

Destiny 781

Chapter 781 An Unforeseeable Disaster (Part 2)

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Thirio looked at Shin who was ducking down below him and currently in the middle of unsheathing his sword.

In that situation, he quickly activated his life-saving skill without any hesitation to save himself from that predicament.

Bang!

But despite his fast reflexes, he was still a little slower compared to Shin's sword and was immediately sent flying by that attack. Though, he was still able to survive due to his quick response.

Bang!

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A huge chunk of HP from Thirio's health bar instantly disappeared as flew towards a huge tree nearby.

Bang!

The tree couldn't withstand the impact of the collision and quickly fell to the ground. And while it was happening, Thirio was trying to pick himself up from the ground while shaking his head to shake off the dizzy that he was feeling.

Swoosh!

Unfortunately, Shin had no intention of letting him recover. Right after throwing the previous attack, he quickly stomped on the ground and launched himself forward to chase after his opponent.

And before Thirio could fully comprehend what was happening, a sword was already descending upon his head.

Fortunately, he was still able to respond in time and quickly raised his war axe over his head, blocking the incoming attack.

Bang!

The force accompanying Shin's attack was so strong that it even forced Thirio to fall on his knees which created a spreading crack on the ground.

Gritting his teeth, Thirio tried to fight back the pressure that was pressing down at him. But to his surprise, Shin was now able to overpower him in terms of strength.

"How?"

Thirio's eyes suddenly turned as he couldn't believe what was happening. He was the one who should be overpowering Shin since his class focused more on strength, unlike Shin who needed to spread out his stats.

"This not possible!" shouted Thirio as he activated his two-fold berserk to enhance all of his stats.

Ahh!

And with a hoarse roar, he forced himself to stand up while pushing the sword that was pressing on him. He was successful but what came next was completely unexpected.

The sheath on Shin's left hand suddenly turned into a longsword before he swung it the exposed waist of his opponent who just stood up.

Clang!

But instead of slicing his opponent into halves, his sword stopped right before it hit Thirio's body as a thin layer of aura was preventing it from moving forward.

"Don't take me as a fool! Now you are a dead meat!" said Thirio with a sneering tone as he pushed Shin's other sword up before throwing a powerful swing downwards.

"I don't think so," sneered Shin in response while using the momentum of Thirio's push to slightly turn his body to the side, barely avoiding the descending axe of his opponent.

Bang!

The war axe fell on the ground, creating a small crater on it alongside a loud explosion. The mixture of dust and rock debris flew up, engulfing both Shin and Thirio within.

Swoosh!

Thirio was surprised at Shin's actions but that didn't halt his actions and quickly raised his war axe and swung it horizontally which created a strong gust of wind the cleared cloud of dust.

He was also trying to strike Shin with that swing since the latter was just standing in front of him. But to his surprise, Shin was nowhere to be found when the cloud of dust was cleared.

"What?" he frowned his eyebrows when he saw that and quickly looked around, trying to find his opponent.

Unfortunately, he couldn't find Shin no matter how much he turned his head.

Then, all of a sudden, an intense chill ran through his back as he heard a voice coming from behind. "Is this all you can do?"

Thirio quickly spun around and swing his war axe right after he heard that voice.

But just like earlier, Shin was no longer standing in there since he was already standing behind his opponent once again. "I must say that I am disappointed. I heard that you are a Messenger of the cult, but your skills are no way near Immortal."

"Ahh!!!"

The veins on Thirio's temple quickly tightened when he heard those words and quickly stomped on the ground with all of his strength.

Boom!

A powerful shockwave was immediately sent in every direction right after his foot landed on the ground. And at the same time, a huge crater was created on the ground and continued to spread outwards.

When the shockwave lost all of its power and the crater stopped growing its size, Thirio was left alone standing in the middle of a devastated land.

Ta-ta!

In the meantime, Shin landed at the very edge of the crater and looked at his opponent. And after a few moments of silence, he continued his provocation. "I guess I hit the mark."

"Tell me, will you get kicked out of your position when the other Messengers arrive in this place?" asked Shin, trying to fish out some information.

Swoosh!

And in return, Thirio threw his war axe at Shin as if it was a boomerang.

Clang!

But despite the strong force accompanying that axe, Shin was able to deflect with ease.

"Heh!"

Then he started grinning from ear to ear as he was able to confirm two things from Thirio's response.

First, the Corrupted Cult indeed had reinforcements coming. And with that, it was pretty clear that they were putting a lot of importance on this operation. This could also mean that they knew what was behind the towering wall of ice at the border of the Sky Deceiving Valley.

Aside from that, Shin was suspecting that the cult would send a couple of their Messengers to ensure the success of this operation.

It was just a suspicion at first, but after seeing how enraged Thirio was, Shin was now sure that it was indeed the case.

'I wonder who are they going to send here,' thought Shin to himself. He was not familiar with the experts of the Corrupted Cult but based on what he heard from Arthur and Shiella, the players who had the position of 'Messengers' in that organization were pretty strong.

But despite having a reliable information network, Shiella still couldn't get all of the information regarding the Corrupted Cult. But from what she knew, there was still a ranking among the messengers and Immortal was one of the examples of those guys who ranked on the top.

"I guess that is more than enough for now. It is going to be troublesome if this guy manages to get away and regroup with the other experts of their group," muttered Shin as he looked at Thirio as if he was nothing special anymore.

After his little duel with Zero that made him reach the state of being one with that sword, he felt that he would no longer lose even against Arthur and Leonard.

He was still trying to adjust himself to that state, so was not sure if he could defeat the two, but he was confident that he would be able to hold himself against them properly this time.

Because of this newly found strength, someone like Thirio no longer piqued his interest.

"Alright, it is time to wrap this up," he muttered before disappearing from his current position.

Meanwhile, the online forums exploded once again due to a piece of news that was recently posted there.

The players would naturally become interested in that post since its title was quite eye-catching. – "The brewing storm within the Saint Heaven Kingdom." –

At first, they thought that it was just an update on the ongoing war between the Wing's Alliance and the HeadHunter Guild. But after reading its contents, they immediately realized that it wasn't the case.

On the other side of the Saint Heaven Kingdom, on the place that was opposite to the ongoing war, another huge battle was taking place.

The first phrase quickly piqued the interest of the players and started diving into it.

Not long after, the faces of the players who read that particular post suddenly turned weird because of the particular group that was discussed in it.

Empyrean Talons.

These guys were at it once again!

But despite the 'complaints' that they had inside their heads, those players still continued at reading the article and quickly discovered that it was a battle between the Corrupted Cult and the Empyrean Talons once again.

But this time, the battle was no longer between just the two of them. They now had an alliance that could shake the balance of the game.

The Corrupted Cult teamed up with the Hydra Guild and the Blood Carnival. The purpose of their alliance was still not clear but it seemed like it concerned the Sky Deceiving Valley at the border of the Sky Deceiving Valley.

Meanwhile, the other side was the combined forces of the Hand of Midas, Assassin Union, and Empyrean Talons. And on top of this, the post even said that the Sword God Zero was also working with them.

The post immediately exploded and attracted a lot of attention.

But it didn't last long as it was immediately buried by a particular battle video that Miss Bunny had recently posted.

Chapter 782 An Unforeseeable Disaster (Part 3)

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Shiella was browsing on the online forum to check if the interest of the public was finally redirected.

Earlier, the Hydra Guild made a move and spread the news about the collision that was about to happen in the Sky Deceiving Valley. They were planning to attract more attention towards them so that there were more players who would come to that place and watch the war.

At least, that was their reason on the surface. But hidden behind it, they were actually planning to use those players as a distraction, so that they could sneak back some of the members of the Corrupted Cult that were sent back to revive in the city.

Their plan was simple but effective.

They even purposely hid the fact that the Hand of Midas and Assassin Union had allied themselves with the Dragon Pavilion and Titan Guild to make sure that both sides were even on the surface.

Moreover, the players would immediately lose interest if they learned that the Hydra Guild and Dragon Pavilion were at war once again. After all, their guilds were always been on edge with each other, so it was pretty normal for them to be at war.

There were even some instances where each side created a giant coalition that shook the entire gaming world.

The public already got tired of watching them fight. And if the players discovered that the Hydra Guild and Dragon Pavilion were involved once again in this battle once again, then they were most likely going to lose interest in it.

But it was going to be different the upcoming battle was regarding the Empyrean Talons and the Corrupted Cult.

These two groups already fought a couple of times and it was always been sensational. Moreover, there were a lot of in-game celebrities in the Empyrean Talons.

Dragon God Siegfried, War God Simba, Gentle Goddess Arielle, Elemental Goddess Alice, and most importantly, Battle God Sickarius – these gods had a lot of fanbases. And with the recent publicity that their fan page was getting, it was pretty natural for the players to be attracted to the topic.

