

Destiny 491

Chapter 491 Experiencing Defeat For Another Time (Part 2)

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Immortal finally caught Shin with his spell and was trapped in the middle of the two dragons. But he still didn't dare to let his guard down, not until he saw the system notification saying that he really won the match.

On the other hand, Shin still had the calm look on his face despite being in the middle of the two dragons. In fact, he even grinning from ear to ear when he saw the incoming dragon's breaths that were planning to take his life.

First, he took a deep breath to clear his mind while also controlling the flow of mana inside his body according to his breathing technique.

'Calming Technique: White Dawn Boundary'

After that, he entered an absolute tranquil state which made him able to perceive his surroundings much clearer than before. And due to this special state alongside the effects of his 'Sensing Circle' and 'True Sight' skills, the world around him seemed to have slowed down from his perspective.

He then waited for a couple of moments and tried to read the timing of the incoming breaths. And when he got the right timing in mind, he immediately executed the plan that he formulated earlier.

'Equipment Skill (Leg Armor: Megumi's Shadow): Spirit Immunity'

A warm light suddenly enfolded Shin's body, removing the shackles wrapped around his body and preventing him from moving.

Shin didn't immediately move away from the incoming breaths despite freeing himself from the dark shackles and regaining his movements.

Instead, he remained unmoved and even adjusted his position midair so that he could hover in the air much longer. In fact, he even used one of the skills attached to his cloak.

'Equipment Skill (Cloak: Dawn's Mantle): Flight'

From the look of it, he was waiting for the incoming dragon's breaths to come after him. And at the very last moment, Shin suddenly surrounded his body with a brilliant light barrier to enhance his defenses even for a little.

'Equipment Skill (Body Armor: Maximillian): Life Forcefield'

BOOM!

Right after that, the two dragon's breaths finally arrived and collided against each other with Shin being squeezed in the middle.

The spectators who were watching the match couldn't help but shake their heads the moment they saw Shin being devoured by the two dragon's breath. Especially when they saw that the destruction of the barrier that he set up and his health bar went down to the critical level which almost reached zero.

But despite being burned alive, he still didn't die instantly as his Health Bar stopped dropping when it reached the 1% mark.

'Equipment Skill (Body Armor: Maximillian): Death Exemption'

The collision of the two dragon's breaths lasted for at least three seconds but Shin was still alive despite being roasted by the opposing powers.

And when the two breaths finally exhausted their remaining powers, Shin immediately used the second ability of 'Death Exemption' and sacrificed all of his remaining MP which was below 25%, before converting it to his HP.

At the same time, one of the passive abilities of his equipment was also triggered and healed 50% of his total HP.

'Equipment Skill (Leg Armor: Megumi's Shadow): Life Recall'

On the other hand, Immortal seemed to be expecting that Shin was still able to survive that attack and quickly raised his bone scepter in the air before pointing it to his opponent.

But before he could even cast a spell to finish off Shin, he suddenly noticed that his target was already ducking right in front of him while stabbing the [Yamato] straight to his chest.

'Equipment Skill (Leg Armor: Megumi's Shadow): Death Travel'

Immortal was caught off-guard at the sudden appearance of Shin as he didn't expect him to be this bold despite having a sliver of health and was on the verge of death.

All Immortal needed to do was to swing his scepter at Shin and he could kill him in an instant.

But despite having that thought in mind, and even if he had the means to execute it in an instant – Immortal failed to do anything as his opponent already considered everything and used a series of skills in an instant.

'Equipment Skill (Foot Armor: Death Boots): Death Bite'

This was the first skill that hit Immortal. It was a skill that immobilized his body for a moment which was why he quickly tried to cast a CC-removing skill.

Unfortunately, instead of freeing himself from being stunned, he suffered a backlash from his own skill due to 'skill-execution failure' – it was a system penalty where the player used a CC-removing skill even if they were not under any effects a Crowd Control Skill.

Immortal was taken aback at that time since he didn't expect Shin to remove the effects of his skill without any hesitation.

After all, that kind of move was quite risky since Immortal could kill him in an instant if he messed up with the timing even for a little.

He must admit that Shin really had a nerve of steel for taking that gamble and even executed it quite perfectly.

But in truth, Shin only risked doing such a plan because of the unique effects of the equipment skill. And that being able to remove the stun provided by that skill just by moving his body.

Due to these factors, Immortal couldn't do anything when the [Yamato] pierced through his chest. But such a simple stab would be not enough to kill him even if he got hit by it directly.

Unfortunately, that simple move was not as simple as it seemed. In fact, it was the very reason why Immortal stopped resisting the moment he got stabbed.

BOOM!

A powerful blast suddenly exploded from the blade of the sword and instantly devoured Immortal's body in an instant.

'Equipment Skill (Body Armor: Maximilian): Life Revenge'

This was the final skill of Shin's armor and could only be triggered when the 'Death Exemption' was activated.

Its main ability was to return 10% of the total damage he received during the duration of the 'Death Exemption' at the time when he got the fatal strike. And alongside it, additional damage was going to be added into it from the health that he healed during the MP to HP conversion.

During that last moment of the 'Death Exemption' earlier, Shin used all of the remaining MP that he had and converted it to HP. So, adding it with the health that he healed from the 'Life Recall' skill, the extra damage of this explosion would surely be quite destructive.

But that was not the real factor that caused such a devastating power-...

Instead, it was the combined powers of the opposing Dragon's Breaths earlier. Even getting grazed by it could already lead to instant death for anyone, so it was not hard to imagine how powerful it was if you get hit by them directly.

p And even if Shin could only use 10% of the total power of those blasts, that 'little' bit of power alone was more than enough to kill Immortal in an instant.

And with Immortal's death, the victor of this match had finally been determined.

Victory – Angel of Death!

These words were fully displayed on the virtual screens of everyone which indicated the winner of the match.

But despite seeing the result, all of the spectators of this match were still staring blankly at their screens as they didn't know how to react. Their hearts and brains couldn't keep up with the rollercoaster ride that they just experienced.

First, they witnessed a very intense battle between the two before seeing them summon a pair of powerful dragons that gave all of them a goosebump.

After that, was an epic battle of the two dragons followed by the strange scene of Immortal being chased by Shin which they didn't know how to react.

Not long after, Immortal turned the situation around and cornered Shin at the final moments. And it didn't take long for them to witness a sight of Shin being devoured by the powerful breaths of the two dragons.

At that time, everyone thought that everything was already over and Immortal proved that a veteran player with a lot of experience was still better than a rising star who recently became famous and just building up his reputation.

In fact, they all forgot that it was just the second round of the match with a best of three series.

But their hearts almost stopped beating once again when they saw Shin created yet another miracle by surviving the devastating powers of the two Dragon's Breaths.

Moreover, he even made an epic comeback at the final moment of the match and pulled off a counter kill on Immortal instead to snatch the victory from the latter's hands.

Experiencing all of that made everyone dumbfounded and left their mouths agape as they stared at their virtual screens. And they only recovered themselves when they saw the close-up look of Shin's signature mask displayed on their screens.

And even if they couldn't believe that Immortal suffered yet another defeat, they had no other choice but to accept reality since the result was already displayed right in front of their eyes.

Uproar!

Different online platforms were flooded by that news as everyone started discussing the match. Even the broadcasts and live streams were even bombarded by the excited players.

On the other hand, the hosts, broadcasters, and live streamers started being busy since they were discussing the result of the match and even breaking down the details that they got.

Some of them were even praising how amazing this match was and how it would end up if both fighters had their Awakening Skills. And one of those guys was Arthur, or rather Mr. Casanova, who was currently commenting about the result.

He was not too biased nor indifferent about it. Instead, he was judging the match equally as he was looking at it from a different perspective.

At the same time, there were also some people who were quite uncomfortable at discussing the result of this match – just like Mr. Cool Guy and Ms. Marry who were currently in a very awkward spot.

The two of them were currently ashamed to look at the camera in front of them. It was because of the result of the match being the complete opposite of what they were expecting.

In fact, they even felt a burning sensation on their cheeks which made them unconsciously rubbed it with their hands, as if Shin gave them an invisible slap after achieving the 2-0 sweep victory.

Regardless, all of these indicated a single thing – and that was Shin becoming an even brighter star than he ever been before.

Chapter 492 Giving The Darkness And Holy Cores To Whom?

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Despite winning the match, Shin didn't have much time to celebrate his victory since he still had a lot of things on his plate. He couldn't even afford to reflect on the match nor assess his previous performance.

Right after winning, Shin immediately teleported himself back to the core part of the Ancient Ruins to proceed on the next part of his plan.

"You're back?" said Solus the moment she saw Shin appear in the hall.

On other hand, Shin slightly nodded his head before taking out the core that he got from Immortal. And when he took out that core from his inventory space, the entire hall was suddenly illuminated by a brilliant light which was also giving out a very warm feeling.

Seeing that core, Solus suddenly became overjoyed as she quickly took the core from Shin and held it with both of her hands.

Then she positioned it in front of her chest before channeling a part of her consciousness on it. A moment later, the core started to float in the air while absorbing all of the Fire Elemental Mana from the surroundings before falling back on Solus' hands.

After that, Solus fused the core with her body which led her body to emit a very powerful aura.

Boom!

And due to the sudden burst of aura, the surrounding space seemed to become agitated; especially when a gorgeous flame was suddenly revealed from her body.

Meanwhile, Shin slightly raised his eyebrows when saw that scene before muttering to himself. "Looks like another overpowered elemental spirit is added on my Reaper's Retainers."

Solus then looked at Shin and bowed. "I'm very grateful for your help, descendant of Zheptus and the previous Sun God."

"But please excuse my impudence, my liege, as I still need to need your help for my rebirthing ceremony," she added while taking yet another deep bow.

Shin just waved his hand when he saw that while saying. "Please save the courtesy; I am not worthy to be addressed that way. And I am just doing my job as a descendant of my ancestors."

Though, he was actually thinking another thing in mind. 'But I actually am not going to do all of the troubles if you are just an ordinary NPC and not a soon-to-be Elemental Spirit.'

'What's more, you gave me a quest which is linked to my other quest. So, it is impossible for me not to accept such a good offer.'

