

## **Destiny 801**

### Chapter 801 The Might Of The First Ranker (Part 1)

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Somewhere near the Calderock Town.

The elite group from the Corrupted Cult was currently waiting for the monster horde to trample the town before making their move.

Their main task was to clean up everything after the monster horde crushed the towns that it went through. And since this particular town was their main goal in this operation. As long as they took control of this town, the success and failure of the siege on the Holy City didn't matter anymore.

And one who was leading this group of elites was one of the Messengers of the Corrupted Cult, Xelor, the Chaos Demon.

He was one of the strongest experts on the darker side of the virtual world. He was notoriously known for his style of battle where he was always brute-forcing his way on everything.

That was the complete opposite of what he was doing right now, waiting patiently in the dark and stalking their prey first before doing anything.

But he didn't have a choice since it was the order of the current leader of this operation.

"Tsk! Waiting here is really boring. Can't we just make a move right now? Such a small town can't do anything against such a large monster horde anyway," said Xelor as put the head of his battle hammer on the ground and rested his hand on the end of its handle.

Hearing that, the other guy who was sitting lazily near him couldn't help but roll his eyes before saying. "If you are confident that you can beat the current Captain later, then I dare you to do whatever you want."

This guy was currently playing with a black cube in his hand, tossing it up and down in the air. And based on the equipment that he was wearing, his class should be an assassin.

His race was not that clear because of the hood that was hanging over his head. But based on the long and sharp nails that he had, he seemed to be either a corrupted elf or a demon-related race.

He was also one of the Messengers of the Corrupted Cult. Not many people knew about his existence, unlike Immortal and Xelor who were known for always being the villains of the game. But that was only true for the average players since this guy was pretty well-known in the ranks of expert players.

He already assassinated quite a lot of experts from different organizations and top guilds which solidified his reputation.

But despite his top-notch skills, he still chose not to partake in any kind of ranking tournaments. It seemed like he was satisfied with just being a Maverick Player.

Regardless, he was still given his Maverick God title, due to his impressive assassination skills.

Dread, the Night God.

After waiting for a few moments, Dread took a brief look at the digital clock through the side of his eyes before standing up. "I guess we already waited enough. Should we get moving?"

Hearing that, Xelor suddenly grinned from ear to ear before saying. "Finally! I am about to die in boredom with all this wait!"

The monster horde trampled quite a lot of towns already, so their numbers shouldn't be the same as before. But the quality of the remaining monsters was still high. It was still enough to threaten the defenses of some cities.

"Let's go!" said Black as he moved forward.

In the meantime, Xelor also stood up and turned his head to the side, looking over his shoulder before saying. "We moving out!"

The moment his voice resounded in the forces, figure after figure started walking out from the tree shades and bushes. Then they started lining up one by one in a very orderly manner.

Xelor walked towards the front of the formation before sweeping his eyes at everyone. And after making sure that all of them were fully prepared, he nodded his head and turned around. "Let's go!"

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The group marched towards Calderock Town, expecting to clean up everything in there. They were thinking that the monster horde razed the whole town to the ground just like what happened to the other towns earlier.

They didn't have high hopes of getting an opportunity to get in action in this operation since the monster horde that their leader was controlling was really stronger. It was composed of multiple Overlord Monsters and King Class Monsters, the same as the one that was currently attacking the Holy City.

,m But little did they know, a particular 'monster', much scarier than any monsters, was currently residing on the Calderock Town and patiently waiting for their arrival.

Tak!

Then Black and Xelor simultaneously halted their tracks all of a sudden, catching the players following them off guard.

They were pretty confused as to why those two stopped so suddenly. And when the group turned to their leaders, they saw the two standing straight on their spots, completely frozen and refusing to move.

Confused, the group also turned their heads in front of them to see what was ahead. And when they all did that, all of them suddenly felt an intense shiver on their spine. It was as if they were struck by a lightning strike that made them halt all of their movements.

What they saw in front of them was a tall mountain of monster corpses. Those corpses were piled neatly together as someone arranged them.

Moving their eyes upwards, the group saw a man sitting leisurely on top of that mountain while resting an open umbrella on his shoulder.

Since they were currently against the sun, they couldn't see the appearance of that person due to the shade of the umbrella.

Because of that, the member of the group became even more confused and turned to Black and Xelor once again. Then they all became even more shocked when they saw the expression on their faces.

Both Black Xelor was currently wearing an odd look on their faces. It seemed like they knew the identity of the person who was sitting on the top of the mountain corpse.

"What are you doing here-... Khing!" said Xelor with a hoarse voice.

Hearing those words, the other members of the group suddenly turned their heads back to the person on top of the monster corpses.

"Khing? That legendary person, Khing?"

These were the thoughts that were running inside the heads of everyone when they heard the words that Xelor had said.

"The King of Virtual Games, Khing," muttered one of the members of the group as he turned his gaze back to David.

There was a clear sign of fear in everyone's eyes as they looked at David.

"Get yourselves together, he is but a single person. No matter how strong he is in the past, we still can't say that he has the same level of strength," said Xelor to wake up the members of the Corrupted Cult behind him.

In the meantime, David watched their reactions from his spot with an interesting look on his face. And after observing them for a couple of moments, he turned his attention back to Black and Xelor who were now glaring at him. "It has been a while, hasn't it?"

"But from what I can see, you guys are still not tired of playing the role of being the villains of every game you play," he added as he closed the umbrella resting on his shoulder.

He then paused for a brief moment and pointed at the mountain of corpses under him before continuing. "Is this still not enough proof to prove my strength? Or did you just become senile?"

The corner of Xelor's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard those words but didn't immediately refute them. He was familiar with this guy's method and provoking his opponents was one of his main fortes.

But unlike him who chose to remain silent, Black took the initiative to reply to him. "Still running your mouth as always, huh? Are you then confident that you can fight all of us with just yourself?"

"Hah!"

David let out a brief laugh when he heard those words before sweeping his gaze at everyone. And after looking at them for a couple of moments he started laughing really hard, clearly provoking the other side.

"And you still think that this much advantage in numbers is enough to take me down? Come on~! You all know me, if you really want to take me on, then at least bring your strongest guns," he said with a provoking tone.

"Get in positions. We are using the battle formation three!" shouted Xelor, ordering the other members of the group.

Hearing those words, everyone quickly spread in every direction before surrounding David.

"You guys are pretty stubborn, aren't you?" said David as he slowly stood up, making everyone feel a cold sweat running on their backs.

Boom!

Then there seemed to be an invisible pressure that suddenly fell from the sky and started crushing down on every member of the opposing side.

"It looks like the world have already forgotten about me, huh? I guess I need to bare my fangs for all of you remember me," he added as the expression on his face suddenly turned cold.

Chapter 802 The Might Of The First Ranker (Part 2)

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Boom!

A powerful pressure suddenly fell from the sky, pressing on the bodies of every member of the Corrupted Cult.

"Ugh!"

All of the corrupted cult members couldn't help but groan painfully due to the heavy pressure that was currently pressing on them. They also tried to raise their head to look at David, but no matter how hard they tried, their heads seemed to refuse to look up. It was as if someone was forcing their heads to continue looking on the ground.



"What the hell?"

"What kind of pressure is this?"

The members couldn't believe what was happening since it was their first time to experience something like this. They had never experienced pressure as strong as this one even in front of Messengers of the cult.

Moreover, this pressure seemed to be forcing them to kneel on the ground and bow down.

Seeing that scene, David released a disappointed sigh before saying. "Is that all? You people from the corrupted cult sure loves to act strong. But the truth is you are just some bullies that are always picking on the weak."

Aside from Xelor and Black who were barely able to withstand the pressure coming to David, all of the corrupted cult members were trying their best to stand straight.

"D\*mn! How can he become this strong after such a short period of time? Didn't he just enter the game recently?" said Xelor as he couldn't believe what was happening.

"It looks like we can no longer hide our strengths," replied Black as a solemn look was formed on his face.

He then swept his gaze to the other members of the cult that were accompanying him before whispering. "Let's just use our berserk skills and deal with him. As for the others, tell them to continue moving forward and capture the Calderock Town."

Hearing that, Xelor quickly gave out an order on the party chat channel. "We are going to create an opening. You guys quickly get out of here as soon as possible and continue our mission."

Receiving his command, the members of the cult quickly nodded their heads and started getting ready to run as soon as they got the chance.

Unfortunately, David seemed to be aware of what they were planning and quickly said. "Hah! Planning to buy time for these guys to get away from here?"

"I wonder if you have the ability to do it," said David as his already cold gaze became even colder.

Seeing that, both Xelor and Black couldn't help but gulp a mouth of saliva as the expression on their faces suddenly turned cold.

