

Destiny 851

Chapter 851 The Promised Child

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Real World

World Gaming Organization

Troy, one of the heads of the development team, was currently inside his room and watching a particular scene on a huge virtual screen projected in front of him.

The size of the projected scene was very large. And given that he was currently half laying on a sofa with a bucket of popcorn in front of him and a huge plastic cup of soft drink on the side, it looked like he was currently inside a VIP movie theater.

He was currently watching Shin and the others on their quest.

"Tsk! Tsk! These kids are pretty unlucky. To think that they will accidentally trigger the memory of that wolf? This is going to be a much harder battle," he commented when he saw the changes in Lupus.

Munch! Munch!

He put some popcorn in his mouth and munched them and continued. "Well, that is understandable too. After all, these guys already unlocked the Reality Manifestation, so it is normal for the system to balance everything out."

"Tsk! This Empire Quest is already at the highest difficulty already, to further increase it is really going to be troublesome for these kids."

"Hah! Why am I concerning myself about this? The harder the quest for these kids, the more exciting it is for me to watch," he started laughing when he thought about the upcoming events after Shin and the others finished this one.

Click!

He was still immersing himself in his excitement, the door of his office suddenly opened. Troy immediately sensed it and quickly said. "What are you doing here Carlos? Don't tell me you are going to bother me again?"

"Don't pass your problems to me. I have my own problems to deal with," he added, shooping the person who entered the room.

But to his surprise, instead of the person he was expecting, the voice that he heard was from a much older man. "It looks like you are enjoying yourself here, Troy."

Hearing that voice, Troy's eyes suddenly turned wide as he quickly recognized the owner of it. He swiftly put the bucket of popcorn on the table in front of him and immediately stood up.

"Chairman!" greeted Troy as bowed at the old man who just entered his office.

The old man was wearing a grey suit that was clearly made of top-class materials given the elegance that it had.

This old man also had a majestic air around him that could make anyone subconsciously feel their inferiority when standing in front of him.

This man was the chairman and the founder of the World Gaming Organization and the main reason why «Destiny's Fate» came into existence, Lucas Choi.

Chairman Choi casually sat at the sofa where Troy was previously laying and spoke. "It looks like you are watching something interesting. What a coincidence, I am also paying attention to these kids for the past few weeks."

Troy refused to move from where he was standing and tensely maintain his posture. He didn't even dare to raise his head and continued to bow down to the Chairman.

Seeing how tense Troy was, the Chairman quickly added. "Be at ease, I am not here for an official inspection. I just visited because I wanted to confirm something."

"And isn't it more fun to have company when watching something like this? A movie buddy as they say," he continued before picking up a piece of popcorn from the bucket.

Troy hesitated for a moment before bowing his head and responding. "Yes, sir"

He then sat on the nearby sofa and asked carefully. "But what is it you want to know, sir? For you to personally visit me."

Chairman Choi seemed not to hear Troy's words and he raised his right arm and put his Advance Watch in front of his mouth. "Chronos, order us some fried chicken and beer. Tell Mr. Nam to deliver it here."

[Receiving orders from the Chairman. Beep! Beep! The order has been made] answered the robotic voice from his watch.

Then the chairman started talking about an event of the past. "To make «Destiny's Fate» a more realistic game, we invited a lot of people for a certain project."

"And in that project, we recorded quite a lot of things about an individual, especially their attitude, character, and manner of speech."

"Then we let the great AI, Chronos, run a special simulation for all of the recorded data to be randomly distributed to different NPCs. It is like here in the real world, like how people are being born without knowing who are their parents going to be."

Troy creased his brow as he listened to the chairman discussed such a random topic. He was confused for a moment, but it didn't take long for him to understand what the old man was trying to say.

"During that time, we have an unusual visitor who volunteered to be recorded. But he also asks us a favor in exchange," said the chairman, confirming Troy's thoughts.

Chairman Choi leaned his back on the sofa and finally asked. "So, I am here to ask-... Is that kid the child from that promised? Is it the reason why you give him that quest and equipment set?"

Troy closed his eyes and sighed deeply before answering. "Yes, sir. From the profile that we received, it seems like that kid is the one from that agreement."

"He arrived a little late which is why it is delayed, but fortunately, he still joined the game in the end," he added while turning to the screen.

"I see," Chairman was already expecting that answer, so he was not surprised. He just calmly nodded his head and spoke. "I guess, we don't have to worry about it anymore."

He then talked to his watch again. "Chronos, are the data regarding that kid already been erased?"

Beep! Beep!

[Just like any other player, that player's records are already been cleared right after confirming his identity with the virtual helmet and gaming cabin.] answered the robotic voice.

"Good!" said the Chairman with a satisfied tone.

Knock! Knock!

"Here is the chicken that you've ordered, Chairman." It was at that moment when knocks came from outside of the room.

"It looks like our food is already here. That is quick," said Chairman Choi before turning towards the door. "You can enter Mr. Nam."

Click!

Then a middle-aged man entered the room. Based on his movements and the air that was surrounding him, it was easy to tell that this man was a well-trained expert with very high attainment in terms of Martial-Arts.

Mr. Nam gave the chairman a bow before putting the boxes of fried chicken and a large plastic filled with canned beers on the table. After that, he bowed one more than before leaving the room quietly.

Chairman Choi waited for Mr. Nam to exit the room before turning to Troy who still looked a little tense. "Stop being too tense, let's just enjoy the show."

"And it looks like we are already at the climax," he added as he looked back at the virtual screen projected in front.

Boom!

A powerful explosion made the surrounding air within the Holy Field become violent. And in the middle of this explosion was a werewolf that was about to reach its peak form.

Shin, Arthur, and the rest of the group watched closely what was happening to that werewolf, not willing to miss a single detail.

And when the violent air was about to calm down, both Shin and Arthur quickly kicked the ground and started sprinting towards Lupus.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Under the effects of Reality Manifestation, the two were now able to execute their Martial Arts in the real world.

'Imperial Tactic: Dragon Dance'

'Yin-Yang Arts: Astral Steps'

The two moved at extreme speed as they executed their respective foot techniques. And to make sure that they were going to reach Lupus in time, both of them even used two-fold berserk without any hesitation.

Since they no longer needed to think about the surrounding wolves, Shin decided to retrieve his clones since it would consume a lot of concentration if he continued controlling them, especially since he was already using the 'Eclipse Wielding' and 'Reality Manifestation' at the same time.

He quickly used the 'Spirit Fusion' and 'Spirit Possession' to merge with them, further enhancing his already insane states.

In the meantime, Arthur used two overload buffs to himself, the 'Dragon Ascension' and 'Divine Strengthening', to match the strength that Shin currently had.

It was not because Arthur wanted to compete with Shin but because they needed to be on the same level of power if they wanted to work properly together.

Two were about to reach Lupus and close enough to throw power skills from their arsenal, strong skills that would deal a huge blow at the Alpha Wolf before the real battle could even start.

But before they could execute the plan that they had in mind, the duo suddenly sensed an immense threat coming out of nowhere. And even though they were unwilling, Shin and Arthur were forced to retreat with gritted teeth.

Ta-ta!

When they landed on the group a few meters away, they quickly raised their heads to see where that threat was coming from.

What they saw completely surprised them.

At that moment, they saw four wolves of different types and sizes surrounding the Werewolf Lupus, standing around it just like the most loyal guards.

A gigantic wolf with brown furs that was boasting its huge size and the strength hidden under it.

An armored wolf with a slightly smaller size compared to the previous wolf and another wolf with a similar size but had floating elemental spells and a transparent barrier instead of armor.

Then there was a shadowy wolf that had the regular size but boast its nimble and quick legs.

Seeing those wolves, Shin couldn't help but shake his head with a bitter smile and spoke. "Looks like our previous plans are really for nothing."

"This damn system is clearly messing with us," cursed Arthur as he could already see how hard this battle was going to be. Though, at the same time, he was also feeling excited.

Chapter 852 A Chaotic Battle And An Isolated Duel

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Shin and Arthur stared at the werewolf Lupus and the four wolf generals surrounding it like loyal guards.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Ta-ta!

It was at that moment when Zero, Faker, Simba, and Lawless arrived one after the other.

Shin quickly turned to them and asked. "What happened?"

Leonard shook his head. "We are still not sure. We are properly holding them in place when the surrounding wolves start to die one by one, then these four suddenly ignore us and start running towards here."

"We tried to stop them, at least until the barrier is fully built. But when we thought we are successful, a void rift suddenly appeared out of nowhere and swallow them up. And then, they suddenly appeared here," added Lawless with a deep frown.

"And with their current appearance, it is pretty obvious that they have a complete upgrade," commented Arthur before continuing. "Well, our job still hasn't changed. We just need to beat them just like our original plan."

Hearing his optimistic remarks, the others couldn't help but chuckle a little since he was not wrong about it.

Then it was Shin's turn to give his instructions. "Given that they are together, we can't ignore the possibility that this going to be a group battle."

"This going to be completely different compared to our previous battles. We may be battling against an organized group of Monster Boss."

Shin looked again at the opposing side and checked the 'composition' of their team once again. 'A huge wolf that seemed to be a heavy unit of an army, a wolf with an ability to manipulate the Elemental Mana, a wolf with a regular size but giving off a dangerous scent like an expert assassin, and a wolf donned with a set of special armor and possessed the air of a seasoned fighter.'

'No matter how I look at it, this is definitely a well-balanced team composition that mostly covers every role, except healers. Or one of them may even have the ability to support the others just like an auxiliary type monster.'

'Then there is also the main boss who also has a huge upgrade of its own. This is definitely going to be a systematic group battle.'

The wolves from the other side didn't immediately attack the group as if they were waiting for their opponents to make the first move.

The others found it ridiculous when they saw the wolves seemingly inviting them to take the initiative. But since it looked like the case, then the group was more than happy to comply.

Shin gave quick instructions to the group as he charge ahead alongside Arthur. "Arielle and Black hand, give us buffs. Range group, wait for us to stabilize the aggro and have full control of the frontline before making your move. S.Tigris and Seven protect them and be on guard to any kind of unexpected development."

