

## Destiny 721

Chapter 721 Underground Dungeon (Part 7): The Ability That Pulls Out One's Peak Potential

...

The team of Empyrean Talons, S.Tigris' group, and the people from Hand of Midas Trading Firm were currently resting in front of the metal gate to regain their peak forms before they proceeded to the next part of their plan.

They had already killed all of the guards defending the area and also cleared the loots. And from the trace left behind by the battle, it was pretty clear that it was not a one-sided fight.

At first, the group was able to slaughter a lot of guards during the initial collision, especially when Arthur, Leonard, and Shiella reminded the group of their statuses within the game. And with the lead of these three gods, their advance was relatively easy.

But that only lasted for a few moments.

It was because of how powerful the guards had become after the first batch were killed. They had underestimated the combination of the boost given by the fallen guards and the buff provided by the room.

Fortunately, Arthur and Leonard were not holding back their strengths either. And coupled with Shiella's precise commands and perfect instructions during the battle, they were able to continue moving forward without much of a problem.

During the battle, the pair of S.Tigris and Black Hand discovered something that they found unbelievable.

At first, they thought that it was only their imagination. But as the battle continued, they had discovered that the Shiella was not only controlling the battlefield pretty well, but she was also using the drive that the team got after seeing the three gods display their real battle prowess.

As a leader of the squad previously and a strategist of the team, the two were pretty aware that the morale of the team was pretty important during the battle since it could boost the performance of each member of the team.

When they heard the information that Shiella had said regarding the possible rank of the dungeon boss, even these two felt a little helpless. But after seeing the initial display of the three gods, they couldn't help but become affected by the drive provided by the stunning performance of those three.

Most of the people would not notice it and would naturally think that it was just a simple coincidence. But S.Tigris and Black Hammer knew that it was not that simple. After all, they were currently talking about the mysterious guild master of the Hand of Midas Trading Firm who managed to build the very first Merchant Guild that was able to rival the Powerhouses of the game.

But raising the morale of the team and keeping it for a long time during the battle were two different things.

No matter how high the morale that the team had during the start of the battle, it was destined to fall down during the battle itself just like an adrenaline rush that was losing its effect.

But to their surprise, the high morale of the team never fell. From the very start of the battle up until they finished off the final guard, their morale seemed to never fall even for a brief moment. In fact, it even rose to a higher degree when they killed the last guard remaining.

They were not sure what kind of magic Shiella had used to achieve such a feat, but one thing was for sure, she was able to pull out everyone's real potential during the entire battle.

While those two were having those thoughts, Black Hammer, who was sitting a few meters away from them, suddenly said. "Don't think too much about it. It is not that complicated."

"Huh!?"

Hearing his words, the pair of S.Tigris and Black Hand couldn't help but turn their heads at him at the same time.

Seeing the confused looks on their faces, Black Hammer suddenly laughed before explaining. "Our Guild Leader is just that amazing."

The two who were anticipating an amazing answer suddenly rolled their eyes at the blacksmith after hearing his words.

Black Hammer laughed once again when he saw their reactions and continued. "I already told you, don't overcomplicate things."

He paused for a moment and waited for the two to turn their attention back to him before continuing. "As you can see, raising the morale of everyone is one thing, but it is not the entire reason why we win overwhelmingly. Her completely accurate commands are also the reason why she was able to pull out our best performance."

"It was unnoticeable to us since we were currently in the battle earlier. But if you look closely into each of her commands, all of them were so accurate and perfectly timed to the point we are able to maximize the effects of each of our skills."

"And each time we see such a perfect result consistently, our bodies and minds are unconsciously following her orders faithfully."

This time, S.Tigris and Black Hand didn't immediately realize that Black Hammer was right. And looking back to the previous battle, they could also see how amazing it was.

At this point in time, Black Hammer suddenly asked. "Have the two of you heard of the thing called 'Zone' or 'Flow' that the ordinary people are talking about? Especially regarding the athletes and sports."

The two turned to him and stayed silent for a moment as they thought about what the blacksmith had said. And not long after, Black Hand suddenly answered. "Are you talking about the phenomenon where an individual is able to display their maximum potential due to their immense concentration?"

"Precisely!" nodded Black Hammer to his younger brother before continuing. "Such a thing mostly happens to the talented individuals when they put all of their concentration into what they are doing. But there are also some cases where people with average talents are able to do such things while trying to break through their limits."

"Mostly, it is said to be the combination of excitement and awareness of an individual. It is even said to be associated with a relaxed yet focused high-level performance. History says that there are even some people who are able to enter such a mysterious state at will."

He paused for a moment and looked at the two before quickly adding. "But to us, Martial-Artists and Mentalists, such things are not that amazing since there are some breathing techniques or concentration techniques that can have similar effects."

Reaching this point, Black Hand couldn't help but knit his brow and ask. "But what is its connection with the topic that we are currently discussing right now, big brother?"

Black Hammer smiled a little before ignoring what his younger brother had said and continued. "But alongside those people who can enter that state at will, there are also some individuals who can grant their teammates and colleagues the ability to enter it."

"They are able to pull the peak performance out of their teammates by perfectly supporting them. It was as if they were granting the people from their side a pair of wings that will let them fly in the sky."

Hearing those words, Black Hand seemed to realize something and quickly stood up. "Are you telling me-...!?"

But before he couldn't even complete his words, Black Hammer immediately nodded and confirmed his thoughts. "That is right. The Young Miss has such abilities. She is able to pull out our peak potential during the battle by giving us perfect commands that can display our real capabilities."

"But it is also said that such things are only possible if that particular individual is familiar with the people that are accompanying them," said Black Hand, trying to refute his big brother's words.

And Black Hammer even nodded his head in agreement. "That is also true. But as you know, there are always exceptions to everything."

Hearing that, Black Hand couldn't help but stare blankly at the blacksmith as he couldn't find the right words to refute the latter anymore.

Seeing his reaction, Black Hammer suddenly smirked before quickly adding. "Moreover, the Young Miss already familiarized herself with each one of us."

Black Hand suddenly frowned his eyebrows after hearing those words and was about to ask when it happened. But before he couldn't even open his mouth, a thought suddenly flashed through his mind, and immediately realized the answer to the question that he was about to ask.

He remembered that when Shiella first joined their group and entered the deeper parts of the dungeon, she rarely gave her command and left the role to Tinker for the time being. Black Hand now realized that Shiella was actually observing each one of them during those battles.

"You are telling me that with such a short amount of time, she is able to fully grasp our strengths?" he asked with a doubtful tone even though he already knew the answer.

Hearing those words and seeing the expression that his younger brother had, Black Hammer couldn't help smirk and feel proud. "I already told you, our guild leader is amazing."

After that, he also stood up and walked over to Tinker before saying without turning his head back. "You guys should get ready. Resting time is already over."

Chapter 722 Battling A Giant (Part 1)

...

"Do you think that it is possible?" asked S.Tigris as he watched Black Hammer walk away from them.

Black Hand couldn't help but smile bitterly when he heard those words and replied. "We already saw it for ourselves yet you still don't want to acknowledge it?"

"We are living in the era of Martial-Arts and Mentalism. Of course, such things are possible," he added while patting the shoulder of his friend.

S.Tigris pursed his lips and tilted his head to the side. "Well, I am also aware of that. It is just-..."

Reaching this point, the so-called 'Saber Demon' of the Wing's Alliance couldn't help but pause for a moment since he didn't know how to describe his current feelings in words.

Seeing that S.Tigris was currently speechless, Black Hand lent him a hand. "Just admit that you are also amazed."

"In our experiences in the real world and our years within the virtual world, this is our first time witnessing such a display of talent. I am afraid that even our Alliance Leader is not as strong as her in this aspect."

"Most of the Martial-Artists and Mentalists are individualistic and self-centered. They tend to rely on their own due to their instincts, especially the ones with unrivaled talent. In their point of view, they are the best among their peers, the brightest among the stars."

"Even if we say that there are some people that achieve the state of seamless coordination by combining their strengths, their individuality is still there. It still exists within the system."

He then paused for a moment and stood up before continuing. "On the other hand, people that are using their strengths to support others are quite rare, especially the ones that are fully committed to it. It is because their individual 'self' seems to disappear and completely integrate it in the whole system."

S.Tigris was silent for a moment before nodding his head in agreement. "Well, that is true."

Black Hand nodded his head and quickly added. "And to answer your question earlier, I must say that is completely possible."

"If we look at it in a logical way, then it is definitely possible. For example, you are a warrior who is fighting in the frontline and your support is perfectly covering every mistake that you are making, you are definitely going to gain an overwhelming confidence and will not be afraid of anything."

He then turned his head at S.Tigris and asked. "Now, tell me. Will you be able to perform with your best in that state? Will you be able to show your peak potential with such a person supporting you from behind?"

Hearing those words, S.Tigris couldn't help but smile bitterly as he fully understood what Black Hand was trying to say. "Well, the reason why most of the people notice the best warriors in the frontlines is because they shine brighter due to the support given by their colleagues from behind."

He then patted the priest's shoulders before saying. "Thanks for always having my back, pal."

After that, he walked towards the others as they started to gather.

On the other hand, Black Hand shook his head and wore a bitter smile while saying to himself. "I did not think that we would learn something like this here. I guess I need to absorb this and try to improve my own commanding skills."

After that, he turned to Shiella then thought about a certain person before muttering to himself. "An intellectual commander that can influence her teammates with her tricks and is able to pull out their peak potential-... and an instinctive strategist who is also well versed with the art of the battle."

Then, a sudden shiver ran through his spine, making him shake his head even more. "Tsk! Tsk! I'm afraid that no one will be able to match them when they start working together."

...

