

Destiny 731

Chapter 731 She Is Indeed Important

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"So what is that thing that you want from me?" asked David as he sat on the driver's seat. He insisted that he was going to drive until they reached the academy.

Shin hesitated for a moment before saying with caution. "Senior brother, didn't you say that you originally come the Dark Continent?"

David slightly knitted his eyebrows before nodding his head. "Yeah. I spent quite a lot of time there."

"Then, did you also challenge the geniuses from that place?" asked Shin.

David didn't know why he was getting a bad feeling about this conversation but still nodded his head. "Naturally. That is where I came from, so it is pretty natural for me to challenge the forces there first before proceeding to the other countries."

Shin noticed the word 'forces' instead of 'talented individuals' which meant that David didn't only challenge the young talents of the same generation that come from that place but also the organizations behind them.

'His master is probably so strong for him to be confident at challenging those forces,' thought Shin to himself after deducing some of the information from what David had said.

But he quickly brushed off that thought from his head before asking another question. "Then you are most likely familiar with the talented individuals from there."

Despite the iffy feeling that David was getting, he still replied with full confidence. "It is not like I am boasting or something, but it is not an exaggeration even if I say that I know almost every strong individual in that place."

"As you know, Dark Continent is the largest known continent. But I pretty much travel every corner of that place!" he added with a prideful tone.

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but scoff inside. 'I got you!'

"It is as if you are telling you to know every person living there," said Shin while trying to hold back himself.

David nodded his head as he answered. "Yeah, something like that."

When they reached this point, Shin knew that it was finally time to get straight to the point. "Senior brother, can you pull over for a second?"

David was slightly taken aback by the sudden request before giving Shin a sidelong glance. "Didn't I say that I will drive until you drop me off at the academy? Why do you want me to pull over the car now?"

Shin shook his head and quickly answered. "That is not it. Just move the car to the side of the road for a moment."

This time, the uncomfortable feeling that David was getting intensified. He really had a bad feeling where this conversation was heading.

Regardless, he still pulled over the car before asking with a serious tone. "What is it? Just tell me already and stop beating around the bush."

Shin didn't answer immediately as he took out a couple of photos from his pocket and hand them over to David. "Since you are familiar with the young talents of the Dark Continent, you should have known about this person."

He paused for a moment to focus his gaze at David, not willing to miss any change from the latter's expression before adding. "From what I hear, she is also a talented mentalist just like you, Senior Brother. Do you know who she is?"

David was caught off-guard with the sudden question, especially when he saw the person in the photos. But given that he was trained by one of if not the best Mentalists in the world, he was still able to hide what he was currently feeling and said with a calm tone. "Let me have a closer look."

He then took the photos from Shin and stared at them for a couple of moments before shaking his head. "I am not sure. This is my first time seeing this girl. Are you sure that she is from the Dark Continent?"

Shin suddenly frowned his eyebrows when he heard the response from his bluff. 'He didn't know her? Impossible! Given big sister Alyssa's talent, it is impossible for her to be unnoticed!'

"Are you sure about that? Can you take another look and recall if you really not met her?" asked Shin with an urgent tone, urging David to look closer at the photos.

Naturally, David knew why Shin was acting this way but he still chose not to share what he knew with his junior brother. The girl in the photos had a sensitive past that couldn't be revealed in the world yet.

Aside from her original background, the fact that she was the disciple of the person who was being chased by a lot of organizations would definitely put her in danger.

Despite learning under the same tutelage, the two of them were still training different sets of techniques. David inherited the Mentalism Techniques of his fallen Kingdom – all of the techniques of the different families and their history. On the other hand, this girl was the true successor of their Master's techniques.

Once the news about her being the direct disciple of Evangeline Rose, the greatest mentalism genius, then all of the organizations that were chasing after their master and her husband would definitely set their eyes on Alyssa.

No matter how much David wanted to share the truth with Shin and despite him fully trusting this junior brother, he still couldn't disclose this information to him.

'No. It is not time yet. We at least need to wait until Master and Sir Adam give us the permission,' thought David to himself before smiling bitterly and responding to Shin. "I know what you are trying to pull here, junior brother. But I must tell you that I don't know all of the people of that place."

"As from what you already know, Dark Continent is practically the home of most of the underworld organizations. And given their influence within that place, even the World Government is having a hard time investigating there."

He paused for a moment and turned to Shin before asking with a serious tone. "Now, tell me. With such a chaotic place, do you think that geniuses living in that place will just reveal their talent in the public?"

"Unless they like me who have a very strong Master or someone from a very powerful background, they are most likely going to live in seclusion while training themselves secretly, so it is practically impossible even for me to know every talented individual living in that place."

"Heck! Even those so-called geniuses are being assassinated left and right by the rivals of their organizations!"

After that, he took another pause to inhale deeply before continuing. "What's more, I also leave that place to travel around the world, so it is pretty natural for me not to know if another talent suddenly emerged out of nowhere."

He was quite satisfied with his answer. He was sure that Shin would not continue to inquire about Alyssa.

Unfortunately for him, he overreacted for a bit which was why Shin looked at him even more suspiciously.

Shin stared at David with squinting eyes. He knew that this so-called senior brother of his was hiding something from him. It might not be about Alyssa who was in the photo, but he had the feeling that it was something related to Dark Continent or something related to his 'missing' past.

But he didn't continue to inquire since he didn't want to look for it. They had 'abandoned' him for quite a long time, so he didn't have the intention of looking for them.

After calming the internal turmoil that he had, Shin quickly snatched the photos back from David's hand before saying. "I am just asking whether you know this person or not. Why do you have to overcomplicate it?"

"Tsk!" David clicked his tongue but didn't refute Shin's words. Though, he still curiously asked. "But why are you asking about that girl? Is she someone important? Is your secret lover or something?" while starting to the car and resuming to drive.

Shin turned silent for a moment before answering. "She is indeed very important. To me at the very least."

His words paused for a moment as he turned towards the window. "She is the first person who introduces me to the word 'kindness' when I truly need it."

"Sounds like a pretty good person," commented David.

Shin nodded his head and added. "She also brightened up my dull world during those dark times."

While Shin and David were heading towards the academy, there was a certain incident back in their house.

The other people from both houses were currently gathered in their backyard as they looked at the two girls standing a few meters away from them, facing each other.

"Looks like I really need to ask Uncle Sam to hasten the renovation of your house and build the training room underground as soon as possible," muttered Shiella as she looked at the two girls in front of them.

She had been called over by these two, asking her to oversee their 'sparring match'. And since she found this very interesting, she immediately agreed with them and quickly decided to slightly delay her plans for today.

The others were currently standing behind her as they immediately headed over to this place after learning that something interesting was happening.

Shiella turned her head to Cloe, who was currently wearing a serious look on her face, before shaking her head. "It is pretty rare for this girl to act this way. I wonder what happened."

She then moved her gaze towards Alice, who was also currently in the middle of fixing her clothes. "I knew that this is bound to happen. But isn't a little too soon?"

She released a helpless sigh before shaking her head with a bitter smile. "That little rascal is always creating trouble."

Chapter 732 Cloe Vs Alice (Part 1)

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Alice and Cloe stood a few meters away from each other as they took their respective battle stances.

Alice was currently wearing a traditional martial-arts outfit which was as white as snow. There were some blue lotus symbols embroidered on the different parts of her clothing, indicating the symbol of her family.

A blue belt made of satin fabric was wrapped around her waist which made her upper cloth to be fitted on her body but slightly loose on its lower end.

Her current look was cold yet elegant, signifying her status. She appeared to be a beautiful fairy who appeared on the human world in her current outfit while an air full of coolness was currently surrounding her.

In the meantime, Cloe was also exuding a similar air. She might not look like a cold fairy but she still looked like a goddess of war who descended from heaven.

Her outfit was not as elegant as the one that Alice was currently wearing but it was still appealing to anyone's eyes.

Her simple yet alluring clothes were not going to lose to Alice's clothes. The plain white sleeveless martial-art shirt and black loose pants was complementing each other. A black belt was also wrapped around her waist which made sure that her upper clothes would not come loose.

A cold beauty standing right across from a charming girl.

These two were about to clash against each other as they stared with their opponents without having any intention of taking their gazes off.

Alice took a stance where her left foot was current in front of her while both of her arms were raised in front of her chest. Then the air around her started to revolve around her as she slowly released her Mental Energy.

At the same time, her irises suddenly turned rhombus as she also activated her 'Mind Reading' talent while staring at Cloe straight into the eyes.

But to her surprise, her opponent seemed to be a blank sheet of paper as she couldn't read what was running inside Cloe's head. It was as if the latter was not thinking about anything.

Then she saw Cloe smirked a little without dodging her gaze.

Cloe was currently jumping up and down. She bounced on the ground with her light jumps while her shoulders were also moving up and down to match the rhythm of her bounce.

Shiella shifted her gaze between the two before raising her hand in the air. "Ready!"

The two girls inhaled deeply as they heard her voice.

"Start!"

Shiella shouted while lowering her hand hanging in the air, signaling the start of the match.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Her voice was still echoing in the air when the two quickly made their moves.

