

Destiny 541

Chapter 541 Monsters

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"What!? So, are you saying that guy has an item that can instantly kill any kind of monster and Beastman NPC? That's way too broken!" reacted Chaotic Luck when he heard the details of what happened inside the chief's residence from Shin.

"Yeah, it is indeed a broken item, but it still has some restrictions in it. Just like the target's level shouldn't exceed 100 levels than the user," said Arthur on the other hand.

"But still-...!" Chaotic Luck wanted to say something but Leonard immediately cut his words off by saying, "That's it for now. We have a situation at hand right now."

,m "Based on what Shin Bro has said, the other side seems to have already killed 2 of the tribe leaders right now. So, we need to make haste right now," he added with a solemn tone.

Meanwhile, Shin was currently in deep thought as he was trying to assess their current situation. And after a couple of moments, he suddenly said, "Given that the Mammon already killed 2 of the tribe leaders, it is not strange for the Three-Headed Snake to know what is currently happening."

"Moreover, I'm sure that it also knows that the other half of Garuda's inheritance is within the bodies of the Tribe Leaders. And given how cunning it is, we can also expect it to hide the other Tribe Leaders and take their inheritance on his own."

Hearing that, the other three nodded their heads and immediately acknowledged what he just said.

At the same time, Arthur turned his head at Shin before saying. "So, what's the plan?"

Shin thought for a few more moments before replying firmly. "We are heading straight to the floating castle."

"Eh!?"

The others were confused at first but they immediately understood what Shin was currently planning after a few moments of thinking.

"Let others collect all of the materials while we are setting an ambush for them, huh? I like it," muttered Arthur grinningly.

Unfortunately, his mood was immediately dampened by Cloe by asking. "But how are we going to enter that place?"

Shin thought for a couple of moments before replying. "Well, see when we get to the center of Sky Island. But first, we need to increase our speed so that we can arrive before our opponents beat us on it."

Swoosh! Swoosh!

In the meantime, Mammon arrived at the camp where the Five Talon Tribe were currently staying.

He chose not to get the other piece from Shin since he was quite confident that he could take it back any time he wanted. It was even when Arthur and Leonard were at the latter side, protecting him.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

When he was about to make his move, a pair of silhouettes suddenly flashed behind Mammon before turning into a pair of hooded figures who were kneeling and bowing at him.

"What is it?" asked Mammon, seemingly annoyed.

"Sir Mammon, the Devil's Meeting is about to start on the next day, so the 'Pride Devil' wants you to wrap everything in this place as soon as possible," said one of the guys kneeling behind him.

Hearing that, Mammon suddenly clicked his tongue and replied with the same annoyed tone earlier. "Tsk! I know about it already, so you can tell 'Pride' that I will be there on time."

He then directed this gaze back at the camp in front of him before continuing with a threatening tone. "So, if you don't have anything to say more, then you can get out of my sight right now before I kill you both."

The two hooded figures kneeling behind him turned silent for a couple of moments before the other guy decided to open his mouth. "There is also another message from the 'Greed Devil', Sir."

"Huh~!? This time it is 'Greed'?" said Mammon with a tone of someone who was about to lose his patience. But he still chose to hear it out before deciding what to do with them later. "What does he want from me?"

Then the other hooded guy nodded his head and immediately replied. "The Greed Devil wants me to relay a message to you, Sir. And his exact words are as follows-..."

After a brief moment of pause, the aura surrounding that guy suddenly changed alongside his voice. "Oi! Oi! Sloth! Let me warn you about something. Be careful not to accidentally create yet another monster that will hinder our progress, if you know what I mean."

Then the person immediately went back to his usual state before adding quickly. "That is all that he wants to say, Sir!"

The corner of Mammon's mouth suddenly twitched a little when he heard those words. And after a few moments of silence, he suddenly said. "That guy really wants to poke on other people's business. Tell him that I know about it already and don't dare look down on me."

"Now, get out of my sight!" he said coldly, which made the two behind him leave in a hurry.

After that, the expression on his face suddenly turned sore as he muttered with a heavy tone. "Another monster, huh? Isn't it still too early to put that cub in that level?"

He then started walking towards the camp, planning to resume his work.

In the meantime, in a secluded place on Sky Island, there was a hidden cave where a particular play was currently staying.

"Three of them have already been killed. Tsk! I didn't expect this guy to move this quickly," said by a voice from the dark corner of the cave.

"It is fine, we still have two of them, so there is nothing to worry about," said another. But the strange thing was, this second voice was completely different from the previous one yet it seemed to come from the same source.

Moreover, there was another one that also came from the same owner. "We can't do anything about that. He takes the first move after all. So, we are a step too late."

"Hahaha! Who would expect that the inheritance that we are looking for is right beside us all this time? Too bad we discovered it a little too late," said the first voice.

"Tsk! That sly bird really knows how to play a trick on us in every encounter. We have been playing this game for a long time already, yet we still can't read what he is thinking," said the second one.

Hearing that, the third voice seemed to agree with them and added. "After all of those cycles, we finally found the way to end this. So, we need to make sure that he will not revive this time."

"Of course!" responded by the second voice.

"Too bad for him, he already finds his perfect vessel but his rebirth will never get completed," sneered the first voice.

Silence descended on the cave for a couple of moments before the third voice started taking once again. "We need to consume him as soon as possible so that we can complete our form."

"That's easy! We can't do anything right now. After all, he is just an ordinary spirit right now," said the second voice in an excited tone.

Not long after, a player suddenly entered the cave before kneeling in front of the darkness in front of him. "All of the preparations are already done, my lord."

When he arrived, the three voices suddenly became one as they responded to the man kneeling in front of them. "Oh! Then that means we can now start making our moves. Mobilize all of our forces and start attacking the floating castle of the filthy bird!"

"Yes, my lord!" replied the man before planning to stand up and leave.

But before he could even pick himself up, the voice hiding in the shadow of the cave suddenly stopped him midway. "Wait! Since you are my most loyal servant, then I will grant you the power that you want."

"But... I still haven't completed my task," said the man.

Where the voice had replied. "Don't worry, you have already done enough. Now that I have the final pieces for that bird's revival, he can no longer complete his rebirth."

The voice then started laughing maniacally which made the whole cave shake violently. And immediately after that, the owner of that voice locked its gaze on the man kneeling in front of him before saying. "So, rise! For you are going to be my most trusted aide!"

Complying with those words, the man slowly stood up while also raising his head to look in front of him.

First, he saw three pairs of eyes staring back at him from the shadows of the cave. His entire body shook violently when he saw those gazes, but he immediately braced himself and dared not to take away his eyes from them.

Unconsciously, he activated his personal ocular skill so that he could see through the dark. And in there, he saw a massive snake coiling around with three heads sticking upwards.

He left this spirit in this place since it was the order given to him. The Three-Headed snake told him to leave it behind since it was going to try absorbing the mana from the core of the Sky Island, also trying to regain its peak form.

But what he was seeing right now was an absolute monster that seemed to be unrivaled at the current stage of the game.

Seeing that, he couldn't hide the grin curving on his lips. "My choice is right after all."

Boom!

He then felt an overflowing power running inside his body right after he received the blessing of the Three-Headed Snake.

And due to that, the grin that was wearing curved even wider as he could already see himself standing on the peak of this game while wielding this power. "Just you wait Archimedes. Soon, I will show you who really is superior between the two of us."

Chapter 542 Arriving At The Floating Castle

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Shin and the others arrived at the center of the Sky Island faster than they had expected. But they immediately became surprised at what was in front of them right after their arrival.

"What the? Did we still arrive late?" muttered Leonard while looking at the scene in front of them.

There was an ongoing war not far from their current location. The forces of the Wingmen Tribes gathered together and challenged the keepers guarding the floating castle.

With that, the two sides were clashing in the air, making the sky full of Wingmen fighting each other.

The keepers were much more powerful compared to the other Wingmen Tribes. Their features were quite average aside from their feathers that were too similar to what the eagles had.

On the other hand, the other side had the advantage in terms of quantity so they were trying to overwhelm the opposing side with their numbers.

Meanwhile, the battle on the ground was much more chaotic compared to what was happening on the air. And that was why Shin and the others were confused after seeing this sight.

The Wingmen Tribes gathered together and teamed up to fight against the keepers of the Sky Island, so the players siding with them were supposedly also at the same time and fighting together.

But contrary to it, the players on the ground were currently in the middle of a chaotic war against one another; the players from the same group, guilds, and organizations initiated an attack and challenged their rivals.

"Tsk! So, they figure out that this may be the final moments of this regional event, huh?" muttered Arthur with a knitted brow.

"And that is why they want to monopolize everything and dare to risk everything on the line right now rather than saving it for the later," said Leonard noddingly.

On the other hand, Chaotic Luck was currently knitting his eyebrows and couldn't help but blurted out unconsciously. "But isn't it a bit of a waste? After all, they can just wait until the heat of the battle subdued a little before making their moves."

Hearing that, Cloe giggled a little before saying. "Well, it is kind of true. But it will be too late if they wait like that."

"Eh!?" hearing that, Chaotic Luck slightly became confused and looked at her with an expression that wanted some explanation.

But the one who answered him was Shin. "That is because they are not total idiots."

"Huh?" Chaotic Luck became even more confused at those words and immediately looked at Shin with a look that was demanding a further explanation.

Seeing that look, Shin chuckled a little before continuing. "With all of the strange things that are happening in Sky Island successively, it was natural for those guild leaders to notice that there is something odd going on without them knowing."

"And their suspicions immediately come true when the tribe leaders suddenly get assassinated one by one," he added with a smirk.

Leonard nodded his head and quickly supported. "So, if they don't make haste and sit around, then they can only get nothing but scraps."

"So, what now? Are we going to join them or just wait for her and observe?" asked Leonard with a frown.

"Nah~! We are not doing either of that," said Shin while raising his head at the floating castle. And with a smug smirk, he suddenly added. "We are off to meet our potential comrades."

He then looked at Arthur and said with a huge grin. "Hey! You always want to stand out, right? The-..."

