

Destiny 621

Chapter 621 Berserker Wolves

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After separating with Owen and Ithilien, Shin and Charlotte quickly proceeded towards the potential rebirthing place that the latter was talking about.

During their journey, Shin felt a little heartbroken since they encountered quite a lot of strong monsters along the way that could give them a decent amount of experience points.

Unfortunately, their current situation didn't permit them to hunt those monsters down since they were currently in a hurry; they couldn't afford to waste time grinding for some experience points.

But at the same time, there were still some things that they couldn't avoid no matter how hard they tried. And one of them was Shin's 'best friend', the trouble itself. It didn't matter where Shin hid as trouble would always find its way towards him.

While they were heading towards the destination, Shin and Charlotte encountered quite a lot of red-named players along the way, who tried to rob them. Unfortunately for those guys, they happened to mess with the wrong people and got robbed instead.

From time to time, Shin also encountered a few numbers of strong players who also had a decent level of battle prowess. And even if they managed to put up a decent fight, all of them were still beaten black and blue but Shin and Charlotte in an instant.

The two of them were already tired of the repeated ambushes during their journey, so they didn't hold anything back whenever they encountered an ambush from any players; especially the ones who had red tags on their names.

But not long after, they discovered that their opponents were gradually getting stronger as they proceeded towards their destination.

"Looks like we encountered a Dark Guild somehow," said Shin while clearing up the battlefield right after another battle.

"Based on the guild emblem that they have, they should be the members of the 'Venimeux Guild'," said Charlotte while helping Shin at cleaning up the battlefield. The players that they were currently dealing with were quite skilled and had some high-class equipment which was going to be a waste if they just left the drops behind.

She paused for a moment before quickly adding. "It is a Dark Guild that is quite famous here in the Elven Kingdom. Their main operation is also robbing any players who are passing by their territory and stealing Monster Bosses in the wild just like your common Dark Guilds. The only difference is these guys are doing their operations on a larger scale."

"Then that means we are currently in their territory, I assume? After all, we keep on bumping into their members for a while now," said Shin with a deep frown.

But Charlotte immediately shook her head when she read that before saying. "That shouldn't be the case since their territory should be on the other side of the map, in the Pale Forest. We are currently in the 'Valley of the Lost Time', so we are on the completely opposite side of their territory."

Hearing that, Shin quickly clicked his tongue and quickly said. "Tsk! So, are you telling me that these guys have some business here which is why they are in this place?"

"D*mn it! I can already see what is waiting for us ahead," cursed Shin as his instincts were telling him that there were more problems waiting for them ahead.

He was quiet for a few moments before turning to Charlotte while asking. "Is there any significant place around here? Like a rich hunting ground or even a Special Overlord Boss?"

Charlotte thought for a few moments before replying. "From what I know, there are indeed some Bosses around this area. But I am pretty sure that they are not good enough to attract the interest of the 'Venimeux Guild'."

"Unless they discover a new species of monsters that are worth the trouble of coming here," she added while falling into deep thought.

"That's that. Let's leave it for now. As long as they don't get in our way when we are doing our own task, then I will also not bother myself with them," said Shin before standing up and sweeping his gaze at the battlefield once again.

After making sure that he didn't miss anything, he turned at Charlotte once again before saying. "Let's go."

Charlotte stared at Shin for a couple of moments before nodding her head and leading the way once again. But deep inside, she couldn't help but think that there was something odd with Shin.

During their entire journey, Shin never initiated any conversation unless it concerned anything important. If it was another player, they would go crazy just to get near her once they knew who she was. But compared to them, this guy seemed to be unwilling to even have an idle chat with her.

She was still preoccupied with her thoughts when Shin suddenly pulled her back and held her in his arms while covering her mouth. She sharply glared at him and was about to ask what he was doing when she saw him gesturing to her to keep quiet while keeping his eyes ahead of them.

After that, she cast her gaze in front of them and saw a huge wolf with crimson furs sleeping peacefully on top of a rock boulder. And around it was a large pack of wolves roaming around.

Seeing that Charlotte finally calmed down, Shin let her go before observing the area ahead of them. "Tsk! There are more than 50 wolves around. There are at least 5 that are in Commander Ranks while the rest are high-level Special Elites."

"But the main problem is that huge wolf over there. I can't clearly see its details but it looks like it is in Overlord Rank at the very least," he added while squinting his eyes.

In the meantime, Charlotte was staring at the pack of wolves with fully wide eyes while muttering with a soft voice. "Those are the Berserker Wolves!"

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but slightly knitted his brow before asking. "Berserker Wolves? But their information says that they are called Glacial Dire Wolves."

Charlotte looked at Shin and explained a little. "It was a common nickname given to them by the players, especially the ones who are regularly hunting in the Snowy Mountain Range. They are called that way since these wolves are going berserk as more members of their packs die. And for every wolf that has been killed, the battle prowess of the remaining monsters will gradually increase."

She then took a brief pause to take a closer look at the huge wolf sleeping on the rock boulder before continuing. "And if I am not wrong, then that one over there is the so-called 'Alpha'. Killing it is already troublesome since it is always surrounded by the pack, but what makes it even more problematic is the fact it is in the constant state of Berserk."

"Moreover, it also gains more strength as more members of its pack die just like the others," she added while wearing a heavy expression on her face.

She paused for a couple of moments before quickly continuing. "But that is not the main issue here. These monsters should be in the Snowy Mountain Range since that place is their natural habitat. It is very odd for them to be here."

Shin slightly knitted his brow when he heard that before asking. "Where is that place? The Snowy Mountain Range that you are talking about."

"Up North. It is not that far from here but it is still a considerable distance for these monsters to travel," answered Charlotte in an instant.

Shin thought for a moment before saying. "There can only be two reasons for these wolves to migrate from their original habitat. It is either they find this place more suitable for them to hunt or they are forced to migrate here by something."

"And from what we can see, the Dark Guild that we encountered earlier knows the reason behind this, which is why they are scouting the neighboring area to make sure that the other players will not discover it yet."

"Either way, it looks like we can avoid fighting these monsters since they are blocking our way. Taking a detour is impossible either since they are all over the place already," he added after sweeping his gaze at the vicinity.

But when Charlotte heard that, she immediately grabbed the collar of Shin's cloak before saying. "Are you crazy? Do you know how large the pack of these monsters is?"

"Isn't it only a little over fifty? That shouldn't be a problem for us," said Shin in a nonchalant manner before shrugging his shoulders while adding. "As for their berserk ability, it is going to be useless as long as we kill them all at the same time. So, our only problem is 'Alpha Wolf' who is leading the pack."

Hearing that, Charlotte looked at Shin disdainfully before saying. "As for this pack, yes. But it is a different story if the nearby pack joined the prey."

"Huh? What are you talking about?" asked Shin in confusion.

Charlotte sighed for a moment before further explaining their current situation to Shin. "Monsters here in the Elven Kingdom are quite different from the ones in the Saint Heaven Kingdom."

"The mana density of the hunting grounds in this kingdom is much higher from where you came from. And because of that, the monsters here are more powerful and more intelligent than the other countries."

"Take these Berserker Wolves for example. These monsters are not only troublesome just because of their Berserk Ability, but because their pack is always moving together alongside the other packs."

"To be more precise, these Berserker Wolves are always together to the point that the place that they are currently staying will become a hunting ground. And that is the reason why the players hunting them need to be highly skilled while their parties should be at least in expedition level."

Hearing that, the corner of Shin's mouth suddenly twitched uncontrollably before saying. "You are only telling me that now when we can no longer get out of this place? Moreover, you are the one who led me to this place."

Charlotte suddenly glared at Shin when she heard his tone; he seemed to be blaming her that they are currently in this situation. And after a moment, she immediately snarled at him. "How can I know that these monsters migrated here when I am busy with my quest in the Saint Heaven Kingdom?"

Shin made a snarling look behind his mask when he couldn't find the right words to refute her. After that, he tried to calm himself down before asking. "Just tell me that that monster boss doesn't have a skill that can suppress our Elemental Spirits from being summoned."

Unfortunately, Charlotte gave him an awkward smile under her veil alongside an answer that he really didn't want to hear. "It is not as strong as the experts that have, but it is enough to prevent us summoning all of our Elemental Companions."

'F*ck my luck!' cursed Shin inside before asking. "So, how many can we summon?"

Hearing that, Charlotte raised her index finger as she put up an embarrassed look with her eyes. "One."

Shin could only close his eyes and raised his head towards the sky before muttering to himself. "Oh, Goddess of Luck, why have you forsaken me at a time like this?"

Chapter 622 Stumbling On An Unexpected Information

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Shin stared at the sky for a few moments while thinking to himself. 'If we can't summon our Elemental Companions, then that means we also can't summon our pets. Tch! This is really a troublesome situation.'

After that, he turned his head at Charlotte before asking. "Do you have any spells that can let you fly?"

Hearing that, Charlotte looked at Shin with a skeptical look on her face before asking. "Do you honestly believe that everyone is as lucky as you to have such a skill? Even if Immortal happens to have the same skill, don't assume that all players are the same as you two."

Shin was slightly taken aback by the sudden change of her attitude and thought to himself. 'Did I say something wrong? All I did was ask her if she had the same skill.'

Unknown to Shin, Charlotte was actually upset that she didn't have a flying ability like Shin and Immortal nor a flying mount like the golden dragon that Arthur had. Such skills were a dream of every player since having the means to fly was really convenient for everyone and she was among them who wished to also have such abilities.

In the meantime, Shin turned his head at the tall trees around them and thought if he could carry her while using the 'Wings of Freedom' equipment skill. 'I may be able to do it but my mobility in the air will drop drastically if I carry her.'

'It is going to be quite risky since the Dark Players roaming around the vicinity will surely notice us once these wolves get agitated and start howling,' he added inside his head while releasing a deep sigh.

