

Destiny 811

Chapter 811 The State Of Being One With The Sword (Part 2)

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Arthur walked down the stair with a sulking expression on his face. And when Leonard the look that he was wearing, the guy couldn't help but ask. "What's with that look? I thought you are going to look for Shin to see what he is doing? Don't tell me he manages to make a breakthrough or something."

Ugh!

Arthur suddenly grunted and glared at Leonard, signifying that the latter's words were right. And when Leonard saw that reaction, he couldn't help but wear an astounded look before asking. "Really?"

"Don't get me started," answered Arthur before continuing to walk towards their backyard.

Seeing that, Leonard slightly knitted his brow before asking. "Where are you going? Don't tell me the two of you are going for a spar right away?"

Arthur rolled his eyes at him and quickly replied. "What do you think of me? An Idiot? Of course, I know that this is an important state for Shin to solidify his foundation."

"What's more, that guy already set a sparring match with a pure swordsman, so I will not be able to fight him even if I wanted to," he added with a sulking tone.

"So, what are you going to do in the backyard?" asked Leonard in return.

Arthur sighed helplessly before answering. "What else? Of course, I need to make sure that everything is fine before the match starts. Shin is still doing his best to make his body adapt to his newly attained state, I have no choice but to prepare the things that needed to be done before his sparring partner arrive."

Leonard knitted his eyebrows for a moment before asking. "Speaking of it, who is his sparring partner going to be?"

Shrugging his shoulders, Arthur shook his head and replied. "I am also not sure but he said that that person is perfectly fit for the task, so I let it slide for now."

He then took a brief pause before adding. "Ah! Before I forget, can you look for Big Brother David and ask him if he can set up a barrier similar to the one that he created before?"

After that, Arthur walked out of the house, not waiting for Leonard to reply. In the meantime, the latter knitted his eyebrows quite deeply before shrugging his shoulders and standing up from his seat.

Meanwhile, somewhere in the Eastern Sea Region, Eugene White was currently having a chess match against Nathan Springfield. The two of them were fully immersed in the game when their concentration was interrupted by a muscular man who suddenly appeared beside them.

"Hey!" said Joaquin Giovanni while wearing a deep frown.

Both Eugene and Nathan threw a sharp glare at the huge guy, clearly showing that they didn't care even if there was a huge difference in their body size.

Joaquin frowned his brow even further when he saw their actions and quickly said. "What's with that look, huh? I should be the one who has the right to get angry here!"

"I am supposedly doing meditation training right now, but that f*cking watch kept on ringing and interrupting my concentration!" he added while pointing to the Advance Watch on the tea table beside Eugene.

The Sword Immortal and the Dragon King simultaneously turned their heads towards the direction that Joaquin was pointing and saw that Eugene's watch was currently ringing with a loud noise.

The corner of their mouths a little before turning their heads back at the board in front of them and acting as if nothing had happened.

"These shameless bastards!" Joaquin gritted his teeth tightly as he glared at the two before raising his hand in the air, planning to smash it on the chessboard. But before he could even do that, a sword and a spear suddenly appeared in hands of the two, forcing him to think twice before making an action.

"F*ck! If you are that good then face me in a one-on-one match!" he shouted at the two.

Unfortunately, both Eugene and Nathan seemed to ignore him once again and do their own things. The latter focus his attention back on the game and studied it once again while the former picked up the call that he was getting.

"Hello?" said Eugene right after answering the call.

"I have a favor that I want to ask from your father," answered the voice from the other side of the call.

Hearing those words, Eugene couldn't help but smirk before replying with a sneering tone. "Hah! This is new! I thought that you don't want me to get involved in everything until you accomplish everything that you need to accomplish within the academy."

"Are you going back on your words now?" he added sneeringly.

Meanwhile, Nathan and Joaquin, who managed to overhear the conversation, couldn't help but look at the Sword Immortal in a weird way. It was their first time seeing their friend act like this.

From what they could remember, this guy was one of the people who would keep their mouth shut unless he felt like saying a couple of words.

"I guess having a child can really change a person," commented Joaquin from the side which made Nathan slightly nod his head.

Eugene glared at them for a moment before turning his attention back to his son. "So, what is that favor that you are asking for?"

Dylan, who was currently wearing a serious look on his face, quickly answered. "There is this guy who I owe something and I want to repay it by helping stabilize his foundation in swordsmanship."

"Hoh~!"

Hearing those words, Eugene White couldn't help but become a little interested in the topic. He knew his son very well since the two of them were always been together since the time they left the clan of his wife.

'This little genius rarely asks for favors much less owing someone. I wonder who is that person that he is talking about,' thought Eugene before gesturing to his son to continue.

"He is someone that I meet within the game and during the academy entrance exam. His swordsmanship is pretty decent but his Mentalism Techniques are outstanding," said Dylan which piqued Nathan's interest even further.

'A kid who uses swords alongside his Mentalism Techniques, and it is someone who applies in the academy's special entrance exam? I think I have an idea on who is it,' thought Nathan as he continued to listen to the conversation of the father and son duo.

And to further confirm Nathan's suspicion, Dylan quickly added. "But that is on the end of it. From what I can see, he is also a Martial-Artist who is practicing a very advanced martial art."

"Hoh~! Is that so? How advanced is it from your estimate? And compared to his Mentalism Techniques, which one do you think is his real specialty?" asked Eugene as he sneaked a quick glance at Nathan. It seemed like he also had a rough idea of who it was.

Dylan fell into deep thought before answering. "I am not sure since I've only experienced his martial-arts through fighting him inside the virtual world. But it should be at least on par with my swordsmanship. And based on our exchanges, I think he is more suited in Mentalism."

"I can be wrong since the other match is held in the real world where I can experience his battle prowess much clearer, but I still can't be sure," he added while wearing a deep frown.

That answer was more than enough for the three to confirm what they were thinking, so Eugene quickly went back to the main topic. "And the favor that you are asking me is?"

To that, Dylan quickly answered without further ado. "That guy just reached the state of being one with the sword after having another match with me."

"But that is only held in the virtual world, so he should be experiencing the aftereffects in the real world after his sudden breakthrough. I want to help him stabilize his state by doing another sparring match with him in the real world."

"It can be dangerous and any slight mishaps may endanger him and ruin his foundation, so I would like you to oversee our match," he added with full seriousness.

The room was silent for a moment as the three top-ranked experts, who were renowned around the world, couldn't help but shut their mouths because of what they just heard.

Dylan didn't know why his father suddenly turned silent but he also remained quiet and waited for his reply. And after a few moments of waiting, Eugene finally opened his mouth. "Alright, I understand."

"Send me the exact location where are you going to have your match. I will be there right away," he knew how important the time was for someone who just reached the state of being with the sword.

After confirming a couple of things, Eugene finally ended the call before turning his head to Nathan alongside Joaquin.

"What kind of monster is your family trying to raise?" asked Eugene, voicing out the thoughts that running inside their heads since earlier.

Nathan calmly dodged their gazes before answering with an innocent tone. "You should ask that kid's parents for bringing such a monstrous child into this world."

Chapter 812 The State Of Being One With The Sword (Part 3)

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Shin was currently sitting on top of his bed and meditating. He was trying to adjust his body to the new state of his mind. He spent quite a lot of time in meditation before he could finally be able to move without awkwardness.

He still felt a little stiff at doing simple movements, but at the very least, he could only treat them as some sort of training weights that he could use to improve himself.

After jumping up and down inside his room and throwing a couple of punches in the air, he felt that he could at least move a little normally right now.

He tried to move a little more to make sure that he could get used to the current state of his body before his sparring match with Zero, or rather Dylan White in the real world. And after a few moments, he quickly walked out of his room and headed toward the backyard.

When he arrived there, he immediately found the boys waiting for him. Arthur and Leonard were currently chatting with each other while they were watching the brief exchanges between Vincent and Jeremiah from the sidelines.

On the other hand, David was currently checking the barrier that he set up in the backyard as the two fought inside it. From the look of it, he was checking whether the barrier was sturdy enough to endure the exchanges between the two.

Shin looked around for a few moments before asking Arthur after seeing that the girls were not around. "Where are Cloe and the others?"

Arthur clicked his tongue when he heard those words before answering. "Tsk! Is there even a need to ask? Whenever girls are together and go outside, it can only mean a single thing. They are going to have some fun."

"They said that they want to relax a little after all of the stress that they've got inside the game," said Leonard, chiming in.

"Anyway, this is not the time for you to think about what they are doing, you should worry about yourself since this is an important occasion for you. If you fail to properly stabilize your current state, then the foundation that you build for your swordsmanship will suffer greatly," said Arthur with a smirking tone but also carrying a hint of worry.

"Oh! And who is the person that you ask for this sparring match? Are you sure that you are fine with him?" he added while frowning his eyebrows.

Hearing that, Shin couldn't help but grin mysteriously before answering. "You actually know him inside the game. Actually, you also know him here in the real world since you already know him in person."

Arthur suddenly raised his eyebrow when he heard those words. He was about to ask Shin who was it when the latter immediately added. "Though, he was using a different persona inside the game."

A few moments later, Vincent and Jeremiah were already done with their quick sparring match and walked out of the barrier that David had set up.

"Alright, everything seemed to be fine," said David as he looked at Shin before asking. "So, what time is your sparring partner going to arrive?"

