

Destiny 531

Chapter 531 Sky Island (Part 3): The War Behind The Scenes

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While everyone was pretty occupied at catching Arthur and Leonard, there was a certain group of players who were also busy taking down the elite groups from the Powerhouse Guilds and other organizations.

The trio of Shin, Cloe, and Chaotic Luck was currently doing this job in the fastest and sneakiest way possible.

The three of them managed to arrive at this place via special means. Instead of passing the test provided by the Keepers of the Sky Island, they went through the gate provided by the man with the Three-Headed snake.

This certain way of arriving on Sky Island was meant for the Black Nagas accompanying the mysterious man as they were planning to invade the place.

Their original plan was to attack all of the Wingmen off-guard, striking at them at the most unexpected time.

Unfortunately, the scouts told them about the leading tribes of the Wingmen Race which were much stronger than their groups. And due to this, the Black Nagas were forced to halt their attacks for the time being while their current leader was laying all of the preparations needed for their invasion.

The mysterious player sneaked into the Sky Island before secretly entering the camps of the Wingmen Tribes to hypnotize the tribe leaders. And with the help of the Three-Headed Snake, doing all of these was pretty much the same as walking in the park.

With the current strength of the Three-Headed Snake, the Tribe Leaders didn't have the strength to resist the hypnosis of such a semi-divine being.

After controlling the tribe leaders, the mysterious man was planning to proceed to the next part of their plan. But a certain variable got in their way; Daulla and her partner also arrived at the Sky Island at the same time, which forced the mysterious man to delay his plans a little.

He was aware that the Archer was chosen by Garuda to become his descendant. And with that, that person was given the ability to mobilize the special army hidden at the floating castle; they were the most elite group of Wingmen who were taking orders directly from Garuda.

This army was on par with the leading tribes of the Wingmen Race if not stronger. And their main duty was to protect the floating castle from the invading armies of their enemies.

Unfortunately, he couldn't mobilize them for the time being since they couldn't attack their kin unless they directly attack the floating castle.

Aside from this, the Three-Headed Snake was also quite wary of Garuda's spirit since he was also a semi-divine being just like itself. And it was also afraid that the latter was able to break the hypnosis cast on the Tribe Leaders, so the former needed to delay its plans as long as possible until the spirit of Garuda exhausted all of its remaining powers.

The Three-Headed Snake was very cunning. It knew that the mysterious Archer couldn't control the Wingmen Tribes even if he was chosen as Garuda's Descendant, so all it needed to do was to wait until the biggest obstacle blocking their paths disappeared on itself.

And while it was waiting, Three-Headed Snake orchestrated a plan to weaken the forces of the Wingmen Tribes. After all, it was not sure if the Tribe Leaders could break free under its control in the future, so the cunning snake ordered them to wage war against each other under the context of looking for another ruler of the Wingmen Race.

And that was when the players started to arrive at Sky Island one by one. Unaware of the huge scheme of the Three-Headed Snake, these players unconsciously helped it by joining the war.

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Shin and the others were unaware of this huge scheme previously since the Black Nagas couldn't disclose any information regarding this matter since they were bound with the system contract.

But while Arthur and Leonard were trying to take the trial to enter Sky Island, they unexpectedly received a hidden quest from the Head Keeper who was tasked to oversee their trial.

The two were aware that the Wingman in front of them was pretty much different from the other Wingmen provided it had a pair of golden wings on its back. Such features were not written in the records that they saw, so Shin suspected that this particular Wingman was one of the key factors that they needed to destroy the schemes of the Three-Headed Snake.

Due to that, Shin asked Arthur and Leonard to finish their trial as soon as possible so that they could see what kind of quest was given to them.

And just like they thought, the quest was really related to the current state of Sky Island.

The quest didn't directly tell them about the Tribe Leaders being under the influence of the Three-Headed Snake's hypnosis.

It only told them to take down certain targets which were going to weaken the forces of the Wingmen Tribes but not devastating enough to cripple their forces.

It also told them to hunt down the mysterious player accompanying the Three-Headed Snake alongside the Black Nagas disguising themselves and hiding among the members of the Wingmen Tribes.

Using the new information that they got, Shin could easily deduct what was really happening on Sky Island which also confirmed his suspicions somehow.

Completing the hidden quest given to them was quite tricky since they needed to identify which among the Wingmen Tribes were the Black Nagas in disguise.

Fortunately, they had captured three of their comrades earlier who became a perfect guiding tool to find their kin.

Naturally, the three Black Naga Players didn't want to cooperate. After all, it was going to foil their plans if they did.

But too bad for them, they didn't have any other choice since they were currently captives. And if Shin and the others really handed them to the Spirit of Garuda, they were pretty sure that their in-game existence was going to get wiped, which practically meant that they needed to restart at the very beginning of the game.

At the same time, Shin also formed a contract with them where they needed to help the group identify their fellow Black Naga members in exchange for their freedom. So, with that kind of deal, the three could only think of survival and decided to help Shin and the others.

After that, Shin and the others immediately started doing their respective tasks as soon as possible.

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The first thing that Shin did right after arriving on Sky Island was destroying the teleportation portal that they used to sneak in. And since rebuilding this gate was going to take quite some time, they now had enough measures to hunt their targets one by one.

Arthur and Leonard were not only tasked to attract everyone's attention, but they also needed to take down as many targets as possible at the same time. Due to that, they were able to eliminate the Black Nagas in disguise without alarming their hidden enemy.

After all, that cunning snake would surely notice something odd if they directly took down the Black Nagas in disguise. So, by attracting the attention of every player and Wingmen Tribes at them, they were able to dodge their opponent's suspicion.

In the meantime, Shin and the other two were tasked to eliminate the players who had the biggest contribution in this war.

These players were able to gain some influence in the tribes if they reached a certain number of contributions but were going to instantly revert back to zero if they got killed even once.

Naturally, such players were either a leader of the powerful guilds or a hidden expert of a certain organization. At the same time, they could also be a very skilled independent player who was strong enough to stand on equal footing against the former groups of players.

The two couldn't do much against the former groups since they would surely be protected by an elite group of experts. And this could only leave Shin and the other two to target the independent players.

But if they got a chance to eliminate the former group of players, Shin would always welcome such opportunities, especially if they happened to see those groups fighting against each other.

Assassinating someone in that kind of chaotic battle was much easier than facing the groups head-on. So, Shin could easily eliminate their targets without arousing any suspicion with his current assassination abilities.

In certain circumstances, locating those players was quite hard, especially with a large number of chaotic battlefields scattered all around Sky Island.

Fortunately, there was a thing called bounty in such a chaotic place. So, all Shin needed to do was to capture a few players from different tribes before asking which one had the highest bounty on their heads and ask their current locations or 'hunting grounds'.

Shin was quite fearless this time since Cloe had his back. With her top-class healing and perfect support, he didn't have to worry about getting killed instantly or being forced into a corner.

Moreover, they also had Chaotic Luck to support. So, they didn't get much pressure at eliminating their targets.

And with all of that, the group was able to neutralize the current state of Sky Island unnoticed. And they were also able to lessen the threat provided by their hidden enemy who was secretly pulling the strings from the dark.

But at the same time, some of the sharp individuals also started to notice the odd state of the battlefields all around Sky Island. And even if they couldn't put their fingers on it, they could still sense that there was something strange going on without them knowing.

Due to that, they started laying low which immediately caused a great change in the entire battlefield.

At the same time, it was also the sign that a certain individual was waiting to quickly make his move.

Chapter 532 Bird Of Hermes: Archimedes

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Primal Kingdom, Sky Island

After Shin and the others had taken down a lot of players who had the highest contributions from different Wingmen Tribes, the remaining leading players that had similar contribution points started to become wary about them and started laying low.

Unfortunately, everything was already too late as they were still being hunted down one by one. And before they could do any kind of countermeasures to strike back, all of them had already been killed consecutively.

Due to all of that, most of the players with high enough contributions to influence the council of the different tribes were already killed at least once, which made their points reset back to zero.

Naturally, such an odd situation was impossible to go unnoticed since it was pretty much obvious that such players were being targeted by a mysterious group.

But before the Powerhouses could even respond with that situation, everything was already against their favors as they could no longer mobilize a certain number of Wingmen Tribes alongside their groups.

All they could do was to rely on their own forces which shouldn't be that bad. But all of them happened to misunderstand that the mysterious group of assassins was sent by their rival guilds and organizations to make sure that they couldn't do anything influential in the tribe meetings when the final moments of the event finally came.

That kind of situation should have escalated the flames of the war. But instead of making it burn more violently, all of the battlefields across Sky Island suddenly slowed down a little bit.

It might be because the influence of previous leading players was already gone. And due to that, the war among the Wingmen Tribes was slightly affected which also made the issue a tactical retreat to recuperate from their losses.

And even if the Tribe Leaders wanted to continue this battle, they couldn't do anything about it for the time being since the tribe councils were going to become suspicious if they tried to press this matter.

So, all they could do for now was wait until the right opportunity presented itself once again.

In the meantime, what was happening across Sky Island had a different effect on the mysterious Archer who was one of the pioneers of this region.

He was watching the war from the floating castle while waiting for the final battle of this particular event. But unexpectedly, the flames of war were starting to die out little by little.

Seeing such an unbelievable turn of events, he couldn't help but knit his brow a little as he didn't know what was happening.

Regardless, this was a perfect time for him to make his move and take down the mastermind behind all of this; and the one who was also orchestrating everything from the dark.

Standing up from the very edge of the castle walls, the mysterious archer was preparing to head down on Sky Island to look for his target.

"Are you going now, Dad?" asked Daulla when she saw him standing up.

,m It was quite strange for her to address someone as her father, especially that they were around a similar age, but the mysterious archer seemed like he didn't mind being called like that.

He turned his head a little to look over his shoulders before asking. "I don't know what happened but we can't miss this opportunity before the Three-Headed Snake and his spawns find a way to return the waves towards their favor."

"Then I'm going with you! You can't communicate properly with others after all," said Daulla as she also stood at the edge of the castle walls, preparing to jump from it.

The Archer wanted to say something to stop her but he could bring himself to refuse her company since he knew for himself that he really was not good at communicating with others. After all, he was a total introvert inside and outside the game.

"Then let's go," he said before jumping off the castle walls, diving towards the ground before spreading his wings midway to decelerate his descent.

Meanwhile, Daulla immediately followed suit, making herself fall towards the ground with incredible speed.

But in the middle of her descent, she suddenly cast a series of blinking skills until she was about to hit its surface before sending a powerful blast of fireball towards the spot that she was landing on.

Due to the sudden impact, the gravitational force that was pulling her downwards was instantly nullified for a moment which made her land on the ground safely.