Cloe and Black Hand complied with his swords without any hesitations and quickly cast a series of buffs on the group. Then the others organized themselves getting ready for what was about to happen next.

After that, Shin turned at the others who were running alongside him. "We are going to use Reality Manifestation now and go all-out from the get-go."

"You will be able to enter it without problem, right, Brother Lawless?" he asked as he turned to the Tigerkin who was still under the effects of his special bloodline within the game.

"Hah! Such thing as simple as that is not going to be a problem," answered Lawless confidently.

"Then I will trust you in that, Brother Lawless," he responded he charged ahead alongside them,

Each of them, who would act as the frontline of the group, had a dedicated role that they needed to fill. Shin didn't even need to tell them about it since they were already aware of what they needed to do.

Whoosh!

Having the tacit understanding, Arthur quickly accelerated his speed and charge ahead of the group. His body and spear were entirely covered by a golden flame that had some hint of electricity in them.

During his charge, the trail of light that he was leaving behind resembled the body of a serpent dragon as he executed his foot technique.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Running right behind Arthur was a pair of Beastmen of different subraces, a Tigerkin and a Lionkin. The former was not carrying any weapon aside from his fist while the latter was carrying a pair of battle axes.

Lawless was covered with a steam-like aura that was continuously being released by his body. The trail that was left behind might not be as flashy as Arthur but if someone looked at him from the front, then they would see an illusion where a huge tiger was running alongside him.

On the other hand, Leonard's aura was in no way inferior compared to theirs. The seemingly Qi surrounding his body was similar to what Arthur had at the moment, but it had a crimson color instead of a golden one.

At the same time, the flame-like aura that he had was dancing alongside the air and resembled a mane of a lion. If Arthur possessed a majestic and ferocious aura of a dragon, then Leonard had a dignified and savaged nature of a lion.

Awoo~!

Seeing the three running towards them, the wolves from the other side howled towards the sky before making their move.

Swoosh!

Bang!

The first to move was the giant wolf as it charged ahead with its massive body. The ground seemed to be shaking violently for every step that it took, signifying the strength that it possessed behind its size and weight.

Seeing the incoming wolf, Arthur made a few curves during his charge, creating an illusionary movement that confused the senses of the wolf.

Grr!

A low growl could be heard from the giant wolf as it squinted its eyes while watching Arthur's movement closely. Despite how confusing he was moving, the wolf seemed to be able to see them very clearly.

Then Arthur suddenly paused on a single point for a brief moment, making the giant wolf accelerate its speed and pounce at him.

The sudden burst of speed from the giant wolf was insanely fast as it was able to reach Arthur with a single jump. It opened its mouth widely, trying to devour the little human in a single gulp.

Bang!

But unfortunately for it, Arthur was able to see through everything. His innate talent not only gave him the ability to predict his opponents' moves by reading the slight movements of their muscles, but he was also able to use it to bait them to come after him.

After fooling the senses of the giant wolf, Arthur successfully baited it with his sudden pause. Then the wolf's instincts couldn't help but see that scene as a perfect opportunity to launch an attack.

Hu~!

After completely erasing the threat that Arthur had, he suddenly kicked the ground and launched himself forward. His sudden burst of speed was not inferior to the giant wolf, and since he perfectly timed it, he suddenly flew past it and continue moving forward.

Bang!

Swoosh!

Arthur had a clear goal in this battle, and that was to reach the Lupus as fast as he could. The werewolf was the one with the greatest threat among their enemies, and it had a very high AI and was pretty cunning too.

As the main tank of this expedition team, his main job was to stick to it like gum and don't ever let go.

Their backline already had capable people to protect them, so he didn't have to worry about them and dedicate himself to his current role.

Swoosh!

The giant wolf slid to the ground to prevent its massive body from going further. Then it immediately took a turn and planned to chase after Arthur who continued to run forward without turning his head.

Bang! Bang!

"-649,552", "-700,234"

But before it could even execute its plan, a pair of powerful attacks landed on its body successively.

The first attack was from a battle-axe that forced the giant wolf to stop moving to endure the impact. It successfully withstood that attack and perverted its body from falling.

But immediately after that, the giant wolf felt like it was hit by a massive boulder as Lawless arrived running and rammed his shoulder at the huge body of the wolf.

His body and weight might be insignificant compared to the massive body of the giant wolf, but the momentum that he had during his charge was not something to be ignored. He flew like a bullet as he slammed his body toward the wolf.

Leonard's previous attack also help Lawless since it made the giant wolf completely stationary. And by borrowing the residual force from the previous impact, he was able to successfully push the giant wolf to trip over.

Bang!

A loud sound could be heard as its massive fell on the ground, creating a shockwave that cleared the snow on the ground.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

When Leonard and Lawless were about to continue to attack the now defenseless giant wolf, a barrage of elemental spells suddenly flew towards their direction and forced them to take a step back a little.

But when the two felt that they were already out of the range of those elemental spells, they suddenly took an unexpected curve in the air and continued to chase after them.

Leonard and Lawless were slightly surprised at that scene, but they didn't lose their composure. Then they resumed charging toward the giant wolf instead of concerning themselves with those elemental spells.

Now that those spells changed their course, the path toward the giant wolf was not cleared. And those two took that opportunity to go back to their main target.

That was not because they thought those spells were weak, but because there was already someone who would take care of those spells for them.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

A barrage of wind blades flew in the air and accurately hit each of those spells, without missing a single one.

Zero, who was running a few distances away from the two earlier, showcased his accuracy by sending those wind blades from a distance.

He didn't even stop in there as he took the initiative to throw more wind blades and send them towards the direction where the wolf that could manipulate the elemental mana was located.

Seeing the swift and accurate attack from Zero, the mage-like wolf started summoning more elemental spells and sent them forward to block the incoming wind blades.

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In meantime, away from that battlefield, a lone wolf was moving at an insane speed. Its speed might be fast, but each of its steps was not even making a mark on the snowfield.

An extremely fast speed yet still moving sneakily, this was the specialty of this particular wolf. When the chaotic battle broke out between Shin's group and the other wolves, this wolf was already making its way to where the rest of the group was located.

Its vicious eyes were even locked on Cloe and Black who were constantly giving buffs and steadily healing the members of the group who were fighting at the frontline.

But before it could even execute its perfect ambush, the wolf suddenly sensed the danger looming in the area ahead of it.

It suddenly halted its steps and cautiously glared in front of it.

It was at that moment when Faker suddenly showed himself. He walked out from behind the dense fog without making a sound. "This wolf is really interesting. Not only it has an assassin's temperament, but its habits and cunning plans are also similar to what a real assassin will do."

Grr!

The wolf couldn't understand what Faker was saying, but it was still extremely angry as it was blocked by this human once again.

Swoosh!

It suddenly disappeared from its current position. It was planning to rip Faker apart.

"If only I can capture and make you my pet, then I am willing to swap the one that I currently have," said Faker as he couldn't help but feel amazed at this wolf.

He then turned into a blur as he dodged the claw that was about to hit his head.

Then a pair of shadows flashed and clashed in this place as Faker engaged in an intense battle against the wolf.

Chapter 853 A Form That Almost Lost And The Key To Achieve Perfection

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Swoosh!

On the main battlefield, Arthur was already close to reaching Lupus. He only needed to travel a few more meters before reaching the werewolf.

But before reaching his target, he first needed to get through the armored wolf standing between him and Lupus.

The air of that armored wolf was not any weaker compared to what Lupus had. In fact, Arthur was even sensing more threat coming from this wolf than the werewolf itself.

If only Arthur didn't have a clear goal right now, then he wanted to fight this armored wolf instead of facing Lupus. Unfortunately, their current situation couldn't let him choose his opponent.

In terms of fighting and survival capabilities, it was pretty clear that Shin and Arthur were now definitely on equal terms.

Shin even had a slight edge if it was about prolonged battles since he could continuously grow in battle with the help of his Battle Genius talent.

p But the role that needed to be filled when fighting Lupus was not only about holding it in place and battling it on an equal footing. It was about pinning it in place while dealing constant damage and enduring all of the heavy blows from the werewolf.

Shin might be able to fill that job. His speed, which was also much faster than Arthur's, could also help him catch up with Lupus and constantly chase after it.

But Arthur could also do it. And much better than Shin since he had a higher defense than Shin to endure the attacks of the werewolf.

On top of that, as a knight, Arthur naturally had a higher STR stat than Shin. It would help him push Lupus back during battle – or at least, hold his ground and not lose in a contest of strength.

Arthur would be able to force Lupus to fight him in an intense melee and stationary battle instead of a contest of speed where they needed to constantly move and keep flashing all over the place.

This way, the other members of the group who were stationed at the backline were going to have an easier time dealing more damage both to Lupus and the wolf generals.

In terms of overall qualifications, Arthur was still the better candidate for the role of holding Lupus in place.

Having a clear goal right now, Arthur suppressed his urge to fight this armored wolf in front of him and decided to leave it to Shin to deal with.

Naturally, the wolf didn't know what was running inside his head. It started sprinting forward while glaring sharply at him.

Unfortunately for the armored wolf, Arthur didn't have a plan to fight it. When he was a few meters away from it, he suddenly took a step to the side, revealing the powerful energy wave from behind.

Swoosh!

'Slayer Skill: (Modified) Eclipse Slash'

Since Arthur perfectly timed his move and the armored wolf was completely occupied with him, the wolf failed to notice the surprise attack coming from behind.

On top of that, this particular energy wave was not the same as the previous ones that Shin usually had since this particular skill was executed under the influence of the Reality Manifestation State.

Awoo~!

The armored knew that it was already too late to dodge this attack, so it decided to face it head-on after activating one of its defensive skills.

The black armor protecting its body suddenly released a faint glow before forming a spherical barrier around it, blocking the incoming attack.

Boom!

The energy wave of the Eclipse Slash immediately scattered in the air right after it collide with the barrier. It was like the flowing water in a river after encountering a huge boulder blocking its path.