He was also curious who was the person his junior brother had invited to be his sparring partner. He already had an idea who was it since he could only think of a single person who had a peerless talent when it came to swordsmanship.

'It must be Mr. Eugene White's son,' thought David as he waited for Shin to respond.

Shin looked at his clock to check the time and quickly answered. "It is about time for him to arrive."

"He also said that he is going to bring an expert who will oversee our match," he added after a brief moment of pause.

David was about to say something when he suddenly felt a few people coming in their direction. And quickly turning his head toward those people, he immediately saw Nathan, Eugene, and Dylan, who were calmly walking towards them.

'I knew it,' thought David as he walked toward the three and quickly greeted Nathan and Eugene.

Seeing that David was bowing at them, Eugene slightly nodded his head while Nathan also did the same.

In the meantime, Jerimiah and Vincent couldn't help but look at the scene with strange looks on their faces before exchanging gazes with each other. It was not their first time seeing a pair of peerless experts just like Nathan and Eugene.

After all, they were a part of one of the most feared Assassin Families in the whole world. But despite that being the case, they still couldn't believe what they were seeing from the two experts.

What they could see from their perspective was a huge golden dragon that had a majestic figure and an immortal person who was wielding a sacred sword.

Moreover, the respective pressure that was coming from those figures was too suffocating for the two of them to endure. It was as if they were being crushed physically by the auras that were being emitted by those imaginary avatars.

"Heh! These kids have pretty keen senses," muttered Nathan quietly before tuning to Eugene. "What do you think about it? This generation of talent is quite remarkable, isn't it?"

"Heh!" Eugene seemed to smirk a little when he heard those words before replying briefly. "Maybe."

Nathan let out a brief laugh when he heard those words before saying them. "Hah! But from what I can see right now, they are already about to surpass us when we are their age."

Hearing that, Eugene swept his gaze at the young men in front of him before slightly smirking. "We will see about that."

He was in the middle of talking when he suddenly felt a strange aura that suddenly came out from Shin's body. It only appeared in a very brief moment but that it was more than enough for Someone like Eugene to sense it clearly.

"Huh!?" Eugene squinted his eyes and focused his gaze on Shin and studied him. But after observing the latter for a few moments, he didn't find anything strange.

"Is it just my imagination?" muttered Eugene with a quiet voice before turning to Nathan. But then the moment when he did that, he also saw the latter wearing a deep frown while staring intensely at Shin.

"Did you also feel it?" whispered Eugene.

Nathan didn't reply to him but still nodded his head heavily. And after a few more moments, he retracted his gaze away from Shin before turning to Dylan. "Kid, I have a favor to ask."

The young swordsman was confused at the quiet conversation of the two experts. And it further intensified when he heard those words from Nathan. Regardless, he still listened to what the latter was about to say.

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Meanwhile, Arthur and Leonard were quite surprised when they saw Dylan. How could they not recognize him when witnessed the four-way battle that took place in the Magical Ace Academy during the special entrance exam.

"That guy?" muttered Arthur as he stared intensely at Dylan.

"Now that I think about it, that guy is really similar to Zero. The same posture, the same style in battle, and same aura – aside from their appearance, those two really looked the same," commented Leonard after having a closer look at Dylan.

Dylan, on the other hand, slightly nodded his head to them before turning to Shin. And the moment when his gaze landed on the latter, he immediately felt the changes in Shin's aura compared to the last time that he saw him.

A moment later, he suddenly remembered the favor that Nathan had asked him earlier. 'I guess I need to take this more seriously.'

'From what I heard, this guy is a Battle Genius, so he would be able to adjust himself with a new state of his mind and body,' he added to his thoughts before fixing the strap of the sheathed longsword behind him.

At the same time, Shin put his left hand on the pair of katanas hanging on the left side of his waist. He could feel an intense excitement in this match.

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Shin and Dylan entered the barrier that David had set up earlier and stood in the middle of it right across from each other.

At the same time, Eugene was standing in the middle of the two with his hands crossed behind him. He shifted his gaze between the two before saying. "You are not allowed to use any kind of power in this match."

He then paused for a moment and turned his gaze at Shin before continuing. "The purpose of this duel is to help you stabilize your current state, understand?"

Shin slightly nodded his head before closing his eyes and stabilizing his breathing. He was trying to keep his focus so that he could still go all-out despite his current state.

And while he was doing that, the world around him seemed to pause for a moment as if the time suddenly stopped moving.

Hu~!

The moment when opened his eyes, the aura surrounding himself instantly changed which surprised both Eugene and Nathan.

"This kid is really something," muttered the Sword Immortal while staring at Shin full of surprise.

Chapter 813 The Divine Swordsmanship And The Yin-Yang Swordsmanship (Part 1)

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Shin quickly took a battle stance right after opening his eyes. He lowered his waist and put each of his hands on the hilt of his swords.

Bang!

And right after he did that, a powerful aura was suddenly released from his body and spread in every direction. But it only lasted for a moment since it was immediately retracted towards his body and became compressed in it.

"Huh?"

Both Nathan and Eugene suddenly raised their eyebrow when they saw that sight. They became impressed at Shin's full control over his aura.

Having a powerful aura was amazing but having full control over it was on a whole different level. And alongside his actions, an illusionary figure of a tiger suddenly manifested behind him.

Dylan was the only one that could see that Aura Manifestation since it was only focused on him. And from what he could see, that tiger seemed to have a strange color of furs.

p The white fur was turning black from time to time while its black stripes were doing the other way around. There are also two pairs of wings on its back, the first ones were a pair of angelic wings while the two were a pair of giant bat's wings.

Its current appearance looked both majestic and wicked, which was why it was giving off a strange aura. And the pressure that was coming from it was very heavy and suffocating.

In the meantime, Dylan seemed to be completely fine despite the heavy pressure that was trying to crush him. And in response to the powerful aura that was coming from Shin, the young swordsman also released his own version of Aura Manifestation.

Shriek!

A mythical creature with a lion's body but with an eagle's head and wings suddenly appeared and fight against the pressure that was coming from the opposing side. Its front legs and paws were also the same as the claws of an eagle.

There was also a golden tattoo under its eyes making it look more intelligent compared to other creatures. And alongside it, the aura that was being released by it could rival the one that was being emitted by Shin.

Despite not seeing what was happening between the two, the spectators were able to guess what was going on.

Given that both Shin and Dylan were currently in their battle stance, and the looks on their faces were pretty serious, it was pretty clear that their mental battle was already underway.

"Tsk! Such a pair of impatient young lads" muttered Eugene white after seeing that the two were already clashing with each other without even waiting for his signal.

He just shook his head and wore a bitter smile and let the two continue.

In the meantime, Shin and Dylan were already fighting each other inside their heads. They might not be doing any obvious movements but every slight flitch of their muscles was an indicator of the moves that they wanted to do.

Given the harsh training that the two of them had undergone, it was pretty easy for them to read the intention of their opponents after seeing such small movements.

In the meantime, the avatar of the strange tiger behind Shin and the griffin above Dylan were currently clashing against each other.

And despite not being seen by the others, they could easily tell that their mental battle between the two was getting more intense as time went by. Especially when the air within the barrier was getting heavier in a very steady manner.

Bang!

The first one to make his move was Dylan as he immediately understood that it was not going to be good for him to fight Shin with willpower. He already fought Shin a couple of times within the game, he also saw a couple of fights that the latter had undergone, so he had a rough idea that Shin had a very strong mental prowess.

Moreover, he was also aware that Shin was a Mentalist because of their fight during the entrance exam of the Magical Ace Academy.

They might not be using their signature energies in this battle but it was a piece of common knowledge that practicing Mentalism could strengthen the minds of a Mentalist, so having a contest with Shin in terms of mental prowess would only lead to him losing this fight.

Swoosh!

Dylan was able to traverse the distance between Shin and him within an instant. He was also in the middle of swinging his sword toward Shin as he used his momentum to reinforce his attack.

But despite his insane burst of speed, Shin was still able to respond with ease by quickly jumping backward. And by the time Dylan was about to swing his longsword, he swiftly unsheathed the black katana and swing it horizontally.

Clang!

The blades of their swords created metal sparks in the air after a brief moment of collision.

The two looked straight into the eyes of each other as they maintained their respective postures before quickly making their next moves.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Their swords collided multiple times within a short period of time, creating a series of clashing sounds and metal sparks that flew in the air.

Just like everyone was expecting, Dylan was the one dictating the rhythm of the battle since Shin was still trying to make his body to the new state of his mind. And because those two were not synchronizing properly, there were some moments when he couldn't move his body the way he wanted.

Most of the time, he was being pressured by Dylan and he was forced to be in a passive state. But there were also some instances where he could overcome the awkwardness of his movements and threw a couple of sharp counters from time to time.

Their melee exchanges were too intense to the point where a series of shockwaves were being created for every collision of their swords. It was because of the accumulated pressure that come from each clash of their weapons that exploded after a few more series of exchanges.

Dylan's style of swordsmanship was, simple, honest, and straightforward. There were very few numbers of fairs in his movements as he continued his attacks against Shin.

But at the same time, there were also some instances where he was purposely leading Shin with his attacks. Even if the swing of his sword was straightforward, he could still do some tricky setups where he could lead Shin for his next attack.

