

Destiny 761

Chapter 761 A Battle Against The Big Sister (Part 2)

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Shiella looked at Arthur with full amusement before conjuring a group of ice arrows in the air, pointing them at Arthur and Leonard.

She was about to attack when she suddenly heard Zero's voice from the party chat channel. "Aren't you being a little too harsh to your little brother?"

Hearing that, Shiella immediately replied by whispering. "Too harsh? If only you know how this little rascal ruined my once-in-a-lifetime debut birthday! No! Not only that! This guy is hell-bent at ruining all of my birthday parties even before that!"

She was gritting her teeth pretty hard when she remembered what Arthur had done during those times. On top of those, there were also the times when this little brother ruined the plans that she created for their family trips when they were young. It was as if this guy was born to mess with her life.

"This is one of the rare times where I can vent out my pent-up anger at him without restraint, so don't you dare interfere," said Shiella with a warning tone.

Hearing that, Zero couldn't help but sigh helplessly before muttering to himself. "Yeah. Sibling problems."

He knew that women were quite sensitive when it came to their birthdays, but he still felt that she was going a little too harsh on Arthur. Or he might not be able to understand her feelings since he was an only child on top of him being a guy.

Regardless of the reason, it was not his concern since it was their own problem to be solved. He had a different purpose on coming here.

He already had a suspicion earlier since the place that they were heading was the same direction where he was sensing the fragment of the broken [Excalibur].

"I didn't expect that he really catches upon us that fast. But it shouldn't be a bad thing since I am quite itching at exchanging blows with him," he muttered to himself.

After that, he turned to Shiella before asking. "Do I need to help those two? It looks like they will not be able to handle their opponents if this drags on."

"Do whatever you want. Just don't interfere with my business," said Shiella as he quickly sent the ice arrows towards Arthur and Leonard.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Arthur raised his shield in front of him and blocked all of the ice arrows that were flying towards his direction while hiding Leonard behind him.

After enduring the barrage of ice arrows, Arthur quickly kicked the ground and charged ahead with his shield still raised in front of him. And at the same time, Leonard was following closely behind him while waiting for the right time to strike.

Shiella quickly jumped backward when she saw their actions and started kiting down the two with her spells.

She was obviously trying to lead the two within the forest and separate them from the group. But despite knowing what she was planning, Arthur and Leonard had no other choice but to chase after her since no one would be able to stop her from taking down the others if they didn't restrain her.

In the meantime, the other members of their group were also engaged in battle.

S.Tigris led his group to surround Kristle and started attacking her from every direction. Their main task was to restrain her until their reinforcement arrived. But if they were able to take this dragonkin girl by themselves, then it was even better.

Hmph!

Kristle was already frustrated because she needed to follow all of Shiella's commands without being able to raise her complaint. And now that she got the permission to do everything that she wanted, she was planning to vent out all of her frustrations on these guys.

Having that in mind, she quickly used the unique bloodline powers of her race right off the bat.

Bang!

A powerful shockwave was sent in every direction the moment when she shouted loudly for the activation of her bloodline buff.

Due to that, Ringo, S.Tigris, and Raven, who were trying to get near her, were simultaneously pushed back.

At the same time, a pair of wings suddenly appeared behind Kistle as a shadowy aura enfolded her body.

Bang!

Then she kicked the ground all of a sudden and launched herself forward. Her target was clear and it was Black Hand who was currently standing the farthest away from her.

Swoosh!

Her speed was insane as she was already right in front of Black Hand as she seems not willing to let the opposing to be able to respond with her moves.

She was about to ridicule these opponents for leaving their sole healer alone. But the opposing side immediately proved her wrong as a pair of magic arrows greeted her before she could even attack Black Hand.

As if she was already expecting the actions of their opponent, Ara quickly fired a pair of arrows towards Black Hand's directions which also forced Kristle to dodge especially since those arrows were accurately targeting her head and right shoulder.

Right at the moment when she jumped to the side, Raven suddenly pounced at her out of nowhere while also brandishing his daggers at her in the process.

Seeing that, Kristle quickly flapped and folded her wings to spin midair, narrowly dodging Raven's daggers.

Swoosh!

But not long after she avoided that ambush, another coordinated attack quickly followed.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Ara released yet another pair of magic arrows that chased after Kristle while S.Tigris and Ringo charged at her from two different directions.

With such a perfectly laid pincer attack, Kristle could only have a very limited choice where she could dodge. But from her accumulated battle experiences, she could instantly tell that those choices were purposely left open for her to take.

A trap!

It was an obvious trap in Kristle's eyes. But at the same time, she had no choice but to choose on either of those paths since she would be trapped in the middle of her opponent's attacks if she didn't.

It was also at this moment that she realized what kind of group she was currently facing. "An intellectual group, huh? Tsk! This is going to be troublesome."

Realizing that this was not going to be the easy fight that she expected, Kristle decided to also show what she was made of.

She quickly spread her wings to stop in the air before extending her hand in front of her while conjuring a spear that was made of gold and metal element.

And with a quick movement, she grabbed the spear hovering in front of her before swinging it sideways, deflecting the magic arrows heading her way.

After that, she borrowed the momentum of her movements to spin around while continuing to swing her spear.

Swoosh!

Clang! Cling!

With that powerful circular swing, S.Tigris and Ringo were forced to take a step back. But at the same time, they were able to position themselves where they could trap Kristle alongside Raven who just arrived.

Seeing that, Kristle smirked for a moment before changing her stance and inviting them to make their move. "Show me what you got."

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In the meantime, the battle between the other members of the Empyrean Talons and Christine alongside her vampires was also about to start.

"Me and Chaotic Luck will handle the vampires and the corrupted beings. The three of you, will deal with their leader!" said Alucard as he turned the other members of the group.

Owen nodded his head and quickly walked forward, leading the other members to face Christine who was currently looking at them with full amusement.

"Ithilien and Archimedes will limit her movements and support me from a distance. Daulla, protect them in case something unexpected happens," he said while looking at them over his shoulder.

"Any suggestions?" he asked to make sure that they were on the same page.

"From what we have heard earlier, she was able to exchange blows with the War God Simba and able to survive on top of that. Make sure to be careful at fighting her," said Ithilien while staring at Christine.

Hearing that, Owen smirked a little before replying. "Heh! That is why you have back, don't you?"

He didn't even wait for her to reply as he quickly kicked the ground and charged ahead.

Naturally, the opposing side would not let him get near her. She quickly waved her hand and ordered the vampires to block Owen's path.

Unfortunately, Chaotic Luck and Alucard would not let them get in his way. The two of them quickly stopped the incoming vampires with their respective means.

Chaotic Luck ordered his skeleton warriors to stop the vampires while Alucard was restraining their movements by shooting their legs with his holy bullets.

At the same time, Ithilien and Archimedes were shooting arrows at Christine, buying time for Owen to get near her.

The battle was very chaotic, making Zero who was watching from the dark frown his eyebrows. He wanted to join the battle, but it was going to be boring if he did.

The balance would instantly break the moment he stepped in, so he could only observe from the sideline while waiting for the right time to act. And it didn't take long as he suddenly sensed a pair of individuals who were making their way in this place as fast as they could.

He suddenly started smiling when he felt their presence. "So, you finally arrive. Let's see how much progress you made since the last time we meet."

After that, he suddenly disappeared from his spot as he headed towards the place where the senses the approaching pair of presence.

Chapter 762 The Sword Saint And The Grim Reaper (Part 1)

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Shin and Cloe were running side by side as they rushed towards the place where Arthur and the others met Shiella.

"Why is Big Sister Shiella attacking us?" asked Cloe with a deep frown as she couldn't understand Shiella's actions.

Shin shook his head a little when he heard those words before saying to her. "I am not sure either. But my guess is she is plotting something to lure those people from the Corrupted Cult out."

He then started smiling bitterly before continuing. "Though, I am pretty sure that she is going to take this chance to beat the crap of us."

Cloe was still frowning their brows when she heard those words before asking. "Why is Big Sister Shiella want always beat the two of you?"

Urgh!

Shin couldn't help but have a painful groan when he heard that and answered. "There are too many reasons for that actually and it is pretty hard to count. But one of the reasons is probably during the events that she wants to take part in."

"Me, for always refusing to be her escort since I really hate attending such events. On the other hand, Arthur is the complete opposite since Big Sis have no other choice but to settle with him as her escort."

"And that is where disasters come from since that guy always causes a scene whenever they are attending such events. He is really a pain in the ass since he is so obsessed with getting in the center of the spotlight. He even created a mess during her birthday party last year," he added with a bitter tone.

"I am unable to attend that party since I need to visit mom," said Cloe with a quiet tone.

"It is fine. I am sure that Big Sis will understand. In fact, I think that she is thankful that you didn't manage to attend because she will be embarrassed if you witness what happened during that time," said Shin.

He was about to add something when he suddenly felt a presence that was aggressively rushing towards their direction.