When he was done collecting his thoughts, he looked at Charlotte and said. "I am going to lure them away from here. Make sure to run away from this place as far as possible and send me your coordinates later once you find a safe place."

"What!? Are you-...?" Charlotte was about to say something when she heard his words but she was immediately cut off by Shin.

"Do you have a better plan then?" he asked while looking at her with sharp eyes.

Charlotte was about to say something but Shin didn't give her the chance to talk as he already jumped out of their hiding place and charged forward, alerting the wolves in the vicinity.

Grr!

p Seeing him, the wolves immediately bared their fangs and quickly got into a formation to protect their leader.

In the meantime, Shin quickly jumped in the air when he saw the wolves blocking his path and swiftly unsheathed the [Yamato] before swinging it in the air, unleashing a blazing sword wave that flew straight to the group of wolves.

Shing!

'Class Fighting Style: Solar Flare'

Swoosh!

When the wolves saw that incoming sword wave, they instinctively jumped in front of it to prevent it from reaching the 'Alpha Wolf'.

Boom!

But the explosion that it made alerted the leader and woke it up from its slumber. It slowly stood up and stared at Shin with its sharp eyes. It growled aggressively before pointing its nose in the sky while howling loudly.

Awoo~!

Following their leader, the other wolves also howled loudly, which almost broke Shin's eardrum for how loud they were. And not long after, Shin also heard a few more howls coming from a distance.

Based on how chaotic the howls were, Shin could immediately guess their numbers which also made him frown his brows quite deeply. "Tsk! Looks like there are more of them than what I expected."

Regardless, he still proceeded with the plan and quickly swung his sword once again, sending yet another sword wave towards the Alpha Wolf. And this time, the energy wave had a grey color and a more powerful force than the one that he sent previously.

'Slayer Skill: (Modified) Eclipse Slash'

Swoosh!

Awoo!

Seeing that, the other wolves quickly jumped in front of the sword wave once again, blocking its path to protect their leader.

Boom!

And despite getting hit by it and devouring a large chunk of their Health Bars, they still managed to withstand it and started growling at Shin right after they fell back on the ground.

In the meantime, Shin looked at the Alpha Wolf with his sharp eyes behind his mask while releasing a powerful pressure, trying to provoke the monster boss. And when the huge wolf saw that, it started growling at him before howling at Shin and baring its fangs. Then it ordered its subordinates to charge forward.

Awoo~!

Now that he established the aggro of the wolves, Shin smirked a little before jumping backward while transforming his cloak into a pair of wings. Then he flew away from them with decent speed but not fast enough to completely outrun them.

Seeing that he was trying to run away from them, the wolves quickly chased after him with the Alpha Wolf in the lead.

Shin carefully lured the whole pack away to make sure that Charlotte could easily leave the area without worrying about being chased by them. She looked in the direction when Shin led the wolf pack for a few moments before heading in the opposite direction.

In the meantime, there were a huge group of players roaming around the Valley. And from the looks of it, they seemed to be looking for something especially that they were moving according to a systematic formation.

"What are we doing here now, Leader? Are you sure that those two are going to take this road?" said a Dark Elf Master Twilight, complaining.

Hearing that, the White Elf Master Elementalist beside him suddenly knitted his brows before saying. "Stop complaining, Leaf. All we need to do is follow the others that are given to us with no question."

"The Vice Guild Leader wants us to check whether those two are indeed the Nameless Swordsman and Elemental Goddess. And if they do, we need to confirm if they are going to hinder our plans or not so that we can decide if we are going to treat them as potential threats or not," he added with a deep voice.

"But they already take down quite a lot of our elite units. Doesn't that count as them being a threat to us? Does it still not confirm anything?" asked the elf named Leaf.

This time, the leader smacked Leaf's head before glaring at the latter sharply. "Idiot! Do you still not understand our line of work all this time? For players like us, it is normal to get killed after bumping into some top experts."

"It is our fault if we get killed by those kinds of players after we try to rob them. They are just protecting themselves. Don't put us on the same level as those hypocrites of the Super Guilds who are throwing the reputation of their guilds to step on others."

"We are making a living with our own strength unlike those b*st*rds who are acting sore losers after being defeated by anyone!" he added rather proudly.

'Tsk! In a sense, we are the same as them for doing such an unreasonable job,' refuted Leaf inside his head, not daring to voice it out since he was afraid to get beaten up by his party leader.

"Anyway, randomly fighting an expert is just a normal occurrence for us because of our profession. But is it a completely different matter if they intentionally come to us to hinder our plans." said the leader while gesturing to the other members of his team to continue their search in the area.

Awoo!

Not long after, a very loud howl suddenly sounded from a distance which also attracted the attention of everyone. And a few moments later, the group heard more and more howls from that direction which further intensified their curiosity.

The members of the group turned their gazes at their leader, waiting for his instructions. And when the head of the group saw that, he slightly nodded his head and instructed them to investigate. "Scouts, go take a look at what is happening in there."

"But be careful, from the sounds of those howls, it is probably a huge pack of wolves," he added while turning his gaze back at the direction where the howls were coming from.

Meanwhile, Leaf who was standing beside the leader slightly knitted his brow before saying. "Leader, didn't we get some information from the other group that the Berserker Wolves migrated in his area because of the sudden appearance of that King Class Monster Boss in the Snowy Mountain Range?"

"Is it possible that-..." he was still in the middle of talking when a Blood Elf suddenly appeared in front of them with a face full of panic.

"What is it?" asked the leader with a deep frown.

Hearing that, the Blood Elf Master Twilight in front of them didn't hesitate any longer and quickly reported. "Leader, there is a huge horde of Berserker Wolves ahead. From what we have seen, it looks like the horde is composed of 10 packs of wolves at the very least."

"What?"

The expression on the leader's face immediately changed when he heard those words and started to panic. "Why is there a huge horde of wolves here? Did someone lure the packs and lead them to us?"

Hearing that, the Blood Elf quickly nodded his head and answered. "We are not sure about it yet, Leader. But one of the scouts indeed saw a player being chased by those wolves earlier-..."

He trailed his words for a moment and quickly added after a brief moment of hesitation. "But that player suddenly disappeared after spotting one of the scouts."

The leader's face immediately grimaced when he heard the report and quickly shouted. "F*ck! We are going to retreat and regroup with the other units."

"We can't afford to let the horde break through the main camp. The operation to raid the King Class Monster Boss is already underway, we can't let the main team get distracted!"

While he was giving out his orders, the group suddenly saw the frontline of the horde in the distance. And when the wolves saw them, they accelerated their charge all of a sudden and started howling even louder.

"F*ck! They are fast!"

Seeing that, the group quickly summoned their respective mounts and started running for their lives as the horde of wolves chased after them.

And while all of this was happening, Shin suddenly appeared on a branch of the tree and watched everything unfold.

"A King Class Monster Boss, huh? It is rather tempting, should I take a look at it before regrouping with Miss Charlotte?" he muttered to himself before forming a mysterious grin with his lips. "I guess a quick look is not going to hurt."

Chapter 623 Getting A Little Revenge

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Boom!

Somewhere in the Snowy Mountain Range, a group of 100 players was currently battling a gigantic golem with seven alternating colors flowing through its body. From time to time, its body was changing its features alongside the main element that it was using.

Roar!

The golem swung its huge arm, trying to wipe all of the players standing in front of it. But before it could fully swing its arm, a player among the frontliners suddenly jumped in the air before activating a large-scale protective skill.

Ha!

With his shout, a huge golden wall suddenly appeared in front of the golem's arm and prevented it from moving forward.

Boom!

That player was a Blood Elf with full-body armor and a crescent shield on one of his arms along with a long spear on his other hand.

This person was the chief tank of the Venimuex Guild and a famous Titled Ranker within the Elven Kingdom, the Bloodstained Elf: Alvar.

"Frontline players, hold on to your positions! Wait for my signal before activating your skills," shouted Alvar as he fell back on the ground.

Ta-ta!

And right after his feet touched the ground, the golem changed its element once again and turned its body into a solidified lava before thrusting its fist forward.

Swoosh!

"Magical Wall, now!" shouted Alvar, signaling the other tanks behind him to simultaneously cast their skills. Hearing his command, his subordinates quickly raised their shields in front of them and activated the same skill all at once.

Boom!

The blazing fist of the golem was blocked by a huge golden wall that was reinforced by the whole group of tanks.

Seeing that, a White Elf Master Elementalist at the backline suddenly swung his right arm in the air while shouting. "Alright, it stops moving once again! Range attackers, shower it with your skills and spells."

Following his command, all of the archers and mages standing at the backline started firing their most powerful skills and spells at the golem.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The White Elf Master Elementalist was the commander of the whole group who was also a famous Titled Ranker just like Alvar. He was the head strategist of the Venimuex Guild, the Deceiving Mind: Melanion.

At the same time, Alvar led the melee players to also start attacking the legs of the golem while commanding the tanks to limit the movements of the monster.

From a distance, this fight literally looked like a battle against a titan. And despite having a huge number of high-leveled experts, the 100-man team was seemingly not doing much damage to the golem.

They were already fighting this monster for quite a long time already yet they only dealt three-fourths of its total health, even after they threw everything they got at it.

The battle continued for a few moments until a player suddenly arrived in the battle and quickly arrived beside Melanion, reporting in panic. "We have a situation, Sir!"

Hearing that, Melanion couldn't help but frown his brows quite deeply before saying with a deep tone. "What is it now? Didn't I tell you not to disturb us right now?"

The guy suddenly turned pale when he saw the expression on Melanion's face and started to stutter while reporting. "I-I'm sorry, Sir. B-but the m-main c-camp is currently u-under attack b-by a huge horde of Berserker Wolves."

