

Destiny 581

Chapter 581 The Results Of Special Training (Part 1)

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Bang!

On the place where the two Monster Beasts were fighting, the five island prisoners were currently biding their time and patiently waiting for the white fox and crimson lizard to further weaken themselves.

While they were waiting in their hiding spots, another person suddenly arrived and headed over to the place where one of the prisoners was hiding. "Big Brother Cracker, the Boss is summoning everyone in our gang. It looks like it is already time for 'festival'."

The guy that was called Cracker gave the newcomer a sidelong glance before grinning from ear to ear before saying. "Looks like this island is going to be lively. If that is the case, then we need to hurry up and pick up the pace to wrap this up as soon as possible."

He then turned his attention towards the fighting monster beasts before continuing. "Little Dog, since you are already here, lend us a hand so that we can take down these two beasts. They are going to be our dinner later."

Little Dog didn't refuse the offer and nodded his head before quickly looking for a good place to position himself for the attack.

At the same time, Cracker started giving out his orders to his brothers by using some hand signals. And when the others saw that, they quickly executed his commands and started moving forward as sneaky as possible.

Not long after, they finally got the perfect positions to ambush the two monster beasts and trapped them with a pincer attack if ever those two beasts tried to run away later.

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In the meantime, Shin and his group were also hiding away from those guys; a little away from the group of criminals, so that they could hide their presence from their targets.

Arthur and Leonard were hiding on the opposite side of the forest where Shin and the others positioned themselves, stalking their respective targets behind.

On the other side, Shin was hiding alongside Molton and the girls before clarifying their plan. "I'll say it again. There is no need for you to concern yourselves with the prisoners, those two and I are more than enough to deal with them. Just focus on taking down those two monster beasts and securing the points."

It was not proper for the girls to take on the bloody job of dealing with these prisoners, especially that the task itself was to take those people down as soon as possible.

Given their backgrounds, Shin knew that they were not used to killing people especially with their young age; it was the same for the innocent Molton. Lorraine might be slightly different from them since her family already exposed her to these kinds of things. But at most, she could only incapacitate their opponents and cripple them by shooting those criminals.

On the other hand, the Monster Trio was in a completely different case. There was no need to question Shin since he could do the job without any hesitation given his background with the Black Serpent Mafia.

Meanwhile, Leonard was in a similar case since his master practically trained him to be cold-hearted when dealing with these kinds of people. His targets might be cruel people who could also slaughter innocent people. But killing was still killing no matter if the guys that got killed deserve to die or not.

As for Arthur, he was no longer the same as before. After being thrown in a hellish place full of criminals who always want to kill him whenever they see him, it was natural for Arthur to grow cold-hearted when facing these kinds of people.

After being ambushed before coupled with the bloody mission that they recently had, Arthur understood that he couldn't stay as easygoing as before, especially when he was facing these kinds of situations.

And with his family being a part of the Military Force of their country, it was clear to him that he was going to get involved with more cases like these in the future. So, he thought that it was better for him to face this fact sooner rather than later.

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After making sure that everything was clear, Shin nodded his head at the group before dashing towards a spot where his targets were located.

His eyes suddenly glowed with golden light as he used an ocular Mentalism Technique while surveying the surroundings. And it didn't take long for him to discover that there was another person added in the ranks of their opponents.

Seeing that, he immediately gave some hand signals to inform Arthur and Leonard, so that they could make some adjustments. And when the two saw his signals, they nodded their heads in response before quickly adjusting their positions.

At this point in time, they were now tasked to deal with two targets each. It might be crazy for them to treat their opponents as some sort of prey, especially that those people had the advantage in terms of Martial-Art attainments.

Shin and the others were only a half-step away from reaching the Ethereal Opening Stage but the opposing side was already in that stage. But regardless of being in a disadvantageous situation, the three didn't seem to care about it. They were even bold enough to treat those dangerous people as easy targets.

As the time ticked by, the two beasts were getting weaker and weaker as they fought each other. But despite that being that case, both of them were still unwilling to yield and continued to fight stubbornly.

Not long after, the two of them suffered a heavy blow from each other and got knocked down on the ground. And when the island prisoners saw that scene, they quickly rushed out of their hiding spots and launched themselves towards the two fallen beasts.

They came from different directions and were planning to give the two monster beasts the fatal blow that would kill them. The four of them were targeting the huge lizard since it was slightly in a better state than the white fox due to its hard scales. On the other hand, the other two prisoners were trying to take down the other beast.

Bang! Bang!

They were about to succeed when they heard the loud sound of gunshots coming from the nearby bushes. Cracker and Little Dog, who were planning to take down the white fox, were forced to stop their tracks and quickly defended themselves from the incoming bullets.

Clang! Clang!

The bullets couldn't penetrate the defense of the Natural Force protecting the two prisoners but it was more than enough to delay their movements.

"Ambush!"

Those words just came out from Cracker's mouth when he saw a figure appear in front of them all of sudden. And that person was actually Shin who now had a pair of sheathed katana hanging on the left side of his waist.

He was currently taking a sword-drawing stance in the air while also regulating his breathing at the same time. And before the Cracker and Little Dog could even respond Shin suddenly channeled his Mental Energy on one of his sheathed swords before pulling it out all of a sudden.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Holy Dragon - Saint Tiger Combination Technique

– Breath of Slaughter'

Shing!

With a swift swing of his katana, a crescent wave of Mental Energy was suddenly released from it and flew straight towards Cracker and Little Dog.

Not having enough time to properly execute a defensive skill, the two could only rely on their Natural Force to defend themselves. At the very least, they were quite confident that they would not suffer any serious injury from facing the incoming attack head-on.

Or that was what they thought until they came in contact with the Mental Energy Wave that was released by Shin.

Bang!

Both Cracker and Little Dog were knocked back by that attack while the Natural Force that was supposedly protecting their bodies suddenly disappeared upon contact.

"Haste!"

They were still stunned at what just happened when they saw Shin catch up with them in an instant with the help of a speed-boosting Mentalism Rune. But despite him appearing like a ghost, the two were still able to see the appearance of their current assailant.

"What? A kid!?"

They were originally thinking that they were ambushed by their rivals from the opposing gang in the island, but they didn't expect that the person that dared to attack them so decisively was a young man who was not even twenty yet.

Unfortunately, they didn't have enough time to dwell on that though too much since they could already see that Shin's katana was already making its way to chop off their necks.

"Don't underestimate us, kid!"

Seeing that, they quickly moved their bodies to respond and defend themselves – or at least they tried.

The moment they tried to execute a defensive skill, they suddenly discovered that they couldn't properly control the flow of Internal Qi within their bodies; they felt that their bodies were being seized by an invisible hand and making their Qi flow chaotically.

In the air, Shin did a couple of signs with his other hand, gathering the Mental Energy residuals lingering in the air around his opponents' bodies.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Conquering Claws of the Celestial Phoenix'

Discovering that they couldn't do anything to escape their current situation, the two could only watch the katana cut through the air.

Since the two of them were side by side with each other and couldn't move, they could predict that both of their necks were going to get severed given the trajectory of the incoming katana.

During this critical time, Cracker's instincts suddenly kicked in and extended his hand, grabbing Little Dog's shoulder before pushing the guy in front of him.

"Ah! You-...!"

Little Dog was completely caught off-guard by Cracker's actions and couldn't respond in time. And before he could even complete his words, his head was already severed from his shoulder and flew in the air.

After sacrificing his comrade, Cracker quickly forced his legs to move and retreat. At the same time, he also calmed the flow of his Internal Qi forcefully, trying to regain his ability to use his Martial-Art Skills.

When he was successful, Cracker immediately became overjoyed since he could now properly fight Shin. Unfortunately, his opponent had other plans prepared for him.

When he saw Cracker's actions, Shin quickly retracted his katana right after he severed Little Dog's head with it. And alongside those movements, he also did another set of hand signs with it.

In the very next instant, a thick hexagonal wall made of Mental Energy suddenly appeared in front of him with a Mentalism Rune written on its center.

After that, Shin pushed his palm forward and sent the Mental Energy wall towards Cracker with an imaginable speed and unstoppable force.

'Four Symbol Scripture: Bulwark Assault of the Heavenly Turtle'

Cracker's eyes suddenly turned wide when he saw the incoming wall of Mental Energy. He just recovered his control over the flow of his Internal Qi, so he was not in a position to defend against this kind of speed.

"Who is this kid?"

Those were the thoughts that Cracker had when the incoming Mental Energy Wall hit him and dragged his body towards the trees behind him.

Cracker was able to survive that attack, but he still suffered grievous wounds after colliding with multiple trees earlier. And before he could even recover himself, a katana suddenly pierced through his chest and sealed his fate.

"D*mn! Such a vicious kid that I encountered," said Cracker as his final words before his body lost its strength, signifying his death.

After that, Shin pulled his katana back and swung it in the air to remove the blood on its blade before putting it back to its sheath.

"That was faster than what I expected," he muttered to himself before turning his head towards the others to check how their respective fights were going.

Chapter 582 The Results Of Special Training (Part 2)

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A few moments before Shin took down Cracker and Little Dog.