A moment later, a crimson aura suddenly emerged from their bodies before they simultaneously jumped forward.

"Now!" shouted Xelor as the stronger auras that came from their bodies negated the one that was being released by David.

Hearing his signal, the members of the corrupted cult quickly made their moves as soon as they regained their movements.

But despite seeing all of that, David remained calm and stared at them with a mocking gaze. And when the two saw that, they suddenly got a bad premonition on what was about to come.

"Fools! Do you really think that I will patiently wait for all of you here without preparing anything?" said David with a sneering tone as he watched everyone make their moves.

Snap!

And with a quick snap of his fingers, the ground surrounding the hundred-meter radius range suddenly brightened as a huge magic circle appeared on it.

"What!?" Xelor was taken aback by the sudden appearance of the magic circle drawn on the ground and quickly realized what was about to come.

"A first-class magic formation? F\*ck!" said Black right after seeing the glowing circle.

"Everyone, use your strongest life-saving skills!" shouted Xelor in a hurry while also activating his most powerful defensive skills.

At the same time, all of the members from the Corrupted Cult quickly halted their tracks and did the same. Different kinds of defensive skills were activated one after another, dyeing the whole place with different colors.

On the other hand, David was trying so hard to suppress his laughter when he saw them try their best to activate their respective defensive skills.

"You guys really are a bunch of idiots!" he said as he couldn't contain his laughter anymore.

Boom!

In the very next instant, the giant transparent dome was suddenly formed and closed the entire place before a heavy pressure suddenly descended from the sky once again.

Ugh!

And quickly after that, every member of the Corrupted Cult discovered that all of their defensive skills were all canceled simultaneously.

"What the!?"

They were still in the middle of confusion when they heard David's next laughing words. "And this is where my real attack starts."

Turning their heads towards his directions, they all saw David raising his left hand towards the sky as a golden aura enfolded it.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then the eyes of every member of the Corrupted Cult suddenly turned wide as they saw a large group of golden swords floating in the air in an upside-down manner.

F\*ck! – was the only word that entered the heads of the corrupted cult members including Xelor and Black.

The number of swords hovering in the air was very huge since it could almost cover the entire sky from their point of view.

Meaning, it was impossible for them to hide!

"Let's see how many of you are skilled enough to survive this," said David with a sneering tone before lowering his hand down.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

And immediately after that, the swords started to fall from the sky and rained down at the members of the Corrupted Cult below.

Seeing all of those swords falling towards them, the Corrupted Cult members quickly unleashed their strongest offensive skills to defend themselves.

After all, it was no longer possible for them to use their most powerful defensive skills since they were already been rendered useless just recently.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Ah!

Ugh!

But despite their efforts, defending themselves against those falling swords was pretty much impossible at this point in time.

The members of the Corrupted Cult started to fall one after another as they could no longer endure the assaults of the descending sword.

Xelor and Black also couldn't lend them a helping hand since their situations were also no good. The former was currently doing his best to defend himself while the latter was as busy at putting all of his focus on dodging the descending swords.

Aside from the two of them, there were also a few members of the Corrupted Cult who were skilled enough to survive the onslaught of the spirit swords pouring down at them.

"Hoh~! So they indeed managed to find a couple of decent members, huh? I guess they are indeed improving a little," commented David as he watched his opponents do their best at surviving his attacks.

He then paused for a moment before continuing. "I guess I should clean up the rest then take care of the other two. After all, the next batch of the horde is about to arrive here."

After that, he suddenly turned jumped down from the top of the pile of monster corpses. And when the opposing side saw that they quickly started to panic as the rain of swords was already hard enough, what was more if he was added in the equation.

Every member of the opposing side locked their gazes at David, fully on guard. They kept an eye on him while expecting that he would immediately attack any of them as soon as his feet touched the ground.

Ta-ta!

But to their surprise, David didn't immediately make his move even though he already reached the ground. He just stood on the spot where he landed as the traditional umbrella that he was holding continued to be rested on his shoulder.

Everyone from the opposing side was looking at David with full caution as their backs were starting to get drenched with sweat.

"So who among you want to go first? The one with the fastest response will have a free trip back to the cemetery that you guys had set up," said David as he swept his gaze at everyone in a leisure tone.

When the opposing side heard those words, all of them suddenly felt an intense chill that ran through their spine, especially when his gaze swept past them.

His existence alone was more than enough to put a lot of pressure on anyone who knew about his achievements. And because of that, more members of the corrupted cult became a victim of the last batch of spiritual swords that were falling from the sky.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

And when the final sword finally hit the ground, both Black and Xelor quickly made their moves and charged at David without any hint of hesitation.

"Tsk! Well, I am not expecting that the two of you will be the ones to volunteer for it," said David as the pair appeared on each of his sides.

"Then you leave me no choice but to wrap this up as quickly as possible," he added as the two suddenly felt that their visions suddenly turned upside-down.



"What in the world happened?" – thought the two as their visions continued to spin as if their worlds were being flipped.

Chapter 803 The Might Of The First Ranker (Part 3)

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Thud! Thud!

Both Xelor and Black fell on the ground with a loud sound as the expressions on their faces were still showing a clear sign of confusion.

They didn't know what happened and how they were thrown on the ground.

But it was a different case for the members of the Corrupted Cult that managed to survived the rain of the spiritual swords earlier. They clearly saw what happened earlier from their point of view.

Xelor and Black didn't see it since they were too focused on attacking David. But unknown to them, a pair of golden hands suddenly appeared behind their backs and flipped them around before they could even land a hit on their target.

And while those two were still lying on the ground, David suddenly took a step forward before disappearing on his spot all of a sudden.

At the very next moment, cries of pain started to filled the battlefield as the members of the Corrupted Cult died one after another. And the moment when Xelor and Black managed to pick themselves up from the ground, all of the surviving members of their group were already been slaughtered by David.

"F\*ck!" cursed Xelor as he saw the specks of lights that were still in the middle of dissipating in the air.

Black, on the other hand, was currently wearing a solemn on his face. They already knew that David was strong, but they were not expecting that he was already this strong despite joining the game just recently.

"We can't afford to hold back anymore, use that scroll now," said Black as he took out a black scroll from his inventory bag and quickly ripped it. And quickly after that, a shadowy armor was suddenly formed and covered his body as a pair of curved black daggers appeared on each of his hands.

Seeing that, Xelor also did the same before donning himself with azure armor while his already huge hammer became much larger.

The two stared at David with sharp gazes as the latter stared back at them with a confident and smirking gaze.

Xelor was already furious that they failed to save any of the members of their group. And now that David was clearly mocking them, he couldn't help but tightened his grip over the handle of his battle hammer.

"Let's go!" said Black with a quiet voice before launching themselves towards David with an insane speed.

Xelor continued to charge like a mad bull towards David while carrying his huge hammer with both of his hands. Each step was heavy enough to create a deep footmark on the ground, creating a series of loud sounds.

On the other hand, Black quietly disappeared during their charge. His presence was fully hidden under his stealth skill.

In the meantime, David continued to wear the calm and confident look on his face as he watched Xelor charge at him very aggressively.

"That expression on your face always annoys whenever I see it!" shouted Xelor as he leaped forward the moment when he reached an ideal distance for his attack.

And while he was in the air, he raised his battle hammer over his head while putting a lot of strength on each of his arms before swinging the huge hammer down to David.

At the same time, Black was already behind David and was getting ready to strike when the perfect opportunity presented itself.

David looked behind him over his shoulder for a moment, seemingly giving Black over there a sidelong glance before pointing his umbrella towards the descending hammer from above then opening it immediately after.

Xelor was about to smirk at those actions as he felt that it was pretty ridiculous to see an umbrella trying to block a hammer. But on the very next moment, his eyes suddenly turned wide as the puny-looking umbrella managed to block his hammer.

"What the f-...!?"

He couldn't believe what just happened but was not totally concerned about it. After all, his main job was to get David distracted so that Black could land a fatal strike on that opportunity.

And just like what he was expecting, Black indeed grabbed that opportunity to attack. He sneaked behind David's back and quickly stabbed his daggers forward.

Their coordination was perfect as they were both able to smoothly time their attacks. But despite all of that, David was still not showing any signs of panic.

Seeing that, Black immediately sensed that there was something wrong. But even if that was the case, he still continued his attack since he was confident about it.

But that only lasted for a brief moment as since the tip of his dagger didn't even manage to reach David. It suddenly stopped a few centimeters away from David's back.

"Hey! What are you doing there? Is that how a top assassin supposedly doing his job?" asked David with a smirking tone.