Melanion further frowned his eyebrows before muttering with a soft voice. "Huh? Berserker Wolves? From what I've heard, those monsters migrated to the 'Valley of the Forgotten Time' right after they were chased away by this Seven Elemental Golem."

He then paused for a moment to take a look at the gigantic golem that they were fighting before adding. "Don't tell me they sense that this big guy is about to get killed and are now trying to go back to their natural habitat?"

Hearing that, the scout who was reporting to him hesitated for a moment before quickly saying. "That is also what we thought at first, Sir. But based on the reports that we receive, it seems like someone purposely lured the Berserker Wolves to our main camp earlier."

"What?" Melanion suddenly felt that a great crisis was coming the moment he heard that. "Don't tell me that the Super Guilds figured out our movements already?"

This time, the scout shook his head a little before replying honestly. "We are still not sure about that, Sir. After all, we haven't figured out who exactly is the person that lured those Berserker Wolves yet."

"Tsk! Regardless, we still can't overlook the fact that the Super Guilds may be aware of this King Class Monster," said Melanion in an instant before giving out his order. "We are now proceeding to Plan B."

"We are currently at the critical stages of the raid so we can't afford to get disturbed by those troublesome guilds. Go back to the main camp for now and tell them to buy us as much time as they can."

"I'll contact the headquarters to start their moves now. Since we are on the opposite side of the map, all we have to do is create a huge commotion on the other side that will attract the attention of everyone."

After that, the scout immediately nodded his head and left the battlefield to comply with the instructions that were given to him.

In the meantime, Melanion immediately contacted the headquarters of their guild to proceed to the next part of their plan after explaining what was currently happening on their side.

After that, he quickly turned his attention back to the battle once again before instructing them to pick up the pace. "We are already running out of time, so we need to give everything we have now!"

Hearing his words, the leaders of each squad of the 100-man team quickly nodded their heads and started passing down the orders that were given to them. And right after receiving the commands, the entire group started throwing all of their strongest skills to hasten their progress in the battle.

With such a high DPS barrage, it was natural for the aggro of the Seven Elemental Golem to become a mess. But thanks to Alvar's perfect leadership, the frontline players managed to properly pin the monster boss in place.

Because of their perfect coordination, the health bar of the golem started dropping drastically and almost reaching its critical state.

While all of this was happening, there was a player watching everything unfold in his eyes while waiting for the perfect opportunity to make his move.

"That is quite good leadership. That Elven Knight and Elementalist are both good at leading their respective units, especially that White Elf," muttered Shin as he closely paid attention to Alvar and Melanion.

He arrived in this place for quite some time already and was observing the whole battle since then. And while he was waiting, he informed Charlotte to keep moving towards their destination and would catch up with her later.

Naturally, Charlotte was quite upset with his sudden decision. Fortunately, he managed to convince her after telling her that he only wanted to have a little revenge on these guys for messing with them earlier.

Charlotte wanted to help Shin but he later said that he was not going to fight them directly and was just planning to mess up with their plans before quickly retreating away from the scene. And when the former heard that, she could only nod her head and silently complied with his plan.

After all, Shin was one of the players who dared to challenge Immortal in a one-on-one battle and even win against the latter multiple times. And alongside that, there was also a rumor that he also won against Haowin too during the incident in the Blind Abyss Empire.

Given that, Charlotte didn't have to worry about Shin's safety and just proceeded towards the place where they were heading.

In the meantime, the health bar of the Seven Elemental Golem was slowly getting chunked by the members of the Venimuex Guild little by little.

But since the golem was quite tanky, the damage that they were dealing with was quite low which was why their progress was not as fast as they wanted. Though, the HP of the boss was still slowly reaching the 10%-mark.

When Shin saw that, he knew that it was already time to make his move. And before moving out, he took a quick glance at his skill panel to look at a particular skill before muttering with a soft voice. "You are quite chunky, right? Let's see if you can take this one then."

Savage and Majestic (Active): Sacrifice 50% of your current HP to summon a Tiger's Spirit.

The Tiger Spirit will attack a single target inside the 20-meter range and deals damage equivalent to 10% of the target's total HP.

After that, the Tiger Spirit will come back to your body and recovering your HP with an amount equivalent to:

50% of its total damage when used against a player.

10% of its total damage when used against a monster.

Cooldown: 1 Hour

Note: This can only be used when your current HP is not below 20% of your total HP.

"It has been a while since I've used this skill," muttered Shin to himself as he positioned himself behind the golem while using one of his best stealth skills.

He waited for a few moments until the health bar of the golem reached the desirable mark before activating the 'Savage and Majestic' equipment skill.

Roar!

And right after activation, a white tiger suddenly flew straight at the golem, biting it on its neck and devouring its remaining health points.

Everyone suddenly froze when they saw the sudden appearance of the white tiger. And they became even more stunned when they saw that the golem died in an instant despite it still having 10% of its total HP.

"What are you guys standing for? Someone is trying to steal our boss' drops!" shouted Melanion as he was the first one who managed to recover his sense.

Unfortunately, Shin already summoned his clones during that time and hid behind the cloud of smoke created by the explosion of the golem's body. They jumped from falling rock debris to another as they grabbed all of the drops that were falling towards the group.

And before the members of the Venimuex Guild could even react, Shin and his clones already grabbed everything and disappeared all of a sudden as if they had never been there.

Seeing that, Melanion suddenly turned crazy and shouted. "Son of a b*tch! Go find those f*ckers now!"

Chapter 624 The Real Identity Of The Sword And Gun King

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Shin was running along the Valley of the Forgotten Time, tracking back the path that he took previously when he was luring the Berserker Wolves. He was also looking at his virtual map to check Charlotte's current location from time to time.

As he was traveling, he was also checking his surroundings regularly to make sure that he was avoiding all of the members of the Venimuex Guild along the way. After all, it was going to be quite troublesome if they somehow spotted him; they would surely suspect him as the one who stole the King Class Boss earlier.

Shin could already imagine how enraged the commander of the 100-man team earlier the moment he stole the last hit of the boss alongside all of the loots that were dropped by the boss.

Speaking of the loots, Shin couldn't hide how he felt as he took a look at the drops that he got. There were quite a lot of items dropped from the boss' body after he killed it; most of them were super rare materials that could be used to craft top-quality weapons.

And among these materials, what he got happened to be what he was currently lacking for the upgrade of his main weapon.

Item Name: Fire-Ice Stone

Item Type: Miscellaneous

Item Rank: Black Mithril

Details: A special material that was formed due to the dense amount of elemental mana. It was a special elemental stone that had the composition of both Fire and Ice Elements.

Note: This item could be used to craft high-quality equipment or weapon. But if it was not handled properly, it could suddenly explode due to the opposing powers of the Fire and Ice.

Item Name: Frost-Flame Origin

Item Type: Miscellaneous

Item Rank: Black Mithril

Details: A special core of a monster that possessed both of the powers of fire and ice. And despite having the opposing properties of heat and cold, this core somehow had a strange harmony and tranquility.

Note 1: This material could be used to craft high-quality equipment and weapons.

Note 2: This material could also be used to awaken the hidden abilities of particular items which had the properties of fire and ice.

With these two items, Shin was now only lacking a single item to upgrade the [Yamato], and that item was 'Meteorite'. It was a special item that couldn't be found easily.

Even Black Hammer was not sure where to find that item exactly. The blacksmith could only guess which monsters had the possibility of dropping that item based on the properties and abilities that they had.

Aside from those two items, Shin also got quite a lot of materials that had different elemental properties. Most of them were similar to the first two materials but with slightly different pairings just like the items that had the elements related to lightning, light, and darkness.

But among all of those special materials, there was a particular material that piqued Shin's interest.

Item Name: Chaos Core

Item Type: Miscellaneous

Item Rank: Obsidian

Detail: A special monster core that was composed of all of the elements that existed in the Atlas World.

Historical Note: It was said that this item existed since the beginning of time and it held one of the secrets of the world.

Note: This material can be used to create specialized weapons with the highest quality.

Warning: Using this item could be dangerous. (Assistance of a Grand Craftsman is required)

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It was the first time for Shin to see an item with Obsidian Rank, so he was quite curious what it could do. But from what he could see, it seemed like he needed some help from an expert to properly see its full details since even his 'True Sight' observation skill couldn't see anything aside from its basic information.

Aside from these items, there was also some high-quality equipment and weapons among the loot. But none of them had any use for Shin which was why he ignored them and put them at the corner of his inventory, planning to sell them with a good price later. Or he might even be able to trade them off with the items that he could use in the future.

But aside from all of that, there was a particular item that could be considered as the most important drop among all of them.

It was a strange egg that shouldn't be among the items that he got since the monster that he killed earlier was a golem. It was an elemental being, so it shouldn't have an offspring, much less in the form of an egg.

If what Shin was thinking was right, then this egg was most likely a pet and someone with a very high life rating on top of that.

Unfortunately, he couldn't see any of its details aside from the very basic information even with the help of his 'True Sight' ocular skill.

Item Name: A Mysterious Egg

Item Rank: ???

Item Type: ???

Details: A special egg that was formed within the body of the Seven Elemental Golem after absorbing all of the residual elements that were flowing through the golem's body that were not being used.

Note: Look for a Specialist to take a look at this item to further uncover its mysteries.

???

"I am really convinced that this little guy is really a pet. And it also looks to be in the same category as Arthur's Golden Dragon," muttered Shin as he took another look at the egg. And quickly after that, he started contemplating what he was going to do about it.

"I think trading off this one is quite a waste," muttered Shin to himself until he thought about Cloe. "Oh~! Yeah! Should I give it to her? Her bear pet seems to be an ordinary one, so this guy should be a good replacement to that one."

"Maybe I should find someone with a Pet Trainer second profession. And they should be at least in Master Rank or more," he added while knitting his eyebrows.