Alice gathered the Mental Energy surrounding her on each of her hands before throwing consecutive palm strikes in front of her and sending multiple energy waves towards her opponent.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, Cloe immediately kicked the ground right after she heard Shiella's signal. She lunged forward without any hesitation as a transparent Internal Qi started to surround her body.

She might not be able to see the incoming attack that her opponent had sent to her, but she was still able to tell where exactly they were going with her other senses.

Right before the first energy wave arrived at her, Cloe suddenly stomped on the ground to halt her charge before lightly moving her hand in a circular motion.

Bang!

An energy wave was deflected to the side right after it came in contact with the back of her hand.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Then similar things happened as she continued to move her hands gently and rhythmically.

Boom!

The ground right beside her exploded as she directed the energy waves to the side. And when the final attack was blocked, she took a deep breath and exhaled gently as she maintained her stance steadily.

Bang!

Then a loud sound could be heard as she kicked the ground once again and charge at her opponent for another time.

But this time, she was charging at a much faster speed than earlier. And it only took her a couple of breaths to arrive in front of her opponent who was currently in the middle of throwing a palm strike to greet her.

Cloe did the same and even borrowed the momentum of her charge to reinforce her attack.

Bang!

The initial clash sent both of them away from each other.

The two did a couple of flips and light hops to reduce the force that they got from the impact before landing gently on the ground.

They didn't even look in front of them as they simultaneously kicked the ground and launched themselves towards each other.

Then an intense melee immediately broke out as they exchanged blows against each other.

At first glance, the battle seemed to be on equal footing. But in the eyes of the young experts such as Shiella, Jeremiah, and Vincent, it was pretty clear that Cloe was currently at disadvantage.

Alice's attacks were much powerful than her opponent which was putting a lot of pressure on Cloe who kept on blocking or deflecting them.

But despite that being the case, Cloe was still holding her ground quite firmly as her defensive stance didn't let a single attack land at her. She was even throwing a couple of counterattacks that were catching her opponent from time to time.

Alice couldn't help but feel a little uncomfortable during the exchange despite her being the aggressor. And despite her attacks pressuring her opponent, not of them was managed to land a clean hit.

Following her instincts, Alice took a quick step backward to create some distance between her and her opponent before covering her right arm with Mental Energy.

Then she quickly twisted her waist in a counterclockwise motion before retwisting it towards the other direction while also swiping her right hand towards the same direction.

She was planning to release the accumulated Mental Energy on his hand to send a crescent wave. But before she could even swing her arm, Cloe suddenly stepped forward to match her backward step, shortening the distance between them.

Alice was slightly taken aback since Cloe was supposedly moving backward earlier due to the pressure of her previous attacks. This sudden step forward was completely out of her expectations.

Then Cloe blocked her opponent's arm with her own while her other hand was holding the elbow of her opponent. Those actions completely killed the momentum that Alice's arm had, completely stopping the incoming attack.

After that, Cloe immediately grabbed her opponent's arm and pulled it back while her leg was tripping Alice over.

"Ah!"

Realizing what was about to happen, Alice quickly kicked the ground to jump before spinning in the air to free her hand from Cloe's grip.

But despite her being able to free herself, she couldn't block the next attack that Cloe did immediately after.

Cloe quickly steadied her footing and put a lot of strength on her upper body before pushing her shoulder to collide with Alice who was currently spinning beside her.

Bang!

Alice was sent flying and Cloe immediately chased after her, not willing to let the opponent go. The latter was about to reach her hand and grab her opponent's leg while the Mentalist suddenly sent a powerful energy wave towards the ground to propel herself up in the air.

Cloe was also forced to halt her actions and crossed her arms in front of her face to protect it from the debris from the explosion.

Ta-ta!

Then Alice landed on the ground after a couple of flips in the air.

The two didn't immediately resume the battle as they stared at each other with caution. Especially Alice who was couldn't shake off the uneasiness that she was feeling.

In the meantime, the others who were watching from the side were currently discussing with each other.

"What do you think?" asked Jerimiah to the person standing beside him while leaning his head over.

,m Vincent slightly knitted his eyebrows when he heard those words before replying. "I am not sure either. It is pretty clear that Cloe is in backfoot earlier when blocking Alice's attacks, but sudden counter catches me off-guard."

Jerimiah quickly nodded his head in agreement. "I know, right?"

He then stroked his chin while continuing. "Moreover, she is supposedly moving backward earlier, so that sudden step forward should have thrown her balance off. But not only does she hold her footing firmly but she also manages to completely cancel her opponent's technique."

"Hmm... I wonder what she did there?" he muttered to himself while squinting his eyes.

This time, Vincent suddenly responded. "But I have a feeling that it is some sort of Assassination Skill."

"Hah~!?" Jerimiah suddenly turned his head at his cousin and looked at him with a weird expression on his face, clearly showing his confusion and disbelief.

Vincent maintained his calm demeanor and answered with a nonchalant tone. "As I said earlier, I am still not sure and that is only my initial assessment."

He then squinted his eyes and focus on Cloe before quickly adding. "I still have to observe her a little more before coming up with a clear conclusion."

Chapter 733 Cloe Vs Alice (Part 2): The Girl Who Overcame Her Lack Of Talent

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Cloe and Alice continued to stare at each other one more time as they were trying to assess the strengths of their opponents after the brief exchange earlier. It might be a short exchange but it was more than enough for the two to know the gist of the situation.

Alice was pretty skilled in both range and melee battle but that didn't mean that they didn't have flaws. Her ranged attacks were pretty fast but they lacked some power in comparison to the experts that Cloe had in their home.

The melee techniques, on the other hand, were quite strong which also have some swiftness in them. But a Mentalist was still a Mentalist even if they were a Kaleidoscope one. Their physiques were still lacking in comparison when it came to Martial-Artists.

They might be able to have decent strength in their bodies after training it with their Mental Energy. But when it was compared to the tough muscles that the Martial-Artists had developed, they were still slightly inferior.

It was because Mental Energy was supposedly be honing the mind and turn it into a powerful weapon and impenetrable wall. But that was only most effective when it came to mental attacks. And their attacks were supposedly concentrating this area.

Mentalists who were gifted in both mental techniques and physical skills were pretty rare. And that was only if they had special physiques or even a divine body.

On the other hand, Martial-Artists honed themselves and forged their bodies, turning them into deadly weapons. And since they were using the 'Force of Nature' to strengthen their bodies, it was bound to be stronger and tougher than what a Mentalist had.

After all, the Force of Nature, which came from nature itself, was to a higher degree than the Mental Energy that came from the human mind.

Meanwhile, Alice was still pretty confident in this match. She was still not sure what was the unease that she was currently feeling, but she could at least tell that it was still not a threat to her yet.

Cloe might be quite tricky to deal with since she looked like someone who was specialized in the attack. And the previous exchange earlier was the proof of that.

That previous counter caught her a little off-guard earlier due to her carelessness. She was still that familiar with Cloe even though they worked alongside each other during the entrance exam. But now that she experienced how troublesome Cloe could be, she was not going to lower her guard again.

'As long as I avoid any large movements when we are fighting in close range, I should be fine,' thought Alice to herself as she recalled how she got countered earlier.

'She baited me,' she added to her thoughts before taking her battle once again.

Cloe, who was standing a few distances away from her, also took her stance while knitting her eyebrows. She didn't know what was it, but she could feel that something had changed. 'What is it?'

Her intuition was on point as Alice was currently using the other ability that her 'Mind Reading' talent had. It was pretty much a useless technique when she was facing an opponent who could calm their mind and blanked their thoughts, but it was still pretty useful when she utilized it properly.

Her mother told her a couple of tricks about this special talent of hers.

Mind Reading didn't specifically mean that she needed to focus on reading the thoughts of her opponent through looking into their eyes. There were a couple of things that could tell her what the opposing side was thinking.

A simple movement of their eyes and a slight twitched of their muscles was more than enough to tell her the intention of her opponent. As long as she perceived her surroundings properly, protecting herself and throwing a couple of counters were not impossible.

Moreover, her 'Mind Reading' talent was also granting her a calm mind and tranquil thoughts. She might not be able to read the thoughts of her opponents completely, but her improved mind would give her the ability to respond in any situation calmly.

Given that, Alice decided to utilize the maximum potential of her Mind Reading Talent while also using her 'Spiritual Senses' that she had developed since her bloodline awakening.

Cloe could sense it. She could tell that the air surrounding Alice changed all of a sudden. And she was fully aware of what exactly it was.

Talent.

That was right, it was that talent gap once again.

Cloe knew that her talent in Martial-Arts was pretty average compared to the people surrounding her. She became fully aware of this since she was young, since that time when Shin saved her from the hands of those people who were trying to assault her.

She was not talented enough to stand beside Shin and the others. Even Leonard was much talented compared to her due to his instincts in a battle that he picked up in the streets to survive. Moreover, she also heard that he now had a special bloodline just like Arthur and Shiella.

She was lagging behind compared to them.

This was the very reason why she urged her father to let her learn Martial-Arts under the experts that they had at home.

She worked very hard to train and hone her skills despite her average talent. She even studied all of the famous talents known in both Martial-Arts and Mentalism worlds. She learned their abilities, their strengths, and most importantly their weaknesses.

