

Destiny 751

Chapter 751 Dragon Worshipper (Part 1)

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While everyone within the Saint Heaven Kingdom was busy looking at the news about the Sword God Zero, Shin and the group just finished their initial investigation and gathered up in a corner of the cave where they were staying.

"So, how is your progress? Anything that you find noteworthy?" asked Shin to the others as he sat on the ground exhausted.

He didn't expect that talking with the village chief was going to be that taxing. Uncovering the secrets of the Foggy Village was really not that easy since Chief Harold was adamant at keeping his mouth shut until the group gained enough trust from villagers.

"Well, there is nothing new. Most of them are telling us the same thing as what we heard from the chief earlier," said Arthur with a complaining tone.

The others also nodded their heads as they completely agree with what he just said.

"Aside from some complaints here and there, there are also some people who keep on saying some history of their village," added Ithilien to see if it was somewhat useful.

"Let's hear it. It may be the clue that we are looking for," said Shin while turning to her.

Ithilien turned to Daulla before continuing. "From what we heard from the elderlies earlier, it seems like this region used to be a free region."

"Free region?" asked Arthur with a knitted brow.

Daulla nodded her head before saying. "Yeah. It seems like a free region where two kingdoms were trading with each other."

Hearing that, Shin quickly turned at her before asking. "By two kingdoms, do you mean-...?"

He was still in the middle of talking when Daulla immediately nodded her head and instantly answered. "Yeah. It seems like they are talking about the Saint Heaven Kingdom and the other Kingdom beyond that towering wall of ice."

Then Shin suddenly fell into deep thought when he heard those words. 'If the two kingdoms are on good terms during that time, then how come the Saint Heaven Kingdom survives while the other kingdom perishes?'

While he was currently having those thoughts, the old historian who kept his mouth shut up until now suddenly started talking. "It is because of the First King's greed! He betrayed his one and only friend for the sake of power!"

The entire group was taken aback by him. It was pretty natural since it was their first time seeing the NPC talk since the first time they arrived in this place.

They quickly became energized and wanted to ask some questions to get as much information as they could from him.

Unfortunately, they immediately became disappointed since they saw that the eyes of the old man were still unfocused. He was staring blankly in the air while talking to himself.

"I am sure of it! It is really because of King Cassius !! He sacrificed the lives of many people just to achieve his dream!"

"He might have erased the records but I can still find the evidence regarding it. His greed is overflowing! He is evil! He betrayed his close friend and the only kingdom that shows them kindness during the time of need!"

"Because of what he did, the land of the rising sun became cursed! Because of what he did, the descendants of King Grey became cursed! Because of what he did, this world is going to end!"

Arthur looked at the old man weirdly before saying. "What's the deal with this old NPC?"

"It is a system clue," answered Shin calmly.

"So, the destruction of the lost kingdom is related to the first king of the Saint Heaven Kingdom?" muttered Leonard after hearing Shin.

"But what about the matter about the disappearance of the so-called knights sent by the Righteous Council? How is it related to this one?" asked Akailu with a frown.

"We will deal with that later after we are done here. It seems like we need to solve the problem of this village before we can get more clues about it," said Shin to remind the Beastmaster about their current priority.

"Tsk! Tsk! This is going to be much easier if only this old man is in the right mind," said Owen while clicking his tongue repeatedly.

Then the old man continued to open his mouth. "The Dragon Worshippers! One day, the Saint Heaven Kingdom will pay the crimes of its ancestors and suffer in the hand of Dragon Worshippers!"

The group simultaneously turned their heads at the old man the moment when they heard those words. It was something that they could not overlook since it was their first time hearing them since the start of the quest."

"What? Dragon Worshippers? What is that? Is it some kind of religion?" blurted out Akailu.

In the meantime, Shin, Cloe, and Leonard turned their heads at Arthur at the same time since they knew that this guy might know something about it. After all, Arthur was a fanatic when it came to dragons.

And sure enough, Arthur didn't disappoint him. "It is one of the Ancient Religions within this game. It appeared before the Gods truly rule this world."

"Dragon Worshippers – as the name implies, they are people who worship dragons. Or to be more precise, they are treating dragons as their gods," he added with a slight frown.

Seeing the expression that Arthur currently had, Shin couldn't help but ask. "What's with the frown? Is there a problem with it?"

Arthur didn't reply immediately as he fell in a quick thought before answering. "Because it is strange. Those Dragon Worshippers of the past is already been annihilated by the Winter Goddess because they dared to extend their mortal authority towards the heaven..."

Reaching that point, he couldn't help but pause for a moment since he realized something. He then turned his head towards the others and saw that they also had the same thoughts in mind.

"Don't tell me, the citizens of that kingdom are those people called the 'Dragon Worshippers'?" said Arthur, voicing out the thoughts of everyone.

"Is it the reason why most of the ability of vampires such as powerful magic, unrivaled strength, and insane regenerative abilities similar to dragons?" muttered Owen silently.

"Idiot! Demons also have those traits," said Ithilien.

"Anyway, this works for us since we now have a rough idea what is the background of the said kingdom," said Owen.

On the other hand, Shin continued to turn to Arthur before asking. "So, what is the deal with these so-called worshippers of dragons?"

Arthur pursed his lips for a moment before answering. "Well, if you ask about them, then all I can say is that they are pretty strong. That is most likely the reason why the Winter Goddess becomes afraid of them. Moreover, they are close to the Ancient Dragons which is why they immediately become a threat."

He then paused for a moment as if he remembered something before saying. "Now that I think about it. The logo of the token that we got from S.Tigris' group is somewhat similar to the logo that the Dragon Worshippers have."

"There are some differences here and there which is why I don't notice it immediately, but now that I become aware of it, they are indeed similar!"

After that, he quickly opened a virtual screen to look for something before sharing the screen with the group. "Here! Take a look at it."

Hearing him, the group quickly turned their heads at the virtual screen and immediately saw the emblem that Arthur was talking about.

They were not sure that they could agree with Arthur that they only had a few differences. From what they could see, the two emblems were completely different.

Instead of having just two dragons circling around each other, the logo that Arthur projected on the screen had 5 different dragons.

No, to be exact, they were six dragons in total. Four dragons were placed in the four major directions and formed a cycle while the two of them were entangled with a fierce battle against each other.

Arthur seemed not to notice the complaint on their eyes and continue. "The four dragons were the Four Dragons Kings who governs the four major elements such as water, air, fire, and earth. On the other hand, the other two dragons are the first generation of Origin and Chaos Dragons."

"So, what is its connection with our quest?" asked Alucard as he was getting impatient.

Arthur cleared his throat when he heard those words before answering. "Because I think I finally know where the plague come from."

Hearing that, the group turned at him at the same time, making him feel a little uncomfortable. He looked at them with an embarrassed smile before saying. "There is this particular Dragonkin that I encounter before. She said that he found a vial filled with strange blood in an ancient ruin. And that ruin is a previous temple of a Dragon Worshipper."

"A player?" asked Shin instantly.

Arthur quickly nodded his head when he heard that and said. "Yeah. In fact, she is a pretty troublesome criminal within the Dragon's Sanctuary. I heard she burned a Dragon Nest before."

"So, if I am not wrong, she is most likely in this place to break the seal on that huge wall of ice," he added with a solemn tone.

Chapter 752 Dragon Worshippers (Part 2)

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Shin the others helped the surviving villagers within the cave while thinking about what they were going to do first. Vampires, Dragon Worshippers, or whatever they might be, the group didn't care about them right now since all they needed was to beat the crap out of them to progress on their quest.

And while they were busy helping those people with the food issue, Shin sent a dispatched group on the surface to investigate the whereabouts of the vampires that they encountered earlier.

They were also in there to wait for another group to arrive. From the arrangement that they made earlier, S.Tigris and his team were about to arrive in this place.

They still had a contract with them after all, so they were going to make sure to fulfill their side of the contract before settling everything.

S.Tigris and his group's situation was rather unique so they needed to take this with a little caution. After all, they couldn't afford to get noticed right now after all the trouble that Shin and the others had gone through.

Moreover, Shin could add their numbers for the workforce that they currently needed for tracking the vampires that they were currently hunting.

It didn't take long for the expected group to arrive. And before they could even voice out their complaints, they were immediately put on work by Shin without mercy.

"Tsk! Are we slaves? We haven't even rested yet and they are already asking to work for them?" complained Raven as he surveyed his surroundings with a half-ass job.

"How about you shut your mouth and just do your job? It is not like we are being forced to do this. We are the ones who are asking for favor remember?" said Ara sharply while glaring at him.

"But it doesn't mean that they can order us around! They can at least us politely, can't they?" refuted Raven while gritting his teeth.

