

Destiny 471

Chapter 471 Setting Up The Stage

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Legolas, one of the best archers of the game. He was known with the Godlike Title of, 'God of the Wind'.

That title was given to him because of the strange trajectory of his arrows every time they were released from his bow. It was as if he could manipulate the wind to control the directions of his arrows.

At the same time, his precise aiming and swift movement speed put him at the top ranks of the Godlike Archer's list. And that was also the very reason why he was invited to join a powerhouse guild, the Central Order.

Currently, he became one of the higher-ups of the Central Order by spending quite a lot of time and effort. And alongside it, he also became a member of the Secret Corps of the guild.

At this moment, he was given a task to take over the position of war commander at the Blind Abyss Empire. This mission was very important to the guild because they were going to get a very stable resource for quite a long time.

After all, a Superior Mana Vein was more than enough to support them in a lot of fields. Blacksmithing, Alchemy, supporting a city, and nurturing their experts – these were just a few fields where they could use the Mana Stones and Mana Crystals that he could mine from the Mana Vein.

And if they really managed to get their hands on this Mana Vein, then the Guild would surely prosper in the upcoming days.

But they currently had a huge problem on hand. The discovered Superior Mana Vein was not in their own territory – it was in the home turf of the Undying Guild, the Blind Abyss Empire.

Regardless, the Superior Mana Vein was much more important than anything else at the current stage of the game. And due to that very reason, the Central Order decided to take the risk and wage war with the Undying Guild, trying to contest for the supremacy of the said Mana Vein.

Given that, the Central Order and the Undying Guild seemed to have a silent agreement that either side was not going to expose the existence of the Superior Mana Vein. And due to that, both sides did everything they could so that the news was not going to leak in the public. They even made the news of the Ancient Ruins to their advantage.

With such a deceitful strategy, they managed to cover the truth behind the war. But Legolas himself knew that this was actually not in their favor.

The nature of the Blind Abyss Empire was one thing since it was very suitable for the Undying Guild to showcase their full power. But the fact that this was not Central Order's territory was also going to affect their progress in the long run.

Fortunately, the other powerful guilds in the Blind Abyss Empire were making the other forces of the Undying Guild occupied which was also why the current state of the war was currently in a deadlock.

But Legolas still couldn't help but feel a little anxious. After all, Immortal and his apostles still hadn't shown themselves.

"D*mn it! Their silence is really not normal. I'm sure that Immortal is plotting something again," muttered Legolas as he repeatedly tapped his fingers at the wooden table in front of him.

While he was still in the middle of his thoughts, one of his subordinates entered the room before giving him a deep bow. "Sir Legolas, we got a tip from our spies. They say that Immortal and his apostles are finally making their moves."

Hearing that, Legolas suddenly squinted his eyes and clenched his hand. "Now, the gaming board is going to get huge."

He was about to stand up to call a meeting but he suddenly noticed that his subordinate seemed to be hesitating to say something. And when he saw that, he couldn't help but knit his brow a little before asking. "What's it? Is there something that you want to say more?"

His subordinate still hesitated for a moment before bracing himself and said. "Ahm... I know that this is actually unnecessary news. But the thing is one of our patrolling groups encountered the 'Nameless Swordsman-...'"

Reaching this point, Legolas knitted his eyebrows a little before asking. "And? Don't tell me he even dared to attack our own people after messing with the members of the Undying Guild."

Hearing that, the subordinate swallowed a mouthful of saliva before bracing himself once again to continue. "Actually, he indeed came into conflict with them. But fortunately, he seems to be wise enough not to kill our people-..."

At this point, Legolas finally ran out of patience and yelled. "Hey! Stop beating around the bush and tell me about it already! We don't have enough time for this nonsense!"

His subordinate felt that his heart tried to jump out of his throat when he heard those words. So, he didn't hesitate any longer and said in one breath. "But he sent a message for us instead."

"He said that knew about the existence of the Superior Mana Vein. He also said that he has the means to help us enter the inner parts of the Ancient Ruins, bypassing all of the defensive formation installed in the area."

"But in exchange, he wants us to help him finish a 'Class-Specific Quest' that he currently has."

Hearing that, Legolas couldn't help but frown his eyebrows as he knew the significance of the piece of information that Shin currently had. He then fell in deep thought before asking. "Is that all?"

"He also said that we can go to these coordinates if we are interested in this cooperation," replied the subordinate almost instantly while sending the coordinates and Shin's user ID at Legolas.

'This is quite suspicious, but there is no harm taking a lot at what he can offer,' thought Legolas to himself before looking at his subordinate. "Tell the others to go in their respective positions to get ready in battle. But make sure that they are not going to take any kind of movements until I get back."

"Eh! You are going, Sir? But-..." His subordinate was suddenly taken aback the moment he heard those words. He wanted to stop Legolas but immediately swallowed back his words when he saw the cold glare that was being thrown at him.

Meanwhile, Legolas was about to step out of the room when he suddenly remembered something. He halted his steps before turning around while saying. "About the patrol group that delivered the message?"

His subordinate was able to immediately understand what he wanted to say, so he quickly replied. "You don't have to worry about them, Sir. I can assure you that they are not going to leak the information about the Superior Mana Vein."

Knitting his brow, Legolas asked. "How can you be sure? Did you make a contract with them?"

Hearing that, the subordinate shook his head a little and smiled bitterly before replying. "Not me, Sir. But the 'Nameless Swordsman' did. It looks like that guy is really as simple as it seems. He pretty knows how to play his card very well."

Legolas was slightly taken aback after hearing those words. But he suddenly started grinning widely before muttering to himself. "Interesting! Looks like meeting this 'Nameless Swordsman' guy is going to be fun."

Meanwhile, Shin was currently sitting on top of a mountain with the highest peak around the Ancient Ruins.

He was currently watching the ongoing war right in front of the said Ruins. At first, he felt that this sight was quite amazing especially with the fancy unit maneuvers that each side was doing. But after a long time of observing, the sight became too dull and boring in his eyes.

The movements of the units became too predictable the more he watched the ongoing battle. He was not sure if both sides were doing it on purpose or their commanders and strategists were too dumb to give such predictable commands.

Feeling tired, Shin decided to stop watching now before jumping down from the rock boulder that he was sitting on before planning to go back inside the ruins before waiting for the Central Order's reply.

But before he could even summon Hanzo to create a void gate for him, a very unpleasant feeling suddenly assaulted his senses. He suddenly stopped his tracks and turned at the battlefield once again and saw that the atmosphere around the whole place suddenly changed.

Shin couldn't help but knit his eyebrows when he felt that the wind of the wars suddenly changed. "Looks like we have a sudden change of players, huh? I wonder what kind of change they are going to make."

After he said those words, Shin suddenly got a message that he was waiting for. Seeing the contents of the message, he couldn't help but smirk a little before muttering to himself. "It looks like it is time to let the dice start rolling. I hope these guys are not going to disappoint me."

He then summoned Hanzo to create a void gate connected to the coordinates that he gave to the Central Order people.

Chapter 472 Setting Up The Stage (Part 2)

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Shin arrived at his marked location before Legolas could even arrive. And after a few minutes of waiting, the representative of the Central Order finally arrived.

Shin thought that the guild was only going to send someone with a little bit of authority since it was a very sensitive topic but not enough to trouble their higher-ups to start moving. But he didn't expect that the army commander himself was going to meet him instead.

Right after arriving at Legolas, he immediately saw Shin sitting on a rock boulder with his signature cloak which had a lot of black feathers on its surface.

He smirked a little before walking towards Shin, but before he could even take the first step forward, he suddenly felt three powerful presence in the vicinity. At the same time, their auras were also being locked at him.

Sweeping his gaze at the surroundings and saw that the Shin's Elemental Spirits were hiding in different directions and seemingly closing all of the retreat routes that he could take.

Seeing that, Legolas couldn't help but smirk once again as he found the situation quite funny. 'Don't tell me this guy thinks that he could stop me from running away? No one was able to stop me if I really put my mind only at escaping.'

'Moreover, these guys are only Elemental Spirits. People like us can easily make their physical form useless in battle,' he added inside his head before using a suppressing skill to forcefully unsummon the trio.

But before he could even do that, he suddenly noticed that his suppressing skills were actually greyed out – meaning, he couldn't use it for the time being.

Legolas raised his eyebrows and swept his gaze on his surroundings once again while also expanding his senses alongside it. And that was when he realized that he was inside a sealing formation. It was not that strong but it was more than enough to make him unable to use any kind of suppressing, movement, and utility skills.

That was when he realized that he actually stepped on a bear trap unnoticed. 'This guy seemed to be more cautious than what I thought him to be.'

Having that in mind, he resumed his steps and walked towards Shin. And after a moment, he arrived in front of the latter before saying. "I've been meaning to meet the famous 'Angel of Death' for a long time already. So, it is a pleasure to finally meet you."

Shin couldn't help but smirk a little when he heard those words before replying. "Heh! Let's skip the fake formalities. I know that both of us are quite busy, so it is better if we start discussing our main issue right now."

Hearing that, Legolas was suddenly taken aback after hearing those words. He thought that Shin was trying to use this opportunity to make some connections with a powerful guild such as theirs. But from the looks of it, it seemed like it wasn't the case.