She also tried to look for a way to counter despite her average talent. With that, she became familiar with the skills, abilities, and techniques that most of the talented individuals had which also gave her the means to either counter or coordinate with people who wield such talents.

Even her father's close guard complimented her that no one her age studied this matter as thoroughly as her.

This was also the very reason why she was able to coordinate with Shin and the others during the exam that they had at the academy.

Cloe calmed her mind and steadied her breathing. She was aware of how the Mentalists fight, especially the ones as talented as Alice.

Spiritual Sense, an ability to perfectly perceive their surroundings by spreading their Mental Energy around them like thin threads as if it was a spiderweb.

'Presence. I need to lower my presence as low as possible,' thought Cloe to herself as the aura surrounding her started to fade away.

"Ho~!"

Jerimiah, who was watching from the sideline, couldn't help but raise his eyebrows when he saw what was happening. He became very interested in this match right now.

One of the sides was someone who managed to develop her Spiritual Sense at a very young age. The other side, on the other hand, was someone who seemed to have an average talent but also released a very strange aura and overwhelming confidence.

"Interesting~!" he commented while wearing a huge smile.

Even Vincent was also having the same thoughts. But compared to his cousin, he was more interested in what Cloe was doing, she was erasing her presence. He was pretty sure that it was an assassination skill, a highly difficult technique for young assassins of her age. Moreover, he was also sure that Cloe was not an assassin but a real Martial-Artist.

"A Martial-Artist who learns an assassination technique to counter a Mentalist? This is indeed interesting," muttered Vincent to himself while focusing his gaze on Cloe.

Shiella was also shocked. He was familiar with the two, especially Cloe. She knew this girl since they were toddlers and she knew how limited Cloe's talent was.

But from what she could see right now, it seemed like this girl was starting to overcome her limit and compensate for her lack of talent.

Alice started frowning her eyebrows as she looked at her opponent who was standing a few meters away from her. She could see that Cloe was in front of her, but her presence was getting fainter and fainter as more time passed. Even with the help of her Spiritual Sense, she was barely able to perceive the presence of her opponent.

Swoosh!

Then Cloe suddenly disappeared from Alice's sight!

Alice was having a hard time finding the exact location of her opponent due to the faint presence that the latter had. Due to that, she had no other choice but to do a large-scale technique.

She put her hands together and released a large amount of Mental Energy that immediately transformed into a spherical barrier around her.

At the same time, the scattered Mental Energy in her surroundings suddenly started to revolve around her as if they were planning to create a tornado.

It was pretty obvious that she was planning to force Cloe to reveal herself with this storm-like Mental Energy spinning around her.

A combination of attack and defense, such technique was pretty hard to counter. But little did she know, that it was exactly what Cloe was planning, exhausting her opponent until Alice could no longer use such techniques later.

Cloe continued to move around Alice to make sure that the latter was not able to pinpoint her location. She was moving like a stealthy beast that was quietly stalking its prey.

Chapter 734 Cloe Vs Alice (Part 3)

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Cloe continued to circle around Alice with her stealthy movements while also hiding behind the latter's blind spot. She was moving like an assassin who was stalking her target without being noticed.

While that was happening, Alice also realized that her opponent seemed to be trying to exhaust her before striking the moment when her guard was down. She slightly knitted her eyebrows as she was fully aware that she couldn't let this situation continue.

Having that in mind, she quickly adjusted her control over the revolving Mental Energy around her and suddenly turned it into a spear with an unstable form. At the same time, thin lines of invisible lines suddenly spread them around her like spiderwebs that were waiting for the prey to mistakenly come over.

She was rebuilding her Spiritual Sense once again!

Swoosh!

But right at the same moment, Cloe immediately made her move. She quickly charged at Alice as if she knew that the sensing threads that the latter was trying to build were not fully set properly yet.

She bypassed the invisible threads as if she could see them before arriving behind Alice within an instant. And clenched her fist that was surrounded with transparent Internal Qi before smashing it to the Mental Energy Barrier that was protecting her opponent.

Bang!

The barrier was immediately shattered right after getting hit but her punch. But at the same time, Alice was able to find Cloe's location now.

With that, she quickly flicked her hand to send the Mental Energy Spear with an unstable form that she built earlier to behind her.

Swoosh!

Cloe took a deep breath and took a slight step behind her while also throwing her other fist towards the incoming spear made of Mental Energy.

Bang!

The spear was also shattered right after the collision, but Cloe was forced to take a couple of steps backward to stabilize her footing.

At the same time, the scattered Mental Energy in the air suddenly transformed into multiple petals before gathering towards a single spot. They all gathered around Alice as she waved her hands in a gentle matter.

'Formless Lotus Arts (Family Arts): Dancing Lotus'

Swoosh! Swoosh!

And all of a sudden the lotus petals floating in the air suddenly flew towards Cloe in waves, as of they were planning to bury her with them.

Seeing that, Cloe quickly hopped away from her previous locations, trying to distance herself away from the incoming waves of lotus petals that were made of Mental Energy.

She flipped, jumped, and hopped backward as she continued to run away from the lotus petals that were chasing after her. And from time to time, she was also looking at Alice who was controlling the lotus petals with gentle movements of her hands.

'It looks like she couldn't move when she was controlling them,' thought Cloe after seeing that Alice who didn't move an inch after summoning the lotus petals.

'But I also can't ignore the fact that she may be baiting me to fall to her trap,' she added inside her mind while knitting her eyebrows.

She hesitated for a moment but she knew that she had no other choice but to try getting near Alice.

She was originally planning to drag this battle for as long as she could sense it was the most optimal way to win given their current situation. But since the lotus petals that were chasing her were getting more and more troublesome due to the increasing numbers, she could not afford to go with that plan.

After all, avoiding them was also quite taxing for her and she also didn't know if Alice was plotting something else aside from this one.

Cloe followed her intuition and suddenly changed the direction of her retreat path before surrounding her body with a thick Internal Qi before charging forward all of a sudden, breaking through the wave of lotus petals in front of her.

And right after her feet touched the ground, she quickly charged ahead without any hint of hesitation and sprinted straight to Alice while increasing the amount of Internal Energy that was surrounding her body.

Alice tried to stop Cloe from getting near her by controlling the lotus petals floating in the air with each movement of her hands. But despite how hard she tried, the best she could do was only hinder the charge of the latter for a brief moment due to how nimble Cloe avoided those waves of lotus petals.

Cloe drew quite a couple of arcs when she was dodging with her zigzag and curving movements. Her speed was not that fast when compared to other Martial-Artists but she was still doing pretty fine at dodging the attacks that were thrown at her.

Seeing that her opponent was continuously shortening the distance between them, Alice decided to abandon the idea of stopping Cloe's charge and just chose to set up a defensive line instead.

Alice did a pulling motion with both of her hands and gathered all of the lotus petals surrounding her before moving them in a circular motion around her body.

They created a spherical barrier with their circular movements while also hiding Alice and whatever she was doing behind them.

Cloe slightly knitted her eyebrows when she saw that but didn't immediately halt her advance. She was trying to figure out what her opponent was trying to do this time. And after a brief moment of thinking, she quickly increased her speed as the Internal Qi surrounding her suddenly became violent as if they were a wildfire in the forest.

'Unnamed Martial-Arts Skill: Breakthrough'

Swoosh!

During her charge, Cloe raised both of her arms and crossed them in front of her to protect her head as she charged at the blockade that the lotus petals in front of her.

Bang!

The spherical barrier in front of Cloe was suddenly obliterated as charged through it. But despite what just happened, she was still wearing a deep frown since there was no one behind that barrier.

Alice suddenly disappeared!

Cloe quickly turned her head left and right to look for her opponent as soon as possible while halting her charge. But despite looking anywhere, she still couldn't find Alice nor any traces that were left behind.

But even if that was the case, Cloe still had a calm look on her face. It was as if the sudden disappearance of her opponent was not an issue.

'If she is nowhere to be found on the surface, then there could only be a single location for her to escape,' thought Cloe before gathering a large amount of Internal Qi on her right-hand fist before smashing in on the ground with a very powerful manner.

'Unnamed Martial-Arts Skill: Destruction'

Boom!

An explosion immediately occurred and spiderweb cracks started to spread in every direction starting from where Cloe's fist landed.

The scale of her punch was quite large as it almost covered the entire backyard. And when Shiella saw that, the corner of her mouth couldn't help but twitch. 'Looks like I also need to call someone who was skilled at repairing the landscape.'

Bang!

Then Alice suddenly jumped up from underneath the ground as she coughed quietly. There were some bloodstains on the corner of her mouth, indicating that she couldn't properly block the vibration that Cloe had sent towards the ground.

But at the same time, she powerfully swung her hand upwards as if she was commanding something to emerge from the ground.

'Formless Lotus Arts (Family Arts): Emerging Lotus'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Then spear-like Mental Energy suddenly flew up from the ground underneath Cloe's feet.

Feeling the slight vibration on the ground, Cloe quickly flipped backward to get away from her previous locations as an explosion occurred in there.

She continued to flip back as more and more spear-like Mental Energy shot up towards the ground as if they were flowers that were sprouting out from the ground.

The expression on Shiella's face started to become weird as she watched that scene. It was not because of how intense that fight was, but because their backyard was really starting to become destroyed. It was just repaired after her little duel with Shin, but it was getting wrecked once again. And it was much serious compared to that time since there was no barrier to prevent their attacks from spreading out.

