

Destiny 831

Chapter 831 A Dedicated Path (Part 5)

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Shin fell into deep thought when he heard Granny Luvenia's words. If all of what she had said were right, then his talent was most likely divided between him and Uno somehow.

But there was still something that confused him. Even though he lost some memories, he could at least tell that Uno was not born during that time. That ego within him manifested within him much later from it.

'I really need to ask him a lot of things,' thought Shin before continuing to listen to Granny Luvenia.

The old lady then discussed how he needed to be careful with a few things. Fortunately, he properly sealed his dantian which would help him buy some time until he learned a few more things on how to suppress it.

Granny Luvenia was very confident that she could help Shin. She was giving him a lot of instructions on how to deal with the seed if its seal somehow got broken.

Shin listened attentively and took note of everything without missing a single detail. His masters also taught him how to handle different situations but it was Granny Luvenia who gave him a detailed plan on how to perfectly deal with the seed even in the worst-case scenario.

"Just remember all of those and you will be fine on your own, little one," said Granny Luvenia before turning to Professor Henry. "As for the rest, I'm sure that this professor will guide you properly."

After that, she stood up and left the room, leaving the two behind.

Professor Henry waited for her to exit the room before casting an isolation barrier that would prevent anyone from eavesdropping.

Shin was confused about why he did that. After all, all of the people present in their house were trustworthy, so he didn't think that it was necessary.

"Kid, in my line of work, being cautious is necessary. Even if you are with people that you trust the most," said the Professor.

p "It is not being overly cautious, but not letting your guard down," he added.

Shin shrugged his shoulders at the old man and made a face that seemingly said he didn't have to explain.

After that, Professor Henry started discussing his future plans for Shin's training course. "Since it comes to this, we have no choice but to make some changes to your course."

"I originally planned to check the assimilation level of your body and the two types of Qi within your dantian before forging your vessel into something that can properly contain them."

"Old Plum properly guides you to build a very solid foundation, so the only thing that you need to do is to further fortify it so that it can handle the burden of using those two Qi simultaneously."

"The unification of Martial Arts and Mentalism heavily depends on the capabilities of your body and mind, if either one of them is slightly out of tune, then the dangers that you will face are going to be much threatening."

"This is the reason why I want you to achieve the perfect harmony between those two Qi first before proceeding to strengthen your Mentalism."

"But since your Martial Arts is currently sealed, we have no choice but to proceed with your Mentalism Training," he added with a slight disappointment.

As someone who also contributed to creating the Yin-Yang Martial Arts, Professor Henry wanted to see the completion of this Martial Arts sooner rather than later. He also wanted Old Plum to see it happening.

'With Old Plum's condition, we don't know what is going to happen in the future. After all, the injury that he suffered last time is really grievous,' he thought as he looked at Shin with meaningful eyes.

'If it is this kid, then I'm pretty sure that he will be able to achieve what we fail to do,' he added to his thought.

Then he continued. "Starting today, you will solely hone your Mentalism Techniques and further strengthen the 'Spiritual Avatar' situated within your 'Niwan Palace'."

"You should be aware that your Mentalism is slightly behind your Martial Arts which is why your masters instructed you to use it primarily during the entrance exam."

The old man then paused for a brief moment before continuing. "If you ask me, I think your Mentalism Talent is way better than your Martial Art Talents."

"Your indifferent attitude and quick-wittedness are perfect for Mentalism. Your 'Immediately Response' talent may make it slightly off, but it also covers the common weakness that a Mentalist has."

"You also become a Rune Master and a Talisman Master at a very young age on top of being a formidable Kaleidoscope Mentalist who is well-versed in combat."

"Adding all of these together alongside the fact that you possessed the perfect vessel for Mentalism, the Spiritual Embryo, we can say that you are born to be a peak-class Mentalist."

After another brief pause, Professor Henry fell into deep thought before continuing. "Aside from your Battle Genius Talent, everything is laid perfectly."

"A Battle Genius is more fitted for Martial Art which is why it made you more reliant on Martial Arts than Mentalism. If only your combat talent is being a Prudent Ace or something similar, then you can be the second Perfect Mentalist in history."

Shin was listening attentively which was why he immediately noticed the sudden change of tone in Professor Henry's voice when saying the latter part of his words.

"Second Perfect Mentalist? Then there is already someone who is given that title before?" asked Shin curiously.

Professor Henry gave him a meaningful look before responding. "There is. And she is unparalleled when it comes to Mentalism. She mastered all the fields related to it at a very young age."

"I will tell you more about her when you start studying in the academy," he added, attempting to change the top.

"For now, I want you to adjust your mind and body to match the current state that you are in. Maybe there are no immediate aftereffects on your body, but you will notice all of them the more you become accustomed to the absence of your Martial Arts."

"Little by little, you will see how dependent are you on your Martial Arts and how hard the adjustment is without it. But in exchange, you will discover some of your abilities that you are unaware of."

"It may be unfortunate, but it is also a blessing in disguise. This situation gives you an opportunity to explore your talents once again."

"Then bit by bit, we are going to make your Battle Genius Talent fits your Mentalism. It is going to be hard, but since it is the only problem that we are going to face, we need to find a way to achieve it somehow."

Shin nodded his head heavily as he already experienced some of them earlier. His Spiritual Sense, in particular, he immediately noticed how sharp it became after the temporary loss of his Martial Art attainments.

Seeing that Shin understand what he was saying, Professor Henry nodded his head in satisfaction before proceeding to the next matter at hand. "Your Martial Arts may be sealed temporarily but it doesn't necessarily mean that you will be neglecting your training on it."

Shin immediately became confused when he heard those words. "What do you mean by that, professor?"

Then the professor suddenly said. "Given your age, I'm pretty sure that you are also playing that particular virtual game that is famous these days."

"If I am not mistaken, it is called «Destiny's Fate» or something," he added, trying to recall if he remembered the name right.

"Eh? T-That is right, sir," answered Shin, indicating that the professor got the name of the game right. And after a brief moment of confusion, he suddenly asked. "Do you also know that game, professor?"

Hearing that, Professor Henry couldn't help but laugh before answering. "Of course, I know that game. How can a researcher like me not know about something as interesting as that?"

"Moreover, I am one of the people who designed the combat system of that game. It is pretty challenging but also fun at the same time," he added with a look that reminiscing about that past.

After that, he turned to Shin and continued. "Anyway, we design and make it as close to reality as possible since we are planning to use it as another platform where anyone can train."

"There are a lot of secrets in that game but since most of them are confidential, I can't tell you anything about it."

Shin was slightly stunned at the sudden discovery. He was fully aware that the game was designed to be as close to reality, so he was not that surprised about it. What really took him off-guard was the fact that he was meeting one of the creators of the game.

The professor ignored Shin's reactions and spoke. "I can't disclose the secrets of the game to you because of the confidentiality agreement and the oath that we make to heaven."

"But I can at least tell you how to properly use it and turn that virtual world into an amazing training ground."

The tone that Professor Henry was mysterious. But at the same time, there was also a hint of mischievousness in his words which made Shin look at him as if he was a laughing devil in disguise.

Chapter 832 The Truth Behind The Special Physique

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"Listen, kid. We have a long history of developing the virtual world for the past decades due to its potential," said Professor Henry.

"And this particular game was the one which is closest to reality," he added before shaking his head. "It just a pity that the system that we created doesn't suit the experts beyond Ethereal Stage of Martial Arts and peak Master Realm of Mentalism."

"But that is also for the better since experts beyond those states have their secrets that they can't afford to tell anyone." He continued.

After that, he turned to Shin and quickly added. "Anyway, you need to follow everything that I've told you. Focus on adjusting your mind and body with the current state that you are in, and don't neglect your Martial Arts and train it through that game."

"I will properly guide you when you enter the academy in a few days, so I need you to be ready at that time."

Shin nodded his head indicating that he fully understood.

Then Professor Henry also nodded his head in satisfaction before standing up and returning the chairs to where they originally were. He left Shin to digest all of the information that he just heard about his body.

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Granny Luvenia was long gone when he arrived in the living room. She was accompanied by Nathan as they brought the people that the latter had captured earlier alongside Eugene.

They were going to be thoroughly interrogated when they arrived at Granny Luvenia's place. Those people had been tailing both her and Professor Henry since they left the academy, so they were suspected to be some spies sent by underworld organizations to observe them.

In the meantime, Eugene brought his son back to the academy right after the young man finished his meditation.

Jerimiah and Vincent also finished their sparring and were now resting inside their room. Arthur and Leonard, on the other hand, were running an errand that Nathan had instructed them to do.

With all of that, David was the only one to receive the professor when he climbed down to the living room.

"Greetings, elder," he immediately greeted the professor right after he saw the old man.

"Ho-ho! It has been a while, hasn't it? Little David, the prince of the fallen kingdom," said Professor Henry in a teasing manner the moment when he saw the young man.

"It hasn't been that long since we last meet each other, elder," responded David respectfully.

"Has it? Well, I feel that it is quite some time already?" he said with a chuckle.

Then Professor Henry's eyes turned sharp as he asked with a serious tone. "I am pretty sure that you are not here to just greet me and reminisce about the past, aren't you?"