His eyes suddenly turned sharp as he stared in the direction where he was sensing that powerful presence was coming from while tightening his grip over his sheathed sword.

Cloe was slightly behind to sense the incoming presence. But she immediately sensed that there was something wrong the moment when she saw the sudden change in Shin's expression.

Swoosh!

Then they saw a streak of light that was traveling in the air and heading towards their direction with an insane speed.

Shing!

Without any hesitation, Shin swiftly positioned himself in front of Cloe to protect her before unsheathing his sword and swinging it at the incoming streak of light.

Cling!

The metallic sound immediately rang in the air as a pair of swords clashed against each other. Metal sparks were also flying in the air as the owners of those words looked straight into the eyes of their opponents.

Ding!

Shin pushed away Zero who just tried to attack them.

"What is the meaning of this? Did you come here with Guild Master Snow White?" asked Shin with a slight frown as he was not sure if Shiella did bring this guy here.

"Isn't that a cold way of addressing your Big Sister?" said Zero as he stabilized his footing. He was quite surprised at the strength that Shin had shown. 'His STR stat is almost stronger than mine. Interesting!'

In the meantime, Shin was currently frowning his eyebrows when he heard those words. 'So, he really is with Big Sister.'

He just addressed Shiella that way since he was not sure that Zero and Shiella were together but he was still not expecting that it was actually true.

'This is going to be really troublesome,' thought Shin to himself before turning his head to the side to look at Cloe over his shoulder. "From the looks of it, this guy is here for me, so you can go ahead and help the others."

"But-...!" Cloe wanted to say something to prevent Shin from fighting Zero. After all, the guy was still the current number one player in the Godlike Ranking List that was known to the public.

But before she could even voice out her concern, Shin gave her a confident smile alongside a slight nod to his head. "You don't have to worry that much since I am not that weak either."

"I can at least guarantee you that I can run away from him without a problem if I am really not his match," he added with a joking tone to ease Cloe.

Cloe hesitated for a moment before nodding her head and going ahead.

Zero didn't bother to chase after her since his purpose of coming here was already standing in front of him. And with those actions, Shin became even more sure why this guy was after him.

"So you are the one who holds the largest piece of the broke [Excalibur], huh? Well, it is to be expected. Given your attainment in swordsmanship, it shouldn't be strange for you to have that legacy," said Shin as he put his sword back in its sheath.

"Are you here to take the piece that is currently in my possession?" he asked with a casual tone.

Zero slightly nodded his head when he heard those words before answering. "Well, that is one of the reasons. But most importantly I am here to fulfill one of my promises with the War God."

Shin slightly knitted his eyebrows when he heard those words. 'Leo? What did this guy promise him that it concerns me?'

Zero could already guess that since was quite confused with what he said Shin it was a personal favor that Leonard had asked him. That time, he thought that Shin was still looking for his own battle style within the game. And helping him in that state would only do him more harm than benefit.

But at this point in time, he was thinking that Shin was in a state where he could fully grasp the style that would be a perfect fit for him.

That was only his suspicion before he reached this place. But he became sure about it when he saw Shin personally. 'This guy is almost there.'

"I am here to help you find your path as well as to sharpen my sword," said Zero as he unsheathed both of his swords and held them on each of his sides while pointing on the ground.

'A sword expert that is versatile with every sword type – that should be the path that he is currently taking. Against my honest swordsmanship, I wonder which one of us will best the other,' he thought to himself as called up the wind elemental mana in the surroundings.

Swoosh!

A Swift but gentle gust of wind suddenly gathered around Zero and formed a tornado-like barrier around him. His cloak was fluttering alongside the wind as he stared at Shin straight into the eyes.

Seeing that Zero was seriously inviting him in a duel, Shin could only release a helpless sigh before saying. "I thought we are going to do this in an official match which is actually a pain in the ass. But since you are clearly not planning to do that, then I guess I can accept your challenge."

Hearing the last words from what Shin had said, Zero couldn't help but knit his eyebrows quite deeply. But not long after that, he started smiling from ear to ear before nodding his head. "I guess you are right about it. It is indeed a challenge."

After that, he quickly sent an invitation for a duel to Shin. It had been a while since he last sent such an invitation, so he was currently feeling a little strange. But at the same time, there was also an unexplainable feeling that he didn't felt for a long time.

On the other hand, Shin was a little surprised when he saw the invitation for a duel. He also didn't see such notification since most of his battle was a straight PK (Player Killing) fight.

Regardless, he still hit the accept button while also wearing a huge grin at the same time. He was quite excited about this fight.

Zero was by far the 'strongest' player within the game. Even if there were still a few players that were a little ahead of him in the so-called Secret List for the godlike players, he was still the current number one player.

"Sword God Zero. Let's see how strong is the current 'peak' of this game," muttered Shin as he took a sword-drawing stance.

At the same time, he also summoned the mana that he was most affiliated with, mimicking what Zero was currently doing.

With that, his body was suddenly enfolded with an alternating black and white aura that was releasing a pair of opposing elemental properties. One of them was blazing hot while the other was freezing cold.

But despite the opposing properties that they had, there seemed to be a strange harmony between the two as they created a unique cycle where they were not clashing with each other.

Hu~!

Shin exhaled a mouthful of air as he regulated his breathing, making the atmosphere around him take a sudden change.

Seeing that, Zero couldn't help but raise his brow before grinning even wider. "Hoh~! This is going to be a really interesting duel.

The two of them stared at each other while waiting patiently for the countdown of the system to hit zero.

And when the signal for the start of the battle finally fell, both of them simultaneously kicked the ground and launched themselves at each other.

Bang!

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Boom!

With the initial clash alone, anyone could tell that this battle was going to be a clash between two titans.

Chapter 763 The Sword Saint And The Grim Reaper (Part 2)

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Ding!

Right after the sound of the system's signal fell, both Shin and Zero kicked the ground and launched themselves towards each other.

Zero covered one of his swords with a gusting wind before brandishing it down at Shin who was currently unsheathing his sword while also swinging it at the same time.

'Self-Created Skill (Personalized): (Empowered) Wind Splitter'

Whoosh!

'Self-Created Skill (Personalized): (Modified) Blazing Quick Draw'

Shing!

Boom!

The initial collision immediately created a massive explosion, causing havoc in the surrounding air.

Swoosh!

The two stared at each other's eyes as they maintained their postures, not willing to take a step back. Their cloaks were fluttering alongside the violent wind around them.

After enduring the pressure that their respective attacks had, the two of them put more strength on their arms before pushing each other away from them.

While Shin was in midair, he swiftly sheathed his sword with one smooth motion before quickly unsheathing it once again right after channeling the Power of the White Sun on it.

Shing!

'Self-Created Skill (Combined): (Modified) Solar Flare'

Swoosh!

A crescent sword wave was immediately sent chasing after Zero, trying to catch up at him as soon as possible while he was trying to stabilize his balance in the air.

Seeing the incoming sword wave, Zero forced his body to spin in the air while also swinging his swords in the process.

'Sword King Skill: (Modified) Tempest Blade'

Bang!

The incoming sword wave was immediately destroyed the moment it came in contact with Zero's swords.

But at the same time, Shin was already lunging back at Zero right after his feet touched the ground.

During his charge, his body suddenly turned illusionary before transforming into a streak of light was flying straight to his opponent.

'Clash Fighting Style (Combined): Moonlight Splitter'

Seeing the streak of light from the corner of his eyes, Zero quickly adjusted his center of gravity, letting himself float in the air for a brief moment.

Hu~!

With a deep breath, he gathered all of the surrounding wind elemental mana around him towards his swords before quickly releasing them with a simultaneous swing of those swords.

'Sword King Skill: (Modified): Storm Gust'

Swoosh!

Boom!

Seeing the incoming counterattack, Shin instantly realized that he would not be able to get away from it unscratched.

Given that, he decided to throw his attack at the incoming storm-like gale instead.

Shing!

With a swift sword draw, the powerful gale of wind was split in half as Shin passed through it. But right after he got through that gusting gale, he was immediately greeted by a pair of swords that were about to chop his head off.

Due to his previous actions, Shin was currently in an awkward position to swing his sword to deflect them away. But at the same time, the hand that was holding the sheath of his sword was currently free.

With a quick flick of his wrist, the sheath that he was holding with his other hand was suddenly flipped before turning into a longsword.

'Legacy Skill: Mond's Style – Meteor Form'

Cling!

Shin was able to block the descending swords but he was still forced to land on the ground, halting his advance. He even almost kneeled on the ground because of how strong the force behind them was.

Fortunately, he was quick enough to respond and immediately used the pressure that was pressing on him to do a quick front flip while also swinging his other sword in the process.

With those actions, their roles instantly reversed as Zero was now in an awkward position to respond while Shin was the one who had the slight upper hand.

Not having a good position to defend himself, Zero was forced to take a step back instead, instantly putting him in the passive state in this duel.

