

Destiny 771

Chapter 771 The Sword God Zero (Part 2)

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Bang!

"We have arrived, little genius," said Eugene White as arrived on an isolated island while riding a small boat.

Alongside him was a little kid who seemed to be six years old. The kid jumped off the wooded boat right after his father get off it. And with extreme familiarity, he impaled a metal stake on the nearby boulder before tying the boat on it.

After that, the young Dylan looked at his father before asking. "What are we doing here, father?"

Eugene White turned to his son before saying. "To humble your growing ego."

Young Dylan looked at his father with wide-open eyes before asking. "Are you really planning to leave me here alone? A young kid like me?"

"Mother will not forgive you if something happens to me!" he added warningly.

The corner of Eugene's mouth suddenly when he heard those words before refuting. "Kid, where is that resolve that you should me earlier, huh?"

"Didn't you say that you are going to become a swordsman that is going to surpass me and kill all of the evildoers around the world?" he added with a slight frown.

"But I am still young! I need to train first before reaching that level!" answered Dylan back.

"Isn't that the reason why we are here?" said Eugene sneeringly.

Dylan frowned his eyebrows before saying. "Training? Abandoning your son on an isolated island is training? There is a lot of monster beasts in this kind of place! I will tell mother when we get back!"

Pak!

Eugene smacked a wooden sword on Dylan's head before saying. "Stop whining already and get ready. You are by no means weak. You bullied all of the other kids in the clan and also beat some of the elite guards yet you are scared of a couple of monster beasts?"

After that, he threw a shortsword to Dylan before saying. "Stop with that act and start preparing yourself already. I know that you are actually excited for this deep inside."

"Tsk!" Dylan clicked his tongue when he heard those words as he caught the sword that his father had thrown. Since he was still a little, the shortsword was a perfect fit for his build.

After that, Eugene threw a small leather bag at his son and said. "All of the basic necessities that you need are already in here. It is enough for a whole month."

Dylan caught the bag and looked at what was inside. What he saw were dried meats and vegetables.

"Eh~!"

The young kid was about to complain when Eugene quickly added. "If you want to eat something tasty, then make it yourself. Hunt the monster beast in the area and take their meat. There are also some herbs on the island, you can take them if you also want."

Dylan's face suddenly turned stiff when he heard that he needed to hunt for his own food. But he didn't complain this time because of the next words that Eugene had said. "If you are serious about leaving the walls of your clan and venturing around the world, then you better survive on your own on this island."

"I will be watching over you. But if I am forced to save you, then you are going to fail this test. And it happens, you can forget leaving the clan and just become the person that they want you to be."

Hearing those words, Dylan unconsciously clenched his fist. He might be young, but he somehow understood what was happening within their clan.

On the surface, they were showing their affection for him due to his amazing talent in swordsmanship. But despite his young age, he was able to sense the hostility hidden behind their eyes due to the same reason.

On top of that, he also starting to feel some restraint within the clan. He couldn't do everything that he wanted. As a little kid, there were a lot of things that he was curious about and wanted to do.

But due to some restrictions that the clan had, he couldn't any of them.

But it was different for his father who was from the outside. He was free and could do anything that his heart desired. That was one of the reasons why he wanted to become like his father.

Dylan gritted his teeth and looked at his father with full determination. "Fine! But if I manage to pass this test then you have to take me with you!"

"Hah! Are you sure about that? What about your mother?" asked Eugene with a sneering tone.

Dylan was suddenly taken aback when he heard those words and unable to give his answer. He might want to become as free as his father, but he also wanted to be with his mother at the same time. "T-that-..."

Seeing the troubled expression on his son's face, Eugene couldn't help but smirk before saying. "I am just joking, kid. Just focus on the task that I give you and I will handle the rest."

Dylan started at his father for a couple of moments before turning around and walking towards the forest in the distance.

But he just took a couple of steps when Eugene suddenly stopped. "Wait!"

Dylan halted his steps and turned to his father with a confused look on his face. Eugene ignored that look and continued. "Let me give you a piece of advice first."

He took a brief pause before saying in a serious tone. "Little genius, in this world, you need to be warier of people than the monsters roaming around the forest. Remember, humans, are the scariest monster that you could encounter."

Dylan became even more confused when he heard those words. Then his father quickly continued. "This isolated island is a territory of a notorious organization, evildoers in simpler terms."

"This is one of their training grounds. And from what I've heard, their young agents are currently doing a test in here. They are around your age but also as strong as you, so they are a perfect training partner for you."

Eugene paused for a moment and added seriously. "I am not telling you to kill them or anything like that. What I want you to do is survive for a month."

"You can incapacitate them if you want but you don't have to kill them. You are still too young to get your hands some blood," he added.

"But they are people being trained to become a cold-hearted killer in the future. The clan teaching says-..." Dylan wanted to refute as some who was raised by a powerful clan.

But his words were immediately interrupted by his father. "There are times where you don't have to listen to the teaching of the clan."

"Moreover, those kids are not entirely at fault. They just happen to have poor fate," he added with a sorrowful tone.

"Then why not you save them?" asked Dylan with a frown.

Hearing that, Eugene started laughing bitterly and answered. "It is not that easy, kid. Some of them have already been brainwashed while the others already resigned to their fates."

After that, he patted Dylan's head and warned. "Just remember to be careful since there are a couple of rotten buds in their group that may attack you with the intention to kill."

"And I must repeat. If I am forced to step in to save you, you can forget getting out of the clan," he added.

Dylan slightly nodded his head before resuming his steps and walked towards the forest with a determined look on his face.

Eugene White stared at the back of his son before shaking his head. "He really took after me."

After that, he turned towards a certain direction before muttering to himself. "Now, should I greet an old friend of mine?"

He already branded Dylan with his mark, so he could easily know if he was in danger. "It has been a while since I last saw that bastard. Let's see how is doing right now."

Swoosh!

Then his figure suddenly disappeared as he headed towards a certain location.

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Meanwhile, on the other side of the island, a group of small boats was disembarking from a huge ship.

Not long after, the boats arrived on the island, and the young kids riding them started to get off one after another. And after a few moments, the kids started falling in line like trained military soldiers.

Then a man wearing a military-like set of clothes walked in front of the group of the kids before saying. "Alright, little puppies. It is the that you all are waiting for, your assessment exam. Time to finally test yourselves and see how much you really improved."

"Your respective tasks are already been discussed with you in the ships so I am not going to repeat them again. But instead, I will inform you that you are free to do everything that you want after you are done completing your main tasks."

Hearing that, everyone seemed to simultaneously turn their heads and cast their gazes on a particular kid who was standing at the forefront of the group.

Despite the hostilities and sharp gazes that were directed at him, that kid was still acting calm and compose. In fact, he was actually ignoring all of them which made the other kids look at him with full hatred.

In the meantime, the overseer smirked at the scene in front of him before continuing. "Alright, that is all. I don't want to waste any more of your time."

He then started grinning from ear to ear before saying. "Let the Hunting Test begins!"

Chapter 772 The Sword God Zero (Part 3)

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It had been two weeks since Dylan arrived at the isolated island. And during his stay in this place, he discovered that this island was actually owned by the Black Serpent Mafia.

He was not sure how powerful the organization was exactly since he was still too young, but since he was raised in a powerful clan, he at least knew that they were a huge organization of the underworld.

Despite knowing how scary that organization was, Dylan was still able to remain calm since he knew that his father was around. No matter how strong the Black Serpent Mafia agents were, he believed that they were still no match to his father.

He already hunted quite a lot of monsters in the area. They might only be one or two star monsters at most but they were still dangerous to someone like him who was still very young. Though, they didn't really pose any threat to him since he was skilled in swordsmanship despite being young.

At the same time, he also encountered a couple of kids that were being trained as mafia agents. They were quite strong and gave him some trouble. But despite that being the case, they were still no match to him.

He managed to defeat every little agent that he encountered and he was able to grow in each other battle. He accumulated a lot of battle experiences that made him much stronger compared to his peers.

He did not kill any of them and just incapacitated their movements just like what his father had told him. But since they were future evildoers in his young eyes, he was worried that they might hunt him back once they regroup with the other young agents.

Fortunately, none of them chased him. He might not know the reason why, but he was at least thankful that none of them annoyed him after defeating a lot of them.

Grumble~!

"Urgh! I am hungry again!" muttered Dylan as he rubbed his rumbling tummy.

"Father says that the food in my spatial storage will last me for a month. But how can I survive by just eating dried meat and vegetables?" he complained grumpily.

A moment later, his nose suddenly caught a scent of meat being roasted.

"Huh? What is that? It looks like something delicious!" said Dylan as his mouth started to drool.

After that, he started following the aroma that he smelt.