In the meantime, Shin was doing the exact opposite of his opponent. His swordsmanship was rather complex compared to Dylan's, especially when it was a combination of attack and defense.

Shin was doing a couple of tricky actions to counter Dylan's straightforward attacks. He might be at a disadvantage for the time being because of his current state, but his dual-wielding of swords made up for it and covered his shortcomings.

But since he was a Battle Genius, it didn't take long for him to overcome his limits and started to adjust to his current state.

His foundation in martial arts is pretty solid, so his body was able to adapt to the new state of his mind. And as time went by, the spectators of the fight were able to see the changes in Shin's movements. Not only did his moves become sharp, but his rhythm also started to build up which made the battle to be in a deadlock.

This state continued for quite some time until Shin was finally able to adapt to the state of being one with the sword.

Not only did his aura and presence change, but his movements also became simple as if he was just swinging his swords casually.

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"This kid is really a monster. Someone who just reached the state of being one with the sword needs to spend quite a lot of time adjusting themselves, worst they need to undergo multiple numbers of sparring matches to master that state, but this kid only needs a couple of exchanges to fully adapt to it," muttered Jerimiah while looking at Shin with a weird look on his face.

"It is not that his talent on his swords is not as good as the son of the Sword Immortal, but his mastery of using those katanas is really impressive," nodded Vincent while squinting his eyes.

In the meantime, Arthur was having an urge to join the fight after watching from the sidelines for a couple of moments. Especially when he saw Shin slowly getting stronger as the battle went on.

Before he felt a little superior to Shin when he was wielding a spear. Shin might have the advantage in hand-to-hand combat, but it was a different matter when it comes to using their respective weapons.

He also felt that he caught up to Shin after his Bloodline Awakening and underwent special training with his master, who he couldn't completely remember due to some unknown reason.

But after not seeing each other again after their second round of special training, he started to feel that his brother was steadily bridging the gap between them while he was still stacked on his current progress.

They were not back to square one where neither of them had a complete advantage. Both of them were practicing very advanced martial arts and their respective Internal Qi was equally strong.

They both possessed special talents such as Foresight and Martial-Art Prodigy for Arthur, and Immediate Response and Battle Genius for Shin. The two of them were also in the state of being one with their weapons, spear, and sword for them respectively.

Arthur had his bloodline powers but Shin also had a special body, the Spiritual Embryo, where he could become a true dual practitioner.

He might also have a couple of inheritances under his belt, which could make him a complete powerhouse once he reached the Ethereal Opening Stage and set foot on the Ascension Realm. But Shin was in a similar situation since he would gain a complete metamorphosis the moment when he also reached that stage.

Clenching his fists, Arthur felt an intense feeling of competitiveness.

Seeing that from a distance, Nathan couldn't help but wear a satisfied smile while also nodding his head. "I hate to admit it, but Adam, that guy, sure knows what he is doing."

Chapter 814 The Divine Swordsmanship And The Yin-Yang Swordsmanship (Part 2)

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Boom!

A powerful explosion was created after the collision of the attacks from Shin and Dylan. And due to how strong it was, both of them were sent flying away from each other.

Shin and Dylan slid backward as they tried to nullify the strong force that sent the both of them flying. The former did multiple flips in the air while the latter adjusted his center of gravity while sliding backward.

Ta-ta!

Dylan didn't immediately attack after stabilizing his footing. He just stood straight and looked at Shin who was currently standing a few distances away from him.

Eugene White and Nathan Springfield were also staring at Shin while squinting their eyes. Both of them were top experts that were renowned around the world and already experienced almost everything.

And from what they could see, it seemed like Shin's body had already assimilated with the new state of his mind.

It was even more true for Eugene White especially when he was known as Sword Immortal, he was sensitive when it came to sword energy or swordsmanship attainment.

From his perspective, Shin already set his foot at the state of being one with the sword. It might be a little inferior compared to Dylan since the young swordsman trained in the way of the sword at a very young age.

p But at the same time, Shin's talent in Mentalism was more than enough to compensate for the gap between their swordsmanship. Moreover, he could also feel something strange in the current aura that was being emitted by Shin's body.

Eugene further squinted his eyes while looking at Shin as he couldn't put his fingers on what exactly the thing that he was sensing from the young man who was sparring with his son.

He then turned to Nathan as he finally gave up on figuring out the thing that was mixed on Shin's aura.

Sensing his gaze, Nathan shook his head and shrugged his shoulder with a bitter smile. That expression was clearly indicating that he also didn't know what it was.

Not getting any information from Nathan, Eugene turned his attention back to Shin and looked at the young man with a much more intense gaze.

In the meantime, Jerimiah and Vincent also noticed the change in Shin's aura at the moment when the two were separated from each other.

"Tsk! This kid is sure a monster in disguise. He only needs a couple of exchanges to get used to that state?" muttered Jerimiah while wearing a strange look on his face.

Vincent slightly nodded his head, indicating that he fully agreed with his cousin's words. "His Battle Genius talent helps him a lot with the assimilation process, so it is not that surprising that he is able to achieve such a feat."

"What really surprises me is his skills when it comes to wielding his swords. Its speed and accuracy are top-notch, especially when it comes to his sword drawing skills," he added after a brief moment of pause.

"Just like what he is doing inside the game?" asked Jerimiah as he remembered how Shin usually fought within the game.

But Vincent suddenly shook his head after hearing those words and immediately added. "From what I can see, he is doing much better compared to other performances that we have seen from him."

Meanwhile, Shin was currently standing straight on his spot with his eyes closed. It was pretty clear that he was currently undergoing a great change. His mind and body were finally synchronizing with each other.

Dylan didn't continue his attack on Shin since they finally achieved their purpose for this sparring match. He just stood opposite Shin and watched the latter complete his enlightenment.

But at the same time, he was also unwilling to just stop right here. Their little sparring lasted for a shorter time than they had expected and he was currently not satisfied with the current result.

And since Shin would surely achieve the state of being one with the sword after the enlightenment process, he felt a much stronger feeling to have a proper match with Shin.

Boom!

Not long after, a powerful gust of wind was released from Shin and spread out of the whole place while his body floated in the air, a whole meter away from the ground.

Dylan stared at Shin intensely as his clothes fluttered along with the wind that was trying to push him away.

A few moments later, Shin's body started to float down to the ground as the gust of wind turned into a gentle breeze.

Hu~!

Shin breathed out a mouthful of air gently as steam of Qi came out from it. He then slowly opened his eyes and turned towards Dylan who was currently standing a few distances away from him.

And the moment when his eyes met Dylan's gaze, the latter felt an intense pressure coming from Shin which was more than enough to pose a serious threat to him.

Seeing that, Dylan unconsciously clenched his hands and tightened his grip over his long sword while looking at Shin straight in the eyes.

Zong~!

There was also a gentle stream of Sword Qi leaking out from his body as his fighting spirit was completely proved by the pressure that was coming from Shin.

Seeing all of that, Shin immediately understood what Dylan wanted. Given that, he closed his eyes once again and regulated his breathing before releasing his Mental Energy to confront the pressure that was now coming from his opponent.

In the meantime, both Eugene White and Nathan Springfield couldn't help but shook their heads after seeing the actions those two. It was pretty clear what these two young lads wanted to do next.

The two of them exchanged glances for a brief moment before Nathan nodded his head. After all, Eugene already said earlier that the two were free to have a proper match after Shin stabilized his state.

"Since the two of you are not satisfied yet, then let's continue this sparring match properly," said Eugene, letting the two do whatever they wanted.

Bang! Bang!

Hearing those words, a pair of powerful auras were simultaneously released from the bodies of the two, signifying that they were not going to hold back this time.

As usual, Dylan held his sword horizontally in front of his chest while pointing its tip towards his opponent. While doing that, he was squatting down his hips as he positioned his left foot forward.

Bang!

Then he released a much denser Sword Qi to cover his sword and entire body. The pure white Qi was visible enough to be seen by the naked eye. And with under Dylan's control, an image of a griffin was briefly formed behind him before turning back into a formless Qi covering his body.

At the same time, Shin was also taking his battle stance. But unlike a battle-ready stance, he chose to remain standing straight while holding his swords on each of his sides and pointing them towards the ground.

Swoosh!

After that, the Mental Energy that was already being released from his body became much stronger and denser compared to what he was released earlier. It was also spinning rapidly around him as if it was a small cyclone that was protecting Shin from any threat around him.

Shin's stance was quite carefree and relaxed seemingly full of openings. But contrary to what he was showing, Dylan couldn't find any kind of opening that he could take advantage of.

"What a familiar stance!" muttered Eugene after seeing the stance that Shin had.

He then took a brief pause and turned to Nathan with a gaze that seemed to be saying – "Did someone teach that stance to him." –

Nathan immediately shook his head when he felt the gaze directed at him, signifying that he also didn't have an idea about that matter. All he knew was Shin undergoing special training under the supervision of Grandmaster Benn and Professor Plum.

"Did that kid David teach him that stance or did he naturally discover it himself," muttered Nathan as he focused his gaze back on Shin.

Whoosh!

There was a gentle breeze within the barrier where Shin and Dylan were fighting. And as the auras that were coming from their bodies clashed against each other, the breeze lost its gentleness and turned into a violent gust.

Hu~!