The armored wolf successfully blocked that attack with ease. But despite that being the case, this wolf still didn't dare to lower its guard since the real threat was just about to arrive.

Swoosh!

When the energy wave finally exhausted its last bit of power, a moving shadow suddenly flew right behind and charged straight at the armored wolf.

Shin, who was now under the influence of a two-fold berserk skill and Reality Manifestation, was carrying an immense threat that could never be ignored.

In the circle of assassins from the real world, there are two types of assassins known to every expert in the world that could achieve reach the peak in this profession. One has the ability to hide their killing intent and only would release it at the very last moment while the other was constantly releasing their killing intent to the fullest.

The former type of assassin was said to be the most dangerous one. It was because they could appear as ordinary people from the outside and approach their targets without being noticed.

And when they finally revealed their intent to kill, then it was already too late for their prey to react. They were already dead before they could even have the chance to know what just happened.

Coupled with the assassination technique where they could completely hide their presence, this type of assassin could eliminate without being discovered. They would be like poisoned air that could kill without being discovered.

Dying without knowing how they died was the most terrifying thing that anyone could experience.

Faker fell into this category of an assassin. He possessed this gift that made him a perfect assassin. Once he mastered this ability, he would surely be one of the most feared assassins in the world.

On the other hand, the other type of assassin was completely the opposite. Instead of completely hiding their intent to kill, this type of assassin openly showcased their hostility.

A killing intent of an individual could also be used as a weapon if it was used properly. It was also another form of 'Aura Manifestation' in a sense. The only difference that it had from it was its nature itself. A killing intent, as its name suggested, was pure hostility.

If honed to the fullest, this could become a 'Death Aura'.

All disciplines had their respective 'weapons' unique to them just like Martial Artists had their 'Martial Prowess' and 'Combat Instincts' and Swordsmen were wielding their 'Sword Sense' and 'Mind's Eye', Assassins possessed their 'Traceless Presence' and 'Death Aura'.

It was hard to sense the Death Aura of the first type of assassins since they could completely hide them.

On the other hand, the second type of assassin was using this special aura to confuse the senses of their targets.

By constantly spreading their Death Aura and completely filling the surrounding area with it, their target would have a hard time sensing when and where the attack was coming from.

These kinds of assassins were not afraid to show themselves in front of their opponents. This was also the reason why they were being called 'Berserk Assassins', they more looked like engaging in a brawl than doing an assassination.

Though, there was also a saying that said 'a true assassin could turn a brawl into an assassination'.

Shin, as a trained agent of the Black Serpent Mafia, was also familiar with this. It might be long, but he still knew how to utilize his killing intent and turn it into a lesser Death Aura.

He might not be able to hone his assassination techniques before since he already became Professor Plum. He became a little rusty when it came to this.

Thankfully, he got a chance to explore this discipline once again when he joined this game. Here, he was able to train his assassination techniques and regained his previous form, especially when he became the 'Emperor of the Night'.

Then, just recently, some of his memories returned. His encounter with Uno awakened something within him that he had almost forgotten. He might not have a chance to explore it in the real world since his Martial Arts were suddenly been sealed.

But in this world, with the help of Reality Manifestation, he had gotten a chance to see what he was capable of with his assassin techniques. It was not his usual style, but a more refined assassination technique than he had before.

Moreover, his physical quantities, his Wolfkin Form, were perfectly fitted for this idea.

From what he had glimpsed in those memories, Shin was aware that Uno was the one who mostly spent his time in Black Serpent Mafia Training Camp after he thought Alyssa died. But his body could still remember those experiences and training.

The Reality Manifestation came at the perfect time for Shin for many reasons. He could train his Martial Arts inside the game, he could understand more about his innate talents, hone his swordsmanship, and now had a chance to get his form back to the tone where he could perfectly execute top-class assassination techniques.

Earlier, Shin just gained enlightenment about his swordsmanship and achieved the state of being one with the sword. This greatly affected his Yin-Yang Swordsmanship positively.

Just like the Yin-Yang Arts, Yin-Yang Swordsmanship possessed two styles and Shin already mastered one of them, the destructive and straightforward style of the 'Yang Blade', which also focused on the discipline of 'Life'.

The Yang Blade was mostly what Shin used since it fitted his style more. Or to be more precise, the set of skills taught to him by Professor Plum greatly supported the Yang Blade.

On the other hand, Shin didn't have many skillsets to complement the 'Yin Blade'. Old Plum told him that he needed to first learn the depths of 'Death' before he could understand the real strength of that style.

And at this very moment, Shin, who now remembered some of his memories, could learn more about 'Death' through his past assassination techniques.

Swoosh!

Shin released all of his killing intent without restraint and spread it to his surroundings while charging forward.

A few moments later, his pure killing intent turned into 'Death Aura' that surround the area where the armored wolf was standing.

His control over the 'Death Aura' might look a little clumsy and incomplete, but it was more than enough for him to fool the senses of the wolf for a brief moment.

Shin arrived before the armored wolf right after his previous attack exhausted its powers. He then swung his sabers at the barrier set up by the wolf earlier, slicing through it like a hot knife through butter.

Sha!

The armored wolf managed to jump away from Shin at the right time since it was keeping its cautiousness since earlier. But despite how fast its reaction was, the tip of [Dusk Blade] still managed to graze its right eye, wounding it.

Chapter 854 Hints

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Clang! Clang!

Shin and the armored wolf engaged in an intense battle as their silhouettes kept on disappearing and reappearing in different places.

Their speed might be slower compared to Faker and the nimble wolf, but they were still extremely fast, making it hard to catch a glimpse of their figures.

Shin was currently using different kinds of assassination techniques during this battle. Even though his movements looked like simple techniques, all of them were extremely fatal. Each of his attacks targeted the gap in the wolf's armor.

His movements might look casual because of his innate talent, but each of his moves had a certain depth in them.

Little by little, Shin was getting used to his current style and starting to get back in tempo. This was where his Battle Genius was showing the real benefits that he could get from it.

After a few more exchanges, Shin started to understand more about 'death', after the continuous usage of 'Death Aura'. He just needed to stay in this state a little more before he could fully grasp its true meaning.

As he continued to exchange blows with the armored wolf, Shin started to enter a trace where his body started moving without him putting much thought into it. And as he entered this state, he suddenly heard a voice inside his head.

'Life and Death couldn't be separated as they were just two sides of a coin. Life gives birth to everything which signifies the beginning and creation. Death withers everything and signifies the end and destruction.'

Shin creased his head as he found the voice very familiar. But his thoughts did not linger into it as he was occupied with the words that he just heard. "Life and Death, Beginning and End, Yin and Yang, and the essence of duality."

'Hmm.' The voice inside his head seemed to respond. It had a calm tone and carried wisdom. It was as if the owner of that voice already saw the truth about 'Duality'.

Shin didn't hear that voice again after that, but he already knew what to do.

"Life gives birth to everything and signifies the beginning," he first repeated the first recited the first part of the principle of duality before gathering the power of the brilliant sun towards the saber in his right hand.

"Yang is the heaven, heat, and light," Shin continued to mutter to himself while dodging the attacks of the armored wolf at a hair's breadth.

"Life is creation," he continued, making the light that was covering the [Dawn Blade] become more brilliant.

"Death withering everything and signifies the end...," as he said these words, he was already swinging his sword at the armored wolf.

His voice lingered a little longer when saying the last word while using the 'Destructive Slash' skill as a base to use one of his Martial Art Skills from the real world.

Then he continued. "...-and destruction!"

'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship: Decimation Sword'

Bang!

"-562,932"

Swoosh!

The armored wolf failed to dodge the sudden counter and was sent flying like a common ball.

Whoosh!

While the wolf was still in the air, Shin quickly chased after it with the help of his foot technique. With his current speed, it only took him a brief moment to catch up with the wolf.

"The end of life is death," he was still reciting the chants about death from the Yin-Yang Martial Arts during his run. And when he said those words, the light that was covering his right-hand blade immediately turned dim as the power of the brilliant sun went back to his body, towards his dantian.

"The Yang turns to Yin," then the residual energy that he just retrieved turns into the power of the abyssal moon. And immediately after that, he guided that power towards the [Dusk Blade] on his right hind.

"Yin is associated with the earth, cold, and darkness," while he was continuing, a dark glow suddenly enfolded the saber, releasing a deadly aura.

"Death is silent and always at the most unexpected time," as he recited this phrase, he was already moving the [Dusk Blade] in a sneaky manner and stabbing it forward.

p His movements clearly resembled when he was using his 'Heart Seeker' skill. But at this point in time, he was using it to assist him in using a particular sword skill from the real world.

'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship: Silent Blade'

The [Dusk Blade] moved without a sound as it traveled in the air, targeting the gap between the segregated parts of the armor of the wolf.

Clang!

But the armored wolf was not simple either. It managed to twist its body in the air and used its hind leg to kick the [Dusk Blade], creating sparks in the air.

Grr!

Right after the armored wolf landed on the ground, it immediately turned around and charged at Shin without any hesitation.

On the other hand, Shin was still inside his trace and continued to chant the broken parts of the Yin-Yang Martial Arts while fighting the wolf.

He kept on reciting the parts during the battle, but he was not blindly reciting them, he was chanting out the phrases that were most suited for certain situations and performing the corresponding skills fitted for those situations.

As the battle progressed, Shin's swordsmanship started to become more refined as he made himself more familiar with his current state.

His 'Eclipse Wielding' resembled his 'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship' from the real world more and more as the battle progressed.

The state of being one with the sword, the state of ideal assassination, and the Yin-Yang Swordsmanship and Martial Arts – these three things started to complement each other and created a new system for Shin.

This particular system also made the energies within Shin to also resemble what he had in the real world more, a dantian with two Qi of opposing properties. And with his new understanding of the principle of duality, he was able to channel the two energies toward his swords more smoothly.

"It looks like you already found the way to completely fuse them. That is much faster than I thought, it is not even a day," Shin seemed to be talking to someone but there was no one around him aside from the armored wolf that he was battling.

