

Destiny 681

Chapter 681 Aiming For The Best

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Calderock Town, Mayor's Residence.

All of the members of the Empyrean Talons, exempt from Shin, were currently gathered in the conference room while waiting for the final member to come.

"Ah~! I am so bored! Why are those guys from Silent Night suddenly back out at the very last minute? Too bad, I am really curious to see where they get their confidence from," said Arthur as he stretched his back on his seat.

"Heh! Why would they fight if their commander got beaten up by Shin Bro and lost almost everything?" commented Leonard from the side smirkingly.

Hearing that, Arthur suddenly turned his head towards Leonard before saying. "Given their background, finding a new set of equipment and skills books for him is not going to be a problem. And with how skilled he is, his old form is not going to disappear that easily."

Reaching this point, Arthur suddenly remembered something and suddenly started smirking. "By the way, isn't Justin currently holding a rank higher than you on the official ranking list? How does it feel that Shin beat on your prey?"

"He even defeated Immortal. Does it mean that he basically overtakes you in the rankings?" he added while laughing. And before Leonard could even refute, Arthur quickly continued. "Tsk! Tsk! Are you not ashamed that he managed to catch up to you despite playing a virtual game for only a few months?"

The expression on Leonard's face immediately became dark the moment he heard those words. Unfortunately, he didn't have any words to refute Arthur. So, all he could do was glare at the latter while staying inside his head. 'Just you wait for your turn.'

In the meantime, the other guys were busy with their own things. And from the look of it, all of them seemed to be unaffected about what happened earlier.

Well, aside from Cloe, of course.

After all, she was a part of Silent Night for quite some time since she knew Justin personally in the real world. And even if she was only a free agent of their team, she still felt some sentiment with the team since she shared quite a lot of experience with them. She was even close with one of their members, Hannah.

But after what she had experienced earlier, she didn't know how to feel anymore. And when Arthur saw the expression that she was currently having, he suddenly kicked the ground to move his chair towards her before patting her shoulders. "Hey! What's with that look? You are going to make Shin brokenhearted if you show him that expression."

"Ah!"

Hearing that, Cloe immediately came back to her senses before quickly looking to Arthur. And when the latter saw the expression on her face changed all of a sudden, he couldn't help but tease her a little. "I thought you were loyal to my brother? So, why are you feeling bad for that guy? Don't tell me that you are actually cheating behind his back when you are in the Sun-Moon Continent?"

"Eh!? That's not true! I-..." Cloe was trying to explain herself when Shin suddenly entered the room. And when she saw him, she couldn't help but shut her mouth since she didn't want Shin to misunderstand what she was planning to say.

Unfortunately, the atmosphere within the room suddenly became awkward which made Shin frown his eyebrows. "What's with the suffocating air? Did something happen?"

Cloe opened and closed her mouth, planning to explain what happened. But no words came out from her mouth which made Shin's eyebrows frown even deeper.

Fortunately, Arthur's quick-wittedness saved her in time. "Hey! Let me see the stuff that you got from Justin before passing it to Owen."

"Eh!? Huh!?"

Hearing that, Owen, who was currently reviewing a few battle videos of himself, couldn't help but turn his head two. He was quite confused at first but he immediately realized what they were talking about when he saw Shin sharing the information of Justin's equipment set to everyone.

Skimming through the information displayed on the virtual screen in front of them, the others couldn't help but wear a weird look on their faces because of how crazy the stats were that they were seeing.

Naturally, except for Arthur, Leonard, Cloe, and Shin. After all, they have their own sets that have similar stats.

"Tsk! It is pretty decent," commented Arthur while slightly nodding his head.

Hearing that, the others couldn't help but turn their head at him simultaneously while also shouting at him inside their heads. – "Pretty Decent!?" –

Understanding the meaning behind their looks, Arthur looked at them innocently before saying. "Don't misunderstand. This set is actually trash compared to mine."

F*CK!

The others simultaneously cursed inside their heads while throwing a sharp glare at him. And when Arthur saw that, he quickly raised both of his hands before saying. "That was just a joke. A joke! You guys are too serious."

On the other hand, Shin suddenly turned to Owen before asking. "What do you think? Is it suitable for you?"

Hearing that, Owen couldn't help but stare at Shin blankly as he didn't know how to respond. He could only open and close his mouth as he tried to say something. Unfortunately, the words that he wanted to say seemed to be stacked in his throat, and couldn't go out.

Even if the set seemed to be not suitable for him, Owen would still say 'yes' given the insane stats that the set had.

Seeing Owen's reactions, Arthur immediately added. "If you think it is not suitable for your tastes, we can still ask Big Brother Black Hammer to reforge it for you, so that it will suit your style."

Cough! Cough!

This time, both Alucard and Akailu couldn't help but clear their throats due to the words that they just heard. Then they turned to Owen while looking at him with full of envy. – "Lucky b*st*rd!" –

"Don't be surprised. This is a part of your contract – as long as you are supporting the team, we will give you our full effort to improve your strengths," said Cloe when she saw the look that the two had on their faces.

Alucard and Akailu suddenly gulped a mouthful of saliva when they heard her words before looking at each other.

Seeing that, Arthur suddenly smirked before saying. "Heh! Of course, we also need you to be strong enough to fight against our rivals."

He then paused for a moment to sweep his gaze at everyone before continuing. "Out of our group, only five of us can properly contend against peak experts of the game. So, we are most likely going to lose if

we compete in the 'Battle for Dominance' that will be held a few months from now. And the 'Bloody Winter War' after that."

"Eh!?"

Aside from Shin, who was still not familiar with the matters of the gaming world, the others immediately turned their heads at Arthur and looked at him with full of disbelief. After all, they were clearly aware of what kind of tournaments were mentioned.

Seeing their reactions, Arthur couldn't help but sneer at them before saying. "What? Do you think we are just a casual team that is hunting some world bosses and doing a couple of Empire Quest for fun?"

"Of course, we are going to participate in those kinds of competitions to improve ourselves. And naturally, to also become the best adventurer team in history!" he added with an excited tone.

On the other hand, Shin could only shake his head with a bitter smile as he could tell what Arthur really wanted. And even if he was not aware of this plan, he still didn't say anything since both Leonard and Cloe remained quiet.

"We can carry our team in group and team battles. But it is a completely different case when it comes to individual competition," said Arthur, which made the others look at him with a slight frown.

Sensing those gazes, the proud Dragon God suddenly smirked before asking provokingly. "What? Do you have any problem with what I've said? I am just stating the truth."

"Our teamwork is actually not that bad, but our overall strength is still a little inferior compared to the top adventurer teams and main force of the powerhouse guilds. Take those guys from Silent Night, for example. Nine of them have a Godlike Title of their own while the rest are at the peak of being Titled Rankers."

"I am pretty confident that we can at least fight them on an equal footing if it is a team battle. But-..." reaching this point, he suddenly trailed his words in the air for a couple of moments and pointed at Leonard, Shin, and himself before continuing. "But if the three of us become occupied with their best members, I doubt that you guys will be fine on your own."

"Are you guys confident that you can handle the rest of their group without us?" asked Arthur while raising his eyebrows.

Hearing those words, the others suddenly turned quiet as they could that they would not stand a chance without these three. Even with the help of the number one priest of the game, it was still impossible for them to defeat such a team with a crazy lineup.

Arthur didn't say anything for a couple of moments, letting the others digest what he just said. And when he thought that his words finally sank inside their heads, he suddenly started grinning from ear to ear before saying. "But you guys don't have to worry. Because we will make sure to make each one of you reach a level that you can only dream of."

"After all, we are only aiming to be the best," he added while maintaining his mysterious smile. And at the same time, he was also giving Shin a meaningful look as if he was saying that it was his turn.

Being able to read what was the meaning of that look, Shin could only sigh helplessly before taking out a sealed scroll from his inventory and throwing it to Owen.

Swoosh!

Owen unconsciously caught the scroll while looking at Shin confusedly. He then turned his attention to the scroll on his hand before staring at it blankly with wide-opened eyes.

Arthur took his actions as a cue to nod his head repeatedly while saying. "So, we will start with you."

In the meantime, Shin, Cloe, and Leonard couldn't help but lower their heads and cover their faces with one hand while thinking to themselves. – "This suddenly became embarrassing!" –

Chapter 682 Empire Quest

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Easternmost Border of the Saint Heaven Kingdom.

Sky Deceiving Valley.

This place was one of the restricted maps of the game since the monsters here were way stronger than most of the players could handle.

All of the regular monsters roaming around this area were either a Level-150 Chieftain Rank Monster at the weakest or a Level-175 Commander Rank Monster at the strongest. In the meantime, the bosses that governed this area were at least a Level-200 King Class Monster Boss.

Aside from the powerful monsters residing in his place, the other reason why this map was still unexplored up until now was because of the map itself.

There was a thick fog surrounding the whole area which was fooling the senses of the players who were trying to enter this map. Navigating in this place was pretty troublesome even for the best pathfinders of the game. And due to that, no one wanted to waste their time exploring this place.

"Tsk! Tsk! The Fog here is really no joke," said Leonard when he saw the entrance of the Sky Deceiving Valley.

"Looks like this is going to be a little troublesome," commented Shin while slightly raising his eyebrows.

On the other hand, Arthur just shrugged his shoulders and just said. "Well, this is not going to be an Empire Quest if it is just going to send us to an ordinary place."

Empire Quest – unlike the normal quests that were commonly available to most of the players of the game, quests in this rank were able to affect the state of the game itself.