David was slightly for a moment before nodding his head and replying. "That is right, elder. I am now instructed by Sir Adam to tell you about my Junior Brother. He heard that you will be guiding him, so he said that you should have a better understanding of the situation."

He paused for a moment before continuing. "He also said that if it is you, then you will find a way to fix the condition of his son."

"Hah! I expected as much. That guy sure knows how to pass the most annoying job to other people," said the professor.

"Let's go. This is not the right place to discuss such things," he instructed before proceeding to leave the house.

David continued to lower his head and waited for the elder to walk past him before following behind.

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Professor Henry brought David to his office in the academy, a place where he felt the safest.

"Make yourself comfortable. You are her student after all, so you can also be considered as my grand disciple," he said to the young man as he prepared tea for the two of them.

David took a seat and patiently wait for the elder.

Not long after, Professor Henry brought a pot with hot tea alongside a pair of teacups before putting them on the table. Then he sat on the sofa across from David in a very comfortable matter before gesturing to David to take a sip before they could start their discussion.

David then complied and pour some tea into his and the professor's cup before taking a sip to warm his throat.

"How is it? Is it good? That is one of my specialties," said Professor Henry with a tone that seemingly waited for David to praise his creation.

David nodded his head and was about to say how good it was when he suddenly heard the next words that the professor had said.

"It is made from a variety of rare insects that you can only find in a special rainforest, so I am confident about its taste and healthiness."

Cough!

David couldn't help but clear his throat repeatedly after hearing those words. He was originally planning to take another sip at the tea, but he now thought that it was not a good idea.

Instead of answering, David skillfully dodged the topic by bringing up the reason why he was here. "Junior Brother's body constitution is rather unique compared to other people."

Hearing that, Professor Henry nodded his head and spoke. "I am also aware of that matter. Professor Luvenia also takes a look at his constitution and we come up with the same conclusion."

He paused for a moment before continuing. "That kid's body seemingly contains a lot of talents. From special physique to combat talent, all the way to his martial talents and unique energies."

David nodded his head before continuing. "Since Elder Luvenia already take a look at him, I am sure that you are also aware of how his body constitution ends up that way, sir."

The professor nodded his head and answered. "Your master alongside some other Mentalism Experts must divide his talents somehow. It is a rather interesting way of applying the Meridian Locking despite how odd it was."

"That is only half-right, elder," said David noddingly before continuing. "Shin is supposed to have a very strong physique since he inherited the body constitutions of both of his parents."

"But because of the continuous collision between master's Mental Energy and Demonic Powers within her womb, some complications happened during the fusion process and caused for his special physique to become incomplete."

"Then this leads to Junior Brother having a hard time in training either Mentalism or Martial Arts. Because of his incomplete body constitution, there are always some problems whenever he tries to circulate any kind of energy."

"After discussing it with the surviving experts of my homeland and Sir Adam, they come up with a solution of separating the initial constitution from the thing that was causing that complication."

"They are planning to do it by doing the 'Heavenly Restoration Purification' of our Kingdom. Master and Sir Adam even travel towards an unknown land to look for the 'Spring of Life'."

Reaching this point, Professor Henry couldn't help but ask. "An unknown land where the 'Spring of Life' is located?"

David nodded his head and replied truthfully. "Yes, elder. It is the land located in the unexplored area of our world, the land that they have discovered before and commonly known as 'Garden of Eden' or 'Paradise'."

"So, those two really found that place," muttered Professor Henry as he massaged his temples before gesturing for David to continue.

David nodded his head and continued. "Master and Sir Adam did the ritual while letting junior brother bathe on that spring."

"They are originally planning to get rid of the cause of the complication on Shin's body, but during the purification process, the other physique suddenly becomes complete and reveals itself."

"The two physiques were supposed to merge during that time, but Master and Sir Adam knew that Shin would not be able to handle their fusion, so they decided to stop the fusion process and used a special means to prevent the two physiques from merging."

"I am not sure what kind of technique they use to do that but I heard that they used the principle of 'Mentalism and Martial Art Unification' to achieve it."

Professor Henry fell in deep thought after hearing that before commenting. "If it is about body constitution, then they must use the principle of 'Unified Strengthening' since it is the closest technique that is also related to our bodies, the combination of 'Qi Reinforcement Skills' and 'Mentalism Enhancement'."

"What is the other physique?" he asked with a tone that seemingly sounded like he already knew the answer.

David was silent for a moment before answering. "Heavenly Martial Body."

Professor Henry closed his eyes as he could already understand why Shin's parents made that decision.

If the 'Spiritual Embryo' was the perfect vessel to practice Mentalism, then the 'Heavenly Martial Body' was the body physique that every Martial Artist would dream of since it was a gifted body that could learn any kind of Martial Arts.

After that, the professor turned back to David before saying. "It is definitely a good thing but I am sure that it will also make it hard for Shin to practice either of the two disciplines."

David nodded his head and added. "That is right, elder. They may find a way to solve the problem with Shin's constitution, but it led them to another issue where his talents are now having some complications with those two physiques."

"And that is when they decided to divide his talents and created a new system of Median Locking just for it," said Professor Henry as he could now see the whole picture.

With segregated physiques and talents, Shin was able to practice both Mentalism and Martial Arts. And this was where the professor arrived at his final question. "But why do they let their child grow up away from them if they can be the teacher for him in either discipline."

Hearing that question, David couldn't help but wear a bitter smile before answering. "They also don't want it to happen, elder. But when everything is going smoothly, an unexpected accident suddenly happened."

Chapter 833 Dual Personalities And Divided Talents

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"There is an unfortunate incident when Shin is still young that lead him to his current situation," said David as a sorrowful look appeared on his face.

Professor Henry didn't say anything and patiently waited for David to continue.

David seemed to recall the past with a pained expression on his face before continuing. "Shin is a bright and energetic child during that time. But because of his monstrous talent, the other kids living in our small village outcasted him."

Hearing that, the professor couldn't help but nod his head and comment. "Talent people bound to become the source of envy. But if their talent becomes out of others' reach, they become a symbol of admiration. Those people are what we called genius."

He then paused for a moment and shook his head before quickly adding. "But if a genius possessed an incomprehensible talent, they will be treated as a monster that the other people will be afraid of."

"Envy turns into admiration which will turn into fear. This is how people see geniuses and prodigies of every field."

David nodded his head and agreed before continuing. "Despite Shin's status within our village, other people are afraid of him to the point that they even influenced their children unconsciously."

"Fortunately, it didn't affect Shin that much, and instead befriend the tamed and intelligent beast living near our village. He is still as bright as always and very diligent when it comes to his studies despite his very young age."

"He learns under his parents as they guide him in their respective disciplines. Then he will play with his beast friends outside the village under the protection of Master's familiar."

"Everything is going pretty fine-... At least, that is what we thought," David couldn't help but pause for a moment when he reached this point.

Then he continued with a sorrowful expression on his face. "He is usually bright which is why we didn't notice anything strange. Especially when he is hanging out with us."

"But little did we know that the Seed of Hatred that he inherited from Sir Adam will use that situation to slowly corrupt Shin's mind."

"Since Shin was being outcasted by his peers, and because he is still young, he is still unaware of a lot of things. That is why he doesn't know the feeling of loneliness or sadness at times."

"Despite the motherly love that he is getting from his mother, the attentiveness and care that that comes from his father, and the enjoyment that he is getting from his beast friends, there is still a part of him that he wants to play with the other kids around his age."

"Due to these circumstances, the Seed of Hatred manages to find a gap on its seal and slowly whispers to Shin."

With another pause, David took a deep breath before continuing. "Then one day, I found Shin standing in the middle of the corpses of the only friends that he has. He is bathed with their blood and staring at his bloodied hands, shaking."

"Starting that day, Shin become afraid of his own talent. And refused to learn any form of Martial Arts and Mentalism."

"He is saying that he now understands why the other kids are afraid of him. Which also become a reality since the incident became known to everyone in that village."

Silence filled the entire room as David stopped talking. He put his hands together and clenched them tightly as he could remember that he couldn't do anything to help his Junior Brother.

"Naturally, Master and Sir Adam are worried about him. There are also some times when Sir Adam wants to cast his Dream Heart Sutra to Shin to erase all of those unpleasant memories. Sometimes, they also want to leave the village for a chance of environment."

"But one day, when we are about to decide what to do, we come to know a 'Shin' who is also not 'Shin' at the same time."

Professor Henry knitted his eyebrows quite deeply when he heard those confusing words. But he held back his curiosity and let David continue.

"This particular 'Shin' is completely different. Unlike the bright attitude that he usually has, this kid has a gloomy atmosphere around him. He also possessed a pair of intelligent eyes that a child shouldn't have."

"At first, we thought that he becomes consumed by the Seed of Hatred within him. But with Sir Adam's expertise in Demonic Arts and familiarity with Seed of Hatred, he could tell that it was not the case."

"It was the same for Master since she has a very high level of attainment in Mentalism. She can instantly tell if someone is possessed by a demon or not."

David closed his eyes and took another breath, preparing himself for the next words that he was about to say.

