and wants to observe the situation a bit longer," said Ryoto before adding to his remark. "However, lasting for almost an hour against the 'combined' assault of those people is already impressive enough."

Looking at the ticking clock over the trial ground, Laurent could not help but turn to Leonard and ask. "Do you still don't want us to interfere?"

He did not know what this junior was thinking. But when they were about to make their move earlier, they were suddenly stopped by Leonard, asking them to wait a bit longer.

Leonard did not explain his thoughts earlier because he was not sure about them yet. But after seeing everything up until now, he had become confident in his suspicion.

Thinking about this, he immediately came up with a decision.

He turned to Laurent and Ryoto and said with a resolute tone. "Seniors, what if I told you that I have a way to communicate with that person? Will you believe me?"

Hearing these words, the two seniors could not help but turn to one another, wearing an odd expression on their faces.

Since the very first trial, they all knew that aside from the mysterious veil shrouding everyone's appearance, they were also unable to talk with the other parties.

Even for this trial, they could not communicate with the other parties through speech.

However, that did not mean that they could not do it through other means.

Realizing this, Laurent suddenly thought of something. "Are you sure about this?"

Leonard nodded his head with full seriousness before adding. "A hundred percent!"

"You want to negotiate with that person and work together for this round?" asked Laurent, seeing through the plan of this junior.

Leonard just nodded his head as a form of affirmation.

Laurent thought for a moment before nodding his head. "Alright, what do you want us to do?"

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Chapter 2047: A Returning Legend (Part 1)

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Seeing the ongoing battle at the top of the altar, the members of the Dragon Pavilion felt a sudden sense of crisis.

"Those snakes from the Hydra Guild seem to be ahead of us this time," said Luminous Dragon with a bit of solemnness.

"Hmph! That is only because of the nature of their class," snorted Berserk Dragon, refusing to believe that they would lose to those assassins. "Look! They seem to be struggling!"

"More like playing with their food. They are obviously trying to make use of this situation to gather as much information as possible," refuted Tyrant Dragon right after annihilating a group of skeleton soldiers around him.

"Should we pick up the pace?" asked Luminous Dragon, feeling a bit anxious about something.

"It will be a bit troublesome to give the next throne to these people, so we'd better hurry before it is too late," said Berserk Dragon, cleaving a huge portion of the skeleton soldiers before him.

"And reveal our cards early?" asked Tyrant Dragon with a frown.

"What is the use of those cards if we will not be able to seize that throne? Moreover, losing it to those filthy snakes!" snarled Berserk Dragon, seemingly provoked once again and itching to fight his own teammate.

Luminous Dragon swiftly meditated before the situation could even turn for the worse. "This is just the third round, so there is no need to reveal too much of our card. But that does not mean that we will hand over the throne to those sly snakes."

"Then, I will take the lead," said Berserk Dragon before swiftly charging straight to the ranks of the skeleton soldiers blocking his path.

Whoosh!

His body released an intense firestorm, which swiftly gathered toward his battleaxes. This, in turn, made the dual blades of his battleaxes grow larger before he swung them down.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

A pair of huge blazing crescent suddenly were suddenly released from the blades of his battleaxes and cleaved through the ranks of the undead army, annihilating a huge portion of their forces.

He did not stop there, either and continued his assault with yet another attack, which was no weaker than the previous one.

Boom!

This time, a straight path was created due to the powerful blazing strike, striking down the army.

Crackle! Crackle!

Right at the same time, Tyrant Dragon suddenly charged ahead, taking the path that Berserk Dragon had created to move forward.

Given his speed, which was greatly enhanced by his lightning attribute, he was able to break through the remaining blockade and reach the halfway mark of the altar.

Swoosh!

However, before he could even reach further ahead, he suddenly sensed an extremely fast object was flying his direction.

This forced him to halt his tracks facing that direction.

Right at the same time, he suddenly swung his lightning spear with all his might, not daring to underestimate the incoming attack.

Boom!

A thunderous explosion suddenly erupted right after the two sides clashed against each other.

Swoosh!

Amid the chaos, cloud of smoke and dust produced by that explosion, Tyrant Dragon's figure was suddenly thrown into retreat.

Raising his head, he looked at the still receding cloud of smoke while squinting his eyes with a dangerous glint.

Not long after, he saw a figure bending his waist to pick up the spear deeply embedded in the ground.

Bang!

With a powerful tug, this person pulled the spear before resting it on his shoulder.