Shin trailed his words a little as his grin turned even higher. "I got an eye-catching job for you."

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The battle under the floating castle was as chaotic as ever no matter if it was in the air or on the ground.

Each side was not showing any signs of backing out. The restless attacked anyone who was not on their side. And that kind of chaos lasted a few more moments until every force decided to start laying low a little. It was because they were aware that the end of this battle was nearing its end.

Though...

Little did they know, the main event was just about to start.

Roar!

And that was when they heard a loud roar of a dragon coming from a distance. Due to how loud it was, the attention of everyone present in the area was immediately attracted towards the direction where it came from.

BOOM!

And when they turned their heads towards, a sudden explosion suddenly exploded from that direction followed by an immediate appearance of a cloud of smoke.

"Eh~! What is that?" shouted someone unconsciously while pointing at the sky.

The whole place suddenly turned silent due to the sudden explosion earlier. So, his words were heard loud and clear by everyone. And due to that, they couldn't help but follow the direction where his index finger was pointing out.

There, they saw a huge silhouette of a winged figure flying towards the sky and slightly blocking the sun.

The thoughts of everyone seemed to pause for a moment as they were trying to figure out what was that thing flying in the air.

Shing!

Then they saw a flash of light that came from the top of that winged silhouette which was immediately followed by raining lights that poured down at everyone on the ground.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

And since their minds were currently in a slight lag, most of them failed to respond in time and got hit by the downpour of those falling lights.

Meanwhile, the Wingmen flying in the air could either be a Monster or an NPC that were moving according to their instincts and programs they had. So, they were able to recover quite fast and quickly dodge the falling lights.

On the other hand, Arthur who was standing on the back of his golden dragon pet was currently looking down at what was happening below them with a smug look on his face. Behind him stood Shin and the others who were shaking their heads helplessly.

"I told you that it is fine to attract the attention of others as long as we fly straight to the floating castle. But it doesn't mean that you have to attract their attention purposely," said Shin while glaring at Arthur.

Hearing that, Arthur looked at them with a huge smile while saying. "Sorry about that. I just want to mess with them a little."

"Mess you say? It looks like those Wingmen are now interested in messing with us now," said Chaotic Luck from the side while pointing below them.

Casting their gazes below, Shin and the others saw the Wingmen stopped fighting for a moment before starting to fly straight to them like a flock of angry birds.

"D*mn you, Arthur. Look at what you've done," cursed the group with a twitching face.

"Oops! I guess, I overdid it a little," said Arthur while wearing a stiff smile. After that, he immediately lowered his body while saying to the others. "Hold on tight! We are going up now."

He didn't even wait for the others to respond to his words since he was already tapping the back of the golden dragon and ordering it to fly towards the floating castle.

Swoosh!

Fortunately, the other four were fast enough to respond and quickly grabbed whatever they could, preventing themselves from falling.

"Ah!"

"You better get ready for later, Arthur!"

"D*mn! You never get any order right!"

"Tch!"

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At the edge of the floating castle, Archimedes and Daulla were watching the ongoing war below while trying to find the locations of their real enemies.

But instead of finding what they were looking for, what they saw was a rapidly enlarging silhouette while flying straight to them.

"Huh?"

The two immediately assumed a battle position when they saw it. Daulla quickly prepared a powerful spell to greet it while Archimedes was infusing a large amount of mana on the arrow loaded on his bow.

But as the silhouette got much closer to them, the true appearance of that enlarging figure was immediately revealed to the eyes of those two.

"Eh!? A golden dragon? Isn't that-..." muttered Daulla as she was able to recognize the incoming dragon.

And not long after, they also saw the familiar figures riding on the back of the golden dragon.

Seeing that, Daulla knitted her eyebrows for a moment before muttering with a quiet voice. "Eh!? Those guys-... What do they think they are doing?"

Swoosh!

Then the golden dragon flew past them and made a beautiful curve in the air before landing on the floating castle with a loud sound.

Bang!

Thud!

"Ah~! My back!" said Chaotic Luck as he fell from the back of the golden dragon for failing to endure the impact.

On the other hand, Arthur and Leonard immediately jumped off from the back of the dragon before it could even land on the ground. At the same time, they also did a couple of quick flips while they were in the air before landing steadily on the ground.

Meanwhile, Shin quickly swapped the [Nightwalker's Cloak] with the [Dawn's Mantle] before using one of the skills attached to it. And due to that, his body suddenly became light and fell gently on the ground while carrying Cloe in his arms.

"What are you guys doing here?" said Daulla right after appearing in the group.

Seeing Daulla and Archimedes, Shin immediately put up a smile and said to them. "Yo! Can we talk about that later?"

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

While he was in the middle of talking, a series of figures suddenly appeared in the sky while being accompanied by a loud gust of wind.

Looking in that direction, the group saw a large number of Wingmen surrounding them while also emitting a deadly aura.

After that, Shin gently put Cloe down before sweeping his gaze at them while saying. "For now, let us deal with this flock of birds."

Chapter 543 The Truth (Part 1)

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"Let us deal with these birds first," said Shin while walking forward.

Surrounding them was a large group of Wingmen, both the tribe members and keepers. Those two groups were supposedly fighting against each other, but at this point in time, they seemed to have a silent agreement to fight together against a common enemy.

"These guys are supposed to be mortal enemies of the Black Nagas, right?" muttered Cloe from the back before looking at Arthur with a smile.

"What!?" asked Arthur, slightly confused. But he also had an idea of what she was implying to.

And to confirm it for him, Leonard nodded his head from his side while quickly adding. "Snakes are relatives of lizards, and dragons can be considered as reptiles... So~♪..."

But before they could even complete his words, Arthur immediately reacted and shut him up. "My Dragon is not a god*mn lizard!"

The group started laughing out loud when they saw his reaction, feeling amused.

Well, aside from Shin who was busily sweeping his gaze at the surrounding Wingmen, hovering in the air.

"They are quite strong, but since the tribe leaders are already gone, dealing with them is going to be much easier," muttered Shin as he took a sword-drawing stance. And with him taking the lead, the others behind him also assumed a battle position, getting ready to fight.

On the other hand, the Wingmen surrounding them in the air immediately looked at the group aggressively before raising their weapons to retaliate.

But before the respective sides made their moves, Archimedes suddenly flew in the air and put himself in the middle of the groups before shouting. "Wait!"

"Eh!?" Shin and the others were quite surprised by his actions but they immediately understood what he was planning when they remembered that he was supposedly Garuda's Descendant.

And just like what she was thinking, the keepers immediately became at ease and quickly separated themselves from the other Wingmen Tribes. Though, they were still on guard against Shin and the others.

"These guys are my guests, take care of the rebels," said Archimedes, to which the keeper immediately responded and quickly resumed their battle against the other Wingmen in the air.

"Whoa~! He really can order those guys," said Arthur with a whistle.

On the other hand, Leonard and Cloe slightly shook their heads before the former commented sneeringly. "You are talking as if we don't have the same level of authority when it comes to our respective Organizations."

Meanwhile, Shin also lowered his battle stance and said to the two in front of them. "We're sorry for intruding but we really don't have a choice."

"So, can we now ask why are you guys here?" asked Daulla with a slightly annoyed tone.

But instead of immediately answering her question, Shin put up a smile and asked in return. "Well, we have no problem telling you our reason for coming here. But first, are you guys sure it is fine to talk about it here?"

"How about we find a more quiet place where we can discuss something so important?" he added while pointing at the Wingmen in the sky, who were currently in the middle of intense battle once again.

"Eh!? Ahm-..." Daulla wanted to say something but her words were immediately cut off by Archimedes.
"Follow me."

Hearing that, Daulla invited the group to enter the castle while chasing after Archimedes. And when they left the place, a pair of strong-looking keepers suddenly positioned themselves at the entrance of the castle, guarding it.

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Archimedes led the group to a conference room inside the castle where Shin and the others narrated everything that they discovered so far, starting from the time they first arrived at the Primal Kingdom. And that included the quest that Arthur and Leonard received from the Head Keeper that they encountered during their test to enter the Sky Island.

In return, Archimedes and Daulla were asked to tell them honestly their main purpose in coming to this place. Naturally, Daulla had some objections with that since she felt that they were at a disadvantage on this information exchange.

Unfortunately, she couldn't say anything when Archimedes accepted Shin's suggestion without any hesitation. He was even quite generous to give Shin and others some information regarding the Three-Headed Snake.

After exchanging that information that each side had, the entire room suddenly turned as both sides fell in deep thought, trying to figure out what they were going to do next.

A few moments later, Shin raised his head once again and looked at Archimedes before asking. "So, what is your next plan? From the information that we have, I'm pretty sure that you also figured out what's really going on, right?"

Hearing that, Archimedes suddenly knitted his brow as he couldn't believe what he just discovered. But at the same time, he was also not fully convinced with it; especially that he was doubting that this kind of quest was going to deceive the players.

Seeing the expression that Archimedes was making, Shin was able to read what was currently running inside his mind, so he immediately said. "It is not impossible – those kinds of quests really existed."

"I even experienced some of them personally," he quickly added after remembering the quests that the fake king of Saint Heaven Kingdom had given him.

Hearing that, Archimedes looked at Shin and asked. "But how can we just believe you?"

"Yeah! It is already ridiculous to say that a Named NPC with such status gives us a fake quest to deceive us, but also saying that it is meant to take the body of a player is even more unbelievable!" added Daulla while slamming the table.

Shin started chuckling when he heard her reaction and tapped his finger on the table while saying. "Believe it or not, it is really possible. After all, this game is not your ordinary game from what we can see so far."

He then paused for a moment to open a virtual screen showing the details of Arthur and Leonard's quest. "And we already have the evidence that we need here."

Quest Name: War of Wingmen and Black Nagas

Quest Type: Hidden-Investigative Quest

Quest Difficulty: Hell-Master (V-)

Quest Detail:

The never-ending war between the Wingmen Race and spawns of the Wicked Snake Kings had lasted for more than a century already.