No one respond to him, but Shin kept smiling from ear to ear and continued to fight the armored wolf with his newly gained fighting style. It was still not fully refined and needed more polishing, but it was more than enough for his current situation.

Though, he still needed to fight more cautiously since the armored wolf was also starting to become more powerful, the more they fought.

It was as if it was slowly regaining its former strength that was almost lost.

Shin started to get suspicious about this particular wolf and used his 'True Sight' observation skill to see if there are any changes in the information about the wolf.

[NPC Name]: Lycan Steel

Title: Lupus' most trusted aide, The Wolf who threatens Heaven.

Level: 165

Race: Enlightened, Scared Being

Bloodline: Lesser Fenrir

HP: 18,273,612,311/ 20,000,000,000

[Status]: Confused, Partially Corrupted

Historical Note:

He was a wolf pup that was discovered by General Lupus when he was young. They grew up together and became a close companion of the great general and acted as his unique steed during the war.

After consuming sacred water from the Fountain of Wisdom, it evolved into a sacred being and gained intelligence that could rival the wisest scholars of the Divine Empire.

It became the most trusted aide of Great General Lupus of the Blue Wolf Army and gained a status that was no less than the general with the military merits that it gained during countless wars.

Empire Quest Clue:

After the great betrayal, he managed to fight the curse cast upon him and retained his sanity because of his bloodline. But after seeing his friend, comrades, and master lost theirs, he became brokenhearted and blamed himself for not being able to save them.

To atone for the 'sins' that he committed, he chose to stay with his brothers and carry the burden on his back alone.

After a long time, he became confused and lost his purpose.

Shin couldn't help but become surprised after seeing the first thing that was displayed in the information panel. "Not a monster but an NPC?"

Then he became even more surprised when he continued reading through all of the information provided to him. It was completely different compared to the one that he saw earlier before Lupus underwent a great evolution.

"An Enlightened? And a Sacred Being on top of that?" he muttered as he continued reading. And after reading the historical note, his brow couldn't help but crease. "And ancient war, the great betrayal, cursed beings, and an NPC Wolf who endured the cursed."

He started putting the pieces together and then read through the last part of the information panel while continuing his battle with the armored wolf. "An Empire Quest with the highest difficulty and special NPC inside the exploration area

He looked at Lycan Steel and grinned. "A hint from the system, huh?"

Chapter 855 The State Of The Battlefield

.....

While Shin and the others were fully occupied with their respective opponents, Arthur finally arrived at Lupus, who seemed to be waiting for him patiently.

During his charge, Arthur already changed his Elemental Dragon Fusion and used the 'Storm Chaser' for this time.

In terms of overall performance, the Storm Chaser form was superior to the other forms that he usually had. This form might not have the strongest attack or the best survival skills among his Elemental Dragon Fusions, but it was currently the fastest and had a variety of different offensive spells.

Right after they met, an intense battle immediately broke out.

Arthur should be a little disadvantaged in this exchange. After all, Lupus currently had much higher stats compared to earlier after it turned into a werewolf.

Fortunately, Cloe's Holy Field was present. It drastically weakened the wolves within it, giving the group the ability to fight against Lupus and his generals on an equal footing.

On top of that, Arthur was also under the effects of two-fold berserk. With his enhanced stats, engaging in a melee battle against Lupus was something that he could afford.

Bang! Bang!

A series of explosions could be heard for every collision that they made. The shockwave cleared the snow on the ground, showing the wet grass underneath. But not long after, the ground was also destroyed as multiple craters appeared on it.

The speed that Lupus and Arthur showed in their exchanges was not inferior to the other two speedy battles in the distance, Faker in particular who was fighting against the nimble wolf at the far side of the battlefield.

In terms of strength, it was pretty clear that they were way inferior compared to the battle between the giant wolf and the combined forces of Simba and Lawless.

But if it was about flashiness, then this was the battle that was most enjoyable battle to watch. If it was being broadcasted online, then the audience would definitely be crazy.

Not only Arthur was holding his ground pretty well against Lupus, but he was also doing it in the flashiest way possible.

If Shin was seeing it right now, then he would definitely shake his head bitterly as he would be able to tell that Arthur was currently recording the battle for content.

...

In the meantime, on the other side of the battlefield, the rest of the group was not idle either.

S.Tigris, Ara, Black Hand, and Alucard almost forgot that they should be participating in the battle. They were too overwhelmed by the current scene in front of them.

Well, no one could blame them since the multiple battles in front of them were too amazing for them not to be stunned. A contest of unrivaled strength, a display of godly control, a duel of unparalleled speed, a showcase of amazing technique, and a most stylish battle – any of these made the four members feel inferior.

These battles reminded them where they currently stood, they were at the bottom of the mountain while those guys were looking at another realm from the summit.

Fortunately, they were immediately been brought back to their senses by the others who were standing beside them.

"The aggro has been established, you can now start assisting them," shouted Cloe to awaken the four from their daze.

She kept on healing the guys in the front constantly since the start of the battle. Leonard and Lawless in particular since they were the nearest to her and were the ones who suffered the most damage.

The range of her Heals and Buffs was quite farther compared to most priests and other support classes of the game, so she would not have any problem supporting the frontline even if it was Arthur who was the farthest from them.

On top of that, her Heals were also quite insane. Whenever the others failed to dodge or were forced to take a hit that chunked a lot of their HP, she would always restore those Health bars back to full.

Those Heals made Black Hand feel that he was not needed in this place. If she could cast large-scale buffs and do such crazy heals, then what was the point of having secondary support?

Moreover, her damage was also not weaker compared to the mages of their group. Her Holy Powers was already the bane of undead monsters.

The mages, on the other hand, were already preparing their spells earlier.

Alice was not surprised what the current scene in front of them. She was also a godlike player herself, so these kinds of battles were not a big deal for her. But that didn't mean that she didn't feel competitive.

After seeing how amazing the others were holding themselves against Overlord Rank Bosses, she couldn't help but want to show her worth too. She was different from Cloe, who was mainly in a supportive role. Her class was an offensive one, so it was natural for her to feel that way.

Having that in mind, she quickly cast multiple skills at once, surprising the other four who just came back to their senses. And to further stun them, Alice even combined the three spells together to form a brand-new spell.

A multiple spell casting followed by spell fusion, these two combat techniques were very hard to execute yet Alice did them consecutively and effortlessly.

And with a wave of her hand, the multicolored icicles floating above her flew toward the giant wolf. They looked like a barrage of rockets that were flying at extreme speed.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Bang!

p "-234,345", "-231,123", "-230,922", ...

Then a series of damages immediately floated upon the head of the giant wolf after getting hit by a barrage of spells.

Unlike the four shocked members of the group, Ember and Ravier were doing pretty well. The two of them were previously a part of the famous Dark Hero Adventurer Team, so they were already used to seeing this kind of battle.

After playing alongside Faker and Lawless for a long time, the two of them already became immune to these kinds of scenes.

They calmly cast their spells and sent them to help the others fighting at the frontline. Their fireballs and icicles were not as fancy as the ones that Alice had sent, but their power was not inferior.

The first set of their spells was sent to assist Leonard and Lawless while the next batch was to suppress the wolves that Zero and Faker were fighting.

Ravier summoned a group of ice ramparts to surround Faker and the nimble wolf. Then it formed a special formation that spread cold air, trying to slow down the movements of the wolf.

Together with the natural climate of the map, the cold air produced by the ice ramparts doubled and started to affect even the nimble despite it having this cold place as its habitat.

If not for the shadow ability and dark magic that it possessed, then Faker would be able to take it down in no time, even if it had such a large HP Bar.

With such a harsh environment, Faker was supposed to be affected too. After all, the game was designed to make friendly fire possible.

Fortunately, Ravier was giving him a special buff that made him less affected by the icy environment. And on top of that, Cloe's buffs and Holy Field were granting him a certain degree of immunity to deal with the negative debuff.

In the meantime, Amber was working alongside Zero to completely suppress the wolf that had the ability to control the Elemental Mana.

With the two of them working together, the wolf general had a hard time protecting itself, much less providing support to the other wolves.

...

Seven was no different from Amber and Ravier. As the right-hand man of the current number player of the game, he was very familiar with these kinds of situations. He might even witness something worse than this chaotic battle.

Given that, he was able to quickly respond to the sudden development of the battle. Right after he saw the surrounding wolves die one after another, he quickly adjusted his position and started preparing to assist the frontline.

He was able to immediately charge ahead right after seeing Shin and the others establish the aggro. There was not even a hint of hesitation when he broke away from the formation.

Shin had instructed him to protect the backline if there was an unexpected development. But with his accumulated experience battling alongside Zero, he was able to immediately make the most optimal decision during this kind of situation.

He already confirmed that he was not needed to protect the others at the moment since Shin and the others were completely holding down the wolf generals.

If ever, the only problem was the nimble wolf. But after Ravier build an ice rampart formation and set up another layer of defense around them, Seven found that they didn't need his protection anymore.

He was fully aware of his limit. He knew that he would not be able to join some of the other battles aside from the one between the giant wolf and the combined forces of Simba and Lawless.

He would only be a burden if he joined either of the three battlefields, so he charged at the giant wolf without hesitation.

This giant wolf became more powerful after the sudden metamorphosis that Lupus had undergone. Not only its strengths became more powerful, but its HP Bar also went up from twenty billion to forty billion.

With such a large Health and raw power, it was surprising for Leonard and Lawless to join forces to hold it down.

Fortunately, it was pretty easy for the group to land their attacks on it due to its large size. It was a perfect target, especially for the mages and range players of their group.

Seven circled around the giant wolf and positioned himself at the blind spot of the wolf before attacking. He also made sure that he was not getting in the way of Simba and Lawless to maximize their damage.

...

Seeing them making their move, the rest of the group immediately provided their support. Ara and Alucard started firing at the giant and mage wolves. They had the same thought as Seven, they would only get in the way of the other three if they joined needlessly.

Black Hand started assisting Cloe in providing timely heals and buffs while also cautiously sweeping his gaze at the surrounding.