After that, he knitted his eyebrows for a moment before asking. "So, are we proceeding to the ceremony next?"

Solus immediately nodded her head after hearing that while saying. "Of course, we are. The sooner I can rebirth as an Elemental Spirit the better. After all, those spawns of the Demon Lords still have their eyes on us."

Shin pursed his lips a little before nodding. "Alright. So, what are we waiting for? Let's start now! I can't wait to get out of his Empire since dealing with those lunatics are quite troublesome."

He was about to contact Legolas after saying that. But before he could even open his friend list, Solus suddenly stopped him by saying. "Didn't you also get the Darkness and Holy Cores from that True Undead? Are sure that you're not going to take advantage of this place to use them now?"

Shin suddenly knitted his brow the moment he heard that before asking confusedly. "Use them? But I don't have any suitable Elemental Spirits that can consume them."

"But those cores are not only meant for Elemental Spirits to consume. They can also be used by other beings as long as they have enough life force and strong bloodline to endure the burden of the conversion," replied Solus almost instantly.

She then took a quick pause to nod her head before adding to her words. "Though, the vessel also needs to have a suitable element that can complement the cores."

Shin couldn't help but take another look at the descriptions of the two cores to see if he read them wrong. But no matter how hard he stared at those descriptions, they still didn't say anything about what Solus had said.

Though, he indeed remembered that Immortal said the same thing before. But he couldn't help but feel a little doubtful after reading the descriptions that two cores had. He even thought that Immortal tricked him during their deal.

Fortunately, it seemed like it wasn't the case based on what Solus had said. And to make sure that he was not just hearing things, he asked for another confirmation. "So, you mean that these cores had another function that I'm unable to see."

"Not only that, those cores are not weaker than mine. So, that True Undead seems to spend quite a lot of effort just to acquire them," replied Solus while nodding her head.

But he still knitted his eyebrows despite hearing the confirmation. "But I don't think I have a pair of Elemental Spirits or other beings that can be the host of these cores."

He first thought of his Shadow Spirit and continued. "Maybe, Grimerace can have the Darkness core since his Shadow Element is completely compatible with it. So, he can ascend into a higher being after consuming it."

Grimrace suddenly became overjoyed after hearing those words. And due to that, the black speck of light circling around Shin started dancing excitedly.

On the other hand, Shin ignored him and continued. "But I don't have anyone who is suitable for the Holy Core."

"Using the Darkness Core to that Abomination Elemental Spirit is a good choice," said Solus while nodding her head. But her agreeing look only lasted for a moment before she rejected the idea after a moment. "But that is not the best choice that you currently have."

"Eh!?" Shin suddenly became confused when he heard that, so he asked. "What do you mean by that?"

At that point in time, Hanzo suddenly got away from the other specks of light circling around Shin and transformed into his humanoid form. "What she wanted to say, it is going to be a huge waste if you give the Darkness Core on that idiot."

Shin was surprised when he saw Hanzo able to transform into his humanoid form despite not being summoned. 'Eh!? This old spirit is able to break free from my control once again? Does it mean he regained more of his original strength?'

While he was in the middle of those thoughts, Vladimir also transformed into his humanoid form and stood beside Shin with his arms crossed in front of his chest while nodding his head. "Yeah, that is right. So, it is better if you give that Darkness Core to me instead."

"And since Blood Elemental Mana is somehow related to Darkness Element, it is going to be perfectly suited for me. I'm sure that it will be a magnificent dress that is personally tailored just for me."

"What's more, I am the most awesome Elemental Spirit that ever existed. So, giving it to me is even more reasonable since everything should be centered around me," he added while flipping his long silver hair.

Shin was about to say something about that when Grimrace also took his humanoid form and appeared in front of Vladimir. "Heh! Aren't you being too confident in yourself this time, Mosquito? You dare to take away something that is meant for me?"

Hearing that, Vladimir nodded his head and replied with an indifferent tone. "Why not? You are useless anyway. So, it is better to make me even more awesome than waste that Darkness Core to a Clown like you."

"Are you picking a fight?" said Grimrace in an aggressive tone alongside a sharp glare with his eyes.

On the other hand, Vladimir just smirked at Grimrace as a response to the glaring look that the latter hand. From the look on his face, he seemed to be inviting the Shadow Spirit to make his move first.

With that, an invisible spark suddenly appeared in the air between the two Elemental Spirits especially when their gazes met each other.

Sensing the familiar atmosphere surrounding them, Shin could only shake his head helplessly as he could already see what was going to happen next. And just like what he was expecting, the two troublemakers were immediately engaged in an intense battle before he could even have the time to stop them.

Clang! Clang!

As always, Vladimir quickly summoned his blood rapier and entered his 'Blood Sovereign' state while Grimrace materialized a bunch of shadow daggers floating around him as he initiated his 'Yaksha Transformation'.

Shin took a helpless sigh and chose to ignore them since he knew that he currently didn't have the power to stop those two.

Instead, he looked at Solus and Hanzo once again before asking. "Let's just ignore them and continue on our topic."

"What you do mean when you say that giving the Darkness Core to Grimrace is going to be a waste. And what about my Holy Core that I had?" he added while knitting his eyebrows.

Hearing that, Hanzo couldn't help but wear a mysterious grin with his lips before saying. "Have you forgotten about your 'tiger cubs'?"

"Whitie and Blackie?!" replied Shin out of instinct before falling into another confusion.

But after a brief moment of pause, he immediately understood what they were saying. "Ah! So, are you telling me that I can use it for them?!"

But at the same time, he also became even more confused which also made him ask. "But they are my pets and mounts. Can I really use those cores to them?"

This time, it was Solus' turn to explain. "Of course, you can. Because they are not just ordinary pets. Their bloodlines and life rating are quite high."

"In fact, they are more capable enough to carry such cores. Moreover, their bodies are too perfect to be the hosts of the Darkness and Holy Cores."

Shin's eyes suddenly turned wide the moment he heard that and said in an excited tone. "Then what are we waiting for? Let's immediately start the rebirthing ceremony!"

He even ignored the existence of the two Elemental Spirits who suddenly stopped fighting the moment they overheard the conversation of the three.

No matter how hard they plead at him, Shin just ignored them totally as he started completing all of the preparations needed for the said ceremony.

"Looks like my luck is on a roll today," muttered Shin to himself while wearing a huge grin.

He then turned his head at the two Elemental Spirits who were currently sulking on the corner of the hall.

"I just hope that those two will not jinx it later," he added before contacting Legolas.

But unknown to him, there was an impending doom was currently looming around the Ancient Ruins at this point in time. And he also noticed that after hearing the words that Legolas said from the other side of the call.

Due to that, Shin suddenly ended the conversation with a deep and solemn tone. "I understand your position but you should also understand mine. So, no hard feelings on what is going to happen next."

After that, a deadly glint suddenly flashed on Shin's eyes under the mask while a dangerous aura was suddenly released from his body, which made the temperature inside the hall drop drastically.

Then he said with a very cold tone. "It has been a while since I felt this way. So, they better brace themselves for facing the price of going back on their words."

Chapter 493 The Sleeping Demon (Part 1)

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Few moments before the end of Shin and Immortal's battle, a few of the higher-ups of the Central Order were currently having an emergency meeting at their temporary commanding center.

"What are you talking about, Elrond! We can't go back on our words now. I already signed a contract with him!" shouted Legolas while standing up and slamming his hand on the wooden table.

Sitting across him was a player with a Half-elf race and seemed to be a mage given the clothes that he was currently wearing.

He smirked at Legolas after getting yelled at. "What's with the fuss, Legolas? We already told you – you don't have the right to agree with that kind of deal, to begin with. So, you can't argue with us right now."

"Are you not ashamed of asking for some help from an outsider? You are already quite shameless when you fool everyone that you defeated Immortal in a strategic battle, so you don't have the voice to complain right now."

"What's more, we even said that we are going to pay all of the compensation that you needed to pay when you break the contract with him. So, there is nothing for you to worry about," added the Half-elf named Elrond while waving his index finger at Legolas.

Legolas glared at Elrond the moment he heard those words. But from the looks of it, the latter seemed to have a much higher position than him which was why he currently couldn't do anything regardless of his displeasure.

But he still couldn't back down since his pride and dignity were currently in the line. He already gave his word to Shin that his side was going to help at defending the Ancient Ruins until the latter's quest was already complete.

But everything suddenly became a mess when these guys from the main branch suddenly appeared and refused to honor the contract that he signed.

Seeing that the argument was starting to affect the atmosphere inside the room, the guy who was currently sitting in the head seat finally decided to open his mouth. "You can't do anything now, Legolas. The upper echelon has already given out their orders, so you don't have any other choice but follow their orders."

He then took a brief pause before continuing. "You shouldn't have asked for some help from the main branch if you are going to question their orders."

Hearing that, Legolas couldn't help but clench his hands as he didn't have the right to refute those words.

Earlier, the Nameless Swordsman had already laid out a perfect plan to win this war. But unfortunately, the opposing side mobilized their most elite group to counterattack.

And since he couldn't handle the Apostles of the Undying Guild alone, Legolas had no other choice but to ask some help from the main branch.

Unfortunately, asking for some help from them indeed gave him a backlash just like what he had expected. These guys were really quite greedy and slaves of politics.

And now that they got a perfect opportunity to curry some favor from the Great Elders of the guild, he was sure that they were going to do everything they could just to steal all of the merits that he got from this war.

And what made the situation worse, he couldn't do anything about it since their ranking was much higher than him. Especially when it was true that they only managed to win the recent battle due to their help.

Seeing that Legolas was still not willing to back down, the knight sitting beside him gently tapped his back to call his attention.

Due to the sudden tap, Legolas turned his head to the side and saw the knight signaling him to go back on his seat.

In response, Legolas could only shake his head helplessly and sat back on his chair while wearing a bitter look on his face.

"There is nothing you can do right now. If you want to get back at them, then just beat them in the upcoming internal competition," whispered the knight after seeing his friend calmed down.

Hearing that, Legolas could only click his tongue before asking. "Tsk, how come can you endure all of these injustices, Aragorn?"

The knight who was addressed as Aragorn suddenly smirked at him and replied. "Endure? Heh! I never endure anything. It is more like I ignored all of it after all this time."