Just like what Zero was expecting, Shin quickly took that opportunity to dictate the rhythm of this fight.

Right after his swing missed and his feet touched the ground, Shin quickly lunged forward while changing the form of his left-hand sword into a rapier and thrusting it forward.

'Legacy Skill: Mond's Style – Conviction Form'

Swoosh!

'Extra Skill: Sword Rush – Thrusting Dash'

Shing!

Zero took a couple of hops backward, he was trying to get enough space for himself before swinging his sword downwards in a very powerful manner, perfectly timing it right before Shin's rapier get near him.

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Vertical Slash'

Cling!

Zero tried to redirect the course of Shin's charge by putting a lot of strength on that swing. But he still slightly underestimated the attack that Shin had.

Shin continued to move forward despite his rapier being slightly interrupted midway.

Zero slightly raised one of his eyebrows when he saw that before quickly jumping to the side to dodge the incoming charge.

At the same time, he was also planning to quickly strike Shin the moment when he was brushing past him.

But to his surprise, Shin immediately canceled the first charge of the 'Sword Rush' before quickly using the second one.

'Extra Skill: Sword Rush – Slashing Dash'

This time, he swung the [Yamato] during his charge while trying to hit Zero with it.

Unfortunately, Zero's reflexes were still very sharp as he was able to instantly respond with his surprise attack despite being caught off-guard.

'Extra Skill: Twin Blade Strike'

Bang!

Shin was forced to stop his charge as both of Zero's swords came in contact with the [Yamato] on his hand.

There was a brief moment of pause as both of them took a quick breath to stabilize their breathing. And right after they did that, they simultaneously disengaged from each other as they prepared for the next clash.

Shin changed the form of his left-hand sword once again, transforming it into a whip sword. And right after the transformation, he suddenly swung it forward, trying to wrap it to his opponent.

'Legacy Skill: Mond's Style: Abyssal Form'

'Equipment Skill (Crippling Punisher): Dark Embrace'

In the meantime, Zero suddenly raised both of his swords in the air before channeling his mana on them. A moment later, the swords fused together before turning into a single sword that was emitting with a pure holy aura.

'Legacy Skill: Knight of the Round of Table – Enid'

Holding the hilt of the holy sword with both of his hands, he suddenly threw a vertical slash in the air in front of him sending a powerful energy wave that warded off the incoming blades of Shin's whip sword.

The sword wave didn't stop at warding off Shin's attempt to restrain Zero's movements. It continued to move ahead, flying straight to where Shin was standing.

Seeing the incoming sword wave, Shin quickly channeled the powers of the Sun and Moon on one of his swords, fusing them together before quickly releasing their combined forces with a powerful swing forward.

'Slayer Skill: (Modified) Eclipse Slash'

Swoosh!

Boom!

The sword waves sent out by Zero's holy sword and Shin's attack immediately caused a massive explosion right after their collision.

That explosion was so strong that it destroyed the already ruined houses within the surroundings, turning them into rubbles.

But despite that being the case, the two seemed to not care as they were already charging at each other and ignoring the residual energy that was left behind from the previous collision of powers.

Cling!

Then the two were quickly engaged in a melee battle, exchanging blows with their swords that were causing a powerful shockwave for each collision.

Shin was showcasing his versatility every time he changed the form of his words whenever the situation called for it. He was also showing a great familiarity compared to his last battle against the Demon God Justine.

But at the same time, Zero was also doing a similar thing. He was constantly changing his sword to match Shin. The only difference was his swords were all in the form of a longsword, though they had different properties from one another.

Zero was able to regain his footing in the fight as he was no longer in a passive state. Their exchanges were so intense that they decided to change the location of their battle in the forest nearby.

The battle was currently in a stalemate as both of them were not willing to be on the back foot, especially when they knew that this battle was going to be decided with just a single mistake from either of them.

But at the same time, the two of them were currently holding back a little as they were not willing to show their full strengths. It was mostly due to the eyes that were trying to spy on them.

Given the senses of Shin and Zero, it was impossible to miss those people who were watching them from the dark. There was no hostility on their gazes which was why the two ignored them up until now.

Shin was even suspecting that they were people accompanying Shiella since he could sense a couple of familiar auras from them. They might be clearing the area to make sure that there were no outsiders who would be able to spy on them.

But despite thinking about that, he was still not willing to reveal all of his cards since there was no guarantee if this battle was going to be leaked on the outside.

The Hegemon Cup was already getting near and that was the real stage where they need to show their full capabilities.

Having a couple of hidden cards hidden under their sleeves was necessary to always have the element of surprise when the situation called for it.

Regardless of the thoughts that were running inside their heads, the battle still continued and slowly but surely approached its climax.

Chapter 764 The Sword Saint And The Grim Reaper (Part 3): Little Rabbit

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Little Rabbit

He was Miss Bunny's little brother who idolized his big sister very much. He wanted to follow in her footsteps and also became a renowned individual in the gaming industry. It was also because he wanted to work alongside her in this business.

He became successful in that as he was now assigned to managed the small group that Miss Bunny was leading within the game. It might not be the exact thing that he wanted but he was at least being helpful with her.

Despite his innocent looks, his stealth skills were topnotch. It might be a little worse compared to Miss Bunny herself but he was confident that he was able to hide his presence to most of the top players of the game.

Due to this, he became too confident and started taking assignments without putting much thought into it.

Earlier, Miss Bunny called him to give him an important assignment. When he heard that, he immediately became excited and instantly agreed. His big sister personally called and gave him an assignment, so of course, he would agree with it without asking any questions.

Alongside the elite members of their group, Little Rabbit confidently headed towards the place where his big sister had pointed him.

But it didn't take long for him to quickly regret that decision.

Miss Bunny indeed mentioned that they were going to be tailing a pair of Godlike Players, but he didn't expect that those players were going to be the Sword God Zero himself and the mysterious Frost Goddess Snow White.

He now understood why his big sister repeatedly warned them that they needed to keep this operation a secret. With these two top figures being concerned, their assignment was bound to be confidential.

Little Rabbit might be confident about his skills but he still knew his limitations. And in front of these two legendary figures, he knew that he was nothing but an insignificant character.

Fortunately, both Zero and Snow White seemed not to care about them despite knowing that they were being tailed on.

Little Rabbit thought that it might be because they knew about them from the very start. He couldn't help but have a sigh of relief when he saw those two gods not caring about them.

With that, their little group followed after the two gods. They might be following after them but they were not here to monitor the movements of those two but to see if they could record a decent battle that they could give to Miss Bunny.

They were professionals so they were not going to concern themselves if the person that they were monitoring was doing a quest or something else. All they wanted was decent content that they could give to his big sister.

Miss Bunny was currently busy managing the Fan Page of the Empyrean Talons so she couldn't come to this place and personally record the footage that she wanted.

Little Rabbit and his group followed the Zero and Snow White deeper in the Sky Deceiving Valley until they reached a certain rundown village.

When they arrived in that place, Little Rabbit immediately became excited as they saw the Frost Goddess picking a fight with the members of the Empyrean Talons. He did not know why she was doing that but that was not important right now. What he only cared about was the fact they were going to get more than 'decent' content out of this battle.

Thinking about that, he quickly ordered his group to look for a good position to record the upcoming collision of the titans.

Without question, every member of the group quickly scattered in different directions while also spreading their respective spying stones within the vicinity.

On the other hand, Little Rabbit focused his attention on Zero alone. He was not sure why this guy came in this place alongside Snow White despite losing a battle against her. But the fact that he was in here guaranteed that a fight would most likely break out any time soon.

Not long after, Zero suddenly left his position and started heading in a certain direction with extreme speed.

Seeing those actions made Little Rabbit feel excited before quickly chasing after the Sword God. And after a few moments of chasing, he suddenly witnessed an initial clash between Zero and Sickarius.

Witnessing such a scene sent shivers on Little Rabbit's back. He was more than excited. He was thrilled and exhilarated!

A battle between the brightest stars of the game.

One was a legendary figure who had countless achievements under his belt and was the current number one player of the game.

On the other hand, the other person was the brightest star who caused a lot of commotion recently. A man with a lot of nicknames and titles such as the Nameless Swordsman, the Star of the Saint Heaven Kingdom, the Angel of Death, the Emperor of the Night, and most importantly the Battle God.

The Sword God Zero and the Battle God Sickarius, this battle was going to attract a lot of attention just by hearing the names of these two.

Given that, Little Rabbit quickly contacted his big sister while also taking out his spying stones. He would not miss a single moment of this legendary battle that was about to break out.

Unfortunately, the battle was not exciting as he had expected.

There was no problem with the battle itself since it was still as intense as it was supposed to be. But at the same time, Little Rabbit was not feeling the conviction and passion from the two gods.

'They were not taking this duel seriously,' thought Little Rabbit to himself while clicking his tongue and shaking his head repeatedly.