"What is the meaning of this?" mumbled Tyrant Dragon while further narrowing his eyes.

He was not sure about the intention of the opposing party, but they seemed likely to be planning to oppose them rather than disturbing the ongoing battle at the top of the altar.

Even Luminous Dragon, who was assisting his teammates at the back, could not help but furrow his brows in confusion.

"Are they working together with that Necromancer or with the people of the Hydra Guild?" he mumbled, unable to think of the reason why this person had blocked them.

"From which force are they from?" asked Tyrant Dragon, knowing that Luminous Dragon had mostly figured out the forces they were competing with for this inheritance.

Luminous Dragon thought for a moment while looking in the direction from which the other party came. "Based on the information that we have, they are most likely from the Heavenly Resto-Bar."

"Those information merchants?" mumbled Tyrant alongside a deep frown before saying. "How dare they provoke us?"

"That force is quite special due to the number of connections that they have both inside and outside the game. Occasional clashes against them are still fine, but falling out with them is going to be quite troublesome," said Luminous Dragon with a deep tone.

"Moreover, that guy must be Aoki, based on the information that we have, one of the young masters of the organization."

"At the same time, he is someone from the same generation as other legendary figures like Khing, who is dubbed as the King of Games, as well as the monstrous duo of the disbanded Dark Hero Adventurer Team, God Slayer Tora and Death God Yami, who are going with different aliases right now," he added with a solemn tone.

"So that is why they have the guts to provoke us first?" asked Tyrant Dragon while pointing forward. He then paused for a moment before continuing. "Or have they already been working with other forces for this operation, which is why they are obstructing us?"

Luminous Dragon was still in the middle of his thoughts when Berserk Dragon, as hot-headed as he was, immediately charged ahead without any hint of hesitation.

"Regardless of their reason, all we have to do is crush them for opposing us!" roared Berserk Dragon while dragging his battleaxes.

Midair, he left a blazing trail behind before suddenly swinging those huge battleaxes, transforming their sharp heads into giant cleaving axes.

BOOM!

The giant blazing blades of the axe towered over everything before it came crashing down toward the direction of the person who blocked Tyrant Dragon earlier.

This towering strike also generated intense heat that affected the surroundings, making even breathing quite terrible.

The scorching heat was so intense that the air had become an inferno.

However, despite how powerful this strike was, someone still dared to face it head-on.

Swoosh!

Another person suddenly appeared beside the first one, who was carrying a spear. This time, it was someone carrying a greatsword on their back.

Shing!

This person unsheathed his sword and immediately swung it upwards, summoning a domain of water that turned into an overwhelming flood that clashed against the descending strike made of fire.

BOOM!

The opposing forces immediately clashed, generating a powerful explosion caused by their opposing natures.

The scorching flame and freezing water clashed, generating a mixture of hot mist and cold fog.

Boom!

In the distance, Berserk Dragon fell steadily on his feet despite crushing the ground and creating a deep crater around him.

At the same time, he slowly strengthened his back before directing his gaze at the opposing side.

An intense hunger for battle was currently raging within him.

...

While the three from the Dragon Pavilion were currently staring at them like hungry beasts ready to devour them, Laurent and Ryoto were staring at their respective opponents.

"That junior of ours seems to be overestimating us a bit too much. Does he truly believe that we can handle those three by ourselves? Especially when they have someone with a support class?" Laurent complained while sighing. "This is going to be a bit troublesome, don't you think?"

Ryoto just shrugged his shoulders before saying. "It is not like we are by ourselves right now. Have you already forgotten the undead army is going to be on our side?"

While he was saying those words, Ryoto was suddenly attacked by a group of skeleton soldiers around him, seemingly disproving his claim.

With a twitching corner of his mouth, he suddenly swung his greatsword and sent out a bright crescent that cleaved through all the skeleton soldiers.

Seeing that, Laurent gave him a knowing look, refusing to comment with words.

Ryoto shook his head before adding. "You should know that our junior has taken the initiative to deal with the other side by himself. His burden is much heavier than ours, especially when he has yet to recover from his fatigue."

Laurent shrugged his shoulders once again, refusing to comment once again.

But this time, it was not because he wanted to annoy his current partner. It was due to the three people slowly approaching them, along with the heavy pressure that their bodies were emitting.

"It seems like they are going to go all out this time," Laurent clicked his tongue, realizing that the opposing side seemed to be quite agitated at this moment.