Thinking about this, he suddenly remembered someone who fought him before. "Ah! Speaking of pets, that guy should be a high-level Pet Trainer, if I am not wrong!"

"What is his name again? I'm pretty sure that his title is Beastmaster or something... Hmm... Ah! That is right, his name is Akailu if I am not wrong!"

"Maybe I should contact that guy once I am not here," he muttered to himself as he continued heading towards Charlotte's location.

But not long after, he couldn't help but knit his brow as he felt that he seemingly forgot about something. "Why do I feel that I am forgetting about someone?"

Though, he quickly dropped that idea since he couldn't recall what he was forgetting.

In the meantime, somewhere in the borders between the Dwarf Kingdom and Beast Glade Kingdom, there was a pair of players traveling together as they crossed the borders of the two kingdoms.

One of them had a pair of weapons on him which was quite strange for the current classes that were available for the players of the game. There was a rifle on his back which supposedly meant for Musketeers and a longsword hanging on his waist that was for Swordsmen.

He was walking behind the other player who was currently ordering a group of monsters in front of him to create a path for them in a dense forest.

"Oi, Beastmaster! Are you sure that we are heading in the right place? We've been walking for a long time already," complained the first player while trying to drag his feet while following the other guy.

Akailu, the Beastmaster, suddenly whipped his head around and snarled at the other person. "F*ck! Can you at least shut your mouth for a moment? You've been complaining a lot since your journey. My head is already spinning around because of your nonstop chatter!"

He then paused for a moment before asking with a deep frown. "Anyways, what's the deal with that double identity yours? So, how am I going to address you now? 'The Sword King: Sairen' or the 'Gun King: Roger'?"

Hearing that, the other guy couldn't help but shake his head because of how ironic Akailu was acting. So, he just waved his hand and said in a casual manner. "That is not important, you can call whatever."

"In fact, you can even call me 'Van Helsing' if you want," he added with a smirk, seemingly trying to provoke Akailu.

Understanding what he was trying to pull, Akailu suddenly looked at the other guy with a death glare before asking. "Are you picking a fight with me? You are basically telling me that I am the monster that you are trying to hunt."

"Don't get too confident about yourself. You may have a higher standing than me on the last Shadow Ranking Cup, but you also need to remember that it is only because I encountered that monster in the early stages of the tournament," he added with a deep tone while his beast summons started growling at the latter.

But despite being surrounded by the monster beast from all sides, the other guy was still wearing the smirking look on his face while staring back at Akailu. It was as if he was telling the latter to test him if he wanted.

The staredown lasted for a few moments before Akailu finally retracted his gaze and turned around. "Tsk! You should be thankful that I currently have a more pressing matter right now."

Seeing that, the other player suddenly smirked before saying with a sneering tone. "Heh! You and your excuses."

This time, Akailu suddenly halted his steps and looked over his shoulders. "But that doesn't mean that I will let you go after we are done with our quest."

After that, Akailu turned his head in front once again before closing his eyes and calming himself down. Then he resumed walking forward to continue heading towards their destination.

"Anyway, why did you decide to reveal your real identity now after going through all the trouble of hiding it?" he asked without turning his head.

Hearing that, the other person turned silent for a moment before smiling bitterly. "Let's say that there is no longer a point in continuing that façade. I no longer have the reason to play both of those roles."

He then paused for a few moments before continuing after some hesitation. "And someone also knocks some sense into me and wakes me up in my delusion. So, starting now, I am going to forge my own path where there is no longer a shackle restraining me."

Reaching this point, his features started to change, revealing his true in-game appearance. He had a black full-body leather armor and a gentleman's hat over his blonde hair. Alongside these changes, the air surrounding him also became a little heavy due to the pressure that was being emitted by his body.

Sensing that, Akailu suddenly turned around and took a good look at the other person. And after seeing how strong the latter was, he couldn't help but feel a little competitive and wanted to test the latter's strength.

Having that in mind, he quickly activated a skill that made him fused with his summoned monsters which made his body increased in size and became a muscular humanoid beast with razor-sharp claws and threatening fangs.

"Now, this is something interesting. I guess we should start warming up a little before facing those so-called Messengers of the Corrupted Cult later?" he said with a hoarse voice before asking. "But before that, how about telling me your real IGN first?"

Hearing that, the other guy slightly raised his head and pushed his hat with his finger to look at Akailu. And with those actions, the shade cast on his face moved up a little and revealed the canine tooth sticking out from his mouth. "This time, I will go with the name-... Alucard."

Chapter 625 The Heart Of Stone And The Pulse Of Earth (Part 1)

...

Bang!

Charlotte was currently fighting a huge minotaur that was wielding a double-headed war axe and round shield on the other. And alongside it, there was also a huge group of bison behind it that kept on charging forward every time they found a good chance to attack.

The Minotaur was classified as a Mutated Lord Class Monster Boss which was why Charlotte couldn't summon all of her Elemental Companions. But at the very least, she could summon two of them at once which was why he chose to summon the Storm Brothers, Raijin and Fūjin.

They might be a little weaker when fighting against creatures that had earth elemental properties. But despite that being the case, they were still her best choice in these kinds of situations since they were the ones who had the greatest combat prowess among her Elemental Companions.

With the help of those two along with her personalized Elemental Possession, Charlotte was able to take down the other two Minotaur Bosses earlier with ease. Unfortunately, those battles also exhausted her which was why she couldn't properly fight this particular boss in front of them anymore.

"Stay behind us, Sage. You are already exhausted from your journey, so you can leave this fight to us for the time being," said Raijin as he positioned himself in front of Charlotte.

"Tsk! What is that Envoy taking too long? Don't tell me he already forgot that we are going through all of this because of him," complained Fūjin while frowning brows quite deeply.

After that, he suddenly squeezed the cloth bag that he was carrying to release a powerful gust of wind that tried to push the incoming horde of bison in front of them.

Swoosh!

But no matter how strong the air current that was coming from the sack of wind, the horde of bison never stopped moving and continued charging at them.

Seeing that, Raijin quickly stepped forward and started hitting the drums on each side of its waist to summon a set of lightning strikes in the air which also mixed themselves with the air current that was released by Fūjin earlier.

Crackle! Crackle!

The thunderbolt mixed in the gusting wind zapped all of the incoming bison and forced them to halt their advance. But aside from that, the two Elemental Spirits didn't deal any damage to those monsters due to the Earth Elemental Mana that was surrounding their bodies.

Seeing that, the Storm Brothers could only click their tongue before retreating away from the horde alongside Charlotte.

This battle might be a little different if the Water Spirit Suijin was fighting instead of the two of them. But that Elemental Spirit was currently fused with Charlotte's elemental magic as her Elemental Possession.

They could also avoid this battle if possible. Unfortunately, they couldn't advance forward if they did that, especially that their destination was the cave right behind that Minotaur. And the most problematic thing about this battle was the fact that the Minotaur refused to move from its position after they killed the other two minotaurs earlier. It looked like it was aware of their real intention.

"Tsk! We need to find a good opportunity to get through that stupid cow if we want to enter that cave over there," said Charlotte with a deep frown.

Hearing that, Fūjin slightly knitted his brows before saying, "Getting near it is not impossible, Sage. But trying to break through it is a completely different matter."

"After all, it is much stronger now since it consumed the corpses of the two minotaurs that we killed earlier," he added after a brief moment of pause.

Then Raijin suddenly cut in and said. "That is the reason why we need to kill it before it can fully absorb the powers of the other two minotaurs."

Hearing that, the Fūjin couldn't help but smirk before saying. "It is easier said than done."

While they were discussing among themselves, they suddenly sensed a familiar presence rapidly approaching their location.

"Tsk! So, he is finally here," said Raijin while smiling bitterly.

"Do you mean 'We'?" said Hanzo as he suddenly brushed past them and charged towards the horde of bison that were charging at them once again.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

But before the Void Spirit could even clash with the group of charging bison, a barrage of fireballs flew over Charlotte and the Storm Brother's head and went straight at the horde, bombarding them with a series of explosions.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Coordinating with that, Hanzo quickly held his weapon with both of his hands before swinging it horizontally in front of him, stroking a tear in the space and also chunking the health bars of the bison in the process.

Crackle!

Whoosh!

Then lightning zaps suddenly flew past the Void Spirit and restrained movements of the horde followed by a strong gust of wind that pushed them backward.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

And quickly after that, another barrage of fireballs poured down from the sky, killing some of the bison in the process.

"I never have thought that we are going to fight like this again," said Raijin as he stood beside Hanzo while conjuring lightning on each of his hands.

Hearing that, Hanzo suddenly looked at him with a smirk while saying. "Yeah, how many decades are there? Or is it more than a century? I really can't tell since both of you have become so weak to the point where you two can't even kill a few cows."

"F*ck! Are you picking a fight with us now?" said Fūjin as he appeared on the old spirit's other side.

At the same time, Solus suddenly appeared behind them while saying. "I will appreciate it if the three of you can save it for later."

In the meantime, Shin finally arrived and stood beside Charlotte. "Sorry for being late. It took me longer than what I expected."

"You stole the King Class Monster Boss that the Venimuex Guild is trying to hunt?" asked Charlotte directly right after seeing him.

"Eh!? You already know about it?" asked Shin in surprise.

Hearing his confirmation, Charlotte suddenly smirked at him and said. "I already know? More like everyone knows. What you did earlier actually sparks a war between the Dark Guilds and Powerhouse Guilds within the Elven Kingdom."

"The Venimuex Guild thinks that you are from one of those Powerhouses," she added while further sneering at him. "You really know how to attract trouble in any place you go."

Hearing that comment, the corner of Shin's mouth couldn't help but twitch uncontrollably before trying to defend himself. "Can it be the other way around? The trouble itself is always finding its way towards me?"

"Isn't it the same?" asked Charlotte skeptically which also made Shin further have a twitching face.

