

Destiny 791

Chapter 791 The Return Of The God Slayer And Death God (Part 2)

.....

Faker stared at the Killion who was now currently wearing a full-body crimson armor. There was also black smoke coming out from that armor that was giving off a very sinister aura.

But despite the heavy pressure that was being emitted by Killion's body, Faker was still wearing the calm look on his face while also releasing a strong pressure of his own. And the moment that pressure came out from his body, the temperature within the vicinity dropped greatly.

Sensing the sudden change of atmosphere, Killion immediately understood what kind of monster was standing in front of him.

Regardless, he was still feeling confident right now. The fear that he had earlier was no longer present. It was as if he could face anyone at this point in time, after receiving all of the boosts on his stats.

"Hah! Let's see how strong is the so-called Death God of the virtual world!" shouted Killion as he stomped on the ground and lunged forward with full confidence.

Bang!

Swoosh!

"Hahaha!" he was laughing maniacally when he arrived in front of Faker while trusting his pike forward.

But despite his insane speed, he was still no match for Faker when it came to this aspect.

His pike hit nothing but air when Killion thrust it forward. And when he was about to look for his opponent, his eyes suddenly saw the tip of Faker's dagger magnifying right in front of his eyes.

Bang!

Fortunately, his speed was fast enough to tilt his head to the side, barely avoid it. But metal sparks flew in the air as the blade of the dagger slid his helm.

If Killion was not wearing a helm, then a long wound would most likely appear on his cheeks.

But before he could even have the time to counterattack, Faker suddenly flipped the dagger on his hand and held it in a reverse manner before stabbing it at Killion's neck, targeting the gap between his armor.

Sensing the danger, Killion quickly pushed his kite shield forward, planning to strike Faker with it and create some distance between them.

Faker, who was currently in a ducking position in front of Killion, suddenly twisted his waist before skillfully spinning around while dodging the shield strike from his opponent.

Cling!

But due to that, he failed to perfectly control the direction of his previous attack which was why his dagger only scratched the surface of Killion's armor for the second time.

Swoosh!

But at the same time, he used the momentum of his spinning action to threw another attack on Killion. His other dagger was already making its way towards his opponent's back, trying to strike Killion with it.

'Twilight Skill: (Modified) Backstab'

Clang!

Unfortunately, the crimson armor that Killion was wearing was pretty though. Faker's dagger managed to only create yet another metal spark as slid through the armor.

But it seemed like he didn't care.

Right after his spin, he positioned himself behind his opponent before swinging both of his daggers on Killion's back.

'Twilight Skill: (Modified) Cross Slash'

While his daggers were making their way towards his opponent's back, their blades suddenly released a green aura that created a trail of light on its path.

Yet another dangerous attack was heading his way, so Killion quickly charged forward without showing any hesitation.

'Corrupted Crimson Knight Skill: Barbaric Charge'

Bang!

Swoosh!

Due to his decisiveness, Faker's attack failed to hit once again. But despite that being the case, the Death God still continued his barrage of attacks, not willing to give his opponent any kind of breathing space.

Swoosh!

Faker quickly chased after Killion decisively as if he was a predator that was not willing to let his prey go.

His body also turned illusionary during the chase which was why Killion failed to instantly spot him after turning around.

"What?!"

Killion got confused when he slid and turned around because he couldn't find Faker. And when his eyes caught a silhouette a few distances in front of him, he thought that it was just an afterimage, especially that it was currently flickering the moment when his gaze landed on it.

Adding the fact that Faker was able to hide his presence skillfully, it was pretty impossible for Killion not to think that way.

But when the silhouette suddenly magnified right in front of his face, he immediately understood that he had been tricked.

'F*ck!'

Cursing inside his head, Killion quickly activated a defensive buff to defend himself.

Bang!

He stomped on the ground strongly, creating a small crater on it. Then a crimson aura suddenly enfolded his body, signifying the sudden increase in his stats.

'Corrupted Crimson Knight Skill (Tier 2): Unbreakable Stance'

Seeing the actions of his opponent, Faker quickly changed his plan.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

His figure suddenly split into multiple silhouettes before scattering towards different directions, surrounding his opponent from all sides.

'Abyss Walker Skill (Tier 2): Abyssal Phantoms'

Then all of the phantoms simultaneously charged at Killion while having the same movements. It was as if they were all the same person.

'Basic Combat Technique: Second Drive'

'Abyss Walker Skill (Tier 2): Abyssal Mirror'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

All of the phantoms turned into a streak of light while charging towards Killion while carrying a very threatening aura.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

But before the phantoms reached Killion, all of them suddenly exploded a meter away from him. It was as if they collided into an invisible wall.

Ha!

Then Killion suddenly shouted loudly, sticking his chest out while tightly gripping his weapons.

Swoosh!

,m Then a very strong force was released outwards and pushed all of the remaining phantoms that managed to fly past the invisible wall around him.

'Corrupted Crimson Knight Skill: Deviant's Roar!'

Boom!

A cloud of dust was suddenly formed right after the shout.

Swoosh!

But not long after its formation, it was suddenly pulled towards a single spot as if a black hole suck all of the dust it.

Swoosh!

Then a hole was formed in that cloud of dust as Faker flew past it while thrusting the dagger forward.

Clang!

But as if he was expecting it to happen, Killion raised his shield in front of him and blocked the incoming attack with a perfect time. And without further ado, he stabbed his pike forward while moving his shield to the side.

'Corrupted Crimson Knight Skill: Instant Counter'

Swoosh!

Seeing the tip of the incoming pike, Faker swiftly jumped and did a quick spin roll in the air while also throwing a pair of flying daggers towards his opponent during the process.

Killion ignored the incoming daggers at first since he was confident that they would not be able to penetrate his armor. But that thought instantly changed the moment when he realized that they were actually flying straight to the gap of his helm, clearly targeting his eyes.

Due to that, he was forced to raise his shield in front of him to block them but also block his line of sight.

Ta-ta!

Then Faker quickly charged forward right after his feet touched the ground. He was taking advantage of the fact that Killion couldn't see him due to his previous actions.

Naturally, Killion knew what Faker was planning, so he quickly slammed his shield on the ground, erasing the possibility of Faker attacking him from that angle.

But at the same time, he was also keeping an eye on the possibilities that Faker might attack him from other directions. After all, he was currently facing one of the greatest assassins within the game, so he needed to make sure to always be on guard.

But to his surprise, he didn't encounter any kind of ambush nor get attacked from the front. "Huh!?"

Killion was confused but he didn't let his guard down. He jumped backward to create a distance between him and Faker. He was just following his instincts since couldn't feel Faker's presence even though he knew that the latter was right in front of him.

He also didn't dare to remove his shield in front of him, afraid that Faker would suddenly attack him right after he took a peek behind it.

But during his flight in the air, he suddenly felt that there was something wrong. He then quickly raised his head as he suddenly felt a threatening feeling from above.

Right after he looked up, he instantly spotted Faker in the air and was currently in the middle of forming a series of hand signs.

Killion's eyes immediately turned wide when he saw that while his instincts were telling him that he needed to block it no matter what.

Following what his experience in battle was telling him, Killion quickly raised his shield and immediately active his strongest defensive skill.

'Corrupted Crimson Knight Skill (Tier 2): Deviant's Umbrella'

A huge magic circle suddenly appeared in the air above him before turning into a dome-shaped barrier that was ready to protect him from the incoming attack.

But not long after he did all of that, he suddenly heard a cold voice coming from behind him. "Do you know what is the greatest weapon that an assassin can use against their opponents?"

"It is the instincts that their opponents honed over the course of time," added Faker to answer his own question.

Chapter 792 The Golden Bullet And The Immovable Mountain (Part 1)

.....

Faker suddenly swung his dagger straight to the gap between Killion's helm and armor, seemingly planning to separate his opponent's head from his body.

Swoosh!

His actions were a little too fast, not giving his opponent any time to respond.

Then, a head suddenly flew in the air and spun multiple times before falling on the ground with a loud thud.

But despite seeing that sight in front of him, Faker was still frowning his eyebrows while looking at the headless body in front of him.

Swoosh!

Then that body suddenly collapsed and fell on the ground before turning into a pool of blood. And quickly after that, Faker suddenly turned his towards a certain direction, where when another pool of blood appeared.

After that, that pool of blood suddenly rose from the ground before turning into a humanoid figure. It was obviously Killion who managed to barely save himself from the earlier predicament.

There was even a deep crack on his crimson armor and a deep wound on his shoulder, clearly showing the damage that Faker had done earlier. It was also reflected on his current health bar since a large chunk of it was currently missing.

"That was close," muttered Killion after taking a quick look at his HP bar. He then took out a potion from his inventory before drinking it.

Faker, who was still wearing the nonchalant look that he usually had, remained standing on his spot and let Killion heal himself. It was as if he didn't care whether his opponent healed back to his health back to full.