"It seems like your cover is blown from the previous strike," said Ryoto while chuckling.

"Tsk! Who would have thought that there are still people out there who know about me? Moreover, it is just a single strike! How come they figure it out that fast!? I am not as famous as those people, you know," complained Laurent.

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Chapter 2048: A Returning Legend (Part 2)

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Looking at the opposing side, Laurent signaled Ryoto to move aside.

“You deal with Berserk Dragon and make sure that he will not be able to interfere with me. I will take on both Tyrant Dragon and Luminous Dragon,” he said while flipping the spear resting on his shoulders.

“Are you going to be fine?” asked Ryoto, feeling a bit concerned.

He knew how capable and how strong Laurent was, but he was not sure if he could take on those two from the Dragon Pavilion. After all, those two were among the Dragon Talons of the guild, which was also their most elite unit.

But at the same time, Ryoto was also not sure of the limits of this young master beside him. Ever since he knew Laurent, he had never seen him go all out, making it impossible for him to gauge his true strength.

However, since there were rumors that he was comparable to the legendary figures of the virtual world, there must be a reason for it.

He was still relatively new to the organization, knowing little about its internal structure or the true experts it had.

He was unlike Riko, who had been classmates with this young master since childhood.

However, since Laurent was confident about it, he did not have to ask too much, especially when the latter refused to comment.

Seeing that Ryoto did not dwell on the topic much longer, Laurent shooed him while saying. "Shoo! Shoo! You go a distance away from our battlefield. I will be sending you your opponent shortly after you."

Ryoto then shrugged his shoulders before walking away.

In the meantime, when the opposing side saw his action, the trio could not help but squint their eyes solemnly.

Such actions seemed to be telling them that the opposing party was telling them that they did not need to work together to take them down.

Whether it was intentional or not, the three from the Dragon Pavilion were immediately provoked.

After all, they were people from the military. Even if they were disciplined, their ego was still something that could not be provoked.

Boom!

True to his name, Berserk Dragon was unable to suppress his temper. He quickly kicked the ground and propelled himself forward while dragging his battleaxes behind.

Swoosh!

A blazing streak of light cut through the air, leaving a scorching land and a violent trail of blazing embers.

Boom!

Due to his extreme burst of speed, he was able to appear before Laurent within an instant, along with a powerful explosion caused by the swing of his battleaxes.

However, before those battleaxes could even fall at their target, a spear suddenly thrust forward, seemingly expecting him already.

Swoosh!

It was already too late to change the direction of his attack to clash against the incoming spear that was greeting him.

He could not block it either because his arms were currently in an awkward position due to his earlier action. He did not have the time to lower them, especially with the powerful momentum that he currently had.

Without any other choice, he could only forcefully disperse his strength midair while also adjusting his center of gravity to execute a quick aerial maneuver to dodge the incoming strike.

Swoosh!

His repose was quick and decisive, making it a perfect dodge.

Shing!

Unfortunately, the thrust spear suddenly changed its trajectory midair. Moreover, the thrusting movement turned into a swiping motion, which was supposed to be impossible, especially when the spear was already moving forward in such a powerful way.

“What!?” Berserk Dragon was caught off guard when he saw such a strange change of trajectory, especially when he could sense that the power of this strike was much stronger than how it appeared on the surface.

All he could do was forcefully curl his body midair while also trying his best to place his battleaxes before him, crossing them to block the incoming strike.

Boom!

In the very next instant, Berserk Dragon was sent flying toward the direction where Ryoto was running.

Ready to catch the 'present' sent at him, Ryoto swiftly summoned his pseudo domain ability, fully welcoming his opponent.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Boom!

...

Aoki (Laurent) did not care what was going to happen to that opponent next, and just turned toward his other two opponents, who were still able to hold themselves back despite everything.

They both seemed to be expecting this to happen, purposely letting Berserk Dragon go, leaving Ryoto in his hands.

Both Luminous Dragon and Tyrant Dragon felt how dangerous this opponent currently was, especially after witnessing such smooth and profound movements coming from him.

That series of actions might look quite ordinary and simple at first glance, but they could tell how profound that strike was, especially when it was used against someone of Berserk Dragon's level.

"You'd better be careful, Tyrant Dragon. You have seen a bit of his strength, so I believe that you will be able to guess how strong he currently is," said Luminous Dragon, warning his current partner. "He is still among the legendary figures within the game, nevertheless."