"Tsk!" Shin could only click his tongue as a response to her words before turning his head towards the battlefield.

He squinted his eyes and activated the 'True Sight' observation skill to survey the surroundings. And not long after that, he noticed the cave behind the minotaur which was also the place where he could sense a large amount of mana.

"So, that is where we need to go?" asked Shin while focusing his eyes on the cave.

"That is just the entrance of many more entrances behind it. Our real destination is deeper within that cave," said Charlotte as she tried as much mana as she could.

"You said earlier that you are in a hurry to complete your quest yet you still find the time to mess with the Super Guilds of this Kingdom," said Charlotte with a tone that seemed to be stabbing Shin with her words.

The expression on Shin's face turned even weirder when he heard that. "I'm sorry about that. Let's just say that I got carried away earlier."

After that, he gave her a sidelong glance before asking. "Still not done recovering? Need some extra potions?"

Hearing that, Charlotte shook her head a little before replying. "There is no need for that, I already recovered most of my Mana."

"If that is the case, then give me some cover. We will take down that overgrown cow over there while the others are busy warding off the horde of bison," said Shin before quickly sprinting towards the minotaur with an insane speed.

"Tsk! Isn't it already obvious? You don't need to tell me everything that I need to do," muttered Charlotte with a frown before making a couple of hand gestures in the air to cast two spells at once.

In the meantime, the Minotaur immediately noticed Shin charging at it with a great speed while maintaining a running posture where he could easily draw his sword at any given moment.

Moo!

And before Shin could even reach the ideal distance to attack, the Minotaur suddenly held its war axe with both of its hands before swinging it powerfully and cleaved the ground in front of it. Because of those actions, a tall earth wall suddenly appeared in front of Shin and blocked his path.

But instead of slowing down, Shin accelerated forward as if there was nothing blocking his way. And when Charlotte saw that, she couldn't help but curse him a little before waving her hands forward to send a pair of water torrents towards that earth wall and turning it into a melting mud.

Seeing that, Shin quickly used one of his signature skills, the 'Moonlight Splitter', to penetrate through that wall and appear in front of the Minotaur in an instant.

"Yo, buddy! I killed quite a few of your kin before. Would you like to join them to the underworld?" said Shin as he swung his sword in the air multiple times before sending a huge vertical sword wave immediately after.

'Slayer Skill: (Enhance and Modified) Crescent Cleave'

Swoosh!

Boom!

Chapter 626 The Heart Of Stone And The Pulse Of Earth (Part 2)

...

After an intense battle, Shin and Charlotte managed to defeat the Minotaur Knight that was blocking their path.

The battle lasted longer than they had expected because the minotaur was able to completely digest all of the remaining powers of the other two minotaurs that were killed earlier. And due to that, that Minotaur Knight suddenly evolved into a King Class Monster Boss at the very last moment and forced their Elemental Companions to be unsummoned.

Fortunately, the minotaur was already close to dying after the combined attacks that they threw at it earlier.

Charlotte retrained its movements with her water elemental magic while Shin was dealing most of the damage to it. The former was also giving the latter some minor heals from time to time which surprised Shin pretty much. He was not expecting that her Elemental Possession had that kind of utility. And because of that, he couldn't help but think that he needed to re-evaluate his own Elemental Possession to uncover more of its mysteries.

"Maybe I should ask some advice from Arthur and Leonard about that Secret Fusion Skill or something," muttered Shin as he sat under a nearby tree to regain his peak condition and mana.

After that, he turned his head towards Charlotte who was sitting on a nearby tree before asking. "Are you still not done organizing your loots? I don't think we still have enough time to stay here."

Hearing that, Charlotte gave him a sidelong glance before sneering. "Says the one who goes around and messes with big guilds during his quest."

She then stood up and looked at him with a knitted brow. "But are you sure that you don't want to get any more shares on the monster drops? That deed and blueprint are already enough?"

Shin shook his head when he heard that and said. "I said it is already fine. Their value is at least on par with the other drops that you've gotten. Moreover, you spent quite a lot of effort fighting those three bosses alone and I just helped you a little at the final stretch."

'Moreover, these things are the answers that I am looking for to help me with the problems that I currently have,' he added in his mind while taking a quick glance at the two items that he got.

After that, he turned his attention back to Charlotte before going back to their main topic. "Anyways, are you going or not?"

The corner of Charlotte's mouth suddenly twitched when she heard the last part of what Shin had said. 'It is really hard to figure out this guy. He is cold at times but-... Urg! I don't know!'

...

Inside the cave, Shin saw quite a lot of minerals along the way. Most of them might be common materials but they were too many that it was enough to attract the attention of some powerful guilds.

Moreover, they were only in the higher level of the cave which could also mean that there might be a few more minerals below and those lower levels might even have some rare minerals.

Shin was planning to keep quiet until they reached their destination. But after a long time of trying to suppress his curiosity, he still gave in and asked. "Ahm... this place-..."

He was still in the middle of talking when Charlotte cut him off by saying the thing that he wanted to say. "Why hasn't this place not attracted the attention of the big guilds yet?"

Seeing that she was aware of what he was thinking, Shin could only nod his head slightly and waited for her to continue.

"Well, there is no complicated reason for it. It's just they haven't discovered this place yet," said Charlotte in a nonchalant manner.

"Huh!?"

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but frown his eyebrows for being confused. "How is that possible? From what I can see, this place is not well hidden so how come no one has discovered it yet?"

"Maybe those guilds have no interest in exploring this remote area yet, it is a different matter for the solo explorers. Especially those information sellers who are exploring the most secluded places of the game," he added with full suspicion.

"You are right about that," said Charlotte while nodding her head. But not long after, she quickly added. "But you forget to consider a few critical things."

"As you've seen during our journey here, the population of monsters in this area is quite scarce. Sure, they are quite strong and high-leveled. But at the end of the day, the number of monsters here is still too little to satisfy the needs of the big guilds."

"For big organizations, quality is not everything – they still need to put the quantity in mind if they want to support the demands of their members. So, they need to reconsider if they want to invest some manpower if they want to explore these kinds of areas."

"What's more, there are also a lot of other places within the Elven Kingdom that are rich in materials, so it is better for them to focus on those hunting grounds instead of gambling their luck on remote places with a small number of monsters."

" And it is indeed reasonable for those elite teams to explore this map. But just like what I've said earlier, there are a lot of other places that can be explored here in the Elven Kingdom."

"And 'Valley of Forgotten Time' is not worth their time and effort," she quickly added.

"Why is that?" asked Shin once again while further knitting his brow.

This time, Charlotte paused her steps and looked at Shin before answering. "Don't you find it strange that this map is called that way? The Valley of Forgotten Time."

"This place may be a little large compared to the other maps but it is said to be one of the curse places within the Elven Kingdom."

"The spawn rate of the monsters here is so low that it takes a few days (in-game time) for the monsters to respawn. As for the materials that can be harvested in this area, they are so scarce that they are almost non-existent."

"And if ever you are lucky enough to stumble upon one, that material can only be an uncommon one at best."

"Given all of that, even the experts who love to play alone are also not paying any attention to this map. For them, it is better to grind experience points in the other hunting grounds and explore the borders between the Elven Kingdom and the neighboring countries," she added after a brief moment of pause.

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but become a little surprised before pointing at the ores stacked on the walls of the cave. "Eh!? Then these minerals-...?"

Understanding what he wanted to say, Charlotte slightly nodded her head before confirming. "Yeah, all of those ores can only be Common and Uncommon Ores at best. And don't get your hopes high, the minerals on the lower levels are all the same."

"That is crazy!" said Shin to himself as he swept his gaze at the ores around them before muttering with a soft voice. "Tsk! Such a waste."

After that, he suddenly turned his head to Charlotte and asked with some suspicion. "If everything that you've said is true, then how come you know about this place? More importantly, you seem to be very familiar with this map. It is as if we are in your own backyard."

'Tch! He is really sharp,' cursed Charlotte inside after hearing his question.

She was silent for a moment before releasing a helpless sigh and giving him her answer after some hesitation. "That is because of the quests that are given to me by my Elemental Spirits."

"Eh!? Wait! What?" said Shin in surprise while staring at Charlotte with an astounded look before his mask.

Seeing his reaction, Charlotte couldn't help but frown her eyebrows before looking at him strangely. And after some internal struggle, she couldn't help but ask. "Hey! Don't tell me you really don't know about it?"

Shin was still a little confused about what she was asking, so he asked. "Know what?"

With that reaction, Charlotte practically got the answer to her question. And when she realized that Shin really didn't have any idea what she was talking about, she could only look at him with a weird look on her face for not knowing what to say.

Even if Shin couldn't fully see the expression that she was making due to the veil that was covering the lower half of her face, he could still tell that she was looking at him as if he was some kind of an idiot just by looking at her eyes.

"How about you enlighten me about it, oh great Sage of elves," said Shin with a twitching mouth, trying to suppress his annoyance.

This time, Charlotte could only put her hand on her forehead before saying with a frustrated tone. "Gosh! You are so blessed to stumble upon a lot of fortunes yet you haven't taken advantage of them at all!"

"What have you been doing all this time? Don't tell me you did nothing but fight since you started playing the game?" she asked while trying to calm herself down.

Hearing that, Shin could only answer honestly. "Well, that is the main reason why I play this game; to challenge a lot of strong players to make myself stronger. But I am also doing a couple of quests here and there whenever I find the chance."

"Why? Is it wrong? Aren't games meant to be played that way?" he asked when he could sense that Charlotte was looking at him more and more weirdly as time went by.

Sigh~!

"I heard from 'God Slayer' and 'Death God' that this is your first Virtual Game, but I never thought that you are this amateur," said Charlotte while shaking her head. 'I guess I misunderstand him as an experienced player after seeing him fight so well.'