'This is not going to happen if that stupid pervert is not here!' thought Shiella inside her head as she cursed David for being absent.

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Achoo!

Somewhere on the road, David suddenly sneezed loudly while driving.

He knitted his eyebrows quite deeply before muttering to himself with a serious tone. "Looks like someone is thinking about me once again. And based on how loud it was, I am pretty sure that they are thinking about me quite passionately."

With Shin's current sense, hearing such conceited remarks was practically impossible, especially since he was currently sitting in the passenger seat.

He looked at his senior brother with a weird expression on his face before asking. "Are you sure that that person is not cursing you instead?"

Chapter 735 Cloe Vs Alice (Part 4)

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The two girls continued the duel while slowly increasing its intensity. Their exchange of Martial-Art Skills and Mentalism Techniques was also getting more intense the more they fought.

What surprised the others who were spectating from the sideline was the skills that Cloe was showcasing. Those Martial-Art Skills were quite odd, sometimes they looked like a skill that was focused on brute-forcing while there were also some times where they looked like an assassination technique. There were also some instances where she was using them like how military officers fought on the battlefield.

There were also some strange styles as well which surprised Arthur, Leonard, and Lorraine who were familiar with her. It was their first time seeing Cloe fight like this.

"Sheesh! She is reminding me of certain someone who also used to fight like that," commented Arthur while clicking his tongue repeatedly.

Leonard gave him a sidelong glance before asking. "Are you talking about me?"

Arthur was silent for a moment before clarifying what he just said. "In a sense, yeah. It is more like your previous style that focuses on surviving and doing everything you can to win. But at the same time, she also has Shin's slyness when fighting right now."

"She is showing a whole different style during the entrance exam. Both during the practical test in that Prison Island and the duels during the day after," said Lorraine as she joined the conversation.

Leonard quickly nodded his head in agreement. "During the test in the Prison Island, she is focusing on the supportive role and perfectly assisting us. On the other hand, the fighting style that she showed during the duels is somewhat a style that highly focuses on counterattacking."

Arthur slightly knitted his eyebrows before also nodding his head. "Well, we haven't met her for quite a long time, so we can't be sure that we know how much she changes during the time that she is in their home."

"We may as well say that this may be her real style of battle," he added which made the other two nod their heads.

Then they focused their attention on Alice who was currently fighting Cloe with an equal footing. Her style was still the same from what they could remember since the time of the exam, though she was now showcasing some of the complicated techniques that she didn't use during that time.

This sight made the three of them think how amazing Cloe currently was, despite not having a peak-class talent like what her current opponent had.

...

Bang!

The two were separated from each other after a powerful collision of their attacks and forced them to take multiple steps backward to stabilize their footing.

Cloe shook her right arm as she regained her balance due to the numbness that it was feeling. That previous collision put quite some heavy burden on her arm. Then she turned her gaze at her opponent who was also doing the same thing as her.

After that, Cloe quickly took a battle stance where she was facing her opponent sideways with both of her left foot and fist were currently pointing at her opponent. On the other hand, her other fist was currently positioned on the right side of her waist.

Bang!

Then the transparent Internal Qi surrounding her body suddenly ran wild as if they were a raging fire that was running amok at the center of the forest.

Seeing her actions, Alice immediately understood what her opponent wanted to do. It was pretty obvious that Cloe wanted to end this sparring match with this final strike.

Given that, she quickly increased the amount of Mental Energy that was surrounding her body before letting them revolve around her like a spinning tornado.

Then she waved her left hand towards the opposite direction of the rotation of her Mental Energy, making the tornado-like rotation to be divided into two parts that were rotating in two different directions.

She did the same movements until she divided the tornado-like Mental Energy surrounding her got divided into multiple layers.

A moment later, the Mental Energy surrounding transformed into a blooming lotus flower that was gently spinning elegantly.

'Final Lotus Technique: Great Order of the Blooming Lotus'

In the meantime, Cloe finally made her move and kicked the ground beneath her feet, propelling herself forward with an insane speed.

p Bang!

Swoosh!

She left a trail of light in the air behind her as she continued moving forward in a very aggressive manner.

At the same time, all of the Internal Qi that was running wild around her body gathered on her right-hand fist all of a sudden, forming a spherical energy force on it. The transparent Internal Qi on her fist released a brilliant glow that seemed to be mimicking the light that was coming from the sun.

In a mere instant, Cloe arrived in front of the spinning lotus made of Mental Energy that was protecting Alice, before throwing her fist forward without any hint of hesitation.

'Unnamed Martial-Arts (Final Strike): Annihilation'

Boom!

A very loud explosion suddenly occurred the moment she threw her fist forward. There was also a powerful shockwave that was accompanying it which was sent in every direction.

Swoosh!

A cloud of smoke and dust was also created right after the collision. And when it settled down, Cloe, Alice, and the others who were spectating the match from the sideline saw Shiella standing right in front of the two girls.

One of her hands caught Cloe's fist while being covered with frost flakes. At the same time, her other hand was pressing on the spinning lotus on her other side while it was being surrounded by a multicolored flame.

Shiella took a quick glance at Cloe and Alice before forcefully canceling their respective Martial-Art Skill and Mentalism Technique while saying. "We should stop here. That should be enough for now."

After that, she gently pushed the two away, separating them from each other.

Everyone seemed to be pretty confused at her actions, but since she was the overseer of this sparring match, no one voiced their opinions.

Shiella didn't care about what they were currently thinking and immediately said to the two girls. "Go back to respective rooms for a moment and evaluate your performances. If you have any questions, ask me directly."

Both Cloe and Alice were currently standing on their spots with a deep frown on their faces, clearing indicating that they were not satisfied with the current result of the match. But since she told them to ask her if they had any questions, they immediately drop the matter and headed to their house, planning to do what she had instructed them.

Seeing that, Arthur, Leonard, and Lorraine also left the backyard, planning to go back doing their own thing.

With that, only Shiella, Jerimiah, and Vincent were left.

The silence was currently lingering in the air as none of them made a sound. Aside from the blowing of the gentle wind, nothing could be heard in the backyard.

A few moments later, Jerimiah finally opened his mouth. "Sigh~. That was a good call. We really don't know what is going to happen if we let them continue."

Shiella didn't directly respond to his words but still give her comment. "Those girls are quite vicious."

She then recalled what she had seen earlier.

She immediately noticed the strangeness of the Internal Qi that was surrounding Cloe's fist and was sure that it would instantly shatter the spinning lotus made of Mental Energy protecting Alice.

But at the same time, she also saw that the other side was preparing another move with her hand. It was as if she was expecting that her defensive technique was not going to withstand the attack of her opponent.

But the problem was her technique was a pretty dangerous one.

Shiella didn't know what was going to happen if she let the two of them continue and watch their respective attacks clash with each other.

Due to the uncertainty that was suddenly got involved, she didn't dare to risk the safety of the two just to see the final result. It was just a sparring match after all.

Even if she was aware that there was something more in this match aside from a simple exchange of insights, she was still not willing to let them take the risk.

After that long string of thoughts, she suddenly turned her head to Vincent before asking. "What do you think about it?"

Vincent was silent for a couple of seconds before shaking his head. "I am also not sure. Since there is a lot of uncertainty involved, it was better to stop it right away than to let an accident happen."

He then took a brief pause due to some hesitation before continuing. "But if you are asking me as an assassin who is more familiar with the feeling called 'death', then I must say that I can feel more danger on that girl with pink hair than the one with silver hair."

"I don't know what exactly it is, but I am pretty sure that her conviction is much stronger than her opponent. That reason alone is more than enough to give herself a slight edge in that fight," he added after a brief moment of thought.

Hearing his assessment, Shiella silently nodded her head in agreement before telling them that she was going back too.

The other two quickly gave her a slight nod before also going back inside the house, leaving the now fully wrecked backyard.

Chapter 736 A Glimpse Of Your Future (Part 1)

...

Ace City

Shin and David arrived at the entrance of the Magic Ace Academy and quickly get off the car.

There were already a lot of students coming in and out of the academy as the new school year was about to start. The first semester was starting a few days later, so most of the students were already moving into their respective dorms.

"It has been a while since I feel this kind of atmosphere," muttered Shin as he looked at the entrance.

David closed the door on the side of the driver's seat before looking at Shin. "I will be going now. Be careful when you are driving home."

Shin turned his head at him and slightly nodded before replying. "Don't worry, I am not a showoff, unlike Arthur."

David stared at him for a moment before asking. "Are you sure that you don't want to look around? The semester is about to start on Monday, you will not have time to look for them later since you guys are going to be busy with your respective classes."

Shin casually waved his hand at his senior brother as he answered. "That will not be an issue. And we can also take a lot around while we are going from a class to another."

"Isn't it more interesting to do such things? We can feel the school life that way," he added as he headed over the other side of the car.

Then he made a shooing action with his hand before saying. "You can go now. You said that Big Brother Elijah is waiting for you, don't let him wait for that long. After all, the state of one's mind is also pretty important when it comes to sparring with other people."

"Tsk! You don't have to tell me about that. I at least know that much," said David while clicking his tongue.