'This is guys becoming more and more interesting,' thought Legolas to himself. He worked his hardest just to get his current position and along the way, he met quite a lot of people that he liked and disliked the most.

And an example of the latter group was such people who were willing to lick the feet of powerful guilds just to create some connection with them. But from what Legolas could see, Shin seemed not to be that kind of person.

In response to Shin's words, Legolas wore a huge grin while saying. "Then let's do as you said."

"So, what kind of plan do you have? Let me hear it first before deciding whether to accept your offer or not," he added while crossing his arms in front of him.

When Shin heard that, he started grinning inside his heart before beginning to explain all of his plans regarding cooperation.

At first, Legolas was quite skeptical of Shin's plans at first and thought that he was quite ignorant in terms of the Art of War. But after hearing everything, he immediately erased that thought in his mind and looked at Shin with a different light.

'A good fighter and an amazing strategist? This guy will surely achieve something great in the future,' thought Legolas to himself as he looked at Shin with meaningful eyes. 'Looks like having a connection with him is going to be quite profitable in the future.'

But he was still not convinced yet, so he tried to test the waters first by countering each of Shin's plans one by one. But too much of his surprise, Shin would always have something in response to refute everything he said.

Raising his eyebrows, Legolas started to feel a little uncomfortable the more he tried to expose every weakness in Shin's plans. In fact, he even felt quite scared the more he heard each of Shin's counter-arguments.

It was as if Shin already had a counter-plan ahead of time. Or much worse, he purposely left those flaws in his plans to lure his opponents. It seemed like he was manipulating his opponents as if he was playing them on top of his hands.

Legolas stared at Shin quite intensely before agreeing with him. "Alright, we will cooperate with you."

Shin didn't expect to hear that. Or to be more precise, he was not expecting that he could 'easily' convince Legolas like this.

"Are you sure about that? This plan needs me to be the commanding officer to make it work perfectly," asked Shin to make things clear.

Naturally, Legolas was able to understand what Shin was currently thinking. So, he immediately replied with a confident smile while saying. "You don't have to worry about that. I can reassure you that everything is going to work according to your plan."

But Shin was still not fully convinced yet which was why he couldn't help but knit his brow with some suspicion.

Seeing that look on his face, Legolas was able to read what he was thinking. So, he looked at Shin before reassuring him once again. "Then how about this? You and I are the only ones who are going to communicate with each other. And whatever you are going to say, I will personally pass it to my subordinates as my orders."

"That way, they will not be going to doubt those instructions no matter how odd they are. And if ever someone tried to disobey it, I am going to charge them with insubordination."

"What do you think?" he asked with a confident tone.

Shin hesitated for a moment before extending his right hand while saying. "Then I am looking forward to this cooperation."

"As long as you fulfill what you promised," answered Legolas while shaking Shin's hand with his own.

Hearing that, Shin smirked a little and replied. "I should be the one saying that."

After that, both of them summoned the System to create a contract for their cooperation. And the moment they closed the deal, they immediately left the place to make their respective preparation.

Meanwhile, at the time before Shin met Legolas, Immortal arrived at the Ancient Ruins and watched the ongoing battle from a mountain peak not far from the battlefield.

Looking at the chaos in the battle, Immortal couldn't help but feel disgusted at the movements of every unit on either side.

"What a mess, I am guessing that each side hired some children to be their strategist. They move their units without any purpose in mind," muttered Immortal while slightly shaking his head.

He was about to leave and let his trusted aides handle this mess. After all, he currently had a single job right now and that was to find the famous 'Angel of Death' before showing him who was the real messenger of the afterlife.

"Based on the reports, that guy is spotted somewhere in this place. If that is the case, then he is most probably going to meet that God. After all, that wretch is related to the Fallen God of the Sun," Immortal was looking at the battlefield while wearing an indifferent look on his face.

After that, he was about to use a unique teleportation skill to arrive in front of the Ancient Ruins in an instant. But before he could even step on the Spatial Gate, he suddenly felt something strange.

Stopping himself, he turned his body around and looked at the entire battlefield which now had a very different atmosphere. And when he saw that, he nodded his head repeatedly as he understood that the people who were directly working under him finally arrived.

At the same time, he decided to stay a little longer to see if everything was smoothly going according to his plan. And after a few moments of observation, Immortal nodded his head once again as he could already see that this battle was going to be their victory.

Seeing that, he was finally able to focus all of his attention on getting rid of the only variable that might be able to mess up their plans. What's more, he also had a score to settle with 'Shin'. So, he was quite eager to see how much this guy grew since that incident.

But before he could even turn his eyes off from the battlefield, another change suddenly happened in the atmosphere surrounding the war.

Not only the situation was going against their favor, but it also looked that their side was going to get a one-sided beating based on what he could see from the opposing side's movements.

"The main player changed? I wonder who is the person that the Central Order sent this time," muttered Immortal while squinting his eyes. He then took interest in this new 'player' as he could easily tell that whoever this guy was, he was sure that this 'player' was not an ordinary strategist.

After that, he immediately forgot about Shin and changed his plans. This time, he was planning to play with this new variable that suddenly appeared. "It has been a while since I played a 'strategy game'. Let's see if this guy can keep me entertained."

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The flames of war at the Ancient Ruins were blazing intensely that it even attracted the attention of players both on different online platforms and currently playing the game in real-time.

But this time, it was not because of the war itself. But it was due to the commanders who were commanding the opposing forces – or to be more precise, it was because of Immortal himself.

Aside from being a Godlike Player, Immortal had another nickname before he started playing a VR Game. The 'War Seeker', was the nickname given to Immortal before he joined the community of VR players.

During the heat of the VR Games, there was a particular game that attracted a lot of attention from a lot of people – and it was called the «War Tactics».

That game was considered an old-school game. But no one dared to underestimate it since that very game became the training ground for the future war commanders and strategists in the military.

As the name implied «War Tactics» was a game that was focusing on strategic thinking and wars.

There were also tournaments held by that game and each tournament attracted the people of the armies around the world, especially the war generals.

During those times, there were practically a decent number of people who became noticeable in that game and became famous. And one of such players was Immortal.

Being one of the top players of «War Tactics», strategic thinking became one of Immortal's greatest weapons. And since he was a 'Necromancer' who was practically controlling an 'army' of monsters, he became one of the deadliest individuals after joining the Virtual World.

Given that, the players who knew about that reputation of his immediately hopped in the live feeds of the war which were being broadcasted online.

They didn't know how the information about Immortal taking over the commanding officer position was leaked. All they cared about was them witnessing the so-called 'War Seeker' in action.

With that kind of war achievement, Legolas would surely pale in comparison. In fact, all of the powerful guilds keeping an eye on this particular war were expecting that he was going to lose one-sidedly.

But much to their surprise, not only was Legolas able to hold himself against Immortal, but he was also able to fight the so-called 'War Seeker' on equal ground.

Well, they were not the only ones who were surprised by this current situation. In fact, Legolas himself was shocked at the results of 'his' commands.

When he learned that Immortal had taken over the commanding position of the opposing side, he couldn't but become worried at their current situation.

Actually, he even planned to contact their main headquarters to seek some help. But he also knew that it needed some time before their main base was able to send someone in Immortal's caliber. And during that time, his forces were most probably going to get crushed before their reinforcement could even arrive.

Given that, he had no choice but to take the gamble and followed Shin's instructions since he knew for himself that he was inferior to Shin in terms of strategic thinking. And when his gamble paid off, he couldn't believe that there was someone 'unknown' as Shin who was able to fight Immortal toe to toe in terms of war tactics.

No.

Not only that.

From what Legolas could see, it seemed like Shin was even gaining the upper hand as time went by. And even if the rate was quite slow, he was sure that these small wins would start a snowball effect that was going to roll in their favor.

"Nameless Swordsman – The Angel of Death. Who exactly are you?" muttered Legolas to himself as stared intensely at the virtual man in front of him where the real-time progress of the war was being reflected.

Meanwhile, in the opposing camp where the current commanding center of the Undying Guild was located, Immortal was staring at the virtual map in front of him with great interest.

Based on all of the 'tests' that he had done so far, Immortal was pretty sure that this guy he was currently facing was a top-ranked player who played the «War Tactics» before. Or probably a skilled student from a military school who majored in the course of being a War Strategist.

Either way, this person really piqued Immortal's interest since it has been a long time since he faced someone of this caliber.

Immortal was currently squinting his eyes while tapping his fingers on the wooden table in a successive manner. He was looking intensely at a virtual map projected in front of him as a sudden thought entered his mind.

"Why do I feel that the movements of his units are quite familiar?" muttered Immortal while observing the progress of the war.

After a few more moments, Immortal dialed up a number from his friend list. And when the person on the other side of the line answered the call, Immortal immediately gave out his order. "Tell Archie to form a small unit with 'Mount Riding Skills', and make sure that each of them at least has an Intermediate Mastery with those skills. I need them for a special mission."

"When he is done, tell him to contact me immediately," he added before ending the call. He didn't even wait for any reply as he immediately closed the virtual screen.

Not long after, the guy named Archie contacted Immortal like what was instructed to him.

"How many did you get?" asked Immortal right after answering the call.

"It is more than enough to build a five-hundred-man elite unit, Boss," answered Archie almost immediately.

Hearing that, Immortal nodded his head repeatedly as he was quite satisfied with that report. And a moment after that, he gave out his instructions. "Open your map and link it with mine."