"And if they try to mess with me, then I am just going to beat the crap out of them whenever I got a chance," he added with a voice that only the two of them could hear.

And while they were discussing it themselves, the man sitting on the head seat suddenly clapped his hand and ended the meeting. "Alright, that's all for now. You guys should start making your respective preparations."

He then trailed his words for a moment to look at Legolas and Aragorn before continuing. "As for the two of you, your positions are going to be in the frontlines against the forces of the Undying Guild."

"And remember, you are not allowed to take part in anything related inside the Ancient Ruins. If either one of you sets your feet in the inner parts of that place, then both of you are going to be charged with insubordination. Understood?"

Legolas actually didn't want to agree with that but Aragorn tugged his arm asking him to respond. "Yes, Sir!"

Thought, he was thinking something else inside his head. 'Just don't put the blame on me when you got played by him later.'

Going back in the present.

Shin immediately contacted Arthur and Leonard right after he ended his call with Legolas.

"Yeah? What's with the sudden call? I'm beat tired right now, alright. So, at least, let me sleep for now before dragging me in another trouble," said Arthur instantly right after he answered the group call.

Hearing that, Leonard suddenly felt skeptical at those words and suddenly asked. "And since when did you become too busy to refuse such a troublesome offer."

Arthur suddenly cast a deadly glare at Leonard the moment he heard those words since both of them knew why he felt too tired right now. But despite seeing such a threatening glare, Leonard just smirked at him as if he was saying that he didn't care.

Due to that, the two of them were about to engage in an argument when they suddenly heard a cold yet familiar voice that sent shivers on their spine. "Since that is the case, then you two are free to get your respective time to rest."

Then Arthur and Leonard simultaneously turned their heads at the virtual displaying Shin to see what's with the cold voice. And the moment they saw the look that he currently had, both of them couldn't help but swallow a mouthful of saliva.

Shin was not wearing his mask currently, so the two were able to clearly see his face. Right now, he was wearing a serious look on his face which further intensified the anxiety that they currently had.

'Sh*t! Who the hell dared to provoke this guy? Whoever it is, I hope they already prepared to meet their ancestors in the underworld,' thought Arthur to himself when he saw that look on Shin's face.

On the other hand, Leonard also had a similar thought in mind. 'It has been a while since I saw Shin Bro act this way. Poor guys, they just awaken a sleeping demon.'

"Alright, alright. We got it, Shin," said Arthur, trying to break the tense atmosphere. Then he immediately added to calm Shin a little. "But first, take a deep breath for now and relax. Then we can talk later."

"I'm calm," responded Shin, which made Arthur immediately shut up his mouth.

And that was the signal for Leonard to take over. "How about-..."

Unfortunately, he immediately shut up his mouth when he heard the next words that Shin had said. "If you are going to continue delaying this any further, then we can forget about it."

Due to that, both Arthur and Leonard chose to remain quiet since they didn't want to be the target of Shin's wrath.

Shin waited for them to turn silent before saying. "Come to Blind Abyss Empire and go to the coordinates that I am going to send you."

"Are you sure? Big Sis will surely notice that it is something going on if we appear in there?" said Arthur while frowning his eyebrows.

"You don't have to worry about that since I don't need you to appear in the field personally; I'll handle all of the fieldwork," answered Shin in an instant.

He then took a brief pause before adding. "All you need to do is guard the inner part of the Ruins and prevent anyone from interrupting the ceremony,"

"Quite confident on your strength now, huh? Then what if some guys that you can't handle show up and we are forced to show ourselves, what are you going to do then?" asked Arthur while maintaining the deep frown that he had.

Shin was still not swayed and just shrugged his shoulders while replying. "Worst case scenario, I just need to have one of my clones disguise as my other identity while showing up with the two of you."

"After all, Big Sis is already aware of 'our' connection with the 'Nameless Swordsman'. So, we can just use it to our advantage," he added while checking out the durability of his other Equipment Set.

After that, he turned his attention back to the two and said. "If you don't have any more questions, then you guys should start preparing now since we are quite tight in time. I'll just brief you two about the specifics of the plan later when you arrive here."

Hearing that, the corner of Arthur and Leonard's mouth suddenly twitched uncontrollably as they thought to themselves. – "It's not that we don't have any more questions. Instead, you just didn't give us the chance to voice them out." –

Even though he could read what was running inside their minds, Shin just ignored them and said. "Then see you later," before leaving the group call.

Seeing the blank panel on the screen, Arthur and Leonard looked at each other before saying at the same time.

– "There is no one who can save them now." –

Chapter 494 The Sleeping Demon (Part 2)

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Blind Abyss Empire, Ancient Ruins

Inside the Central Order's Temporary Headquarters, Elrond was currently kneeling with one knee while bowing in front of the man who was sitting in the head seat earlier.

"Great Elder, we are already done doing all of the necessary preparations. We are now waiting for your orders to move," said Elrond in a very respectful manner.

If the other players from the meeting earlier saw this scene, they all were going to be shocked since they all knew that Elrond was a very arrogant man with no respect for anyone.

This scene could only mean a single thing – this guy was addressed by Elrond as the Great Elder was not an ordinary Godlike Player of the guild.

The Great Elder turned his head at Elrond before glaring at him. "I already told you that you can't call me that way. If someone overheard you, all of my plans are going to be meaningless."

"I apologize for my incompetence, Sir," said Elrond while bowing his head further to the ground.

"Did you already investigate the innermost part of the Ruins?" asked the Great Elder while taking a seat on the nearby chair.

Elrond hesitated for a moment when he heard that before replying. "I'm sorry, Sir. But we still can't break through the defensive formation guarding that place. Our formation architects and other masters are still trying to figure out how to break that formation."

The Great Elder suddenly squinted his eyes when he didn't hear that report that he wanted. And after a few moments of thinking, he suddenly said. "You need to tell them to make haste or else Immortal and his Apostles may strike us before he could even get what is inside it."

He then took a brief pause before mumbling. "If that guy needs us to defend from Undying Guild, then Immortal probably knows what that thing is. And since he chose to hide it alongside the Superior Mana Vein, then it is most probably something with an equal value if not greater."

A moment later, he turned his attention back to Elrond before giving another order to Elrond. "Go contact the boys. Tell them to investigate what's inside that place."

"Eh!?" Elrond was suddenly taken aback when he heard those words which threw him in a dazed state for a moment. And right after recovering himself, he immediately asked. "Are you sure about that, Sir?"

"Isn't it a little early to summon them now? The other elders are going to notice us if I mobilized our private elite group," he added in a nervous tone.

"It's fine. The selection for the next Guild Master is already around the corner, so it is better for us to collect all of the advantages that we can get right now," said the Great Elder before adding with a serious tone. "We need to do everything we can so that our side is going to win."

"If we win this war and take control of this place, then we are most probably going to have a huge advantage in the election with that achievement alone. And if you add ownership of the Superior Mana Vein, our odds of winning are surely going to be the highest among all of the candidates."

Then his eyes suddenly flashed with a deadly glint as he was saying. "And as for the secret of this Ancient Ruins, it is going to be our extra card for the upcoming internal competition."

After that, he stood up once again turned around while crossing his hands behind him. "Go, and do as we plan. Just make sure to not make any mistakes."

"Yes, Sir," responded Elrond before standing up and leaving the tent.

The Great Elder waited for a few more minutes to make sure that Elrond already left the room before opening his friend list. He was planning to contact someone when he suddenly felt that someone suddenly entered the room.

Thinking that it was Elrond, the Great Elder couldn't help but feel displeased and said. "Didn't I tell you not to go start moving? Why are you still here?"

But despite his furious tone, the person who entered the tent didn't respond to him. So, the Great Elder suddenly frowned his eyebrows and planned to turn around.

Unfortunately, he suddenly noticed that he couldn't move his body due to being immobilized by a skill.

Realizing that there was an intruder, he immediately cast a debuff skill on himself with a single thought in mind before quickly using a teleportation skill.

Shing!

But right after he reappeared a few distances away from his previous location, he suddenly heard the whistling sound of a blade cutting through the air.

"Fast!" thought the Great Elder as he leaned his body backward to dodge the incoming strike.

He managed to avoid getting hit by that attack but the tip of the blade still grazed his left cheek and made it bleed a little.

After that, the Great Elder did a couple of hops backward to distance himself away from the intruder.

"Who are you and how did you come in?" he asked with a vicious glare after seeing that the intruder didn't have any intention of chasing after him.

Then he wiped off the blood on his cheek before observing the person standing a few meters away from him.

That person was wearing a slightly tattered cloak that had a dark grey color mixed with some patches of black color on its surface. And the hood of that cloak was hanging over the intruder's head which was why the Great Elder couldn't see his face.

Aside from it, this person was also holding a long scythe while resting it on his shoulder. And his current appearance was giving off a strange aura that could send chills on anyone's back if ever they saw him.

He looked like the incarnation of death due to the cold and heavy atmosphere that was surrounding him. And when the Great Elder saw that, he couldn't help but feel threatened by this person's presence even if he could feel that he was much stronger than him.

"Who are you?" asked the Great Elder once again while wearing a solemn look on his face.

This time, the intruder finally responded to him. "Who I am is not important now. What you should be worrying about is your own life."

The Great Elder couldn't help but feel a little skeptical at this person after hearing those words. "Don't you know who I am?"

But despite the threatening tone that he had, the person in front of him just chuckled at his words while saying. "That's quite amusing. First, you asked me who I am. Then you are now asking me who you are? Interesting."

After that, the intruder raised his head a little and made the shade that was covering his face to be lifted a little. And when his face was now fully revealed for the Great Elder to see.

"You!" The Great Elder was able to instantly identify the intruder after seeing his face. "You are 'Sickarius' of the Saint Heaven Kingdom."

After being taken aback a little, the Great Elder wore a cold look on his face before asking. "But what are you doing here? Did you know who you are provoking right now?"

Hearing that, Shin started chuckling once again before replying. "I see that you really like to ask a lot of questions."

He paused for a moment to throw a flying dagger at the Great Elder, preventing the latter from casting a spell.

"Since you love to know the reason why I am here. Then let me satisfy your curiosity. First, let me tell you that you made a few mistakes just recently," said Shin with a cold tone.