(She is talking about Lawless and Faker. She was not used to calling them with their current IGN since she is more familiar with their previous Game IDs.)

After that, she turned around and resumed walking while saying. "Alright, I'll tell you more about it along the way. But first, we should hurry and take care of our main business here."

"The life force of that Elemental Spirit of yours is getting fainter as more time passes," she added without looking back.

,m Shin pursed his lips a little when he heard that before tilting his head a little and following after her.

Chapter 627 The Heart Of Stone And The Pulse Of Earth (Part 3)

.....

"So, you are saying that each of our Elemental Companions can give us two quests that are related to them?" asked Shin after listening to Charlotte.

Hearing that, Charlotte nodded her head and clarified. "Yeah. One for entering a contract with us while the other is for their personal reasons. The first quest can also be an indirect one like asking you for a duel or something similar, but regardless, it is still a quest concerning themselves and our contract."

Then Shin fell into deep thought. "Now that I think about it, it is indeed right. I get Hanzo from that quest regarding the fake king of the Holy City, then Vladimir during my Class Promotion quest. As for Grimrace, we challenged him in a duel. And after that, Solus gave me a major quest in the Blind Abyss Empire to become an Elemental Spirit herself."

He paused for a moment when he reached that thought and looked at his current quest. "And now, I am here to awaken another one. It makes sense now! Why didn't I notice it before?"

Reaching that point, he suddenly turned his attention towards Whitie and Blackie who seemed to be in a special case. "Then what about these two? I didn't get a quest from them regarding this. Is it because they evolved from being an ordinary pet into an Elemental Spirit? Or because they somehow involved with the quest that Solus gave me?"

Charlotte waited for a few moments before cutting his thoughts. "So, did you get it now?"

Shin snapped out of his contemplation when he heard that and looked at her. And after a few moments of hesitation, he suddenly asked. "Then what about the other quest. How can I get it from them? Do I have to ask them directly?"

Charlotte shook her head a little after hearing that question and quickly answered. "Not exactly. You first need to wait for them to naturally give it to you."

"You can consider it as building trust between you and your Elemental Companions. No matter how much respect they are currently giving you, they still need some time to fully trust you with that quest. They can also be considered as some sort of NPCs in a way," she added after a brief pause.

"So, I still need to wait," muttered Shin as he nodded his head.

Then Charlotte suddenly remembered something and quickly added. "Ah! They can also give you a hint about the second quest during the first time you met them. It can be some sort of grudge or something similar."

"For example, if they hate someone or a particular race. The second quest is most likely related to those," she said to further explain.

"Hmm? A hint that is most likely a grudge?" said Shin with a knitted brow before falling in deep thought once again to recall his first encounter with each of his Elemental Companions.

"Hanzo seems to hate humans when I first meet him. As for Vladimir, I remember he mentioned a certain Demon King before entering a contract with me. But I don't remember anything particular when I meet Grimrace."

"Then Solus-... she practically hated the new Gods," he muttered with a twitching mouth.

Realizing something, Shin turned his head at Charlotte once again before asking. "Don't tell me those quests are also related to their life rating?"

Hearing that, Charlotte suddenly smirked at him and said. "You just realized it? The stronger your Elemental Companions are, the harder the quest that they are going to give you. And that also includes those Elementals with special cases."

Even if the lower half of her face was being covered with a veil, Shin could still imagine the sneering that she was giving him just by looking at her eyes. She seemed to be enjoying the misfortune that befell to him.

All of his Elemental Spirits were special; Hanzo was an Ancient Void Spirit, Vladimir was a Mutated Blood Spirit, Grimrace was an Evolved Abomination Shadow Spirit, and Solus was Deity Elemental Spirit.

As for Whitie and Blackie, those two were a Sacred and an Abyssal Spirit respectively. And they obviously fell in special cases.

And now, the current Elemental Spirit that he was going to wake for its slumber was also a special one given the information that he got before. It was an Elemental that was formed after the fusion of two Elemental Spirits with similar properties.

Having all of those in mind, Shin could already tell that there was a lot of trouble waiting ahead of him.

Annoyed, Shin gave Charlotte a sharp glare that was more than enough for her to sense even though he was wearing a mask.

But instead of getting intimidated, Charlotte just laughed at him before saying. "Don't look at me like that. I am not your enemy, so there is no need for that hostility."

Shin smirked at her when he heard that before moving forward. But not long after, he suddenly halted his steps and turned back at her once again before asking curiously. "Wait! If it is true that the quest that they are going to give you corresponds with their ranks, then it means that the Elementals with a unique life rating are going to give quests that are at least in Hell Difficulty and above."

Then he looked at her with skeptical eyes while pointing at specks of lights that were circling around her, especially those that represented Raijin, Fūjin, Suijin. "Then I guess you also have your own troubles."

"I just hope you have a lot of friends to do it with you," he added with a smirking tone.

"What do you mean? Of course, I have a lot of friends to get along with," snarled Charlotte immediately while glaring at Shin.

"Is that so? But how come I heard a little differently from Brother Siegfried and Brother Simba. Those two said you like to play alone and rarely team up with anyone," said Shin, trying to get back at her.

"Regardless, I am still working with other experts if necessary. If not, then I shouldn't be working with you right now," refuted Charlotte.

Seeing that her previous cold nature was seemingly melting down a little, Shin couldn't help but continue teasing her. "Heh, you are also doing it out of guilt for scamming me with the Blood Stones that I paid you during that time."

"You-! That-...!" Charlotte wanted to say something to defend herself but she couldn't find the right words to prove her innocence and could only look at Shin with wide-opened eyes, speechless.

When Shin saw that she couldn't refute him any longer, he couldn't help but have a triumph look behind his mask before continuing to move forward.

Not long after, they arrived at the lowest part of the cave and in front of a dead end.

"We are here," said Charlotte as they stood in front of a thick wall.

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but knit his brow and asked suspiciously. "Here? But the mana density here is not that high. Are you sure we are in the right place?"

This time, Charlotte looked at Shin as if she was looking at an idiot before saying. "Do you think that I am that stupid to leave such an important place unattended? Of course, I will naturally seal off the entrance to make sure that other people will not find it."

After that, she waved her hand and summoned her Earth Elemental Spirit. "Kaolin!"

Swoosh!

And without even saying her command, Kaolin quickly stood in front of the wall blocking their path before closing his eyes and putting his palms together.

After that, the Earth Elemental Spirit started chanting out some Matras as Shin and Charlotte watched from behind.

A few moments later, the whole cave started to tremble as if there was an earthquake shaking it. The walls started showing some cracks while dust and debris fell from the ceiling.

Rumble!

After waiting for a little more, the hard wall in front of them slowly sank to the ground and revealed the area that was hidden behind it.

Boom!

And right after opening, Shin immediately sensed the dense mana that was coming from that area.

Then some of the mana within that place suddenly leaked out due to the seal being released and swept through Shin's body. And when that happened, the slumbering Elemental Spirit circling around him suddenly trembled for sensing such a dense Earth Elemental Mana.

Ding!

After that, Shin's ears were suddenly bombarded by a series of notification bells which also made his head a little dizzy. And before he could even take a look at them, the Elemental Spirit suddenly broke away from him and flew straight at the center of the inner cave before absorbing all of the surrounding mana within that place.

Then a final notification popped out at Shin's notification window which made him look at it with a weird expression on his face. "This guy must be feeling too hungry after sleeping for who knows how long."

Chapter 628 The Heart Of Stone And The Pulse Of Earth (Part 4)

...

When the notification sounds stopped, Shin finally had time to have a proper look at all of the notifications that he got.

Most of the notifications were about his new Elemental Companion's awakening, so he didn't care much about them.

What really took his interest was the new skills that were going to be added to his arsenal. And since it was an Elemental Spirit that was most likely related to Earth Element, he was pretty sure that the two skills would improve his defensive capabilities. But to his surprise, the skills that he got were way stronger than what he was expecting.

Skill Name: Heart of Stone

Skill Type: (Passive & Active) Elemental Skill

Skill Rank: Special

Skill Details:

Passive 1: All of your defensive capabilities will improve by 100%, boosting their maximum potential.

Passive 2: Regenerative abilities will be doubled. You could now regenerate your Health Bar even within combat.

Active:

After activation, you will be immune to all kinds of Crowd Control Skills aside from grappling and grabbing skills.

Duration: 3 minutes

Cooldown: 5 minutes

Skill Name: Pulse of Earth

Skill Type: (Passive & Active) Elemental Skill

Skill Rank: Special

Skill Details:

Passive 1: +500 STR +500 VIT

Active: After activation, you will be able to sense all of the movements within the 100-meter radius away from you as long as they are standing on the ground; every player in stealth included.

Duration:

3 minutes

Cooldown: 5 minutes

Passive 2: If the 'Heart of Stone' is activated during the activation of this skill, 50% of the incoming damage will be converted to your HP.

Shin stared blankly at the skill descriptions in front of him and stayed like that for a couple of moments. It took him quite some time to recover from the shock before turning his head towards the ball of light floating at the center of the place.

"I can now play as the main tank with the help of these two skills, as long as I use all of my defensive skills properly," said Shin with a twitching face. "And since my Sheath-Wielding Style is considered a defensive style, I can also mimic some knights' movements while taking advantage of these skills."

After calming himself down, Shin sat silently in a corner while patiently waiting for his new Reaper's Retainer to fully absorb the surrounding Earth Elemental Mana and transform the whole place into its rebirthing location.

During this time, Charlotte suddenly walked towards him and asked. "So, what are your plans once your Elemental Companion is done occupying this place?"

Hearing that, Shin turned at her before asking in confusion. "Plan? What plan? We are going to proceed with your quest once we are done here, aren't we?"