After David quickly jogged his way towards the academy while waving his hand at Shin. "You should come outside from time to time and socialize with other people. Staying at home all day is quite boring, you know?"

Shin didn't reply as he opened the door of his car and prepared to leave. But as he did that, he suddenly heard an old voice behind him.

"Ho-ho! I agree with that young lad. You should come out of your cave from time to time. Sometimes, taking a casual walk from time to time is also good for calming your mind. It is also a part of training."

Shin didn't need to look around to know who was it as he had seen that old man for quite some time already. He closed the door of the car and turned before bowing at the old man who was walking towards him. "I greet the professor. I hope that you've been well."

Professor Henry who was walking over Shin laughed when he saw the latter's actions and waved his hand. "Rise little kid. Such ceremonies are not suited for this old man. You can just treat me as an old man at your home, I prefer a casual greeting than formalities like this."

Shin slightly nodded his head as a response before standing up straight once again. And right after that, he suddenly felt a gaze that seemed to be trying to unveil all of his secrets.

,m He quickly raised his head and looked at the old professor with an astounded gaze. 'What is this? This old man is really not simple. I thought he is not an expert on neither Martial-Arts nor Mentalism.'

Seeing the surprised look on his face, Professor Henry couldn't help but smile mysteriously before asking. "What's with the surprised look? Didn't you already suspect that those rumors are not true the moment you see me for the first time that other day?"

The corner of Shin's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard those words. 'So, he did it on purpose. Don't tell me he is spreading those rumors that he is not an expert in neither of those two disciplines.'

After that, he took another look at the old man standing in front of him, trying to assess the professor's strength. But to his surprise, he couldn't perceive anything from the professor. It was as if he was looking at an ordinary person who never learned any kind of discipline. The air around him was too ordinary compared to the other old experts that Shin had encountered so far.

As if the old man could read what was running inside Shin's head, the professor suddenly smiled even more mysteriously while saying. "Kid, there are a lot of dangerous things in this world, and being knowledgeable in a lot of fields is one of them."

"Imagine, if someone that knowledgeable is also well versed in fighting? How do you think those people sitting on the throne will react?"

Shin was suddenly taken aback by those words as he was not expecting that. Moreover, the old professor was also giving a profound look as if there was another meaning to his words.

'No, there are a lot of meanings behind them. But what are they exactly?' thought Shin to himself as he looked at the old man with a knitted brow.

Seeing that got the interest of the young man in front of him, Professor Henty gave Shin another meaningful smile before asking. "Are you curious? I can at least answer one of them if you want since you are going to be a part of the Research Department Family."

Shin was tempted but he also felt that he should ask anything for now due to some unknown reason. It was as if there was something within his heart that was preventing him from inquiring further.

'So, it is still not time yet,' thought the professor to himself when he saw the hesitation in Shin's eyes and quickly said. "If you feel that you are still not ready, then you don't have to force yourself. The right time will come for everything."

Shin felt that there was another profound meaning behind those words. He further knitted his brow as the curiosity that he had became more intense. Though, he still managed to hold himself up and did not ask anything.

Professor Henry slightly nodded his head when he saw that and asked. "Are you going somewhere, kid? Come with me for a second if you still have some time."

"Eh? Do you need me for something professor?" asked Shin unconsciously.

The professor gave him a quick glance before answering. "I heard from your seniors that you seemed to be having second thoughts about joining our department. I will show something interesting that will convince you that you make the right choice at choosing us."

The corner of Shin's mouth twitched once again when he heard those words, especially when he heard the word seniors. It was reminding him of the time when he first encountered those strange and scary members of the Research Department.

"Then I can give you a ride there, professor!" he responded after recovering himself.

"Ho-ho! Unfortunately, this old enjoyed take a little walk in the school grounds," answered Professor Henry which made Shin knit his brow once again.

The professor ignored the look that Shin was making before pointing at the parking lot a few distances away. "You can park that care of yours over here. This old man can wait for you here."

Shin stared at the old man for a moment before nodding his head.

...

After walking around the school grounds, Professor Henty brought Shin to an open field where no one was around.

Aside from the calm field and cozy blow of the wind, Shin didn't see anything special in the place. Then he turned his attention to the old man, waiting for the professor to say something.

"Kid, how is your progress in combining your Martial-Arts and Mentalism?" asked Professor Henry all of a sudden.

"Eh!?" Shin couldn't immediately give his reply as he was suddenly taken aback by the old man's question.

Seeing the surprised look that Shin had, Professor Henry immediately said. "Don't be surprised, kid. I am a long-time friend of your masters. That old monster maybe a little older than me, but we are indeed friends when we are still going to the same school. It is the same for that old fatty."

"Ah!" Shin immediately realized that Professor Henry was currently talking about Professor Plum and Grandmaster Benn.

"We spend quite some time researching our style together during those times. We also exchange some pointers from time to time. Did that old duo tell you that we suffered some setbacks during that?" added the old professor with the same profound matter that he had earlier.

Shin got the gist of time since he heard from his masters that they suffered a lot during their younger days. Their ideals were rejected by both circles of Martial-Arts and Mentalism due to how crazy their ideas were.

Professor Plum was treated like a crazy person for attempting to train a pair of opposing Qi within his body on top of harmonizing them. Meanwhile, Grandmaster Benn was isolated by his peers due to him having the idea of combining all of the Mentalism paths in a single training method.

Both old men were treated badly during their younger days but they managed to persevere and able to succeed in the end.

'Is Professor Henry is also the same?' thought Shin while looking at the old man standing a few meters in front of him.

Then the corner of his mouth suddenly twitched before saying to himself. 'Looks like I got entangled with another old monster of the Martial-Art and Mentalism world.'

Chapter 737 A Glimpse Of Your Future (Part 2)

...

Shin turned silent as he looked at Professor Henry with a serious gaze. He heard that both of his masters suffered a lot during the earlier years of their life due to them not having a good background before. And it became even worse when they managed to get admitted to a prestigious school overseas.

That school might be not as famous as the current powerhouse schools like Magic Ace Academy, Top Military School, Central Institute, and others, but that particular school was said to be the legendary institution that created a lot of legendary figures.

'It was just a pity that a disaster befell on that particular school that also caused its demise,' thought Shin himself while waiting for the professor to talk.

'And if he claims that he is also a student of that particular school, then it is not a surprise for him to also be a monstrous individual, just like those two unfathomable masters of mine,' he added to his thoughts as the expression on his face turned weird.

It was at this point when Professor Henry finally opened his mouth. "Those masters of yours are real troublemakers back then. Since they are being forcefully isolated by the others and the school is having a blind eye on that manner, they cause a lot of mess from time to time to catch the attention of everyone."

He couldn't help but chuckle a little when he said those words due to the memories that were coming back to him.

It took him a couple of moments before he was able to calm himself down and look at Shin. "If you are curious about it, then I can tell you a glimpse of their past when you are formally training under my department."

He took a brief pause and looked at Shin with serious eyes before asking. "But for now, let's go straight to our business. I know that you are quite curious what is the reason I bring you here."

"This is the place where your seniors train themselves. It is an isolated part of the academy which is also protected by a very strong barrier that can prevent others from spying on us. No one can enter this place without my permission regardless of their ranks or status within the academy and the society outside."

"Even their attainment in their respective disciplines is useless since the barrier that I have set up is the combination of Martial-Arts, Mentalism, and our current technology. Isn't it amazing?" he emphasized to make sure that Shin understand.

But the young man seemed to be not impressed by the old man's words as he seemed to be expecting something like this already. 'I expected as much. Given the strength of those seniors, it is pretty much impossible for the academy to neglect them, especially that the head of their department is happened to be the head of the Research Center within our continent.'

'Based on what I can see from their temperament, I am pretty sure that they are spending their contribution points on something like this – an area where they can test their progress.'

'After all, they are going to destroy the other places within the academy if they spar in an ordinary training ground,' he added as he thought about the hellish experience that he had during the time he first met them.

'Ho~! This kid is indeed interesting,' thought Professor Henry with a knitted brow after seeing that Shin seemed to be uninterested in this place.

He then tried to prove a little more. "Alright, that should be enough for the introduction of this place. We also have other places like this within the academy, but you can just ask your seniors to introduce you to those places when the school starts."

Unfortunately, Shin didn't show any kind of reaction as if he was saying that it was something normal.

He just mentioned those locations to see how Shin was going to react. But after seeing that the young man was unimpressed with it, the professor had no choice but to reveal one of his cards.

Cough! Cough!

Professor Henry cleared his throat for a moment before continuing. "Alright let's proceed to the main part."

This time, Shin felt that the air surrounding the professor suddenly changed. The hint of mischievousness that he had earlier was now gone, while what was left was a serious look that give him a little pressure despite the old man not doing anything.

"You haven't answered me yet about my inquiry. How is your progress in combining your Martial-Arts and Mentalism?"

He then heard the professor asking him that question.

Shin couldn't help but become even more silent as he didn't know exactly he was going to proceed. This old man already saw him trying to combine the two disciplines before. Especially his attempt of creating his own 'Worldly Origin', the combination of Internal Qi and Mental Energy.