With those people being present, then all of their fans would naturally want to head over to the location pinned in the post to see them. Especially that the Sword God Zero was rumored to be in that area as well.

But before these players could even leave the official forums of the game and close their respective virtual screens, a sudden notification attracted their attention.

A video edited by Miss Bunny was just uploaded and its title quickly picked the interest of the many.

– "The Sword Saint and The Grim Reaper" –

Such an eye-catching title would obviously attract anyone's attention. And on top of that, it was a video that was edited by Miss Bunny, so it would definitely be worth watching.

But they were immediately becoming disappointed at first when they discovered that it was just a short clip. But they still watched it until the end regardless.

Not long after, the minds of everyone immediately exploded. It might be just a short battle clip but its contents had a lot of things going. It was a fast-paced battle between two gods, the Sword God Zero and Battle God Sickarius.

The players didn't know why the two were fighting. But as a fan of the game and the peak gods standing on its summit, it was pretty natural for them to become excited.

Unfortunately, the clip was way too short to satisfy them and they obviously would want more!

It was a good thing that Miss Bunny didn't disappoint them and put an announcement at the end of the clip. She said that she was going to post the whole video later once she was done editing it completely.

Seeing her message, everyone immediately went crazy decided to wait for her next post. They even forgot about the collision that was about to take place in the Sky Deceiving Valley.

Who cared about the huge war between two colossuses within the virtual world when they could just watch a battle between two of the brightest stars of the game?

After seeing the reaction of the public, the Hydra Guild immediately tried to redirect their attention back to the upcoming war. But unfortunately, they were not successful since the impact of the clip that Miss Bunny had posted was quite big.

On the other hand, it had a completely different effect on Shiella who planned all of these. She was quite familiar with the methods of the Hydra Guild which was why she was able to quickly respond with their tricks before it could even get out of control.

She knew that something like this was going to happen from the very moment when she heard that the Corrupted Cult was involved in the quest that Shin and the others were doing, especially when the cult did a large movement that attracted the attention of the powerhouses within the kingdom.

An alliance was bound to be formed and a clash between them would naturally happen. So, to avoid accidents from happening, she prepared a couple of plans that would counter the moves of the other side.

She instructed Miss Bunny to create a short clip that could attract the attention of everyone. And fortunately, Shin and Zero sent their respective records of the duel between them to Little Rabbit.

With such good material, Miss Bunny could easily create a battle video. The players would have a hard time taking off their eyes from that video even if they wanted to.

With her assurance, Shiella could now focus on the next problem that they currently had.

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Everything was going all according to the plan and there were no mishaps that had occurred so far. But despite all of that, Shiella still couldn't shake off the iffy feeling that she currently had.

It was as if a great disaster was about to come.

She could at least read what the Corrupted Cult and Hydra Guild were scheming since she was somewhat familiar with their organizations.

It was also the same for the Blood Carnival. Those guys only want to mess with everything especially when it concerned the most influential organizations within the game like the Hand of Midas and Assassin Union.

"Where is this feeling coming from? Did I overlook something?" muttered Shiella with squinting eyes. She was also tapping her finger on the wooden table in front of her repeatedly which made Delusive Smile keep quiet.

She was working under Shiella for almost three years now, so it was pretty natural for her to become familiar with the habits of her boss.

When Shiella started acting this way, it could only mean that something was wrong with their plan. But from what was currently happening, she was pretty sure that everything was going smoothly.

Delusive Smile slightly knitted her brow in confusion. But she still didn't voice out her thoughts since she trusted Shiella. If her boss thought that there was something wrong, then there was definitely a problem with it.

Shiella was still in deep thought when someone knocked on the door.

Knock! Knock!

Delusive Smile couldn't help but frown since she was sure to warn her subordinates to guard the door properly and not let anyone disturb Shiella.

'Those good-for-nothings!' thought Delusive Smile as she walked towards the door.

But she just took a slight step forward when Shiella stopped her all of a sudden. "It is fine. It may be my guest."

Delusive Smile further frowned her eyebrows in confusion as she was not informed that a guest was going to visit her guild leader.

'How unusual, the young miss hates it when she is being interrupted when she is trying to focus on something,' thought Delusive Smile as looked at Shiella with full suspicion.

"Stop giving that look and proceed to the next part of the plan," said Shiella as she waved her hand to Delusive Smile.

"Just make sure to inform me immediately you find something suspicious with the movements of our enemies no matter how trivial it is," she added.

"Yes, young miss!" answered Delusive Smile before excusing herself.

Then she walked towards the door with a little impatience as she was curious who was the guest that Shiella had.

Click!

She opened the door rather carefully as she focused her gaze on the person standing behind it. Not long after, she saw a young man that looked the same age as her and Shiella.

He had tan skin and an average look, but for some unknown reason, he seemed to be giving off a strange aura that was making her quite attracted to him.

The young man smiled before saying with a teasing tone. "I know that I am quite attractive, but isn't it quite rude to stare at me like that?"

"Ah!"

Hearing those words, Delusive Smile finally snapped out of her daze before making a way for the young man.

The young man smiled at her once again before entering the room. And right after he entered, he quickly greeted Shiella. "I never have thought that you are actually the Frost Goddess. What a strange twist of fate!"

"Don't you think that this is a sign from heaven?" he added with a mischievous tone.

'They look quite close,' thought Delusive Smile when she heard that the young man could pull a joke on Shiella.

After looking at them for a couple of seconds, she walked out of the room and slowly closed the door. But before she could fully shut it, she suddenly heard something that made her pause her actions.

"Don't talk to me as if we are close, you perverted bastard."

Delusive Smile's eyes suddenly turned wide as her mind played with her imagination. "What did I just hear?"

Not long after, she started shaking her head repeatedly while muttering to herself. "No, I didn't hear anything!"

She then started walking away from the room at a rapid pace while trying to erase what she had heard from her mind. She even forgot that the experts who were supposedly guarding the door were no longer present.

Chapter 783 An Unforeseeable Disaster (Part 4)

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Swoosh!

Thirio appeared at the resurrection hall of the Maple Cloud City while staring blankly at the air in front of him.

"How is it possible?" he muttered with a tone that was full of disbelief. He was not sure how he died earlier. All he could remember was his world seemed to turn upside-down before it finally turned dark.

Aside from that, he also couldn't believe that he lost one-sidedly and miserably. He couldn't even put a good fight despite being the one who supposedly had more experience in the game.

Whoosh!

Not long after, Maximo immediately followed and appeared right beside him. Turning his head, he also discovered that the knight had a similar expression that he had the moment he appeared.

Realizing where he was currently standing, Maximo quickly turned to Thirio and asked. "What kind of 'monster' is that? He is a lot different compared to the reports that we got?"

He paused for a moment when he said those words before quickly correcting himself. "No! He is completely different from what you have reported before!"

Thirio was not pleased with the tone that Maximo had, but he couldn't refute those words since he knew that they were true.

Seeing that, Thirio was not saying anything, Maximo quickly added. "At this rate, we can no longer halt his progress. He is already at the same level as those people!"

This time, Thirio finally responded. "I already know about that. And I already warn the elders and the others about the speed of his growth yet they didn't listen to me. Look at what happened."

"Tsk! Tsk!" Maximo could only click his tongue repeatedly when he heard those words. Now that he personally experienced how fierce Shin was, he could no longer make fun of Thirio and his failure on his last mission.

After that, he turned to Thirio once again before asking. "So what is next? Are we going to try going back in the valley?"

"Or are we going with the Plan B?" he added after a brief moment of pause.

Hearing that, Thirio quickly walked towards the exit of the resurrection hall while answering. "Of course, we are proceeding with Plan B. What is the point of preparing it if we are not going to use it?"

"Is that so? I wonder who is the genius that thinks of such a ridiculous plan," commented Maximo as he followed after Thirio.

Thirio couldn't help but knit his eyebrows when he heard those words before saying. "If I am not mistaken, then it is most likely Immortal."

"That guy is lying low after the incident that happened in the Blind Abyss Empire. Even his guild seemed to disappear for not doing anything after their defeat."

"But from what I've heard, they are actually plotting something big in the shadows. And now that a perfect opportunity presented itself, I'm sure that they are not going to miss it," he added with a deep tone.

Maximo turned silent for a moment as they walked out of the resurrection hall. After all, they were still in the territory of their enemies, so it was better to make sure that there was no ambush waiting for them outside.

But to their surprise, no one seemed to be planning to attack them the moment they set their foot outside the hall.

They frowned their eyebrows in confusion but still continued walking towards a secluded place while keeping their guards up.

They took a couple of turns randomly to make sure that no one was following after them. Then the two quickly hid their identities by covering themselves with special cloaks but also had an average appearance on the surface, so that they could not arouse any suspicion.

After that, they separated with each other before skillfully mixing themselves with the crowd of players walking along the street of the city. They were doing a meticulous move to make sure that no one would be able to follow them.