Due to this, the land of the 'Glowing Feathers' had never experienced true peace.

Quest Condition:

-Stop the war between the Wingmen Race and the spawns of the Wicked Snake Kings and bring peace to Sky Island.

Quest Reward/s:

+5 Levels

+200 Fame Points

+20,000 Reputation Points

+15 LP (Legacy Points)

-Unlocked the Wingmen Race

-Unlocking one of the sub-races of Naga Race, the Dire Nagas

Note: The current Naga race will be distinguished as 'Ocean Nagas' if the quest is successful

Extra Reward (Depending on your achievements during the quest)

-Epic Tier 2 Skill Books (Class Specific)

Quest Penalties:

-10 Levels

-4000 Fame Points

-40,000 Reputation Points

=Forever disappearance of the Sky Island.

=Being branded as the mortal enemy of the Wingmen Race

"At first, I thought that we just needed to kill the Three-Headed Snake to complete this. After all, it was practically obvious that it is the so-called 'Wicked Snake Kings' mentioned in our quest. And probably the 'antagonist' in this story." said Shin.

And after a brief moment of pause, he quickly added. "But after taking a closer look at its details, I discovered that it is not the case. In order to stop this so-called war between the Wingmen Race and the Black Nagas, both Garuda and the Three-Headed Snake need to be killed at the same time."

"And how can you come up with that conclusion?" asked Daulla, not buying what Shin had said.

Hearing that, Shin smirked a little and opened another panel on his virtual screen where the murals that they had seen before were being shown.

But despite seeing those, Daulla was still not convinced and immediately said. "Those murals are only telling you about the legend of Garuda and the history of Sky Island, nothing else. What's more, how can we be sure that your own quest is not the fake one and not ours?"

"So, impatient," muttered Shin with a bitter smile before opening more panels that had different sets of murals in them. But despite the difference, all of those murals had one thing in common; all of them were about the Wingmen Race and Black Nagas.

"It is because of these, I guess," he answered after.

Daulla still wanted to say something when she saw those murals. But she immediately stopped herself from talking when she took a closer look at each of them. "Wait-... are those-...?"

On the other hand, Arthur and the others were also quite surprised when they saw those murals since they had no idea that Shin had them.

"Hey! Where did you get those?" asked Arthur confusedly since he couldn't remember any of those murals aside from the first set that they saw in the cave.

"Some of them are from that guy Kayne that we captured earlier while the rest are from Crazy Jiang – I ask him to look for similar murals when I discover that the murals that we have are not the only ones out there. Fortunately, he is quite fast at gathering them," said Shin in a nonchalant manner.

"And after putting all of them together, I finally discovered the real reason why these birds and serpents are fighting with each other," he added with a smile.

"You already know all about this but didn't tell us anything about it? Tsk!" said Arthur who seemed to be sulking.

Seeing that, Shin was unable to help himself but chuckle at Arthur's expression before saying. "Even if I want to tell you about that, you will not be interested in it anyway."

"Moreover, I just completed the puzzle earlier when we were on our way here," he added while patting Arthur's shoulder.

Meanwhile, Cloe seemed to have a sigh of relief while muttering to herself. "So, that is why he is in a dazed state from time to time. Here I thought-..."

"You are thinking of what?" asked Shin, cutting off her words.

Hearing that, Cloe suddenly raised her head and looked at Shin for a moment before dodging his gaze with her burning ears. "Nothing!"

On the other hand, Daulla finally turned quiet and sat on her seat in silence, too ashamed to say anything more.

Seeing that, Archimedes, who was not saying much since they came in here finally opened his mouth and asked. "So, how about summarizing everything for us?"

Seeing that they were finally willing to listen, Shin immediately nodded his head before muttering. "So~... where should I start?"

Chapter 544 The Truth (Part 2)

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"How about you summarize everything for us a bit?" asked Archimedes after a long time of being silent.

Hearing that, Shin pursed his lips a little before muttering to himself. "So, where should I start?"

After thinking for a couple of moments, Shin started arranging the pictures of murals on the virtual screen according to his understanding. He then started talking right after organizing them.

"As you can see these murals are telling us something – and it is obviously about this so-called war between the Wingmen Tribes and Black Nagas that existed for generations."

Shin paused for a moment to move a couple of murals to the side and enlarged some of them that were showing the 'protagonist' and 'antagonist' of the story that the murals were telling them. "As for these guys, I suspect that they were the so-called reincarnations of the same beings."

"– The very first 'Bird King' and 'Snake King'," he added while pointing at the first pair of murals where a gigantic golden bird and massive black snake were drawn.

And with another shuffle of murals, Shin showed them the battles of the two monsters. "Both of them have a fair share of wins and losses. And through the passage of time, they are getting more and more powerful than they are in the previous generation."

"Aside from that, they are also evolving whenever they win a battle since they are consuming the losing side after every victory," emphasized Shin as he pointed at the different forms of the golden bird and the black snake was taking after a specific battle.

"Well, all of what you said is possible, but the question is why are they fighting each other and also why they keep being reincarnated after losing a battle," asked Arthur unconsciously.

Hearing that, Daulla couldn't help but nod her head while adding. "Actually, it is much harder to believe that they are still able to reincarnate despite being devoured by the other side right after losing."

"About that... Well, I'm also not sure why and how," answered Shin with a sigh as he also didn't know how to answer those questions. From what he knew, he was still missing some of the most crucial parts.

And while he was troubled thinking about that, Solus suddenly materialized beside him and said. "Let me explain that part, my lord."

"Eh!?" The group was surprised at her sudden appearance, especially Cloe who was not aware of her existence for far.

Moreover, she couldn't help but look at the beautiful elemental spirit from head to toe, checking her figure and appearance. And immediately after her 'assessment', she suddenly threw a deadly glare at Shin that even sent some chills on his spine.

Meanwhile, the man in question tried to escape his current predicament by quickly looking at Solus while saying. "Oh~! You are finally awake? I thought Hanzo is the only one that needs some rest after what happened in the Blind Abyss Empire, so I'm quite surprised when I discovered that all of you were in a slumbering state when I got back."

"I apologize for our absence on behalf of everyone," said Solus while bowing at Shin.

And after a quick moment of pause, she immediately explained. "The others need to recover their strengths after overexerting themselves during our recent battle; especially the Great Ancient Spirit. Meanwhile, me and the twin tigers are still trying to familiarize ourselves with our new bodies."

Hearing that, Shin nodded his head before asking her to hurry up and start saying what she wanted to say before Cloe could even kill him with her fierce glares.

"As for the matter between the Bird King and Serpent King, they are currently in a never-ending battle because of the curse cast upon them by the previous Goddess of Sky and Earth," said Solus, starting to narrate what she knew.

"During the early times of the Warring Era, there were some races that refused to join the battle for dominion as they preferred having a peaceful life. They choose to isolate themselves away from the chaotic war going on during that time."

"And one of such races were the creatures worshipping the Goddess of Sky and Earth, the Sky rider Race – the true Ancestors of the Wingmen people of the current time."

"At the time of peace, a talented Sky rider was born. He possessed an unrivaled talent and power since the that he was born. And because of that, the Goddess became fond of him and gave him her blessing by naming him 'Garuda'. Due to that, he became more powerful and much stronger than he used to be.

"But through the passage of time, Garuda became unrivaled on the whole race; no one can match his talent nor his powers. And this led him to be bored and tired."

"He couldn't find the way to advance further since there was no one in their Race who could match him. And due to that, his homeland became a cage that was preventing him from flying higher."

"He then got a desire to go outside and challenge a much powerful individual so that he could improve his strength. He wanted to find a fuel that could light the fire within him."

"Having that mind, he broke the taboo of his race and went outside to venture out of the world. There were even some youngbloods who joined and followed him."

"When they got out, they immediately discovered the chaos rampaging around the world during that time. And since they were young and hot-blooded, their desire for combat was immense."

"They joined the war and won quite a lot of battles. They continued to claim victory after victory until they met their rivals, the Ancient Serpents."

"The rivaling races fought against each other for a long time with both sides having a fair share of victories and defeats."

"One day, while Garuda and his men are recuperating from the injuries that they got from one of their fights, a certain general from the Serpent Army suddenly discovered the homeland of their mortal enemy. And with his lead, they slaughtered all the Sky rider Race residing in that place."

"Since the experience in actual battle was quite huge, the Skyriders were no match against the forces of the Serpent Army. Naturally, the news that their homeland was being attacked. But it was already too late when they arrived."

"Enraged of what had happened, the Goddess of Sky and Earth broke a divine taboo to cast a curse on both Garuda and the general serpent who slaughtered her people."

"Garuda was cursed for breaking the number one rule of their homeland which was leaving its premises and getting involved with the war outside. The Goddess believed that it was because of what he did, their homeland got dragged into the war."

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but mutter with a quiet voice. "Some rules about karma I guess."

Solus nodded her head at Shin when she heard that before continuing. "As for the serpent general, who also became the Serpent King at the current time, was obviously cursed due to the crimes that he committed; especially the massacre of the Sky rider Race."

"The exact words of the Goddess of that time were 'Since both of you want to fight, then I will grant you the power of infinite reincarnation so that you can battle each other for the generations to come'."

"Alongside them, even their descendants were also involved in this, which were the current Wingmen Tribe and Dire Nagas. And that was how everything started."

After that, the room suddenly turned silent once again as everyone was trying to digest all of the information that they got.

A few moments later, Arthur pointed out yet another question. "If one of the gods got involved, then why did the Serpent God or something didn't do anything during that time to protect his own people?"

To which Solus immediately replied. "The God of Serpents is a cunning one. During that time, even the heavens are also in a chaotic state, so he just chose to sacrifice one line of his offspring in exchange for some compensation from the Goddess of the Sky and Earth."

"So, maybe that is the reason why the Naga Race doesn't have a sub-race during the start of the game," muttered Shin.

And hearing that, Leonard also nodded his head and added. "I guess some of the Beastmen races that are unavailable to the public also have similar histories."

