

Destiny 431

Chapter 431 The Destruction Of The Solomon Kingdom

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On the outside of the Castle, King Jesse saw that aside from the Spiritual Master and Caesar Fireheart who were still fighting their respective opponents, the other Family Heads had already been beaten up pretty badly. They were currently lying on the ground and were struggling to stand up.

The expression on King Jesse's face suddenly turned even more solemn after seeing that. And now that the situation was going for the worst, he couldn't help but fall into a deep thought.

On the other hand, the puppeteer who was currently controlling Steve's body, chose to watch on the sideline and waited for the king to make his decision. He didn't dare to attack for now because he knew that he was still no match with him in a head-on battle using this body. Though, it was a different story if he was using his main 'puppets'.

After a few moments of thinking, King Jesse took a deep breath before slightly turning his head to the side and looked at his son and wife. Then he turned his head back at 'Steve' who was standing a few meters away before clasping his hands together while releasing a massive amount of Mental Energy.

Seeing that, Steve immediately crossed his hands in front of him before releasing his own Mental Energy to protect himself.

A moment later, the whole room was suddenly enfolded with a blinding light.

Steve was bracing himself to receive the incoming attack. But to much of his surprise, the attack that he was expecting didn't arrive as that light didn't harm him at all. Instead, he was teleported outside of the castle where another battle was still going on.

At the same time, the ongoing battle suddenly came into a halt due to his sudden appearance.

The Family Heads thought that he came here to assist them. But their faces suddenly turned solemn when they felt the evil aura surrounding his body. On the surface, the man in front of them might be Steve, but they all knew that it wasn't the case.

Meanwhile, the opposing side was also thinking the same. They also thought that he was an opponent since they all knew that he was the trusted aide of the king of Solomon Kingdom. But after sensing the hostile looks on the faces of the Family Heads, they knew that there was something off.

And at the same time, they were sure that this guy was not on their side either. Meaning, he was most probably a spy who was planted by another organization.

Due to that, they all didn't dare to let their guards down.

A moment later, King Jesse suddenly appeared in the middle of the battle. He stood in the air in between of the two opposing groups in a majestic manner.

"Your Highness!"

The Family Heads, nobles, and the other citizens who were watching the battle earlier from the ground, were all stunned after seeing their king. And at the same time, they also became worried since he exposed himself right in front of their enemies.

At the same time, the opposing side also became surprised after seeing him as they were not expecting his sudden appearance. But after a brief moment of pause, the looks on their faces suddenly became bright as they no longer needed to look for him – he was their main target after all. As long as they took down this king, the whole Solomon Kingdom was going to crumble totally.

Naturally, all of the citizens of the Solomon Kingdom were fully aware of that. So, they were all getting ready to risk their lives just to protect their King.

But before the both sides could even make their respective moves, King Jesse suddenly shouted which stunned everyone present.

"Heed my words, citizens of Solomon Kingdom."

His voice was so powerful that it could be heard from every part of the Solomon Kingdom, no matter how far or isolated they were. And when the citizens heard him, they all suddenly stopped what they were doing and listened to their king.

At the same time, similar things also happened to the opponents of those citizens who were currently in battle. There was an unknown force that prevented them from moving right after they heard his words.

Though, the members of the True Order were an exemption. But they didn't immediately attack and choose to stay still. They decided to observe for a few more moments and see what this King was up to. And they were also treating this as his last words.

Regardless of what everyone was feeling, King Jesse continued. "Traitors started to appear in our ranks and as the King of this country. And one of them was my most trusted aide. With that, I will bear all of the consequences for not noticing that."

"Due to my negligence, our Kingdom suffered a lot of devastating losses and was about to crumble. A lot of people died, trying to protect our home land. I will also take responsibility for all of their deaths."

Hearing those words, the people of the citizens of the Solomon Kingdom started tearing up as they started to foresee what was about to come. It was the same for the other citizens who joined the rebellion. They finally came back to their senses and were now starting to regret what they had done.

Then, King Jesse continued. "This is my last and final order as your king."

"Leave our country and survive no matter what! Live your lives without regret and become stronger!"

He took a brief pause to look viciously at their enemies before continuing. "And when the time is right. We will rise again and take our revenge!"

"Engrave in your minds, the World Government is our true enemy!"

After that, he clasped his hand together and released another massive amount of Mental Energy and spread in every direction. It took only a second before those Mental Energy wrapped itself at the ruined castle before moving with certain movements.

Sensing those movement patterns, the eyes of the family heads suddenly turned wide as they knew what their king was trying to do.

Gideon, Marth, Miranda and Thomas were about to make their moves and planned to stop their king. But before they could even move their bodies, their movements were suddenly restrained by the Spiritual Master and Caesar's Mental Energies.

"What are you two doing? We need to stop the king from activating the grand formation. He will definitely die fighting them alone!" shouted Gideon as he tried his best to break free from Mental Energy that was restraining him.

But the Spiritual Master suddenly glared at him while saying. "Did you not hear what our King had said? He is asking us to escape and take vengeance for our kingdom later!"

"But-..." he wanted to say something more, but he immediately swallowed his words back when he heard the words that Caesar said.

"Don't tell me you want to get beaten up again by those guys. Stop those foolish thoughts of yours and calm down. You guys are just going to get on His Majesty's way if you go there."

Then Caesar glared at the members of the True Order before adding to his words. "If you want to help his Majesty then become stronger and wait for the time that he was talking about."

After that, both Caesar and the Spiritual Master suddenly jumped in the air leaving the four behind. And at the same time, they simultaneously threw a powerful attack to counter the attacks of their opponents.

Boom! Boom!

Naturally, the True Order was not going to let King Jesse do what he was planning, so they immediately started attacking to prevent him from activating the grand formation.

But after being blocked by Caesar and the Spiritual Master, they all knew that it was not going to be easy. After all, they also became aware of the strength of these two.

Not only were they able to fight their captain and the most mysterious guy on their group in an equal footing, but they also were able to keep the others in check during the entire battle. And now that they were only focusing on defending, dealing with them was going to be even more troublesome.

Meanwhile, 'Steve' watched the fight on the sideline. He didn't want to help the members of the True Order since they were also not in good terms with each other. In fact, his current organization was a mortal enemy of the World Government so he didn't mind if they lost a member or two.

Instead, he turned his attention back to the room where the queen and the prince were being treated before pursing his lips while considering his next move. But when he sensed that both Caesar and the Spiritual Master were able to lock a part of their consciousness on him, he immediately abandoned the idea of returning in that room.

Clicking his tongue, he stared at the two for a few more moments before muttering. "Tsk! These two sure are scary. Doing all of that at the same time? They both sure hide their real strengths pretty well."

"I really wanted to exchange some blows with them if I had my 'masterpieces' on me. Tch! I now regret not bringing some," he added before disappearing.

Meanwhile, a huge Mentalism Circle suddenly appeared on the ground below, covering the entire castle.

And before finally activating it totally, King Jesse casted his consciousness on the room where his son and wife were currently located and saw that Evangeline was finally done treating the two. She was currently sitting crossed-legs on the ground trying to heal her own injuries.

Releasing a sigh of relief, he immediately activated the grand formation, making the whole place to be illuminated with a blinding light.

After that, he quickly extended both of his arms, grabbing both Caesar and Spiritual Master. Then he pulled both of them in a powerful manner before sending them to the ground. And immediately after throwing them, he quickly a double palm strike in front of him sending a powerful Mental Energy wave forward to counter the incoming attacks.

Boom!

Caesar and the Spiritual Master tried to immediately regain their balance midair, so that they could come back and help their king. But before they could even do anything, a pair of slender hands suddenly hit their chest and sent them towards the ground with an even greater speed.

Bang! Bang!

Both of them were stunned as they didn't sense anyone approaching them, which was why they got it unprotected.

Though, they managed to get a glimpse on the back of the figure who sent them towards the ground. And after seeing that familiar, both of them became even more shocked at what they saw.

Blag! Blag!

Right after they hit the ground, the grand formation finally reached its peak state and teleported everyone inside it towards the different parts of the world.

At the same time, the other citizens of the Solomon Kingdom who were not present in the ruined castle, started escaping with their own means. Some of them were killed by the mercenaries hired by the traitor nobles while the others were dealt with by the special military force that was brought by the True Order members.

Chapter 432 Remnants And Secrets Of Solomon Kingdom

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"In that battle, King Jesse perished together with his wife who jumped in the final minutes. At the same time, the Solomon Kingdom became a forgotten land that no one else remembered," said David while looking at the starry sky with his meaningful eyes.

"That was quite a tale you have there. So, you are saying that you are the prince of that ruined kingdom? And your Master adopted you starting that time." said Shin with a soft tone after listening to David.

He then paused for a moment before adding. "Well, she is your Aunt after all, so it is actually not that surprising."

"Yeah, it is something like that," replied David while shrugging his shoulders.

"But what happened to the surviving citizens of your Kingdom?" asked Shin after a brief moment of hesitation.

Hearing that, David took a brief pause before giving his reply. "To tell you the truth, I am also actually wondering what happened to them."

"Based on what my Master had said, the grand formation is not actually activated properly. After all, my father didn't have enough time to activate it on how it was supposed to be used. So, all of the people who were teleported using that formation were sent in different parts of the world."