Archie nodded his head and quickly opened his virtual just like what was instructed to him. And when he was done linking it with Immortal, he immediately turned quiet while waiting for more instructions.

Immortal waited for a moment before drawing a line in the virtual map while saying. "Bring those people and go to the east wing move according to this line."

"Make sure to move diagonally and continue moving forward. Once you break through the middle of the battlefield, make a slight turn towards the left and do a pincer attack alongside Kevin's Unit who is coming from the other side."

He paused for a couple of seconds before adding a little. "But if you encounter an unexpected situation, just make sure to hold your ground and wait until your reinforcement arrives. Understood?"

"Yes, Boss!" responded Archie while nodding his head heavily. Based on the Immortal's tone, he knew that this task was going to be critical in this war.

After that, Immortal ended the call before resuming to watch the real-time projection of the war. He also resumed tapping his fingers on the table while waiting to see how his opponent was going to respond.

"I'm not sure if it is possible. But if this guy is really able to read this move, then he is without a doubt a veteran from «War Tactics» online," he muttered to himself while squinting his eyes.

Meanwhile, on the battlefield itself, Archie immediately brought his unit to the designated position that Immortal had given him. "Alright, listen up! Our Guild Leader finally gave out his order for our special mission."

"Make sure to properly follow my lead. I don't want to get embarrassed by the others for failing such an important mission."

After that, he turned his back at his group and faced the battlefield. Tightening his grip at the harness of his mouth before ordering it to advance forward while yelling at the players behind him. "Move out!"

The appearance of his group caught the opposing side totally off-guard. And since they were mounted on powerful undead beasts, their advance became unstoppable the moment they entered the battle. Even the frontlines of the Central Order people were totally broken after colliding with them.

Due to the unexpected assault, the formation of the Central Order people started to fall apart as their units were separated from each other. And when the Undying Guild members saw that, they immediately take advantage of the chaos to strike their opponents even harder.

Seeing such smooth sailing, Archie couldn't help but smile when he saw that their surprise attack was pretty much effective.

Taking a quick look on his back, he could clearly see that the opposing side was losing a lot of their experts at incredible speed. "As expected to a veteran of «War Tactics» online, moving their units surely had the best results in a Guild War such as big as this."

After that, he redirected his eyes towards his front and saw the middle of the battlefield. And when he saw that, he raised his sword in the air before shouting at the players following closely after him. "The target location is right in front of us, advance forward!"

Then he ordered his mount to accelerate forward as he was quite eager to wreak havoc at the ranks on the opposing side.

His 5-hundred-man mounted unit was about to arrive at their desired location when something unexpected suddenly occurred on the battlefield.

All of the members of the Central Order around them were suddenly engulfed by brilliant light before disappearing from their spots and leaving all of the Undying Guild members stunned.

Confused at what they saw, Archie and his unit suddenly came to a sudden halt as he started looking at their surroundings. And that was when he discovered that he could not spot a single member of the Central Order. "What happened?"

Hearing what he said, a player without a mount immediately responded with his words. "They use an Instantaneous Scroll to escape, Sir! The others who failed to find a good time chose to commit suicide!"

Archie's heart suddenly shook after hearing that, he then turned his head in a certain direction and saw that Kevin's Unit seemed to have experienced the same situation.

"F*ck! We've fallen into a trap! Use your own Instantaneous Scrolls!" shouted Archie out of panic.

His voice was quite loud and enough to be heard by the other Unit from the distance. Unfortunately, that shout made everyone become even more confused and failed to respond in time.

And that was when a series of magic circles shone under their feet, illuminating the whole place.

Then a moment later, those magic circles started linking with each other before a huge pillar of light devoured everyone in the vicinity alive.

Chapter 474 'Second To None'

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"Move! Push these b*st*rds of Central Order to their deaths," shouted by a Captain of a unit from the Undying Guild Camp.

Their forces suffered quite a lot of loss already, so they were going to make sure that they would not let this chance slip away from their hands now that they finally found a weak point on their opponents' defenses.

They pushed the Central Order members while slaughtering the opposing side's frontlines in the process.

Bang!

Not long after, his unit broke through their opponents' defense line after their repeated assault. And when they saw that, every one of them used that broken defense to further advance forward and rush towards the mages and range players who were hiding at the backlines.

But right after the entire unit broke through, they suddenly discovered that there was another defense line waiting for them. And when they saw the open space that they were in, they immediately understood that they had fallen into a deadly trap.

Turning their heads towards their backs, they saw that the 'broken' defense was immediately rebuilt as if nothing happened – now, they were trapped inside an encirclement with no possible way to escape.

"Fire!" commanded by the captain of the opposing unit with a cold tone.

And that was when the Undying Guild members saw a barrage of skills and a large number of spells pouring down at their current position.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Immortal was currently having one of the most embarrassing times of his life since his defeat against the 'Nameless Swordsman'.

He got a fair share of wins during this strategic war. In fact, he even caused more damage to the opposing army than losses that they had suffered. Though, the only reason for those wins was each of their members had a 'Necromancer Class' aside from their other combat classes.

Regardless, a win was still a win.

But even if that was the case, his side seemed to be sustaining more damage than he originally thought.

Every time his army was pushing their opponents, the opposing side would not only suffer a lot of losses on their forces but their pride was also wounded due to being crushed one-sidedly.

But the strange thing was the other side would immediately strike right after sustaining such a devastating loss.

Immortal managed to fend off most of those attacks, but his forces were going to suffer a lot of losses if ever they failed to defend from those kinds of counterattacks.

Moreover, the opposing side seemed to be gaining a lot of morale every time they won such battles. And whenever such wins occurred, it would slowly snowball towards the Central Order's favor which caused the Undying Guild's forces to be pushed back slowly but surely.

Immortal was tapping his fingers on the table in a successive manner while intensely staring at the projected progress of the war in front of him.

If he was suspicious that his current opponent was a veteran player of «War Tactics» online earlier, then he was now sure that this guy was more than a veteran player from that game. In fact, he even felt that he fought his particular guy before in one of the unofficial tournaments held in that game.

The problem was he couldn't figure out who exactly this person was.

Being a top player of «War Tactics» online, it was very rare for Immortal to suffer these kinds of losses. He was not new to being defeated in a strategic war, but that only happened when he was against two players.

"Is this guy 'Khing?' But that guy quit playing any kind of Virtual Games for a long time already. There is even no news of him after his sudden disappearance during that time, so why is coming back now?" muttered Immortal before replayed all of the movements of the two armies during the war.

And after observing for a little, he immediately added. "What's more, this is not his way of battle."

"That guy specialized at using different kinds of army formations which crushed every opponent that faced. So, it is impossible for him to suffer these kinds of army losses. If ever his armies are going to suffer a loss, it was always related to such formation."

"But this guy is not using any kind of army formations. He is not using any kind of military movements aside from particular traps and schemes that he set up."

Reaching this point, Immortal took a brief pause and squinted his eyes before continuing to talk to himself. "So, is it 'Unnamed Anonymous' then?"

That thought lasted only for a moment before he rejected the idea almost instantly. "No. That is not the case either."

"That guy's signature move has always been with systematic order. Even if it was quite predictable, countering each of his moves has always been hard since there have always been traps hidden behind the flaws that he purposely created."

"Compared to those schemes, this guy's traps are more of an instinctive move than a planned-ahead trap."

Immortal's thoughts lingered on this topic for a moment when he suddenly remembered a certain topic. "Instincts!?"

Given that, he immediately opened a virtual screen and quickly searched for an old forum. And it was about a certain match that happened when he was still playing the «War Tactics» online.

Being a modern chess game, «War Tactics» online became famous to old people. It even attracted the attention of Generals from every army around the world.

With that, those old men played the game to kill some time. But even against the pro players of the game, those old fogeys suffered a fair share of losses. Especially when they were facing the crowned king of the game.

'Khing' was crowned as the king of strategic wars because he never suffered a defeat when he was playing that game even if he was against those old generals. Though, he also admitted that he only got those wins with a very small margin.

Regardless, he was still the undefeated king of that game. But it only lasted until he met a certain player who could be considered a complete rookie compared to him.

During that time, 'Khing' was doing his regular 'match with the fans' event. In this event, he was going to create a special lobby where he could have a match with some random players of the game. And that was when he encountered a certain player who had named 'Second to None'.

With such a bold name, every spectator of that time thought that this guy was a regular player with average skills.

Or so they thought.

Because they couldn't hide their shock when the match started.

It was a very intense match where each side was exchanging their strategic insights left and right. But the most surprising thing about it was 'Khing' seemed to be struggling in this certain matchup.

His army formations seemed to be ineffective against his opponent's 'random attacks'.

This player's attacks were seemingly defying any logic and not following any kind of strategic movements. But those very moves gave a lot of trouble to 'Khing'.

And what was even more surprising in this match was the so-called king of strategic games lost against this random guy.

Everyone was shocked as they couldn't believe what they saw. Even Khing himself was too stunned at that loss. But that was not because of the fact that it was his first defeat, but it was due to him being unable to understand what just happened.

Given that, he challenged the new guy for another match. And when 'Second to None' accepted his challenge, the spectators were finally able to recover themselves and refocus to watch the rematch.

But they became even more stunned the moment they saw the result of the next match. It was still a close battle, but the result was still the same as the previous match – it was Khing's defeat.