He knew that it was hard, especially with the current state of his Martial-Arts and Mentalism that seemed to be not harmonizing with each other. But he still tried regardless since he could wield both the Sacred Qi and Mental Energy before.

Shin shook his head, indicating that his current progress in that matter was not that great. His separate attainment on both disciplines was pretty good, but combining them was still an impossible task for the current him.

Seeing his nod, Professor Henry asked gently. "I heard from those two old men that you can no longer wield your Internal Qi and Mental Energy at the same time. Do you understand the reason behind it?"

Shin was taken aback at first when he heard those words. But after thinking about the relationship of his masters with Professor Henry, he thought that it was not strange for him to know about his current situation.

He was even not going to be surprised if heard that those two asked the opinion of this another old monster, especially since it was his field of expertise.

"Please, enlighten me, professor," said Shin to respond to that question.

"Tsk! Tsk! I already told you that I don't like this kind of formalities," said Professor Henry while clearly showing his dissatisfaction.

Though, he still answered his own question earlier. "That is because of the complication of your current state."

"The Sacred Qi and Demonic Qi within you are practically in the same rank, so their collision is pretty intense. You can wield them with ease separately but it was a different matter when you are wielding them at the same time."

"You should be thankful at the Yin-Yang Core that you manage to form within your dantian because it is preventing your two opposing Interna Qi to clash against each other."

"But it doesn't mean that you are totally safe either since they are going to devour the other once the balance with them is brother."

He then paused for a moment looked at Shin with a profound look on his face before continuing. "To tell you the truth, I am quite impressed that you can handle the viciousness that the Demonic Qi has. Wielding such a dangerous Qi can easily consume your mind."

"Moreover, you are even able to balance it up alongside your Sacred Qi, enough for them to form a mutated Yin-Yang Core... No... It is much fitting to say that this is the real Perfect Yin-Yang Core."

"I wonder how lucky you are to achieve both feats," added the professor.

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but feel a little strange. It was because he didn't feel that both of the matters that Professor Henry had mentioned were not totally from his ability.

He could wield the Demonic Qi because he was practicing the 'Jade Kirin Scripture' that his senior brother had thought him. He didn't know why, but the Demonic Qi within his body was rather calm due to the mantra of that said technique.

Not only that, but this particular scripture was also preventing his Sacred Qi from fighting his Demonic Qi even though it was slightly stronger than it.

On the other hand, the matter regarding his Yin-Yang Core was rather peculiar too. He remembered that an accident happened during the completion of the 'Reinforce Iron Bones', a permanent 'Qi Reinforcement Skill'.

He was still not sure what happened during his unconscious state but he suspected that the mysterious man that he encountered during that time helped him establish his Yin-Yang Core.

Even if Nathan claimed that it was not the case and it was due to the Yin-Yang Art that he was currently training, what happened during that time was really suspicious, especially since his core completely changed overnight.

If it was due to his Martial-Arts, the progress should show some signs within his body. But everything was completely clean. It was as if it was cleansed by someone.

While Shin was having those thoughts, Professor Henry continued. "Before you only had a single Internal Qi residing within your both, so it was not that strange that you can wield it alongside your Mental Energy."

"But it was a different case now. Forget about the fact that you have three different types of energy within your body, the fact the two of them could wage war against each other alone was already taxing for your body. So, if you add another type of energy of the same level, the result is not that hard to imagine."

Hearing that, Shin silently nodded his head as the professor's assessment was the same as what his masters had suspected.

"Anyway, choosing to only train your Mentalism when you enter the academy is actually a good choice. After all, the fact that you can both wield a Sacred Qi and Demonic Qi at the same time can cause a lot of trouble if those greedy figures discovered about that fact," said Professor Plum as a particular memory suddenly flashed within his mind.

After that, the professor turned silent for a couple of moments before saying with a mysterious tone. "But kid, what I am about to show you some just a glimpse of your future."

"What you can do in that time is going to be much greater. And you will not need to concern yourself about those greedy people any longer."

'Just like your parents,' he added as he stood straight and raised his right-hand fist. He then looked at Shin straight to the eyes before swinging that very fist forward.

What happened next shook Shin to the core!

Boom!

Chapter 738 A Glimpse Of Your Future (Part 3)

.....

Shin stared blankly in front of him as he saw a giant fist heading on his way. The instincts of his body naturally wanted to respond and ran away from the incoming attack as soon as possible. But unfortunately, his body refused to budge even for an inch.

His breathing was starting to get haggard. It was as if something was squeezing his chest tightly. Moreover, it was getting tighter and tighter as if it was planning to suffocate him to death.

He could also feel his back being drenched with his own sweat. Even his forehead was sweating bullets. This was his first time feeling like this.

No.

It was more accurate to say that he had already expressed this feeling a couple of times, this was the feeling that he experienced before, the feeling of being close to death.

On top of that, there was also another unexplainable feeling mixed within it, the feeling of helplessness.

People tended to feel helpless in front of mighty beings. And even if Shin had monstrous willpower compared to most of the people, he still couldn't help but feel powerless in front of the absolute being in front of him.

This was what you could call the power of dominion.

The power that could dominate anyone under its control.

The power of sovereignty.

Swoosh!

Thud!

Then Shin realized that he fell on his butt. He didn't when was it, but he was now sitting on the ground while still wearing an astounded look on his face.

Raising his head, he saw Professor Henry standing in front of him with the usual nonchalant look that he had. He was also smiling at Shin which seemed to have a lot of meaning behind it.

"How was it?" asked the professor as he crossed his head behind while looking at the young man sitting on the ground.

Shin didn't immediately reply as he didn't know how he was going to answer. It took him quite some time to be able to open his mouth but another question left his mouth. "What was that? An illusion?"

Professor Henry couldn't help but feel satisfied after seeing the flustered look that Shin had. He then slightly nodded his head before replying. "It can be considered like that but it is also not entirely correct since your head is going to explode due to shock if my fist hit you."

Shin knitted his eyebrows for a moment as he was confused at first. But he immediately realized the old professor meant after brief thought. "A mental attack on top an illusion technique. No, there is another one. I couldn't move my body earlier, so a binding technique may be in the mix."

Hearing Shin's murmurs, Professor Henry raised one of his eyebrows before laughing. "Ho-ho! You are quick to pick, kid. But that is still not entirely it."

He paused for a moment to raise one of his fists in front of him before continuing. "What you have witnessed is the combination of Martial-Arts and Mentalism Techniques. In short, a Secret Art. Or to be exact, a 'Unison Type Secret Art'."

"You didn't see it earlier because you are under the pressure of my mental attack while your senses are fooled by the illusion technique accompanying it. But in truth, those two were just a cover for my real attack to land."

"What closely this time," as he added those words, the professor suddenly pulled his fist towards his shoulder before quickly thrusting it to the side.

Bang!

Then the air in front of Professor Henry's fist exploded all of a sudden before sending a violent ripple in the air.

"What?"

Shin couldn't believe what he saw. It was because that simple punch looked so ordinary if someone didn't look closely at it.

Fortunately, Shin was paying full attention to all of the old professor's actions from start to finish. Through his specialized ocular technique, the 'True Sight' that he created, he saw everything in the tiniest details.

He first saw the quick accumulation of Internal Qi on the old man's fist alongside the Mental Energy that surrounded them. They didn't fuse together but they were still able to find the balance to get along with each other.

Then he saw that all of the accumulated Internal Qi and Mental Energy were all released at the same time right after punch reached its farthest reach before creating havoc in the air.

Not only that, but Shin could also tell that such an attack was enough to blast a person into smithereens. Or worse, it could turn some into a meat paste.

Being hit by such a powerful attack while rendered immobile by those three types of Mentalism Techniques would surely seal the fate of its target.

'So the reason that I feel is because of the strong air ripple that comes from that attack,' thought Shin to himself as he tried to calm himself.

Professor Henry turned his attention back to Shin before asking. "Is it amazing?"

Hearing that, Shin unconsciously nodded his head repeatedly while thinking to himself. 'Such a merciless art practically seals one's fate in battle.'

He was already amazed by what he saw but he became even more speechless when he heard the next words that the professor had said.

"Is that so? But it is still an incomplete technique."

The corner of Shin's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard those words while staring at the old man with a weird look on his face. 'Incomplete? You are calling such a scary art incomplete? Then how horrifying is it when it reached its perfect form?'

Professor Henry couldn't help but laugh after seeing the reaction that Shin had before explaining. "I saw you activated your ocular skill, so I am pretty sure that you should know what happened exactly."

"As you can see, my Internal Qi and Mental Energy can't fuse with each other. That is the reason why I can it incomplete."

"If I can turn them into a 'Worldly Origin', and a specialized one at that, then this particular Secret Art is going to be even more amazing," he added before laughing excitedly.

Shin had a serious look on his face when he heard those words as he recalled the records that he read from the study of the Springfield Family. 'Worldly Origin, a special energy that was said to be the result when the Internal Qi and Mental Energy fused together. It was the perfect energy that was perfectly fitted for the unification of Martial-Arts and Mentalism.'

Worldly Origin and Secret Arts.

These were the two reasons why he chose the Magical Ace Academy over the Top Military School.

In the meantime, the professor started nodding his head in satisfaction when he saw the serious expression that suddenly appeared on Shin's face.