This time, S.Tigris walked over him and smack his head with a fist before saying. "When I say to shut your mouth, you have to shut it no matter what before I pull out your tongue and cut it!"

"If you don't understand the significance of this quest, then just keep quiet and don't mess with them," he added warningly.

"Tsk! Isn't it just a new region? What is the big deal with that?" said Raven, trying to refute once again.

Sigh~!

Hearing that, Black Hand couldn't take it any longer and chime in. "Yeah, you are right. It is just a new region. But this region is big enough to rival the Saint Heaven Kingdom itself. And if I am not wrong, it is a high-level kingdom that can be more accessible than the new major regions that are about to get released."

He then paused for a moment to think about it before continuing. "As you can see, the other regions that are said to be the mainlands of the respective races are meant for players who become promoted to Tier 3 Class."

"On the other hand, this region that the Empyrean Talons that are going to unlock has similar features but with a slightly lower requirement."

After that, he turned to Raven and asked. "Now, do you finally understand the significance of the region beyond that wall of ice?"

"Tsk!" Raven was still not willing to back down despite hearing those words. But at the same time, he chose to keep his mouth shut after seeing S.Tigris glaring at him.

At that point, Ringo who was currently watching their surroundings suddenly saw a glowing light within the darkness. "I am sorry to interrupt your conversation, but I think we've got a situation at hand."

The others quickly turned their heads at him before directing their gazes in the direction where he was looking.

Not long after, they saw a bunch of crimson lights glowing within the darkness as if they were eyes watching their movements.

Grr! Grr! Grr!

Then they heard a series of low growls coming from the direction of the forest in front of them. And immediately after that, they saw a group of humanoid creatures with sharp fangs and pointed nails.

"Ara, fire the signal!" shouted S.Tigris when he saw the incoming group of vampires. He also gave his orders to the others. "Get in your position, we are going to retreat as we fend off their attacks."

There was quite a huge number of vampires in front of them, so he knew that this was not going to be good for them if we were forced to fight these monsters by themselves. Their best choice right now was the hold their group for as long as they could while waiting for the others to arrive.

The group also didn't delay his orders and quite get their formation.

Ara moved towards the farthermost rear of the group while loading a fire arrow on her bow. And quickly after that, she quickly pointed it upwards before releasing the blazing arrow towards the sky.

Swoosh!

Bang!

A flare immediately exploded and illuminated the dark sky of the night.

They already sent a message to Shin and the others, giving their coordinates to them. But it was better to have a double reassurance.

In the meantime, Ringo quickly took the frontline with S.Tigris standing behind him. Black Hand was in the middle of their formation to support those two with his buffs and heals. Raven also entered stealthily, hiding his tracks to assassinate the incoming vampires.

Roar!

Then the vampires started running towards them like a group of madmen that were planning to devour them alive.

Ringo quickly activated the 'Shield Wall' skill without any hesitation since the sheer number of their opponents was overwhelming.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A couple of vampires collided on the wall which caused them to be sent flying. And while they were still in the air, Ara quickly aimed at them and accurately hit their heads with her arrows.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Those vampires immediately fell on the ground after they got hit by those magic arrows. But at the same time, they also stood up within an instant after they hit the ground.

Moreover, there were some vampires who detoured around the shield wall that Ringo had summoned.

Bang!

Puchi!

One of them was sent flying by S.Tigris swing while the other one was stabbed multiple times by Raven.

Right after that, the group moved and retreated back. They moved as one with full coordination. And by repeating such a process, they were able to reach the Foggy Village without a problem.

They even avoided being trapped by those vampires by following the same strategy and successfully achieved their goal without a problem.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang!

Boom!

The other group from the Empyrean Talons arrived at the scene, rescuing S.Tigris and his group.

"So these guys finally initiated a raid on us?" said Arthur as his feet touched the ground in a gentle matter.

At the same time, Leonard arrived and stood beside him before saying. "It looks like they bring their friends this time. A whole lot of them."

"But I still can't find their boss," said Arthur with a frown.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then the other members of their group also arrived one after the other. They also positioned themselves in a formation that complemented the one that S.Tigris and the others had.

Daulla stood beside Ara while Ithilien took the other side. Archimedes and Alucard took the rear as they guarded against the vampire that started to appear in the roofs of the ruined village houses.

Owen was standing in front of them to be their guard if ever those vampires on the roof started attacking them from behind.

The members of the Empyrean Talons were not complete since Akailu, Chaotic Luck, Shin, Charlotte, and Cloe were left in the cave to make sure that the villagers were not unprotected. After all, they were still not sure if the opposing side knew about the hideout of the villagers.

But even if that was the case, the current battle prowess that the others had was not something that the opposing side could look down to.

"What did Shin Bro say? Is everything fine over there?" whispered Leonard to Arthur while keeping an eye on the vampires that were looking at them warily.

Arthur rolled his eyes at him before replying. "You don't have to worry about them. Just focus on your job and we will be fine."

After that, he turned his head and looked over his shoulder before asking. "Hey, Alucard! Are these vampires still good? They don't look strong!"

Hearing that, Alucard quickly answered without delay. "They are infected ones. But from the information that we've got, these guys are just normal villagers before they turned into a vampire, so their battle capabilities are really not that great."

"Tsk! So it turns out that we still need to look for the boss of this bunch, huh?" said Arthur with a frown before rolling his shoulders. "They let get started already and clean this up so that we can proceed with the main course!"

Chapter 753 Hunting A Vampire (Part 1)

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The battle on the surface was taking place longer than the group had expected. Or to be more precise, the number of vampires that they were facing seemed to be endless.

"What is happening? Why are these bastards keep on coming everywhere? Don't tell me their numbers are inexhaustible?" said Arthur with a frown while taking down yet another vampire.

Right after he chopped the head of that vampire, it immediately turned into dust that was swept away by the wind.

"And where the heck did that leader get this many villagers? Their sheer number is surreal!" he added after fending off an attack from yet another vampire.

Leonard was also frowning his eyebrows after seeing the vampires that kept on coming their way. He already tried to locate where they were coming from but even with the help of his Bestial Sense, he still couldn't pinpoint the exact location of their source.

"Should I take a closer look?" he asked after a brief moment of thinking.

But before Arthur could even agree to him, Black Hand suddenly opened his mouth. "Wait! I don't think that it is a good idea. We know that you are strong enough to protect yourself but from the looks of it, our opponent's main purpose is to separate us from each other."

"Heh! Do you think we are not aware of that? Of course, we know that we are being lured by that bastard away from each other," said Leonard with a smirk.

He then took a brief pause and squatted down, preparing to launch himself in the air. "But we don't have a choice, do we? After all, we need to find their leader to stop his horde from keeping on coming at us."

Bang!

Then he leaped up in the air to have a clear view of where the vampires were coming from. And when he got the rough idea of their source, he did a quick flip in the air before launching himself towards that direction.

In the meantime, Arthur led the others to retreat towards the village to make sure that the vampires would focus on them.

It might be dangerous for Leonard to go alone and the move that Arthur did was quite risky since it could lead Leonard to become isolated in the middle of their enemies.

Black Hand wanted to voice out his complaints about it. But after seeing the confidence that the two had, they didn't have a choice but to drop the idea of questioning their decision.

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In the meantime, a female player was currently watching everything unfold in her eyes from a distance. Or to be more precise, she was watching everything through her shared vision with her spawns.

Based on her features, which was closely resembled a vampire, it was clear that she was not the one that Arthur was looking for. After all, the person that Arthur had said was a dragonkin and not a vampire like her.

"Hu-hu! Hu! These guys are pretty strong. To think that they are strong enough to hold my babies up this long? I sure big sister would love this news!" muttered the vampire girl excitedly.

"But why the heck is there another vampire player aside from me? From what I heard from big sister, there is only a single vial of vampire blood. So, how come there is another vampire player here?" she added with full annoyance.

While she was still trying to figure out the answer to her own question, a sudden explosion occurred outside the cave where she was hiding.

Boom!

"Huh? That Beastman found me already? That is quite fast!" she muttered with a little surprise before smiling seductively. "Should I greet him a little? I am quite new in the gaming world, so I can use this chance to see how strong these so-called rankers are."

"They should be that strong right? After all, they look much better compared to most of the players from the battle videos that I've watched!" she added before standing up and hopping her way towards the entrance of the cave.

Not long after, she finally saw a man standing at the entrance of the cave. He was holding a war axe on one hand and a head of an inferior vampire on the other.

Sensing the presence that was approaching him, Leonard quickly turned his head at her before crushing the head of the vampire that he was holding.

"A player? But you are not a dragonkin so you are not the one that I am looking for," he said before raising the war axe on his other hand before casually swinging it in the air.

