

## Destiny 871

### Chapter 871 Increasing The Gambling Stakes

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Saint Heaven Kingdom, Holy City.

Hand of Midas Branch.

Shiella was currently reading the reports that were just sent to her, making sure that everything was going smoothly.

The Corrupted Cult were hindering the carriages that they were sent to towns and cities that suffered great losses during the previous war. Fortunately, she was able to quickly solved it by increasing the number of personnel that she could mobilize in this Kingdom.

She pulled out some of their members from the Trading Firm's branches of the other Kingdoms and temporarily relocate them to this place.

She was trying to stabilize the state of crisis of the Kingdom by sending those supplies. This way, she could slow down the decline of the economic value of the kingdom and also grow the influence of the Hand of Midas at the same time.

Both the players and the NPC would see them in a new light if they succeed at restoring the Kingdom.

They might be burning a lot of resources in the process but the Trading Firm was also accumulating a lot of reputation points in return, so they were not losing too much from it.

At the same time, she also sent a lot of expert mercenaries to the outskirts of the kingdom where the temporary base of the Corrupted Cult was located.

She also borrowed the position that Shin and Cloe had to mobilize a few paladins and priests to purify the land in that area.

Shin was an Envoy of the Church of the Sun and the Moon while Cloe was the Holy Maiden of the Church of Light. With their current position in their respective churches, they had the right to mobilize a certain number of forces as long as the task fell on the responsibilities of the churches.

But since the two were not personally present, the number of paladins and priests was only limited. But that was more than enough to hinder the progress of the Corrupted Cult.

But she also knew that it was only a temporary solution. The strength of those paladins and priests was still not enough to take down the forces of the Corrupted Cult in that area, so she still needed to find the real solution to their problem.

Unfortunately, she always came up with a single solution. She still needed Shin and Cloe to visit their respective churches and ask for a formal request for a crusade on the now corrupted area of the Saint Heaven Kingdom.

In the end, the Corrupted Cult was still an NPC organization within the game and she needed an organization of the same level to completely deal with them, so she had no choice but to patiently wait and hope Shin and the others clear their quest.

Fortunately, there was still a good thing in this situation. Since the Corrupted Cult was involved, the Churches within the Saint Heaven Kingdom were issuing a lot of request missions to deal with them.

The rewards that the churches were offering were decently good, so the players had no problem accepting them. This was also the main reason why there were still a lot of independent groups and adventurer teams staying in the Kingdom despite its current state.

Originally, not many players knew about those requested missions because of how chaotic the Saint Heaven Kingdom currently was.

But Shiella pulled the strings behind the scenes and scattered a lot of members of their Trading Firms in different parts of the Kingdom to spread the news.

This was still a game after all, wherever there was a decent benefit for it, the players would still start flocking to those places regardless of how dangerous the condition was.

Seeing how effective that method was, Shiella even ordered some of her people to also spread the news on the neighboring Kingdoms and Empires.

If they could attract more players to visit the Saint Heaven Kingdom, then the economy of this place would still trend in a positive direction. Though, she also needed to control the flow of information since the current state of the kingdom could also attract some unwanted attention.

The other organizations might show their interest in this place after seeing the benefits that they could get from here. Then it would lead them at taking root in the Kingdom, creating another competitor for their trading firm.

Balance needed to be maintained in these kinds of situations, but Shiella was currently taking a risk at using a double-edged sword since their current opponent was very hard to deal with.

At the very least, she would have a head start since the reputation points were going to continuously flow in their direction as long as she continued to send out their supplies to the affected towns and cities.

While she was reviewing everything, someone suddenly knocked on the door.

Knock! Knock!

Shiella didn't bother to turn her head in that direction as she answered. "You can enter."

Then Delusive Smile opened the door and entered the office carefully. She then stood in front of the table and patiently waited for Shiella to finish.

After a few moments, Shiella finally closed the reports and turned to her in-game secretary. "What is it, Sister Smile? I hope it is not another bad news that will give me a headache."

Delusive Smile shook her head and opened a virtual screen, projecting a series of reports, before continuing. "I am not sure if it is good news or not, young miss. But it looks like the Hydra Guild is making their move."

Shiella creased her brow when she heard that and asked to send the reports to her. She then started reviewing them one after another.

"They are pulling out their assets from the Kingdom? And they are not even hiding it?" she asked with a doubtful tone.

Delusive Smile nodded her head and further explained. "Yes, young miss. They not only did it openly, but they seemed to be letting the public know that this Kingdom is destined to be doomed."

Shiella couldn't help but clicked her tongue. "Tsk! They are purposely doing it to discourage the other players from staying or moving to this Kingdom. They are clearly showing that they are in cahoots with the Corrupted Cult."