They might be inside the Holy Field that Cloe had built, but with the nature of their quest, accidents could still happen at any given moment. After all, they already saw a lot of strange and powerful monsters earlier.

On the other hand, S.Tigris joined the battle where the giant wolf was located. But unlike Seven who was going all-out with his attacks, he was keeping a safe distance where he could deal enough damage and retreat when necessary.

He was keeping an eye on the mage and nimble wolves in particular. Those two might be having a hard time on their side, but his instincts were telling him that he needed to be cautious of them. The nimble wolf, in particular, S.Tigris could see the cunningness that it had from its eyes.

Just like this, the battle progress smoothly. And if they continued to keep this up, then they would finally be able to advance to the next part of their quest.

Chapter 856 Re-Assessing Everything

...

As the battle progressed, Shin and the others finally encountered the problem that they needed to deal with, killing the wolf generals.

After fighting for such a long time, the Health Bars of the three Overlord Bosses were already reaching less than a quarter of their total value. Aside from the one that Shin was fighting and the giant wolf that had the largest Health Pool, the other three wolf generals were already reaching their limit.

They were still giving the group a lot of trouble as their attack patterns and the power behind their attacks reached a whole other level the moment when their health bars reached the critical point.

The giant wolf possessed a health bar twice as large as the others, so it was natural for it to still had more HP despite suffering the combined attacks of the other members of the group.

But it didn't mean that it was in a better condition. It might look a little healthier compared to the others but it was still receiving the greatest number of attacks from the group.

The group was about to take down the three wolf generals but they still couldn't kill them because they were worried that Lupus and the armored wolf were going to get stronger if they killed them right now.

Arthur and Shin were already reaching their limit after fighting those two wolves for a long time. And even their two-fold berserk was already running out, especially for Shin who activate his buffs much earlier.

His 'Lycanthrope' already ended, so he was forced to change his equipment from the [Dawn and Dusk Set] to [Apocalypse Set] to activate the other berserk skill that it had. It was for him to delay the drawbacks of the two-fold berserk. Though, he would suffer a much more severe side-effect later.

Aside from the equipment set, Shin didn't change his weapons since he thought the [Dusk Blade] and [Dawn Blade] were better choices to fit his current style, at least in this current situation.

Earlier, when he discovered that he was actually fighting an NPC instead of a Monster Boss, Shin quickly informed the others about it. They were surprised at first before feeling a little suspicious just like him.

They suspected that this armored wolf, named Lycan, would help them at the latter stages of the battle. After all, that should how the system worked, especially when it came to this kind of high-difficulty quest.

They were experts in the game, so it was not strange for such a thing to happen. They even called such conditions 'Special System Support', it was an instance when a player encountered a quest that was almost impossible to be cleared with their strengths alone.

But what confused them was the fact that this particular wolf received the same level of buffs after Lupus transformed into a werewolf. This made them doubt if Lycan was a friendly NPC or a hostile one.

Just like the 'Special System Support', there were also other instances when the NPCs were involved in a certain quest. And instead of having a friendly NPC that would assist them, a hostile NPC would appear and increase the difficulty of the quest, though it would also lead to greater rewards in exchange.

This was why the group was caught in a difficult dilemma, they were not sure if they were going to gamble their luck with it or not.

It was too much of a risk. After all, they could tell that Lycan Steel was as strong as Lupus who just underwent a metamorphosis.

If they were to gamble and failed, then it was going to be a total disaster since there was a high chance that those two wolves were going to be promoted into Emperor Rank Bosses.

They might be stronger right now because they could use the Reality Manifestation, but they were still not confident that they could fight a healthy Emperor Rank Boss even with it, much less fight two of them at once.

But if they were successful, then they would be able to gain a powerful ally that would help them explore this frozen land with ease. They would not be afraid even if they were to fight another Emperor Rank Monster Boss along the way.

Shin was leaning more toward the latter outcome. His instincts were telling him that Lycan was a friendly NPC that would assist them in clearing this Empire Quest. After all, clearing the quest with such a harsh condition was going to be impossible clear with their current strength.

Right after they entered the map, they immediately encountered a wolf army with Lord Rank Monster as cannon fodder. It might be understandable at first given the overall strength of their group. But having a berserk quality was a little over the top.

No matter how strong their group was, it was still pretty impossible to wipe out such a powerful army, especially when the leader of the pack was a King Class Monster Boss with four Overlord Rank Monsters as underlings.

Then there was the risk of that King Class Monster Boss being promoted into an Emperor Class if they happened to clear out the whole army.

No matter how Shin looked at it, Lycan was definitely placed in this setting to be a friendly NPC to assist the expedition group. The other godlike players of their group were sharing the same thought.

But the problem was they were still fighting Lycan even if they reached this critical stage of the battle.

If they put the clues given to them through the information about Lycan into consideration, then the ones that stood out the most were the word 'Confused' on its status and the phrase 'Endured the cursed because of its bloodline' written on its quest clue at the very bottom of the information panel.

After taking a closer look at it, the group concluded that they needed to meet a certain condition to 'wake' Lycan from its confused state for them to turn it into an ally.

But how were they going to do that?

The group was completely troubled. Shin also knew that this was a critical stage that they needed to overcome to progress further in the quest.

'Relieving Lycan at his confused state before killing the other three wolves,' Shin was sure that this was the main problem. But he felt that they overlooked something, he just couldn't find what it was.

Having that kind of doubt, Shin started to reassess the entire situation. He reviewed the entire event, trying to find where everything took a massive turn. "Where is it?"

"Everything is going smoothly just earlier. All of it is going according to our plan, so why the difficulty of the quest spikes up this high?"

"Is it when we reached the inner circle of the wolf army? That time the four wolf generals make their moves. But at that time, they were just some ordinary Overlord Bosses, there is nothing special about them aside from their overwhelming Health Bars and powerful stats."

"Is it when we are fighting the Alpha Wolf? But everything is still pretty normal at that time. At least until before Cloe finished setting up the Holy Field."

Hmm?

Shin couldn't help but pause his thoughts when he reached this point. It was as if something struck his mind. "Wait! Until she set up the Holy Field? That is right! That is when Lupus starts showing some violent reactions!"

"Could it be the Holy Field is the cause?" asked Shin to himself as he swept his gaze over the surroundings while fighting Lycan.

Then information started to flow inside his head. "Based on the Historical Notes that we have gotten so far, it is already obvious that this wolf army is a part of the Great Army that is sent here to eradicate the corrupted people of this place, those so-called spawns of darkness, the vampires to be exact."

"Adding the clues given through Lycan's information panel, this army is used to be the great Blue Wolf Army."

"Then there is a certain incident that leads the whole army to be cursed. At first, we thought it is a curse cast on them by the first Vampire. After all, as a contractor of a powerful demon, and as a descendant of dragon worshippers, that person should be extremely powerful."

"But now that I have a second look into it, it looks like the other way around. That incident must be the betrayal of the whole army and started defying the orders of that Goddess. It is most likely the reason why they are cursed."

"But why did they betray the Goddess? There must be a heavy reason for them to commit such a sin," Shin tried to figure out the answer, but with such a limited amount of information, it was impossible for him to pinpoint the exact answer.

Instead, he focused on the current situation at hand. "If Lupus showed a great reaction after sensing the Holy Powers from Cloe, then it probably senses a certain familiarity from it."

"It must have felt a Divine Powers similar to the Goddess that cursed them from Cloe. Her Holy Powers much have reminded Lupus of what happened during that time!"

"That explains why this wolf is stubbornly going after her!"

"And when the Holy Field is finally established, we may have triggered something and made Lupus enter into a crazy state, leading us to our current situation!"

Finally understanding everything, Shin squinted his eyes and focused his gaze on Lycan. "Then we need to do something similar in order to wake this guy from his confused state."

Chapter 857 Gambling Everything

...

Shin immediately shared his thoughts with others after his reassessment. And when the others heard him, they immediately agreed with it.

Lycan could either be a friend or a foe depending on how they were going to approach this situation. If they did it wrong, then they would face a pair of Emperor Rank Monster Bosses. And if their gamble was successful, then they would gain a very powerful ally.

But the problem still remained.

How they were going to wake Lycan from his confused state?

Lupus only entered the special state when he sensed the similarity between Cloe's Holy Field and the Divine Powers of the Goddess of Ice and Snow. But it was a little different to Lycan.

Shin told Cloe to send a couple of cleansing spells to Lycan, trying to see if they were effective. Unfortunately, they only wasted those debuff spells and cleanse skills for nothing since the armored wolf didn't show any kind of reaction.

The armored wolf only took a sudden change when the surrounding wolves died and the moment when Lupus turned into a werewolf.

This could mean that Lycan's transformation was still dependent on Lupus. This could mean that they needed to do something to Lupus before Lycan could make its move.

The group was already out of options and their time was already running out. If they didn't find a way to turn Lycan into an ally, then Shin and Arthur were going to enter a weakened state due to the exhaustion caused by their two-fold berserk. And when that time came, it was going to be a total disaster.

Shin gritted his teeth and shouted. "Finish off the other wolf generals!"

Hearing that, the rest of the group couldn't help but had a weird look on their faces. But they didn't question his orders. It might be dangerous, but they didn't have any choice right now.

Worst-case scenario, they would be forced to escape from this place and retreat to their temporary hideout.

There was no time for hesitation anymore!

They needed to be decisive!

The group quickly gave everything and started using their powerful skills to kill the three wolf generals as fast as they could.

The easiest to kill was the mage wolf since it had the lowest defense while the hardest one was the nimble wolf that was fighting Faker. In the meantime, the giant wolf was not going to be a problem since it had a huge body size, making it an easy target.

Given that, the group divided their firepower equally to make sure that they would be able to kill the three wolves at the same time.

Seven quickly separated himself from the group and headed to where Zero was fighting. The two of them were already been together for a long time, so their teamwork was as seamless as the trio of Shin, Arthur, and Leonard.

The two swordsmen worked together to suppress the wolf mage and take it down at incredible speed. They no longer need to control their DPS since they needed to kill this wolf the fastest way possible, so they stopped holding back and unleashed a barrage of attacks that was impossible to be stopped.