After receiving a couple of instructions from Shiella, Tinker and Black Hammer brought the experts of the Hand of Midas to clear the remaining guards within the dungeon.

Tinker was fully aware that they needed to act fast if they wanted this operation to be successful. After all, their guild leader and the others would be facing a powerful monster boss this time. And if they wanted to help them, then they would need to give more than a hundred percent on this troublesome raid.

Being fully aware of their current situation, Tinker, as the leader of the clearing team, didn't hesitate even for a little and quickly led his team to the other parts of the dungeon.

In the meantime, Shiella looked at the remaining people that were left behind before giving them simple instructions. "Get in formation, we are heading inside."

Each one of them was an experienced expert, so they didn't really need detailed instructions on everything. And they were somewhat familiar with Shiella and her commands right now, which was why they already knew what she wanted from them.

As usual, Arthur and Leonard took the front with Ringo and S.Tigris standing behind them. And following those two was obviously Black Hand who were responsible for keeping their HP Bars healthy. Then, there were Archimedes and Ara who was flanking Daulla from each side.

Raven and Alucard were responsible for controlling the movements of the boss if ever it managed to break free from Arthur and Leonard. Though, it was more unlikely to happen, so their role would most likely be dealing extra damage.

Shiella was standing at the very rear of the group as she needed to see everyone's movements to give more accurate commands during the battle.

She swept her gaze at them for a moment to see that they were fully prepared. And when she saw that they were finally ready for battle, she immediately waved her hand at the two at the front to tell them that they could now open the metal gate.

Arthur and Leonard quickly nodded their heads when they saw her signal and swiftly positioned themselves in front of each gate.

After taking a deep breath, both of them strengthened their arms and pushed the metal gate open.

Bang!

A very loud metallic sound resounded as the edges of the metal door separated from each other. Then an ear-piercing sound immediately followed as the two continued to push the metal doors.

Swoosh!

And just like they had expected, the group immediately heard a sharp sound cutting through the air and quickly heading their way.

The tensed muscles of Ringo became even more tensed as he knew that he needed to block this surprise attack. But it only lasted for a moment as he was already recovered himself and got ready to activate a defensive skill.

Swoosh!

But before he could even have the chance to showcase his defensive capabilities, a thick and towering wall of ice suddenly materialized in front of them and blocked the incoming attack.

Boom!

The ice wall that Shiella had summoned shook violently after colliding with that attack just now. But in the end, it still managed to hold itself and did not break.

Then Ringo heard Shiella's voice.

"Save your defensive skills, for now, we will need it later."

After that, she dissolved the ice wall in front of the group and ordered them to move forward. "Advance cautiously and stay vigilant."

"We need to reserve most of our main cards and save them for the latter part of the battle. This is just the beginning, so we can't exhaust all of our weapons yet. Let those two prove the strength of the boss for a moment while we are going to observe from the distance."

Her voice was strict and dignified, carrying the air of a leader. And for some unknown reason, the tense group seemed to finally calm down after hearing her words.

On the other hand, both Arthur and Leonard quickly charged ahead after opening the metal gates. They didn't even hesitate and lunged forward decisively, not even a hint of hesitation could be seen in their eyes.

In the deeper part of the room, a lone figure was standing straight while holding a huge sword.

The room was quite dark, so they couldn't clearly see the real appearance of that figure. But based on the silhouette that they vaguely saw, they could at least guess that it was a towering humanoid creature.

"Is that a giant?" muttered Leonard with a frown, trying to guess what was their opponent this time.

While running, Arthur activated his 'Dragon Eyes' to take a look at the appearance of that figure. Upon activation, his eyes suddenly glowed with a golden light as his eyesight suddenly became clear.

What he saw was a muscular and towering figure standing in the middle of the room. Its body was also covered with a combination of metal and leather armor.

The corner of Arthur's mouth suddenly twitched the moment when he saw the basic details of that creature.

---

NPC Name (Dungeon Boss): Dion

Title: Guardian of the Western Gate

Race: Barbarian Giant

Rank: General (Emperor Rank Monster)

Level: 200

---

"F\*ck you! You just jinxed it!" cursed Arthur while sharing the information on the team chat.

"So it is indeed a giant," commented Leonard nonchalantly after taking a quick glance at it.

Hearing that, Arthur cursed even more and shouted. "Forget about it being a Giant that has an Emperor Rank! It is a Titled NPC on top of everything else."

But despite his cursed shouting, the flames in his eyes burned even brighter as the two of them accelerated their charge.

Then a huge and exciting smile suddenly formed on their lips while they exclaimed in unison. "This is going to be fun!"

### Chapter 723 Battling A Giant (Part 2)

...

Giant Race.

One of the races that were said to live during ancient times alongside the Primordial Beasts and Dragons. And it was said that they were birthed by nature and said to be one of the strongest creatures to live during the ancient era, they were also known for their unrivaled strength and astonishing power.

Naturally, it was already a given fact provided that they had a towering height that was reaching the sky. Their size alone was already a strength of its own.

Aside from this, Giants also had another trait unique to their race just like the other Ancient Races. Their powerful bodies were one of their weapons, but what really made them contend with the Dragon Race and the other Ancient Races was their amazing enhancement abilities.

They were able to call upon the powers of nature and were able to borrow its abilities to enhance their battle prowess. The records of the Divine Library even said that some of the most talented Giants were able to create armors out of magma and wield weapons that were made of lightning.

But due to the disaster that happened during the ancient era, very few Giants were able to survive. Especially that the mana of the primordial chaos that used to give birth to them, was suddenly broken into different segments which were now known as Elemental Mana.

Unlike the Dragons who seemed to be blessed by heaven, the Giant Race started to decline. Their main clan was split into several branches as the denseness of their bloodline started to become thinner.

The different clans of their race inherited different abilities from the main clan of their ancestors such as powerful strength, enhancement abilities, and berserk state.

Their original that was supposedly piercing through the clouds also started to disappear as more generations went by. Their race might still be larger in comparison to most of the other races like the Humans, Elves, and Beastman people, but it was already incomparable compared to their previous majestic figures.

...

Right now, Shiella, the members of the Empyrean Talons, and S.Tigris' party was currently facing a dungeon boss that came from one of the clan branches of this particular race, the Barbarian Giants.

Given that its size was almost surpassing ten meters, the group could already guess that the bloodline that it inherited from its ancestors was quite dense.

It was a sign that this particular giant was pretty strong compared to the other members of its race.

But despite that being the case, Arthur and Leonard launched ahead without any hint of hesitation. In fact, they even accelerated their charge while wearing an excited look on their faces.

Giants?

They didn't care!

After all, they also have similar bloodlines!

The Dragonkin from the Dragon Clan and Primordial Beast of the Ancient Era!

Roar!

Seeing the pair charging him, Dion, the Guardian of the Western Gate, suddenly released a deafening roar that even shook the entire room. He was planning to intimidate these two little ants who dared to barge into his territory.

Unfortunately for him, the duo accelerated their charge even more before transforming their bodies into a streak of golden and crimson lights that flew towards him.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Dion was taken aback by their sudden acceleration as he did not expect that they were not going to be affected by his roar.

The streak of lights crisscrossed for a few moments before heading towards the giant's legs.

Cling! Cling!

Arthur and Leonard swung their weapons on the exposed parts of Dion's legs while they were brushing past them.

But despite them successfully landing a clean hit, their weapons only created a metallic sound and metal sparks upon the contact.

But the two seemed to be expecting that already as they simultaneously forced to stop their momentum in the distance by sliding and turning their body around.

"As expected, its skin is pretty tough," said Leonard while squatting his hips a little to get ready to launch himself once again.

Arthur suddenly smirked when he heard that remark. "Heh! It doesn't matter even if it is as tough as steel. It is still weaker compared to dragon scales."

"Tch! Did you know? Furs of Primordial Beasts are almost as tough as them," said Leonard, trying not to lose to Arthur's bragging.

Hearing that, Arthur suddenly laughed and charged ahead and left Leonard behind while refuting. "Unfortunately, the magic word 'almost' is still in there!"

Leonard shook his head a little together with a bitter smile before following Arthur.

In the meantime, Dion suddenly spun while also swinging his gigantic sword in the process. He knew where his enemies went and he could also sense that they were charging back at him, so he immediately initiated another attack.

Swoosh!

Seeing the incoming sword sweeping towards that, Arthur and Leonard simultaneously leaped in the air, jumping over it to dodge.

But despite them successfully dodging the attack, they still felt a sudden crisis due to the immediate pause that Dion did. Right after two leaped over his sword, he quickly put a lot of strength on his legs to stop his spin before borrowing the momentum of his previous action to throw a powerful punch.

Being a player who stood at the peak of the gaming world, the two gods didn't panic nor show any sign of urgency. They stared calmly at the incoming attack before making their respective move.

Leonard was the first to make a move this time. He crossed his arms in front of him as his chest suddenly expanded due to him inhaling a lot of air. Then his eyes released a crimson glow before uncrossing his arms powerfully and releasing all of the air that he breathed by shouting at the top of his lungs.

Ha!

'Destroyer Skill (Tier 2): Devastating Roar'

The air in front of him suddenly trembled as a powerful shockwave was released accompanying his loud roar. It expanded in a cone-shaped manner as it traveled towards the giant in front of them.

Arthur who was in front of him seemed to be unaffected by it but Dion suddenly felt that his movements were slightly slowing down. Even the speed of his punch decelerated for a moment.

In the meantime, Arthur quickly grabbed that opportunity to infuse his spear with a golden aura before throwing it towards the giant.

Swoosh!

It left a streak of light in the air before the aura surrounding it expanded and transformed into a golden dragon that was opening its mouth while heading towards the incoming punch.

Roar!