Then the mysterious Archer landed right beside her before he took a quick look on his virtual map where quite a few red dots were blinking on it. Among those, there was a particular dot blinking much brighter compared to the rest.

Staring on it for a moment, the Archer faced towards the direction of that blinking mark before sprinting towards it. "This way!"

Seeing that, Daulla immediately chased after him while chanting out a few spells to enhance her speed.

Meanwhile, there was a peculiar group of players gathering at a certain part of Sky Island.

From the flags that they were carrying from on their backs, it was pretty obvious that they were siding with different Wingmen Tribes. But the strange thing about them was the fact that they were sitting on the ground in a circle and not fighting against each other.

"Big Brother, what are we going to do now? It seems like the Boss is still not willing to show himself. Did you think we got tricked?" said a member of the group.

Hearing his words, the others also nodded their heads repeatedly, showing that they were agreeing with him.

Among them, there was an Archer in their group who was emitting a strong aura from his body. He seemed to be a strong expert and also the current leader of this party.

"Tsk! Idiots! Of course, the boss is not going to show himself yet. After all, that guy is still hiding in the floating castle. We need to pull that guy out first before our boss can make his move," said the Archer while throwing a sharp glare at them.

"Say, is the boss scared of that guy? From the looks of it he seemed to be quite wary of him since we arrived in this place," asked another member of the group.

Hearing that, the Archer couldn't help but smirk at his words before answering. "Heh! It is more like the other way around. That dude ran away from the Azure Kingdom after the Boss almost killed him during their battle."

"So, they really are rivals?" asked another curious member.

"Rivals? More like archenemies!" sneered the Archer before adding quickly. "I've been with our Boss since we are still in the Azure Kingdom and I also witnessed a lot of his amazing feats personally."

"He was the brightest rising star of our Kingdom during that time. But one day, he stumbles upon a particular individual who seems to be his match and always getting in his way. They have battled against each other for a lot of times already but there seems to be no clear winner in those official battles."

Hearing that, one of the members suddenly realized something and immediately asked. "Are you talking about that guy who won the Ranker's Title of 'Bird of Hermes' from the 'Rookie Wars'?"

"Precisely!" answered the Archer instantly.

With that answer, the group couldn't help but knit their eyebrows a little as they remembered what happened in the finals.

"But, didn't the result of that match be a draw? No one wins in that final battle which is why the judges grant both of them a title," asked one of the members.

When the Archer heard that, he started laughing out loud as he found the confused expressions on their faces hilarious. And the moment he recovered himself, he immediately said. "That is when that guy has his advantage!"

"During that time, our boss is only an ordinary assassin and doesn't even have a special race or class. And yet, he still managed to score a draw against his opponent who has a pair of wings on his back," he added sneeringly before laughing once again.

And when he was done, he suddenly said with a mystifying tone. "But guess what, when our boss manages to find his own hidden class and race, that guy almost gets himself killed and flees from the Azure Kingdom and hides in that floating castle!"

"Little did he know, our boss already placed a mark on his body which is why we managed to find this place!"

Seeing that their leader was laughing out merrily, the group couldn't help but get carried away and started laughing alongside him.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But little did they know, it was their final moments in the Sky Island.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A barrage of fireballs poured down at them from the sky and instantly killed them in the process.

The Archer was quite fast and had sharp senses which were why he managed to get away the moment he sensed the incoming danger. Though, he was not fast enough to warn his comrades.

Swoosh!

While he was flipping in the air, his ears heard a sharp whistling sound in the air and were rapidly chasing after him.

With that, he immediately readjusted his center of gravity to delay his descent before taking a couple of arrows from his quiver and loading it on his bow.

Twang!

Then he immediately released the strings of his bow, letting loose the arrows loaded on it.

Clang! Clang!

But his arrows were immediately deflected away by the incoming shot since it was rapidly spinning while traveling in the air.

"Ugh!"

Then that spinning arrow drilled through the archer's shoulders, which made him groan in pain. At the same time, he also landed on the ground in an awkward manner and made him unable to stand up immediately.

"Where is your Boss, *Kayne*?" said a voice as someone stood right beside him.

The Archer named *Kayne* was able to recognize that voice without even looking at its owner. So, he started laughing mockingly before replying with a sneering tone. "So, you finally decided to get out of your nest, huh?"

"Bird of *Hermes*, *Archimedes*," he added as he raised his head and looked at the fellow archer standing beside him who also had a pair of silver wings on his back.

Chapter 533 The Pioneers Of The Sky Island

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"So, you finally decided to leave your nest, huh? Bird of *Hermes*, *Archimedes*," sneered *Kayne* while looking at the *Wingman* standing right beside him.

On the other hand, *Archimedes* was currently looking down at him with a cold gaze. He then ignored what *Kayne* had said and asked once again. "I'm asking where is your boss," while stepping on the latter's wound caused by his previous attack.

"Ugh!" Due to that pain, *Kayne* couldn't help but release a painful groan.

At the same time, Daulla suddenly appeared on his other side and also looked down at him. And after a few seconds, she suddenly started smiling while saying. "Guess what. We discovered something interesting after the recent update."

"The stimulation for our pain receptors has improved greatly, which is also almost on the same level as what we are experiencing in the Real World," she added without removing the innocent smile that she was wearing.

"Ahh!!"

At the same time, Archimedes put more strength on his legs that were pressing on Kayne's shoulder.

Daulla waited for a few more seconds before continuing. "Do you also want to know the other things that we discovered alongside it?"

Despite the agonizing pain that he was suffering from his shoulder, Kayne still forced a chuckle to mock the two. "H-heh! Just kill me instead."

Meanwhile, Daulla was about to say something when they suddenly sensed an incoming group of players. "Looks like your reinforcement is quite fast to respond, huh?"

But contrary to what she was thinking, Kayne was also quite confused at this point in time. He didn't call any reinforcements since he was also aware it was going to be futile to call a backup right now.

It was because of the current situation that was happening in the midst of war. They were not sure how this particular group became aware of their existence, but they were sure that they were currently being targeted by this group of players.

No...

To be more precise, the opposing side was trying to sabotage their plans by destroying all of the preparations that their boss had done.

They became even more certain about it when the Black Naga NPCs that they had brought alongside them started to get killed one by one.

At first, they were thinking that it was only an accident since there were a lot of Wingmen NPCs chasing after the Dragon God: Siegfried and War God: Simba. It was natural for the two to kill anyone from the opposing group that was chasing after them.

But it was too much of a coincidence for all of the Naga NPCs disguised as Wingman people to die every single time that they encountered those two monsters.

At the same time, the players that they had recruited were starting to get hunted down little by little. And alongside them, the Black Naga Players scattered all around the fall by a group of unknown assailants.

Putting all of that together, Kanye and his comrades were able to instantly figure out what was currently happening. And due to that, they started laying low while waiting for their boss to give his order.

After all, they already caused a lot of chaos on Sky Island and they were thinking that it was more than enough to weaken the forces of the Wingmen Tribes.

Moreover, the players that had the highest number of contributions would continue their work for them; especially those leaders of powerful guilds and organizations.

But as if expecting that to happen, the opposing side started hunting those players and took them down the moment the Black Nagas halted their operations.

Kayne was thinking that they were already one step ahead of their opponents, but little did they know that they were actually two steps behind. And that was when they had realized that it was already too late to salvage their current predicament.

Since everything was directly targeting them, Kayne and the others were thinking that all of those were Archimedes and Daulla's doing.

After all, these two and their group were the only ones who were aware of what was actually happening on Sky Island; it was the continuations of the battle between Garuda and the Three-Headed Snake.

Kayne's mysterious boss knew that Archimedes was not the type to ask for help from other players since he liked solving his problems on his own. In fact, he didn't like the idea of working with other people aside from Daulla.

Due to that, Kayne and the others were not expecting that Archimedes would actually ask for some assistance from other people; especially that they didn't come from the Azure Kingdom.

But from what he could see, it looked like they were wrong with their assumptions once again; Archimedes and Daulla were still working on their own!

'Then who are those people?' thought Kayne confusedly while trying his best to look towards the direction that Daulla was looking to. 'Is there a third party who gets involved in this matter without us knowing? But how do they manage to uncover the truth?'

The trio of Shin, Cloe, and Chaotic was successful in their mission. They did everything that needed to be done with Shin's lead.

Aside from the battles against a few powerful guilds and organizations that they had a hard time winning, everything else went smoothly according to their plan.

Witnessing everything firsthand, Chaotic Luck couldn't help but admire Shin even more. 'Turning everything against the favor of an unseen enemy without provoking the other party? He sure is amazing.'

"Are we there yet?" asked Shin at the small floating cube hovering over his right shoulder.

[We are almost there, Sir! I can clearly feel the presence of one of our leaders.] answered the Black Naga imprisoned on the floating cube.

[If you also manage to capture him, you will be able to locate our boss without a problem.] said another guy from the floating cube.

These two were currently helping Shin and the others to locate their fellow Black Naga Players. After all, they didn't want to be handed to Garuda. Because if they did, they would surely need their accounts deleted and start anew. And it was going to be their worst nightmare if it really happened.

Though, at the same time, they were hoping that they did encounter their boss so that he could teach guys a lesson.

They had a blind fate towards their boss since he was very powerful in their eyes, especially when he was with the strange spiritual pet that was always floating beside him. They even believe that someone like Arthur and Leonard were no match with their boss if he fused with the Three-Headed Snake.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Shin got out of the forest and arrived at a grass field. Following closely behind him was Cloe and Chaotic who immediately stood behind him the moment they arrived.

Then they raised their heads and looked in the distance where they could see three players looking back at them.

One of the three was lying on the ground and seemed to be trying his best to endure the unbearable pain that he was suffering.

Beside that player was a cloaked woman who was staring at them with a knitted brow while also firmly gripping her staff at the same time; she seemed to be ready to attack at any given moment.

Across her was a very peculiar guy who could attract a lot of attention towards him. It was because of the pair of silver wings on his back which indicated that he had a special race compared to others.

'A Wingman!? But he is certainly a player,' thought Cloe to herself before turning her head at Shin while asking. "Shin! Is he...?"

"It seems like it," answered Shin instantly as he nodded his head.

He then gathered some mana on his eyes activating his 'True Sight' observation skill, revealing the basic information of the two.