For someone who was following the footsteps of Miss Bunny, watching a battle with very observant eyes was second nature for him. He could instantly tell whether the fight was worth watching or not.

'Should I say that this is to be expected for an unofficial battle? There is no adrenaline rushing in! I can't even call this a duel, not even a proper sparring match!' he added with full frustration as he felt that he was going to lose his mind.

But not long after, he immediately realized why it was the case.

He suddenly discovered that a few more people were spying in this battle. He didn't notice them earlier since he was too engrossed in the match between Zero and Sickarius.

Putting away his attention from the match, Little Rabbit tried to focus on the players that were also observing the fight aside from him.

Not long after, he discovered that those people were from different organizations such as the dark guilds that were always clashing with Zero and information merchants within the game.

"Why are these people here? No-... more importantly how are they able to follow us here without our notice up until now? Especially that they were following after the Sword God and Frost Goddess themselves," muttered Little Rabbit with full confusion.

A moment later, he suddenly realized something and slowly turned his head back to Zero. "Unless they let these people follow them purposely. But I heard them need to keep their operation on this place a secret."

"Urgh! This is driving me nuts! I can't understand what they are planning now!" said Little Rabbit with full frustration while messing with his hair.

"Whatever! I am don't care about that anymore! Since these guys are the reason why this match is turning into 'trash' content, I have to remove them so that I can record worthy content later!" he added as the expression on his face suddenly turned serious.

After that, he started contacting the other members of his group before asking them about their status.

Not long after, he discovered that this was the only place that was being monitored.

"So these guys are only focused on the Sword God. No wonder the Frost Goddess doesn't care about them. Since they are not bothering her business, she will also not waste her time with them," muttered Little Rabbit with a bitter tone.

After that, he turned his head back in the direction where Shin and Zero were fighting and discovered that the two of them were giving him a sidelong glance.

"F*ck!"

Little Rabbit couldn't help but curse silently when he saw their actions since he fully understood the meaning behind those glances.

He even started regretting having eye contact with them. "So you are telling me that you are telling me to clean the surrounding first and you will immediately go all-out?"

"Putting me in work in exchange for giving me good content, huh? It is too tempting for me to refuse," he muttered to himself before sighing helplessly.

After that, he set the spying stones' control in automatic mode and stood up from his spot. "I may not be as good as my big sister when it comes to creating and editing those amazing videos, but I am at least a little better when it comes to this aspect."

"Five minutes. Five minutes should be enough to clean this place completely," said Little Rabbit as a pair of crescent daggers appeared on each of his hands.

Chapter 765 The Sword Saint And The Grim Reaper (Part 4)

.....

As the battle progressed, Shin and Zero were slowly getting used to each other's strengths, habits, techniques, and skills.

Zero practically helped Shin fix his style in battle. The latter was able to fully understand each form of the 'Mondi's Style' and was able to utilize them to their full potential.

Shin was also able to use each form alongside the most perfect skill that was suited for each of them. It was strange but this experience really boosted his understanding of 'Mondi's Style'. He also tried using the other legacy skills under his belt but he immediately discovered a problem.

Since he had too many powerful skills in his arsenal, he didn't have the time to fully comprehend all of them.

Due to that, he started reassessing his skills and re-evaluated them one by one while testing them at Zero.

As the Sword God himself, he was able to see what Shin was currently planning. But he didn't mind since the purpose of this duel was to make Shin a suitable opponent for him to sharpen his blade. The stronger Shin became, the better the grinding stone could be.

Just like what he was expecting, Shin was constantly getting stronger as the battle progressed, especially with his Battle Genius Talent. The longer the battle lasted, the stronger he became.

Not long after, Shin and Zero became accustomed to each other. They were also done assessing each other's strength and fully understood that this duel would not end if they continued to fight this way.

Unless they used their full capabilities, the victor of this duel would not be determined.

Given that, they suddenly came into tacit agreement to get rid of the eyes watching them before continuing the battle.

But as they were about to make their move, they suddenly caught a glimpse of a certain individual among the players who were spying on them.

Shin also felt a couple of familiar auras among those players which gave him a rough idea of what was going on.

"I guess, some of them are your 'fans' while the others are the people that big sister has brought," said Shin to Zero as he brandished his sword at the latter.

"Well, shaking them off is a little troublesome since they always have a way to find me regardless of how secretive I move," replied Zero while blocking Shin's sword.

Cling!

"And killing them is also quite tiring since they are like cockroaches that are always appearing out of nowhere," he added as he initiated a counterattack at Shin.

Cling!

Shin deflected the course of Zero's swords with a quick flick of his sword before replying. "I guess being an 'idol' has its troublesome side too."

"Heh! You will experience it too since you are already one of us," said Zero sneeringly before quickly adding. "How about we use those people as distractions while we are looking for a good place to finish our business?"

"My thoughts exactly!" replied Shi before distancing himself away from Zero.

After that, the two of them simultaneously looked in a particular direction, giving the person hiding there a meaningful look.

Seemingly understanding what they wanted to say, Little Rabbit quickly stood up before disappearing within the darkness enfolding the forest.

Not long after, the sounds of fighting started resounding from the different parts of the forest as Little Rabbit initiated the attack against the other players hiding in the dark.

At the same time, the other players that were from Shiella's side started helping him at eliminating those guys.

In the meantime, Shin and Zero suddenly exchanged glances before using their best movement skills to run away from this place as fast they could.

Seeing their actions from the corner of his eyes, Little Rabbit suddenly felt that he was going crazy. "I knew it! Those guys are going to use me as a distraction! Urgh!"

But not long after that, he managed to regain his composure as he remembered that Sickarius was a member of the Empyrean Talons. That adventurer team was working with his sister, so they still had a way to get raw footage of the battle of those two.

"Let's just hope that the quality of their battle is going to live up to our expectations," he muttered to himself before deciding to vent out his frustrations at the scouts that were sent by different organizations. "These guys are the reason why I am suffering this misfortune! I don't care if you are from big guilds or large organizations, I will show you that our 'Bunny Legion' is not to mess with!"

He suddenly paused when he reached that point before turning his head left and right before saying in the air. "No one heard me, right? No matter how many times I say it, saying our team's name is still a little embarrassing!"

After that, he disappeared within the shadows of the night once again and resumed doing his job.

.....

In the meantime, Shin and Zero were traveling across the woods of the Sky Deceiving Valley with insane speed as they tried to distance themselves away from the Foggy Village.

They also took a couple of clever turns to make sure that those scouts would not be able to track them in a short period of time.

A few moments later, the two of them arrived in front of a waterfall. The sound of the falling water was so loud that it could rival the sound of explosions.

"This place should be good enough," said Zero as he stopped all of a sudden.

Shin, who was following behind him, also stopped his tracks and slightly nodded his head. "Not a bad spot I guess."

The two of them were barely able to hear the words of each other due to how loud the waterfall was. But given their senses, communicating with each other shouldn't be a problem.

Zero swept his gaze on their surroundings for another time to make sure that no one was able to tail them here.

After that, he turned his head back to Shin before asking. "Should we start for real, this time?"

Shin didn't immediately reply at him as he took at the status of their duel first. "What a clever guy, so that is the real reason why he didn't set any timer in the duel in the first place."

With a deep breath, he turned his head at Zero once again before nodding his head. "I guess I should take this seriously since you help me with my style."

He then took a brief pause before changing the equipment set that he was wearing to the improved version of the [Dawn and Dusk Equipment Set].

The [Yamato] also disappeared as it was replaced by a pair of sabers while the [Dawn's Mantle] turned into the [Nightwalker's Cloak].

"Since you are seeking to sharpen your sword by borrowing my strength, then let me warn you to take this seriously as well," he said before taking a stance where he stood up straight while positioning his sabers on each of his sides, pointing them on the ground.

Immediately after that, each saber suddenly released a faint glow with different properties. The [Dawn Blade] was releasing a warm light with the form of white flame while the [Dusk Blade] had a dark glow that was carrying an aura as cold as the abyss.

'Epic Combat Technique: (Modified) Eclipse Wielding'

Shin still couldn't use his Elemental Possession due to the unbalanced elemental mana of the Sky Deceiving Valley, but he could at least use his most powerful combat technique to show Zero what he was capable of.

Seeing that the air surrounding Shin changed all of a sudden, Zero couldn't help but grin from ear to ear as he could feel a real threat coming from this person.

"It is the same feeling that I feel back then," he muttered before swapping his silver swords with a double-edged sword that had a broader blade and a longer hilt.

He also couldn't use his Elemental Sword Manifestation due to the unique nature of the regions but he could also show Shin his real swordsmanship.

At the same time, a gust of wind started to rush towards Zero as if they were attracted by his sword. They also started revolving around that sword and formed a small tornado that covered it.

'Epic Combat Technique: Divine Wind'

After that, he held his sword with both of his hands and positioned it horizontally in front of his chest. He then took a step forward and faced Shin sideways as his sword pointed forward.