A few moments later, they arrived at the teleportation hall separately before using it to arrive in a different city.

Swoosh!

The teleportation hall of the Holy City was still lively as ever as the flow of players continued to come and go in it.

Thirio looked at the players within the hall before walking out of it. And right after he stepped out from teleportation hall, he was immediately greeted by shouts of the players that build a stall in front of the entrance.

Seeing the plaza that turned into a marketplace and the lively players walking around, Thirio couldn't help but shake his head and smile bitterly. "A peaceful city is sure different compared to the dark cities."

After looking around for a few moments, he started walking towards a certain direction where a huge restaurant was located.

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A few moments later, Thirio arrived in front of a VIP room before entering it without knocking.

Click!

The moment he opened the door, he was immediately greeted by sharp glares that were directed to him.

Looking around, he saw five people waiting inside. There was an archer who seemed to be a Corrupted Elf, a Fallen Human hugging a sword, an Ocean Naga that was emitting a shadowy smoke from his body, a Bearkin with a pair of savage bloodthirsty eyes, and a hooded person that was playing with his daggers.

Thirio swept his gaze at them for a moment before saying to them sneering. "What a surprise that none of you creating trouble despite hating each other."

Hearing that, the Ocean Naga couldn't help but smirk. "And you are quite lively even though you are about to strip from your position as a Messenger."

Thirio didn't refute those words and just stepped inside and closed the door behind him. After that, he found a spot where he could sit before finally replying. "Well, I am always at the bottom of the ranks, so I guess there is nothing I can do about it."

The others couldn't help but look at him with weird gazes as they were not expecting him to say such words. To their knowledge, this guy was one of the most impatient and easiest to provoke out of their group.

Thirio ignored their gazes before asking. "So who will lead this operation? It is quite rare for the five of you to be together since you guys never get along with each other. I doubt that one of you will be giving out the orders."

No one replied to him directly but they simultaneously turned their heads towards a certain corner of the room.

Looking in the direction that they were pointing at, Thirio immediately spotted Immortal who was silently sitting in a corner.

'As expected,' thought Thirio instantly after seeing the Lich God. But quickly after that, he immediately discovered that he was wrong. It was because there was someone sitting on the spot right across Immortal.

'Eh!? Who is that? I can't feel his presence at all!' Thirio couldn't help but stare at the other person with an astounded gaze.

Taking a closer look at that person, Thirio immediately realized who it was. "You-...! You are the-...!"

He couldn't complete his words as that person immediately interrupted him when he was in the middle of speaking. "Since you are already here, then that means that you have been defeated once again."

"Who is it this time? The Sword God? The Dragon God? Or the War God?" asked that person.

Thirio quickly shut his mouth when he heard the rapid questions. Then the expression on his face immediately turned stiff as he couldn't bring himself to tell them the truth.

When that person saw the expression that he was making, he immediately realized what happened. He then stood up from his and walked towards Thirio while saying. "So not only do you fail to buy us enough time to prepare for our next move, but you also get defeated by the same person twice."

"I guess I don't have to tell you what you need to do next, do I?" asked that person as he stood right in front of Thirio while looking down at him.

Thirio's body suddenly trembled when he heard those words. He then lowered his head and looked at the floor before sighing. 'In the end, it still ends up like this.'

After that, he sighed helplessly before responding. "I understand."

He then stood up and walk towards the door once again. But before he could even take a single step, the mysterious person suddenly stopped him and asked. "Where do you think you are going?"

"Huh!?" Thirio knitted his eyebrows when he heard those words and looked at the person in front of him with full confusion.

Seeing the confusion in Thirio's eyes, the mysterious person suddenly started smiling bitterly before explaining. "Do you think you are the same as Immortal? Even if he suffers a couple of setbacks recently, he still continues to prove his worth immediately after that."

"What's more, he can provide us with a lot of things as compensation. I wonder if you have the same ability," he added as his tone turned chilly.

Understanding what the mysterious person was trying to say, Thirio couldn't help but repeatedly took a step backward, completely terrified. "W-wait! I still have some use! I-I..."

He was still in the middle of talking when his entire body was suddenly engulfed by a dark aura, imprisoning him within it. Then it suddenly compressed and turned into a black cube that fell on the hands of that person.

After that, he turned to the others and said. "Now, shall we proceed on the discussing how to conquer this kingdom?"

Chapter 784 Countermeasures (Part 1)

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As Shin killed more members of the Corrupted Cult, the more he felt that there was something was off. He couldn't pinpoint what exactly it was but he was sure that it was somewhat connected with the corrupted cult.

Everything was going all according to the plan, but he still couldn't shake off the uneasiness that he was getting. It was as if something terrible was about to happen.

Unable to hold it any longer, Shin quickly opened his friend list and immediately contacted Shiella.

Click!

It only took a single ring for the other side to answer the call. And right after answering, Shiella immediately said. "Given that you contacted me at a time like this, I am now sure that there is something going on behind the scenes."

Hearing her words, Shin immediately became sure about his suspicion. "I guess the Corrupted Cult is really plotting something big."

Shiella smiled at Shin when she heard the heaviness in his tone. It was pretty clear this little brother of hers also picked up the strange thing that was happening.

"Don't worry about that. We are already taking measures for that. All you have to do is focus on the task that you have," said Shiella as she waved her hand at Shin.

"You already figure out their hidden motive?" asked Shin, not fully convinced.

Shiella clicked her tongue when she heard those words and before turning her eyes towards David who was sitting comfortably on the sofa across her.

With a sigh, she immediately replied. "We are still in the middle of figuring it out. And from the information that we've gathered so far, we are suspecting that they are going to try sieging the Holy City while the attention of everyone is focused elsewhere."

Hearing those words, Shin's eyes immediately turned wide as he immediately came into a realization.

'That's right! Since the Wing's Alliance is currently busy with the war against the HeahHunter Guild, the only powerful guilds who were guarding the Holy City are the Hydra Guild, Dragon Pavilion, and the Titan Guild.'

'But now that they've gotten involved with what is happening in here, then there is no one who could stop any threat that can put the city in danger.'

Shin quickly fell into deep thought when he reached this point as he also started to see the big picture that the Corrupted Cult was seeing.

'The Holy City is already in Capital Rank, so its security is not going to be that weak. But since we are talking about the Corrupted Cult here, it is not impossible for them to take down the city since they had the ability to summon an army of corrupted beings and undead monsters.'

Then Shin remembered the incident where he first encountered the Corrupted Cult and the Undying Guild, and also Immortal.

There was also the incident that happened in the Elven Kingdom and the Beast Glade Kingdom. What happened in there was really big and it was actually a battle that could be called the debut of the Empyrean Talons.

Recalling those events, Shin couldn't help but knit his brow as he suddenly got a little worried for the safety of the Holy City.

Even if they managed to become successful on this Empire Quest and unlock the new region. Everything was going to be for naught if the Corrupted Cult took control of the Holy City.

The Holy City was not only the most developed city within the Saint Heaven Kingdom, but it was also the center of the kingdom itself. And if the Corrupted Cult managed to take over it, they would gain a foothold that they could use to conquer the entire kingdom.

Shiella remained silent and let Shin continue his thoughts in peace. She was aware of his capabilities, so she believed that he could also formulate a plan of his own to counter the scheme that the Corrupted Cult had plotting.

After a few moments of thinking, Shin could only sigh helplessly before continuing. "I guess we don't have a choice but to choose our priority."

Shiella smiled and nodded her head in agreement when she heard those words. And after a brief moment of pause, she suddenly asked. "So, which side do you think is more favorable for us?"

Hearing that, Shin turned to Shiella before clarifying what he just said. "I think you miss understood my words, Big Sis. Let me repeat it clearly. 'We' need to choose our priorities."

When Shiella heard his words for the second time, she finally came into a realization and started laughing bitterly. "So you are proposing to take care of these matters separately?"

"You've gone quite bold, huh? Do you think that you guys are enough to stop them just by yourselves?" commented Shiella with a sarcastic tone.

But Shin responded to her with full confidence. "But I do think that we are more than enough to handle the situation here."

Shiella was about to refute when Shin quickly added. "Though, I do think that we need a couple of things before our groups separate from each other."

Hearing that, Shiella stopped herself from saying anything and gestured to Shin to go on.

Seeing her permission, Shin nodded his head and continued. "First, we need to lower the number of the corrupted cult member for as much as possible, so that we don't have to concern ourselves with them later."

"Since your guild and the Assassin Union already secured all of the entry points of the valley, I am pretty sure that those members who died here and got resurrected in the Maple Cloud City will be sent to other places – to the vicinity of the Holy City specifically."

"If that is the case, then they will not be able to hinder us with our mission since they no longer had their overwhelming advantage in numbers."