After that, he suddenly raised his umbrella a little higher, pushing the hammer pressing at him upwards. Then he used the brief pause at that moment to close the umbrella before swinging it at Black who was currently behind him.

Black quickly disengaged and run away when he saw those actions from David. And due to the quick response, the tip of the umbrella barely missed his head.

Seeing that, David quickly used the momentum of his actions to spin around and quickly swing it at the huge hammer that was continuing its descent.

Bang!

And strange enough, the one that was at disadvantage was Xelor who had a huge hammer instead of David who was wielding a traditional umbrella.

"What the?!" Xelor and Black were both confused and shocked when it happened.

David, on the other hand, didn't care about what they were currently feeling. He jumped in the air and chased after Xelor while holding his umbrella as if it was some sort of pike.

"Sh\*t!" Xelor could do nothing but cursed out loud after seeing his opponent's actions. And since he was carrying a huge hammer, it was pretty much impossible for him to adjust his position midair.

Seeing that scene, Black had no other choice but to lend him a helping hand and quickly jumped in between David and Xelor. But right after he did that, a series of stabs from David suddenly greeted him. It was as if David was already expecting that Black was going to try saving his partner.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

David's attack was hard to read since each of them was traveling with a tricky trajectory.

Black tried his best to block each of them but still fail in the end. A few of the strikes managed to land at him, cutting down his health bar with a large chunk.

"What kind of attacks are those? It seems like can read each of my moves," muttered Black as he fell back on the ground alongside Xelor.

"Is it an innate talent? A personal trait?" he asked while wearing a solemn look on his face.

"I am not sure, but from what I saw, it seems like each of his attacks is leading you towards his next course of action.

Swoosh!

While they were still in the middle of talking, David suddenly flew at them while thrusting his umbrella forward. "Hey! Hey! What are you two chatting about?"

Seeing him charging at them, Xelor quickly held the battle hammer with both of his hands before swinging it forward, sending a powerful blast of air forward.

'Nefariox King Skill: Wicked Departure'

Boom!

Swoosh!

"Oops!" David opened his umbrella once again when he saw the incoming attack before challenging a lot of mana on it. He also started rotating its panel, creating a spiraling whirlwind that blocked the incoming blast.

Boom!

David managed to break through that attack but he was immediately greeted by Black who pounced at him from his side.

But just like earlier, Black's attacks seemed to be blocked by an invisible barrier.

"F\*ck!" he could only continue to curse out loud as he found that skill really annoying.

"What kind of skill is that?" he said as he distanced himself away from David once again. And while he was retreating, Xelor quickly jumped ahead to make sure that David would not be able to chase the assassin after failing his ambush for another time.

The battle continued with David having a clear advantage but still couldn't find the right time to eliminate the two.

They were still top experts after all, so their skills were something that he couldn't underestimate too much. he also couldn't afford to let his guard down since he might get punished by it if something went wrong.

He might be acting leisurely right now, but in truth, he was taking this fight rather seriously deep inside.

He just came back in the game so he was still not sure how much the virtual world had improved as well as the skills of the current experts of the game.

His expectations were rather high since the experts that he fought in the Dark Arena were pretty strong. But after seeing the skills of the current Messengers of the Corrupted Cult, he suddenly became a little disappointed.



"Did the game suddenly degrade after that huge war took place? Why has everyone suddenly become so weak?" he muttered as he started wearing a deep frown.

#### Chapter 804 The Frozen Kingdom (Part 1)

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Xelor and Black were currently lying on the ground as they looked at David with full of fear and disbelief. They lost the battle terribly and didn't even manage to land a clean hit on their opponent.

In the meantime, David was looking at them in disappointment. He did not expect that the quality of the experts of the Corrupted Cult was this low.

'To think that I consider them as my rivals before,' he thought to himself as he shook his head. "I've been out of the virtual world for quite a long time, yet you guys didn't even improve despite me being in a long hiatus."

"Tsk! Tsk! I can't help but become disappointed," he added as a pair of black cubes suddenly appeared on each of his hands.

The expression on the faces of the two immediately turned dark the moment they saw those black cubes. They knew that they were prison primes and they would definitely be imprisoned in them now that they had been defeated.

But to their surprise, David didn't immediately use the cubes and proposed instead. "I know that you guys are fully aware if I handed you over to the Righteous Churches. So, how about we make a contract."

The two were confused at first when they heard those words since they didn't know why would David do that. But it didn't take long for them to realize what he was currently planning, especially when they saw the devious grin that the guy had.

They instantly understood what was going to happen.

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In the meantime, Shin and the others were currently gathered together since they already got all of the tokens that they needed to open the portal.

"So, what are we going to do next? Open the portal right away?" asked Arthur as he looked at the five tokens placed on the table.

"That is the plan, but based on what that guy Killion had said, they already have enough sacrifice to open the portal. So, I am thinking not to use these tokens and use their method instead," answered Shin before turning to the others.

The other members of the group were also thinking deeply, trying to consider his plan.

"I think it is a good idea since these tokens may come in handy later when we entered that unknown territory," said Cloe after a few moments of thinking.

Leonard also nodded his head and added. "In these kinds of unknown territory, such things are always been useful in different cases."

"I think saving those tokens is really a good call since it seemed to be too important for our ongoing quest," said Lawless as he nodded his head. He and his group joined Shin and the others since their quests seemed to be coinciding with each other.

Meanwhile, the other members of the respective group seemed to be agreeing with the thoughts of those guys since they were nodding their heads repeatedly after listening.

Seven, who was silently standing behind Zero, couldn't believe what he was currently seeing. 'What kind of lineup is this?'

Sitting around the table were the top gods of the game and they were divided into three groups.

On one side, Sword God Zero, the current number one player, was sitting alone with Seven standing behind him. And sitting across him were the dynamic duo and the former Commander and Vice Commander of the legendary Dark Hero Adventurer Team, the God Slayer Lawless and Death God Faker were currently sitting across him.

Based on the aura that Seven was getting from those two, he could easily tell that they already got their old forms. They might even be much stronger right now than how they used to be.

Standing behind those two were a famous couple of their former group, the Winter Demon Ravier and the Flame Witch Ember.

A single look at them was more than enough for Seven to know that he wouldn't be able to take down either of them if he didn't give his all.

He then remembered the other members of their group who were currently waiting outside. Each of them was already at the peak of being a Titled Ranker and their team composition was a pretty balanced one.

'It looks like they are really planning to make a huge comeback,' he thought to himself before turning his head towards the final group.

This time, it was an even more impressive lineup. It was the leading players of the famous Empyrean Talons – the Battle God Sickarius, Dragon God Siegfried, War God Simba, Gentle Goddess Arielle, and Elemental Goddess Alice.

Such a scary lineup was more than enough to make most of the top guilds to be threatened. Just mentioning the names of these guys together would be able to make those guilds think carefully before deciding to mess with them.

Aside from these guys, there were also those members of their team that had unique classes. Moreover, each of those guys was strong enough to be ranked at the top of any Ranker's Lists.

'With this kind of lineup, we can already create an expedition team,' he thought silently before turning his head at the fourth group, who looked a little insignificant when they were compared to the previous group.

It was S.Tigris, a Maverick Ranker from the Wing's Alliance. And standing behind him was Black Hand, who seemed to be observing everyone silently.

They might be some small fries when compared to the gods that were sitting around the table, but their skills were something that shouldn't be underestimated.

Seven and Black Hand's eyes met each other as they were observing everyone. They nodded their heads at each other before continuing to listen.

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"Then let's go with that plan," said Arthur before turning to the others and asking. "Is everyone agreeing with it?"

The others quickly nodded their heads in agreement when they heard those words.

"Good!" said Arthur when he saw their reactions before turning his head towards Shin. "Aside from that, the real problem that needs our discussion is the matter regarding the rewards that we are going to get from this quest."

"As you already know, this is going to be a very high-level map that needs an expedition team to explore that kind of area," he added before turning to Shin.

"But dividing it equally is reasonable enough," said Shin after seeing Arthur looking at him.

But the moment Zero heard that he immediately shook his head before refuting. "I don't think it is right. This is not our quest anyway, so I suggest that you exclude us from any rewards."

And before Shin could even say anything, he quickly added. "You can just exclude us from rewards. You can just treat me as a mercenary of our team and the Frost Goddess already paid me for it."

Hearing those words, Shin could no longer able to refute and just turned to the others. Later he saw them shrugging their shoulders, indicating that they couldn't do anything about it.

"Just give up on it already. That guy is as stubborn as you are, he will not bend down the moment when he decided about something.

Seeing that Shin slightly nodded his head before proceeding on the next topic. "Then let's discuss how we are going to proceed."