Seeing his stance, Shin couldn't help but feel a strange feeling of familiarity from Zero. He was sure that he didn't know him on a personal level, but his senses were telling him that it was not the case.

Thump!

Then he suddenly felt a heavy beat within his chest as if it was telling himself something. At the same time, there was a flash of memory inside his head that made him frown his eyebrows.

Due to how fast the pictures flash inside his head, he didn't get a clear look at them. But in that brief moment, he saw a young kid wielding a sword in the same way as Zero.

He was quite confused but he immediately shook off that slight distraction at the back of his head before re-focusing in the duel.

Chapter 766 The Sword Saint And The Grim Reaper (Part 5)

.....

Zero was really getting a familiar yet also unfamiliar feeling coming from Shin. He was not sure what was it but it was really giving him an urge to use everything he could on this duel.

'Let's see what this strange feeling his telling me.' He muttered to himself before striding towards Shin with an insane speed.

Within an instant, he managed to arrive in front of Shin while brandishing his sword downward at Shin.

Hong~!

The wind surrounding his sword seemed to roar for a moment as the sword itself continued to fall at his opponent.

But at that very same moment, Shin slightly adjusted his posture and positioned both of his swords on his right side, holding them in a parallel manner before swinging them at his opponent at the same time.

Swoosh!

Bang!

A powerful explosion instantly occurred their opposing powers clashed. Due to the elemental mana that was covering their weapons, their swords didn't even touch each other as their respective elemental mana clashed against each other.

In the meantime, the river near them released a tall torrent of water in the air due to the collision of powers that just occurred.

Splash!

A moment later, the water that was sent in the air fell back and started pouring down the two who were trying to push each other away from each other.

Bang!

Then the two of them were separated from each other as they tried to use the force of their opponent to create some distance between them.

Zero flipped in the air as he tried to nullify the remaining force that pushed him back. On the other hand, Shin slid back while trying to stabilize his footing as fast as he could.

Ta-ta!

Bang!

Zero quickly relaunched himself back to Shin right after his feet touched the ground while latter immediately stomped on the ground and lunged forward right at the same moment.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Clang!

Their swords collided once again, creating mental sparks that were flying in the air. Their exchanges continued on with high intensity as they showcased their respective swordsmanship to the fullest.

There were no skills involved this time as they were only planning to make this clash with their pure swordsmanship.

Aside from a couple of combat techniques that they incorporated within the game, based on their real skills in the real world, they were not using anything else.

It was the same for their foot techniques. Their figures kept on flashing in different places while exchanging blows.

Shin was currently using the 'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship' that he learned from Professor Plum. He was more familiar with this swordsmanship aside from the one that he was using alongside his Mentalism because Old Plum personally oversaw his training in it.

Moreover, the 'Eclipse Wielding' that he created within the game was also based on it, so it was the perfect choice that he could use at the current moment.

His swordsmanship was very high-leveled that it could match the top swordsmanship techniques such as the one that Zero was currently using.

'This is different from the last one that I saw,' thought Zero to himself as he looked at Shin with full confusion. 'This swordsmanship is definitely suited for Martial-Arts. But that time-...'

His thoughts were suddenly cut off by an attack from Shin that had a strange trajectory. Seeing that, he quickly adjusted the position of his sword and used its surface to block it.

Cling!

"Aren't you underestimating me a little too much? Being distracted during a duel, is a clear disrespect to your opponent," said Shin as he threw yet another attack at Zero.

Cling! Cling!

"I apologize for that, it just surprises me that your swordsmanship is actually not that bad," responded Zero as he ward off the attacks that were thrown at him with ease.

"You are talking as if you know me personally," said Shin while blocking the swords of his opponent that were falling at him.

Bang!

Shin's feet sank on the ground as the force behind Zero's attack was much heavier than he had expected.

Hu~!

With a deep breath, he forced the sword that was pressing him back. And quickly after that, his arms turned into a series of blurs as he swung his swords at Zero, leaving a series of black and white trails around him.

'Epic Combat Technique: Infinity Edge'

Swoosh! Swoosh!

In the meantime, Zero quickly took a step backward to stabilize his footing. At the same time, he tightened his sword grip over his sword as he held it above him.

Zero's surroundings seemed to slow down a little as he looked at the flashes of black and white light coming after him. With great calmness, he swung his sword to greet each one of them.

'Epic Combat Technique: The Calm before the Storm'

Swoosh!

Cling! Cling!

Ding!

Metal sparks flew in the air as Zero accurately block each of the attacks that Shin had thrown. But the real exchange only started from there.

Shin absorbed the force behind Zero's attacks and used them to increase the power of each of his swings. And the more he exchanged blows with his opponent, the stronger each of his attacks became.

But despite that being the case, Zero was still able to ward off each of his attacks with ease. There was also a time when he completely broke the cycle of Shin's technique.

Shin couldn't help knit his brow as he could already see the gap between their attainment in terms of swordsmanship.

'So it is still impossible to bridge the gap between our swords techniques within the game,' thought Shin to himself with a deep frown.

'Tsk! One with the Sword, such a troublesome state to deal with when you are not on the same level of attainment,' he added to his thoughts as he continued his barrage of attack.

Unknown to him, Zero was actually quite surprised with him. He didn't expect that Shin was able to keep using his combat technique for such a long time. And from what he could see, it was at least an Epic Combat Technique, so using it for an extended amount of time was going to be taxing.

'This guy should have a monstrous level of willpower to be able to use such a taxing technique continuously,' thought Zero to himself while keeping up with Shin's pace.

It was a different case for him since he already attained the state of being one with the sword. With that attainment in swordsmanship, using such a high-level technique constantly was not going to be a problem.

After engaging in an intense melee battle, the two of them started mixing a couple of complicated foot techniques in the battle, making their figures to become much harder to see.

'Epic Combat Technique: Ghost Evanescent'

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin left a series of afterimages behind as he tried to create a breathing space away from Zero. But naturally the latter would not let him get away that easily and quickly chased after him.

'Epic Combat Technique: The Striding Wind'

Swoosh!

The wind elemental mana gathered on Zero's feet, making it look like he was riding the wind as tried to catch up to Shin. And along the way, he was also cutting the afterimages that Shin had left behind.

The more time passed, Shin was starting to feel a little pressure due to the continuous unexpected moves that Zero was pulling from time to time. But despite that being the case, he was also feeling excited.

Despite his back slowly being pushed against the wall, the expression on his face was clearly showing his excitement.

Zero might not be able to see the current expression on his opponent's face, but he could clearly sense what the latter was currently feeling.

'He really is such a strange guy and also the same as the kid from that time!' thought Zero to himself as he got reminded by an old rival when he was young.

The duel continued and Zero continued to force Shin to the corner with a series of his attacks. But despite that being the case, he was still unable to fully defeat Shin for some unknown reason.

In fact, he was also starting to sense something else. His senses were telling him that something was about to happen and it was going to be something big.

While Zero was being cautious with what his instincts were telling him, Shin was currently feeling something completely different. As the battle progressed, something within him was being awakened.

Alongside it, he was also feeling where he was about to grasp something. It was already within his reach but for some unknown reason, he couldn't completely put his hands on it.

All he could do was to continue to endure and hold his ground against Zero for as long as he could.

"A little more, just little bit more," muttered Shin to himself repeatedly as he continued to throw his attack while trying to fully grasp the strange feeling that was coming from within his heart.

Chapter 767 The Scary Frost Goddess (Part 1)

.....

As the battle progressed, Zero noticed that there was something strange on Shin. It was different from the threat that he sensed earlier but due to the current state that the latter was in.

"He is still focused on the battle but his eyes are clearly telling me that his mind is somewhere else. Don't tell me he falls in a trace?" muttered Zero with squinting eyes as he looked closely at Shin.

With that thought in mind, he purposely put himself on the defensive to have a clear look at what was going on. And not long after, he immediately discovered that Shin was currently undergoing enlightenment during their battle.

"Hah! Entering a state of enlightenment in midst of battle? This guy sure is something!" muttered Zero as he looked at Shin with a strange expression on his face.

After that, he started clicking his tongue repeatedly before mumbling. "I guess I need to spar within the real world when we are done with here since his body would need to synchronize with his mind later."

"It is a pity that our duel ended up like this. But at the same time, I guess this is also for the better since we will be on an equal footing the next time we fight," he added before focusing on defending himself and helping Shin at his state of enlightenment.

While he was doing that, he suddenly moved his eyes in a certain direction before saying. "You are late."

Not long after, Seven suddenly walked out from behind a tree with a helpless expression on his face before replying. "And whose fault do you think it was? I need to clean up the mess you just did!"

"You should be thankful to the Frost Goddess that she handles everything well," he added while glaring at Zero.

After that, he turned his attention toward Shin before asking. "But what is wrong with that guy? He seems to be not himself."