Reaching this point, Shiella immediately nodded his head and completed his words. "So by lessening their numbers within the valley and simultaneously increasing their numbers on the other side of their plan, we can actually lead them to the direction that is favorable to use."

"Just like us, they also can't afford to split their forces freely," added Shin.

Hearing that, Shiella suddenly fell into deep thought as she started reorganizing her plans. And while she was still in the middle of thinking, she suddenly heard Shin continuing. "What's more, we can also use their allies to our advantage."

Shiella knitted her eyebrows when she heard those words. She then turned back to Shin as the corner of her eyes saw David smiling from ear to ear when he overheard the last thing that Shin had said.

"The Corrupted Cult is planning to take over the Holy City and it is the same as stabbing the Hydra Guild on the back," said Shin.

"But I am pretty sure that those sly foxes in the Corrupted Cult already prepared something for that," refuted Shiella instantly.

"Moreover, they are most likely form deceiving contract that can trick the Hydra Guild, so I doubt that they can aid us," she added with a knitted brow.

But not long after, her face immediately realized what Shin was trying to say. "Wait! Don't tell me?"

At that point in time, she suddenly saw both Shin and David having the same kind of smile, seemingly having the same thoughts in mind.

Shin then continued. "The Hydra Guild and Blood Carnival will not be able to help the Holy City nor sabotage the operation of the Corrupted Cult. But I am pretty sure that they will receive something from the cult as a form of compensation."

"With that, they are most likely going to be assigned with another task. And the only task that is currently available for them is..."

Shin trailed his words when he reached that point before pointing to himself. "... us."

Then Shiella nodded her head in agreement. "Since they are going to be stationed here, then the Dragon Pavilion and Titan Guild can handle them."

She paused for a moment before quickly shaking her head. "No... The Dragon Pavilion is more than enough to handle them since you guys can take care of the rest."

"Then the Titan Guild can aid us at defending the city," she added as she seemed to have a sigh of relief.

After that, she finalized a couple of things with Shin before ending the call.

Shin knitted his eyebrows when the call ended as he felt that Shiella seemed to be making eye contact with someone earlier. But that thought only lingered in his mind for a brief moment before completely forgetting about it.

Then he quickly opened the party chat channel to inform the others about the changes with their plans.

...

Meanwhile, Shiella could finally relax after she ended her call with Shin. And after resting her back for a moment, she quickly turned to David who was patiently waiting for her.

When he saw her finally turning to him, he suddenly said with a smile. "I guess there is no need for me to step in yet."

Shiella rolled her eyes at him before responding with a little sarcasm. "Since you seem to be too bored, then how about you lead this operation personally? This is a rare opportunity to witness how great is the 'King of Games'."

David clicked him when he heard those sarcastic words before replying. "My service is quite expensive, you know?"

Hearing that, Shiella couldn't help but smirk before refuting. "And you are currently talking to one of the wealthiest players within the game."

David raised both of his hands to admit his defeat. "I can't refute that."

Chapter 785 Countermeasures (Part 2)

...

Shin and the others picked up their pace at killing all of the remaining members of the corrupted cult so that they could quickly proceed to the plan that Shiella and Shin had prepared.

While they were doing that, Shiella leaked the information about the hidden scheme that the corrupted cult was plotting to the Hydra Guild. It might still be just a possibility but since she presented quite a lot of solid pieces of evidence to support their suspicion, it was still hard to overlook that matter.

And just like what they were expecting, the Hydra Guild moved according to what they desired. They temporarily halted their consecutive attacks at the blockade that the Hand of Midas and Assassin Union had built to confront the Corrupted Cult about the information that they just received.

Due to that, Shiella was able to reorganize the defensive formation of their side. She left the task of defending the entrances of the Sky Deceiving Valley to the Dragon Pavilion since she needed to prepare for a possible siege that the Corrupted Cult was plotting.

Naturally, such a large movement would not be able to escape the eyes of their enemies which was why the cult responded to it accordingly. They also started hastening their preparations which started a battle against time. Whoever moved a bit slower would definitely be on the weaker side.

But since it was their home ground, Shiella was confident that they would not lose this upcoming siege battle.

In the meantime, Shin and the others were finally able to proceed to their quest smoothly. They were able to successfully escort the surviving residents of the Foggy Village to the Misty Village. They didn't even have to worry about being ambushed by the members of the corrupted cult since their remaining numbers and strengths could no longer pose a threat to the group.

Moreover, Zero and Seven were with them and volunteered to clear the route that they were going to take towards the other village.

Naturally, Shin had instructed Kristle and Christine to go somewhere else first alongside their remaining vampire unit. After all, the residents of the Foggy Village still resented them for the plaque that they spread.

...

But despite clearing that quest and everything, Shin and the group still couldn't relax yet since the Empire Quest was still ongoing. And from the information that they got from Shiella, it seemed like the key that would lead them to the next part of their quest was in the hands of the corrupted cult.

It was even proven by Kristle who became one of the key figures of the mission in the Sky Deceiving Valley.

They also learned a couple of things about the so-called forgotten kingdom beyond the towering wall of ice.

Based on the information that Kristle had shared with them, it was indeed a kingdom of dragon worshippers. But their history was slightly different from what they originally thought. And to make it even more complicated, it seems like the Saint Heaven Kingdom was quite related to its fall.

It was the first king of the kingdom to be exact.

They were still not exactly clear what just happened during that time but they now at least had the idea how to continue the quest.

First, they needed to look for the guy named Killion as he was the one who held the other three tokens that could open a portal leading to the other side of the wall of ice. But since his role in this quest was quite special, the guards that were accompanying him would definitely be top experts.

Well, that shouldn't be an issue since their group was not that weak either. The only problem right now was to find the location where Killion was hiding.

From what Kristle had told them, there were five tokens in total and they needed to be gathered together to open the portal.

But from what she had heard, the Corrupted Cult seemed to find another method to open it even if they didn't have all of the five tokens.

When Shin heard about that, he seemed to get a rough idea of what kind of method was talking about. "Tsk! It looks like we somehow help them unintentionally."

Hearing those words, Zero couldn't help but nod his head as Seven voiced out his thoughts. "So, do you think that all of the blood that has been spilled in the entire valley is a form of sacrifice?"

"Most likely," answered Shin with a heavy tone.

Realizing yet another problem, Shin felt that there was no end of headaches coming his way. 'Now, I understand the reason why those people from the corrupted cult dare to pull such a bold move. They prepared too many contingency plans.'

And with the new information that they acquired, he also realized how flexible the plan of their opponents was.

Earlier, they managed to neutralize the original plan of the cult since they had an overwhelming advantage in terms of the quality of experts on their side. But the cult immediately set their eyes to the Holy City that was left unattended due to the chaos occurring on the different sides of the kingdom.

Shin and Shiella managed to figure them out before it was too late. The latter was even able to set up their defenses around the city before the siege could even happen.

But there was another problem in front of them.

From Shin could tell, the dispatched Messengers of the Cult were currently getting ready for the siege of the Holy City. And from their course of actions, he could see a possibility of those people shifting their focus on this place once again the moment when their siege reached the point of failing.

Or worse, they had another backup plan that they were not aware of yet.

Shin shook his head repeatedly when he realized the situation that they were currently in. But he managed to quickly recover himself as he muttered quietly. "There is no point to overcomplicate things. What we need to do is focus on what is in front of us."

After that, he turned to the others and started giving out instructions. "We are going to spread for now and look for that guy named Killion or something."

"There are only a few numbers of cult members scattered within the valley, so they can't cause any trouble for the time being."

Shin turned to Zero and Seven before continuing. "You two will continue to move independently. But if you manage to locate our target, then please inform us as soon as possible."

After that, he looked at the others and started dividing their group once again. "Owen, Ithilien, Charlotte, Cloe, and Akailu are going to move together. Alucard, Daulla, Archimedes, and Chaotic Luck will form another group."

He then turned to Arthur and Leonard before saying. "The three of us can still move independently since it is much faster that way."

The other didn't voice any complaints as they were already satisfied with the current arrangements.

Well, aside from Cloe who was currently puffing her cheeks as a sign of disagreement. Unfortunately for her, Shin just ignored her actions and give the others a few more instructions before telling them to head out.

Naturally, Shin and the other three gods hadn't forgotten about the bet that they had earlier. But since the issue regarding the corrupted cult was still not over, they decided to extend it a little longer.

Moreover, their scores were pretty close with each other with Shin having a slight advantage since he managed to take down two of the key figures on the opposing side.

The others were not willing to lose just because Shin got lucky at stumbling upon Thirio and Maximo at the same time, especially Arthur who showed a clear protest. He was still feeling bitter about Shin's insane luck within the game.

"Hey, Zero! I am telling you! That guy is the second person on the list who had the most insane luck within the game!" said Arthur as he walked beside Zero.