Meanwhile, in the direction where Dylan was heading, a kid the same age as him was currently sitting in front of a campfire while roasting the meat of a monster beast.

His clothes seemed to be in rags due to the different cuts that he had. But despite that being the case, there seemed to be no injuries visible on his body. And even if he looked like a homeless person due to his dirty clothes, his face was quite clean which showed his handsome look.

His gray hair perfectly fit the sharp and cold look of his purple eyes which was applying his handsome appearance.

Rustle!

A few moments later, he suddenly heard a slight movement from a nearby bush which made him turn his head in that direction.

At first, his gaze was sharp and threatening since he was thinking that it was someone from the mafia training camp. "These guys are truly stubborn."

His annoyance could clearly hear from the tone of his voice.

Since the start of the Hunting Test, the other kids from the camp attacked him constantly, hoping that they could eliminate him. Unfortunately, all of their attempts ended up in failure.

But to his surprise, the kid that he saw from that direction was not someone that he knew. He stayed in the training camp since he was young, so he practically knew almost everyone from there.

He was sure that this kid was not from the camp.

"It is not something from the camp. Is he lost?" he muttered to himself before.

He fell into deep thought for a moment before shaking his head. "It doesn't matter. I just need to eliminate him. After all, the camp will not let someone like him live anyway. His fate will either be the same as us or get killed on the spot."

"It is better to kill him painlessly than to let those bastards torture him," he added in a cold tone.

But before he could even make his move, an intense headache suddenly assaulted his head. "Urgh!"

He sat back on the tree trunk that he was sitting on before muttering saying with a hoarse tone. "What's wrong? Didn't you say that I can do everything I want as long as I take care of those kids?"

"Tsk! Tsk! You are too soft! Didn't you hear what I said? He will die in the hands of the guards anyway, isn't it better if we-...?" he was in the middle of taking when the headache became intense.

Urgh!

He started kneeling on the ground and hugged his head while saying. "I know, I know! I get it already, so stop shouting, you coward!"

Dylan, who was originally staring at the grey-haired young man, suddenly bolted out from his position and rushed towards the latter.

He was planning to help him after seeing the grey-haired kid suddenly start hugging his head. He knew that the latter might be one of the young agents that the organization was training. But his instincts, as a human and a little kid, were telling him that he needed to lend the young man a hand.

But at the same time, he suddenly halted his steps when he reached a few meters away from the grey-haired kid. It was because of the sharp glare that the latter was giving him.

"If you don't want to get hurt, then don't dare to take another step," warned the kid in a cold tone, which reminded Dylan that this kid was as dangerous as the others.

'No, he is much more dangerous compared to them,' thought Dylan to himself as he could feel that there was something wrong with this kid in front of him.

He unconsciously put his hand on the hilt of his swords as a form of reflex. All of the senses of his body were warning him to run away as soon as possible after seeing the cold look in that kid's eyes.

He might not be familiar with that feeling since he was still young, but he was sure that this kid was completely different compared to the other kids that he encountered.

Seeing his actions, the grey-haired kid immediately frowned his eyes. Those actions were a clear sign of someone who wanted to fight.

Misunderstanding those actions, the grey-haired kid suddenly started laughing bitterly before saying. "I knew it!"

"Did you see it, you coward? This is how the real world is! You can't trust anyone aside from yourself," he added as if he was talking to someone.

Dylan frowned his eyebrows when he heard those words. He then turned his head left and right, trying to see if anyone was hiding in the vicinity. But after seeing that no one was there aside from the two of them, he couldn't help but become confused with those words.

'Who is he talking to?' asked Dylan to himself before hopping away from the grey-haired kid.

Meanwhile, the latter was currently in the middle of standing up. He ignored Dylan for a moment as he walked toward the tree trunk and picked up a sword that was perfectly fit for his size from there.

After that, he turned to Dylan before saying. "I don't know where you come from nor why are you here. But if you don't leave right now, then I will be forced to chase you away."

He paused for a moment as he knitted his eyebrows due to the headache that he was suffering before continuing. "You better make your decision as soon as possible while this coward inside me is holding me back."

Dylan further frowned his eyebrows when he heard those words. He couldn't understand what the other kid was saying, but based on the tone of his words, he was sure that the latter was trying to pick a fight with him.

Having that thought in mind, he unsheathed his sword and looked sharply at the grey-haired kid. "You are one of those kids from the mafia, right?"

After that, he took a battle stance where squatted his hips and held his sword horizontally in front of his chest. Facing the grey-haired sideways, he pointed his sword forward before saying. "I guess you are really all the same."

On the other hand, the grey-haired kid suddenly smirked when he saw Dylan taking his stance. "Quite a solid stance. I can tell that you are quite experienced with the sword."

After that, he also pulled his sword out from its sheath before saying. "It is rare for someone of my age to have that aura. I guess I play with you a little."

"I am Uno. Remember my name since I am going to be the one who will be second to none."

Chapter 773 The Sword God Zero (Part 4)

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Uno and Dylan stared at each other's eyes for a couple of moments before the latter kicked the ground underneath him and lunged forward.

Swoosh!

Dylan's speed was fast and managed to arrive in front of Uno in just a matter of seconds. He was also swinging his swords down strongly as if he was trying to split a boulder with it.

On the other hand, Uno maintained his relaxed stance despite the aggressiveness that his opponent had. But despite that being the case, his eyes never left Dylan to not miss a single movement.

The sword was about to fall to his head when he suddenly took a step back and leaned his body in the same direction, dodging the sword with a very small margin.

Dylan was surprised at those actions as he was not expecting someone his age was able to avoid his swift attack with ease. But he was able to swiftly adjust his stance and changed into a more comfortable position where he could quickly follow his attack with another.

He forcefully halted his swing and twisted his waist before redirecting the course of his sword upwards.

Those actions surprised Uno a little since he knew that it was such an advanced technique. He was a trained little agent of the mafia, so he at least knew a thing or two about these kinds of techniques.

But from his knowledge, only a very few numbers of individuals could do it at such a young age, especially when it was a technique that could put a lot of burden on one's body.

But from what Uno could see, it seemed like Dylan was not having a hard time executing such a complicated technique.

"A Sword Genius, huh?" muttered Uno as he took a quick step to the side, barely avoiding the blade of his opponent's sword once again.

This time, Dylan was really surprised at Uno's precise timing and footwork. With just a simple step, Uno not only was able to dodge his attack but was also able to position behind him.

But at the same time, he was also quite impressed. Such smooth movements were pretty uncommon even for the people of his clan. Only adults and skilled young talents with a good sense of positioning could do such things.

Regardless, he was still able to change the trajectory of his swords by leaping forward while also spinning at the same time.

"Hoh~!" Uno was quite impressed at Dylan's response and fast reaction.

Then he slightly raised his sword and used the surface of his sword to block and change the course of the incoming attack.

Clang!

"This kid is really good," said Uno as if he was talking to someone.

"A Sword Genius, it is a rare talent. Do you want to give it a try? Maybe you will be able to beat me if you learn a thing or two from him," he added with a smirking tone.

In the meantime, Dylan frowned his eyebrows deeply as he stared at his opponent with a weird look on his face. 'He has been muttering to the air since earlier. Is he crazy?'

'But he is really good!' he added to his thoughts before charging forward once again right after his feet touched the ground. And at the same time, he was also thrusting his sword forward.

Swoosh!

During his charge, he suddenly heard Uno talking in the air once again. "I will enjoy myself then."

After that, Uno slightly leaned his body forward while also squatting his hips a little.

A moment later, Dylan's eyes suddenly turned wide as Uno disappeared in front of him all of a sudden. And with it an instant, the latter reappeared in below him, ducking forward and swinging his sword with both of his swords.

Bang!

Then his body arched like a bow as he was sent flying by the powerful force behind Uno's attack.

Bang!

Then he collided with a nearby tree and bounced from it before falling to the ground.

Cough! Cough!

He was coughing heavily and vomiting a mouthful of saliva as he supported his body with both of his hands. His breathing also became haggard as if his chest was being squeezed by something.

'What was that?' he asked inside his head with wide-opened eyes.

Then he swiftly touched his waist, trying to see if he was injured. But surprisingly, he didn't suffer any wound despite getting hit by the previous attack.

"He reversed blade? Did he use the back of his sword when he attacked me?" muttered Dylan with great difficulty.

"Huh? Is that all you've got? You are much weaker than what I have expected," said Uno with a deep frown.

But quickly after that, he suddenly turned his head towards his sword before muttering to himself. "Or did I just overdo it? Did I put that much strength on that attack?"

"As expected, I am still much stronger even compared to geniuses of my age," he added which made Dylan flinch a little.

After a few moments, Dylan put everything he got to pick himself up from the ground before picking up his sword nearby.