The loud sound of gunshots would naturally attract the attention of the other four prisoners. They could tell where the bullets were not heading towards them, given the direction where the gunshots were coming from.

But even if that was the case, they still couldn't help but slow down their movements, especially when they heard their leader's shout.

"Ambush!"

The four quickly swept their gazes on their surroundings when they heard that warning. And at the same time, their bodies couldn't help but become a little tense as they got ready for any kind of attack that might come out of nowhere.

Unfortunately, being ready for an ambush and being able to respond on time were two different things.

Furthermore, they also got distracted by the sudden appearance of Shin in front of Cracker and Little Dog, so they were slightly late when Arthur and Leonard appeared in front of them.

"Careful!"

Shouted one of the four guys who first spotted the two kids blocking their way. And when the other three heard his warning, they quickly got ready and prepared to throw their respective attacks that were supposedly meant to kill the crimson lizard towards Arthur and Leonard instead.

Unfortunately, they were a tad too late to attack right now. It was because Arthur and Leonard were already throwing their respective attacks towards them ahead of time.

Arthur's spear was currently enfolded with a multicolored flame and quickly swung it towards his two targets. And when they realized that their attacks were not going to make it, they quickly abandoned the idea of continuing to attack and decided to clash with the incoming spear instead to protect themselves.

Bang! Bang!

Right after their attacks collided with Arthur's spear, their fists were immediately deflected away, surprising them completely.

"What's with that casual swing?" said one of them astounded. And before he could even recover his composure, he suddenly saw that the spear on Arthur's hands suddenly turned into a blur before discovering that something hot was flowing out from his chest.

And when he looked down at it, he saw a huge hole in his chest as a lot of blood came out of it.

Cough!

Then blood came out from his mouth before falling lifelessly on the ground.

Thud!

In the meantime, his teammate who witnessed that scene up close had his eyes wide open, couldn't believe what he just saw. And while he was still stunned by what just happened, he suddenly sensed a killing intent directed at him and quickly tried to escape.

After seeing what happened to his prison buddy, he completely forgot that he was actually someone in the Ethereal Opening Stage. The only thing that he had in his mind was to leave this place as soon as possible before he could suffer the same fate as the previous guy.

Unfortunately, Arthur suddenly appeared in front of him like a ghost right after he turned around to run.

"Not too fast, buddy~!" said Arthur with a smirking tone before the spear that he was holding suddenly turned into a blur once again.

Seeing that, the island prisoner suddenly felt an intense chill running through his spine which further strengthened his desire to get out of this place as soon as possible.

He tried to desperately fight for his life but the moment he covered his body with his Natural Force, he suddenly saw multiple spearheads right in front of him, covering all of his path of retreat.

Shu! Shu! Shu!

On the very next instant, those spearheads pierced through his body, sealing off his fate.

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Meanwhile, Leonard's opponents were not in a good position either.

At first, they thought that they could eliminate Leonard as soon as possible since he was just a kid in their eyes. But they immediately realized that they were completely wrong when they witnessed Leonard nullify both of their attacks without a problem.

On the other hand, Leonard immediately took advantage of their stunned state to quickly attack for another time.

First, he stomped on the ground in a very powerful manner, making his foot sink quite deeply on it. Then spiderweb cracks started to spread outwards, signifying how strong the current strength that Leonard had.

"Not good!"

Both of his opponents immediately realized what was about to come and quickly decided to retreat. But to their surprise, they discovered that their feet seemed to be stuck on the ground and refused to budge.

And before they could even think of a way to escape their current predicament, they suddenly saw Leonard throw a rotating punch in the air in front of him which created a twisting air current, flying towards them alongside a crimson Internal Qi rotating in the mix.

'Blood Sutra Art: Annihilation Fist'

A moment later, his opponents were swept away by his attack, ripping them into shreds.

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On the other hand, the other guys were also quite busy taking down the dying monster beast. And since those two were already heavily wounded, finishing them off was relatively easy. They didn't even put much effort into killing them.

Not long after, the black watch that the academy provided them suddenly started ringing, catching their attention. And when they looked at it, they quickly saw that their respective points suddenly rose up with great numbers.

Looking closely at it, Shin saw that the points that they received were divided into two parts. "Most of the points are from killing those island prisoners while the rest are from the monster beasts. Taking this into consideration, it seems like targeting the criminals imprisoned on this island gives more points than 5-star monster beasts."

After that, he turned his attention towards the group and saw them resting aside from Arthur and Leonard who were still on guard and surveying their surroundings.

"Looks like the points are being distributed evenly among the members of the group. I guess this will resolve the future problems that may occur in the future," said Jillian after checking out the points that they received.

In the meantime, Cloe was checking out the furs of the white fox before looking at Shin and asked. "What are we going to do with these?"

Shin thought for a moment before answering. "I suggest we keep their bodies since they could be our emergency rations in the future. Given the fact that we don't know how long we are going to stay here, it is better for us to be prepared for any kind of situation."

At first, the girls slightly panicked after hearing that they were going to eat these monster beasts in the future; especially when they saw the dead lizard a few distances away from them. But that thought only lasted for a moment when they remembered that Shin was in their group.

Seeing that Cloe, Lorraine, and Alice were releasing a sigh of relief, Jillian couldn't help but ask the three what was that for.

Hearing her, the three exchanged glances with each other before Lorraine took the role of explaining the reason for their sighs.

On the other hand, Cloe walked closely to Shin before whispering. "Hey! Since we only need the meat for the food, can I keep the furs? I think they are good materials for making bags and clothes."

Shin couldn't help but chuckle at her words when he heard her concern before patting her. "If you want to keep them, then go for it. But I think you also need to ask their permission about that matter first."

Cloe was confused at first when she heard that, but she immediately came to a realization when she noticed that the other three girls were giving her meaningful looks.

Embarrassed, she ran towards them before starting 'negotiating' with them.

In the meantime, Shin walked towards the corpses of the two monster beasts and checked their conditions before nodding his head, satisfied.

He then turned his head towards Arthur and said. "Hey! You don't have much on your dimensional device, right? Store these on yours for now; I will cut them up properly later."

"Tsk! Why not use yours instead?" complained Arthur while walking towards Shin. But despite his unwillingness, he still stored the corpses on his dimensional device.

On the other hand, Shin just shrugged his shoulders before replying. "Well, I'm sorry about that. Unlike you, I now have a secondary profession and I have a lot of things to store inside my dimensional device."

After that, they waited for the group to fully recover their peaks before moving out. Even if they didn't expend much strength and effort on the previous fight, it would never hurt to always be in their peak condition when they were currently in a very dangerous place.

This island not only had monster beasts lurking around; it also had prisoners scattered in the whole place, so it was better for them to also be prepared to fight at any given moment.

Shin looked at them to make sure that everyone was ready before explaining to them what they were going to do next. "Starting now, we are going to abandon the idea of heading towards that mountain."

"Now that we are aware of what kind of place we are in, we can easily tell that one of our main jobs in this exam is to survive for as long as we can."

"Due to that, we now need to proceed with extra caution. After all, we are going to deal with the most dangerous creature in the world."

He then trailed his words for a moment and looked at the expression that they were making. And he saw that his words were clear to them, he immediately nodded his head before saying. "Since everything is clear, let's now move out and pass this stupid exam together."

Chapter 583 The Battle Of Top Prodigies (Part 1)

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While Shin and the others were sent into the prison island, Shiella and the other top prodigies of the other countries were not fooling around either. After forming their respective groups and separating from their rivals, they quickly started hunting down the monster beasts that were swarming at them from all directions.

Earthen Lizards might only be 5-star monsters, but their defenses were way tougher than the other monster beast in the same ranks. And due to this fact, taking them down is going to be very hard if they were taken too lightly.

Unfortunately for them, Sheila and the others had no plan of playing around with them. The moment they regrouped with each other, they quickly went all out and started taking down the Earth Lizards that were swarming at them.

They didn't need to have a plan or a formation to defend themselves; all they needed was a single look at each other and a quick glance at their current position to know what to do next.

p "Hu! Your academy sure knows how to take advantage of us," said David as he sat on the pile of corpses of the Earthen Lizards that he killed.

"To think that they are going to use this opportunity to lessen the overgrowing number of the Earthen Lizards from the south, they sure are productive," he added skeptically while turning his head at his current partner.

On the other hand, Elijah was standing in the middle of the dead Earthen Lizards that he cut into multiple pieces.

He strongly swung his sword downwards to remove the remaining monster blood on his sword before sheathing it.

"I don't have any idea of this either, so don't talk to me as if I'm conspiring a crime with the academy," said Elijah in a cold manner, responding to David's previous words.

In the meantime, Jerimiah stood in the middle of a devastated spot. Around him lay the corpses of the Earthen Lizards which had missing parts of their bodies.

Those parts turned into a meat paste after being blasted by Jerimiah's punch. Some of those corpses even had huge holes on their bodies, signifying how much strength did he put on each of his punches.

On the other hand, the spot that Vincent was guarding was pretty neat. He was also the one who dealt with his targets the cleanest.