"And I happened to be the errand boy tasked to deliver that message to you," he added while looking at the Great Elder with a sharp glare before counting out a couple of the said mistakes.

"You underestimate 'him' a little too much and you forgot where your temporary command center currently stands. Especially who is currently in control of this place."

On the other hand, the Great Elder started wearing an even more solemn expression as he knew that an unexpected variable suddenly appeared at the crucial time of the war.

Given that he was a part of a Powerhouse Guild, it was easy for him to gather the information regarding the most important news from different Empires and Kingdoms. And among those, there was a certain issue that attracted the attention of every top-ranked Guild of the game – 'the battle outside the walls of Holy City'.

Based on the report, that was quite huge which even involved quite a lot of powerful guilds and other organizations. But what made that topic special was the appearance of a party of four players who caused huge chaos on the battlefield and affected the result of that incident.

The 'Dragon God: Siegfried', 'War God: Simba', and the 'Gentle Goddess: Arielle' – these were the biggest names who appeared on that battlefield.

Given their reputations, a lot of players would surely take notice of them. And because of that reason, the fourth person of their small party caught a lot of attention from different Powerhouses of the game – the 'Emperor of the Night: Sickarius'.

Being linked with three Top-ranked Godlike Players, the Great Elder couldn't help but become wary at Shin. 'If this guy is here, then those three are most probably in this place as well.'

The Great Elder started to have a bad feeling at the current situation which also made him feel some urgency to execute their plan.

Unfortunately, Shin could already read what was running inside the elder's head and said. "Too bad, it is already too late to realize your mistakes now."

"Don't get cocky yet, kid! Do you honestly think that assassinating me is going to be easy?" said the Great Elder while activating all of the insta-cast spells from his arsenal.

But before he could actually do that, he suddenly noticed that he could no longer move his body while his vision was starting to turn dark.

"Unfortunately, you are already a dead man walking," said Shin while watching the dumbfounded look on the Great Elder's face.

He immediately used the sure kill skill of his scythe the moment he saw his opponent about to retaliate.

Death Sentence (Active): After entering the Reaper's State (with Death Scythe), you have the special authority to take someone else's life.

(As long as your Scythe touched their bodies)

Kill Order: 2 times (Sure-Kill Single-Target Skill)

Cooldown: 1 Week (in-game time)

Note: Can only be used on a player.

Note 2: The enemies who became the victim of this skill will enter a weakened state for 1 week (In-game time) when they respawned.

And if both charges were used on the same target, then the victim will not be able to enter the game for 3 days (real-world time).

"And enjoy your vacation time," added Shin as he used the second charge of the skill.

After that, he snapped with his fingers to remove the special barrier that he cast earlier using the formation surrounding the Ancient Ruins. And due to that, the bodies of the players that he killed earlier were now able to start transforming into specks of light.

Walking out of the tent, Shin looked at those lights for a moment before muttering to himself. "Chopped off the head and the whole system will stop working."

He then turned his head towards a certain direction before walking towards it while wearing a solemn expression on his face. "Now, let's start hunting some deers, shall we?"

Chapter 495 Elrond's Trouble And A Strange Phenomenon

...

Elrond was currently caught in a very difficult situation where he could understand what was happening.

He didn't know exactly who they were, but their army within the inner parts of the Ancient Ruin kept on being ambushed by troublesome players.

He did everything he could to take them down and stopped them from creating havoc in their ranks. But no matter how hard they tried to stop the rampage, his people couldn't do anything to their opponents.

One of them was the Nameless Swordsman, who kept on appearing and disappearing inside the Ancient Ruins as he pleased. Moreover, he was always striking them at the most unexpected time and most unpredictable place possible.

Every time he decided to attack, the Centra Order would always suffer a devastating blow that they couldn't easily recover. After all, the next round of the war was initiated just recently, so their fallen comrade couldn't revive themselves unless their priests and shamans revived them or until the war itself had ended.

But the main issue right there was the fact that the Nameless Swordsman would always make sure to take down the priests and shamans in their ranks before shifting his target to the players with range and magic-related classes.

What made their predicament worse, the Nameless Swordsman just took down Immortal recently in a one-on-one battle. And due to that, he was able to strike fear on every player who saw him just by standing near them.

And now that he was showcasing his real battle prowess on the battlefield and created chaos in the ranks of the Central Order people.

With the order given to them, the members of the Central Order tried to fight him and stop him. Unfortunately, the current Shin was too powerful for them that even most of the common Rankers couldn't hold him any longer.

And if ever a strong group of the Titled Rankers appeared, Shin would always smartly take a step back and retreat for the time being before striking another place that was unguarded by those Titled Rankers.

The Titled Rankers couldn't do anything about that issue since Shin was currently in control of the formation surrounding the whole Ancient Ruins. And with Hanzo infusing some of his powers on the formation, Shin was able to teleport wherever he pleased within this place.

Appearing and disappearing like a ghost, Shin gave a lot of headache to the Titled Rankers chasing after him. And because of this, he formulated a plan where they could corner him for an ambush.

Unfortunately, another variable suddenly appeared at this point in time. A mysterious assassin-swordsman made his appearance and ambushed the Titled Rankers in the most unexpected time.

Even if he didn't have the means to wipe them out currently, he was still able to kill one or two of them before retreating safely. And due to that, the Titled Rankers were forced to halt their hunt for the Nameless Swordsman for a few moments to put up their guard against this mysterious opponent.

Unfortunately, the Nameless Swordsman didn't give them the leisure to take things slowly. Whenever they slowed down at hunting him, this troublesome guy would always resume attacking at the same time they were busy looking at their assailant.

With that, the Titled Rankers were forced to chase after the Nameless Swordsman while being on guard against the unknown assassin-swordsman.

After engaging for a few more exchanges, the Titled Rankers were finally able to figure out the identity of this unknown assailant. And after discovering his identity, the commanding officers of the Central Order became even more troubled.

The 'Emperor of the Night: Sickarius', another rising star of the Saint Heaven Kingdom, and was also associated with two of the most troublesome Godlike Players known in the game.

With this discovery, the commanding officers of the Central Order present in the Ancient Ruins got a huge headache since they knew about that fact.

Due to that, Elrond was forced to ask some help from the Great Elder. But the elder was nowhere to be found when he got back to the temporary commanding center. And when he opened his friend list, he discovered that the elder was currently offline which made him think that there was an urgent issue that needed to be dealt with in the real world.

Elrond was tempted to contact the Great Elder due to the pressing issue that they currently had inside the game, but he was too afraid that he would disturb the latter which would lead him to face the wrath of the elder.

Left with no other choice, Elrond was forced to deal with the problem personally. Fortunately, the elite group under the Great Elder's command finally arrived which made him quite hopeful about their current predicament.

But he immediately went back to being troubled when he heard from the leader of the group that they were only here to investigate the matters within the innermost part of the ruins which also meant that they were not going to help him with the current problem that he was facing.

So, after informing Elrond about their arrival, they immediately left to do their personal mission and left Elrond to deal with his own issue.

Due to that, Elrond was forced to recall a few of the Rankers at the outer part of Ancient Ruins who were also leading their forces that were fighting the Undying Guild.

And because of the additional Titled Rankers in their ranks, they were able to at least hold themselves against both the 'Angel of Death' and the 'Emperor of the Night'.

But in exchange, the frontlines on the other side of the battlefield suffered a few losses which led them to be at a great disadvantage and forced their army to retreat time and time again.

"F*ck! What is Elrond doing?! We are going to lose this war if he keeps on recalling our leading players! We are already short-handed, so how does he expect us to win if we are being overwhelmed by our opponents' numbers!?" shouted Legolas out of anger after seeing that his people were being pushed back in battle.

"Tsk! How would I know? I'm here with you all this time, battling these filthy undead maniacs," answered Aragorn who was standing right beside him.

Hearing that, Legolas suddenly gave him a sharp glare before saying. "Battling my *ss. All you did here is stand and laze around while watching them do all the work."

"What's the point of making a move now if our opponents are still not revealing their own cards. So, it is better for me to save my energy for now so that I can fight them later with ease," answered Aragorn nonchalantly.

Meanwhile, the elite group working under the Great Elder managed to sneak through the defensive formation guarding the innermost part of the ruins. But even if they were able to do that, they were still in low spirits since they had to use a few of the special scrolls in their possession just to get past that annoying barrier.

They had spent quite a lot of fortune just to acquire them; some of those scrolls even came from the hidden quest that they completed before. But who would think that they needed to use them just to deal with a 'messy' barrier?

Because of that, they were naturally going to become very annoyed at whoever was behind this formation barrier.

So, with that mood, they entered the corridor right in front of them with a plan of slaughtering whoever was the guy who made them spend those precious scrolls.

They were so fearless when they walked towards that corridor since they were confident about their own strengths. After all, they could still be considered as top experts of the game.

Unfortunately, that corridor was actually a free ticket to the underworld for them as there were a pair of monsters lying in wait inside it and ready to devour them anytime.

They didn't even have the time to scream when they encountered the wild 'Dragon' and hungry 'Beast' waiting within that place; all of them already died before they could even have the time to find who actually killed them.

On the other hand, the pair who just killed them didn't care about their feelings. They even looked pretty much bored when they wiped out the group; it was as if they just killed a housefly fly which was flying inside their house annoying.

"Tsk! For how long are we going to stay here? I'm actually excited when I heard that we may be going to fight quite a few of our acquaintances, but who would have thought that they are just going to send their 'pets' instead?" complained Arthur while sitting on the floor lazily.

Leonard shook his head helplessly when he heard that and said. "What do you expect? Their guilds are still in the middle of a war against each other, so it is natural for them to focus on the war first before casting their attention on this place."

Arthur clicked his tongue when he heard that and refuted. "Tsk! It is true for the Central Order since they are clueless about Shin's real purpose at coming here."

"But it is a different matter when it comes to the Undying Guild. After all, Immortal is aware of the existence of that so-called fallen god and the ceremony that she is undergoing. So, I doubt that he is going to stay still and let Shin get such a powerful Elemental Spirit after being defeated in front of a lot of people."

Leonard nodded his head and agreed with his words since he also knew what kind of person was Immortal. If he couldn't get what he wanted, then he would choose to destroy that thing rather than giving it to someone else.