He then stood up straight and looked up while trying to regulate his breathing as much as he could. And when he was done stabilizing himself, he took his stance once again.

The current look that he had was completely different. His eyes were focused and full of determination. The air surrounding him was also completely different compared to what he originally had earlier.

Seeing his actions, Uno started grinning from ear to ear before saying. "Yeah, this is how it suppose to be. You are a lot better and more talented compared to the kids on the camp, so you should be able to last much longer than them."

"After that, I continued to fight Uno for the rest of my time in that island but didn't even manage to graze his clothes until my father fetched me and left and the island," said Dylan as he walked alongside Shin back to the place where the others were waiting.

"I may not be able to beat him but he at least told me his name as a form of acknowledging me as a worthy opponent," he added as he was quite confused to himself why he was telling Shin about his past.

He didn't know why he felt that it was fine to share such things with Shin. He felt as if they were close and knew each other for a very long time.

He brushed that thought at the back of his head and continued. "Well, that is actually part of the reason why I choose to call myself Zero when I first played a virtual game."

"He said that he is someone who will become second to none, so I want to be that 'none' he is talking about and become better of him," he added while smiling bitterly since he suddenly realized how childish he was when getting his in-game name.

In the meantime, Shin was currently in deep thought, confused, and couldn't understand what was going on.

After hearing a part of Zero's past, Shin was now sure that the 'Uno' that Zero was talking about was actually him. But at the same time, he also felt that it was not him.

He had some missing part of his past, and he was suspecting that what he just heard from Zero was a part of the memory that he couldn't remember.

Aside from this, there was also an odd part of Zero's story that was bothering him. From what he just heard, it seemed like the 'Uno' that he encountered on that island kept on mumbling to himself as if he was talking to someone.

'Someone who is talking to himself? Is it possible? Is it a dual personality? Or just my wild imagination?' thought Shin to himself as his suspicion started to grow stronger.

'A lost memory, a dual personality, and being able to talk to the other-self,' Shin muttered these things repeatedly inside his head as he felt that he was getting closer to unveiling something.

But right before he could grab what he was trying to reach, an intense pain suddenly assaulted his head as if it was being split apart.

Urgh!

The headache was getting worse the more he tried to think about his suspicion. And due to that, he couldn't help but kneel on the ground while hugging his head, in an attempt to lessen the pain.

He also started getting a series of notices from the system, telling him that the headache he was feeling was not normal. It was urging him to log out of the game as soon as possible.

"D*mn it!" cursed Shin while enduring the pain.

In the meantime, Zero quickly supported Shin asked. "Hey, what is wrong? It is a side effect of reaching the state of being one with the sword within the game."

As a swordsman himself, he knew that what Shin achieved was such an unorthodox method of reaching that state. He was afraid that the foundation that Shin had built might suffer if something went wrong before he could stabilize it in the real world with his main body.

"You should log out of the game and synchronize your mind and body," he said with a deep frown.

But Shin was quite stubborn and said. "No, I am fine. And it is not about the side effects that you are worried about."

After that, he stood back up while wearing a deep frown. 'Looks like there are a lot of things that I take a look at once I log out of the game.'

Chapter 774 The Nemesis Of The Corrupted Cult (Part 1)

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After regaining himself, Shin resumed walking as if nothing had happened. At the same time, he suddenly asked. "Aren't you here to take the fragment of the broken [Excalibur]? How come you are not talking about it now?"

Hearing that, Zero couldn't help but smile bitterly before answering. "Let's say that I am not satisfied with the outcome of our duel. I am forced to cancel it because of your sudden enlightenment."

"I can always take it from you when the time is right," he added which made Shin raise his eyebrow.

"You are taking it as if you can easily take it from me," said Shin while turning to Zero.

But despite the discontentment on his face, he still took out a metal shard from his inventory before tossing it to Zero. "Here! I don't have any use of it anyway, so it is better for you to have it."

Zero unconsciously caught the shard and was about to say something. But before he could even open his mouth, Shin immediately beat him into it. "Don't refuse it. You said you are going to also lend me a hand in the real world. You can take it as a form advance payment or something of the sort."

Hearing that, the Sword God couldn't help but smile bitterly and shake his head helplessly. "I guess I can't refuse this then."

Shin slightly nodded his head in response before giving Zero a sidelong glance. "Now that your job is already done here, what is your next plan?"

Zero slightly knitted his eyebrows as he thought about his next plan. But after a few moments of thinking, he suddenly shook his head while answering. "I think I will be staying in this place for a time being since it is quite lively here."

"Moreover, it is the Corrupted Cult that we are talking about, so I will join the fun for the time being," he added as he put the metal shard within his inventory.

A few moments later, Seven caught to them and quickly reported to Zero. "Young-... I mean, Sir Zero. The Corrupted Cult are making some of their moves."

Zero slightly knitted his eyebrows before asking. "Who is in the lead this time and how many strong individuals they have in their ranks?"

"The Shadow Hunter Lewin is in charge but that may change once the Messengers arrive. As for the top experts that they have brought, I'm afraid that they quite a lot of them," answered Seven of them.

He then took a brief pause before continuing. "It seems like they have a huge operation in the area."

Hearing that, Shin immediately chimed in. "I guess they also discovered what lies beyond that wall of ice in the border."

Zero and Seven simultaneously turned their heads at him when they heard those words and waited for him to continue.

"There is a region beyond that towering wall that may be comparable to the new regions that are about to be released. And since it is a free area, I am pretty sure that they are after that place," he said in a nonchalant tone.

"Are you guys and the Hand of Midas Trading Firm also after that place?" asked Zero curiously.

Shin shrugged his shoulders before answering. "We are originally doing a quest in the area. But since we found a good spot to develop ourselves, then I guess there is no harm at setting up a base in here, isn't it?"

"Well, that is true," commented Zero.

"But I think we have another major problem aside from the Corrupted Cult," said Seven after a few moments of hesitation.

Hearing those words, Shin couldn't help but knit his eyebrows because his instincts were telling him that their situation was getting more and more troublesome as time went by.

"What is it?" asked Shin with a seemed to be tired tone.

Seven shifted his gaze between Zero and Shin a couple of times before answering. "Because of the large movements that the Corrupted Cult are doing, it looks like the Powerhouses residing within the Kingdom manage to sniff what is going on."

'F*ck! After all of the trouble that we went through,' cursed Shin inside his head before saying to the two. "I will meet with my group for now. How about you?"

"Let's go together. Didn't I say that I will not miss the fun?" answered Zero.

On the other hand, Seven stared at his young master weirdly as it was rare of him to see Zero talk friendly. The Dragon God Siegfried and the War God Simba were a few of the people who could make Zero talk like that since he saw them as equals.

'Did this guy make the young master acknowledge him? But he got his Godlike Title just recently. Is he really that strong?' thought Seven to himself while looking at Shin in confusion.

In the meantime, Shiella and the others were finally done wrapping the situation on their side.

The new 'slaves' of the Hand of Midas Trading Firm, Kristle, and Christine, also stopped fighting the other members of the Empyrean Talons and S.Tigris group. In fact, they were already on the losing side the moment when Cloe joined the battle.

Fortunately, the opposing side had no intention of really killing them. They were going to lose at least a couple of levels since they currently had a penalty curse that Shiella had put in them.

Christine was also somewhat relieved since the other side didn't kill any more of her vampires. Looking for the subjects that she could turn into a vampire was not a problem, but nurturing them to have combat capabilities was not easy.

What she was really curious about right now was the reason why her big sister changed sides. 'I know that this group is strong, but the other side is the Corrupted Cult. It is one of the largest organizations within the game that is composed of both NPCs and strong players.'

She then turned to Kristle and was about to ask her question. But before she could even open her mouth, the latter suddenly said. "I'll tell you the details later, just follow the instructions that are given to you for the time being."

"Ahh~! I can finally have a rest, fighting that crazy vampire lady sure is tiring," said Raven as he sat on the ground.

"Lowering your guard already? What if those people from the Corrupted Cult decided to attack right now?" said Ara to Raven with a sneering tone.

But instead of refuting her words like how he usually did, Raven continued to relax while saying. "I am no energy to argue with you right now, so please give me a break."

Hmph!

Ara wanted to say something but chose to keep it to herself while turning her head away from him while pouting her lips.

In the meantime, Black Hand and S.Tigris were currently discussing their course of action with Arthur, Leonard, and Shiella.

"With the Corrupted Cult members scattered around the entire region, evacuating the residents from this village is going to be close to impossible," said Arthur with a deep frown.

"Given those guys' temperament, I am pretty sure that they are going to sabotage us in the middle of evacuation," added Leonard as he nodded his head.