"In a sense, he is on equal footing as the Pavilion Master and the Supreme General," he added.

Tyrant Dragon, despite his proud and confident temperament, just nodded his head. He held his spear tight while gesturing to Luminous Dragon. “Keep your distance and only assist me with buffs and heals.”

“You also have to keep an eye on those undead creatures for me. I don’t think that I will have that much time in my hands when fighting this guy,” he added before suddenly charging ahead.

Crackle! Crackle!

Unlike Berserk Dragon, who dived in first, Tyrant Dragon took a more strategic approach with his attack. He transformed into an arc of lightning that kept flashing around Aoki, who refused to budge even after seeing the lightning storm surrounding him.

After realizing that he could not find even a single opening despite observing the opposing side for quite a while, despite the pressure that he was giving, Tyrant Dragon knew that he had to force his way and create an opportunity for himself.

Crackle!

After creating a series of flashes that attempted to distract Aoki, Tyrant Dragon suddenly charged forward, appearing behind the latter alongside his thrusting spear.

Shing!

His movement was so fast that he instantaneously struck the opposing side before they could even respond to it.

‘Lightning Revenant Skill (Tier 2): Flash Attack’

Swoosh!

However, before that strike could even land on its target, Tyrant Dragon suddenly saw his opponent calmly turning his head toward his direction while twirling his spear in a circular motion.

It was still such a simple-looking movement that did not carry any power on the surface. However, the depths it contained were too profound for most people to understand.

Even someone like Tyrant Dragon, who grew up in a Military and Martial Art Family, found these movements very mysterious and incomprehensible.

Moreover, all of this was happening at the speed that he currently had, which was in the form of lightning.

It should be much faster than most people, making it harder for them to respond to his sudden ambush.

However, what he saw before his eyes seemed to have made the time itself slow down.

From Tyrant Dragon's perspective, the surrounding area seemed to have stood still while the two of them were moving at normal speed.

No!

This was not accurate either!

It felt more like the entire place started moving in extremely slow motion, along with everything else.

Aside from Aoki himself, everything else was under such a strange 'spell'.

Even Tyrant Dragon failed to notice that he seemed to have lost control of his body, which was continuing to move forward as per his previous actions.

It was already too late for him to realize it since his opponent's spear was already upon his face when he came to his senses.

Boom!

Fortunately, a thick wall of light suddenly appeared between him and Aoki, slamming their spears down and locking them in place.

It was only at that moment that Tyrant Dragon had 'regained' his control over his body.

At the same time, he swiftly retreated, creating as much space away from Aoki as possible.

"What was that!?" he mumbled while looking at the opposing side with a solemn expression.

Those simple exchanges were more than enough to tell him how scary this person was.

He knew that if not for Luminous Dragon coming to save him, he would have most likely been killed by that strike just now.

He had also realized what happened to Berserk Dragon earlier due to this experience. He understood why the latter was unable to respond to it.

While he was looking at Aoki with full wariness, the latter was staring at Luminous Dragon with great interest.

"Those eyes-... It is quite interesting," he mumbled, seemingly having an idea what kind of ocular ability it was.

Although, he was not sure about it.

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Chapter 2049: Chaos Observer

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Staring at Luminous Dragon, who immediately positioned himself at a safe distance, Aoki could not help but squint his eyes a little.

"Those eyes-... could it be one of those special ocular abilities in the real world and manifested as an innate trait within the game?" he mumbled before pursing his lips. "These geniuses with unique talents sure are quite tricky to deal with."

With just a single exchange, he acknowledged that Luminous Dragon was a much more troublesome opponent compared to Tyrant Dragon and Berserk Dragon, especially when his class belonged to the support and auxiliary class.

"Well, since our main job is to stall for time, I guess it will not hurt to just mark them properly," he mumbled before suddenly taking a step to the side.

Swoosh!

Crackle! Crackle!

In the next instant, a flash of lightning flew past him, which turned into a humanoid figure immediately after.

Bang!

The ground exploded at the point of impact!

Swoosh!

Crackle! Crackle!

However, while the explosion sound was still reverberating in the air, another flash of lightning broke free from the cloud of smoke and dust and charged straight at him once again.

Aoki raised his brows a little, realizing that Tyrant Dragon must have regained his confidence after receiving another series of buffs from Luminous Dragon.