And while they were currently in the middle of those thoughts, they suddenly felt a sudden burst of powers coming from the hall that they were guarding.

Understanding that the ceremony had finally started, Arthur stood up once again and picked up his weapons before saying. "This is going to be noisy."

Hearing that, Leonard nodded his head repeatedly and added with a smirking tone. "And absolutely lively."

Meanwhile, a strange phenomenon suddenly attracted the attention of everyone who was fighting outside the Ancient Ruins – three pillars of light suddenly shot up towards the sky and pierced through the heavens.

Even if they didn't know what those pillars stood for, all of them were sure that something big was happening inside the Ancient Ruins. And no matter what that phenomenon signified, that kind of scene was bound to arouse the greed within everyone's heart right after seeing it.

Not long after, the news about this strange phenomenon spread throughout the Blind Abyss Empire and attracted the attention of all major powers residing in it.

Meanwhile, the man who initiated this whole event was currently standing at the highest point of the Ancient Ruins and staring at the entire battlefield with his cold eyes.

A moment later, he put his mask on before muttering in a cold tone. "Now, let's see how you are going to deal with this."

After that, he jumped off from that place he was standing on before disappearing in the shadows of the night.

Chapter 496 Preparations And Arrangements

...

Blind Abyss Empire, Death City

A lot of players from different cities were flooding the City Teleportation Hall which made the plaza overcrowded. And due to the sheer number of the arriving players, the 'hunters' who were 'peacefully' doing their jobs, couldn't help but feel helpless since they could no longer rob any targets.

Moreover, most of the players appearing in the Teleportation hall would either be an elite group of players or a very strong Titled Rankers who could properly handle themselves against these robbers.

At first, these players were quite confused why such strong groups of players were arriving in their City. But after learning what happened in the Ancient Ruins, each one of them immediately came into a realization and quickly headed over there.

Due to the healthy imagination of mankind, different kinds of speculations and rumors started to spread both inside the game and the online forums.

Most of them were exaggerated and pretty much impossible to happen. But regardless of those speculations, the fact that the Central Order and Undying Guild were still fighting in that place still remained.

And that reason alone was more than enough to prove that there was something behind that strange phenomenon.

Given that, the other Powerhouse Guilds of the Blind Abyss Empire finally decided to send some of their most elite groups to scout the area – or might even grab whatever was in that place if ever they got the chance to take it.

Aside from that matter, there was another rumor circulating in the official forums of the game. And from what they said, there was a crazy pair of players creating chaos at the ranks of the Central Order people.

At first, the players thought that it was just a made-up story to attract the attention of other players. But when a certain video appeared and showed that it was real, the other players in the forums had no choice but to acknowledge it. Especially when the video clearly showed that duo in action.

'One' of them was the man who recently attracted a lot of attention due to his victory against the Lich God, Immortal. And at this point, he was showcasing a much greater battle prowess compared to his previous battle.

Not only his speed was much faster than before, but his skills were also much deadlier than the ones that he showed during that duel. And now that he had his Awakening Skills, most of the players of the Central Order couldn't do anything to him whenever he appeared on the battlefield.

Aside from the Titled Rankers in their ranks, no other people could stop his continuous assault since the Godlike Players of their guild were currently busy with the forces of the Undying Guild at the other side of the battlefield.

With his wings, he was able to fly around the battlefield while slaughtering all of his enemies that he saw on his way. And even if he was alone, he was still able to kill a lot of his opponents despite being outnumbered and cornered from time to time.

In fact, the fact that he was able to get away from the encirclement of his opponents after killing them was already an amazing feat that made a lot of people speechless.

On the other hand, the other person on this topic was not going to lose in terms of craziness.

Since the Nameless Swordsman was creating havoc at their ranks, the higher-ups of the Central Order would surely send an even stronger group of Titled Rankers to chase after him and hunt him down.

But strange enough, these Rankers who supposedly the hunters of his chasing game became the hunted instead.

While they were busy chasing after the Nameless Swordsman, this person suddenly appeared out of nowhere and killed the first group of hunters in just a few minutes. But that was not the most shocking thing that the people had discovered. Instead, it was the identity of this mysterious assailant.

A lot of people thought that the Nameless Swordsman and Sickarius were rivals due to the intense battle between them when they still not as famous as they were now.

But after seeing that these two were currently helping each other and fighting side by side, the players of Saint Heaven Kingdom feel disappointed yet also excited at the same time.

The sight of the 'Angel of Death' and 'Emperor of the Night' fighting against a Powerhouse Guild was too satisfying for the players of the Kingdom since most of them were independent players.

And their admiration towards these rising stars was further intensified when they saw the stunning scenery of the 'two' battling at the same time.

The sight of the 'Angel of Death' hovering in the air with his black angelic wings alongside the pair of werewolves growling below him, was a scene that gave them a goosebump.

They even forgot to think why these two were currently present in this war. Moreover, battling the Central Order instead of Undying Guild since the Nameless Swordsman and Immortal were now surely mortal enemies right after the duel earlier.

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Meanwhile, in the real world, there was a person reading a report about this matter full of suspicion in her eyes.

Shiella was currently in deep thought after reading the entire report. She was already suspicious about the identity of this Nameless Swordsman, which was the reason why she was keeping an eye on every news related to this man.

Due to that, she sent quite a few of her people to investigate him. Unfortunately, all of those investigations were fruitless. Not only they didn't dig up anything about him, but they also couldn't identify where he came from.

He was like a ghost who suddenly appeared out of nowhere before disappearing like he never had existed.

Moreover, every time he made an appearance, the official forums of the game would always go crazy because of the news about him. It was as if he was announcing to the world that he came back.

At some point, Shiella even asked a favor from her close friend, Cold Moon, to help her investigate. But just like before, they also failed to dig up anything about him even after mobilizing some of the best agents of the Assassin Union.

Left with no other choice, Shiella could only make some speculations herself by connecting all of the reports that she got. And her first conclusion was Shin and this mysterious swordsman were the same person.

After all, that thought was quite plausible since the Nameless Swordsman suddenly appeared when Shin just joined the game.

Moreover, the battle style and habits of the two were completely similar. Alongside it, Shin was always missing whenever the Nameless Swordsman was around. And when 'Sickarius' was present, the latter was nowhere to be found.

Unfortunately, she was immediately proven wrong when a certain battle video appeared before she could even finalize her conclusion. And that video was 'Shin' fighting the 'Nameless Swordsman' in a short but intense battle.

But not long after, Shiella immediately went back with this suspicion when they thought about the fact that 'both players' possessed a skill to summon a powerful Clone with a pretty high AI.

And if Shin had the means to let his clone borrow some of his equipment, then things were going to be much simpler to explain.

When Shiella focused her thoughts on this, the dots that she was looking at started to connect themselves which gave her a much clearer view of what was going on. And it would further explain why the previous 'battle' of the two was quite short.

But when things started to become clear to her, another piece of 'evidence' suddenly appeared at this point in time; and proved her 'wrong' once again.

In the ongoing battle in the Ancient Ruins of the Blind Abyss Empire, both the 'Nameless Swordsman' and her dear brother appeared at the same time. Moreover, they were already battling the Central Order people for quite some time already.

So, even if she was unwilling to believe it, she had no choice but to admit that she was 'wrong' for another time. After all, she had never heard of a Clone that could last almost forever, much less a strong Clone that could battle a skilled group of Titled Rankers on their own.

Given that, Shiella decided to drop the matter for now and leave it for the time being. But that didn't mean that she was not interested in the truth behind this ongoing war. So, she decided to contact Arthur for some information after some hesitation.

Click!

And right after Arthur answered the call unwillingly, he immediately wore his brightest smile despite wearing his helm to hide his face. "Yeah, Big Sis? Did you need anything? As you can see, I'm quite busy right now."

"Don't play dumb. I know that you and Leonard are also in the Blind Abyss Empire," said Shiella instantly, making the smile on Arthur's face turned stiff.

"Since you are 'too' busy, let me go straight to the point – why are you guys in there?" she added while crossing her in front of her.

Arthur knew what those gestures meant, so he immediately answered 'truthfully'. "Well, let's say that we are commissioned to assist our friend for a certain quest. As for the details, I can't disclose it since I'm bound with the system contract."

Shiella was quite suspicious of his words. But since she couldn't see the expression on his face due to the helm that he was currently wearing, she was unable to tell whether he was telling the truth or not.

So, she asked another question instead. "Then do you know why the Central Order and Undying Guild are trying so hard just to take control of that place?"

Arthur hesitated for a moment before deciding to ask Shiella a question instead of answering hers. "Before that, can I ask you if you can send some large wagons that can be used for mass transportation?"

"If they have some mass teleportation abilities then it is going to be even more perfect," he added while turning his head at Leonard who was behind the virtual screen.

Hearing that, Shiella couldn't help but frown her eyebrows before asking. "What does it have to do with what I asked you? What do you need those magical wagons for?"

"I'm actually not in the position to answer that, Big Sis. All I can tell you is we are currently in the middle of an important deal," answered Arthur almost instantly before quickly adding. "And if you tell us that you can send such wagons then we are going to be in a huge advantage."

"Then how about you tell me about the details of this first before I decide whether to send such machines or not?" said Shiella with a knitted brow.

And when Arthur heard that, he immediately started grinning behind his helm while looking at Leonard who was giving him an OK sign.

Then he started explaining everything to Shiella while cursing Shin inside. 'D*mn! You, Shin! How come you predicted this far.'

Chapter 497 Preparations And Arrangements (Part 2)

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Shin went to a secluded place to take a quick rest after his continuous attack at his enemies. He barely found this small window to relax, so he was doing everything he could to take advantage of it.

"Hu! Arthur should be doing what I asked them now, so I need to wrap this up quickly," muttered Shin as he took a seat on a broken wall nearby.

At the same time, his Moon and Sun Clones also took a seat not far from him. They were currently wearing the replica of his [Dusk and Dawn Equipment Set] that he was using when he was 'Sickarius'.

Earlier, he decided to let his clones disguised as 'Sickarius' since they were not going to disappear as long as they didn't die. The only risk about doing that was the fact that they were also wearing a mask similar to his own. Though, one of them was wearing a mask with a smiling face while the other wore a crying face.