Player's Name: Archimedes

Level: 135

Race: Wingman (Incomplete Inheritance)

Class:

-Main: Garuda's Descendant (Tier 2)

-Sub: Arch Ranger

Affiliation:

-Guild: None

-Adventurer Team: None

Player's Recognition: Official Ranker (Titled)

Ranker's Title: Bird of Hermes

Player's Name: Dualla

Level: 130

Race: Blessed Human

Class:

-Main: Magi (Tier 2)

-Sub: Gem Craftsman

Affiliation:

-Guild: None

-Adventurer Team: None

Player's Recognition: Maverick Ranker (Titled)

Ranker's Title: Calamity Sorceress (Unofficial)

"Interesting!" exclaimed Shin when he saw their information; especially when he saw their levels. 'They are very high-leveled. A little higher than us even!'

"So, what's next?" asked Cloe.

Hearing that, Shin immediately smirked and responded. "What else? Of course, we are going to talk with them. They are one of the reasons why we are here after all."

"But it looks like they are not willing to talk," refuted Cloe while staring at the two who were looking at them warily.

"Well... I'll handle that part," answered Shin in a nonchalant manner before pointing his chin at Daulla. "Just keep that girl occupied."

Hearing his tone, Cloe couldn't help but click her tongue at his confidence. "Tsk! Just make sure that you are not going to provoke them with your words."

"Relax, I can handle that much," chuckled Shin a little when he heard those words, before walking towards the other party in a relaxed and calm manner. 'Though, I also want to test their skills a little.'

Chapter 534 The Pioneers Of The Sky Island (Part 2)

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"It looks like they are strong players, Dad," said Daulla while looking at Shin and the other two.

"Just hold them back a little," Hearing that, Archimedes nodded his head slightly before directing his gaze at Kayne once again before putting more pressure on his leg that was stepping on the latter's shoulders.

On the other hand, Daulla started walking towards Shin who was also coming in their direction.

"That is how far you can go," she warned while preparing to cast a series of spells.

But despite seeing the large group of fireballs hovering right behind Daulla, Shin was still wearing the calm look on his face and walking leisurely towards her.

"I've warned you!" said Daulla as she waved to her staff, sending all of the fireballs that she prepared.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Meanwhile, Shin took a quick look at the incoming spells, reading each of their trajectories. He then started moving his body according to what he saw and easily dodged all of them with just simple movements such as swaying left and right.

On the other hand, the fireballs landed on the ground behind him, leaving a bunch of craters behind.

Daula was quite surprised when she saw that. She controlled her fireballs to travel in the air with tricky trajectories, so dodging them was supposedly hard.

But from the simple manner how Shin had dodge each of them, Daula needed to take her opponent seriously now.

Unfortunately, Shin suddenly disappeared in front of her which was immediately followed by a gust of wind that swept past her.

She couldn't even do anything when Shin suddenly appeared behind her and was saying. "Relax, we are here to talk not to fight," with his back facing her.

After that, Shin resumed his steps once again, leaving Daula behind.

Daulla was surprised with what just happened but she immediately recovered herself after an instant and immediately turned around to attack Shin once again.

But when she turned around, she was immediately greeted by a golden ball of light flying straight to her face.

Seeing that, she immediately cast an instantaneous blink to get away from her current position and reappeared a few meters away. She then raised her head and looked at her previous location where she saw Cloe staring back at her with a smiling face.

"How about we let the boys talk a little?" said Cloe smilingly before adding after a brief moment of pause. "Don't worry, I can be your partner to keep you occupied."

Daulla knitted her brows when she heard that since she couldn't feel any hostility coming from Cloe's tone.

But she also couldn't help but think that it was only a trick; if she got something good for her 'father's introvert nature', then that was always being wary towards other people since everyone had a mask to hide their schemes.

So, she ignored what Cloe had said and immediately waved her hand to cast another set of spells instantaneously. This time, lighting spears appeared behind her which formed a fan shape formation in the air as they hovered around her.

After that, she suddenly pointed her index finger at Cloe, sending all of the lighting spears behind her to fly straight to Cloe.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

'Magician Spell: (Modified) Electro Discharge'

But it didn't end with just that yet. Because at the same time, Daulla suddenly raised her staff up in the air with its tip pointing at the sky.

"Condense!"

Right after shouting, the lighting spears suddenly came together and revolved around each other. Then they combined their tips altogether, forming a larger spear that was spinning rapidly while flying through the air.

'Advance Combat Technique: Magic Control: Lightning Truncheon'

Swoosh!

Naturally, Cloe was not idling either; especially when she saw Daulla preparing her spell. In fact, she already completed her own spell before the latter could even complete hers.

But instead of using an offensive spell to counterattack, she chose to cast a defensive spell since her only job was to keep Daulla busy while Shin was trying to negotiate with Archimedes.

'Priestess Skill: (Modified) (Enhanced) Wall of Holy Light'

Bang!

The collision of their spells created a powerful explosion that sent a powerful shockwave in every direction.

And in the midst of that chaos, a streak of light suddenly broke through the cloud of dust created by the previous explosion and flew straight to Cloe.

Swoosh!

Cloe was fast enough to respond to that unexpected move and created a wall of light in front of her, preventing it from advancing forward.

But all of a sudden, something stabbed her from behind and pierced through her back.

"Eh!?" Cloe was quite surprised at what happened and immediately turned her head to the side, trying to see who it was.

Behind her, Daulla was gripping tightly on her staff which was now being enfolded with electricity.

"I'm sorry, but we are quite tight on time," said Daulla as she pushed her staff further.

On the other hand, Cloe just smiled at her while saying. "Too bad, I still want to play with you a little."

When those words left her mouth, Cloe's body started to transform into particles of light that were about to disappear at any given moment.

Seeing that, Daulla was able to relax a little and unconsciously lowered her guard. She was planning to turn around and chase after Shin who was currently walking towards Archimedes.

But at that very moment, she suddenly sensed a very dangerous threat coming out of nowhere. Then she immediately cast a couple of Blinks to get away from her current location and escape from that predicament.

Boom!

And that was when the particles of light surrounding her earlier suddenly exploded all at the same time.

Daulla couldn't help but break with cold sweat when she saw that scene since she could easily tell that she was going to die instantly if ever she got caught by those explosions.

Then she saw Cloe walking out of the cloud of smoke created by the previous explosions. She was giggling a little as she looked at Daulla with smiling eyes. "Despite having a cute and innocent look, you are quite hot-tempered."

"You are going to grow old faster that way. So, how about we calm down for a second and chat?" she added with a smile while also putting her hands together behind her waist at the same time.

But her words just made Daulla be even more on guard since she was still not sure whether they were enemies or not.

Given that, she started casting another spell and was preparing to attack once again.

Seeing that, Cloe could only release a helpless sigh before muttering to herself. "I guess she really doesn't wish to chat."

Meanwhile, Shin finally arrived a few meters away from Archimedes and Kayne.

"Hey, brother. Would you mind handing that guy over to us when you are done with him? We happen to have some business with that dude," he asked after observing them a little.

Unfortunately, Archimedes was the kind of guy who didn't like talking to other people; especially with someone that he didn't know.

This personality of his was quite troublesome which was why he didn't get along with other players. And that was also the reason why Daulla was the one who always talked with others when they were on a quest or mission.

But currently, Daulla was not with his side as she was quite busy dealing with Cloe. So, all he could do was to remain silent while putting more strength on his foot stepping on Kayne's shoulders.

"Ahh~!" Kayne started shouting loudly due to burning pain coming from his wound.

Whistle~♪

And when Shin saw that, he immediately forgot that Archimedes just ignored him since he was not aware that the players could do something like this inside the game. 'Interesting~! So, they added new features like this in the game?'

'Maybe, I should take a little look at it later,' he added inside his head as his mind started to think about a few things where he could take advantage of these new features.

In the meantime, Kanye happened to see the grinning look that Shin was currently making which suddenly sent an intense chill on his spine.

He then remembered the words that Shin had said earlier; he said that they had some business with him.

Kayne didn't know what it was and why they wanted to take him. But one thing was sure, he couldn't let himself get captured by this evil guy since he didn't know what the consequence would be.

Due to the thoughts that suddenly flashed inside his head, Kanye started panicking and struggled to get away from Archimedes' grasp. "Archimedes! I really don't know where the boss is, but if you let me go this time, I will help you find him! Definitely! I have a way to find him!"

Archimedes was suddenly taken aback by his sudden change of attitude. Earlier, this guy was acting quite stubborn and was even mocking them. But right now, he seemed to be scared of something and ready to spill the beans.

But given his personality, Archimedes couldn't trust his words yet. So, he needed to confirm whether he was telling the truth or not.

But before he could even open his mouth to ask, Shin suddenly chimed in from the side. "Oh~♪ It looks like you know a lot!"

"So, how about giving us some information about your plans as well since you are already at it? It looks like you are not bound by any kind of system contract given that you are willing to sell your boss," he added while sitting on his feet beside Kayne.

Archimedes was quite annoyed by Shin's sudden interruption; especially that he was butting in on his own quest. He was about to give Shin a little warning when he suddenly noticed Kayne shivering with fear.

Confused, he shifted his gaze between Shin and Kayne, trying to understand the current situation.

But since he saw that Kayne was quite afraid of Shin due to some unknown reason, Archimedes decided to let this newcomer handle the situation for him since it looked like their aims were coinciding with each other.

Seeing that, Kayne started to panic even more and said desperately. "Archimedes! I'll do anything you want! Just don't hand me to this guy!"

On the other hand, Shin was currently wearing an evil grin while complementing the Wingman Archer stepping on Kayne. 'Looks like he is quite sharp.'

He then turned his attention back to Kayne while asking. "Looks like you are quite quick at catching up on things. So, how about we start talking peacefully now? – Before things get ugly."

Chapter 535 All According To The Plan

.....

"Care to give us some time to talk?" asked Sin while wearing an evil grin.

Kayne tried to say something but all he could do was to open and close his mouth with no words coming out. It was true that he was afraid of his boss, but this guy sitting beside him was someone who was reeking with an even more dangerous scent.

Seeing the expression on Kayne's face, Shin immediately struck while the iron was hot. He took out a black cube from his inventory and let it float over his head.

Then he waited for Kayne to fully recognize it before saying. "You know what this thing is, right? It is a special prison to capture players before handing them over to some NPCs who have the authority to wipe our existence inside the game."

"In simpler terms, it is a tool that will lead us to delete our accounts in this game and re-start at the very beginning," he added while pointing at the floating cube above him.

Hearing all of those, Kayne's eyes immediately turned wide as he could easily tell what Shin was trying to say. And because of that, he started trembling even more due to fear.

Left with no choice, all he could do right now was to spill the beans and sell their group. After all, he was one of the guys who didn't have a contract that was restricting them to talk about their plans.

He might get punished later but it was slightly better than restarting the game altogether. So, having that thought in mind, Kayne decided to tell Shin everything he knew.