'Class Fighting Style: (Modified) Golden Dragon Soars the Heaven'

Boom!

An explosion immediately followed right after the collision of the two forces.

Dion didn't move but his powerful punch was completely nullified. He was enraged and quickly prepared for another attack.

He raised his giant sword in the air before quickly swinging it downwards, targeting the two who were still in the middle of their descent.

Shiella and the others already moved towards a spot where they could observe the battle at this point in time, so they naturally saw this scene and couldn't help but gasp a mouthful of air.

The others wanted to assist them, but Shiella immediately prevented them from doing anything. "Don't move yet. Those two can still overcome that kind of hurdle."

And just like what she said, the two calmly responded to the attack without a problem.

Arthur caught the spear that bounced back at him right after blocking the punch earlier. He couldn't immediately move because of this and didn't have the time to dodge. During this time, his feet just landed on the ground while a giant sword was almost upon him, so all he could do was to try blocking it.

A golden aura surrounded his body as he activated a buff on himself to increase his strength. Then he raised his shield above him while tightly gripping his spear and waiting for the gigantic sword to arrive.

Leonard already jumped to the side and did a quick roll at this point. And right after raining his foot, he infused his crimson mana on each of his battle-axes before throwing it towards the descending sword.

Bang!

The giant sword descended and Arthur quickly adjusted his position by twisting towards his right to redirect the sword towards the opposite direction. And at the same time, he was also swinging his spear in the process to assist his movements.

Bang! Bang!

This was when the battle-axes that Leonard threw arrived to help Arthur fend off the attack.

Boom!

The combined forces of their actions successfully pushed the gigantic sword and made it land on the ground beside Arthur.

Naturally, there was a strong shockwave when it landed but Arthur didn't even budge and just stood on his spot as if he was enjoying a gentle breeze.

Then he suddenly turned and charged towards Dion with great speed before leaping up in the air and flying straight to the chest of the giant. And during his flight, the surrounding aura around him turned into a golden dragon once again before releasing a deafening roar.

'Class Fighting Style: Divine Dragon Ascension'

Roar!

Meanwhile, Leonard also jumped high up in the air to catch his battle-axes before raising them above him while also infusing his mana on them at the same time. And when he saw Arthur flying towards the chest of the giant, he immediately forced his body to descend, also launching himself towards Dion.

He left an afterimage on his initial charge before transforming into a meteor-like figure that was heading towards the head of the giant.

'Class Fighting Style: Meteor Descent'

Swoosh!

Dion couldn't react in time because of the awkward position that he had after his attack failed. And due to that reason, he couldn't do anything when Arthur and Leonard initiated a sudden counterattack.

Boom!

-1,234,512

-1,552,786

Both of the attacks from the two successfully landed on the giant at the same time and forced him to lose his balance, making him stagger back before falling on the ground after a couple of unsteady steps.

Boom!

Aside from Shiella, all of the other members of the group looked at them scene agape as they couldn't believe what just happened.

Earlier, Arthur and Leonard were both stacked in a difficult predicament that was hard to escape from. But it only took them a moment to turn the situation around and even forced the huge body of the giant to fall.

Those two really lived up to their reputation! Whether their unimaginable strength or their perfect coordination, both of them were top-class!

Chapter 724 Battling A Giant (Part 3)

...

Arthur and Leonard managed to force Dion to fall on the ground but the expression on their faces was pretty serious. They already threw quite a few of their strongest skills but they were barely able to lower its Health Bar.

They indeed dealt a strong blow but it seemed to be just a drop of water in the pond compared to the totally healthy HP bar of the giant.

They couldn't throw those kinds of attacks continuously. First, they had cooldowns. Second, they would surely exhaust themselves mentally before they could even drain its HP down to zero.

Physical exhaustion was not a problem since they practically have inexhaustible stamina within the game. But their mental strength still had a limit and it would continue to drain if they didn't manage their skills right. And a slip in concentration was going to be fatal in this kind of battle.

Given that, the two decided to slow down the pace to make sure that they were not going to overstrain themselves.

After all, they were not the only ones here, they still had their teammates. So, it was better to take this battle a little slow.

In the meantime, Dion immediately became enraged after he was pushed by those two. For someone like him who had the powerful bloodline of the Ancient Giants, this experience was a total humiliation!

Roar!

Yet another deafening roar shook the entire room before the giant tried to get back on its feet as soon as possible.

Of course, Arthur and Leonard were not idle either. They continuously threw some attacks on different parts of the giant's body, trying to hinder its movements.

Unfortunately, the defense that Dion had was not something that they crack easily.

The giant managed to stand up without a problem and quickly started fighting back. Dion's movements were pretty fast despite its huge size. Though, it was still a little slow compared to the two who were circling around him while throwing some attacks from time to time.

While it was happening, Shiella and the others were observing the fight closely, trying to familiarize themselves with the giant's movements and skills.

"Now I understand why the guards in this dungeon are getting stronger the more we kill each one of them. It turns out we are going to be facing a giant in the end," commented Black Hand after close observation.

S.Tigris slightly knitted his eyebrows before nodding his head. "I indeed heard that they had some skills that could strengthen themselves as the battle continued, but this was on a completely different level."

"It is called 'Soul Sacrifice', they are able to borrow the strength of their fallen comrades in battle. It is similar to 'Bloodlust Sacrifice' that the Berserkers have," said Shiella.

Then Black Hand immediately added. "It is said that Giants are the original ancestors of Barbarians and is the creator of the 'Berserk State', so most of their skills are pretty similar to Berserkers."

"Fortunately, it is only a Barbarian Giant that doesn't have the Elemental Enhancement Skills. Its attack pattern is pretty simple and straightforward, so we don't have to be wary of those troublesome skills," he added with squinting eyes.

Arthur and Leonard continued to fight Dion for a few more moments to let their teammates observe a little more.

After a few moments, Shiella was done analyzing the movements of the giant and quickly informed the others to get ready. "We are now joining the battle. Listen carefully to my instructions."

She didn't even wait for them to reply as she quickly gave her orders to them. "S.Tigris, go to nine o'clock of the giant. Ringo, three o'clock. Don't do anything until I instruct you to do so."

"Raven, circle around the giant and keep your position behind it, and when the moment arises, strike the back of its head with your best assassination skill. Ara, load an enhanced magic arrow and charge it to maximum level."

"Alucard, prepare your strongest single target skill. Daulla, cast 'Lightning Discharge'. Archimedes, if you also have a skill similar to 'Empowered Shot', start charging them now."

"Black Hand, buff everyone up and get all of your debuff skills ready!"

The series of commands immediately left her mouth as the others quickly executed them without hesitation. And when they were getting in their position, Shiella conjured a huge spear made of ice before sending it to Dion.

Even if the giant was currently busy dealing with Arthur and Leonard, he was still able to see the incoming ice spear from the corner of his eyes. And despite how to face it was, Dion casually waved his sword to destroy it.

Bang!

But right after the collision, the shattered pieces of the ice scattered in the air and forced the giant to block his face with his other hand, preventing any of the shattered ice to fly on his eyes.

But that was a mistake on his part.

Right after his line of sight was blocked, Shiella immediately gave her signal to everyone to make their respective moves. S.Tigris, Raven, and Ringo were exceptions as they were instructed to wait for a moment.

The first to land was the series of debuffs that Black Hand prepared. Then it was immediately followed by a powerful lighting strike that descended from above, making Dion's body turn stiff for a moment.

Bang!

-792,552

Then Alucard pulled the trigger of his gun which sent a beam of light that flew straight to the giant's hand and pushed it back towards his face.

What came after were a pair of arrows that were released from the bows of the two archers. One of them left a silver trail in the air while the other looked like a jade arrow that was making its way towards Dion's hands that were right in front of his face.

Bang! Bang!

-852,561

-909,002

The magic arrows arrived almost at the same time and pushed the hand blocking their paths further back. The damage that they dealt was not that much compared to the total HP of the giant hand, it was more than enough to immobilize Dion for a moment.

Swoosh!

Then the real attack immediately came after that.

Shiella created yet another spear made of ice with a similar size that she had sent earlier. But compared to the previous one, the appearance of this spear was very exquisite.

It was a blue spear with a light hue and silver reflection on its surface. There was a dragon design coiling around it, carved in a very detailed manner. Even the tiniest details on it were perfectly engraved on it.

The dragon had its mouth open as the head of the spear was connected to it. And that very head seemed to be quite odd since instead of having a double-edged blade, it had a cone-shaped rounded head with a very pointed tip.

Shiella immediately sent it flying right after she materialized which was also at the very exact moment when the others completed their attacks.

'Class Fighting Style: Winter Slayer'

The spear flew in the air while spinning rapidly, leaving a spiraling trail of wind behind it.

Puchi!

There was no explosion when that spear arrived. Instead, it drilled itself on the hand that was blocking its path and continued to move forward.

Roar!

Then Dion roared in anguish and pain as his right eye was pierced by the ice spear, blinding it. And quickly after that, the giant immediately went crazy and started swinging its gigantic sword around randomly.

Seeing that, Arthur and Leonard quickly jumped backward and swiftly distanced themselves away from the giant.

While moving backward, the two immediately noticed the bloody aura that was starting to appear on the body of the giant. And the moment when they saw that, the expression on their faces immediately turned out to be weird.

"Is that a Berserker's Aura?" asked Arthur for confirmation.

"It seems like that," replied Leonard in an instant. He then suppressed the twitching of his mouth before asking. "Your elder sister is not trying to kill us, is she?"

"I am not sure either," answered Arthur as the expression on his face turned even weirder. "Triggering the Berserk State at the very start of the battle? And on a Titled NPC in General Rank on top of that. I think we are f\*cked"

Then they simultaneously turned their heads to Shiella's direction with a helpless look on their faces. The others were also doing the same as they started sweating bullets, completely anxious.