It was also different from the special quests that were meant for unlocking the hidden races of the game since the settings of those quests were accessible to most of the players of the game. Moreover, aside from unlocking the hidden races, those kinds of quests didn't have any purpose.

On the other hand, the Empire Quest could affect not only the power struggle between the major powers of the game like Righteous Church, but it could also change the terrain, climate, and environment of particular maps. It also included the nature of the monsters residing in those places.

Additionally, those changes would immediately take effect regardless of the results of those quests. And it could also be a positive effect or negative one depending on the results.

Once successful, the effects could expand the territory of a certain Kingdom, which would obviously unlock a couple of new maps that the players could explore. But if it was a failure, then the result would obviously be the opposite.

It could scale down the territory of those Kingdoms. Or worse, the Kingdom itself was going to be invaded by a huge horde of monsters which was much larger than the horde that tried to attack the Holy City before.

Given that, Empire Quests were pretty important in the game since it could be a blessing that would make the players benefit from or a plague that would curse the whole Kingdom or Empire.

Naturally, the conditions for these quests were quite harsh. And the requirements that the players need before receiving such an important quest were going to be very high.

Arthur managed to get his quest after spending a lot of time and effort in his previous Kingdom. And after investigating it for so long, the quest led him to this place.

"Let's go! This quest is going to be a long one so it is better if we start sooner," said Arthur before turning his head towards Cloe and Shin. "Take command. You two are our team commander and strategist, so you better do your jobs properly?"

'This lazy b*st*rd!' cursed Shin inside his head as he looked at Arthur while suppressing his twitching mouth.

After that, he turned to the others and began arranging their formation. "Ithilien and Archimedes are taking the lead as our pathfinders. Don't travel too far to avoid getting lost in the fog."

"Akailu will support them from behind with his monster pets. Based on our investigations, the senses of the players are going to become dull when they enter the fog but it is not the case for the pets and other summoned monsters."

"We are going to take advantage of that and let Akailu be the bridge between our pathfinders and the main group," he said before turning to the Beastmaster while saying. "We are counting on you."

"Heh! Do you even need to say that?" said Akailu with a smirking smile. And without further ado, he quickly summoned his Glacial Wolf and Scorching Lion to let them familiarize themselves in the environment of the map.

In the meantime, Shin turned to Arthur before saying. "You will be following closely behind them. Your 'Dragon Eyes' can at least see farther within the fog, right? So, you can just act accordingly if some accidents happen."

He didn't wait for his brother to reply as he quickly turned to Owen, who was now emitting a completely different vibe compared to what he usually had due to the new set that he received from Shin.

Shin nodded his head when he saw that before saying. "You will be in the forefront of the main group. Your job is pretty simple and that is to protect everyone behind you."

"You are our main tank, after all," he commented laughingly to what he just said as he found himself funny for pointing out such an obvious thing.

"Anyway, I will be next to you," he immediately added.

After that, Shin looked at Alucard and Leonard before saying to them simply. "You guys will take the rear."

Alucard could be a ranged attacker and a melee fighter, so it was pretty obvious to him why he was placed in that position. He could both provide range assistance from the back while also protecting the others in front of him with his melee skills if something managed to slip past their formation.

On the other hand, Leonard was second to Shin when it came to reflexes and instincts. So, he could respond to any kind of unexpected situation that they might encounter in the middle of their formation while also checking what was happening from behind with his beast-like senses.

Seeing that they two immediately understood what he was thinking, Shin quickly turned to the remaining members of the group before saying. "Cloe will be positioned in the middle of the group while Daulla and Chaotic Luck are going to flank her from each side."

The three immediately nodded their heads when they heard his arrangements.

"If you guys don't have any questions anymore, then let's quickly proceed," he asked to make sure that everyone was ready.

He nodded his head when he saw that everyone had nothing to say. He then gave a signal to the others to start moving and advance forward.

But they only took a couple of steps when Shin suddenly remembered something before turning to Chaotic Luck. "Ah! I almost forgot. Chaos, can you also summon a couple of your blazing undeads and spread them in different directions."

"That shouldn't be a problem, Big Brother," answered Chaotic Luck instantly.

"In that case, can you also position them in a particular formation while also remotely controlling them to match our pace in moving forward?" asked Shin immediately.

Chaotic Luck paused for a couple of moments before asking in return. "What kind of formation? If it is not too complicated, then I can at least give it a try."

Hearing that, Shin quickly set a particular formation to Chaotic Luck. And when the latter saw it, he couldn't help but frown his eyebrows a little due to how complex it was.

If Chaotic Luck tried to connect each position to another, then he could form a spider web pattern with it.

Seeing the expression on Solaris Lich's face, Shin immediately pointed to a couple of spots in the formation before saying. "If it is too complicated, then you can ignore the other position and just focus on these points."

"This formation is going to help us prevent any kind of ambush from each of our planks. While we are traveling. We have a strong front and rear, so they are not going to be a problem."

"What I am concerned about is the potential attacks that may come from each of our sides. After all, we are traveling in the middle of a valley with a dense three and vegetation alongside a thick fog. So, it is better to be ready for any kind of potential risk," he explained while waiting for Chaotic Luck to reply.

Chaotic Luck focused on the spots that Shin had pointed out before nodding his head. "If it is this simple version, then I can maintain it while moving forward."

"Good!" said Shin, patting Chaotic Luck's shoulder.

They just entered the valley when the Lich suddenly tugged Shin's arm before asking. "Ahm... Do you know a lot of formations like that, Big Brother?"

Shin was knitting his eyebrows at first when he heard those words before quickly smiling from ear to ear as he could read what was currently running inside Chaotic Luck's head. "You want to learn some battle tactics?"

"Don't worry, I will give you some good materials about it once we are done with here," he said while wrapping his arm around the latter's shoulder.

Ugh!

In the meantime, Arthur and Leonard couldn't help but groan painfully when they overheard the conversation of the two before saying inside their heads.

– "We will pray for your poor soul." –

– "Our deepest condolence." –

Chapter 683 Stalked?

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Shin and the others were advancing within the Sky Deceiving Valley without encountering any problems.

The monsters that they came across so far were indeed a little troublesome due to their high levels and ranks. But given the current lineup of the team, it was pretty obvious what was the fate of these monsters going to be the moment they bump into this group.

It doesn't matter even if that monster was a King Class one, the team would slaughter them all whenever they encountered one.

Bang!

And just like that, they meet their third King Class Monster Boss as they continue moving forward.

"It is going to do a huge swing again! Arthur, you block this one!" shouted Shin when he saw the 5-meter-tall humanoid monster that they were fighting.

Based on its physical features, this monster seemed to be a hybrid between a yeti and an ice troll. It was holding a huge block of ice on its right hand and about to swing it at Owen who was pinning the monster boss on its place.

Bang!

Arthur blocked the huge ice block with ease, making him smirk a little. "A piece of cake? Is this guy really a King Class Monster Boss?"

In the meantime, Shin ignored his remark and quickly said to the others. "Alright, it will be immobilized for a few moments again. Deal as much damage as you can!"

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Hearing his command, the others quickly threw everything they got to the monster boss. After all, this was one of the few changes that they have to deal some damage on this particular monster.

Aside from the powerful strength that this monster was unleashing from time to time, the most troublesome thing that gave Shin and the others a headache was its regenerative and healing abilities.

The team was fighting this monster boss for quite some time already, yet they only managed to lower its HP by a quarter despite them pouring everything they could into their attacks.

On top of that, the defensive capabilities of this 'Ice Yeti-Troll Hybrid' were also not a joke either. Despite the top-quality equipment that Shin and the others had, the damage that they could deal was somewhat negligible given the total Health that the monster possessed.

"We are going to take forever if we keep doing it this way. Can we just give this monster up?" said Cloe as she looked closely at the state of the battle.

"Giving up this boss is not an issue, but the problem is we might experience another endless pursuit like what just happened with those packs of wolves earlier," replied Shin while keeping an eye on the monster boss in front of them.

"As you can see, the monsters in this area are quite unusual. They seemed to be forever aggroed on whoever dared to provoke them."

"There are also those strange raccoon beasts that persistently chase after us earlier, despite us doing our best to avoid them," he added while providing some ranged support to Arthur and the others with his long-ranged skills.

He then turned to Cloe before continuing. "So, my answer is we can't leave this boss alone. Who knows what kind of trouble is going to happen if it chased after us later?"

"Then how about we just use a couple of berserk skills to speed things up? Isn't it faster?" said Arthur as he landed in front of the two after being sent flying by the monster boss.

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but look at Arthur sneeringly. "Are you even paying attention earlier? Up until now, we already encountered three King Class Monster Bosses despite us only exploring the outer parts of the map."

"Do you have any idea what is going to happen to us if we encounter a monster stronger than them once we reach the deeper parts of the valley? We are obviously going to get screwed at the time!"

"So, it is better for us to save as many cards as possible until we encounter a very difficult situation," added Shin with a glare.

"Tsk! Then, at least hurry up and find that stupid source so that we can use our Elemental Possessions!" said Arthur before kicking the ground and launching himself back to the frontline.

On the other hand, Shin quickly turned his head to Daulla and Chaotic Luck behind him before asking them. "You still can't locate that strange source of that strange Elemental Mana?"

Hearing that, the two were unable to help themselves but glared at Shin before saying at the same time.

"How can we locate its source if we don't know what kind of element it is exactly?!"

"I am not familiar with this kind of searching method, Big Brother."

Shin suddenly frowned his eyebrows quite deeply when he heard those words before muttering with a quiet voice. "Tch! This is supposedly an easy task if we have our Elementalist with us."