Killion couldn't help but feel insulted when he saw that he was being underestimated. But he couldn't do anything about it because of what happened just recently.

He thought that he could finally stand a chance after using the corrupted sacrifice earlier but it seemed like it was just a foolish idea.

Seeing that Killion was only staring at him from a distance, Faker slightly pursed his lips before asking. "Is that all you've got? If that it was, then I must say that I am pretty disappointed."

,m Hearing those words, the expression under Killion's helm immediately turned dark before standing up and wielding his weapon once again.

At the same time, the corner of his eyes suddenly saw a message coming from the new knew of their operation. Taking a quick look at it, he saw that the preparations on the other side were almost complete.

"So, all I have to do is to hold my ground until everything is over," he muttered to himself before turning his head back to Faker.

"I am no longer confident that I can beat this guy, but I guess I can at least hold my ground here until everything is ready," he muttered before assuming another battle stance.

Seeing that, Faker slightly nodded his head before starting to walk forward. And as usual, he was still wearing a calm look on his face which made the expression on his opponent's face become sour.

.....

In the meantime, Lawless was currently sitting leisurely on the roof of the tent while watching the two with full amusement. It was pretty rare for Faker not to finish his opponent as soon as possible, so he couldn't help but feel a little interested in this fight.

He knew that Faker wanted to gather more information regarding the Corrupted Sacrifice that the Corrupted Cult had. They were still not sure what kind of abilities could the caster get after using it, so Faker did a pretty good call at deciding to observe Killion a little longer before finishing him off.

"It seems like that sacrifice thing can give a large boost on stats of its caster," muttered Lawless as he observed Killion with squinting eyes.

But at the same time, he also frowned his eyebrows as he suddenly remembered his previous experience against a higher-ranking member of the cult.

"But the boost that they are getting from it seems to vary according to their strength," he added as he tried to compare the strength that Killion currently had compared to the other guy that they encountered before.

"That guy is pretty strong. His skills are also high-leveled and almost comparable to most of the top gods. And when he used that Corrupted Sacrifice, he gained a strength that gave him an ability to stand his grounds against me and Faker."

"I wonder how high is his rank within the cult. Given his capabilities, I am pretty sure that he should be at least a little higher than a messenger."

Reaching that point, his eyes suddenly lingered around the battlefield before his gaze landed on the place where he was fighting previously.

It now looked like a desolated place. The whole area was completely devastated as its ground was uneven while the surrounding trees were already fallen.

His previous opponents were nowhere to be found. Not a single one of them was around since they already turned into specks of lights ages ago.

Ironically, Lawless suddenly realized something after seeing such a devastated place. "Oh! Speaking of it, the number of sacrifices can also be the reason!"

He then turned his head back to Killion before recalling the appearance of the opponent that they had faced before. And after a few moments of thinking, he suddenly added. "Hmm... their crimson armors are somewhat different. Their auras are also in completely different levels."

After a few moments of thinking, Lawless was finally convinced with his assessment. "Yeah! That must be it! But the question is how large the gap between them?"

He then turned his head back to Faker and saw that the latter still had no intention of ending this battle yet.

"Well, it is very like him. He will not stop until he gets all of the information that he needs before proceeding to the next step," muttered Lawless before proceeding towards the other direction.

It was the direction where Jude and Miko were heading earlier. It was also where Morgan and Hayden were waiting for them.

"Hmm... Should I head over there instead and watch how are they doing?" he asked to himself before quickly nodding his head. "Yeah! It is better to watch those guys than to stay here."

"After all, this matchup is already been a mismatch from the very beginning," he added before standing up and disappearing from the roof of the camp.

.....

In the meantime, deep in the forest, Jude and Miko were currently chasing after Morgan who was their priority target this time.

They were confident that their young miss and young master were not going to lose against Ember and Ravier. He had seen the growth of the twin up close, so they knew how strong they had become.

Moreover, both Ember and Ravier also took a two-year hiatus alongside Lawless and Faker, so they believed that the skills of those two should have turned rusty after not playing any games for a long time.

Due to that, they could pursue Morgan without having any worry.

"I'm am going ahead," said Miko as she accelerated her speed, trying to catch up to Morgan who was nimbly jumping from one tree to another.

After that, she suddenly jumped upwards and kicked the tree trunks on her way to climb up before continuing their chase.

Bang! Bang!

But right after she step on a tree branch and was about to jump forward, a pair of consecutive shots could be heard as the magic bullets flew straight to her head.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Seeing the pair of incoming lights, Miko quickly leaned back while also using her daggers up at the same time.

Clang! Clang!

She narrowly avoided the magic bullets but she already lost her footing and continued to fall towards the ground.

But with her skills, such a thing was not a problem for her. A few flips in the air were all she needed to regain her control over her fall.

Bang! Bang!

But as she was doing that, Morgan shot yet another consecutive shot, perfectly reading the trajectory of Miko's fall.

Bang!

Swoosh!

But that was also the time when Jude made his move. He also sprinted forward before leaping the air and positioning himself between the incoming bullets and Miko. And with a slight adjustment of his shield, he was able to block the incoming magic bullets.

Cling! Cling!

Ta-ta! Ta-ta!

Then the two successfully landed on the ground before giving Morgan a fierce glare. They already knew that this was not going to be easy since they knew how troublesome Morgan was.

Not only did Morgan have good accuracy, but his kiting skills were also top-notch. Moreover, his adaptivity was also high-class which was why he could fight in any kind of terrain.

Aside from this, Jude and Miko were also aware that Morgan's specialty was actually not snipping. Instead, it was jungle warfare similar to what they were currently experiencing.

But their problem didn't just end there.

Hayden, who was still hiding somewhere near Morgan, was still not making his appearance. And on top of that, they still had no idea about his presence since the beginning of the battle.

Chapter 793 The Golden Bullet And The Immovable Mountain (Part 2)

.....

Morgan stared at his former teammates with meaningful eyes. There was still a time when he was working with these two, but he was now looking at them as enemies.

After reminiscing about the past for a couple of moments, he started tightening his grip over his sniper rifle before steeling his resolve. They might be former comrades who went through life and death together, but after the betrayal that they did before, it was impossible for him to forgive them.

In the meantime, both Jude and Miko were currently wearing deep frowns while looking at Morgan. They were feeling a little troubled.

For as much as they were familiar with Morgan, the latter was also familiar with them. And on top of that, they were also currently at a geographical disadvantage since it was perfect for Morgan's style of battle.

Hu~!

"I'll try to attract his attention, so just focus on hiding your presence and look for a perfect opportunity to attack," he said to Miko with a quiet tone before getting ready to charge ahead.

Miko slightly nodded her head and quickly hid through a stealth skill.

Morgan didn't care even if he saw her disappearing figure. Aside from the fact that he was familiar with who was stalking her target from the dark, there was also Hayden who could cover him when the right time came.

Instead, he focused his attention on Jude since he was thinking that this guy was more threatening than Miko, which was quite ironic since the assassin was supposedly had more threats than a slowpoke class such as a knight.

As Morgan was looking at Jude, the latter was also staring back at him while trying to buy Miko as much time as he could.

On the other hand, Morgan was currently waiting for Jude to make his move while also keeping an eye on his surroundings. For someone like him who trained in the Top Military School to become an elite soldier, this kind of environment was like a second home for him.

He might major in the intelligence and technology department but he was still trained to fight in these kinds of places.

He then surveyed the surroundings to look for the most optimal path to attack. And after taking note of a couple of spots, he suddenly whispered on the party chat channel. "Keep an eye on my back and match my pace, I can handle everything in front of me."

Hearing those words, Hayden couldn't help but shake his head a little while also wearing a bitter smile. Especially when he heard the confidence in Morgan's tone.

"Roger that!" he answered before closing his eyes and gathering his focus.

Bang!

A few moments later, Jude finally made his move and kicked the ground beneath him, and charged ahead. And when he reached a certain distance, he suddenly leaped in the air, flying straight to Morgan.

As a gunslinger, Morgan would naturally not let Jude get near him. So, he quickly jumped away from the tree branch that he was standing on while raising his sniper rifle and pointing it in front of him.

Not long after, Jude arrived on the spot where Morgan was standing.

Seeing that, Morgan pulled the trigger without any hesitation, targeting his opponent accurately on the head.

Bang!

Naturally, Jude was not going to let himself get hit that easily, so he quickly raised his shield in front of him to block the incoming bullet.

Ding!

Bang! Bang!

But right after the first bullet collided with his shield, he suddenly heard a consecutive shot that was fired from Morgan's gun. And since his line of sight was being blocked by his own shield, he didn't know where those shots were aimed.

Following his instincts, Jude steadied his footing on the tree branch and lowered his stance to also protect the lower part of his body that had been exposed.

Crack! Crack!

But to his surprise, Morgan aimed his shots at the tree branch that Jude was standing on, making it fall.

"What!?"