But despite receiving such gazes from them, Shiella remained calm and immediately explained. "I know dealing with it in a berserk state is going to be hard, but it is much better than facing that state later when it receives more souls from the 'Soul Sacrifice'."

"What's more, that Berserk State is going to only last for a couple of minutes before it gets exhausted. And when that happens, it will immediately enter a weakened state for a few moments and that is going to be our chance to deal more damage!"

Her argument was pretty reasonable and pretty much on point.

But the problem was....

– "We first need to survive in those few minutes!" –

Chapter 725 Battling A Giant (Part 4): Crisis

...

The group composed of the experts of the Hand of Midas, S.Tigris' party, Empyrean Talons, were currently waiting for Dion to finish the crazy swinging of his gigantic sword.

Aside from the three gods who were still calm and composed despite fully knowing the gravity of their current situation.

The crazy state that Dion was undergoing lasted for a few minutes before he finally stopped swinging his sword randomly. And when he was done, the pressure that was coming from his body was much stronger than what he previously had.

Moreover, his left eye was completely bloodshot while a crimson aura was being emitted by his whole body. This was an obvious indication that Dion entered a complete berserk state.

Fully enraged, this particular barbarian giant shot a ferocious glare at Shiella. Out of all members of the group, she was the only one who could send such a powerful attack that blinded his eyes earlier.

Moreover, she didn't even bother to hide that fact as a group of spears wear floating behind her, creating a fan-shaped formation.

Grr!

After a slight growl, Dion changed at Shiella maniacally with his gaze fully locked on her. It was as if he couldn't see the other members of the group.

Seeing that the giant was fully fixated on her, Shiella immediately ordered them to make their move. "Commence attack!"

Hearing her commanding voice, the others immediately start attacking Dion without hesitation. They were also experts of the game, so they immediately understood why she asked them to position themselves in a scattered formation earlier.

Black Hand, Ara, Archimedes, and Alucard, who were originally standing beside her earlier, were now standing in different locations.

Bang! Bang!

Different kinds of attacks landed on the giant's body but he didn't seem to feel anything. Aside from S.Tigris and Ringo who were slightly having a hard time matching the speed of the giant, the others were relatively doing well in their attacks. Even Raven who was behind Dion seemingly enjoyed his time attacking.

Since Dion was only looking at Shiella, they could now attack with their heart's content.

On the other hand, Shiella herself was not idle either. The moment she saw the giant charging at her, she quickly started kitting it with amazing skills.

She kept moving backward while throwing spell after spell. Not only were her movements quite fast, but her casting speed was also pretty amazing. Daulla, who was a fellow mage, couldn't help but look at her in awe.

"So, this is what a Godlike Mage Player looks like!" she exclaimed quietly while also doing her best to attack as fast as she could.

Even the others were also in the same state of mind. This Godlike Player, who was also the mysterious guild master of the Hand of Midas Trading Firm, really lived up to her reputation.

Shiella was using a basic combat technique called 'Magic Gatling'. It was a technique of a mage where they could send a barrage of spells rapidly, creating an illusion that their spells seemed not to have any cooldown.

It was just a basic combat technique but Shiella was using it as if it was an epic one. The rotation of her skills was so flawless that she could send a spell to her target without a pause.

It was pretty taxing to her mind, but she didn't seem to mind as she continued to kite the giant in a very calm manner. And since her attacks were ice-related skills, the cold and freezing effects that they had were starting to stack one after another. And due to that, Dion's movements were gradually getting slower and slower.

It looked like the giant didn't notice the change in his speed as he continued to run forward. Moreover, Arthur and Leonard were not giving it an easy time either. They restrained Dion's movements consistently, perfectly coordinating with Shiella.

At the same time, they were also leaving some gaps purposely to let S.Tigris and Ringo freely throw their respective attacks without worrying about the giant retaliating to them.

With these two gods lead, the other melee members of the team could attack to their heart's content

Arthur and Leonard were giving the trio of S.Tigris, Ringo, and Raven a sense of security who were attacking the giant alongside them. And due to that, the three could deal an amazing amount of damage confidently.

In the meantime, Shiella's performance was also affecting the others. Since she could keep the focus of the giant on her, the others gained the confidence to throw their skills and spells without restraint.

Normally, it was the main tank and the secondary tank's job to pin the boss on a single location while the damage dealers were throwing their attacks from the back during the process and the support team assisting them.

But given their current situation, Shiella took an approach on this raid that was completely different from the norm.

Since they were dealing with a giant with a strength that surpassed them by several folds, pinning it on a single location was going to be impossible. Even if it was Arthur and Leonard, such a task was difficult for them.

This led her to their current situation.

Kitting such a monster was going to be easy for her. And since it had a large body, the other ranged members of their group would not have a hard time targeting him.

Then there was Arthur and Leonard who would restrain the movements of this giant alongside S.Tigris, Raven, and Ringo to give her a sense of security while she was doing her job.

This kind of formation was pretty perfect for their current situation.

Her only worry was Black Hand. She was aware that this priest didn't have amazing mechanics, unlike the others. And with such a fast-paced battle, she was worried that he would not be able to keep up with them.

Fortunately, Black Hand's precise control and quick decision-making compensated for his lack of talent when it came to battle mechanics. He focused on the quality of his play instead of its quantity.

He rarely threw a Heal to the others. But each of them was always timed perfectly in the most critical moments. As for the buffs, he didn't have to rely on such tricks to provide them to the others.

With all of that, the raid continued smoothly. And when Dion's berserk state ended, the entire team immediately poured everything they got to deal as much damage as possible before the giant gained more strength through the 'Soul Sacrifice'.

But when Dion's HP Bar reached its 50% mark, he immediately entered his second stage.

Boom!

A powerful shockwave pushed Arthur and the others away from the giant, as his body suddenly started changing.

Shiella ordered the others who had ranged class to throw their attacks with her, but after seeing that none of them managed to get near their target, she immediately told them to cease their attacks for a moment and get ready for what was about to come.

Crack! Crack!

Then they heard loud noises coming from Dion's body. It looked like the bones within his body were being smashed into pieces as they heard the cracking noise from their respective position.

Then they saw Dion's originally large body start to shrink rapidly, making them knit their brows in confusion.

His body indeed became smaller after a few moments. But compared to them, he was still quite large given his two-and-a-half-meter height and bulky body.

His gigantic sword also became smaller. Though, it was also quite big when it was compared to the norms since it was as tall as the current Dion.

In the meantime, both Arthur and Leonard were currently wearing a solemn look on their faces as they knew what was happening.

Dragons and Primordial Beasts had a similar skill, and it was pretty trouble.

## Spiritual Body Transformation.

It was when a huge creature such as a dragon and primordial beast shrunk their bodies to compress all of their strength within their bodies.

Due to that, they were going to have a very mobile body suited for battle.

Dragons and Primordial Beasts shrunk their bodies to have the same sizes as humans. Some of them were even skilled enough to take a humanoid form where the unique features of their races were still present.

Arthur and Leonard could remember their previous experiences when they were trying to get their current race and classes. They went through a hellish experience for a very long time battling that 'monster'.

Though, they were most likely not going to know that they fought the same person who had 'cosplaying' as his hobby.

Seeing the transformation that Dion was undergoing, both Arthur and Leonard quickly fused with their respective Elemental Companion and entered Elemental Possession without any hesitation.

'Elemental Spirit Possession (Ocean Dragon): Tide Bringer'

'Elemental Beast Companion (Possession): Crimson Sovereign'

Swoosh! Swoosh!

And right after their transformation, they quickly charged ahead as they could see that Dion was already done with his 'Spiritual Body Transformation'.

They appeared on each side of Dion, circling around him as their feet slid on the ground, trying to stop their momentum.

Then they swung their weapons at the same time, coordinating with each other.

Bang! Bang!

Unfortunately, Dion blocked their attacks almost at the same time with a couple of swings with his sword.

Then the two of them were sent flying in different directions right after Dion threw a powerful strike on each of them.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The good thing was they were both able to block the attack in time, saving their lives. Though, more than half of their Health Bars were consumed upon the impact.

Seeing that, the other members of the group suddenly froze. Even Shiella was currently frowning her eyebrows deeply while staring at the scene.

Chapter 726 Battling A Giant (Part 5): When Godlike Players Fight Alongside Each Other

...

Shiella and the group stared at Dion, who was currently in his Spiritual Body Transformation, without making a move. Or to say, they couldn't make any reckless move after seeing what happened to Arthur and Leonard.

Bang! Bang!

Then the two who were sent flying earlier picked themselves up from the rumble before walking forward. They were also drinking a Master Class Health Potion to recover their HP Bar back to full.

"Tsk! Tsk! My 'Tide Bringer' form is currently my best Elemental Possession when it comes to defensive capabilities, but it looks like it is practically useless when it comes to this guy," commented Arthur while rolling his shoulders.

"This is going to be a little different if only I have a Mountain Dragon or someone with similar power," he added before getting ready to charge again.

Leonard, on the other hand, was currently knitting his eyebrows before saying to say. "I will also increase my defensive capabilities for now."

After saying that, the crimson Lionkin suddenly separated itself from his body and released the 'Crimson Sovereign' state. Then a Beastman with a form of half-human and half-tortoise suddenly appeared behind before fusing with his body.

'Elemental Beast Companion (Possession): Abyssal Tortoise'

Dion didn't make any sudden moves at this point as he looked at the group with a mocking gaze. One of his eyes was still closed as it had already been blinded earlier, but the scar that he had only made him look more savage.

The air within the boss room seemed to become heavy as the other members of the group had a hard time breathing. Their muscles also tensed while their backs were sweating bullets.