In the meantime, Leonard and Lawless were in the same situation. They unleashed their real strength and started bombarding the giant wolf with powerful skills. And working together with the rest of the group were also attacking this wolf to speed up the process.

The giant wolf had the largest amount of HP, so they needed more people to burn down that overwhelming Health Bar to an incredible degree.

It might have an insane amount of HP, but under the bombardment of their skills and spells, it would only be a matter of time before it was emptied.

While it was happening, the nimble wolf was also starting to receive a series of damage despite its speed. With Ravier restraining the movements of the wolf with his Ice Rampart Formation, Faker was able to land more hits compared to before.

At the same time, Alucard was also focusing on this wolf to match the speed of the others at killing the other two wolves. He started firing with his magic rifle loaded with holy bullets. They were special bullets that he prepared to deal with undead monsters and vampires. And with their sacred properties, the damage that they could deal was pretty effective to the wolf.

But that was not the only amazing thing that he did. Each of his shots accurately hit the moving wolf while also avoiding Faker at the same time.

The speed of the wolf was still fast despite being restricted by Ravier. Hitting a target that was moving with such speed while not hitting his teammate was pretty insane.

With that kind of accuracy, Alucard could easily climb the ladder of Titled Rankers with an incredible degree. On top of that, his ability to fight in close combat was also top-notch.

Black Hand couldn't help but have a new assessment about Alucard. He already knew that this guy was not simple since they fought together during the quest in the underground dungeon, but what this Vampire Player was currently showing him right was on a whole other level.

Because of this, the priest from the Wing's Alliance needed to further reassess the adventurer team. "Empyrean Talons. Everyone was already holding them in high regard because of the Godlike Players in their lineup. But from the looks of it, the other members are more capable than we usually thought."

.....

Shin and Arthur who were fighting Lupus and Lycan immediately noticed the change in the two wolves as the health bars of the other wolf generals reached the critical level.

A violent aura appeared on the bodies of Lupus and Lycan, making their appearance more vicious. The two could even see the steam-like aura radiating from the bodies of the wolves with their naked eyes.

Shin wore a solemn expression as he saw what was happening. "Did we fail?"

He already knew that this might happen, so he already braced himself for their failure. But for an unknown reason, he started feeling anxious.

It was not because of what was happening in front of him, but something different. He was not sure what it was, but he felt that he had overlooked something.

"What is it?" asked Shin to himself.

Then the three wolf generals died one after another.

Boom! Boom!

Shin and Arthur were pushed away by a powerful shockwave once again as Lupus and Lycan underwent another transformation.

The group didn't pause despite seeing that, they quickly shifted their attention toward the two wolves and started bombarding them with powerful attacks.

The melee players might not be able to approach the two wolves due to the powerful gust of wind surrounding them, but it didn't mean that they couldn't throw their range attacks.

"-234,235", "-623,523", "-123,331", ...

"+15,000", "+15,000", "+15,000", ...

A series of numbers continuously appeared at the heads of the two wolves as the skills and spells landed on them. But it didn't not only stand for the damage that the group had dealt since the insane healing capabilities of the two wolves were also shown above their heads.

Mix numbers of red and green appeared on the heads of the two wolves, making the scene too overwhelming.

The Health Bars of the two wolves were dropping at an incredible rate despite their powerful regenerative abilities. That sight made the group slightly optimistic about the current situation.

There was a high chance that these two wolves were evolving into an Emperor Rank Monster Boss, so the group needed to make their Health Bars as low as possible even if they failed the gamble.

Awoo~! Awoo~!

The two wolves howled toward the sky as the aura surrounding them started to become more and more powerful.

"F*ck!"

Then Arthur couldn't help but curse out loud when he saw that the Health Bars of the two wolves suddenly stopped dropping when they reached the 50% mark of their total.

"What now?" asked Leonard as he appeared beside the two alongside Lawless, Faker, and Zero.

Shin didn't immediately reply as he locked his gaze on Lycan. He was observing the wolf general closely, watching every little change happening to the wolf.

It was highly possible that they failed on their gamble, but he was still not losing hope, not until he saw the final result.

Then he suddenly heard a voice.

'Please forgive me, Lupus. My master, my brother, and my only friend. I failed to fulfill my duty. I failed to protect everyone.'

That voice didn't make a sound, but he could hear it from inside his head.

A Telepathy!

Shin quickly recognized it and immediately activated the movement skill attached to his equipment.

'Equipment Skill (Leg Armor): Death Movement'

He then appeared right in front of Lycan, catching the others off-guard.

"What is that bastard doing?" shouted Arthur when he saw Shin charging ahead alone. He was about to chase after his 'troublesome' brother when another unexpected event happened.

Roar!

Howl!

Shriek!

Moo!

Different sounds from all kinds of monsters suddenly resounded on the whole place. All of those sounds were coming from every direction and seemingly directed to their direction, so the effects that they caused on the group were pretty serious.

All of the members of the group couldn't help but hold their heads due to the intense headache that those sounds gave.

Rumble!

"What the hell is happening now?" muttered Arthur with a solemn tone as he could hear the rumbling sounds that were coming from every direction.

Chapter 858 Free Us From This Curse

...

Shin and the others killed the three wolf generals successfully and even dealt a lot of damage to the remaining two that were undergoing the expected transformation.

But after the Health Bars of the two wolves stopped at the halfway mark of their total, the group couldn't help but frown their brows.

On top of that, they had overlooked something.

Lupus and Lycan already had a strong life force before this evolution, especially the former since that particular wolf was already a King Class Monster Boss. And now that it was undergoing another transformation after absorbing the energies of the three wolves that had been killed just recently, Lupus was being promoted towards the next rank.

Not only that, Lycan was seemingly being promoted too. Its aura might not be as strong as Lupus, but it was still overwhelming enough to pressure everyone in the group.

The life force of an Emperor Rank Monster Boss was completely different from the bosses of the previous rank. Not only it could affect the surrounding area, but it could also produce a powerful aura that could dominate everything within the vicinity.

The group had already expected this which was why they braced themselves to withstand that domineering aura, but they forgot that that aura could also be felt by the other rules of the Franzen Land.

Roar!

Shriek!

Moo!

Howl!

Different sounds from all kinds of monsters residing in the nearby areas could be heard. And each of their auras was in no way inferior to the one that Lupus and Lycan currently had. Some of them were even stronger and way more powerful than others.

Those roars carried powerful suppressing auras that made the group grimace in pain. They held their heads tightly due to how strong those auras were.

These auras definitely came from the other Emperor Rank Monster Bosses of this land. They sensed the birth of new monsters that could rival them.

These rulers of the frozen land felt provoked since the two dared to step on their territories while releasing such strong auras. They felt that the two wolves were trying to challenge them.

Rumble!

The group could hear the rumbling sounds from every direction which made them wear a solemn expressions on their faces.

Those Emperor Rank Monster Bosses were rushing towards this place!

Everyone in the group instantly recognized the weight of their current predicament. This situation clearly put them in a difficult position.

If there was something good about this situation, then it was the fact that those Emperor Rank Monster Bosses were still too far from them. They could tell from the rumbling sounds that they still had some time before those bosses could arrive.

Though, they were also aware that their time was not that long.

Well, everyone recognized this fact, aside from Shin.

It was because the moment when he arrived in front of Lycan, he was immediately swept by the powerful aura that the wolf had. He stood locked in his place but not because he was terrified or anything, but because it was due to a situation that he did not expect.

His eyes were completely blank because his consciousness was sucked into a completely different dimension. And due to this, he didn't have any idea of what was happening around him.

Shin found himself standing in the middle of darkness which made him frown pretty deeply. But it didn't take long for the surroundings to suddenly change.

He was still standing still but his surroundings were moving at extreme speed. He couldn't have a clear look at the scenes flashing through his surroundings due to how fast they were, and such scenes were giving him an intense headache.

A few moments later, the scenes finally slowed down, giving Shin a clear look at them.

The first thing that Shin saw was the majestic army that was marching towards a certain land. The size of this great army was too large that seemingly composed of four to five sub-armies.

These armies had distinct differences that clearly separated them from each other. Their cavalries and infantries had clear features unique to them.

Shin couldn't pinpoint what exactly those features were since he was looking at them from a birds-eye point of view, and he was too far from them to have a clear look at each army.

Then his view suddenly shifted a little, giving him a better view of the flags that the army had. With that, he could finally finalize that there were indeed four armies within this great army.

One of them had an emblem of a golden Griffin embroidered on their white flag. This particular army had the most elite cavalry among the other armies, this made them stand out among the rest.

Their cavalry seemed to be separated into multiple groups. And three particular cavalries stood out the most – one was a heavily armored cavalry marching with loud steps, then a swift group that seemed to be moving as an independent unit, and another unit that was seemingly composed of the most elite soldiers of this very army.

Leading this army was a man riding a griffin who seemed to be their symbol and the pillar. The griffin was not flying in the sky but instead marching at the front for some unknown reason.

The next army had a black flag that had a white Ghost's Mask situated in the center. Every soldier of this army donned black full-body armor with white paint on the edges of each segregated part.

But instead of wearing the traditional soldier helmet that was used in war to cover their entire head, they were wearing an identical mask to hide their faces. These masks were similar to the one that was embroidered on their flag.

At the forefront of this army stood a man with the same mask as every soldier behind him. His body was entirely covered by a huge cloak with a tattered hem, it was large enough to be called a blanket of a king-sized bed.

If the previous army had a majestic aura that could suppress their enemies with its strong and intimidating aura, then this particular army was able to strike horror at the opposing side. The aura that was surrounding them was too dark that could mistake them as envoys of death itself.

In the meantime, the third army was also quite amazing. Despite marching between the other two armies, his particular army seemed to be not affected in the slightest.

Their flagbearers were carrying a blue flag with embroidered wolf's head and claw marks behind it.

The aura that they were emitting was not inferior compared to the two armies. In fact, they seemed to be carrying a much more intimidating aura compared to the other two.