Then a few more consecutive matches were held after that second match. But the results were not different from the previous two – a close match with Khing' being defeated.

If the first match was just a fluke, then it was definitely not luck if this new player won with a consecutive number of flukes. Not only did he win successively against the crowned king of the strategic games, but he even did it consistently.

But after that match event, this particular player who had the name of 'Second to None' suddenly disappeared with no apparent reason.

Regardless, he still became a legend in the field of strategic games.

A shadow player, who suddenly appeared out of nowhere and disappeared as if he never existed.

And with his dramatic appearance and disappearance, a lot of people gave him different kinds of titles. The 'Uncrowned King', the 'Unseen Ruler', the 'Shadow Monarch' – these were just a few titles that were given to him by the spectators who witnessed such a legendary matchup between him and Khing.

For them, this legendary player was someone who, just like his name, became second to none.

...

Immortal read the entire article regarding his mysterious player and Khing. He even re-watched their legendary battles and compared them to the current war.

Clenching his hand, Immortal was starting to have a couple of suspicions. So, he immediately opened a specialized channel on his chatbox before summoning all of his apostles.

After that, he looked at the projected progress of the war once again before muttering to himself. "If I can't beat him with my current army, then I need to crush him with absolute strength."

Chapter 475 Meeting Immortal Once Again (Part 1)

...

Bang!

Immortal slammed his hand at the wooden table in front of him, destroying the poor table in the process.

"What are you saying that everyone from the Central Order is now inside the inner part of the ruins?! How is that possible?!" shouted Immortal at his direct subordinate which made the latter tremble in fear.

He just got a report that everyone from their enemy camp simultaneously disappeared from the whole battlefield before reappearing right inside the Ancient Ruins.

His subordinate was still trembling due to the immense killing intent that was being released by Immortal. But he needed to endure it and answer his Guild Leader if didn't want to die miserably. "W-we are still u-unsure how they d-do that, S-Sir... A-and we a-are d-doing our b-best to in-investigate w-what happened."

"We even planted a lot of spies with different ranks in them. So, How the hell did you miss such critical information?!!!" shouted Immortal once again while releasing an even more powerful killing intent which made the temperature inside the room drop drastically.

His subordinate was about to collapse due to the pressure. Fortunately, one of Immortal's Apostles entered the room and saved the poor subordinate from such fate.

"Relax, boss. From what I've heard, everyone from the opposing side had also been fooled. Even the commanding officers were clueless of that move until everything happened," said the Apostle while helping the poor subordinate to get up from the ground.

After sending the subordinate guy outside the room, the Apostle looked at Immortal before continuing. "It looks like the strategist of the opposing side is quite cunning. To think that he is hiding such a move to everyone."

"Tch! It is an old-fashioned strategy but it is still the best to deal with the spies and avoid the leakage of any information," he added while shaking his head.

Immortal squinted his eyes and looked at his Apostle and asked. "You better have something good to report, Drige. Or else, you can forget playing the game for a couple of days – maybe, a week at most."

Hearing that, Drige suddenly grinned quite widely before saying. "Well, it is unfortunate that I haven't got any information about that mysterious strategist. But from what I heard, everyone from the opposing side gets their instructions directly from Legolas and all they have to do was to execute it."

He then paused for a moment to purse his lips and shrug his shoulders before continuing. "And if they happen to fail to execute such a simple instruction 'accidentally', then it is basically branding themselves as a spy."

Not hearing the thing that he was expecting, Immortal released more of his Killing Intent while staring at Drige with his squinting eyes.

Seeing that, Drige chuckled a little before saying. "If even our opponents are clueless of the purpose of their own moves, then it is even more impossible for us to know it either."

"Based on the information that I got, Legolas distributed quite a lot of Instantaneous Scrolls. And those scrolls are ordinary once which is why none of our spies suspected such a thing."

"But who would have thought that it was actually a specialized teleportation scroll with a fixed destination," he added while taking a seat on a chair not far from him.

Then he quickly continued right after sitting. "And it is also impossible to predict the timing of such a move. Because Legolas instructed every commanding officer personally. And with the same reason that I just said earlier, it is impossible to 'accidentally' fail such a basic order of retreat."

After that, he raised both of his hands while saying. "Which is why we are currently in this kind of situation."

Immortal further narrowed his eyes as he started formulating a plan inside his head. And after a few moments of thinking, he immediately instructed. "Tell everyone to get ready for a siege. We are going to reclaim the control over the Ancient Ruins."

"And also ask for some sieging machinery from the headquarters. There is a strong defensive formation surrounding the inner part of the Ancient Ruins. So, if we want to break through it, then we need to bring our big toys to destroy it."

He then opened a teleportation portal and planned to step in it. But before he entered it, he took another look at Drige before saying. "Just position the sieging machinery outside the perimeter of the Ancient Ruins and wait for me before you make your moves. I can't afford to be caught in another trap."

And when he got Drige's confirmation, Immortal entered the teleportation portal while wearing a solemn look on his face.

Meanwhile, Shin was currently having a call with Legolas while he was waiting inside the innermost part of the Ancient Ruins.

"I already did a part of my job. Now, it is your time to show your sincerity," said Shin while squinting his eyes.

"Don't worry, we are already setting up our defenses around the ruins," replied Legolas as he nodded his head. And at the same time, he was also looking at Shin with meaningful eyes.

Up until now, he still couldn't believe what was happening. Fighting Immortal on equal ground in terms of strategic battle was one thing, but defeating him was on a whole other level.

No.

Based on what he just witnessed, this guy was even toying with Immortal as he seemed to be able to read all of the latter's moves ahead of time. All of the moves that he did were meant to counter each movement of their enemies.

As for the 'losses' that they suffered?

Legolas couldn't believe it at first, but from what he had seen, those guys were indeed spies on their ranks.

He then looked at Shin full of suspicion while thinking to himself. 'This guy was able to see who are the traitors on our side just by reading their movements during the war. This guy is hiding a lot of secrets, there is really a lot more to it than meets the eye. I guess I need to report this directly to the Guild Leader later.'

On the other hand, Shin was oblivious of what Legolas was thinking. But based on the look that the latter was currently giving, he was sure that it was not something good for him.

Regardless, he still needed this guy's help to finish his current quest. So, he needed to endure for a little bit more for him for the sake of that quest and its rewards.

"Are you sure that Immortal is coming personally there? If that is the case, then do you need me and my subordinates to go in there as your reinforcements?" asked Legolas when he felt that the atmosphere was getting awkward.

'Nice try. But I have no intention of owing you a favor,' thought Shin to himself before giving his reply. "You don't have to do that. After all, he can't do anything to me as long as I am inside this place. Just do what I instructed you, and it is going to be more than enough to be your help."

'Tch! I hate dealing with someone as sharp as this guy,' thought Legolas before nodding his head.

After that, Shin ended the call before turning his head to the said and looked at Chaotic Luck. The latter couldn't help but become tense when he saw that; every time he was looking at Shin, he was always being reminded of the time when he was almost cut by Shin's sword.

Shin ignored that look on his face before asking. "How strong is the strongest that you can summon?"

Hearing that, Chaotic Luck finally snapped out of his current state before replying stutteringly. "I guess an O-Overlord M-Monster with a high level."

"Just one?" asked Shin to clarify.

Seeing the knitted eyebrows that Shin currently had, Chaotic Luck shook his head repeatedly while answering in almost an instant. "No, no. Five, I can summon 5 of them alongside my lesser summons."

Shin repeatedly nodded his head after hearing that before instructing him. "Then you better get ready now and find a good place where you can safely summon them. We are against a Top-Rank Godlike Player, so we can't afford to make some careless mistakes."

After that, he tapped Chaotic Luck's shoulder before walking towards the center of the hall.

When Chaotic Luck saw that, he immediately nodded his head and before running towards the column which was the farthest from the entrance of the hall. And after hiding behind it, he immediately started chanting out a series of foreign words to summon his Strange Undead Monsters.

Seeing his actions, he shook his head a little and smiled bitterly as he found this guy quite interesting; especially when he remembered his last exchange with him. Not only this guy possessed an immense amount of luck, but that 'luck' was also being 'used' in battle.

He was about to resume walking when he suddenly felt a powerful presence approaching the hall from the corridor.

Halting his steps, Shin slowly turned his body around to face the corridor with his squinting eyes and muttering a solemn tone. "Looks like our guest arrived earlier than expected."

Chapter 476 Meeting Immortal Once Again (Part 2)

.....

Shin locked his gaze at the corridor where he felt the powerful presence was coming from. "Looks like our guest arrived earlier than expected."

Not long after, he saw a familiar hooded figure who was long a bone scepter with a huge skeleton hand on its top. And when this person stopped a few meters away from him, he immediately said. "Looks like that guy is right. The big fish himself arrived in this place to take care of the problem personally."

He said that trying to hide the fact that he was the strategist who exchanged some strategic insights with Immortal earlier. From what he could see, this guy was quite sharp, so it was natural for him to suspect that Legolas was not the one who was controlling the military forces of the Central Order.

Fortunately, this was a war between two powerful forces. So, he could use this fact to his advantage and cover the truth with it. And from the looked of it, it seemed like Immortal bought it for some unknown reason.