'Such a firm determination, it is pretty much the same when I first saw those two in the past,' thought Professor Henry to himself while staring at Shin.

"Do you want to learn this Skill?" asked the professor as he looked at the young man who was currently picking up himself from the ground.

Shin didn't immediately answer as he stared back at the old man's eyes with burning eyes. He was now fully convinced that his decision was the right choice. And after a few moments of silence, he finally said with a firm tone. "I will learn it!"

Professor Henry was suddenly taken aback after hearing those words. He couldn't help but knit his eyebrows as Shin's words, and actions seemed to be contradicting each other.

But it didn't take long as he started smiling from ear to ear the moment when he heard the next words that Shin had said.

"I am not going to learn that skill or technique. Instead, I will thoroughly study it alongside you professor until we fully perfect it!"

Professor Henry started laughing out loud as he looked at Shin. 'This kid is the real deal! He really resembles his parents when I first saw them!'

He then looked at Shin with a profound gaze while also activating his ocular skill in the process. And when the latter saw that, he couldn't help but tremble a little as felt that all of his secrets were being uncovered one by one.

The professor ignored the expression that Shin had as he continued to look at the latter's spiritual form.

Not long after, he started seeing the two cores that were chasing within the latter's dantian which was also creating a spinning whirlpool within it.

The golden and crimson cores were swimming within two pools which represent the Sacred Qi and Demonic Qi respectively.

Then he saw the glowing orb hiding deep within Shin's Niwan Palace.

There were also the three dark energies within Shin's heart which were forming a shape of a seed. The two of them were being absorbed very slowly and turning into Demonic Qi. Meanwhile, the darkest 'seed' was being sealed by a thick wall of Mental Energy.

On top of all of that, he could also see the invisible chains that were wrapped around Shin's spiritual form that were seemingly binding something within him.

A few moments later, Professor Henry closed his eyes and breathed deeply while thinking to himself. 'What kind of monster have you given birth to, you monstrous couple?'

When he opened his eyes once again, he immediately saw Shin who was standing right in front of him. And for a brief moment, he seemed to see the overlapping images of the two greatest geniuses that he had encountered in his entire life.

Hu~!

He then breathed out a heavy air before patting Shin's shoulder before saying. "Kid, from today onwards, you have to update me on your progress in either Martial-Arts or Mentalism."

"You can also contact your masters if you don't trust me. I'll just contact them regularly," he added after seeing the confused look that Shin had.

Shin was not sure why the professor suddenly had a change in his attitude, but he still nodded his head in response. "Don't worry professor, I will trust you since my masters trusted you. They actually recommend choosing your department over the others."

Professor Henry smiled gently when he heard those words before. "Then I will properly pave the path for your future progress."

....

Adamson Kinghand and Evangeline Rose.

The professor was still not sure what was running inside the head of these two or what exactly happened during the time that they were hiding from everyone else.

But he was pretty sure that there was a reason why they chose to limit their son's potential-...

'No... to be exact, they divided the real potential that this kid originally had,' thought Professor Henry as he stared at Shin with a serious gaze.

Chapter 739 A Glimpse Of Your Future (Part 4)

...

Shin was currently driving on his way home.

It was already getting dark since he took some time to ask some instructions from Professor Henry. The professor asked him if he needed some guidance on something. Shin didn't even hesitate to ask a couple of things regarding Secret Arts.

Professor Henry told him not to rush things as he would naturally learn more about those things when school started. But he still gave Shin the basic information regarding the topic which was also not available to the majority of the people.

Hearing the explanation that the professor had given him, Shin now had a rough idea where he really should start his path. Though, it was also a rough patch since he needed to perfectly combine his Sacred Qi and Demonic Qi, or at least turn them into his personal 'Natural Force'.

That basically means that he needed to break through his current Martial-Art attainment first and reach the 'Ethereal Opening Stage'. And since he needed to keep the balance between his two disciplines, he also needed to create his 'Spiritual Force' for his Mentalism and reach the peak of 'Grandmaster Realm'.

The problem was he also needed to suppress both his attainment as much as he could and wait for the natural breakthrough to come.

Both Professor Plum and Grandmaster Benn explicitly explained to him that a natural breakthrough was much better than forcing a breakthrough on either of the two disciplines. They said that building the most solid foundation was going to be more beneficial to him in the future.

Shin clearly understood their intention that it was going to be better for him in the long run even though he was going to slightly lag behind the others.

He was sure that Arthur, Leonard, and the others were also trying to do the same since their respective masters were also experts in their own field. The problem was he was suppressing both his Martial-Arts and Mentalism at the same time.

At the very least, there was still good news for him. And that was fact that the path that was currently taking was definitely going to make him much stronger than what he could imagine.

"Fist of Dominion, huh? What an interesting technique," muttered Shin as he remembered the name of the technique that Professor Henry had shown him earlier. Then he remembered what the professor told him about that technique.

...

"This technique is indeed quite complicated, but it doesn't mean that training it is going to be that hard. As long as you know how to properly build the foundation for it and patiently learn it step by step, then you will be able to learn it with ease."

"I will be giving you the basic training method for it, so add it to your daily training routine. I will check your progress when the first semester finally starts."

...

After that, Shin quickly looked at the darkening sky before looking at the digital clock. "Tsk! It took longer than expected."

It was already 6:15 p.m., so he needed to hurry up and get back home as soon as possible since was already running late for the scheduled time that he promised with the team.

Vroom!

Shin accelerated the speed of his car, making its engine make a roaring sound that caught the attention of the other drivers driving alongside him on the road.

Fortunately, there was no police nearby who caught him, or else a more troublesome situation would arise out of nowhere.

...

Took Shin 15 more minutes to arrive home. And right after he entered, the others were already waiting for him in the living room as usual.

"You are late!" said Arthur the moment when he saw Shin's arrival.

"Well, I bump into my department professor on my way home. He gives me a couple of instructions about my training method, so it took longer than expected," replied Shin as he walked past them and headed straight to the kitchen.

"Where are the others?" he asked when he saw that the girls were currently not present.

Tsk! Tsk!

Right after those words left his mouth, he suddenly heard a simultaneous clicking of tongues which made him turn his head at them.

He looked at Arthur who was shaking his head, Leonard who released a helpless sigh, Jeremiah who was giving him a weird look, and Vincent who was currently frowning his eyebrows quite deeply.

Despite the different reactions that they were giving him, Shin could feel that they seemed to be having the same thoughts in mind.

– "Hopeless, this guy is hopeless. How can he leave like that despite knowing what kind of atmosphere he left behind?" –

He could clearly feel that they were currently having the same thought while looking at him with strange gazes. 'What the? Did I do something wrong? Why do I feel that they are blaming me for something?'

Unable to comprehend the meaning of their gazes, Shin resumed his steps to head to the kitchen, planning to prepare their dinner as soon as possible.

In the meantime, David was currently taking a nap on a certain part of the academy while Elijah was cleaning his sword a few meters away from him.

They just finished their sparring match which took longer than they expected. And based on the traces left behind in the field, it was hard to tell whether they were really planning to just spar with each other or destroy the entire place.

Long sword marks, deep craters, huge cracks on the ground, and fallen trees – this was the current state of the place. They turned the whole field into a devastated land.

"Tsk! Tsk! Isn't this a little too much? I know that the Vice Principal favors you, but I think you two get ahead over the limit," said an alluring voice.

Elijah paused what he was currently doing before turning his head to the owner of the voice. Then he saw Mariel who was currently making her way towards him.

After staring at her for a brief moment, he turned his head back to his sword before continuing what he was doing.

Seeing his actions, Mariel suddenly frowned her eyebrows before charging at Elijah. "You dared to ignore me!?"

She was about to reach him when she suddenly saw Elijah releasing a helpless sigh. She then unconsciously halted her steps as she saw the lonely look that he currently had.

Then she heard him say.

"You should keep your distance away from me, Miss Mariel. We both don't want your family to misunderstand this situation again."

Hearing his words, the look on Mariel's face suddenly turned dark as she asked with a very chilling tone. "What do you just say?"

Then she immediately realized what he was trying to say and quickly asked. "Did my clan-...?"

She couldn't complete the words that she wanted to say since she saw Elijah pause for a moment before continuing to sharpen the blade of his sword.

Then silence filled the area as none of them wanted to speak. Elijah continued what he was doing while Mariel silently stared at him.

This atmosphere could continue for a long time if not for a sudden voice that came from the side. "Sheesh! What a romantic story. Even though it is a little cliché, it is still quite interesting to watch."

"A story of an in loved young maiden from an esteemed family and a commoner without a remarkable background. We can film a drama with this kind of plot," continued the owner of the voice, making the two turn their heads at him.

Seeing them sending him a sharp glare, David couldn't help but click his tongue before smiling awkwardly. "Sorry to interrupt but this kind of situation needs to be discussed privately."

Then he saw them continue to glare at him, which made him point at himself. "Ah! Yeah, that is right. I am the one who shouldn't be here."

'Tsk! Tsk! Why is it my fault? You are the ones who are interrupting someone else's nap in the first place,' added David inside his head before standing up and tapping his clothes to remove the dust on them. After that, he quickly bid his farewell to the two. "Then I should be going now."