He killed all of the Earthen Lizards that were swarming at him with just a single blow. Their sizes didn't matter, all of them didn't last a single strike from Vincent.

The defense that made those monster beasts troublesome was useless in front of Vincent daggers. He struck each of his targets under their heads; right above their throat and below their skulls.

After successfully penetrating their defense, all Vincent needed to do was to channel more Natural Force on his daggers before making it explode inside the head of the Earthen Lizards. Even if these monster beasts were famed for having a very tough defense outside, their innards were not as strong as tough of their scales.

All of his victims had an intact corpse aside from the hole that was left by Vincent's daggers and their blasted brains.

Standing not too far from his spot was Shiella who was surrounded by burned corpses of the Earthen Lizards that she killed.

"Is this everything that they have? I think I saw some 6-star monster beasts among them earlier," she said with a deep frown while turning her head to Mariel.

Meanwhile, Mariel was currently lifting the corpses of the monsters that she killed using her Mental Energy before neatly piling them up on a single spot. And when she was done, she nodded her head, fully satisfied with her work.

Only after that did she turn her head at Shiella and responded. "Well, you are right about that. There were even some of them in the rank of 7-star monster beasts."

"But given that we didn't encounter any of them, they are most probably hunting down the other groups in not biding their time to chase after us," she added after a brief moment of pause.

Overhearing the topic of their discussion, Jerimiah couldn't help but chimed in and joined them. "But from what I can see earlier, those monster beasts seemed to be being controlled by someone; probably one of the academy teachers?"

Hearing those words, the two couldn't help but nod their heads in agreement.

"It is also highly likely. Miss Shane indeed has some ability," said Mariel noddingly.

"Professor Billy seemed to be a Beastmaster too. The same for Madam Peng," added Shiella before falling into deep thought.

Then David and the others walked over and joined them before starting to discuss what to do next. And after a few moments of discussion, they decided to start hunting more Earthen Lizards to thin down their numbers before starting to hunt the ones with a higher rank.

They also decided to ignore the other teams for the time being, so as long as the others didn't bother them, the group would not be going to trouble themselves at dealing with them either.

Unfortunately, not everything was going according to the plan. While they were busy hunting down some Monster Beasts, the Umbras of the Dark Continent bothered David and Elijah once again.

Moreover, they seemed to team up with the Decastars and Supernovas of the other countries as they were not grouped together.

"Tsk! Tsk! These guys sure are persistent," muttered David with a deep frown, glaring at the two Umbras.

In the meantime, Shiella suddenly released a helpless sigh before saying with a displeased tone. "It is really hard to have a troublemaker in a group."

Hearing that, David whipped his head towards her and raised both of his hands in the air helplessly, trying to defend himself. "Come on~! You can see that these guys are the ones provoking me. I didn't do anything at all!"

Unfortunately, Shiella didn't buy his words and refuted with a raised eyebrow. "Is that so? But how come I remember that you are the one who provoked them first earlier?"

The corner of David's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard those words as he could also remember that what she said was indeed true. The problem was he only did that to warn the two lecherous guys earlier.

He wanted to further prove his innocence but experience had told him that talking back to a woman would not lead to anything good. So, he decided to keep his mouth shut and not say anything.

Instead, he turned his head towards the opposing side and especially glared at the two Umbras, planning to vent out his frustration to them. "Now, you guys did something that you shouldn't have done. I guess I need to teach you a lesson, so that-..."

He was still in the middle of talking when Shiella suddenly cut his words off. "Look, you are about to create some trouble again."

Cough! Cough!

Hearing that, David suddenly choked with his own words as he tried to swallow them back. He then turned his head back to Shiella before helplessly asking. "So, what do you want me to do?"

In the meantime, the other guys in their team were trying their hardest to suppress their laughter after seeing the world-famous Wanderer acting so tame in front of Shiella.

'D*mn it! This is embarrassing! But I have to endure if I want to continue pursuing this Ice Queen,' thought David to himself while throwing a sharp glare at Jerimiah and Vincent who were currently giving him some meaningful looks.

On the other hand, Shiella ignored David's question and turned her attention to the opposing side before asking. "Are you guys sure about this? You should know that both of us will not gain anything if we fight each other now."

"We are going to weaken our strengths and let those opportunists take advantage of our weakness," she added while pointing towards two different directions where the Marines and Bright Feathers were observing them.

The opposing group only took a quick glance in those directions before ignoring what she just said before saying. "All we need is for you to hand over that arrogant guy and his swordsman partner. If you do that, then we are not going to bother your group later."

"Are you asking us to weaken our group by leaving them behind and letting you gang up at them? You sure have some wild imagination," said Shiella mockingly.

She then paused for a few moments before continuing with a sneering tone. "How about we do it the other way around? Offer your heads as an apology to how you looked at us earlier and we will forgive your crime?"

"Heh!"

Then Liebert and his group couldn't help but laugh at her words before looking at her body lecherously once again while saying. "I'm not interested in your offer either. Though, I'm really interested in tasting you if that is what you mean."

Boom!

Then an immense killing intent suddenly exploded from David's body while whispering with a heavy tone. "I swear that I'm going to kill this guy sooner or later."

Not only him, Shiella and Mariel were now looking at them even colder. But they also knew that they couldn't kill these guys yet since those two still had a special status; if something happened to them while they were under the protection of the Soaring Continent, the Dark Continent would surely hold them accountable.

Understanding what they were thinking, David quickly rephrased what he just said earlier. "Okay, killing them might be impossible for now, but breaking a few ribs and bones should be fine, right?"

Chapter 584 The Battle Of Top Prodigies (Part 2)

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David's eagerness to start a fight was starting to affect the others especially Shiella and Mariel who currently had cold looks on their faces.

But before the fight exploded, Elijah suddenly asked a question. "This is going to be a team battle, right? So, who will be the one who calls the shots?"

"Is it even needed? All we need to do is coordinate with each other!" said David as he did some quick hand gestures in the air and summoned a series of Mentalism Runes around him.

Then he put his hands together and did a couple of hand signs before saying to the group. "Let's just take the roles that we are good at."

After that, the runes floating around him suddenly formed a Mentalism Circle around the group before basking them under a warm light. And a moment later, each member of the group suddenly felt that their strengths suddenly rose with a great margin.

Seeing that David was already making preparations for the fight, the opposing side quickly started making their own preparations.

Jake quickly pulled out the pair of pistols hanging on each side of his waist before pointing it towards their opponent. And without further ado, he started pulling its trigger, shooting bullets rapidly.

"Rey!" shouted one of the Decastars to his partner.

Rey, the Mentalist Decastar, quickly waved his hands in the air the moment he heard the words of his fellow Decastar. And right after he did those actions, a curtain made of Mental Energy suddenly appeared in front of the flying bullets.

The moment those bullets flew past the curtain of Mental Energy, their speed suddenly rose greatly as they continued flying towards the opposing group while being covered by a spinning Mental Energy around them.

When Elijah saw that, he quickly charged forward and put himself in front of the incoming bullets while gripping the hilt of his sword.

He then took a deep breath while marking all of the bullets flying towards them before quickly unsheathing his sword and swinging it at them.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

With each swing of his sword, a bullet was going to be deflected away, warding off their advance.

"Nice moves!" praised Jerimiah as he swiftly brushed past Elijah while charging forward.

After that, he raised his hand in the air and summoned a double-headed battle-axe from his dimensional device. And during his charge, he saw Jayce jump out of his group while carrying a huge hammer in hand.

Seeing that, Jerimiah suddenly smirked before shouting. "Then let's continue where we left off!" while also swinging his battle-axe at the same time.

Bang!

A loud explosion immediately followed right after the collision of their weapons which also created a violent ripple in the air. And at the same time, the ground under Jerimiah's feet suddenly sunk quite deeply and created a crater around him.

"But this is no longer a one-on-one battle," said Jayce while staring straight into Jerimiah's eyes.

And the moment those words left his mouth, the two Umbras in his group simultaneously appeared on each of Jerimiah's sides all of a sudden; Gendo with a tonfa on each of his hands and Liebert with his metal gauntlets.

But despite being cornered left and right, Jerimiah was still acting calm since he knew that he was also not alone. "Well, you are right about that. After all, this is a team battle to begin with."

When he said those words, David and Shiella suddenly appeared on each of his sides too, facing Liebert and Gendo respectively. Both of them made a fist with their right hand and covered them with their respective energies. And without any hint of hesitation, they threw their fist towards their opponent at the same time.

Bang! Bang!

Despite not having their weapons, they still didn't lose on that exchange and even forced their opponents to take a couple of steps backward to relieve the force that they received from the impact.

In the meantime, Rey was about to assist his teammates and enhanced their strengths with Mentalism Runes when Vincent suddenly appeared behind him while swinging a pair of daggers towards his back.

Sensing the immense threat coming from behind and quickly kicked the ground beneath him to jump away from the danger. And with his quick reactions, he was able to barely dodged the deadly daggers and saved himself.

Vincent wanted to give chase when he saw that but the other Decastar suddenly blocked his path. "Vincent Valentine, I still need to pay you for the 'favor' that you give me earlier."