"He is currently in a state of enlightenment," answered Zero with a casual tone while blocking yet another attack from Shin.

"What!?" Seven was taken aback by what he just heard and asked in confusion. "A state of enlightenment? And against someone like you? This guy-... he is really something else."

Zero then gave him another sidelong glance before saying. "Now that you understand the situation, make sure that no one will disturb us."

"Even if we are currently within a virtual world, it will still affect his foundation in the real world of something some accident happened here," he added with full seriousness.

With a deep sigh, Seve shook his head before replying. "You want me to clear the vicinity alone? Despite my name, you know that I am but just a single person, right?"

"You can't do it?" asked Zero sharply which made the corner of Seven's mouth twitch.

With a deep sigh, Seven nodded his head helplessly before saying. "Alright, alright, I'll do it. But don't expect me to completely block everything by myself."

After that, he started walking away and headed to scout the surrounding area.

In the meantime, Zero continued to defend himself against Shin's attacks and helped the latter to finish the state of enlightenment.

While those two were busy with their own thing, there was another clash of the titans on a different battlefield. That was where a particular goddess was fighting against a pair of gods.

Bang!

Simba was sent flying and collided with a couple of trees before being able to stop himself. "D*mn! I get that she has a plan, but is it really necessary to go all-out like this?"

Bang!

Not long after, Arthur also landed on the spot beside him in a sorry state. "I already told you, she may 'adore' us, but she also hates me as much."

"And whose fault do you think it is?" replied Leonard with a sneering tone while picking himself up from the ground.

After that, he turned his head ahead of them where he could see Shiella walking towards them while being donned with crystal-like armor that was made of ice and wielding an ice spear.

"Hey, what is the plan now? Are we going to continue fighting her? I really think that it is not a good idea," asked Leonard as he adjusted his grip over his battle axes.

In the meantime, Arthur also stood up and stretched his waist left and right before replying. "Do we have a choice? Unless those bastards from Corrupted Cult finally show themselves."

Then he started gritting his teeth before saying with full anger. "Those guys better be ready when they meet me later. I will surely crack open their skulls one by one."

"Don't you think that may be the reason why they are so scared to come out," said Leonard jokingly before quickly raising one of his battle axes and swinging it at the incoming ice spears that were flying towards their way.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

"You guys sure have a lot of guts to dare to chat while facing me? Looks like I am good way too easy on the both of you," said Shiella as a pair of wings made of ice appeared behind her.

Seeing that, the expression on their faces suddenly turned stiff as the same thoughts entered their mind. – "F*ck! We are screwed!" –

After that, they quickly strengthened their stances and got ready for a much more troublesome battle that was about to come.

Shiella flew to their locations while also sending a barrage of ice spears at the same time.

Right at that moment, Arthur quickly positioned himself in front of Leonard before blocking and deflecting the incoming ice spears with his shield and spear. And when he was done defending against all of them, he suddenly changed his grip over his spear and held it in a throwing position.

He took a deep breath for a moment before quickly throwing the spear at Shiella who was flying straight to them.

Swoosh!

A streak of golden light was left behind right after he threw the spear, greeting Shiella.

But despite how powerful it looked, it was easily deflected by Shiella with a casual swing of her ice spear and sent it back to Arthur.

Swoosh!

But right at that moment, Simba suddenly appeared above Shiella while swinging both of his battle axes down at her back.

Cling!

Unfortunately, Shiella nimbly changed her position in the air and used her previous actions to guide her spear to collide with Leonard's axes.

Bang!

Leonard was sent flying in the air due to how powerful the force behind Shiella's swing was. But at the same time, he was also able to force the latter to land on the ground.

Arthur took that opportunity to also make his move.

He first leaped forward and caught his spear midair before descending towards the direction where Shiella landed.

Like a comet, he flew at her while leaving a trail of light behind.

'Dragon Knight Skill (Tier 2): Golden Dragon's Descent'

Roar!

The golden aura that was surrounding Arthur suddenly turned into a golden dragon that was opening its mouth, seemingly trying to devour Shiella who was calmly waiting for its descent.

The temperature around Shiella greatly decrease as snowflakes started to form in the air. And after a moment, the cold air suddenly gathered at the tip of her spear while she was pointing it at the incoming dragon.

'Winter Goddess Skill (Tier 2): Grand Glazer'

Boom!

Then a beam of light was released from the tip of the ice spear that she was holding and flew straight at Arthur who was descending alongside the golden dragon.

A cloud of smoke blocked Shiella's line of sight right after the collision.

Swoosh!

And after a brief moment, a hole was suddenly created as Leonard flew straight through the cloud of smoke while being covered by a crimson aura.

While he was descending from the air, he raised both of his arms and swung his battle axes downwards.

Roar!

The aura that was covering his body also took a sudden transformation and became the head of an angry lion, opening its jaws wide.

'Destroyer Skill (Tier 2): Crimson Destruction'

Shiella stared at the crimson lion's head with an indifferent look on her faces before raising her left hand in the air and chanting a couple of elvish words.

Humm!

And with a soft sound, the ground beneath her slightly trembled as a glowing magic circle appeared on its surface.

'Winter Goddess Skill (Tier 2): Frozen Serenade'

Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Then a group of frost dragons suddenly flew out from the glowing magic circle and flew up in the air, greeting the descending lion.

Their individual powers were clearly weaker compared to the giant head of the lion since they immediately melted the moment when they came in contact with it. But at the same time, the force behind Leonard's descent was clearly weakening each time a frost dragon melted.

With a slight calculation, Leonard immediately concluded that he would not be able to get near Shiella even if he continued all the way.

"Tsk!" he slightly clicked his tongue and decided to retreat, regrouping with Arthur.

"This is much harder than what I expected," he muttered as a dark expression appeared on both of their faces.

Chapter 768 The Scary Frost Goddess (Part 2)

...

Arthur and Leonard were doing everything that they could on battling Shiella but just like what they were expecting, all of it was nothing in front of her. Every time they tried a coordinated attack, she would always have a response to counter them.

But the most troublesome part of fighting her was the freezing status effect that they were getting from her skills. Such a troublesome effect was starting to stack up which made their movements slow down.

With their stiff movements, fighting Shiella was close to impossible. And since they couldn't fully showcase their real powers, getting beat up was the obvious outcome for them.

Shiella's spearmanship might be less impressive than Arthur but it had a much solid foundation. Mixed with her amazing spell casting, accurate precision, and the stacking freezing effects of her spells, battling her was very difficult.

...

In the meantime, while the three of them were busy in their battle, there were a couple of players hiding in a distance while observing them.

"Is Sir Thirio and Sir Maximo are still not here? It has been a while since we contacted them," said one of the players while trying his best to hide his presence.

"I don't know. But from what I've heard, they are tracking the Sword God right now," replied the other person while trying to make his voice as quiet as possible.

"At this point in time? Didn't they come here to know what happen to Kristle? Why are they so obsessed with annoying that guy?" said the previous guy with a knitted brow.

"Well, that is understandable. After all, he is the Sword God. They will be able to prove themselves to the council if they manage to take him down," said the other person.

Then, all of a sudden, they felt that the temperature around dropped greatly. They could even see their breaths in front of their eyes due to how cold it was.

"Is it just me or it is really getting cold in here?" asked the guy while rubbing his arms.

Hearing that, the other person knitted his eyebrows deeply before turning his head to his colleague.
"Now that you mentioned it, I think that it is really getting cold-..."

His words paused for a moment as he saw a silhouette behind the other guy. A sudden chill ran through his back when he saw that sight and slowly moved his eyes upwards to see who was the person standing behind his colleague while also trying to complete his words. "... here"

Then his entire body suddenly trembled as he saw Shiella unknowingly appear here.

"How-... how-...?" that person started to stutter as he couldn't believe that Shiella was here. He was pretty sure that she was fighting against Siegfried and Simba earlier.

With full difficulty, he tried to turn his head towards the spot where he last saw her. But just like what he was expecting, he could no longer see a battle going on in that place.

In the meantime, his colleague couldn't help but knit his eyebrows when he saw those actions. He then turned his head behind him to see what was going on.

Then his eyes turned wide open as he also saw Shiella standing in there.

"Ah-...!"

He wanted to say something but he couldn't even mutter a word from his mouth as his entire body immediately turned into ice in the very next moment.

At that time, the other person already turned his head back at Shiella and happened to witness that sight. He opened and close his mouth, trying to say something. Unfortunately, no words managed to come out.

Shiella stared at him with cold eyes before saying with a chilling tone. "I will ask questions and you will only answer it truthfully, understand?"

The scout from the corrupted cult could only nod his head repeatedly as he fully understood that he didn't stand a chance against such a powerful 'being' inside the game.

On the other hand, Arthur and Leonard were also clearing the area, executing all of the scouts that they saw.

"You guys are quite skilled at hiding, aren't you?" said Arthur as he stared at the group of scouts that he caught savagely.

