

Destiny 611

Chapter 611 Gathered Together

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As the battle progressed, more and more Skills and Techniques were revealed by the four crown bearers. And during the process, they were able to surprise all of the spectators time and time again, exceeding everyone's expectations.

Dylan White had an unrivaled swordsmanship that could be considered as the top in their generation. He also possessed a sharp and unbreakable will to keep moving forward. He rarely dodged any attacks that were thrown at him and just faced all of them head-on most of the time.

On the other hand, Diel Hendrickson possessed a mysterious Mentalism. His techniques were unique and hard to predict as he was able to properly mix all of his cards perfectly and able to shuffle them in the most unexpected way.

Meanwhile, Jean Camus was someone who also liked to face everything head-on. And like Dylan who continuously moved forward while having an intention of cutting everything that would block his path like a real swordsman, Jean was similar to a madman who didn't care about anything that would block his path; he would always strike it down confidently.

Compared to them, Shin was also shining quite brightly in the eyes of the spectators. Most of the reason was due to him being target by the three frequently and successfully escaping from their clutches time and time again.

Moreover, his Mentalism was also quite unique. Unlike the strange and mysterious techniques that Diel had, the Four Symbol Scripture that Shin had was quite balanced. Moreover, it seemed to have everything; offense, defense, utility and illusions, and many more.

By relying on those techniques, he was able to ward off every attack that was heading his way and even countered them at the same time.

With their abilities, these four were able to solidify their leading positions in their respective groups. And after observing them for a few more moments, the academy decided to stop the battle since they all knew that it was not going to end no matter how long they waited.

With that, the royal rumble ended without having a clear winner. So, they all received extra points. And just like that, Shin maintained his position as being at the very top of the point rankings.

Meanwhile, the professors didn't care about it anymore so they left the place right after the battle ended. They left the remaining part to Professor Michael and Professor Valor to deal with.

"Alright! That should conclude everything for now," said Professor Valor in front of everyone after telling them to gather at the center of the open field.

"For now, all of you can go back to your place and wait until next week to start attending classes. We can't do it right away since we are going to discuss your respective paths to take."

"We alright see your capabilities and understand what you want to be, so trust us in this and wait patiently," he added while sweeping his gaze at everyone.

After that, he slightly nodded his head and said. "Arigh, all of you are dismissed. We will send you the information about your classes later."

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After that, everyone left to do their own thing.

Or so, Shin had thought.

The moment he opened the door of their house, the girls next door followed after him alongside Leonard and Arthur. Moreover, Molton and Jillian tagged along after learning that Shin was the one preparing their food.

"Tsk! For how long are you girls planning to freeload here? At least, pay me for leaching your meal here," complained Shin while looking at them helplessly.

Hearing that, Cloe immediately raised her hand and answered. "Then I owe another date! How many dates do we have now?"

With her words, Lorraine quickly nodded her head and said. "Can you also pay mine, Cloe? I don't have cash on me now."

"Sure! You can even forget about the payment later!" answered Cloe with a huge smile.

In the meantime, Shin was currently wearing a weird look on his face as he didn't know how to respond. All he could do was to turn his head towards Molton and Jillian while asking. "As for you two, aren't you both staying in the dorm? Don't tell me you don't have a canteen there?"

"And the academy is quite far from here so you better be going now to get your proper rest," he added, trying to send them away.

"Senior Brother invited me here and asked me to sleep over, so I'm not going," answered Molton while keeping his head low. He was confident with Arthur but he was still scared of Shin in some areas.

Hearing that, Cloe immediately jumped from her seat and clung to Jillian while saying. "Then I'll invite this girl to sleepover in our place too."

She then turned her head at Shin while adding. "Don't worry, I will pay for their meals too! You can even have an interest if you want. How about an extra date in exchange for it?"

This time, Shin was really speechless of her. "This girl-..."

But since he knew that he couldn't do anything about her, he could only give her a snarling look before heading towards the kitchen. And while all of that was happening, Alice watched from the sideline, shifting her gaze between Shin and Cloe.

Noticing that, Lorraine suddenly leaned over and whispered. "Your competition may be hard but you still have a chance. That guy is so dense to read the signals being thrown at him. So, if you grab directly and go straight to him, you can still snatch the lead."

Alice couldn't help but knit her brow for not understanding Lorraine's words. Unfortunately, the latter didn't care and continued to tease her. "Don't worry, I completely understand. I am just like you at first but I'm sure that you will also realize it later."

Alice tried to open and close her mouth but there were no words coming from it as she didn't know what to say. And while she was caught in a dilemma, the front door of the house was opened once again and it was immediately followed by the entrance of another group of people.

First was David who entered the house with great familiarity. It was as if he was the owner even though he just forced his way to stay in this house. Following closely behind him were the cousins of the Valentine Family, Jerimiah Smithson, and Vincent Valentine, who were carrying some grocery bags with them.

Next, was Elijah Knight who was curiously looking at the interior of the house while Shiella and Mariel were walking right behind him.

"Oh! You guys are already here?" asked David when he saw the other group who were gathered in the living room.

"These guys also finished their exam? That's good!" said Jerimiah while looking at everyone. And after getting a quick look at them, he suddenly asked. "Are you guys here to eat together?"

But he didn't wait for them to reply and just raised the grocery bags that he was holding. "Great timing! We are also planning to do the same, so how about we have a meal together?"

"Why are you guys together? I heard you are only waiting for your classes to start too, did something happen?" asked Shin as he walked out of the kitchen once again.

Hearing that, David turned his head at him and quickly answered. "Nah! It is nothing special. The academy decided to stick with our previous group for our classes, so we are here to discuss a few things before we start the class next week."

"There is going to be fierce competition among the classes, so we decided to make some preparations first," added Jerimiah while bringing the grocery bags over.

"Then why our place? You can just have your meeting in another place," said Shin with a frown.

"Because it is more convenient here," answered David in an instant.

"We were originally planning to go on the other side but I rejected the idea since it was inappropriate for us to go there," said Jerimiah with a little embarrassment.

"And girls coming into guys' home is fine?" asked Shin with an even deeper frown.

At this point, it was Shiella who answered his question. "No, it is just normal for a guy's home to be in a mess," while taking a seat beside Cloe.

This time, Shin became speechless once again and he couldn't find the words to refute. At the same time, he was also thinking to himself. 'Isn't this our house? At least ask our permission first before coming up with such decisions.'

Sensing his mood, David immediately came over and asked. "There are quite a lot of us, so do you need some help preparing a feast?"

Unfortunately, Shin just gave him a glare before turning around. "Nah! I don't need help. I don't like it when someone is invading my kitchen."

"Tsk!" David clicked his tongue before taking a seat beside Leonard and Arthur who were in the middle of an 'intense' chess match. He even invited Elijah to come over and watch alongside him.

Meanwhile, Mariel suddenly appeared between Jillian and Molton before saying. "I see that my beloved siblings made some good friends outside our family. This is something new. Should I call mom now?"

On the other hand, Jerimiah who just came out of the kitchen called Vincent over and they moved a few things to the side, to create some spaces. The living room was quite spacious, but given their numbers, it was natural for it to look a little cramped.

Regardless, the whole place still had a lively atmosphere. It looked like they were going to have a huge feast in this gathering.

Chapter 612 Waking Up The Slumbering Elemental Companion

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After having a festive meal, the girls went back to their place to finally have their beauty rest after two stressful days while the boys immediately went to their respective rooms after cleaning the living room and taking care of the dishes.

When Shin got back to his room, he did some light exercise to cool down his body before taking a quick shower before heading to his Gaming Cabin. They didn't have anything important to do for the next few days since their classes were going to start next week.

So, for now, he could do anything he needed inside the game.

Swoosh!

Right after logging back inside the game, he immediately appeared inside his room in the Mayor's Residence of the Caderock Village.

Ding!

And right after he appeared, his ear was immediately assaulted by a repeated notification sound of the system. Due to that, he quickly turned the sound off and opened the notification window immediately after.

System: Urgent Alert! Your sleeping Retainer was about to exhaust its lifeforce! And if you didn't hurry and find a suitable rebirthing place for it, the said retainer would perish forever.

System: Time remaining before all of the remaining life force was fully exhausted: 47:59:59.

The system notification was repeated multiple times which signified its importance.

"Sh*t! I completely forgot about this guy!" cursed Shin the moment he read the notification.

Due to the series of events that happened consecutively, Shin almost forgot this particular quest that he had. And if he didn't hurry, he would surely lose an Elemental Companion for good. And that was going to be a total waste, especially that this particular Elemental Spirit seemed to be a mutated one given that it was born after fusing two different spirits.

"What should I do?" muttered Shin as he tried to think of a way to escape this predicament. "I have a deal with Ms. Charlotte about this one, I wonder if she is free right now."

Having that thought, Shin quickly opened his friend list and looked for Charlotte to check whether she was online or not.

Fortunately, her name was lit up which meant that she was currently online. And without further ado, he quickly contacted her with his cover identity.