He left the two alone, letting them deal with their love problems. "Tsk! Tsk! I wish I also have one."

Then his mood suddenly turned serious as he remembered the real reason why he woke up from his nap.

It was a scene of a young boy standing in the middle of monster corpses while being drenched by their blood. The boy was very young and seemed to be only three years old at that time.

He stood in the middle of those corpses while staring blankly at his bloodied hands. Then he suddenly turned at David with his eyes that were clearly on the verge of tears.

"Big Brother, I am a bad kid, right?"

"I-... I-... I hurt my friends. I hurt them all."

"But-... but-... it is not my fault! It is really not my fault!"

"I just-... I just-... want to play with them. But-... but-... inside my head-... someone-... someone says-..."

...

The scene was still vivid in David's memory since it was something that happened in the past. The scene of the young boy standing in the middle of monster corpses and the blurry silhouette that seemed to be standing right behind the kid.

David closed his eyes and breathed deeply to calm himself down. Then he resumed his steps before muttering with a soft voice. "Let's just hope that the seal will not be broken any time soon."

Chapter 740 Glimpse Of The Past

.....

"What is this? There is a large amount of Mental Energy coming from your child's body! And it is not an ordinary one at that, based on its density, it is definitely in Divinity Grade!"

"What there is another, a black Qi is also coming out! Wait! This eerie feeling! My god! It is a Demonic Qi! A very dense Demonic Qi! How can a child like this possess such a large amount of Demonic Qi!"

"They are clashing! The Pure Demonic Qi and Divinity Grade Mental Energy are clashing!"

"At this rate, the child's body will not be able to handle the clashing powers! He just got born!"

Chaotic voices were filling a room, signifying that the owners were currently in a state of panic. In front of them was a beautiful lady that was lying on the bed with a powerless look on her face. She currently had a haggard look but she still looked elegant despite that being the case.

That beautiful lady was having a hard time breathing as she listened to the panic voices that surrounded her.

She gathered all of her strength to forcefully open her eyes to see what was going on. Then she saw an infant lying on a small bed beside her.

The infant was crying very loudly. It was pretty obvious that he was currently in pain. And it was due to the clashing powers that were coming from the boy's body.

Ugh!

The beautiful lady pushed herself from the bed to get, surprising the people around her.

"Ah! What are you doing? You can't get up yet! You have just given birth to your child!" said one of the people around her, trying to tell her that she needed to take a rest.

But how could she do that when her child was currently in pain and was about to die due to the clashing powers that he obviously inherited from his parents.

The beautiful lady ignored the voices that were calling out for her and gathered her remaining strength to walk towards her child.

Then she put her palms together before summoning a vast amount of Mental Energy from her body.

"Ah!"

The people inside the room immediately panicked when they saw what she was doing!

"Are you out of your mind, you are currently not in a good state to perform such a high-grade sealing technique! You are going to injure yourself and further damage your foundation! You haven't fully recovered from your previous injury!" said the person beside her with an angry yet concerned tone.

Unfortunately for that person, the beautiful lady seemed to not hear anything and continued to release her Mental Energy and draw a series of runes in the air.

Bang!

Then the door of the room was suddenly burst open as a man with a handsome face forced his way in.

Seeing that man, the people inside the room couldn't help but have a sigh of relief as one of them urgently said. "You are here! Hurry! Stop your wife! Her life is going to be at risk if this continues!"

The handsome man slightly frowned his eyebrows when he heard those words and quickly arrived beside his wife before taking a quick look at her. He still had his deep frown as he looked at her but he didn't do anything, especially that serious look that she currently had.

He then turned his attention to the child in front of them and closely observed the infant's state before closing his eyes.

A moment later, he quickly sat on the other side of the infant before releasing a black Qi of his own.

Swoosh!

Right after he did that, the Demonic Qi that was coming from the infant's body immediately became agitated as if it sensed a particular being that was equal to its own.

Then the man put his hand above the infant which made the Pure Demonic Qi that was coming from the boy, head over him instead of clashing with the Divinity Grade Mental Energy.

"These two are crazy!"

Commented by the person who got ignored by the two earlier. But despite the dissatisfaction that he had, he still didn't interrupt the two and let them continue what they were doing.

A few moments later, the beautiful lady was finally drawn multiple series of Mentalism Runes in the air which immediately combined themselves and instantly formed a powerful formation above the child in front of her.

Seeing that, her husband who was sitting right across her took his hand off from the child doing a couple of seals on his hands.

"Do it!" said his wife after sensing that he was done with his preparations.

Hearing her signal, the handsome man quickly controlled his Demonic Qi and quickly pushed the black Qi that was coming from the child's body. He pressured them and forced them to retreat towards the child's heart.

The slow process continued until all of the Demonic Qi within the infant's body were gathered together and formed a 'seed'.

In the meantime, the Divinity Grade Mental Energy was also fighting the foreign powers that suddenly invaded their territory. Unfortunately, they were still powerless in front of such a strong force.

The Divinity Grade Mental Energy was slowly pushed back just like what happened to the Pure Demonic Qi earlier. Then they were gathered together and formed a glowing orb within the child's head.

The man's forehead was already full of sweat when he was done but he didn't care since he was fully aware that his wife was currently suffering more than him.

"I'm done," he said calmly.

His wife slightly nodded her head, signaling him to remove his Demonic Qi from their child's body. And right after seeing that, he quickly responded and retract all of the Demonic Qi towards his body.

Swoosh!

Then it was not his wife's turn to work.

She quickly controlled her Mental Energy and commanded the floating formation above their child to enter his small body.

The complicated formation slowly merged with the child. It created a prison that contained the revolting Pure Demonic Qi which was currently in the form of a seed and spherical barrier that blocked the Divinity Grade Mental Energy which was now had a form of an orb.

Cough!

The beautiful lady spat out some blood when the process was done. She already lost her strength but she stubbornly persisted. It was because she knew that they were not done yet.

Even though they managed to seal the two absolute powers that the child had, his lifeforce was constantly depleting. His small body obviously couldn't handle the previous clash between the Pure Demonic Qi and Divinity Grade Mental Energy.

At this rate, the child was going to die if they didn't do anything.

The beautiful land and her handsome husband were about to perform another ceremony to share their lifeforces with their child so that he could survive.

But before they could do anything, an old man who was carrying a young boy suddenly prevented them from doing anything. "That should be enough, let me deal with the rest."

This old man entered the room alongside the handsome guy earlier in an attempt to prevent the latter from causing any ruckus. But since he was weaker than that guy, so he couldn't do anything to stop him. All he could do was to continue carrying the four-year-old child in his arms and watch from the sideline.

"Spiritual Master! You can do that! We still need your strength to rebuild our Kingdom!" said one of the people inside the room.

"Ho-ho!" the old man laughed when he heard those words before answering with a casual tone. "I am already old and only have a few years left in my life, we can't be sure if I am still around when we rebuild our fallen kingdom."

He then took a brief pause and turned his head at the couple who were desperately doing their best to save their child before saying. "Isn't it more meaningful to exchange my life with someone who has more talent than me?"

"What's more, you already have this young prince. With him around, I am sure that you will achieve the thing that this old man failed to do," he added before putting the child down, ignoring the complaints of the people around him.

The old man bent down and looked at the young boy before patting his head. "It looks like it is time for me to meet your parents, young prince. I will make sure to tell them that you are healthy, so please don't immediately follow after us and live the kind of life that you want."

"I hope for your happiness, young prince," he added as he stood up and looked at the people around him. "Please take care of yourselves while you are guiding the young prince. I will go ahead of you for now."

He then started walking towards the couple and their child, ignoring the pleas of the people around him.

In the meantime, the innocent young boy watched the old man's back. He couldn't fully comprehend what was currently happening but his intelligent eyes snared at the sight in front of him as if he was trying to engrave this scene in his memory.

.....

"Wake up, young man! We are already at your destination!"

David slowly opened his eyes as he woke up from his dream. He stared blankly in the air for a couple of moments before muttering with a quiet voice. "It looks like I am dreaming about the past more often now."

"Young man! You can continue to sleep in your house later. But first, pay me up and get off the car already. I still need to make money for my family," said the taxi driver as he urged David.

David finally came back to his senses when he heard that before smiling awkwardly. "I am so sorry, Sir! It looks like I am pretty tired."

He then paid up and get off the car before stretching his waist.

After that, he raised his head and looked at the sky with a lonely expression on his face before mumbling. "Why do I keep being reminded of the sad past that I have?"

As if answering his question, a familiar voice suddenly interrupted his thoughts. "It is to tell us not to forget about our past and carry the lesson that they have."

Hearing that voice, David slowly turned his head to the owner and smile. "Is that so? Then I am relieved."

Shiella who was standing in front of the house slightly knitted her eyebrows as she could feel a deep emotion on those words.

But since it was not her problem, she just threw that thought at the back of her head and said. "If you are done reminiscing about your past, then follow me for a second. I need to discuss something with you."

David's mood suddenly improved as he continued to smile. "I wonder what it is for you to wait for me."

Shiella quickly glared at him and immediately refuted. "I am not waiting for you! I am just taking a walk earlier to get some fresh air when I happen to see you."

David's smile became brighter as he said meaningfully. "Really? Then I guess I misunderstood."