Boom!

That casual swing sent a powerful shockwave towards the vampire woman who was currently standing a few distances away from him.

Bang!

But not long after, he suddenly knitted his eyebrows since he sensed that the shockwave that he sent was completely nullified by a strong barrier.

"Huh? I guess a leader is still a leader after all," he muttered as he focused his gaze and took a closer look at the silhouette standing behind the cloud of dust.

[Player Name]: Christine

Level: 145

Race: Vampire (Retainer)

Class: Dark Mage

Affiliation:

-Guild: None

-Adventurer Team: None

Player's Recognition: Godlike Maverick

Player's Title (Unofficial): The One who seeks Greatness

"You also have a pretty cool title. I wonder where you pop out, you feel like someone who just join the game," said Leonard while knitting his eyebrow.

On the other hand, the vampire woman didn't immediately reply to him and just laughed. "Hu-hu! You are indeed a strong one! I wonder what is your rank."

Leonard continued to knit his eyebrows as he stared at her. It was because he was sensing a dangerous feeling coming from this particular player. It was as if he was facing one of his old rivals from before.

'Looks like this is not going to be as easy as I thought,' he said to himself before getting ready for battle.

Seeing that Leonard was clearly showing his hostility, Christine also didn't bother to show him her polite side and quickly conjured a series of spells in the air. She summoned a group of blood spears and pointed them towards him threateningly.

And with a casual wave of her hand, those blood spears quickly flew straight to Leonard without warning.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Their speed was remarkable as they almost arrived at Leonard within an instant. But before they could even touch his body, their target suddenly disappeared from his spot and arrived beside her like a ghost.

He didn't even wait for her to react and quickly swung the war axe on his hand in a very powerful manner.

Swoosh!

But despite clearly seeing his war axe pass through the body of his target, he didn't feel that he cut anything. In fact, it felt like hit nothing but air in that attack just now.

Whoosh!

Then he saw that the body of his opponent suddenly turned into a pool of blood before shooting up from the ground and trying to wrap itself to his body.

Seeing that, he quickly stomped his foot on the ground that sent a powerful shockwave in every direction and shredded the blood beneath his feet.

Boom!

The cave shook a little due to his powerful stomp. But fortunately, it didn't collapse despite the strong power behind his stomp.

Now long after, he bolted out of the cave due to the sudden threat that he sensed.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A series of explosions suddenly filled the cave, shaking the foundation of its walls. And not long after, the entire cave collapsed, burying its entrances with rubbles.

"Hu-hu! Your instincts are pretty sharp. I wonder if it is due to a racial trait," said Christine as he materialized on a tree not far from the buried entrance of the cave.

Leonard quickly turned his head at her and when he heard the voice. He gave her a sharp glare for a moment before turning his head at the deeper side of the forest around him. He could clearly sense the presence hiding in the darkness and savagely glaring at him.

In the meantime, Christine laughed softly before saying. "How about you remove that Lion's Helm of yours so that I can see your handsome face?"

"Don't worry, I am ugly anyways!" replied Leonard sharply before putting away his war axe and taking out a pair of battle axes instead which had shorter lengths.

"Trying to play hard to get, huh? Let's see how long are you going to hold yourself against my babies," said Christine before ordering the vampires hiding in the forest to reveal themselves.

She was about to tell them to attack Leonard but she quickly swallowed her words when she saw the latter suddenly appear right in front of her within an instant.

Flick!

She quickly snapped her fingers to cast a Blink and appeared a few distances away from her previous locations.

"That was close!" she muttered to herself while trying to calm her breathing.

But not long after it, her spine suddenly got an intense chill due to the cold voice that sounded from behind her. "How close is it?"

Bang!

Chapter 754 Hunting A Vampire (Part 2)

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Boom!

Leonard swung his battle axe as strong as he could, seemingly planning to squash his opponent with it. But not long after, he couldn't help but knit his eyebrows as felt that he hit a hard wall instead.

Then he saw Christine blocking the blade of his battle axe with her wings that seemed to materialize through blood weaponization.

"Hey, handsome. Aren't you a little too impatient? We still need to do some warmup before proceeding to the main event," said Christine seductively before snapping with her fingers.

Leonard quickly jumped away from his current position and dodged a group of blood spikes that shot up from the ground.

And quickly after his feet touched the ground, he continuously hopped backward to avoid the blood spears that were raining down at him.

Clang!

At the same time, he was also blocking the attacks of the vampires that were pouncing at him from every direction.

But despite the heavy pressure that was directed at him, Leonard was still calmly handling the fight relatively well. In any case, he already accomplished his main task for now. Limiting the numbers of vampires that were surging towards the village was the only concern that he needed to think about for the time being so that Arthur and the others could organize a proper defensive line.

The seemingly inexhaustible number of vampires was really troublesome for them after all, so it was better to limit it for as much as they could. And now that he found the 'summoner', the number of vampires that were attacking the other side should be lowered significantly.

As if she was able to read what was running inside Leonard's head, Christine started giggling all of a sudden before muttering with a soft voice. "How foolish! Do you honestly think that my babies are going to stop attacking the village just because I am occupied with you?"

"I may enjoy our 'date' but I still have my priorities, you know? I may get scolded by Big Sister if I get distracted a little," she added in a teasing manner.

Leonard slightly knitted his eyebrows when he heard that as he found her words unpleasant to his ears.

Well, it might be a little different if they were from a certain someone who also teased him regularly. At the very least, he was already accustomed to hearing such words from that person.

Being reminded by her during the battle was not like him, but he felt much better dealing with her compared to this vampire girl in front of him.

"I actually also happened to be in a hurry, so how about we pick up the pace a little?" said Leonard before summoning one of his Elemental Companions to initiate an Elemental Beast Fusion.

The one that he chose this time was the golden mammoth since it focused more on overwhelming strength alongside a touch of strong defensive capabilities.

From what he could see, this Elemental Beast Fusion fitted his current situation since he needed to equally divide his focus between offense and defense given that he was currently surrounded by vampires from all sides.

'With this number of vampires limiting my movements, taking her down was going to be a little troublesome. I should hold my ground for now while waiting with Arthur and the others to clean up their side,' he thought to himself while chopping off yet another vampire.

'Though, I am really curious where did she get this many vampires. Don't tell me the plague already spread to the other villages,' he added to his thoughts before wearing a solemn look on his face.

In the meantime, Christine was also quite troubled even though she was not showing it on the outside. Her mission in this place was to create as much chaos as possible while her big sister was looking for clues on how to get over the towering wall of ice at the border of the region.

The first time that she this powerful group, she thought that they were rather interesting since it was new for her to fight someone on their level.

She was quite bored after fighting some noobs in the previous kingdom that she was in. And that was also the reason why she was starting to get tired of this game.

Meeting powerful players such as the members of this particular group made her a little excited. But after a couple of exchanges with this Beastman in front of her, she could already tell that she was still far from being the match of such a monster.

If not for a couple of lifesaving skills that she had in her arsenal and these vampires that were helping her, then this fight should already be over ages ago.

'I guess big sister is right, there are still a lot of strong players out there that I don't know about,' thought Christine to herself while keeping her eyes sharp.

She didn't want to experience what happened earlier where her opponent appeared behind her like a ghost. It was really something unpleasant to her. She might even get a heart attack if such a thing continued to happen.

She then stretched her hand to her inventory to take out a crimson scroll. "If this continues, I have no choice but to use this scroll that I get from big sister."

Reaching this point, she suddenly paused for a brief moment before muttering. "Now that I think about it. I wonder what she is doing right now. She left me the job to attract the attention of any troublesome players that may show up, but I still haven't heard anything from her since then."

"I wonder if I can finally see his majesty this time?" she added to her thoughts before turning her focus to Leonard.

In the meantime, somewhere in the Sky Deceiving Valley, there was a female player who seemed to be running away for her life.

Given her features such as the curved horns on each side of her temples, the reptilian scales on her skin, and the sharp fangs sticking out of her mouth, it was pretty clear that her race was not ordinary. To be exact, she looked like a dragonkin that was mentioned in the legends of the game.

But contrary to how the legends portrayed her kin, her current appearance was rather terrible. The look on her was clearly showing her fear. It was as if she encountered a horrifying existence.

"Why are those two in this place? Didn't the information that they give me say that this quest is only available to our race? How come a Human and a Half-Elf got involved?" said the female dragonkin while running away.

She didn't even bother turning her head to her back, afraid that she was being cased by those terrifying existence.

"Did I get tricked? No, it is impossible, we are bound by the system contract!" she muttered, trying to figure out where their plan went wrong. She had been reassured that the righteous council would not interfere in what was happening in here, so there shouldn't be a reason why those two to be here.