He opened his mouth, wanting to say something. But before he could even voice it out, Shin and Archimedes suddenly felt something flying in their direction. And the moment they sensed it, both of them immediately made their respective moves to respond to it accordingly.

Shin quickly jumped forward and positioned himself right in front of the streak of light flying towards them, blocking its path.

At the same time, Archimedes immediately loaded a couple of arrows on his bow before aiming in the direction where the unexpected attack was coming from.

Clang!

Twang!

Then Shin quickly drew his sword and swung it sideways, deflecting the incoming attack. And alongside his actions, Archimedes also released loaded arrows from his bow, sending them towards the unknown assailant hiding behind the trees.

"Looks like your side wants you dead now, huh?" said Shin without removing his eyes from the direction where the previous attack came from.

"Sorry to tell you this, but I guess I need to take this guy first and hold him captive," he said as he placed his hand on Kayne which immediately transformed him into specks of lights that entered the prison cube.

Archimedes wanted to say something about that but he chose to remain silent given their current situation; especially that he could sense a lot of enemies hiding in the woods. So, it was better for Shin to keep Kayne captive since it was impossible for him to keep the guy in check while he was dealing with the other guys.

"Looks like things are about to get busy. So, say – you will not mind forming a temporary alliance, right?" asked Shin as he stood up while staring at the large group of players walking out from the forest little by little.

This time, Archimedes slightly nodded his head, indicating that he wouldn't mind. After all, these players walking out from the woods seemed to be an elite group of players from a certain Powerhouse Guild.

"Hmm... These guys look familiar," muttered Shin with a soft voice when he saw the group, especially the guy leading it.

And that was when Cloe arrived beside him and satisfied his curiosity. "They are from that guild who are stubbornly chasing after us earlier even if they are being beaten repeatedly."

Hearing that, Shin finally came to a realization. "Oh~! Those guys. But it looks like they mobilize the decent ones this time. Though, it will not make any difference."

He then turned his head at Cloe before asking. "Anyway, you already done dealing with the girl? That's quite fast."

"Nah~! She is still on guard for me. She doesn't look too friendly when it comes to strangers," replied Cloe while looking at Daulla over her shoulder.

Meanwhile, that girl was looking back at her with a sharp glare.

"See?" asked Cloe while shrugging her shoulders.

Shin smiled bitterly when he saw that as he couldn't help himself but took a look at Archimedes who was still not talking since earlier. 'Well, this guy is quite strange too.'

On the other hand, the player who was standing at the forefront of the other group looked at Shin before asking. "The Emperor of the Night from the Saint Heaven Kingdom? I've heard a lot about you. It is an honor to finally meet some so famous."

Anyone could easily hear the sarcasm from his words, so Shin didn't plan to be polite either. "Well, I don't plan to associate myself with some small fries. So, will you mind if you leave right now and give us some space? People like us are busy, you know?"

[He is one of us, Sir! He is one of the leaders that are working directly under our boss!] said one of the captives that Shin had on the prison prism.

"Oh~! Is that so? Then we can no longer let them leave right, can't we?" muttered Shin as a huge grin was starting to form on his lips. 'Now it explains why he wants to eliminate the other dude earlier.'

Naturally, the opposition didn't hear what the guy had said, so they had no idea why Shin suddenly started grinning and slowly making his way towards them.

On the other hand, the leader could somehow understand what Shin was currently thinking. Then his entire body suddenly became tense especially when he could feel the strong Killing Intent coming from the latter's body.

"Attack! Don't hold back and kill all of them with whatever means possible!" ordered the leader while pointing at Shin and the others.

Meanwhile, Shin suddenly kicked the ground and started sprinting while giving his commands. "Luck, block all of the escape routes! Cloe, cover me!"

Hearing his orders, the two immediately complied with his words and started doing their respective roles.

Chaotic Luck immediately summoned his undead monsters and quickly spread them out towards different locations. He was working with Shin for quite some time already, so he already knew which sides were the places that Shin couldn't cover properly when their opponents decided to flee.

There was no need to ask for Cloe's synergy with Shin. The two knew each other for a very long time already, so they were already aware of each other's habits.

Cloe cast a couple of buffs on Shin's body, enhancing his speed and power during his sprint. And immediately after that, she quickly sent a couple of spells towards their opponents that were trying to exploit Shin's blind spots.

At the same time, Shin left a series of afterimages behind as he executed one of his movement combat techniques, the 'Ghost Evanescence'. And while his opponents were still confused with his movements, he immediately took advantage of that opportunity to eliminate as many of them as possible.

And with the help of his execution skill, the 'Flash of Life', he could instantly kill every opponent blocking his path as long as he hit them accurately in their hearts. Moreover, it reset its cooldown every time he successfully killed his target with this particular skill on top of increasing its damage after executing an enemy.

Given that, the players from the opposing group didn't even know how they died when they got struck by that skill.

Meanwhile, the leader of the group was making his way towards the back of the group, trying to secretly escape from this place.

Unfortunately, what he was planning to do was not going to get unnoticed since Archimedes already locked his gaze at him from the very beginning.

Seeing that the prey was starting to run away, the hunter would always not hesitate to take it down before it was too late.

Archimedes raised his bow with a loaded arrow before aiming it towards the leader who was trying to run away. He then gathered his mana and enhanced the loaded arrow with it, making it shone with a brilliant light.

'Arch Ranger Skill: (Modified) Power Shot'

Swoosh!

The arrow left a long trail of silver light when it was released from the bow. It then pierced through the heads of every opponent blocking its path as it made its way towards the fleeing leaders.

Naturally, the other side would immediately notice the incoming attack given how eye-catching it was.

So, he immediately raised his daggers up and channeled his mana on both of them while crossing them right in front of his chest. And at the same time, he also cast a few reinforcement skills from his arsenal to strengthen his body.

Bang!

But regardless of the layers of defense he had sent up, he was still knocked back by the incoming arrows even if he successfully blocked it.

He also saw that his HP Bar was dropping with incredible speed before dropping right after it hit the critical stage.

His body bounced back right after hitting the tree behind him. And when he fell back on the ground, he immediately raised his head to see what was the current state of the battle.

Well, it didn't take long for him to realize that it was actually not a battle. Instead, it was a one-sided slaughter where his group couldn't even have a sliver chance of winning.

But despite that being the case, he was still able to wear a mocking smile while looking at Shin and the others.

"What are you smiling at? Already lose your mind?" asked Daulla as she blinked right in front of that guy. She then placed her hand on his shoulders before teleporting back beside Archimedes.

"Who are you? I never saw you with that cunning snake when we were still in the Azure Kingdom," ask Daulla right after she threw him on the ground.

"Hehe, is who am I still important? You should be worrying more about how are you going to get out of this place instead of asking me such foolish questions," replied the leader as he was laughing at them mockingly.

Daulla slightly knitted her brows when she heard those words. She was about to say something when she suddenly heard Chaotic Luck say something to Shin.

"What are we going to do now, Big Bro? I think we are now fully surrounded by enemies," he said with a panicked voice.

And right after he said those words, enemies after enemies started to appear around them, coming out from the forests and in different directions. Wingmen and players alike, Shin and the others were now completely surrounded by their enemies.

That was when the leader lying on the ground started talking sneeringly. "A message from the boss – It is good to take down every key figure who can become a threat to you later on. But at the same time, it is no different from provoking everyone if you overdid it way too much."

After that, he started laughing out loud which made Daulla blast his body with a spell, shutting his mouth.

"Well, this is quite problematic," muttered Shin as he turned around and swept his gaze on every enemy surrounding them.

Each of them was either from different Wingmen Tribes or other influential forces that crossed swords with Shin and the others.

But even if they were currently cornered like that, Shin was still grinning from ear to ear as if he was not surprised at all.

"Looks like he really informed the others about his us, huh?" said Shin as he cast his gaze towards a certain direction before continuing with a smirk. "But aren't we already expecting that to happen?"

Roar! Roar!

Boom! Boom!

And right after those words left his mouth, a pair of huge figures fell from the sky and stood beside Shin and the others, protecting them.

It was a huge golden dragon and a massive crimson lion with a blazing mane. And on top of their heads stood Arthur and Leonard, who were staring down at the large forces surrounding them.

Archimedes and Daulla were taken aback by the sudden appearance of the large group of enemies and the two gigantic monsters that came out of nowhere. In fact, the latter could no longer keep up on what was actually going on; too many things happened successively, so she couldn't help but get confused at the fast-paced development.

And that was when she heard Shin saying with a calm tone. "Sorry, for getting involved, but we are currently in the middle of our quest."

He then paused for a brief moment before adding with a confident tone. "Though, you also don't have to worry either since we are going to clean this place up as soon as possible."

Chapter 536 All According To The Plan (Part 2)

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While Shin and the others were being surrounded by the forces from different tribes of the Wingmen Race, there was a particular group of players watching them from a distance.

"Guild Leader, looks like we are beaten by those guys to make contact with the Wingman," said a Dark Elf Master Archer while looking at the open field.

Behind him stood a White Elf Master Elementalist who looked exactly like him. This guy turned around and looked behind him where a Human Guardian was sitting arrogantly on top of a rock boulder.

He was also looking at the scene not too far from them. And after a few moments of silence, he finally responded. "That shouldn't be a problem. Those guys may be strong, but they can't deal when the leading Powerhouses make their moves."

"Don't worry about it. We didn't choose not to pick any tribes just to let others take what's meant to be ours. We will pull those two to our sides when the right time comes," he added with an arrogant tone.

He then turned his attention to Simba before smirking. "For now, let's see how the previous 'King of the Jungle' deals with the current troublemakers of the Primal Kingdom."

Meanwhile, at the center of the battlefield, Arthur swept his gaze at the surroundings before asking. "Are you sure we really need to do this? After all, there are still quite a few troublesome people hiding in the forest behind."

"You know, those guys that are trying to hunt our little lion cub," he added in a sarcastic tone while giving Leonard a sidelong glance.

Understanding what he wanted to say, Leonard suddenly smirked before saying sneeringly. "What? Getting cold feet already? Don't worry, it is still not too late for you to run now."

On the other hand, Shin couldn't help but slap his forehead when he saw the two started bickering with each other once again.

And before it could even escalate into another level, he immediately stopped the two by saying. "Alright, alright! Enough that already. How about we start this now? What's the point of luring all of them here if you two are planning to start fighting each other?"

Hearing that, the two immediately calmed down. But in exchange, their gazes were now directed to the forces surrounding them.

"Well, it will not hurt to warm up first before doing a sparring match," said Arthur while rolling his shoulders.

Meanwhile, Leonard twisted his neck left and right to create some cracking sounds with it before saying. "How about we also do a little competition?"