Since the time they first entered this map, Shin and the others immediately felt a strange flow of mana mixed in the air that was making them quite uncomfortable.

At first, it was quite vague and faint which was why they didn't mind it at the beginning. But as they moved deeper in the valley, the strange mana was getting stronger and stronger, making it hard for them to properly move their bodies. And because of that, they couldn't showcase their full potential in battle.

Not long after, the group also discovered that executing their respective skills also became troublesome. It even reached the point where Shin and the others could no longer use their Elemental Possessions nor summon any of their Elemental Companions.

In the meantime, Cloe seemed to be smiling from ear to ear when she heard Shin's mumbling. Her smile was so bright that even Daulla beside her couldn't help but stare at her blankly.

Due to their pause, Shin immediately noticed that the DPS (Damage per Second) of the team suddenly decreased, making him scold the two. "Hey! What are the two of you doing? The boss is going to recover if you suddenly stop attacking!"

"We are barely able to burn down its HP with our current damage, yet you still have the time to doze off?"

"And look at Owen's HP! Are you going to let him die?"

Hearing those words, the two immediately regained their senses and quickly started focusing on their respective jobs.

"Sheesh! Sometimes, I am starting to get scared of that guy more when he is in charge of attacking than facing him in battle," commented Alucard from the rear of the group.

Beside him, Leonard suddenly leaned over his head a little before whispering. "You haven't experienced how scary he really is. During the exam week, we experienced hell literally due to our tutoring sessions. It is the real mental torture."

Swoosh! Swoosh!

After that, Leonard caught his battle-axes that he threw earlier with each of his hands before continuing. "So, you better not slack off, or else he will immediately spot you."

At that point, Shin suddenly shouted at him. "Leo! It is your turn to re-join the frontlines!"

"I am going ahead, so I will be leaving this spot to you," said Leonard to Alucard before leaping high in the air, planning to give Arthur and Owen some assistance.

Boom!

A few moments later, Shin suddenly sensed a couple of hostile gazes directed to them while they were fighting the hybrid monster boss between a Yeti and an Ice Troll. And the moment he became aware of their presence, his eyes immediately turned sharp.

"Big Brother-..." Chaotic Luck was a second behind. But his blazing undeads also spotted a couple of silhouettes moving within the fog.

And before he could inform Shin about it, the latter immediately cut his words off and immediately instructed. "I know. But don't make any response yet, we still don't know who we are going to face."

"First, observe them from a safe distance and see who they are. We need to know whether we are facing a group of monsters or a team of skilled players."

"If it is the latter, then quickly identify how many there are and what is their team composition," he added after a slight frown.

Receiving the instructions from Shin, Chaotic Luck quickly controlled his undead monsters and moved them sneakily in the fog. He also turned off the blazing flame wrapped in their bodies to make sure that those special undeads were not going to be spotted by the opposing side.

In the meantime, Shin gave Arthur and Leonard a signal about their 'guests' so that they could make some adjustments to their positions. He also informed the others secretly and asked them to change their formation a little.

Not long after, Chaotic Luck figured out who was the sneaky group stalking them and quickly passed it to Shin. "It was a group of players, Big Brother. There are at least 20 members in their group. I am still not sure about their team composition because of the fog. Should I get a little closer?"

Hearing that, Shin quickly shook his head before saying. "No, it is fine for now. Their skills should be decent enough to reach this part of the valley."

"And since they are able to take advantage of the environment properly to hide their presence, I suspect that they are pretty familiar with this place. There is no harm in being a little careful," he added before informing the others of what they discovered.

"At least, let's first see whether they are friends or foes," muttered Shin to himself while keeping an eye on their surroundings.

Chapter 684 Old Enemies

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HeadHunter Guild.

As one of the Powerhouse Guilds of the game, their reputation in the virtual world should be a solid one. But after the repeated defeats that they had suffered recently, their reputation in the Saint Heaven Kingdom hit rock-bottom.

Even in their main base of operation in the Saint Heaven Kingdom, the Forbidden City, most of the players were now looking down at them. And because of that, their influence within the city.

Naturally, the other powerful guilds took advantage of the opportunity to start invading their territory while also trying to approach some of their elite members, convincing them to leave the HeadHunter Guild and head over to their side.

The higherups of the HeadHunter Guild tried their best to prevent losing their members. Unfortunately, they already lost a lot of trust from their members due to their successive defeats, which was why they couldn't prevent their elite members from leaving.

Due to their continuous decline in the Saint Heaven Kingdom, the Guild Elders from their headquarters decided to abandon their plans in this place.

But the Ruthless God 'Cruelty' would not let that happen. After all, the operations on the Saint Heaven Kingdom were now under his supervision. And if he let the Elders pull their players from here, then his reputation within the guild was going to suffer.

Given that both sides were not going to back down, one of the great elders of the guild suggested that if Cruelty managed to prove to them that the situation in the Saint Heaven Kingdom could still be saved, they were going to take back the order to withdraw their forces from this place.

Having no other choice, Cruelty could only nod his head and accept the terms. But regaining their previous reputation within the Kingdom was going to be a tough task. And the only thing that could make them look good in the eyes of everyone once again, was to do something that no one had ever achieved yet.

And at this point in time, the only idea that Cruelty could think of was to explore the so-called forbidden place and unexplored territories of the game, the Borderlands of the different Kingdoms and Empires.

Those places should be rich in resources given that there were very few numbers of people who dared to venture into those places. Moreover, there should be some powerful monsters in these places that could trigger a Regional System Announcement.

King Class Monsters were no longer enough for the current state of the HeadHunter Guild. What they needed right now was a very powerful monster that was at least in Emperor Rank or higher.

And to find monsters with that rank, Cruelty decided to gather the most elite members of his guild and head over the Sky Deceiving Valley, planning to hunt for such monster bosses.

But since the moment they first entered the valley, their team never encountered a single monster. The entire place seemed to be so clean as if someone cleaned it spotlessly.

Though, they were half right about it since a 'storm' really went through this place and 'cleaned' all of the monsters on its path.

Not long after, the scouts of their group finally discovered the reason for the monsters' absence. They saw some traces of battles in the deeper parts of the valley, indicating that someone beat them at exploring the place.

"These traces seem to be quite recent. Whoever is ahead of us, they should be not far from our position," said Mad God 'Bloody Edge' after inspecting the traces of battle on their surroundings.

"Should we speed up a little to catch up?" he added while looking at Cruelty.

But the one who replied to him was Helena who was currently looking at him as if he was an idiot. "Do you really need to ask something so obvious? Can't you see what's in front of us? Those guys are definitely going to take everything if we don't catch up to them."

"So, of course, we are going to pick up our pace," she added while looking at Bloody Edge with a skeptical expression on her face.

Bloody Edge was about to refute her when Cruelty suddenly opened his mouth. "What is the meaning of this? I thought that there are no other teams researching this place? Don't tell me that the information that you gathered is wrong?"

Hearing those words, Bloody Edge immediately froze before staying stutteringly. "O-of course, o-our information is accurate!"

"Then how come there is a group ahead of us?" asked Cruelty while wearing a deep frown.

This time, it was the Savage God 'Soulless' who responded to his question. "There can only be two answers for that. It is either this particular team is secretly investigating this place just like us or they are strong enough to slaughter everything in their path blindfolded."

He then crouched on the group and observed the marks left on it before continuing. "But from what I can see, it is more like the latter."

"Well, we will see about that once we catch up to them," said Cruelty after a brief pause. And at the same time, he looked over his shoulder before commanding the others. "Gather up and go back to your positions. We are picking up the pace!"

"Yes, Sir!"

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As they traveled longer, the experts of the HeadHunter Guild started to see more traces of battles.

"We are almost there! We are slowing down our pace so that they will not notice us," said Cruelty while raising his hand.

After that, he looked at Soulless and quickly instructed. "Go ahead and ask Bloody Edge to scout our opponents. And tell him not to blindly engage in battle. If your assessment is true, then we need some preparation before facing them."

Hearing that, Soulless slightly nodded his head before disappearing from his spot as he moved skillfully within the fog. From the look of it, he seemed to be quite familiar with this place.

In the meantime, Cruelty turned his head to the others and also gave them some instructions. "We are going to advance with formation B!"

After receiving his command, the others quickly adjusted their positions with great familiarity while continuing to move forward.

Unknown to their group, someone was actually observing them while hiding behind the thick fog. A skeleton was standing still a few meters from them, watching them silently as they walked past it.

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Meanwhile, Chaotic Luck immediately passed to Shin what he just saw through the shared vision of his undead. "Three Shamans, two Archers, two Musketeers, two Priests, three Knights, one Berserker, two Swordsmen, one Elementalist, and one Aquamancer."

"They should also have some thieves among them, but I am not sure how many they are," he added before shifting his shared vision to another undead.

In the meantime, Shin slightly knitted his eyebrows before saying. "A full party, huh? This is going to be a little tricky."

After that, he quickly turned to Chaotic Luck before asking. "Are they wearing any emblem from a certain guild or adventurer team?"

Hearing that, Chaotic Luck quickly focused on the chests of each member of the group and saw a crimson skull emblem on it.

"That symbol! Isn't it the emblem that the HeadHunter Guilds are wearing?" muttered Chaotic Luck to himself after seeing the emblem that the opposing side was wearing.

On the other hand, Shin couldn't help but turn his head to the side and look over his shoulder before asking. "HeadHunter Guild? Those guys again?"

Chaotic Luck suddenly cut off his shared vision before asking. "You have an old beef with them? Tsk! These guys are in trouble."