"Tsk! There is no need to overthink these things. I just need to inform the Cults about the situation right now," she muttered to herself before planning to open a communication channel.

But before she could even do anything, someone suddenly appeared in front of her, blocking her path.

"Oh-oh~! I can't let you do that. Do you have any idea how much trouble I have to go through to keep this place away from the attention of everyone?" said Shiella as she appeared in the path where the female dragonkin was heading.

At the same time, she also made a snap with her fingers, sending a strong ripple in the air. There were also a couple of devices that were summoned alongside her actions, which also created a prism-like barrier that enclosed the area.

Due to that, the female dragonkin couldn't contact the outside. And when she realized that, the solemn look that she currently had become even darker.

"You know me, don't you? After all, you are not going to run away right after seeing us," asked Shiella while walking closer to the female dragonkin. And each step that she took, the ground that she was stepping on was turning into a frozen land as if winter came close.

The latter wanted to run away once again after seeing that scene. But unfortunately, someone appeared a few meters behind her. It was a hooded player with a pair of silver swords hanging on each side of his waist.

She might not be able to see the appearance of that player due to the cloak that was covering his body but could already guess who was that person given the rumor that she saw in the online forums earlier.

At first, she thought that this guy came in this Kingdom to challenge the Frost Goddess. But given that they were currently traveling together, it was pretty clear that it wasn't the case.

'This is bad, the operation is going to be at risk of failing if this continues,' thought the female dragonkin as she sneakily reached out a scroll on her back.

Chapter 755 A New Slave?

...

Kristle Longford

She was one of the best talents of their family who chose to enter the virtual world to hone themselves. And due to the growing influence of the game on the real world, their family found it to be an opportunity to finally grow their power.

Unfortunately, they underestimated the gaming world a little too much. The powerhouses who were currently standing at the peak of the game were too much for them to handle.

Due to that, they chose to abandon their plan and stick to the original thought that they had, training themselves.

They roamed around the gaming world and joined every game that they could. And when «Destiny's Fate» went out to the public, they immediately joined its first launch to take advantage of the privileges that were meant for the first batch of players.

But despite everything, they were still lagging behind compared to the top guilds and other organizations ruling the gaming world.

Due to that, Kristle decided to team up with one of the power organizations that she encountered, the Corrupted Cult.

It was an organization that was both involved in NPCs and players. The organization that was controlling this group was naturally composed of NPCs. But after spending a lot of effort, the players that were involved with them gained a considerable amount of influence.

Right now, the Corrupted Cult was being run by both players and NPCs. Even though the latter still had more power, the former group was still thinking that it was not going to be long until they became comparable with them.

After all, the progress of the game was starting to hasten, so the players were bound to improve at a much faster rate.

Given that, Kristle, who had the same name inside the game, received support from that group of people.

They were the reason why she was able to convert her race into a Dragonkin. Such an advantage gave her a slight edge against most of the players within the game.

She became confident that she could finally become a top player with this opportunity!

But that thought only lasted until she encountered the real monsters of the game personally. There was even a time when she was forced to run away from dragon fanatic due to her foolishness.

The Dragon God Siegfried.

She tried to challenge him since she thought that she became powerful enough to challenge the top gods of the game.

But alas, it was actually her wake-up call to come back to reality.

Not only she was defeated, but she was also thoroughly got destroyed by that dragon fanatic. Moreover, she even got hunted down by him while saying that she was not worthy to become a dragonkin.

The humiliation was so hard to endure which was why she accepted the proposal that the Corrupted Cult offered to her.

She found a vial filled with vampire blood in an accident, and from what she heard from the cult, it was somewhat related to the place beyond the ice wall at the border of the Saint Heaven Kingdom.

That was the reason why she headed over to this place alongside her close friend Christine. She even gave the vial to Christine to make sure that there was no one who would get in her way while looking for a way to break the towering wall of ice.

Everything was going according to the plan so far and they didn't encounter any troublesome problems that put their mission at risk.

At least, that was the case until she encountered these monsters in front of her, the Frost Goddess Snow White and the Sword God Zero.

She was quite familiar with them since she constantly took note of the top gods that she needed to avoid during her time working with the Corrupted Cult. Based on the list that was handed to her, these two gods were the most troublesome to deal with. And that obviously meant that she needed to avoid these two at all costs.

Unfortunately, she already failed to get away from them the moment when the Frost Goddess set her as a new target.

...

"Yeah, you should blame your bad luck at bumping into us," said Shiella as if she could already read what was running inside Kristle's head.

Currently, Shiella froze more than half of Kristle's body to make sure that she couldn't do anything funny.

"How about you start talking now and tell us what are you doing in this place? I am pretty sure that you constantly making contact with the Corrupted Cult, so don't bother to lie your way out of this," said Shiella with a casual tone but also carrying a hint of confidence.

From her tone alone, Kristle was sure that this girl with the title of Frost Goddess was someone with a very scary information network.

Kristle's transactions with the Corrupted Cult were all done secretly. In fact, it was labeled as classified information within the cult, so it was impossible for just anyone to know about such sensitive information.

Thinking about this, Kristle couldn't help but look at Snow White with an even terrified expression on her face.

When Shiella saw that look, her eyebrows suddenly frowned together before saying. "Hey! Don't you think it is rude for you to look at a beautiful woman that way? I know we are both biologically girls, but we still can't be sure about your real thoughts."

Shiella quickly regret those words right after they left her mouth. It was not like her to talk that way, but her mouth opened on its own as if they were already used to saying such words.

'This is because of that perverted bastard! It is because I am talking with him a little too much these last few days,' she thought to herself before glaring at Kristle even fiercer, redirecting her frustration to their poor captive.

In the meantime, Zero chose to keep quiet on the side since he didn't want to deal with such a troublesome thing. Usually, this kind of thing was being handled by Seven for him, so he was not that skilled in interrogating someone.

Though, he was kind of getting bored of waiting.

He kept on looking at the digital clock of the game to check the time. In fact, he was checking the time every minute as if he urgently needed to do something.

Unable to help himself, Zero couldn't help but walk over towards the two before asking. "We are wasting too much time here, Miss Snow White. I still need to look for someone to clear my quest."

Shiella didn't mind it even though Zero's words were carrying a hint of rudeness. In fact, she even smiled while turning her head to Kristle. "Did you hear that? You are already running out of time. So, if you don't start talking now, then I have no choice but to put you in a prison prism and hand you over to the Church of Light."

Kristle definitely showed some sign of panic when she heard those words. After all, being handed to the Church of Light as a suspected member of a Corrupted Cult was the same as having her account being deleted.

It was practically a death sentence for the members of the Corrupted Cult.

As someone who already invested a lot in the game, Kristle would naturally not accept such a thing. She was not going to restart everything and play the game from the very beginning.

"Alright! Alright! I will talk! But the information that I can tell you is limited! After all, I am under the influence of their contract!" shouted Kristle with panic, afraid that Shiella might really imprison her in that dark and small magic cube, and handed her over the Church of light.

But despite her panic, she still didn't forget to ask for some reassurance. "And I also need to form a contract with you to make sure that you are not going to go back on your words!"

Hearing those words, Shiella couldn't help but raise an eyebrow before asking. "Hoh~! Do you still want to negotiate with me in that position? You are rather interesting!"

She then took a brief pause before saying with a smirking tone. "But are you sure about that? Just you know, I am also quite good at making such 'tricky' negotiations."

Hearing those words, Kristle couldn't help but feel a sudden chill on her back for some unknown reason. And the more she looked at Shiella, who was staring back at her, the more she felt terrified. It was as if she was staring at a devil that was full of hunger for her soul.

For the first time in her life, Kristle felt that she was selling her soul to the devil despite her not doing anything yet. She even wanted to back out on what she had said after seeing the current look that Shiella was wearing.

Unfortunately, it was already too late. The devil already set her eyes at her and saw her as a new slave.

Chapter 756 Shiella's Plot (Part 2)

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Kristle was currently starting blanky in the air after having a 'negotiation' with Shiella. She couldn't believe what just happened.

Not only Shiella was able to find a way to play around with the contract that she had with the Corrupted Cult. And with this demoness playing with words, Kristle spilled all of the information that she had about the plans of the cult without suffering any penalty with the system.

At first, Kristle was amazed at how Shiella was able to accomplish such an impossible feat. But not long after that, she started to become even more afraid of this crazy woman.

In the beginning, Shiella asked Kristle to show her the contract that she signed with the Corrupted Cult. And after taking a quick look at it, she started asking her some questions that were not really hard to answer. But not long after, Kristle realized that she was actually spilling the beans unknowingly.