"And when everyone was confused, this child suddenly introduced himself to use. He said that his name was 'Uno', and that Shin created him to protect himself. And his ultimate goal was to get rid of the threat that was the most dangerous for Shin."

"He paused as he said those words and pointed at his chest, seemingly indicating that he would get rid of the seed sealed within his heart."

Hearing that, Professor Henry finally understood and spoke. "So, you are saying that Shin created an ego as a defense mechanism and that ego is strong enough to overcome every obstacle that will block his path, and also smart enough to know what kind of existence he is."

David nodded his head and confirmed. "That is right, elder. But it is also not all of it."

"This particular 'ego' is not ordinary because it becomes the mental manifestation of Shin's trauma and the divided talents that his body possesses."

"And from what Master and Sir Adam have assessed, it seems like 'Uno' also carries a portion of the seed's power, as well as a fragment of the Divinity Grade Mental Energy to preserve his existence."

"At first, Master and Sir Adam were unwilling for such an existence to live within their child's body."

"But when they were planning to erase him, Shin's real self suddenly took over his body and stopped them from doing it while also saying that 'Uno' is his brother."

"After seeing such a sight, Master and Sir Adam couldn't help but become shocked, discovering that Shin and Uno can freely swap places with Shin being the dominant one."

David hesitated for a moment before quickly adding. "And what is even more surprising about it is the fact that each of them possessed the Talents that are supposedly divided within Shin's body."

Professor Henry squinted his eyes when they reached this point before asking. "So, you are telling me that there are two personalities living within that child's body?"

David nodded as a confirmation.

Then the professor continued to ask. "And their talents are divided among them. Shin has the talent in Mentalism and possesses the 'Spiritual Embryo', alongside the 'Immediately Response' and 'Battle Genius' Talent."

"In the meantime, this guy called 'Uno' is supposed to have the talent for Martial Arts and carries the 'Heavenly Martial Body' as his vessel, alongside the other two Talents that Shin originally has."

David nodded his head once again, confirming that the assessment was correct.

Hearing that, Professor Henry couldn't help but ask. "Then the current state that Shin has is not only because of the rampaging Demonic Qi within his Dantian but also because of him being aware of Uno's existence once again?"

The professor didn't wait for David to respond as he was already shaking his head while muttering in a quiet voice. "What a very complicated situation."

After calming himself a little, Professor Henry turned back to David and asked. "If their child is in a such complicated situation, then when did they send him to this land at a very young age."

"It is because of Uno's existence, elder," answer David within an instant.

The professor immediately understood what it meant and pointed it out. "Since that 'Ego' possessed a portion of Demonic Powers from the Seed of Hatred, he becomes a bridge that connects the two seeds between Adam and Shin which can also lead to a fatal disaster for the kid."

"But can Adam just leave his wife and the child instead?" he asked once again.

David smiled bitterly before replying. "Sir, you also know the reason for that question. Because of Master's condition, she needs constant protection and since they are being chased by a lot of enemies, the World Government and Shadow Alliance, in particular, Sir Adam is the only one who can protect her."

"Especially when they have no idea when and where their enemies will show up," he added while shrugging his shoulders.

"Master doesn't support the idea, but they have no choice but to send their son away. So, Sir Adam formulated a plan and did a lot of preparations before sending their child to this place."

"And since no one knows that they have a child, and everyone is thinking that Sir Adam can't have a child, no one will outright suspect Shin's identity."

"Sir Adam even sealed Shin's memories about his parents and his life before coming to this place to make sure that everything will go smoothly," added David with a helpless sigh.

After that, he turned to the professor and said. "Anyway, that is everything that I can say about Shin, for now, Elder Henry."

Professor Henry shook his head when he heard that and slightly complained. "Those two sure are giving a lot of problems recently."

He then leaned on his seat before gesturing to David that he could leave. "If that is all, then you can take your leave now. I will not send you off."

David body at Professor Henry and stood up, preparing to leave. But he suddenly remembered something and spoke. "Ah! Actually, Master and Sir Adam already figured out a way for Shin to fuse his two special physiques."

The professor didn't wait for David to finish his words and quickly said. "I also know about it since it is pretty obvious. It is for that kid to reach 'Body Reformation' in both Mentalism and Martial Arts."

"As expected of Head Researcher Henry!" commented David before dashing out of the office since he could already see the cluster of Mental Energy and Inner Qi on each of the professor's hands.

"I will be going them, Elder!" shouted David as he closed the door of the office.

In the meantime, Professor Henry continued to stare at the ceiling muttering in a soft voice. "Reaching the 'Body Reformation', huh? That is easier to say than done."

"That kid needs to reach 'Venerable Realm' in Mentalism and 'Domain Realm' of Martial Arts first before thinking of reaching that state."

"After all, there is a reason why there are very few Mentalists who reach the 'Exalted Realm' and Martial Artists who achieve the 'Transcendent Realm'," he added before quickly correcting himself. "Ah! There are supposedly two personally living in that body, should I call them kids instead?"

After that, Professor Henry started laughing before standing up and going back to work.

Chapter 834 Aftermath (Part 1)

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Inside the room, Shin was currently meditating under the special Method of 'Jade Kirin Scripture' to recover his strength.

According to Grandmaster Benn, the Meditation Method of 'Jade Kirin Scripture' was way better than his 'Four Symbol Scripture', so he suggested Shin use it during his mediation session instead of his own technique.

No matter how well-rounded the 'Four Symbol Scripture', there were still some areas that it couldn't cover. His Mentalism Method specialized in battle, rune enhancement, talisman creations, and formation formulas. This was already a lot compared to most of the Mentalism Methods around the world.

On the other hand, the 'Jade Kirin Scripture' was rather peculiar. It solely focused on calming techniques and harmonization. It didn't even have a lot of offensive methods, rather it recorded a series of Mentalism Chants that were usually used for meditation.

But it didn't mean that the 'Jade Kirin Scripture' didn't have an offensive technique. It instead focused on mental attacks rather than physical techniques that a Kaleidoscope Mentalist had. This scripture was much better than the 'Four Symbol Scripture' in this aspect.

This was why Grandmaster Benn suggested Shin use this particular scripture whenever he was meditating. Not only it could help strengthen his mind better than the 'Four Symbol Scripture', but it could also help him nurture his Spiritual Avatar and brought it to an even greater height.

Due to how good the Jade Kirin Scripture was in terms of spirituality training, Old Benn was inspired to formulate a new training method for Shin. He combined the Spiritual Methods of the two scriptures and created a brand-new training method that almost made him want to relearn Mentalism from the start.

He almost got jealous of Shin because he was able to train his Spiritual Avatar and grew his Niwan Palace with such an amazing training method. But at the same time, Old Benn was also happy for his student since the young man would have a better starting point than him when he was still starting to learn Mentalism.

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Shin couldn't help but feel a little strange due to the absence of the Internal Qi within his body. But at the same time, he also got a better understanding of how to circulate his Mental Energy throughout his system.

Before, he was using his Internal Qi to strengthen his body. And with the help of his breathing, he was using his Dantian as the center of the energy before circulating them through his meridians.

It was also using the principle of 'being one with nature'. Nature was everything and being part of everything would make you become everything itself.

This was the root of every Martial Art which gave birth to countless philosophies and teachings which became the foundation of Martial Arts around the world.

Different from this, Mentalism came from the spirit. Everything had a spirit and the spirit was connected to the universe.

The mind was as vast as the Universe, and the universe was everything. By putting the will at the center of the universe, it would become the will of heaven and earth.

Martial Art borrowed the Force of Nature and stored it at one's Dantian before using it to temper the body and mind of a Martial Artist.

On the other hand, Mentalism became the center of nature. The 'spirit' was connected to the universe and the Mentalist used it to nurture their entire being.

They were two different disciplines and were using different methods, but both of them were connected to heaven and earth.

Shin understood this the more he explored his Mentalism. And with the knowledge that he already had, tempering his body with Mental Energy became more natural.

Instead of using his Dantian as the core, he was using his Niwan Palace as the center of everything.

He already learned this before, but since he was more familiar with the tempering method of Martial Arts, he preferred using it over the method of Mentalism.

Moreover, his 'Spiritual Embryo' special physique was able to strengthen itself without his help since it could just absorb his Mental Energy naturally.

Shin slowly woke up from his meditation and opened his eyes before looking at the gentle glow that his body was emitting.

He opened and closed his palms and felt the strength that his body was carrying. He could also sense the healing process of his meridians. They were recovering much faster compared to earlier.

After that, he did a couple of light exercises to relieve the stiffness that his body had before going back to his bed.

He looked at the clock and saw that it was still a little early for him to go back to the game. There were a lot of things that happened to him today which made him feel that a couple of days had passed.

Shin stared at the ceiling and wondered. "My body is still in the middle of recovering, so excessive training is out of the question. The same for my Spirit since it needs some time to recover before I can continue strengthening it."

"Tsk! I don't have anything better to do for now," he muttered before standing up and opening a virtual screen through his Advance Watch. "Let's take a look at what happened inside the game then."

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In the official forums of «Destiny's Fate» online, a series of different articles were posted.

Shin browsed at the titles for a moment before opening the least interesting topic but had a lot of views due to its eye-catching title.