"Setting that aside, how are we going to stop this so-called war between the Wingmen Race and Black Nagas," asked Archimedes, pointing out their main issue.

Hearing that, the room turned quiet once again as everyone was waiting for Solus to answer the question.

Solus thought to herself for a moment before giving an answer. "There are only three possible ways to stop this never-ending war."

"First is to prevent either side from being reincarnated. Even if their souls can repeatedly be reborn once again, there are still some conditions that need to be met before that."

"Like for example, casting aside a part of their powers and hiding it from their rival. So, even if they lost a battle somehow and got devoured by the other, a part of them is still hidden somewhere to help them for their reincarnation."

"It is going to be even more helpful if a part of their soul manages to escape since they will not lose their current memories even after being reborn."

Hearing that, Shin unconsciously looked at the golden horn sitting on the corner of his inventory. 'So, that is the real reason why Garuda gave these powerful 'blessings' to the Tribe Leaders.'

And that was when Solus suddenly added. "All they need to do is gather these powers together alongside a suitable vessel that can host their souls."

At this point in time, the group simultaneously turned their heads at Archimedes as they all knew that he was the so-called vessel mentioned by Solus.

"Continue," said Shin after a brief moment of silence.

Nodding her head, Solus immediately resumed. "The other method is to capture either of the souls and seal them in a certain place where no one will discover them. Capturing both of their souls is also possible – in fact, it is even better to have both of their souls sealed."

After that, Solus paused for a moment to see if they had something to say. But when she saw that they didn't have anything to comment on, she immediately continued. "As for the third and final method-..."

"It is just looking for someone who is strong enough to lift their curses and free them from the infinite reincarnation."

Ugh!

Hearing that third option, everyone couldn't help but groan a little since she made it sound so simple even though it was actually pretty much impossible to do; she was practically telling them to look for the real Gods inside the game!

For all they knew, such existences were only possible to find at the latter stages of the game. Heck, it might even be longer.

Due to that, Silence descended inside the room once again as everyone was trying to find a solution to solve their current problem.

During those time, Shin suddenly remembered what Kayne had told him during his 'interrogation', or more like torture.

At that time, Kayne told him that the Three-Headed Snake was currently in an incorporeal form. Having that in mind, Shin suspected that it suffered a severe injury from its most recent battle against Garuda; or it might even be caused by a different being that was as strong as it.

While he was thinking about that, Shin's attention was suddenly caught at the little specks of light flying around Leonard.

"Incorporeal form, injuries, and Elemental Spirits," muttered Shin quietly to himself. And while he was murmuring about those words, an idea suddenly entered his mind. "Eh!?"

And because of that, he couldn't help but raise his head while saying. "I think I got a solution."

Chapter 545 Setting Up The Traps

...

"Are you sure about this? We are practically doing their quest for them if we do this," asked Arthur to Shin as they walked along the corridor.

Shin chuckled a little when he heard Arthur's complaints before saying. "I've told you already, we are not the ones who are going to help them in their quest – it is one of our enemies instead."

"Tsk! How can you be sure about that? Forget about the Three-Headed Snake, we don't even know what Mammon is planning," said Arthur with a click of his tongue.

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but chuckle even more before patting Arthur's shoulder. "That is why we are going to wait for him, right? Just make sure to properly beat him up when he appears and have no intention of making a deal."

"And also take those things that we need from him while you are at it. I'm pretty sure that they are guaranteed drops based on the descriptions that they had," he added while pointing at the golden horn that he got from the leader of the One-Horned Tribe.

"Tch!" Arthur clicked his tongue once again when he heard that and muttered with a soft voice. "You are always leaving the most troublesome part to me."

"Well, that is natural since you always want to be the one standing at the center of a spotlight," replied Shin nonchalantly while also shrugging his shoulders.

"Tch! F*cker!" cursed Arthur before turning silent for a moment. After that, he turned his head at Shin once again before asking. "Anyway, is it really fine to let that dude Archimedes leave? I mean, he is the so-called vessel of Garuda, and the ceremony is not going to be complete if he is not present."

"So, it is pretty obvious that he is going to be the main target of Mammon and the Three-Headed Snake," he added with a frown.

"If it is before, then you are right. But at this point in time, that statement is wrong," answered Shin in a mystifying tone.

"Tsk! Cut the crappy mystifying act already and just tell me about it!" yelled Arthur as he was starting to get annoyed.

Seeing that, Shin couldn't help but laugh at him even more before answering. "You also heard what Solus said earlier. She told us that both Garuda and the Three-Headed Snake are supposed to have their respective preparations for their next rebirth if ever they lose or die in battle."

"And that statement is basically telling us that those two already have suitable vessels prepared for their rebirth. So, Garuda has already done his preparations before he even meets Archimedes."

Arthur knitted his eyebrows as he stared at the particular Wingman standing a few meters away from them. It seemed to be guarding the huge metal door behind it.

It was the same Wingman who had a pair of golden wings that he and Leonard saw earlier before they arrived on the Sky Island. It was also the same Wingman who gave them the current quest that they had.

"So, you are telling me that this self-proclaimed leader of the Keepers is that so-called vessel?" asked Arthur while further raising his eyebrows.

"Bingo~!" said Shin noddingly. And after a quick moment of pause, he immediately added. "So, even if Archimedes is not around, this dude over here is going to be the next target of Mammon and the Three-Headed Snake."

"So, what are we going to do now? Beat him? Capture him? Or ask him to work with us? After all, he is the one who gave us our current quest," asked Arthur with a deep frown as if he was really trying to think what would be their next move.

Meanwhile, Shin just shrugged his shoulders before replying. "Simple, all we need to do is protect him from our opponents."

"Or at least not let him die at the hands of Three-Headed Snake. After all, Mammon seems to have a different reason in mind when he is collecting those parts. I suppose we at least have a similar goal in mind," he added while pursing his lips.

"Tsk! Snakes don't have hands, dumbass," commented Arthur from the side.

Shin's train of thoughts was suddenly cut off when he heard that. He then quickly glared at Arthur and said. "That is just a figure of speech, moron! A metaphor, if you have never heard of one!"

"How do you solve these kinds of quests by the way? With that brain of yours, I doubt you can solve these kinds of puzzles," sneered Shin.

But Arthur immediately gave his reply in a nonchalant manner. "Why would I bother burning my brain cells for it if I can just invite some smart-ass to join me with it? Someone like Cloe or Zero for example."

The corner of Shin's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard that before looking at Arthur with a disgusted face. "Where is that pride of yours saying that you are a Pro-gamer?"

"I'm telling you when it comes to getting a quest, I rarely receive puzzles like these. What I always get are Monster Exterminations Quests, Assassination Quests, Exploration Quests, or similar things," said Arthur with a proud tone.

"Pretty much perfect for a battle-hungry idiot like you," commented Shin smirkingly.

Arthur then paused for a moment before adding with a serious tone. "Well, my method is at least way better than Leonard who always wants to solve things with his fist. He is always brute-forcing his way on everything."

"Well, you are also right about that," agreed Shin as he remembered Leonard's suggestions when they were doing one of his quests where they were trying to siege a fallen outpost. 'Now that I think of it, he indeed says that he can destroy that place if he wanted. Though, I really thought that he was just saying things randomly during that time.'

Meanwhile, somewhere below the floating castle, Leonard and Archimedes were currently observing the fight while being completely hidden behind the dense trees.

"Why do my ears feel so itchy? Tch! I guess those two are talking sh*t about me once again," complained Leonard as he picked on his ears.

At the same time, he also saw Archimedes wearing a solemn expression on his face from the corner of his eyes.

"Hey! Relax for a bit, Shin Bro knows what he is doing," said Leonard while sitting in a more comfortable position.

On the other hand, Archimedes suddenly threw a fierce glare at him. "Tsk! You are saying that because you are not the one who will suffer a major loss after failing our quest."

"Heh! At least it is way better than having your account gets deleted," said Leonard sneeringly. And immediately after, he suddenly squinted his eyes while also releasing his killing intent. "And let me warn

you, my task is to make sure that you are not going to get captured by our opponents or get killed by either of them-..."

"But it doesn't mean that I can't beat the crap out of you to humor you who is supposedly the superior beast between the two of us," he added threateningly as if he was a wild beast baring its fangs.

Meanwhile, Archimedes was staring at Leonard solemnly as he was currently seeing and experiencing something different from his perspective.

From his point of view, he was seemingly being surrounded by infinite darkness where he and Leonard were currently in the middle.

At the same time, there seemed to be a massive silhouette of a lion standing behind Leonard and was currently staring at him with a pair of savage eyes. It was currently baring its fangs that were warning him not to overstep his boundaries, or else he was going to get devoured by doing so.

'Tsk! What a very crafty way of using one's Killing Intent. And by mixing it with his Aura Manifestation, he is able to create such a realistic illusion,' thought Archimedes while squinting his eyes.

'This guy must be close to reaching the Ethereal Opening Stage and entering the Ascension Realm,' he added inside his mind while steeling his mind and breaking free from the illusion that Leonard had created.

"That kind of trick is nothing in front of me," said Archimedes right after he broke the illusion.

But he immediately closed his mouth when he saw a battle-axe right beside his neck, threatening to separate his head from his shoulders.

"But it is more than enough to take your life," said Leonard before retracting his battle-axe and leaning it on a nearby tree. After that, he sat on the ground once again and leaned his back on the tree, planning to take another nap.

"Just a piece of advice – if you want to win this battle, then all you have to do is follow the plan and our desired result will immediately follow," he said while closing his eyes.

He was about to relax his body when he suddenly remembered something. "Ah! And don't worry about your daughter, our team healer is not that weak. She may be the sole female member of our group, but she is still our Commander."

"Eh!" Those words really caught Archimedes off-guard as he was not expecting to hear it. 'She is the Commander? But from what I've seen so far, I'm pretty sure that that guy with the grey hair is the team leader. What's going on?'

Little did he know that Leonard only informed him about it to lessen the tenseness that he was feeling from worrying about Daulla. 'Does it mean that she is stronger than these guys?'