Realizing that a player could actually trick the system with such a simple trick, Kristle was tempted to also try it with Shiella. She then secretly took a look at the contract that she signed with the latter, trying to look for a loophole that she could use.

But it didn't take long for her to realize how foolish that thought was. No matter how hard she tried, she couldn't find any loophole on that particular contract. It was a flawless contract that was impossible to be breached.

It was also the time when Kristle realized that she actually became a slave of this particular demoness. She just signed a slave contract that she would not be able to escape from.

"How did everything end up like this?" muttered Kristle to herself while hugging her knees in a corner.

She was already been freed from the ice that was immobilizing her earlier. After all, there was no longer a point to restrain her movements now that she already signed a contract.

Seeing her new 'slave' acting like that, Shiella suddenly smirked before saying. "You don't have to worry about anything. Just follow my orders and I promise you that you will enjoy something that you can only have in your dreams."

After that, she ignored her new 'slave' once again before organizing the pieces of information that she just got. "So, the Corrupted Cult is planning to do such a huge mess again, huh?"

"Breaking the wall of ice that is separating the Saint Heaven Kingdom and the mysterious kingdom beyond it? I wonder how much value did that kingdom have to make the Corrupted Cult salivate over it."

She then took a brief pause as she suddenly realized something. "Don't tell me those rascals are also trying to do the same thing?"

"Hah! Did they dare to monopolize such a big pie for themselves and not willing to share it with their Big Sister? These two sure grow some balls for them to hide such an important place to me," she said with clenching herself.

Then she remembered that she did not go to this place alone and quickly turned to Zero. "Don't tell me, you are also after that place?"

She then took a brief pause before taking back what she just said. "Or... are you after those people from Corrupted Cult again?"

Hearing that, Zero quickly shook his head before answering. "I am not here for that place nor to go after the Corrupted Cult. Though, learning that they are in the area is pretty good for me."

'They can at least keep me entertained for the time being,' he added inside his head while also trying to shake off the feeling of defeat that he suffered earlier.

In the meantime, Shiella squinted her eyes as she was still quite suspicious of this Sword God. She still hadn't figured out his real purpose at coming into this kingdom.

From the information that she got, the place where he came from before coming to this place was on the completely opposite side of the world map.

Having that in mind, Shiella tried to prove some information from him. "I heard you are after someone from the Pandemonium Descendants. But now that you take the trouble of coming here, it really makes me wonder how important your business here to drop that matter in hand."

Zero slightly knitted his eyebrows when he heard those words since he was not expecting that Shiella was this well informed. He already knew that she was actually the mysterious guild leader of the Hand of Midas Trading Firm, but he was still not expecting that their information network was this terrifying.

He turned his head to Shiella and stared at her, trying to see if she still knew more than what she was showing on the surface. But he immediately realized that he couldn't figure her out no matter how hard he tried.

He even felt iffy when he saw the smirking smile that she was giving him currently. It was pretty clear that she was currently playing with him.

Sigh~!

With such a helpless sigh, Zero surrendered and quickly explained. "That person that I am chasing is currently not a part of the Pandemonium Descendants-..."

He took a brief pause when he reached that point before clarifying what he just said. "Or to exact, he is a traitor of the group. I am trying to meet him to ask his cooperation."

"Unfortunately, that guy is quite slippery so catching him is quite troublesome," he added with a bitter tone.

Meanwhile, Shiella couldn't help but also look at Zero with full interest. 'This guy is supposedly someone who focuses on battles, so it really makes me wonder how he can get his hand on those kinds of information.'

'Those pieces of information are quite sensitive for just anyone to know. His information network is really making me interested. Should I try to prove a little more? After all, he has a couple of information that I don't know off,' she added inside her head, trying to weigh her next course of action.

In the end, she still decided to get more information from Zero. "Traitor? That is rather interesting! From what I know, his position within that organization is quite high."

Zero thought for a moment before nodding his head. "Yeah, his position is actually high. In fact, he is a former member of the so-called Pandemonium Troupe."

This time, Shiella showed a clear surprise as she was not expecting that information. "A former troupe member? Hah! This is becoming more and more interesting."

That piece of information was more than enough for her. With it, she already had a clue where she needed to start investigating. 'I guess Little Smile will get busy for the next few days.'

At this point, Zero felt that he knew what Shiella was currently thinking, so he suddenly added. "That guy's name is 'Diablo' and his class is assassin-related one. As for his race... I am not pretty sure but from what I can see from his racial trait, he is either a Demon or a Corrupted Being."

He then paused for a couple of moments before adding. "If you are going send your people after him, then I suggest you at least send two of your 'Chiefs' since his skills are really no joke."

Shiella smiled when she heard those words before replying. "Is that so? Then I guess I need to at least my personal unit then."

After that, she started grinning from ear to ear before thinking to herself. 'A former Troupe Member, huh? I also heard that they are given the title of 'Devil' within that organization, I wonder what is his former title.'

When she was done organizing the plan inside her head, Shiella then turned her attention to Kristle who was still sulking in a corner, before saying. "Hey, stop sulking already and start guiding us."

"Eh!?" Kristle was slightly taken aback when she heard those words before staring blankly at the demoness.

Seeing her reaction, Shiella couldn't help but slightly knit her brow before asking. "What? You are refusing to work? You already signed the contract, so it is no way out for you right now."

Being reminded of her current position, Kristle couldn't help but curse her current self. She was currently stacked between a rock and a hard place. And since she was being forced to choose between the two, she would obviously pick the side that looked sturdier.

Having that thought in mind, she was going to choose to side with Shiella since she was having more creep from this demoness than the higher-ups of the Corrupted Cult.

Her instincts were telling her that she would survive on this side instead of those people from the cult.

Kristle unwillingly stood up while keeping her head lowered. "Alright, what do you want this time? I have already given you all of the information that you want. Is there still something that you need?"

Hearing that, Shiella started grinning from ear to ear before saying. "You are supposedly doing a job for the people of the Corrupt Cult, am right? Go! Do what you are supposed to do."

"And we are going to support you with the best of your ability," she added as the grin that she was wearing continued to curve upwards.

Chapter 757 Shiella's Plot (Part 2)

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Saint Heaven Kingdom, Sky Deceiving Valley

Somewhere within this region, there was a particular organization that was working secretly, the Mercenary Guild.

No one knew when and why this organization appeared in such a secluded place. But most of the people who were living within the valley knew that they would not survive in such a harsh environment without the help of his group.

There were very few numbers of people coming to this place and most of them were NPCs. These NPCs were the residents of the villages within the Sky Deceiving Valley who were either trading some food supply or asking for some commissions.

There were almost no players coming to this place since the area was not suitable for farming. Even if it was worth exploring, the environment of this region was way too harsh for average players to explore.

But for some unknown reason, there was a group of players who were regularly coming in and out of the Mercenary Guild.

"How was it?" asked a Thirio to the hooded person who just entered the room.

The hooded person gave him a quick glance before sneering. "Don't act high and mighty in front of me, Thirio. And don't order me around either. You should know better than anyone how much of a mess you did during your last operation."

Hearing that, Thirio clicked his tongue when he heard those words before refuting. "That kid just got lucky. If not because of the scroll backfiring to me, then he should be no match for me."

The hooded guy started laughing when he heard those words before continuing to sneer. "How come it is completely different to what the great elder had reported? From what I hear, you use that scroll as your last resort but still fail to win in the end."

He then took a brief pause and looked at Thirio mockingly before adding. "And if now for the great elder stepping in, then your losses is going to be much bigger than what you currently have."

This time, Thirio couldn't refute it any longer since he was fully aware that what he heard was the truth. That person that he encountered was really a monster that he did not expect. And because of his failure during that operation, his status within the cult suffered greatly. That was the reason why the other candidates for being a 'Messenger' were looking down at him.

Regardless, he still had enough influence within the cult because of his strength. And since these newcomers dared to look down at him, he had no choice but to show his might to remind them why he had his current status.

Bang!

He released a powerful pressure that enfolded the entire room, trying to crush the hooded person with it. And since they were the only ones that were currently present, all of the pressure that Thirio was releasing was completely focused on the latter.

But despite that being the case, the hooded person was still holding his ground pretty and smirked. "What is this? Are you picking a fight with me? Hah! Do you think you think I am still the same as before?"

A fierce battle was about to break out within the room since these two were not showing any signs of taking a step back.

But before the fight could even break out, someone entered the room and quickly dispersed the clashing auras with the powerful aura of his own.

Bang!

At the same time, the two were forced to kneel on the ground due to the pressure that he released.

"That is enough for the two of you. Both of you should know why we are currently in this place," said the person who just arrived.