"The World Government doesn't have any idea about that, so they just sent a lot of special agents to hunt down all of the surviving citizens of our Kingdom. Finding all of their locations is quite hard, but that doesn't mean that they can't identify any of us."

"After all, our Mentalism Techniques are quite special and different compared to the common Mentalism that the other people knew which is also the reason why a lot of huge organizations set their eyes on us."

Reaching this point, David suddenly clenched his hands as he continued. "And when the other surviving citizens learned about that, they immediately went into hiding; afraid of getting caught."

"It was because they all knew that they could only choose between two choices if ever they were caught. It was either they were going to confess the secrets of their Kingdom and become traitors, or get killed after refusing."

Then he took a brief pause and closed his eyes before continuing. "And due to that very reason, some of the surviving citizens had no choice but to seal their Mentalism attainments and act as ordinary people."

"Meanwhile, the others take shelter under the wings of some underworld organizations after disguising their own Mentalism Techniques. Some of those even became a Martial-Artist just to have a full disguise."

Shin was suddenly taken aback after hearing that. And due to that, he couldn't help but ask. "Is the real reason why you are wandering around the world is to find them."

David suddenly started releasing a bitter laugh before replying. "Well, you are also right about that since that information is what I heard from my Master. Unfortunately, I am not lucky enough to find a single one of them during my-..."

He then took a sudden pause where he reached his point because he suddenly remembered something. And due to that, the smile that he was wearing suddenly became even more bitter before taking back the latter part of his words. "No, I actually managed to find one just recently. But he also 'left' not long after."

Shin knitted his eyebrows when he heard that. It was because he could see some hidden meaning in them. But he didn't further inquire about it and immediately change the topic a little. "But how did you manage to recognize him?"

At this point, David suddenly released a brief smirking sound before looking at Shin while tapping his right temple with his finger. "My Master gave me the list of the Surnames of all of the citizens of my Kingdom and I memorized them all. Whether they are nobles or common people, all of their family names are engraved inside my head."

"And since those Surnames are unique to our Kingdom, it is safe to say that whoever had those surnames are from Solomon Kingdom."

Shin knitted his eyebrows even more after hearing that and asked once again. "But what if someone used those names and disguise as one of the surviving citizens?"

David shook his head after hearing and immediately replied. "It is impossible to use that trick to deceive us. It is because a true citizen of Solomon Kingdom had hidden aura unique to them. And whenever they say their true surnames, those auras would always respond with faint glow along their words."

"Those auras can only be seen by the special eyes of people like us who hail from the Solomon Kingdom."

Hearing that, Shin slightly tilted to the side before saying. "But you are not using your real family name and even changing it to Solomon."

"So, let me have a guess, the members of the Royal Family had a unique aura of their own that will only respond to them when they say the word Solomon. And if the surviving citizens are able to see it, then they are going to recognize you immediately."

After that, Shin nodded his head a little before muttering. "Such a convenient method indeed."

Meanwhile, David was currently looking at Shin with full of amusement. It was because he could see a faint golden glow at his body every time Shin said the word Solomon. 'I don't know how Master manages to do that, but he really can't see the unique aura around me.'

Then Shin suddenly turned his head at David while asking. "But isn't it also putting you in danger? If you are using that name, then the World Government will surely come at you."

He took a brief pause to think about something and knitted his eyebrows once again. "But it is also strange. How are you still fine even if that was the case."

Hearing that, David suddenly grinned before asking. "Then how about making another guess?"

Shin tried to think about it for a moment before saying. "It is because you already became famous around the world and if the Word Government tried to pull some tricks on you, the rumor about the Solomon Kingdom is going to blow up once again."

"And that is the perfect opportunity for the Underworld Organization to tarnish their reputation."

David suddenly made a snap with his fingers after hearing that before nodding his head at Shin while saying. "You got it right!"

Then he trailed his words a little before continuing. "Though, you only got half of it."

Shin knitted his brow once again and waited for David to continue. And when the latter saw that, he suddenly clicked his tongue before saying. "Because they already got their warning."

Shin became even more confused after hearing that, so he remained silent and waited a little more. "My master and her husband are very powerful experts. And if the World Government does something to me in public, then that is basically giving those two a 'go signal' to declare an official war at them."

Hearing that, Shin turned silent for a few more moments before saying. "Now that I think about it. How strong are they?"

This time, it was David's turn to become quiet. And after thinking for a few more moments, he gave up on describing their strengths and shook his head. "Actually, I also didn't know. No! Maybe no one in the entire world can measure their strengths."

"But one thing is for sure – whenever those two are together, all of the huge organizations around the world need to be too wary of them. Maybe only the experts who stood at the very peak of the world are the ones who can threaten those two."

"But that doesn't mean they are the strongest. After all, those organizations also had a hidden expert of their own; especially to those organizations like, Dark Hall, Shadow Alliance, and the World Government."

Hearing that, Shin suddenly remembered something and asked after a brief moment of hesitation. "I am curious. You said that your Master's husband was blocked by an unknown individual and delayed his arrival. And from how you described him, he seems to be a very capable individual. So, what happened in their battle?"

"If your father was forced to activate the grand formation and perish in battle, then that means he didn't manage to arrive there in time."

David smiled bitterly when he heard that. And when Shin saw that, he finally realized his mistake. He knew that he was not paying much attention to what he was saying right now. But he didn't feel too uncomfortable about it.

He didn't know why, but he felt that it was fine to ask David these kinds of questions. And for some unknown reason, he felt close to the latter as if they knew each other for a long time already.

Naturally, David could feel the quick changes in Shin's mood. So, he immediately answered as if he was trying to prevent something from being triggered. "Yeah, it is really a pity that he didn't manage to arrive in time. But at least, he was able to relieve the bodies of my parents so that we could properly bury it."

"As for his battle with that 'unknown' individual and the battle after that. I am also not sure from the specifics."

He took a brief pause before continuing. "But according to what I've heard, the 'unknown' individual suffered some serious injuries during their battle. Though, he also managed to escape."

"After arriving in our Kingdom, he suddenly went on a rampage when he couldn't find his wife. And the ones who became the target of his anger were the members of the so-called 'True Oder'."

"At the same time, that very battle solidified his footing in the inner circle of the Martial-Art World. Because he didn't only win that battle, but he also did it with an overwhelming victory – two of those members were killed in battle while the others escaped after suffering some grievous wounds."

After that, he took a very deep breath before adding. "But that right after that battle, a sudden calamity befell on the entire Solomon Kingdom which was only known by a very few number of people knew."

Chapter 433 Preparations (Part 1)

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In the next few days, Shin resumed his training as per usual. Early in the morning, he was going to fetch some water from the river below the mountain before doing the reflex training immediately after.

But this time, he didn't feel much challenge at doing them anymore. He was already familiar with the mountain path, so he didn't encounter any problem when he was climbing up and down; he could even fill the wooden barrel with just 15 to 20 minutes in total.

At the same time, the reflex training was also the same. Shin already got used to the unpredictability of the wooden blocks, so doing the task given to him became much easier. He already mastered dodging, blocking and countering the certain blocks, so he could already continue doing the reflex training for as long as he could.

Meanwhile, his Mentalism training was much simpler. Grandmaster Benn just instructed him to do some control training just like the previous training that he had before. Though, this training was also much harder than before.

He was still dealing with the huge rock boulder from his previous training. And just like that time, Shin was instructed to bring that boulder on top of the mountain.

But this time, he was not allowed to push it up. Instead, he was instructed to pull it up by using his Mental Energy alone.

Alongside it, he was also not allowed to use any kind of Mentalism Runes to enhance his body neither to make the boulder light. He just needed to pull the huge boulder with his Mental Energy nothing more nothing less.

Shin continued to repeat this routine for a few more days until a day when Professor Plum met right before he went to fetch some water from the riverbank.

Shin greeted Old Plum with a bow before waiting for the latter's instructions.

Professor Plum didn't immediately reply to him. Instead, he observed Shin for a while to see his current progress. And after a moment, he nodded his head with satisfaction before saying. "Kid, before you resume your training, I want to ask you something."

Shin slightly knitted his eyebrows when he heard that but didn't ask any questions and just nodded his head.

Meanwhile, Professor Plum turned silent for a moment before opening his mouth. "You know about the Youth Competition called 'International Empire Wars', right?"

This time, Shin was suddenly taken aback after hearing those words from Professor Plum. And after a few moments of being stunned, Shin slightly nodded his head. "I only hear about that competition, so I don't know much about it."

"From what I know, it is a high-profiled competition that is only being held every twenty years between the major continents around the world. And the participants must be 20-years-old at most to be able to participate on it. That is all I know, since almost all of the information regarding that competition are confidential."

Professor Plum slightly nodded his head as he listened to Shin before explaining. "It is confidential since there are a lot of important things involved in that competition. Only people with a high level of Martial-Arts and Mentalism attainments are the ones who can spectate that competition; at least a Martial-Artist who reached the 'Domain Stage' of the 'Ascension Realm' or a Mentalist in Venerable Realm."

"Even the people from powerful organizations and aristocratic families can't watch the battles if they didn't possess such attainments."