Bang!

Then Dion suddenly stomped on the ground and launched himself towards Shiella who was standing alone in the distance.

The mechanics of aggro were currently useless in his current state. Or to be more precise, his aggro had reset after his transformation. So he ignored everything else and charged at Shiella who seemed to be the most dangerous member of the group in his eyes.

His speed was pretty fast which was why the S.Tigris and Ringo failed to react in time. Of course, it was a different case for Arthur and Leonard since they were already chasing after him at that point in time.

Regardless, they were still lagging slightly behind as they made their moves a step too late.

Meanwhile, Shiella recently regained the calm look on her face. And right after she saw Dion charging at her, she quickly summoned a thick ice wall in front of her before casting Blink immediately after.

Tap! Tap!

When her feet landed on the ground, she quickly waved her staff in front of her and conjured a group of swords made of ice around her. Each of the swords looked pretty exquisite due to the elegant patterns that they had on them.

'Ice Witch Skill (Tier 2): Frost Judgment'

Swoosh!

And with a simple wave of her hand, the swords flew straight toward the ice wall that she summoned earlier.

Bang!

At that very moment, Dion destroyed the wall of ice with a powerful swing of his huge sword and sent a lot of shattered ice into the air. But right after he broke through, he was immediately greeted by the ice swords that were flying towards him.

He tightened his grip over his sword and swung it powerfully in front of him, sending a strong gust of wind that collided with fly swords made of ice.

Whoosh!

The ice swords couldn't even get near their target as they were immediately obliterated by the strong gust of wind that Dion had sent.

But at that very moment, Arthur finally arrived and positioned himself at the blind spot of their opponent before thrusting the spear on his hand that now had the form of a trident.

Swoosh!

But Dion was able to sense his arrival and quickly raised his sword to his right and used its surface to block the incoming strike.

Bang!

Dion's body trembled slightly right after he blocked the attack. But aside from the vibrating sword on his hand, Arthur's attack seemed to have no effect on him.

Though, it was still pretty fine since his current job was to pin this troublesome guy in place.

That was when Leonard appeared on Dion's side undoubtedly. His battle axes were currently nowhere to be seen, but a pair of gauntlets was present on each of his arms which looked like a turtle shell based on their design.

Hup!

He controlled his breathing as he threw his fist forward, sending a powerful punch at Dion who was currently occupied with Arthur.

'Elemental Beast Skill (Abyssal Tortoise): Pounding Ocean'

Bang!

Dion felt like he was hit by a powerful tidal after getting hit by that punch. But despite that being the case, he was only forced to slide towards the opposite direction while red numbers appeared on his head.

-742,234

The damage was not as strong as the one that Leonard could deal with earlier. But that was also understandable since his current Elemental Possession focused on his defense rather than offense.

Swoosh!

Then Leonard saw Dion thrust his sword in his direction, forcing him to cross his arms in front of him.

Bang!

He was pushed back by the force behind that strike but was still able to hold his ground regardless.

Then Arthur took that opportunity to throw a stab with his trident, targeting Dion's other eye.

Swoosh!

Hmph!

Dion laughed mockingly when he saw the incoming attack and quickly twisted his wrist to adjust the position of his sword before swiping it towards his opponent.

Arthur currently didn't have a shield right now since it transformed into an armguard right after he transformed his form. But that armguard was more than enough to protect himself.

The moment he saw that Dion was retaliating, he quickly adjusted his position and raised his left arm to block the incoming attack while maintaining his movement to continue his thrust.

p Bang!

The sword landed on Arthur's arm guard, trying to push him to the side alongside the powerful force that was accompanying it.

But Arthur refused to budge as he persistently threw his attack.

Puchi!

Dion managed to tilt his head to the side, barely avoiding the tip of the trident. A wound appeared on his cheek as the attack managed to graze his face.

He frowned for a moment as he found these guys really annoying. They were very persistent at preventing him from getting near to the half-elf who wielded the power of frost.

This thought was lingering in his mind when he saw a fist wrapped with steel heading to his face.

Bang!

-561,552

It happened a little too fast and didn't give him time to react. His posture was currently in a mess due to the consecutive strikes that he received.

He then gritted his teeth in rage as he quickly stomped his foot on the ground behind him to force himself not to fall. And quickly after that, he tightly gripped his sword with both of his hands as he planned to squash these two annoying insects.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

-72,552

-62,556

-66,699

...

...

...

But before he could do anything else, a rain of ice arrows suddenly hit his back dealing a considerable amount of damage.

The damage was not that great individually but given that all of them accurately hit his back, the accumulated damage was not something that he could ignore. Moreover, the freezing effects were starting to stack up, making his movements slow down.

He almost forgot about Shiella because of these two.

Hah!

He quickly turned around and charged towards Shiella who was currently in the middle of casting yet another spell.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

But before he could even shorten the distance between them, a pair of figures suddenly blocked his path and quickly threw perfectly coordinated attacks to prevent him from going anywhere.

Roar!

Dion became even more enraged when he saw them in front of him once again and quickly swung his sword maniacally at them as if he had gone crazy.

Due to the violent attacks that were being thrown at them, Arthur and Leonard didn't have the time to attack and were forced to be on the defensive. But it was still fine for them since their current job was to keep this annoying giant occupied while Shiella dealt the damage.

On the surface, it seemed like they were currently at a disadvantage. But upon a closer look, it was pretty obvious that they had the situation under control.

In the meantime, the other members of the group who were supposedly fighting alongside them were currently staring at the scene in awe. They were even having a hard time closing their mouths that were fully open due to what they were seeing.

It was pretty obvious that this dungeon boss was pretty much stronger compared to its strength earlier but they were still able to keep up with it without a problem.

Not only that, but their coordination was also flawless.

There was no need to question the abilities of Arthur and Leonard as they already saw how good their teamwork was after seeing them fight previously. The two of them were able to compensate for the opening that the other person had while battling alongside each other.

What really amazed them was Shiella was continuously sending a spell after a spell without a pause. And what was even more amazing about it was the fact that she was able to land all of her spells accurately.

Her precision was one thing but her control over her spell was completely otherworldly. There were even some instances where her attacks flew through the gap between Arthur and Leonard and landed on their target without affecting the two.

Seeing who they fought, the other members of the group couldn't bring themselves to join the battle as they were afraid that they might get in the way of those three. And instead of helping them, they were fully aware that they were going to become the burden instead.

The group watched this battle from a distance as they were completely aware that this battle was totally out of their league.

But at the same time, they could also feel that their blood was boiling in excitement as they clench their fists. – "So, this is what a godlike battle looks like!" –

Watching the scene, each one of them promised themselves that they would also reach that level someday.

### Chapter 727 Dungeon Cleared

...

"Hurry! We need to get to the boss room as soon as possible before it is too late!" shouted Tinker to the other members of his team as he urged them to increase their speed for as much as they could.

Earlier, they were tasked to clear all of the other guards that remained within the dungeon so that they could benefit from this place as much as possible.

At this moment, they already cleared all of the floors and rooms that they came across and killed all of the guards that they encountered. And now, they were currently heading towards the boss room where Shiella and the others were battling the boss of this particular dungeon.

They were already exhausted both mentally and physically after doing all of that but they still didn't have the time to relax since they knew that everything was going to be for naught if they couldn't take down the dungeon boss.

Boom!

Then they heard a very loud explosion coming from the boss room which made them hurry over even more.

When they arrived, the first thing that they saw was Black Hand and the others staring blankly in the distance. And when they saw those expressions on their faces, Tinker couldn't but shake his head before muttering. "Are we already too late?"

Hearing his words, the other members that were running alongside him also wore a solemn look on their faces. They were clearly aware of how strong a General Rank NPC Boss was, and they were sure that even their Guild Leader would have some trouble dealing with it regardless of the assistance that she was receiving from the Dragon God Siegfried and War God Simba.

Moreover, there was also the troublesome trait of this dungeon that was giving the dungeon boss more strength the more guards they killed.

That thought stayed on Tinker's head for a couple of moments before turning his head to the side and quickly giving out his orders. "Set up the defense lines! We are going to hold until the young miss and the young masters come back!"

But right after he gave those orders, the urgency on his face immediately turned into anger after seeing the members of his group staring blankly in front of them. "What are you doing? Are you-...?"

He was still in the middle of talking when Black Hammer suddenly patted his shoulders while saying. "It is already over."

The frown on Tinker's brows turned even deeper as he glared at the chief blacksmith of the firm. "What are you talking about? It is still not over until-...!"

Seeing that his friend was overreacting, Black Hammer couldn't help but release a helpless sigh before grabbing Tinker's face and turning it towards the direction where the group was looking.

Tinker became angrier when he saw those actions from Black Hammer. He wanted to shout and scold him until the guy came back to his senses. But he immediately swallowed back the words that he was about to say when he saw the scene in front of them.

What he saw was a towering figure kneeling in front of Arthur and Leonard as Shiella was walking over them. And even if that figure was currently on his knees, his height was still taller than anyone within the room.

Then a notification from the system suddenly popped up in front of them, explaining the current situation to them.

\*Ding!\*

System: Congratulations on clearing the Open Dungeon 'Lair of the Fallen Giant'!

System: For being the very first team to clear the dungeon, you are going to receive the best reward possible!

\*Ding!\*

System: The team leader decided not to announce the dungeon clearly hence you will not get any additional glory points in the process such as Fame and Reputation Points.

-Your team will only get the standard glory points.

Tinker stared blankly at the first pair of notifications before shaking his head repeatedly alongside a bitter smile. "Yeah, that is right. Why do I have to be concerned about them? These monsters can't be understood by common sense."