He also did not know if the two communicated with one another, but he could tell that Tyrant Dragon had become more aggressive. His aggression seemed to be somewhat abnormal as well. It was as if he was giving all his might with every attack and not caring for any negative consequences that might come with it.

"It seems like he trusts Luminous Dragon after the earlier exchange," he mumbled while continuing to dodge his opponent's attacks with ease.

He was just taking a few steps to the side to dodge, letting all the lightning strikes of his opponent fly past him.

It was as if he was able to read through the trajectory of his opponent's attacks ahead of time, making him respond to them in advance.

Moreover, he was also not moving away from his previous location for more than 3 meters, which meant that he was not taking his opponent's attacks that seriously.

It was as if he was letting them continue their assault while he was observing each of their moves with his discerning eyes.

Aside from the first collision with Tyrant Dragon, Aoki did not use that strange move once again, making the two experts from the Dragon Pavilion believe that such an overpowered technique must have serious drawbacks and could only be used for a limited amount of time or chances.

They were not far from the truth. That ability, more specifically, was a secret technique he had gained after training through the special inheritance method of his family since he was still very young.

Even though he had already fully grasped it, it would still put his body and mind under a heavy burden.

He might not be able to stay for too long in that special state, but he could enter and exit it within an instant if he wanted to.

Through this, he could minimize the burden on his mind and body while also maximizing the effects of that state to the best he could.

He might want to finish this battle as soon as possible and with the best of his abilities. Unfortunately, even if he defeated these two with all of that, they would still respawn immediately later once the 'throne' changed owners.

There was still a little over three hours before this trial would end, so it was better to preserve his best state possible since he would most likely need his peak strength later.

However, this does not mean that he was not taking his opponents seriously. He was giving his all against these two since he knew that they were not people that he could afford to underestimate.

He just looked like taking this battle with ease because of the special ability that he currently had within the game.

It was a special ability that he had created with the unique trait of his race, which belonged to the Human Race category called Chaos Observer.

It was a special human race that possessed unique abilities meant for ocular skills and techniques.

It was Human Transcendent Race with a variety of abilities centering eye-type abilities.

Along with his special Transcendent Class called Spear Retribution and his unique methods concerning his Martial Arts in the real world, he was able to create a few special abilities within the game.

One of them was the inferior version of his special state and a strong ocular skill he called Chaos Eyes.

With the use of all of these, Aoki was able to keep up with his opponents without suffering that much pressure. He was also able to see through the movements of his opponent despite their extreme speed.

Swoosh!

Crackle! Crackle!

Along with the arcs of lightning dancing around him, Aoki repeatedly swung his spear, constantly blocking each attempt of his opponent to strike him.

Clang! Clang!

Bang!

Each swing of his spear accurately blocked all the incoming attacks, not giving the opposing side any clear opening.

Despite how powerful the techniques or skills thrown at him were, none of them managed to break through his defenses.

Even the Tier 2 Skills were easily broken by him, and the variety of ocular skills that he was using throughout the battle.

He was cycling through all these ocular skills, which he was swapping depending on different situations. He was using the perfect ocular skill in each situation, which made it hard for the opposing side to deal with.

The opposing side had no idea who he was, doing well despite Tyrant Dragon increasing the pace of his attacks and boosting his speed with even more powerful buffs, especially the ones that Luminous Dragon had provided.

Moreover, Aoki was also keeping his position without the three-meter radius circle that he kept moving around since the start of the battle.

Tyrant Dragon was slowly getting agitated due to all his attacks failing to hit their marks despite giving his all.

He might be a disciplined soldier in the real world, but this situation was way too much for his ego to endure. He was starting to lose his temper, which made Luminous Dragon quite worried.

Luminous Dragon had no idea what the abilities of their opponent were despite exchanging blows with him for quite a long time. He had observed the opposing side quite closely as well, making sure that he did not miss any detail, yet he still failed to figure out what were the things that this guy could do.

He could not even tell how this guy was doing all those things, much less understand his abilities.

Luminous Dragon could only rely on his abilities to keep up with the pace of his partner and try his best to respond to all the unexpected developments in battle.

Tyrant Dragon had already become somewhat unpredictable due to his insane speed, which was still growing faster the more he moved around.

The accumulation of lightning energy was also becoming stronger by generating more of it during his movements.

Luminous Dragon needed to keep the situation under control, making sure that their opponent would not be able to disrupt this rhythm and launch an unexpected ambush at him.