"Heh! I should take you for saving me the trouble of finding you," said Immortal after confirming that this man in front of him was indeed the Nameless Swordsman that he faced before.

But at the same time, he was feeling that it was not the same guy that he fought before who also defeated him.

The current aura that was surrounding Shin might be much stronger than before. But from what Immortal could see, this aura was still quite weaker compared to the time when he was fighting 'him' in that underground hall.

But Immortal threw that thought at the back of his head as he was quite in a hurry this time. "I don't have much time to waste with you. How about you step out of this place right now and I will spare your life."

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but chuckle a little before replying. "What a coincidence! I also happen to be in a hurry. So, how about you hand over the Core that you took from this place and I will mind my own business?"

Immortal started laughing the moment he heard that as he found those words ridiculous. "Kid. You honestly believe that you are going to be as lucky as before?"

Boom!

Then a very powerful pressure was released from Immortal's body and immediately headed towards, planning to crush him.

Boom!

But before it could even reach Shin, an equally strong pressure was also released from Shin's body and started pushing the incoming pressure backward.

After that, Shin smirked a little before raising his head a little and looked sharply at Immortal. "Well, I am also not sure if I still have to be that lucky to face you."

Immortal raised his eyebrows a little when he saw that Shin was able to negate his pressure. But that was all of it – a pressure was just pressure, nothing else. His skills and battle prowess were still on a whole other level compared to Shin.

He was about to summon his undead monsters when he felt a familiar presence behind Shin. Knitting his eyebrows once again, he stared in that direction before saying. "Looks like you are still not in the Eternal Slumber state, Fallen Goddess. I guess I underestimated the power of this place for a little."

After that, Solus suddenly appeared beside Shin and looked at Immortal with a sharp gaze. "Do you honestly believe that taking down a Fallen God is that easy, spawn of a Demon Lord?"

"Heh! Fallen God or not, you are still at your weakest. So, even if the two of you team up, both of you are still not enough to take me down," sneered Immortal as he tapped his bone scepter on the ground, trying to summon his strongest undead monsters.

After all, he didn't have much time before the completion of their preparations for the sieging war. So, he needed to wrap this up as soon as possible.

But that was the time when he realized that he couldn't use any kind of high-level skills from his arsenal.

'Huh? A sealing formation? But I can't feel any formation anywhere,' thought Immortal to himself with an unsatisfied look on his face.

"Confused? Should I answer those questions for you?" sneered Shin while taking his battle stance.

With a solemn look on his face, Immortal quickly made another tap on the ground and summon a group of lesser undead monsters.

Roar!

Skeleton warriors, zombies, ghouls, and other types of undead crawled out from the ground before rushing towards Shin.

"For how long can you keep the formation activated?" asked Shin to Solus while locking his gaze at the incoming undead monsters.

"Fifteen minutes at most and lasting longer than that is going to be dangerous since I need to spend my remaining lifeforce to keep it for that long," answered Solus before disappearing from her spot and fusing herself with the walls and the ceiling of the hall.

"That is more than enough," replied Shin before pulling the [Yamato] out from its sheath and swinging it towards his right.

Alongside it, a powerful sword wave made of white flame was released from his sword and flew towards the incoming horde of undead monsters.

Shing!

'Class Fighting Style: (Modified) Solar Flare'

Swoosh!

The undead monsters who were at the forefront of the charge immediately turned into ashes after getting devoured by the sword wave sent by Shin.

But no matter how strong that sword wave was, the sheer number of the undead monsters summoned by Immortal was more than enough to overwhelm it. So, it didn't last for long before the sword wave exhausted its power and dissipated in the air.

Then the undead monsters continued their charge as if nothing happened.

But Shin didn't think much about it as he was already expecting that. And that was also why he immediately kicked the ground and sprinted forward right after he threw the 'Solar Flare'.

Since he was following closely behind the sword wave, he was able to take advantage of the opening created by the 'Solar Flare' and accelerated his sprint before leaping up in the air.

He was planning to jump over the blockade of undead monsters to get close to Immortal who was currently in the middle of preparing his next skills.

With a quick snap with his fingers, Immortal was able to summon a group of black spheres around him in an instant. And with a wave of his hand, those black spheres turned into a bunch of plague arrows which flew towards Shin with great speed.

Being in the air, it was hard for the undead monsters in the ground to reach Shin. But it also made him exposed to any kind of projectiles.

But none of those plague arrows was able to hit him in the air as he used the 'Mondi's Jump' to do a couple of aerial maneuvers, dodging every arrow in the process. And if ever there was an arrow with a tricky trajectory, Shin would always swing his sword left and right to deflect each one of them while he was in the air.

But at the same time, Shin's speed slowed down drastically which bought enough time for Immortal to use his next summoning skills.

Or to be more precise, it was a skill combination skill.

"Do you think I can't create a higher undead without my high-level summoning skills? Foolish," sneered Immortal as looked at Shin while waving his hand.

With that, the zombies, ghouls, and skeleton grouped together and started fusing with each other to form another type of undead monster.

The body of the ghoul was split open and devoured the body of the skeleton warrior in front of it. Then the zombie suddenly turned into a goo which fused with the ghoul and became its skin.

A moment later, Shin saw a new undead that exactly looked like a human aside from its pale-grey skin and stitches on each corner of its mouth. Even its eyes seemed to be the same as the eyes of a living human.

This new undead stared at Shin as he came closer to it before sending a strong punch in the air.

Boom!

A strong shockwave was sent towards Shin's direction which made him sheath his sword and positioned it in front of his chest.

'Dual-Wielding Style: Sheath Wielding: Defend'

While in the air, Shin covered his body with mana which enhanced his body's defensive capabilities.

'Advance Combat Technique: Aerial Block'

Bang!

Shin was hit by the incoming shockwave but given his strong defense, all it did was stop his aerial charge and prevented him from moving forward. But that was more than enough for Immortal to lock him in place.

Pointing at Shin, black chains suddenly shot out from the ground and flew towards Shin with great speed.

Seeing that, Shin quickly unsheathed his sword and immediately swung in right after it was drawn.

Shing!

Then a black sword wave with a cold aura came out from his sword and flew towards the incoming chains which destroyed them in the process.

'Class Fighting Style: (Modified) Lunar Flash'

Bang!

Ta-ta!

Right after that, Shin was able to land on the ground without any hindrances. But at the same time, he also discovered that he now was being surrounded by a group of human-like undead monsters formed by fusing the three types of undead earlier.

Sweeping his gaze around him, he saw that these undead monsters were pulling out a sword made of bone from their bodies.

Due to that, he couldn't help but click his tongue a little before muttering to himself. "Tsk! Looks like this is going to be much more troublesome compared to what I have expected."

Chapter 477 Making A Bet

.....

Shin clicked his tongue as he swept his gaze at his surroundings, trying to assess his current situation after finding that he was currently trapped inside the encirclement of the strange undead monsters summoned by Immortal.

"Looks like this is going to be even more troublesome," muttered Shin to himself before casting his gaze at Immortal.

He then shook his head a little before taking a battle stance while waiting for the opposing side to make their moves.

Not long after, Immortal commanded his undead monsters to attack as he tried to forcefully break the seal cast on his body by the formation inside the hall.

On the other hand, Shin immediately responded to the moves of the incoming undead monsters the moment he saw them charging at him with great speed.

First, he activated the 'Sensing Circle' to read the movements of the undead who entered that territory. Then he started moving his eyes, trying to see if there were some undead monsters who might have a projectile weapon.

After that, he quickly took a quick step sideward to dodge the sword of the undead monster who was attacking from behind.

Then he swung his right hand upwards, stabbing that undead as it brushed past his side. And right after his sword pierced through its body, he immediately tightened his grip at the [Yamato] before swinging it forward, lacerating the body of the undead.

Borrowing the momentum from his previous movements, he quickly spun his body while leaping in the air.

Due to that move, he successfully dodged the attacks of the undead monsters who tried to attack him from two different sides.

Quickly after dodging, Shin forced his body to fall back on the ground while also stabbing [Yamato] on the floor in the process. And alongside it, he also released the accumulated Powers of the Sun that he gathered on his sword while he was still in the air earlier.

'Self-Created Skill (Personal): (Modified) Solaris Pillar'

Boom!

Then a white pillar of fire suddenly shot up in the air and devoured all of the incoming undead monsters within the 5-meter range away from Shin.

After that, Shin quickly got up from the ground before taking advantage of the cover provided by the blazing pillar as he did his next move.

He kicked the ground behind him and launched himself out of the blazing pillar. And the moment he got out from it, he immediately accelerated forward while using the 'Moonlight Steps'.

Swoosh!

Shin transformed into a streak of light that passed through the bodies of the undead monsters who were blocking his way towards Immortal.

Shin used the three charges of 'Moonlight Steps' consecutively to make sure that he could arrive in front of Immortal as soon as possible.

But Immortal was not an idiot who would let himself be caught by Shin. He quickly cast a couple of blinking skills to maintain the distance between him and his opponent.

And when Shin's body materialized back to its physical form, Immortal quickly cast a couple of instantaneous spells and threw them at Shin with great accuracy and tricky trajectories.

Seeing that, Shin moved the pupils of his eyes to read their movements before they could even reach his 'Sensing Circle. And after a moment, he started moving his body according to the movements of the incoming spells, dodging them in the process.

Sometimes, he was also waving his sword left and right to deflect some of the spells that he couldn't dodge.