Shin nodded his head once again as he started to get an idea where this conversation was heading. And just like what he had expected, Old Plum suddenly asked. "Do you want to participate in it?"

Finally hearing that, Shin turned silent for a moment before giving his reply. "Yes, of course," with a serious and determined look on his face.

Hearing that firm reply and seeing the determined look at Shin's face, Professor Plum couldn't help but curve his lips with a satisfied smile before nodding his head. And after a brief pause, he suddenly asked. "Then how about forget about the incoming entrance exams right now and apply for a special course instead?"

Shin slightly knitted his eyebrows when he heard that because he suddenly became confused. "Eh? But that is the course that I applied to at the Magical Ace Academy."

Old Plum shook his head a little when he heard that and immediately explained. "That is not what I am talking about. What I am saying is the special courses especially prepared for the upcoming 'International Empire Wars'."

He didn't wait for Shin to ask any more questions and immediately continued. "As you know, the next 'International Empire Wars' is almost near. So, every country is already making their respective preparations to choose the youths who are going to represent them in this huge competition."

"And at the same time, each famous school around the world is also started to make their own preparations since this upcoming 'International Empire Wars' is going to be slightly different compared to the previous ones."

"It was because some of the rules are going to be slightly changed due to some special circumstances. I am not going to discuss the specifics since the final rules are still not set in stone since most of it are still currently under some heated discussions.

"What's more, it is going to be tackled in your classes anyway. So, there is no need to tell you about that. Well, that is if you are going to get selected."

The corner of Shin's mouth suddenly twitched the moment he heard Old Plum's last remark. 'You don't even have confidence in your own disciple?'

Seeing that reaction from Shin, Professor Plum suddenly smirked before saying. "Since you already made up your mind, then let's make your training even more 'satisfying'."

Then he pointed his thumb behind him while saying. "The Old Fatty had already done the preparations, so all you needed to do was do the rest. I will be waiting for you behind the cottage after you are done fetching some water."

He was about to turn around when Shin suddenly stopped him from saying. "Wait! What about the application?"

"Oh!" Old Plum suddenly paused before saying. "About that, I actually lied a little earlier. The truth is, I already cancelled your first application and reapplied for the special course."

Then he added. "There is no need to thank me, I did it as your Master after all," while turning around waving his hand.

Shin stared blankly at Old Plum's back for a few more moments before shaking his head helplessly. After that, started climbing down the mountain to fetch some water while holding the wooden pole on one of his hands and the wooded bucket on the other.

On the surface, he was only walking leisurely since he didn't have to be in a hurry. But he was actually in full alert inside since he heard from Professor Plum earlier that Grandmaster Benn already made the preparations for the next level of his training.

From what he could tell, the path that he usually took in the morning was most likely going to have some traps set up on it. And it didn't take long for him to prove that he was actually right.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

His ears picked up a pair of whistling sounds in the air, indicating that there was something flying towards him.

He couldn't see what it was, so he could only rely on his senses to predict where it was coming. And this time, his reflex training started to show its results. His senses could feel the vibrations in the air and used it to predict from which direction the invisible attacks were coming from.

Given that, Shin immediately halted his steps and suddenly leaned his head backwards.

Swoosh!

Then he felt a sharp air current that brushed past in front of his nose with a great speed. And immediately after that, he quickly tilted his head to the side, dodging another sharp air current coming from behind.

,m Swoosh!

Shin slightly raised his eyebrows when he felt the speed and power of those air currents. "If it is before my reflex training, that second air current is most like going to hit me."

After that, he tried to walk at a slightly fast pace compared to his previous manner.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

This time, Shin felt that the number of the air currents suddenly increased. And after successfully dodging them, he suddenly kicked the ground and launched himself forward with a great speed.

When he did that, an even larger number of air currents suddenly flew towards him. They were coming from different directions which made it hard for Shin to read their trajectories.

Given that, he immediately forced his body to land on the ground before leaping up in the air, dodging all of the air currents. And when his feet touched the ground, he immediately jumped backwards while doing multiple flips in the air.

Right after he did that, a bunch of earth spikes suddenly appeared at the spot where he previously landed.

Shin landed gently on the ground before looking at the path in front of him with a knitted brow. "Moving faster will increase the number of air currents while jumping in the air would do nothing, but earth spikes are going to appear the moment I landed back on the ground."

"At the same time, the traps are not going to activate once I move backwards."

He paused for a moment before wearing a satisfied smile. "Looks like this one is going to be somewhat interesting."

Chapter 434 Preparations (Part 2)

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Filling the wooden barrel took longer than what Shin had expected. He didn't expect that the traps set up by Grandmaster Benn were that troublesome.

They were not just adjusting according to his speed, but they were also responding according to his movements. At first, Shin was able to take advantage of the flaws that he noticed from the formation.

But the more he advanced, the lesser the flaws he could see – it was as if the traps were growing alongside him.

What's more, he also needed to climb back on the mountain top to bring the wooden bucket filled with water. Dodging the traps was one thing, but doing it while carrying a pair of water-filled buckets was another matter.

It was because he also needed to make sure that he would not spill the water while dodging the traps. And due to that, his movements became too limited.

With all of that, Shin felt that this new 'exercise' was quite interesting. Especially that he could see that this was an application of the reflex training that he was currently doing.

But even if it was quite challenging, Shin welcomed it with open arms since he could see the immediate changes and improvements that he was making. He only did that training for a single time yet he could already feel his progress.

The sun was already up when Shin arrived at the back of the cottage where Professor Plum was sitting on his rocking chair, relaxing.

When Old Plum saw Shin finally arrived, he couldn't but smirk a little while asking. "Heh! So, how was it? Quite a challenge, isn't it?"

"So-so," replied Shin while shrugging his shoulders which made the old man chuckle a little.

After that, Old Plum instructed Shin to stand at the encircled area surrounded by the wooden blocks hanging on the tree branch.

Hearing that, Shin did as he was told before waiting for Professor Plum to continue. And when he stood inside the circle, the old man suddenly added. "You can already stand in there for as long as you want, right? Then let's make it a little more challenging then."

"As you can see, those wooden blocks also had different sizes on top of them having different shades of color. If the colors stood for which method are you going to choose between dodging, deflecting and counter attacking, then the sizes indicate how you are going to do it."

He then paused for a few seconds before continuing. "But before that, we need to shuffle the methods for each color a little bit. For today, you need to dodge the red ones, attack the blues and deflect the yellow ones."

"For today?" asked Shin suddenly when he heard that. Meaning, the order was going to change for the upcoming days.

While Shin was thinking about that, Old Plum immediately nodded his head and confirmed it. "Yeah, you heard it right. Starting today, you are required to shuffle the methods for each day. It is to avoid yourself getting too used to it and building up new forms of habits."

Hearing that, Shin nodded his head repeatedly. He actually thought about it before but he didn't immediately do it because he was still in the middle of honing his reflexes during that time. And it might even mess up his progress a little if he became too greedy.

But since Old Plum was basically telling him that it was fine to do it now, then he was more than willing enough to welcome that challenge.

But that was not all since Professor Plum was still not telling him the purpose of the different sizes of the wooden block. And when the old man saw that Shin's expectant eyes, he couldn't help but shake his head a little before continuing. "As for the sizes, they were quite tricky. So, I need you to listen carefully."

"Let's start at the blocks that you are going to hit directly. The largest ones need to be hit by your fist while the medium ones are needed to be hit by palm strikes. On the other hand, you need to use a hand blade attack when it comes to the smallest ones."

"Next is the blocks that are needed to be deflected. The large ones are needed to be deflected by the back of your hand while medium ones will be deflected by your palm. Meanwhile, the blocks with the smallest size can be hit by both. But it needs to be alternated; if it is deflected by the back of your hand first, then you need to deflect it by your palm next."

"Then the last set was the wooden blocks which needed to be avoided. This one is quite simple, you just need to dodge towards your right when dodging the large block and you need to dodge to your left when it comes to the blocks with medium sizes. As for the smallest wooden blocks, you need to dodge them by either moving forward or backward. There is no special rule for this one."

Shin turned silent as he fell into a deep thought after hearing those instructions. They were quite complicated on their own. And if you put all of them together, then doing this training was also going to be very challenging.

After a few more moments of thinking, Shin finally digested all of the instructions given to him. Then he raised his head at Professor Plum before nodding his head.

Seeing the determined look at Shin's face, Old Plum suddenly smiled before waving his hand while saying. "If you are ready, then start your training now. And if you managed to complete this one, then we are going to immediately proceed at training your control over the 'Demonic Qi' inside your body."

Hearing that, Shin slightly nodded his head for another time before proceeding to his training. As usual, he closed his eyes first before throwing a powerful punch in the air right after opening his eyes. That punch sent a strong gust of wind in every direction which made the wooden blocks sway alongside it.

With that, the next level of Shin's training finally started. And this time, he was very excited to do this training. Because given how complicated it was, he was sure that it would give him a lot of benefits in battle.

What's more, Old Plum also said that he was going to start training with his 'Demonic Qi' once he completed this training. Just that thought alone made him so excited because he would finally be able to see the real power of Professor Plum's 'Yin-Yang Arts'.

"Looks like this special training is going to be more and more interesting."