Due to that, Jude immediately lost his footing and started freefalling towards the ground. And when Morgan saw that, he quickly dismantled his sniper rifle in the air before turning it into a pair of magic pistols.

And quickly after that, he started firing a barrage of shots at Jude who was currently not in the most ideal state to defend himself properly.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The trail of light that was being left behind by the magic bullets drew intervening lines in the air, creating a beautiful sight. But despite that being the case, Jude didn't have the time to appreciate it since those pouring bullets were pouring down at him like rain.

Hah!

With a shout, a blinding light was suddenly released from Jude's body before turning into a huge sphere that protected Jude from the rain of bullets from above.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

None of the bullets managed to penetrate the sphere of light that was protecting Jude. But the raining bullets didn't stop as Morgan continued to fire without restraint. And it lasted until the knight's feet hit the ground.

Boom!

A loud explosion immediately occurred the moment Jude landed on the ground and it quickly created a huge cloud of dust that hid him within.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Despite seeing that, Morgan continued to fire his gun and seemed to be not showing any signs of stopping until he also reached the ground.

Ta-ta!

Boom!

And right after his feet touches the ground, Jude suddenly kicked the ground and flew straight to him like a cannon bolt.

Swoosh!

Seeing that, Morgan quickly moved out of the way, trying to get out of the path that Jude was taking. But right after he did that, he suddenly felt that his feet seemed to be stacked on the ground.

'Knight Skill: (Special) Revenge Lockdown'

Morgan slightly knitted his eyebrows when he realized what happened but didn't panic. He just stared at the incoming opponent who was charging at him light a bulldozer.

Jude was quite confused when he saw that scene and quickly had a bad premonition. He was familiar with Morgan, so he knew that this guy was not going to put himself at risk unless he was confident that he could get out of it unscratched.

Seeing that, Jude couldn't help but hesitate for a moment, making his movements slow down a little.

But that was a grave mistake.

Morgan used Jude's familiarity with him to pull off a bluff. And since he was also familiar with the latter, he was confident that it was going to work.

And he was right about that. Jude indeed became wary of him and the next move that he was plotting.

Right after Morgan saw that, he quickly grabbed that opportunity and took out a mana grenade from his inventory, and threw it at Jude who was charging at him.

Since the knight was currently in the middle of his charge, it was impossible for him to dodge the flying grenade that was coming to greet him.

Boom!

Due to the powerful explosion, Morgan was forced to fly away, freeing himself from being locked down in place.

And while he was moving backward, the magic pistols on his hands suddenly turned into a machinegun rifle before firing at Jude once again.

Thug! Thug! Thug!

Yet another beautiful arc was drawn in the air by the magic bullets that were released from Morgan's Rifle.

Ding! Ding! Ding!

But what came next was another series of metallic sounds that indicated that all of the magic bullets were blocked by another barrier.

When the cloud of smoke settled, Morgan saw a transparent golden avatar, protecting Jude from the barrage of bullets.

Seeing that, Morgan slightly knitted his eyebrows before changing the form of his gun once again and turning it back to its sniper rifle form.

He then took out a high-grade Mana Stone from his inventory and put it on the rifle before taking aim forward.

Seeing that Morgan stopped on a single spot and left himself vulnerable to any kind of attack, Jude couldn't help but frowned his eyebrows since he didn't know if it was yet another bluff to bait him and Miko in.

But after seeing a large amount of mana being gathered on the tip of his gun, the two had no other choice but to make a decision on the spot.

"Go!" muttered Jude with a quiet voice, signaling Miko to make her move.

On the other hand, the assassin was already making her move at that time. It was a pretty obvious trap but she didn't care since she was confident with her speed.

Swoosh!

And before Morgan could even turn his gun at her, she was already right behind him and was about to stab him on his back.

Swoosh!

Bang!

But at that very moment, something unexpected happened that caught both Miko and Jude off-guard.

Chapter 794 The Golden Bullet And The Immovable Mountain (Part 3)

...

Miko quickly rushed ahead and targeted Morgan's back was currently vulnerable to any kind of attack.

She was aware that it might be a trap but she was confident that she would be able to reach him before he could even turn his gun towards her direction.

Swoosh!

But right before her dagger reached the back of her target, she suddenly sensed approaching her from the side which made her turn her head towards that direction unconsciously.

Bang!

Due to her actions, her face was immediately smashed by the incoming shield from that side.

Swoosh!

Then she was sent flying towards the opposite direction before colliding with a huge tree standing in there. A chunk of her Health Bar also disappeared the moment all of it happened.

"Miko!" shouted Jude unconsciously when he saw that sight and wanted to charge ahead. But before he could even take a step forward, Morgan immediately pulled the trigger of his gun and released all of the accumulated mana on the tip of the muzzle of his gun.

Boom!

'Gunslinger Skill: (Tier 2): Magnum Laser'

Swoosh!

Then a beam of light flew straight to Jude, seemingly planning to devour everything on its path. And when he saw that, he quickly raised his shield in front of him while casting one of his strongest defensive skills.

'Guardian Skill: (Tier 2) Code of Protection'

Swoosh!

Then another spiritual avatar that looked like a larger version of himself appeared behind him before blocking the incoming beam of light.

Boom!

Despite blocking the attack successfully, the impact of the collision still pushed him backward. He was having a hard time stabilizing his footing due to the strong force that was accompanying him being too strong for him and his spiritual avatar to endure.

Bang!

Then his back collided with the huge tree behind him, making it fall on the ground. But aside from that, he didn't suffer any kind of damage. His Health Bar was still healthy as ever.

But he was still wearing a deep frown since he could already get a rough estimate of how strong Morgan was right now.

"I guess his crafty skills are still the same as ever," muttered Jude as he picked himself up from the ground.

He then turned to Morgan once again with a serious look on his face before muttering with a soft voice. "Golden Bullet, how can I forget why he is called that way."

"He used to be one of the top mercenaries and bounty hunters of «True Era» Online before he joined the Dark Hero Adventurer Team. I guess still have that side of him," he added with a bitter tone before making a serious look on his face.

"Every bullet is equivalent to money, so every shot should be enough to take a head – is that how he used to say things?"

"I can't afford to worry about other things when I am facing him," he said before getting ready for another round.

Seeing those actions, Morgan immediately understood that Jude was finally taking him seriously right now. "You finally taking me seriously, huh?"

After that, he turned to Hayden and said. "I'll be leaving her in your care now. But don't underestimate her, since she is more troublesome to deal with compared to this guy."

"You don't have to worry about that since I have no intention of underestimating anyone from your previous group," replied Hayden as he started walking towards the direction where he sent Miko flying.

Morgan looked at him for a couple of moments before turning his attention back to Jude. "I guess we can now focus on each other. I've been itching to teach you a lesson for quite some time now."

"You are still the as ever. You've always been confident at taking down your targets," answered Jude as he raised his shield a little higher.

"And that is how I get my title, Golden Bullet," responded Morgan.

On the other hand, Miko finally picked up herself from the ground and glared at the incoming knight in front of her.

She was also rubbing her cheeks since she still felt the burning sensation that was coming from it. Aside from that, she was also pretty enraged because of what happened earlier.

"How dare he hit me in my face!" muttered Miko as the expression on her face was starting to turn dark.

Not long after, she was finally able to recognize the person that was walking towards her in a calm manner.

"Hayden, the Immovable Mountain? Hah! This is quite unexpected," she said after having a clear look on the knight.

"Aren't you supposed to be a solo player? What are you doing with those guys?" she asked while distancing herself away from the knight.

In the meantime, Hayden stopped a few meters away from Miko before replying. "Things just end up like this."

"Immovable Mountain, is it? Some say that you are one of the top tanks in «True Era» Online. Let me see if you live up to your name," said Miko while jumping up and down on the ground.

She was keeping a close look on every move that Hayden was doing, including the slightest movement of his muscles.

At the same time, Hayden was also doing the same. He was squinting his eyes while locking his gaze at Miko. She might be not as famous as the other members of the Dark Hero Adventurer Team, but she was at least strong enough to rank on the top of the assassin list during that time.

Swoosh!

Then Miko's figure flickered for a moment, making Hayden's eyes suddenly turn wide.

"Where are you looking?" asked Miko as appeared beside her opponent while stabbing her dagger on the latter's waist.

But even if the tip of Miko's dagger was about to hit him, Hayden remained calm, seemingly ignoring it.

Instead, he slightly leaned his head to the side, dodging an invisible attack that was directed to his head.

"That was a nice try, but such a trick is not going to work for me," said Hayden as stared directly at the air in front of him.

A few moments later, Miko slowly appeared in front of him while the one that was targeting his waist disappeared all of a sudden.

After that, Miko quickly hopped away from Hayden, distancing herself away from him as far as possible.

Bang!