"Based on the clues that we have, it seems like the main type of monsters that we are going to face in there are vampires. Well, that excludes the giant monsters that we saw earlier from the top of the mountain."

Lawless crossed his arms in front of him before continuing. "Well, with our current lineup, I think we don't have much to worry about that."

"But we still have to consider the possibility that the corrupted cult may sabotage us midway, so I think stationing a few guys outside is a must. We need them to guard the portal if ever those guys try to mess with us," said Cloe.

Hearing that, the others also nodded their heads agreeing with her.

Zero swept his gaze at every person inside the tent and immediately understood what they were currently planning. "So you guys are planning to go inside with this team alone, huh?"

Leonard shrugged his shoulders before continuing. "We are originally planning to go inside with our team and leave the guarding duty to the Hand of Midas. But since the God Slayer and his group is already here, we think that this is a good opportunity to make some adjustments to our plans."

Zero swept his gaze at everyone for another time before nodding his head in agreement. The team composition that they are going to make if they team up with each other was going to be a pretty balanced and well-rounded one.

What they were lacking right now was just a good Archer that could be the scout of their group. But given that the three groups had their respective marksmen, that issue was not going to be a problem.

Nodding his head, Zero turned his head back to Shin before saying. "Let's hear the arrangements that you are planning to do then."

Hearing that, Shin nodded his head and started smiling with full confidence before saying. "Then lend me your ears for a moment."

#### Chapter 805 The Frozen Kingdom (Part 2)

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After some careful discussion, Shin and the others finally came up with the lineup for the expedition team that was going to venture into the unknown lands beyond the towering wall of ice. And the final lineup was just like what Seven had expected.

Everyone inside the room earlier was included in the team with the addition of Alucard and Ara from the Emphyrean Talons and S.Tigris' group respectively.

Alucard was chosen because he was quite knowledgeable about the vampires inside the game. On the other hand, Ara was included to be an additional ranged-firepower of the group and also act as a secondary scout.

In the meantime, the rest of the three teams were tasked to guard the portal from any kind of attack from the Corrupted Cult.

At the same time, Kristle and Christine, who now had no choice but to follow Shiella's orders, were included in this group.



Shin and the expedition group were standing in front of the towering wall of ice on the spot where the Empyrean Talons and the others saw a huge emblem before. And spread out in the vicinity as they were making sure that there was no one around aside from them.

A few moments later, Shin survey the surroundings for another time before saying to the others. "Let's go!"

Hearing those words, Kristle and Christine quickly positioned themselves in front of the wall before chanting out a series of words while also doing some hand seals alongside it.

Hmm!

Then a humming sound could before be heard from the wall of ice as a powerful suction force appeared from the center of the strange emblem. But even though that suction force was too strong, nothing seemed to be being pulled from it.

A few moments later, a small vortex appeared at the center of the strange emblem as a crimson aura started to get attracted to it. And not long after, the vortex became a portal leading towards the other side of the wall.

Seeing that, Arthur couldn't help but clicked his tongue before saying. "Tsk! Tsk! This quest sure likes to waste our time with useless things."

After that, he turned to Shin and asked. "Can we get inside now?"

Shin shook his head and smiled bitterly when he saw the impatience that Arthur currently had. And quickly after that, he started nodding his head before saying. "Let's go!"

Hearing his signal, the others quickly did their respective methods to enter the vortex.

.....

Ta-ta!

Swoosh!

On the other side of the wall, the group was immediately greeted by a very cold temperature. The surroundings were covered by snow as if it was currently in the winter season.

Shin and the others quickly get information as soon as they landed on the ground. It was as if they were a team that were always been together. And immediately after that, they started sweeping their gazes on the surroundings, trying to see if there were any threats around.

But after a few moments of observing and learning that there was nothing that could threaten them within the vicinity, they started advancing forward just like what they discussed earlier.

The group entered the forest while maintaining its formation. And when they had gotten used to each other, Shin who was walking right behind Arthur gave a signal to Faker and Alucard to scout the path ahead.

They left some marks along the way to make sure that Shin and the others would be able to follow their tracks and not get lost while traveling.

But after a long time of walking, Shin and the others felt that there was something wrong. They didn't encounter any kind of monster along the way. It was the same for Faker and Alucard who were scouting ahead of them.

Aside from the worsening cold, the group didn't manage to find anything strange. And since they were ready this time, the cold didn't affect them much, especially when they brought quite a lot of cold-resistance potion that was provided by the Hand of Midas Trading Firm.

On top of that, they also coated their cloaks with a special potion that had a similar effect. It was one of Adept Hand's specialties, so its effects could last for a long time. As long as their cloaks were not going to get destroyed, then the cold-resistant effects would last until their expedition was over.

The weather was getting worse as the group advanced ahead. They were also some occasional snowstorms that hindered their progress. They were also forced to look for shelter whenever the storm was strong enough to annihilate them.

Fortunately, Faker and Alucard were quick enough to inform them about the storms. There was also Alice who could sense the snowstorm before the two could even inform the group.

A few moments later, Shin and the others finally arrived at the edge of the forest and were forced to stop due to the deep cliff on it.

But that was not the real reason why the group stopped in there. It was because of the breathtaking view that they saw from there.

In a distance, everything was fully covered by snow. There was another white forest ahead of them. But this time, there were a lot of large beasts hovering in the air.

"Wyverns!" muttered Arthur right after seeing the features of the beasts in the sky.

"They are known to others as lesser dragons due to the blood of the dragon flowing in their veins," he added with a serious tone.

But despite the seriousness that Arthur had, Shin just rolled his eyes at him since he knew that this guy just wanted to show off his knowledge regarding dragons.

So, before things could get out of hand, Shin quickly changed the topic. He turned his gaze at the silhouette of a huge city from a distance and said. "I guess we now have our initial destination."

Hearing those words, the others quickly forgot about the words that Arthur had said as they also turned their heads towards the direction of the city. And when all of their gazes were directed to the city, the group simultaneously got a series of system notifications.

\*Ding!\*

System: The Empire Quest has been updated!

System: Adjusting the quest difficulty based on the overall reputation of the expedition team!

System: Calculating-...

\*Ding!\*

System: The average reputation of the team exceeds the quest limit!

System: Readjusting the difficulty.

System: Empire Quest has been set into its highest difficulty.

...

Warning Alert!

The Empire Quest was set in highest difficulty!

All of the monsters in the area are not going to be restricted by the system settings. Their levels, stats, and skills would remain!

All of the monsters that are supposedly locked for this quest were going to be unleashed too, so please proceed on the quest with extreme caution!

...

The entire group seemed to be frozen in place after reading the series of notifications. But it only lasted for just a brief moment since they were immediately taken over by an extreme feeling of excitement.

The highest difficulty?

It was nothing in front of them!

Who are they? Their group was composed of the peak gods of the game! And for experts like them, the words 'highest difficulty' was synonymous with the words 'bountiful rewards.'

As long as the quest was difficult it would surely give an equivalent reward in return.

But that was only one of the reasons.

For the peak gods such Zero, Simba, Siegfried, and Sickarius in their group, the words extremely dangerous were the same as them experiencing the thrill of an extreme battle.

In the meantime, Shin used his 'True Sight' skill, trying to take a look at the details of the wyverns that were flying in the distance. But all he got were just a bunch of question marks, indicating that his level was way too low to see them or the distance was pretty far for him to use the skill.

The others also did the same, but after seeing that their actions were futile, the group turned to Shin and waited for him to tell them their next course of action.

They were too distracted by the sight in front of them and the series of notifications that they received from the system, which was why they almost forgot the most important thing and the real reason why they were here.

"Heh! How about we take a look at our quest first?" said Shin smirkingly before opening the quest information panel.

The others also did the same. And right after seeing the first few lines on it, the expression on their faces suddenly turned weird due to having mixed emotions.

Even Zero and Faker, who were usually able to maintain a calm look at all times, couldn't suppress the intense twitching of their faces.

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## Empire Quest

Quest Name: The Frozen Kingdom (I)

Quest Type: Investigative Quest

Quest Difficulty: Chaos (Highest Difficulty)

Quest Details: (Not enough Clues)

Quest Condition (Temporary): Please head over to the Capital of the Franzen Kingdom, the Frost City.

Caution: The monsters ahead are extremely strong!

Monster Estimated Level: Averaging between 175 ~ 250.



Quest Rewards: (Calculated depending on the final grade of achievements of the Team)

Quest Difficulty: (Character Deletion)

Chapter 806 The Frozen Kingdom (Part 3)

...

The entire group was totally speechless at what they were currently reading. They didn't even know whether they were going to laugh or cry after reading the details of the quest.

Especially when they saw there was nothing much to see on the quest details aside from the penalty that they were going to get if ever they failed to clear this quest.