Meanwhile, the harbor of the Easter Sea Region of the Soaring Continent was starting to get packed by a large number of ships that came from the different parts of the world. It was the same for the airports that had traffics due to a lot of planes arriving consecutively.

This was the busiest period of the Eastern Sea Region because the school year was about to start. And since the Magical Ace Academy was located in this region, a lot of young men and women from the different parts of the world were arriving here, hoping to pass the entrance exam.

And among these youths were the talents that come from different powerhouses of the world and aristocratic families. These guys were sent in this place to experience a different kind of atmosphere and to also spy for the young talents that they might encounter for the upcoming tournaments.

There were also some individuals who were a disciple of some famous experts, which made this place become even more lively.

But compared to the majority of the youngsters who came here just to take the entrance exam, these set of younger generations came to this place to take a look at the potential talents who were most likely going to become their biggest rivals in the upcoming 'International Empire War'.

But the Eastern Sea Region was not the only place having a busy time right now. It was the same for the Western Plain Region where the Top Military School was located, another top school alongside the Magical Ace Academy.

Being a 'genius creator' just like the Magical Ace Academy, the Top Military School was also having a large number of applicants. And even if their curriculum was much harsher, there were still a lot of young talents who wanted to enter this school since they could immediately become a part of any military forces as long as they showed good results in this school.

Similar things were happening in the other places of the world where the other top schools were located such as the Central Institute, Phantom Academy, Advance Technological College and others.

These schools were responding to these situations very carefully, despite them standing at the very top of the world's educational circle. It was because they all knew that these upcoming few years were going to be very crucial for them because the next 'International Empire Wars' was about to be held.

Given all of that, the world was starting to have its busiest period as it started to enter its new age due to this wave of new talents who were going to lit the spark of dawn.

Chapter 435 Showing Results

.....

Shin did the new reflex training until noon. He had a lot of trouble keeping up with the new rule given how complex it was. But even if that was the case, he didn't even raise any complaint and just did what he was told.

While he was doing this training, he discovered that he really still had some habits that he didn't notice before. And this training method really helped him at getting rid of it.

Currently, Shin could only stand inside the circle for 3 minutes max, before he got hit by a wooden block or made a mistake.

It was quite slow compared to his previous progress, but he didn't get disappointed at all. It was because he could clearly feel the immediate changes on his body which was giving him a more flexible battle style in battle.

After that training, Shin immediately went to the cottage to have his lunch before proceeding to his Mentalism Training. And when he arrived in his usual spot, he immediately saw David and Grandmaster Benn waiting for him there.

When Shin arrived, Old Benn squinted his eyes a little before observing Shin. And after a few moments of observation, the old man suddenly smiled with satisfaction before nodding his head.

Then Grandmaster Benn looked at Shin before asking. "What do you think about your progress?"

Hearing that, Shin thought for a moment before saying. "I felt that my control over my Mental Energy became slightly better. It seems like they become much lighter compared to before."

"Is that so?" said Old Benn before crossing his hands behind him while asking. "Then-... what do you think about having a little sparring match right now?"

Hearing that, Shin's eyes suddenly turned wide before nodding his head repeatedly. Then he immediately answered without having any hint of hesitation. "Sure!"

Seeing that excited look at Shin's face, Grandmaster Benn suddenly wore a huge grin on his face before turning his head at David who was lazily laying on top of the huge boulder. "So, I am leaving him in your care now."

After that, Old Benn walked to the side and waited for the two to start.

Seeing that, Shin immediately looked at David before putting his hands together and returning the latter's respectful bow. "Please, enlighten me."

Meanwhile, David suddenly smirked when he saw Shin's actions. After that, he suddenly shook his head a little as he remembered something from before. 'Let's see how much improvements you make compared to that time. I really am starting to get curious right now.'

Then he jumped down from the top of the rock boulder before putting his hands together while returning Shin's respectful bow.

After that, both of them immediately assumed their respective battle stances before releasing their own Mental Energies.

Bang! Bang!

Right after they released those Mental Energy, a powerful pressure was also released from their bodies. Though, it was also quite noticeable that David was only matching Shin's aura.

Shin was fully aware of that, so he immediately calmed himself down before doing the trick that he learned just recently while doing his previous training. Which was separating his consciousness from his body.

Earlier, he discovered that he could use his Metal Energy much better when doing this trick. What's more, he could also draw the Mentalism Runes much faster when he was in this state. So, he was thinking to test it out if it could really help him in battle.

He still hadn't mastered this trick yet, but he could at least maintain this state for a few minutes which was enough for him to hold his ground against someone like David in a short amount of time.

After all, Shin was aware that he was still no match against David. So, all he needed to do was to last for as long as he could so that he could enjoy this sparring matching.

But it didn't mean he was going to wait for David to attack. Instead, immediately took the initiative to start his attack.

Bang!

Shin immediately swung his fist forward, sending a powerful Mental Energy Wave towards David. And when the latter saw that, the smile that he was wearing suddenly curved further up and made him remember his previous battle against Shin who was under the influence of a Demonic Possession.

Bang!

With that, he just waved his hand to deflect the incoming energy wave. And at the same time, he suddenly threw a palm strike with his other hand and sent an energy wave of his own.

Bang! Swoosh!

This energy wave that David had sent was much faster and more powerful compared to the one that Shin had sent earlier, indicating the difference in their battle prowess.

Seeing that, Shin wanted to also deflect the incoming energy wave with the same manner that David had done. But he immediately rejected the idea when he saw that the Mental Energy wave suddenly spun in the air and turned into a swirling attack.

With that, Shin immediately crossed his arms in front of him while making the Mental Energy around him to spin with a rapid pace. Then he quickly uncrossed them once again while swinging them downwards in a very strong manner.

"Ha!" With those actions together with a powerful shout, Shin pushed his spinning Mental Energy outwards which immediately turned into a dome shape barrier around him.

Bang!

Whistle~♪

David suddenly whistled when he saw Shin do those actions. Even though it was not flawless and perfect, he could still tell that the latter didn't have much problem at doing it.

"It will be not long before this kid turns those movements into natural ones. He just needed to get rid of those useless movements," muttered David before throwing a few more energy waves towards Shin's direction.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Being bombarded by those energy waves, Shin's movements immediately became restricted which led him to be in a passive state. David's movements were so natural and didn't have any flaws that he could expose, so doing a counter attack right now was going to be tough for Shin.

Realizing his current situation, Shin immediately decided to take a couple of steps backwards, having a tactical retreat.

But the moment he took the first step, David suddenly appeared right behind him while saying. "Wrong, if a Mentalist is trying to overwhelm you with these kinds of attacks, you should be advancing rather than taking a step backwards. It is to show them that their attacks are ineffective against you."

"That way, you can redirect the pressure towards them instead," he added while throwing a palm strike at Shin's back.

Bang!

Shin didn't know how David managed to bypass the barrier around him but he didn't have any time to think about that as the latter's palm was already approaching his back.

Sensing the incoming attack, Shin felt that it was already too late to dodge it given how perfect David had executed that palm strike. All he could do was to brace himself and build a wall of Mental Energy on his back while bracing himself.

Though, his mind was having a slightly different thought. He was thinking that he could throw a good counterattack if he managed to dodge the incoming strike with a perfect timing.

But it was already too late.

Or so he thought...

Because the moment that thought flashed inside his mind, his body seemed to move on its own and started moving to dodge the incoming palm strike.

He slightly twisted his waist before moving his feet alongside it, making a quick turned around. And with those simple movements, David's palm was just going to graze his back due to how unexpected it was.

But that was not the end. Because the wall made by Shin's Mental Energy earlier finished the job and redirected the course of David's palm strike at the final moment, which made Shin completely dodge the sudden attack.

"Huh!?"

"What!?"

Both Shin and David became shocked at what had happened. Though, it was because of a slightly different yet similar reason.

The former was thinking that he had no choice but to directly receive the attack due to how perfectly executed it was. Meanwhile, the latter was sure that he was going to land that attack because he timed it perfectly.

Regardless, both of them immediately made their next moves right after throwing those thoughts at the back of their heads.

Shin quickly threw a powerful palm strike according to what he was thinking before while David raised his other arm to block the incoming strike for as fast as he could.

Bang!

That attack didn't put any harm at David at all, but it was more than enough for them to be separated from each other given how strong it was.

After that, both of them stayed still and stood in their respective spots as they were trying to figure out what really happened earlier. And after a few moments of thinking, they finally figured out how Shin pulled it off.

"The Reflex Training!"

"Mind becoming one with the body?"

They blurted their thoughts out with a different tone as they understood it differently; one was excited while the other was confused.

But despite them having a slightly different thought in mind, those thoughts only led to a single thing. And it was the training finally showing its results!

Chapter 436 A Favor?

...

Shin was currently lying on the ground and staring blankly at the sky. He lost his battle against David and it seemed to be a one-sided battle.

The unexpected reflexive dodge and counter that he did earlier at the start of the battle was just a fluke. Even though he was always closed at redoing it, he only did it once and didn't manage to repeat it in the span of the entire battle.

Meanwhile, David was thinking differently. Even though the battle looked so one-sided earlier, it was actually quite hard for him to defeat Shin completely. He might not use his full power, but what Shin had shown was more than enough to win against the other Mentalists who were in the Peak Grandmaster Realm.