But all of a sudden, Hayden kicked the ground beneath behind, launching himself forward and catching up to Miko within an instant. And when he reached her, he quickly swung his sword strongly, seemingly planning to strike her down with that attack.

Seeing that, Miko nimbly hopped to the side, dodging the descending sword with a hair's breadth.

Bang!

And right after the sword hit the ground, she quickly lunged forward and thrust her dagger, targeting Hayden's head.

Swoosh!

Cling!

But her dagger was immediately blocked by the shield on Hayden's hand. And before she could even follow up an attack, the latter suddenly swung his sword upwards in a diagonal manner.

Swoosh!

Miko quickly jumped up when she saw that and rolled in the air, dodging the sword's blade with a very small margin once again.

Ta-ta!

And when her feet touched the ground, she immediately started hopping backward, creating a breathing space for herself.

On the other hand, Hayden didn't chase her unlike earlier. He just watched her get away from him before standing up straight once again.

"How unusual, isn't your style supposedly focuses on defending and counterattacking? Why are you initiating the offensive now?" said Miko with a playful tone on the surface but she was actually frowning hard deep inside.

"Since there are a lot of promising talents appearing here and there, we still need to make some adjustments to our usual style to not get left behind," replied Hayden with a casual tone.

He then remembered his encounter with Shin who seemed to be growing continuously in every fight that he went through. And right now, that guy already surpassed him in terms of battle capabilities and combat prowess.

With that, Hayden resolved himself to change his style a little to adapt to the changing era. He also saw that it was the same for the other members of their group.

Faker and Lawless were exceptions since both of them were just trying to get back on their old form. But it was a little different for Ravier, Ember, and Morgan.

Those three were striving to improve themselves since they couldn't afford to be left behind by the fast-moving era.

"Anyway, who about you show me your real skills and enough with those cheap tricks. You should know that it is not going to work on me," said Hayden as he looked at his opponent with squinting eyes.

Hearing that, Miko started smiling bitterly before saying. "I am a little surprised when I saw Tora and Yami earlier... Eh? No-... I guess they go by the name Faker and Lawless right now."

"My emotions are unstable earlier, so I apologize for that," she added as she took out another pair of daggers with chains tied on the bottom of their hilts.

"But it is going to be a little different from now on," she said as the aura surrounding her suddenly changed.

Chapter 795 In The Midst Of The Fire And Snow (Part 1)

...

A few moments after Shin and the others cleared the Sky Deceiving Valley.

Boom!

The battle between Lawless' group and the Corrupted Cult members alongside the people from the Duelists Workshop, were starting to create a huge commotion in the forest. The explosion from every collision that they made was so loud that it could be heard from the distance.

A lot of trees even fell down on the ground, almost changing the terrain of the place. It was as if a powerful typhoon just went through that place, especially in the place where Ravier and Ember were fighting the twins.

Boom! Boom!

Shin was currently surveying the area when he suddenly heard a consecutive loud explosion from a distance.

"Huh?"

He suddenly halted his movements and turned his head towards the direction of the explosion while wearing a knitted brow.

He was assigned to survey this area, so it was impossible for the others to be here.

"Let's see who are they," muttered Shin as he headed towards that direction.

Swoosh!

Bang! Bang!

Boom!

A few moments later, more and more explosions could be heard from the direction where he was heading to. And based on the intensity of those explosions, it was pretty clear that both sides were very strong.

Not long after Shin finally arrived at the location where the battle was currently taking place. And right after reaching that place, he immediately saw a raging storm in the middle of the devastating forest while carrying the powers of both ice and fire.

At the same time, there was also a huge spiritual beast standing in the middle of that storm made of ice and fire, seemingly struggling at getting out from it.

At first, Shin thought that it was just a clash between two high-leveled monster beasts, who were fighting over territory. But it didn't take long for him to realize that it was not the case.

"Huh!?"

He suddenly saw two pairs of human silhouettes in the midst of the colliding sides. The first pair were standing side by side within the body of the spiritual beasts while the other two were circling around them continuously while casting one spell after another.

Squinting his eyes, Shin quickly activate his 'True Sight' ocular skill to have a clear look at what was happening.

It didn't take long for him to realize who were two mages circling around the spiritual beasts. "Eh!? Aren't that Ravier and Ember? What are they doing here?"

Shin was quite curious about why the two mages were in this place, so he decided to get near the battlefield to see what was going on.

...

Boom!

The twin, Eriko, and Erica were currently struggling at fighting their former teammates since they didn't expect that they would improve this much despite going on such a long hiatus.

"Tsk! It looks like we need to use that technique," said Eriko with a heavy tone.

Hearing those words, Erica couldn't help but turn her head to him and quickly ask. "Are you sure? It is our best trump card right now. What if some of our rivals discover about it?"

"And we are supposedly saving it for the upcoming tournament for the adventurer teams!" she added after a few moments of hesitation.

"What can we do? These two have improved their signature technique too," refuted Eriko before adding. "This dance of the snow and fire is always been troublesome to deal with since the time we are still on the same team as them. And now that they make it even stronger, holding ourselves back will only result in our defeat."

"Tsk!" Erica clicked her tongue when she heard those words, showing her dissatisfaction. But despite that being the case, she still didn't refute and silently nodded her head.

Having her agree with his plan, Eriko quickly made his move.

He positioned himself in front of Erica and quickly raised his shield in the air before slamming it on the ground in a very powerful manner.

Bang!

A massive explosion immediately occurred right after Eriko's shield came in contact with the ground. And the shockwave that was created by it, spread in every direction, pushing the raging storm of fire and ice away from them.

Expecting that to happen, Erica quickly cut her link with her twin brother, making the spiritual beast that was protecting them instantly collapse.

But quickly after that, she swiftly re-established their connection by acting another fusion skill. And coordinating with her actions, Eriko immediately picked his shield from the ground before positioning it in front of his chest, hiding his sword behind it.

Bang!

Not long after, the mana that was covering the body of the twin merged together before shooting up towards the air, illuminating the whole place with another color.

A few moments later, another avatar with a spiritual form suddenly appeared, replacing the one that was fighting a storm of ice and fire earlier.

This time, a huge knight suddenly appeared instead of a monster beast. It had glowing armor and wielded a shield and spear on its left and right hand respectively.

The shield that it was holding was similar to the one that Eriko was wielding while its spear also looked like a larger version of Erica's spear but the tassel tied on it looked like a dancing flame.

'Combat Technique (Fusion Skill): Chaos Knight Avatar'

Roar!

The knight released a deafening roar that sent a power shockwave in all directions, further pushing away the storm of ice and fire away from it.

But it didn't just end in there since the knight avatar swung its huge spear horizontally, sweeping away the residual powers of ice and fire left in the air.

Swoosh!

Due to the powerful gust of wind that was created by that swing, Ravier and Ember were forced to jump backward which made their perfect formation to be broken.

Ravier appeared a few distances away from his previous location by using his Blink Skill. And right after arriving at a safe distance, he quickly raised his head to have a clear look at the new spiritual avatar that the two had summoned.

Whistle~ ♪

Ravier couldn't help but grin pretty wide after seeing its full appearance. "Heh! Not so bad~! I guess you are not growing moss on your yard when we are gone for 2 years."

"But if you are thinking that we've gone rusty due to our absence, then you are gravely mistaken," he added before making a series of hand gestures in the air.

A few moments later, the surrounding air turned humid before snowflakes started to appear in the surroundings.

Not long after, huge ice blocks started to appear one after another while forming a particular formation. And when the final ice block appeared, the temperature of the entire place suddenly dropped with a huge margin.

'Epic Combat Technique: Frost Rampant Formation'

Bang!

When the formation was finally established, Erica and Eriko immediately noticed the sudden change in the temperature. And at the same time, they also noticed that the movements of their spiritual avatar seemed to become sluggish.

"We need to destroy those frost ramparts," said Eriko after realizing the main problem.

Erica nodded her head and was about to coordinate with Eriko to destroy the frost ramparts when their attention was suddenly attracted by a loud explosion coming from behind.

Boom!

Turing their heads towards that direction, they immediately saw Ember floating in the air while her entire body was being enfolded by a dancing flame.

'Epic Combat Technique: (Modified) Witch Possession'

At the same time, there was also a group of giant fireballs hovering behind her, forming a full circle in there.

Seeing that the two currently had their new forms, the twin immediately understood their opponents were not actually giving their best earlier.

They thought that the 'Dance of the Snow and Fire' was still the strongest technique that the two had. But from the looked of it, it seemed like it was just a secondary card right now.

"I guess, they still have their fangs after all this time," commented Eriko after seeing the techniques that the two had.

"But based on the respective techniques that they were using, it seems like they can no longer fight properly together," refuted Erica while looking at Ember with squinting eyes.

"The strength of Ember's fire seemed to be strong enough to melt those frost ramparts. But at the same time, it is pretty obvious that Ravier also had the power to extinguish them with the help of that formation," she added after sweeping her eyes in the entire place.