Nameless Swordsman: Mr. Charlotte, are you free for today? Can we do our contract right now?

He didn't wait long to receive a reply from her.

Mysterious Elementalist: Hunting boss monsters? We can do it now, but let me do some preparation first.

"I guess she is also using her special item to cover her identity now," muttered Shin to himself before quickly giving his reply.

Nameless Swordsman: That is one, but can we also proceed with the other deal?

Understanding what he was saying, Charlotte immediately replied.

Mysterious Elementalist: About the Rebirthing Place for your Elemental Companion, am I right? Are you in a hurry right now?

Nameless Swordsman: To be honest, I'm really running out of time. So, if possible, can we at least head to the place that you are talking about first?"

Mysterious Elementalist: That shouldn't be a problem, but the place is in the Elven Kingdom. So, I need to do more preparations. And let me warn you, Elven Organizations are not friendly with Humans.

Nameless Swordsman: I'm the Envoy of the Sun and Moon Church which is an ally of the Elven Council, so it shouldn't be a problem.

Mysterious Elementalist: Then let's meet at the Teleportation Hall of the Holy City after we are done with our respective preparations.

After that, Shin gave his reply which was saying that he agreed with her before walking out of the room to prepare everything that he needed for this particular mission.

With all of the events that happened recently, Shin got quite a lot of materials that he needed already. He might delay some of them but he at least got most of it. And after organizing that list that he got from Black Hammer, he just learned that he was only lacking a few materials on it.

Taking out all of the materials that he already had, he was now only lacking 3 major materials which could be found from level-150 Overlord Bosses.

If it was before, hunting down those bosses was going to be hard. But with Shin's current strength and battle capabilities, it was pretty confident that he could take those kinds of monsters down alone.

When he was done preparing everything, Shin went out of the Mayor's Residence secretly and quickly headed to the Holy City.

The current Holy City was much livelier compared to before. It also had quite a lot of players roaming around compared to before. There were also some advanced carriages that indicated the current rank of the city. The buildings were also quite advanced and larger compared to the other cities. A single look at it was more than enough to identify that it was a Capital City.

"Quite a nice environment," muttered Shin as he looked around the city. And from time to time, he was also taking note of some places, especially the layout of the most popular spots of the city; he was thinking that he might get some ideas that he could use in the future.

Not long after, he arrived at the Teleportation Hall of the Holy City which was pretty crowded due to players that kept on entering and exiting from it.

Whistle~!

"Such a busy and lively place," muttered Shin as he looked at the crowded entrance.

He stood on his spot for a few moments before turning his gaze at the plaza nearby. It was also a busy place that looked like a festival market in the real world. The sight of the loud vendors who were shouting from their stalls and the busy players roaming around to look for some good equipment reminded Shin of his first experience inside the game.

"I wonder what those guys from HeadHunter Guild are up to," he muttered to himself as he recalled the battle that put him in the spotlight.

After that, he looked for a corner where he could sit while waiting for Charlotte to arrive. He didn't need to wait that long since he immediately received a message from her not long after he took his spot.

Mysterious Elementalist: I'm here. Where are you?

Reading the message, Shin immediately told her his spot before looking around to find her. And not long after, they managed to find each other and grouped up.

"Have you done all of your preparations?" asked Shin right after greeting her.

Charlotte couldn't help but stare at Shin for a few moments since she could sense how strong he became since the last time they had met. 'This guy really became ridiculously strong since that time. He also seems to be much stronger compared to the time when he battled against Immortal.'

After observing him for a moment, Charlotte nodded her head and said. "Yeah, I'm already done with everything, so we can leave now if you want."

"Then we should get going now. As I said earlier, I really don't have much time left," said Shin while nodding his head.

Hearing that, Charlotte gathered some of her Elemental Mana on her eyes to take a look at Shin's Elemental Spirits. And when she did, she was immediately shocked at what she had discovered – Shin now had three more Elemental Companions since the last time they met.

'What's with this guy's fortune? Did he receive all of the blessings of the 'Goddess of Luck' to be this lucky?' thought Charlotte to herself after seeing the seven specks of lights that were circling around Shin.

She suppressed the twitching of her mouth before focusing her gaze at a particular Elemental Spirit which had an alternating gold and grey color.

And when she saw the state that it was currently in, she couldn't help but knit her eyebrows and said. "This Elemental Spirit is in the state of deep slumber for way too long – it only has a little time left before it fully dissipates."

"That is what I am talking about," replied Shin with a twitching face.

"You have good luck at finding these good companions yet you never have treated them fairly. You are wasting their powers a little too much," said Charlotte with a sharp tone, trying to criticize Shin.

Shin wore a weird look on his face when he heard those words. He wanted to defend himself but he couldn't find the right words to argue with her since he knew that he was also quite wrong. Though, he at least tried to find some excuses. "Well, a lot happened recently so I don't have much time to look after them properly."

Hearing that, Charlotte released a helpless sigh before waving at him to follow her. "Let's go. I still need to report to the Elven Council when we arrive there, so you still need to wait a bit before we proceed to the place that I am talking about."

"But you also don't have to worry much about that. It will not take that long, so I can at least assure you that we will make it in time," she added while turning around.

Meanwhile, Shin followed behind her silently while thinking to himself. 'Is it just me or has this girl's attitude improved quite a bit?'

Chapter 613 Getting Caught In Dispute (Part 1)

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The Elven Kingdom, one of the largest kingdoms among the elven territory. It was even comparable to the Elfiem Empire which was the said homeland of all elves.

This place was quite hostile against humans due to some unfortunate history between them. Some of these incidents were related to the slavery system that some human empires had employed, which was why the Elven Kingdom hated the humans, especially merchants.

Aside from them, the neighboring countries such as the Beast Glade Kingdom and the Dwarf Kingdom also hated the human empires which was why they formed an alliance with each other.

Given these circumstances, no player with a human race dared to set foot on these lands. And if ever there were some courageous humans who dared to enter the premises of these Kingdoms, the combined forces behind these countries would surely hunt those players down.

Fortunately, it was a different case for Shin. Even if his race had a tinge of human blood, the progenitor of his race was still a savior of the elves. So, the relationship of his Church with the Elven Council was still on friendly terms.

Given that, Shin was quite welcomed by the elders of the council when he arrived in the Sacred Capital of the Elven Kingdom.

Charlotte still had some things that she needed to report to the council, so he was left behind in the visitor's room while waiting for her to return.

Bored, Shin walked around the room and observed the murals drawn in the walls of the room.

From what he could see, those murals were about the heroic deeds that the Elven Hero did during the Warring and Repelling Era.

"I did not expect that the elves would also like to show off their leading figure. I thought they were quite humble about their origins," muttered Shin to himself.

When those words left his mouth, he suddenly heard an unfamiliar voice coming from behind. "My sincerest apologies, Sir Envoy!"

"Hmm?" Shin quickly turned around to look at the owner of the voice and saw an elf that seemed to be in his late twenties based on human standards.

And while Shin was observing him, the elf immediately bowed at him while introducing himself. "Greeting, Sir Envoy of the Church of the Sun and Moon. I am the crowned prince of the Elven Kingdom, Federith Yuvenciel."

"Ah!" Shin quickly gave the prince a deep bow when he realized the elf's status. "It is my pleasure to meet you, Prince Federith."

Seeing that Shin was acting too formal to him, Prince Federith immediately waved his hand while saying. "Relax, Sir Envoy. The ancestor of your race and the first Nephilim is our savior and benefactor, so it was natural for us to treat his descendants politely."

"How about we stop with the formalities and treat each other as friends instead?" added the prince while walking over to Shin and extending his right hand. "You can just call me by my name if it is fine with you."

Shin was hesitating whether he was going to accept the handshake or not since he was not sure if it was fine to treat someone with that kind of social status in a casual way. He already met quite a few nobles inside of the game, so he knew that some of the NPCs were treating the social hierarchy of the game quite strictly.

Seeing that Shin was still in dilemma, the prince quickly put up a smile and said. "Are you going to let me hang my hand like this? My arms are getting sore."

"Ah!"

Hearing that, Shin finally recovered himself and smiled at Prince Federith while shaking the latter's hand. "Then the prince can call me Sickarius."

"Hey! We already decided to be friends, so why are you still talking to me formally?" said the prince with squinting eyes, demanding Shin to treat him as equals.

Shin laughed for a moment before nodding his head. "Alright, Federith."

After that, the two chatted for a few moments, talking about some random topics. They were even talking about some things regarding their respective kingdoms.

Shin was just going with the flow at first but as time went by, he was starting to become suspicious about the prince's purpose of coming here. It was not in a bad way since the prince might give him some quest if his suspicions were right. But it was still giving him some uneasy feeling for conversing with someone who had some hidden motive.

And not long after, what he was thinking indeed came true.

"I heard that you arrived here alongside the Sage. Are you two in a mission?" asked Prince Federith with a casual tone.