Not a single spell landed at Shin as he successfully avoided all of them without any issues. Even the traps hidden on the ground were unable to catch him off-guard as he was able to dodge each of them whenever they popped out from the ground.

A few moments later, Immortal finally freed himself from the effects of Sealing Formation after using one of his forbidden debuff skills. And with a wave of his bone scepter, two types of gigantic undead monsters suddenly came out from the ground and launched themselves at Shin while a third undead came out from a void gate before running alongside the previous two.

One of the incoming undead was a huge Blaspheme, an undead with a hulky body with a lot of stitches on it. Its body looked like a collection of different corpses that were stitched together which made it quite disgusting. And looking close to it, this undead seemed to be a mutation between a zombie and a ghoul.

The second undead was a Skirr. This undead beast was vaguely humanoid which had a pair of boney wings that replaced its forearms while its feet had sharp talons. It had the head of a bull with teeth that had razor-sharp fangs, its body was wrapped with funerary wrappings which made it similar to mummies.

The last undead was an armored Dullahan. It was a headless knight with an armored horse, who carries its own head on its left arm while holding a whip-like sword that resembled the spine of a human.

The head that it was holding had a helm on it to hide its face, but its eyes were glowing with a mysterious light that kept on moving constantly which was giving an impression that it could even see during the darkest nights.

Shin watched the incoming undead monsters and observed their movements before moving his legs even faster to accelerate forward. After all, he didn't want to be trapped in between the three gigantic undead in front of him and the strange humanoid undead who were chasing after him like a bunch of hungry beasts.

Immortal couldn't help but raise his eyebrows a little the moment he saw those actions. From his perspective, Shin seemed to be running towards his death as he charged towards the greater undead that he just summoned.

"Foolish. Did he think that those three are just ordinary undead?" muttered Immortal while waving his hand upwards, casting a skill that summoned a wall of bones in front of him.

Shin squinted his eyes a little as he saw Immortal move his hand upwards. And understanding what Immortal wanted to do, he quickly leaped forward while casting the skill attached to his cloak.

'Equipment Skill (Dawn's Mantle: Cloak): Wings of Freedom'

The mantle transformed into a pair of wings while Shin was still in the air. And quickly after its transformation, Shin immediately kicked the air behind him while simultaneously waved those wings at the same time.

Pa!

'Legacy Skill: Mondi's Jump'

Swoosh!

With the combined forces of those moves, Shin flew with great speed as he tried to out speed Immortal's casting speed.

But the three undead were able to see his movements and responded with them accordingly. Each of them made their respective moves, planning to stop Shin who was about to reach them.

But all of a sudden, a huge portal appeared above the three undead followed by the appearance of three strange humanoid creatures with blazing bodies who came from that portal.

They had an equal size as the three undead monsters below them, so their weights crushed the undead when they collided with them.

And since they were now pinned on the ground, Shin was able to fly past them and arrived in front of Immortal before the wall made of bones was fully summoned.

Immortal was caught a little off guard by the sudden turn of events but he still managed to keep his cool and respond with Shin's movements.

He placed his bone scepter right in front of his chest and blocked the incoming sword that was planning to cut him in two.

Clang!

Shin looked at Immortal's eyes and sneered. "Hey! I heard that you can't use any high-level summoning skills after casting a Forbidden Skill. Is that true?"

Immortal squinted his eyes for a moment as he stared back at Shin before smirking. "Heh! Do you think that summoning is the only thing that I'm good at?"

After that, he put a little more strength on both of his arms before forcing Shin to back away. And at the same time, he also took a quick step back before twirling his scepter with both of his hands as if it was a baton.

Then he switched it from his left hand to right behind his back before thrusting it forward in a powerful manner like it was some sort of polearm weapon.

While he was doing all of that, the big skeleton hand on the tip of the bone scepter suddenly closed itself as if it was clenching into a fist. And due to that, the thrust that Immortal threw looked like a punch coming from a strong undead.

On the other hand, Shin quickly crossed the [Yamato] and its sheath in front of his chest, blocking the incoming 'punch'.

Bang!

Shin was sent sliding backward right after his guard came in contact with Immortal's attack. And that force surprised him quite a lot as he didn't expect that kind of power coming from a physical attack of a magic-related class.

Feeling the surprise from Shin, Immortal smirked a little before saying. "Surprised? Don't worry I have a lot of surprises under my sleeves."

But at the same time, he quickly frowned his eyebrows a little when he saw that his undead monsters were not fighting some strange humanoid creatures with blazing bodies.

Seeing that his undead army was being overwhelmed by the strange flames coming from the bodies of their opponents, Immortal quickly raised his scepter in the air casting a strong buff on his summons.

After that, his undead monsters were suddenly enfolded by black smokes which protected them from the strange flames of the opposing side.

In the meantime, Shin put his sword back to its sheath before looking at Immortal while saying. "Fighting like this is going to be a little boring. So, how about we make a little bet?"

Hearing that, Immortal suddenly raised his eyebrows as he was able to read what Shin was currently thinking. And after a brief moment of silence, he started grinning quite wildly before giving his reply. "Gambling? I kind of like those kinds of things."

Chapter 478 Making A Bet (Part 2)

...

"This is going to be a boring fight if there is nothing at stake. So, how about we have a little bet before continuing," said Shin as he put the [Yamato] back to its sheath.

'Do this little rat think that he can beat me now that I can't summon my higher undead?' thought Immortal to himself as he looked at Shin with his knitted brows.

After a brief moment of thinking, Immortal suddenly smirked before looking at Shin with a mocking look on his face. "Heh! Sure! I happen to be quite fond at gambling."

He then waved his left hand as he took out a glowing sphere with a golden flame surrounding it. "If I am not mistaken, this is what you want, right? So, what can you offer in exchange?"

'Quite sharp,' Shin knitted his eyebrows after hearing that. He already knew that Immortal was a sharp individual which was why this negotiation was not going to be easy.

Shin took a quick check on his inventory back, trying to find something with an equal value. But after sweeping his gaze at everything, he couldn't find anything aside from one.

Taking a deep sigh, Shin took out a black book from his inventory space before waving it in at Immortal. "Is this thing enough?"

Seeing that book, Immortal suddenly raised his eyebrows as he looked at the black book with great interest. But after a quick look at it, he looked at Shin with a huge grin while saying. "That thing quite piqued my interest. Unfortunately, it is not enough."

Shin frowned his eyebrows and asked. "Not enough? It seems like you are being a little too greedy there, huh?"

Immortal started chucking when he heard those words and replied. "I guess you are still a rookie when it comes to this world."

He then took a quick pause and pointed at the black book that Shin was holding before continuing. "I know that it is quite a powerful item. But the problem is, it is not yours in the first place. That thing is stolen from us by one of the spies planted by the 'Pandemonium Descendants' in our guild."

"So, I am just taking back what is originally ours. What's more, it is a guaranteed drop once I kill you which means I can still take it back after I am done killing you."

"Should I thank you for saving the trouble of finding it then?" he added while wearing a sneering look on his face.

On the other hand, Shin started chuckling after hearing those words. Then he put the black book back in his inventory before saying. "Then let's forget about the bet since you seem to be uninterested in it. After all, I can also make that core a guaranteed drop since you are in this place."

"Ah-ah~! That is a total waste," said Immortal while waving his index finger.

After that, he wore an even wider grin before taking out two more spherical items from his inventory which were quite similar to the one that he took out earlier. The only differences that they had were the color and aura that they were releasing.

One of them was shining with a brilliant white light that seemed to be bearing a holy power similar to the priests and paladins of the Church.

Meanwhile, the other spherical object was completely pitch-black in color and was releasing a very heavy dark aura. If the white core was basked with holy light, then this core was carrying the power of darkness.

A single look at them was enough for Shin to realize the importance of those items. 'There Elemental Cores? Tsk! Looks like I can't refuse this kind of offer.'

Immortal waited for Shin to fully recognize the orbs floating above his left hand before saying. "As you can see, I have three Elemental Cores with the highest quality. You can use them to further enhance the powers of your Elemental Spirits or find some special creatures that can host them and transform them into Elemental Spirits."

"Either method is fine as both can give you powerful allies that can help you in the future and strengthen your battle prowess. So, what do you think? Not a bad betting stakes, right?" he added while turning his grin even wider.

Hearing that, Shin started wearing a solemn face as he could already guess what Immortal wanted from him. "And you want my Elemental Spirits in return."

"Bingo!" said Immortal as the grin that he was wearing was turning higher and higher. "So~?"

Seeing that Immortal was purposely trailing his words, Shin took a deep breath to calm himself a little before saying. "If that is the case, then let's form a contract and have an official duel."

Immortal chuckled a little after hearing those words and said. "Are you challenging me with your 'Godly Challenge Rights', to prevent me from taking that black book from you?"

"Not bad. But are you sure about that? Challenging me in an official duel will make all of your preparations gone to waste," he added while squinting his eyes.

Shin couldn't help but smirked when he heard those words. "Don't act as if the penalty given to you will go away after accepting that duel. Forbidden Skills are forbidden for a reason, so don't play dumb on me. I know where advantages lie."

"Looks like you've done your research properly, huh? But do you honestly believe that it is more than enough to defeat me?" said Immortal while raising his eyebrows.

"I would like to give it a try," responded Shin almost instantly.