"Of course, we can't let that happen, which is why we are going to delay that quest for the time being," said Shiella in an instant as she thought to herself. 'How can I let such special NPCs to die like that? They can become useful to us once we relocate the Calderock Town here and promote it into a city.'

p She already heard the rough plan of Shin from Cloe, so it was natural for her to start laying out a plan for it.

Shiella really liked the idea that Shin and Cloe had thought of. Building a city on top of a mountain with a stunning view would really attract a lot of players, especially when the location was in the middle of a high-leveled map with a lot of strong monsters.

On top of that, the region was in between two kingdoms where one was steadily growing while the other was a special map that might be able to rival the major regions of different races. Moreover, it was an open map that was available to everyone, unlike those regions that were about to come out.

As someone who was majoring in business for her studies, Shiella could already see how much profit they could get just by building a city here.

'That little rascal sure knows how to use his head,' thought Shiella to herself as she repeatedly nodded her head in approval.

But not long after, she started clicking her tongue and shaking her head while adding to her thoughts. 'But that is also a problem since he is starting to get too full of himself recently.'

Meanwhile, Arthur and Leonard couldn't help but look at her weirdly due to the changing mood that Shiella was undergoing.

'I am pretty sure that she is thinking how to deal with that smartass,' thought Arthur as he felt pity for Shin alongside a sense of satisfaction at the same time.

Chapter 775 The Nemesis Of The Corrupted Cult (Part 2)

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Right after Shin, Zero, and Seven regroup with the others, the two gods immediately went joined Shiella and the others on the discussion of their next course of action.

"So, we can't continue the quest since the Corrupted Cult members will get in our way, huh?" commented Shin as he frowned his eyebrows deeply. He really wanted to finish their quest as soon as possible so that he could finally build the city and make more money obviously.

After that, he turned to Shiella and asked. "So, how are we going to deal with those guys, Big Sis?"

Shiella raised her eyebrows for a couple of moments before explaining their situation a little more. "The situation is already getting out of hand because those bastards from the Corrupted Cult purposely revealed their movements."

"And their large movements attracted the attention of the other powerhouses within the kingdom, Titan Guild, Hydra Guild, Dragon Pavilion, and Blood Carnival in particular. These guilds are showing interest in what is happening."

"With the Wing's Alliance and HeadHunter Guild out of the equation, these four leading guilds are planning to get involved in this matter."

She then took a brief pause and swept her gaze to the others before continuing. "Because of this, I will not be able to participate in the next battle with you."

"Even if I really want to crush those bastards with my own hand for ruining all of the preparations that I've made, I have no choice but to leave it to you since I need to defend the place against those sly foxes that are trying to stick their nose in our business."

Hearing that, Zero couldn't help but frown his brows before asking. "Will the Hand of Midas can handle those guilds alone?"

"What's more, the other organizations will also get involved in this matter to have a slice in the pie," he added, a little concerned.

Shiella suddenly smirked at him when she heard those words before answering. "If you are thinking that we can't, then I must say that you are completely underestimating us and our connection a little too much."

"Since you decided to stay, then just focus on dealing with those guys from the Corrupted Cult as I handle the rest," she added with a smirk.

In the meantime, Shin suddenly chimed in. "The Hydra Guild and the Dragon Pavilion will never get along since they are long-time rivals. They may be interested in what's happening here, but their rivalry will always come first."

"The Titan Guild and Blood Carnival are in a similar case. The former is a guild known for justice and being fair at everything while the latter group is a guild composed of criminals that do all sorts of despicable things. With them being on a completely opposite side, they are fated to clash with each other."

He paused for a moment and turned to Zero before continuing. "Taking advantage of this fact, it can be a weapon that we can use to our favor."

Understanding what Shin was trying to say, Zero nodded his head.

"Just like what this smartass said, we don't have to concern ourselves on those four guilds too much since they will keep each other in check," said Shiella, continuing in the topic.

"As of the other guilds, I can handle them pretty much alongside my guild and a couple of my friends," she added with a mystifying tone.

After that, she gave each member of the group before continuing. "For now, let's divide the task among ourselves."

She then turned to Kristle and Christine who seemed to be sulking on a distance before continuing. "Since those two are tasked to clear all of the villages and settlements in the region and they suddenly betrayed them midway, then I am pretty sure that the Corrupted Cult are aware that there are still some people hiding somewhere."

"And this place is going to be first in their target," she added.

"So, we are going to focus on defending this place?" asked Black Hand.

Hearing that, Shin quickly shook his head. "I don't think it is necessary."

When the others heard those words, Arthur quickly asked in confusion. "Why?"

Shin turned his head to Arthur and said. "Because they have no idea where to find the residents of the village. So even if they try to come here, they will not be able to find them."

"Well, that is true. We spend quite a lot of time just finding them. And opening the secret passage is quite complicated," said Arthur while nodding his head.

"But we still can't leave them unattended. We don't know if some accidents are going to happen," said Leonard.

Hearing that, Shin, Arthur, and Shiella simultaneously turned their heads to Black Hand and S.Tigris. And when the latter two saw their actions, they immediately understand what they were trying to say.

With a sigh, S.Tigris nodded his head and said. "You can leave their safety to us."

"Moreover, it is going to be quite complicated if we get involved with the Corrupted Cult a little too much when our guild is currently at war," added Black Hand.

After that, Shin turned to Shiella before suggesting. "I think it is better if we strike them first while they are still organizing their forces."

"From what I've heard from Zero, they seem to be waiting for the other experts of their group to arrive," he added.

Hearing his suggestion the others also nodded their heads as Shiella fell into deep thought. After a couple of moments, she finally nodded her head before adding. "Their forces are still large since they are planning to invest quite a lot in his gamble."

"And since the situation escalated to a higher degree, it is pretty obvious that they were going to send more Messengers here or experts on the same level."

She then took a brief pause and looked at them with a serious expression before continuing. "So you have to clear the area as fast as you can."

"And from the looks of it, this is going to be a real war where those who you killed will keep coming back like cockroaches," she added.

After that, she pointed at the godlike players around the table other than her before continuing. "With that, I suggest that the four of you will be moving independently while hunting the members of the cult while looking for their headquarters."

"On the other hand, the others will form a group that will face the forces of the Corrupted Cult. They will also attract the attention of our enemies while waiting for you to take down the enemies' base."

"That way, the area of our operation will be much wider," she added.

Shin nodded his head in agreement. "Alright, let's go with that. But I think me and these three will focus on hunting the elite group and top experts of our enemy."

"What's more, I think it is better to have a separate group that will block the enemies that are going to come after resurrecting from the city or nearby cemetery," he suggested.

Shiella fell into deep thought when she heard those words before agreeing. "It is a good idea but we can't do that with our current workforce."

But not long after, she quickly added. "I will form a group that will deal with the resurrected enemies later."

"Alright, let's keep it as simple as that for the time being. We will do some real-time adjustments when the situation calls for it."

"For now, just focus on your respective tasks and I will handle the rest," she said as she swept her gaze at the others.

Shin and the others nodded their heads and didn't add anything more which concluded their meeting.

After that, Shin called their group and informed them what they had discussed in the meeting. The plan was pretty simple, so there was nothing to discuss. And right after he told them their tasks, the other members of the Empyrean Talons quickly organized themselves and fixed their equipment before heading out.

S.Tigris and his group, on the other hand, headed towards the underground of the village. Their task was simple and that was to protect the villagers hiding in it.

"Finally, a time where I am free to do anything I want!" said Arthur as he stretched his waist left and right.

Leonard nodded his head and added. "It has been a while since my last 'hunt'. I guess this is going to be a little fun."

Zero, on the other hand, unsheathed his swords and check their blades before sheathing them back again. He then turned at the two before saying. "How about we make this even more interesting?"

"Want to make this a competition?" said Shin as he chimed in.

"What is at stake?" asked Arthur with an interested look on his face.

"How about owing the winner a favor and the losers can't refuse?" suggested Leonard after a slight thought.

For godlike players like them, betting an item was practically useless. Especially when their weapons and equipment were already at the current peak of the game.

"Fine by me," answered Zero without any hesitation. His tone was full of confidence as if he was sure that he was going to win.

"Alright then, it is decided!" said Shin as he quickly drew a contract and the others signed it without any hesitation.

When all of them signed it, the four of them exchanged glances before simultaneously disappearing from their spots.

Chapter 776 The Nemesis Of The Corrupted Cult (Part 3)

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Saint Heaven Kingdom, Holy City.

Heavenly Restaurant VIP Room 3.

The acting leaders of the Titan Guild and Dragon Pavilion were currently having a meeting to discuss how they were going to deal with the newest report that they recently got.

There were four players inside the room, two of them were sitting across each other while the other two were standing right behind the former pair like a close attendant.

The first person was a Tigerkin Master Berserker who seemed to specialize in fighting with a pair of sabers instead of a greatsword. He seemed to have a tacky look due to the set of equipment that he was wearing. It was not because they didn't match each other but because of how shabby and dirty they look.