This Solaris Lich seemed to be blinded with Shin's continuous creation of miracles which was why he no longer believed that this crazy person was going to lose to anyone.

"No wonder they are able to reach this part of the valley. Given their skills and in-game knowledge, hunting in his place is not much of a problem for them," said Arthur after hearing their conversation.

Shin looked at him with a slight frown before asking. "How come you are here? Go back to your position and help those two!"

Hearing that, Arthur suddenly clicked his tongue before complaining. "Tsk! Are you planning to take everything again? We know that you have an old grudge with them, but at least let us have a share of fun with them."

"Hey! Hey! Are you guys calling your dibs already? Leave some for me!" said Leonard as he landed beside Shin.

Seeing that the three of them seemed to be fooling around, Cloe quickly hit their heads with her staff before saying. "What are the three of you doing? We are currently in the middle of raiding a boss, how dare you get distracted?!"

"Why did you hit me too? I am doing my job right!" complained Shin before glaring at the two and signaling them to go back to their positions.

"Tsk! Just don't leave us behind, alright?" said Arthur before launching himself back to the monster boss.

"Tell us your plan when you are done formulating them, alright?" added Leonard while following behind Arthur.

Shin stared at them for a couple of moments before shaking his head and smiling bitterly. And quickly after that, his mouth suddenly curved into a mysterious grin before muttering to himself. "HeadHunter Guild, huh? It has been a while since I crossed paths with them-..."

"Should I give them a warm greeting?" he added as his eyes suddenly flashed with a glint of golden light."

Chapter 685 From Hunter To Hunted

.....

Bloody Edge was having a hard time recognizing the members of the opposing side due to the thick fog surrounding the area. But given that they were currently fighting a King Class Monster Boss with just a few of them, it was pretty obvious to him that they were not ordinary players.

A few moments later, Soulless suddenly appeared beside him and quickly asked. "How is it? You still can't identify them?"

Hearing that, the corner of Bloody Edge's mouth suddenly twitched before answering. "Do you think it is easy to spy on them? With this distance, it is impossible to identify them. But if I try to get nearer, then there is a definite risk that they are going to discover me given their skills."

"Heh! That is actually the reason why Cruelty sends me here, it is to prevent you from doing anything reckless," said Soulless sneeringly.

The frown that Bloody Edge was wearing turned even deeper when he heard those words before asking. "Do I really look like an idiot who would pick a fight with that group alone?"

"Can't you see their skills? They need to be at least a Peak Titled Ranker and a Godlike Player to fight against a King Class Monster Boss with their numbers," he added while pointing at the opposing side.

Bloody Edge was about to say more when he saw that one of the names of his subordinates turned grey all of a sudden. "Huh?"

At first, he thought that saw it wrong since that particular name immediately lit up after a couple of seconds. But he immediately realized that he was right when the other names started to grey out as well.

"Huh? What's happening," he muttered to himself while wearing a deep frown.

It didn't take long for him to receive an answer from his subordinates who somehow survive the sudden ambush of their opponents. "We are under attack, Sir! It looks like we have been discovered already!"

"D*mn it!" cursed Bloody Edge right after he saw the message. And he was about to warn Soulless who was crouching beside him when they suddenly felt a killing intent directed on them.

"Sh*t!" cursed the two at the same time while jumping away from the current positions.

But contrary to what they were expecting, no one attacked them yet nor the place where they were previously hiding.

A few moments later, they heard an unhurried footstep coming towards them. And when they turned their heads to the direction of the sound, they saw a silhouette walking out from the thick fog.

They waited for a couple of seconds for them to clearly see who was the person walking towards them. And when they did, they couldn't help but open their eyes wide while staring blankly at him.

"The Nameless Swordsman! No, he is known as the Battle God Sickarius now," muttered Soulless solemnly, calling Shin with his old alias.

"It has a while, 'old friends' from HeadHunter Guild," said Shin with a sarcastic tone while also looking at his opponents with a huge grin.

But he immediately took back what he just said when he realized that it was wrong. "Wait, I think it is not right. We never meet each other personally, so I don't think I can say those words."

The two didn't say anything despite hearing the mockery from Shin's words. Instead, they simultaneously took out their respective weapons and got ready for battle.

'If this guy is here, then that means the party that is facing that King Class Monster Boss is-... that so-called Empyrean Talons adventurer team,' said Bloody Edge inside his head when he realized that they were now in deep trouble.

'No wonder they are able to explore this place without researching it. They will surely slaughter any monster that will block their way given the lineup that they have,' thought Soulless before turning his head to Bloody Edge.

They need to inform their Cruelty about this matter! Or else, the consequence was going to be really dire for them.

Seeing that the two of them were exchanging eye signals, Shin immediately knew that they were informing the other members of their group. But he didn't care since taking all of them down was his original plan.

"Before, you guys tried to bully me with your rank and status. So, how about we do it properly this time? After all, we are now standing on the same level," said Shin smirkingly while putting his hand on the hilt of his katana.

"Did your fame get over your head? Do you honestly believe that you can take on both of us alone?" said Bloody Edge with a deep frown while glaring at Shin.

Hearing those words, Shin suddenly curved his mouth to a mocking grin before saying. "Well, I took down both Lich God Immortal and Demon God Justin, so I doubt that I will get intimidated when facing the likes of you."

The expression on both Soulless and Bloody Edge's faces suddenly turned sour the moment they heard those mocking words. Unfortunately for them, they would not be able to refute those words since they were fully aware that their names were not big enough to compare to those two gods that Shin had mentioned.

And as if rubbing salt on their wounds, Shin suddenly added. "Or are you guys thinking that you are scarier than Dragon God Siegfried and War God Simba?"

This time, the Soulless and Bloody Edge became even more unpleasant as Shin continued to wound their pride. Just like Rankers had different ranks, Godlike Players obviously had one too. And that was the reason why the Godlike Ranking List existed.

Moreover, all of the names that Shin had mentioned were the biggest names even among all of the Godlike Players like them.

"Go!" shouted Soulless before charging at Shin. He was no longer interested in arguing with the latter since they were clearly at a disadvantage. They surely lose their temper if they let Shin continue talking.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Soulless leaped forward while swinging his greatsword at Shin during his descent. On the other hand, Bloody Edge suddenly appeared behind Shin while striking with both of his daggers.

Seeing their coordinated attacks, Shin couldn't help but grin even wider as he was finally going to fight some of the most elite players of the game on an equal foot.

First, Shin used the 'Void Steps' to appear behind Soulless before quickly unsheathing his sword and swinging it to his opponent.

Shing!

'Class Fighting Style: (Modified) Quickly Draw'

Bang!

Soulless managed to redirect his swing towards Shin by adjusting his position in the air while also spinning his body around.

Swoosh!

But despite him blocking the strike successfully, the so-called 'Savage God' was sent flying towards the ground where Bloody Edge was currently standing. And since the latter was already in the middle of his attack, Soulless' body was pierced by the daggers that were supposedly directed to Shin's back.

-673 581!

But Shin was not done yet.

Right after he sent Soulless away, he suddenly spun in the air before forcing his body to fall towards the two while also swinging his sword downwards during his descent.

Shing!

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Falling Lightblade'

Swoosh!

Seeing the incoming strike, Soulless quickly forced his body to stand up properly before pushing Bloody Edge back and holding his greatsword above his head, planning to block Shin's descending sword with it.

He channeled his mana on that sword and steadied his footing to brace himself for the incoming impact.

Unfortunately for him, his preparations were futile since Shin disappeared above him all of a sudden before reappearing above Bloody Edge who was currently in the middle of regaining his footing.

'Basic Combat Technique: Second Drive'

'Phantom Swordsman Skill: Phantom Steps'

Swoosh!

"D*mn it!" cursed the two at the same time when they saw what just happened. Moreover, they both knew that it was impossible to escape the current predicament since the attack came out of nowhere.

Soulless was not in a position to assist Bloody Edge since he was preparing to block the attack that was supposedly directed to him. On the other hand, the latter didn't have the right footing to execute any movement skills which was why he could only watch helplessly at the sword that was descending at him.

Swoosh!

But before Shin could even hit the Mad God with his sword, a formless force suddenly pulled Bloody Edge from his current position and made Shin's attack miss.

"Two veteran Godlike Players being toyed by a single player who just got his godlike title? You guys should feel ashamed of yourselves," said Helena as she walked out from the thick fog and joined her colleagues. She also waved her hand and pointed at Soulless, restoring his HP bar back to full.

Not long after, Cruelty suddenly appeared from the side opposite to where Helena came from before saying. "No wonder nothing was left behind when we got here. So, it turns out the Empyrean Talons are the ones who beat us on exploring this place."

In the blink of an eye, Shin was surrounded from all sides by his opponents. He slightly knitted his eyebrows before sweeping his gaze on the four Godlike Players surrounding him. "Tsk!"

The moment Shin started clicking his tongue, Arthur suddenly revealed himself sitting on a tree branch by saying. "Heh! See? I told you! You are still a hundred years too early to fight all of them alone. Don't get too ahead of yourself."

At the same time, Leonard suddenly walked from behind that tree before giving his own remark. "Give him some slack. He is still not used to his new equipment set. He still needs some time to properly familiarize himself with his upgraded stats."

Seeing those two, the expressions on the faces of the four Godlike Players from the HeadHunter Guild immediately turned sour. But at the same time, their urge for battle also became stronger since they all knew that they were currently in a do-or-die situation.

Running away from these three was going to be impossible, so the only choice that was left for them was to stay and fight for their survival.