"This is quite interesting! A blind quest? It has been a while since I've seen one," said Arthur after a few moments of silences.

As the name implied, a blind quest was a special type of quest where the system was not going to give any clues for their quests as the players needed to look for it themselves.

But in exchange for that, the quest could also give bountiful rewards. And just like what the reward section was saying, the rewards could become much better depending on how many achievements they managed to get during the quest.

Moreover, a blind quest could also give out a lot of sub-quests during the quest itself which meant that the rewards that they were going to get would surely be much bountiful compared to ordinary quests that a player could get.

After taking another look at the quest details, Shin turned to the other members of the group before saying, "Since we only have a single clue on our quest, we have no choice but to proceed to that city."

"And I don't have to remind everyone to be careful, do I? After all, we are all experienced players. What's more, the system keeps on emphasizing that the monsters here are all dangerous even for use," he added with a smile.

The others didn't reply with words and just nodded their heads silently.

After seeing that they didn't have any concerns, Shin gave his signal to move forward. And when the others saw it, they quickly jumped down the cliff while also using their own means to float in the air for a brief moment before landing gently on the ground.

They quickly moved forward right after landing while also maintaining their formation. Faker and Alucard also moved ahead of the group to scout the path that they were going to take. And this time, the two encountered a couple of monsters during their scouting.

"There is a huge pack of arctic wolves ahead of us and each of them is at least level 145," reported Faker right after regrouping with Shin and the others.

"That is a classic monster type on this kind of setting inside the game," commented Arthur after hearing the report.

Faker gave Arthur a meaningful smile before responding. "Well, that is only true if those wolves are either elite or chieftain rank. But unfortunately, each of them is a Lord Rank while the Alpha was a King Class Monster."

The corner of Arthur's mouth suddenly twitched when he heard those words as he could already imagine how strong the pack of wolves ahead of them."

"But that is not the only problem," said Alucard, chiming in the conversation.

Hearing his words, the others quickly turned their heads towards his directions while waiting for him to continue.

Having the gazes of such amazing players directed to him, Alucard couldn't help but feel a little pressured and quickly turned to Faker, seemingly trying to ask for help.

Unfortunately, Faker was also looking at his directions while wearing a meaningful smile. And from that smile alone, Alucard could easily tell what he was trying to say

– "Since you initiated it, you better tell them the information yourself." – were the words that Faker seemed to tell Alucard based on the expression that he currently had.

With a twitching mouth, Alucard turned at the others and suppressed the pressure that he was getting from their gazes before continuing. "The lord-rank wolves are similar to the standard monsters that we have on the common areas."

"But the Alpha Wolf seemed to be a special species. Its description is saying that it has the blood of Fenrir," he added after a brief moment of pause.

The others didn't care of the monsters had special species since encountering strange monsters was a pretty common occurrence for them.

But it was a different case if those monsters possessed the bloodlines of the legendary beings just like the wyverns that they saw flying in the sky earlier. And now, they were about to face a pack of wolves where its alpha had the bloodline of Fenrir.

"This place sure is becoming more and more strange," muttered Shin the moment when he heard the report.

He then remembered the less heart of Fenrir that he gave to Black Hammer to use for the upgrade of his equipment. And the upgraded version of the [Dusk and Dawn Equipment Set] was somewhat related to wolves.

'I wonder if the new features of my other equipment set will have some effects with those wolves,' muttered Shin to himself before looking at the others.

"I have a special skill that might have some effect against the wolf-type monsters. Let me take a look at those monsters first," he said to the group before waiting for their response.

But contrary to what was expected, the member of the groups seemed to be disagreeing with his suggestion as each of them was wearing a deep frown while looking back at him.

"Tsk! Don't try to sugarcoat your words. We all know that you just want to have all the fun for yourself," said Arthur while patting Shin's shoulders.

"Skills that can affect the monsters, you are not the only one who has those," said Leonard as he walked past Shin.

Zero and the others seemed to be agreeing with those two as they walked past Shin one after another while giving him a gentle pat on his shoulder.

Shin was not surprised at the reactions of the first two since he was always been doing special missions with them but it was a little different when it came to the others. It was a new feeling for him. After all, their special assignments were usually only the three of them and he was always been the one who lead the charge.

Cloe giggled at him when she saw the little confusion on his face before saying. "You should fix that habit of yours. As you can see, there are a lot of reliable guys in this game."

Hearing those words, Shin finally snapped out of his daze before turning to her and the others. And quickly after staring at the back of the group, he suddenly smiled bitterly and immediately followed after them.

Ba-dump!

But right after he took a step forward, a tightening feeling suddenly forced him to halt his steps, it was as if his heart was being squeezed by something.

He then wore a deep frown as he endured the pain in his chest. And quickly after that, he felt slight displeasure coming out of nowhere. He wanted to know what it was, but before he could even try to feel more of it, that feeling immediately disappeared as if it was never been there in the first place.

Fortunately, all of it lasted for a very brief moment which was why no one was able to notice it. And when he regained himself, he quickly followed after them, acting as if nothing happened.

\*\*\*\*\*

Deep inside Shin's Sea of Consciousness, Uno seemed to clicked his tongue as if he was displeased about something. "Tsk! Tsk! Friendship and comradery, disgusting!"

"Didn't he already know that he has not to rely on this world aside from himself? This is why he is always been weak!" he added while wearing a very deep frown.

In the meantime, a few meters across Uno, a dark silhouette of a person with crimson eyes were currently looking at him coldly.

"Looks like you are enjoying yourself. Have you already forgotten your current situation?" said the dark silhouette with a hoarse tone.

Hearing those words, Uno turned his attention back to that shadowy figure before saying. "How about you give up instead and submit to me? You are nothing but a bunch of hatred after all."

The silhouette didn't reply to him with words. Instead, a powerful shockwave was sent straight in his direction.

Uno smirked he saw the actions of the shadow figure before dodging to the side. "See? You are acting how you are supposed to be, violent and full of rage."

"It is going to change once I devour you!" responded the silhouette before charging towards Uno and throwing a barrage of punches.

Despite his simple attack patterns, each of the punches that the silhouette was throwing was sharp enough to pose a threat to Uno. All of them were precise and accurate.

But even if that was the case, Uno was calmly blocking and deflecting each of them with ease. It was as if he could see the trajectory of those punches and cut off their course before they could even get a proper momentum.

He already forgot how long had it been since he started this never-ending battle. But because of that, he seemed to become used to the strong yet repeated patterns of his opponent.

"Tsk! This idiot is always making me do all of the work!" he said with a very displeased tone before taking a deep breath and having a serious look on his face.

"I guess it is finally time to end this," he muttered with a soft voice as the eerie aura suddenly surrounded his body.

Chapter 807 The Frozen Kingdom (Part 4)

...

The group advance forward and saw the pack of wolves that were blocking their path. And just like what Faker and Alucard had told them, each of the wolves was Lord Rank Monsters.

That was not the only problem that they saw after seeing the wolves. From what they could see, these monsters have a decent level of intelligence. They were moving in threes or twos while roaming around the vicinity. They were acting as if they were trained soldiers of the military.

The group frowned his eyebrows the moment when they saw the actions of those wolves before Arthur voiced out their thoughts. "It looks like their AI levels are pretty high."

"So, what is the plan?" asked Leonard as he turned to Shin before adding. "I don't think we can take them on with that kind of numbers."

The others also nodded their heads as they kept on staring at the pack of wolves a few distances away from them.



Shin swept his gaze at the whole area before focusing his eyes on the largest wolf lying comfortably in the middle of the pack. Unlike the other wolves that had grey furs and were closed to the color of the ash, that particular wolf was covered with pure white furs.

A single look at that wolf was more than enough for Shin to tell how strong it was. And adding that fact that he couldn't see any information about it aside from its basic details even though he was using his 'True Sight' ocular skill to the fullest.

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Monster Name: Millennial Wolf King

Title: Conquer of the Icy Forest

Rank: King Class

Bloodline: Lesser Fenrir

Level: 175

Health Points: 500,000,000 / 500,000,000

Mana Points: Default

-----

Shin squinted his eyes before turning his attention back to the other wolves of the pack. And based on his observation, it seems like those wolves were divided into three different ranks.

"Based on their very organized movements, it is pretty obvious that this pack has a different level of hierarchy. And based on how they move, it seems like they are mimicking the movements of ancient military forces," said Shin after careful observation.

He then started pointing out the groups that he managed to identify by observing the movements of the wolves. "Those wolves that are moving constantly at the farthest of the pack must be the lowest rank guards that are tasked to scout the area."

"They are circling around the vicinity at least four times before switching with another group of wolves."