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but feel on guard but he didn't show it on the surface. And after briefly considering his words, he immediately replied. "Oh~! About that? It is nothing special. We just teamed up temporarily to hunt down some Elemental Creatures."

"Hunting? Is it because of some bounty?" asked the prince while pursing his lips.

Reaching this point, Shin was starting to become more suspicious of the prince as he could sense some hidden motives from that particular question. And due to that, Shin chose to be more careful with his words before answering. "It is something like that. We are commissioned to get some materials from those monsters."

Hearing those words, Price Federith suddenly squinted his eyes a little before asking once again. "Can I ask you what kind of Elemental Creatures you guys are going to hunt?"

He paused for a moment before quickly adding. "Ah! Don't misunderstand me. I just want to know what monster you two are going to hunt so that I can lend you some of our guards to assist you."

'Assist our hunt? Or monitor our movements?' thought Shin to himself before replying. "Thanks for the kind offer, Federith. But I think we are going to be fine."

"Is that so?" said the prince before patting Shin's shoulder before saying. "But if ever you need some help, don't hesitate to ask for some assistance from me."

"I surely will," responded Shin in an instant while nodding his head.

After that, Prince bid his farewell to Shin before leaving the room. "Then I should be going now. I still have some things that I need to take care of. Thank you for your time and good luck on your hunt."

Shin nodded his head before giving the prince another bow while saying. "As I said earlier, the pleasure should be mine."

This time, Prince Federith ignored Shin acting formally in front of him once again and just walked out of the room. And the latter saw that, he couldn't help but smirk before muttering to himself. "Just like what I thought."

After that, Shin went back to his seat before summoning his Fire and Void Elemental Spirits. "Solus! Hanzo!"

A moment later, Solus and Hanzo materialized behind him with the former having her head low and the latter having an unsatisfied look on his face.

"Greetings, my liege!" said Solus right after appearing. And when she saw Hanzo not greeting Shin properly, she quickly glared at the old elemental spirit with sharp eyes.

But despite the threatening glare that he was getting from her, Hanzo still maintained the indifferent look on his face before saying. "Don't force me, fallen god. Even if you are a legend before, you are still no match against me with your current strength."

"Huh~!?" Solus suddenly looked at Hanzo aggressively before asking. "What do you mean by that? Are you challenging me right now? How about we find out right now who is stronger than us?"

"Alright! I am starting to get tired of you acting bossy all the time anyway," said Hanzo while getting ready to battle.

"Then this is going to be the time for us to settle who is going to be the leader of my liege's servants?" said Solus as she conjured a pair of fireballs on each of her hands before saying.

In the meantime, Shin couldn't help but slap his forehead for having yet another headache. "The heck!? Having a couple of strong Elemental Companions is not that bad, but having another 'Vladimir' and 'Grimrace' is definitely not a good thing."

,m After that, he quickly raised his hand and quickly put himself in between the two, trying to stop them. "That's enough! I summoned both of you since I need your opinions about something. So, if the two of you are going to continue fighting, then I think it is better if I unsummon both of you instead."

Hearing that, Solus quickly lowered his stance and apologized. "Please forgive this humble servant, my liege."

"I just want to discipline this rebellious servant in your stead," she added while glaring at Hanzo.

Shin quickly shook his head when he saw how she was treating him before asking. "And Solus, can you not treat me that way? I really feel uncomfortable whenever you speak that way."

On the other hand, Hanzo ignored the glare that he was receiving and asked Shin. "So, what help did you need from us, kid?"

He was in the middle of talking when the expression on his face suddenly turned serious. "But before that, how about we take care of these guys who were trying to eardrop us?"

And right after those words left his mouth, Shin suddenly received a series of system notifications which also bombard his ears repeatedly.

Shin took a quick look at them before cursing to himself. "What is it this time?"

Chapter 614 Getting Caught In Dispute (Part 2)

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Shin stared at the door of the room with sharp eyes while also focusing his senses to feel the movements outside. "Tsk! It looks like there are a lot of them out there."

"We are completely surrounded," said Hanzo as he nodded his head.

"Hiss~! Trying to assassinate their own guest? Such a strange way to show their hospitality," said Shin in a sarcastic tone.

"What are we going to do with them, my liege?" asked Solus while conjuring another pair of fireballs on each of her hands.

Hearing that, Shin suddenly smirked and quickly said. "What else? Of course, we are going to return their favor."

After that, he immediately snapped with his finger to summon all of his other Elemental Spirits and asked Blackie, Vladimir, Grimrace to scatter and take care of the other assassin hiding in the dark.

Meanwhile, Shin and the others patiently waited for the opposing side to make their moves. And just like what they were expecting, the assassins made their move not long after Shin ordered the three to scatter.

Bang!

The door of the room was blasted as a group of Twilights (Elven Assassins/Thieves) entered the room, forcing their way inside. But right after they entered, they were immediately greeted by a group of fireballs that accurately hit their bodies and sent them out once again.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

But despite taking down most of the assassins, there were still some who managed to dodge the unexpected attack and continued to charge toward Shin and the others.

Unfortunately for them, it was also the time when Whitie and Hanzo made their moves. They either blasted the assailants with a powerful energy wave or cut them down with a space-cutting strike.

It didn't take long for the group to take down all of the Twilights that were trying to assassinate them. And right after cleaning up the battlefield, Shin quickly checked the corpses one by one, trying to identify each of them.

Not long after, he discovered that all of these assassins did not belong to the forces of the Elven Kingdom. Their outfits were one thing, but what really attracted his attention was the black smokes that were being emitted by those corpses.

"These are corrupted powers without a doubt. Don't tell we bump into another scheme of those Corrupted Cults," cursed Shin silently after confirming what kind of energy was coming out from the corpses of the assassins that they killed.

While was still thinking about what was happening, Grimrace suddenly appeared behind Shin and quickly reported. "The castle is in the state of chaos as it was currently under attack by the spawns of the Corrupted Church. And no one from the outside knows what is happening since the whole place is currently sealed."

Hearing that, Shin suddenly knitted his eyebrows and muttered with a soft voice. "The castle is under attack? Why do I feel that this is a planned rebellion?"

After thinking for a few moments, Shin immediately dropped that thought as he was not sure about it yet. "Let's forget about it for now and gather more information for the time being."

Then he turned his head at the group and quickly gave out his order. "Grimrace and Blackie, you two head inside the main castle and see what is happening there. Hanzo and Vladimir, look for the Elementalist who come with us here. We need to know where she is to understand what is really happening."

"Solus, come with me. We are going to help the elves to fend off these believers of Corrupted Church," he added before walking out the room. And at the same time, all of his Reaper's Retainers aside from Solus suddenly disappeared as they went to do the respective tasks.

In the meantime, Prince Federith was currently watching the chaos within the Elven Castle from a high place while wearing a huge grin. "This is your fault, father. If only you trust me a little more, then this shouldn't have happened."

At the same time, his close aide suddenly appeared behind him before asking. "Are you sure about this, crowned prince? We can always do this until the Sage and the Envoy of the Church of Sun and Moon before make our move. Are we being a little too hasty?"

Hearing that, the prince turned silent for a moment before replying. "We've been dragging this matter out for a long time already, so we can't delay this any longer, or else we are going to face the wrath of that Messenger of the church."

"But still... isn't it better if we make our move after those two left? Now that they got involved, it is impossible to avoid the eyes of those Righteous Church now," refuted the aide.

"Moreover, we are also going to be in trouble once the news arrives in the ears of two other kingdoms," he added while keeping his head low.

Prince Federith suddenly smirked before saying. "Isn't that the reason why we keep all of the exits of the castle sealed alongside the main gate in the first place? And that is also why we are making haste. We need to finish this as soon as possible before the neighboring kingdoms become aware of what is going on."

He then paused for a few moments before quickly adding. "As for the Sage and the Envoy, make sure to capture them alive. Both of them are Otherworldly Individuals so killing them is the same as freeing them since they can just revive with the help of the power of Heaven."

Hearing that, his aide could only nod his head before quickly leaving to execute the order given to him.

Meanwhile, Charlotte was currently fighting a group of Twilights while running away from the main castle.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

She struck a few of her pursuers with her Elemental Magic and forced the others to distance themselves away from her.

"Surround her! And don't let her escape!" said the leader of the group while trying to interrupt Charlotte from casting another spell.

In the meantime, the other members of his group quickly spread around and surrounded her from all directions, making sure that she couldn't run anywhere.

Seeing that there was no place for her to run, Charlotte quickly summoned two of her Elemental Companions while calling forth four pillars of fire which also transformed into fire dragons immediately after.

"Raijin opened a path for us to get out of here. Fūjin, support me blow these annoying guys away," she said while quickly waving her hands forward and commanded the four fire dragons to fly towards the leader of the opposing side.

At the same time, Fūjin quickly swung his hands in the air to summon a group of small tornados and sent them in all directions.