"With their reputation as the number one Guild of the game, a lot of players will definitely follow them," she added, clearly seeing that this was an attempt to neutralize her previous move.

"How about their other businesses? How are they dealing with them?" she asked while continuing to read the reports.

Then Delusive Smile responded. "It looks like they are selling them off at a very low price. They are openly looking for buyers and even posting it on their page as well as in the online forums."

"They are clearly cutting off their losses at the possible outcome of this battle. It looks like they are pretty confident at winning here," said Shiella with squinting eyes. "Are they not afraid of losing the bet instead?"

She turned to Delusive Smile and started tapping her index finger on the table. A few moments later, she opened the online forums and started skimming through the post that the Hydra Guild had made.

She then turned to Delusive Smile and asked. "How many funds can we mobilize aside from the ones that we are using for the necessary expenses."

As a secretary within the game, and after working with Shiella for a very long time, Delusive Smile could already read what her boss was planning to do. "Are you planning to buy all of those shops and lands, young miss?"

Shiella didn't answer her question directly and instead said. "Since we are already gambling and betting for our victory, then why not increase the stakes instead?"

"B-But given their confidence, I am afraid that those guys are hiding something big," said Delusive Smile with a worried tone.

"Our losses are indeed going to be huge if we lose, but our gains will also be bountiful if we manage to snatch a win over them. And our influence is also going to grow large when that happens, I think it is worth the gamble," answered Shiella with a playful tone.

"If everything goes in our favor, then we may even control the entirety of the market within the Saint Heaven Kingdom. No matter how I look into it, our possible gains are much larger than our estimated losses, so why not give it a try?"

"In this kind of business, you will not gain anything if you are afraid of losses. Of course, you can't foolishly gamble everything if you know that the odds are in your favor. But it also doesn't mean that you can't do anything about it."

"If the odds are not leaning in your direction, then you must do everything to pull it back and turn it towards your side."

She paused for a moment and pointed out. "Those guys are confident that the Saint Heaven Kingdom is going to fall, so all we have to do is to find where their confidence is coming from and crush it."

"It is impossible for them to solely rely on the Corrupted Cult since the Righteous Churches within the kingdom are still standing strong. Then it will only leave us with an obvious answer, they are sure that Shin and the others are going to fail the quest."

"Then all we have to do is to make sure that those guys are going to clear that quest by any means possible."

"I will take care of that matter later, though I also suspect that the other side will try everything they can to stop me."

"Given that, we should first deal with the other matters in hand before proceeding to help my little brothers."

She then paused and turned back to Delusive Smile and instructed. "For now, you take care of the lands and shops that the Hydra Guild is trying to sell."

"They are selling it publicly, so they will not care who is going to buy them. But to make sure that we don't have many competitors, let's make an imaginary one. Group yourselves into multiple teams and start 'competing' with each other at buying them."

"They are rushing at selling them, so we can take advantage of it. If the price is within 50% - 60% of the original price, then try to lower it to 25% - 30%. Buy it out if the prices fall between 35% - 40%."

"They will not be stingy since they are also rushing against time. They need to clear out all of their assets before the Empire Quest is finished."

"But we are different, we know who is currently doing that quest, so we can take our time as much as we want since we know exactly how long it will take. We have a clear advantage in this area and we can use it to control the flow toward our favor."

"They will have no choice but to lower their price and agree with us since they don't know when the Saint Heaven Kingdom will 'fall'."

She paused for a moment to look at the online forums before continuing. "I will take care of the rumors that will affect our plans negatively, or at least redirect their attention somewhere else, so that you can focus solely on your current task, understood?"

Seeing that Shiella laid out a perfect plan for them, Delusive Smile could no longer voice out her doubts and just nodded her head. After that, she left the room while summing up the finance team of the Trading Firm.

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Now that she already took care of the business-related issues, Shiella was left with the main problem that they had.

She was confident that Shin and the others would do their job, but it didn't mean that they were prone to outside interference.

"They are aware of my presence. As well as the information that Sister Moon and Khing are on our side, but despite that being the case, they are still confident that the Saint Heaven Kingdom will fall."

"This means they either have a reinforcement that is strong enough to stop us from helping Shin and the others or they are confident that the quest is going to fail."

She paused when she reached this point and started to think deeply. "We can take care of the opponents on our side, but I am still not sure what kind of accidents are going to happen on the other side."

She then leaned on her chair and close her eyes while tapping her finger on the armrest. "I need to at least ensure that no one will bother them."

As her words faded, the room immediately turned quiet with the only sound that could be heard was the tapping of their finger.

That soft sound was like the sound of a ticking clock, counting the passage of time.