"Wing's Alliance were DEFEATED."

With such a highlighted word, it was pretty impossible to ignore such a topic.

The Wing's Alliance was supposedly the favorite and the expected winner of the war between them and the HeadHunter Guild.

There were a lot of factors listed for them to win.

First, they were supposed to have more resources compared to the opposing side since they were one of the major powers controlling the resource maps around the Holy City.

And on top of this, the battlefield where the war occurred was within their controlled territory so they were supposed to have a topographical advantage.

They also had more manpower since everyone knew that the headquarters of the HeadHunter Guild refused to send any reinforcement. After all, this was the last chance that the Guild Leader of the Saint Heaven Kingdom branch had.

But despite all of the odds going against them, the HeadHunter Guild still managed to prevail in the end, which made their victory a little dramatic.

Usually, a lot of players would despise the HeadHunter Guild due to the bad reputation that they had. Moreover, a lot of their members were always using despicable methods when playing the game, especially scamming and blackmailing people.

But surprisingly no one did it this time.

It was because they won this war fair and square. The tactics and strategies that the HeadHunter Guild had showcased during the war were amazing. They used their most skilled players pretty efficiently and even devised a very elaborate plan centered around them.

There were quite a lot of critics and strategical experts who broke down the plan and strategies that the powerhouses had used during the war. And in every aspect, the HeadHunter Guild would always come to the top and won despite being at a disadvantage.

The players enjoyed watching it and even said that the guild was actually not that bad.

Aside from that, Cruelty's speech after the war made the viewers look at them in a new light. He said that the HeadHunter Guild would not focus on developing for the better future, at least on the Saint Heaven Kingdom Branch.

They would also impose another rule for their members that would forbid them from doing any despicable acts. They were also going to kick the members that were proven guilty of their hideous acts.

Then, they would be opening the gates of their Guild to recruit more players who were willing to be part of this reformation.

His speech was good and all, but it made the main and other branches of the guild look evil. And naturally, the high-ranking members and elders of the Guild would be displeased.

But no matter how much they hate Cruelty and his speech, they couldn't do anything to punish him or strip his position.

His reputation right now was pretty high, so it would do them more harm than good if they attempted to demote him or gave him any kind of punishment.

Moreover, it was also true that they didn't send any reinforcement during the war due to the consecutive failures that he committed previously.

If ever, they owed him an apology rather than a punishment. But their pride would never allow that to happen, so they would choose to give Cruelty a bountiful reward for his achievement and earn themselves positive feedback from the guild members rather than become a symbol of embarrassment.

Shin nodded his head in satisfaction after reading the detailed article about that war. Everything went according to the plan, what was left was to reap the rewards that he earned from it.

"Big Sis Shiella will surely handle everything properly, so I don't have to worry about that," muttered Shin as he planned to let his big sister collect the promised rewards from the agreement that he made with Cruelty.

"Now we have extra funds for the construction of the City. And the only thing left is to clear that annoying Empire Quest from Arthur," he added as he thought that the quest was as annoying as his brother.

After that, he proceeded to read the other articles and immediately frowned his brows after seeing the next topic.

Chapter 835 Aftermath (Part 2)

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The Corrupted Cult initiated an invasion of the Saint Heaven Kingdom, which was basically declaring war against the Righteous Faction. But since it was too sudden, the churches under the Righteous Faction couldn't retaliate properly.

Due to this sudden attack, the Saint Heaven Kingdom suffered quite a lot of losses. There were countless villages that got flattened, the towns were left in ruins in their wake, and some cities were destroyed.

The forces that the Corrupted Cult had brought were pretty strong and almost unstoppable. And since the invasion was a little too sudden, the forces within the kingdom had a hard time protecting themselves.

Fortunately, the cities that were at Advance Rank and higher were strong enough to defend themselves. And since the Corrupted Cult was not focused on them, defending their land was not much of a problem.

The corrupted forces of the cult were focused on particular goals. The main force of their army followed a particular path which gave the Righteous Faction to read their moves.

Their main target was the Holy City, which was situated right in the middle of the Kingdom. And due to its location, there were a lot of towns and villages surrounding it.

Some of those towns and villages were razed to the ground, which made the corrupted army look like an unstoppable force.

But despite their strong momentum, their forces were forced to a sudden halt when they encountered the knights and paladins of Holy City.

The Holy City was already close to being a Capital City so the forces within them were rather strong. And since the invasion was under the banner of the Corrupted Cult and not initiated by a Guild controlled by the players, the churches situated within the City had the right to move.

But despite the strong force that the Holy City had, the size of their army was still a little weaker in comparison to the opposing forces.

The Corrupted Cult could grow their power the more they killed, and given that they already destroyed a lot of villages and towns in their wake, a lot of NPCs and players were killed. This made the forces of the Corrupted Cult create more undead and added to their already strong army.

No matter how powerful the knights, paladins, and priests of the Righteous Faction were, they were bound to have a shortage of manpower.

The corrupted army divided its forces and surrounded before besieging it from all sides. This situation threw the Righteous Faction into a difficult position.

The guilds that were supposed to protect the city were also currently absent. The Wing's Alliance was currently in the middle of a war while the Hydra Guild and Dragon Pavilion were battling each other on the other side of the map.

Such a predicament almost threw every citizen of the Holy City completely hopeless, regardless if they are NPCs or players.

Fortunately, the existence of the Hand of Midas and Assassin Union made the difference. These two forces were comparable to the top Guilds of the game, so their forces were not something to be scoffed about.

The Hand of Midas, despite being a guild made of production classes, once again, showed the world that they were not something to be underestimated.

They showcased the fighting capabilities of every production class. From engineers who brought different kinds of mechas and strange devices, to alchemists who threw a variety of explosive potions on the battlefield, blacksmiths who acted as a vanguard alongside their overpowered equipment that they forged, and many more.

The players who ranked top in the leaderboards of the production classes also showcased that they were not only good at production. Once again, these people revealed their battle capabilities.

Top blacksmith Black Hammer, number one engineer Tinker, best alchemist Adept Hands, and finest tailor Harmony. These players were just a few who lead the charge against the undead army of the Corrupted Cult, and they just slaughtered everyone in their path.

The side of Assassin Union didn't lag behind either. The notoriously famous assassin groups of the union made their appearances such as the Shadow Ravens, Hunting Dogs, and Wild Cats.

These assassin groups were widely known because they never failed an assassination job in their entire carrier. Rumored even said that a Godlike Player within the top rankings would have a hard time dealing with their average members while the captains of those groups were almost comparable to them.

Which such a powerful force assassinating all of the necromancers on the opposing side, the undead army suffered significant losses.

Due to the existence of these two powerful groups, the morale of the players residing within the Holy City pierced through the heavens and joined the battle, pushing the undead army to a disadvantage.

The Holy City was successfully defended due to this and the undead army was forced to retreat.

But the war didn't just end there since there was another undead force who tried to attack another major city, the Forbidden City. The city was also the base of operation of the HeadHunter Guild.

There were a lot of strong guilds within the Forbidden City, as well as a couple of churches under the Righteous Faction. But they were still incomparable to the forces that the Holy City had.

On the other hand, the undead army that was besieging this city was almost as strong as the army that was attacking the Holy City.

The situation was hopeless and the players thought that this Major City was definitely going to fall.

But miracles sometimes happened in this kind of situation.

Unexpectedly, a lot of famous groups and individuals made their appearance. Some of them were adventurer teams that were well-known to everyone. There were also some famous solo players who were known in the mercenary world.

These groups and players were not as famous or as big as the ones that were based in the Holy City, but their presence was more than enough to salvage the current predicament that the Forbidden City had and prevent the worst-case scenario from happening.

But what really save the city from its demise was the sudden appearance of a pair of individuals that slaughtered the undead army almost on their own.

When the Forbidden City was almost on its last string of hope, a particular mage and a mysterious assassin suddenly appeared out of nowhere and showed everyone an unbelievable sight.

It was not even a fight but a one-sided slaughter.

Both of the individuals were covered with their cloaks and hid their identities but their fighting style and unparalleled powers gave everyone a hint of who they were.

The 'Frost Goddess' Snow White and the 'Goddess of the Drifting Night' Cold Moon.

These two might be absolute beauties but with the massacre that they just did, no one would dare to court them and attempt to be their man.

These were the big battles that shook the entire kingdom but it was still not the biggest surprise that everyone got during this invasion.

Some of the well-known analysts within the game were saying that these two attacks were just a diversion to attract everyone's attention.

No matter how strong the undead army was, it was still impossible for them to completely conquer a Major City. They might succeed at giving those cities a devastating blow, but it was not enough to completely capture them.

Their best bet was to capture a particular town or city that could be their temporary base of operation. It could be destroyed but reconstructing it was going to be an issue for them given the resources that the cult had.

After a series of careful deliberations, they came up with a particular town that had the most potential. Aside from its environment and a good terrain that could be used in future battles, it was also the best town within the Saint Heaven Kingdom due to its high-end facilities, the Calderock Town.

This town had lost some of its original popularity because the grinding spots that it had could no longer satisfy the mainstream players. But the training facilities that it had was still its main attraction, the Battle Arena.