Hearing a couple of keywords from what he just said, Zero couldn't help but frown and ask curiously.
"Second? Then who is the first?"

Arthur suddenly paused when he heard those words before turning in a certain direction. "About that-
..."

Sigh~!

"You will not believe it even if I tell you. It is better if you experience it yourself," he added while shaking his head alongside a bitter smile.

Zero's interest was immediately piqued when heard those words and couldn't help but turn towards the direction where Arthur was looking and saw Chaotic Luck busily controlling his undead monsters.

He stared at the Solaris Lich with full of curiosity which made the latter feel terrible. Having the interest of the 'monsters' around him was already torturing enough. If another one was added to the list, then he was not sure if he would be able to endure it.

"Sigh~! Why it has to be always me?" muttered Chaotic Luck in a helpless manner.

Chapter 786 The Former Spear And Shield Of Dark Hero (Part 1)

.....

A few moments before Shin and the others managed to clear all of the members of the corrupted cult within the Sky Deceiving Valley, Lawless and his team were currently exploring the other parts of the valley.

"This is quite unexpected. To think that the Saint Heaven Kingdom is turning into a mess? Those bastards from the Corrupted Cult sure know how to make things big," muttered Lawless as he read the contents of the message that he just received.

He then turned to Faker who just arrived and asked. "How is it? We still can't get near the area?"

"There is a pretty strong defensive barrier around the area, so approaching it is going to be hard. It is also well hidden by an advance concealing formation which is why we can't find how large exactly it is," answered Faker.

Lawless fell into deep thought before asking another question. "How about those two? Are they really part of the Corrupted Cult now?"

"Given their attitudes, I doubt that they are going to submit to anyone," he added with a frown.

After that, he forwarded the message that he recently received to Faker, letting the latter to take also take a look at it.

Reading the message, Faker suddenly frowned his eyebrows quite deeply before answering the previous question. "From the looks of it, the twins are only cooperating with the Corrupted Cult to finish a quest."

He then paused for a couple of moments before continuing. "And based on this information, it seems like it is somewhat related to the quest that we are doing."

Hearing that, Lawless started shaking his head before saying. "At first, I thought we will be able to meet them immediately, but it who would have thought that they are moving with that person."

"Erica and Eriko, the previous shield and spear of the Dark Hero Adventurer Team. I still not expecting that they are going our enemies," muttered Ember quietly.

"Tsk! Don't tell me you still have lingering attachments with them? Have you forgotten how they betrayed us!?" said Ravier when he heard her words.

Ember glared at him but didn't say anything to refute his words. She just turned her head to the side with a hump.

Ravier stared at her for a couple of moments before continuing. "I know that you and Erica are pretty close in the past, but you should also remember that they are the ones who turn their back on us."

"I know that already!" replied Ember while pouting her lips.

Hayden who was walking at the forefront of the group, remained silent since he didn't know the full story of why the strongest adventurer team during the reign of «True Era» online fell apart right before the 'great war'.

But from what he knew, it seemed to be a pretty big incident since it blew up in different online forums during that time. Moreover, it was also suspected to be the reason why the 'God Slayer Tora' and 'Death God Yami' retired and quit playing the game right after the war ended.

At the same time, he also felt that his competitiveness seemed to be awaked when heard the words spear and shield of the team.

At the present time, he was currently the main tank of the team but he was still not sure if he was good enough to replace the role that Eriko had left behind.

He might not be as famous as Eriko during that time, but he was confident that he could stand a chance against him at this point in time.

While he was lost with his own thoughts, a hand suddenly patted his shoulder which brought him back to reality. And when he heard his head to look whose hand it was, he saw Lawless walking beside him while saying.

Seeing that Hayden finally regained his focus, Lawless suddenly said. "I know that you want to prove yourself but those two are our prey, but we have an unfinished business with them, so we can't let you have a contest with that guy yet."

The knight was silent for a couple of moments before clicking his tongue and replying. "Tch! And here I thought that I can finally face one of the greatest tanks of the virtual world."

Lawless lightly patted Hayden's shoulder once again before saying. "Maybe next time."

A few moments later, the group finally arrived at their destination.

The place was at the very edge of the Sky Deceiving Valley and was also near the border of the Saint Heaven Kingdom and a neutral land.

The group hid their presence as they observed a small camp from a distance.

"Is that the place?" asked Lawless as he looked at the camp with squinting eyes. At the same time, he was also activating his ocular skill to see what the other side was doing.

What he saw was a group of elite players that were wearing the same type of equipment set. And based on the rune patterns that they had, Lawless could instantly tell that those equipment sets were top quality.

Aside from that, he could also tell that each of those players was highly skilled and seemed to be trained pretty well.

Frowning his eyebrows, Lawless turned to Faker and asked. "Did you find anything about those guys? It is pretty obvious that they are not from the Corrupted Cult."

"Their equipment sets seem to be unique to their group. And it is pretty high quality too," he added as his frown turned deeper.

On the other hand, Faker quickly opened a virtual screen and shared it with the group before answering. "It seems like an emerging force on the neighboring kingdom and there are very few people know about them."

"They are called the 'Southern End'. Their force is still lacking in numbers but all of their members are pretty skilled. Especially core members since they are highly trained experts just like what you have expected."

Lawless browsed through the information that was in front of him before his eyes fell on a particular phrase. He then turned to Faker with an even deeper frown, seemingly wanting to ask something.

Understanding the meaning behind that look, Faker quickly nodded his head and answered. "It seems like it. It looks like this group is being supported by the 'Duelist Workshop'."

Hearing those words, Hayden couldn't help but join the conversation. "Duelist Workshop? That group of professional players from the «True Era» online? I thought they have been disbanded after the 'great war'?"

Faker slightly nodded his head after hearing that before saying. "That is also what we thought as well. From what we have heard, their members already go on separate ways after the war because their leader also retired during that time."

"But recently, there are some signs of the other members grouping up together all of a sudden," he added.

Morgan who was looking at the camp through the scope of his sniper rifle suddenly chimed in. "Based on the magic runes on their equipment and the signature patterns that it has, it seems like they also have the personal blacksmith of their team back then."

Lawless slightly knitted his eyebrows and commented. "This is getting a little complicated," while stroking his chin.

But immediately after a brief moment of pause, he quickly added. "But it shouldn't be a problem, am I right?"

Hearing that question, the four original members of his group suddenly turned silent for a moment before quickly replying with full confidence.

"Heh! Do you even need to ask that?"

"Are they slightly better than most the elite groups of the top guilds? Dealing with them should be a piece of cake."

"As long as you leave the twin with us, I don't have a problem with that. I actually itching to fight show them who is the best duo of our team."

"Do you really have to say that?"

Hayden looked at the group with a strange expression on his face before quickly shaking his head with a bitter smile. He almost forgot that these guys were once a member of one of the greatest adventurer teams of their time.

After that, he turned his head at Lawless who was currently waiting for him to say something before nodding his head. "I can't miss this opportunity, can I?"

"Didn't you say that those spoiled brats have their 'babysitter' with them? I think you need to at least leave that guy to me to keep me entertained," he added with a smirking tone.

Hearing the response that he wanted, Lawless immediately put up a huge grin before nodding his head, satisfied. "That is what I am talking about!"

He then turned to Faker before asking. "So how are we going to do this?"

Faker rolled his eyes at Lawless when he heard those words. He knew that the planning was going to be his job once again.

Sigh~!

With a helpless sigh, he started discussing how they were going to attack the camp in the distance.

Chapter 787 The Former Spear And Shield Of Dark Hero (Part 2)

.....

Erica and Eriko, this pair was one of the greatest duos within the virtual world since they were said to have never suffered a defeat when they were fighting alongside each other.

And adding the fact that they were former members of the Dark Hero Adventurer Team, a legendary group that could rival any powerhouse guilds, the two of them were pretty famous even among the players who were playing casually.

Among the top experts of the game, this pair was known as the Spear and Shield of the Dark Hero, a title that showered them a lot of glory during the reign of that adventurer team.

But it was not the case anymore since they were now branded as players who turned their backs towards their previous commander, which made their fame suffer a little.

But forgetting the current reputation that they had, their skills and battle prowess were still topnotch. In fact, they were still ranked among the top ten 'best partners' in the ranker's list.

...

"Is the portal still not ready yet?" asked Erica with full annoyance while glaring at Killion who was the current representative of the corrupted cult on this mission.

Killion would obviously not let himself be pushed around and glared back at Erica. 'Do this girl think that sacrificing our elite members is nothing? They will lose more than just a level when they got killed by those people!'

'Those guys are representative of their respective churches! Getting killed by those people will make us lose at least two levels alongside a guaranteed drop of our equipment!'

He wanted to talk back to this rude girl but he couldn't do that right now since this operation was very important to the cult. He needed to be patient since they really need the cooperation of these people for the success of their mission.