#### Chapter 872 Exploration In The Frozen Kingdom

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#### Frozen Kingdom

The expedition team continued to explore deeper within the region and recorded all of the things necessary.

They had encountered various types of monsters and each of them was pretty strong. And since most of these monsters were not recorded in the bestial encyclopedia, they saved all of the data that had gotten.

Their exploration was hard since two of their core members couldn't join the fight, Shin and Arthur. Because they used their two-fold berserk earlier, they immediately entered a weakened state that made them unable to take part in any battle.

Fortunately, the other members of the group were also strong, so it didn't matter much if they were present or not. At least, until they met the other armies that were mentioned in their sub-quest.

Both Leonard and Lawless could take Arthur's role of being the tank. They might not have a strong defense as a knight, but their strength was obviously on par if not stronger than what Arthur had.

Zero and Faker also had powerful attacks and they were flexible with their roles, so they could also be Shin's substitutes when it came to his role.

Moreover, Shin could also focus on giving out orders since he didn't have to be present on the frontline. He could give more accurate commands and even adjust the formation of the group when necessary.

Black Hand witnessed Shin's commanding skills in action once again. As a fellow strategist, he was curious how Shin would deal when it came to all kinds of scenarios and how much different his methods were in comparison.

Most of the time, Shin was using the same approach that a normal commander would take but there were some circumstances where he would suddenly give out an unexpected command that even Black Hand couldn't comprehend.

Then later, the priest would realize their purpose as the battle progressed. It was as if Shin could see what was going to happen in the future and would also have a countermeasure ahead of time.

Shin's approach was different from Black Hand who was solely focused on the flow of battle and read the movements of the opposing side before responding accordingly.

He could also do what Shin was doing and read a couple of moves ahead, but Black Hand also knew that he would not be able to do it as fast as Shin.

S.Tigris commented that Shin was also probably using an 'intuitive' way of commands, just like what the Tigerkin was doing most of the time.

This made S.Tigris and Black Hand a powerful duo within the Wing's Alliance despite them not having a high position within the guild. The combined forces of intuitive and intellectual moves that they could maneuver when fighting together were really hard to deal with.

But seeing those two qualities present within a single body made it even more terrifying.

As key figures with the forces of the Wing's Alliance, both S.Tigris and Black Hand could only agree with each other that they couldn't be an enemy of Empyrean Talons.

No matter how much they look at it, there was nothing to gain in provoking this group of monsters.

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As the group go deeper, the monsters that they were encountering were getting more and more troublesome. And most problematic of them were Ice Trolls which had an insane regenerative ability and powerful strength, as well as the Artic Orcs which boast their muscular bodies with crazy defense and unparalleled power.

Compared to those two types of monsters, the rest were practically a joke. Fortunately, there was no undead type of monster that could revive as insanely as the fallen Great Blue Wolf Army.

Speaking of armies, the group also found the two locations of the other two armies that they were looking for.

They fought those two armies and just as Shin had predicted, they were much weaker compared to the previous army that they just faced.

Lycan told them that the Great Blue Wolf Army ranked two among the four armies, so they were already expecting that the other two armies were not as strong as the wolves that they faced previously.

They first headed to the location where they could find the members of the King Ghost Army.

Shin was right about his suspicion about them. Most members of this army really turned into Spectral Assassins after being cursed by the God of Winter.

Dealing with them was pretty troublesome since they kept on disappearing during the battle. There were even some Spectral Archers hiding in the woods, firing shots at them from time to time.

Dealing with the stealth skills of the army was already troublesome enough, so adding the fact there were also ranged-type humanoid monsters made it even harder for the group.

Fortunately, the silver lining that they had in this situation was the fact that these monsters had a very low Health Bar and only an average defense.

On top of that, Simba and Lawless became the key figures in this battle since they could rely on the innate traits of the Beastmen race to deal with the Spectral Monsters. They could feel the movement of these monsters or even scent them with the enhanced sense of smell that they had.

They could repeatedly lock on the moments of the Spectral Assassins while informing the rest of the group where the possible ambushes could come from.

This was where Shin took a bold move of letting Leonard and Lawless ran wild on the battlefield, leaving their backline partially undefended.

This was a risky move since both Shin and Arthur still couldn't have an impact on this battle since they were still under the effects of the weakened state as a penalty for using the two-fold berserk earlier.

But Shin seemed to be confident at defending themselves on their own. He let S.Tigris be their temporary frontline as Leonard and Lawless were on a rampage in a distance. As another Beastman of the group, he could also sense the movements of the Spectral Assassins even though it was a little weaker than the other two.

Arthur might be much weaker compared to his usual form, but his battle sense and combat control were still present. He assisted S.Tigris and took care of the area that the Berserker Tigerkin had failed to cover.