"In the meantime, the wolves that are situated in the middle of the group and resting comfortably in there must be their main force. If those scouts managed to spot something strange or engage in a fight, they are the first ones that are going to move first."

After that, he paused for a moment and turned towards the group of wolves situated in the innermost part of the pack before continuing. "As for those wolves surrounding the alpha, we can treat them as the elite soldiers of the pack. They are in there solely to protect their king."

Hearing the last part of what Shin had said, the group immediately understood what he was trying to say.

"So we can thin down their numbers with a simple strategy, huh?" commented Leonard before turning his head towards the so-called scouts of the wolf pack.

Arthur also turned towards that group of wolves before saying. "Are you saying that those wolves guarding that Alpha Wolf will not move even if we start a battle right now?"

"That is how the system should work in this kind of situation," said Shin while shrugging his shoulders.

In the meantime, Black Hand, who was also observing the movements of the wolves since earlier, also nodded his head before chiming in. "I think it is highly possible since these types of monsters with an organized group always move with a particular system."

"The question is, how are we going to proceed for now since attracting the attention of the scouts will also attract the other wolves waiting in the middle of the pack," said S.Tigris, joining in the conversation.

He then paused for a brief moment before continuing. "Moreover, we also don't know how many of them will come after us the moment we make our move. And even if a quarter of them responded with the calls of the scouts later, we are still going to be at a disadvantage."

"Fighting a pack of wolves in place with a favorable terrain for them is indeed a foolish thought. Just like this snowy forest," responded Shin before turning towards a certain direction before continuing. "But it is a different case if we fight them in a place where we can limit their numbers."

S.Tigris was still in a little confusion when Shin turned to Faker before saying. "Brother Faker, can you look for a place that has a cliff wall?"

Hearing those words, the others immediately realized what Shin was currently planning.

"So, you are planning to fight them with our backs pushed against the wall, huh?" commented Zero with a smirking tone.

Hearing that, Shin shrugged his shoulders before replying. "Isn't it easier to deal with opponents with a greater numbers than us when our backs are against the wall? After all, we can fight them without worrying about what is behind us."

Black Hand was also nodding his head after hearing those words. He fully agreed with what Shin had suggested. After all, they can use the cliff wall as a form of protection for their backline.

After that, Shin started re-arranging the formation of their group since they no longer need to worry about their back.

Arthur and Leonard were still going to be at the forefront of the formation since they were the ones to block the wolves and prevent them from advancing forward. Right behind them would be Shin who was going to support their attacks and coordinate with their movements.

The three of them were always been together, so it was pretty easy for them to coordinate with each other during the upcoming fight.

Next to them, were S.Tigris, Seven, and Lawless who were going to be the second line of defense. If there were some wolves who managed to pass the trio, then the three of them had to deal with those wolves.

After them was Zero. His main task was to protect their backline who were providing the range support for the team. He was more than enough for the task, especially when there were already two lines of defense in from them.

In the meantime, Alice, Ravier, and Ember were assigned to be the main cannons of the team since they would be able to attack from behind the group without any concern. And right behind them were the two main healers of the team, Cloe and Black Hand.

Meanwhile, Ara and Alucard were assigned another set of tasks. Their main role was similar to the three mages since they also need to attack from the distance just like those three. But aside from that, they were to give some cover for the frontline if ever something went wrong.

Faker, on the other hand, had a free role. He could do whatever he wanted on the battlefield and acted as he saw fit.

...

Not long after, Faker led the group to the spot that he found that fitted Shin's description. And right after arriving, Shin and Arthur quickly moved around, studying the area.

A few moments later, they were able to memorize the terrain of the place and started formulating a battle plan along with the other members of the group.

Then they started positioning themselves as per the formation that Shin had arranged earlier.

"Let's start!" said Shin to Faker as he switched all of his equipment to [Dusk and Dawn Equipment Set] while the [Dawn's Mantle] was swapped with the [Nightwalker Cloak].

After that, he and Faker quickly sprinted back to the place where they came. They were going to lure the wolves back to this place.

...

Awoo~!

One of the wolves from the scouting group quickly howled right after it spotted Shin and Faker from the distance. And because of that, the other wolves immediately turned towards the direction of the two before starting to sprint forward.

Shin and Faker quickly halted their steps when they saw all of that and immediately threw a set of flying daggers towards the incoming wolves.

The trajectory of those daggers was pretty straightforward as they were traveling on a linear path. And at the same time, each dagger was targeting the eyes of the monsters charging at them.

The two of them were trying to see if the battle instincts of these wolves were on par with their high AI. At least, that was their plan but what they got was something they did not expect.

Awoo~!

The wolves simultaneously released a deafening howl before releasing a powerful gust of wind that deflected incoming flying daggers.

Awoo~!

And with yet another howl, the gust of wind turned into invisible blades that flew straight to the two.

"I guess, we already got our answer," said Shin as he collected the flying daggers that he just threw earlier and put them back to [Tomi's Belt].

After that, he and Faker started moving left and right, dodging each of the wind blades that were flying in their directions.

Then they quickly turned around and started running back without any hint of hesitation.

Chapter 808 The Frozen Kingdom (Part 5)

...

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin and Faker were running towards the place where the others were waiting for them. And right behind them was the group of wolves who were scouting the area earlier.

With how loud the wolves were chasing after them, the other members of their group were able to hear the barks and howling even from a distance.

"They are coming!" said Arthur to signal the others to prepare for battle. And at the same time, he also tightened his grip over his shield and spear while waiting for Shin and Faker to arrive.

Not long after, the group was able to see the silhouettes of the two from the distance which was immediately followed by a growing white cloud behind them. There were also the loud rumbling sounds coming alongside it.



Swoosh!

Arthur and Leonard immediately charged ahead right after they spotted the incoming wolves.

Shin and Faker continued to sprint towards the group without turning their heads behind them. They just slightly nodded their heads the moment when they saw Arthur and Leonard about to brush past them.

Roar! Roar!

Then a pair of powerful pressures were released from the bodies of the two simultaneously as they opened their mouths for a deafening roar.

'Dragon Knight Skill (Tier 2): Dragon Fear'

'Destroyer Skill (Tier 2): Lion's Roar'

The wolves suddenly halted their tracks when they felt the pressure coming from the two. And while they were looking ahead of them, they seemed to see a pair of huge beasts staring back at them from behind Arthur and Leonard. It was as if there were a Dragon and a Primordial Beast blocking their path.

Seeing that they were able to stop the wolves from advancing, both Arthur and Leonard activated their respective offensive skills.

'Class Fighting Style: Breaking Through of the Golden Dragon'

The gold aura surrounding Arthur turned into a dragon as he charged towards the middle of the wolves.

Roar!

The golden dragon devoured all of the wolves on its path while chunking down a large portion of their health bars. But despite that being the case, Arthur seemed to be unsatisfied with the result since he was currently wearing a deep frown.

"No one died? I guess these dogs are much tougher than what we are expecting," muttered Arthur to himself before raising his shield in front of him to block the claws of the wolf pouncing at him.

Clang!

He then readjusted his position to let the wolf fly past him before suddenly thrusting his spear on its vulnerable body.

Puchi!

His spear pierced through the body of the wolf further dropping its health and killing it eventually.

After that, Arthur quickly pulled the spear out of the wolf's body and started dodging left and right as the wolves around him were now pouncing at him.

While it was happening, Leonard was currently hacking the wolves around him one after another. And every time he took down a wolf, a crimson aura was coming out from their corpses and fusing with his body.

'Destroyer Skill (Tier 2): Bloodthirst'

He looked like a mad beast in the middle of those wolves as he slaughtered them one by one.

On the other hand, Shin and Faker swiftly turned around and quickly joined the fight without any hesitation. The Lord Rank wolves were pretty tough and hard to kill but in front of these four, chunking down their health bars was not that much of a problem.

Moreover, their main cannons were already done at casting their respective skills and spells. And when Shin received the signal that they were ready, he quickly told the other three to retreat.

After all, they already accomplished their jobs, stopping the advance of the wolves. And since they were already doing more than enough, it was time for their mages to shine.

'Arch Ranger Skill (Tier 2): Arrow Shower'

Whoosh! Whoosh!

The first to arrive was the rain of magic arrows that were released by Ara. And following that was a series of spells that were cast by the mages from the backline.

'Elven Sage Skill (Tier 2): Ice Rain'

'Ocean Weaver Skill (Tier 2): Water Pendulum'

'Lava Witch (Tier 2): Hell Storm'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The wolves that were fighting with Shin and the other three earlier quickly chased after them the moment they disengaged from the fight. But before they could catch up to them, the barrage of spells and arrows finally arrived and prevented them from moving forward.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Awoo~!