The corner of Charlotte's mouth suddenly twitched when she heard that and said. "I am not talking about that. What I am asking is your plan for this place. You can't just live it like this after your Elemental Spirit is done inhibiting this place, can you?"

"Oh! You are talking about how I am going to hide this place once we are done?" asked Shin as he came into a realization. He then waved his hand leisurely before saying. "Don't worry about that, I already think of a way on how I am going to do it."

Charlotte couldn't help but knit her brows when she heard the confidence in Shin's words. 'Does this guy know how hard it is to seal a place like this? I even spent quite a lot of high-quality scrolls to assist Kaolin at sealing this place.'

She was about to voice out her doubts when Hanzo suddenly materialized beside Shin and quickly asked. "Kid, you are not planning to over-exhaust this Old Spirit, aren't you?"

Hearing that, Shin suddenly looked at the Void Spirit and said. "Come on~! It is not that hard for you. You are just going to do what you did the last time. And I guess it is much easier now since you are much stronger than before."

"More like my restrictions are slightly lifted after you become stronger," said Hanzo while clicking his tongue. "And what are you talking about that I am much stronger than before? I clearly borrowed the power of that place before to transfer my place there."

"Then can we just do the same?" refuted Shin with a sneer.

While the two were arguing with each other, Charlotte couldn't help but frown her brows as she was getting confused at what they were talking about. 'What? Transfer? What are they talking about? Don't tell me they are planning to transfer this rebirthing place into another location? Is that even possible?'

Having that thought, she immediately opened her mouth to say something but she was immediately interrupted once again before she could even voice out the words that she wanted to say.

"Wait! Are you planning to use my place without my permission once again? What do you take from this awesome and unrivaled spirit, huh? Do I look like a pushover?" said Vladimir after appearing beside Shin.

And his appearance was immediately followed by Grimrace which immediately sneered at them "Heh! Rebirthing Place? Weaklings!"

Then Solus suddenly appeared and quickly gave Shin a bow while saying. "Don't worry, my liege. I will assist the Ancient Void Spirit with the task you've given him."

Now that the four of them appeared, Whitie and Blackie had no choice but to follow them as an example and quickly knelt with one knee in front of Shin while shouting. "We are also going to follow your wish, Master!"

Shin's face suddenly turned weird when he saw that all of his Reaper's Retainer appeared around him at the same time. He was even more speechless that they could easily break free from him whenever they were in a place with high mana density.

He was also quite helpless at them due to their personalities; especially the trio of Solus, Whitie, and Blackie, These three were always making him uncomfortable since they were treating him as if he was a king or someone with a very high social status.

"D*mn it! This is embarrassing," cursed Shin silently as he couldn't help but turn his head to Charlotte. But to his surprise, he saw her staring blankly at them.

"Ahm... Is there a problem?" asked Shin after clearing his throat.

Hearing his call, Charlotte finally snapped out of her daze and looked at Shin. But not long after, she fell in deep thought once again while staring at Shin weirdly. 'I already know that his elemental companions are all special. But to think that all of them have a very high life rating? This guy sure has some heaven-defying luck.'

After that, she remembered that she wanted to ask Shin about something and finally voiced it out. "Can I ask you what you were discussing with your Elemental Spirit earlier? Something about 'transferring'?"

"Are you perhaps talking about transferring this whole place into another location?" she added to clarify her words.

"Yeah! Is it better to transfer this place into an independent space to make sure that it is safe?" asked Shin with a casual and innocent tone.

Hearing that, Charlotte suddenly freaked out and asked back in a hurry. "Wait! What? Did you just say independent space?"

Then Shin nodded his head before pointing at Vladimir while saying. "Yeah. During my class promotion quest, I was sent into an independent space where that conceited is living. And after we defeated him, I gained some access to that place since he was its previous ruler."

Hearing that, Vladimir suddenly reacted and quickly refuted. "What do you mean defeated? I never lose to anyone! And from what I can remember, didn't I almost kill that Old Spirit during that time? Oh~! I really am amazing!"

Unfortunately for him, Shin just ignored his comment and pointed to Hanzo while continuing. "After that, that old spirit also set that place as his Rebirthing Place since it has a very dense Space Elemental Mana."

In the meantime, Charlotte felt that her head short-circuited after listening to all of the things that Shin had said. "So, you are saying that you have access to an Independent Space?"

Hearing that, Shin slightly pursed his lips under his mask before clarifying. "Well, sort of. But not totally since only Elemental Spirits can freely enter and exit that place. And if I want to re-enter it, I need to do it using the special portal in the Saint Heaven Kingdom."

"Regardless, I think transferring another rebirthing place in there shouldn't be a problem since those two are directly connected to that place," he added while pointing at Hanzo and Vladimir once again.

This time, Charlotte could no longer remain calm after hearing everything. She could already consider herself too lucky after having five Elemental Spirits with three of them having a very high life rating. But

in front of Shin, that kind of luck was nothing. And as if rubbing some salt on her wound, this guy played the game a few months later than her.

After that, she waved at Shin and turned around to find a corner to sit on. "I will be waiting for you outside. Just inform me when you are done with everything."

On the other hand, Shin stared at her back for a few moments before shrugging his shoulders and turning his attention back to his Elemental Spirits. "Hey! Can you guys calm down a little?!"

Chapter 629 Misfortunes After A Series Of Fortune

...

Shin waited for quite some time before his Elemental Companion fully awakened. And when the time finally came, the whole cave started to tremble once again, attracting the attention of everyone.

"I guess it is finally finished," muttered Hanzo while staring at the floating ball of light at the center of the cave.

Hearing that, Shin slightly nodded his head before saying. "If that is the case, then how about you guys go to your respective positions now? We still have a lot of things in our schedule and we can't afford to fall behind, so we need to wrap this up as soon as possible."

"Tsk!" Hanzo clicked his tongue when he heard that before disappearing from his current position and reappearing on a certain corner of the cave.

At the same time, the others also did the same while waiting for the new spirit to finish its awakening.

Boom!

Not long after, a blinding light suddenly shone from the center of the place, almost blinding everyone. Then they saw a silhouette of a humanoid creature standing in the middle of that light before slowly floating down towards Shin. And a few moments later, that Elemental Spirit stood in front of Shin barefooted alongside its towering structure.

"This guy is huge," muttered Shin as he got a clear look at his new Reaper's Retainer.

Its height seemed to be a little over two meters while its body structure was very muscular. It had a bald head while its sharp eyes were glowing with a flickering golden light. There was a pair of crimson lines running down from its head and passing through his eyes all the way to its jaw.

Its entire skin had a metallic color which was resembling a steel iron. There were also some golden runes glowing on its bare chest that was running all the way to its shoulders and down to its entire arm.

It was wearing traditional black tribal pants on its lower body while a thick fur belt wrapped around its waist.

Shin tried to use his 'True Sight' observation skill at Elemental Spirit to read its details but the system told him that he couldn't see it due to some restrictions. "Huh!?"

He was still frowning his eyebrows from reading the system notification when the Elemental Spirit suddenly kneeled down with one knee in front of Shin with a loud bang before asking. "This loyal servant is humbly asking my lord to grant its name!"

Rumble!

The whole cave shook once again due to the loud voice of the Elemental Spirit.

Shin stared at his new retainer weirdly as he tried to suppress his twitching mouth from further twitching. 'What the heck? Another one of those kinds?'

He didn't know how to properly respond to that as he was not used to being treated like this. It really made him uncomfortable and awkward.

Fortunately, the system quickly woke him up from his dazed state almost instantly.

Ding!

System: After a long time of slumbering, your fourth Reaper's Retainer lost all of its memories from its previous lives. And to start anew, he is now asking you to grant him a new name.

System: Please give your Reaper's Retainer a new to register its updated data.

...

Shin read these lines quite fast before shifting his gaze at the towering Elemental Spirit kneeling in front of him. "That's right, he is basically my fourth Elemental Companion."

He then fell silent for a few moments as he tried to think of a good name for this one. But while he was contemplating about that, he suddenly sensed a pair of sharp gazes locked on of him from a distance.

"D*mn! I know that you two are a little unsatisfied with your names. But I can no longer do anything about that, so please forgive me," said Shin with a stiff smile, trying to apologize to Whitie and Blackie.

Then he turned his attention back to the Elemental Spirit in front of him before starting to think of a good name for it. 'Should I make it a simple name? How about Rock? Nah! This guy is going to squash me to death if I name him like that. He has some golden runes on his body, so what about Goldrock? Meh~! It should even lamer...'

Shin spent quite some time thinking of a good name but it seemed like all his efforts were futile. It even started to frustrate him when he couldn't come up with anything. 'D*mn! Why is it so hard giving someone a name?!'

'And what's with that dark aura radiating from his body? He looks more like an evil spirit than an Elemental Spirit,' when Shin thought about this, something suddenly flashed within his mind.

'Wait! Evil? Imposing, muscular, and evil...' he held on to this thought before smiling from ear to ear before saying. "Alright, I finally decided! From now on, you will be called Astaroth!"

Hearing that, the Elemental Spirit quickly bowed his head even deeper before responding with a loud voice. "This humble servant accepts your grace, my lord!"

Ding!

And immediately after that, Shin immediately received another notification from the system to inform him about the details of his new Elemental Companion.

Name: Astaroth

Race: Metal/ Earth Spirit

Life Rating: Guardian Elemental Spirit

Level: ??? (Calibrating, restricted due to the host current level)

Stats: ???

Details: ???

,m -----

Seeing that the system had given him yet another batch of question marks, Shin couldn't help but wear a stiff smile as he didn't know how to feel. "This stupid system is giving me basically nothing once again. But I guess it is still a good thing since this guy is also a strong one just like the others."

"Alright, let's set his code as 'Guardian Reaper' for the time being," he added while setting the commands on how he was going to summon this new Reaper's Retainer.