Due to its acceptable entry cost, a lot of players were coming to this town to train and challenge other players instead of going to the Divine Arena of the Major Cities.

After their assessment, some of the expert scouts went to Calderock Town to see what happened to it.

They were right about it being attacked by strong forces from the undead army. The scouts even spotted some of the top players from the Corrupted Cult, and all of them were notorious villains within the game and had a very strong fighting power.

Each of these villainous players was leading a powerful force. It might not be as large as the armies that were besieging the two Major Cities, but the quality of their undead and necromancers were pretty high.

This proved that the Corrupted Cult really wanted to capture Calderock Town and turn it into their temporary base.

It was at that moment when everyone witnessed an unbelievable scene that was engraved in their minds.

They saw a single player crush the undead forces alongside the notorious villains that were leading them.

Yes, it was just a single man. He massacred everyone who tried to launch an attack at Calderock Town. And with his presence, no one from the undead army dared to attack that town again.

The name of that man was 'Khing'. The guy who was previously known as the 'King of All Games'.

Chapter 836 Realizing The Real Objective (Part 1)

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Despite all of the good news and a series of defeats that the Corrupted Cult, the Saint Heaven Kingdom still suffered quite significant losses.

It might not affect the minor and major cities, but it was still enough to hinder the progress of the whole kingdom for the time being. Such damage needed to be recovered for quite some time and would also cause quite a lot of resources.

To make it worst, the Corrupted Cult also managed to capture two cities from the kingdom. Those cities might only be in advanced ranks and not as prosperous as the other cities of the same ranks, but it was more than enough for them for the current situation.

These two cities were close to each other but both of them were also isolated from other cities which made them hard to flourish. They were having a hard time doing some trades and transactions due to their awkward locations which were very near the border of the kingdom.

It might be harsh but it was still a perfect location to set a temporary base for the Corrupted Cult.

Calderock Town was still their best choice due to its unique location where they could easily spread their influence. But since that place was being protected by a powerful monster, they had no choice but to settle at their second-best option.

It was going to be hard for them to grow their undead forces from those two cities since there were no neighboring cities, towns, or villages in the area. But they could at least corrupt the area with dark miasma and turn that place into a corrupted map, creating an environment that was more advantageous for them.

This was the particular information that made Shin frown his brows. From the consecutive attacks that the Corrupted Cult had attempted, he could see a certain sequence that made him uncomfortable.

It started from the Sky Deceiving Valley which then to the invasion that the cult had launched at the entirety of the Saint Heaven Kingdom and the capture of the two isolated cities located at the border.

From his perspective, he could see that the one who was pulling the strings behind the Corrupted Cult's movements was plotting something big.

"They must know the secrets behind the towering wall of the Sky Deceiving Valley. Or they may also be aware of the Frozen Kingdom since already prepared quite a lot of contingency plans to prepare for the worst-case scenario."

"But the moment when they realize that it was impossible to salvage their situation, they immediately redirect the forces that they have for the quest towards another goal and that leads to the sudden invasion."

"But all of their attempt to capture the places with the best strategical terrains and the most flourishing economy, they immediately drop the idea and settle with a not-so-special place."

Looking at the series of events for another time, Shin could clearly see that all of them were perfectly calculated. The opposing side already anticipated that this situation was going to happen which was why everything seemed to be flowing very smoothly.

After confirming his situation, Shin quickly opened a virtual map in front of him. His Advance Watch was connected to the game so transferring these kinds of information was pretty easy.

Shin adjusted the size of the map and laid it on the ground. He had a detailed map of the Saint Heaven Kingdom so he could easily see everything from above.

After that, he opened a special program from his watch and entered a couple of information into it, and waited for a couple of minutes.

He didn't wait for long as the program easily downloaded the information that he provided before running it.

A few moments later, the three-dimensional map in front of him ran the stimulation of the whole event that took place in the Saint Heaven Kingdom. It didn't leave a single detail as Shin inputted all of the data carefully.

He reviewed all of these events and meticulously observed everything. And after watching the stimulation a few more times, he started marking two places on the map. One was the Sky Deceiving Valley and the location of the Frozen Kingdom while the other was the location where the Corrupted Cult chose to settle.

Those locations were on both ends of the map and were directly opposite to each other, making Shin even more suspicious.

After contemplating for a long time, Shin finally encircled the whole area of the map that was left devastated by the Corrupted Cult and concluded. "All of these were just a diversion."

Then pointed at the two ends of the map that he marked earlier before muttering. "And these two are the main objectives."

Shin could still not find the reason but his instincts were telling him that he was already close to the truth. It was already within his reach but he just couldn't put his fingers into it.

Reaching this point, Shin lied back on his bed, closed his eyes, and started erasing every information that he gathered. Then he went back to the very beginning where all of these started.

He then muttered a pair of words. "Empire Quest."

"This is the starting point, so this is also where everything is going to end," he continued to mutter and recall what an Empire Quest was.

"An Empire Quest is a special type of quest that can change the state and course of the game. It can affect the climate or even the topography of a certain place depending on the result of the quest."

Shin quickly opened his eyes and stood up right after he muttered those words. He then looked at the map for another time, specifically at the two points that represented their current location and where the forces of the Corrupted Cult were located.

After that, he looked at the devastated part of the map that was almost covering the majority of the Kingdom.

"We are f*cked!" he cursed right after realizing what was going to happen.

Ha!

Shiella sat on a sofa and leaned her back on it to relax a little. She closed her eyes to take a rest since there were a lot of stressful things that happened to her these last few days.

It was a good thing that their family businesses were running smoothly and she didn't have to worry about them. She was still young but she chose to manage them as she knew that she would need to do it eventually.

As an heiress of a large corporation, it was her fate to learn how to run them as she would inherit them someday. It was tiring at times but she had the talent for it and she also enjoyed doing the job.

And as a form of training, she even built a large Trading Firm within the games that she had played for the last few years. She was successful and managed to turn it into one of the most influential powers in every virtual game.

Though, she was feeling a little regretful at times since being the guild master of such a large group and being an heiress of a huge corporation at the same time was pretty tiring.

This was one of the occasions where she sometimes envied her little brother for living such a carefree life. Though, she was also aware that she was the reason why he was able to live like that.

Fortunately, there were rare times like this when she didn't have to worry about anything. There was no urgent matter that she needed to attend to in real life while everything inside the game was at least manageable for her subordinates and didn't need her help.

There were some damages in the kingdom that needed to be attended and it would cost quite a lot of resources for the kingdom to recover. It might be troublesome, but these kinds of cases were also an opportunity for her trading firm.

A war would always consume a lot of funds during the process because of the supply of potions and weapons that were needed for it.

But dealing with the aftermath was not that simple either since it would also require a large sum of resources just for the recovery process.

These were the two reasons why a lot of merchant groups were flocking to different warzone despite how dangerous it was. After all, both cases would give them a lot of profit.

And since the Hand of Midas Trading Firm was the current largest merchant and production guild within the Saint Heaven Kingdom, money would surely flow their way.

There was no player guild that could rival them in this area currently, so they could monopolize everything. If ever, NPC merchants were the only ones that could contend against them, but the player would always pick the Hand of Midas since it would cost them a little cheaper and with a similar quality if not better.

The damage to the Saint Heaven Kingdom was definitely not small, so the NPC Merchant Groups would not be enough to handle all of them, especially when both NPCs and player-built towns and villages were affected.

This was an opportunity that the Hand of Midas would never miss. Shiella even predicted that this was going to happen which was why she ordered the other branches of the firm to gather a lot of resources and manpower needed for the reconstruction and send them to the Saint Heaven Kingdom through different channels.

Everything was running smoothly which gave Shiella peace of mind. But that feeling didn't last for long since she received a message from Shin that immediately gave her a headache.

"This brat! Can I have a peaceful time just for once? It is not even half a day yet!"

The expression on her face was pretty dark, seemingly showing her desire to murder Shin right now.

Chapter 837 Realizing The Real Objective (Part 2)

.....

David logged in to the game as Shiella sent him a message that there was an urgent matter that they needed to discuss.

Right after entering Shiella's office within the Hand of Midas Trading Firm, David immediately said. "It hasn't been long since we last met yet you already missed me? It is a little embarrassing but I am glad that you already realized my charm."

Shiella rolled her eyes when she heard those words and quickly opened a virtual map and spoke. "Enough of your nonsense already and take a look at this."

She was already used to his nonsense after knowing him for quite some time. She would only tire herself if she argued with him, so it was better to ignore his teasing. After all, he would eventually get tired of it if she was not giving him the response that he wanted.

"Tsk! Such a letdown!" muttered David before taking a seat on the sofa in front of Shiella. From the manner that he was showing, it seemed like he was treating this office as his home.

He then ignored the glare that Shiella was giving him and stared at the virtual map that was projected in front of him.

Seeing that, Shiella hmped at him before playing the stimulation of the war that just took place in the Saint Heaven Kingdom.

It only took David a single look at it to notice the suspicious movements of the Corrupted Cult. He even frowned very deeply when he saw the final state of the map.

He turned to Shiella and asked. "What kind of quest are those guys doing in that forbidden area?"