Dylan took a deep breath before initiating the fight once again.

Swoosh!

He turned into a blur as he charged toward Shin who was patiently waiting for him to arrive while maintaining his relaxed stance.

Then Dylan arrived right in front of Shin while swinging his sword diagonally upwards. The sword was covered by a white Qi that was clearly making it look much sharper.

Dylan's actions were quite fast for the naked to see, but it was still not enough to fool Shin's sharp senses.

Before Dylan could even complete his actions, Shin was already making his move to counter it. He first controlled the Mental Energy around him and created a wall to block Dylan's attack.

But despite the immediate response that his opponent had and the solid wall that was blocking him, Dylan still continued his actions even if he knew that Shin might be able to counter him within an instant.

Shing!

Dylan managed to cut through the wall in front of him with ease as his sword continued to travel toward Shin.

Clang!

But before it could even advance further, Shin swung the katana on his right hand downward, carrying a very strong force.

Bang!

A powerful shockwave was sent in every direction the moment when their swords met.

Crack!

Then Dylan's feet sank a little to the ground as he withstood the force behind Shin's attack. And at the same time, Shin was slightly pushed back due to the strong impact of the collision.

After that, the two swiftly stabilized their footing before quickly resuming their respective attacks. Then an intense melee battle immediately took place, creating a seemingly storm-like gust of wind for every collision of their swords.

Chapter 815 The Divine Swordsmanship And The Yin-Yang Swordsmanship (Part 3)

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Shin and Dylan exchanged a couple of blows after using their respective energy alongside their attacks. And based on those exchanges alone, the two of them were able to become more familiarized with each other's habits.

They were also able to use more complex techniques during their next exchanges which made their battle more intense.

But as their match progressed, the differences between their experiences started to show up. Shin, who just reached the state of being one with the sword, was starting to get pushed back little by little.

"As expected, Shin is still a little inferior when it comes to it," muttered Nathan as he suddenly appeared beside Eugene.

The Sword Immortal didn't even turn his head in that direction as he responded. "Well, what do you expect? That little genius is already been in the state of being one with the sword since he was seven, so it is pretty natural for him to have a slight advantage when it comes to sword fighting."

Nathan pursed his lips a little and shrugged his shoulder before saying. "Well, it is to be expected, I guess? But we are still not sure who will be the one to win this match."

In the meantime, Arthur was currently wearing a dark look on his face after seeing Shin being pushed back as the battle progressed. "I knew it! Shin is still a little weaker compared to that guy when it comes to sword fighting alone."

"But they both on the state of being one with the sword, so their sword attainment be on the same state," said Leonard while frowning his brows.

"Tsk! What do you even know when you only know how to use your fist?" said Arthur as he rolled his eyes. After that, he turned his attention back to Shin and Dylan before continuing. "In terms of martial attainment with weapons, there are still 3 stages that you need to achieve once you reached the state of being one of them."

He paused for a moment before listing out the stages that he was talking about. "The first stage is 'Resonance'. It is a state where you feel that your weapon became part of your body – as if it is acting as an extension of your limbs."

"The next stage is 'Unification'. It is a state where you and your chosen weapon seem to fuse together. The weapon becomes yourself and you being the weapon itself."

"And the last but the least is called 'Transcendence'. It is where you don't need a particular weapon anymore as you will become that weapon itself. You can also use anything with a similar form as that kind of weapon."

He then took another pause before continuing. "As for swordsmen, they are calling that state the 'Swordless State'."

After that, he turned back at the two who were having a match before adding. "Shin recently reached the state of being with the sword and just touched the 'Resonance State'. On the other hand, that guy Dylan has already been in that state since he is you, so I will not be surprised if he is close to reaching the 'Unification State'."

"On top of that, Shin is not really a swordsman. He may be a Dual-Partitioner who can wield both Internal Qi and Mental Energy, but this is currently a contest of swordsmanship. And with Shin's current restrictions and Dylan's Sword Genius martial talent, it is not surprising for the latter to have a slight edge."

"Based on what Shin had said, he is more comfortable with his swordsmanship when it is partnered with his Mental Energy. But despite that being the case, it still holds a couple of conflicts. It is because his Mentalism Techniques seem to be not compatible with the style of swordsmanship that he chooses to use."

"On top of that, Shin's sword-drawing style seems to be countered by Dylan's honest and direct swordsmanship."

Leonard wore a deep frown before asking. "If you are in his situation, what are you going to do then?"

Arthur raised his eyebrows before answering. "Hmm... If I were in his situation, then I will definitely be going to use the other style that I am used to since you. After all, even if I am more suited to a particular style it is still useless if my available skills and techniques don't complement it."

"So, it is better to use something that I am most familiar with," he added while curving his lips upwards.

"Are you telling me-..."

Leonard is in the middle of talking when Arthur suddenly pointed his chin toward the battle. "Look, he is about to do it now."

Casting his gaze back to the battle, Leonard he saw Shin forcing Dylan to move away from him with a powerful strike alongside a strong blast of energy.

...

Going back into the battle, Shin didn't pursue Dylan as he stayed standing on his spot, unmoved.

The young swordsman also didn't make any sudden moves the moment when he saw Shin not making any follow-up attack.

At first, Dylan knitted his brow as he was quite confused at that sight. After all, that situation was a perfect opportunity to get back control of the match.

He became even more confused when he saw Shin retrieving the violent Mental Energy that was surrounding his body.

But it didn't take long for him to realize the plan of his opponent when he saw the sudden surge of Internal Qi coming from Shin's body.

'So, he is a Dual-Practitioner, huh?' thought Dylan to himself before adding to his thoughts. 'I wonder if this is his real style of swordsmanship.'

Then he became surprised at what he saw next. A pair of Internal Qi with opposing properties suddenly enfolded Shin's body before moving to each of his swords.

The silver-white Qi moved towards Shin's right-hand sword and formed a layer over it. This Qi was carrying a warm and holy aura as if it could vanquish any evil in the vicinity.

On the other hand, the pitch-black Qi also created a layer of aura on Shin's left-hand swords/ This cold aura was making the appearance of the sword completely wicked. It was as if it was the incarnation of evil itself.

What was even more surprising about this was the fact these two opposing Qi were forming a strange balance instead of clashing against each other.

'Huh? Isn't it the technique that he is using inside the game?' thought Dylan when he saw what was happening, especially when he saw an imaginary image of the yin-yang symbol behind Shin.

'No! This is the real version of it! If that is the case, then I should give him the respect that he deserves,' he thought before taking a battle stance where he positioned his sword horizontally in front of his chest and pointed its tip towards his opponent.

Then his sword started to hum with a soft and quiet sound as his Sword Qi spread throughout his entire body, forming an extra layer of protection.

Whoosh!

The surrounding air also started to revolve around him and slowly formed a gentle vortex that seemed to be protecting him from any harm.

...

"Hoh~! Yin-Yang Swordsmanship? That Old Monster passed down his signature swordsmanship? I thought someone needs to be on Ethereal Opening Stage before anyone can learn it," said Eugene when he saw the stance that Shin had alongside the pair of opposing Qi surrounding his swords.

"There is always been an exemption on everything," replied Nathan in an instant.

Then Eugene suddenly squinted his eyes as he focused his gaze on Shin, especially on the dark Qi that was surrounding the left-hand sword in particular.

"But isn't it a little dangerous to let someone young as him wield such a dense Demonic Energy?" he asked as his frown turned deeper.

"You don't have to worry about that. Someone already took care of the issue that you are thinking about," said Nathan in a nonchalant tone before pointing his chin towards Shin and adding. "How about you take a careful look at that kind?"

Eugene knitted his eyebrows further before using a special observation technique as he stared closely at Shin.

Not long after, his eyes turned slightly wide as he was able to see the twin cores revolving within Shin's dantian, one was solid gold while the other is crimson red. Each of the cores was now enfolded by the Qi that was opposite to their respective properties.

The crimson core was surrounded by the Sacred Qi that was trying to calm its vicious nature. On the other hand, the golden core was situated within the Demonic Qi, seemingly suppressing its evilness.

On top of that, the two Qi were moving in a circular matter alongside the cores within them, creating a cycle that seemed to be creating a strange balance between them.

"That is-...!"

Eugene suddenly turned to Nathan before looking at the latter with a questioning gaze. "Adam already visited you and fixed that kid's dantian?"

Hearing that, Nathan suddenly smirked before saying. "It is still too early to be surprised."

Chapter 816 The Divine Swordsmanship And The Yin-Yang Swordsmanship (Part 4)

...

Shin stood a few meters away from his opponent while maintaining his relaxed stance. But despite how his stance looked, Dylan couldn't find any flaw in it. He couldn't find any kind of opening he could take advantage of.

Given that, the young swordsman had no choice but to maintain his stance and wait for his Sword Qi to accumulate enough strength to take the initiative.

Whoosh!

A gentle wind started to revolve around Dylan as he locked his gaze on Shin. And after a few moments, the wind surrounding him created a vortex that seemingly protected him from any harm.

'Divine Swordsmanship: The Divine Wind'

Swoosh!

Dylan was about to make his move when he suddenly saw that body of his opponent flickered for a brief moment.

Shin was still standing in the same spot since he took his stance, but Dylan knew that his opponent was no longer in there. "An afterimage!"

Swoosh!