Regardless of that, the Berserker seemed to not care since the only thing that was important to him was strength. It didn't matter if you looked like a beggar or nobleman, as long as you have to back yourself up, then everything else was not important.

This guy was one of the 'God Fists' of the Titan Guild, the God of Vigor, Samson.

Standing behind him was one of the two vice commanders of the Titan Guild branch in the Saint Heaven Kingdom, Hercules. He was not a godlike player with an official title but he had a strength that was comparable with them, a Maverick God, and people called him, 'Herculine God'.

He was also a Beastman and a Master Berserker but the subrace that he chose was a Lionkin while the weapon of his choosing was a huge metal club.

This pair was known as one of the strongest pairs within the game, especially when they were working together. And their style of battle was a straightforward battle without setting up any kind of schemes.

But at the same time, the pair across them would not lose when it came to reputation and achievements since they were also a pair that was known as best partners, the Commanding God Miracle Dragon and the Unbreakable God Martial Dragon.

"I did not expect that we are going to have another meeting like this," said Samson as he crossed his thick arms in front of him.

"Me either. Who will not expect that we are going to meet like his?" said Miracle Dragon in response.

"We both know that each of us is very busy, so how about we cut off the chase and start discussing what we need to discuss right away?" said Samson straightforwardly.

Hearing that, Miracle Dragon nodded while commenting. "As straightforward as always. Then let's start already."

He took a brief pause before continuing. "As we already know, the Corrupted Cult is planning something big again. And with the number of forces that they are mobilizing, we can easily tell that this operation is very important to them."

"And it could also mean that it is something that can affect the current state of the game," he with a serious tone.

"Well, it is the Corrupted Cult that we are talking about here, so it is pretty natural for them to create a mess as big as that," commented Samson before his voice turned serious. "The problem here is the involvement of the Hand of Midas and the Assassin Union."

"We don't know what is happening in there since those two groups are preventing our scouts from advancing," he added with an even deeper tone.

"Well, I heard that those guys from Empyrean Talons are in that area. I don't know what they are doing there but it looks like they are intending to get in the way of the Corrupted Cult once again," said Miracle Dragon.

"What are they? Mortal enemies of the cult? They are always in the area whenever the Corrupted Cult tries to do something," commented Samson with a deep frown.

Miracle Dragon nodded his head but he didn't completely agree. "Well, that might be one of the possibilities since it could be said that it is the other way around."

"You should know how the Corrupted Cult works, they may be trying to halt the progress of that group since they are too strong," he continued.

Samson shook his head as he denied the possibility. "That is impossible. Mobilizing such a large force is not meant to suppress an adventurer team."

"And they are just going to lose a lot of resources if they try to clash with that group. Especially with the presence of those three monsters," he added.

Miracle Dragon was silent for a moment before continuing. "Anyway, from what we know, the Empyrean Talons have some relation with the Hand of Midas Trading Firm, so it may be the reason why we are being blocked by those people."

"So, you are suspecting that the Empyrean Talons and the Corrupted Cult discovered something in the Sky Deceiving Valley that we don't know about?" asked Samson.

"Most likely," said Miracle Dragon as he nodded his head. And after a brief moment, he quickly added. "What's more, the Hand of Midas is currently involved. We may not know who is the leader of that firm, we all know that there are always profits involved whenever that Trading Firm appears."

"Hah! So, you are planning to go against them? Making an enemy out of Empyrean Talons and Hand of Midas is definitely not a good idea," said Samson with a slight frown.

Miracle Dragon laughed at that remark before responding. "Of course, we are not foolish enough to do such a thing."

"Moreover, we have our eyes on the Dragon God ages ago. But since he already has a group of his own, making him an ally is still not a bad choice."

Samson slightly knitted his eyebrows when he heard those words before saying. "So, you are proposing that we ally ourselves with them."

Then his knitted brows turned into a frown before saying. "But as you already know, making a deal with the Guild Leader of the Hand of Midas is not that easy. Unless we have something too tempting for them to accept our proposal, initiating a deal with them is impossible."

"Well, that is true. But that is also the reason why we are here right now," replied Miracle Dragon.

"Heh! That is sly of you. So, what is your plan?" asked Samson.

Miracle Dragon quickly answered. "Given the current circumstances, I am pretty sure that the Hydra Guild and Blood Carnival are going to ally together just like what happened before. And since it is impossible for them to form an alliance with the Hand of Midas, I am guessing that they are going to choose the side of the Corrupted Cult instead."

"Are you going to propose that we are going to deal with those two clans so that they can focus on their attention to the Corrupted Cult?" asked Samson.

But not long after, he quickly added. "It sounds a good idea but it is not appealing enough to convince them to ally with us."

"That is why we decided to give them this," said Miracle Dragon while taking out a blueprint from his inventory and placing it on the top of the table. Given the bright glow that it was emitting, anyone could tell that it was a Master Blueprint.

Samson knitted his eyebrows quite deeply when he saw the glowing blueprint. And after hesitating for a moment, he took it from the table to see what kind of blueprint it was.

Not long after, his eyes suddenly turned wide as he turned to Miracle Dragon with full of disbelief. "Are you sure about this? This is can change the state of the game! And your guild will become its pioneer without a doubt."

The blueprint that Samson was holding was a guide on how to build an airship. In the current stage of the game where flying mounts and pets were very rare, an airship would definitely be a game-changer.

"You are right about that," nodded Miracle Dragon before adding. "But at the same time, our researchers and artisans are not good enough to use that blueprint. Our engineers and architects are not at the level where they can create this thing."

He then paused for a moment before continuing. "But it is a different case for the Hand of Midas since they have Black Hammer, Tinker, and other top players who specialize in lifestyle classes."

"Moreover, it is just a small token in exchange for proposing a cooperation with the Hand of Midas and Empyrean Talons."

"It is even better if we can form an alliance with them," he added.

Hearing his reasons, Samson suddenly fell into deep thought before turning to Hercules. "What do you think?"

Hercules was silent for a moment before replying. "It will bring more benefits to our clan if we ally with them since the Hand of Midas is currently in control of the market of the Saint Heaven Kingdom while the Empyrean Talon is currently the hottest potato at the moment."

"Though, we also need to give them something of the same value as this blueprint," he added almost immediately.

Hearing that, Samson quickly turned to Miracle Dragon and nodded his head. "Alright, let's go with your plan."

Chapter 777 The Nemesis Of The Corrupted Cult (Part 4)

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Sky Deceiving Valley, inside of a VIP Room in the Mercenary Guild, Lewin was currently having a hard time thinking about how he was going to deal with their current situation.

He was not expecting that the other side would initiate the fight boldly. And since it was quite unexpected, their forces suffered a lot. Especially when they were ambushed by a group of expert players.

He tried to form teams that were composed only of top experts and their sole task was to eliminate the Emyrean Talons who were trying to hunt down their members.

Unfortunately, these groups of experts became the prey of four beasts that were running wild in the region. And even if they tried to fight back, these monsters would just slaughter them all as if they were some trivial bugs in the forest.

"D*mn it! These when are the messengers going to arrive?" shouted Lewin while slamming his hand on the table.

He already requested some assistance from the headquarters and asked them to send the reinforcements as soon as possible. He even reported their current situation and told them that they were facing the Emyrean Talons. But the promised reinforcement was still way too late.

"Thirio and Maximo may be able to hold themselves, especially that they are with the current most elite group that we currently have. But the other groups will get annihilated if the reinforcements don't arrive."

"Moreover, asking them to return here will only increase our losses since they are going to be hunted down by those four once again."

Lewin was really troubled right now. He was staring intensely at the virtual map in front of him, trying to find a perfect route to sneak inside the valley.

Unfortunately, Shin and Shiella drew a foolproof plan to avoid accidents from happening. The whole map of Sky Deceiving Valley was very huge and it was impossible to cover every corner of the area.

,m But since Shin and the others from the Empyrean Talons already explored a large portion of it, he knew quite a lot of spots where strong monsters were spawning. And by using that knowledge, he was able to deduct the most optimal route to travel within the valley.

At the same time, he was also able to predict where the forces of their enemies were going to take. And by relying on his instructions, the others were able to always ambush the opposing forces without being noticed.

The fog was no longer a problem for their group since they already spent quite a lot of time in this area. In a sense, it even became their home turf.

The opposing side might be the same, but the difference between their strategists was pretty huge. Shin was clearly better than Lewin at commanding their respective forces.

The guerilla tactics that the other members of the Empyrean Talons were one thing. But the straightforward hunting that Shin and the other three gods were doing was definitely giving Lewin the most headache.

He even tried to focus on eliminating the other members of the Empyrean Talons since they looked easier to deal with in his eyes.