How ironic it was? The so-called headhunters of the virtual world suddenly became the hunted instead.

Chapter 686 An Odd Coordination (Part 1)

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The atmosphere surrounding the area immediately turned heavy as these seven gods of the game gathered in a single place. They stared on each side with hostility while also gauging their opponents.

In the meantime, Shin and the other two looked rather calm and composed compared to the opposing side. After all, the latter group was completely aware of how scary these three gods could be; especially the Dragon God and War God who already solidified their footing in the virtual world.

But despite that being the case, the four gods of the HeadHunter Guild still had a determined look on their faces. Moreover, the opposing side needed to keep an eye on the monster boss a few distances away from their location, which would prevent them from fully committing to fighting on this side.

On top of that, the side of HeadHunter Guild also had their other members hurrying over to this place to assist them. As long as the four were able to hold themselves against the trio, there was still a chance for them to turn this around.

But to their surprise, the three seemed to be letting them gather all of their forces before committing to a fight.

'Aren't these guys looking down on us a little too much?' thought Cruelty with a solemn expression on his face, thinking that the opposing side was clearly mocking them.

The other three on his side were also thinking the same. And due to that, the looks on their faces immediately turned sour while glaring at the trio.

Seeing those looks directed to them, Arthur couldn't help but stare back at the opposing side smirkingly before saying. "I think there is a misunderstanding here. We are waiting for your reinforcements to arrive not because we are looking down on you. We are just confident that the three of us are not going to lose when we are fighting together."

'Isn't it the same?' thought the four from HeadHunter Guild while suppressing their twitching cheeks.

Even Shin and Leonard couldn't help but look at Arthur skeptically while having the same thoughts in their minds. "You are just sugarcoating your words!"

Realizing what he just said, Arthur immediately looked at his brothers with an awkward smile before clarifying what he actually wanted to point out. "I mean, our individual strength is not our strongest point, isn't it? But it is when we are fighting together."

Hearing those words, the expression that Cruelty had immediately became even worse as he could feel that something dangerous was about to happen. And this premonition instantly came true right after the other members of their team arrived.

Shing!

Shin suddenly unsheathed his sword when he saw the other members of the opposing side were arriving. And at the same time, he quickly swung the [Yamato] in a circular manner while also releasing a blazing sword wave from it, creating a ring of fire around him that was extending outwards.

'Class Fighting Style: Sunshine Cleaver'

Seeing that, the Cruelty and the other three surrounding Shin quickly jumped backward, trying to avoid the incoming sword wave.

After that, Shin suddenly appeared right in the middle of the incoming enemies, catching all of them off-guard.

He was planning to burn all of them with one of his large-scale offensive skills. But Helena seemed to be already expecting that as she was already waving her hands in the air at that very moment and chanting out a couple of spells. And not long after, a ghostly aura protected each of the players around Shin.

"Tsk!" clicked his tongue when he saw that and quickly abandoned the idea of using any magical attacks, deciding to take down the supports of the opposing side instead.

But this time, it was Bloody Edge who predicted his thoughts and quickly appeared in front of him and prevented him from going anywhere.

Clang!

"Not so fast!" said Bloody Edge smirkingly as his daggers clashed with Shin's sword.

On the other hand, Shin suddenly smiled behind his mask before sneering back. "I think you guys are focusing on me a little too much."

Swoosh!

Right after he said those words, a shadow was suddenly cast on the group, making them raise their heads. And in there, they saw Leonard falling towards them with unstoppable force.

'Destroyer Skill (Tier 2): Meteor Devastation'

Swoosh!

Whoosh!

But before he could even reach the group below him, a huge spherical barrier made of raging water suddenly appeared around the group, protecting them.

'Ocean Conjurer (Tier 2): Aqua Sphere'

Splash!

Leonard collided on the spherical aqua barrier nullifying all of the force behind his descent. At the same time, he also seemed to get stacked on that barrier as the raging flow of water that the barrier had suddenly surged towards his location, seemingly planning to trap him.

'Basic Combat Technique: Second Drive'

'Aquamancer Skill: Water Control – Surging Wave'

Cruelty was already keeping an eye on both Arthur and Leonard since these two were the ones who had the greatest threat in his eyes. And right after he saw the War God disappear from his position, he quickly spread his elemental sense to locate his opponent before responding to it accordingly.

Coordinating with him, Soulless also jumped in the air and positioned himself right above Leonard who was currently trapped with the surging waves of the water barrier.

He first channeled his mana on his greatsword before swinging it downwards as strong as he could.

'Swordmaster Skill (Tier 2): Ocean Splitting Slash'

Shing!

The blade of the greatsword was about to split Leonard in half when he suddenly opened his mouth wide, shouting loudly and releasing a powerful sound wave with it.

'Extra Skill: Lion's Roar'

Boom!

The shockwave sent Soulless away from Leonard due to how powerful it was. And at the same time, that powerful shout also sent ripples on the water barrier that disturbed its balance.

Because of that, the aqua sphere suddenly collapsed and made the water from it pour down at everyone beneath it.

Seeing that, Shin immediately used one of his movement skills and teleported himself away from the middle of their enemies' ranks.

In the meantime, Leonard also used one of his movement skills in the air to change the trajectory of his descent and head over to a location away from the pouring water.

Then everyone heard Arthur shout loudly while also pointing his spear at their opponents. "Strike down!"

'Elemental Dragon Skill: Wrath of the Sky'

Boom!

Then a flash of lightning suddenly dropped from the sky, striking down the experts of the HeadHunter Guild who were currently soaked with the water from the aqua barrier earlier.

The initial strike of the lightning didn't deal much damage to the group since they were currently protected by Helena's spell. But since they were currently soaked with water, all of their movements were immobilized when the lightning struck down at them.

Seeing that, Helena quickly summoned a group of totems around her before chanting a couple of spells.

Swoosh!

But how could Shin let that happen?

He quickly charged at the Master Shaman right after he saw her chanting a spell, planning to interrupt her from casting her spell.

In the meantime, Soulless immediately went to block Shin, planning to buy Helena more time to complete the casting of her skill.

Swoosh!

Bang!

Unfortunately, a battle-axe suddenly flew towards his location and landed on the ground in front of him, preventing him from moving forward. And before he could even try to jump over that axe, the corner of his eyes already saw Leonard charging at him without any hesitation.

Bang!

Left with no other choice, he could only choose to swing his greatsword at Leonard and hoped that Cruelty and Bloody Edge would help Helena instead.

Naturally, the two were also aware of it which was why they were already making their move to stop Shin from interrupting Helena.

Unfortunately, Arthur used that situation to their advantage and threw his spear at the paralyzed experts of the opposing side.

The spear left a trail of golden light in the air as it traveled towards its target, showcasing how strong it was.

Seeing that, Cruelty had no choice but to forget about Shin and turned his attention towards the incoming attack. He quickly did a couple of hand gestures with his free hand, conjuring a spear made of water. And without further ado, he quickly sent that water spear at the incoming spear that Arthur had thrown.

Boom!

The water spear immediately exploded the moment it collided with Arthur's attack. But at the same time, it also managed to negate all of the force that Arthur put behind his throw.

But not long after, Arthur suddenly emerged from the curtain of water that was made by the explosion right after catching his spear in the air.

Bang!

And a moment after that, he suddenly kicked the ground behind him and launched himself forward as if he was a dragon charging courageously at his enemies.

Seeing that, Cruelty quickly cast all of his instantaneous spells to hinder the movements of the charging 'dragon' and buy more time for the experts that were currently immobilized.

Going back to the side where Shin was fighting, Bloody Edge suddenly appeared behind the swordsman and quickly struck with his daggers, planning to dig it on his opponent's back.

Sensing that threat behind him, Shin quickly turned around and swung the [Yamato] without any hesitation, blocking the daggers of his opponent.

Clang!

When Bloody Edge couldn't help but release a sigh of relief for thinking that he managed to stop Shin. Unfortunately, it was already too late for him to realize that he was completely wrong.

While Shin was confronting him, he saw the former's other hand do a couple of movements which sent a shiver in his entire body.

Swoosh!

First, Bloody Edge discovered there were some paralyzing needles stabbing different parts of his body and preventing him from moving. "Since when did these-...?"

At the same time, a group of flying daggers was currently flying straight to Helena who was still in the middle of casting her spell.

Seeing all of that, the Shaman had no other choice but forcefully cancel her spell and quickly teleported herself away to create more distance between Shin and her. And when she also noticed that there was something wrong with Bloody Edge, she quickly cast a single-target buff at him so that he could regain his movements once again.

"Hey, watch out!"

But the moment she was done casting her spell, Helena suddenly heard Soulless' voice warning her about something. And when she turned her head towards that direction, she saw Leonard right beside her and alongside a battle-axe that was about to descend on her head.

Bang!

Chapter 687 An Odd Coordination (Part 2)

...

Seeing that Helena was in danger, Cruelty was stacked in a difficult situation where he needed to choose who he was going to save. He needed to choose between Helena and the other members of their group.

Well, the answer should be obvious. But he couldn't decide on it right away since they need those experts to at least have a little chance against these three monsters.

Unfortunately, he didn't have much time to make his choice since Leonard's battle-axe was already upon Helena, threatening to cleave her in halves.

Cruelty quickly disengaged from Arthur and immediately created some space between them so that he could cast his spell uninterrupted. After that, he immediately formed a couple of signs with his hand before casting a defensive spell on Helena.

Then a huge water bubble suddenly surrounded Helena and protected her from the descending battle-axe.

Bang!