Dylan quickly spun around while also swinging his sword at the same time.

Clang!

And within an instant, his spin was suddenly halted as his sword was suddenly blocked by the pair of katanas of his opponent who appeared behind him out of nowhere.

Metal sparks flew in the air as the two rivals stared straight into each other eyes for a short instant before putting more strength in their arms to push their opponents away from them.

Clang!

Dylan slid backward, leaving a long trail on the ground as he tried to nullify the force that pushed him away. And right after stopping himself, he quickly kicked the ground and chased after his opponent.

In the meantime, Shin flipped multiple times in the air to lessen the burden that he took from the previous collision.

Ta-ta!

Then the moment when his feet touched the ground, he quickly launched himself forward while planning to greet his opponent's attack with a powerful strike of his own.

During his charge, he crossed his arms in front of him with both of his katanas positioned beside his shoulders, parallel to the ground. And since those katanas were covered by black and white Qi respectively, Shin left a trail of light behind him as he continued to move forward.

'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship: Twin Annihilation'

Seeing that, Dylan quickly stopped his charge with a powerful stomp that created a small crater underneath him. After that, he raised both of his arms holding his longsword while inhaling deeply.

Along with his actions, the wind that was surrounding him earlier suddenly gathered on his sword while revolving violently on it. Then his sword released a jade-colored glow before he swung it downwards.

'Divide Swordsmanship: The Separation of Clouds'

Swoosh!

Dylan timed his swing perfectly as Shin was almost upon him when he threw that attack. And in response, Shin swung his katanas simultaneously in a horizontal manner to counter the descending sword of his opponent.

Boom!

A powerful explosion quickly followed the collision of their attacks which created a strong shockwave in every direction.

Crack!

At the same time, the ground underneath their feet suddenly sank and slowly spread around to create a huge crater on it.

The two ignored what was happening around them and continued to hold their ground. Each of them refused to show any kind of weakness since they both understood that a slight misstep would lead to their defeat.

Shing!

Dylan took a step backward while pulling his sword alongside his movements. Then he borrowed the momentum that he got from it to turn around and threw a spinning slash horizontally.

The air on the path of his sword seemed to be cut in half as it traveled towards Shin who was currently maintaining the posture that he had from the previous exchange.

'Divine Swordsmanship: Going against the Current'

Naturally, Shin would stand there, do nothing, and let himself get hit by the incoming attack. Right after seeing the movements of his opponent, he quickly moved his feet and swiftly executed a foot technique.

Swoosh!

'Advance Yin-Yang Arts: Astral Steps'

Shin's body turned into a blur for a brief moment before it was split by the incoming sword of his opponent. Fortunately, it was just an afterimage that was left behind by his fast movements.

Bang!

The ground in front of Dylan exploded, as his spinning slash released a very sharp Sword Qi that drew a long curving line on it. But despite how powerful that attack was, it was still meaningless if it didn't hit his opponent.

Dylan quickly turned his longsword upside-down as he placed it against his right shoulder while releasing a large amount of Sword Qi that surrounded his entire body.

He also squatted his hips and lowered his stance to readjust his center of gravity while planting his feet firmly on the ground.

'Divine Swordsmanship: The Unmoving Mountain'

At the same time, Shin suddenly appeared on his right side all of a sudden while holding his katana over his right shoulder, parallel to each other. And after a brief moment, he quickly swung them downwards, slamming them towards his opponent in a horizontal manner.

'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship: Dusk Ruins'

Bang!

The initial collision was pretty easy to endure, but the explosion that followed after was something else. And due to the opposing properties of the Sacre Qi and Demonic Qi, the explosion that they created was pretty significant.

Because of that, Dylan was pushed back by that powerful strike. He also drew a long stride on the ground due to the strong force behind the explosion of Qi. But aside from that, he didn't suffer any kind of injuries.

But at the same time, Dylan's center of gravity was slightly shaken since he still needed to nullify the residual force left within his body due to his attempt to absorb the impact of the previous collision.

Whoosh!

And naturally, Shin would not miss such a rare opportunity to finally put Dylan into a passive state.

He jumped out of the cloud of dust, created from the previous explosion, and charged toward Dylan very aggressively. And during his charge, he used the previous foot technique that he used earlier to leave a series of afterimages behind, creating an illusion where there was a lot of copy of himself, charging at his opponent all at the same time.

'Advance Yin-Yang Arts: (Modified) Astral Steps: Ghost Evanescent'

It was a skill that Shin originally created inside the game with the inspiration of using this particular technique. And since he could do it within the virtual world and both worlds were using a similar system, why not do it the other way around?

Dylan already fought Shin within the game and he also watched a couple of his battles before, so he was quite familiar with a few of his signature moves. Given that, he naturally had an idea of what Shin was currently thinking.

'This guy sure is something,' thought Dylan to himself for a moment before revealing a confident smile. 'But you are not the only one who has that kind of talent.'

He then took his natural battle stance where he held his sword horizontally in front of his chest while gathering a large amount of Sword Qi on it. And when the accumulation process reached its peak, he suddenly swung the sword in a horizontal manner while also releasing all of the accumulated Qi at the same time.

'Divine Swordsmanship: Splitting the Heaven and Earth'

Swoosh!

The Sword Qi drew a crescent line in front of Dylan while continuing to move forward. And during the process, all of the afterimages on its path were devoured within in an instant.

That was definitely a powerful attack and something that a swordsman on Dylan's level shouldn't be able to do. But he was able to achieve such a supposedly impossible feat due to his constant practice coupled with the inspirations and experiences that he accumulated within the game.

Being top experts in the real world, Nathan and Eugene were naturally taken aback by what they saw. Releasing a Sword Qi and throwing it toward their opponents was pretty natural for any swordsman who was able to reach certain attainment in swordsmanship. Actually, it was even a basic standard.

But what surprised the two experts was the power and the scale of the attack that Dylan just did was something that only a real Swordmaster could achieve.

"I know that his son of yours is really close to being the youngest Swordmaster in the history, but I don't expect for him to be able to execute such a high-level Sword Qi Release," commented Nathan with squinting eyes.

He then paused for a moment before asking. "Hey! Tell me honestly, is that kid of yours already in Swordmaster Level?"

Hearing that, Eugene shook his head and smiled bitterly before saying. "Do you honestly believe that being a Swordmaster is that easy to achieve?"

"That little genius may be talented and already on par with those fake Swordmasters who are claiming that they are already in that sword attainment, but he is still far from being the match of the real ones who already perfected the style of swordsmanship that they are chasing."

After that, he turned his attention back to the match and pointed his chin towards his son before continuing. "That kid only managed to mimic such a high-level technique with the help of his simple tricks. But in exchange for what? Look at how tired he is after executing it."

Casting his gaze toward Dylan, Nathan immediately noticed that the young swordsman was currently doing his best to stabilize his breathing while looking cautiously at the cloud of dust in front of him.

Then Nathan heard Eugene's next words. "What I am more surprise about is your clan's little monster withstanding such a powerful attack head-on."

Whoosh!

Right after those words left his mouth, everyone saw something fly out of the cloud of dust and continued to fly toward Dylan at an unbelievable speed.

Chapter 817 The Deity Dance And The Sword Transmigration

...

Swoosh!

Shin was slightly taken aback when he saw the sword wave that was released by Dylan. It was completely on a different scale compared to the last time they fought, during the entrance exam.

'Such an attack is almost comparable to the Sword Qi Release of Swordmasters. What's more, his precision is also not that bad,' he thought to himself after seeing the incoming sword wave that was covering almost every escape route that he could possibly take.

On top of that, that sword wave was also targeting all of the afterimages that he created to confuse him. And it seemed to be impossible to be avoided.

'I guess I have no other choice but to face it head-on,' thought Shin as he immediately halted his charge and crossed his katanas in front of him while amplifying the respective Qi that was covering them.

Not long after that, the two types of Internal Qi spread through his surroundings, forming a dome-like barrier. The alternating black and white color of the barrier had a specific rhythm as if it indicated that Shin had perfect control over the two Qi.

This technique was also one of the skills that Shin had developed after researching the tricks that Professor Plum had thought him to freely manipulate the opposing Qi inside his body. It was yet another skill that he had inside the game that he created in the real world.

'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship: (Modified) Qi Control: Eclipse Pulse'

Then he watched the incoming sword wave come after him with calm eyes and full of confidence.

Boom!

Then his barrier collided with the sword wave that was sent by his opponent. The barrier shook violently due to the collision, but aside from that and the slight burden that was received during the impact, Shin didn't encounter any mishaps.

With a huge grin, Shin kicked the ground beneath him and flew out of the cloud of dust created by the previous explosion, and launched himself towards his opponent.

The previous attack from Dylan was pretty strong and powerful, but Shin was aware that it also consumed a lot of Sword Qi and put a lot of burden on one's body. After all, mimicking a skill of a Swordmaster was not an easy feat.

After a brief moment, Shin already arrived in front of Dylan, ducking and fully ready to unleash his next attack.

But Shin immediately saw the unyielding will in his opponent's eyes when he looked straight at them. He could also feel the true will of a swordsman from them.

'Anything that blocks my path, I will cut them apart.'

'Whoever tries to stop my track, I will slice them apart.'

'I will continue moving forward no matter what I face.'

'If gods try to stop me, then I will slay gods.'