David didn't use his real strength during the battle. In fact, he didn't even use half of his current potential because Old Benn instructed him not to use any special techniques; all of his moves were only restricted to the ones that could only be used by average Mentalists.

Even though he could use different variations of those techniques, using it against a talented person like Shin was actually quite hard. And if Shin really managed to fully grasp the right way to properly utilize the special technique that Professor Plum and Grandmaster Benn were teaching him, then David might even have to use his real techniques in battle.

After taking a deep breath, David took another look at Shin before turning his head at Old Benn who was currently watching from the side. He shook his head a little before muttering to himself. "Trying to teach this guy to freely combine and separate his body and consciousness? These old monsters sure are crazy."

He then turned his head at Shin once again before shaking his head for another time. "And if this freak of nature managed to achieve it, then he will surely be going to become a much scarier monster than he currently is."

"Maybe he is still unaware of that, but that is the thing that makes it even scarier. A monster that is unaware of its real potential is much more terrifying than a monster who is aware of their own potential. It was because they can grow without any restrictions of knowing their own limits."

While he was thinking about that, he suddenly recalled a thing that his master had told him which made him shake his head even further. "And there was that thing too. For how much of a monster this kid can be?"

With that, he took a deep breath to calm his mind a little before walking towards Shin to offer him a hand on standing up.

Seeing that, Shin smiled a little before accepting David's help and stood up. "You really are strong, Senior Brother. I am looking forward to having another sparring match with you again in the future. And I hope you properly battle me at that time and not restrict yourself with those lousy techniques."

Hearing that, David smirked at him a little before saying. "But those lousy techniques almost beat you senseless."

Shin slightly shook his head when he heard that. "You are just a monster. That's all."

David looked at Shin skeptically before thinking to himself. 'Says who?'

At this time, Grandmaster got near them before saying to Shin. "How was it?"

Shin turned silent for a moment because he felt a lot of meaning from the old man's words. But he couldn't grasp what exactly it was. He also knew that both Professor Plum and Grandmaster Benn wanted to tell him something through his training, but he couldn't fully get it yet.

Given that, he just shook his head a little, indicating that he didn't know what to say. And when Old Benn saw that, he just nodded his head before crossing his hands behind before turning around while saying. "We will skip your Mentalism Training for today. But I want you to reassess your battle experience on this sparring."

"I will teach you how to properly use the Mentalism Runes in battle tomorrow. But you will resume your usual task immediately after it."

Hearing the first part of Grandmaster Benn's words, Shin immediately became excited as he was finally going to learn some proper battle techniques as a Mentalist. But he immediately became slight dejected when he heard that latter part since that meant that he still needed to pull that stupid rock boulder towards the top of the mountain.

While Shin felt a little down, Old Benn suddenly rubbed some salts on his wounds. "And you also need to fix your mindset in battle. You are still battling like a Martial-Artist rather than a Mentalist."

"That first move is slightly good. But the moves after that are not. You need to properly utilize your Mental Energy more and stop relying too much on your physique."

Later that night, Shin went to the river to take a bath. And when he was done, he decided to walk around the forest to reflect on what he had experienced in this special training so far.

And while he was walking aimlessly in that place, he suddenly bumped into David who was currently meditating in the middle of the woods.

Shin knitted his eyebrows for a moment after seeing that before deciding to not disturb the latter. So, he just shrugged a little before starting to walk away.

But right after he turned around and took a single step away, he suddenly felt something hit the back of his head and made him fall on the ground unconscious.

Thud!

David stood beside Shin's body before making a few hand gestures in the air, creating a huge barrier that isolated them.

After that, he took a bunch of talismans from his pocket before throwing it in the air. A moment later, those talismans flew towards the barrier that he built fused themselves with it.

Not long after, David looked at Shin's body on the ground before saying. "Hey! It is time to get up. I know that you are awake, so don't pretend to be sleeping there."

Minutes had passed but no reply came in. And when David saw that, he started talking once again. "If you don't want to get removed, then you better get up from there right now and stop pretending. I am fully aware of your existence, so that act will not work on me in the slightest."

Silence descended once again after David said those words. And when he saw that the one he was calling was still not willing to respond to him, the look on his face suddenly turned cold as he released an intense aura from his body.

BOOM!

But right before he did something, a powerful shockwave was sent out from Shin's body which forced David to move away.

After that, he started at Shin who was currently lying on the ground with a cautious look on his face. Then he suddenly saw Shin push the ground with both of his hands to get back on his feet.

"Tsk! Can't I just have a peaceful time? I am trying to behave myself here, so can you respect that at the very least?" said Shin as he stood up. And when he got back on his feet, he looked at David with a dissatisfied expression on his face.

Right now, Shin's pupils had purple color instead of grey. At the same time, the aura that was currently leaking out from his body was totally different from what he currently had.

Seeing that, David became even more cautious as he could feel an intense threat coming from 'Shin'. And after a few moments of observation, he suddenly took a deep breath before saying to himself. 'So, it is actually true.'

Meanwhile, 'Shin' leisurely stretched his waist left and right before asking. "So, what do you want from me? I am sure that you are not going to wake me up just to confirm my existence, right?"

Hearing those words, David couldn't help but knit his brows even further before asking. "How about we introduce ourselves to each other first?"

"There is no need to introduce yourself as I already know who you are. As for myself, then you can just call me Uno," replied 'Shin' while putting his hands inside his pocket.

He then turned silent for a few moments before saying. "So, what's the deal? Don't tell me you called me out just to have some casual chat?"

After that, he started walking towards the nearest tree around him before leaning his back on it while waiting for David's reply.

At the same time, David squinted his eyes as the dangerous feeling that he was sensing was getting even stronger the more Uno acted leisurely.

But despite receiving such a dangerous threat, he didn't feel any killing intent from the latter's aura much less any ill intentions mixed in it.

'He really gives off the same as Sir Adam,' thought David to himself as he took a deep breath to calm himself down before saying. "I have a favor to ask from you."

Chapter 437 David Vs Uno

.....

"I have a favor to ask from you."

Hearing those words, Uno couldn't help but curved his lips into a huge grin as he found the current situation very interesting. "A favor you say? What can a person like you need my help for?"

David stared for a moment with his squinting eyes before replying. "Don't pretend that you don't know about it."

He paused for a moment to find a tree to lean his back before continuing. "We both know what you have done to the first demon that Shin had conquered."

Uno raised his eyebrows a little the moment he heard that. Then he stared at David silently as he was thinking how did this guy know about that matter. Even those old men had no idea about that matter, yet this guy seemed to be fully aware of it.

Seeing that slightly confused look on Uno's face, David suddenly crossed his arms in front of him before explaining. "It is quite strange that Shin still couldn't interact with that 'demon' even after he conquered it. He should have the ability to use some of the tricks from that demon, yet he hasn't discovered anything even if he passed its test already."

"Moreover, there is also no sign about that 'first demon' aside for the 'Demonic Qi' that is scattered within Shin's entire system."

David turned silent for a moment when he reached this point and observed the expression on Uno's face before continuing. "In that case, there is only a single reason for that to happen. That is if Shin successfully fully devoured"

"But if that was the case, then Shin should have some of the Demonic Abilities from that 'first demon', which is still not present at this point of time."

"Given that, there is only another reason for it to happen. That is if you already devoured that demon in the first place. After all, you and Shin are actually a single entity – which means, if you already devoured that 'first demon', then Shin should have also devoured it technically."

Uno became even more interested when he heard all of David's deductions. A moment later, he started chuckling before saying. "You really are a strange one. To other people, they are most likely going to think that the 'Demonic Energy' itself is the special ability that this idiot got from that so-called 'first demon'."

"Even those old men are also going to get fooled by it since that 'Demonic Qi' is quite special compared to the common ones. But it seems you know more than it-..."

Then he trailed his words for a few moments before narrowing his eyes while saying sharply. "First, you are aware about my existence. And now, you seem to even know about my abilities."

Boom!

Then a powerful pressuring aura was released from Uno's body as he continued. "Tell me, what is your real relationship with this 'idiot'? How did you know all of his secrets?"

David went back to his cautious attitude when he saw all of that. And this time, that threat that was coming from Uno's body was not something he could ignore. Because he could now feel a real killing intent mixed in that threat, and it seemed that Uno was planning to kill him at this point of that.

'Looks like this negation is not going to be easy, huh?' thought David to himself.

He really didn't want for the situation to reach this point since it would complicate things even more. But since it was already like this, then it was better to go all the way.

"Hey! Since you want to know something about me and I want you to do me a favor, then how about we make a bet this time?" asked David as he removed his back from leaning on the tree behind him.

Hearing that, Uno became even more interested as the grin that he was wearing curved further upwards. "Oh~! Then how about we start already?"

Right after he said those words, the pressuring aura that he was releasing became even more powerful which was enough to slightly shake the barrier that David had set up earlier.

David couldn't help but knit his eyebrows a little when he saw that. 'Tsk! A monster hiding within another monster. I wonder what will happen when they finally merge together.'

He immediately threw that thought at the back of his head as he quickly took his battle stance to prepare for this match. And this time, he couldn't afford to let his guard down as he could already see the battle prowess of Uno even if they hadn't started that battle yet.