But that barrier only lasted for a couple of seconds before it was split into halves by Leonard's attack. But fortunately for her, the water bubble brought her enough time to cast a teleportation spell to escape her current predicament.

She indeed survived that attack, but the other members of their team were not so lucky since they were currently immobilized by the lightning strike earlier.

Since Cruelty gave Arthur some space, the latter would naturally welcome that situation to attack those sitting ducks a few distances away from him.

Cruelty couldn't help but have a sour expression on his face when he saw that. And even if he made his move and tried to help them, most of their healers and other players with support roles had already been taken down by Arthur.

Fortunately, the others were able to regain their control over their bodies and immediately started to fight back.

In the meantime, Cruelty quickly turned his attention to Shin who was currently fighting Bloody Edge. In his eyes, Shin was the weakest link of this trio. And if he was able to break him, their chances of surviving this predicament were going to increase.

But right after that thought entered his mind, he suddenly saw Shin get rid of Bloody Edge and suddenly started charging at him.

Naturally, the Blood Elf was going to stop Shin from going after their leader. But before he could even take a step forward, he suddenly sensed something flying towards his location.

Without looking at it, Bloody Edge quickly took a couple of steps backward and avoided the flying shield that was heading his way. Then he suddenly saw Arthur standing on his path, preventing him from pursuing Shin.

Seeing that, he couldn't help but turn his head to the other experts of their group and saw that they were now engaging in a fight against Leonard who was supposedly battling Soulless.

Confused, Bloody Edge was unable to help himself but to look at Soulless to know what he was doing. But right after he turned his head to the side, he suddenly saw the latter was currently standing right beside him and also looking back at him.

A few distances behind them, Helena was also quite surprised at the current situation. She felt that there was something wrong with their current situation. She couldn't point it out directly but she was sure that there was something odd in it.

Regardless, the three still continued fighting Arthur since they didn't have the time to dwell on that thought.

The battle continued for a few more moments and the members of the HeadHunter Guild were all in distress. They totally outnumbered their opponents, so they were supposedly winning this battle instead of being pushed back by the opposing side.

It was true that their opponents were strong, but that didn't mean that they were weak either. After all, they also have Godlike Players on their side and four of them at that.

No matter how strong the trio was, they should at least be in a defensive state instead of being in a full offensive. Unfortunately, the word 'defense' seemed not to exist in the vocabulary of these three.

Though, it also looked a little too much.

The trio's attack was completely random, they kept changing their targets whenever they felt like it. And due to that, the three of them seemed to be all over the place, making it hard for the Cruelty and the others to figure out their next moves.

These HeadHunter Guild people were being overwhelmed by those three as they used such an odd pattern with their attacks.

But not long after, Cruelty sensed that there was a real system in their seemingly random attacking pattern. It was because every time his group was able to adjust with their current opponents, the three were going to attack the others all of a sudden.

Unfortunately, Cruelty didn't have the time to point it out since most of their members had already been taken down by the trio. Aside from the four Godlike Players of their group, there were only two experts left on their side; a Master Berserker and a Knight.

"Sheesh! Is that everything you have? You guys don't have any reinforcements in reserve?" said Arthur as he suddenly stopped fighting and stabbed his spear on the ground.

When he did that, Shin and Leonard also stopped attacking and Arthur fooled around a little. It might give their opponents some time to recover, but it was also the same for them. So, they welcomed that opportunity to take a little break before continuing.

Moreover, Shin already told them that he had an additional plan earlier, so they were only trying to see if it was worth the try.

In the meantime, Cruelty and the others couldn't help glare at the three since it was clear that they were currently mocking them. And the worst part about it, they didn't have any choice but to endure it silently.

After all, it was now pretty clear to them that they were no match against these three. If they couldn't defeat them when they had more numbers earlier, then it was even more impossible to take down these monsters with just a few of them.

Running away was also not possible since they were practically asking to get killed if they showed their backs on the trio.

Arthur pursed his lips a little when he saw their reactions before saying with a sneering tone. "Are you guys not curious why we let you live even if we can easily kill you now?"

He was clearly asking a question but he didn't bother to wait for their reply as he quickly answered his own question. "It is because we are quite curious about something."

"I am sure that you dared to venture on this forbidden land to regain your guild's former glory in the Saint Heaven Kingdom. After all, your reputation dropped quite a lot due to your repeated defeat," he added sharply as he was purposely striking their sour spot.

'This b*st*rd!' cursed Bloody Edge inside his head while looking at Arthur with an even sharper glare.

Unfortunately, Arthur ignored his glare and just continued casually. "Well, let's make this quick so that we can no longer waste each other's time."

"Since you are going to use this place to rebuild your reputation and we happen to be here and prevent you from doing that, are you guys going to make an issue out of this or are we going to forget all of this after once everything is over?"

The expressions on opposing immediately turned dark when they heard those words.

– "These guys immediately attack us without any hesitation and now they are trying to talk this out to end everything peacefully?" – these were the thoughts that were running inside the heads of the three right after they heard those words from Arthur.

"Don't misunderstand. We are not trying to negotiate or anything. We are just curious if you are going to make any moves after we are not with this. Do you know? Our schedule is quite tight right now, so we need to find a time to visit your headquarters in the Forbidden City if you suddenly declare war on us," added Arthur while raising his eyebrows.

The corner of Cruelty's mouth suddenly twitched after hearing that and suddenly. "If you are trying to negotiate, isn't proposing a proper term the right way for it?"

Unable to help himself any longer, Leonard suddenly chimed in. "Aren't your lives more than enough for leverage?"

A threat!

It was a flat-out threat!

"Since you are familiar with this place, we are pretty sure that you are aware that dying here once is equivalent to dying outside ten times. That means you will suffer ten times the original penalty," said Shin with a flat tone before saying.

"You may not lose all ten levels, but I am pretty sure that you will drop everything you have the moment you die," he added while pointing at the equipment scattered on the ground.

Cruelty and the other three Godlike Players on the opposing side were clearly hesitating right now. After all, they spent quite a lot of time and effort on finding their current equipment, so they were pretty unwilling to get killed right now.

Moreover, their reputation in the guild would surely drop drastically when the news about this event reached the higher-ups.

While Cruelty was still hesitating, Shin gave a signal to Arthur and Leonard to finish the two remaining experts on the other side, seemingly reminding the 'Ruthless God', that their time was limited.

The other three didn't react since they knew that they would not be able to save their subordinates from these two peak gods.

On the other hand, Cruelty took a deep breath before opening his mouth. "So, what do you want from us?"

Hearing those words, Shin couldn't help but curve his mouth with an evil grin before saying. "Don't worry, I'm sure that you will like my proposition since it is a win-win scenario for both of us."

Chapter 688 Alive? (Part 1)

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The trio immediately head back and regrouped with the others right after their 'negotiation' with Cruelty and the others. Of course, they didn't forget about the loot on the ground that the other members of the HeadHunter Guild dropped right after dying.

"Done already? That is faster than expected," asked Cloe the moment Shin arrived beside her.

"Well, the plan went smoothly," replied Shin immediately.

In the meantime, Arthur and Leonard also joined the battle and continued to attack the Monster Boss that the team was dealing with since earlier.

A few moments later, Cloe couldn't help but ask. "But are you sure about this? Can we really trust those guys?"

Hearing that, Shin suddenly smirked and said. "Trust? I will never trust my enemies. But I am pretty confident that they are going to follow our arrangements. Moreover, they are already bound by the contract, so it is pretty much impossible for them to go back on their words now."

He then took a brief pause before continuing with a smirking smile. "And if ever they manage to find a hole in the contract that system has provided, I still have a backup plan prepared for them, so you don't have to worry."

This time, Cloe didn't say anything and just nodded her head before refocusing on her job on the team.

Real World, Soaring Continent, Eastern Sea Region

Ace City, Grand Horizon Hotel

Earlier, Alice was summoned by her father which was why she immediately logged out of the game. She was quite unwilling at first when she got the call, but she didn't have any other choice but to comply with her father since she knew what was going to happen to her if she refused.

Moreover, her father sounded serious during the call, so she suddenly got scared when she heard his voice and immediately accepted.

"Uncle Peter, do you know why Dad asked for me? It's not like there is an important event that I need to attend right now," said Alice with a slight frown at her personal attendant.

Peter smiled bitterly when she heard that before replying to her. "I'm sorry, young miss. But I am also not sure why you are summoned."

"Not sure? Then you must at least have an idea what it is, tell me!" said Alice while frowning even deeper.

The middle-aged man hesitated for a moment before sighing helplessly. "I think it is better if you hear it from your father directly, young miss."

Alice frowned even more when she heard those words before slightly shaking her head. "Why do I feel strange about this?"

After that, Alice continued to walk towards the place where she was going to meet her father.

It was in a fancy restaurant. And Elias Stuart reserved the entire place so that they would not get interrupted by anyone.

He was originally planning to visit his daughter to see how she was doing in her current place. But when he was about to contact her, he suddenly received an unexpected report about a certain person.

At first, he didn't believe such news since it was ridiculous for that person to be still alive. Even after seeing some evidence, Elias still didn't want to believe it and just thought that it was just a person with a similar appearance.

But when his father told him that that person was indeed his first daughter that they thought died a long time ago, he didn't have a choice but to believe it.

"It is impossible for Father to be mistaken. He may not see Alyssa personally in that place since she is already nowhere to be found when he arrives in that place, but he still detected her leftover presence lingering in that area after checking the place," muttered Elias while frowning his eyebrows.

"But I still feel uneasy about this. What if it is a trap set up by the Black Serpent Mafia to lure us? We can afford to be careless this time," he added as he supported his chin with his hand.