Seeing the confident look on Shin's face, Immortal nodded his head repeatedly before saying. "Let's form a contract then."

After the two of them simultaneously summoned the system to form the contract. And at the same time, he also used his 'Godly Challenge Rights' to invite Immortal into an official duel.

Everything was going according to the plan, but Shin was still feeling unease for some unknown reason. His instincts were telling him that there was something amiss but he couldn't pinpoint exactly what it was.

It was until he saw Immortal signing the contract and accepting the challenge while wearing a huge grin.

Having a bad premonition about it, Shin quickly turned his head to the virtual screen where the panel for the challenge was being displayed. And that was when he saw the mode of the challenge set in default.

"What?" Shin stared at the panel for quite some time as he realized that he too had fallen into a trap.

"As I said, you are still too green for this virtual world," said Immortal as he chuckled a little. And after a brief moment of pause, he continued. "Using a 'Challenge Right' can be used by whoever you like and the one who is being challenged can't refuse it since they will lose a massive amount of 'Reputation Points' if they do."

"But at the same time, the opposing side can choose any mode that they like in exchange of that unrefusable challenge."

Immortal chuckled for a little more as he added to his words. "It is a hidden mechanic which is only available to use Godlike Players who are being challenged."

"The other modes are too disadvantageous to me since the penalty that I got after using the Forbidden Spell will still be in effect. But doing it in default mode is a little different. It may weaken myself a little but it is more than enough to deal with you."

Hearing that, Shin quickly opened the information regarding the mode of the challenge and saw that it was quite tricky.

Based on the information, the levels of both fighters were going to be set in '99' which meant that they couldn't use their awakening skills in this battle. And at the same time, all of the existing buffs and debuffs that were cast on the bodies of each side were going to be canceled until the end of the duel.

"D*mn it! He got me there," cursed Shin to himself before looking at Immortal with a heavy expression on his face.

On the other hand, Immortal just waved his hand at Shin before saying. "Then let's meet in the independent world later."

He then ripped a teleportation scroll and disappeared after being basked by a pillar of light. At the same time, all of his undead monsters also disappeared alongside his disappearance.

Shin stared at the spot where Immortal suddenly disappeared before clenching his hand. "On the brighter side, I can at least fight a Godlike Player in an equal footing. Let's see how this is going to work out then."

Meanwhile, Shin was actually oblivious about the fact that this challenge was going to be broadcasted in the whole virtual world. And since it was an official match, it was natural for the game to announce it to everyone.

And when everyone saw that system notification, all of the online platforms immediately burst in an uproar as everyone started discussing that topic.

Though, a lot of players were also quite disappointed when they realized that the challenge was set into default mode. It was because they couldn't see the real battle prowess of both fighters.

Regardless, this matchup was still interesting to watch. So, all of them were quite excited about this upcoming battle. – "The Angel of Death vs The Lich God, Immortal." –

Chapter 479 Arthur's Plan

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Real World, Eastern Sea Region, Ace City

Arthur was currently at the terrace of the second floor of their house, enjoying the cold breeze of the night while staring at the starry sky.

A few moments later, Leonard walked from the house and sat the chair beside Arthur before saying. "Try to relax? It is quite rare for you to not play the game during your free time."

"I played a little earlier. But the update is quite disappointing so far," replied Arthur in a nonchalant manner. And after a brief moment of pause, he added. "Aside from the improved playstyle for both PvE and PvP battles, the other update is not much helpful for players on our level."

"The monster drops and EXP that they gave us are slightly improved, but it is still not enough. Though, the daily quests released by the Adventurer Guild are not that bad. At least, we can now have a stable source of EXP."

Leonard leaned his back a little to have a more comfortable position before asking. "So, you are quite lazy to play the game for the time being, huh?"

Arthur smirked a little before answering. "Well, I speedrun all of the quest available for me, so there is nothing that can pique my interest for now."

"Then, why not help Shin Bro at the Blind Abyss Empire? I heard he is creating quite a mess in there. He even challenged Immortal on an Official Duel," said Leonard as he laid his back on the chair a little more to have a more relaxing position.

"I actually want to head in there too. That guy is really an expert at creating trouble wherever he goes," said Arthur.

Leonard couldn't help but chuckle a little after hearing that. "That is 'huge' coming from you."

Arthur shrugged his shoulders and continued. "Well, unfortunately, we can't go in there to share the fun."

"Why do you think that idiot did not ask for some assistance? Of course, it is because he is afraid to blow up his cover. After all, it is the same as declaring that the Nameless Swordsman and Sickarius is the same individual if we really head there now."

"The others may overlook it, but Big Sis will surely not be going to miss such a 'minor' detail. So, it is better for us to behave for the time being and observe how the situation is going to develop."

"Moreover, it is still not too late to head there if everything really goes out of hand," he added while adjusting to a more comfortable position.

Hearing that, Leonard nodded his head and turned silent for a moment before saying. "But what do you think about the Challenge? It is quite unexpected for Immortal to choose such a disadvantageous mode for an important battle. I wonder what happened."

Arthur started chuckling before replying. "Well, I am pretty sure that it is Shin's doing."

"We forgot to tell him about the hidden features of the 'Godly Challenge Rights' since there are a lot of things that happened recently. But whatever it is, I can reassure you that Shin did something that forced Immortal to choose the 'Default Mode'."

He then wore a wide grin with his lips before continuing. "And since he managed to do it, his odds for this duel rose up a little. At least, he now has the chance of winning."

Leonard nodded his head repeatedly before adding to his words. "Yeah. After all, the Awakening Skills of Necromancer Class are quite troublesome to deal with – especially the 'Enhanced Summoning' and similar skills."

After that, he turned his head at Arthur before saying. "Anyway, are you going to watch the match? Given the reputation of the two, I am pretty sure that it is going to be broadcasted by a lot of entertainment industries."

Arthur shrugged his shoulders a little before answering. "Well, I am too lazy to go online. Maybe I'll just watch the broadcast here. The broadcast on the True Sight Industries channel is not that bad – I guess I'll watch the duel through them."

Leonard pursed his lips a little before nodding his head repeatedly while saying. "Then I guess, I'll also watch it here with you."

After that, Arthur tapped his Advance Watch a couple of times to open a virtual screen in front of them. He then headed to the personal channel of the True Sight Industries before waiting for the broadcast to start.

But since there was still a lot of time before the duel started, Arthur chose to browse for other trending topics for the time being. And while browsing, he suddenly remembered something and immediately opened another virtual screen before searching for a couple of websites.

Seeing that, Leonard knitted his eyebrows for a moment before asking. "What are you doing?"

"Looking for some websites," replied Arthur nonchalantly.

Hearing that, Leonard rolled his eyes at him and said sarcastically. "Yeah, right, smartass! It is quite obvious and I can also see it! What I am asking is why are you searching for those sites. Don't tell me, you are not interested in creating your own website?"

Arthur ignored what he said and just asked. "Hey, how much do you think these guys are earning by uploading these videos?"

The corner of Leonard's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard that before saying. "So, you are really planning to create your own channel?"

At this point, Arthur finally turned his head at Leonard while saying in an excited tone. "No, I am not only planning to create my channel but an official website for our Adventurer Team where each of us can have our own channel."

He then paused for a couple of moments before opening a few videos which were showing a couple of battles. Those videos seemed to be the teaser of each channel.

After that, Arthur looked at Leonard before looking at Leonard with sparkling eyes. "See these? These videos are quite good! We can also create such videos which are going to blow the minds of every person who is going to watch them."

Leonard slapped his forehead when he saw that and shook his head helplessly. 'This showoff, can he just a little be honest.'

Seeing that, Arthur sat up straight before saying. "Come on! It is a good idea, isn't it? We can earn extra money just by posting a few videos here – it is not much different on blogging or sort."

Leonard released a bitter laugh after hearing that before saying. "Then why not create your own channel and post your own videos there?"

Arthur clicked his tongue before 'justifying' his thought. "Tsk! It is boring if I am the only one there. Isn't it better if we post our videos on the same website? That way, we can have more viewers."

"Imagine, both of us are famous Godlike Players who have a lot of fans out there. So, if we combine all of them by posting on the same website, then we are going to have an even larger number of audiences. And after that, the money is just going to flow naturally."

Leonard was swayed for a moment when he heard that but immediately shook that idea off his mind when he realized that something. He looked at Arthur with a huge frown on his face before asking. "Creating that kind of website is one thing but who is going to manage it when it is done?"

Arthur stopped working for a moment when he heard that and stared blankly at Leonard when he realized such a problem.

After a few moments of silence, he suddenly started grinning evilly before saying. "Heh! Who else? There is only a single person who can do such a thing between the three of us, right?"

Leonard frowned his eyebrows a little when he heard that. Then he turned silent for a moment and moved his eyes between Arthur and opened websites.

After that, he started grinning alongside Arthur which led the two of them to start laughing quite loudly. And when they were done, they immediately started discussing the details about the website that they were going to make.

Meanwhile, at the headquarters of the True Sight Industries, everyone seemed to be too busy preparing for the broadcast that they were going to make.

But at the same time, they were also having a huge problem with the host that they chose to cover the duel.

"Ms. Bunny, don't play hard to get now, shall we? This is the Angel of Death and Lich God we are talking about. Didn't you like to cover his battles all the time? You even edited quite a few of his battle videos and posted it on your personal channel."