Moreover, his senses could also perceive a familiar presence from the aura that Uno was releasing. 'They really are similar.'

While he was still a little distracted with that thought, Uno's body started fading away as if he was some sort of ghost.

A moment later, a fist suddenly appeared in front of David's face which was rapidly zooming on his eyes with a great speed.

Swoosh!

Bang!

The air in front of that fist suddenly exploded as Uno's arm was fully extended. But it didn't hit anything as David was already leaning sideways as he redirected that punch to the opposite direction.

After that, he quickly turned his wrist before grabbing Uno's wrist with a firm grip before pulling the latter backwards.

But Uno immediately responded and immediately stomped his foot on the ground, preventing himself from moving further.

When David saw that Uno refused to budge even for a little, he quickly formed a fist with his other hand before throwing a powerful punch at Uno's exposed waist.

Swoosh!

David's movements were quite fast and perfectly in sync which made it hard to dodge.

But Uno was not simple either. He strengthened his arm that was caught by David's firm grip before pulling it a little backwards.

He might fail to free his arm from being caught but it was more than enough for him to twist his waist a little and move his free hand through the gap that was created and caught the incoming fist.

Bang!

David knitted his eyebrows a little as he found Uno's movements quite interesting. 'Did he read it?'

While he was thinking about that, Uno suddenly kicked the ground below him and jumped up in the air while doing a spin roll midair.

That move caught David a little off-guard which was why the force of that spin pulled him in and forced him to spin alongside it which also led him to let go of Uno's arm to stabilize himself in the air.

With that, Uno was able to free himself from David's grip. And immediately after that, he quickly adjusted his center of gravity midair before throwing a powerful kick at David who was still spinning in the air.

Pak!

Unfortunately, David was able to sense his movements and quickly crossed his arms to block the incoming kick while spinning in the air. But he was still sent flying backwards after blocking it.

And during that time, Uno immediately forced himself to fall on the ground before chasing after David with a great speed.

Meanwhile, David readjusted his balance in the air before doing a quick flip immediately after. And while he was in the middle of his flip, he used his Mental Energy to form a small block beneath him before using it as a platform to send himself launched forward.

Swoosh!

Along with that, David quickly threw a strong punch towards his incoming opponent.

But despite him flying with a great speed, David was still able to respond with his moves and quickly ducked forward to avoid getting hit from it. And when he was right below David, he suddenly strengthened his legs and put a lot of force on it before releasing all of the accumulated force with a powerful upward punch.

Bang!

Air in front of Uno's fist exploded once again but also failed to hit his opponent just like earlier.

Unexpectedly, David was able to kill all of the forward momentum from his previous move and instantly halted his flight earlier. And with that, he was able to do a spin roll in the air to dodge Uno's counterattack before forcing himself to land on the ground behind his opponent.

The moment Uno felt that, he quickly used the upward momentum from his previous movements to jump in the air before doing a quick flip midair while forcing himself to fall back on the ground as he threw a downward kick at David who was still in the middle of getting back on his feet.

But before that kick could even fall on him, David quickly crossed above his head and quickly braced himself for the incoming impact.

Bang!

After blocking that falling kick, David immediately forced arms to push Uno up before creating some distance between them.

Then he looked at Uno with knitted eyebrows while muttering to himself. "So, he really can see my next moves, huh? So, that means this guy really got those eyes."

After that, he resumed his battle stance again before saying to Uno. "Alright, that should be enough for the warm-up. So, should we proceed to real action this time?" while releasing a large amount of Mental Energy at the same time.

Chapter 438 David Vs Uno (Part 2)

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Uno squinted his eyes as he looked at David who was currently releasing a massive amount of Mental Energy while assuming a battle stance.

Then he put his hands inside his pocket while staring at David with squinting eyes. And when the latter saw those actions, he couldn't help but frowned his eyebrows a little as he felt a little unsatisfied.

"Are you still not going to take me seriously?" said David with a knitting brow.

Hearing that, Uno suddenly smirked at him before saying. "How about you? You are also not taking me seriously either. You are not even revealing a portion of your true strength yet you want me to do the same."

David suddenly knitted his eyebrows when he heard that. It was because he could feel an overwhelming confidence coming from Uno when he heard those words. It was as if the latter was waiting for him to use his real strength before using his own.

He was still not sure how strong Uno was, but from what he could tell, it seemed that this guy was at least stronger than Shin in terms of Martial-Art attainment. But that was still a suspicion so it was better to confirm it first before anything else.

Given that, David looked at Uno with a smirking expression on his face before saying. "Then how about you force me to do it?"

And right after those words left his mouth, he suddenly disappeared from his current locations before reappearing right in front of Uno while throwing a powerful straight punch.

Swoosh!

Bang!

But David's fist missed its target as Uno dodge it in time by taking a slight step backwards while also leaning his body in the same direction.

After that, he quickly jumped in that air while turning his body around to throw a strong back kick at David.

Pak!

Uno's moves might be perfectly timed which made it a perfect counter, but David seemed to be expecting that and managed to catch Uno's feet with a perfect timing. And before the latter could even react, he immediately tightened his grip while grabbing Uno's leg with his other hand, planning to smash this arrogant kid on the ground.

But Uno would naturally not let it happen. So, he quickly twisted his waist a little midair before re-twisting it towards the opposite direction to spin the air.

David was slightly taken aback when he saw those actions. 'Is this guy crazy? Is he planning to break Shin's legs?'

Due to that, David suddenly hesitated and unconsciously loosened his grip. And because of that, Uno successfully freed himself from getting caught before throwing another kick at David.

Seeing that incoming feet which were rapidly magnifying in front of his eyes, David quickly raised his arms and crossed them right in front of his face to block the incoming attack. 'Tsk! Quite decisive, huh?'

Bang!

The force behind that kick was quite strong which was why David was forced to slide backwards right after blocking it.

But while he was sliding backwards, he suddenly stomped his foot on the ground behind him to forcefully halt his slide. Then he kicked the ground to launch himself towards Uno with a great speed. 'Tricking me once should be enough.'

Uno was still in the air during that time; and before he could even land on the ground, David suddenly arrived beside him in just an instant.

Uno was kind of expecting that, but he still caught a little off-guard when he saw David's speed. And before he could even react in time, David suddenly swung his arm at him and smashed him on the ground.

Bang!

,m Due to the very strong impact from that strike, Uno bounced back in the air right after hitting the ground. And while he was hovering in the air, he sensed a powerful kick coming from his side.

Given that, Uno tried to quickly adjust his position in the air while crossing his arms to block the incoming kick. But since his senses became a little dull due to him being smashed on the ground previously, he couldn't completely grasp the trajectory of that kick.

Bang!

And because of that, he failed to completely nullify the force behind that kick which also sent him flying.

Swoosh!

Bang!

Uno collided on a couple of trees before stopping.

"Hu~..." David took a deep breath as he fell back on the ground before starting in the direction where he sent Uno flying.

A moment later, the pile of broken tree trunks and branches in that direction were suddenly lifted as Uno stood up from being buried underneath.

But aside from his clothes being torn, there were no visible injuries on his body.

"Tsk! Even if I can see it, I still can't properly react to his moves," muttered Uno as he tore off his clothes completely from his body.

"And that kick was quite strong. I still feel a little dizzy," he added while shaking his head a little to shake off the dizziness that he was feeling from the previous attack.

After that, he raised his head to look at David who was staring at him with a serious face. He then knitted his eyebrows a little before muttering to himself. "Tch! Looks like I can no longer measure him out. I guess it is time to work a little seriously this time."

Right after he said those words to himself, Uno took a deep breath while closing his eyes. And the moment he reopened them, the atmosphere surrounding him suddenly became a little strange; it was neither light nor heavy.

Seeing that, David couldn't help but further knit his eyebrows as the threatening feeling that he was getting earlier was becoming more and more distinct; and this time, it was much more threatening compared to how it used to be.

And while David was still distracted by the sudden change of atmosphere, Uno suddenly said. "You really are strong, so I guess I am at least finally able to move this time to my heart's content."

He took a brief pause to regulate his breathing while controlling the flow of Internal Qi inside his body according to a certain breathing technique. But instead of doing it properly, he did the breathing technique in a reverse manner which made the flow of his Internal Qi become berserk and violent.

Due to that, his meridians became so hot as if they were being burned by that violent flow of Internal Qi. But despite being in a completely violent state, Uno seemed to be able to keep the berserk flow under control and completely contained it inside his body.

A moment later, Uno's body started emitting some smoke due to the heat being produced by his hot meridians.

This was the counterpart of Shin's 'White Dawn Boundary', the 'Black Origin Threshold'.

After that, Uno raised his head and looked at David once again before saying. "But let me remind you, I am not as dumb as this idiot – I can at least use my Martial-Art Skills properly."

Boom!

And the moment those words left his mouth, the Sacred Internal Qi was suddenly released from his body as he added. "I am not a fan of this Internal Qi, but have not choice but to use it since this 'composition' is the best card that I currently have."

Seeing that, David suddenly became even more cautious as he had some idea what Uno was talking about. From what he knew, this breathing technique was quite special and it was created by Professor Plum to complement his own version of 'Yin-Yang Arts'.