Hearing those words, Vincent suddenly smirked before saying with a sneering tone. "Heh! Then you will be forever in debt since you will never get the chance to pay me for that, Wade."

After that, both of them suddenly turned into a silhouette that immediately started clashing with each other repeatedly.

Meanwhile, Rey resumed drawing runes in the air to create a Mentalism Circle with them. And from the look of it, he was preparing a much stronger circle than the one that David had summoned earlier.

Unfortunately, he was interrupted once again. And this time, it was Mariel who threw a group of blazing feathers towards his direction.

Having no other choice, he could only cancel his technique once again to dodge those blazing feathers flying towards him.

In the meantime, Jake took advantage of that brief moment to fire a couple of times at Mariel, planning to force her to take away her attention from Rey.

But just like earlier, Elijah got in his way once again and deflected his bullets for another time with a few swings of his sword.

"D*mn this persistent guy!" cursed Jake after seeing what happened. "Since you are quite stubborn to fight guns and bullets with a sword then I will keep you company!"

Bang! Bang!

Jake pulled the trigger of his pistols once again and madly fired at Elijah. But this time, he didn't just send the bullets normally. Right before those bullets came out from the barrel of his gun, he infused his pistols with his Natural Force to reinforce their firepower.

On the other hand, Elijah stood straight and held his sword with both his hands while also regulating his breathing. And while he was taking that stance, his eyes never left the bullets flying towards him; and from his perspective, their movements seemed to greatly slow down.

When he was done reading their trajectory, he casually swung his sword and deflected each of the bullets with ease.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Naturally, Jake was going to become enraged when he saw those actions from Elijah. From what he could see, the latter seemed to be mocking him by showing him those simple movements. And in the pit of rage, he started firing more bullets in Elijah's direction.

David was able to see what happened from the corner of his eyes and couldn't help but chuckle. "That guy sure has some talent at provoking his opponents by acting too modest."

After that, he quickly leaned towards his right, dodging a punch from Liebert. And this time, he decided not to say anything and quickly engaged in a melee battle against the latter. This guy really pissed him for what he just said earlier. So, David was seriously planning to teach this guy an unforgettable lesson.

The problem was he needed to hold himself back a little just like the others since they needed to look out from the guys watching them from a distance.

The Marines of Deep Blue Continent and Bright Feathers of the Silver Wing Continent, these two groups who were supposedly fighting each other seemed to have a tacit agreement of temporarily having a ceasefire agreement and observed the fight for the time being.

In the meantime, the teachers and professors who were watching from the conference room took interest in this particular battle.

"These kids finally started fighting each other," said one of the professors.

"I'm worried that they are going to refuse to fight the other groups until the very end; especially when Shiella is on the other side," said the teacher sitting beside him.

Hearing that, the other professor sitting right across them nodded his head repeatedly behind adding. "Fortunately, those Umbras from the Dark Continent are quite impatient and hot-headed."

The other professors were having similar discussions while some of them were even betting which side was going to win.

This particular topic piqued the interest of Professor Cora and asked Professor Henry who was sitting beside her. "Betting seems to be a good idea, so how about we also have a bet with each other?"

"Oh~! And what will be the stakes?" asked Professor Henry while raising one of his brows.

"Hmm... How about you tell me who is the kid that took your interest if I win?" answered Professor Cora after a brief moment of thought.

"And if I lose, I can give any research material from my laboratory?" she quickly added after seeing that Professor Henry knitted his brow.

Hearing that, Professor Henry nodded his head and agreed. "Seems not a bad deal, so which side do you think is going to win?"

"I'll take the side of my girls. Their team seems to have the better odds," responded Professor Cora in an instant, afraid that the old man beside her would suddenly change his mind after giving her the chance to pick first.

But to her surprise, Professor Henry didn't seem to mind at all. In fact, he was even wearing a mysterious smile while giving her an unexpected answer. "Then I will say that none of them is going to win."

"At worst, all of those kids are going to lose if they don't pull themselves together," he added while turning his attention back to the virtual screen in front of them.

Chapter 585 Snake Head

...

While Shiella and her team were busy battling their opponents, the professors who were overseeing their exam were silently observing them from afar.

"It seems like we are totally forgotten by these kids. Should we remind them about our presence?" said a female professor while sitting on a tree branch while pouting her lips as she watched the battle. She was Professor Shane, one of the Beastmasters of the academy.

Standing on another tree branch not far from her was a lean man with an unlit cigarette in his mouth. And just like Professor Shane, he was also one of the Beastmasters who was controlling the Earthen Lizards in the field.

This person was Professor Billy, the chief caretaker of the academy's beast cage. He looked at the ongoing battle for a couple of moments before replying to Professor Shane. "Let them be for the time being; our colleagues seem to be having fun watching this fight, so we should give them more time to enjoy the show."

"At the very least, we are having a better time than Bullen; that guy is currently sitting alone on his spot since the start we started testing these kids," he added after a brief moment of pause.

But Professor Shane immediately refuted his words right after he said them. "What are you talking about? That guy is too lazy to accept this task in the first place, so I'm pretty sure that he is more than happy enough to thank these kids for not bothering him at all."

Hearing that, Professor Billy couldn't help but shake his head and smile bitterly as he also remembered how lazy Professor Bullen was.

After that, he turned his attention back to the ongoing battle and continued to wait for the right time to act.

In the meantime, the inmates imprisoned in one of the Prison Islands of the Soaring Continent were currently facing a very difficult situation that they never had expected.

"We can't let this continue, Boss! At this rate, all of us are going to get wiped out by those kids if we don't do anything to retaliate properly right now!" said one of the prisoners who seemed to have a high ranking in their gang.

He was currently in a special settlement designated to them on this island. And around him were the other prisoners who seemed to also have the same level or ranking as him.

There was also a particular guy who was sitting on the chair in the center of the room. And from the look of it, he seemed to be the leader of this group.

He was sitting haughtily on his seat and seemingly not concerned about the topic that the previous guy was telling him. And when that guy saw his boss ignoring his words, he couldn't help but bite his lower lip and opened his mouth, wanting to say something.

But before he could even voice out his words, another guy opened his mouth first and said. "Drop it, Ivan. If you are not confident about your own strength, then don't drag us down with you since we are different."

Hearing that, the guy named Ivan immediately turned his head towards the direction where the voice came from. There, he saw a guy with a lean physique and was currently leaning on the wall with his arms crossed in front of his chest.

Seeing the guy, Ivan's face immediately turned solemn, and said with a heavy voice. "What do you know, Lennon? You are always hiding inside your cave, so you will never know how strong this batch of students is!"

"They are very different from the young talents that we met before! Heck, they are even more troublesome compared to the young soldiers of the Top Military Schools that we have met so far," he quickly added, trying to defend himself.

Unfortunately, the guy named Lennon didn't buy his excuses and just sneered. "As I said earlier, don't put us on the same level as you. If you are that afraid to die, then go back to your quarters and don't come out until all of this is done."

"Nonsense! If we are going to let those kids run amok, all of your men are going to die in their hands." refuted Ivan.

This time, Lennon could no longer endure listening to his words and said. "You are so ridiculous, how many times do I have to say that you are not the same level as us, so stop acting like you have a higher rank than me."

"As for those guys outside-...?" he trailed his words for a moment and wore a mocking face before continuing. "They are trash among the trash of society, so no one will care if they die!"

"Moreover, all of us are imprisoned on this island because we committed a crime that deserves death. So, don't act as if we have that thing called pride that we have to defend."

"We are criminals who got a death sentence, you hear me?" he spelled out for another time, afraid that his words would not get through Ivan's thick skull.

After that, he turned his head towards their boss before saying. "Now, if we don't have anything good to discuss in this meeting, please excuse my rudeness but I can no longer endure this guy's nonsense."

He then turned around and walked off the room, not bothering to turn his head back at them. And when the other guys saw that, they also started to stand up from their respective seats and left.

One of them was at least modest enough to give their leader a bow before leaving. "I will also take my leave, boss. If you need something, then please send a messenger to my quarters to inform me about it."

On the other hand, Ivan could only watch his fellow island prisoners one by one before lowering his head dejectedly. And when he realized that there was no point staying in here, he could only pick himself up from the ground and also leave.

But before he could even take his step outside the room, he suddenly heard the voice of his boss behind him, saying. "I understand where you are coming from, Ivan. And you are also right that we still have some pride to protect even if we are some criminals who committed some unforgivable sins."

"But Lennon also has a point. In fact, what he said is all true. Even if everyone deserves to have a fair chance to repent for their sins, people like us already lost those chances the moment we set foot on this island."

"We are already fortunate enough to live on this island despite the weight of the crimes that we have committed in the past. What we can do right now is to be thankful for what we have so far and continue to live for as long as we can."

"Do you understand what I mean," he added after staring at Ivan's back for a few moments.

Ivan remained quiet after hearing those words before silently nodding his head. After that, he walked out of the room before closing the door behind him.

In the meantime, the boss of the group remained seated in his place for a couple of moments before casting his gaze towards a dark corner of the room while asking. "And to what do I owe the pleasure of this visit, Dragon King?"