Fortunately, he could hide it from being seen since they could transform to their werewolf forms using the skills of the equipment set.

Before, the Sun and Moon Clones were limited to use his sun and moon-related skills respectively. And they could only access all of his skills if he fused them to become the Eclipse Clone, including his equipment skills.

Because of this, he was forced to upgrade his mask using the Special Enhancement Stone from the rewards that he got from his previous quest where they rescued the real King of the Holy City.

After that upgrade, the [Nephilim's Gemini Mask] didn't gain a new ability. But it at least got an upgrade on every skill that it had.

Item Name: [Nephilim's Gemini Mask]

Item Type: Head Gear

Rank: Special (Race and Class Specific Item)

Stats:

+500 to all stats

Details: This item is specially created for Nephilim. And if a Nephilim equipped this item, they were able to completely hide their identity and information from other beings.

Requirements:

Can only be wear by 'Nephilim'

Additional Abilities:

1. Spirit Release: Summon 2 copies of yourself where each was wielding the powers of the Sun and Moon respectively and had 100% of all your Stats.

They could also use all of your skills aside from the Eclipse Series and Slayer Skills related to the opposing element that they had.

Note: The Clones could last until they depleted their Health Bars or unless you unsummon them.

Cooldown: 6 hours

2. Spirit Fusion: Fuse the Sun and Moon Clones and transform them into Eclipse Clone that could wield all of your skills, equipment skills included.

Note: This Clone had 200% of your stats.

Note 2: This Clone could only last for a certain amount of time or until it exhausted all of its HP.

Duration: 1 hour

Cooldown: Default

3. Spirit Possession: Fuse the Eclipse Clone with your body to gain a 200% increase on your stats and 300% on your movement speed.

Note: This skill could put you in a double weakened state if you used it with another Berserk Skill or Movement Boosting Skills.

Duration: 30 minutes

Cooldown: Default

While Shin was taking a break, he was also studying the flow of the battle outside by looking at the real-time projection of the war through the virtual screen in front of him. And from what he could see, the Central Order was currently at a great disadvantage since they were being pushed back repeatedly.

"Hmm... If this goes on, then those guys will have no other choice but to retreat inside the formation," muttered Shin while looking at the 3D projection in front of him.

A moment later, he started shaking his head repeatedly before mumbling. "Too bad, they could no longer re-enter the formation the moment they got out."

Then he suddenly remembered Legolas who seemed to be leading the defending force outside the formation. "What a shame. I somehow like that guy – it is quite easy to talk about business with him."

After that, he started organizing his inventory to see how many potions he had left before looking at the digital clock that was indicating the current progress of his quest.

"Tsk! There are still 2 hours left? Why do I feel that time keeps on getting slower?" he muttered before getting ready for another round of slaughtering his enemies.

But before he could even walk out from his hiding place, he suddenly received a call from Arthur. "That's quite fast."

"How is it?" asked Shin immediately after answering the call.

"Tsk! You better not get caught later or else all of us are dead – real-world or in-game doesn't matter," said Arthur the moment he heard Shin's nonchalant tone.

And after a quick pause, he immediately added. "I heard that she beat the Junior Monster of the Leon Tribe one-sidedly."

Then Arthur's chatty attitude was suddenly awoken and about to start saying whatever entered his head. But before he could even open his mouth, Shin immediately shut him up by saying. "I asked you what happened."

"Tsk! Boring as always," muttered Arthur before continuing. "Anyway, everything goes just like you have expected. In fact, it is much smoother than we are expecting."

Hearing that, Shin suddenly raised his eyebrow a little before asking. "So, when are they going to arrive in the designated spot?"

Arthur thought for a moment before replying. "Well, that is something that I am not sure. Big Sis only said that she can send such wagons that we are looking for. But she said that they need to check the location first before sending them."

"After all, those kinds of machinery cost quite a lot of fortune. So, they need to find a safe place to transport them first."

Then Shin fell in deep thought after hearing that before muttering with a soft voice. "We still have 2 hours left to complete the ceremony."

"That is quite long for us who are going to defend it. But it is too short for Big Sis and her crew since they need to get as many Mana Stones as they can."

Seeing the trouble look on Shin's face, Arthur suddenly grinned from ear to ear before saying with a mysterious tone. "You don't have to worry about that since it is not our job. What's more, this kind of situation is one of the specialties of the 'Hand of Midas Guild'."

"You will be shocked when you fully understand their true capabilities," he added sneeringly.

Shin remained silent as he could feel a little uneasy after hearing that. But since he couldn't pinpoint what exactly was bothering him, he could only hold that thought for now and proceed to the current matter at hand.

"Since that is the case, we need to focus on our current task. Just contact me immediately if something unexpected comes up," he said before quickly hanging up.

Meanwhile, in the Teleportation Hall of the Death City, Shiella and her group finally arrived in the city after making some preparations on their side.

Right after arriving, the group immediately noticed that the tense atmosphere surrounding the whole place.

Whistle~♪

"Are these guys holding a funeral? What's with the heavy atmosphere?" said Tinker the moment he sensed the gloomy feeling looming around the hall.

"Where is the 'coffee party' then?" asked Black Hammer with a sarcastic tone.

Realizing that the two were going to start bickering each other once again, Shiella immediately shut them up by saying. "We are here for business, so you two better watch your attitudes and don't attract any attention later. Or else, I will deduct all of the losses that we are going to suffer on your incomes."

Both Tinker and Black Hammer immediately shut their mouths as they could gamble anything with each other but not their monthly payment, especially if it was a deduction from their guild leader.

After making sure that these two troublemakers were going to behave themselves, Shiella turned her head to the other side before asking. "How are the others? Are they already in their positions?"

Hearing that, Delusive Smile immediately nodded her head and answered. "Yes, Young Miss. The other already checked the place ahead of time, so there is nothing to worry about."

"So, how is it? Anything to take note of?" Shiella asked while starting to walk towards the exit of the Teleportation Hall.

Delusive Smile nodded her head once again before answering. "Everything seemed to be fine so far. The other Powerhouses are too focused on the war at the Ancient Ruins just like what we are expecting. But to make sure that we haven't overlooked anything, I send our best scouts to survey the surroundings."

"Good," said Shiella before silently leading the group to walk out of the Teleportation Hall.

But when the group set their feet out of the exit, they immediately halted their steps as they sensed a lot of hostile gazes locked at them.

Whistle~♪

"This is not our fault, right?" said Tinker while trying to locate all of the owners of those gazes.

"We haven't done anything yet, so it is definitely not our fault," replied Black Hammer while nodding his head.

On the other hand, Shiella took a helpless sigh before saying to the others. "Alright, I'll take back what I said earlier. Just make sure to make it quick since we still have a lot of work that we need to do."

Hearing those words, the group suddenly started grinning under the shade of their hoods before slowly moving forward. And from the aura that their bodies were currently emitting, a bloodbath seemed to be going to happen soon, and a huge one at that.

Chapter 498 Operation Extracting Everything

...

An hour before Shin's mission came to an end, Shiella and her group finally arrived at the place that Shin had designated.

"Young Miss," greeted by one of the scouts waiting in the area.

"What's the situation?" asked Shiella right after arriving.

"Everything seems fine, Young Miss. There shouldn't be any problem aside from the few scouts from the Central Order and Undying Guild guarding the entrance of the cave," replied the scout.

"And the Nameless Swordsman?" asked Shiella while knitting her brow.

Her subordinate was about to reply at her when a sudden voice suddenly interrupted them. "Looks like I just arrived on time."

Hearing the familiar voice, Shiella immediately turned her head towards its owner before saying. "We are currently short in time, so let's go straight to business."

Shin, who was currently using his Nameless Swordsman disguise, walked out from the shades of the tree and revealed himself to the group.

He took a quick look at each member of the group and saw quite a few familiar faces. After that, he turned his head at Shiella before asking. "So, should we start doing business now, Guild Leader Snow White?"

"First, we need to find a way to enter that cave without being noticed by the scouts guarding it," replied Shiella while crossing her arms in front of her.

Hearing that, Shin suddenly smirked for a moment before replying with a confident tone. "That shouldn't be a problem."

Then he snapped with his fingers and created a void gate behind him before saying. "Follow me."

After that, he turned around and entered the void gate. And when the other saw that, they immediately followed after him with Shiella leading them.

When they stepped out of the void gate, they were immediately greeted by a scene that they couldn't believe.

The huge Mana Vein was one thing but seeing it alongside a group of strange humanoid monsters on a whole other level. Especially when those monsters were currently holding different kinds of mining tools and busily extracting a lot of Mana Stones from it.

"What the heck?" blurted out by Black Hammer after seeing the scene in front of them.

"What the hell are these guys?" added Tinker when he saw how organized the group of monsters was working.

"I'm sorry, I have no choice but to let them work for the time being since we are currently short in time," said Shin while looking at the group.

He was not expecting to be praised or something. But from the tone of his voice, he seemed to be quite smug at it.

But instead of hearing some praise, he suddenly heard an angry voice coming from the group saying.
"What have you done! How dare you let those filthy beings handle the extraction of the mana stones!"

Shin knitted his eyebrows behind the mask when he heard that before looking at the owner of the voice.

The person took off the hood hanging over his head, revealing his face. He seemed to be a young man in his early twenties and had black hair. He looked average compared to the looks of Shin and the others, but at least he looked quite decent when compared to average-looking people.

In short, he looked like a pretty average guy when it comes to physical appearance alone. But Shin knew that he shouldn't underestimate this guy despite his outer look. After all, he was in Shiella's group.

Then Shin watched the guy running towards the group of monsters, trying to see how they were extracting the Mana Stones from the huge Vein or if ever they ruined it while mining them.

"I'm sorry about that. He is just that passionate when it comes to doing his job," said Shiella in a helpless tone.

Meanwhile, Shin just waved his hand, indicating that it was not a big deal. Though, he was still trying to ask about the identity of that guy by pointing his thumb at him.

Understanding his actions, Shiella immediately introduced him to Shin. "Sorry for the late introduction. He is Walsh, our guild's chief miner. And he is quite sensitive when it comes to mining."