Unlike the other guy, he was currently covering himself with a cloak which was why his appearance was fully revealed.

Based on his current equipment and the longbow that was hanging on his back, it was pretty easy to guess his calls, an archer who specialized in long-range attacks. As for his race, it seemed to be a hybrid between an elf and a demon given his sharp ears and pointed horns.

On the other hand, his long hair that had the same color as ash was somewhat complementing his pale skin. He had nice facial features that were making him look harmless.

But that was only a façade that was created by his looks. Based on the expression that Thirio and the other hooded player kneeling on the ground, it was pretty clear that this person was much scarier than the both of them combined.

"Thirio, you are trying to regain yourself from what happened on the Elven Kingdom and the Beast Glade Kingdom, so you better behave yourself," said that person sharply while glaring at Thirio.

After that, he turned his head at the hooded player before saying. "As for you, Killion. You are supposedly helping us in this operation, so don't cause any trouble and just follow the instructions that are given to you."

Hearing that, the hooded player who was named Killion, lowered his head before replying. "I understand, Captain Lewin."

After that, Lewin, the Archer Demon, took a seat on the nearest chair before asking. "So how is the situation? I heard that we bump into some problems."

Killion lowered his head for a couple of moments before starting his report. "It seems like there are some mishaps in Foggy Village. The person assigned in that area seems to encounter a strong adventurer team."

"A strong adventurer team, you say?" muttered Lewin before turning his head towards Thirio with a questioning gaze.

Seeing that look, Thirio quickly raised both of his hands before responding. "I don't have any idea about their identity. As you know, almost everyone is focused on the war between the Wing's Alliance and the HeadHuner Guild."

"I even heard that both sides hired some skilled independent players and adventurer teams as mercenaries, so it is very unlikely for the top teams to be here," he added while shrugging his shoulders.

After that, he turned to Killion before asking. "Are you sure that it is a registered Adventurer Team and not some independent players who gathered together for exploration?"

"As you know, such things are pretty normal for Titled Rankers and above. Most of them are forming groups to explore some lands that are not fully explored yet," he added as he shrugged his shoulders for another time.

Hearing that, Killion hesitated for a couple of moments as he didn't know how to respond. After all, what Thirio had said was indeed possible.

Thirio seemed to smirk a little as he felt a sense of superiority after seeing Killion unable to reply to him.

On the other hand, Lewin, who saw everything from his seat shook his head a little before asking Killion. "How about their team composition and the number of their members? Did you receive any report regarding that?"

"Ah!" exclaimed Killion as he forgot to ask about that information. In fact, his communication with their contact was suddenly cut off before he could hear more about the situation on the other side.

Seeing his reactions, Lewin couldn't help but frown his brow before asking. "Don't tell me you haven't asked about such important information?"

When Killion saw the cold expression that their captain had, he quickly shook his head and defended himself. "It is not like that, Captain Lewin! The truth is we can't contact the person who is providing us information from the other side."

Hearing that, the expression on Lewin's face became even darker, clearly showing his displeasure. Killion might not know what such a thing indicated, but as a veteran player, he had a rough idea what had happened.

'Our contact got captured by someone and even able to isolate them with a special device,' thought Lewin silently before turning his head to Thirio. The latter was also staring back at him which also indicated that Thirio also thinking the same.

With a slight nod from Lewin, Thirio stood up from his seat before asking Killion. "What are the coordinates where we lose our contact?"

Killion slightly knitted his brows when he heard those words before turning his head to Lewin. And when he saw that the latter nodded his head, he immediately sent the coordinates to Thirio without hesitation.

Thirio took a quick look at the coordinates before marking them on his own map. He then walked towards the door while saying to Lewin. "I will be borrowing your unit for a moment. It seems like we got a troublesome company this time."

"Bring Maximo as well. It is better to have a little assurance than regretting it later," said Lewin with a solemn tone. And after a brief moment of hesitation, he quickly added. "Don't be stubborn and contact us immediately if the opponent is too much for you to handle."

"I am not looking down on you. It just I am getting a very bad feeling about this," he added again with full seriousness.

Chapter 758 The Prologue Of A Silent Competition

...

As everyone were busy with their respective tasks, Shin and the other members of the group who were left within the underground settlement were currently waiting for the news from the other side.

"It looks like they are having some trouble. They haven't responded to our messages yet," muttered Cloe while sitting next to Shin.

Shin looked at her for a moment before nodding his head. "It shouldn't be that much of a problem. The vampires are a little annoying due to their powerful regeneration, but it shouldn't be a problem for them since they already know how to counter it."

Cloe looked at him for a moment before asking. "But are you not getting bored? Usually, you are the one who always wants to get in action."

Shin clicked his tongue when he heard that before saying. "Tsk! If not for my troublesome Elemental Companion, then I will most likely be fighting alongside them right now. After all, I really want to do some work instead of sitting around like this."

"I don't want to babysit such a troublesome and conceited Elemental Spirit," he added with a sigh.

Hearing those words, Cloe couldn't help but giggle a little before saying. "Says the one who always causes trouble wherever he goes."

Shin shook his head when he heard those words before replying. "Well, that is also one of the reasons why I don't want to babysit it. Taking care of myself is already troublesome enough."

After that, the two of them started laughing before an awkward silence befell between them.

No one wanted to talk at first but Shin decided to break the silence in the end. "Why are you not asking me anything?"

Cloe shook her head a little before replying. "It is not like I don't want to ask you about it. It just I am afraid of what I am going to know."

"Besides, you already reassured me that you are not going anywhere. That is more than enough for me," she added as she smiled.

Shin stared at her for a couple of moments before saying. "I know that you become afraid of losing someone since the time your parents separated from each other, but that doesn't mean that you will always lose something every time."

After that, he patted her head before saying. "Why are you always anxious about this matter. Just ease your heart and trust us."

Shin knew how hard it was for Cloe when her parents got separated. He even saw how hurt she was during that time. After all, she was still too young when that time happened.

Not long after, bad things happened one after another. There was even constant harassment from the rivals of his father's business. That was the reason why she was sent here to the Soaring Continent to study.

Because of that, she was constantly thinking that a bad thing was going to happen to her or the people around her. Or at least, the people that were getting close to her were leaving her for some unknown reason.

It took Shin quite some time to console Cloe.

And not long after that, Chaotic Luck suddenly arrived beside them before saying to Shin. "Big Brother, I take a look at what is happening outside through my skeletons, and it seems like the others already encountered the vampires."

He then paused for a brief moment before quickly adding. "But it looks like something strange is going on with those vampires that are attacking them."

Shin slightly raised his eyebrows as he suddenly got a bad feeling about what he just heard before asking. "What is it?"

Chaotic Luck thought for a moment before replying. "I am not really sure about this but it looks like the vampires that are attacking them this time is a little different from what he faced earlier. No, it seems like they are currently composed of two groups."

"Different? Two groups? How different are they?" asked Shin as his eyebrows further frowned together.

Chaotic Luck took another brief moment to think before answering. "I am not like Big Brother Alucard who is knowledgeable about vampires, but I can at least be sensitive when it comes to lifeforces."

"And from what I can see, it looks like there are undead monsters mixed in the group and disguising themselves as vampires," he added with slight uncertainty.

But not long after that, he quickly took back a part of what he just said and quickly said. "That is also wrong! From what I can feel, those monsters are corrupted beings who are taking advantage of their humanoid forms to disguise themselves."

"Corrupted Monsters?" muttered Shin to himself before clicking his tongue. "Tsk! I've got a bad feeling about this. It looks like we get involved with those Corrupted Cult bastards once again."

"Why are these guys always everywhere?" he said in frustration while scratching the back of his head a little.

After that, he turned to Chaotic Luck and quickly instructed. "You should get out for a moment too. Spread your skeleton warriors around the village while slowly setting up a defensive formation."

Hearing the order, Chaotic Luck hesitated for a moment before voicing out his concern. "B-but I am still not used to keeping that formation, big brother. It is a little too large for me to maintain it for a long time."

Shin clicked his tongue repeatedly when heard those words before saying. "Then you can take this opportunity to practice it."

Hearing that, the corner of Chaotic Luck's mouth suddenly twitched while looking at Shin with a gaze that looks like a glare. 'Do you think that I am like you? I am not someone who takes everything as a training session.'

In the meantime, Cloe who was quietly listening from the side suddenly chuckled at their conversation before saying. "It is fine Shin, just also send Akailu with him. He can at least handle the side that 'Chaos' can't handle."

Chaotic Luck repeatedly nodded his head when he heard those words while looking at Shin with pleading eyes. It was pretty clear that he was desperate to have such help. He already got tortured earlier when they were heading to this place, keeping a formation all the time while was a real pain in the ass for him.