"That may be true. But given how these two fights, I am pretty sure that they have a way to solve that issue," responded Eriko before adding with a solemn tone. "Heck! They may even formulate yet another technique that can complement those opposing elements."

Hearing those words, Erica slightly nodded her head before saying. "How about we test the waters by starting with her?"

"Tsk! Tsk! Brother Fake sure improved a lot since the last time I saw him. Did he already regain his former form?" muttered Shin while watching Faker toy with his opponent.

After watching the fight for a couple of moments, Shin turned his attention to the crimson knight.

He couldn't help but knit his brow when he discovered that he couldn't see the information of that person. "Huh? Did he have a skill that can block an observation skill?"

"But my 'True Skill' skill is already in epic rank. Unless the other side had a legendary skill, it is impossible to hide their information from me. Then it must be a special item."

Reaching that point, Shin further knitted his eyebrows before continuing. "But such items can only be given to players with a special status just like me and the others."

While he was thinking about it, he suddenly remembered what was currently happening within the Sky Deceiving Valley. "Could it be someone from the Corrupted Cult?"

He then turned back to the crimson knight before putting everything together. "Someone with a special status to get his hands with special items? Then he could be the person that we are looking for."

But he couldn't make a move yet since Faker was currently engaging in a battle against that person. He also couldn't contact him since the latter could get distracted.

"Tsk!"

He was currently troubled when he saw thought about it. But not long after, his eyes seemed to meet Faker's eyes, who looked like telling him that it was fine.

Seeing that, Shin started smiling bitterly before muttering with a soft voice. "What a scary guy. To think that he can still pinpoint my location despite me hiding my presence?"

"I am quite itching to have another spar with him later," he added while grinning from ear to ear.

Chapter 796 In The Midst Of The Fire And Snow (Part 2)

...

Boom!

Unlike what the twin was planning to do, Ember took the initiative to make the first move. She waved her hand and pointed at the huge spiritual knight avatar of the twin, controlling the large fireballs behind her to move forward.

Swoosh!

Bang! Bang!

The twin naturally would not let themselves get hit one-sidedly, so they quickly controlled the spiritual avatar and made it raise its shield to block the incoming fireballs. And right after blocking them, they immediately followed it with a swift stab with the spear hiding behind it.

Swoosh!

Whoosh! Whoosh!

But before they could even complete their move, vines made of ice suddenly shot up from the ground before wrapping themselves on the arm of the spiritual avatar, preventing it from completing its attack.

The twin couldn't help but knit their eyebrows since they saw that. And while their attention was attracted by Ravier for a moment, Ember quickly grabbed that window to throw a few more attack fireballs at the gigantic knight avatar.

"Don't underestimate us!" shouted the twin at the same time before activating a pair of skills.

Boom!

A golden flame suddenly came out from the body of the avatar, seemingly trying to melt the ice vines that were wrapped around its arm. And at the same time, the shield that it was holding on its other hand was glowing with a brilliant light that was seemingly trying to blind Ember.

Bang!

And when the knight managed to free itself from the ice vines, it quickly thrust its spear straight to Ember who was taken aback by the sudden appearance of light that blinded her.

Swoosh!

Bang!

But before the huge spear could even reach Ember, an ice sword with a similar size suddenly flew from below and redirected its course away from the fire mage.

Seeing that, Eriko quickly turned his head towards the direction where the ice came from and saw Ravier standing there, staring back at him.

"Tsk!"

Eriko clicked his tongue as he realized that it was still not going to be easy to take down either one of these two even though they were not using their signature move.

After that, the battle continued as the rhythm of the battle was still being dictated by Ravier and Ember. There were some moments where the twin was able to break free from their passive state by doing some surprise attacks.

The battle became back and forth due to that but it was still pretty clear that the dynamic couple from the previous Dark Hero Adventurer Team still had the advantage.

Their understanding of the opposing powers of the ice and fire was really unbelievable. Even if their new techniques were contradicting each other, they were still able to find a way to coordinate each extremely well.

There were even some instances where they could maximize the effects of their skills and the opposing properties of their elements.

Their combined attacks might not be as clean as their 'Dance of the Snow and Fire', but they were still able to navigate their way on how to properly fight without hindering each other.

...

In the meantime, while the battle between the two sides was getting more intense, Shin was currently observing them from a safe distance while also absorbing all of the lessons that he could pick up from their fight.

He was obviously paying close attention to Ravier and Ember who were fighting while also keeping their controls over their spells in check.

As someone who was wielding a pair of powers with opposing properties, the fighting style of the dynamic couple was going to be helpful for him. Especially that they were also wielding the powers of the ice and fire.

He might not be a mage who had high mana and elemental affinity, but his senses when it came to feeling them were also not that bad.

Of course, there were also the elemental powers that he got from his Elemental Companions, so his elemental affinity was obviously not going to be that bad.

Shin was still trying to adjust himself with the new state of his body inside the game since he just reached the attainment of being one with the sword, so he couldn't be careless right now.

All he could do right now was to observe the battle and try to get inspiration from it before trying them later.

His current swordsmanship was still incomplete inside the game since he couldn't fully recreate the 'Ying-Yang Swordsmanship' within it. He might be able to mimic it with the help of 'Eclipse Wielding' that he created, which was also inspired by it.

But that was only a combat technique, he still didn't know how to utilize that trick when it came to his in-game skills. He could use some of his skills alongside just like the 'Eclipse Cross' and 'Eclipse Slash'. But he was still thinking that it was not enough.

By watching how Ember and Ravier fought, Shin could pick up a thing or two on how to use the two elements separately and fully utilize their opposing natures to strengthen each other.

"Interesting! So you can also use such techniques when using such skills," muttered Shin as he became amazed at how the couple navigated themselves in the fight.

He also became even more impressed with them after seeing that they were able to escape a couple of dangerous situations due to the twin messing up the rhythm of the battle.

Shin could clearly see that Ember and Ravier were still familiarizing themselves with the techniques that they were using. And because of that, the twins were able to find a few windows that they could take advantage of to turn the tides of the battle.

Fortunately, the two were skilled enough to regain their control over the battle and were able to establish their advantage.

After observing the battle for a while, Shin felt that he could no longer get anything from it and decided to look around for a few moments.

He wanted to help Ember and Ravier, but based on what he was seeing, it was pretty clear that they wanted to finish this fight with just the two of them.

He might not know what was happening and why they were fighting but he was sure that this was a contest between the two sides, so he didn't want to get in their way. He also decided not to contact them to avoid distracting them.

Swoosh!

A few moments later, he arrived on another battlefield.

No...

It couldn't be called a battle. It might be a torture place to be exact.

Shin saw Faker beating a knight with a crimson full-body armor one-sidedly. The armor looked pretty tough since he could see its properties through his True Sight skill.

Based on the information that he got, he was sure that even he would have a hard time scratching it, much less penetrating its defense. And not only that, even if he was able to somehow break them with his attacks, the regenerative abilities that that armor had been going to be another problem.

But despite all of that, it seems like the powerful defenses and amazing regenerative abilities of that crimson armor were nothing in front of Faker's assaults.

Faker attacks were one thing, but his speed was on a whole other level. He looked like a ghost that kept on disappearing and reappearing as he circled around the crimson knight.

"Tsk! Tsk! Brother Fake sure improved a lot since the last time I saw him. Did he already regain his former form?" muttered Shin while watching Faker toy with his opponent.

After watching the fight for a couple of moments, Shin turned his attention to the crimson knight.

He couldn't help but knit his brow when he discovered that he couldn't see the information of that person. "Huh? Did he have a skill that can block an observation skill?"

"But my 'True Skill' skill is already in epic rank. Unless the other side had a legendary skill, it is impossible to hide their information from me. Then it must be a special item."

Reaching that point, Shin further knitted his eyebrows before continuing. "But such items can only be given to players with a special status just like me and the others."

While he was thinking about it, he suddenly remembered what was currently happening within the Sky Deceiving Valley. "Could it be someone from the Corrupted Cult?"

He then turned back to the crimson knight before putting everything together. "Someone with a special status to get his hands with special items? Then he could be the person that we are looking for."

But he couldn't make a move yet since Faker was currently engaging in a battle against that person. He also couldn't contact him since the latter could get distracted.

"Tsk!"

He was currently troubled when he saw thought about it. But not long after, his eyes seemed to meet Faker's eyes, who looked like telling him that it was fine.

Seeing that, Shin started smiling bitterly before muttering with a soft voice. "What a scary guy. To think that he can still pinpoint my location despite me hiding my presence?"

"I am quite itching to have another spar with him later," he added while grinning from ear to ear.

Chapter 797 Being Sieged From Different Directions (Part 1)

...

Shin felt an intense urge of wanting to fight Faker after realizing that the latter had regained his old form. But unfortunately, he couldn't do it right now given their current situation.