This issue troubled even the elders of the Family, so they wanted him to investigate it properly. And full of secrecy on top of that.

This was when Shin entered his mind.

Since Shin was one of the young agents that were trained by the Black Serpent Mafia, he was the only clue that they currently had.

Elias tried to discuss this with Nathan but it was a little unsuccessful. The latter said that there were some parts in Shin's memories that had been forgotten, so he could barely remember all of the events that happened in the training camp.

But there were also a few things that were vividly clear to Shin, and one of them was how he watched Alyssa die right in front of him.

Elias listened to everything and investigated all of the things that might be overlooked by the military. And just like what he was expecting, there were indeed a few things that looked suspicious.

Unfortunately, he didn't have any evidence to support his suspicions. So, all he could do was to ask Shin directly about it. But the problem was he didn't know how he could communicate with Shin.

And that was when he remembered that Shin was also going to attend the Magical Ace Academy alongside his daughter and the other young talents who passed the recent exam.

He really didn't want Alice to be close to Shin because of multiple reasons. But since he didn't have a choice, he could only clench his teeth and endure it for the time being.

Not long after, Alice finally arrived and immediately sat across from her father. "What are you thinking so hard that you don't even notice my arrival, Dad?"

Hearing that, Elias gave her a tired smile before greeting her. "You are here."

Seeing the current look that her father had, Alice couldn't help but knit her eyebrows before asking. "Is there something wrong? You look terrible right now. Did something happen?"

Elias stared at his daughter for a couple of moments before releasing a helpless sigh. After that, he pushed the brown envelope on the table towards her while saying. "I will go directly to the point since there are still a lot of things that I need to do. But first, take a look at these photos and tell me your thoughts."

Alice was still wearing her frowning brows as she took the envelope and took out the photos that it contained. But right after she saw who the person in those photos was, her entire body froze all of a sudden as she couldn't believe what she was seeing.

"T-this-... What is the meaning of this, Dad?" asked Alice stutteringly without removing her gaze at the photos on her hand.

"It is what you are seeing," answered Elias while releasing a deep sigh.

Hearing that, Alice suddenly turned her head at her father before saying. "But how is it possible? She is already dead. Even her Spiritual Candle at home died, so-... how come-...?"

She couldn't properly express what she was currently feeling due to the mixed emotions that she had. There was happiness and excitement, but there was also disbelief and suspicion at the same time.

Elias slightly nodded his head when he heard those words before saying to her. "That is the reason why we are so sure of her death. But from what your grandfather had said, he definitely sensed your sister's personal aura, so we can't overlook this matter."

"But what if it is just a trick to fool us? You said that there are some suspicious movements on our family rivals," said Alice.

Elias gave her a soft smile before replying. "That is why we are currently investigating this matter, girl."

He then took a brief pause before saying gently. "And we need your help for this."

"Me? Why? How can I-..." Alice was in the middle of talking when she suddenly realized something. "Wait! Could it be-...?"

Seeing that she immediately understood what he was currently thinking and quickly said. "Looks like you also know what I am talking about. So, do you hear anything about her from him?"

Alice was silent for a couple of moments before replying. "A little."

"Do you also hear about him seeing her death with his own eyes?" asked Elias while looking closely at her reaction.

Hearing that, Alice unconsciously clenched her fists before forcing herself to nod her head.

Seeing the little actions that she did, Elias gently extended his hands and patted hers before saying. "Alright, that is more than enough."

Alice hesitated for a few moments before saying. "But-...! He also has some doubts about it."

The expression on Elias' face suddenly changed when he heard those words before asking. "What are you talking about?"

This time, Alice lowered her head before answering. "I once visited him when I learned about his connection with Big Sister. I want to at least learn how she lives after leaving our home."

She started narrating all of the things that she heard from Shin, she didn't miss a single detail as she was afraid that they might overlook the clue that her father was looking for. It took her quite some time to tell everything that she heard as Elias listened to her silently.

"So, are you saying that he didn't see her body even though he vividly remembers the scene of her getting killed," asked Elias to confirm what he just heard.

"Yes," nodded Alice in return.

'Maybe that is one the reasons why that kid's 'Seed of Hatred' is active? It triggered his most negative emotions after seeing her death right in front of his eyes,' thought Elias as he started to recall everything that his daughter had said.

But not long after, Alice suddenly interrupted his thoughts. "But Dad-... he said something that is odder than that."

Elias didn't think much about it as he unconsciously nodded his head while also asking. "What is it?"

Alice bit her lower lip as she hesitated once again. And when she started talking, what she just said made her father freeze on his seat. "He said that he no longer trusts his memories."

Chapter 689 Alive? (Part 2)

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"He said that he no longer trusts his own memories regarding that training camp."

The moment Elias heard those words, his entire body froze all of a sudden as an idea immediately flashed inside his mind. "Could it be?"

He was silent for a couple of moments as he started thinking about himself. On the other hand, Alice lowered her head while continuing. "During that time, he said that he felt that there was something odd to his memories."

"Some of them are very blurry while the others are vividly clear inside his mind. At first, he thought that it was due to mental trauma, but he immediately realized that it was not the case after quite some time."

"He even said that-..." she was still in the middle of talking when Elias suddenly looked at her while saying. "That should be it for now."

"But Dad!" Alice wanted to continue on this topic but her father shook his head.

"No, let me handle this for now. You should focus on what you are doing for now," said Elias gently before patting her hand. "Don't worry, I will immediately tell you if I learn more about this matter."

Alice was about to complain when she saw that the look on her father's face suddenly turned serious. Helpless, she could only nod her head and silently lowered her head.

After that, Elias signaled at their attendant, who was standing a few distances away from them, to ask the waiters to serve their food.

In the meantime, David suddenly got out of his virtual cabin before answering a call on his Advance Watch. "What is it? Do you know that I am busy?"

Hearing his words, the person on the other side suddenly asked back. "Do you think that I am going to contact you if it is not important?"

'This girl!' thought David while trying to suppress the twitching of his mouth. "So, what is the problem that you have? It is rare for you to contact me for some help. I am impressed that there is actually a problem that you can't solve on your own."

The person on the other side of the call suddenly clicked her tongue when she heard that before quickly saying. "It is not that I can't deal with them, but I think they mean no harm to me."

"What? Someone is tailing you again? I wonder who they are this time that you are having a hard time shaking them off," said David chucklingly.

"They are quite skilled in Mentalism. And even though they are not that powerful, their tracking abilities are not that bad. I think they are from a Mentalist Family," said that person.

This time, David suddenly remembered something and suddenly asked. "Wait! Don't tell me that you left the valley? Did you get permission from our Master?"

"Well, about-..." the other person was planning to make an excuse when she heard those words from David, realizing her mistake. But after a few moments of thinking, she just pouted her mouth before saying. "Master is not around and I get bored after I finish the task that she gave to me, so I decided to take a little work outside."

David suddenly slapped his forehead when he heard those words before saying. "Hey! Did you already forget what our Master told you? Your life is going to be in danger if you leave the valley without her supervision! Are you out of your mind?!"

"Forget about those guys following you and go back to our place! You will get in deep trouble if she finds out that you are gone when they get back."

The other person could hear the frustration in David's words. Unfortunately, she didn't care at all. It was very rare for her to have her freedom so she was planning to enjoy it to the fullest.

"Don't worry, I am wearing the item that Master gifted to me. So, no one will be able to see my real appearance now. Even if they are a Mentalist in Exalted Rank, they will still not be able to see through my disguise," she said with full confidence.

"What's more, there is a scary old man guarding the valley, so I can't enter it for the time being," she added, which made David have a grimace of pain.

"So, where are you right now?" asked David carefully while trying to brace himself for what he was about to hear.

"Me?" the person on the other side of the call paused for a moment before answering. "Since those guys are looking for my traces in the Dark Continent, I decided to leave the country for the time being."

"I am currently sailing on a travel ship. And since this ship doesn't have any proper destination, I still don't know where I am heading to," she added, making David wear an odd look on his face.

While David was still trying to calm himself down, she suddenly asked. "Anyways, where are you staying right now? Send me your current address, I'll visit you there when I get the chance."

David tried to open his mouth to say something. But before the words could even leave his mouth, the girl on the other side of the line ended the call, leaving him speechless instead.

He stared at his advance watch for a couple of seconds before shouting out of frustration. "Urgh! This crazy girl is at it again! Master would surely be furious when she learns about this!"

Regardless, he still sent his current address to her while also saying. "You better come and see me as soon as possible. And don't create any trouble anywhere since there is no one who is going to clean up your mess."

Somewhere in the borders of the Silver Wing Continent.

Evangeline was currently sitting on the ground with her legs crossed, meditating. And after a few moments, she suddenly opened her eyes before smiling bitterly. "This girl-..."

Adam, who was sitting a few meters away from her, suddenly turned his head in her direction when he heard those words. "What is it? Is the troublesome girl finally leaving the valley?"

Evangeline slightly nodded her head before answering. "Yeah, it took her faster than what I expected but she indeed completed the task that I've given her."

Adam pursed his lips for a moment before shrugging his shoulders. "If that is the case, then she probably got bored and decided to go out."

"Well, there is no need to worry about her for now since she is already strong enough to protect herself," he added before going lying down and planning to take a quick nap.

Hearing that, Evangeline slightly nodded her head before saying. "She is also wearing my talisman, so I will immediately notice if she is in danger."

"What really concerns me right now is what if her memories suddenly come back?" she added after a brief moment of silence.