But alas, he was completely wrong about that since Cloe and Alice were on their side. With Cloe's top-notched healing and Alice's amazing control over her spells, the enemies that tried to ambush them were all killed instead.

"If only there are people who can hold those four, then I can focus all of my attention to their small group," muttered Lewin to himself as he massaged his temples.

And his problem didn't end in there, the members that were resurrected at the nearest City, the Maple Cloud City, couldn't return to the valley immediately.

It was because they were being blocked by an elite group from the Hand of Midas and Assassin Union.

"This is really getting out of hand," he mumbled with a tired tone.

Tok! Tok!

A few moments later, someone suddenly knocked on the door.

"Captain Lewin, there are people who want to take to you," said his subordinate guarding the door.

Tired, Lewin answered nonchalantly. "Don't I tell you not to disturb me unless the reinforcement from the headquarters arrives? Do you have a death wish?"

His subordinate hesitated for a moment before responding. "But-... sir. They are from the Hydra Guild and Blood Carnival. It seems like they want to propose cooperation with us."

Bang!

Hearing that, Lewin couldn't help but stand up from his seat and quickly open the door. "What did you say? The Hydra Guild and Blood Carnival send a representative to propose cooperation?"

His subordinate nodded his head and responded carefully. "Yes, sir."

"Let them in!" said Lewin before quickly changing his mind. "No. I will greet them myself."

After that, he started walking towards the main lobby of the Mercenary Guild to see the representatives from the Hydra Guild and Blood Carnival.

Not long after, he saw a pair of players sitting across each in an isolated corner. He instantly knew that they were the people looking for him since he knew them pretty well since he had already done business with them before.

"Fatal God Python and Canine God Felon," said Lewin with a deep tone as if he didn't want to meet these two.

If they were not in a desperate situation then he was really not planning to meet them. Unfortunately, he didn't have a choice.

"Heh! What a cold greeting you have there, Lewin. It is as if we haven't worked together before," said Python in response.

On the other hand, the guy named Felon suddenly smirked and added. "Just say if you don't need us. We can always leave whenever you want."

The corner of Lewin's mouth suddenly twitched before turning around. "Follow me. This is not a good place for private discussion."

The other two couldn't help but smirk when they heard those words and stood up to follow him. And not long after, they arrived inside the VIP room where Lewin was staying.

"Hoh~! Such a fancy room for a place in an isolated place," commented Felon as he swept his eyes around the room.

"Sit down already, so that we can start our discussion. I don't have much time to bother with you two," said Lewin as he took his seat in his previous spot.

Hearing that, Python and Felon didn't say anything any longer since they both knew that they were really running out of time. From the information they received, it seemed like the Titan Guild and Dragon Pavilion were planning to ally themselves with the opposing side. And if they didn't hurry right now, then everything was going to be too late.

"So, how is the current situation?" asked Python in a nonchalant tone.

When Lewin heard that, his voice suddenly turned even colder before asking. "Are you asking me that because you don't know the answer, or is it because you know the answer?"

Python clicked his tongue when saw Lewin's reactions and commented. "Tsk! I guess you are still in the right mind. I thought you will lower your guard a little because of the headache that you are getting. But it looks like you are still completely sane."

"Don't bother with your cheap tricks and tell me your proposal already. We are all the same type of people, so it will not work on me," said Lewin as he squinted his eyes.

"Then let me get this straight," replied Python before raising his and opening three of his fingers before saying. "Three-way. Let's divide the profits three-way and we will give you all the support that you need."

"Forty percent for you, and thirty percent for each of our group," he clarified while pointing at him and Felon who was sitting beside him.

"Heh! That is quite greedy of you," commented Lewin before continuing. "We are the ones who discovered this area first and we are already close at seizing it. How can you say that we can spit it that way?"

"But can you hold your ground at your current situation?" asked Felon with a sneering tone.

"We have reinforcements coming our way, so it shouldn't be that problematic. The only thing that we need is to buy time until they arrive," refuted Lewin.

"Hah! And what if your forces get annihilated? What can you do then?" asked Felon back.

"Those four monster gods are quite fierce, you know? I wonder how long can you hold your ground against them?" he added sneeringly.

"Heh! And as if you can give us your full support when you guys need to concern yourselves with your own problems," responded Lewin with the same sneering tone.

He then paused for a moment and turned to Python before continuing. "The Dragon Pavilion will not let you do whatever you want, right?"

"And the Titan Guild will surely hunt your members the moment when they appeared in their sight," he added while turning back to Felon.

Hearing that, the two were silent for a moment as they tried to think of a way on how they were going to respond. In their business, setting up the ranks was important to see who would take the lead in their deal. And right now, Lewin clearly had the upper hand.

Chapter 778 The Nemesis Of The Corrupted Cult (Part 5)

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Lewin stared at the two while waiting for them to respond to what he just said. But after seeing that they were slightly hesitating, he immediately understood their current situation.

"So, the Dragon Pavilion and the Titan Guild already allied themselves with the Hand of Midas, huh?" he said with a smirking tone before quickly adding. "No wonder you guys look for me without any notice, you are already one step behind."

"Heh! Don't act too smug yet, Lewin. We all know that your situation is already at its worst. If you don't accept our offer, then your forces stationed within the region will be wiped out by those guys," refuted Felon with the same smirking tone.

And after a brief moment of pause, he quickly added. "I wonder why are you always clashing with that group? Are you mortal enemies?"

Then Phyton quickly added oil to the fire. "Nemesis is a more fitting term to call those guys. They are always getting in the way of our friends here. Not just once or twice either, but consistently."

"So, calling them the nemesis of the Corrupted Cult would be a fitting name," he added with a sneering tone that seemed to be trying to stir Lewin's rage.

Unfortunately, Lewin remain calm and quickly responded. "We are already aware of that. So, you don't have to remind us about it. I already told you, such tricks will not work on me."

Now that Lewin had the upper hand, quickly initiated a deal that was favorable to his side. "Seventy percent! We are getting seventy percent when we are successful in this operation and you guys will get fifteen each."

The two quickly frowned their eyebrows when they heard those words. – "This bastard cut our demand straight to half." –

They wanted to fight back but Lewin was slightly faster than them. "Your task is only to hinder the movements of the Hand of Midas and Assassin Union and help our members, who are sent back to the city. sneak their way back in here."

"As for the rest, we are going to handle it ourselves," he added while staring at the two.

"Hah! Do you think it is going to be that easy? Moreover, there are also the forces from the Dragon Pavilion and Titan Guild. We also need to concern ourselves with them, in case you forget about them all of a sudden," rebuked Felon.

Hearing that, Lewin shook his head and quickly replied. "Don't underestimate our information network, Felon. Just like how you know where I am, we also know that you guys manage to convince the other guilds at joining our hands."

"Miracle and Golden Dawn, in particular, those guys who are kicked out from the Holy City, I know that you managed to persuade them to take revenge on the Dragon Pavilion and the Titan Guild."

"You can't fool me," he continued while wearing a huge grin.

This time, Python shrugged his shoulders and replied. "If you already know, then you should at least increase our share a little more. How about sixty for you and twenty for each of us? Sounds fair, right?"

Lewin squinted his eyes and stared at the two with full suspicion before answering. "I don't know what you promise those guys for them to not ask a cut in our deal, but I guess I can at least agree to it."

"Good!" responded Python almost instantly before adding. "And as a token appreciation, we are going to send a few experts to lend you a hand."

Lewin was quite skeptical with those words since he knew that these scheming snakes would not give their help for free. "And in exchange for?"

Hearing that, Python couldn't help but laugh at him before replying. "Don't be too on guard on us. We are currently business partners, aren't we?"

"We just have a couple of free people on our side. And after hearing that there is a couple of strong 'monsters' roaming in the area, they can't help but become interested," he added with a mystifying tone.

Lewin knitted his eyebrows when he heard those words. He was trying to guess who were the people that Python was talking about.

Then he saw the latter smile even more mysteriously before giving him some hint. "Just a fair warning, tell your people not to get involved when those guys make their move. They are quite wild and crazy. They will slaughter anyone who tries to partake in their business."

Hearing those words, the eyes of Lewin suddenly turned wide as he came into a realization. He then turned his head to Felon with eyes full of suspicion.

Understanding the meaning of that look, Felon shook his head before saying. "Don't worry, we are not going to stab you at the back."

"We may look a little untrustworthy since we always team up with anyone for the sake of profit, but we never break any contract," he added as he quickly summoned a contract with the system.

After that, the three started conditions of their contracting before signing it. And with that, a temporary alliance was formed between these three forces.

Saint Heaven Kingdom, Maple Cloud City.