Regardless, Shin still went to the place where Faker and the crimson knight were fighting, attracting the attention of the latter.

"Huh?"

Killion, who was behind the crimson armor, was immediately taken back the moment when he saw Shin. 'What is this guy doing here? Don't tell me they already cleared all of our members who are dispatch on the other side of the map!'

Swoosh!

He then disengaged from Faker as quickly as possible, while looking warily to Shin.

Faker, on the other hand, didn't chase him and just watched him create a considerable distance between. But at the same time, he was making sure that Killion would not be able to escape if he tried to retreat.

In the meantime, Shin was finally able to have a good look at the crimson knight. And even though he couldn't see the information of that player, he could still guess who it was. "You must be Killion, am right?"

Hearing those words, Killion's body suddenly turned stiff as he didn't expect that Shin would know who he was. Especially when his details were being hidden by the special item that he got from his captain.

"Do you have a business with this guy?" asked Faker to Shin without removing his eyes from Killion.

"Well, our quest has something to do with him. We suspect that he has the thing that we need to proceed to the next part of the quest that we are doing," replied Shin as he also locked his gaze to Killion.

In meantime, the man in question was currently looking warily at the two. And the moment he heard Shin saying that he had something that they needed for their quest, he could already tell that the guy was looking for the three tokens that he had on him.

On the other hand, Faker suddenly remember something and quickly took out an item from his inventory space. "Is it something like this?"

Hearing that, Shin quickly turned at Faker for a moment as saw a token at the latter's hand. And right after he saw that, he immediately realized what Faker and the others were doing in this place.

'If we add the one that we have on our side, then we now have two out of the five tokens that can help us activate the portal,' thought Shin to himself before turning his attention back to Killion.

'And from what Kristle said, the corrupted cult has the remaining three,' he added as his gaze turned into a sneering look.

"Are you done with him? Can I borrow him for a moment? I have something to discuss with him," said Shin to Faker.

Hearing that, the assassin just shrugged his shoulders to indicate that he didn't care anymore. He already got what he wanted from Killion and gather enough data about the corrupted sacrifice.

Getting permission from Faker, Shin quickly took out a prison prism from his inventory bag before asking Killion. "Can you surrender quietly, so that we can avoid wasting our time? I sure you know that you don't stand a chance against us."

"Tsk!"

Killion would naturally not let himself get captured that easily. So, right after he heard the brief conversation between the two, he was already making his preparation to run.

Unfortunately, such thoughts were pretty impossible as long as he was in front of Faker's presence. He couldn't even move a muscle under the assassin's sharp gaze.

'D*mn it!' cursed Killion silently as tried to think of a way to escape his current predicament.

Running away was already nigh impossible earlier when he was fighting Faker alone, much less doing it right now when Shin just arrived.

Understanding that it was already too late to get out of this place, he didn't have a choice but to accept his fate. After all, even trying to commit suicide in front of these two was also impossible, much less trying to run away from them.

Having that in mind, Killion surrendered and let himself get captured by the two while hoping that the main group that was planning to attack the heart of the Saint Heaven Kingdom to succeed.

Meanwhile, as Shin and the group were clearing the Sky Deceiving Valley, all of the Corrupted Cult members that they had killed were not moving towards the ravenous point that their leaders had told them.

Most of these members were either knights or assassins. There were also a couple of berserkers here and there, but they were only in the minority.

It was pretty clear that they were another function within the Corrupted Cult since most of them were melee players unlike the members of the Undying Guild mostly composed of necromancers.

Not long after, a pair of players suddenly arrived and quickly attracted the attention of all of the players within the vicinity.

"Is everyone already here?" asked one of the hooded figures who was carrying a huge hammer behind him.

Hearing his words, one of the Corrupted Cult members standing at the forefront of the line suddenly took a step forward before answering. "We already have everyone, sir!"

"Then start moving your asses now! We are now heading to our target!" said the hooded guy before turning around and heading towards a certain direction.

In the meantime, when the other members of the corrupted cult saw the direction that he was heading, they couldn't help but knit their eyebrows in confusion until the guy standing at the forefront unable to help himself and asked. "We are you heading, Sir?"

Hearing that, the hooded guy with a huge hammer behind him suddenly halted his steps before looking over his shoulders. "Towards our target city."

When the others heard those words, they further knitted their brows in confusion as the man in the front asked once again. "But isn't the Holy City in the opposite direction?"

The hooded guy suddenly smirked after hearing that before nodding his head. "I know."

"Excuse my incompetence, sir. But isn't our Holy City our target?" asked the guy in front of the group.

The hooded guy started chuckling when he heard those words before asking in return. "Who says that it is our target?"

After that, he started laughing out loud before resuming his step once again, continuing to walk towards the direction that he was originally heading.

It was at that movement that the others realized that they were all wrong. Everyone thought that they were going to launch a siege on the Holy City since it was the current heart of the Saint Heaven Kingdom, the center of everything.

On the other hand, the guy who was asking the question earlier suddenly clenched his fist when heard those words. He wanted to know more but it would only arouse suspicion, so he chose to remain silent and just nodded his head.

'We assumed that they are going to attack the Holy City and put everything to defend that place. But it looks like we have been mistaken all this time,' he thought to himself as he went back to his previous position.

After making sure that everything was in order, he immediately give the instruction to march forward. "Move!"

He was about to lead his row when the other hooded person, who came alongside the guy with a huge hammer, suddenly grabbed his shoulder and pull him to the side. "Yoh! I think we have something to discuss first."

On the other hand, on a mountain range near the Holy City, Immortal was gathering his forces with extreme secrecy.

He already instructed his guild to sneak into the Saint Heaven Kingdom. He couldn't move their main forces since there were still a lot of things that they need to do in the Blind Abyss Empire, especially with the recent event that happened there.

He also couldn't bring any of his apostles since they needed to lead the guild at a time like this where Immortal was not present.

But at the very least, he could have their elite members and special troops to assist him in this operation.

He was unwilling to join this operation at first since he was trying to lay low due to the consecutive events that happened recently. His reputation also suffered a lot due to his consecutive defeats against Shin.

Even though he was not in his peak state during that time, a defeat was still a defeat. Excuses were only meant for sore losers.

If not for the good information network that his guild had and the resources that he was providing the cult, then he would most likely end up like Thirio.

Immortal looked at the Holy City from the top of a mountain with a deep frown. "I am going to succeed this time."

After that, he turned around and looked at the army of necromancers lined up behind him before saying. "Let's go! We are moving out!"

Chapter 798 Being Sieged From Different Directions (Part 2): David's Insight

...

Atlas World, Saint Heaven Kingdom, Holy City.

David was currently staring intensely at the virtual map projected in front of him, trying to memorize everything. And at the same time, he was also trying to look for the source of unease that he was getting.

After taking a look at all of the areas that were under the Holy City's jurisdiction, he expanded the virtual map and included the neighboring cities and towns.

A few moments later, he started frowning deeply as his unease was starting to get worse, especially when his gaze landed on the small villages scattered near the vicinity of the Holy City.

Click!

Not long after, Shiella suddenly entered the room and quickly saw the deep frown that David was wearing.

"What is with that look? If someone sees you have that kind of expression, then they will surely think that you already lose this war," said Shiella as she across David.

Strangely enough, David didn't turn to her nor reply to her words. He continued to study the map in front of him, making his brows frown deeper as more time passed.

Shiella also chose to remain silent when she saw him ignoring her and waited for him patiently. And after waiting for quite some time, she saw David raise his head finally look at her.

"I think we need to do some major changes to our plan," said David with a serious tone.

Shiella suddenly frowned her eyebrows when she heard those words before nodding her head, indicating that David could go on.

"The Corrupted Cult will attack the Holy City without a doubt and it will happen soon," he said while turning his head back to the virtual map.

Then he pointed at the mountain range near Holy City before continuing. "And their main force is most likely going to attack from here just like what we are expecting."

"But the more I study the map, the more unease I felt," he paused for a brief moment before continuing "Given our preparations alongside the existing defensive capabilities of the holy city itself, I am pretty confident that we will be able to defend ourselves against them."

"But here is the question. How about the other small cities around the Holy City? Then what about the Towns?" he added with a serious tone while also pointing to a couple of places on the virtual map.

Hearing those words and looking at the towns that David had pointed out, Shiella immediately understood what he was trying to say. He also started to see why she was feeling iffy about this upcoming war.

After that, she started looking closely at the virtual map projected in between them before, trying to study.

Not long after, she also started to see a couple of places that were pretty easy to conquer and pretty easy to turn to a new base for the Corrupted Cult.

"Even if they fail on their siege on the Holy City, taking it down will only take some time if the Corrupted Cult manages to set up a base near it," said David after seeing Shiella seemed to get a rough idea of what he was trying to say.

A few moments later, Shiella suddenly asked. "And which town or city do you think will be their target?"

Hearing that, David opened two of his fingers while answering. "Two! There are only two options for them where they can give them a lot of benefits."