"We fail to collect all of the five tokens to the portal which is why we are proceeding with the backup plan for the time being," replied Killion after a brief moment before quickly adding. "But we still need a little more to activate the portal since we still don't have enough sacrifice to activate it."

Hearing that, Erica suddenly leaned back to the rest of the chair while saying. "How long are we going to wait? We have been sitting around here for quite some time already! When are we going to start moving? I am already starting to die in boredom!"

A moment later, a Human Guardian suddenly entered the tent and quickly said. "Why are you so impatient? Have you forgotten why are we here?"

"We are only here to assist them and not to actively get involved with their business," he added as he turned to Killion before continuing. "We may be just cooperating with each other but that doesn't mean that you can hide the details of this operation from us."

"How about you finally tell us what you are after from this operation?" he asked while squinting his eyes.

He already had some suspicion when the current leader of their group passed the details of this task to him earlier, but it looks like the Corrupted Cult was really plotting something big this time.

'The leader wants me to look more into it and try to figure out what is the real objective of these guys, but it is really hard to get any information from this guy as he is so secretive,' thought Eriko to himself while waiting for Killion to reply.

Unfortunately for him, the guy was pretty professional when it came to these kinds of things. He was also able to keep a poker face despite the pressure that the twin was emitting from their bodies.

'Tsk! These two sure become much stronger compared to the reports that we receive,' thought Killion as he shifted his gaze between Erica and Eriko.

Seeing that Killion didn't want to disclose anything, Eriko could only shake his head and sigh helplessly before turning to Erica. "Get ready. It is time to clear the area."

Hearing that, Erica immediately became lively and quickly stood up. "Finally, time for some action! Who are we going to take care of? I hope they are good enough to serve as a good warm-up before we face those guys."

Eriko rolled his eyes when he heard those words before clarifying what he just said. "I said clear the area, that means we need clear all of the monsters in the area. It should be the time for them to respawn."

"Eh~! Do you mean that? Then this is going to be boring again," said Erica as she immediately lost her interest.

"We can't leave them be since they are going to start attacking the camp again. Worse, they may even create a mess when the formation is finally activated," said Eriko as he urged his twin sister to come.

A few moments later, the two walked out of the tent, leaving Killion behind.

"Are you sure that we can trust these guys? They are pretty untrustworthy in my eyes," whispered Erica to her twin brother.

Eriko gave her a sidelong glance before answering. "I already told you before, you don't have to trust anyone aside from ourselves."

Hearing that, Erica immediately turned silent before nodding her head.

Outside the tent, there was another Human Guardian waiting for them. Based on his appearance, it seems like he was a few years older than the two. But despite that being the case, he was acting respectfully at the twin.

"How is the preparation?" asked Eriko as he continued to walk away from the tent alongside Erica.

"Eh? Why are you alone? Where is your partner, Brother Jude?" asked Erica, on the other hand.

The guy named Jude turned to her for a moment before replying to Eriko first. "Everyone is already on standby and waiting for your command, young master."

He then turned to Erica before answering her question. "As for Miko, she is currently scouting the area to make sure that the monsters didn't go berserk again."

Right after he said those words, the three of them suddenly heard a gust of wind from a certain direction as if someone was rushing towards them.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Due to that the three simultaneously turned their heads towards the direction where the sound was coming from. A few moments later, they saw a silhouette of someone who seemed to be running away from something.

Looking closely at that person, they immediately realized who it was. She was Jude's partner, Miko.

"Huh?" Eriko knitted his eyebrows in confusion and was about to ask what happened.

But before he could even open his mouth, Miko quickly shouted at them in a desperate tone. "Young miss, young master, we have a problem!"

"What is it?" – was what Jude wanted to say but he immediately shut his mouth when he heard a consecutive gunshot coming from a distance.

Bang! Bang!

Jude quickly moved when he heard the gunshots and positioned himself in front of the twin before raising his shield to block the incoming bullets.

Bang! Bang!

It was at that moment when Miko arrived beside them. And at the same time, the whole camp was immediately alerted as everyone quickly headed towards them.

"What was that?" asked Killion as he also walked out of the tent.

"We are under attack obviously," replied Erica with a cold tone as she was quite on edge due to the sudden ambush. But at the same time, she was quite excited deep inside as there were actually some who dared to attack them.

Killion didn't mind her tone as he could understand her reaction. After that, he turned to the guards who were making their way towards him before whispering. "Don't tell me we have been spotted already."

"That is impossible, sir. Our forces purposely lured our opponents away from here, so the other side shouldn't be here," responded the guard within an instant.

'Then who could it be?' thought Killion as he knitted his eyebrows even deeper.

In the meantime, Eriko turned his head to Miko before asking. "What happened? And who is chasing you?"

He was knitting his eyebrows pretty deeply as he couldn't believe that there was someone who could make her run for her life.

'Is it the Sword God, or the Dragon God? It can also be the War God,' he thought to himself before quickly denying it. 'No, it can't be. Based on the preparations that we've made, those guys should be at the other side of the map, so who could it be?'

Then he suddenly noticed that Miko's body was actually trembling as her eyes were clearly showing some signs of fear.

Seeing that, Eriko further frowned his eyebrows before muttering quietly. "Who can put her in this state?"

He was about to lose his patience when he saw her didn't reply to him. But before he could even open his mouth, a familiar voice suddenly made him swallow back his words.

"Hoh~! You guys sure prepared a pretty good welcome party for our comeback. I can't help but feel-... honored."

Chapter 788 The Former Spear And Shield Of Dark Hero (Part 3)

...

Lawless walked out of the forest and revealed himself in front of their enemies. He was very calm and composed despite facing a group of strong individuals. He was even looking at them mockingly as if they were nothing special.

Seeing the expression on his face, the faces of Erica and Eriko immediately turned sour. They were still familiar with this guy and they completely understood the meaning of him revealing himself like this.

Blood was about to be spilled!

The twin quickly took out their weapons and get ready for battle. And when the others saw their actions, they also started preparing themselves for the upcoming battle.

"Heh! Such a 'warm' greeting," commented Lawless with a sarcastic tone the moment when he saw their actions.

After that, he took out his battle axe and rested it on his shoulder before giving them an inviting gesture. "Since you guys are pretty impatient, how about we get this started already?"

Hearing his words, the entire group immediately felt an intense shiver that runs through their spine. It was as if death suddenly descended and enfolded the entire place with its presence.

The experts accompanying the twin and the elite members of the Corrupted Cult around Killion unconsciously tightened their grips over their respective weapons while keeping their gazes locked on Lawless.

Little did they know, the real reason why the atmosphere was like this was because of someone else. And the only ones who were aware of these were the twin who used to be a part of the Dark Hero Adventurer Team and the two guards who were always by their sides.

"Be careful!" shouted Eriko as he knew what was about to come.

Unfortunately for them, it was already too late. There were already a couple of members who became the prey of a silent blade that slit their throats.

Faker walked through their ranks as if he was talking a leisure walk while taking one life after another. He already killed quite a few of them before the opposing side noticed what was happening.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The group quickly scattered to distance themselves away from Faker while looking at him cautiously. But the moment when they redirected their eyes towards him, Lawless immediately took action.

Bang!

He stomped his foot on the ground and lunged forward, launching himself towards the twin with very strong momentum.

Seeing Lawless charging at the two, Jude, the Human Guardian and the personal guard of the twin, quickly jumped in front of Lawless while holding his shield tightly.

He watched the incoming opponent closely while placing his shield in a position where he could quickly block Lawless' attack. He was pretty familiar with the latter's habits and he knew that it was better to respond at the very last moment when facing this guy due to unpredictable movements that he could make within an instant.

Seeing that Jude didn't place his shield in front of him, Lawless quickly understood that Jude was still familiar with him.

Unfortunately, he already fixed his useless habits ages ago.

Swoosh!

Lawless suddenly halt his charge as his body blurred for a brief moment. And when Jude saw that, his eyes immediately turned wide as completely understood what it meant.

"An afterimage!" exclaimed Jude as he quickly turned around and swiftly changed his position while also raising his shield in the process.

Bang!

Then a powerfully strike hit his battle-axe which made him take a couple of steps backward. He even felt that his arm was trembling violently due to the residual force that he failed to nullify.

"Hoh~! So your senses are still as good as ever," commented Lawless he was that Jude managed to block his attack despite his insane burst of speed. But quickly also added after a quick pause. "Though, it looks like your strength weakened a little."

Hearing those remarks, Jude quickly squinted his eye while trying to reassess his opponent. 'Did he already regain his former form? But it also only a few months, it is not that easy to regain their previous state after such a long hiatus.'

Two years of not playing the game might be short for the majority of people, but for top players such as themselves, it was a pretty long time. There were things that could happen in this span of time. They could either be left behind by their fellow experts or their skills would get debilitated over time.