"I am going to let you experience what I experience just recently. No-... I will let you experience twice as much," he added as the look in his eyes became even more ferocious.

In the meantime, somewhere in the Sky Deceiving Valley, Thirio suddenly stopped his tracks and frowned deeply.

Beside him, a knight also stopped his steps and turned to him. "What is it??"

Thirio continued to wear a deep frown as he answered. "I lose contact with our scouts."

"Huh? All of them? And all at the same time?" asked the knight as he also started frowning his eyebrow.

"Looks like they have been discovered by the Frost Goddess," said Thirio with a heavy tone.

The knight nodded his head before commenting. "Given her capabilities, it is not strange for all of them to get captured."

Thirio was still frowning when he suddenly said. "But from what I've heard, she is busy fighting against the Dragon God Siegfried and War God Simba."

"Huh? But I heard that they are closely related to each other. How come they are fighting among themselves?" said the knight in confusion.

"I am also not sure about it. Who knows if it is actually a scheme that is set up to lure us out?" said Thirio.

"Tsk! And here we are thinking that this is an opportunity to finally prove ourselves in the council by defeating the Sword God," said the knight while clicking his tongue repeatedly.

"Change of plans, we are heading back and assist the others," said Thirio before quickly turning around without any hesitation.

"Are you going to inform the team leader? We can't deal with them with just us," said the knight.

Hearing that, Thirio suddenly halted his steps before turning his head slightly to look over his shoulder before saying. "Do you think I am an idiot? Of course, I know what to do, Maximo."

The knight who had the name Maximo chuckled a little when he heard those words. He seemed to didn't mind the cold tone that Thirio had.

"I am just reminding you. Why are you so agitated?" said Maximo with a teasing tone before quickly adding. "Is it because that the Empyrean Talon is here right now? I seem to recall that you got your ass kicked by one of their members."

He then took a brief moment of pause before rubbing more salt on Thirio's wounds. "It is the Nameless Swordsman, am right. Oh! Wait, he is called the Battle God Sickarius now."

Thirio gritted his teeth when he heard those words while glaring sharply at Maximo. But no matter how much anger he had, he still couldn't refute those the latter since it was true that he got beaten by Sickarius in a one-on-one battle and it even cause the failure of their operation in the Elven Kingdom.

"Tch!" Thirio turned around and continued walking while clenching his fists tightly.

Sky Deceiving Valley, Mercenary Guild.

Lewin was currently waiting for Thirio's report when Killion suddenly rushed into the room with full urgency.

"Captain! Captain Lewin! We have a huge problem!" said Killion hurriedly as he entered the room.

Lewin frowned his eyebrows deeply when he saw his actions and glared at Killion. "You better make sure that it is something important, or else I will make sure to have you lose a level or two."

But despite the threatening tone that he had, Killion continued. "The Sword God and the Frost Goddess seem to join hands together. A couple of our scouts saw them traveling together."

Hearing such a concerning report, Lewin couldn't help but to frown even deeper since it was going to be very troublesome if it was true.

Ding!

That was the moment when he received a message from Thirio.

Quickly opening it and skimming through it, Lewin frowned even further as the situation seemed to get out of hand.

"I guess we have no other choice," he muttered before turning his attention back to Killion before giving some instructions. "Go tell the others to make haste. Our time is getting short."

"B-but-... we still haven't completed all of the five tokens to open the gate. We only have three of them currently," said Killion stutteringly.

"Then go with the second method. We don't have a choice since the Sword God and the Frost Goddess are already in our tail!" said Lewin sharply.

Killion was about to stand up and do what had been instructed to him when Lewin suddenly added. "And contact the other Captains. Inform them that they need to get in here as soon as possible."

"Also tell them that I will contact the headquarters to send some Messengers as reinforcements," he added with a heavy tone."

Hearing those words, Killion seemed to have a sigh of relief before bowing at Lewin and quickly heading out of the room.

"D*mn it! Why is this Kingdom full of monsters?" cursed Lewin before opening a communication panel and calling someone.

Chapter 769 Gathering In The Sky Deceiving Valley

...

Somewhere within the Sky Deceiving Valley, there was a small group of payers traveling within its region.

"Are we heading in the right direction? We are walking for quite some time already," complained Ember with a deep frown.

"Tsk! This is where our clue is pointing us, so you don't have to worry too much. If you want to complain about something, then curse the fog on this map instead. Traveling in this kind of environment is really troublesome," said Lawless sneeringly.

Sigh~!

In the meantime, Hayden released a helpless sigh as he somehow agreed with Ember. They really were spending quite a lot of time traversing this region. In fact, they already wasted quite a lot of time finding the right way towards their real destination.

And the one to blame was Lawless himself who seemed to get addicted to hunting the monsters within the area.

Well, they couldn't really blame him since the monsters within the vicinity really gave them quite bountiful rewards. Moreover, the area did not lack Boss Monsters with different ranks. They even encountered a couple of King Class Bosses along the way.

In the meantime, Ravier, who was one of the most talkative members of their group aside from Lawless, was currently silent. He was completely focused on constantly using his mana sense.

Due to the unique environment of the Sky Deceiving Valley, Ravier's unique sensing skill seemed to upgrade to another level. The humidity in the air was helping him to completely sense his surroundings. The range was also quite large which was why their hunt became much easier.

"The area is already clear. Let's get moving," said Ravier after checking their surroundings.

"Let's wait for Faker and Morgan to come back first before moving ahead," said Lawless as he sat under a nearby tree.

Hearing that, the others also nodded their heads and also looked for their respective spots to sit on.

Hayden swept his gaze at the group as he remembered his first time joining them. That time, he was only planning to work with them as a mercenary hired by Lawless. Who would have thought that he was going to join them and become a member of their small party?

At first, he was not used to it since he preferred working alone. But after hunting and doing a couple of quests with them for quite some time, he started to learn the joy of having some comrade in arms.

"Feeling emotional? That is not like you."

Then he suddenly heard a voice from his side which made him regain his focus. Turning his head to the side, he saw Faker who had just come back from scouting the area ahead.

Hayden smiled bitterly and replied. "I almost forgot this feeling since I use to be a lone wolf wandering within the virtual world aimlessly."

"Well, at least, you now know how it feels," said Faker as he walked ahead.

Seeing him return, the other members of the group turned to him as Lawless asked. "How is it? Are we there yet?"

"I am still not sure about it since the fog within this place is really troublesome, but I think we are very close at the entrance that we are looking for," replied Faker almost immediately.

He then took a brief pause before continuing. "But I found something really interesting this time."

Lawless was familiar with Faker since they grew up together. And when the latter said that he found something 'interesting', it could only be between someone asking for trouble and someone who they could mess with. Either way, both cases could only lead to a single thing – a battle.

"Hoh~! There is something that piques your interest? Now I want to hear about it," said Lawless while grinning from ear to ear.

Seeing that expression on his face, Ember and Ravier could only sigh helplessly. They also knew these two pretty well since they were playing a lot of games together. And if these two were acting like this, then it could only mean that they were going to create some trouble.

"Are we procrastinating again?" muttered Ember helplessly.

"What can we do? Those two are in command in our group," said Ravier who was sitting right beside her.

Faker's sharp hearing could hear their complaints but he decided to ignore them and continued. "I found some traces of player's movements while investigating ahead, so I tried to into it."

He paused for a moment when he reached this point before continuing with a smirking tone. "And guess what? I saw a couple of dogs from the Corrupted Cults lurking around the area."

Everyone's eyes seemed to perk up a little when they heard the words 'Corrupted Cult'. Now, they were completely interested in this topic. After all, they had an old beef with those guys.

"Now it really got me interested. Let's hear it," said Lawless as the grin that he was wearing turned higher. Based on the current expression that he had, it was pretty obvious that he was itching to mess with the people of the Corrupted Cult as soon as possible.

Faker completely understood what Lawless was thinking, so he quickly answered. "I am not entirely sure of what their business here is, but I am pretty confident that it is an important operation."

He took a brief pause and turned to Lawless before continuing. "And I saw a couple of old faces among them."

Then the expression on Ember and Ravier's faces immediately turned dark as they seemed to have a rough idea who he was talking about. But it immediately turned into a look of worry as they cast their gaze at Lawless.

But to their surprise, their captain seemed to be acting calm and he slightly nodded his head. Then he asked. "Who among them in particular?"

"The twin and their 'babysitting'," answered Faker instantly.

"Heh!"

Lawless couldn't help but let out a smirk when he heard that and said. "Interesting! Very interesting!"

Lawless repeated those words before turning to the others. "It looks like we need to delay our quest a little and greet our 'old friends'."

"Shall we go?" he asked with a calm tone but also carrying a clear hint of coldness.

Ember and Ravier closed their eyes for a moment and released yet another sigh before standing up from their seat.

"Alright."

"I guess we don't have a choice."

They said at the same time.