After that, Raijin quickly took advantage of the opening for the two to charge forward while surrounding his body with a powerful current of lightning.

Crackle!

Charlotte and Fūjin followed closely behind Raijin to break through the encirclement of their opponents. Unfortunately, more and more assassins were popping out of nowhere as time went by, so escaping this place seemed to be much harder than she had expected.

"Tsk! What is that Prince thinking? To think that he is colluding with the Corrupted Church despite his status? That guy has gone crazy," cursed Charlotte after blasting away another group of assassins.

But not long after, another group quickly replaced those guys and quickly jumped towards her with their daggers at hand. And when Charlotte saw them, she quickly understood that it was impossible to get out of this place if she didn't give her all.

Given that, she quickly summoned her other Elemental Spirits to increase their group's battle prowess.
"Suijin! Kaolin! Xin!"

Her team was quite strong but it was still not enough to fully overwhelm the group assassins surrounding them. Aside from their strong innate battle capabilities for being an NPC, these assassins were also labeled as Special Elites which made them much stronger compared to normal NPCs.

Moreover, these guys were also corrupted beings, which was why their combat prowess was much more powerful than common 'Special Elites'. And on top of that, their numbers were not small either, which was why dealing with them was practically difficult.

And while Charlotte was busily battling the Twilights surrounding her group, she suddenly heard a voice of someone who seemed to be mocking her. "Well, well, well~! Look who is here. Isn't this the famous Elemental Goddess: Charlotte? Fancy meeting you here."

Casting her gaze at the source of the voice and saw an Elf with a cloak wrapped around his body and a longsword hanging on his waist.

"So, it was you after all, Silver!" said Charlotte with a solemn tone as she saw the player walking over.

Meanwhile, the elven player who had the name of 'Silver' raised both of his hands in the air before saying innocently. "Please don't look at me so aggressively, Ms. Charlotte. It may lead to some misunderstandings, you know?"

"And I just got a special quest from the crowned prince, so don't look at me as if I betrayed the whole world," he added, trying to defend himself.

After that, he looked at her straight to the eyes before saying. "Anyways, we don't have much time left, so how about you surrender now and let yourself get captured? That way, we can save both of your time."

He then snapped his fingers to activate a powerful suppressing skill that forcefully unsummoned Charlotte's Elemental Companions before pulling out his sword. "What do you think?"

"In your dreams!" responded Charlotte before pointing at Silver and commanding her fire dragons to charge at him.

Seeing that, Silver slightly shook his head before charging forward while barely dodging the fire dragons. And with that, he was able to arrive near Charlotte in an instant while thrusting his sword forward.

His speed was so fast which didn't give Charlotte any time to blink away from him. Even setting up a spell barrier was impossible because of his instantaneous speed.

But while she was helpless in front of that incoming sword, a katana suddenly appeared in front of her and blocked the path of the incoming strike.

Clang!

"Tsk! Ganging up on a girl? You guys sure have no shame."

Chapter 615 Getting Caught In Dispute (Part 3)

...

"Tsk! Ganging up on a girl? You guys sure have no shame," said Shin as he blocked the sword that was coming after Charlotte.

Silver knitted his brows when he saw the guy who interfered and asked. "Who are you?"

"Just a swordsman passing by," said Shin before putting more force on his arm to push his opponent away.

During that process, Shin slightly raised his head, enough for Silver to see his mask under the shade of his hood. And when the latter saw that signature mask, he immediately knew the identity of that person.

"The Angel of Death, Nameless Swordsman," muttered Silver while glaring at Shin with sharp eyes.

"You know about me? Then this is going to be easy. How about you let us leave here peacefully so that we can avoid the unnecessary shred of blood?" said Shin while positioning himself in front of Charlotte.

Hearing that, Silver started laughing loudly as he found Shin's words ridiculous. "Hey! It looks like you are blinded by your fame. Do you honestly believe that you can take all of us with just the two of you alone?"

When those words left his mouth, more and more Twilight NPCs appeared in the vicinity and surrounded Shin and Charlotte.

But despite being cornered by them, Shin still had the calm air around him which pretty much irritated Silver even more.

He was already being underestimated by the other Rankers of the Elven Council which frustrated him quite a lot already.

He was also a Titled Ranker and had a significant reputation on top of that, so he should have the same authority as them. And given his current status within the palace, he should be a part of the council given all of the efforts that he put during all of the missions that he got.

But all of those were nothing since he just had an ordinary class. And Charlotte, who was a little lucky to have a special class related to Ancient Elves, got a special status in the court without putting much effort.

That was also the reason why he chose to accept the quest given to him by the crown prince the moment it was offered to him. He was going to throw away all of the efforts that he put in to get his current position since it was meaningless now anyway.

Given all of that, he needed to put everything he could to capture Charlotte since it was going to be very troublesome if she managed to escape from the palace. That task was quite difficult to begin with since she still had a strong battle capability given that she was a Godlike Player. And this was also the very reason why he chose to mobilize all of the Twilight NPCs assigned to him by the crown prince.

But when he was about to finish his task successfully, another troublesome person appeared and interfered with his job.

"Elemental Goddess: Charlotte and the Angel of Death. This is going to be much harder than what I am expecting," muttered Silver as he looked at the two players in front of him.

After that, he took a quick glance at a certain scroll inside his inventory space. "Do I really need to use this scroll?"

In the meantime, Shin was paying close attention to every Twilight in the vicinity, taking note of their positions. And when he was done marking them, he looked over his shoulder and whispered. "Hey! I don't know what happened so you better explain the situation to me later once we get out of here."

Charlotte slightly knitted her brows before asking. "Do you know how we are going to escape this predicament?"

She then swept her gaze on their surroundings and looked at the Twilights that fully surrounded them from all sides. And after a brief moment of pause, she quickly continued. "The whole palace is currently sealed by a special formation so using any kind of Teleportation Scroll is useless."

"And I also doubt that your Void Elemental Spirit can do any better either since there is now a suppressing formation added in it," she added after using her Elemental Sight to look at the invisible dome-shaped barrier that was covering the entire castle.

Hearing that, Shin flipped his wrist a couple of times while waving the [Yamato] left and right. "Isn't it obvious? We are just going to force our way out here, so you better not slack off and use your real strength."

Bang!

Then Shin took a battle stance before releasing a powerful aura that forcefully halted the slight movements of the NPCs surrounding them. They froze in place while looking at him with a dumbfounded look on their face.

Even Silver who just saw Shin for the first time couldn't believe what he was seeing. It was just recently when this guy fought against Immortal. And from what he could see on the battle videos, he shouldn't be this strong yet; at least, not to this degree.

"What a fearsome fellow. Now I see why those people from the Corrupted Church are wary of him," muttered Silver while staring at Shin cautiously.

After that, Silver shouted at the Twilight NPCs so that they could regain their senses. "What are you doing? Why are you so scared when there are only two of them?!"

Hearing those words, the Twilights finally recovered themselves and quickly jumped towards Shin and Charlotte in a very aggressive manner.

Seeing that, Shin quickly sheathed his sword and channeled the power of the brilliant sun on it while saying to Charlotte. "Can you bend over a little? I'm going to create an opening."

Charlotte was quite confused with his words but she still complied with his words and quickly leaned forward and bent her legs.

Shing!

And right after she did that, she suddenly heard the sound of a sword being drawn from its sheath followed by the sudden appearance of a white ring of fire that was extending outwards.

'Class Fighting Style: Sunshine Cleaver'

Swoosh!

Bang!

Due to that, the Twilights were forced to halt their advance and moved back, afraid that they were going to get hit by that circular fire.

But at the same time, Silver broke past that ring of fire and pounced at Shin with his sword in hand. He thrust it forward while also infusing some Elemental Mana on that sword.

Swoosh!

Clang!

Shin gently moved the [Yamato] in a circular motion and deflected that incoming sword to the side. And quickly after that, he suddenly moved forwards while swinging his sword at Silver with a single fluid motion.

Seeing that, Silver quickly activated his lifesaving skill to escape the incoming sword and quickly retreated away from Shin.

But how could Shin let him get away like that?

The moment he saw Silver moving away from him, Shin quickly gave chase while brandishing his sword once again.

Clang!

And with that, the two were engaged in an intense battle with one of them continuously moving backward while the other was persistently chasing after him.

Meanwhile, Charlotte also didn't let that opportunity slip away from them, so she quickly conjured a group of elemental pillars and transformed them into dragons with their respective elements. And those elemental dragons were responding with every wave of her hand and swing of her scepter. They were blasting all of their opponents while dancing in the air.

'Epic Combat Technique: Five Elemental Dragon Dance'

She followed closely after Shin as he led Silver to a certain direction where one of the exits was located.

Naturally, Silver was able to notice what they were planning but he couldn't do anything about it since he was being suppressed by Shin by swordsmanship alone. And every time he tried to execute a skill to counterattack, the latter would always be one step ahead of him and block his sword before he could even execute his skill properly.