Chapter 546 Archimedes And Sildra (Part 1)

...

The battle at the center of Sky Island was getting more and more chaotic as a lot of Powerhouses were starting to get involved in it.

Some of them were the top experts of the guilds and other similar organizations who just arrived at Sky Island while the rest were the most skilled players who became interested and got curious about this newly opened map. And with their involvement, the battle became more complicated than how it used to be.

But at this point in time, while everyone was too occupied with their respective battles, a sudden change suddenly occurred in the most unexpected way.

Hiss!

A series of slithering sound suddenly resounded on the whole battlefield which immediately attracted the attention of everyone, both the Wingmen and players alike.

At first, these sounds were quite negligible since they were not that loud to begin with. But as more time passed, the sounds were getting more and more annoying and also started to affect the battle capabilities of the players.

At the same time, the Wingmen fighting in the air were also starting to get agitated due to the slithering sounds. Especially that those sounds were seemingly created by their mortal enemies.

Due to that, they seemed to have a tacit agreement to stop fighting before looking for the source of the slithering sounds which were their common enemy.

Seeing that, the players under them also felt that there was something amiss. So, they also stop fighting with each other and be on guard against what was about to come.

Unfortunately, the thing that they were looking for appeared in the most unexpected way and caught all of them off-guard.

Rumble!

At first, the ground beneath their feet started shaking violently as if an earthquake with a high intensity suddenly assaulted the whole island. Then the players felt that the ground where they were standing suddenly rose little by little as if something was planning to come out from it.

Boom!

Roar!

And before they could even react to it, a massive creature suddenly emerged from the ground with its mouth wide open.

Due to the previous shaking of the ground, the players failed to have a stable footing which led them to lose their balance when the ground suddenly burst upward. And because of that, they were instantly swallowed by the gigantic creature that suddenly came out from below them.

Some of the players were able to escape to safety due to their good reflexes. But their bodies suddenly froze when they saw the monster that suddenly emerged from the ground. It was even more true to the players who were standing in the distance since they had a clear look at what kind of monster it was.

"What in the world is happening? Why is a monster of that level in this place?" said the player from a distance.

Some of the players around him were even shaking intensely due to the terror that they were feeling.

"Hey! Hey! That is a level 300 Draconic Serpent!" shouted a player who seemed to be part of a powerful guild.

Boom! Boom!

Not long after, two more gigantic serpents suddenly emerged from the ground, swallowing yet another group of players respectively.

And with the appearance of yet another pair of serpents, the players started to panic as they were fully aware that they were no match against such an existence.

Roar! Roar! Roar!

Then the three snakes suddenly released a world-shaking roar that rendered the players completely immobilized.

"F*ck! That is a wide-ranged Immobilizing Fear!" cursed someone as he was trying his best to cast a skill that could free him from the status effect.

On the other hand, the gigantic serpents ignored the curses of the players around it and started slaughtering them.

Bang!

But at the same time, the Wingmen people hovering in the air finally recovered their composure and started to attack the three snakes. And when the players saw that, they suddenly felt encouraged and also started fighting.

It was even more true for the players who were part of the Powerhouse Guilds and other organizations.

"We totally outnumbered them, so start attacking and assist the Wingmen Race! If we take down these monsters, we may even get some legendary drops!"

"Throw everything you have! Those monsters have massive bodies so it is an easy target!"

"Attack! Attack! Attack with everything! Don't you dare get lazy on me; this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! We are going to get all of the loots that it will drop!"

...

...

...

Different kinds of orders were given out by the leaders of the groups present in the area. All of them were hoping to defeat this monster and get the items and equipment that were going to drop.

Blinded by greed, all of them seemed to forget what kind of monster they were dealing with. They even neglected the obvious fact that was standing right in front of them – that numbers meant nothing when it was facing someone with absolute strength.

"Wait! What!"

And it didn't take long for some quick-witted individuals to realize what was actually happening in front of them.

The three serpents standing in the midst of the cloud of smoke and dust created by the spells and skills of the players were seemingly unaffected by the attacks that they had thrown.

Even the Wingmen people also halted their attacks when they realized that they were not even leaving a scratch on the serpents' bodies. The black scales that it had were still shining brilliantly, not losing even a fragment of its original luster.

And when everyone was still too dumbstruck, the serpents opened their mouths widely and started swallowing the dense mana in their surroundings.

Not long after, the gigantic serpents re-opened their massive mouths, spitting a powerful beam of light in three different directions.

BOOM!

And it was immediately followed by a very powerful explosion that devoured the players in the surrounding area.

"Heh! Idiots!"

Not too far from that battlefield, Leonard was currently standing on a certain mountain peak where he could spectate the gigantic snakes' slaughter.

"Do they honestly believe that they can take down a monster of that level?" sneered Leonard while looking at the battlefield with a mocking expression.

After that, he started turning his head left and right as if he was trying to look for something. "Now, where are our next targets?"

"I'm done, what's next?" behind Leonard was Archimedes whose hands were currently covered with blood.

"Already? That's quite fast!" said Leonard after taking a quick glance behind him.

Meanwhile, there was a pile of corpses behind Archimedes. They seemed to be dead bodies of Black Nagas who had been killed recently.

'He already extracted their cores and skinned them?' Leonard looked at the skinned corpses for quite some time before grinning from ear to ear. "You got some talent in this. Are you sure that you don't want to turn it into a business?"

Hearing that, the corner of Archimedes' mouth suddenly twitched as he was not sure if those words were a compliment or an insult.

Leonard ignored the expression that Archimedes was currently making before changing the topic. "Anyway, I can no longer sense the other Black Nagas lurking around. I guess they are already aware that we are hunting them."

Hearing that, Archimedes suddenly frowned his eyebrows before walking forward and standing beside Leonard. And quickly after that, his owl-like eyes started glowing with a dim light as he swept his gaze at the forest below them.

Not long after, the frown that he was wearing turned even deeper as he also couldn't locate their targets anymore. He then clicked his tongue with dissatisfaction. "Tsk!"

Seeing his annoyance, Leonard couldn't help but chuckle a little before saying. "Don't worry, we will meet them again later. Weakening their forces for now is more than enough for us."

After that, he suddenly slapped Archimedes back which almost pushed the latter off the cliff.

Then, Archimedes suddenly swung his arm to push back Leonard's hand with a glare. "Get off!"

"Don't act as if we are close!" he added with a threatening voice.

Whistle~ ♪

Unfortunately for him, Leonard didn't get intimidated and just sneered with his actions. 'This guy rarely talks to others but he seems to be quite a decent guy. He looked like Shin Bro when we first met.'

But immediately after that, Leonard's eyes suddenly turned sharp as he felt another presence present in the area.

At the same time, Archimedes also sensed the other guy and quickly assumed a battle stance due to the hostility that he was getting from the other side.

On the other hand, Leonard then turned his head towards the direction where that hostility was coming from before saying with a heavy tone. "There is no point of hiding there if you can't even suppress that Killing Intent of yours."

"Hehe! Here I am wondering who dared to hunt my minions, who would have thought it is actually you?" said a person as he walked out from the shades of the trees.

Seeing that person, the expression that Archimedes was wearing suddenly turned solemn before muttering with a heavy tone. "Sildra."

On the other hand, Leonard was about to make his move and planned to eliminate this guy as soon as possible since he was sensing an unpleasant vibe from him. 'Eliminate the unknown variable immediately as per Shin Bro's instructed.'

"Eh!?"

But before he could even jump forward, Archimedes suddenly appeared in front of him and blocked his way.

"Hey! What are you doing? Move out of my way!" said Leonard with a deep frown.

But Archimedes refused to yield and said. "Let me handle this guy. I have a score to settle with him."

"Eh!?"

This time, Leonard became surprised since he could clearly feel the rage that Archimedes was trying to suppress. And due to that, he couldn't help but take another look at the other guy before muttering to himself. "He must be that guy."

After that, Leonard relaxed his body a little before removing his grip on his battle-axe. He then looked at Archimedes and sneered. "Is that so? Then I'll let you handle him as long as you will not let him escape."

Hearing that, Archimedes couldn't help but smirk a little before turning around while replying with a determined tone. "I never have any intention of letting him get away anyway."

Chapter 547 Archimedes And Sildra (Part 2)

...

"Heh! I see that you've become more courageous since the last time we met," sneered Sildra when he saw Archimedes walking forward.

"I guess you finally get tired of running away," he added in a mocking tone while taking out his daggers.

After that, he squinted his eyes before looking at Leonard who was currently standing behind Archimedes. 'The real problem here is that guy. He is a real monster; things will surely get ugly if he joins the battle.'

Sildra could clearly sense how dangerous Leonard could be just based on the aura that his body was emitting. He was sure that he would be killed in an instant if that monster went all-out.

Naturally, Leonard was able to notice that gaze and could sense Sildra's distress. So, he chuckled for a little before waving his hand while saying. "Don't mind me. I'm just here to spectate. As long as you don't use any underhanded tricks in this battle like calling out your companions, I will not get involved."

Hearing that didn't make Sildra any less wary. In fact, it made him even more anxious because Leonard was practically saying that no one could interfere in this duel without his permission. And much worse, no one could leave this place either if he didn't permit it.

"Tsk! I'll think of a way to get out of here later," cursed Sildra with a voice that only he could hear before charging towards Archimedes.

Seeing that, Archimedes immediately jumped away from his previous location while loading a couple of arrows on his bow.

But before could even infuse them with his mana, Sildra suddenly accelerated his speed and arrived in front of Archimedes while swinging his daggers.

Clang! Clang!

Archimedes managed to block the daggers with the limbs of his bow. And right after blocking, he immediately positioned his bow in front of him in a horizontal manner while pointing the arrows to Sildra; he was planning to fire it at a point-blank distance.

Twang!

Unfortunately, the arrows were sent upwards instead because Sildra put a lot of strength on both of his hands before pushing the bow upwards. And due to that, the arrows infused with magic were sent flying in the air.