Hearing that, Shin raised his head eyebrows a little when he heard that. 'Another chief of the guild? From what I heard, each one of their Chiefs has their own style of battles. Moreover, they are as strong as Godlike Players based on what Arthur had said. I wonder what kind of battle style this guy has.'

Shin was in the middle of his thoughts when Walsh suddenly shouted out loud. "What!?"

Hearing that, the other members of the group simultaneously turned their heads towards his direction. Though, they already had an idea in mind what he wanted to say.

But what they heard was completely different from what they were expecting. "How come these Mana Stones were undamaged?"

"Eh!?" the others were quite confused at his words. They were thinking that this guy was going to complain, so they couldn't help but walked towards him to see what it was.

Standing beside him, they watched Walsh checking each of the Mana Stones extracted by the humanoid creatures from the Mana Vein. And from the look on his face, he seemed to be really shocked at what he was seeing.

"How come they managed to extract all of these perfectly? It seems like these Mana Stones are being mined by my people," muttered Walsh full of disbelief.

Seeing that, they also took a Mana Stone from the trolley, trying to inspect it curiously. And while they were doing that, Walsh turned his head at Shin and asked impatiently. "What are these guys? Your summons? If so, how can they extract these Mana Stones perfectly?"

Shin just shrugged his shoulders when he heard that before replying nonchalantly. "First, you are right, they are monster summons. But they are not mine."

He paused for a moment and pointed towards a corner in the cave while saying. "They are his summons. So, if you want to ask something about them, then you better ask him instead. But if you asked me personally, I guess those monsters were undead created from the corpses of some miners from the nearby grave."

Walsh didn't even wait for Shin to complete what he was saying as he was already running towards Chaotic Luck.

Meanwhile, Shin just ignored him before turning his head at Shiella. "Can you guys handle this place on your own, right?"

Hearing that, Shiella raised her eyebrows a little before asking. "You're leaving already? Are you not going to check how are we going to extract these Mana Stones and take them out of this place?"

"It doesn't matter. I heard from A-... Siegfried that this is one of your guild's specialties, so I'm confident that there is nothing to worry about," answered Shin almost immediately.

"Do you guys need anything else? Or should I go now?" he quickly asked when he saw the frown on Shiella's face.

Shiella was silent for a moment before replying. "We're fine. You can leave this place to us and finish up your quest. You also don't have to worry about the scouts outside. Now that we got inside, getting out here is not going to be a problem."

"You don't need any teleportation formation," asked Shin.

"There's no need for that. We have our own means for that," answered Shiella.

Hearing her confident tone, Shin just shrugged his shoulders and opened a void gate behind him while saying. "I'm off then," before entering the void gate behind him without any intention of staying in this place anymore due to Shiella's presence.

Shiella stared at the closing void gate for a couple of seconds with her squinting eyes before turning her head at the busy group. "Alright, that's enough of fooling around. We only have less than an hour left to extract as many Mana Stones as we can, so start working your *sses now and do some work."

Hearing her words, the others immediately stopped what they were doing before doing their respective roles.

Tinker immediately looked for a secluded corner and started taking out a lot of metal pieces of different sizes. And from their appearances, they looked like a bunch of gears and parts of certain machinery.

Meanwhile, Black Hammer helped him put those metal pieces together as if they were assembling something from it.

On the other hand, the others were also doing the same as them while the remaining group was inspecting the walls of the cave before inscribing some strange runes on it.

"I originally planned to bring my subordinates here. But since your summoned monsters are quite capable, then this is going to be much easier than what I have expected," said Walsh to Chaotic Luck while taking out a lot of mining tools from his inventory one by one.

Then he looked at Lich with sparkling eyes while saying. "Give these mining tools to your monsters and follow my instructions. And if things go too well, then I think we can suck this Mana Vein dry."

And with all of that, the 'Operation Extracting Everything' had finally started.

Chapter 499 Against Their Ranks

...

Blind Abyss Empire, Ancient Ruins

The Undying Guild finally pushed the Central Order to the corner and forced them to initiate a full retreat.

Legolas, who was leading the forces that were facing the Undying Guild Army, had no other choice but to order all of their forces to retreat towards the nearby forest since he knew that could no longer re-enter the defensive formation now that they turned their backs at the Nameless Swordsman.

And since there were no enemies blocking their path, the Undying Guild forces could now freely attack the defensive formation protecting the inner part of the Ancient Ruins.

Seeing that, the remaining army of the Central Order inside the Ancient Ruins also decided to yield since they all knew that there was no point in continuing this losing battle anymore.

So, they also chose to immediately retreat instead of suffering more losses from battling the Nameless Swordsman and Sickarius.

All they could do right now was to reunite with the Legolas and others before heading towards the site where the Superior Mana Vein was located.

At this point in time, the only thing that they could do was to extract as many Mana Stones and Crystals as possible from that Mana Vein.

Naturally, Immortal was fully aware of such an obvious move, so he sent a detachment from their main army to chase after the fleeing army of their enemies and another detachment to circle around the latter to set an ambush.

On the other hand, the other Powerhouses who were waiting for the outcome of the war also saw that scene. And that sight made them hesitate whether they want to continue their plans or observe the situation a little more.

They thought that they just made their moves right in time – but the moment they arrived at the Ancient Ruins, they were immediately greeted by the sight of the Central Order being slaughtered by the members of the Undying Guild.

And seeing such a brutal scene forced them to halt their steps and continue to watch from the sideline.

Meanwhile, Shin was currently watching all of that from the highest point of the Ancient Ruins where a broken steeple was located.

He was watching the undead monsters assaulting the barrier created by the defensive formation with all their might. And from what he could see, each of those undead monsters was as strong as High-level Overlords; there were even some that were as strong as King Class monsters.

Knitting his eyebrows, Shin couldn't help but feel a little trouble as he was not sure how they were going to deal with this current situation.

The whole formation was being attacked from every direction which made the barrier tremble very intensely. Sooner or later, the barrier protecting the place was going to collapse, and these hordes of monsters were going to swarm at the whole place with unstoppable force.

Thinking about this, Shin immediately sunk in deep thought to find a good solution for their current predicament. "There were only 30 minutes left before the ceremony became complete. That is quite short but I am not sure if it is enough."

"Based on the current state of the outer barrier, it is going to be destroyed around 10-15 minutes from now. And that will leave us another 15 minutes to defend the hall at the very least," he added after taking another look at the huge dome-shaped barrier.

"If I put it that way, then it is more than enough for us to complete this mission. But the problem was Immortal himself and his Apostles. I'm sure they also have a special means to get through the second barrier guarding the innermost part of the ruins just like those guys who broke through earlier."

"With Hanzo's help, the outer barrier is able to reject any kind of spatial teleportation skills that are trying to sneak inside it, but it is a different case for the inner barrier since it is a stand-alone barrier whose only job is to defend. We barely managed to modify it with our Hanzo's current powers, so it can't reject any kind of high-leveled spatial teleportation skills."

Shin further squinted his eyes while watching the army of undead and necromancers outside the barrier before teleporting himself back inside the corridor where Arthur and Leonard were waiting.

"Yo! Still bored?" asked Shin right after walking out the void gate.

Hearing that, Arthur gave him a sharp glare before complaining at Shin with full of annoyance. "Yo, my *ss. You monopolized all of the fun on yourself and didn't leave anything for us. Do you know that we are about to die in boredom here?"

Shin just chuckled softly when he heard that before replying. "Who would have thought that Immortal is not going to send his apostles straight to here? I'm expecting him to send at least a couple of them despite the presence of the special defensive formation surrounding the ruins."

"Heh! You are underestimating that guy's strategic thinking a little too much. You may have outsmarted him a couple of times earlier, but you can't expect him to fall into your traps repeatedly. He is not ranked at the Godly Strategists List of the game for no reason," sneered Arthur while taking a more comfortable position on his deck chair that nobody knew where it came from.

The corner of Shin's mouth suddenly twitched the moment he took notice of that chair. 'Where the heck did this guy get that thing from? Don't tell me he always brings such things wherever he goes, even inside the game?'

Meanwhile, Leonard immediately changed the topic the moment he noticed Shin's sudden change of mood. "So, how is the situation outside?"

Hearing him, Shin immediately took a deep breath to collect his thoughts before answering. "It is still manageable so far. But the outer barrier can only hold out for 15 minutes at most. And once it was broken, I'm sure that Immortal and few of his Apostles are going to arrive here immediately after."

This time, Leonard and Arthur suddenly turned serious as they were fully aware of the gravity of their current situation. And when Shin sensed the sudden change in their current moods, he immediately asked. "What do you think?"

"It is indeed going to be troublesome, but it is not going to be impossible if our only job is to guard this place. And if we go all out, we can at least hold our ground against them within the time you have estimated," said Leonard while falling in deep thought.

"And if they are only going to send a few of Immortal's Apostles, then our odds of winning are not that low," added Arthur noddingly.

Hearing their thoughts, Shin immediately said. "Since the Central Order chose to head at the location of the Superior Mana Vein, I'm sure that Immortal is going to send at least 5 of his apostles to chase after them since Legolas and the other Godlike Players of their guilds are still alive."

"If he didn't send at least that number of his apostles, then Immortal can forget about stopping the Central Order from reaching the Mana Vein. After all, Legolas and his fellow Godlike Players are not that weak," he added after a slight pause.

On the other hand, Arthur was still lost in his thoughts, thinking about their possible opponents. A moment later, he suddenly said. "Immortal at least has 12 Apostles in total. So, if he is really going to send 5 of them to chase after the members of the Central Order, then that will only leave us with 7 apostles to deal with."

"But our problem is who among the Apostles are going to lead the army detachments and who are the ones that are going to face us."

"If we are going to face them with the first three direct Apostles alongside Immortal, then this is going to be even more problematic than what we can think off," he added with a heavy tone.

Hearing that, Leonard suddenly turned quiet once again since he understood what Arthur was implying.

On the other hand, Shin was quite clueless about what they were talking about. After all, he was still a complete rookie compared to these two.

Moreover, both of them were veterans who played quite a lot of games already. So, it was natural for them to be familiar with fellow experts of the game.

Due to that, Shin left the two for the time being to give them some time to think.

A few moments later, Arthur turned his head at his brother before asking. "Do you think you can handle Immortal on your own?"