'If a demon lord tries to block me, then I will destroy them'

Dylan chanted the mantra that his father had thought him since he was young inside his head while starting back at Shin.

'This guy is really something!' thought Shin to himself while wearing a satisfied smile before throwing a consecutive slash with his left and right katana.

Those strikes were pretty swift and had precise control, both of them were even targeting the exposed vital spots of Dylan because of the awkward posture that he currently had due to his previous attack.

But despite that being the case, the young swordsman remained calm and collected. He read the trajectories of the sword of his opponent for a very brief moment before responding accordingly.

He flipped his sword with a quick flick of his wrist and held it in a reverse manner. He then leaned the surface of his sword against his arm and used it as a support while moving it according to the trajectories of the incoming attacks.

Clang! Clang!

Metal sparks flew in the air as he successfully blocked the two attacks with ease. He then kicked the ground and hopped away from Shin to earn himself enough breathing space while also keeping a close eye on his opponent.

Shin was slightly surprised at what happened since he didn't expect Dylan was able to read the trajectory of his attacks within a short period of time. And on top of that, he was even able to respond to them accordingly.

'I guess, this is one of the abilities of a Sword Genius,' thought Shin before chasing after Dylan.

Path Reading

This was indeed one of the specialties of a Sword Genius.

Since Sword Geniuses had a high comprehension when it came to sword techniques, they were able to see through any kind of skills and techniques related to swords. They might not be able to copy those techniques, but they could easily understand the principle behind them.

Inside their head, they could draw the most ideal posture and movements of their opponents after seeing their sword techniques. They were using these abilities to respond to their opponents and counter them based on their understanding.

And if a Sword Genius honed this skill properly, they could also use it against most types of weapons.

After all, there was a statement that was saying that the sword was the king of all weapons.

And at this point in time, Dylan was currently using this particular ability to the fullest to respond to each of Shin's attacks.

Clang! Clang!

He might be currently on a passive due to the previous events but he was able to perfectly defend himself against all of the attacks that his opponent was throwing at him.

Not long after, he became accustomed to the rapid attacks of Shin and slowly regained his footing. His stance was also starting to change and steadily hold his ground.

After a few more exchanges, he started throwing a few counters toward Shin which hinder the rhythm of the latter. And that was when he started throwing some sword techniques in the mix and threw the match back into a deadlock.

From the perspective of the spectators of the match, Dylan's stance was pretty solid. His attacks were strong enough to pose a threat even for Ethereal Opening Stage experts such as Jerimiah and Vincent. His sword techniques were graceful yet also powerful at the same time.

And the base of these techniques was the special stance that he was currently using. It might be the most basic stance in the eyes of other people, but if an expert, who was a veteran in life and death battle, saw it, then they would instantly understand how special it was.

With this technique, Dylan was able to connect each of his sword techniques with ease. It was as if his attacks were originally part of a single movement. And by linking these techniques, his swordsmanship was reaching its perfection.

'Divine Swordsmanship: Deity Dance'

A high-level sword stance that could evolve and grow alongside its user. It didn't matter if the sword technique was a basic one with the most basic movement or an advanced technique that had multiple complexities on it, all of those techniques were going to be perfectly connected by this particular stance.

But despite how perfect Dylan was performing, he still failed to overwhelm his opponent or suppress Shin.

It didn't matter how strong or powerful his attacks were. His perfect execution was also not enough to completely dictate the rhythm of this battle.

It was because Shin was also using a special stance of his own.

The Yin-Yang stance was the most basic stance and the very first thing that he learned from Professor Plum. But he immediately understood that this stance was the foundation of every Yin-Yang Art that he learned.

This stance involved the control of one's body, especially their muscles. It also had the principle of manipulating its center of gravity.

And with this stance as its foundation, the Yin-Yang Shift came in next. A technique where the Martial-Artist absorbed the force sent towards them and released them towards their opponents, returning it with double the force.

It was also the foundation of the combat technique that Shin had created inside the game, the 'Infinity Edge'.

But at this point in time, Shin was currently using the real stance where that combat technique came from.

He already used it before but he couldn't show its full capabilities since he couldn't use the Yin-Yang Swordsmanship at that time. But right now, it was a completely different case.

'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship: Sword Transmigration'

Clang! Clang!

With this sword technique, Shin was able to hold his ground despite the advanced sword techniques that Dylan was linking perfectly. And at the same time, he was also throwing a series of sword techniques of his own alongside it, which was giving his opponent enough trouble.

He was redirecting the trajectory of Dylan's attacks and, attempting to throw the latter in an awkward position. Unfortunately, the young swordsman was not that simple which was why he was not affected by each of Shin's attempts.

The two continued to exchange sword techniques repeatedly while also moving around within the barrier constantly.

Their figures kept on disappearing and appearing in different places. And each time they clash against each other, metal sparks flew in the air while loud sounds rang right after it.

And as the battle continued, the two of them became more accustomed to their respective stances and became more daring in each of their attacks. They unleashed a series of more advanced sword techniques, making the match reach a whole new level.

Given the burden that their techniques on their bodies, it was pretty clear that both of them were already reaching their limits, which also signified that this battle was about to come to an end.

Chapter 818 What Lies Ahead

.....

Swoosh!

Clang! Clang!

A pair of streaks of lights were flying within the Mental Energy Barrier that David had set up earlier. One of them had a brilliant jade color while the other had a pair of black and white colors spiraling around each other.

Clang! Clang!

These pairs of lights clashed against each other multiple times, creating a series of metal sparks in the air.

Obviously, these streaks of lights were Dylan and Shin who was still in the middle of their starring match.

They already had exchanged a lot of sword techniques and movement skills during this match and even created countless variations of them.

And despite the prolonged fight that they had, the two of them seemed to be unaffected by it. In fact, they didn't even look exhausted even if they spent a lot of energy during their previous exchanges.

They even had an exciting smile present on their faces.

This was a clear indication that they were enjoying this fight and seemed to forget that they were currently in just a middle of a sparring match.

Well, no one could blame these two especially when they could feel the changes within their bodies and the benefits that they had gotten from this battle.

They honed their skills and techniques even further.

Dylan gained a deeper understanding of his swordsmanship due to the flaws that his opponent had exposed during their previous exchanges. Shin's complex style of fighting really gave him a lot of trouble especially when the latter was shifting between a heavy onslaught and quick counters.

Shin was sometimes throwing a barrage of heavy strikes that seemingly tried to break Dylan's impenetrable defenses by using brute force. But there were also some times when the guy was using a series of quick and sharp attacks with tricky trajectories, these attacks were even coming from the most unexpected angles.

One of the styles focused on raw strength and strong power, a very straightforward style of fighting. On the other hand, the other style relied on speed, tricks, and precision, which was also used mostly for counterattacks, as well as surprise attacks.

And what made these styles even more annoying was the fact that Shin could freely shift between these two particular styles. Shin was able to link the sword techniques from these styles very naturally as if they were originally one, to begin with.

Using the pressure that he was getting from Shin as a catalyst, Dylan was able to steadily surpass his limits and start to reach enlightenment to reach another minor breakthrough in his attainments in Swordsmanship.

He only needed a slight push to fully reach the next stage of his swordsmanship.

At the same time, Shin also reaped quite a lot of benefits during their exchanges.

Aside from being more familiar with his style of swordsmanship, Shin also became even more accustomed to wielding the Sacred Qi and Demonic Qi simultaneously.

Originally, he was only relying on the special Mentalism Scripture that David had taught him before, the Jade Kirin Scripture.

This particular scripture had a series of mantras and techniques that could help him suppress the 'Seed of Hatred' within his heart alongside the so-called 'Demon' residing within it.

Those techniques even had a couple of tricks that could help him fight against the negative emotions sent by the 'Seed of Hatred' in an attempt to corrupt his mind.

The Jade Kirin Scripture was one of the reasons why he could use the Demonic Qi with ease and without any concern that he was going to get corrupted by it.

With this scripture, alongside the special method that he got from the strange book that Professor Plum, Shin wielding the Demonic Qi became second nature to him while his control over it became on par with the Sacred Qi that he had developed since he was young.

On top of that, the Jade Kirin Scripture was originally one of the methods that he could use to combine his Martial-Art Skills and Mentalism Techniques.

This scripture was also one of the reasons why Shin was able to create the special sensing technique that he was now calling 'Zone'. It was a special technique that had the combined principles of the 'Spiritual Sense' of a Mentalist and the 'False Territory' of a Martial-Artist.

Unfortunately, his understanding of the Jade Kirin Scripture was still not that deep which was one of the reasons why he couldn't combine his currently Martial-Art Skills and Mentalism Techniques.

There were too many unbalances between the two disciplines which was why he couldn't properly combine them, and create his own 'Unified Arts', much less a real 'Secret Arts'.

Both disciplines were high-leveled and had a lot of complexities. And even if the major principles behind the two had some similarities, the styles that were supporting them were still slightly different.

The 'Yin-Yang Arts' centered around the principles of 'Duality', while the 'Four Symbol Scripture' focused on the teachings of the 'Unification'.

Theoretically, these two disciplines were perfectly compatible with each other, especially when their energies were not particularly opposing each other.

But the main problem was Shin hadn't mastered the two styles perfectly yet.