In the meantime, inside one of the VIP rooms of a particular restaurant, Shiella was currently looking at the 'offers' that she received from the Dragon Pavilion and the Titan Guild.

Both of them were Master Rank Blueprints and a very rare one on top of that.

One of them was a blueprint for creating an airship, and it seemed like it was the one that was currently inside the game. This airship was not that big from what she could see, but it was enough to carry at least twenty passengers, excluding the crew members.

If she could create at least two or three of them, then it was enough to make them explore some of the unknown lands within the game. And if she was able to establish a special route to travel from one kingdom to another, then she could also turn it into a transportation business.

Traveling between kingdoms was getting more and more expensive to the player traffic. Moreover, you would not be able to enter a particular city if the population was already reaching its limit.

Moreover, such long-distance travel could only be used for neighboring kingdoms and empires. If you wanted to visit the other places that were further than them, then you needed to take multiple teleportations to arrive there.

Aside from it being too troublesome and tiring, that kind of travel was very expensive since you needed to pay gold per teleportation hall.

On top of all of these, given her guild was a merchant guild, transporting some materials from one place to another was pretty troublesome.

They already invented the transport vehicles that could use teleportation formation just like the ones that they used in the Blind Abyss Empire. But there were some problems with it and it was prone to

accidents, just like the issue that they could be ambushed by their enemies. After all, it was traveling on land.

Unlike the airship that could travel unhindered in the sky, the transport vehicles were a little worse.

Moreover, the hindrances in the sky were very few since only a handful of players had a flying pet that they could mount on. The only issue that Shiella could see was the flying monsters in the sky. But they could still handle them since they had a lot of experts in their guild.

In the meantime, the other Master Rank Blueprint was not losing in terms of value either. It was a blueprint for creating ships. And a hybrid of battle and travel ships which was very rare.

With this blueprint, the Hand of Midas could also create a naval force in the coastal areas of the game. They also have a couple of branches in those areas, so such ships would definitely be a big boost for their growth.

Aside from that, she also heard from Shin that there was a small village at the coast of the Sky Deceiving Valley.

Hearing that, she immediately understood what her little brother was thinking. He was planning to turn that village into a harbor. And if they were successful, they could connect it with the city that they were planning to build on top of the mountain.

By connecting the two places, they could attract more players. Moreover, the Sea of Death was near the Saint Heaven Kingdom. It was another place that was perfect for exploring.

If they manage to turn that village into a harbor and create a naval force with the blueprint in her hands, then they could easily monopolize that area without any hindrances from their rivals.

The smile on Shiella's mouth turn higher and higher as thought about their plans. As long as they were successful in the current issue at hand, then they could focus solely on earning more profits.

"I can't wait to crush these guys so that I can finally proceed with our plan," muttered Shiella with a smiling face.

Then her thoughts were suddenly interrupted by a sudden call.

She frowned her eyebrows when she heard the ringing sound before turning her attention to it. But the expression on her face suddenly changed when she saw who was the person that was contacting her.

"Looks who is calling! I guess we wrap this up much faster than we have expected," she muttered to herself before answering the call.

Chapter 779 The Nemesis Of The Corrupted Cult (Part 6)

...

"Sigh~! Why is the team leader want us to stay low after all of the trouble that we've gone through?" said a member of the Corrupted Cult as they hid deep in the Sky Deceiving Valley.

,m "What can we do? We are against top godlike players this time, so it is natural for the team leader to instruct us to pause our movements," said another as he patted the shoulder of his colleague.

"Well, that is also true. We already suffer quite a lot of losses. The other squads are also been annihilated by those four," nodded the previous guy with a bitter tone.

After a brief moment of thinking, he immediately added. "They can't even come back here since all of the entrances of this place are being blocked by the combine forces of the Hand of Midas and Assassin Union."

The guy was about to lean on the tree behind him to relax a little. This entire operation was really had compared to the other operations that they had in the past. It was quite stressful for everyone, so this opportunity was actually good for them.

But before he could even take a rest, he suddenly felt that there was something strange in their surroundings.

It was too quiet.

Frowning his eyebrows, he suddenly stood up and swept his gaze in the vicinity. The silence was giving him an eerie feeling.

Not long after he discovered that he was actually standing alone. The guy that was talking with him just now suddenly disappeared. It was as if he was talking with a ghost earlier.

"What the f*ck is happening?" he cursed as he finally realized his current situation. Then a sudden chill ran through his spine which made his entire body freeze.

"Huh?" After that, he felt that his world turned upside-down as his eyes spun rapidly.

Thud!

Then a soft sound could be heard as he suddenly felt that he had gotten short. And quickly after that, he saw his body standing a few meters away from him. "Huh? What the hell is going on?"

But there was something wrong with it. "How come I can see my body there?"

Then he suddenly realized that that body currently didn't have a head. "What the f-...?"

He couldn't complete his words as his world suddenly turned dark.

Thud!

The headless body also fell on the ground before turning into particles of light.

In the meantime, behind that body, Shin suddenly walked stepped out of the darkness while sheathing his sword.

After that, he swept his gaze at the surroundings to make sure that he didn't miss a single enemy. "I guess, it is all clear now."

He was hunting the members of the Corrupted Cult for quite some time already and he somehow forgot how many enemies he had killed so far. After annihilating a few groups of elite squads, he suddenly stopped counting.

"These guys sure sent quite a lot of people this time. We already annihilated several groups yet there are still a lot of them remain," muttered Shin as he was planning to take a quick break.

When fighting those guys, Shin suddenly felt that there was something wrong with the current situation. Despite all of the groups that they had eliminated, none of them were necromancers. All of them were either a squad of assassins or a balanced group of players.

They were still a corrupted race but their classes were completely different from the ones that they encountered before.

"Are they another function within their group?" muttered Shin in suspicion.

Rustle!

While he was contemplating, he suddenly heard a soft sound coming from a distance. The area was dead silent, so it was easy to pick up such sound.

Squinting his eyes, Shin hid his presence and step into the darkness once again. And with one of his stealth skills, he suddenly merged with the darkness as if he was the darkness itself.

"Why is no one here? Don't tell me we got the location wrong?"

Then Shin heard a familiar voice that made him smile from ear to ear. "Looks who is here. I guess something interesting is going to happen."

After that, he further hid his presence before looking for a good location for an ambush.

.....

Thirio was really troubled at the current situation that he was in. His previous mission was a total disaster. They even teamed up with the Pandemonium Descendants during that time, yet they still failed.

It was one of the reasons why his position as a messenger of the cult was in danger. If they were not successful in this operation, he would really get kicked out of his current position.

"Huh? Why is no one here? Don't tell me we have the wrong coordinates," muttered Thirio after seeing that one was around.

"No, it can't be. This is the right location," responded Maximo as he also frowned his eyebrows. He even checked the message that he got from the leader of the group to make sure that he didn't get it wrong.

But no matter how much he looked at it, the message was telling him that they were in the right location.

Hearing that, Thirio's eyes immediately turned sharp as he suddenly got a bad feeling about it. Then he swept his eyes on their surroundings and signaled his group to be on guard.

Understanding the meaning of his actions, the others quickly spread out and surveyed their surroundings. But not long after, they immediately knitted their eyebrows as they couldn't find anyone within the vicinity.

They indeed saw some marks on the ground, indicating that a group of players stayed in here not long ago. But aside from that, they couldn't find any signs of battle anywhere.

"Strange?" muttered Maximo as he surveyed the surrounding area.

Thirio was also on guard. His senses were working to the max as an iffy feeling was stirring him from inside. He didn't know why but there was definitely something wrong in this place.

He was also checking the members of his group to make sure that all of them were present. He was not sure what was it, but he was feeling that someone was observing them from the darkness. It was as if it was a beast that was stalking its prey.

'Who is it? Sword God Zero? No, he is not someone who will sneak from behind. It is also impossible for Dragon God Siegfried to do that since he likes to show off. So, it could either be War God Simba or Battle God Sickarius.'

Thirio was trying to guess who among the four gods was stalking them. It was easy for him to deduce who it was since he was quite familiar with their respective styles of battle.

"It is the Battle God Sickarius!" shouted Thirio, informing each member of his group so that they could prepare themselves on how they were going to fight.

Unfortunately, it was already too late since Shin was already done with his preparations.

"Not bad at identifying me. But too bad, you are still a step too late," said Shin as he walked out from his hiding place.

Hearing his voice, everyone quickly turned their heads towards his direction while getting ready to fight.

Their response was quite fast but it was still within Shin's expectations.

He raised both of his hands in the air as if he was surrendering before saying to them. "As expected to a group of experts, you guys are quite fast."

He then paused briefly before continuing with a smirking tone. "Unfortunately, it is still not fast enough."

Hearing those words, everyone on the opposing side suddenly felt an ominous feeling. Their senses were warning them that something bad was about to happen.