"That may be few compared to the number of choices that they have, but these two guarantee them a win no matter what they choose," he added before tapping the virtual map a couple of times, marking the two places on it.

Seeing the places that David had marked, Shiella immediately understood why David said that it could guarantee the success of the Corrupted Cult.

One of them was the Calderock Town while the other was the Forbidden City.

"The Calderock Town have decent defensive capabilities but it is not enough to defend themselves against a strong force like the Corrupted Cult," said David as he crossed his arms in front of him.

"The level of NPCs there are pretty good since they are averaging between level 100 to level 140. But it is still low when it comes to fighting the high-leveled players. After all, it is still just a town."

"Compared to Holy City that is already been promoted into a Capital City, this town is nothing but a speck of dust."

"Don't get offended. I know that you are currently running most of the operations on that place, but I am just being honest here," he added while looking at Shiella.

Hearing those words, Shiella smiled bitterly before replying. "Don't worry about it. I am also aware of our current situation. Even if I want to upgrade our defenses, I can't do it due to the restriction that the system has."

"Moreover, it is also going to be a waste if we invest much in that area since we are planning to relocate it to a better place before promoting it into a city. At least, that is what that little rascal is planning," she added.

"How about you? Don't you also have your own plan?" asked David in return.

"I indeed have my own plans, but what his plan is a little better than mine, so I decide to go with it," she answered.

David nodded his head before going back to the topic. "Since that is the case, then we can't afford to let that place be taken down by those guys. We have more reason to save it from its demise."

"Demise? You are talking as if we can't defend it by ourselves," refuted Shiella.

"If you are planning to dispatch your most elite group, then I suggest you not to do it. You know how the undead of the corrupted cult works. If they killed a stronger player, then they will be able to create a stronger undead," answered David.

"So, you are going to suggest dividing our forces and defending both places instead? Isn't it the goal of our opponents?" asked Shiella.

"No, we are not going to divide our forces. Instead, we are going to commit all of our available forces at defending the Calderock Town," replied David without any hint of hesitation.

"Hey!"

Shiella couldn't contain herself any longer and quickly refuted. "If we are going to that, then we will put the Holy City at risk!"

"Well, that Holy City is already strong enough to protect itself. And if we add the forces from the Titan Guild, then their chances of winning are going to be boosted up."

"But based on the information that we get from our spies, the forces that the Corrupted Cult have are pretty strong, so even if they manage to defend against them, the Holy City will still suffer a lot of damage that is enough to hinder their progress.

She suddenly paused when she reached that point as she realized something. And quickly after that, she couldn't help but look at David with wide-open eyes. "Don't tell me..."

Seeing her reaction, David slightly nodded his head and confirmed her suspicion. "That is right. Their goal in this operation is not to completely seize the Holy City, but to hinder its progress while also setting up a pretty decent footing where they can start their next step."

"The Calderock Town is a pretty good candidate since it is pretty easy to conquer. Moreover, it is near the Holy City which puts them in a perfect position to launch another attack whenever they want."

"And since they are planning to damage the City's foundation, the Holy City will not be able to do anything even if the Corrupted Cult set up their base in there since they are going to be busy at recuperating."

He then paused for a brief moment before continuing. "I heard that the cult set up multiple corrupted nests before and they are situated around Holy City."

Hearing that, Shiella was finally able to see the big picture and understood the gravity of their current situation.

"Corrupted Nests, hah! Who would have thought that those places are going to come in handy even after they have been destroyed ages ago?" said Shiella as she realized that this plan of the Corrupted Cult was set up for a long time already.

After that, she turned to David before saying. "So, you are planning to destroy one of the important pieces of the puzzle to avoid the worst-case scenario."

"Then the Corrupted Cult has no choice but to go with the second-best option which is the Forbidden City that is currently left unguarded due to the absence of its central figure, the HeadHunter Guild."

"And that is also why you are saying that this is a guaranteed success for the side of the Corrupted Cult earlier?"

After that, Shiella started laughing bitterly before saying. "So, you are telling me that my little brothers unconsciously help those guys by proposing such a deal to the HeadHunter Guild?"

David just shrugged his shoulders before answering. "I am not sure about that. But we can say that those guys got lucky since they've got another option that they get."

"That, or the guy pulling the strings from the other side is really skilled to predict all of this to happen."

He then paused for a moment before continuing with a confident tone. "But that doesn't mean that we are going to let things go his way."

Chapter 799 Being Sieged From Different Directions (Part 3)

...

Saint Heaven Kingdom, Holy City

The atmosphere with time city was pretty heavy despite the lively streets that it had. The average players were clues about it, but the experts from different guilds and other organizations knew that a storm was right around the corner.

They didn't know what exactly it was but they at least had an idea of what was going on given the huge movements that the Titan Guild was making.

Not long after, the higher-ups of these organizations received a message from the Titan Guild that a huge corrupted army was going to attack the city.

The higher-ups of respective groups were furious at first since they received such important news late. And according to the message that they had received, the enemy forces seemed to be almost upon them. It was already too late for them to prepare for such a war with just short notice.

These guilds and organizations were about to blame the Titan Guild for such short notice when they all got another message. But this time, it was from the Assassin Union and Hand of Midas.

They were confused to receive such a sudden message from those organizations especially when they didn't request anything from them yet.

But after reading the contents of those messages, they then realized everything. They also understood why the Titan Guild didn't inform them about the upcoming war earlier.

"There are spies of Corrupted Cult on your ranks."

These were the contents of the messages that they got alongside a long list of names, which was also a part of their respective guild.

Receiving such a long list of their members, the higherups of the respective guilds immediately made a move and started cleaning their ranks.

It was just an easy task since they already had the names of the members of the spies. They also didn't need to verify the information since they all trusted the Assassin Union and Hand of Midas.

It was impossible for them to fabricate such sensitive information, especially with their current reputation within the game. It was even more true for their line of work since they would only do more harm to themselves if they tried to trick these groups.

It didn't long for these guilds to clean their ranks and organized themselves, making it easier for them to get ready for the upcoming war.

With such large movements from different guilds within the Holy City, the average players finally noticed that there was something wrong. And after asking a few questions here and there, they all realized that a war was right around the corner.

Learning about it, the players who were residing within the Holy City since the start of the game suddenly remembered the battle that happened before. And from what they could remember, it was also connected to the Corrupted Cult.

A few moments later, every player within the Holy City started making their respective preparations for the upcoming war.

The Churches and the Palace itself were also making their own preparations since they also noticed the sudden appearance of the corrupted army in the nearby mountain range. But since they were thinking that it was still not a threat to the city, they only dispatch a considerable number of forces to defend the city walls.

It didn't take long for the players to gather outside the walls of the city, waiting for the corrupted army to arrive.

All of them were wearing a confident look on their faces. Especially when all of the guilds residing in the Holy City were currently gathered together.

It was true that the Dragon Pavilion and the Wing's Alliance were currently not present since they had respective businesses that they need to deal with. But the presence of the Titan Guild alone was more than enough for them to have confidence in this war. After all, those guys were one of the Powerhouse Guilds within the game for a reason.

Rumble!

No longer after, everyone heard loud rumbling sounds coming from a distance. And after casting their gazes towards that direction, they saw a cloud of dust slowly emerging from a distance.

And after waiting for a couple of moments, they saw a huge horde of corrupted monsters running towards them in a very aggressive manner.

There were different kinds of monsters among the horde but all of them have similar ranks. And the lowest rank among them was a Chieftain.

Seeing the monster horde charging at them, the players quickly pulled out their respective weapons before getting ready for the battle.

"Keep! Your formations!"

The leaders of different units and groups started giving our orders to keep everyone on the same page. And when the horde reached the ideal distance to attack, they quickly gave out the signal to launch the attack.

"Range players! Fire!"

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang! Bang!

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Different kinds of spells and skills filled the sky as they flew towards the incoming horde of monsters.

Boom! Boom!

But despite getting hit by them, the corrupted monsters accelerated their charge, ignoring the injuries that they suffered from the initial attack.

Roar! Roar!

Not long after, they reached the frontlines of players and started pouncing at them.

Boom!

But while they were still in midair, a powerful gust of wind suddenly blew them away, sending all of them back.

Swoosh!

Then someone suddenly jumped in the air before shooting back towards the ground, right at the center of the incoming horde.

Boom!

A powerful explosion immediately followed after he landed on the ground alongside a huge cloud of dust that was immediately been cleared due to the strong shockwave following that person's descent.

Not long after, the players immediately recognized the person who was standing in the middle of the crater.

"It is Hercules from the Titan Guild!"

"The Herculine God!"

Seeing him, standing calmly right at the center of the corrupted monsters, the morale of the players immediately soared towards the sky.

"Melee players, launch an attack!"

Riding the tide that Hercules had created, all of the leaders of their respective groups quickly ordered their frontline players to start the attack, signifying the start of the battle.