And from what he heard from his master, this breathing technique had two opposing special states, the 'White Dawn Boundary' and the 'Black Origin Threshold'. Each state complemented a certain Internal Qi nurtured by the said 'Yin-Yang Arts', which made the battle prowess of the wielder went to a whole new level.

The violent and berserk state of the 'Black Origin Threshold' perfectly complemented the warm and explosive nature of the 'Sacred Internal Qi' – while the calm and tranquil state of the 'White Dawn Boundary' fitted the cold and sharp nature of the counterpart of that Qi.

But using such technique had some drawbacks in it and which made it very hard to maintain for a very long time.

But it was completely different from what David was currently seeing. From what he could see from Uno's current state, it seemed like this guy was able to completely hold himself in this state and maintain it properly.

What's more, it seemed like Uno was perfectly controlling this special state. Which made him look like someone who reached the 'middle phase' of the 'Ethereal Opening Stage' given the pressure that was coming from his body.

Whistle~♪

"Now, this is something else," commented David as he stared at Uno with cautious eyes. And after a slight moment of hesitation, he decided to unlock the first phase of his 'Limit Break' before muttering to himself. "Let's see, how much of a monster this guy can be."

Chapter 439 The Deal

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Boom!

A very strong pressure was released by Uno as the Sacred Internal Qi surrounding his body was blazing very intensely. And alongside with it, the current atmosphere around him was quite heavy because of the berserk aura that was created by the 'Black Origin Threshold'.

Boom!

But at the same time, a similar type of pressure also exploded from the other side. David raised his hand and stabbed his finger at his right temple, releasing the first phase of his 'Meridian Blocking'.

'Limit Break: Phase One'

Boom!

And on the very next moment that David released his first restriction, Uno suddenly kicked the ground and launched himself forward with a great speed.

Swoosh!

But right after Uno did that, David suddenly thrust his right arm in the air and sent a powerful Mental Energy Wave forward.

Seeing the strong energy wave that was coming his way, Uno immediately raised his right hand and pulled it backwards before waiting for the right time to release a punch. And before the energy could even arrive at him, he immediately thrust his fist forward and destroyed the energy wave in an instant.

Boom!

But due to that, Uno's speed slowed down drastically and bought David enough time to make his next move.

David raised both of his hands in the air before pointing the palm of his left hand at Uno's direction while shouting. "Set. Locked!"

Right after he said those words, the Mental Energy residuals from his previous move suddenly regathered and surrounded Uno with a spinning motion. A moment later, those energies locked Uno in place and prevented him from moving.

'Myriad Manifestation Method: Nature's Lockdown'

At the same time, David was also pulling his other arm backwards while gathering a large amount of Mental Energy around it. And alongside with his actions, the Mental Energy that he gathered revolved around his arm and spun rapidly.

After that, he threw a powerful punch forward and sent a very strong energy wave towards Uno which was spinning in a spiral motion.

'Myriad Manifestation Method: Haymaker of the Beast King'

Boom!

Swoosh!

Meanwhile, Uno lowered his hips a little and strengthened his legs before crossing his arms in front of him. A moment later, he swung his arms backwards and positioned them on each side of his waist.

Right after he did that, a strong shockwave was released from his body and pushed the Mental Energy which was restraining him.

Bang!

Freeing himself, Uno quickly took a couple of steps backwards before taking his battle stance. After that, he quickly gathered his Internal Qi on his right hand which was positioned beside his waist.

He didn't immediately release the accumulated powers even after the accumulation reached its peak. Instead, he waited for the incoming energy wave to arrive right in front of him before taking a quick step forward while also throwing a powerful punch at the same time.

'Simplified Ultimate Yin-Yang Arts: Fist of the Furious White Tiger'

BOOM!

Consecutive shockwaves were created by that collision and repeatedly bombard the barrier that David had set up earlier. Fortunately, that barrier was quite sturdy and didn't shatter immediately even after being shaken repeatedly.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But despite having a powerful collision, both Uno and David didn't pause even for a second.

David quickly formed a gun shape with his hand before pointing it at Uno a moment later. After that, he fired a barrage of Mental Energy from the tip of his fingers and shot them towards his opponent.

'Myriad Manifestation Method: Air Fissure Bullets'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Those Mental Energy bullets were somewhat invisible and couldn't be seen by naked eye. But Uno's senses were strengthened by the 'Black Origin Threshold', so we could still perceive their movements and trajectories by feeling the vibrations in the air.

Given that, he quickly squatted his hips once again and assumed a 'horse stance'. Then he took a deep breath and waited for the incoming energy bullets to arrive before swinging both of his arms left and right to deflect all of them.

'Advance Yin-Yang Arts: Circular Guidance'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

This exchange lasted for a few more moments before David decided to advance forward and engaged in a melee combat.

Swoosh!

With a powerful stomp on the ground, David launched himself towards Uno before arriving in front of the Uno in just an instant. At the same time, he suddenly punched his fist forward while borrowing the momentum of his previous charge.

But Uno seemed to be able to see his movements despite being executed in a very fast manner and perfectly linked with his previous moves.

Pak!

With his previous stance, Uno used the back of his hand to redirect the trajectory of the incoming punch with a precise timing before using his other hand to throw a counter punch in the next instant.

'Yin-Yang Arts: Immediate Counter'

Seeing the incoming fist right in front of his face, David quickly leaned his body to the side while also tilting his head in the same direction to dodge Uno's counter.

Bang! Bang!

Immediately after they avoided each other's attacks, the air behind them suddenly exploded due to the very strong force behind their punches. And because of the air ripples created by those explosions, the air surrounding the two ran wild and created a chaotic storm around them.

The two took a brief pause to catch their breathings for a moment, before quickly resuming their battle. And due to that, a very intense close-quarter combat was immediately initiated.

These two young men seemed to be experts in melee battle as each of their moves were totally calculated without having any wasted movements. Their fist and leg techniques were perfectly linked with the previous move that he just used.

Moreover, they were also considering the previous of their opponents to predict which move was coming next.

At first, they were only using some ordinary moves reinforced by their Mental Energy and Internal Qi. But as time went by, their exchanges were becoming more and more intense, resulting in them using their respective Mentalism Techniques and Martial-Art Skills.

During these exchanges, David became even more surprised at each of Uno's moves. Not only this kid could keep up with him, but he also had the ability to put a lot of pressure on David from time to time.

Even if David had the slight edge on this battle, he still couldn't afford to let his guard down even for a brief moment because it would lead into his immediate defeat.

And the thing that gave David a lot of trouble was those eyes that Uno had. Those eyes were able to see through his feints and traps which made Uno able to respond to all of his next moves – it was as if those eyes could foresee what was about to come.

What's more, Uno seemed to also have an ability to read his moves very clearly. It didn't matter if it was a variation of his techniques or not, as long as Uno had seen it for a single time, he would always have a way to counter that move.

Because of this, David was forced to mix some moves which Uno was unfamiliar with. And even if they were just some simple Mentalism Techniques, those moves were still able to catch Uno completely off-guard due to them coming out of nowhere.

Regardless, Uno was still doing perfectly fine at holding himself against David for lasting this long.

If David compared him to all of the opponents that he had so far, then Uno would surely rank on the top alongside the best young experts on their respective country.

Even though he was still lacking compared to the 'Junior Monsters', 'Young Ghost', 'Supernovas', and other peak geniuses of the seven major continents, he was still ranked just a level or two below them.

But if he was given enough time to grow, then David was not going to be surprised if he one day became on par with them.

Throwing all of those thoughts at the back of his head, David decided to become a little more serious. He already tested Uno's potential, so it was time to finally end this battle.

BOOM!

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Uno was currently lying on the ground while staring at the sky with a bitter look on his face. This was his very first time suffering a defeat. And it was not even a close call, but a one-sided beating right after David decided to become serious.

"Hey, are you still not done staring at the sky? We still have a deal to take care of," said David who was sitting on the ground with his crossed legs.

Hearing that, Uno suddenly smirked before sitting up. "Don't get too ahead of yourself. You just have a little advantage because you are born a little early compared to me. If we are the same age, then I am sure that I can easily beat you up one-sidedly."

David couldn't help but chuckle when he heard those words, especially when he recalled what he was doing when he was still the same age as him. 'If only you know what I am capable of during those times.'

He was about to mention the 'deal' right after brushing off those thoughts. But before he could even voice his words out, Uno immediately opened his mouth and said. "There is no need to tell me anything. I know what you want to ask."

When David heard that, he slightly raised his eyebrows while looking at Uno with a suspicious look on his face.

Seeing that look on his face, Uno suddenly smirked before saying. "You want me to devour the 'second demon' before this idiot could even break through to the Ethereal Opening Stage, right? And it is to prevent him from having some mischief and undergo a 'Demonic Possession' during that critical breakthrough."

David pursed his lips a little when he heard that reply before nodding his head repeatedly. After that, he stood up from the ground while saying. "Well, since you already know about my favor, then all I can ask you is to fulfill your end in our deal. I can at least trust you in that, right?"

"Tsk! I never go back on my words," said Uno with a cold tone while glaring at David.