"With a bet? I'm up!" answered Arthur almost instantly while wearing a huge grin.

"What's at stake then?" asked Shin, joining the conversation.

In the meantime, it was Cloe's turn to facepalm for seeing them act like that. "These idiots are at it again."

On the other hand, Arthur and Leonard suddenly exchanged looks at each other before wearing an evil on their faces. Then they immediately made their moves whole saying at the same time. – "You will know about that when we are done!" –

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Leonard leaped up in the air while carrying his battle axe and resting it on his shoulder. And when he reached the peak of his jump, he adjusted his center of gravity a little to hover in the air for a few moments before kicking the air behind him and launching himself towards the ground.

Whoosh!

BOOM!

Due to his incredible speed, he hit the ground almost in an instant which was immediately followed by a powerful shockwave that blew everyone away.

But it didn't immediately end there. Because their flying bodies suddenly stopped moving backward midair. And before they could even realize what was happening, a very strong gust of wind suddenly blew from a certain direction and carried them alongside it.

It moved in circles around Leonard as if it created a tornado with him standing at the center.

'Destroyer Skill (Tier 2): Cyclone Axe'

On the other hand, Arthur suddenly jumped off from the head of his Golden Dragon before sprinting towards the army of the opposing side with unimaginable speed.

Swoosh!

During his charge, a golden aura suddenly enfolded his whole body which made him leave a long trail of light behind. Then the aura surrounding him suddenly transformed into ahead of a dragon while opening its jaw widely.

'Class Fight Style: Breaking Through of the Golden Dragon'

Roar!

Everyone who was blocking his path was either obliterated and died instantly or left in a critical state with a sliver of health left.

At the same time, Shin immediately released his Phantom Clone before simultaneously transforming themselves into a pair of werewolves. They then suddenly rushed forwards, sprinting towards their enemies while leaving a series of afterimages behind.

Not long after, both of them reached the ranks of their enemies and quickly used their respective 'Phantom Dance' skill to release their phantoms. And immediately after that, they started ripping the lives of everyone around them, causing chaos.

In the meantime, Cloe looked at the three with a bitter smile on her face before shaking her head. "Look at these idiots jumping at the enemies without having any plans in mind."

"Where is that smartass plan that you guys had earlier?" she added while shaking her head bitterly.

"There is a quote somewhere saying that absolute strength doesn't have complex planning since you can just overwhelm others with it," said Chaotic Luck from the side.

Hearing that, Cloe suddenly turned her head towards him and threw a fierce glare while asking sharply. "And what about you? You are not going to start summoning your undead monsters? Do you think those guys from the other side will just stand there and watch us?"

"Understood, Big Sis!" responded Chaotic Luck instantly before tapping the bottom of his staff on the ground as soon as possible. 'Her temper sure changes quickly just like Big Bro has said.'

And with only a few taps of his staff, a large group of undead monsters with different types started crawling out of the ground and immediately formed a blockade around them, blocking anyone who was trying to attack them.

Alongside his summoning, Cloe suddenly raised her own staff in the air while chanting out a couple of prayers. And immediately after that a huge magic circle suddenly appeared on the ground beneath their feet.

A moment later, the magic circle shone with a brilliant light that illuminated the whole place around them.

With that, the undead monsters started to receive different kinds of buffs which enhanced their strengths and powers with a great margin.

Even Daulla and Archimedes also receive the same enhancements. And they were quite surprised at the number of buffs that they received from a single spell that Cloe had cast.

They were already quite surprised when they saw the trio causing havoc in the middle of their enemies' ranks on their own.

It was also the same for Chaotic Luck who managed to summon a large number of strange undead monsters with just a few taps of his staff. And now, Cloe cast multiple buffs with a large AOE (Area of Effect) in a very short amount of time.

'Who are these people?' thought Daulla when she saw all of those happened consecutively.

On the other hand, Archimedes immediately recovered his composure after just an instant before loading a couple of arrows on his bow and immediately reinforcing them with his mana.

Not long after, the arrows were set ablaze with silver light which immediately attracted Daulla's attentions. "Eh!?"

Immediately after that, Daulla suddenly started smiling and started preparing her own spell. "Not wanting to lose to others, huh? I see."

And that was when Archimedes aimed at the sky before releasing them immediately after.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

A moment later, the arrows suddenly split into multiple lights that scattered in the sky before falling down like pouring rain.

'Arch Ranger Skill: (Modified) Arrow Shower'

Bang! Bang!

But when they fell down, those light arrows didn't just strike the enemies, but they also exploded right after striking someone or just landed on the ground.

In the meantime, Daulla pointed her staff in the sky while chanting out a couple of spells. Then the clouds in the sky gathered around as if an impending storm was looming around the corner.

A moment later, she swung her staff down while shouting out loud. "Strike down!"

Boom!

'Magi (Tier 2): (Modified) Lighting Discharge'

Then a thunderous sound came from the sky before a large lightning strike descended from the clouds and devoured all of the players and Wingmen standing underneath it.

Kaboom!

"This guy sure knows how to lure people towards his side," seeing them making their moves and voluntarily join the battle, Cloe couldn't help but giggle softly from the side while remembering what Shin had said earlier.

"Experts tend to be competitive."

"So, whenever they see strong players such as themselves, they will always see them as target competition."

She then started smiling and muttered softly. "Well, I guess everything is still going according to the plan."

Chapter 537 Invitation

.....

The battle took a little longer than Shin and the other had expected but the result was not different from what they were thinking.

The forces surrounding them might be elites but they were not enough to fight Shin and the others. Even if they got some help from the Wingmen Tribes, those guys were not the most elite members of their respective tribes.

So, they couldn't help much, especially that Leonard and Arthur were already familiar with fighting them. They even knew what were the weaknesses of the respective tribes which was why they didn't have any trouble dealing with them.

At the same time, their lineup was quite perfect at dealing with their current situation.

The trio of Shin, Arthur, and Leonard was free to wreak havoc across the battlefield since Daulla and Archimedes were giving them some ranged supports from time to time. And the support that they were giving was not that small either. In fact, they were more than enough to put their enemies in chaos given how powerful those attacks were.

In the meantime, Cloe was able to freely give her buffs and heals from a distance without worry about any ambushes that might appear out of nowhere.

It was because of the large group of monsters protecting them. Chaotic Luck might not be as skilled as the others, but his summoned monsters were more than enough to make his opponents helpless.

His strange undeads were already strong and powerful given their high AI. So, he didn't have to manually control all of them. But adding the fact that they were immune to the holy element which was supposedly their bane, dealing with these particular undeads was now much harder to deal with than they usually were.

Moreover, their strengths were enhanced by Cloe's buffs, so their battle prowess was much stronger than ever.

Given all of that, breaking through such a blockade of undead monsters became pretty much impossible especially when Daulla and Archimedes were keeping an eye on anyone who was trying to break through it.

With those four being unapproachable alongside the trio who were wreaking havoc in the frontlines freely, the opposing side had no other choice but to retreat from this battle.

But despite that being the case, Shin and the others were quite exhausted from that battle since they needed to be always on guard against some experts who mixed themselves in the ranks of the opposing group.

"Tsk! Is that all? I'm not even starting to heat up," said Arthur while looking at the backs of his fleeing enemies.

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but roll his eyes at him as he could easily tell that he was just putting up an act since it was pretty much obvious that he was trying to catch his breath. After that, he tapped Arthur's shoulder, telling him to regroup with the others.

"We are sorry about that. We get the two of you involved with our quest," said Shin in an apologetic tone right after regrouping with the others.

"Ah!" Daulla was about to say something but Archimedes prevented her before she could even voice it out.

Confused, she looked at him with a knitted brow but didn't complain about it since she knew that he had his own reason.

On the other hand, Shin was able to notice that and could only smile bitterly while thinking to himself. 'I guess he is still on guard.'

At the same time, Arthur finally caught up with him and immediately chimed in. "Hahaha... Don't you think that we clicked with each other? How about you guys consider joining us in the future?"

Shin's face suddenly turned weird when he heard that as he felt that Arthur was trying to take things a little fast. But before he could even say anything about it, he suddenly received a private message from the latter. – "Hey! When it comes to situations like this, it is better for us to be honest than to plot some schemes." –

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but smile bitterly as he immediately realized his mistakes. He then looked at the two. "Anyway, we are going now. Though, we will really appreciate it if you guys are going to consider accepting our offer to be our Archer and Mage."

He was about to tell the others to leave when he suddenly remembered something. "Ah! About the guy that we captured earlier-..."

But before he could even complete what he wanted to say, Archimedes immediately cut his words off by saying "Don't worry. We no longer need him anymore."

"Eh~!? You can actually talk?" said Shin in surprise.

Fortunately, he managed to immediately regain his composure before he could even offend Archimedes. "Sorry about that. It's just you are not talking since we met earlier so I mistook you as a mute person."

Hearing that, the corner of Archimedes' mouth suddenly twitched but he immediately regained himself since he was aware that it was his fault why Shin misunderstood him that way.

After that, he nodded his head to the group before gesturing to Daulla to leave.

Meanwhile, Arthur waved his hand at them while saying. "We hope that you are going to side with us again when we see each other next time," as they watched the two left the place.

"I guess, it is quite hard to befriend them," muttered Cloe as she pursed her lips.

"Then you can just blame this idiot for his schemes," said Arthur while pointing his chin at Shin.

But instead of receiving an agreement, what he got was a sharp glare from Cloe. And when he saw that, he couldn't help but click his tongue before muttering to himself. "Tch! Such an overprotective 'girlfriend'."

On the other hand, Leonard was currently busy sweeping his gaze at their surroundings. And naturally, the others were able to notice that and unable to help themselves but shake their heads.

"Hey! Don't get too paranoid. Those guys are not going to make their moves unless they are fully confident that they could take us head-on," said Arthur chucklingly.

"They are only here as a group of observers. And they will not dare to touch us for now since they still need us," added Shin noddingly.

He then paused for a brief moment to also scan the surroundings with his own gaze before continuing. "If they are not a total idiot, then they should at least have known by now that they are only being used by a certain someone out there."

"And now that their eyes are fully opened, their pride will surely not let themselves become the puppets of that guy hiding in the dark and secretly pulling the strings from there."

Hearing that, Leonard slightly nodded his head but he still refused to take away his eyes from those groups watching them from a distance.

"Or should I say that you are on guard against another enemy?" asked Shin with a clear hint of suspicion.

This time, Leonard suddenly halted his steps before taking a deep sigh before looking at the others and explained. "To tell you the truth there is a particular group hiding in this kingdom and disguising themselves as an ordinary Adventurer Team."