In the meantime, Arthur and Leonard were looking curiously at the giant in front of them who suddenly stopped moving after receiving a deadly blow from the three of them earlier.

"I am sure that I felt some life force from him earlier even after getting hit by our final attack. Moreover, there is still a bit of Health on his HP Bar earlier," said Arthur while knitting his eyebrows.

Leonard nodded his head in agreement and quickly added. "Yeah, it suddenly disappeared as if someone took the final blow instead of us."

"There is an unknown power that interfered in the final moments of battle and killed this guy after making sure that we defeated him," said Shiella as she walked over.

Hearing that, the two quickly turned their heads at her at the same time while wearing a shocked expression on their faces.

"Did someone get here aside from us?" asked Arthur, full of shock. He didn't sense anyone up until now aside from their group.

Leonard was also the same as the expression on his face became even more serious. His senses should be much sharper than Arthur but he also did not sense anything earlier.

Seeing the current look on their faces, Shiella immediately knew that they misunderstood what she just said and quickly explained. "It is not what you are thinking. There are no other players in this place aside from our group."

"What I feel earlier is not a player or an NPC but the power of the system. It looks like this guy is set up to die once we defeat him. We are not allowed to get any information from him," she added while clicking her tongue.

She was planning to get some additional information from Dion which was why she told the two to at least leave a sliver of health so that the giant would not die.

After that, she pushed the two to the side and quickly picked up the two pieces of paper among the rewards that Dion had dropped right after his death.

She then turned towards the two while saying. "I will be taking these two as a part of the contract. The rest is all yours."

Arthur nodded his head and didn't say anything. It was not because he didn't dare to question Shiella, but because he was aware that it was more beneficial for them to let her have those blueprints than to keep them for themselves.

Based on the bright light that those papers had, Arthur could tell that its rank was a step higher than a Master Rank Blueprint which was currently the highest rank of blueprints at the current stage of the game.

But no matter how important they were, it was still useless for Arthur and the others. And even if they could sell it for a huge sum of gold, it was better for them to hand it over to a person that would assist them when the time came instead of strengthening their future rivals.

On top of that, the items and materials on the ground were all top-notch and perfectly suited their tastes.

"Of course, we don't have a problem with that," said Arthur as he quickly took everything on the ground, afraid that Shiella would take fancy on something in them.

Shiella could naturally read what was running inside her younger brother's head but she chose to overlook it since the harvest that they got in this raid was quite bountiful.

After she saw Tinker, Black Hammer, and the other experts of her firm before remembering something. "Ah! Yeah, before I forget. The profits that we are going to get from the resources of this dungeon will be 60-40 in favor of our firm."

"I know that you guys discovered this place but we are still the ones who are going to manage it. What's more, the pardon cards that we need are going to be quite costly, so it was natural for us to at least take the additional 10%."

The corner of Arthur's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard those words since he knew that Shiella was trying to take advantage of them. But since he was not good at these kinds of negations and Shin was currently not present, he had no choice but to nod his head in agreement.

Fortunately, her offer was quite reasonable. And he also wouldn't be able to raise any kind of objection anyway, so it was better to just agree with her.

Shiella nodded in satisfaction when she saw that her younger brother didn't have to trouble her for some negotiations. She was also quite thankful that Shin was currently not with them, or else she would need a proper proposal to trick that smartass.

'Good thing that the other rascal is not here,' thought Shiella smilingly while imagining the profits that she was going to make from this dungeon.

Then, she turned his head to Tinker and the others before giving her instructions. "Monitor this dungeon properly. We need to have the accurate grasp of the spawn rate of these guards to fully control it."

"And also take note of the strength of the new boss that is going to spawn next. Since we already first cleared it, its strength should be at least a rank lower than the original one."

Hearing that, Tinker quickly nodded his head and took note of what she had instructed.

Shiella nodded her head when she saw that and quickly took out a teleportation scroll while saying. "Then I will be going now. Don't contact me unless something VERY important happens. If it is something useless, then be prepared for the consequences."

She didn't even wait for her subordinates to reply as she quickly ripped the teleportation scroll to leave. She couldn't wait to log out of the game and finally have the beauty rest that she deserved.

In the meantime, Tinker didn't dare to raise his head as he was very afraid of the so-called consequences that Shiella was talking about. 'I need to make sure that everything is running smoothly, or else my salary will be at risk.'

On the other hand, Arthur immediately ignored that episode and waved to the others to follow them. He was walking with Leonard towards the hidden pathway that suddenly appeared right after they defeated Dion.

"Ah! At last! It is finally time to clear this troublesome quest!" he muttered to himself while stretching his waist from side to side.

Though, he was immediately reminded by Leonard of the current situation. "It is just a sub-quest though."

The corner of Arthur's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard that comment and quickly asked. "Did you just get infected by Shin's disease of always spoiling the mood?"

Chapter 728 Next Task In Hand, Vampires

...

After Arthur, Leonard, and the other members of the group finished the Barbarian Giant Dion, Alucard finally had time to reply to Shin and the others.

Shin and the others were currently clearing the monsters in the area of the ruined village while looking for clues on how they were going to progress on their quest. And while they were doing that, he suddenly got a message from Alucard.

"Huh!?"

Seeing the sudden message that he received, Shin quickly finished off the monster in front of him before telling the others that it was time for them to take a quick rest.

After he quickly looked for a quiet spot before opening the message.

Alucard: Sorry for the late message, the battle here is quite intense.

Sickarius: It is fine. We are not that in a hurry anyway.

Alucard: Then why are you guys asking for Vampires? Did you encounter one? Dealing with them is quite troublesome due to their powerful capabilities.

Shin pursed his lips for a moment before quickly giving his reply. "We haven't yet, but we are suspecting that we may encounter one later."

Alucard: Alright, it is best if I am there since I pretty much know most of their weaknesses. But given our current circumstances, I am afraid that I will not be able to get there in time.

Shin nodded his head as if Alucard could see him before replying. "It is fine. Just tell me a thing or two that we need to take note of."

At this point, the others finally finished their business with monsters that they were fighting respectively and headed over to Shin.

"Is that Alucard?" asked Cloe right after she arrived beside Shin.

Shin nodded his head slightly and replied without turning his head at her. "Yeah, it seems like they already cleared the open dungeon on their side."

"Tell him to discuss it in the party chat channel, quick!" said Cloe before wearing a mischievous look on her face before teasing Shin. "Why are you two exchanging private messages with each other? It is as if you two are secret lovers or something."

Seeing her giggling, Shin could easily tell that she was trying to tease him. He then smirked and quickly replied to her. "Yeah, I think it seems like it."

"Eh!?"

Cloe suddenly paused and turned quiet as she felt that her brain short-circuited all of a sudden due to what she just heard. Then her eyes suddenly turned wide while looking and pointing at Shin, trembling. "Eh-...!!!!!????"

Shin chuckled after seeing her reaction before flicking his finger on her forehead. "If you want to tease me, then look for a better way to do it."

"Ah!"

Cloe was startled due to the sudden flicking of his finger. She then quickly covered her forehead with both of his hands before glaring at him. "Do you think it is funny, huh? Huh?! Is it FUNNY? I almost got a heart attack due to what you just said!"

Shin ignored her remarks and quickly asked Alucard to switch to party chat as they continued their discussion.

Sickarius: So how strong are their strengths exactly compared to most of the monsters within the game?

Alucard: Vampires are said to be as strong as Corrupted and Demonic Monsters. Well, they are actually demonic beings in a sense since their ancestor, the first vampire, is said to gain his powers through making a contract with a powerful demon.

Alucard: I am not entirely sure about the history behind it. In fact, it is one of my main quests to look for clues about this matter.

Alcuard: Oh! And they also have unique classifications just like most of the high-ranking monsters.

Seeing that that topic was getting interesting, Arthur couldn't help but join the conversation.

Siegfried: Interesting! Tell us more about it!

When Shin and Cloe saw him chiming in, the two of them quickly reprimanded.

Sickarius: Focus on your own job!

Arielle: Do sub-quest first!

"Tsk! These heartless love birds!" Arthur clicked his tongue when he saw that he couldn't join the conversation unless he was done with the situation on their side.

"Anyway, why is this corridor so long? We have been walking on here for quite some time already!" he said while looking ahead.

"Just continue moving, we will reach its end eventually," replied Leonard with an uninterested tone as he was also focused on the ongoing discussion on the party chat.

Alucard: Vampires are divided into Nobles, Retainers, and Infected.

Alucard: Infected is said to be the weakest. Just like the legend says, they become vampires after being bitten by another vampire. Their strength is only subpar at best and almost as strong as Chieftain Rank Monsters.

He paused for a moment before quickly adding.

Alucard: And only humanoid people can be turned into a vampire from what I know. And their strengths are obviously much stronger than how they used to be.

Alucard: I already saw an Elf who turned into a Vampire Elf and a Beastman who also turned into one, they lose some of their main abilities but also gain a few new things at the same.

Seeing that, the others couldn't help but become curious as Shin voiced out their thoughts.

Sickarius: How strong are they?

Alucard didn't even hesitate to answer after seeing that question.

Alucard: They are both NPCs and their original strength is Special Elite. But right after turning into a vampire, they are immediately promoted to Royal Knights!

The others simultaneously raised their eyebrows when they heard those words. – "That is a pretty huge leap!" –

After being silent for a moment, Shin told him to continue.

Sickarius: Go on.

Alucard: Next, is Retainers. These guys are quite special since they got their powers after the Nobles shared some of their blood with them.

Alucard: Or to be more precise, they become a vampire after drinking the blood of a vampire with a noble bloodline.

Alucard: As for their strengths... it depends. But one thing is for sure. They are a lot stronger than Infected ones! And the leap of their original strength is obviously stronger.