"D*mn it!" cursed Silver out loud before using a series of movement skills to create some distance between Shin and himself. Then he quickly took out a scroll from his inventory before crushing it without any hesitation.

Boom!

And in the very next instant, the surrounding air suddenly turned heavy before a dark vortex appeared above Silver. A few moments later, all of the Elemental Mana in the air were sucked towards the dark vortex, making Shin and Charlotte unable to fully utilize their skills and spells.

"Tsk! What is it this time?" said Shin while looking sharply at the dark vortex above Silver's head which was devouring all of the mana in the vicinity.

Not long after, the dark vortex transformed into a floating metal gate that was emitting a wicked and eerie aura.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then crimson chains suddenly shot out from the top of the metal gate before forming a cage that surrounded Shin and others.

Seeing that, Shin quickly clicked his tongue before activating the 'Meteor Form' of the 'Mondi's Style' Legacy Skill before muttering with a soft voice. "Looks like things are about to get more troublesome."

Chapter 616 The Elemental Goddess And The Nameless Swordsman

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Shin stared at the floating metal door for a few moments before looking over his shoulder. "Hey! If you still don't use your Elemental Possession now, then we will never be able to leave this place."

After that, he quickly raised the longsword on his left hand while calling out. "Void Reaper!"

Then Hanzo broke free from the circling specks of light around Shin before fusing with the longsword that he was holding, completely changing its current appearance.

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Void): Dimension Cutter'

"I will try to stop the opening of that gate. Can you cover me?" asked Shin to Charlotte while blocking the flying daggers that were thrown at them.

Hearing that, Charlotte glared at Shin quite sharply for treating her like an amateur player. "You don't have to tell everything. I also know what must be done, so you don't need to instruct me on what I need to do."

After that, she quickly made a seal with her free hand before calling out loud. "Suijin!"

Then a beautiful elemental spirit appeared behind Charlotte before transforming into water vapors that surrounded her. And a moment after, a floating water scarf was formed on her back before reinforcing her battle prowess.

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Ocean Spirit): Queen of the Sea'

From Shin's perspective, the Elemental Spirit didn't fuse with Charlotte nor her weapon. And that sight piqued his interest a little. "So, her Elemental Possession is fusing with her magic itself, huh? Interesting!"

After that, he saw Charlotte waving her hand sideways and summoned a large number of water droplets floating in the air, before sending all of them in every direction with a flick of her wrists.

'Secret Fusion Spell (Elemental Possession and Class Fighting Style):

– Curtain of Armageddon'

Each of the water droplets accurately hit the Twilight NPCs at the center of their foreheads, taking them down in one strike.

"So, she also knows how to do that special skill? I guess I also need to learn how to properly do it as soon as possible," muttered Shin before disappearing into his current position and reappearing in front of Silver in an instant.

"Then I think I need to also put a little more effort now," muttered Shin as he swung his swords at his opponent with great timing.

Clang! Clang!

Naturally, Silver would not let himself get carried away by Shin's rhythm anymore. He might not have a strong skill and overpowered class, but he still had a very solid foundation and stable technique that he built throughout his career.

Unfortunately for him, fighting him was not Shin's current priority. And it was the metal gate floating above them instead. So, right after he pushed Silver a little away from the metal gate, he quickly channeled the Power of Eclipse on the [Yamato] before swinging it upwards all of a sudden.

Swoosh!

Then a grey-colored energy wave was released from the sword and flew straight to the floating metal gate right above him.

'Slayer Skill (Modified): Eclipse Slash'

Boom!

But despite the powerful force that was accompanying that sword wave, the metal seemed to be unaffected by it; not even a scratch could be seen on its surface.

"Heh! That kind of half-ass attack is not going to work on that thing. It is a very high-level summoning scroll, so you can't forcefully cancel it easily," said Silver mockingly while getting ready to resume his attack.

In the meantime, Shin smirked at those words before canceling the 'Meteor Form' of his sword and transformed it back to its sheath form while putting the [Yamato] on it. And quickly after that, he assumed a sword-drawing stance while also channeling the Power of Eclipse on that sheathed sword.

Seeing that, Silver quickly activated a series of buffs to himself, trying to match the powerful pressure that he was getting from Shin. And since he was not confident that he could take Shin alone, he called out some of the Twilight NPCs around as some assurance.

Silver commanded them to surround Shin in all directions to pressure him from all sides. And from the look of it, those NPCs were the strongest among the group. So, Shin couldn't underestimate them.

Shin regulated his breathing and took note of every Twilights around him while waiting for them to make their moves.

But since the opposing side was fully aware that the time was on their side, they were not in a hurry to attack yet. And due to that, Shin had no other choice but to initiate an attack before the gate fully opened itself.

"If that is the case, then let me do it this way," said Shin as he quickly unsheathed his sword while also unleashing the accumulated Powers of the Eclipse on it.

Shing!

As Shin swung the [Yamato] sideways, the energy that was released from it also drew an arc in the air before transforming into a black dragon that widely opened its mouth, planning to devour everything on its path.

'Class Fighting Style: Eclipse Dragon Draw'

Roar!

Seeing that, the Twilights surrounding Shin were forced to move away from the path that the black dragon was taking, afraid that they were going to get hit by it.

It was the same for Silver since he could feel how strong this skill was, just by looking at it alone. But it didn't take long for him to realize that Shin was not targeting any of them.

Right after the black dragon forced the Twilight NPCs away from him, it suddenly curved upwards and flew straight to that floating mental gate above.

Boom!

Then cracks started to appear on the metal gate right after the black dragon collided with it. And when Silver saw that, the expression on his face immediately turned heavy for being tricked once again.

"It is tough to break you said? Now, let's see if I can break it before it fully opens itself," said Shin while sheathing his sword once again. And quickly after that, he suddenly pulled it out for another time, while unleashing another wave of energy towards the mental gate.

Roar!

And this time, the energy wave transformed into a white tiger as it pounced towards the sky.

'Class Fighting Style: Eclipse Tiger Draw'

Boom!

The mental gate shook violently when the white tiger collided with it. And at the same time, the cracks that it had quickly spread immediately after.

"What are you doing?! Stop him from destroying the Summoning Gate!" shouted Silver the moment he saw what Shin was doing.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

With that, the Twilights pounced at him from every direction, planning to restrain him. And when Shin saw that, he quickly moved his body according to the movements of his opponents.

Each time he stepped to the side, an attack would brush past his body, barely missing him with a very slight margin.

At the same time, he would always strike the Twilights accurately and take them down with a single attack. And despite having a much lower level compared to them, Shin was able to completely overwhelm them with his movement techniques and swordsmanship alone.

After experiencing his 'Zone' territorial skill in the real world, Shin was able to fully utilize the 'Sensing Circle' skill that he had inside the game. And by taking advantage of that skill, landing a clean strike on him was going to be just a pipe dream.

On top of that, Shin was also able to throw a couple of attacks at the metal gate every time he found a window that he could take advantage of.

Seeing that, Silver was immediately forced into a corner where he couldn't do anything at all. The Twilight NPCs were no longer a match for Shin as he showed his real battle capabilities; not even the strongest ones in the group could pose a threat to him despite all of them working together.

Moreover, he also couldn't increase the number of Twilights that were ganging up on Shin since he also needed to keep an eye on Charlotte. After all, dealing with her was also quite problematic.

Forget about her large-scale magical skills; her battle capabilities alone were more than enough to make her a threat for them. And adding the fact that her magic was currently being enhanced by her personal elemental possession, facing her in a one-against-many-scenario was pretty much a one-sided slaughter.

At the same time, there was also that troublesome Combat Technique of hers, the 'Elemental Dragon Dance'. This particular technique was the perfect tool for her since it both had offensive and defensive capabilities.

Silver was currently wearing a very heavy expression on his face as he watched everything from the sideline. He couldn't decide which side to help since either one of them was going to give them huge trouble if left unattended.

Leaving Charlotte behind would thin down their forces while leaving Shin would risk the destruction of the Summoning Gate. Both choices would lead to the failure of their plan which was making it much harder for Silver to choose.

And while he was caught in a difficult dilemma, he suddenly heard an eerie voice coming from behind. "Heh! Looks like you are caught between a rock and hard place. Should I lend you a hand to resolve it?"

Turning his head over, Silver's eyes immediately turned wide when he saw who was the owner of the voice. "You are-...!"

Chapter 617 A Messenger From The Corrupted Cult

...

Silver stared at the player who just appeared behind him out of nowhere and started to stutter. "You-... You are-... that Messenger from the Corrupted Cult!"

Unfortunately, that person just ignored him and stared at Shin who was busily fending off the Twilight NPCs around him while also throwing some skills at the floating gate above him. "So, this is the person that took the interest of the Council. He indeed looks a little troublesome. No wonder Immortal and Hoawin are quite wary of him."