While also keeping up with this rate of battle, Luminous Dragon also needed to keep an eye on their surroundings and the other ongoing battles on the other side of the altar.

He could still see where Berserk Dragon and Ryoto were fighting, especially when the special effects of their respective skills and abilities were clearly producing a huge commotion in the distance.

It was just a pity that the members of the Black Market were directly at the opposite end of their side, making it impossible to see what was happening there.

However, since both Ryoto and Aoki were fighting here, their third member was most likely holding all three members from the Black Market by themselves on that side.

This made Luminous Dragon think that the person that the Heavenly Resto-Bar had sent to cover that side was most likely be more powerful than these two, which was even more absurd.

If that person was much more powerful than Aoki, or at least similarly powerful, then Luminous Dragon needed to re-evaluate his assessment of this hidden force.

They needed to consider them as an even more powerful force within the game and make more necessary arrangements against them later.

As for the undead army, they were continuing to grow their forces and establish a more solid formation that would block anyone who would be trying to climb the altar.

It was just a pity that none of the forces involved in this part of the trial wanted to deal with them. They were too busy fighting their respective battles at this moment.

Some of these undead creatures were trying to launch an ambush on the opposing parties from time to time. Unfortunately, they were only caught in the crossfire and got annihilated by the collateral damage caused by the intense battles occurring on the different battlefields.

While Luminous Dragon was doing all of this, he could not help but feel a very dreadful sensation throughout the battle.

He was not sure about it, but he felt that he was under an intense gaze, which made him quite wary of his surroundings.

He was not sure who was observing him, but it was giving him an intense, invisible pressure that made him somewhat intimidated.

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Chapter 2050: One of the Three Weapon Specialists (Part 1)

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While Aoki and Ryoto were holding the members of the Dragon Pavilion down and keeping them busy, Leonard headed towards the side of the Black Market.

He knew that his opponents should not be that much worse compared to the other forces, but he had no choice since the situation called for it.

Moreover, he was not planning to face them all by himself since he was planning to 'ask' for some assistance from Chaotic Luck.

Seeing Leonard standing by himself before them, the trio from the Black Market could not help but raise their brows.

Gunner was even looking at the opposing side quite solemnly, feeling that they were being underestimated.

Squinting his eyes, he turned to Lawrence beside him before saying. "Brat, continue what you are doing and don't do anything funny."

Then he gestured at the other person standing respectfully on his side. "Keep an eye on him, Adelbert."

"Understood, Branch Manager Gunner," nodded the latter while also bowing.

He knew how powerful this branch manager was, so he was not worried about the outcome of this battle.

Based on what he knew, Gunner had already clashed with a lot of big names within the game, just like Zero, Siegfried, Ashura, and others.

Even though most of the outcomes of those battles were not favorable for this branch manager, the entire process was still commendable, especially when he had given those top gods a very good and satisfying battle.

Among his achievements, there was no lack of his victory over other apex experts of the game as well.

Regardless of the opponent before them, Adelbert did not believe that they would be able to match the might of those people that Gunner had already faced.

Setting that thought aside, he turned toward Lawrence and said. “Brat, do your job right.”

Lawrence ignored him and stared at the opponent before them quite intensely, thinking that the latter’s presence felt quite familiar.

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Seeing that the opposing side was walking forward alone, Leonard could not help but raise his brows a little. He felt that the other side seemed to be quite confident in themselves.

“Well, that works for him,” he mumbled before adjusting his form.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Hearing the thunderous explosions coming from the other side of the battlefield, Leonard regulated the circulation of energy throughout his body while also inhaling deeply.

His chest expanded while his throat hardened and contracted a little.

A moment later, he suddenly opened his mouth and released all the air he stored along with an intense flow of energy mixed with it.

‘Racial Trait (Primordial Beast): Lion’s Roar’

Roar!

A powerful shout, which greatly resembled the roar of a beast, shook the entire place and reverberated throughout the battlefield.

This particular roar made all the undead creatures of the entire army freeze in place, while those from the opposing parties could not help but halt their tracks, especially after sensing that their respective strength was greatly affected by it.

While everyone was frozen in place, Chaotic Luck, who was fighting against the three assassins of the Hydra Guild, alongside his Hell Pilgrim and blazing skeletal apes, suddenly froze as well.

However, the reason why he was frozen in place was because of this roar that came out of nowhere.

He was very familiar with it since he had always been struck by such an overpowered roar during their training sessions.