The head manager was having a hard time persuading Ms. Bunny to cover the said fight between Shin and Immortal. But no matter how hard he tried, all he got were immediate rejection.

"Hmph! I already told you, I am really busy right now and have no time to host that duel. Why not offer it to the other hosts you have there? Aren't you eager to give them quite a few projects? This is the right time to do it."

After saying that, Miss Bunny slammed the table and stood up before leaving the office. "If that is all you want to say, then I need to go now. I still have an appointment."

She then walked out of the room and left the head manager who was now having the hardest time of his life.

"Tch! Such a boot-lick fogey. I repeatedly told them to feature the Nameless Swordsman in a few of our shows yet they keep on rejecting me by saying that he is just a rising star who recently earned a little bit of fame."

"But now that a huge event occurred, they are now asking me to cover it? In their dreams! Do they think that I am a pushover? I will never help them build up the hype as they take all of the benefits later."

As she was walking out of the company, her Advance Watch suddenly rang which indicated that she just got a message. "Huh?"

Opening her Advance Watch, she immediately saw that it came from her email. And when she took a look at it, she was suddenly stunned after seeing that the message came from Siegfried's official email.

"Eh!? The Dragon God, Siegfried?" she was quite confused at why she got a message from him. So, she suddenly became curious and immediately opened the message.

Then she suddenly became even more stunned after reading the content of the message. She was unable to move nor talk for quite some time before she could process everything that she just read. And when she recovered herself, she turned head left and right to make sure that no one was around.

After that, she immediately ran towards her car while wearing an overjoyed look on her face. "This is it! This might be the biggest break of my life!"

Chapter 480 Arrival

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Real World, Eastern Sea Region, Eastern Blue District

A huge ship just arrived at the Blue Stone Port.

There was a pair of young men among the passengers who were disembarking from the ship. And given the curious looks that they were giving at the port, it seemed like this was their first time coming to this place.

"This is quite a lively place. Compared to the ports that we have on our continent, this place is quite a busy street," said one of the young men.

Based on his facial features, he seemed to be a 19 to 20-year-old young man. But despite his young age, his body was quite muscular. It is neither bulky nor too large for his size, but it was about right given that he was quite tall for a height of 179 cm.

He was wearing a black sleeveless shirt, showcasing his properly trained arms. And alongside his cargo pants and combat boots, he was practically announcing to others that he was a Martial-Artist. Especially with the way he was carrying his huge luggage with one hand over his shoulder.

The complexion of his skin was neither light nor tan. It was right in the middle of those two colors; it was giving an impression that he got that color by basking under the sunlight.

At the same time, the yellow transparent sunglasses that he was wearing made his looks quite appealing to the girls who were passing by and walking alongside them.

"Hey, Vincent. Do you think we can still find a good hotel right now?" he asked at the young man who was walking beside him while looking at the stalls along the road.

"I highly doubt that. Given that we came a little late, I am pretty sure that all of the hotels and resorts are fully booked now. I guess it is better for us to find an apartment or a house to rent instead," responded by the other young man.

Standing with similar height as the previous guy, it was hard for the others not to compare their physical physiques.

This young man with the name Vincent had a lean but his body compared to the previous guy. But his physique seemed to be not going to lose in terms of strength.

Because of the fitted shirt that he was wearing, he unconsciously showcased his properly trained muscles. And alongside his pale skin and handsome face, his sex appeal would not be going to lose to the young man beside him; most of the girls who saw him were even looking at him with sparkling eyes.

While the two of them were currently in the middle of a discussion when they suddenly saw a middle-aged man in a butler's clothes approaching them. And when this man arrived, he suddenly took a deep bow in front of them which attracted the attention of the people around them.

The butler ignored the looks of the passerby and said. "Welcome, young masters. I am going to be your guide while you are staying in this country."

Hearing that, both of the young men frowned their eyebrows and looked at the middle-aged man with displeasure.

"Are you sent here by our Family?" asked Vincent while maintaining his frown.

"Yes, young master," replied the butler; he was still not raising his head since he took his bow.

In the meantime, the other young man couldn't help but sneer after hearing those words. "Be our 'Guide' my *ss. Just be honest that you are sent here to monitor us."

"That is not true, Young Master Jeremiah," replied the butler almost instantly.

The young man with the name Jeremiah suddenly smirked when he heard that and said with a cold tone. "Listen here, old man."

"My name now is 'Jeremiah Smithson' and I am no longer a part of your oh-so noble Valentine Family after being treated as an outcast. So, stop calling me young master – it disgusts me."

"And don't act as if you are sincerely acknowledging my existence. Both of us know what your noble family is really thinking about me even after everything that I've achieved."

After that, he started walking away, not caring about the stares being thrown at him.

Meanwhile, Vincent shook his head a little and smiled bitterly before patting the middle-aged man's shoulder. "Sorry about that, uncle. But you should understand what he is feeling after experiencing those sufferings."

Then he immediately chased after Jeremiah, leaving the butler behind.

Atlas World, Blind Abyss Empire

Shin was still staying inside the Ancient Ruins and was currently doing his final preparations for the Central Order.

"I already take out Immortal from the picture, so you guys can at least take care of the rest, right?" asked Shin while checking out his gears.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the call, Legolas nodded his head repeatedly before saying. "Don't worry, we can at least manage this much."

Shin also nodded his head and sheathed his sword before looking at the virtual screen in front of him. "Just make sure to end the battle before my duel with Immortal ends."

Legolas slightly knitted his eyebrows when he heard that before saying. "It is much easier to say than done."

Shin turned silent for a moment before replying. "Then let me give another piece of advice."

He paused for a moment and raised his index finger before continuing. "Siege wars not only defend on guarding and attacking a certain place to contest for it."

"Do you know why the military generals are always saying that the defending party in sieging wars has more advantage compared to the attacking forces?"

"It is not because of the fact that defending is much easier than attacking a certain place. But it is actually because the Defending Party can do both attacking and defending at the same time."

Hearing those words, Legolas suddenly came into a realization as he immediately understood what Shin was currently implying. "I see. I will put it in my mind."

Shin was about to end the call when he suddenly remembered something. "Ah! And one more thing. This is actually the best time for you to make your move since the opposing side was still in the middle of preparing their own Sieging Weapons."

"Attacking them at the time that they least expected to deal more damage to their forces. And make sure to focus on destroying as much machinery as you can, so that you can have a much easier time to defend later."

"And one last thing, make sure that you are going to entrust this mission to your most trusted people to avoid some information leaks," he added before ending the call, not giving Legolas any time to respond.

After that, Shin turned his head at Solus who was now standing beside him before asking. "You can give him the authority to control the defensive formation, right?" while pointing at Chaotic Luck.

Hearing that, Solus immediately nodded her head and replied with a seemingly sneering tone. "Of course, I am the creator and owner of this place after all."

Shin nodded his head after hearing the confirmation before looking at Chaotic Luck. "You don't have to do much – just keeping the formation working is more than enough. And if ever something unexpected happened, just follow the instructions that I've given you earlier."

If it was before he personally witnessed Shin's meticulous planning, then he would most probably not believe whatever Shin was saying to him. But now that he saw everything was going according to his plan, Chaotic Luck had no choice but to acknowledge Shin's abilities.

After all, it was a strategic war against Immortal. And not only Shin could keep everything under control, but he was also giving the impression that he was toying with his opponents when it came to strategic battles.

To Necromancers such as himself, Immortal was practically their God. And being a fan, Chaotic Luck naturally has some idea about the previous achievements that Immortal did – his strategic thinking, his control over his summoned undead, and his top-notch skills, Immortal was literally a one-man army.

But after seeing everything that happened just earlier, Chaotic Luck was now starting to have a blind admiration towards Shin. In his eyes, Shin seemed to be able to do anything now.

Meanwhile, Shin would naturally have no idea what Chaotic Luck was currently thinking. So, he just waved his hand and pressed the accept button at the system notification that just appeared right in front of him.

After that, he transformed into a streak of light that flew towards the sky.

In the meantime, Legolas just finished gathering all of his trusted people who were going to form the special force as per Shin's advice.

p He was currently inside his tent and was currently waiting for the right time to strike. And alongside him, the Task Force that he just created was also inside the room waiting for his instructions.

And after a few more moments of waiting, Legolas finally received the report that he was waiting for.

"Sir! The Duel is about to start after a minute. Immortal is most probably in the battle arena right now," said by his right-hand man while giving him a salute.

Hearing that, Legolas nodded his head before asking. "What about our targets."

"We already confirmed their locations and take note of the players who are guarding them," replied the right-hand man almost instantly.

Legolas started grinning widely when he heard that before saying. "Alright, boys! It is time to do some work," as he stood up from his seat.

Seeing that, everyone inside the tent was suddenly surprised as they understood the meaning of Legolas standing up.

"You are coming with us, Sir?" asked his right-hand man full of disbelief.

Hearing that, he looked at the man with knitted brows before asking. "Is there a problem with that?" while also sweeping his gaze at everyone.

"No, Sir!" responded the group simultaneously while standing straight.

Legolas swept his gaze at the group for another time before nodding his head. He then turned his head at his right-hand man and said. "Pale, go open the portal linked with the coordinates I've sent you. We are going to hit them hard while they are still unprepared."