Alucard: Moreover, the higher the rank of the Noble that gives them the powers, the stronger they are.

It was a pretty obvious statement, so the others just nodded their heads after seeing that message. Then the party chat channel turned quiet for a moment as no one talked. And as usual, Shin was the one who voiced out the thoughts that were running inside everyone's head.

Sickarius: So, are you also a Retainer if we go with that logic?

Alucard answered with slight hesitation.

Alucard: Most likely since I also turned into one after drinking a vial of a vampire's blood.

Alucard: Oh! By the way, it tastes like slime that turned into a sticky juice with an unexplainable flavor.

Seeing that last message, the others couldn't help but send a violent reaction to his remark.

Sickarius: That is unnecessary.

Cloe: You don't have to tell us that!

Ithilien: Sounds disgusting!

Owen: I totally agree!

Chaotic Luck: Why did my brain imagine that?

Akailu: You should have kept it to yourself.

Dualla: I don't think that I will be able to eat later.

Archimedes: ...

Siegfried: You deserve some punishment for that.

Simba: Then I will be increasing the level of his training.

Seeing those 'lively' reactions in the chat, the perpetrator couldn't help but chuckle a little before continuing on the next topic.

Alucard: As for the Nobles... they are quite unique since they have their own rankings. And it is based on the purity of their bloodlines.

Alucard: The first line of nobles got their powers directly from the very first vampire himself as he shared his blood with them. And from then on, their bloodline was passed down from generation to generation. Though, each one of them can live for a very long time.

Alucard: Their ranks are just like the royal monarchy and it started from a Baron as the weakest then followed by Viscount, Earl, Marquis, Duke, Prince or Princess, then King and Queen.

He then paused for another brief moment as he was trying to compare their strengths based on the current monster and NPC rankings available within the game. But it only took him a moment to shake his head and give up.

Alucard: Actually, I am not sure how strong they are to be exact since I have never met any of them yet. But if I am trying to make an estimate, then a Baron should be at least as strong as a Level-175 Overlord Monster Boss.

This time, Arthur couldn't help but ask.

Siegfried: Have you seen the battle footage that is posted in the official forums? The one with a first discovered vampire.

Alcuard nodded his head as he replied.

Alcuard: Of course, I already saw that. But I am pretty sure that it is only a Retainer Vampire. Though, it is a retainer of a Noble Vampire with a very high ranking.

Seeing that message, the corner of Shin's mouth and the other godlike players within their group suddenly twitched while the other members had a weird look on their faces.

– "That one is as strong as an Emperor Rank Monster Boss!" –

– "Isn't that one as strong as the General Rank NPC that we fought earlier?" –

Feeling the gravity of their current situation, Shin couldn't help but tell the others to take a break. "I think we should log out for a moment to take proper rest. We need to be in our peak condition to battle something like that if we are going to fight a monster on that level."

He then took a brief pause before saying to Arthur and the other members of their group. "You guys finish the subquest on your side and regroup with us later when we get back online."

He took a brief pause and looked at the people on his side before asking. "We should at least meet up at night since we have our own matters to attend to in the morning, I guess. So, how does 6 to 7 pm sound?"

Seeing them nod their heads, he also asked the others on the other side about their opinion. And when he saw some positive reactions, he immediately finalized their schedule.

Sickarius: Then we are going to meet later at night between 6 to 7 pm. See you later!

With all of that, Shin and the members on his side immediately looked for a safe spot before logging out.

On the other hand, Arthur and the others quickly hasten their speed to reach the end of the corridor, so that they could finally clear their own quest and also log out of them.

Chapter 729 Can We Talk For A Moment?

...

Right after logging out of the game, Shin and the others quickly made their respective morning routine.

When Shin was done with his own daily training, he quickly took a bath and went to the kitchen on the first floor of the house, planning to prepare their breakfast as usual.

On his way down, he bumped into Jeremiah and Vincent who also happened to walk out of their respective rooms at the same.

"Yo! It has been a while. We rarely see each other despite staying in the same house," said Jeremiah with tired eyes, greeting Shin.

Hearing that, Shin quickly nodded his head and replied. "Yeah, it seems like everyone is busy."

He then walked alongside them while continuing their conversation. "Speaking of it, how is your progress in the game. I don't hear anything about your team these last few days. It looks like you guys are acting in a low-profile manner. What are you up to?"

"Well, we are doing fine – just doing some quest here and there and hunting a couple of monster bosses from time to time. Just like your regular Adventurer Team," answered Jerimiah while shrugging his shoulders.

Then he suddenly squinted his eyes and looked at Shin with mischievous faces. "On the other hand, there is this certain group of people who keep on messing around wherever they go. I also wonder what they are up to these last a couple of days."

An embarrassed look suddenly appeared on Shin's face as he replied to him. "Well, you know... things happened. We are originally planning to do our quests quietly but a couple of accidents happen here and there."

Hearing that, Vincent, who kept quiet up until now, couldn't help but snicker at Shin before commenting. "Yeah, right, a couple of accidents. That is why your names are always the topic of everyone in the forums."

Shin nodded his head and clicked his tongue. "I know right? Those noisy parrots on the official website keep on making a big deal out of trivial things just to get some attention. It is really starting to annoy me."

Right after those words left his mouth, he suddenly felt a pair of sharp glares directed at him. And when he turned his head to the direction where they were coming from, he saw the two looking at him with skeptical looks on their faces.

'Trivial things you say?' thought the two inside their heads as they were trying to guess if Shin was telling them the truth or just boasting his achievements on purpose.

"What? Is there something wrong?" asked Shin innocently as he paused his steps.

"Nothing."

"I suggest you not talk to me for a moment."

Replied Vincent and Jerimiah respectively while walking past Shin. They were not sure if they want to smack their fist on his face after seeing that innocent look that he had.

As they climbed down the stairs, they immediately saw the quite rowdy living room as everyone was already gathered in there, waiting. The girls were also present and seemingly waiting for Shin impatiently.

"Hey, Shin! Hurry up, I am hungry," said Lorraine after seeing Shin climbing down the stairs alongside Vincent and Jerimiah.

Hearing her and seeing the current look on her face, Shin couldn't help but look at her skeptically before asking. "You are not going in 'diet'? I thought girls are sensitive at gaining weight."

"It's fine! I am not getting fat no matter how much I eat anyway," answered Lorraine nonchalantly.

On the other hand, Jerimiah and Vincent couldn't help but comment inside their heads. – "Well, it is pretty obvious where the fats are going." –

They even gulped a mouthful of saliva unconsciously as their eyes wander off to 'you know where' out of instinct.

Then they suddenly felt a sharp look being directed at them. And when they turned their heads towards its sources, they saw Leonard looking at them with squinting eyes.

"You know what, I am starting to get jealous of these guys," whispered Jerimiah to his cousin quietly.

Vincent didn't say anything to answer but he still nodded his head in agreement.

...

As usual, the group ate their breakfast together right after Shin finished preparing them.

'I hate to admit it, but the food that he made is really much better than those top-class restaurants. How can a 15-year-old kid be this good at cooking?' thought Jerimiah while looking at Shin with a weird gaze.

When they were done eating, Cloe volunteered herself to take care of the dishes. Well, one of the reasons was because she wanted to spend some time with Shin.

The others were obviously understood her intentions which were why they started to stand up and walked away to do their respective plans that they had for today.

All of them aside from one.

Alice didn't say anything and started to pick up the plates one by one.

Seeing that scene, the others couldn't help but wear a mischievous look on their faces, anticipating a pretty good show.

"Hey! Do you even know how to take care of dishes?" asked Cloe aggressively after seeing Alice's actions.

Hearing that, Alice turned to her before replying with a calm tone. "I can at least help you collect them. You can wash them later."

"Huh!?" Cloe suddenly narrowed her eyes before saying. "No. There is no need for that. A princess like you should be relaxing on the sofa over there. We can take care of this ourselves."

"It is fine. I can at least handle this much," answered Alice back.

Then their gazes met in the air as a pair of invisible sparks clashed in there.

"Hoh~!"

The others simultaneously made the same sound as they watched the show from the sideline. Then they turned their heads to the guy who was the center of this storm.

p And this seemingly dense person didn't disappoint at disappointing them.

"If the two of you are just going to bicker with each other, then do it somewhere else. It's early in the morning yet you guys are starting to fight," said Shin as he collected the dishes in a very skilled manner.

"Boring~!" commented Arthur while wearing a disappointed look on his face.

"At least choose a side to defend," said Lorraine quietly as she also didn't like how the scene was developing.

Then the others started to disperse and went to do their own thing.

Shin was really skilled at killing the mood.

Due to the insistence of the two, Shin told them to watch the dishes together as he started cleaning the kitchen even though it already looked like the cleanliest kitchen that anyone could see.

The kitchen was quiet for quite some time as the sounds of flowing water and clanging sounds of utensils and colliding plates could be heard.

A few moments later, Alice was finally done with the plates that she was cleaning and quickly headed over to Shin.

Cloe obviously saw that and immediately quicken her pace at drying the plates. She couldn't leave them and stop Alice since she knew how strict Shin was about cleaning the dishes, so she could only yell at Alice. "Hey! Where do you think you are going?"

Due to her loud voice, Shin couldn't help but turn his head in her direction and saw Alice walk towards him. He slightly knitted his eyebrows when he saw that and asked. "Do you need something?"

Naturally, the others in the living room heard Cloe's loud call. And right after hearing the urgency in her voice, the eyes of Arthur and Leonard seemed to be turned bright as they quickly stood up and headed over to the kitchen.

They acted as if they were taking some cold water from the fridge while sneakily paying attention to what was happening.

It was at that moment they heard Alice replying at Shin. "Can we talk for a moment?"