This time, Adam suddenly opened his eyes and turned to her before asking. "Are you doubting my ability right now? My 'Dream Heart Technique' is that lousy. Unless it is you and me, no one can undo it from a person's mind."

"Look at the others! They still can't regain their memories after this time! There is nothing for you to worry about," he added with full confidence.

Reaching this point, Evangeline's eyes suddenly turned sharp and glared at him. "Yeah, I am fully aware of that. Which is why-..."

Adam didn't like where his conversation was heading which was why he immediately raised both of his arms and yielded. "Yeah, yeah, I know! It is my fault, so you don't have to bring it back again."

"Anyway, are you still not able to locate that person? We have been staying in this place for a long time already. If he is not here, then we should proceed to our next destination," he added, trying to change the topic.

Naturally, Evangeline was aware of what he was trying to do. But she still overlooked it since she knew that it was really an unpleasant experience.

She then turned her towards the city a few distances away from them before saying. "I think it is still not the right place."

Adam suddenly clicked his tongue when he heard it before shaking his head. "So, this is still not their main base? Tsk! How many bases are there already? I think I already lost count after destroying a lot of them"

He then stood up and looked at his wife once again before asking. "Are you sure about this? I think this place is the most decent one among their cities that we've seen so far."

Hearing that, Evangeline couldn't help but feel a little skeptical of his words before saying. "So what if it is a good city? It is still a place where a lot of criminals gather."

"These people are doing a lot of immoral acts behind everyone else, so they don't deserve to live anymore," she said coldly before looking at her husband with meaningful eyes.

Seeing that, Adam suddenly shook his head before saying to her. "I already told you that you have to forget about it already. It is supposedly my pain and burden, not yours."

After that, he turned his attention to the city in front of them before pointing his right hand at it. Then he conjured a pair of energy spheres on the tip of his fingers and snapped all of a sudden.

Swoosh!

In the next instant, the energy spheres flew straight to the sky above the city before fusing with each other. And it was immediately followed by a formation of a huge pillar made of light, which descended on the entire city.

Not long after, nothing was left behind that place but a scorched land.

Chapter 690 The Lost Kingdom (Part 1)

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Going back in the game, all of the members of the Emphyrean Talons except Charlotte finally arrived at the heart of the Sky Deceiving Valley.

But they couldn't advance any longer because of the towering wall of ice blocking their path. Moreover, it was extending as far as their eyes could see. No matter whether it was its height or width, the group couldn't see the end of both of them.

"I guess this is the reason why we can't properly use our Elemental Possessions. It is because the element in the area is too unbalanced, the Ice Elemental is dominating the other elements," said Shin to Arthur who was knocking the wall of ice.

Seeing those actions, Shin couldn't help but look at his brother with a weird expression on his face. "Hey! If you are planning to brute force your way by breaking it, then forget about it. From the looks of it, this wall is set by the system to prevent us from going further ahead."

"Then what about my quest!?" asked Arthur while glaring at Shin.

Hearing that, Shin suddenly smirked before answering. "Of course, we are going to look for the entrance that will lead us beyond this wall. Locks tend to be unlocked and boundaries are meant to be crossed."

"Maybe, this is one of the hidden maps and regions just like the Sky Island and the Ocean Kingdom," said Cloe from the side while also looking at the wall in front of them.

Not long after, Ithilien and Archimedes regrouped with the team before quickly reporting.

"This wall seems to be extending endlessly. We tried to follow it to see its end, but it looks like it is covering the entire border of the Kingdom," said Ithilien right after arriving.

Shin tilted his head to the side for a moment when he heard those words before frowning deeply. And after a brief moment of thinking, he suddenly turned his head to Daulla and Chaotic Luck before asking. "What do you think? Can you locate the place where it has the highest density of mana?"

"Unfortunately, we can't. It shouldn't be a problem if not because of this wall. It looks like it is absorbing all of the mana in the vicinity, making it hard for us to properly use our elemental senses," replied Daulla while shaking her head.

"So, we have no choice but to look for the clue ourselves, huh?" muttered Shin before turning his head at the towering wall of ice once again.

"Let's walk along this wall for now while we are looking for clues. It seems like there are no monsters that dare to get near it, so we shouldn't have any problems in exploring," he said to the others before turning to the opposite direction where Ithilien and Archimedes came from.

Hearing that, the group quickly went to their respective positions once again, forming the formation that Shin had set earlier.

Just like what Shin had expected, the team didn't encounter any kind of monster along the way while they were following along the wall of ice.

But as they progressed forward, they suddenly felt that the cold coming from the wall was slowly increasing. Snowflakes were even starting to form in the air before slowly falling off the ground.

Not long after, the group encountered a snowfall that was slowly getting stronger and stronger. Their movements were also starting to get affected by that climate, slowing their exploration progress.

Due to the terrible weather, scouting ahead of the group became much harder. And since it was going to be hard for the group to assist their pathfinders if something went wrong, Shin decided to recall Ithilien and Archimedes, telling them to travel alongside their group instead.

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"D*mn it! This climate is starting to get on my nerves!" cursed Arthur while summoning a blazing barrier around the group.

"We can't even find any place where we can hide," said Chaotic Luck with a sigh while also making one of his undead monsters come closer to him. He was using the hot flame emitting from its body to keep himself warm.

"Hey! Can you add more of those?" said Alucard while pointing at the blazing undead walking beside Chaotic Luck.

Hearing that, Solaris Lich turned his head to Shin, asking for his permission. After all, he didn't want to mess with their current formation while they were advancing forward.

Shin didn't think much about it and just nodded his head. "Just maintain the formation that I told you about."

Earlier, when the climate was starting to get worse, Shin taught Chaotic Luck another strategic formation while they were traveling. Fortunately, it was not as complex as the one that he learned earlier. So he was able to maintain it while they were exploring.

After getting permission from Shin, Chaotic Luck increased the number of blazing undead surrounding the group.

"Hey! Can I also stop maintaining this barrier? It is really getting annoying," complained Arthur while sighing deeply.

"I don't mind if you are tired, but I am not sure about those three," replied Shin while pointing behind him.

Looking in the direction where Shin was pointing, Arthur saw the three girls glaring back at him. And with the sharp looks that he was getting, the poor Dragon God could only sigh in a helpless manner.

Understanding what he was currently feeling, Shin could only pat Arthur's shoulder, sympathizing with him. "Give them some slack. You should know better than anyone how to deal with this kind of situation."

"Tsk! I am not even trying to win them, so why do I have to care?" muttered Arthur with a soft voice, still complaining.

"Hey! Where is that 'gentleman rules' that you are talking about before? Are you showing your true side now?" asked Shin smirkingly.

Hearing that, Arthur suddenly looked behind him for a moment to take a quick glance at the girls, before quickly whispering to Shin. "Hey, listen. Being a gentleman is not always good. Sometimes, you also need to show your bad side to let them know that you are not perfect."

"Being perfect is cool, but it also has its own drawbacks. Girls tend to get pressured for having a perfect guy beside them. And it takes long enough, they are going to get suffocated and get tired of you."

"Their minds are too complex to understand, so don't ask me how it makes sense. The important thing is how you maintain the balance between two sides."

"You need to be a gentleman that can make their hearts flutter. But at the same time, you also need to be a bad guy that can make them feel some thrill," he added to conclude his words.

Shin stared at Arthur with a weird face for a moment before trying to refute. "But I think the timing is still needed for that. And right now, it is not the right time to pull that kind of stunt."

Hearing that, Arthur suddenly smirked at Shin before replying. "That is why I am still maintaining this barrier."

"Tsk! Tsk! You are still too green. Sometimes, complaining about random things is needed to keep the conversation active, just like how we are talking right now," he added while shaking his head.

He then took a brief pause to look behind them before continuing. "And look, Cloe is staring at us right now. I bet she is curious about what we are talking about."

And this claim became even more true when Shin turned his head at her. Cloe raised her eyebrows while staring at the two.

After that, Arthur quickly struck while the iron was hot. He suddenly pushed Shin away from him, making the latter take a couple of steps backward to stabilize himself. And because of that, Shin was now standing beside Cloe who was currently looking at him.

Ahem!

Seeing the expression that she currently had, Shin couldn't help but clear his throat for a moment while trying to avoid her gaze.

"Why are the two of you whispering with each other earlier? What are you talking about?" asked Cloe without removing her sight at Shin.

Hearing those questions, Shin suddenly felt embarrassed before turning his head to Arthur. Then the corner of his mouth started twitching when he saw that the latter was giving him a 'You-can-do-it' look and an 'I've-done-my-part' look.

Shin cleared his throat once again as he was planning to make some excuse. But before he could even open his mouth, his eyes suddenly caught something stacked on the wall.

"Wait!"

The group immediately stopped their tracks when they heard his words, before looking at him with knitted brows.

Then Shin quickly grabbed Chaotic Luck's cape before saying. "Blast that wall with a fire spell," while pointing at the spot that he saw earlier."

The Solaris Lich was still confused at what was happening but he still followed Shin's instructions. He conjured a huge ball of fire on top of his hand before slamming it on the wall of ice.

Bang!

Unsurprisingly, the wall didn't get damaged at all. Instead, the fire spread throughout its surface before it was extinguished. But when the vapors were suddenly cleared, the group suddenly saw something on the ice wall.

It was an emblem.

A huge emblem was engraved in that towering wall of ice.

They couldn't clearly see the entire appearance of that emblem because of how large it was. But right after they saw it, they all knew that they finally found the entrance that they were looking for.

And as if confirming their thoughts, each of them immediately received a series of system notifications that were informing them about the update of their quest.