Hearing the reply that he wanted, David nodded his head once again before stretching his body while saying. "Then you should go back to sleep now, so that I can bring Shin back to the cottage."

"But let me remind you, I can at least deal with that 'second demon' inside this idiot's inner heart since it is only on par with me, but it is a completely different story when it comes to the other one," said Uno with a solemn tone.

He took a brief pause before continuing with a solemn tone. "And even if the two of us work together, I can tell you for sure that we are still no match against it especially with our current state."

Those words made David stop what he was doing before nodding his head. "I know about that, that is why that 'wall' is placed inside 'your' inner heart in the first place; it is to lock it down. And that is also the reason why the two of you needed to work together starting from this point of time."

Uno suddenly smirked when he heard that. "Heh! Even if he was the one who created me, I will never acknowledge this idiot unless he accepts himself."

"Forgetting about everything? Heh! Did he think that running away is the right choice? Sooner or later, his own weakness is still going to hunt him down and break him once again."

David turned silent for a moment and stared at Uno after hearing those words. And when the latter sensed that, Uno glared at him before saying. "I just want to tell you. We will never be able to defeat it unless he breaks free from those shackles."

Right after he said those words, Uno slowly closed his eyes before collapsing on the ground with a soft 'thud' sound.

Chapter 440 Progress

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Shin spent his next few days doing his training as per usual. There was nothing much changed in his Martial-Art training because he still hadn't mastered the reflex training. He was able to stand inside the circle for a long time already but he still couldn't stand there for as long as he wanted.

Doing that training with complex instructions was quite hard already, but interchanging the respective rules for the colored wooden blocks were quite confusing and made the training very tricky to deal with.

But compared to that, Shin was able to make himself used to the traps set up on the mountain path when he was fletching some water on the river. Even if it was adjusting to his speed whenever he grew familiar with it, their attacking patterns were still quite predictable. And due to that Shin was able to learn the right timing when dodging.

Given that, Shin was able to complete the task quite early and gave him a lot of extra time before he did the reflex training.

Shin was quite excited to learn how to properly wield the 'Demonic Qi' inside his body. But since he still couldn't complete the reflex training, he couldn't help but become a little disappointed for not being able to study it.

Regardless, he was still able to see the effect of this training the more he did it, especially when he was doing a sparring match with David during his Mentalism Training.

And talking about Mentalism, Shin showed an insane growth rate on this discipline; and compared to his Martial-Arts, his Mentalism improved with a great margin.

Not only did he improve his control over his Mental Energy, but he also mastered using the Mentalism Runes during battle. What's more, he also learned how to create some basic and intermediate talismans and was about to graduate from it.

Even Grandmaster Benn, who was fully aware of Shin's Mentalism Potentials, couldn't help but become a little shocked when he saw Shin's rapid growth.

Meanwhile, David was starting to get the whole picture whenever he saw Shin's growth during the entire training sessions.

'A monster with insane battle capabilities and high comprehension ability in terms of Martial-Arts, and an ever-growing freak who can learn everything almost instantly when it comes to Mentalism,' thought David to himself while being engaged in a sparring match with Shin.

Bang!

David blocked a very strong kick from Shin before looking at the latter with a huge smile on his face. 'And this freak is still asking for more like a beast who is full of hunger. Now, I'm starting to understand Sir Adam's decision.'

"Hup!" with his strengthened arms, David pushed Shin with a strong force. After that, he stared at the latter while wearing a huge grin on his face before asking. "Is that all you got? Show me more of your growth."

Shin suddenly smirked for a brief moment when he heard that and said. "Then let's fight seriously this time."

After that, Shin suddenly made a hand seal with his right hand while saying. "Haste!"

Then a pair of runes suddenly appeared and shone on each of Shin's legs right after he said those words. And on the very next instant he suddenly disappeared on his current spot before appearing right in front of David with just an instant.

"Fast but still not enough," said David with a smirking face as he threw a strong forward punch right after Shin appeared on his front.

Swoosh!

Puff!

That punch was quite fast and perfectly timed which made it very hard to be dodged. But when that very punch hit its target, David's fist just passed through Shin's body which suddenly turned into a bunch of white smoke right after getting hit.

"Illusion!?" David was caught a little off-guard the moment he saw that. But he immediately regained himself after an instant and quickly raised both of his arms to guard the right side of his head while also creating a Mental Energy barrier at the same time.

"Strength!" shouted Shin as he threw a strong kick at David while forming a hand seal with his left hand.

Bang!

The barrier that David had created using his Mental Energy was shattered instantly right after it came in contact with Shin's powerful kick. And immediately after that, David was sent flying with a great speed when he got hit by Shin's legs.

Swoosh!

Bang!

At the same time, Shin quickly kicked the ground and chased after David the moment his feet landed back on it. And alongside with it, he also reactivated the 'Haste Rune' during his run so that he could catch up with David while he was still flying in the air.

After catching up, Shin was planning to immediately throw another attack before David could even react. But before he could even execute his next move, he suddenly felt that there was something amiss so he quickly halted his run with a powerful stomp on the ground before crossing his arms in front of him.

And when he uncrossed those arms once again, a strong Mental Energy was released from his body before forming a dome-shaped barrier around him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Then the body that he was chasing earlier suddenly exploded and transformed into a barrage of beams which rushed towards him before bombarding the barrier that he set up.

"The heck? How can he create a decoy that fast in that situation?" muttered Shin with his knitted eyebrows. As a cloud of dust starting to block his view due to the repeated bombardment of the beams of light.

When the bombardment finally stopped, Shin quickly swung his arm to the side and made the barrier around him spin rapidly and scattered the cloud of dust around him, clearing his field of view.

But right after he did that, he saw another beam of light which was coming from a distance. And this time, that incoming beam was much larger compared to the ones that bombarded him earlier.

Seeing that, Shin quickly put his hands together before forming some seals with them immediately after.

"Reinforce!" yelling that word, the spinning barrier around him slowed down its spin before having a sudden change on its appearance.

Hexagonal shapes suddenly appeared on the surface of the barrier around Shin, interconnected with each other. At the same time, a certain Mentalism Rune was shining at the center of each hexagon on its surface.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Turtle General Guard – First Form'

BOOM!

A powerful explosion was created when the incoming beam of light collided with the barrier that Shin had created. But despite being hit by such a powerful attack, the barrier protecting Shin was still perfectly fine as if nothing happened.

Regardless, Shin still didn't dare to put the barrier out as he could sense a dangerous threat locked on him.

Swoosh!

A moment later, just like what he was expecting, the cloud of dust above him was suddenly split open and showed David who was currently falling from the sky with a great speed and unstoppable force.

His fist was shining with a blinding light as if there was a miniature sun on it. And when he was about to reach the top of the barrier surrounding Shin, he suddenly swung his shining fist downwards and planned to smash the barrier with it.

But before could even shatter it, Shin suddenly changed the seal on his hands before turning his right hand upwards and letting his palm face the sky.

The moment he made those hand gestures, the hexagonal sections of the barrier surrounding suddenly separated from each other before forming a multilayered wall right above him to block the incoming fist.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Turtle General Guard – SecondForm'

Boom!

A powerful shockwave was created right after the collision. That shockwave sent a repeated ripple in the air surrounding the two which made the entire place quite chaotic.

The two didn't immediately make their next moves as they maintained that state for a couple of seconds to catch their breaths.

Not long after, David put more strength on his arm before pushing himself away from the wall which was blocking him.

Ta-ta!

And when his feet landed back on the ground, he immediately spread his legs a little while squatting his hips. At the same time, he moved both of his hands in circular motions before clasping them together.

Right after he did those actions, his Mental Energy was spread outwards before creating a dome-shaped around him which was quite similar to Shin.

After setting it up, David slightly raised his head and looked at Shin with a provoking face. It was as if he was inviting Shin to try breaking the barrier with his own offensive technique.

Seeing that, Shin couldn't help but grin a little and immediately put his hand together before making another set of hand seals with them. And when he was done forming the hand seals, a bunch of Mentalism Runes suddenly appeared around him and floated in the air.

"Condense!" shouted Shin as he clasped his hands together once again. And when he said those words, the Mentalism Runes floating around him started fusing together before forming a single rune encircled by the same set of runes.

This was the hardest rune set that Shin had learned so far. He just mastered forming it just recently after combining all of the knowledge that he accumulated these past few days of learning the Mentalism Runes.

Due to that, he hadn't tested its battle prowess yet. But since David was giving him an opportunity to test it out, Shin was more than willing enough to accept this chance.

Given that, Shin waited for the new rune sequence to accumulate enough energy before pointing at David who was waiting for his attack.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Unition Ray of the Divine Beasts'

Bang!

Then a powerful beam of light was suddenly fired from the floating rune above Shin and flew towards David.

BOOM!

Not long after, that beam of light collided with the barrier that David had set up which led into a massive explosion. But no matter how powerful that beam of light was, it still couldn't break through David's defense. And it didn't take long for it to completely exhaust all of its energy before dissipating into specks of lights which were slowly disappearing.

But despite his attack being completely ineffective against David's defense, there was still a huge smile on Shin's face as he could now clearly see the result of his training.

Looking at the devastated path that the beam of light took, Shin relaxed his body a little before muttering to himself. "So, this is the power of Mentalism."