He might be able to wield both the Sacred Qi and the Demonic Qi at the same time, but he was still far from perfectly combining them to reach the ideal state of his Martial-Arts.

On the other hand, Shin might also be able to master most of the variations of his Mentalism Techniques, but it still didn't mean that he already studied everything that he needed to learn to fully master his techniques.

Moreover, he was still lacking a couple of things to completely attain the style of Mentalism that he was after. And one of them was the perfect sword technique that could match his Mentalism Techniques.

These were the things that Shin currently lacked to perfectly fused his two disciplines. Since he still hadn't fully mastered both of the disciplines, he couldn't combine them yet since there were going to be a lot of complications in the future if he couldn't find the ideal states that he wanted from them respectively.

Given all of that, Shin learned a lot of things from Dylan after exchanging insights on swordsmanship against each other.

Shin understood a few more things regarding his Yin-Yang Swordsmanship and had a new level of understanding of it.

After repeatedly fixing the flaws that Dylan had spotted in his style, his swordsmanship was steadily evolving during the battle. And this constant growth gave birth to another monster that refused to stop from evolving even further.

This particular monster absorbed everything it could from Dylan as if it was trying to devour all of the sword insight that the latter had.

One was a Sword Genuis who was continuously gaining insights regarding swordsmanship and steadily honing his sword through the match, while the other was a Battle Genuis that was constantly evolving through battle and slowly becoming a monster carrying an endless potential.

These two talented young individuals continued their match, refusing to yield to their opponents. And as more time went by, their respective strengths were continuously growing alongside the evolution of their styles.

From the looked of it, these two were planning to use this opportunity to gain enlightenment and break through the shackles that were currently restraining them.

This particular sight was also affecting the youths that were currently watching from the sidelines, especially Arthur and Leonard who were currently clenching their fist and staring at the two with intense gazes.

Their fighting spirit seemed to be aroused by how intense the battle between Shin and Dylan was. And seeing their current performance and the noticeable growth that the two were currently undergoing, this particular pair seemed to be itching to fight and go all-out just like those two.

Arthur's eyes were currently possessing vertical irises while his pupils contracted a little, mimicking the eyes of a dragon. He unknowingly activated his 'Foresight' talent while watching the two.

There was also a multicolored aura that was emitting from his body, signifying that he unconsciously released his Eternal Flame Qi.

Such a sight alone was more than enough to tell the others that he really wanted to fight right now.

At the same time, a similar sight was currently happening in Leonard's direction.

His deep frown and glaring eyes were already enough to make him look intimidating and adding the crimson Qi that was being released by his body was adding to the ferocity that he currently had.

His crimson hair was also fluttering in the air despite the absence of any kind of breeze around them. He looked like a caged beast that was ready to start a slaughter right after being released.

Seeing that sight, Nathan and Eugene couldn't help but show a satisfied grin on their faces before nodding their heads.

– "The group of talents of this generation sure is something. Looks like the upcoming 'Battle for Supremacy is going to be an exciting one." – thought the two top experts, clearly indicating that they were looking forward to the contest between these youths in the near future.

Chapter 819 Conclusion

...

After a few more exchanges both Shin and Dylan finally entered an enlightened state despite being in the middle of a match.

This stage of the match was very sensitive for them since a slight mishap in this was going to ruin their foundation. Everyone in the vicinity was naturally aware of this, so they kept their mouth shut and remained quiet while watching the two continue.

Even Arthur and Leonard retracted the respective auras they unconsciously released earlier, afraid that they might affect the concentrations of the two.

Dylan was about to break through on his current sword attainment while Shin was currently in the middle of enlightenment. Both cases were pretty sensitive which was why the others were very careful about how they were going to act.

A few moments later, the state of the battle suddenly escalated to a degree where the barrier set up by David started to shake. The accumulated shockwave created by the repeated collision of the two started to reach a certain level that shouldn't be achievable by the two.

Bang!

Dylan and Shin were separated from each other due to the impact of their recent collision. And instead of immediately resuming their attacks right after stabilizing their footing, the two chose to halt for a moment and stare at each other.

Not long after that, the two of them seemed to have a similar thought in mind. Both of them want to end this sparring match already and decide the winner with one final strike.

Given that, they quickly adjusted their breathing and prepared for their final move.

Dylan stood straight and held his sword in front of him with his hands. And after taking a deep breath, he poured most of his Sword Qi into his sword making it glow with a jade aura.

Then the air surrounding him started to swirl around his body. It started with a gentle breeze at first before slowly turning into a violent gust of wind. And this particular wind swirling around Dylan was carrying a deadly sharpness in it. Shin could even see some flashes of light on it which signified how dangerous that wind was.

'Divine Swordsmanship: The Divine Wind'

The posture of this young swordsman was giving off an aura that he could endure any kind of hardship regardless of how challenging it was. Dylan even looked like a sturdy mountain standing in the middle of a violent storm with his current disposition.

On the other hand, Shin was not idle either. The moment they had a silent agreement to end this match with this single strike, he immediately prepared for his final move.

While taking a deep breath to calm his mind, he spread his legs and lowered his stance before positioning his sword right across his chest. They were parallel to each other with their tips pointing in opposite directions.

Blaze!

Then the black and white Qi that was covering them suddenly grew stronger.

Bang!

After that, Shin took a heavy step forward, creating a loud sound with that stomp. He was now facing Dylan sideways. And alongside that movement, he also moved his arms, changing their positions. The left-hand katana was now positioned beside his waist while his right arm was stretched out while tightly holding the other katana.

Roar!

Then an aura that was being released by his channeled Qi on his katanas manifested an image of a tiger's head behind him, glaring ferociously at his opponent.

Shriek!

As if being provoked, the wind and the jade aura surrounding Dylan suddenly formed an image of an eagle's head that stared at the ferocious tiger majestically.

Shin and Dylan didn't immediately attack as they waited for their respected powers to reach their peaks. And not long after, what they waiting for finally arrived.

Roar!

The tiger's head behind Shin slowly grew in size before growing a body with pairs of angelic wings behind it.

This particular tiger had an alternating black and white color mimicking the colors of the Sacred Qi and Demonic Qi on each of Shin's swords.

This formation of aura was not an ordinary Aura Manifestation that was only directed to their opponents. But it was a special aura formation that could also be seen and felt by the spectators watching them.

Just like what was happening on Shin's aura, the Sword Qi and the wind around Dylan also took the same chances. But instead of a tiger, a majestic griffin was formed behind him.

In terms of aura alone, these two Advanced Aura Manifestations were currently on the same level. And due to the collision of the residual auras that the two failed to control, small sparks and brief explosions occurred every time they met.

Bang! Bang!

A few moments later, Shin finally made his move and kicked the ground, launching himself in a very aggressive manner. During his charge, an alternating black and white trail of light was left behind as the tiger-formed aura charged alongside him.

Roar!

With both of his katanas positioned on his right side, parallel to each other, Shin swung the two of them simultaneously while carrying the momentum of his charge.

'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship: World's Annihilation'

Roar!

In the meantime, Dylan was already doing his own final strike, fully prepared to greet the final move of his opponent.

He took a deep breath as he raised his longsword with both of his hands as the revolving air around him gathered around his sword, creating a violent vortex around it. And when Shin was almost upon him, he swung the sword in a very aggressive manner, seemingly planning to split everything in front of him in a straight vertical line.

'Divine Swordsmanship: Splitting the Heaven and Earth'

Bang!

Shin's katanas and Dylan's longsword were not touching each other because of the respective auras that were surrounding them. But despite that being the case, a powerful explosion immediately occurred due to the collision of their powers.

Boom!

The two refused to move an inch as they poured their strength into their arms, trying to force their opponents back. But even if they did everything they could, there was always an end to how much power they could muster.

And when they reached their respective limits, they both lost control over the power that they were channeling on their respective weapons. Due to that, those powers broke away from their grasp and went berserk, causing an explosion that pushed them away from each other.

Boom!

Shin absorbed the force from the impact before flipping multiple times in the air to relieve the heavy burden that his body had gotten.

Ta-ta!

Cough!

At first, it looked like he perfectly nullified all of the burdens that he got from the previous impact, but the truth was he failed in doing so. He suffered quite a lot of internal injuries which led him to cough out some blood.

But at the same time, Dylan was not unscratched either. He was pushed backward by the previous explosion and slid in the opposite direction while stabbing his sword on the ground to stop himself from going further.

And when he was finally able to halt himself, he quickly kneeled on the ground with a knee before coughing out some blood just like Shin.

Cough! Cough!

From the looked of it, his internal injuries were as severe as the ones that Shin had.

This was a perfect time to end this sparring match and announce the result as a draw. But Eugene stopped himself from doing that the moment when he saw the respective expressions drawn on the faces of the two young men.

They were a clear indication of dissatisfaction and unwillingness to accept this particular result. And due to that, the Sword Immortal could only smile bitterly and let the two continue.

In the meantime, Shin and Dylan inhaled deeply to regulate their breathing before putting all of their remaining strength together while taking their respective stances.

Gritting their teeth, the two kicked their ground beneath their feet and launched themselves towards each other.

They were determined to end this match on this additional exchange. But unfortunately for them, their respective bodies were saying something completely different.

Dylan suddenly felt an unpleasant feeling inside his chest which made his charge come to a sudden halt. He was also forced to kneel on the ground and used his sword to support himself. The blood started flowing up his throat which made him vomit it.