But despite how strong the spells that were coming from the three mages, the wolves seemed to be unaffected by it and continued their charge. In fact, the wolves looked unscratched despite going through the barrage of spells.

And at the same time, the group was also able to see a crimson aura that was being emitted by each of the wolves.

"Berserker Wolves?" said Shin as he remembered a particular group of wolves that he encountered during his battle in the Elven Kingdom.

Hearing his words, Arthur, Leonard, and Faker immediately understood what was going on. Given the number of monsters that they had killed earlier, these wolves would surely receive a huge boon of strength, enhancing all of their stats.

"Cover me!" shouted Arthur as he charged back to incoming wolves.

Right at that time, Shin and Leonard made their moves. The former jumped in the air and threw a sudden slash forward, sending a powerful energy wave towards wolves.

'Slayer Skill: (Modified) Eclipse Slash'

Swoosh!

A grey line was drawing in the air as the energy wave that was sent by Shin flew straight to the incoming wolves. And when the small pack saw the descending attack, they reflexively turned their heads towards it as if their attention were being attracted to it.

Their instincts were telling them to dodge away from that incoming attack no matter what. But before their bodies could even react, a sudden pressure forced them to stop moving.

'Beast King Skill: Domination'

Leonard, who was currently standing still a few meters away from the pack, was emitting a scary aura that was attracting the attention of the wolves.

Due to all of that, those monsters forgot about Arthur who was already approaching them.

Boom!

First, Shin's attack arrived at them, throwing the formation of the wolves in disarray. And immediately after that, Arthur positioned himself in the middle of the pack and quickly used one of his signature skills.

Bang!

He stomped on the ground and released a shockwave that spread outwards alongside a golden aura that was moving with it.

And not long after, the golden aura turned into a group of vicious dragons that were moving, following the movements of Arthur's spear.

'Class Fighting Style: Dance of the Nine Great Dragon'

Roar!

The dragons moved in a circular manner, trying to grind the wolves around Arthur. But just like what Arthur had expected, his attacks were not as effective as earlier. It seemed like those wolves suddenly gained immunity against his attacks.

"D\*mn it! They are indeed the same as those types of monsters with an improving AI," cursed Arthur the moment he confirmed his suspicion.

After that, he quickly broke out of the encirclement of the wolves as the Ara and the mages from the backline covered his retreat.

Shin and Leonard were also the same while Zero was using his wind slashes to block the wind blades that the wolves were sending in their directions.

In the meantime, Faker who was originally working with the three earlier suddenly disappeared in the shadows of the forest. It was as if he was a ghost that had never been in there in the first place.

Ha!

Then Cloe shouted and raised her staff, giving everyone different kinds of buffs and blessings, enhancing all of their stats.

After that, Alucard aimed at the eye of the wolf that was leading the charge of the pack. And a few moments later, he pulled the trigger of his gun.

Bang!

Puchi!

The magic bullet left a trail of light in the air as it flew towards its target. And since the bullet was flying way too fast, it was already too late for the wolf to dodge or avoid it.

Awoo~!



The wolf cried in pain as its right eye was pierced by the magic bullet. But strange enough, that particular wolf was still alive even if its brain was blasted by the bullet.

Seeing what just happened, the group couldn't help but curse simultaneously as they knew what did it mean.

"F\*ck! Of all kinds of monsters that we have to face, why it has to be undead?" said Arthur to voice out the thoughts of everyone.

"I am already sick of facing these guys," commented Leonard as he wore a deep frown.

And to further prove their thoughts, the wolves that Shin and the others had killed earlier slowly stood up and started running towards them once again.

Fortunately, it was not the worse type of opponent that they could face since they have a lot of things on their sides that could deal with the undead.

"It looks like we need to make another slight adjustment to our plans," said Shin as took a step forward while quickly activating the eclipse wielding.

Chapter 809 The Frozen Kingdom (Part 6)

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Shin stepped forwards as the sabers on each of his hands were releasing a pair of different auras. The [Dusk Blade] was covered with a black light mixed with specks of silver light while the [Dawn Blade] was enfolded by a white flame that had a black hue.

"Arthur is still going to be the main vanguard while Leo and I are going to support him," said Shin before turning to Lawless and S.Tigris. "The two of you can handle the other wolves that are going to escape from us."

After that, he turned his head towards their blackline before giving his instructions to them. "Alice and Ravier will be the supporting mages while Ember will be the main attacker. Cloe will give us assistance as usual and finish off the monsters with her holy spells."

"Black Hand will only focus on supporting the team with heals and buffs while Ara and Alucard are still assigned to cover us."

He then paused for a moment and turned to Zero before asking. "The two of you should be more than enough to protect them, am I right?"

"Heh!" Zero couldn't help but smirk when he heard those words. Though he didn't reply to Shin as if the answer should already be obvious enough.

In the meantime, Seven was currently glaring at Shin since he felt that those words were meant to ridicule Zero. But since he saw that his young master was not saying anything, he held back himself and chose to remain silent.

After that, Shin turned to Faker and slightly nodded his head. The latter didn't need Shin to tell him anything as he was fully aware of his own task.

Given that, Faker quickly hopped back into the woods and immediately melded with the darkness of the forest.

Awoo~!

It was the time when the wolves were almost upon the group.

Swoosh!

But they immediately halted their advance when a wall of light suddenly appeared in front of them to block their path.

Cloe, who was already casting a holy spell since the time Shin told her to do her task, immediately raised her staff and summoned a transparent golden wall that was emitting a holy aura.

'Holy Maiden Skill: (Modified) Castle of Light'

Not long after, the wall that was blocking the path of the wolves turned into a small castle that protected the group within it.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right at that moment, the figures suddenly dashed out of the transparent castle and flew towards the wolves.

Roar!

As usual, Arthur was the one who did the opening move. He transformed into a huge dragon while he was in the air before descending down to the ground.

'Class Fighting Style: Descend of the Mighty Dragon'

Boom!

Arthur landed right in the middle of the pack, sending almost all of the wolves in the air due to the powerful impact.

The moment Leonard saw that he quickly breathed a lot of air, making his chest expand, before shouting with a deafening roar.

'Beast King Skill: Bestial Howl'

Roar!

A powerful shockwave was sent out in the air, making the wolves suspend in the air a little longer.

Hu~!

That was the time when Shin made his move. He jumped in the air and hovered in there for a few moments alongside them while crossing his arms in front of him as the sabers on each of his hands released a pair of powerful auras.

He then swung the sabers successively right before the wolves started falling to the ground. And the moment he did those actions, a pair of auras with opposing properties were suddenly released from each of his sabers.

The energy waves that were released from his sabers intervene with each other before turning into a rotating cross with alternating black and white color.

'Self-Created Skill (Fusion): Eclipse Cross'

Swoosh!

That cross flew in a straight line and devoured all of the wolves on its path. But despite the powerful damage that it dealt with each of the wolves that it went through, none of them died.

Fortunately, the mages of the group took that opportunity to make their move. Alice and Ravier quickly summoned a group of whips made of water that wrapped themselves around the bodies of the wolves preventing them from moving.

Quickly after that, a rain of fireballs suddenly fell from the sky and started to fall down towards the group.

It was the spell that Ember had cast to further lessen the remaining health of the wolves.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

But those fireballs were barely able to drop the health bars of the wolves even though they got hit by those directly.

"Tsk! These dogs are pretty tough," commented Lawless when he saw that none of the wolves died despite the barrage of attacks that they suffered.

"Fortunately, holy power is the bane of all undead monsters," he added as a series of light beams flew over his head and flew straight at the wolves.

Cloe had sent them to finish off the almost unkillable wolves.

'Holy Maiden Skill: Judgement Lasers'

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The wolves cried in agony the moment when they got hit by those beams of lights. And despite the weak appearance of that attack from Cloe, their damage was more than enough to be fatal to them.

Most of the wolves even turned into dust when the beams of light depleted their remaining health bars.

Meanwhile, the battle on the ground was still ongoing. Right after the trio sent most of the scout wolves in the air, the three of them continued to fight the remaining wolves on the ground.

With Arthur being the vanguard, dealing with the wolves was not an issue. Moreover, Shin and Leonard were supporting him from behind which was why he didn't have to worry about anything.

The two were covering his back while perfectly coordinating in each of his moves. And due to that, he was free to do whatever he wanted.

But despite their perfect teamwork, there were still a couple of wolves that managed to get past them and run towards the group behind.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

But that only gave Lawless and S.Tigris to finally make their moves.

The two rushed out of the transparent castle and charged straight at the two wolves that managed to get away from the three on the frontlines.