Right after those words left his mouth, Nathan Springfield suddenly walked out from that dark corner with his hands crossed behind him. Then he pulled a chair and placed it across the other guy before sitting on it calmly.

"Not special actually, I just happened to be assigned to be the main administrator of this ongoing event to guard this troublesome batch of kids," he answered after getting a comfortable position.

"And since I'm already here, I decided to visit some old acquaintances around. And from what I can see, you seem to be doing rather fine, Daniel," he added after a brief moment of pause.

Hearing that, the man named Daniel couldn't help but smirk as he could already see through the façade behind Nathan's words. "Stop with the nice words already, it doesn't suit you at all. Just directly ask me what you want to know and stop beating around the bush."

"If that is what you want, then let's go straight to the point," said Nathan noddingly. He trailed his words for a couple of moments to look straight into Daniel's eyes before continuing. "Tell me what you know about Snake Head of the Black Serpent Mafia."

Daniel knitted his brow for a moment when he heard that before asking. "You already asked me about this before, so what's the point of asking me again if I already tell you all I know about him?"

Nathan continued to stare straight at him with a poker face before clarifying what he was asking. "I'm not asking about that fake guy who only represents the real guys in the organization. What I am asking is those guys hiding behind him all this time."

He trailed his words once again to read the expression that Daniel was currently making before completing his words. "That Snake Head Group that is hiding behind your previous organization."

Chapter 586 Snake Head (Part 2)

...

"I want to know more about the real 'Snake Head' of your previous Organization," asked Nathan with a calm face but with a commanding tone.

In the meantime, Daniel stared blankly at the man in front of him for quite some time before being able to recover himself. He shook his head before replying with a bitter tone. "I don't know what you are talking about."

Unfortunately for him, his previous expression already exposed the truth which Nathan would never miss. "I have known you for quite some time already, so you can't hide it from me. And with your special position in that organization, I know very well that it is impossible for you to be unaware of their existence."

Daniel could only smile bitterly when he heard those words. He knew for himself that it was impossible to hide anything from Nathan right now; since the latter directly asked him about this topic, he was sure

that this guy already did his own research about this matter and was only asking him this question to make sure that his suspicion was correct.

He released a helpless sigh before replying to Nathan with a dejected tone. "Since you already know about this matter, what's the point of asking me about it now? What I know is probably no different than yours."

,m "We will never know about that if you don't tell me anything about them," said Nathan in an instant.

With another sigh, Daniel nodded his head and asked. "So, what do you want to know about them?"

"Everything that you know about them," answered Nathan in return.

Daniel turned silent for a couple of moments before giving his reply. "The truth is I also don't know much about them. All I know is they are the real founders of the Black Serpent Mafia. I don't know how many members they exactly have, but I'm pretty sure that they are the most dangerous existence that you can find within our organization."

"Rumors say that they are as strong as the founders of the 'True Order' of the World Government and also stand toe-to-toe against the 'Claws' of the Shadow Alliance."

He then paused for a couple of moments to take a deep breath before continuing. "But I beg to disagree with those rumors. During my time on the darker side of this world, I already met a lot of scary individuals from different organizations. Heck! I even met some real monsters hidden within their ranks."

"But I have never met someone as terrifying as those guys who call themselves the Heads of the Ancient Serpents – or to what we currently know as the 'Snake Head' of the Black Serpent Mafia."

Nathan couldn't help but raise an eyebrow when he heard those words and asked. "Scariest than anyone else?"

Hearing that, Daniel was suddenly stunned for a couple of seconds, trying to reassess his previous words. And after a few moments of silence, he suddenly smiled bitterly and took back what he just said. "Well, if you put it that way, then I must say that aside from that one guy who claimed himself an Ancient Cultivator, the rest are not as terrifying as that old demon friend of yours."

"Ancient Cultivator?" asked Nathan with a deep frown.

"Yes, you heard it right. There is a guy in their ranks claiming that he is a Cultivator from Ancient Times," answered Daniel while nodding his head. And before Nathan could even raise his doubts, he immediately added. "I know that it is hard to believe that someone so old is still alive up until now."

"But you also need to admit that such things are not impossible, especially that we don't have any knowledge about the training methods of the Ancient Cultivators."

Nathan suddenly fell into deep thought after hearing those words. Daniel was right, even if it was hard to believe, such a feat was not impossible to achieve especially that there were still some monster beasts that were suspected to survive that Era.

Seeing the heavy expression that Nathan currently had, Daniel immediately added. "But you also don't have to worry about him that much. Whether it is true that he is an Ancient Cultivator, living for such a long time will also affect his strength. And that is most probably why he couldn't show himself in the light."

He then paused for a few moments before quickly adding. "Moreover, he seems to be scared about the existence of the two particular individuals of the current era."

"Adam and Evangeline Rose," said Nathan in response.

"Precisely!" said Daniel noddingly.

After that, Daniel turned silent for a few more moments before quickly adding. "Everyone knows about the rumor that your group discovered that 'sacred place' which is also the reason why all of the organizations around the world are keeping their tabs on you during that time."

"But thanks to the Heavenly Demon's sacrifices, not only did he manage to save you and your families from a very difficult predicament, but he also stopped the world war that was about to break out during that time."

Hearing that, Nathan suddenly smiled bitterly before saying with a pained expression on his face. "If only you didn't betray us during that time, Adam would not have to cast the highest form of his 'Dream Heart Technique' on us to erase our memories about that place."

He stopped talking for a brief moment to wear an even more pained expression before continuing. "And he also doesn't have to almost lose himself to his inner demon if that incident didn't happen."

Daniel couldn't help but remain silent after hearing those words. But he immediately recovered himself and quickly responded. "As I told you, I'm a member of the Mafia first before I become your friend."

Hearing those words, Nathan suddenly lost his composure and stood up while grabbing Daniel's collar. "So, that is why you choose to do your duty over friendship?"

Looking straight into Daniel's eyes, Nathan said with a heavy tone. "Remember, if not for Evangeline, your soul should still be under the influence of your Oath with that Organization! And you are still alive right now because of her."

Bang!

Then Nathan threw Daniel towards the wall, causing the latter to cough out some blood.

"That should be enough for now. This conversation is getting off the topic," said Nathan coldly while trying to regain his composure. After that, he turned around and clenched his fist tightly before disappearing from the room all of a sudden.

Meanwhile, Daniel remained seated on the ground, leaning on the cracked wall and staring at the dark ceiling. And after a long time of silence, a lonely smile was formed with his lips as he muttered to himself. "That is why I choose to cripple myself and take away my Martial-Arts while repenting my sins in this sh*t-hole."

In the meantime, Nathan suddenly appeared in the sky above the Prison Island where a couple of individuals were waiting for him.

"How did it go?" asked Elias Stuart, the Warrior Sage.

Hearing that, Nathan suddenly shot a sharp glare at him. "Are you asking that because you don't know the answer or is it because you want to mock me?"

"Tsk!" Elias immediately clicked his tongue after hearing those words and complained. "What do you think of me? Of course, I will also do the same if I'm the one who faces that b*st*rd."

"So, is the information that we got is true?" asked Eugene White, the Sword Immortal.

This time, Nathan nodded his head and replied with a solemn expression on his face. "It is more than that. It is more serious than we expected."

"How serious?" asked Elias with a deep frown.

Nathan was silent for a moment before answering. "There seems to be a suspected Ancient Cultivator in their ranks."

"What!?"

The other two couldn't help but become surprised when they heard those words. Both of them were fully aware of how strong an Ancient Cultivator could be if they were able to learn the current system of this modern era.

Understanding their thoughts, Nathan nodded his head before continuing. "Based on what I've heard from that kid, Adam and Evangeline seem to be trying to find the location where these 'Snake Heads' are hiding. They want to give those guys a heavy blow before that person can fully adapt to the current system of our era."

Hearing that, the other two further frown their brows. And as he couldn't contain his thoughts on himself, Elias couldn't help but voice it out. "Isn't it a little too dangerous for them? They are already busy running away from the grasp of the World Government, and now they want to stir more trouble for such a mysterious and dangerous group?"

"Tsk! That strange couple sure is crazy!" he cursed but the worried expression that he was making betrayed his words.

"That is very much like them," commented Eugene with a bitter tone.

"What I hate the most is the fact that we know about all of this yet we can't do anything to help them," said Elias with a sigh.

On the other hand, Nathan turned his gaze on the ground and stared at a particular individual in there before muttering with a soft voice. "So, that is the task that he was talking about during that time."

Chapter 587 Conserving Their Strengths

...

It has been half a day since Shin and the others arrived in the Prison Island, so it was not surprising for each of them to earn quite a lot of points. During the time they stayed in this place, they hunted a large number of monster beasts and also took down a few prisoners at the same time.

The battles that they went through were not easy; there were even some instances where the group was put in a very difficult predicament. There were also some times when a few of them almost got eliminated.

Fortunately, Shin was able to save them time and time again with the help of his 'Zone' personalized technique alongside the Mentalism Talismans that he prepared.

They also bumped into some groups of candidates. The fight was never easy but with everything that they went through, the teamwork that Shin and the others had increased with a great margin.