Shin clicked his tongue once again when he heard her and nodded his head. "Then it can't be helped. Go inform Akailu about what you have discovered and tell him what I said."

Chaotic Luck almost jumped due to happiness and relief when he heard those words. He then quickly headed over to Akailu as soon as possible. He was clearly showing that he was afraid that Shin might change his mind midway.

On the other hand, Shin released a helpless sigh before standing up and turning to Cloe. "We should get moving too. It looks like Arthur and the others are going to be busy for the time being, so they will obviously have no time to look for a safe route for these villagers to escape."

After that, he extended his hand to Cloe to help her stand up before continuing. "We also need to guard them thoroughly since the success rate of the quest depends on the number of the villagers that are going to survive."

Cloe pursed her lips a little when she heard that before asking. "Then can we just guard them here until the other group was done with their job?"

"We are already aware of the cause of the plague. All we need right now is solid evidence that will prove our suspicion," she added as she stood up.

And when she was finally back on her feet, she somehow 'lost' her footing and stumble forward. "Ah!"

Seeing that she was about to fall, Shin quickly leaned over and swiftly caught her in his arms. "Hey! Careful!"

"Sorry, I feel a little dizzy when standing up," she said while hiding a smile by lowering her head.

That was the time when Charlotte suddenly arrived and saw the sight of Shin 'hugging' Cloe. She didn't know why but she suddenly felt an unpleasant feeling when she saw that scene.

Ahem!

She quickly cleared her throat with a slight cough to break the atmosphere that was building up between the two before saying. "The Village Chief is looking for us. It looks like he wants to say something."

"And it seems like quite urgent," she quickly added for some known reason.

Shin turned his head at her when he heard those words before slightly nodding his head. "Is that so? Then let's get going already. I also happen to have something to discuss with him."

But despite saying all of that, his hands refused to let go of Cloe as if he was worried that she would lose her footing once again the moment when he took off his hands from her shoulder.

"Are you fine? We are currently in the game, so how come you are getting sick?" said Shin with a scolding tone but also had a clear hint of worry.

"I am fine no. It really is just a slip earlier," said Cloe while slightly tapping Shin's hands.

"Are you sure?" asked Shin as he slowly let go of his hands from her. And after making sure that she was really fine, he quickly said. "Then I will go ahead. I really have a bad feeling about this quest."

Cloe slightly nodded her head. "Yeah. Go ahead. I will follow you a little later."

Shin took another look at her before heading towards the place where the Village Chief was waiting.

Cloe stared at his back for a couple of moments and watched him leave before giving Charlotte a smug look. She was clearly showing that she was 'superior'.

Charlotte squinted her eyes a little when she saw that before turning around and following after Shin. And when Cloe saw her 'defeated' look, she couldn't help but show triumph pose before hopping her way behind the former.

She was clearly in a good mood right now.

Chapter 759 A Sudden Arrival Of A Disaster

.....

Bang!

Arthur crushed yet another vampire with a powerful strike of his spear. The group was currently in a stable position where they could fight against these vampires rather comfortably compared to how they were doing earlier.

But despite that being the case, Arthur was still knitting his eyebrows quite deeply as he couldn't help but have a bad feeling for some unknown reason. He was sensing that there was something wrong with the fight but he also couldn't pinpoint what exactly it was right now.

The others were also feeling the same.

At first, they all thought that it was due to Leonard engaging in a fight with the leader of the vampires. But as more time passed, they were starting to feel that it was actually not the case.

Not long after, Chaotic Luck suddenly arrived and told them what he discovered, making the group realize why they were feeling strange.

"No wonder I am sensing a different form of powers flowing through the other vampires," said Alucard silently while trying to differentiate the corrupted beings from the real vampires through his special ocular skill.

"Corrupted Beings, you say?" muttered Arthur to himself in the meantime as he knitted his eyebrows before asking. "Can the two of you be able to point us which one of them is the corrupted beings and not?"

"That is easy!" answered Chaotic Luck in full confidence as he was able to tell what Arthur was currently thinking.

Alucard didn't reply instantly but still nodded his head. He might be having a hard time differentiating the differences between the two based on outside appearances, but he was still able to tell the slight differences in their auras.

Seeing their responses, Arthur quickly turned his head back to the vampires before saying to the others. "From now on, we are going to take down as many corrupted beings as possible."

The others immediately nodded their heads when they heard those words before Alucard suddenly asked. "But what are we going to the 'real' vampires?"

Arthur gave him a sidelong glance before saying grinningly. "You and Chaotic Luck are going to capture as many as you can."

The two were struck dumb when they heard those words before staring blankly at Arthur, unable to say anything.

Alucard didn't know why Arthur was planning to capture the vampires, especially since killing them was troublesome enough.

On the other hand, Chaotic Luck felt like crying due to the additional job that was assigned to him. His hands were already full with the task that Shin had assigned to him, so he was not if he would be able to handle more than that.

And the most painful thing about this was he couldn't even voice out his concern since he knew that his opinion would only cause him more torture. Arthur might act to listen to his words for a moment but it would only lead him to have more 'sparring matches' with the Dragon God for questioning the orders of his 'superiors'.

Chaotic Luck knew that Arthur was from a Military Family, but treating the sparring match as a form of punishment for 'talking back' was a little too much.

He was not sure why Arthur was acting that way, but he was suspecting that the latter might had a traumatic experience regarding that matter. It was like he was trying to do to them the thing that he had experienced before.

Sigh~!

With that, Chaotic Luck could only lower his head while releasing a helpless sigh. 'If only I can defeat these monsters on my own, then I will not get bullied like this.'

After that, he turned Alucard and looked at the latter with pleading eyes, asking for some help. But unfortunately, the so-called 'Devil Hunter' was currently in a similar position as him and could only comply with the words of the Dragon God himself.

"Don't worry too much, I will handle most of the job on capturing the vampires. Just support me on the side while also doing your other task," said Alucard while patting Chaotic Luck's shoulder.

Hearing that, the Solaris Lich slightly nodded his head and thanked Alucard.

After that, the group quickly started doing the new task that they had in hand. They took down all of the corrupted beings disguised as vampires one after another while purposely leaving the real vampires alive.

Alucard and Chaotic Luck were the ones who were the busiest. The former for capturing the vampires and immobilizing them with a set of special chains that seemed to be blessed with holy powers.

"If you have something like that, then why are you not using them earlier?" asked Owen when he saw Alucard tying up a vampire one after another.

Hearing that, Alucard clicked his tongue a little before replying. "Do you think these things are cheap? I only have a handful of them. If not for the fact that I am ordered to capture these infected vampires, then I will not bother myself at wasting these chains on them."

"Tsk! I am going to ask for compensation about this later," he added with a deep frown.

Owen started laughing when he heard those words before saying. "Good luck with that!"

In the meantime, Ithilien suddenly shouted at them when she saw the two casually chatting in the middle of the fight. "If the two of you still have the time to chat, then at least put more effort at taking these guys down."

Despite how desperate her voice was, the state of the battle was rather stable. She was only shouting at them because she was somewhat frustrated at the seemingly endless number of enemies that were attacking them.

The battle itself was no longer a problem now that they had familiarized themselves with these inferior vampires. The movements of these monsters became too easy for the group to read.

But the main problem was still the number of these monsters. And dealing with them was mentally exhausting.

Not long after, Chaotic Luck suddenly gasped as he saw something unbelievable through his shared vision with one of his skeleton warriors.

He saw Leonard running desperately. It was as if he was being chased by a monster that he would not have a chance of winning.

This was the first time for Chaotic Luck to see Leonard acting that way. In his eyes, the trio of Shin, Arthur, and Leonard were unbeatable beings within the game, so seeing one of them running with his life so desperately was completely unbelievable.

"What is happening?" blurted out Chaotic Luck with a very loud voice and unintendedly caught the attention of everyone.

"Hey! What's wrong this time? Don't tell me another bad news is coming our way," asked Arthur while frowning his eyebrows rather deeply.

But despite his loud call, Chaotic Luck didn't reply to him as he was currently engrossed in the scene that he was seeing through the shared vision.

From the point of view of his skeleton soldier, he saw Leonard desperately trying to run away with his life while dodging a series of attacks left and right.

Sometimes, Leonard was also forced to stop his tracks and countered attack since the attack that was thrown at him was impossible to be dodged.

The skeleton soldier couldn't get near him have a clear view because of how powerful the attacks were. Most of them even had a large area of effect which made the area around him to be completely unapproachable.

The trees in the area were also being destroyed each time Leonard's attacks clashed with the opposing side. And with such a very strong collision, the sounds of explosions were bound to be heard by Arthur and the others.