It was also one of the signature moves by those monstrous individuals within their adventurer team.

“Could it be, Simba?” he mumbled, thinking about this possibility.

With such a thought in mind, he could not help but swiftly cast his gaze at the surroundings, wanting to know if his suspicion was right.

It was only at that moment that he realized that one of the opposing parties seemed to be keeping the other two teams in check.

It could be a coincidence at first, but after seeing all these right after that sign, Chaotic Luck could not help thinking that he was right, especially when that side was obviously helping him.

Of course, he could not overlook the possibility that it might be some sort of trap or a scheme to let his guard down.

However, given the current situation, he knew that it was favorable for him to take this 'offer'.

"It is what it is! At worst, I have to give up the throne to them. After all, I have already stayed here long enough. My placement for this trial will surely not be that bad, right?" he mumbled before quickly issuing a new command to his legion.

This time, he ordered them to assist the three from Leonard's side, taking on the gamble.

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Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right after receiving his command, the entire Legion of Chaotic Sun adjusted their formations and started assisting the trio from the side of the Heavenly Resto-Bar.

It was not noticeable at first since the battles going on throughout the place were already in chaos. They also thought that it was normal for these undead legion to launch an attack at them from time to time, attempting to disturb them, or even take them down.

However, they suddenly realized that this was not the case.

The trio from the Dragon Pavilion immediately noticed that they were purposely being targeted by the legion of undead while avoiding Aoki and Ryoto purposely.

It was also clear that they were assisting the two from the Heavenly Resto-Bar, especially when they were being targeted repeatedly during the most crucial moments.

This was further proven when they saw that none of the undead legion took the initiative to attack Aoki and Ryoto. Some of them even buffed the two, which further strengthened their respective strength.

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Back to Leonard's side, he could not help but smirk after sensing the sudden change from the other battlefields.

He felt that all the 'torture' (training) that they had given to this guy was worth it. The trauma (lesson) that they gave (taught) Chaotic Luck had made him quite experienced.

Knowing that Chaotic Luck had mostly recognized him, Leonard did not have to worry too much about anything else.

He was sure that Chaotic Luck at least understood that he could take over that throne once the latter could no longer hold it.

Everything should already be under control.

Now, all he had to do was deal with this person before him and forget about anything else.

At the same time, he could not help but feel a bit strange while looking at his opponent. He felt that this guy was quite familiar, especially when he saw that huge box behind them.

The mysterious veil might be shrouding the appearance of everyone, but they could still see their unique features through the opposing side's silhouette.

That huge box was oddly familiar to him, which felt like something that he had already seen somewhere.

This feeling was further strengthened when he saw the other party take off the giant box from their back and place it on their side like a huge metal pillar.

It was only at that moment that Leonard realized where he had seen such a stance, especially after the latter seemed to have opened that box and taken something out of it.

“Weapon Master Gunner, one of the High Humans like Zero!” he mumbled, immediately recognizing the opposing side due to their unique style.

“Arthur must be fuming right now. This guy is one of the people that he truly wanted to beat repeatedly, especially after that incident,” chuckled Leonard after recognizing his opponent.

“But since I am the one who is on the stage, I can’t afford to slack off, right? Or else, that guy will surely scold me and never hear the end of it,” he added before suddenly bursting with an intense battle hunger.

Boom!

The pressure he was passively emitting rose severalfold, while the mana covering his body transformed into violent crimson lightning.

Crackle! Crackle!

At the same time, he had also taken the initiative to summon his Battle Spirit, which was still in an incomplete form after undergoing a series of mutations due to the additional legacies that he had comprehended.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Regardless, it still took the initial form of a humanoid beast with three heads of a lion.

Shing!

Taking out his pair of war axes, Leonard stood tall and gave the opposing party an inviting gesture, seemingly telling Gunner to make his move first.

Gunner, on the other hand, could not help but squint his eyes further after sensing the sudden change in atmosphere. He could also feel the heavy pressure coming from his opponent, which was further strengthened due to the appearance of the Battle Spirit.

He might not be able to see the appearance of that Battle Spirit clearly, but he could at least tell that this person was much stronger than the regular experts that he had encountered before.

At the very least, he could tell that his current opponent was no weaker than those top gods that he had encountered, who were also said to stand at the peak of the virtual world.

“An Apex God!?” he mumbled with slightly raised brows. “Now, this is going to be a bit more interesting.”

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