Each of them was able to adjust with the other members of the group and became familiar with their rhythm and style in battle.

They no longer needed to communicate verbally with each other when they were fighting. All they needed to do was a single glance at each other's movements and positions and they would immediately know what their teammates intended to do.

There was no need to ask about the trio of Shin, Leonard, and Arthur as they were too familiar with each other already. What surprised the teachers the most was Jillian, Molton, and Alice.

The academy would naturally run a background check on each of them, so they obviously know the connection that Shin and his friends had with each other. But from what they knew, the three young Mentalists were not as close as the others.

It was true that Jillian and Molton went on a special mission alongside Shin and the others. But that was only a one-time incident, so it was unthinkable for these two to become overly familiar with the group.

It was even more impossible for Alice. She never had a mission with the group and also never had a chance to interact much with them, but she was one who was showing the most progress within the group.

Not only was she able to quickly adjust to the team's style, but she also managed to integrate her own style with the group.

...

"A future wielder of 'Clairvoyance' sure is amazing," muttered Professor Cora after seeing Alice's progress.

Beside her, Professor Henry raised one of his eyebrows a little before asking. "Don't tell me you also want to take her under your tutelage?"

Hearing that, Professor Cora chuckled a little before waving her hand. "Of course not. I'm not that greedy. I want the others to also have a fair chance to get their pick."

"Moreover, I'm also not that skilled in terms of Mentalism. So, it is only going to be a waste of her talent if she trains under me," she added while turning her attention back to the virtual screen.

Then she turned her focus on Cloe who seemed to be not standing out too much compared to the other members of the group before muttering. "What's more, that girl is more than enough for my fancy."

Professor Henry couldn't help but feel interested in what his colleague was currently thinking. "You are more interested in that girl compared to a future Clairvoyant? This is rather an interesting topic; will you mind if I inquire about what you see from her?"

Hearing that, Professor Cora squinted her eyes and looked at Professor Henry with a skeptical expression on her face. "You're still unwilling to tell me who is the little guy that piques your interest, yet you still dare to ask me that question? I see that you finally have gone senile, Old Crook."

"Tsk!" Professor Henry could only click his tongue when he heard that before deciding to drop the matter and forget about it for the time being.

Moreover, he also had his concerns at this moment. He looked at the Shin who was at the rear of his group before thinking to himself. 'Up until now, this kid still hasn't used any of his Martial-Art Skills. Is he planning not to use any and just focus on his Mentalism Techniques in this test?'

After that, he started grinning from ear to ear before muttering with a quiet voice. "Trying to act in a low-profile manner and hide his full potential? Interesting! Let's see how long he can keep this cover."

Professor Cora who was sitting beside him was able to overhear his words and couldn't help but turn her head towards him. "What did you say?"

Unfortunately, Professor Henry dodged her question and just said. "Don't mind me. It is just a senile old man talking to himself."

In the meantime, Shin and the others were currently resting inside a cave that they found. They just finished hunting down a monster beast and currently trying to regain their peak conditions.

After the consecutive intense battles that they went through, the group finally started to feel mentally exhausted.

"This is not good. If we continue with this pace, we are going to be too exhausted to continue the test sooner or later," said Jillian with a deep frown.

"Can we slow down a little?" asked Alice as she nodded her head in agreement.

Hearing that, Shin could only take a helpless sigh before replying. "Well, that was originally the plan but the problem is the nature of the exam itself is preventing us from doing so. And even if we tried to slow our pace down, we can't be sure that our rivals are going to do the same."

"Moreover, there are still the monster beasts around. Those creatures don't know the word restraint. Plus, we also need to keep an eye on the prisoners and the gangs; we don't know when they are going to make their moves," he added after a brief moment of pause.

The others could only nod their heads in agreement since they also understand the nature of the exam. And they now understand why this particular part of the exam didn't have a time limit. The pressure that they were getting alone was more than enough to exhaust all of them.

While everyone was in deep thought, Shin suddenly opened his mouth and said. "But this is actually a good thing."

The others quickly whipped their heads at him when they heard those words before waiting for him to continue.

Seeing that, Shin's lips suddenly curved into a meaningful smile before continuing. "Given the current pace that we currently have, it is possible that this exam is meant to last for a short time only."

He trailed his words for a moment as he tried to calculate something inside his head before quickly adding. "And if I'm not wrong, we only need to stay here for two to three days at most."

"How sure are you with that assumption?" asked Arthur.

"Around 70-80% sure," answered Shin in an instant. He paused for a moment before quickly explaining. "The academy only wants to test our survivability skills and actual combat capabilities. Two to three days of observation is more than enough for them to barely gauge our overall strengths."

"Though, I still think that there is another form of test waiting for us when we get back," he added while shrugging his shoulders.

Hearing that, the group suddenly turned as they fell into even deeper thought. Then they started nodding their heads repeatedly after finding that Shin's words seemed to be reasonable.

On the other hand, Arthur lied down on his spot before complaining. "Tsk! Tsk! That means there is still a possibility that we also need to pass a written exam. D*mn! And here I think that I don't need to concern myself at answering those stupid questions anymore."

At the same time, Cloe suddenly blurted out unconsciously. "Then does it also mean that we can also stay here for as long as we want? After all, we already accumulated enough points to pass the exam. We also have enough food that we need for the next two days."

"Eh!?"

Hearing that, Shin and the others suddenly turned their heads at her with astounded expressions on their faces.

"Why did I not think about that?" muttered Shin, realizing that what Cloe had said was indeed true.

"That way, we don't need to actively roam around this place and engage in useless fights. We also can hide as much of our strengths as possible."

"But isn't staying in a single place going to be too dangerous for us? Those prisoners can surround and corner us that way," asked Alice with a deep frown.

Jillian nodded her head in agreement but she still supported the idea that Cloe had shared. "But we can just set up a concealment barrier around the cave to hide it alongside our presence."

After that, he turned her head at Shin before asking. "Don't you think it is enough to hide from those prisoners?"

Shin thought for a couple of moments before nodding his head. "If you three are going to support me, then it is more than enough to fool them. I can also use some of my talismans to set up some defensive arrays."

"Though, it can only buy us a single day at most. After all, we are still in their territory and they are very familiar with this place, so they will still find us sooner or later," he added.

Then Jillian and Molton exchanged glances with each other before nodding their heads and stood up from their respective seats. And when Alice saw that, she could only shrug her shoulders before joining them.

Seeing that, Shin also stood up and said. "Then let's conserve our strengths until the final day."

Chapter 588 The Third And Final Day

...

In the battle that was taking place on the special grounds of the academy, the two teams were still in a deadlock when the two professors who were controlling the 7-star Monster Beasts finally made their moves.

And just like what Professor Henry was expecting, the ambush that the two professors were beyond perfect. They made their moves at the most critical time when each member of the two teams was too committed to dealing with their respective opponents.

Moreover, the main target of their ambush was the two Mentalists of each side, who were guarding the floating crystals of their team.

Mariel and Rey quickly forgot about their opponents the moment they sensed the threat of the ambush. They even set up their toughest defensive technique as fast as they could. Unfortunately, they still couldn't endure the assault from the group of 6-star Monster Beasts alone, especially that there was a monster beast with a rank of 7-star to lead the group.

In the meantime, their teammates were still busy dealing with their respective opponents during that time. Moreover, each of them was also on guard against the two other groups watching their battle from a distance, so they were a little too late to respond with the ambush even though they were expecting it to happen.

Due to that, all of their floating crystals shattered into pieces which indicated that they got eliminated in this competition. Even if David and Shiella managed to kill the 7-star monster beasts leading the group, they still failed to salvage the situation in the end.

"Tch! I let my guard down, I should have guard the crystals alongside Miss Mariel earlier," David clicked his tongue as he put his hands on each side of his waist while looking in the sky. "I underestimated the strengths of the academy teachers."

"No, it should be our fault. We are the ones who are most familiar with them, so we should have expected this to happen," said Shiella, admitting their mistake of not paying much attention to their professors.

But at the same time, Mariel shook her head and quickly took the blame. "No, it is my fault. I failed to set up a stronger defensive Array to protect the crystals. And I also don't expect Professor Shane and Professor Billy to come up with such underhanded tricks."

"Hmph! I thought they were righteous, but I guess they also have a dark side on them," she added while pouting her lips.

On the other hand, Elijah couldn't help but smile when he saw the expression that she was making. And when Mariel saw that, her face immediately turned rosy as she felt embarrassed.

In the meantime, Jerimiah and Vincent were currently in deep thought and seemed to be reviewing the details of the battle that took place just earlier.

On the other side, their opponents seemed to be also discussing the same things as they immediately regroup with their respective partners before separating from each other. The battle was already over as well as the special test, so there was no point for them to group up together; their temporary alliance already came to an end.

Meanwhile, the other two teams immediately left the scene after seeing what happened; especially when they knew that they were going to be the next target of the Earthen Lizards after eliminating the other teams.

After leaving the place, these two teams seemed to have the same thought in mind as they quickly headed towards the place where Professor Bullen was waiting.