After that, Sildra was planning to kick Archimedes and sent him flying with it. But his leg was immediately blocked by the latter's foot and prevented him from executing his sudden move.

Then both of them borrowed the forces behind each other's moves to separate themselves from each other.

"Oh~! I didn't expect you to learn a few things about close combat confrontation," sneered Sildra right after regaining his footing.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

And the reply that he got after was a barrage of arrows flying towards his direction. But none of them managed to find their target since Sildra was nowhere to be found before they could even land on the ground.

He then moved in a curving motion as if he was copying how a snake moved on the ground. Moreover, his speed was quite troublesome to deal with which was giving Archimedes a hard time locking his aim at him.

"Tsk!"

Left with no other choice, Archimedes was forced to fly high up in the air to gain a much clearer view.

"Nope! As if I am going to let you!" muttered Sildra when he saw his opponent spread his wings widely.

He then quickly extended his arms forward which immediately transformed into a group of snakes that flew straight at Archimedes, planning to capture him.

Seeing their insane speed, Archimedes knew that he didn't have enough time to fly in the air; especially that the groups of snakes were cunningly aiming at the space above him. So, if ever he tried to jump upwards, he was sure that he was going to get caught by them.

Having that in mind, Archimedes chose to flap his wings forwards to launch himself backward instead of flying upwards.

Hiss! Hiss!

But the snakes seemed to be persistent and continued to chase after him even though they couldn't match him in terms of speed.

Hu~!

Seeing that, Archimedes took a deep breath to regulate his breathing while infusing the loaded arrows on his bow with a large amount of mana.

A few moments later, the arrows were set ablaze with a silver flame that was large enough to cover his entire arm.

With another deep breath, Archimedes aimed the blazing arrows upfront before quickly releasing it a second later.

'Class Fighting Style: Silver Hunter'

Swoosh!

Then a silver beam of light was sent flying right after he released the string of his bow. The light beam was not only burning everything on its path as it was also cutting through space due to the sharp and pointed head that it had.

"Eh!? That's fast!" mumbled Sildra when he saw the incoming beam of light. He then stared at it for a couple of moments as it was rapidly magnifying in front of his eyes.

Boom!

Then an explosion was immediately created when the silver beam of light collided against something.

Meanwhile, Archimedes was staring intensely at the cloud of smoke and dust created by the previous explosion. He knew that he hit something with his skill but he was also aware that it didn't harm his opponent the slightest.

A few moments later, he suddenly shot up in the sky as he sensed some vibrations on the ground.

Boom!

Then the ground where he was previously standing suddenly exploded as a large number of snakes burst out from it. They tried to chase after him but they failed miserably as they were greeted by a downpour of arrows.

"Heh! You are still as predictable as ever, my dear rival!"

Then Archimedes heard a familiar voice coming from behind which immediately sent an intense shiver on his spine.

Meanwhile, Leonard couldn't help but nod his head when he saw the change of favor before muttering to himself. "That Sildra guy is quite cunning. Each of his moves is a craftily made setup for his next move. Not bad, not bad."

Going back into the fight, Archimedes' eyes suddenly turned wide as he knew that he fell on his opponent's trap. But he also understood that it was already too late to escape or strike back, so all he could do was to enhance his defenses to minimize the damage that he was going to take.

First, he quickly folded his wings to prevent them from directly receiving the attack. He then forced his body to turn around in the air while swinging his bow at his opponent.

"Futile struggle," sneered Sildra while thrusting his dagger downwards and was planning to dig it on his opponent.

Sildra tilted his head to the side so that he could dodge the upper limb of the incoming bow. And because of missing his target, Archimedes' shoulder became exposed to his opponent's attack.

"Ugh!"

The dagger pierced through the unguarded shoulder which gave intense pain to Archimedes. But despite receiving a serious injury that severed a large chunk of his HP, he was still able to withstand the pain he was suffering by gritting his teeth before forcing his other hand to grab his opponent.

After that, he suddenly spread his wings outward before wrapping both himself and his opponent with them as quickly as possible.

Sildra was caught completely off-guard by that move since he was not expecting that his opponent was going to retaliate like that.

Then Archimedes adjusted their position in the air, making their heads facing the ground first. And quickly after that, he suddenly initiated their fall while spinning rapidly in the air.

Right before they hit the hard ground, Archimedes suddenly re-opened his wings and released Sildra, sending the latter to continue his fall.

Swoosh!

Boom!

From the sideline, the corner of Leonard's mouth was twitching uncontrollably as he was able to recognize the move that Archimedes had executed. "Isn't it-...? D*mn! Brother Arthur will surely want to see it first-hand. He loves to watch those shows after all."

Meanwhile, Archimedes was currently gulping a 'Superior Grade Potion' to quickly recover his Health and heal his injuries.

At the same time, he was also staring intensely at the cloud of dust created by the previous collision. His eyes were fully focused on that spot, warily waiting for his opponent to show himself once again. After all, he was fully aware that that kind of attack was not enough to finish up Sildra.

In fact, Archimedes could also start attacking right now if he wanted to. But he was also aware that his opponent also had a special skill under his sleeve that could reflect all kinds of attacks thrown at him. And that was also the very skill that almost killed him the last time they met.

"Well, well~! I guess you really have grown patient since your previous defeat," said Sildra as he slowly walked out of the cloud of dust.

"Then I guess I also can't fool you with those tricks anymore, huh?" he added after removing the dust from his leather armor.

After that, he immediately held his daggers in reverse fashion before assuming a battle stance. At the same time, the air surrounding him suddenly changed as the look on his face also became serious.

"Then should we start getting serious now? I'm also quite eager to test out the new abilities granted to me by my lord," he said before manifesting his Aura Manifestation.

From Archimedes' perspective, what he was seeing was a huge embodiment of a black serpent coiling behind Sildra with its head sticking out in the air while staring back at him with a fierce glare alongside some eerie slithering sounds.

Seeing that, Archimedes closed his eyes for a moment and inhaled deeply, trying to regulate his breathing again. And when he reopened his eyes, a powerful pressure was suddenly released from his body and fought with the heavy atmosphere surrounding Sildra.

Then a gigantic figure of a wise-looking Owl was suddenly manifested behind Archimedes. It was spreading its wings widely, showcasing its beautiful silver feathers and seemingly trying to intimidate the massive snake that it was facing.

On the other hand, Leonard couldn't see their Aura Manifestations since he was not the current target of their suppression. But at the very least, he could guess what was happening by looking at the immense aura that both sides were currently releasing.

So, he started grinning from ear to ear before muttering in an excited tone. "Should I get some popcorn first?"

Chapter 548 King Of The Sky (Part 1)

...

After testing the mental strength of their opponents during the staredown, both Archimedes and Sildra immediately start making their respective moves.

Archimedes quickly spread his wings and flapped them forward, propelling himself towards the opposite direction. At the same time, he was also shooting his magic-enhanced arrows in a rapid succession.

Swoosh!

Meanwhile, Sildra immediately kicked the ground beneath him to launch himself forward, chasing after his opponent. And when he saw the valley of arrows flying towards his way, he immediately executed a strange footwork which made his movements unpredictable.

Each time he swayed his body left and right, an arrow would miss its target. Despite dodging them with a very small margin, not a single arrow managed to graze his body much less land a clean hit.

But even if he was able to dodge those attacks without problem, his speed was still greatly reduced, and unable to close the distance between him and Archimedes.

Seeing that, he immediately adjusted his footwork and decreased its speed a little. But instead of slowing down, his movements seemed to become much faster than before since he was able to shorten the distance that he needed to cover little by little.

He sacrificed some of his speed in exchange for better mobility on his movements. Due to that, he was able to reach the optimal distance that he needed to execute some of his range skills.

First, he made a couple of signs with both of his hands, summoning a group of snakes that suddenly sprung out from the ground and shot straight to Archimedes. And using them as a distraction, Sildra was able to further lessen the space between him and his opponent.

But Archimedes was naturally not going to let himself get outperformed by his opponent. He immediately executed a series of dodging maneuvers the moment he saw the incoming snakes.

He performed some tumbles, flips, hops, side steps, and other dodging movements in an unpredictable manner, avoiding each of the snakes flying at him. And every time he found a window to strike back, he would always grab that opportunity and fire some arrows at either the snakes or Sildra who was quite persistent at chasing after him.

Archimedes could easily escape this predicament if he wanted to by just flying up in the air. But his rich experience in battle was telling him not to do it. He could also sense it – there was a hidden trap waiting for him to use his wings and fly up in the sky.

Due to that, Archimedes chose to face Sildra with this chasing game even though he was aware that he was slightly at a disadvantage.

From the sideline, Leonard was currently enjoying his relaxing time while watching a great show; he was even eating some snacks on his hands that no one knew where they came from.

He was even nodding his head from time to time whenever he saw Archimedes and Sildra execute a beautiful move that was hard to counter – and alongside it was another satisfied nod when the opposing side countered that attack with their own unexpected move.

But that was just the start, their battle was slowly getting more intense the more they exchanged blows. They even started mixing some of their skills and combat techniques on their moves as their battle progressed.

The clash between Archimedes and Sildra ever reached a much higher level to the point where their surroundings were starting to get affected. Not physically where their attacks were destroying everything around them.

They were affecting their surroundings for a different reason; it was as if the air around them seemed to become humid and heavy.

They were not sure if it was because of the residual mana from their respective skills or due to the killing intent that they were currently releasing, but both of them knew that their bodies were getting much heavier as more time passed. Though, their concentration was also becoming more and more focused at the same time.

Archimedes was starting to feel strange the more he continued exchanging blows with Sildra. He clearly felt that moving his body at his point in time was quite hard but he also felt that movements were becoming more and more fluid.

'What's happening?' he even started knitting his brows as he was quite confused at the current state that he was in. But regardless of those thoughts, he still let himself get carried away and continued what he was currently doing.

Due to them being too focused on their battle, they practically had no idea how other people saw their battle.