Due to that, the others couldn't help but also paused their steps and looked silently at him, waiting for him to explain further.

On the other hand, Leonard inhaled quite deeply before continuing. "From what I suspect, a couple of their members are from our real 'target'."

"By target, you mean?" simultaneously asked Shin and Arthur with a deep frown.

Understanding what they meant, Leonard heavily nodded his head before confirming. "Yeah. I suspect that they are secret members of 'Pandemonium Descendants'."

This time, aside from Chaotic Luck who just joined the team not long ago, Shin and the others turned silent as they now understood Leonard's concerns.

But after a few moments, Leonard immediately took back what he said. "But it is only a suspicion. I'm still not sure if they are really from that mysterious organization."

Shin and the other two nodded their heads but the expression on their faces was still serious.

"Regardless, that is more reason for us not to let our guards down," said Shin solemnly.

"Then I guess we are talking about this going to be more problematic than it used to be," added Arthur while stretching his waist left and right.

...

Meanwhile, Archimedes and Daulla who were walking in the opposite direction were getting ready to head back to the floating castle.

And while they were walking, Daulla couldn't remain silent any longer and asked. "Dad, why did you let them take Kayne? He is supposedly coming with us so that we can now find that cunning snake! And get over with this quest already!"

Hearing that, Archimedes suddenly stopped his tracks and looked at Daulla for a moment. He then smiled at her before patting her head and explained. "Of course, I know about that. But can you see what is currently happening right now?"

"That 'Snake' and those guys are currently in a strategic war against each other. Didn't you see, that swordsman seems to be expecting everything from the very start," he added with a serious tone.

He then paused for a couple of moments before continuing. "If they are going to deal with 'him' anyway, then it is better for us to guard the Castle to make sure that no accidents are going to happen."

After that, he resumed walking and planning to leave. But he immediately paused his steps once again since he sensed that Daulla refused to move her legs.

"Why?" he asked.

"Did you remember what you said when we were in the floating castle? You said that you are going to take their side if someone manages to turn the situation on Sky Island around," asked Daulla instantly.

Hearing that, Archimedes thought for a moment before replying. "We are still not sure about that. After all, that guy is still around."

He then turned around and started walking towards the place where they came from earlier.

On the other hand, Daulla took a quick look on her back before quickly chasing after Archimedes. "Hey, dad! Wait for me!"

Chapter 538 Hints

...

"So, what is the plan for this guy?" asked Arthur as he looked at Kayne who was released by Shin from the prison prism.

"We should have given him to that Archimedes guy earlier and let him handle the rest," said Leonard while also looking at Kayne with knitted brows.

"That is not going to be a good idea," said Shin as he walked beside the two.

Hearing that, the two couldn't help but knit their brows for being confused. And when Shin saw that expression on their faces, he chuckled for a moment before explaining. "That is because this guy is like a tracker for our mysterious opponent."

"Huh?"

The two became even more confused when they heard those words and looked at him with an even deeper frown on their faces.

Seeing that, Shin chuckled a little before saying. "Just look. This is one of the leaders who are taking orders directly from their boss. Do you think they have no means to communicate with him if that is the case? Of course not!"

"And I'm suspecting that is the reason why he said that he can locate his boss earlier," he added while turning his gaze at Kayne.

Shin stared at him with squinting eyes before continuing. "But such methods can also be used the other way around. If these guys can locate his boss, then that guy can also locate them back."

"Which practically explains how he can keep an eye on them all the time," said Cloe as she joined them.

"So, are you saying through this guy, their boss can find a way to enter the so-called floating castle if is taken there?" asked Leonard with knitted brows.

Shin shrugged his shoulders when he heard that before replying. "Well, that is still just a suspicion."

"But when you look closely at it, how come these guys are still biding their time if the location of the floating castle is practically obvious? Why not attack it directly if it is right in front of them?"

"Maybe because it is being guarded by those so-called Keepers," he added with another shrug of his shoulders.

He then turned his head back to Kayne before saying. "So, that cunning snake is probably planning to let this guy get captured by that Archimedes guy and use him to find the safe way to sneak inside that floating castle."

"Well, yeah, it is their main target after all," agreed Artur while nodding his head. He then turned his head at Shin once again before asking for another time. "So, what's your plan with this guy?"

Hearing that, Shin started grinning evilly before talking out the [Spiritual Executioner] and [Silent Killers] from the [Belt of Tomi] wrapped around his waist. "Well, I learned something new from that duo earlier so let me give it a try."

Arthur's face suddenly turned when he saw Shin taking out his flying daggers and needles; especially when he saw the scary look that he was currently wearing. "What are you going to do with those?"

On the other hand, Kayne started trembling in fear while looking at Shin with a terrified expression on his face.

"I-I..." he started stuttering as he was trying to say something but he was too terrified to force out the words from his mouth.

Meanwhile, Shin just ignored the expression that he had and stood up before picking Kayne up and dragging him away from the group. "I'm going to test something. Don't let Cloe get close."

"Huh!?" said Cloe as he looked at Shin with a deep frown.

Meanwhile, Arthur and Leonard were looking at Shin's back with a twitching face as they could already guess what Shin was trying to do.

Not long after, the three heard Kayne's loud cries of agony coming from the place where Shin had brought him to. And after a few more moments, they saw Shin walking back on his own.

"Where is he?" asked Arthur when he didn't see Kayne walking alongside Shin.

Hearing that, Shin just shrugged his shoulders while replying in a nonchalant manner. "Well, his tenacity is quite weak so the system put him in deep sleep mode."

"Fortunately, I immediately put him back inside the prison prism before the game forcefully logged him out.," he added with the same nonchalant tone.

"That is not what I'm talking about. Is he-...?" Arthur was trying to say something when Shin immediately shut him off.

"Don't worry. I didn't go overboard or something, he was just too scared earlier; that's all!" said Shin reassuringly while tapping Arthur's shoulders.

Though, he was having a slightly different thought in mind. 'This game is starting to become evil. To think that they will give the players the ability to do that kind of 'interrogation'? Tsk!'

On the other hand, Cloe grabbed the edge of Shin's cloak which made him pause his steps.

"Hmm?" Shin turned his head and looked at Cloe who currently had her head lowered and looking on the ground.

Seeing that, Shin smiled slightly before patting her head gently while saying. "As I said, it is not like what you guys are thinking. So, don't worry."

Before the atmosphere surrounding them could even become more awkward, Leonard immediately clapped his hand to quickly change the topic by asking. "So, what happened? Did you get something?"

Thankful, Shin immediately turned his head at him before answering. "Well, I at least learned how to locate their boss from that guy alongside some useful hints."

"So, we can hunt him now?" asked Arthur with a frown.

Unfortunately, Shin shook his head and replied with a bitter smile. "The problem is we can't use that method anymore. The other side already anticipated that we are going to use it right after we captured that Kanye dude."

"And with that, he already blocked all of the possible trails that may expose his location," he added while pursing his lips.

"Tch! So, there is really no way to track him down?" said Arthur, complaining.

But Shin immediately waved his index finger and quickly added. "Ah-Ah~! From the information that I got, there is still a way to find him."

Hearing that, the two immediately turned their heads towards him with skeptical looks on their faces.

"And that is?" seemed to be the words that were written on their faces.

Shin then suddenly smirked after reading the thoughts running inside their heads and said. "If you want to lure the snake out of its nest, you only have 2 ways to do it."

"First is to burn its nest to force the snake to abandon it. Second, throw a good bait that will tempt it to willingly leave its nest."

The two were still not convinced and continued to look at Shin with confused looks on their faces.

"But we already finished the first one. We even burned the whole place which also alerted the others due to how huge the fire we created," said Arthur sneeringly.

"That is why we are going with the second option," refuted Shin instantly.

"But what bait do we have?" asked Leonard while frowning his eyebrows.

This time, Shin started grinning from ear to ear before saying. "Well, I now know what that guy is targeting. He is after the thing hidden inside the floating castle."

"Well, that's obvious! And most likely, it is also the reason why Archimedes and Daulla are guarding that place," said Arthur almost immediately.

Hearing that, Shin turned his head at him and sneered. "Unfortunately, those two and that guy are partially wrong."

"Huh!?" Arthur and Leonard became even more confused the moment they heard those words. Even Cloe who was keeping herself quiet couldn't help but look at Shin with a knitted brow.

Seeing that they still couldn't get what he was pointing out, Shin could only release a helpless sigh before explaining further. "Look, it is pretty obvious that those two sides are after Garuda's complete inheritance."

"First, that guy named Archimedes already got half of it which is why he now belongs to the Wingmen Race. But don't you find it strange that he has a pair of silver wings instead of having golden ones."

"After all, he is supposedly Garuda's Descendent, so he should be having a feature which is completely similar to his Predecessor, shouldn't he?"

"At first, I thought that was because he only received a part of the inheritance. But after seeing him fight earlier, I'm pretty sure that it is not the case."

He paused for a brief moment to let his words be processed by the three before continuing. "From the battle earlier. He didn't even use a single skill under his main class; not even a basic or simple skill."

"Maybe he is purposely not using them since they are his trump cards?" refuted Arthur.

Shin just shrugged his shoulders when he heard that and said in return. "Possibly. But... Out of all people, you two should be the ones to know more about that since you guys meet a Wingman with golden wings personally, right?"

"Ah!"

Hearing that, both Arthur and Leonard immediately came into a realization as they got what he was implying.

"Well, they are indeed different. I can't find a trace of divine powers from that Archimedes guy," said Leonard noddingly.

But at the same time, Arthur was still shaking his head and said. "But it is a comparison between an NPC and a Player, so the difference is meant to be huge."

"Before that, how about the differences between an NPC and another NPC?" said Shin before directing his gaze to Leonard.

Understanding what Shin was trying to say, Leonard fell into deep thought before replying after a brief moment. "Similar yet also different at the same time."

"Of course! They come from the same Race but also from different tribes!" refuted Arthur.

But Leonard immediately shook his head and explained. "No, we are not talking about that. Shin Bro is trying to ask me if they have the unique scent of Beastman people as well as the leaders of Beastmen tribes who are staying in the Temple of the God of War."

While Arthur was still racking his brain to keep up with the two, Shin suddenly asked another question. "Did you guys also encounter the leaders of the Wingmen Tribe? The leading Tribes I mean."

"Yeah, just two of them though, the leaders of One-Horned Tribe and Silver-winged Tribe," answered Leonard instantly.

"And their scent? The same assessment?" asked Shin.

Leonard knitted his brow for a moment before nodding his head. "Yeah."

Shin then nodded his head before asking another. "What about their strengths and battle capabilities then?"