Shiella instantly knew that David also realized what was going on. "It is an Empire Quest and it seems like it will affect the state of the Saint Heaven Kingdom if it is not handled properly."

"Tsk! What a crafty bastard!" David clicked his tongue as he could already see the whole plan that their opponent was plotting.

"Given the amount of time and effort that they invested to that place, they must also have some information about the Empire Quest that Shin and the others are doing. Or they can also have a quest of their own, which somehow coincided that Empire Quest."

"They even have such amazing contingency plans if they are discovered and get interrupted during their quest. These guys sure are a piece of work."

He turned at the map and started laying out the hidden moves that the Corrupted Cult had done. "They are originally planning to use the secret of that forbidden place to conquer the Saint Heaven Kingdom.

"But since they fail to do that, they decided to redirect their forces and sweep through the entire kingdom to weaken its power."

"And when they achieve that goal, they chose the isolated cities of the kingdom since it was the farthest location from the Sky Deceiving Valley."

"Right now, the Saint Heaven Kingdom is currently in the middle of two forces that can devour it when the right time comes."

Shiella nodded her head and emphasize. "The Kingdom is current under the recovery period so it will not be able to send any reinforcements to subdue the Corrupted Cult and take back the land."

"It is possible for the Righteous Faction to gather enough force for the crusade, but they will only be exposing their back at sudden accidents that may arise at any moment."

"The Kingdom is under the state of calamity so it will be the perfect time for Dark Players to make their move. The criminal groups of NPCs such as Bandits and lawless cities will surely take advantage of this situation. They may even release a special event for Dark Players."

David leaned his back on the sofa and commented. "The Blood Carnival must be jumping with joy right now."

He paused for a moment and immediately went back to the main topic. "Anyway, we still can't leave the Corrupted Cult just like that. The more time we spend doing nothing to subdue them, the greater their force can be."

"We can't ask any assistance from the Churches under the Righteous Faction, so we can only rely on ourselves to get the job done. You better start using your influence and contact your business partners for this matter."

Shiella glared at David but didn't say anything. After all, everything that he said was right. But she was not sure if she could gather enough force for this particular crusade of subduing the Corrupted Cult.

"Anyway, do you happen to have the means to contact the king of the Holy City or at least some Archbishops of the Churches here?" asked David all of a sudden.

Shiella immediately understood what he wanted to say and replied. "Don't worry. We may not be able to get assistance from them but I can at least present all of these to them to get a large-scale quest that can give us corresponding rewards."

"Then we are done with this issue. The only thing left is the Empire Quest that Shin and the others are doing," said David before quickly adding. "They can't clear or fail the quest too fast but they also can't do it too slow."

"If they clear it too fast, it will trigger a large expansion for the Saint Heaven Kingdom. And when it happens, the economy of this kingdom will surely drop drastically."

"Since it is an Empire Quest, there is a high chance that it will open another Kingdom. When successful, most of the players here will migrate to that area, especially with the current state of the Kingdom."

"There is no need to discuss the failure of the quest since the outcome is pretty obvious. It will definitely lead to the doom of the Saint Heaven Kingdom, which is the thing that the Corrupted Cult is hoping for."

He paused for a moment before continuing. "And if they take too much time at clearing that Empire Quest, then the Corrupted Cult will also have enough time to draw a plan for sabotaging them."

"You must know how crafty the opposing side is. The strategist, who is behind everything, is not only able to draw a pretty elaborate plan, but they are also able to read a few steps ahead of us."

Hearing those words, Shiella couldn't help but sneer at him before saying with a provocative tone. "What? Getting scared already? So much for being the best player of the «War Tactics» online."

"I thought you are the King of Strategic Games?" she added, trying to agitate David.

Unfortunately, David only laughed at her words and spoke. "King of Strategic Games, you said? I no longer have that title since my consecutive defeat against that mysterious rookie."

"I also improved quite a lot after suffering such a number of defeats. It is just a pity that I never have a chance to play against him again since he suddenly disappears after that event."

He then turned to Shiella and added. "I know your concerns but there is really nothing to worry about. No matter how good that guy is, he is still far from that person who crushed me."

"He just has a head start and a clear look on the board before I arrive, which is why I fail to see his real intention. But now that I have the whole picture, it is impossible for him to get everything that he wants."

David looked at the virtual map once again and added. "What's more, he also has a clear weakness. He is quite greedy for thinking that he can swallow the entirety of Saint Heaven Kingdom."

He squinted his eyes while looking at the virtual map. And from his perspective, the whole map seemed to transform into a chess board before adding. "He may have a shot if he only focuses on a single goal. But since he wanted to plunder everything, I'm afraid that he has enough moves to achieve his goal on such a large board."

Border of the Saint Heaven Kingdom, in the place where the Corrupted Cult chose to settle.

Immortal was currently sitting across from a hooded person while an ongoing game of chess was currently underway in front of them.

Tak!

He placed a piece on the board, indicating that he just finished his move.

His opponent didn't even take some time to think as he immediately changed the position of one of his pieces.

Tak!

"Your strategic skills are still as good as the last time we meet, but how come you suffered such a crushing defeat in the last war," said the hooded player as he finished his move.

"In your own turf nonetheless," he added as he placed his hands on top of his knees.

Immortal frowned deeply as he found those words unpleasant. But he knew that the other side was just trying to provoke him, so he only gave a calm reply. "It is because I encountered a very troublesome opponent during that time."

He then finished his move and gestured to the other person that it was his turn to make his move.

The hooded player was not in a rush this time and just started at Immortal before nodding his head. "I reviewed your battle and also found that your opponent was indeed very hard to deal with."

"But I still can't believe that you lose to such a series of stupid moves. The opposing side doesn't even have a proper formation during that time," he added before countering the move that Immortal just did.

"And such stupid moves also managed to defeat the king of strategic games," reputed Immortal with a calm tone.

The hooded player couldn't help but laugh when he heard those words. And after recovering himself, he immediately said. "That event is no different from a myth, we don't even know if it is just a show that Khing has prepared in advance."

"But it is still Khing who we are talking about here. I will usually punish the others because of their failure, but since their opponent is the previously crowned as the King of All Games, I guess it is still acceptable."

"That is why I only send them back to prepare a few things for me," he added as he captured one of the pieces from the opposing side of the board.

He then looked at Immortal and said with a cold tone. "I just hope that you are able to see the whole picture this time."

"There is no room for mistake since we are going face Khing himself starting from here," he added as he stood up from his seat and started to leave.

Immortal stared at the board for a few more minutes and concluded that there was really no point in continuing it.

After that, he looked at the back of the leaving figure and muttered with a voice that he could only hear. "You may be one of the most successful projects that the organization has produced, but I still doubt that you are as good as the rumored Aces."

Chapter 838 Godly Display (Part 1): Arrangements

...

Swoosh!

Shin appeared in the hidden cave that the group had created earlier, which was also acting as their temporary hideout.

He just logged back in the game and seeing that no one was present in the area, he quickly opened the party channel to see if anyone was online. But all of the other names were currently greyed out, so it could only mean that he was the first one to arrive.

Seeing that everyone else was offline other than him, he decided to do quick maintenance on his equipment before heading out to scout the area.

He also left a message on the party chat channel to inform everyone that he was already online.

He surveyed the whole vicinity for a whole hour. And just like their first survey, he discovered quite a lot of rare herbs. They were also quite a few boulders with rare ores stacked in them, and waiting to be mined.

This place has an abundance of resources which would be enough for them to concoct enough potions to supply their needs and create a few tools that they could use for the quest.

Shin harvested quite a few herbs but he purposely left the rarest ones since his harvesting skill was not high enough for them. He left them for the others to harvest. On the other, he mined all of the ores that he saw and did not leave anything behind since his mining skills were pretty high.

After that, he went back to the cave and immediately saw that the others were already present.

Black Hand and S.Tigris were discussing something with Ara listening from the side. Alucard was currently cleaning his magic rifle and right beside him were Ravier and Ember who was busy flirting with each other.

Shin slightly shook his head and turned to the other side. Then he saw Charlotte and Arielle busily concocting some potions, seemingly preparing their supplies.

He walked towards and slightly patted the priestess's shoulder. Cloe just finished concocting a High-Grade Potion, so she was free. And when she felt the gentle tap on her shoulder, she quickly turned around to look who was it.

When she saw Shin standing in there, she gave him a soft smile before saying. "How are you feeling? I heard that you fainted earlier after a sparring match?"

Alice who was right beside Cloe heard her and couldn't help but pause what she was doing and turn in their direction. She also looked at Shin waiting for his reply.

Shin smiled at Cloe and replied. "It is just a slight problem with my Martial Arts but it is nothing to worry about."

He didn't want to discuss it right now since he was still adjusting to the temporary absence of his Martial Arts, so he quickly changed the topic. He took out a bunch of herbs and put them on the free table. "Here, I picked them up while scouting the area earlier, I think they can be used to concoct more potions."

Cloe knew Shin since young, so she immediately understood his thoughts and nodded her head. "Yep! They are more than enough to supply us for a few days here."

She then pointed to Ravier and Ember and quickly added. "If you also found some high-grade herbs then just order those two to pick them up. I am quite annoyed at them at the moment. They kept on teasing me earlier when you are gone."