Boom!

Arthur turned his head in the direction of the explosion before saying with a deep frown. "Tsk! What is it this time?"

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Then a series of explosions could be heard which made the group feel a little tense.

"It is coming our way. Don't tell me it is a much larger horde of monsters than what we are currently facing?" muttered Owen with a frown.

"Gather around for now. It looks like this one is going to be a pain in the ass," said Arthur, telling the others to put their guard up to the highest degree.

Boom! Boom!

The explosions continued to move toward their direction, giving everyone a rough estimate of how strong the enemy was coming their way.

At the same time, the vampires that were attacking the group ceased their attacks and moved back into the darkness. It was as if they knew who was coming this way.

Seeing their actions, the group became even more sure about their suspicion.

Then Chaotic Luck suddenly regained the focus of his eyes, indicating that already severed his connection with his skeleton soldier.

"Scatter!" he shouted with a very loud voice right after regaining control over his body.

With how loud his voice was, the others would naturally be able to hear his words pretty clearly. And given that each of them was expert players, their instincts quickly kicked in as they moved their bodies according to it.

They all jumped in different directions, leaving the spot where they gathered.

Swoosh!

And immediately after that, something suddenly flew from the forest in front of them and landed on the places where they were previously standing.

Boom!

A thick cloud of dust was immediately formed when that 'thing' landed. But not long after its formation, a powerful gale suddenly swept it away and cleared the view of everyone.

Then they saw Leonard standing in the middle of that clearing cloud of dust with a huge crater on the ground.

Seeing his completely beaten-up appearance, the group couldn't help but gasp a little before having the same thought in mind. – "What in the world happened?" –

Chapter 760 A Battle Against The Big Sister (Part 1)

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The group stared at Leonard who was currently in a very beaten-up appearance. They were currently confused at how did this godlike player ended up in such a sorry state.

In the meantime, Leonard tapped away the frost flakes that were stacked on his equipment before turning to Arthur. "Hey! What is wrong with your family? Your sibling fight is a little too much!"

Hearing that, Arthur couldn't help but knit his eyebrows before asking in return. "What the heck are you talking about?"

But he didn't get a reply from Leonard as another voice sounded from the dark forest instead. "My, my! Looks who we caught this time! Isn't it one of the little rascals that we have at home?"

Hearing that familiar voice, Arthur couldn't help but tremble as he could already guess what Leonard was talking about. And sure enough, he immediately spotted Shiella walking out from the forest the moment he turned his head at her.

Moreover, Shiella seemed to be having a leisure walk when he looked at her which made him shiver even more. Since he was pretty familiar with Shiella, he knew that the calmer she acted on the outside, the scarier she could become.

"What are you doing here, big sis? I thought you are currently busy with the Open Dungeon that we discover in the Maple Cloud City?" asked Arthur with a stiff smile on his face.

"What's with that question? Can't I be in this place? Are you guys hiding something here that you can't be shared with me?" asked Shiella in return while flashing a playful smile.

That smile was so bright that almost melted the hearts of the male players in the vicinity. Given her beauty, it was pretty natural for them to have such a reaction.

Unfortunately, it had a completely opposite effect on the people who were familiar with her just like Arthur and Leonard. For them, that bright smile was the same as them having a death sentence.

The two of them started sweating bullets right at the very moment when they saw the bright smile that Shiella was giving them.

"I heard you guys are currently doing a quest here. But what are we going to do? We also have a quest here. And from the looks of it, we are currently standing on the opposite side of each other," said Shiella, acting as if she was troubled.

The corner of Arthur's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard those words, especially when he could sense the sarcasm in her words. He was pretty sure that this big sister of his was clearly plotting something.

Shiella was naturally able to sense the cautiousness of Arthur's actions. After all, he was her little brother, so she knew that he was able to sense that there was something going on.

Not willing to drag this any longer, she quickly started her main objective. "My subordinate is currently doing a quest here. But since we are currently on the opposing side, how about you guys take a step back here and let us finish our quest without spilling much blood?"

The expression on the group immediately turned dark when they heard those words. They already invested quite a lot of time and effort in this quest, so it was obvious that it was already too late for them to turn back now.

"Big Sis, isn't it a little too much? How about you give this one to us? I am still your little brother," said Arthur with a bitter smile.

Hearing that, Shiella suddenly raised her eyebrow before saying. "So you still remember that I am your Big Sister, huh? But how come you are only handing me the troublesome things while you are taking all of the good stuff for yourselves?"

Ugh!

Arthur couldn't help but groan painfully when he heard those words since he knew that what she just said was true.

Left with no other choice, he could only sell Shin out as his last resort. "That is not true, Big Sis. Shin already prepared a lot of things regarding this area. He just doesn't have the time to discuss it with you because a lot of things are currently happening."

Hearing that, Shiella couldn't help but smirk as she could already see what her little brother was planning. "Is that so? Then how about this, we are going to fight this out and the losing side need to leave and forget about everything."

Hearing that, the faces of the group immediately turned even darker as they could already see what was going to happen.

In the meantime, S.Tigris and his group who already knew how strong Shiella was, was currently having the darkest expression on their faces. It was the same case for the other members of Empyrean Talons who also saw the real power of the Frost Goddess.

Even if they had Arthur and Leonard on their side, they could already guess that the two of them were not going to be enough to handle Shiella. The current appearance of Leonard was more than enough for them to have a rough idea of how strong the so-called Frost Goddess was.

They might also have the advantage in terms of numbers. But from what they could hear from the conversation of the two, they could at least tell that Shiella was also not alone.

On top of that, there were also the vampires that they were fighting earlier. Adding it to the force that Shiella had behind her, the group could already tell that this was not going to be good for them.

"Tsk! Then don't take this personally, Big Sis. We are just doing our quest here," said Arthur as he was signaling the others to get ready for battle.

Seeing their actions, Shiella couldn't help but look at them with full amusement as if she found their response quite cute. "Hoh~! You want to fight in the end, huh? Good timing! I happen to be itching to humble my 'rebellious' brother for quite some time now."

Snap!

Then with a snap of her fingers, a large group of vampires suddenly revealed themselves from the darkness while looking at the group with glaring eyes.

"Tsk! Looks like we can't avoid this fight," muttered S.Tigris while ordering his group to get in position.

In the meantime, the other members of the Empyrean Talons were also getting information while getting ready for battle.

On the other hand, two more players appeared behind Shiella. One of them was Kristle who became the new 'slave' of Shiella while the other was Christine who was the vampire that Leonard was fighting earlier.

"Tsk! This is going to be a little troublesome. That Dragonkin girl is somewhat troublesome. Her skills are a little above the average," said Arthur after spotting Kristle.

"Let S.Tigris and his group deal with her. They should be enough to handle her," he added while stepping forward.

On the other hand, Leonard couldn't help but knit his eyebrows when he heard those words. He knew how stingy Arthur was when it came to praising people, especially if that person was somewhat related to dragons.

Now that Arthur was saying that this girl's skills were above the average, then she was at least as strong as Peak Titled Ranker. Or might even be someone that had the strength right below the godlike players.

Having that in mind, he quickly turned to S.Tigris and his group before saying "You guys are going to handle that dragonkin girl. Just be careful, she seemed to be almost as strong as a bona fide godlike player."

S.Tigris and his group slightly knitted their eyebrows when they heard those words. But aside from that, they didn't say anything else nor complain since they knew that the side of the Empyrean Talons would face the Frost Goddess and the army of vampires.

The numbers were not going to be the problem since they now had Chaotic Luck on their side. With his undead monsters, dealing with the vampires was not going to be that hard.

Or at least, that should be the case.

Unfortunately, it seems like the combined forces of the real vampires and the corrupted beings were much more problematic than they had expected. Moreover, the latter group of monsters had no intention to hide their real appearance and abilities right now.

Arthur didn't dare to remove his eyes away from Shiella as he gave his instructions to the other members of their group. "Leo and I will handle Big Sister on our own. You guys just focus on the other vampires and the corrupted beings."

"And make sure to capture more vampires as much as you can. But if it is too much for you to handle, then feel free to eliminate them," he added before walking ahead.

In the meantime, Leonard walked beside him and quickly said. "I already informed Shin Bro and he said to take it easy, it seems like your big sister is planning something."

"Heh! Of course, I know that! But the problem is she really plans to beat the crap out of me based on the expression that she is currently making," responded Arthur who was wearing a solemn look on his face.

"So we can't afford to let our guards down despite that being the case," he added while taking a battle stance.

In the meantime, Leonard could only shake his head helplessly before muttering to himself. "Why the heck am I involved with your family matters? You and your troublesome family!"