"About the same too, I guess," replied Leonard in an instant before adding. "We immediately flee when we recognize that they are the Tribe Leaders, so I'm not sure if they are really on the same level."

But what he said seemed to be more than enough for Shin to confirm his suspicions. "I guess that's all we can do for now. Should we go check it out then?"

"Huh? Where?" Leonard was still quite confused so he was trying to ask another question. But he was about to ask it when a sudden flash of thought entered his mind. "Ah! Could it be!?"

Seeing that Leonard seemed to figure out something, Arthur suddenly became frustrated and shouted. "Hey! As I said! What the hell are you two talking about!?"

But instead of answering him, Leonard just patted his shoulder and said. "Shin Bro seems to figure out something and is planning to see if he is right. Let's go."

After that, he chased after Shin while shouting at Chaotic Luck who was guarding the perimeter. "Hey, Luck! Guarding duty is over! We are heading out now."

"Understood, Big Brother!" answered Chaotic Luck before recalling his Undead Monsters before following after him.

Meanwhile, Arthur was staring at them with a fierce glare before going with them. But he just took a couple of steps when he noticed Cloe was refusing to move. "What's wrong?"

Hearing that, Cloe slowly raised her head and looked at him with teary eyes. "Shin... he is not going back to his old self, right?"

Understanding what she meant, Arthur forced a smile before reassuring her. "Ah~... About earlier? Don't let it bother you."

He then paused for a moment before pointing at his eyes while saying. "You also see it, right? He still has that light in his eyes."

"What's more, Leonard and I are keeping an eye on him, so there is nothing for you to worry about."

"But most importantly, you should also trust him. You know him very well; he will not break any promises that already he made," he added before walking away. "Let's go! They are waiting."

On the other hand, Cloe looked in the distance where Shin was looking back at her and gesturing to her to hurry.

Seeing that, she immediately calmed herself down and recollected her thoughts. After that, she immediately regained her composure and went back to her usual cheerful self.

She then started running towards them while muttering to herself. "That's right! He will not break his promise; especially to me."

Chapter 539 Beast Killer

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"So, all we need to do is defeat the current leaders of the leading tribes?" asked Arthur with a knitted brow.

"You said it as if it was something easy to do," said Leonard while rolling eyes at him.

"We also need to make it as quiet as possible since we are going to alert the other members of the tribe if we cause a commotion," said Cloe.

On the other hand, Shin was currently frowning his brows as he was thinking about something else. And after a few moments, he suddenly opened his mouth and spoke. "That is not our main problem right now. What we should be thinking is that we are going to alert the Three-Headed Snake if we fight even one of the tribe leaders."

Hearing that, the other three suddenly remembered about the matter of the tribe leaders being controlled by the Three-Headed Snake.

But Arthur still had his carefree attitude and said in a nonchalant tone. "Isn't that what we wanted in the first place? And here I was thinking that it is your plan."

Leonard somehow knew what Shin was thinking, so he immediately explained. "Well, that is also part of the plan. But we can't risk exposing our main purpose for fighting them."

"To make it not so obvious, we need to have a valid reason to fight the tribe leaders," muttered Cloe with a soft voice.

"By the way, what is our main objective aside from defeating that cowardly snake?" said Arthur as he was still clueless about what they were really after fighting these tribe leaders.

Unfortunately, he was still ignored by the three as Shin suddenly stood up from their hiding place and started walking towards the base of the One-Horned Tribe.

"Hey! What are you doing right now? I thought we can't alert the other members of the tribe?" said Arthur as he was trying to suppress his voice as quiet as possible but also enough for Shin to be heard.

On the other hand, Shin just waved his hand and said. "Don't worry, I'm just going to check something," without even looking back at them.

He then suddenly disappeared as he entered stealth through one of his skills.

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Not long after, Shin arrived at the chief's residence where the tribe leader of the One-horned Tribe was currently staying.

He was able to dodge the senses of the Wingmen Tribe guarding the area as the stealth skills that he had been quite high; especially the skill that recently got from Blackie when she was promoted into an Elemental Spirit from just being a pet.

Skill Name: Abyssal Mark

Skill Type: (Active) Elemental Skill

Skill Rank: Special

Skill Details:

Mark a target with the power of the Darkness, making them your prey.

After killing the target, all of your stealth skills will reduce their cooldowns by 50%. But killing 2 targets at the same time will reset the 'Abyssal Skill' cooldown back to zero.

Mark Charges: 2

Mark Duration: 10 seconds

Cooldown to refill the skill charge: 20 seconds

Skill Name: Dark Cloaking

Skill Type: (Active) Elemental Skill

Skill Rank: Special

Skill Details:

Manipulate the light surrounding you to make your presence hidden from anyone's sight.

At the same time, enfold your body with the power of Darkness to remove your scent and fool your enemies.

Skill duration: 10 seconds

Skill Cooldown: 15 seconds

Whistle~ ♪

Shin really couldn't help himself but be amazed by these skills since their utility was among the auxiliary skills that he knew so far, especially the 'Dark Cloaking' that could practically fool both eyesight and the sense of smell.

Moreover, these skills even complement most of his assassinating skills.

"I'm thinking that I am lacking in the Crowd Control area when it comes to my assassinating skills. But with these two skills, I now think that I don't need them much anymore," muttered Shin before staring at the chief's residence in front of him.

"Now, how should I sneak inside?" he was thinking about this when he suddenly saw a group of players being escorted by the Wingmen members of the f One-Horned Tribe towards the chief's house.

Seeing that, Shin suddenly got an idea and immediately put the [Nephilim's Gemini Mask] on before secretly joining the group.

Not long after, they arrived inside the house and were immediately greeted by a powerful pressure that was trying to suppress them.

Due to that, most of the players that were entering alongside Shin were put on their knees as soon as they entered the room.

Aside from Shin and another cloaked player, the others were either kneeling or lying on the ground for not being able to withstand the powerful pressure crashing on them.

After a few more moments, the pressure suddenly disappeared as if it never existed in the first place. Then the Wingmen who guided the players inside started picking up the players on the ground before taking them back outside.

Having no idea what was happening, Shin could only knit his brow while trying to assess the current situation. 'What was that for?'

He was still in the middle of his thoughts when he suddenly heard a deep voice from his front.
"Congratulations! You pass the test to become one of us!"

Shin was planning to raise his head to see the owner of that voice. Based on the mighty and arrogant tone, he was suspecting that it was the tribe leader.

But before he could even take a look at who it was, he suddenly received a system notification that took him by surprise.

Ding!

System: Your Strength was recognized by the leader of the One-Horned Tribe, making you qualified to become one of them. Would you like to accept his offer?

System Warning: You will lose your current race once you accept the offer.

'What? A Race Conversion from the get-go? But there is no system announcement saying that the players can now convert to Wingman Race yet!' Shin became even more confused the moment he read the notification.

But he didn't have the time to think about it yet since the Tribe Leader immediately interrupted his thoughts. "You two should feel honored being personally chosen by me. No one is worthy enough to receive this kind of privilege."

Shin further frowned his eyebrows as he was still trying to catch up on what was currently happening. But due to their silence, the tribe leader suddenly felt that there was something strange going on.

"Why are you not answering?" asked the tribe leader with squinting eyes and a commanding tone.

'Crap! I nearly forget why I'm here,' thought Shin to himself before removing the visuals of his mask and raising his head to take a look at the tribe leader. And when he raised his head, he immediately saw the appearance of the Wingman sitting a few meters away from him.

NPC Name: Toran

Race: Wingman (One-Horned Tribe)

Level: 200

Stats: ???

Details: ???

Toran has a build that was much more muscular compared to the other Wingmen that Shin saw. And even if the crimson wings on its back were currently folded, Shin was suspecting that it was carrying more powers compared to others. After all, the body was the most dangerous weapon of the One-Horned Tribe.

At the same time, the horn curving upwards at the center of Toran's forehead was quite eye-catching. It had a golden color, unlike the usual black one that the other members of the One-Horned Tribe had.

'Looks like I was right after all,' muttered Shin as his eyes were fixed on the golden horn of Toran.

Meanwhile, Toran became even more suspicious of the two when he saw that they were not responding to him.

"You!"

Then Toran released his powerful aura once again but it was way stronger than before.

Boom!

With the powerful restraining Shin and the other player, Toran looked at them sharply while saying with a very cold tone. "You two, you are not here to pass the test. Identify yourselves! And what is your purpose for coming here!?"

"Tch!" Shin clicked his tongue when he saw that. But he was still as calm as always since he was confident that he could leave this place without any problem.

He continued to observe Toran for a few more moments, trying to confirm if his suspicion was indeed true. Not long after, he nodded his head and came to a conclusion. 'I guess, they really have the other half of Garuda's Inheritance.'

'I guess, it is time to leave now and plan for our next move,' thought Shin while nodding his head.

But before he could even make his move, his eyes suddenly turned wide when he saw what had happened next.

There was a sudden burst of Killing Intent from the player standing beside him which made Shin to immediately hop away from that person, creating some distance between them.

But contrary to his expectation, he was not the target of that player. It was actually the tribe leader instead.

"Is this guy nuts? Planning to attack a high-leveled NPC head-on?" muttered Shin, completely shocked when he saw the player charged towards Toran without any hesitation.

"Insolent fool!" shouted Toran the moment he saw the mysterious player charging towards him. He raised his fist and planned to throw a powerful punch forward with it.

But at the same time, Toran suddenly got a glimpse of the mouth hiding beneath the shade of the incoming player's hood – he was wearing a huge grin as if he was mocking the tribe leader for his actions.

Seeing that, Toran suddenly felt an intense danger coming from this particular player. At the same time, he also spread his wings outwards and was planning to retreat, following his instincts.

Unfortunately, it was already too late.

The mysterious player suddenly accelerated forward while taking out an item from his sleeves; it was a very small ax-like item with a handle that could be held in one hand. And due to his sudden burst of speed, he managed to arrive in front of the tribe leader before quickly swinging the strange item that he took out earlier.

"You-...! A-and that's-....!" Toran was trying to say something but he couldn't complete his words since his head was suddenly separated from his shoulder the very next moment.

"What!?" Shin couldn't hide his surprise when he saw that scene.

'He killed a high-leveled NPC in a single strike?' Shin would not believe it if he didn't see it personally.

Then his eyes were attracted to the strange item that the mysterious player was holding in his hand.

Item Name: Beast Killer

Item Type: Miscellaneous (Consumable)

Item Rank: Special

Historical Note:

A replica of a Legendary Item that was once feared by all of the Beastmen around the world.

It was a powerful item that was rumored to have had the ability to slay Dragons, kill a monstrous Beast, and annihilate any sea Monsters.