If the first two armies were boasting their different calvaries and soldiers carrying the aura of death respectively, then this particular army had a well-rounded composition that covered all of the areas of battle.

Their leading cavalry was riding wolves of large size instead of horses. Every soldier was carrying an air of fearlessness around them.

This army seemed to be composed of four different units.

Shin could instantly tell the name of this particular army after seeing their flag. He recalled all of the recent events that their group had just experienced and muttered. "The Great Blue Wolf Army."

Shin then directed his gaze at the great general leading this group. It was a majestic man donning an elegant set of armor with a blue cape on his back. The symbol drawn on his cape was the same as the one that their flag had.

Walking beside that man was a huge wolf as tall as a two-meter man. This wolf had a set of black armor that was pretty familiar to Shin.

"Lupus Steel and Lycan Steel," said Shin with a soft voice.

Then, all of a sudden, a familiar voice suddenly sounded to him. "You are pretty knowledgeable, young man."

Shin was not surprised by that voice. He didn't even bother to turn around as he continued to look at the scene in front of him.

Then a wolf suddenly walked out of the darkness and stood beside Shin and spoke. "You don't seem to be surprised."

Shin couldn't help but smirk deep inside after hearing those words. He was already expecting this to happen the moment he entered this dimension. He knew that this was a setting prepared by the system after they met certain conditions.

But he couldn't tell the wolf about it and just nodded his head.

Lycan gave him a sidelong glance before continuing. "You are lucky for waking me up from my deep slumber."

"You must be confused because you felt responsible for not being able to save them," responded Shin within an instant as he remembered the words that Lycan had said before he was sent to this place.

A lonely expression could be seen on Lycan. "We are tasked to eradicate the so-called evil forces from the neighboring land of the Saint Heaven Kingdom."

"But we did not expect that we are just pawns being used by that Goddess to wash away the shame that she was trying to hide."

Shin suddenly raised his eyebrows when he heard those words. He wanted to further inquire about it. But before he could even have the chance to open his mouth, the scene around them immediately changed and showed him the fourth army.

His attention was immediately attracted to them since this army was clearly much stronger than the previous three armies.

He was very familiar with the armor that they were wearing. It was very similar to the one that Arthur was wearing when he was using his 'Lava Walker' form aside from the wings that he had.

Unlike the other armies, this one didn't have anyone who was carrying a flag. Not even the ones who were carrying spears. Aside from their weapons, armor, and themselves, they were not carrying anything.

Those three were more than enough for their enemies to recognize them. It was because each soldier of this army seemed to possess an aura of a dragon!

Roar!

Then his attention was immediately attracted by a deafening roar. And when he cast his gaze in that direction, he immediately spotted a huge figure flying over the entire army.

It was a dragon!

A real dragon!

Shin squinted his eyes and examined the features of his particular dragon. It was a dragon with white scales and had a pair of wings that had a very large span. Its scales looked like diamonds as they reflected the light coming from the sun.

He already saw the ones that Arthur had and already experienced their strengths. And from what he could see, this dragon was on the same level as the ones that his brother had.

Looking closely at it, Shin noticed that a man was sitting on the head of this dragon. That man was wearing a set of armor with elegant and detailed designs.

"That is the Grand Marshall. The great Dragon Rider and known as one of the great heroes of Divine Empire," said Lycan after following Shin's gaze.

The wolf then turned to him, wearing a serious look. "Child of the Sun and Moon, I will tell you the secret of this war and the atrocities that the 'wicked' Goddess had committed."

"I swear upon the name granted to me by my lord and the almighty King of all Gods. But-..."

Shin didn't care how the wolf recognize him as one from the Church of the Sun and Moon. He just stared at Lycan with calm eyes.

He knew that they were now at the critical part of their quest. And this opportunity was going to be the answer for them to clear it, it was the situation where they would gain the assistance of this powerful NPC.

Then Lycan continued after that brief moment of pause. "... but first, help me free our army from the curse cast upon us."

Chapter 859 A Race Against Time And A Hidden Threat (Part 1)

.....

When Shin came back to his senses, he was immediately greeted by a chaotic battle where his teammates were struggling to fight Lupus.

Arthur and Leonard were working together to lock the werewolf in place so that the others could deal as much damage as they could. But despite them doing everything they had, they were still having a hard time doing the job.

The speed that Lupus currently had was too much for the two of them to handle. They might have great foot techniques that they could use to match it up, but it was still not enough to totally locked the werewolf in place.

Fortunately, Faker has that kind of speed and was able to catch up with Lupus whenever it broke away from the two.

But it was still not enough.

He might have the speed to match the werewolf, but he obviously was not Lupus' match when it came to strength. But Lawless was always there to cover his back.

With Faker's speed, he could momentarily stop Lupus' tracks. Then Lawless would immediately catch up and forced the werewolf to stay with them. This bought enough time for Arthur and Leonard to reorganize before doing a pincer attack with the two as they re-establish the aggro.

Zero was lurking around them and throwing wind blades and sword waves from time to time, dealing a considerable amount of damage.

The rest of the group, on the other hand, was also doing their best to match the fast rhythm of the battle. Cloe and Alice didn't have any problem with it since they were skilled enough to keep up with this pace.

It was the same for Ravier, Ember, and Seven. After all, these three were already used to working with godlike players since they had been fighting alongside such players for a long time already.

This was when the lack of skills and experience of S.Tigris' trio started to affect the overall teamwork of the group negatively.

In the eyes of average players, the trio was already skilled since they were part of the elite group of the Wing's Alliance, a powerhouse guild.

They should be experienced enough to be called veteran players of the game, especially for S.Tigris and Black Hand who were a Maverick Ranker and a player who ranked as one of the top strategists of the game respectively.

This two couldn't help but feel ashamed as they were being a burden to the team. And this situation struck their ego and made them reassess their skills. Even Alucard who was not particularly 'famous', was doing better than them since he was adjusting pretty well at the current pace of the battle.

If only they knew the truth about Alucard's identity, then they would definitely think differently. He was someone who dominated a particular virtual game before, so keeping up with this kind of battle was a normal occurrence.

Fortunately for Black Hand, his main role was to assist the frontline with his Buffs and Heals. With such a skilled lineup of their team, he didn't need to worry about the arrangement of their formation and attack patterns, unlike he was doing their guild operation.

Right now, he only needed to dedicate himself to the current role that was assigned to him.

In the meantime, S.Tigris was afraid to get in the way of the others, so he chose to refrain from joining the frontline and just stayed in front of their support group so that he could protect them if Lupus unexpectedly broke away from the combined forces of the top gods of the game.

It was pretty unexpected for Lupus to constantly target Cloe. Fortunately, the frontline of the group was persistently clinging to it and refusing to let it get away from them.

Everyone was feeling the pressure that Lupus was giving them, which was why they kept their concentration at its peak. But this was not the real reason why the group was on edge, it was because of the howls and roars of different monsters that were coming from every direction.

This put the group in an immediate crisis. They were not only fighting an Emperor Rank Monsters Boss, but they were also rushing against time since if they were a little too slow at taking Lupus down, then they were going to be trapped in this place and get slaughtered by a large number of monsters bosses on the same rank as this one.

They wanted to do it fast, but unfortunately for them, the system was too cruel. As if the insane speed and powerful strength of the monster boss were still not enough, it made Lupus' already troublesome regenerative abilities even more problematic.

It made their powerful attacks look insignificant despite the massive damage that they were dealing with.

Well, they were still strong, but with their current situation where they needed to finish this battle as soon as possible, that kind of regeneration was too insane.

Fortunately, they only needed to fight a single Emperor Rank Monster Boss instead of two, unlike what they were expecting.

Shin and Lycan suddenly stopped moving after what happened earlier. They didn't know what exactly caused it, but they were sure that it was a good thing.

They were thinking that Shin triggered something to turn Lycan into their ally. And they were right.

...

Shin quickly swept his gaze at the surroundings to assess the current situation. He saw the group struggling at fighting Lupus and also heard the loud roars of different monsters coming from every direction. He also tried to feel their auras and immediately discovered how strong those monsters were.

It only took him an instant to understand what was going on. "Tsk! That burst of aura earlier most probably attracted the rulers of the neighboring areas!"

Their situation was too dire but they couldn't back down anymore. They couldn't advance since they needed to take down Lupus first before they could unlock the other areas. And it was also too late for them to retreat since this place was going to be a slaughterhouse the moment those powerful monsters arrived.

Shin tried to think of a solution for how they were going to escape this current predicament. It was impossible for the system to put them in a shitty situation without giving them a way to escape.

Based on what Lycan had told him earlier, they needed to buy enough time for the wolf before it could join them in the battle. It told him that it needed to gather enough strength to free itself from the illusion that the wolf had created.

In simpler terms, they needed to deal as much damage as they could to lower Lupus' Health Bar to a certain degree.

"Forget about everything else and give everything you have! Exhaust all of your skills, if possible," shouted Shin as he joined the battle.

He jumped in the window that Arthur and Leonard had purposely created to lead Lupus' movements.

Bang!

"1,324,523"

An 'Eclipse Wave' was unleashed to deal a huge amount of damage. But immediately after that, a series of green numbers immediately appeared above the wolf's head.

"+30,000", "+30,000", "+30,000", ...

"What kind of healing ability is that?" muttered Shin as he coordinated with the others to lock Lupus in place.

"You're awake? How was your sleep, price charming?" greeted Leonard with a joking tone but wearing a solemn expression on his face.

Arthur, on the other hand, straight up cursed at Shin. "Hey! We are working our *sses here when you are staring blankly in the air like an idiot earlier, and now you are ordering us to burn everything we have?"

"Then how are we going to deal with those f*cking monsters later?" he added with a very annoyed tone while stopping Lupus' tracks and forcing it to take a step back.

"Let's think about that later! We need to burn down the Health Bar of this Boss first. At least chuck it down up to thirty to twenty-five percent," responded Shin as he threw another attack at the werewolf.

"What is your plan?" asked Zero in a calm tone as he joined the conversation.

Shin didn't immediately reply as he dodged a barrage of icicles and wind blades sent in his direction.