Whistle~ ♪

"This is interesting! To think that I'll be able to witness such a degree of battle from players who are not even a Godlike Player? These two sure have a lot of bright futures ahead of them in the Virtual World," said Leonard as he watched the ongoing battle in front with a huge grin.

Looking from his point of view, he seemed to be seeing a pair of mythical beasts clashing against each other; a divine owl with a massive size and a demonic snake that had a body as long as the height of a skyscraper.

Meanwhile, the previous mountain peak where they were battling now had a flat surface. The ground where they stood was still elevated from the foot of the mountain, but its originally sharp peak was nowhere to be found. They practically transformed the sky-high mountain into a mesa.

"Tsk! Too bad, we can only keep one of them to our side," muttered Leonard while watching the pair of lights chasing one another in the midst of clouds of smoke and dust.

While Leonard was enjoying his time while watching a great show, the group who were left in the floating cast was somewhat having a rough time.

"Tsk! Where did these filthy snakes come from?" cursed Chaotic Luck as he controlled his undead monsters to battle a large group of Black Nagas.

"Beats me too! We are together since the time we get in here, so don't ask me some stupid question! I should be accompanying Shin instead of taking care of these guys!" shouted Cloe from the back, clearly showing her annoyance.

'I'm not asking you, Big Sis. I'm just mumbling to myself. And how come you can hear me when you are way too far from me?' complained Chaotic Luck as he looked at Cloe who was casting her buffs and heals from a distance.

Hiss!

Then a Black Naga broke through the blockade of undead that he set up for defense and started charging at him.

"No, you ain't!" shouted Chaotic Luck as he raised his hand in the air while gathering the surrounding mana on his palm.

Boom!

But before could even complete casting his spell, a thunderclap suddenly exploded beside him, breaking his concentration.

"Ah!?"

He then jumped out of fright for being off-guard. And due to that, the sphere of fire that he was trying to form on top of his palm suddenly lost its balance and exploded. It was supposedly a powerful spell, so its explosion sent flares of fire in every direction.

Coincidentally, snakes suddenly emerged from the ground and were trying to bite him. But instead of catching their target off-guard, they were the ones who got surprised instead due to the flares of flame that immediately greeted them right after their appearance.

Meanwhile, the Black Naga who was supposedly charging at him suddenly halted its tracks when it saw the scene in front of it. And due to the sudden pause, the surrounding undead around it devoured the poor Naga without any resistance.

"Eh!?"

On the other hand, Daulla who was about to apologize for what happened was staring at the sight with a stupefied expression on her face.

She was trying to cast a wide-ranged spell earlier to wipe out the snakes that unexpectedly emerged from the ground around her. One of the snakes managed to slip through her attack and charged at her.

She was able to avoid getting bitten by that snake by swinging her electrified staff on it. But at the same time, that move also affected her focus and made her control over her spell slip a little.

Due to that, one of the lightning bolts of her spell suddenly went out of control and flew towards Chaotic Luck's position.

Fortunately, it only landed at the space beside Chaotic Luck and didn't strike him.

"I thought he was quite clumsy and just an ordinary player without his strange undead summonses, but I guess I was wrong," muttered Daulla to herself after seeing Chaotic Luck 'displayed' his battle skills 'amazingly'.

"He is able to keep his calm despite a stray lightning bolt almost landing on him. What's more, he also strikes each of the snakes hidden underground accurately despite the ambush on top of dodging my spell," she added before casting three different spells at once and firing them towards different targets.

"I can't let myself be outshone by them!" she said to encourage herself after she successfully took down her targets.

Chapter 549 King Of The Sky (Part 2): Sparks

...

Clang! Clang!

Cling!

While everyone else was pretty much occupied with their respective battles, Shin was currently sitting on a corner with a sulking face as he watched Arthur battle against a strong opponent that came out of nowhere.

They were already expecting that Mammon was going to appear in this place, trying to plot something while the others were busy dealing with the Black Nagas. And that was also the reason why Shin chose to guard this place alongside Arthur.

But at the same time, they were not expecting that this member of the rumored 'Pandemonium Troupe' was going to appear very prepared.

Right after arriving, Mammon immediately attacked without any hint of hesitation. But no matter how unexpected his move was, it was still nothing to be surprised about when it came to Arthur.

Moreover, he was already tired of waiting and sitting around doing nothing while the others were too busy on their side.

Clang! Clang!

So, when Mammon suddenly appeared and initiated an ambush, Arthur immediately greeted him with a bright and excited smile. "Oi~! You sure take your time at getting in here, Mammon; the Sloth Devil!"

"Oh~! So, you not only know my name now, huh? You even managed to dig out my title too?" said Mammon with a surprised look on his face right after creating some breathing space.

"I guess that sword freak guy does a lot of work to finish your homework," he added with a smirk.

'So, how am I going to get rid of this annoying dragon,' thought Mammon to himself while trying to find a way to break through Arthur's defense.

But right after he turned his head to the side, he suddenly noticed Shin ducking beside him who was also in the middle of unsheathing his sword. "Huh? Since when did he-...?"

Shing!

Mammon didn't expect the sudden move, so he was clearly caught off-guard. But despite the fast and unexpected ambush, he was still able to move his body accordingly and dodge the incoming strike in time.

"That was close," muttered Mammon to himself while leaning his body backward. After that, he quickly did a series of flips, trying to create some distance between him and Shin.

Shin wanted to chase after him since his instincts were telling him that there was a trap waiting for him if he tried to pursue his opponent.

"Tsk! What a sharp guy," cursed Mammon silently when he saw Shin didn't take the bait.

"Hey! What do you think you're doing, Shin? I thought I told you not to butt in my fight!" complained Arthur when he saw that.

'Tch! This stubborn moron! Did he already forget why we are here?' said Shin while sheathing his sword and refuting at the same time. "Then do your job right! We are wasting too much time here. We don't know how long Cloe and the others can hold off those snakes!"

"Heh~! So, the famous Dragon God wants to have a showdown with me alone?" said Mammon, interrupting them.

Due to that, both Shin and Arthur couldn't help but look at him while throwing a fierce glare.

"Oh~! There is no need to throw those looks at me. After all, I'm also planning to crush both of you anyway.; both in turns or together," said Mammon provokingly while putting his daggers inside his inventory space before taking out a new pair.

"Eh!? Are those even assassin weapons?" muttered Shin after seeing the weapons Mammon took out.

One of them was an oversized butcher knife with a crimson glowing edge. The other weapon was a variation of a dagger and a scimitar – it had a thin blade but had a broad width alongside a curved guard that was extending all the way to the bottom of its hilt.

"It doesn't matter what kind of weapon he is holding. It also didn't matter how strange it was. All I have to do is beat the crap out of him in the end," said Arthur as he started walking forward.

"And do you dare interfere with my duel once again," he added with a threatening tone.

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but knit his brow as it was rare for him to see Arthur act like this. Much less seeing him without his easygoing attitude.

"Why so serious? It's not like I steal your prey or anything," said Shin sneeringly before looking for a corner once again to observe the fight.

Meanwhile, Arthur stopped a few meters away from Mammon before flipping his spear and resting it on his shoulders. "Hey, Sloth Devil! I'll make sure to make you pay a hundred times for ambushes that you did to me before!"

After that, he quickly assumed a battle position where he moved his left foot forward, spreading his legs a little. He then raised his left arm with his shield to hide his upper body behind it.

At the same time, the spear resting on his right shoulder suddenly shone with a golden glow as if it was enfolded with a golden flame.

Hu~!

BOOM!

Then a powerful explosion of aura was suddenly released from his body right after he took a breath. And a few moments later, a massive golden figure appeared behind him all of a sudden, manifesting a dragon.

It had diamond-shaped golden scales and a huge pair of bat wings on its back. The claws that it had on its hands and feet were giving off a feeling that they could break through even the toughest metal in this world.

Its massive body not only had the strongest defense but it was also housing a powerful and explosive strength.

Meanwhile, its sharp eyes were looking at Mammon in a fierce yet dignified manner. It was as if it was announcing its authority over every being.

Seeing that scene in front of him, Mammon couldn't help but chuckle a little since it had been a while since someone dared to look down at him like this.

But he didn't get angry nor provoked since he was also aware that Arthur at least had the right to treat him like that. After all, he was not even 100% confident that he could win against him in a one-on-one battle; especially if both of them went all-out.

So, there was nothing for him to complain about.

"A dragon, a perfect representation of absolute power. It also has a tough defense and a powerful offense. Such a perfect symbol for someone who is known for his defensive prowess and offensive capabilities," muttered Mammon to himself while staring at the golden dragon behind Arthur.

He then closed his eyes, trying to make his mind clear before summoning his own Aura Manifestation.

Boom!

He didn't even take his battle stance when a powerful pressure was released from his body alongside the massive silhouette that appeared behind him.

It was as if he was trying to show Arthur his superiority.; he was seemingly telling his opponent that he didn't need to assume a battle-ready position to summon his maximum battle potential.

Seeing that, Arthur couldn't help but smirk a little before muttering with a quiet voice. "Heh! Do you think that taking a battle stance is just a way to show my awesomeness?"

"And you don't even know how to properly manifest your own aura," he added with a sneering tone while looking at the huge shadowy figure standing behind Mammon.

He was not sure if his opponent was purposely hiding its real appearance to hide his real battle capabilities. After all, the Aura Manifestation was also a reflection of someone's battle style. And a skilled expert was able to see what kind of opponent they were facing.

But it didn't mean that showing one's Aura Manifestation was a disadvantage. After all, it was also a way to suppress the opponent's mind by pressuring their mental strength.

An Aura Manifestation with a more distinct form had a much powerful mental pressure, so it was better to form a complete Aura Manifestation rather than showing its incomplete form.

Regardless, Arthur didn't have a plan to ponder about it and immediately lunged himself forward.

"Heh! Lucky! I guess he is still as impatient as ever," mumbled Mammon while also making his move.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

During their charge, Mammon immediately used one of the footwork from his arsenal to create multiple copies of himself, trying to confuse Arthur.

Seeing that, Arthur suddenly smirked before accelerating his charge. "Cheap tricks!"