'Hoh~! Now this is getting interesting,' commented Arthur inside his head as this was the development that he wanted to see.

Shin, on the other hand, just continued to knit his eyebrows while staring at Alice silently. From the tone of her voice, he could sense that there was something into it. Though, he obviously didn't know what exactly was it.

"Sure!" he responded while pointing to the other three who were with them. "You can just ignore those three and tell me. They pretty much know everything about me anyway, so it shouldn't be an issue."

"But it is a confidential issue," said Alice with a desperate tone mixed with some urgency.

Hearing that, Shin just shrugged his shoulders to indicate that his response was the same.

'Yep! That is my Shin!' commented Cloe inside her mind while nodding her head in satisfaction.

But that thought only lasted for a moment since she saw that the expression suddenly turned weird after hearing Alice's next words.

"But it concerns the person that we discuss in the hotel before."

Shin suddenly paused for a moment when heard those words before looking at Alice with trembling eyes.

A menacing feeling couldn't help but surface in Cloe's heart when she saw the current expression that Shin had. It was her first time seeing him act that shocked.

It was pretty the same for Arthur and Leonard who were supposedly eavesdropping from the side quietly. They even spat the water that they wear drinking at each other right after seeing the reaction that Shin had.

"I look like things are getting out of hand," muttered Arthur as he wiped the water on his face.

Chapter 730 A Direct Challenge!

...

Shin stared at Alice with his eyes wide open after hearing what she had said. And when the other three saw that expression, they couldn't help but look at him with mixed wonder and worry.

It was their first seeing Shin react this way, especially with his trembling eyes. It looked like he was having a hard time calming the tremors within his chest.

It took him quite some time to close his eyes, inhale deeply, and calm his heart. It was only then he was able to regain the tranquility of his eyes.

Then he looked at Alice before saying with a serious tone. "Let's talk outside."

After saying that, he walked past Alice and headed to the door leading to the backyard of their house. And naturally, the latter followed after him while also trying to calm turmoil within her. She really wanted to confirm if her family was not wrong about what they had investigated, she had to confirm if her elder sister was really alive.

Cloe watched Shin with anxious eyes as he walked towards her. And when he was brushing past her, she couldn't help but extend her hand and grab the edge of his shirt.

Feeling that someone was pulling his shirt, Shin turned at her and quickly put up a smile. "Don't worry, I'll tell you about it later. It is not like you don't know about it."

Cloe cautiously raised her head to look at his eyes before asking. "Really?"

Seeing the look that she was making, Shin couldn't help but chuckle a little before patting her head. "What are you so anxious about? Am I going away or something? And did I ever fail to keep my word?"

Cloe wanted to say something but she couldn't bring herself to voice it out, especially since she could feel that there was something wrong with the current Shin in front of her. In the end, she could only lower her head and nod her head as she let go of Shin.

Seeing that scene, Alice unconsciously bit her lower lip and clenched her hands. She didn't know why, but she felt something heavy within her chest aside from the uneasiness that she already was experiencing.

In the meantime, Arthur and Leonard silently watched the scene from the side as they were afraid to provoke Shin for ruining the moment. Or at least that was what they were thinking after seeing the scene.

...

Shin walked a little further from the house while Alice was following closely behind him. And when he thought that they already distance themselves enough, he quickly flicked his wrist to cast an isolation barrier around them to prevent any from eavesdropping.

It might be a simple and low-level barrier, but it was more than enough to prevent others from overhearing what they were going to discuss.

"So, what do you want to say. And how is it related to Big Sister Alyssa?" asked Shin with a cold tone and sharp eyes.

Alice hesitated for a moment since her father repeatedly told her not to disclose this information to anyone. But she couldn't help curiosity. Moreover, this guy was the closest to her elder sister when they were being held in the Mafia Training Camp.

Shin waited patiently despite wearing a cold look on his face. This topic was quite sensitive for him since it might trigger his 'Seed of Hatred'. Fortunately, he became aware of how to suppress it after learning the meditation technique of the 'Jade Kirin Scripture' that David thought him.

After a few moments, Alice steeled her resolve before asking. "Are you sure that she didn't die in the camp?"

Shin slightly frowned his eyebrows after hearing that before sighing helplessly as he answered. "I already told you. It is just my suspicion. I don't remember much about my time during the camp aside from my time with her and a few training sessions. Aside from those, everything else is quite blurry."

"I am not sure if it is due to mental trauma, or if it is purposely left this way by someone or those people from the camp," he added before taking a brief pause.

He breathed some air quite deeply before continuing. "But there are a couple of things that are vivid within my head. And one of them is the scene where I watched your elder sister die. Though, I am now quite suspicious why it is the only one that has the clearest picture within my head. It looks like it has been imprinted within my memory."

During the special lessons that he got from Grandmaster Benn, Shin learned a couple of things about the other uses of Mentalism aside from using them in battle. He also learned that there were some techniques that could have similar effects on someone. And if the Mentalist was skilled enough, then it was even possible to overwrite the memories of other people.

Brainwashing and Memory Manipulation.

Shin was not that foreign on these things since he was trained by the mafia and such methods were quite common in the underworld.

And because of that, he became even more suspicious about that particular memory within his mind.

He was not sure about it. But since it could trigger his 'Seed of Hatred', he was quite confident that they were somehow related. He was suspecting that it was purposely left behind by either the Mafia or someone else.

There was another disturbance within Shin's heart when he recalled those memories again. But he was able to quickly settle it after chanting a couple of phrases of 'Jade Kirin Scripture' inside his head.

After that, he turned his focus on Alice once again before asking. "But why do you want to talk about this again? I already told you about this before."

Alice bit her lower lip once again before answering. "Since we didn't find the remains of my elder sister, my family is still not fully convinced that she died."

"Especially my grandfather. He said that even if her spiritual candle died, there was still a chance that she could be alive somewhere. And he is more convinced that her connection with the spiritual candle is severed which is the reason why it died."

"Such occasions are pretty rare from what he said, but at the same time, it is still possible as long as the Mentalist who severed their connection is pretty skilled."

Alice took a pause when she reached this point and stared at Shin while trying to calm herself. And after a few moments of silence, she quickly continued. "What's more, we also don't have a way to confirm if the time when she 'died' in the training camp and the time when her spiritual candle loses its flame is the same."

"Especially when you claimed that you don't remember the exact date of her death," she added as she closely watched the expression that Shin was making.

But to her surprise, he seemed to be pretty calm compared to their first meeting regarding this matter.

The two of them were silent for a couple of moments until Shin broke it as he couldn't suppress his curiosity any longer. "So, what do you want from me. I already told you everything that I knew. There is nothing I can share about this matter."

At this point time, Shin saw Alice hesitating once more. But instead of urging her to tell him what she had in her mind, he chose to wait patiently and let her tell him about it herself.

Minutes passed, Alice finally resolved herself and took a couple of photos from her pocket before handing it over to Shin with trembling hands. "Since you spent quite a lot of time with her in that place, I guess it is the right thing to share this news with you."

Shin was quite confused at first but still took the photos that she was handing over. And the moment when he saw the girl in the photo, he immediately trembled and his heart was suddenly thrown in turmoil. "T-This... This..."

He flipped through the photos for a couple of moments before turning to Alice while. "Is this true?"

Alice was taken aback by his sudden reactions as she was not expecting that him to act this way. But she was still able to nod her head and shake it at the same time. "This photo is taken from the Dark Continent and my family is still investigating this matter. We are still not sure if it is someone with a similar appearance as her or if it is really her."

"But from what my grandfather is confident that it is really my elder sister after surveying the area. He confirmed that he sensed her unique aura in that palace. He is a Mentalism in Exalted Realm, so the chances of him making a mistake are pretty low," she added with a serious tone.

After that, the two talked about this matter for a few more minutes before heading back. And when they entered the house again and arrived in the living room, the others already went to do their own thing.

Aside from Cloe who was patiently waiting and Arthur who was lazing on the couch, everyone else was currently not present.

Cloe quite stood up when she saw that the two finally came back. And she immediately noticed that there were some changes in Shin that she was not sure about.

She quickly headed towards him and quickly asked. "How is it? Can you tell it to me now?"

Seeing her acting so panicky, Shin smiled gently at her before saying. "What are you so anxious about? Just wait for a little. Let me talk with senior brother for a moment."

Then they heard David's voice as he walked down the stairs. "What is it? Did you need me for something?"

Shin and the others quickly turned their heads at him and saw that he was currently wearing a training outfit and seemed to be planning to exercise a little more despite finishing his morning training earlier.

Then Shin quickly headed over the stairs before asking. "Can you lend me a moment, Senior Brother? There is a favor that I want to ask from you."

David didn't mind it and just answered with a casual tone. "Sure! But let's discuss it as we go. I scheduled a sparring match with that guy Elijah from before. Can you give me a ride to the Academy?"

Hearing that, Shin didn't even hesitate and quickly agreed. "Alright."

After that, he turned to the others and said. "I will be back before dinner time, so wait for me until then."

Then he left the house together with David, leaving the other three behind.

Arthur got an ominous feeling about this, so he quickly got up and sneaked away towards the second floor. But he didn't want to miss such a rare event, he just hid on the rails near the stairs. "They are not going to fight, aren't they?"

Then someone unknowingly appeared beside him and answered quietly. "I don't think so. Cloe Sis is not the type to pick a fight."

Unfortunately, they immediately learned the answer after hearing what was happening below.

"Can we also had a sparring match?"

A direct challenge!

Arthur and Leonard turned to each other before having a quiet exchange.

"Whose side are you on?"

"Cloe Sis, obviously!"

"Then I will take the other side. What is the at stake?"

"A lesser legendary material."

"Call!"