After that, he looked at everyone and said. "Alright, let's wrap this up, everyone. I can't fall behind our schedule."

Hearing his words, the Elemental Spirits quickly positioned themselves in different corners of the cave before channeling their powers on the magic circle that Hanzo and Vladimir had drawn on the ground earlier.

In the meantime, Astaroth quickly flew towards the center of the cave once again before assisting the group with the transporting of his rebirthing place.

Ha!

Boom!

Meanwhile, Charlotte was already outside the cave, sitting under a nearby tree while waiting for Shin to finish.

Rumble!

Not long after, she felt an intense tremble of the ground which was much stronger than what she had felt earlier. "I guess this should be the last one since I can already feel the density of Earth Elemental Mana in this place is rapidly dropping."

It didn't take long for her guess to become true as Shin finally walked out of the cave after a few moments. And through her Elemental Sight, she could spot seven different specks of lights circling around Shin with unique rhythms.

"Tsk! Such a lucky player!" muttered Charlotte with a soft voice before standing up and walking over Shin. "So, are we going to regroup with your friends now?"

Shin pursed his lips for a moment before nodding his head. "Well, we can enter any City in this Kingdom, so we have no choice but to head over there."

"Wait! Let me contact them for a bit," he added before opening his friend list and contacting Owen.

It only took a few rings before the side picked up the call. But Shin was immediately greeted by the troubled look on Owen's face right after the call was answered.

"What's wrong? Did you encounter some problem?" asked Shin almost instantly the moment he saw the look on Owen's face.

On the other hand, Owen took a helpless sigh first before asking in return. "There is a pair of bad news that I want to tell you, which one do you want to hear first?"

The corner of Shin's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard those words before replying. "If both of them are bad news, then what's the point of asking me which one to pick. Just tell me whatever they are."

Hearing that, Owen slightly nodded his head and quickly responded. "Then let me go with the less unfortunate one first."

"The Beast Glazes Kingdom is also under the threat of the Corrupted Cult. And to make the situation even worse, there are also some powerful NPCs from that cult hiding within the Kingdom so I think asking for some assistance from them is going to be much harder than what we are expecting."

He then paused for a brief moment before quickly continuing. "As for the Dwarf Kingdom-... there is a major event happening in that place."

"It looks like a party of players managed to unlock a Racial Unlocking Quest. And for some reason, this particular quest forbids all of the players from making any contact with the Royal Family of the Kingdom until that quest is done."

"So-... I also doubt that they can give us any assistance with our problem," he added with a dejected tone.

The expression behind Shin's mask turned weird after listening to everything that Owen had said. 'Of course, after every fortune is a misfortune to balance everything out! But why does it always have to be like this?'

Chapter 630 Meeting Some Familiar Faces (Part 1)

...

Shin felt really troubled due to the news that he received. Fortunately, they already had taken care of the most urgent task that they currently had. So, right now, all they had to do was put their focus on the current problem they were facing.

"Is that all that you need to say?" asked Shin as released a heavy breath to prepare himself for whatever problem Owen was going to add.

Good thing that Owen had nothing to add anymore which made Shin have a sigh of relief. And when the latter heard that, he quickly nodded his head and gave his instructions. "Alright, that should be it for now. But I need you to gather as much information as you can from both Kingdoms."

"I know that is going to be hard with just the two of you, so you are free to ask for some assistance from the information merchants of those places. Don't worry about that cost, I will handle it later," he added in a nonchalant manner.

Owen and Charlotte were both taken aback after hearing those words. Especially the latter because this was supposedly her personal quest. "Wait! You can't do that. I-..."

She was still in the middle of talking when Shin suddenly cut her words off by asking back. "So, do you have a better solution then? Even though we are not in a hurry as before, we are still pressed on time since we need to solve the issue regarding the Royal Family of the Elven Kingdom as soon as possible."

"If you feel uncomfortable about that, then just pay me back later when we are done with everything," he added to further silence Charlotte.

After that, Shin continued to discuss a few things with Owen before finally ending the call. "Remember, you are not to engage in any conflict until we are done with everything. Just focus on gathering the information that we need."

"Alright, alright! I know that already. You don't have to repeat it," said Owen while waving his hand and ending the call.

In the meantime, Charlotte was currently glaring at Shin while waiting for him to finish his discussion with Owen. And when they were done, she immediately jumped in front of him and quickly snarled at him. "Hey! Do you think this is your quest? Why are you treating yourself to be in charge of the situation?"

"Ah!?"

Hearing that, Shin finally came back to his senses and seemed to remember that this was supposedly not his quest. "Sorry about that. It is just a habit of mine to take command in every operation that I am in since that role has always been given to me."

"So, what do you want me to do? Should I let you take over and leave everything to you then?" he added.

"You-...!" Charlotte didn't know how she was going to respond when she heard his tone. She didn't know if he was just being skeptical with his words or there was something else behind it, but those words definitely sounded provoking to her ears.

She wanted to say something to refute those words but she still couldn't find a way to win against Shin in an argument. If it was a fight, then she could at least give it a try and battle it out. But right now, fighting Shin with words was not an option given the previous experiences that she had with him so far.

So, she could only release a helpless sigh before nodding her head in submission while answering. "Then please help me with this quest."

Hearing that tone of her voice, Shin suddenly felt a chill that ran through his spine. He got goosebumps from hearing her talk to him in a polite manner. 'I prefer her to act coldly rather than talk to me this way. What she is showing me right now is really giving me a spook.'

"T-there is no need to act like that. You already shared your quest with me so it is natural for me to help," said Shin rather stiffly while waving his hand at her. And afraid that she was going to say something similar earlier, he quickly opened his mouth and spoke. "For now, we need to decide what we are going to do next."

Hearing that, Charlotte immediately forgot what she was going to say before asking. "Decide? What do you mean?"

"I am talking about which course of action that we are going to take," replied Shin in an instant before quickly adding. "Right now, we currently have three paths that we can take to solve our problem."

"First, we can go with our original plans and ask for some assistance from the two neighboring kingdoms. But before we can do that, we need to solve their respective problems first before they can help us."

"For the Beast Glades Kingdom, we need to propose a good strategy to them so that they can lure the believers of the Corrupted Cult hiding within their Kingdom. And since the Kingdom itself is quite big, I know that you are aware that finding those guys are going to be troublesome."

"As for the Dwarf Kingdom, the situation over there is slightly easier since it was only Racial Unlocking Quest. But that one will take some time. After all, it was still a high-ranking quest nevertheless."

Then Shin paused for a few moments before continuing. "Or we can just scrap everything we planned earlier and just handle everything by ourselves. Though, we still need to look for some reliable teammates that we can invite in this quest."

'And we can just join the fun on the other Kingdoms when we are done with our problems in this place,' he added inside his mind.

Reaching this point, Shin suddenly took yet another pause as he remembered something before quickly asking. "Oh! That's right! This is a good chance to call those 'friends' of yours to help us out. What do you think?"

Hearing that, the corner of Charlotte's mouth suddenly twitched as she could tell that Shin was clearly sneering at her. Then she immediately said to defend herself. "They were quite busy these days."

"Oh~! Is that so? Then it is quite unfortunate," said Shin skeptically.

This time, Charlotte couldn't hold it any longer and asked. "Then how about calling that party of yours? I'm pretty sure that those guys are going to be pretty helpful."

"Well, they are also pretty busy too," answered Shin outside while thinking differently inside. 'I really want to call them to help us out with this quest. But I can't just keep teaming up with them while using this identity since it will arouse more suspicions for the others, especially that sharp big sister of mine.'

In the meantime, in one of the cities at the border of the Elven Kingdom, a pair of hooded players just arrived at the main gate. And based on how they dragged themselves to enter the city, both of them looked like a pair of soldiers who came back from joining the war.

"D*mn you, Alucard! Look at what you have done. Now, we are too exhausted to even fight an average player now," cursed Akailu as he entered the city.

Compared to him, Alucard was rather composed and just replied to him in a rather relaxed manner. "Heh! These guys? They are not even enough to give me a warm-up."

He put more emphasis on the last part of his words as he pointed at every player that was passing by. From time to time, he was able to spot a couple of players who seemed to have a decent strength among the crowd which piqued his interest a little.

"Anyways, aren't we supposedly heading to the Dwarf Kingdom, then how come we ended up in the Elven Kingdom instead?" asked Alucard after some time of looking around.

On the other hand, Akailu suddenly glared at him when he heard those words and asked sharply. "And whose fault do you think that is? Because of you, I lost track of our way and happened to end up in the borders of the Elven Kingdom instead."

"Tsk! How come it is my fault? You are the one who got carried away and challenged me in a duel," snarled Alucard back after hearing those words.

"And from what I remember, it is your fault why we can't use any Teleportation Hall within the Beast Glazes Kingdom," he added with a sneering tone.

"F*ck! That is because I accidentally fell on the trap that those b*st*rds laid for me," refuted Akailu as he cursed out loud.

Hearing that, Alucard suddenly laughed from the side and said. "Accidentally, my *ss! Just admit that you tried to brute force your way while chasing after that dude. And if not for me, then you are already locked within the prison of the Chief's Palace."

Due to that, the two started arguing once again and seemingly forgot about the players in the surroundings. And since they were too engrossed in their argument, Akailu failed to notice the player in front of him and accidentally bumped into her.

"Ah! Sorry about that!" he said while turning his head towards her and trying to help her to stand up.

But before he could even extend his hand, another player immediately picked the female player up before glaring at him. "What the hell, man? Are you blind or something?"

Hearing the aggression from the other side, Akailu couldn't help but frown his brows and looked aggressively at the other guy, planning to vent his frustration at him. But before he could even open his mouth, he suddenly discovered that the man in front of him was somewhat familiar. "Aren't you-...?"

On the other hand, Alucard suddenly smirked from the side and commented. "This place is really becoming more interesting."