Swoosh!

He then created some distance between him and Lupus before answering. "There is definitely going to be a slugfest here later when those monsters arrived in this place."

"Those monster bosses are definitely the rulers of their respective areas. And the moment when they gather in a single place together and see their old rivals, a chaotic battle is bound to happen."

The others immediately understood his thoughts and slightly nodded their head. Lawless even voices it out for them. "So, you are planning to use that chaos to slip away from this place after we killed this werewolf."

"Then what about our loots?" Arthur couldn't help but blurted as he frowned his brow.

Leonard gave him a weird look and spoke. "You can still think about that even in our current situation?"

"F*ck! We work so hard just to take down this boss, and you are now telling me not to get any kind of reward?" refuted Arthur sharply while adding. "We even killed a countless number of Lord Rank Monsters earlier yet not a single equipment drops!"

"That is why I am saying to give all you have to chuck down the Health Bar of this boss since we already spend a lot of time in this place!" said Shin as he threw a barrage of attacks at Lupus.

He paused for a moment to exhaust everything before continuing. "Lycan will assist us later when the Health Bar of this boss reached a certain level."

"Burn out everything, kill this boss, pick up all of the drops, then escapes – sound simple enough," commented Lawless as he was the first one to unleash a series of powerful skills.

Faker immediately followed his lead and revealed his real strength, executing one skill after another with extreme speed.

The others also did the same, no longer showing any kind of hesitation.

With the group unleashing such powerful attacks, it would only be a matter of time before Lupus fell. The regenerative ability of the werewolf was still pretty strong, but it could no longer keep up with such unrestrained and coordinated attacks from the group.

In the meantime, there was standing behind the curtain of darkness created by the trees away from the battlefield and watching the group, struggle.

"This is just an early stage of the quest, so it is still not worth it for me to interfere. I will wait patiently until they reach the most crucial part of the quest before I make my appearance," muttered the person with a smirking tone as he continued to watch the group from a distance.

Chapter 860 A Race Against Time And A Hidden Threat (Part 2)

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After throwing everything they had, the group finally chunked down the Health Bar of Lupus close to their target. It was pretty slow because of the insane regeneration rate that the werewolf had, but it was steadily dropping closer to the twenty-five percent mark.

But as the HP Bar of Lupus dropped, the team was also starting to feel the pressure coming from the monsters heading towards their direction.

The powerful aura of those monsters was not only reminding them of the crisis that they were in, but it was also making their moves a little sluggish. The air around them was getting heavier as those monsters approach their location, making it hard for them to move freely.

And it became much worse when Lupus' Health Bar dropped to twenty-five percent.

Awoo~!

The werewolf howled towards the sky as a crimson aura seen by the naked eye appeared on its body. Its snow-white furs seemed to become erect as the berserk aura danced alongside them.

"Keep your focus, it is now entering a berserk state," shouted Shin as he reminded everyone to not let their guards down.

He might say it in a calm tone but he was also aware that the situation was currently not in their favor. Everyone was already reaching their limit. With such a high-paced and nerve-racking battle, the toll that they were getting was definitely heavy.

Moreover, Shin and the others at the frontline were using their Reality Manifestation for a long time already. And adding the fact that they were already using their respective Elemental Possession for an extended period of time, it was not surprising for them to be mentally exhausted at this point.

To make matter worse, there was only under two minutes before the two-fold berserk of Shin and Arthur would end. They were definitely going to be in a dangerous situation if they couldn't end Lupus right now.

Bang!

Swoosh!

A loud sound could be heard from the location where Lupus was standing, making everyone look at the werewolf with tensed gazes.

Every member of the group was looking cautiously at the werewolf, except for Shin and Leonard who were already running towards their backline where Cloe and the rest of the team were located.

Lupus might be too fast for the others to notice what happened, but Shin was able to anticipate its plan. On the other hand, Leonard was able to sense the danger with his Bestial Instincts.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Shin was the first to arrive as he had a lot of movement skills in his arsenal. He appeared behind Cloe and quickly raised his sabers, crossing them in above him to block an incoming attack.

Bang!

That attack came a little too fast for the others to react, Shin even failed to even use a defensive skill to block it off. He managed to arrive in time and successfully blocked the claws that were targeting Cloe.

But despite that being the cause, he still didn't have enough time to properly secure a good footing for himself to withstand the incoming attack.

Bang!

Swoosh!

"-51,392"

Shin was sent flying to the side as a huge chunk of his Health Bar disappeared. He also bumped into Ravier and Alucard, knocking them down during the process.

It was only at that moment that the others realized that the 'Lupus' they were looking at was just an afterimage.

S.Tigris might be a little slower compared to Shin and Leonard but he was still able to sense that ambush and quickly responded to it faster than the others.

He was nearer than Leonard, so he was the second to arrive and quickly used all he had to enhance all of his strength.

Bang!

"-60,312"

But even if he did everything he could, he was still not a match for Lupus, especially when it came to raw strength. He was also sent flying by the werewolf just like what happened to Shin. His HP Bar also hit a critical level, leaving him with a sliver of health.

He might have failed, but it was enough for the others to properly reorganize themselves.

Leonard arrived at the right time and forced Lupus to take a couple of steps backward. He then started throwing a barrage of skills without restraint, trying to buy enough time for the others to re-establish their formation.

Cloe and Black Hand also distanced themselves away from the two, casting a blinking skill at the same time. They also didn't forget to cast their healing skills at Shin and S.Tigris respectively, recovering their HP Bars back to a healthy state.

The two other mages also cast their respective Blink to create a considerable distance between them and Lupus. Ara, on the other hand, quickly leaped backward while also firing a couple of arrows at the werewolf.

The rest of the group, which was originally fighting at the frontline earlier, also charged back to support the others.

Leonard was struggling at fighting Lupus head-on. He was also pretty exhausted, which was why his movements were a little sluggish.

It was a pretty dire situation, but ironically, the others were acting a little calm. It was because they all knew that they already did their job.

Bang!

"-46,310"

Leonard finally failed to withstand the attack from Lupus. He was slammed on the ground as a huge chunk of his HP Bar suddenly disappeared.

The werewolf was about to finish him off but none of them tried to save him as Shin ordered them to retreat. "Everyone, get away from Lupus as far as possible for now!"

He then took out a scroll from his inventory and ripped it immediately after. The scroll turned into a light and flew straight to Leonard with extreme speed.

Swoosh!

After that, a pair of magic circles suddenly appeared on the ground under Leonard and beside Shin before releasing a blinding light.

Whoosh!

Bang!

It was at that moment when Lupus' claw thrust forward, trying to pierce Leonard's body with it. But unfortunately for it, the body of the Lionkin in front of it suddenly turned into a speck of light, making its attack miss.

Thud!

Then Leonard appeared in the circle beside Shin with a confused look. "What is that?"

Shin gave him a sidelong glance and spoke. "That is one of the special scrolls that I've got the Hand of Midas Trading Firm. There is a variety of them and they look pretty useful, so I buy a couple of them in case of emergency."

'I am planning to save these for the latter stages of the quest, but I have no choice but to use them now since we are currently in a dire situation,' thought Shin as he turned his attention back to Lupus.

The werewolf didn't care whether its attack landed on its target or not, what was important to it right now was to get rid of the owner of the Divine Energy that it was sensing alongside the others that would try to stop it.

Lupus was about to resume its pursuit of Cloe when it sensed a dangerous threat coming from a different direction. The werewolf immediately released a powerful force field that created a spherical barrier that would protect it.

Swoosh!

Bang!

But that barrier was immediately shattered by the silhouette that came out of nowhere before slamming at Lupus immediately after.

Lupus managed to block the attack by crossing its arms in front of it. But the werewolf was still forced to slide backward due to the incredible force behind that attack.

Raising its head, it saw a black wolf, which wearing a special set of armor, looking back at it.

Grr!

Lupus growled deeply when it saw Lycan. It showed its hostility at Lycan, though it was also pretty cautious at the same time.

Lycan stared at Lupus with a lonely gaze for a moment before starting to talk. "Forgive me, master. I failed to live up to your expectation."

The two remained unmoved, seemingly unaffected by the powerful creatures that were heading their way.

'Tsk! This is bad!' thought Shin as he could feel the presence of the powerful monsters. His breathing was also starting to get affected due to the suffocating pressure they had.

He then turned his head towards the other members of the group and saw that they were also struggling. Even Lawless and Faker, who were supposed to have much more powerful willpower compared to the rest, were starting to show a clear sign of exhaustion.

Seeing that, Shin finally instructed them. "Aside from me, Zero, and Faker, the rest of you will be retreating towards a safe location to hide yourselves."

There was obviously some objection to his orders, especially Arthur who was about to say something. He was unwilling to stop right now when this battle was about to end. 'D*mn! This is being recorded. No matter how good Miss Bunny is at editing the videos, there are still some scenes that I can't afford to miss.'

,m If only Shin could read his mind right now, he would surely beat this guy to a pulp for thinking about that in this kind of situation.

Regardless, he still continued before his brother could even open his mouth. "We are the fastest among our group, so we can immediately retreat if the situation calls for it."

"We are going to stay here and help Lycan take down Lupus as soon as possible and secure our loot while the rest of you are retreating."

"Siegfried, Simba, and Lawless are going to protect the rest while you are making your way toward the forest."

Hearing that, Black Hand nodded his head and voiced out his thoughts. "We can't let all of us stay here right now when the situation is this dire, so it is better to divide ourselves into two groups and assign a specific job that will benefit us the most."

The others didn't have enough time to think too deeply about it since they could already feel the monsters getting near them. They could even hear the sounds of falling trees from the distance.

With that, the rest of the group started executing the plan and moved as fast as they could.

"Hmm?"

In the meantime, Zero was squinting his eyes and staring in a certain direction. He was not sure if it was just his imagination, but he felt a familiar aura coming from the woods where his gaze was directed.

Unfortunately, the current situation didn't let him to head over that place and clear his doubt. He needed to focus on the current matter at hand before taking care of his personal business.