From the look of it, they seemed to be planning to fight this professor instead of fighting the remaining Monster Beasts under Professor Shane and Professor Billy's controls.

But unlike the other group who had Shiella, Mariel, and Elijah who were students of the academy, these guys had no idea what kind of ability Professor Bullen had. And when they started testing the waters, they immediately discovered how foolish their decision was.

Professor Bullen didn't even lift an arm when he was defending against the attacks that were being thrown at him. No, he was not even defending, he just let those attacks land on his body while body blocking them to protect the floating crystal behind him.

Realizing their mistakes, the Marines and Bright Feathers immediately understood their mistake and decided to drop the test since they knew that it was impossible for them to win right now.

Even if they tried to fight it out against each other, they were afraid that they were going to suffer the same fate as the other two groups. So, they decided to stop the test right away since they knew that it was already pointless to continue.

And with all of that, their special exam finally came to an end.

In the meantime, Professor Henry was laughing out loud inside the conference room while slapping his thigh. "See? I told you, those kids are too full of themselves! This is bound to happen when they are too proud of their own strengths. And that is why we need to whip them up a little."

On the other hand, Professor Cora who was sitting beside him, currently had a heavy expression on her face. She wanted to refute Professor Henry's words but she knew that what he just said was all true.

All she could do was clench her fist before glaring at the two girls on the screen before muttering with a heavy voice. "These girls, I'll make sure to give them an earful later."

Meanwhile, Professor Henry waved his hand while saying. "Alright, alright. Do whatever you want, just pay up later."

Hearing that, Professor Cora suddenly threw a sharp glare at him before answering. "Yeah, you can just pick the material that you want from my laboratory."

A quick two days went by and it was finally the day that Shin suspected to be the last day of their exam.

Over the time that they had stayed in here, they were coming out from the cave from time to time to 'exercise' and hunted quite a few monster beasts along the way.

Naturally, Shin and Arthur, who were familiar with hiding their trails, were tasked to clean up the battlefield to avoid getting tracked down by the prisoners residing on the island.

At the same time, it was also natural for them to bump into a few prisoners along the way, so the group had no other choice but to fight and eliminate them to make sure that their hiding place was not going to be exposed.

But this place was still the territory of those prisoners, so it was natural for them to be more familiar with the place than them. And with this, the prisoners started tracking down Shin and the others after learning that the group took down quite a lot of their prison buddies.

But thankfully, Shin and the others already made their preparations ahead of time. Not only did they set up a concealment array in the vicinity around the cave, but they also put quite a lot of traps to hinder the progress of the prisoners tracking them.

Naturally, such a method would expose their location by following the direction of the traps. But that fact had already been considered by Shin, so he purposely set up the traps that would lead those island prisoners towards a different location.

Obviously, their opponents were going to notice that there was something odd about it if the traps led them to some random location. After all, these guys were too familiar with the place in the first place.

Unfortunately for these prisoners, Shin already considered everything and even used their familiarity over the terrain against them. He meticulously set up the traps and led their pursuers towards a certain valley not too far from their actual hiding spot.

That place was a suitable location to hide from their opponents. And at the same time, it was also a good place to fight against a large group of people despite them being cornered; after all, they only need to focus on a single direction while defending.

And if ever the odds of the battle were against their favor, they could also use the cliff at the end of the valley as their escape route.

And even if the current of the river below the cliff was quite strong, the group of Mentalists in Shin's group were more than enough to save themselves during the fall. They also had the ability to create a spherical barrier that they could use to protect themselves while riding the water current to escape.

,m The leader of the prisoners seemed to understand this fact and immediately became convinced that this particular valley was the exact place where Shin and the others were hiding. And due to that, he immediately summoned the key figures of their group and started formulating some plans to corner their targets.

Unfortunately for them, they were already dancing on the palm of a young man who set all of these up, which made him finally catch the attention of all of the teachers and professors watching from the conference room.

Seeing that, Professor Henry started nodding his head repeatedly while wearing a satisfied smile. "Looks like he is starting to make his presence noticeable to the others, I wonder how far is he going to make himself known."

After that, he turned his attention towards another pair of virtual screens where two other groups of top candidates were gathered together before continuing. "Though, these guys seem to also plan to finally make their move."

"I wonder which group among them is going to emerge on top at the end of this exam," he added while wearing a mysterious grinning look on his face.

Chapter 589 The Leading Candidates

...

In the Prison Island where the third part of the exam of Magical Ace Academy was taking place, there were only four groups that managed to survive until the third day.

The first day was filled with high-paced battles which were also too intense for the young men and women that were taking part in the exam. And due to that, most of them were too exhausted to keep up with the intensity of the battles and were immediately eliminated after the prisoners started to fight back properly.

Since the place was being overseen by three top-class experts, no one died among candidates that were taking part in the exam. But even if that was the case, the groups that were saved by Nathan, Elias, and Eugene also lost their chance to take part in the next part of the exam.

In the meantime, the candidates that managed to survive up until now already secured their spots on the next exam even if they got eliminated today.

The teachers and professors, who were watching everything from the conference room, also discussed this matter. But after engaging in a heated discussion with each other, they all decided to let all of the candidates who managed to survive until the third day to take part in the next part of the exam.

One of the main reasons that convinced them was the cleverness of these kids to act in a low-profile manner after experiencing the high-paced battles of the first day. Though, the credit for that decision was supposedly for the leaders of the surviving groups.

But after seeing that each of those leaders was discussing this matter with their team carefully before coming up with a decision, the teachers nodded their heads in approval. And this sight further convinced these old people that their decision of giving them the 'Crown Emblem' was the right call.

Jean Campus and Diel Hendrickson, a pair of fearless geniuses that hail from Silver Wing Continent and the Dark Continent respectively which were also mortal rivals since they were young.

Dylan White, the wandering swordsman and the only son of a top-class expert who was renowned worldwide, the Sword Immortal Eugene White.

These three were the top contenders of this particular exam which also piqued the interest of all of the teachers and professors from the very beginning. They were already putting too much attention on these three before the special exam even started; especially the former two since they showed quite great results during the regular entrance exam of the academy.

In the eyes of these old people, these three already cemented their footing in this exam. No matter what happened from this point in time, these three would surely stand on the very top among all of the candidates.

They had strong battle capabilities, sharpened instincts, and great awareness of the battle. These three factors made them a top-class talent even among the Mighty Chosen Ones among all of the candidates participating in this particular exam.

They were also the picks of these teachers and professors who were going to take the top spot at the end of the examination.

But who would have thought that there was a 'dark horse' that suddenly emerged at every end of this particular part of the exam?

Shin Kinghad, a pretty much unknown individual before the start of this exam. He took the interest of some teachers watching from the conference since he showed a couple of nice decision making and amazing battle capabilities during the start of the exam.

But in their eyes, that was all of it. He might be an exceptional individual compared to most of the candidates but not amazing enough to outshine the previous three who took the interest of all of the teachers watching; especially that everything that he showed in the previous parts of the exam was slightly inferior compared to those three.

Moreover, these teachers and professors were thinking that his group was too amazing to begin with, so the credits were supposedly shared evenly among them. There were a lot of exceptional individuals among their group, so it was natural for them the last this long.

But that thought only lasted until the start of the third part of the exam. It was because Shin finally showed his real abilities from the very start.

Forget about the arrangements that he made when ambushing the first three victims that they had alongside the two dying monster beasts since it was to be expected given the lineup that their team had.

What shocked these old people the most was the style of how Shin fought.

Using Mentalism Runes during battle was quite common among highly-skilled Mentalists and they were already expecting that Shin was able to do that given the abilities that he had shown during the second part of the exam.

Moreover, they saw that he was a Talisman Master, so battling with Mentalism Runes was not something that they needed to be surprised about.

Instead, it was the way Shin used them and how fast he drew them during the battle. And on top of that, his speed in how he used his Mentalism Techniques was beyond their imagination; he seemed to be using them instantaneously without needing any kind of preparations.

At the same time, the teachers also saw that Shin was fusing his runes with a few numbers of his Mentalism Techniques which was a high-level technique that was only used by Mentalists who reached the Peak of the Grandmaster Realm; it was a special method that enhanced the power and efficiency of their Mentalism Techniques.

What was even more surprising about this was the fact that Shin was making this difficult technique look easy; it was as if the runes that he was using were a part of his Mentalism Techniques in the first place.

But this was not the only thing that surprised the teachers of the academy. Because Shin also had amazing swordsmanship to support those enhanced Mentalism Techniques.

His skill with the sword might be slightly inferior compared to Dylan White who was already reaching the level beyond the state of being 'one with the sword'. That kid really reminded them of his father during his younger days.

But Mentalism Techniques related to swordsmanship had their own charm. Those techniques were very versatile and very hard to deal with when mixed with the other types of techniques during the fight.

Pure swordsmen who only trained their 'Sword Qi', had some difficulties during a battle if their opponents were too close to them. They were going to have a hard time swinging their swords if the combat was not in their ideal range.

But swordsmen who were practicing Mentalism had it easy, especially if they were a Kaleidoscope Mentalist who knew both Psychic and Physical Mentalism. The issue of battling at a very close distance was not a problem for them since they could just make it up with their Mentalism Techniques.