In the meantime, Samson was currently standing on the top of the city wall, observing everything from there.

"Heh! The tides of war are all about morale. If your army is strong-willed, then your forces have a higher chance of winning despite the odds are going against them," he muttered after seeing the ongoing battle below the walls.

A few moments later, he turned his attention towards the mountain range situated at the eastern side of the city. "The real problem is those cunning 'zombies' hiding in that place."

He was sure that the Undying Guild would get involved in this war and attack at the most unexpected time. He already fought against them quite a lot of times already, so he was pretty familiar with them.

A few moments later, he turned his head to the side, looking over his shoulder. "How are our troops stationed on the other side of the city?"

"They are always been ready to move any time, sir!" answered his subordinate.

"Make sure that they are not letting their guards down. You should know how those people from the Undying Guild operate. They are always been cunning," he said as he turned around and headed towards the western side of the city.

"I will be leaving this to Hercules and the eastern side to Atreus," he said, making his subordinates knit their brows.

"But sir, aren't we expecting the Undying Guild to attack from the eastern side of the wall? Then why are you heading that way?" asked one of his subordinates in confusion.

Hearing that, Samson started smirking before replying. "Didn't I already tell you? Those are pretty cunning, so you should expect them to attack from the most unexpected direction."

"If that is the case, then isn't it more ideal for them to attack from the southern part of the city. After all, it is currently the most unguarded place," said the other subordinate.

Samson couldn't help but pause his steps when he heard those words. "Unguarded?"

After that, he started laughing out loud before saying. "You guys don't have to worry about that place. It may be true that it is the place that has the least number of players, but their real battle capabilities are much stronger than you think."

He then paused for another moment as he remembered the people stationed on that side of the side. And after a brief moment of silence, he started shaking his head before continuing. "If the Undying Guild indeed chooses to attack from that side, then I can say that they officially lose this battle already."

"With that monster guarding that side of the city, it is pretty impossible for them to penetrate its defenses. And adding the fact that those guys are also stationed in there, those people from the Corrupted Cult will only look for their own deaths if ever they chose that place."

After that, he resumed his steps, leaving his stunned subordinates.

Chapter 800 Being Sieged From Different Directions (Part 4)

...

As the battle outside the walls of the Holy City progressed, the players started to realize that this war was not going to be easy.

At first, their morale was all-time high due to the presence of the top experts residing within the city. But as the battle continued, stronger corrupted monsters started to appear. Chieftain Rank monsters became normal mobs as Lord Rank monsters continued to appear.

There were also a couple of Overlords and King Class monsters that were appearing from time to time. But fortunately, those monsters were being dealt with by the strong groups from the side of the players.

But despite having everything under control, the higher-ups of respective guilds on the side of the Holy City were still worried. Especially when the monster horde started to attack the city walls from different directions.

The state of the battle was in a deadlock but every player that was participating in this battle knew that the real storm was yet to come.

While the situation outside the walls of the Holy City was slowly getting heated, the higher-ups of the respective guilds basing in that city suddenly received an unexpected report from their scouts scattered around the Saint Heaven Kingdom.

The other cities and small towns near the Holy City were also being attacked by the horde of corrupted monsters!

It was at that moment when the executives of the top guilds realized that the scale of this war was much larger than what they had expected.

"Some of the smaller towns are already been taken down, sir. And the monster horde was now advancing towards the other cities and towns," said a player to Samson who was currently overseeing the battle on the western side of the city.

Hearing the report, he could help but frown his eyebrows deeply as he clearly understood what the Corrupted Cult was currently planning. "They move much earlier than what we are expecting."

He already got a tip from the Assassin Union and Hand of Midas that the Corrupted Cult was also planning to attack the neighboring towns and cities of the Holy City. But from their estimate, they should only move when they were able to make sure that the Holy City was currently struggling to defend itself.

"Since they are moving already, that can only mean that they are confident that they can keep us busy," he muttered to himself turning his head towards the southern wall of the city. "So, in the end, everything goes according to what they have predicted."

"Let's see how are they going to handle this messy situation," he added before turning his head back to the battlefield in front of him.

"We don't have the luxury to lend them a hand for the time being. Just tell them to hold up for as long as they can and monitor the movements of the horde," he instructed while squinting his eyes.

.....

In the meantime, Immortal was still waiting for the right time to make his move was currently staring at the city wall in front of him while wearing a deep frown.

This southern wall of the Holy City was the one that had the weakest defense compared to the other three walls because they were had the least number of experts.

In theory, they would be able to break through this place if they wanted. After all, their forces were more than enough to achieve it.

But for some unknown reason, Immortal was getting a very unpleasant feeling whenever he thought of an attack from this side of the city.

"There is something wrong here. We can't attack from here," said Immortal after contemplating for a long time.

Hearing that, his subordinate suddenly turned to him with wide-open eyes. "But, sir! This is the perfect place to launch our attack."

Hearing that, Immortal turned to him before asking with a sharp tone. "Are you questioning my decision?"

"Ah! N-no, sir! I just.... I just...." that player was stuttering very hard as he felt an intense sense of death under Immortal's sharp gaze.

A few moments later, Immortal retrieved his gaze before saying. "Attacking from here is an obvious trap and we can afford to make such a mistake when everything is going according to our plan."

He then turned towards the southern wall of the Holy City once again before continuing. "And I rather face Samson on the western side than to attack that place."

The Undying Guild members standing behind him are currently doing frowning their eyebrows deeply when they heard those words. They were very confused at what their guild leader was very unwilling to attack the southern wall.

But despite the thoughts that were running inside their heads, they couldn't voice it out because they were afraid that they would suddenly provoke Immortal's anger.

"Let's go! We are going to attack from the western side," said Immortal as he led the group.

"Western side?"

Most of the members of the Undying Guild behind were still confused at why Immortal chose the western side of the city when Samson was the one leading the defense on that side. In their opinion, it was better to attack the front gate of the city as well as the eastern wall.

As if he knew what was running inside the heads of his subordinates, Immortal suddenly said. "It is true that the defense on the front gate and the eastern wall is only being led by the vice commanders of the Titan Guild."

"But even if we manage to defeat those two, our forces are still going to suffer greatly since they are no simple commanders. What's more, the head of the Titan Guild here in the Holy City is still standing during that time, so our chances of winning will only suffer."

"So, if we are still going to suffer some losses no matter what, then it is better to take down the heart of our enemies in the process," he added as he continued to walk ahead.

He hated to admit it but the truth was he was actually afraid to launch an attack on the southern wall. He didn't know why, but he was sure that something was lying in wait on that place. It was as if it was waiting for him to take the bait before making a move.

'It has been a while since I feel this way, I wonder what kind of trap they prepared for me on that place?' thought Immortal as he remembered the days when he suffered a crushing defeat against someone during his early days in the virtual world.

'This place is supposedly her turf, so it is impossible for her not to do anything to defend it. But since her main lair is currently being attacked too, her hands should be currently tied,' he added while falling into deep thought.

.....

Meanwhile, on the top of the southern wall of the Holy City, Shiella was currently staring at the ongoing battle below the wall while waiting patiently for her expected opponent to appear. But she immediately became disappointed after waiting for a long time without any sign of movement from the opposing side.

"It looks like his senses are still sharp as ever, huh?" she said with a disappointed tone.

Swoosh!

A few moments later, someone suddenly arrived and stood beside her.

Shiella didn't even need to take a look at who it was and immediately asked. "How is it?"

Cold Moon, the current Union Head of the Assassin Union, let out a disappointed sigh before replying. "Just like what we are expecting, Immortal chose not to launch an attack on this site and now heading towards the western wall."

"Heh! It is easy to read him like a book when it comes to this kind of situation. Sieges are not his forte after all," commented Shiella before quickly adding. "I don't understand why they assigned him on this task."

"Isn't it obvious? It is just like what that guy said. It is because he has a personal business here. No, it is more accurate to say that it is an old grudge." said Cold Moon in response.

"Because of his previous failure at conquering this city, his reputation on the cut obviously has suffered. And since their current goal is to only launch a suffering blow on the forces of the Holy City, there is nothing much for him to lose," she added while shrugging her shoulder.

After that, she turned to Shiella before asking. "So, what is the next move? Are we going to proceed just like how that guy arranged?"

Hearing that, Shiella shook her head and replied. "There is no need to rush. Didn't he say that he will call for our assistance if he can't handle that side? Let's wait for the time being."

"What's more, this place needs us more than that place," she added with a confident tone.

Cold Moon couldn't help but wear a mysterious grin when she heard those words, wanting to tease Shiella. "It looks like you are pretty confident on that guy, huh?"

Shiella gave her a sharp glare when she heard that as she knew what she was trying to say. "Stop those thoughts of yours!"

She then paused for a brief moment before continuing. "I may not want to admit it but that guy really has the skill to support his confidence."