Jude was confident that he became pretty strong after years of training and honing his skills inside the game. He was even confident that he would be able to stand alongside the other top experts of the game and some of the godlike players.

But regardless of his efforts, it seems like it was still not enough to surpass this monster in front of him.

Understanding the meaning behind Jude's eyes, Lawless suddenly smirked before saying. "What? Do you honestly believe that we will get behind that far? You are underestimating us too much if you really think that way."

He then paused for a brief moment before continuing with a mocking tone. "Or it can also mean that you didn't improve after all this time. The expression on your face seems to be telling that your strength was stagnant since a long time ago."

The corner of Jude's mouth suddenly twitched after hearing those words. But aside from that, he didn't show any violent reaction since he knew that Lawless was purposely agitating him so that his judgment could be clouded.

And it was at that moment when Eriko and Erica made their moves.

They charged at Lawless in different directions as they left Killion and his subordinates to deal with Faker.

"You never have changed! You are still as noisy as ever!" shouted Eriko before positioning his shield in front of him and accelerating his charge.

Swoosh!

In the meantime, Erica coordinated with him and slowed her charge a little. She was also locking her gaze at Lawless, trying to read where he was going to dodge.

But to their surprise, Lawless didn't show any kind of movements as if he was not planning to dodge. Then they immediately remembered the other guys who stayed by his side and remained loyal to him.

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

And just like they were expecting, a pair of attacks quickly flew at them before they could even reach Lawless.

A water blast flew straight to Eriko which made him halt his charge while a powerful fireball stopped Erica from her tracks.

Bang! Bang!

After blocking the attacks, the twin saw a pair of mages appear beside Lawless while looking at them warningly.

"It has been a while, Eriko. But I still see that you are still not showing any respect to our commander," said Ravier while glaring at the knight.

"Winter Demon Ravier," muttered Eriko with a heavy tone. He then tightened his grip over his sword and shield, getting ready to attack.

"Hoh~! You are still calling my name alongside my title? I thought you hated it since you never got one aside from being called the 'Shield of the Dark Hero?" said Ravier with a mocking tone.

In the meantime, Ember was silently staring at Erica with trembling eyes. And after a few moments of not saying anything, she finally muttered the latter's name. "Erica."

Erica felt a complicated feeling when she saw Ember, though she was not showing it outside. She just stood on her spot and silently stared back at her old friend.

Ravier patted Lawless' shoulder after a couple of moments before saying. "You can leave this to us. Just help Brother Faker over there until we are done 'talking' with these two."

Lawless felt a little skeptical after hearing those words as he knew that Faker didn't need his help after regaining his former form.

But despite that being the case, he still nodded his head. "Just keep in mind that I also need to talk to them. You have that prison prism with you, don't you?"

"Don't worry, I know what to do," replied Ravier with full confidence.

Meanwhile, the expression on Eriko's face turned sour, especially when he heard them talking about them as if they could deal with them anytime.

But even if the 'word' displeasure was clearly written on his face, he couldn't say anything about it since he knew that facing either one of them was really troublesome.

Moreover, he hated Ravier more than Lawless since the time when they were still in the Dark Hero Adventurer Team.

Seeing that Eriko had no intention of stopping him, Lawless shrugged his shoulders before starting to walk away and the group.

Jude wanted to stop him alongside Miko but before he could even take a step to chase after Lawless, a loud gunshot suddenly rang from a distance before a magic bullet landed in front of his foot.

Jude and Miko turned towards the direction where the gunshot came from and saw someone standing on a tree branch while holding a magic rifle in his hands.

"Golden Bullet Morgan," muttered Jude with a soft voice before exchanging glances with Miko and heading towards the gunslinger.

Ravier watched them go to Morgan without worry since he knew that the latter was able to handle himself, especially with the help of Hayden who was on his side.

After that, he turned at the twin in front of them before saying. "Now that no one is around to disturb us, shall we proceed to our business?"

"I am pretty sure that you are itching to see who is the better pair between us," he added as a cold aura was suddenly realized from his body.

Chapter 789 The Dance Of The Snow And Fire

...

Ravier and Eriko had a staredown for a couple of moments as Ember and Erica stood silently beside them. And after glaring at each other for a little longer, the former two quickly made their moves.

Eriko quickly kicked the ground and launched himself forward, charging at Ravier and Ember in a very aggressive manner.

Seeing that, Ravier quickly conjured a group of icicles in the air around him and sent them flying towards the incoming knight.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang!

The icicles were traveling in the air with a tricky trajectory, making it hard for Eriko to block all of them while charging forward. And due to that, the knight was forced to halt his charge to cast a skill to block the incoming icicles.

A golden aura was suddenly released from his body and turned into a spherical barrier that protected him.

The icicles sent by Ravier immediately melted away when they came in contact with the golden barrier.

But despite that being the case, Eriko was still wearing a sour look on his face since he knew that he already lost the opportunity to control the rhythm of the battle.

But Erica also understood it which was why she quickly made her move earlier to coordinate with her brother.

When Eriko made his move, she was already circling around Ravier and Ember while also trying to hide her presence.

But just like how they were familiar with Ember and Ravier, the latter two also knew how they fight.

Swoosh!

A wall of fire suddenly blocked Erica which made her halt her charge. But it was only for a moment since a crimson aura suddenly enfolded her body before she jumped through the wall of fire in front of her.

Swoosh!

And right after she got out of the fire, a spear made of light was suddenly formed on her hand before throwing it at Ravier who was currently in the middle of casting a spell.

But before it could even reach him, a barrage of fireballs bombarded the flying spear of light, exhausting all of its power until it dissipated in the air.

Erica already expected it to happen which was why she was already sprinting ahead and following closely behind her previous attack. And when the spear dissipated in the air, she was already upon Ravier and thrusting her spear forward.

Swoosh!

But before her spear could even reach Ravier, water whips suddenly shot from the ground and wrapped around Erica and her spear while she was still in the air.

"Still the same as ever, huh?" said Ravier as he looked at her over his shoulder. "You still have that impatient personally of yours."

"You should also fix the habit of targeting someone who seems to be calling the shots," he added before waving his hand, controlling the water whips and tightening their grip over Erica to prevent her from moving.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

At the same time, Ember suddenly sent another batch of fireballs, targeting Erica from different directions.

But despite being in that position, Erica was still wearing a confident look on her face. In fact, she seemed to be looking at Ravier mockingly even if she was currently cornered.

Seeing that look on her face, Ravier immediately understood what she was currently thinking. And just like what he thought, Eriko made his move during that time.

Bang!

Swoosh!

With a powerful stomp on the ground, Eriko lunged forward once again and appeared behind Ember for an instant while swinging his sword at her.

But before his descending sword could even reach her, ice spikes suddenly shot up from the ground, catching Eriko off-guard.

Bang! Bang!

The knight was able to block most of them but he still got hit by a couple of ice spikes, chunking down a large part of his Health Bar.

And to follow it up, Ember suddenly pointed her hand at him before sending a powerful beam of fire that blasted Eriko away.

Fortunately, the knight was fast enough to cast a defensive buff at the very last moment which saved his life.

On the other hand, Erica took advantage of that moment to break free from the water whips that were restraining her before trying to attack Ravier once again. But her spear hit nothing but air since her target already cast a Blink to instantly appear a few meters away from her.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

And at the same time, the fireballs that were already flying at her earlier finally arrived and started bombarding her body.

With those quick exchanges, it was pretty clear which side currently had the advantage. But even if that was the case, Ravier and Ember didn't dare to lower their guards and continued to look cautiously in the direction of the twin.

Bang! Bang!

And just like what they were expecting, the twin quickly resumed the battle not long after they got hit by the previous attacks that they received.

But this time, they had a different target, Erica went after Ember while Eriko targeted Ravier once again.

They were also currently being protected by their respective auras as they charged at their respective targets.

Seeing their actions both Ember and Ravier quickly made their moves in response.

They moved in a circle around the twin while also throwing a couple of spells in the process. And when the latter two saw their actions, they immediately understood what they were currently planning.

"The famed Dance of Snow and Fire? It has been forever since I last experienced its might," said Eriko when he saw their actions before quickly turning to Erica. "We are also going to use our specialty!"

Hearing those words, Erica slightly nodded her head before halting her actions and heading towards her twin brother. And when they regrouped with each other, the aura that was surrounding their bodies seemed to fuse together before turning into a huge monster with an incorporeal form.

It seemed to be a hybrid between a wolf and a bear.

It had a wolf head while its upper torso and both of its arms closely resembled a bear. Its lower body, on the other hand, was the same as a wolf's hind.

This spirit avatar turned at the two for a moment before charging at Ravier in a very aggressive manner.

Roar!

But before it could even continue its advance, a powerful storm was suddenly formed and started hindering its movements.