Through a lot of experiments, a great alchemist managed to create a replica of it. Unfortunately, it didn't possess the desired power that he wanted.

But at the very least, it could kill any Beastman who came in contact with it.

Abilities:

-Use this item to slay any Monster or Beastman NPC with a single strike.

Restrictions:

-Can only use up to 5 times: (Current uses 3/5)

-The target monster should not have 100 levels higher than the wielder.

"What!?" Shin became even more surprised when he saw the details of that strange item. He couldn't even believe that such a broken item actually existed at the current stage of the game.

Unfortunately, he didn't have the time to dwell in that thought as he saw the player crouching on the ground and planning to take the golden horn from Toran's severed head.

"Not on my watch!" shouted Shin as he used the 'Phantom Steps' to appear behind that player before swaying his saber downwards.

Sensing the threat, the mysterious player had no choice but to abandon the idea of picking up the severed head and dodged the incoming strike.

Swoosh!

He appeared a few meters away from his previous location before looking at Shin. "Don't get involved in this if you don't want to regret it later."

He then saw Shin pick Toran's head up and quickly put it inside his inventory. "You! That is my trophy!"

Meanwhile, Shin just stared at him for a couple of moments before replying with a provoking tone. "Unfortunately, you can't be sure about that.... Unless you manage to take it away from me."

Chapter 540 Another Party Getting Involved

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"Come, try and take it from me," said Shin with a sneering tone while also making a provoking gesture at the mysterious player.

'I can't read his information? This guy is not your average John Doe then,' he thought to himself when he failed to read the basic information of the guy even with the help of 'True Sight' observation Skill.

On the other hand, the mysterious would naturally recognize Shin since he was not wearing his signature mask to hide his identity.

"Don't get too cocky, newbie. You are just a little cub who barely reached the pinnacle of Virtual World," said the mysterious player who seemed to be mocking Shin's actions.

Shin suddenly knitted his eyebrows when he heard those words. 'An old-timer like Arthur?'

At the same time, he also saw that the mysterious player was swapping out the special items on his hand with a real weapon this time; and it was a pair of daggers.

Seeing that his opponent was getting ready to battle, Shin also started making his preparations and took his battle stance.

Due to that, the temperature inside the room dropped sharply as the auras coming from the bodies of the two started clashing against each other.

When the mysterious player saw that Shin was able to negate the aura that he released, he suddenly started grinning from ear to ear before saying. "You sure are one hell of a guy. Our group is already keeping an eye on you, but we still can't figure out your real strength – especially with that insane growth rate that you have."

Hearing that, Shin couldn't hold his curiosity anymore and asked with a solemn tone. "You know who I am?"

Then he suddenly remembered the thing that Leonard had said about the members of a notorious and mysterious organization. "Are you from the 'Pandemonium Descendants'?"

The mysterious player couldn't hide his surprise when he heard the words from Shin. He then started chuckling before saying. "This is quite unexpected, to think that a 'newbie' player knows our existence? You sure are an interesting one."

But at the same time, he also remembered Shin's connection with Arthur and Leonard. "Oh~! No, you probably already heard about us from those two, the famous Dragon God: Siegfried and notorious War God: Simba."

"Those two really are going to be a problem for us in the future. I guess we now need to turn our focus on eliminating them as soon as possible before they hinder our plans," he muttered in a soft voice, seemingly forgetting about Shin's existence.

Seeing that his opponent was slightly getting distracted, Shin wanted to take advantage of that situation and planned to make his move.

But right before he could take the first step forward, he suddenly felt a chilling sensation shrouding his entire body.

"What was that," mumbled Shin to himself, fully confused.

At the same time, he also heard the mysterious player talking. "It is still too early for you to challenge a 'Troupe' member such as myself. If you want to have the qualifications, then go deal with our 'Head Sweepers' first."

After that, a portal suddenly appeared behind him before raising his head slightly to let Shin see the mocking smile that he was currently wearing.

"Just say my greetings to those monsters on your side! And tell them that I'll claim their heads soon," he said before stepping on the space portal behind him.

But before fully stepping on it, he suddenly remembered something and immediately added. "Ah~! Before I forget, hold that divine horn for me for the time being. I'll take it back later, so you better properly protect it from the other 'fishermen' around."

"And in exchange, I will give you my name, 'Mammon'. Engrave it in your mind very well for I am going to make sure to delete your in-game account in the future," after that, he continued stepping backward while leaving some maniacal laughs for Shin to be heard.

Naturally, Shin wanted to stop Yama from getting away. Unfortunately, it was already too late, especially that the void gate was already closing.

Moreover, he could also sense some movements coming from the outside. They were probably the guard who took away the other players that didn't pass the so-called test earlier.

"Tsk!" Even though he was unwilling to leave, Shin didn't have any other choice since this incident was going to be pinned on him if he didn't get out of this place as soon as possible.

Having that in mind, Shin immediately used the 'Dark Cloaking' skill to enter a sheath state. And quickly after that, he secretly left the tribe leader's residence before rushing towards the place where he heard the group.

Not long after, Shin met with the others and quickly told them to leave.

"What!? I thought we were going to defeat that Tribe Leader?" asked Arthur, full of confusion. Though, he still chased after Shin who already ran quite a distance.

Following closely behind them was Leonard who was also running on his feet. Meanwhile, Chaotic Luck and Cloe were currently riding their mounts to keep up with the insane speed of the trio.

"He is already dead!" said Shin without even turning his head at them.

"What?"

This time, the group became even more confused when they heard those words. But at the same time, Arthur started complaining immediately after. "What the hell man~!? We are supposedly going to take him down together, how come you left us behind and have all the fun?"

On the other hand, the other three were currently wearing a weird look on their faces as they didn't know how to react to the words that they heard from Shin.

Sensing that Leonard was not saying anything, Arthur couldn't help but turned his head at him and asked. "Hey! Why are you not scolding him?! Don't you feel betrayed."

And that was only when Leonard managed to regain his composure. He then looked at Arthur and replied. "He said that the Tribe Leader is already killed," emphasizing the main issue.

Hearing that, Arthur immediately nodded his head and said. "That is what I'm talking about! He already killed..."

And that was only when Arthur realized what they were thinking and immediately turned at Shin with a shocked expression on his face. "Wait!!! How is that possible!? That tribe leader should be a Level-200 Named NPC!!! He should be as strong as a Level-200 King Class Monster!!!"

Seeing that Arthur was starting to freak out, Shin immediately shook his head and denied what they were thinking. "Don't get me wrong. I'm not the one who did it..."

He then trailed his words for a couple of moments before continuing with a solemn tone. "Another party got involved."

"Eh!?" This time, the group became even more surprised the moment they heard those words.

Arthur, Leonard, and Cloe already got an idea of who was that 'party'. But they still wanted to confirm, so one of them asked seriously. "Is it them?"

Feeling the heaviness on his tone, Shin immediately nodded his head and replied. "I'm still not clear with the whole details, but they seem to be aware of what is really going on."

"But one thing is for sure, the 'Pandemonium Descendants' really are involved right now," he added quickly after a brief pause.

The other three turned silent for a few moments before Cloe opened her murmur with a soft voice. "What about their most elite team, the Pandemonium Troupe? Are they in this place?"

No matter how quiet her voice was, the others were able to hear her. Especially with their enhanced senses.

"The assailant says that he is a member of the 'Troupe', so he may be one of them," said Shin immediately after overhearing her. He then slightly turned his head to the side, looking over his shoulders before saying. "He even wants me to say 'Hello' for him to the two of you."

And when he saw that they two were not reacting much, he immediately added. "He also says that he is called 'Mammon' or something."

This time, there were some noticeable changes in the expression of the two when they heard that peculiar name. And when Shin saw that, he immediately asked. "You know him?"

Meanwhile, the two immediately nodded their heads, acknowledging what Shin had said.

"Well, not personally. But we at least know that he is really a member of the Pandemonium Troupe, the Sloth Devil; Mammon," added Leonard.

"Is he really that strong?" asked Shin curiously.

Leonard thought for a couple of moments before replying. "I really don't know about his real strength, but one thing is for sure, he is as strong as Arthur and I even when we go all-out."

"That strong?" asked Shin with a little doubt.

This time, it was Arthur's tone to reply. "In terms of fighting capabilities at the very least. But it is only because of his insane speed; it is really hard to catch him because of those annoying legs that he has."

At the same time, Cloe immediately chimed in, say. "But at the very least, having him involved in this is much better than dealing with a bunch of 'Sweepers' when we are busy with our own quest."

"Sweepers? Who are those? I heard from that Mammon guy that I need to defeat their heads or something before I get the right to challenge a 'Troupe Member', " asked Shin with a knitted brow.

Hearing that, Cloe immediately explained. "'Sweeper' is a term to address the assassins working under the 'Pandemonium Descendants'. Each one of them is very strong, which is why a party consisting of these assassins can take down a renowned Godlike Player."

She then took a brief pause to point at herself, Leonard, and Arthur before continuing. "Each of us almost died in their hands before."

Hearing that, Shin then nodded his head, indicating that he understood. But he still asked another. "What is the relationship between these so-called Sweepers and those 'Troupe Members'."

Then Arthur immediately answered. "A Troupe Member is obviously much stronger than the Sweepers which is why they are ranked higher."

"But they are not working in the same group. When a Troupe Member appears in a certain place, the Sweepers can't get involved in whatever happens in that place. Because the former is taking it as an insult if they get some help from the members with a lower ranking than them."

"Moreover, a Troupe Member is always working alone since they are too confident about their skills. That is also the reason why Cloe said that our current situation is still a little better. After all, we only need to concern ourselves with a single guy rather than dealing with a whole group of annoying assassins."

After that, Leonard immediately cut in and added. "As for that Mammon guy, he is one of the people who tried to assassinate Arthur and me previously. We don't know who he was back then. But we learned about him just recently."

Hearing all of those, Shin repeatedly nodded his head, understanding the current situation. But at the same time, he suddenly remembered something and immediately asked. "Wait! How come you suddenly knew about them? I thought they were quite mysterious with almost no information about them."

Hearing that, the three exchanged glances with each other before Arthur decided to reply. "Someone just recently posted his discoveries about them in a secret forum channel, where only a Peak-Godlike Player like us can access."

Shin was quite curious about this particular secret channel but he knew that he was still not qualified to gain access to it, so he chose not to do any inquiries. But it didn't mean that he was not interested to know who was the person who dared to spy on a powerful and mysterious organization such as the 'Pandemonium Descendants'.

So, with his curiosity, he couldn't help but ask. "Who is that player then?"

Arthur and the other two remained silent for a couple of moments before the latter decided to fill Shin's curiosity. "It is... Zero."