He then raised his eyebrows slightly before quickly muttering to himself. "But what's with this guy? He always appears in the places that the Cult put their eyes onto. First, it is in the Saint Heaven Kingdom, then it is followed by the incident in the Blind Abyss Empire. And now, he is causing yet another trouble here in the Elven Kingdom?"

"He is constantly getting in our way now, so we can no longer ignore his existence," he added as his raised eyebrows turned into a deep frown.

After that, he started walking forward and took the battle-axe hanging behind him before saying to Silver. "Oi! Go deal with the Elemental Goddess. You can leave this guy to me. After all, I also want to personally experience how good this so-called superstar of the Saint Haven Kingdom is."

...

Shin already had a lot on his plate since the time he arrived here. Even if he was able to easily defeat a lot of NPCs already, it was still useless due to the seemingly inexhaustible number of the Twilights that kept on arriving one by one.

Regardless, he was still not having any trouble dealing with them since he had some high-level techniques such as the improved version of 'Sensing Circle' and the enhanced style of 'Infinity Edge'.

With those two skills, none of the NPCs were able to land any hit at Shin as it looked like an impenetrable defense.

Boom!

Yet another skill landed on the metal gate floating above Shin, further increasing the number of cracks on its surface. And with that attack, the metal gate was not showing some signs of collapsing as there were now some metal fragments falling from it.

"Alright, one more hit and it will fully collapse," muttered Shin as he channeled some Powers of Eclipse on both of his swords.

But while he was in the middle of executing his skill, he suddenly sensed an immense Killing Intent that was coming from no particular direction. And since he couldn't clearly pinpoint where that hostility was coming from, Shin couldn't help but put his guard in the highest level while heightening his senses to their maximum potential.

"Not bad, you seem to be really different compared to the reports that we got recently," said the newcomer as he appeared behind Shin like a ghost.

Shin's eyes suddenly turned wide the moment he heard that unfamiliar voice and quickly turned around while swinging his sword at that person.

Clang!

"You should have died once there already," said the newcomer while blocking Shin's sword with his battle-axe.

After that, he quickly hopped backward to dodge the next attack thrown by Shin before resting his battle-axe on his shoulder. He then looked at Shin provokingly before saying. "Your senses and reaction speed are pretty good, so how about we try testing how good you are in battle next?"

"Tsk! How about introducing yourself first?" said Shin while looking warily at this person who just popped out of nowhere.

The guy had a quite muscular build and seemed to be fully trained in Martial-Arts based on the dangerous aura that was being emitted by his body.

He was wearing a sleeveless leather shirt with thick fur wrapped around his shoulders. And coupled with his black martial-art pants and leather boots, it was pretty easy to tell that he had a special class unique to him.

On top of that, there were also the bestial furs on his arms alongside the unusually long fangs sticking out on his mouth. And aside from that, there was also a pair of longhorns on his forehead. That look alone was more than enough for Shin to know that this guy also had a strange race which seemed to be a hybrid between Beastman Race and Demon Race.

While Shin was still weighing up his opponent's appearance, the latter suddenly opened his mouth and replied. "Oh! That was rude of me. Let me introduce myself even though it is already late."

"I may not be as famous as the other Messenger, but I at least have a decent reputation in the gaming world. The name is Thirio, one of the Messengers of the Corrupted Cult."

He trailed his voice for a moment before quickly adding with a smirking tone. "I am pretty sure that you already know about us since you already meet my fellow believers; Immortal and Hoawin in particular."

Hearing that, Shin's eyes turned even wider as he further strengthened his guard. He clearly understood how dangerous this person was in front of him. And if he really put him on the same level as those two lunatics, then it was pretty clear that he was not someone that could be underestimated.

Seeing that Shin was not responding to him, Thirio suddenly smirked and quickly asked. "Heh! Are you an Archenemy of our Cult for you to keep on bumping with our operations? You really are giving us a lot of trouble."

Shin still didn't reply to him as he remained quiet and unmoved. Instead, he set his swords ablaze with two different auras while getting ready for an intense battle.

One of the swords had a brilliant white flame with some patches of dark aura on the surface while the other sword was emitting a cold and abyssal light.

'Lesser Legendary Combat Technique: Eclipse Wielding'

At the same time, he was also regulating his breathing to activate one of his special Breathing Techniques, the 'White Dawn Boundary'.

After that, a battle spirit without a distinct form but had a very powerful aura suddenly appeared behind Shin and stared at his opponent with cold-hearted eyes. And while all of this was happening Shin was also taking a battle stance, signifying that he was not planning to go all out from the get-go.

When Thirio saw that, he immediately raised the corner of his mouth before quickly releasing his own battle spirit to negate the incoming pressure that was coming from the latter.

His battle spirit might have a more distinct figure than Shin's battle spirit but the pressure that they were emitting seemed to be on equal terms.

"This guy!" muttered Thirio when he saw how strong the aura surrounding Shin before quickly adding. "I really can't fully trust those reports that are passed to us, they have always been inaccurate."

After that, he ignited his weapon with a strange dark aura before assuming a battle stance.

Boom!

Then he suddenly kicked the ground and launched himself forward before arriving in front of Shin in an instant. And right after he arrived, he quickly swung the battle-axe at his opponent without a hint of hesitation.

Bang!

A shockwave was immediately sent in every direction the moment Shin swung his sword at the incoming axe to prevent it from advancing forward.

Crack! Crack!

The ground under Shin's feet even sank quite deeply as he tried to nullify all of the force that he got from the impact.

At the same time, all of the Twilights in the surrounding area were sent flying away from those two due to the explosive power of their collision.

After that, Shin put more strength on his arm to push his opponent away from him. And right after he forced Thirio to retreat, he quickly gave chase and suddenly unleashed a series of sword strikes at his opponents.

But to his surprise, Thirio was still able to block all of his attacks despite having a large and heavy weapon.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

"That's right! Show me how you did you defeated Immortal and forced Hoawin to run away from you!" said Thirio while wearing a huge grin with his lips.

"Tsk! Another lunatic!" cursed Shin before adjusting his breathing technique once again before quickly attacking with the 'Infinity Edge' technique on top of the other Combat Techniques that he was currently using.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

With that, the two were engaged in a very intense battle where the Twilight NPCs had no other choice but to watch them fight from the sidelines while also running away from them from time to time.

Bang!

And with every collision of their weapons, a powerful shockwave was always going to be sent away from them, making the surrounding mental chains shake violently and almost breaking them in the process.

"This guy-... he is getting stronger and stronger as the time goes by. I really can't let this battle drag for an extended period of time," muttered Thirio while dodging yet another attack that almost took his life.

After that, he quickly activated one of his Berserk Skills before staring at Shin. "Alright, playtime is over. It is time to end this, Nameless Swordsman."

Chapter 618 Receiving Some Assistance

...

While Shin was currently occupied with Thirio, Charlotte was also forced to have her back against the wall since she was now being besieged from all sides.

Since all of the Twilight NPCs couldn't interfere in the battle on the other side, they had no choice but to turn their attention to her. And due to that, she was immediately attacked from every direction, forcing her to abandon the idea of attack and focus only on defense.

Fortunately, one of her Elemental Possession was related to Earth which had a pretty solid defensive capability. And with the help of her personal Combat Technique, the 'Elemental Dragon Dance', she was able to protect herself relatively well despite being pressured from all sides; even Silver found it hard to break through her defense.

But despite her holding her ground quite well, she was still reaching her limit relatively fast since her concentration was constantly dropping due to the extended usage of her Elemental Possession and high-class Combat Technique.

While she was busy with her own battle, she was also finding some time to take a look at Shin to see how he was doing. After all, his opponent was pretty strong which was why it concerned her a little. If he was defeated, then everything would surely be over.

Fortunately, Shin seemed to be holding his ground quite well even against a strong expert like the monster that he was currently facing.

Bang! Bang!

Thirio was quite surprised at Shin after exchanging a few blows with each other. And even if they were using some skills and high-class techniques in the process, the deadlock still remained the same with none of them gaining any advantage even after a long time.

Moreover, Shin had already gotten used to keeping the 'White Dawn Boundary' active so he was able to react to every attack that was thrown at him without any problem, and fending them off was relatively easy.

The only problem was time.

Shin only needed a single strike to completely destroy the Summoning Gate floating above them. But he couldn't find the right time to attack since he was constantly being harassed by Thirio.

Not long after, Shin was able to hear some creaking sound coming from that floating metal gate, signifying that it was slowly opening.

"I commend you for holding up this long, but I guess it is already time for you to surrender. Your time is already up," said Thirio while blocking yet another attack from Shin.

"Tch!"

Shin could only click his tongue when he saw that the metal door was about to open itself. He wanted to try something about it but Thirio was quite persistent at keeping him busy. "D*mn it!"

Swoosh!

But while he was stuck in the middle of that difficult situation, a blinding light suddenly flashed in the distance which attracted the attention of everyone. And when they turned their heads towards the source of that light, they suddenly saw a streak of light that was flying straight to the Summoning Gate.