Moreover, this storm was not an ordinary storm. It seemed to be a combination of a snowstorm and a hellfire.

Roar!

...

In the meantime, Killion and his subordinates from the Corrupted Cults were having a hard time trying to pin down Faker. Despite having the overwhelming advantage in numbers, they seemed to be unable to stop him from executing the players from their side.

All they could do was to watch him slaughter them one after another as they were trying their best to keep themselves alive.

"So this is how the Death God looks like when he is at his peak," muttered Killion as he fixed his eyes at Faker with a solemn expression on his face.

"The confidence of having the strength to face a whole army alone," he added after seeing how Faker acted while facing them.

Aside from the incarnation of death right in front of them, they also needed to concern themselves about the monster who was observing them from the sidelines.

Lawless didn't immediately join the battle when he arrived. He just leaned on a nearby tree and watched Faker deal with their opponents alone.

Understanding the meaning behind the gazes that were being directed at him, Lawless casually waved his hand before saying. "Don't worry about me. I will not get involved unless that guy asks me to."

But despite hearing those words, Killion and his subordinates continued to give him a wary look before turning back to Faker.

It was pretty clear that some of them were getting discouraged at fighting these two.

Roar!

Then, all of a sudden, everyone heard a powerful roar that made all of them stop what they were doing.

Turning their heads towards the direction of the sound, they saw a huge monster with a spiritual form in a distance.

"Hoh~! It has been a while since I see that combination technique," said Lawless when he saw the spirit monster. "The Heavenly Beast Aura."

But not long after, his attention was suddenly directed to the violent storm that was hindering the movements of that monster.

It was a storm that had the opposing powers of ice and fire. And from the looked of it, the spiritual monster seemed to be struggling within that storm despite having a huge body and powerful aura that it was emitting.

Lawless observed the scene for a few moments before saying with a silent tone. "Unfortunately, this Dance of the Snow and Fire seemed to become much stronger than who it used to be."

Chapter 790 The Return Of The God Slayer And Death God (Part 1)

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Boom!

Roar!

After seeing the clash between the spiritual beast and the raging storm of fire and snow and noticing that the former was struggling in the middle of the chaotic storm, Killion immediately understood that their current situation was not very optimistic.

After that, he quickly turned his head towards Faker who seemed to be waiting for them to make their move. It looked like he wanted to see how they were going to respond to the current predicament that they were facing.

Seeing that he was not making any moves yet, Killion immediately understood that Faker was currently looking down at them.

Knowing what they were going to get annihilated in this place if they didn't do anything to solve their current situation, Killion suddenly took out a shortsword from his inventory bag that was emitting an evil aura.

The sword was had a crimson blade that was making it look like it was made of blood. There was also black smoke coming out from its blade, making its appearance more wicked.

Faker slightly knitted his eyebrows when he saw the shortsword on Killion's hands. He suddenly felt an extreme sense of danger the moment his gaze landed on that crimson sword.

On the other hand, the elite members of the corrupted cult around Killion simultaneously turned their heads at him when they saw the crimson sword in his hand.

"Sir, are you sure about this? These guys are experts from the 'Duelist Workshop'!" asked one of the Corrupted Cult members beside him while staring at the crimson sword with trembling eyes.

Hearing that, Killion turned his head at him before saying. "Who says that I am going to use it to them?"

The eyes of the corrupted members around him immediately turned wide the moment they heard those words. They simultaneously turned their eyes at Killion while looking at him with fear.

And after a brief moment of silence, they simultaneously pounced at him while wielding their respective weapons, planning to attack him from all sides.

Unfortunately for them, Killion was way faster than them and quickly stabbed himself with the crimson sword that he was holding in his hands.

Bang!

And right after his chest was pierced by the crimson sword, an evil and powerful aura immediately burst out from his body as black tentacles suddenly shot out from the wound where the blade of the sword was impaled.

Seeing that, the experts from the Corrupted Cult immediately realized that they were already too late and quickly stopped their tracks before trying to create some distance between Killion and themselves.

But it was already too late to get away from the black tentacles at that time due to their insane speed. They were already been caught by those tentacles before they could even escape their effective range.

"No, Sir Killion! We have been loyal to the cult from the very start!"

"You can't do this! I've invested a lot in this game already!"

"Please let me go, sir! I am already making a living in this game!"

The desperate cries of the Corrupted Cult members filled the entire place as their bodies were forcefully being pulled by the black tentacles towards Killion who currently had an expanding block hole on his chest.

Seeing the scene, the members of the 'Duelist Workshop' that were accompanying the twin, quickly distanced themselves away from Killion, afraid that they would also be dragged by those black tentacles.

In the meantime, the expression on Lawless and Faker's faces immediately turned heavy as they knew what was currently happening.

"Corrupted Sacrifice? Tsk! This is going to be a little troublesome," muttered Lawless as he observed the black hole continue to expand.

At the same time, he also remembered his experience when he last saw encountered an expert from Corrupted Cult who also had the same skill.

It was really an unpleasant experience.

He then turned to Faker before asking. "Can you handle this one?"

Hearing those words, Faker couldn't help but sneer in response. "Am I that weak? This guy is not even a full-fledged Messenger, so I can at least handle him even if he uses that skill."

After that, he turned to the experts from the 'Duelist Workshop' before continuing. "But since you look so bored, then I will leave these little puppies in your care."

"Tsk! Tsk! You are always dumping the most troublesome stuff when it comes to managing the team, but all of the fun stuff is always been taken away by you," replied Lawless with a tone that was full of complaint.

But despite that being the case, he still nodded his head in a helpless manner. "But what I can do? I am always been 'kind-hearted'."

After that, he started walking away from the tree that he was leaning on before clapping his hands to attract the attention of the opposing side. "Alright, guys! Starting now, I will be your playmate, so make sure to keep me entertained."

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then a pair of war axes suddenly appeared on each of his hands as he continued. "I usually don't repeat myself, but I must say this for a second time."

"Keep me entertained, or else your leader is going to be disappointed in you guys," he added as a savage aura was suddenly released from his body.

Boom!

Due to how strong the pressure that he was giving off, the members of the 'Duelist Workshop' seemed to see a figure of a giant tiger behind Lawless.

This manifested figure of a tiger was so vivid that it could make the opposing side tremble in fear. It was as if they were looking at a real monster that was staring back at them.

"But I must warn you in advance. I am pretty hard to please, so keep in mind that you need to go all-out from the very start," said Lawless, pulling out the opposing side from the illusion that his powerful aura had created.

Boom!

Then his figure suddenly disappeared alongside a loud explosion that came from his location. And within an instant, he arrived in the middle of his enemies while saying. "Oh! I almost forgot! I am also not as 'merciful' as the guy that you just fought earlier."

Boom!

Then he suddenly stomped on the ground which created another explosion that sent a powerful shockwave in every direction.

There was also a strong ripple on the ground that made it hard for the opposing side to stabilize their footing even though they managed to withstand the previous explosion.

All of them were sent flying away by the shockwave.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then Lawless' figure suddenly disappeared and reappeared in different locations as if he was teleporting from one place to another.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

And whenever he reappeared on a different location, another explosion was going to occur due to the powerful swing of his war axes.

Each swing was strong enough to obliterate someone and every one of them was finding a target, sending an opponent away.

Within an instant, Lawless already swept the battlefield and took down more than half of his opponents.

He paused for a moment and stood straight on a certain spot, resting one of his war axes on his shoulder before saying. "If this is all you can do, then I must say that your 'workshop' is already been washed away by the passage of time."

...

In the meantime, Faker was patiently waiting for Killion to complete the 'corrupted sacrifice'. He also knew what kind of technique was the latter using, but he seemed to not mind it because he was still wearing the same calm look on his face.

Not long after, the black hole that devoured the experts of the Corrupted Cult finally stopped expanding before quickly shirking back after a brief moment of pause.

After that, Faker saw Killion who was now completely different from before.

He was now wearing full-body armor that had a deep crimson color. Its shade completely resembled the color of the blood.

There was also a long pike on his right hand while a kite shield was on his left hand. The combination of his weapons and armor was clearly telling his current class.

"A knight? It is quite unexpected," muttered Faker with a low voice before tilting his head to the side. "I am pretty sure that you are supposedly an assassin given the aura that you are emitting earlier."

"But I guess I am wrong. Or... the Corrupted Sacrifice can help its caster to change their class that is most optimal in their current situation," he added with a calm tone as if he was just making research.

On the other hand, Killion turned at Faker which gave the latter knit his eyebrows.

"Hoh~! I guess not only it can grant its caster a great boost on their stats, but it can also help them promote their battle prowess into a higher stage," he commented while starting back at Killion fearlessly.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then a pair of daggers appeared on each of his hands before muttering. "Let's see if I can get more information about that skill."

After that, he started talking a couple of steps forward as if he was taking a leisure walk.