"Of course, I am not asking you to defeat him. All you need to do is to hold him for as long as you can while we are dealing with his Apostles," he added immediately to clarify his question.

Hearing that, Shin just shrugged his shoulders while saying nonchalantly. "I'm not sure about that. After all, I still can't tell the exact difference between our strengths."

"But at least, I'm pretty sure that I'm still not his match based on our previous battle. Especially when he summons that giant dragon of his," he added with a helpless tone.

Arthur couldn't help but knit his brow when heard that since it was rare for Shin to admit that he couldn't defeat someone.

"Then just summon your own majestic dragon," he said with full of contempt. He was still jealous of Shin for being able to summon such a badass dragon

Shin felt even more helpless when he heard. "Too bad, I can't do that. I was only able to summon that Eclipse Dragon due to the special circumstances of that duel. So, I'm afraid that I can no longer summon it again – at least, for now."

Arthur could only take a helpless sigh after hearing those words before complaining to himself. 'Such a lucky b*st*rd! He is always getting all of the good stuff unintended.'

After that, he turned his head at Leonard before saying. "Then that leaves you to take that job. Stall that lunatic for now and let me babysit this guy," while pointing at Shin.

"Babysit your face!" refuted Shin with words but didn't complain about the suggestion.

After that, the three of them started formulating a last-minute plan on how they were going to face their opponents.

.....

Meanwhile, outside the Ancient Ruins, the outer barrier finally collapsed at the 13-minute mark just like what Shin had estimated. And due to that, the army of undead quickly swarmed inside the ruins like a horde of hungry beasts. They razed the whole place to the ground as they didn't care about the ruined structures blocking their path.

A few moments later, the charging army of undead was blocked by another defensive formation. Seeing that, the Necromancers of the Undying Guild quickly ordered their undead monsters to halt their charge.

With that, Immortal walked towards the forefront of their army and stared at the formation barrier with a deep frown on his face. "Such a meticulous fellow."

But he immediately smirked after a moment before muttering to himself. "But I wonder how are you going to stop us with the few of you alone."

He then turned his head to the side, looking at one of his subordinates over his shoulders before giving out his command. "You guys can start attacking this annoying barrier now."

After that, Immortal took out a special scroll from his inventory before saying. "Meanwhile, you twelve are coming with me. You can deal with the other two but leave that annoying pest to me."

"I have a score to settle with him," he added while suddenly releasing a flash of killing intent from his eyes.

And that was when he ripped the scroll on his hands, teleporting himself and the twelve hooded figures surrounding him beyond the barrier blocking their path.

Right after appearing on the other side of the barrier, Immortal immediately gave out his order to the group. "Make sure to do it right this time. We can't afford to suffer yet another humiliation."

Chapter 500 The Final Showdown

...

Shin immediately noticed the foreign auras invading the innermost part of the Ancient Ruins when Immortal bypassed the defensive formation guarding the entrance. At the same time, there was also a group of 12 powerful individuals surrounding him.

"Tsk! Looks like you guys are right. I indeed underestimated Immortal's decisiveness and care for his reputation," said Shin with a solemn tone while looking at the entrance of the corridor.

Arthur and Leonard were somewhat taken aback at his words since they couldn't exactly get the meaning of his words. But when they also felt the powerful auras moving towards their direction, they immediately understood what he was talking about.

"Now, we really are caught in a troublesome situation," said Arthur while getting up from his deck chair while picking up his weapons.

At the same time, Leonard also took out a pair of war-axes from his inventory before asking the other two. "So, are we still going with our initial plan?"

"No, let's scrap all of that and go with Arthur's initial suggestion," answered Shin immediately while summoning his Eclipse Clone once again and letting them use his 'Sickarius' identity for another time.

"The fact that Immortal brings all of his apostles right now can only mean a single thing, they don't care about anything else but take the three of us down. And his sole target is me," he added as he switched back his items to the [Apocalypse Equipment Set] alongside the [Yamato] and [Dawn's Mantle].

He then turned his head toward the two before asking. "You two are going to be fine, right?"

Both Leonard and Arthur found that question funny despite Shin only asked about that out of concern.

"I already told you, if our only job is to defend this place and not to defeat them, then we can assure you that we can at least do that much. It is going to be hard but not impossible," answered Leonard while holding out his laughter.

"Heh! You should be worrying about yourself since you are going to deal with that lunatic alone," said Arthur with a sneering tone.

"Don't worry, since Immortal is showing some impatience by doing such a rush decision, then I can at least use it to my advantage," said Shin sneeringly before quickly adding. "All I need to do is to stay alive until the ceremony is done or until Big Sis and the others accomplish their task. Anything after that is all up to us whether we are going to continue fighting them or retreat."

"How does it sound?" he asked while looking at the entrance of the corridor.

"Sounds good to me," said Arthur without any hesitation.

"Since you two finally decided, then I have no other choice but to go with you, right?" said Leonard with a helpless tone and bitter smile.

At that point, the three of them were now able to see the silhouettes of the incoming group. Each of those figures was emitting a very strong aura that would not lose to Arthur and Leonard.

Seeing that, the expression on Shin's face suddenly turned solemn. He couldn't help but feel worried at the two now that he saw how strong their opponents were.

But with their current predicament, all he could do was to trust them and worry about himself. After all, his opponent was the one with the strongest aura among the group. And based on the killing intent that Immortal was emitting, Shin could immediately tell that this was going to be a real pain in the *ss.

Taking a deep breath, Shin locked his gaze at Immortal before saying to the two. "I'm off!"

Right after those words left his mouth, the surrounding space seemed to become distorted for a moment due to Hanzo manipulating the void.

Snap!

And with a flick of Shin's fingers, the power of the formation suddenly locked on Immortal in an instant.

Immortal was taken aback by the sudden appearance of spatial distortion around him. But he still managed to remain calm since he knew that it was only due to the activation of a teleportation skill and not planning to put direct harm at him.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

In the very next instant, Shin and his clones alongside Immortal simultaneously disappeared from their respective positions and reappeared on an open field in the outer part of the Ancient Ruins.

Immortal's Apostles didn't even flinch despite seeing their guild leader's sudden disappearance. Their eyes were solely locked on the two figures standing a few meters away from them.

A few moments later, one of them suddenly walked forward and stood at the forefront of the group before saying with a commanding tone. "Go!"

Hearing his order, the other Apostles immediately made their respective move and charged towards Arthur and Leonard without any hint of hesitation.

During their charge, two of the Apostles suddenly accelerated forward and left the others behind. And while they were running, both of them immediately used their transformation skills from the get-go.

One of them called out a group of skeletons from the ground before attaching them to his body, transforming himself into a two-meter humanoid monster covered with armor made of bones.

On the other hand, the other apostle who was charging alongside that bone-armored guy released a dense black smoke from his body. And after a moment, the black smoke surrounding him suddenly transformed into a set of full-body armor and a huge greatsword.

Meanwhile, the apostles behind them chanted out a series of necromantic words to cast some buffs on the two leading their charge.

"Tsk! They sure are rude as always. They didn't even bother to greet an old acquaintance." muttered Arthur the moment he saw the incoming group.

But he quickly assumed a battle position before muttering with a soft voice. "It is your time to shine, Oceana."

Quickly after he said those words, a blue-colored speck of light floated up behind him before transforming into a figure of a serpent dragon with ocean-blue scales and razor-sharp fins running on its back.

Roar!

That dragon released a deafening roar for a moment before fusing with Arthur in the very next instant.

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Ocean Dragon): Tide Bringer'

After that, the full-body armor that Arthur was wearing suddenly got a drastic change. Its color suddenly turned into a deep blue with the same golden lining on its edges. At the same time, the plating of his armor also became like the scales of the fish.

Meanwhile, his weapons also took a sudden transformation. His spear became a trident while his round shield changed into a kite-shaped shield that could cover his entire arm including his upper shoulders if he held it horizontally.

At the same time, his crimson cape suddenly disappeared as a long tail of a serpent extended out from the back of his waist.

After his transformation, Arthur's eyes under his helm suddenly flashed with a cold light as he activated one of his Elemental Skills.

'Elemental Skill (Ocean Dragon): Perfect Replication'

Then the water came out of the ground before turning into a transparent humanoid figure that stood beside Arthur. A moment later, it suddenly transformed into a clone that looked exactly like himself.

Without further ado, the two of them immediately charged at the incoming duo and stopped them from their charge.

Bang! Bang!

And right after they halted the apostles, the two 'Arthurs' simultaneously thrust their tridents forward to force their respective opponents to take a couple of steps backward.

On the other hand, another pair from the ranks of their opponents rushed out of their group before launching themselves at Arthur and this clone.

Their speeds were quite fast as they didn't have any plan to give Arthur to respond. And given that with their current speed, they were able to arrive in front of their targets in no time before thrusting their weapons forward.

But no matter how fast they were, it didn't mean they could catch Arthur with a simple attack like that.

Splash! Splash!

Their weapons managed to pierce through their target's body. But right after getting hit by those, Arthur and his clone suddenly transformed into a pair of translucent figures that let the weapons pass through their bodies.

And quickly after that, those figures suddenly transformed into a bunch of tentacles made of water that wrapped themselves around the bodies of the two apostles, preventing them from moving anywhere.

The moment their bodies were locked in place, a deafening bestial roar suddenly exploded in front of them while being accompanied by a powerful shockwave.

Leonard, who was standing behind Arthur earlier, finally used one of his skills the moment he saw that chance.

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Havoc Howl'

Boom!

Unfortunately, that shockwave was blocked by a sturdy energy wall made of dark elements and saved the pair of apostles from being hit by it.

At the same time, the bone-armored guy earlier, finally able to regain his footing and quickly freed his teammates from being entangled by the water tentacles.

A moment after that, the apostles immediately regrouped themselves and looked at the duo with an aggressive look on their faces.

Meanwhile, Arthur and Leonard were standing side by side while staring back at them with calm gazes.

"You guys sure have a unique way of greeting someone," said Arthur with a sneering tone.

"So, how about you try our own method of greeting?" he asked as quickly assumed a battle-ready position.

BOOM!

Then a powerful aura was released from his body while saying with a provoking tone. "I'm pretty sure that you guys are going to like it."