Seeing that, Thirio's eyes suddenly turned wide and quickly shouted. "What are you standing for?! Stop that thing right now!"

With his shout, the NPCs quickly regained their senses and quickly flew in the air, planning to block the path of the incoming streak of light.

Shin didn't know what was that streak of light, but he at least knew that it was on their side since it was seemingly trying to destroy the metal gate floating above the battlefield. "You guys are not going anywhere!"

After that, Shin quickly tightened his grip on his swords and pulled them backward, planning to release the Power of Brilliant Sun and Abyssal Moon infused on each of his swords.

"As if I am going to let you do whatever you want," said Thirio while charging towards Shin.

Shin wanted to avoid engaging in another fight with Thiro since he would not be able to stop the NPCs from obstructing the flying streak of light.

But while he was still in the middle of thinking what to do, the corner of his eyes suddenly caught a glimpse of a familiar figure running in the middle of the Twilight NPCs and rapidly approaching them.

"Heh! I don't know what you are doing here, but I guess we are going to be working with each other this time," muttered Shin with a soft voice while wearing a mysterious grin under his mask.

With that, he didn't hesitate any longer and quickly swung both of his swords in the air in front of him, drawing a cross in the air while releasing all of the Powers of Brilliant Sun and Abyssal Moon from both of his swords.

p 'Self-Created Skill (Personalized): Eclipse Cross'

Swoosh!

Seeing the cross-shaped energy wave that was sent out by Shin, Thirio quickly held his battle-axe with both of his hands, planning to swing it down in a very powerful manner.

But before he could even do what he was planning, he suddenly sensed someone charging at him with great speed. And since the threat that he was getting from that person was no joke, he had no other choice but to abandon the idea of stopping Shin and quickly swung his battle-axe at the newcomer instead.

Boom!

A powerful blast of shockwave was sent in every direction the moment his battle-axe came in contact with the person that was charging at him. But to his surprise, the force behind the charge of the newcomer seemed to be much stronger than what he was expecting.

And because of that, he was forced to take a couple of steps backward so that he could nullify the remaining force from that impact.

Due to that, the energy wave that Shin sent earlier flew past over their heads and hit all of the Twilight NPCs on its path. After that, Shin quickly made his move and started taking down the other Twilights who were trying to throw their bodies in front of the incoming streak of light.

Boom!

And not long after, that streak of light hit the floating metal gate before it could even fully open itself and made it explode into pieces.

Seeing that, Thirio immediately became enraged and glared at the newcomer before saying with a hoarse voice. "Who that f*ck dares to interfere with my hunt?!"

Raising his head, Thirio saw a knight with full-body armor and a light blue cape. He was also holding a round shield in front of him which he also used in the collision earlier. And when he slightly moved the shield to the side, a longsword was revealed on his other hand and seemed to be fully ready to strike any time.

Now that he had a clear look at the newcomer, Thirio was now able to identify the person in front of him. "The Dark Knight, Owen. I didn't expect to meet another Kingdom's Super Star in this place."

In the meantime, Owen looked at Thirio for a couple of moments before pointing his sword forward before saying. "Let me play with you for a bit."

Though, he was actually sending a different message to Shin. – "Hey, cover your eyes for a moment. We are going to blind these guys for a short period of time so that we can leave this place." –

Reading the contents of the message, Shin quickly informed Charlotte about it before pushing all of the Twilight NPCs around him to create enough space around him for security.

Swoosh!

Not long after, another streak of light suddenly flashed in the distance and flew straight to the sky.

Boom!

And not long after, that flash of light suddenly exploded in the air and released a blinding light that forced everyone to cover their eyes.

"Just kidding!" shouted Owen after seeing Thirio tried to cover his eyes from the blinding light. And immediately after that, he quickly ran away from the battlefield alongside Shin and Charlotte.

Given that, the three of them suddenly disappeared when Thirio and the others finally recovered their eyesight.

"F*ck!" cursed Thirio out loud the moment he realized what happened. He was wearing a heavy look on his face which scared everyone to make any eye contact with him.

Boom! Boom!

He also threw some powerful attacks that destroyed the vicinity to vent out his frustrations before turning his head at Silver before saying. "What are you standing there for? Go chase after them and capture guys alongside those people who dared to help them!"

After that, he suddenly jumped in the air before hopping from one building to another as he headed towards the main castle of the palace.

In the meantime, Silver suddenly swept his gaze at the Twilight NPCs before shouting at them. "You all heard him, right? Go chase after those guys earlier!"

"They shouldn't have gone far yet, so you should be able to catch up with them and capture those b*str*ds," he added while sheathing his sword.

When he was done talking, the NPCs quickly nodded their heads before simultaneously disappearing from his sight.

Chapter 619 Asking For Cooperation

...

Shin and Charlotte managed to get out of the city with the help of Owen and Ithilien. They arrived on a nearby mountain which had a little distance away from the city.

"I already heard that you are doing quite a lot of commotion anywhere you go, but I didn't expect that you are also dragging it in this kingdom," said Owen after making sure that there were no opponents in the vicinity.

Hearing that, Shin suddenly clicked his tongue before replying. "Tsk! I am innocent this time, alright? I'm just here to do some of my quests but I don't expect that I am going to be dragged into this kind of situation."

"So, what really happened there?" asked Owen while taking a seat under a nearby tree.

"A very good question! And I also love to know the answer to that," answered Shin in an instant before turning his head to Charlotte.

Seeing that, Charlotte couldn't help but take a deep breath before replying. "As you can see, that idiot prince colluded with the Corrupted Cult and raised a rebellion against the royal court. And based on what we have seen earlier, it seems like they are now in full control of the whole palace."

"You are supposedly going to report to the Elven Council earlier, am I right? So, what happened to the King and the other members of the council?" asked Shin while knitting his brow.

Charlotte took a brief pause when she heard that before answering. "When I was reporting to the council, some of the elves that are loyal to the prince suddenly entered the conference room without permission and started capturing everyone inside."

"The King already knew that it was already too late to turn the situation around so he ordered his Royal Guards to escort me out of the main castle so that I can ask some assistance from the two neighboring kingdoms."

After that, she took out a sealed letter from her inventory space before saying. "The King gave me a letter of recommendation, so there shouldn't be a problem when we arrive there."

When she reached that point, she couldn't help but take a brief pause and look at Shin before continuing. "The problem is we need some time to get to their capital."

"Given that the palace is currently under the crown prince's control, I'm pretty sure that he is going to issue an order to capture us so that they can prevent us from asking some help from the Beast Glade and Draft Kingdoms."

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but fall into deep thought. If it was just sneaking into any of the city, then that shouldn't be a problem since all he needed to do was to switch his equipment and use his other identity to sneak inside.

But his main concern here was he didn't want to reveal his identity to other people yet and it looked like Charlotte was fully aware of that which was why she looked at him.

Moreover, he was also running out of time due to his current quest that concerned his slumbering Elemental Spirit. And due to this matter, he couldn't afford to waste much time on getting involved in this current issue.

Sigh~!

Shin inhaled and exhaled quite deeply when he realized their current situation and said. "Alright, I get it. Just send me the coordinates of the place that you are talking about and I will go there myself so that you can do your own thing."

But to his surprise, Charlotte actually said something a little opposite to what he was saying. "That is actually what I am going to say earlier. But now that we have your friends over here, I guess we can at least divide the tasks among us."

Shin suddenly raised his eyebrows when he heard that and suddenly turned their heads at Owen and Ithilien who remained silent up until now. "Now that I think about it, what are you two doing here? From what I remember, this is not your main Kingdom, isn't it?"

"Tsk! And now you can see me again after being blinded by beauty?" asked Owen.

'What the heck is this guy talking about?' thought Shin to himself after hearing those words. And after a brief moment of pause, he immediately repeated what he said earlier. "Enough with that already and just tell us what you are doing here."

Hearing that, Owen immediately clicked his thought before responding. "Tsk! You are still the same as ever. You and that cold personality of yours."

"Anyway, we are in here because I'm helping her with one of her Quest, but I don't expect that something this big is going to happen right after we arrive in the castle," he added while pointing his thumb at Ithilien.

After that, Shin turned his head at Charlotte before saying. "You heard them, so what do you suggest now?"

Unfortunately, Charlotte didn't reply to his words and just stared at him with an expression that was telling him it was his call to decide.

Understanding what she was thinking, Shin could only shake his head bitterly before thinking to himself. 'Yeah, right. It is me who commissions her with my quests after all, so it is supposedly my problem in the first place.'

He then stopped the twitching corner of his mouth before looking at Owen and Ithilien, asking. "Well, you already heard about our situation earlier. My current quest somehow coincides with this matter, so I can't take part in it personally."

"And since both of you are already involved, how about lending us a hand to solve it?" he added with a casual tone.

When he heard that, Owen couldn't help but click his tongue once again before saying. "Tsk! You really have a unique way of asking a favor from someone. How about making it a little more convincing so that we can get persuaded with it?"