They took each side to cover to prevent the wolves from advancing forward. And since the health bars of those wolves were already low, Cloe only needed a couple of basic spells with light properties to finish them off.

The battle lasted a bit longer than the group had expended since another pack of wolves arrived and quickly joined the fight.

This second pack of wolves was much harder to deal with since they had a larger number compared to the first group of wolves. Moreover, these newly arrived wolves were the main battle strength of the wolf pack. They had a much stronger fighting power which gave the group a little trouble.

Fortunate, Shin and the others already familiarized themselves with the patterns of those wolves. And due to that, dealing with them became less troublesome.



In the meantime, Faker, who separated himself from the group, went back to the place where the main camp of the wolves was situated. The task that Shin had given him was to scout that place to see how many wolves were sent out to chase after them.

Combining the numbers of the scouts and the first main unit of the wolves, the numbers of the main pack already went down a quarter.

He was hiding in the dark, upon a tree branch while observing the movements of the wolves. Everything was going according to plan until he saw something that made him frown deeply.

"This is going to be really problematic," muttered Faker when he saw that another pack of wolves respawned, filling the numbers of the wolves that got killed by the group.

The wolves that they just killed seemed to instantly respawn the moment when Shin and the others took down the ones that were chasing after them earlier.

Seeing that, Faker contacted Shin to confirm his suspicion and it turned out to be true. He then started reporting what he just discovered while surveying the area.

After confirming that there was nothing more to see, he started retreating to regroup with Shin and the others to formulate another plan.

Unknown to him, the Alpha Wolf that was resting in the middle of the pack was currently observing him in silence.

One of the eyes of the wolf was slightly opened as it looked at Faker who was hiding in the distance. Its eye released a light for a brief moment as it sent a dense killing intent towards the assassin.

As someone who was trained to be the finest assassin, Faker was pretty sensitive when it came to killing intents.

Swoosh!

He quickly turned his head towards its source and saw that the alpha wolf was currently looking at him.

"Tsk!" Faker couldn't help but click his tongue when he saw that wolf. It seemed to be mocking him and the group.

He locked his gaze on the wolf before jumping down the tree and disappearing into the darkness once again.

Chapter 810 The State Of Being One With The Sword (Part 1)

...

Faker rushed towards the place where the group was waiting for him. And right after regrouping with them, he quickly reported what he just discovered to everyone.

"The wolves immediately respawned right after we killed the first group of scouts and main hunters?" muttered Arthur after hearing Faker.

"Based on the timing alone, it is most likely the case," said Faker to confirm the information once again.

"Then it means that we need to kill the other wolves in that place altogether," commented Shin as he wore a deep frown.

"This is going to be a long battle if we persist in getting through them," said Lawless as he tried to say that they needed to consider going around the wolf pack.

Shin didn't reply to him immediately and just turned to Faker who was tasked to scout the area. And when the latter saw that, he instantly understood the meaning of that look.

"It is pretty impossible to go around the wolves since there is an invisible barrier blocking the other paths that we can take," said Faker in response.

The other members of the group knitted their eyebrows as they immediately understood what it meant.

"Then the main quest is really forcing us to take care of the wolf pack first before we can advance to the next area," said Leonard.

"This is really going to be a long fight and we don't know if the supplies that we have will last until we clear all of the wolves," said Black Hand to voice out the main issue that they would have.

Before they came to this place, they made sure that they would have enough health and mana potions since they knew that they were going to spend quite a long time on this particular expedition.

They also brought quite a lot of special potions for different kinds of scenarios. Just like the climate of this place.

But if they really fought the wolf pack head-on, then they needed to spend quite a lot of potions in the process. And if things continued to be this way, then the supplies that they brought would not be enough.

Moreover, they just discovered that it was impossible to lure out the wolves and decrease their numbers little by little since those wolves would only respawn even if the group managed to wipe them out.

Shin fell into deep thought when he heard those words. He then swept his gaze on their surroundings while continuing what he was thinking.

A few moments later, he suddenly opened the quest information panel, seemingly trying to see if they missed something.

After reading the quest details once again, Shin finally found the clue that he was looking for. But before he could even voice it out, he saw that a few of them were able to figure out how they were going to get out of this situation.

"There is no time limit for this quest unlike the other expedition quest that the big guilds are getting," said Lawless to point out the thing that they had discovered.

"That means, we can stay in here for as long as we want," he added as he swept his gaze at the surroundings.

Zero nodded his head and added. "Since the system gave us this kind of setting, it is most likely telling us to use this place to the fullest."

"Raw materials and everything else?" commented Arthur to join the conversation.

Seeing that everyone was on the same page, Shin immediately turned to the others and asked. "What are the sub-classes that we have."

Hearing that, each member of the group started to answer one after another. Then they discovered that they had almost all of the professions that they needed were present within the group.

They have enough alchemists for creating potions, tailors for cloth armors, and blacksmiths that could repair their metal-related equipment. And aside from those two sub-classes, they also had a couple of special production classes such as poison master that Faker had and pathfinder for Alucard.

After that, Shin started assigning another task for each member of the group. Faker was assigned to scout the whole place alongside Ara and Alucard. On the other hand, Arthur and Leonard were assigned to be the lookout for the wolves to make sure that they were not going to get ambushed.

Given the high AI of the alpha wolf, it was not impossible for it to do such a sly move while they were busy exploring the area. And because of that reason, they need to station two of their strongest cards to be their scouts.

In the meantime, the remaining members were tasked to look for a good place that could be their temporary shelter. And since there were quite a few craftsmen in their group, they were able to build a good hideout in a cave.

And as per Shin's suggestion, the group choose a cave up in the cliff wall for extra safety. If they were on high ground, they would be able to see the incoming wolf pack much easier. It was also going to be hard for the wolves to climb the cliff which gave them a new way of attacking. They could injure the wolves gravely or kill them on the spot before they engaged in battle.

The three mages were all alchemists so they quickly set up a simple alchemy table for the concoction of potions.

The blacksmiths, on the other hand, only needed an anvil and a furnace. And fortunately, players that had this sub-class always brought a portable type of those two so that they could repair their items anywhere.

In the meantime, Shin was also exploring the other places on the map to see if there were something that they could take note of.

But just like what Faker had reported earlier, there was a special barrier that was preventing them from going anywhere. It was a misty fog with a very cold temperature and anything that tried to go through it would instantly get frozen.

After setting up everything they needed and scouting the whole area that they could explore, the group immediately gathered together to discuss the next part of their plan. And after careful deliberation, they decided to log out of the game for the time being to recharge their energy and focus.

A lot of events happened consecutively, so it was natural for them to be exhausted. Moreover, it was already about time for them to log out since morning was already approaching. They also need to do their daily routines before they could have their rest.

...

Tsss~!

The sound of the gaming cabin could be heard inside Shin's room as it was too quiet inside it.

Shin stayed inside the cabin while trying to relax his mind. And when he was about to stand up and get out of it, he suddenly felt intense dizziness that almost made him stumble forward.

Fortunately, he was able to grab onto the cabin's edge to support himself. He frowned his eyebrows very deeply as he felt like his world was turning upside-down. His senses seemed to become dull since he couldn't tell which direction was east or west.

At first, he was quite confused about why it was happening. But not long after, he immediately figured out the reason why he was feeling this way. His body and mind were currently out of sync.

He was now feeling the side-effects of reaching the state of being one with the sword inside the game. And since he was already aware of the main problem, he now had an idea of how he was going to solve it.

He went back to the gaming cabin once again and closed his eyes before entering a deep meditation state. He needed to adjust himself to the new state of his mind and it took him quite some time to barely be able to get used to it.

He even skipped his morning training due to that as well as the preparation for their breakfast. It was unusual for him not to follow his daily schedule, so Arthur couldn't help but go to his room to see what he was doing.

"Hey, Shin! Are you still sleeping? I thought you have something to do today? Don't you think that you are running late?" said Arthur as he entered his brother's room.

The moment Arthur opened the door, he immediately saw Shin struggling to stand up from the ground.

"Oi! What happened?" asked Arthur as he quickly appeared beside Shin and supported him.



Shin smiled bitterly when he saw that and honestly replied. "It is nothing serious. It's just my body is trying to adjust with my mind."

"Huh?" Arthur was confused at first since he was not aware of what Shin had achieved inside the game. All he knew was that Shin suddenly improved tremendously after his little duel with Zero.

Understanding his confusion, Shin forced yet another bitter smile before saying. "I reached the state of being one with the sword."

Arthur didn't pay attention to it at first as he was too focused on helping Shin. But it didn't long for Shin's words to sink inside his head.

"What did you just say?" he asked while looking at Shin with an astounded gaze.