Shin laughed at her words since he knew that she just wanted to brighten his mood. He then nodded his head and replied. "I get it."

After that, he walked toward the two to give them the coordinates of the rare herbs that he couldn't harvest earlier.

In the meantime, Cloe quickly went to the herbs that Shin had brought to identify their usage. Seeing that, Alice also continued with what she was doing earlier.

Not long after, Faker and Lawless also came back from scouting and immediately greeted Shin.

"How are you feeling? I heard the situation earlier from Brother David," asked Lawless right after arriving in front of Shin.

Shin shook his head as he found everyone seemed to be worried about him. He just smiled and replied. "I'm fine. It will be temporary anyway."

Lawless nodded his head and patted Shin's shoulder. "Yeah! That is what a real fighter should be. I am sure that you are going to get some benefits from it when your body comes back to normal."

Shin nodded his head and turned to Faker, attempting to change the topic. "How is the situation?"

"It is nothing much different from our first scouting. Those wolves are still in their den," said Faker in response.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

After that, they saw Arthur and Leonard log into the game simultaneously. And right after those two opened their eyes, they immediately saw the three looking at them.

It was slightly awkward but Arthur quickly brightened the mood. "Hey! I know that I am handsome but you guys don't have to stare at me that way."

Leonard shook his head at those words and quickly surveyed the surroundings and saw that only two people were missing, Zero and Seven.

But before he could voice it out, those two also logged back in the game, almost the same time as them.

Zero was the first to greet them and started speaking to Shin.

...

The group was left doing their own preparations before gathering together to discuss the next course of their actions. And after careful deliberation, he decided to do a different approach to dealing with the wolves.

Shin suspected that the wolves were only going to respawn back in their pack if they died away from them. But it would surely take them some time before they could respawn if they died in their own den.

This should be purposely set by the system and wanted them to face the wolves head-on and not drew the battle for long.

Earlier, Shin also informed the group about the possible outcome if they took longer to clear this quest, as well as if they cleared it a little too fast.

They couldn't be too slow or too fast at clearing this quest since it would affect the fate of the Saint Heaven Kingdom. They needed to clear this quest at the right pace.

They could no longer afford to take their time to clear this quest, so they decided to clear it as quickly as possible but also without too much haste.

After a careful discussion, Shin decided to have a different arrangement. First, they were going to harvest everything in their current location and concoct as many potions as possible. It was the same for ores as they would harvest and store all of them, save for future use.

Then the group would proceed at dealing with the wolves and kill the Alpha Wolf with their best.

The group immediately became busy after their discussion. They formed a smaller group to perform different tasks, making everything more productive.

Shin then moved alongside the most elite members of their group to test his hypothesis. If the wolves indeed were not going to respawn instantly if they killed them within their den. And if it was right, then the only problem that they were going to face when fighting those wolves was the effect of the berserk skill that they possessed.

Shin moved alongside Zero, Siegfried, Simba, and Faker as usual. They were the strongest members of their group, so they were the most suited group for this job.

Aside from them, Alucard was also tasked to accompany them to act as the main scout while the assault team was busy dealing with the wolves.

Black Hand also insisted to come along, saying that bringing a priest was better and much safe. But Shin was against it since bringing a priest with them would only be a burden since he could slow them down.

He also didn't want to constantly worry about him when they were doing their job. What's more, he was also aware of Black Hand's real intention. He would surely want to join them just to observe their group and spy on their strengths and skills.

There was no need for it since he would see them in action later once the operation was in full swing anyway.

Black Hand was quite stubborn because he wanted everything personally. He could tell that something had changed, especially when he looked at Shin, Zero, Arthur, and Leonard.

From his perspective, these four looked like a raging volcano that was about to explode at any given moment. He really wanted to see the explosion of their potential as it was also going to be beneficial for him.

If he saw them fight in their current state, it would give him some inspiration for his analytical skills when facing top experts.

He naturally also knew what was running inside Shin's head and assured the latter that he was just going to observe from a safe distance and would be the first one to retreat if things were too dangerous for him to stay.

Shin didn't know why Black Hand was so insistent on coming with them, but he could see the desperation on his face. He turned to others and saw them shrugging their shoulders, signifying that they don't really care.

Shin could only sigh helplessly in that situation and let Black Hand tag along. But the priest was also instructed to move alongside Alucard and stay away from the main group as far as possible.

And when they arrived at the wolf's den, both Alucard and Black Hand witnessed something unbelievable. They looked at each other and saw the shocked eyes.

"Is it possible for someone to be that strong after such a short time?"

It was still believable if only one from the group had that kind of insane growth. But aside from Faker, the other four seemed to improve drastically in the short period that they were offline.

Those four were already monsters among the Godlike Players within the game. But with their current performance, all of them seemed to be a great calamity hiding under human skin.

Chapter 839 Godly Display (Part 2): Reality Manifestation

...

Shin wanted to test many things the moment he logged back into the game. He just didn't have the time to do all of them earlier since he prioritized the most urgent job for their quest.

He just reached the state of being one with the sword earlier and his body was able to adjust to it not long after in the real world. He wanted to test quite a few skills with it after he was done stabilizing his state, but unfortunately, a slight accident happened before he got the chance to test them out.

Fortunately, he could at least do those things inside the game instead. It might not have an effect as good as when he was in the real world, but he could at least understand their principles and experience their powers inside the game.

The experiences that both sides could give him were not far from each other, after all.

Aside from those skills, he was also interested to test out the things that Professor Henry had taught him.

The professor taught him how to use the stimulation of the virtual world and take advantage of its environment as if he was in the real world.

Treating the virtual world as a reality and using the skills and techniques that he had in the real world within it.

Shin already knew these things which was why the Self-Created Skill System was created. He also brought quite a few things from the virtual world and applied them to reality. It was like he brought his skills to the game and also took some skills from it to the real world.

But the professor told him that he could take everything that he learned from the real world into the game without using the system which meant that he could use his skills and techniques from reality without turning them into skills within the game.

The trick was he just needed to find a class that had a similar fighting style that he had in the real world. Not only that, but he also had to look for energy techniques within the game that was almost the same as the one that he was using in reality.

If he achieved these two conditions, then he would be able to perform within the game as if he was in the real world.

Coincidentally, Shin already met those conditions. His class perfectly fit the condition while the eclipse energies within him could act as his Internal Qi.

On top of that, he already had a theory about that before and also applied everything he learned to create the combat technique called 'Eclipse Wielding' which was pretty similar to his 'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship' in the real world.

The thing was he couldn't use all of the Martial Art Skills that he learned in the real world due to the restriction of the system. If he accidentally created a skill by doing that, then it would consume a slot from his skill set. After all, self-created skills had a certain limit.

But what Professor Henry had taught him was how to bypass that system and used all of his Martial Arts Skills without restriction. He could even use some of the high-level skills that he couldn't do in the real world if he managed to meet certain conditions.

This trick was a bug or anything, it was just a hidden mechanic within the game purposely set by its creators. It just activating it was very hard to do. This was the reason why there was no player was able to do it yet.

This game was originally created with the purpose of honing the skills of everyone in the real world. They could even experience the might of the powerful Martial Art Skills and strong Mentalism Techniques that they couldn't do in reality with the help of this game.

That particular mechanic was similar to Combat Techniques and Class Fighting Styles but had a much greater difficulty and was more complicated.

It was called Reality Manifestation, a very complex system that could assist the players as long as they were skilled enough to activate it.

Just like its name, Reality Manifestation was similar to manifesting the real self of the player within the game through their character avatar.

Shin already met the two conditions that needed for it to be activated, a class and energy technique that was similar to his Martial Arts and Internal Qi from the real world. The only thing that he was missing was the state of his body and his in-game avatar.

To activate the hidden mechanic, the player needed to have their body and character avatar to be in a similar state. It was for the system to recognize their skills and synchronize them with their character model.

This was the only thing that Shin was missing before. This was the reason why he always failed to recreate his skills within the game despite how skilled he was. His in-game avatar was not as good as his real body in reality.

His avatar within the game couldn't keep up his mind since it was inferior to his real body before. But it was different right now, since not only his character avatar was similar to his real body, but the state of his mind should also be able to synchronize with it. After all, he first learned the state of being one with the sword within the game.

His in-game avatar was still a little inferior compared to his real body, but it should be more than enough to trigger the Reality Manifestation.

Professor Henry told him that he could also use high-level Martial Arts if the synchronization rate of Reality Manifestation was high enough to execute it.

Shin suspected that the players needed to reach level 150 and pass the next Class Advancement Quest to achieve that feat. After all, players would undergo a complete metamorphosis when they met those two conditions.

Professor Henry was supposed to keep the confidential information about the game secret. But the Reality Manifestation mechanic was not protected by the contract and the oath that he had because it was a system that was left to the players to be discovered.

He was also keeping a tab on the news regarding the game. And since there were a lot of players who were reaching the milestone of Level 150 and the final class advancement, the information about this hidden mechanic was about to be revealed.

In fact, he also heard from his friend working on the monitoring team in the World Gaming Organization that a bunch of highly skilled players were starting to uncover information about this particular mechanic. Their stats were just a little behind for them to trigger that state, but they were still very close to learning about that mechanic.