In the meantime, Hayden who was not an original part of their group chose to remain quiet and listened on the side in silence. He might not understand what they were talking about completely but he at least had a rough idea of what it was.

He was also quite familiar with their group even before playing this game, so he at least knew their history even for a bit.

He also stood up and turned to Lawless before answering. "Then take the lead, Captain."

Lawless slightly nodded his head before turning in a certain direction. In there, he saw Morgan who had just come back from scouting the area.

Morgan might not present earlier to hear everything. But he at least had a rough idea of what was going on after hearing Lawless' next words.

"We are going to give our old friends a visit, so make sure to get your guns ready."

"Hah! You don't have to tell me that," replied Morgan in an instant while also wearing a smirking smile. "I can't help but feel excited to finally meet them after a long time."

Lawless slightly nodded his head before turning his head back to Faker. "Let's go."

Faker then suddenly hopped backward before disappearing like a ghost. Morgan jumped up and climbed on the tree before jumping from one branch to another.

Lawless started moving ahead as he led the others towards the coordinates that Faker had sent him. Ember and Ravier followed after him quietly as Hayden walked side by side with their captain.

"I guess you still haven't completely gotten over it unlike what you have said to me," said Hayden in a joking tone, attempting to lighten up the mood a little.

Lawless understood what his intention was and quickly replied. "You don't have to worry. As I said earlier, we are only going to 'greet' them a little. How can we ignore them when they are in the area?"

"Sounds a little reasonable but still not convincing for me," said Hayden before quickly adding. "Just make sure to do it moderately since we are still not ready to have a war with them."

He took a brief moment of pause and turned to Lawless, checking the latter's equipment. "You may have gotten your hands on a decent set of equipment and also regain your previous form alongside Faker, but our overall strength is still weaker compared to such a huge organization."

"I know that the legendary duo of the God Slayer and Death God is not afraid of anything but you still have to consider the big picture," he added to finally voice out his concerns.

Lawless gave him a sidelong glance before smirking. "I at least know that much."

Then he turned his head back in front before saying with a cold tone. "But I still can't let such a rare opportunity slip away from our hands."

He paused for a moment before continuing. "I, at least, need to warn those 'guys' that we really are back this time."

Chapter 770 The Sword God Zero (Part 1)

...

As the invisible storm looming around the Sky Deceiving Valley was right around the corner, a real 'storm' was currently undergoing on a particular place within the region.

Boom!

The duel between Shin and Zero reached a whole other level. The former was still under his state of enlightenment while the latter continued to help at completing it.

As the battle progressed, Zero was able to see that Shin was continuously getting stronger and slowly reaching the state of being one with the sword. A little push was only needed for him to finally set his foot in that stage.

"I guess, it is finally time to push him to the limit," muttered Zero as he suddenly disengaged away from Shin to create some space before quickly taking a stance.

He then held his sword in front of his chest with both of his hands while squatting his hips a little and facing Shin sideways.

Hu~!

With a deep breath, he was able to solidify his focus and stabilize the energy within his body.

Then, a moment later, he suddenly kicked the ground underneath him and lunged forward, greeting the incoming opponent with a powerful strike with his sword.

Bang!

The initial collision of swords was already devastating as a powerful explosion immediately followed. But that was only the start since the next exchanges literally created a storm-like collision.

There were no in-game skills involved in those exchanges. They were just pure swordsmanship and combat techniques that they incorporated inside the game, inspired by their real-life skills.

In terms of swordsmanship alone, it was clear that Zero had a slight edge since he had higher attainment when it came to understanding the sword.

But given Shin's Battle Genius talent alongside his current state of enlightenment, that gap was slightly bridged as the battle continued.

After a few more moments of intense battle, the time that Zero was waiting for finally arrived.

Bang!

Right after sending Zero away from him, Shin suddenly stopped moving. It looked like he turned into a statue as not even a muscle moved an inch from him. His eyes also lose all of the focus as his mind seemed to be roaming around somewhere else.

Zero stared at Shin for a couple of moments before quickly spreading his senses in their surroundings to make sure that no one would disturb Shin.

After making sure that no one was lurking around the place, he looked for a spot nearby to sit on while guarding Shin and waiting for the state of enlightenment to finally be over.

Boom!

Not long after, a powerful explosion suddenly occurred, making the falling water from the falls to flew up in the air for a moment before falling back once again.

Hearing the loud explosion, Zero sightly raised his head and looked at the spot where Shin was standing. In there, he saw a young man walking calmly amidst the pouring water from the sky.

The air around Shin completely changed as there was a hint of mysteriousness mixed with it. There was also the sharp feeling that his body was emitting, it was as if his entire being was a sharp sword itself.

"Heh! Not bad," muttered Zero to himself before standing up and walking over to Shin.

"Congratulations on achieving the state of being one with the sword!" said Zero when he arrived near Shin before quickly adding. "Though, it is only your mind that actually achieved it."

"If you want to stabilize that state and fully synchronize it with your real body, then I don't mind lending you a hand," he also said with a mysterious tone.

Shin turned his head at Zero for a moment before responding. "You really are talking as if you know me in the real world. Have we met each other before?"

Zero was silent for a moment as he was thinking how he was going to reply. And after a few moments of thinking, he answered. "I am not sure how to call it, but I guess we are future schoolmates?"

Hearing that, Shin suddenly came into a realization. He turned to Zero with a slight frown before asking. "The young Swordmaster? Dylan White?"

"Hoh~! That is quick," replied Zero, not denying what Shin had said. He himself was also quick to catch on, so he understood the meaning of the frown that Shin was wearing. "As for my current appearance, you can say that I am the same as you who can hide our identities pretty well."

Shin didn't inquire about that matter any longer as he was thinking about something else. And after a few moments of hesitation, he finally asked. "That is one thing, but I think we have met each other even before that."

"Though, I am also pretty sure that it is our first time meeting each other," he added, seemingly contradicting what he just said.

But Zero didn't mind and quickly responded. "What a coincidence. I happen to also feel the same. You are giving off a feeling that is somewhat familiar to me yet also unfamiliar at the same time."

Then the tone of his voice suddenly turned serious as he continued. "Maybe you are related to the person that I am looking for."

Shin knitted his eyebrows even further before saying with full curiosity. "The person that you are looking for? That is quite intriguing."

"Since it may be someone that is related to me, can I ask who is this person that you are looking for?" asked Shin, interested.

Zero stared at Shin for a couple of moments before answering. "Unfortunately, I don't have enough details for that person since I only meet him once and it happens for a very long time already."

"I almost even forget how really look like," he added with a bitter tone.

He was silent for a brief moment as remembered a young man of his age who had a very strong talent in swordsmanship despite saying that he is not interested in it. The defeat that he suffered from that young man was still vivid in his mind which was why he couldn't forget him.

After that, he turned Shin before adding. "Aside from his unnamed yet amazing swordsmanship and the name that he gave me, I don't have any clue to find him."

"Hah! What a mysterious guy you are looking for," commented Shin with a laugh, as he strangely felt a little friendly with Zero for some unknown reason.

At the very least, he felt a little favorable with the guy after receiving some help from him.

"Will you mind sharing the name of that person at least? Who knows I may really help you find him in exchange for lending me a helping hand?" offered Shin sincerely.

"If you put it that way, then I am afraid that I will not be able to refuse," responded Zero jokingly as he also felt a little friendly with Shin.

It was very unlike him but he really felt at ease with Shin. Maybe because they were of the same age and also fellow practitioners that were walking on the path of the sword.

"That guy's name is 'Uno'. Someone with a very rude and cheeky attitude but very talented when it comes to Martial-Arts and Swordsmanship" said Zero in a nonchalant manner.

On the other hand, Shin suddenly trembled when he heard those words.

No-...

It was actually when he heard the name that Zero had said.

He was stunned for a moment as a strange thought entered his mind. 'It couldn't be possible, right? It might be someone with the same name.'

The change in his expression was very quick which was why Zero couldn't spot it. But he at least could sense the sudden change of atmosphere surrounding Shin, so he couldn't help but ask. "Is there something wrong? Don't tell me you really know who is that guy?"

"Who knows?" answered Shin with a joking tone, trying to act as calm as possible. And at the same time, he suddenly asked with a nonchalant tone. "That is quite a unique name. May I ask where you guys met?"

Zero was taken aback by Shin's words but didn't put much thought into it after seeing that Shin just asked it naturally.

He fell into deep thought as he was trying to recall what happened during that time. "Hmm... let me think about it first."

And after a few moments of thinking, he immediately continued. "If I remember correctly, I am just turned 6 at that time."

He took a brief pause when he said those words as the corner of his mouth suddenly twitched. "I am very young yet my father throws me in the middle of a forest while saying that it is for me to become stronger."

"I have a very good talent when it comes to swordsmanship as I inherited it from my father. Though, that is also the reason why he gave such a brutal test for his son to humble my growing ego," he added with a bitter tone.