It was clear that his body already reached its limits.

A similar thing was happening to Shin, but due to his strong willpower, his mental fortitude was much better compared to the young swordsman. Especially when that monstrous willpower was also being strengthened by his bloodline.

Moreover, he had undergone insane training since he was young, especially when he was still in the Black Serpent Mafia Training Camp, where the training was not only harsh but also almost inhumane compared to standard training of the martial-art society. And because of these two reasons, Shin had already surpassed his limit multiple times.

This was where Shin had a clear advantage. The young swordsman, who despite being harshly trained by his father since he was a very young age, was still inferior to him when it came to willpower.

At this point in time, it was already clear who was the winner and Dylan was already closing his eyes and about to accept the result of the match.

'Maybe the result is going to be different if I am able to use the second phase of the Divine Swordsmanship,' these were the thoughts that were lingering inside the young swordsman's head when something unexpected happened.

Shin, who was supposedly the victor of this duel, suddenly lose his consciousness and fell to the ground with a loud sound.

Thud!

Not only Dylan was the one who was surprised at the sudden turn of events, but Eugene and Nathan, who were watching Shin's movements close, were also taken aback at what had happened.

Losing a person's consciousness was pretty normal for someone who was already reaching his limit, especially after they surpassed it through sheer willpower. After all, all of the adrenaline inside their body would suddenly drop greatly after they achieved it.

But it was slightly different from what just happened. Eugene and Nathan were pretty sure that Shin had enough mental fortitude to reach Dylan and point his sword towards the latter for the official conclusion of the match.

With their senses, they could see that Shin had a clear mind and was still in the right state to conclude this duel. In fact, they were confident that this young man could still walk away on his own feet after this sparring match ended.

But all of a sudden, something completely unexpected happened.

As if someone erased everything, Shin lost everything. His strength left his body out of nowhere and his consciousness started to fade away as if someone had put him to sleep.

Thud!

The lasting that he could remember before closing his eyes, was the sight of Arthur and Leonard who were running toward him full of panic, and Eugene and Nathan who suddenly appeared beside him and checked his condition.

'Ah. I'm tired. Let me take a quick nap,' thought Shin as he started to close his eyes slowly.

In the meantime, David was looking at the sky while inhaling deeply before closing his eyes, muttering. "I guess things are about to get complicated."

Chapter 820 Who Is The Real Demon? (Part 1)

...

A few moments before the duel between Shin and Dylan started.

Deep within Shin's Sea of Consciousness.

In this place, time seemed not to exist. There was nothing within it aside from pitch black darkness, not even a hint of light was present.

It was a total abyss.

At the center of this place, there was a silhouette of a person sitting with his legs crossed, meditating. This person was radiating with an ominous aura, as deep purple steam was coming out from his whole body.

Swoosh!

A few moments later, a blinding light pierced through the darkness and created a huge tear on it.

"Heh!" the silhouette sitting in the middle of this abyss scoffed as he felt the changes in his surroundings.

"It seems like you are a stubborn one, aren't you?" he added as he slowly opened his eyes and stared at the tear that was created by the blinding light earlier.

"Oi, old man! This time, I am going to absorb you for real," said the rude voice from the other side of the tear.

"Hah! Don't make me laugh! You're just a little fledgling who is still trying to learn how to fly," the man sitting at the center of the abyss laughed after hearing those words.

"If you don't even know how you fly, how are you going to fight an eagle that already became a vicious predator over the years," he added as he slowly stood up from his sitting position.

At the same time, a young man suddenly walked out of the tear in the abyss, carrying a vicious look on his face.

This young man looked like Shin but also not at the same time. They had similar physiques and physical features but the air around them was completely different.

Unlike Shin who was usually calm coupled and always carrying a particular blaze in his eyes, this young man had an overbearing nature and a pair of eyes that were full of coldness.

If Shin was now carrying a radiating aura around him after training under Professor Plum and Grandmaster Benn's supervision, this young man had a wicked and dark aura which was the complete opposite of what Shin's had.

And if there were a noticeable difference in the outer appearance of the two, then it would be the colors of their pupils. Shin had grey pupils while this one had a pair of purple eyes.

This young man was Uno, who was residing within Shin.

"Hah! An eagle?" Uno sneered right after walking off the tear created by the blinding light earlier.

He then turned his head at the man standing in the middle of the dark world before adding to his words.
"You don't look like a predator no matter how much I look at you, old man. You are nothing but a nutrient that is going to make me much stronger."

Bang!

A loud explosion seemed to occur in the middle of the abyssal world as the man standing opposite Uno released a powerful aura.

Rumble!

Then a series of rumbling sounds could be heard in every direction as the dark world took some changes.

The complete darkness started to disappear as it was replaced by a bloody world.

A sky suddenly appeared!

But instead of having a blue ocean on it, this particular sky had a sea of blood and crimson clouds.

A ground also appeared all of a sudden. And within the thick pool of blood that was covering it, mountains of skulls and bones started to rise from beneath.

It didn't take long for the world that was full of darkness earlier to turn into complete hell. And standing in the middle of this hellish world was a man who was shrouded with black smoke from head to toe.

But despite seeing all of that, Uno seemed to be unimpressed at all. "Tsk! I have seen this ridiculous stunt multiple times already. Do you have anything that is more entertaining than this?"

"Heh! A stunt? You really don't know anything," said the man in a sneering tone.

"How many times do I have to tell you? This is called Domain Manifestation! And only experts at the level of-..."

Swoosh!

He was in the middle of explaining things when a sharp sound suddenly cut through the air, making him stop talking.

Bang!

With a loud sound, he caught a piece of a bone that was thrown at him with great force.

"Oi! I already heard that countless times already, so about we get down to business and get this over with?" said Uno with sharp eyes before adding. "You, filthy inner demon."

Hearing those words and seeing the indifferent look that Uno had, the demon standing a few distances away from him suddenly said. "Us, inner demons, may be nothing but a sign of weakness of an individual. But when an opportunity is presented in front of us, we will immediately devour our host and become that person itself. So-..."

Swoosh!

Yet another piece of bone was sent flying in his direction to prevent him from continuing what he said.

"You son of a bit-..." he was about to curse when he suddenly saw a fist rapidly magnifying right in front of his eyes.

Bang!

The inner demon managed to block the incoming attack with his quick reaction even though he was still sent flying by it.

"You sure talk a lot for an insignificant demon. Even though you are created by that idiot due to his cowardice, that doesn't mean you are different compared to the 'seed' planted by that bigger idiot," said Uno as he chased after the inner demon.

It only took him an instant to appear in front of his opponent. And right after arriving, he immediately threw his fist, targeting the face of the demon.

Puff!

But different from what he was expecting, the demon in front of him suddenly turned into a cloud of black smoke that slowly dissipated in the air.

Ta-ta!

Then Uno turned his head towards the other direction and saw the body covered with black smoke standing on top of a mountain of bones.

"It looks like you haven't learned your lessons yet, kid," said the inner demon as he stared at Uno with mocking eyes.

He took a brief pause to conjure a cluster of dark Qi on top of his right hand before continuing. "I've been created since our host is at a very young age, so the accumulated Demonic Qi that I have is much denser than that one that you've got from that little demon."

"So, if you are thinking that you can devour me, then you are completely wrong. I will be the one to devour you and erase your existence."

The 'Seed of Hatred' gave birth to inner demons of a Martial-Artist that would consume them completely the moment they lost control over their negative emotions.

These negative emotions could make these inner demons more powerful depending on how strong they were or how long they were held inside a person's heart.

Based on what this 'seed demon' was saying, it was much stronger than the first demon that Uno had already absorbed, which was also the one that came from the 'seed of hatred' that was transferred to Shin by someone else.

And to back up those words, the demon released a massive amount of Demonic Qi from its body to showcase its strength.

"You never learned your lesson, kid. How many times did you lose to me already? A hundred? No, maybe it is a couple of hundreds already? I actually lost count when it exceeds fifty or something?" said the inner demon mockingly.

He then turned to Uno to see the frustrated look on his face after reminding him of their past battles. But contrary to what he was expecting, the latter was currently wearing a huge grin while looking at him.

That expression alone was more than enough to tell what was currently running inside Uno's head.

He was definitely mocking the demon!

The demon became immediately became enraged and released an even more powerful Demonic Qi. And due to the overwhelming amount of that Qi, the whole hell-like world shook violently.

But despite that being the chase, Uno remained calm and continued to wear his mocking grin. In fact, he seemed to be enjoying the overwhelming Demonic Qi that was trying to suppress him.

"I really hate talking when having a fight. But since you seemed to be confused about something, let me clear some things first," said Uno while shaking his head and wearing a bitter smile.

He took a brief pause before curving his grin much higher before continuing. "Didn't you just say that I lose to you hundreds of times?"

"Hah! Don't make me laugh! I do not lose during those times, instead, I just spare your existence during every time I decided to retreat."

With yet another quick pause, the expression on Uno's face suddenly became serious while the aura surrounding him took a massive change. "And let me show you why."

And right after those words came out of his mouth, the hell-like world that the inner demon had created shook once again, but because of a completely different reason from the one earlier.

At the same time, the inner demon saw something more horrifying than his existence right in front of his eyes.