From what the professor heard from Shin, he already met all of the conditions. So, he would surely discover the hidden mechanic sooner or later, so there was no problem for Professor Henry to disclose it to him in advance.

Moreover, the Reality Manifestation was not much different from Self-Created Skills and Class Fighting Styles anyway, so the professor was more like giving a little tip about that hidden mechanic for Shin to learn sooner.

...

Shin was focusing his mind on triggering the Reality Manifestation mechanic while they were traveling toward the wolves' den.

If he was successful at triggering it, he was planning to tell his friends and the members of their Adventurer Team about it.

If all of the members of Empyrean Talons learned about this hidden mechanic ahead of time, then their Adventurer Team would be ahead of all of the other players.

Though, Shin also suspected that Arthur and the other top gods of the game already had an idea about it. After all, some of their skills were already close to reality just like the skill sets that they had.

Arthur, in particular, this guy's Class Fighting Style Skills were already similar to what he could do in the real world. He might even be using the Reality Manifestation without him knowing.

It was the same for Zero. Shin already sparred with the guy both in the real world and within the game, and he discovered that the swordsman also had almost the same skill set in both worlds, so he was suspecting that this guy also achieved the Reality Manifestation to a certain degree.

As for Leonard, this guy was a little different. His skill sets in the real world and the virtual world were similar but also somewhat different. Shin was having a hard time figuring out if Leonard really achieved the Reality Manifestation, but since he could fight either Arthur or Zero on an equal footing, he suspected that it was most likely the case.

These guys were already playing a lot of virtual games which was why it was natural for them to learn quite a few things in advance.

This was also the reason why Shin always felt that there was a certain gap between him and these three that he couldn't close no matter what he did. He might be able to fight them now equally but he could still feel the small gap that was separating him from them.

But now that he knew about the secret mechanic, he could feel that he already filled that particular gap and confidently say that he was now standing in the same realm as them.

Chapter 840 Godly Display (Part 3): Monster

...

Shin and the small group that was accompanying him finally arrived at the wolves' den after a few minutes of walking. And right after arriving, they were immediately greeted by the sight of the wolf pack that was almost resembling an army.

This wolf pack could already be considered a monster horde so it was not an exaggeration to call it an army of wolves.

But despite that being the case, Shin and the others were not intimidated by it. In front of these Godlike Players, these wolves seemed to be a bunch of cute puppies.

All of them already experienced fighting these wolves earlier when they first arrived in this place, so they were now familiar with their attack patterns and abilities. If ever, these wolves could now serve as training dummies for these gods to test out a few things from the inspirations that they had gotten just recently.

Since they didn't bother to hide their presence, the wolves immediately noticed their arrival and started growling and howling as if they were threatening the group.

Shin and the others ignored the warning and continued to walk toward the den.

As they walked forward, Arthur suddenly took out a bunch of spying stones from his inventory and started spreading them out in every direction.

Seeing that, Shin slightly knitted his eyebrows as he could already read what was running inside his brother's head.

This guy just wanted to record himself and post it later online. He was just making a video that could be content for his page.

Thinking about that, Shin was also obligated to also create such content since he was now a celebrity within the game. Moreover, he also had a special section on the Empyrean Talon Fanpage, so he also need to fill it with new content to make their page more popular.

Empyrean Talon Fanpage was already famous since Miss Bunny already organized it. It now had a special section dedicated to each member of the team.

Arthur, Leonard, and Cloe also transferred their fans on this page successfully so its popularity was pretty high. It might even be the fanpage with the most number of viewers. And with such a large audience, Shin really needed to regularly upload new content to his section since it would be visited by those players and compared with the others.

Shin normally didn't care about it but Arthur and Cloe would surely scold him if he didn't do anything. He could even imagine them telling him that it would affect the popularity of their page.

They already invested in that fanpage, so it would be a waste if they didn't take full advantage of it.

Having that string of thoughts, Shin decided to also spread spying stones around and make a video out of what he was about to do.

After that, he immediately picked up the pace and walked ahead of the group while saying. "I want to test something out, let me take the lead."

Arthur clicked his tongue and commented. "Tsk! All of us want to test something."

He clearly showed his displeasure but he didn't stop Shin and let the guy do his thing first.

Shin was walking ahead and quickly swapped his equipment with the upgraded [Dusk and Dawn Set] while the [Dawn's Mantle] was swapped with [Nightwalker's Cloak].

The [Yamato] also disappeared from his hand as the [Dawn Blade] and [Dusk Blade] appeared on his left and right hand respectively.

In terms of stats and skills, the [Apocalypse Set] was still way better than the [Dusk and Dawn Set]. But since he was facing wolves right now, Shin thought that it was better to use the latter at the moment since it had a special set effect that could suppress wolf-related monsters.

On top of that, this set was more suitable for the ideal state that he needed to trigger the Reality Manifestation.

Hu~!

Shin inhaled deeply to regulate his breathing while imagining his real body to be inside the game. He closed his eyes to find the 'feeling' that could help him achieve the ideal state.

It looked like he was not seeing the incoming wolves that were not running in his direction. They were howling loudly while rushing at him at full speed.

Shin seemed to be isolated from this world as he imagine himself standing alone in the middle of an abyss where he was surrounded by nothing but darkness.

Then he suddenly felt that everything around him seemed to stop moving. It was as if time itself came to a sudden halt.

Shin was already familiar with this feeling as he already felt it before. And it was at that moment when he remembered that his avatar within the virtual world possessed something better than what he had in his real body.

And because of this, the I stats that his in-game character lacked were completely compensated and created a balance that he was looking for.

Another 'Shin' suddenly appeared beside him, standing on the same matter. And since the balance between the two bodies was finally established, they started moving closer to each other and slowly merged.

Boom!

Shin instantly sensed the immediate change. Not only on his virtual avatar but also within his mind.

Then he started perceiving everything around him with the help of his 'Sensing Circle'. It was as if he could sense every little movement within his surroundings.

The moist in the air, the melting and formation of snowflakes on the grass beneath him, the movements of the trees near him, the sprinting wolves from in a distance and the gust of the wind that their charge was creating, the breathing of the people behind him, and the gazes that were directed to his body. All of these were just a few of the things that he could sense.

He felt that he was currently in a completely different realm as if he could do everything he wanted.

This feeling of freedom was more distinct from what he felt before. He even felt that he could do better in this world than he could do in the real world.

This must be the state of Reality Manifestation but it was also slightly better than what he wanted to achieve. And the cause of this phenomenon was also the reason why his virtual avatar met all of the requirements to synchronize with his real body.

His innate talent achieved its final evolution.

The Ultra Instincts.

Now that Shin achieved the Reality Manifestation, he could now experience the real power of this innate talent.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then Shin suddenly opened his eyes as the group of wolves were now pouncing at him. They opened their jaws while growling midair, hungrily looking at him.

From Shin's perspective, the movements of those wolves seemed to be in slow motion. He even stared at them for a brief moment before responding accordingly.

He diagonally took a step forward and slightly tilted his body to the side, barely dodging the wolf that was first to reach him. And while it was brushing past his body, his left hand that was holding the [Dawn Blade] suddenly flicked upwards, creating a very thin flash of light that passed through the neck of the wolf.

After that, Shin continued to move forward as if he was taking a leisure walk in the middle of frozen land.

With each step that he took, a wolf would fly past him while a series of thin flashes of light slice through their necks for every flick of Shin's wrists.

Then the wolves slid through the snow after they landed on the ground as they failed to touch their target, much less harm him. They left a long trail on the snow with their feet, stopping the momentum of their bodies.

But they didn't do anything after that. They remained stationary for a few seconds before their heads and body were separated from each other, falling to the ground with a soft thud.

There was no blood splatter when the heads of the wolves were separated, indicating the cleanliness of the cut that had been made. Not even a drop of blood flowed when the separated parts were on the ground, failing to dye the pure white snow with its crimson color.

It was because the corpses either turned into a block of ice or burned into ashes.

These wolves were supposedly undead, so they should be standing up after they died. But because of what just happened, coming back from death was completely impossible.

Shin didn't even bother to look back to see what happened since he already knew the outcome. He just continued taking his 'leisure walk' in the middle of chaos.

In the meantime, the guys watching him at the back were currently looking at him with weird gazes.

Zero was still fine since he was only wearing a slight frown. At least that was what showed on the outside but he was currently in deep thought on the inside. He just sparred with Shin earlier in the real world, so he should at least have a good grasp on Shin's strength.

But no matter how much he thought, Shin shouldn't be this strong despite the sudden improvement and enlightenment that he achieved. His current strength inside the game was in a completely different realm than what he just experienced previously.

Leonard, on the other hand, didn't know how to react. He already knew that Shin was a monster that always became stronger after every battle that he went through. But the sudden growth that he showed this time was so out of this world to the point that it was already illogical.

Arthur was the one who had the weirdest look at the moment. The expression on his face kept on changing as he couldn't express his current feelings. His face was full of mixed emotions to the point where he couldn't stop the corner of his mouth from twitching.

The other three were not different either. All of their thoughts only had a single word on them.

"Moster!"