And for someone like Shin who could easily draw Mentalism Runes in battle, such issues were even more non-existent especially that he was also good at hand-to-hand battles.

A Swordsman who was also a skilled Kaleidoscope Mentalist and a strange Talisman Master with an insane speed of drawing his Mentalism Runes – such talent alone was more than enough to put Shin on this same level as the other three that the teachers were putting their tabs on.

And on top of all of these, his strategic skills were also on par with those three. The setups and traps that he did to manipulate the island prisoners that were hunting them were beautifully made, making the teachers further acknowledged his performance and gave him praises.

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"Mentalism Techniques imbued with Mentalism Runes, this style really reminds of someone," muttered Professor Cora after observing Shin for quite some time.

After that, she turned her head towards Professor Henry before asking. "What do you think?"

But she immediately understood what was happening when she saw that the latter was giving her a meaningful smile after hearing her question.

"Don't tell me-... he is-..." she wanted to say something but couldn't completely voice out her thoughts for being stunned.

Seeing that, Professor Henry further widened his smile before nodding his head. "You are right. That kid over there is the student of that Old Fatty. And from the looks of it, he really succeeds at completing the ideal style that he wanted for his Mentalism Technique."

"Fusing the Mentalism Runes with Mentalism Techniques completely, such thought sure is crazy since those two are in a completely different system. Most people thought that putting them together is an impossible thing to do. And going with the traditional way of using them is still the best."

"Drawing the rune and performing a Mentalism Technique separately before fusing them together is still much easier and more ideal when using them together."

Professor Henry paused for a moment as he remembered something before continuing. "But that Old Fatty stubbornly believes that a Mentalism Technique with a Rune imbued in it is still possible."

"A complete Four Symbol Scripture sure is interesting," he added while looking at Shin. "That kid may still be not proficient at using all of the techniques under this Scripture, but you can also see that he already mastered some of them."

Hearing those words, Professor Cora could only nod her head before finally voicing her thoughts. "Looks like that Old Fatty finally realized his ideals and even found a perfect successor to inherit."

"It is not only that Old Fatty," mumbled Professor Henry with a quiet voice.

Despite having a soft tone, Professor Cora was still able to pick up his words and couldn't help but look at him with the same questioning look that she had earlier.

Unfortunately, Professor Henry kept his mouth shut this time and continued to wear his mysterious smile.

Chapter 590 The Leading Candidates (Part 2)

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In the prison Island where Shin and the others were taking their special exam, the gangs residing in this place were starting to understand how troublesome the batch of kids that were sent to them was.

They already eliminated quite a lot of these young talents but the four remaining groups were more problematic than they had expected.

Bang!

A huge body of a mammoth beast fell on the ground lifelessly with a huge hole on its head. And standing in front of it was a young man with a pair of curved daggers in his hands.

He had a lean body and average height. His black shoulder-long hair was covering his face as he lowered his head and looked at the corpse of the monster beasts that he just killed.

He was currently frowning his eyebrows, seemingly unsatisfied about something. He then turned his head towards a certain direction where a corpse of an even larger mammoth was currently lying.

On top of that corpse sat another young man with a sheathed sword leaning on his shoulder. This guy had a similar physique to Shin and Arthur but the air surrounding him was completely different.

"Hmph! I can also do as much," muttered the young man on the ground before calling out the other guy. "Hey, Dylan! Are you sure that we don't have to hunt more? You said that today will be the last day, so isn't it better to hunt for more points while we are at it?"

Hearing that, the young man on top of the corpse of the huge mammoth turned his head at the other young man before shaking his head. "That shouldn't be necessary. We already accumulated enough points to pass the test, so there is no need to waste our strengths for such a useless hunt."

After that, he jumped down from the corpse that he was sitting on before walking towards a certain direction while saying. "Ezio, I know what you are thinking but there is no need to rush. We will get the chance to exchange blows with them later at the next part of the exam."

Dylan White and Ezio Williams, these two were the leading figures of their group and also the main reason why they lasted up until now.

A Sword Genius who had the highest potential to become the youngest Swordmaster in history. There were a lot of young men who were promising enough to achieve that goal, but they were older than Dylan White by a few years which was why his future prospects were slightly better than him.

Meanwhile, Ezio Williams was known as the young Lone Wolf of the Dark Continent. He was from a fallen Assassin Family that was previously famous in that country. His talent in the art of assassination was top-class which was comparable with the Young Ghosts of the Dark Continent when they were still his age.

These two were both used to working on their own and didn't like teaming up with other people.

Dylan thought that there were only a very few numbers of people who could keep up with him, so he preferred working solo to avoid being dragged down by less talented people. Ezio was also thinking the same, he was thinking that other people would only hinder his progress, so he chose not to work with anyone.

But at this point in time, they decided to form a team with each other since the rules of the exam were forcing them to work with other people. And since they had no other choice but to comply with the rules, it was better for them to work with people who had the same level of talent as theirs and similar ideals as them.

Given that, the random teammates that they found during the selection felt completely helpless at these two geniuses who seemed to have forgotten their existence. Fortunately, they were also somewhat talented compared to other people which was why they managed to survive up until now despite being neglected by their team aces.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the island, there was another group of candidates who just took down a small settlement of prisoners.

"Tsk! Looks like our luck is still not that good. We can't find a major settlement where the strongest prisoners are being held," said Simone while crushing the skull of the prisoner that he was holding.

Standing a few distances from him was Thomas who was repeatedly stepping on the corpse of the prisoner that he just killed. "Hey! Hey! Stand up! I'm not done with you yet, where is that arrogance that you had earlier? Huh? Huh?"

A few moments later, Jean Camus suddenly walked over and stopped the two. "Simone, Thomas, show some restraint. Remember that there are teachers watching our actions right now."

Hearing that, Simone suddenly smirked before replying. "Heh! So what? These people are sentenced to death to begin with, so I doubt that they are going to mind our actions either."

Thomas agreed with those words but he still stopped his actions after giving the corpse below him a one-last kick.

Seeing that, Jean Camus could only sigh helplessly before saying. "Sure, they are not going to mind our actions but assessing our behavior is a completely different matter."

Boom!

While they were discussing, they suddenly heard a very loud explosion coming from behind. And when Jean heard that, he couldn't help but further shake his head bitterly before turning around.

"Hey, Marie! Didn't I tell you not to use those explosives! It is going to attract the other prisoners from the nearby settlements!" shouted Jean.

On the place where he was looking was a building that was in the middle of collapsing after the explosion. And standing in front of it was a young girl with bob-cut blue-colored hair.

The white cloak that she was wearing was flapping alongside the violent wind caused by the explosion. And someone could see that there were a lot of small devices hidden behind that cloak.

Due to the loud rumbling sounds of the collapsing building, she couldn't hear that Jean was currently calling her.

"Hu-Hu! Such a good explosion!" she muttered while looking at the crumbling build with a satisfied look on her face. She was even nodding her head repeatedly and also had both of her hands on each side of her waist, showing how satisfied she was with her 'work'.

Seeing that he was being ignored, Jean turned his head towards another direction where a young man of similar age as them was currently sitting. "What are you doing, Mavin? I told you to keep an eye on your sister so that she can't create trouble for us!"

The guy that Jean just called out had the same hair color as Marie's. And given the noticeable similarities in their facial features, it was not hard to guess that the two of them were twins.

He was also wearing a white cloak just like Marie. But compared to her, that one that he had was clearly much lighter than hers since he didn't have any devices hidden underneath them.

This young man was currently sitting in a corner and seemed to be sleeping given his closed eyes and nodding head. He was also hugging a spear in front of him, seemingly unwilling to separate from it even during the time of his sleep.

Seeing that Mavin was peacefully sleeping, Jean felt that his blood was rising towards his head. Aside from the twitching face that he had, Jean could only sigh helplessly while looking at his teammates. "Why do I have to deal with such a troublesome group?"

He then took another look at the twins while mumbling to himself. "The Twin Stars of the Sun-Moon Continent; one is proficient at using different kinds of weapons while the other is gifted at mechanical technology."

"Both of them are good at fighting, especially when working together. The only problem is their odd habits after the battle," he added while continuing to wear a helpless look on his face.

In the meantime, in an even deeper part of the island, another group of candidates was slowly advancing towards the heart of Prison Island.

"How far are we now?" said a young man with deep purple hair and sharp eyes. He seemed to be an average kid at first glance, especially that there was nothing special in the air surrounding him compared to the other candidates.

But despite that being the case, each member of the group around him seemed to be too scared of this young man; especially that their bodies suddenly became tense when they heard his voice.

The young guy standing at the forefront of their group was currently kneeling on the ground, seemingly observing the soil underneath their feet. And from the look of it, he was acting calm and collected compared to the other members standing behind him.

A few moments later, he stood up from his position and turned around, looking at the young man. "We are almost there, Young Master Diel. A kilometer or two at most."

Diel Hendrickson, who was the leader of this group, knitted his brows for a moment before gesturing to them to continue advancing forward. "We are picking up the pace. This is the last day of the exam, so we need to increase our speed as fast as we can."