Swoosh!

During his charge, his body was suddenly enfolded with a golden aura that immediately transformed into a huge dragon.

Roar!

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

The golden dragon opened its mouth devouring all of the afterimages that Mammon had created. But despite destroying all of them, Arthur still failed to hit the main body.

"You are still the same, Siegfried – always been flashy but predictable," said Mammon as he appeared behind Arthur when the golden aura surrounding him disappeared.

Clang!

But despite the perfect timing of his ambush, his attack was still blocked by Arthur. "Says the one who always stabs his opponents from behind!"

With a slight turn, Arthur was able to move his shield behind him and block the incoming attack from behind. And by twisting his waist a little and pivoting towards the same direction, he was able to throw a quick counterattack with his spear.

Swoosh!

"Tsk!"

The spear on Arthur's hand lunged forward and flew straight to his opponent's face. That counter was perfectly performed and left a very small margin of error to take advantage of.

Clang!

But Mammon easily deflected the spear with a casual flick of his scimitar. And at the same time, he also used the body of that spear to guide his scimitar slide straight to Arthur.

Hup!

Seeing that, Arthur quickly pulled his right arm, retrieving his spear back. And alongside his movements, he also moved his shield towards the opposite direction, borrowing the momentum to push his opponent away from him.

Meanwhile, Mammon immediately canceled his attack and quickly jumped to the side, avoiding the shield bash.

After that, he quickly distanced himself away from Arthur since he could sense an immense threat coming from the latter.

"Tsk!" Arthur couldn't help but click his tongue when he saw that. 'D*mn! I thought I already got him!'

On the other hand, Mammon looked at Arthur with a knitted brow before sneering. "I guess you also become sly with your moves. This is going to be interesting."

After that, both of them launched themselves towards each other once again, quickly resuming the battle.

The two of them exchanged a couple of strong blows while also mixing their attacks with their respective skills and combat techniques. And while all of this was happening, Shin was currently busy controlling the 'Spying Stones' in the whole place to record the entire battle from every angle.

But little did know, this battle was going to be the spark of the war between the 'Pandemonium Troupe' and 'Empyrean Talons'.

The third big war that would be engraved in the history of the Virtual World.

Chapter 550 King Of The Sky (Part 3): An Unexpected Turn Of Events

...

Boom!

The battle between Arthur and Mammon already reached a degree where the whole place around them was completely devastated. The walls, the ceiling, and the floor were full of cracks and also showing some signs of collapsing.

The two were completely unstoppable in their battle to the point it was impossible for Shin to join them even if he wanted to.

Each of their moves was almost executed flawlessly. Even their skill and combat technique executions were perfectly linked together where their previous moves were a set up for their next attacks.

Whether it was a feint to bait their opponent or an impromptu counterattack, their moves would always have an immediate response for any kind of situation.

Shin was not surprised about that since he already learned about 'focal points' from Professor Plum and Grandmaster Benn. But what really made Shin interested in this battle was the way they messed up with each other's talents; especially Mammon who kept on juggling his weapons from time to time to confuse Arthur's eyesight.

Shin was not surprised at Arthur's moves since he was quite familiar with him. The 'Foresight' talent that the latter had was quite dependent on the information that his eyes were seeing. And with its help, Arthur was able to throw the most optimal counter on every attack that was thrown at him.

But by mixing a lot of complex moves, Mammon was practically increasing the information that Arthur needed to read which made it hard to predict his next moves.

To make it even worse, Mammon even took out a few more daggers from his inventory and mixed them on the weapons that he was already juggling. And what was more surprising about it was the power, speed, and accuracy of Mammon's attacks didn't diminish at all. In fact, they even became more fearsome and reached a much higher degree.

But despite being assaulted by such a fearsome barrage of attacks, Arthur was able to keep himself calm; too calm to the point Shin had mistaken him for another person.

There was no rush on his actions nor any signs of being impatient due to the rapid attacks that were assaulting him. He was just calmly blocking all of the attacks thrown at him. He was even throwing a counterattack of his own from time to time.

"Ho~! Looks like someone became mature in battle, huh?" muttered Shin to himself as he watched their battle.

"There are no extra movements on his actions. He is not being distracted by those daggers flying in the air either. I wonder what kind of training Uncle Nathan gives to him," chuckled Shin a little before taking his eyes from them and looking behind him where the Head Keeper was.

"Hmm... He is not moving even an inch after everything that he had done to this place?" mumbled Shin with a knitted brow while looking at the Head Keeper.

And after a few more moments of observing, Shin suddenly squinted his eyes and muttered to himself. "Something is off. But I can't figure out what it is yet."

He then put the Spying Stones in automatic mode before walking towards the direction of the Head Keeper, wanting to check something.

"That is how far you can go, Envoy of the church of Sun and Moon," said the Head Keeper coldly when Shin arrived ten meters away from him.

'Huh? He is now aware of my Title? There is definitely something wrong with this,' thought Shin to himself before tightening his grip on his sheathed sword while taking a few steps forward.

"You-...!" The keeper opened his mouth, trying to say something. But he quickly swallowed his words and back when he saw Shin suddenly appeared in front of him, ducking and unsheathing his sword.

Shing!

Shin swiftly drew his sword in a single flawless motion, cutting the body of the Wingman standing in front of him. But that body immediately faded away a second after Shin split it in half.

After that, Shin put his sword back to its sheath before turning his head to a certain direction where the Head Keeper went. "Say, you are not the real one, right?"

"Oh~! So, you figure it out already? Man~! And here I am trying not to act suspicious," said the 'Head Keeper'.

'This guy is definitely an NPC given the threat level that I'm getting from him, but there is something strange about him. I barely can sense any hint of hostility from this guy, but he doesn't look an ally either,' thought Shin to himself as he squinted his eyes while looking at the Wingman.

"Who are you? And where is the real Head Keeper?" asked Shin in an aggressive tone. He didn't care if he couldn't read the details of this particular NPC since he was quite confident that they were not the main target of whatever he was scheming.

Or at least that was what he believed.

After all, this guy should have attacked them already when Shin and the others had their guards down. Moreover, it was pretty much obvious that he could wipe them out easily if he wanted to; especially that he had unreadable information.

"Oh~! Sharp, observant, and cunning, not bad," said the 'Head Keeper'.

He then paused for a couple of moments before adding. "Well, you don't have to be too cautious of me. We may not be on the same side, but we are also not against each other either."

"Huh?" Shin frowned his eyebrows when he heard those words, confused.

Seeing that, the 'Head Keeper' chuckled a little before saying with an even more mystifying tone. "Well, my job here is already done, so the rest is already up to you. Whoever wins the reward is no longer my concern."

"See you around, Envoy who governs the Night and Day," then a black smoke suddenly enfolded his body before disappearing without a trace.

"Sh*t! I didn't even get a clue," cursed Shin as he watched the black smoke dissipate in the air.

After that, he quickly ran towards the metal door, trying to confirm something. And just like what he was expecting, the door was not even locked when he tried to open it. Noticing that, he quickly pushed the door open to see what was behind it.

BOOM!

Then a powerful aura immediately greeted Shin which almost made him kneel on the ground. 'What powerful pressure!'

Even Arthur and Mammon who were currently in the middle of an intense battle couldn't help but stop their attacks to protect themselves from the sudden appearance of pressuring aura.

After withstanding the powerful pressure crushing at him and regaining his footing, Shin forcefully raised his head to see what was happening.

Then he saw a gigantic egg-like cocoon with golden color stood at the center of the hall. It was devouring all of the surrounding mana at incredible speed. And since Shin just opened the door, a strong gust of wind suddenly rushed towards the room alongside the mana in the air.

"D*mn it!" cursed Shin before quickly unsheathing his sword and digging it on the ground, preventing himself from being dragged by the strong suction force.

A moment later, Arthur suddenly appeared beside him and quickly asked, full of annoyance. "Hey, smartass! What did you do this time? Didn't I tell you not to interrupt my duel?"

"F*ck your duel! And I didn't do anything! It is just us falling on yet another scheme of this f*cking game!" snarled Shin who was also seemingly annoyed.

Meanwhile, Mammon suddenly clicked his tongue before cursing. "Tsk! So, I'm still late after all."

After that, he quickly took out some strange items from his inventory space. One of them was a pair of Silver Wings alongside a human-like hand with razor-sharp claws. He then threw them in the air, letting them get sucked by the strong wind current. It only took an instant for those items to reach the cocoon before fusing at it immediately after.

Seeing that, Shin knitted his brows for a moment before taking out the golden horn from his inventory after a moment of hesitation. And just like the previous items, the golden horn also fused with the golden cocoon right after he threw it in the air.

Then the golden cocoon started throbbing as if it was a giant heart beating. And quickly after that, an even more powerful suction force came out from it, trying to devour everything around it.

"Hey! I'm not sure what is happening but I am pretty confident to say that we need to get out of here," said Arthur before swiftly hanging his shield on his back and quickly grabbing Shin with one hand to leave.

Seeing that, Mammon also executed a series of movement techniques to charge out of this place.

Given their current speed, it didn't take long for them to arrive at the entrance of the floating castle where Cloe and the others were currently battling the spawns of the Three-Headed Snake.

"Hey! We are getting out of here!" shouted Arthur when he saw the group from a distance. At the same time, he also waved his hand in the air to summon his golden dragon pet.

Roar!

The trio of Cloe, Chaotic Luck, and Daulla was quite confused at his words but they quickly used their respective Blinks to teleport on the dragon's back when they sensed the urgency in his voice.

Not long after, they fly up in the sky while riding the dragon. And while it was drawing a long curve in the air, the group watched the floating castle crumble.

"Hey! What's happening!" asked Daulla with a little panic after witnessing that scene.

"We also don't know," replied Shin in an instant. He wanted to add something when another commotion suddenly happened on the ground.

Roar!

The gigantic three-headed snake started acting strangely for some unknown reason.

"Let's just hope that it is not against our favor," added Shin while wearing a stiff smile.