"Tsk! Just say it if you don't want to help. I will not beg you, so just cut it out already," responded Shin before standing up.

Seeing that, Owen immediately surrendered and raised both his hands. "Alright, alright! You win! But the decision is still not mine."

He then paused for a moment before pointing at Ithilien while adding. "It is for her to decide."

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but feel like teasing Owen a little, sending him a whisper. "Already acting tamed? Has your relationship already gone that far?"

Reading that personal message, Owen suddenly gave Shin a snarling look before turning his attention to Ithilien while asking. "So, what do you think? Can we help them with their quest? After all, we can't finish your quest if the castle is still in a mess."

Ithilien remained silent for a few moments before finally opening her mouth. "So, all we need to do is deliver the letters to the two neighboring kingdoms?"

"Yes. All I need to do is share the quest with the two of you so that you can deliver the message to them," replied Charlotte while nodding her head before looking at Owen and quickly adding. "Though, there is going to be a problem with him since he has a Human Race."

"Hmm? Oh~! Don't worry about that, I can also hide my identity with a special item and no NPC can easily see through it either," said Owen while waving his hand.

After that, Ithilien suddenly chimed in and said. "But I still have a request before we agree to this cooperation."

Shin knitted his brow a little when he heard that before nodding his head. "Sure! Let me hear it out first. As long as it is within our capabilities, then we will agree with it."

Hearing Shin's response, Ithilien immediately nodded her head and said without any hesitation. "I would like to invite you to an underground duel and represent us as one of your teammates in it."

"Huh?" Shin was taken slightly aback as he didn't expect to hear that from her. He already heard from Arthur and Leonard that there were some 'special betting duels' in this game where any player could bet literally everything.

In the meantime, Owen suddenly freaked out when he heard those words from her and quickly said. "Hey, wait! Are you planning to get them involved with our personal matters? That is supposedly our own problem!"

Hearing that, Shin could already tell that this issue was not as simple as it seemed to be. "Will you mind explaining the situation to us, so that we can decide whether we are going to get involved with that or not?"

"No, Brother Swordsman! This is something that we need to solve with ourselves so that you don't have to concern yourself with it," replied Owen in an instant while turning his head at Shin.

But to his surprise, Shin's tone suddenly turned serious as he opened his mouth. "That is exactly why I am going to get myself involved with it since it concerns you personally."

"You already agreed to be the main tank of our adventurer team, so I can't ignore it if you are in some sort of trouble," added Shin while looking at Owen with full seriousness.

Chapter 620 Planning

...

Owen stared for a moment, trying to find the words that he wanted to say. But no matter how many times he opened and closed his mouth, there seemed to be no words willing to come out from it.

In the end, he could only release a helpless sigh before explaining their situation. "Remember those guys that you met in the VIP room during the Shadow Ranking Cup? Those b*st*rds managed to join a rising powerhouse in our kingdom and started being unreasonable."

"First, they to invite Ithilien to join them but when she refused their invitation, those f*ckers started harassing her and her regular party. They also managed to get a decent standing in that guild which is why they got some support from them."

"Ithilien and her team are not that weak. But given that the other side had a greater number of experts in their ranks, her team was suppressed too much to the point they disbanded."

Reaching this point, Owen suddenly clenched his hands to show his anger before continuing. "And the worst thing about those f*ckers is they don't stop in their harassment and up until now. They pressured her too much to the point she could no longer properly play the game."

"If I didn't get wind of that news, then she most likely has quit the game already," he added while gritting his teeth.

Shin turned silent for a few moments before asking. "So, what's the deal with that Underground Duel or something?"

"About that-..." Owen briefly paused and looked at Ithilien before continuing. "Those guys want her to hand over a special item that Ithilien and her party got from a particular quest. But since she doesn't want to give it to them, those f*ckers started harassing her even more alongside the other members of that guild."

"And since I got frustrated at them, I started hunting some of the elite groups of that particular guild to the point they had no other choice but to request a ceasefire for the time being."

Owen smirked a little when he reached that point which made Charlotte think to herself. 'It seems like this guy is also a madman.'

In the meantime, Ithilien continued what Owen was saying earlier. "But that agreement didn't last long since the guild learned what kind of item I am holding. I'm not sure but it seems like this item can let someone have a Race and Class Conversion."

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but knit his brow a little before saying. "And how did those guys know that you have that item anyway?"

"About that-..." Ithilien paused for a moment as if she was thinking about something before continuing. "My team worked with them to complete a quest and that is where we got that special item. We don't

know what kind of items are those during that time which is why we divide the pieces among our teams; one is left to me while the other half is given to them."

"I see," muttered Shin with a soft voice before falling into deep thought. And after a few moments, he turned his head at the two and asked. "So, that is why those guys propose a betting duel, am I right?"

Seeing them nodding their heads, Shin stood up from his seat and stretched his waist while saying. "Then that also means you are going against the experts of that particular guild. Now, I can no longer let you have all the fun, can't I?"

"So, how many members do you need for that duel?" he asked while looking at Owen.

Owen hesitated for a few moments before replying. "Those guys said that we need to find at least 7 members before the time they set for the duel. And it is within a week from now, in-game time of course."

"Seven members, huh? Alright, I leave it to me and just focus on the current quest that you have," said Shin while patting Owen's shoulders.

"You understand what I mean, am I right?" he added while giving Owen a meaningful look.

Seeing that, Owen could only shake his head bitterly before smiling at Shin while saying. "Then I will entrust you with it."

After that, he looked at Ithilien before sending her a few private messages to tell her a few more things that he knew about Shin excluding the fact that he had two identities. After all, Shin added Owen as a friend with his real in-game name which was why he knew how strong Shin really was.

Shin respected Owen and his strength which was why he did that. And since Owen was feeling the same, he respected Shin's decision and did not reveal his real identity to anyone in return.

After discussing a little, Owen and Ithilien finally looked back at Shin and Charlotte before discussing their plan with each other. And a few moments later, they decided to go with Charlotte's suggestion earlier.

Owen and Ithilien were tasked to head over the two neighboring kingdoms while carrying the letter that Charlotte received from the king of the Elven Kingdom. And when they were done asking for some assistance from them, the two were going to inform Shin and Charlotte about it before proceeding with the next part of the plan.

Meanwhile, Shin and Charlotte were going to proceed with the former's quest and finish it as soon as possible.

"Alright, that should conclude everything. But be sure to be careful since mobilizing a large number of forces will create some misunderstanding. So, it is much better if you manage to request a small yet elite group instead of getting detected by our enemies," said Charlotte, trying to finalize everything.

But before they could wrap up everything, Shin suddenly stopped them while saying. "Wait! I guess it is better if we indeed make some big movements that will attract the attention of our opponents."

Hearing that, the three simultaneously turned their heads towards him before Owen opened his mouth. "Why? Isn't it better if we proceed with the plan unnoticed?"

"Of course," said Shin while nodding his head before saying. "But isn't it also better if we have some distraction that we can use to further avoid more attention?"

"That is a good plan, but what if they decide to ignore the approaching forces? After all, it will lead to some misunderstandings if the forces continue moving forward like that," said Charlotte.

"Well, that is for normal occasions. But what if the two kingdoms are sending some 'diplomats' on the pretext of visiting a neighboring country?" asked Shin in an instant.

Hearing that, the other three suddenly turned silent as they realized what Shin was currently thinking.

And after a moment of silence, Owen suddenly asked. "Then what if the other side still anticipates our moves and also sets up their most elite people to guard the King and his loyal attendants?"

"That is why you need to convince the other two kingdoms to send a quite strong representative that the crown prince and the Corrupted Cult can't ignore. That way, our opponents will be forced to divide their forces into two different places even if they know our plan," said Shin immediately, which rendered Owen speechless.

'This guy-...!' Owen tried to say something about Shin but couldn't find the right words to say so he chose to remain silent.

After that, the group discussed a little to finalize the plan that Shin had suggested before deciding to go with it.

A few moments later, when everything was done, the group was finally ready to proceed with their respective tasks. But before separating, Owen suddenly called Shin to discuss something else. "Hey, brother. Can I talk with you about something? Just the two of us."

Hearing that, Shin slightly nodded his head before following Owen in a distance. And when they put a considerable distance away from the two girls, the latter finally opened his mouth to talk. "Brother, about the thing that you said about your adventurer team-... is there still an extra spot open?"

"You want her to join us too?" asked Shin, understanding what Owen wanted to say.

Nodding his head, Owen immediately added with a bitter smile. "You should know the position that I am in. I can't just leave her alone, can I?"

Seeing that look that he was making, Shin shook his head a little before patting Owen's shoulder while saying. "I already told you that we are not building an ordinary team. So, as long as you are confident that she is good enough to join our team, then there shouldn't be a problem in accepting her."

"If that is everything that you want to say, then there we are already done with it," said Shin as he walked back where the two girls were while waving his hand at Owen and adding. "Just focus on the current quests that we have for now. We will discuss this again later when everything is over."