But just like what Shin had said, they were not fast enough to respond to it.

Ah!

Then each member of Thirio's group was suddenly stabbed on their backs, making them shout in pain. And before they could even retaliate, their heads were suddenly chopped off from their heads.

Everything happened a little too fast, not giving Thirio to save his subordinates. All of them were killed instantly right in front of his eyes.

Aside from Maximo, everyone else was killed.

"Oh~!" Shin was quite amazed when he saw that there was someone who survive his ambush. He purposely attracted the attention of everyone earlier for misdirection, but he did not expect that someone was sharp enough to survive.

But he immediately came to a realization when he took a quick look at Maximo's basic information. "Hoh~! Another Maverick God? Then I guess this is the main group."

"Heh! I hit jackpot this time," Shin continued to talk with a sneering tone, trying to provoke the opposing since.

Unfortunately, neither of the two buy his provocation and continued to glare at him sharply.

When he saw that they were not buying it, Shin immediately went back to his usual attitude and said straightforwardly. "Since we are already acquainted with each other, how about we get down into business right away?"

Right after he said those words, his clones simultaneously revealed themselves as a group of flying daggers floated around each of them.

"I promise you that this 'chat' is going to be a quick one," added Shin with a cold voice.

Chapter 780 An Unforeseeable Disaster (Part 1)

...

Maximo and Thirio were currently wearing a solemn look on their faces as they glared at Shin sharply, especially for the latter who seemed to want to kill Shin with his glare.

On the other hand, Shin was currently waiting for his opponents to make their moves. He was itching to have a rematch with Thirio and destroy him.

In their last encounter, Thirio managed to survive due to the help of the elder from the Corrupted Cult. But this time, he was going to make sure that it was not going to happen again.

Maximo looked at the three clones surrounding them before whispering to his partner. "I hate to admit this, but it looks like this is not going to be easy."

He could sense a dangerous threat coming from each of the clones. Even for someone like him who was Maverick God, the threat level that he was getting from them was not a laughing matter.

Thirio slightly nodded his head as he agreed with what Maximo had said. He also didn't want to admit it, but it looked like Shin was really much stronger than him right.

'It hasn't been that long since our last encounter, yet he is already this strong. I am right, this guy is really dangerous. He is a monster that we can't afford to grow stronger,' thought Thirio inside his head.

'We really can't let him become stronger more than this. We have to halt his progress somehow,' he added his thoughts.

The idea was clear but executing it was another matter. The current Shin was not someone that they could kill easily anymore as he was already on par with the top gods of the game. Moreover, there was the Empyrean Talons to support him from behind.

'D*mn it!' cursed Thirio silently as he realized the current situation.

In the meantime, Shin finally got tired of waiting and decided to make a move first. "If you are not coming at him, then let me take the initiative."

He then snapped with his fingers, ordering his clones to attack. He was not planning to manually control them since he wanted to focus on his rematch against Thirio.

Moreover, controlling those clones alongside their respective flying daggers were going to be taxing even for him, so it was better to let the AI control them.

Aside from that, he was pretty confident that the three of them were more than enough to handle Maximo. After all, the AI of his clones was very high and their battle style was derived from his style.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Responding to Shin's order, the clones controlled their respective flying daggers to fly towards Thirio and Maximo.

Seeing that, the two quickly responded and defended themselves.

Maximo raised his shield to block them while Thirio swung his war axe like a fan to redirect the course of flying daggers with a powerful gust of wind.

"Tsk!"

Then Thirio couldn't help but clicked his tongue as they were suddenly surrounded by the three clones and trapped within their formation.

The clones were already swinging their swords at them at that very moment, so the two quickly responded without a hint of hesitation.

Maximo blocked one of the clones with his shield while Thirio blocked their weapons with his war axe in quick succession.

Clang!

Ding! Cling!

But despite successfully repelling the attacks from clones. Both Maximo and Thirio were still knitting their eyebrows because Shin was not idle either. He coordinated with his clones and perfect timed an ambush while the two of them were still occupied with his clones.

Shing!

A metallic sound of a sword being drawn from its sheath could be heard as Shin turned into a streak of light and flew straight to his opponents.

Maximo and Thirio didn't have time to block him since they just defended themselves against the coordinated attacks of clones. And due to that, they had no choice but to jump away from their current positions so that they could dodge.

Shin missed his mark, but since the two jumped in opposite directions, he was able to achieve his real objective. And that was to separate the two from each other.

To prevent his opponents from regrouping with each other, Shin quickly ordered his clones to chase after Maximo.

"Sh*t!" Maximo couldn't help but curse out loud when he saw the three clones chasing after him. And to make the matter worse for him, the clones didn't just chase after him, they also sent their flying daggers and controlled them to move with a tricky trajectory so that he would have a hard time reading them.

"How high is the AI of these clones? How come they can execute such a complicated move?" Maximo's eyes turned wide when he saw how the clones controlled the flying daggers.

And since he couldn't find any flaw in their movements, he had no choice but to quickly activate one of his protective skills to block the incoming daggers.

A sphere of light suddenly surrounded his body and warded off the flying daggers that were trying to reach him.

Cling! Cling! Cling!

But despite successfully blocking them, the expression on Maximo's face remained dark because he found himself trapped in the middle of the three clones.

"F*ck! I don't know that these guys are clones, then I will think that they are experts who polished their teamwork to the fullest," he commented after discovering that even the coordination of the clones was way beyond most of the players of the game.

Cling! Cling!

Bang!

He then deflected the swords of the two clones with his own weapon before blocking the attack of the remaining one.

The coordinated attacks of the three clones might be flawless, but Maximo was not an ordinary player either. He was a Maverick God and one of the candidates who would become a Messenger of the Corrupted Cult.

And given his reputation with the cult, his skills shouldn't be that shabby.

He then pushed the clone in front of him with his shield, before stomping on the ground and activating a buff that boosted his defensive capabilities.

The Sun and Moon Clones, who have pushed away earlier, wanted to prevent Maximo from activating his buff. But they couldn't move forward when their target stomped his foot on the ground because it produced a powerful shockwave outward.

Bang!

A seemingly evaporating aura was being emitted by Maximo's body as he shifted his gaze between the three clones before inviting them to attack. "Come! Dealing with you guys shouldn't be that hard."

.....

In the meantime, Shin forced Thirio to retreat further away to make sure that the two would not be able to regroup with each other.

Even though he was confident with his skills, he still couldn't afford to waste more time in this place since he had a bet with Arthur, Zero, and Leonard.

They were currently in the middle of a competition where the one who could kill the greatest number of enemies was going to be the winner.

"I know that it has been a while since our last battle, but I must apologize since I need to make this quick," said Shin as a form of provocation, trying to see if his opponent would lose his composure.

Unfortunately, Thirio was able to hold his rage as he continued to glare at Shin while protecting himself from the attacks of the latter.

He already suffered a lot due to him losing his composure previously. And since his position within the cult was currently at risk, he made sure to keep his emotion in check, so that he would not repeat the same mistake that he did before.

But it didn't mean that Thirio would let Shin run his mouth as he pleased. As a response to the latter's words, he swung his war axe horizontally in a very strong matter.

Shin gave the incoming war axe a sidelong glance before continuing his charge as if he didn't say it in the first place.

Seeing those actions, Thirio couldn't help but frown his eyebrows. But despite his confusion, he didn't dare to let his guard down as he continued to swing his war axe.

Whoosh!

Then, all of a sudden, his eyes turned wide as his war axe went through Shin as if he hit nothing but air. "An afterimage!?"

Out of instincts, Thirio quickly turned around as he borrowed the momentum of his previous actions to continue swinging his war axe and spin alongside it.

But his eyes turned even wider when he discovered that Shin didn't appear behind him.

It was a usual pattern for any players with quick movements to always appear behind their opponents right after using misdirection or leaving an afterimage in front of their enemy. Especially when they had the skill or ability to instantly cover a distance.

It was because of this why Thirio did his actions. And he was right about that. But unfortunately, Shin's movements were a little too fast for him to follow.

Shin indeed teleported himself behind Thirio earlier using the 'Phantom Step' Skill. But right after he saw the latter respond with his move accordingly, he quickly used 'Void Step' to quickly appeared behind his opponent once again.

He executed his skill consecutively in a very fast matter which was why Thirio couldn't follow despite his sharp senses.

But his experiences in battle quickly hinted him what to do next which was why he continued spinning around like a whirlwind.

Swoosh!

But despite his quick response, his war axe still missed its mark since Shin swiftly ducked forward, letting the axe brush past over his head. And with such an ideal position, he was able to take his sword-drawing stance comfortably.

Seeing his opponent in that stance below him, Thirio instantly understood how much Shin had improved in such a short period of time since their last battle.