Zero was also present in there and constantly warded off the Spectral Assassins that were trying to get near them from the rear. He was also deflecting the arrows flying on their way with his wind elemental skills.

This was an unusual setup where these two top players were assigned to be defensive instead of launching an attack where they could shine more.

Under the protection of these three and the support provided by Black Hand and Cloe, the rest of the group, which were the ranged players, could solely focus on the offensive.

Faker was also a key figure in this battle as he was tasked to take down the Spectral Archers hiding in the woods and trying to snipe down the group from the shadows. As a top-class assassin, the such job was a child's play for him, he was taking down targets one after another.

Shin orchestrated the formation pretty well, making the group showcase their skills pretty well despite not being in the perfect form that they could have been.

This King Ghost Army also had the berserk ability to absorb the energies of their fallen companions. But the group didn't think too much about it as these opponents were not as strong as the previous ones that they faced.

They also didn't have the four generals unlike the Great Blue Wolf Army, so dealing with them became much easier. Aside from the leader of the Spectral Army, who had a skill set of both Assassins and Archers, everything else was just a walk in the park.

The group took down the entire spectral army and freed them from the curse much faster than in their previous battle.

The group could proceed to their next target after that battle, but Shin suggested taking their time and exploring the surrounding areas.

It was for them not to exhaust themselves too much. They needed some time to relax a bit after taking on consecutive battles with such high intensity.

Following his instructions, the group continued to explore the nearby areas in a more relaxed manner. They also harvested a lot of rare herbs and mined a couple of high-quality ores along the way.

The potions that they crafted previously helped them a lot during the exploration. And since there were a lot of herbs around, they didn't hold back from using them. This was one of the main reasons why their team remained healthy in the previous battles.

After recovering their strengths and regaining their peak forms, Shin suggested that it was now time to proceed to their next target. The team already warmed up after defeating the monsters along the way, so they were pretty pumped up for the next battle.

It was like what Shin had expected, the Sky Griffin Army indeed turned into a heavy cavalry of undead monsters. There were a lot of Dullahan, Death Knights, and Undead Knights in this army and each of them was mounting an undead horse that was comparable to Lord Rank Monsters.

The three types of undead were already strong enough to give the group a real headache, so adding these powerful mounts put a lot of pressure on the group.

But since they were currently in their complete form, the group didn't back down and faced this army head-on.

It might be a foolish choice at first look but the group held their grounds pretty well against such an intimidating army.

Shin already studied this army and they had an obvious weakness despite their unrivaled strength. They might be powerful but their attack patterns were too basic and repetitive.

Aside from that, the combat prowess of these undead monsters significantly dropped when the knights were separated from their mounts. Their attack patterns became even more simple, making the job of taking them down much easier.

Shin and the group might have expended a much longer time compared to the previous two armies but they steadily took the cursed Sky Griffin Army down in a very steady manner.

The only problem that they faced was still the general of the army. It was an Abyss Knight Undead mounting a Ghost Griffin.

Its battle prowess was similar to what Luples Steel had when he transformed into a werewolf. And since its mount was a flying-type monster, the group had a hard time fighting it.

But since it was their sole enemy, the group was still able to fight properly, especially when Shin and Arthur were already in action. The two had their respective flying abilities, Arthur in his 'Lava Walker' Form and Shin with his signature wings attached on [Dawn's Mantle].

Zero also joined them in the aerial battle as he also had a flying skill of his own. He could float in the air with the help of his wind elemental mana, then he skillfully used some air blasts to do some aerial maneuvers during the fight.

The trio worked together to force the Abyss Knight to be separated from the Ghost Griffin, weakening their fight capabilities.

And when the knight fell on the ground, the rest of the group, who were waiting patiently on the ground, unleashed their powerful skills to take it down as fast as they could.

The battle might take longer than they had expected but they still successfully killed the Abyss Knight and the Ghost Griffin in the end.

With such a convincing victory, Shin and the others were now a step closer to the later stage of the quest.

Though, the opponent that they need to face was the most powerful army among the forces trapped within this land. Even Shin couldn't figure out what kind of monsters were they going to face.

But one thing was for sure, this battle was going to be much harder compared to previous battles that they faced so far.

### Chapter 873 Proof Of Qualification

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Shin and the group proceed deeper into the Frozen Kingdom to look for the final army that they needed to face before they could continue with their quest.

They already reached the 150 Level cap ages ago. They needed to take the next promotion quest before they could break this limit.

Fortunately, the experience points that they were getting right now did not go to waste. They were being converted to special reputation points that they could use later when they arrived in their selected major region.

They could exchange them for special items later or even for experience tomes that would refund their accumulated experience points. Though, the group was leaning more toward the former since their concern at that time was not their levels but upgrading their combat prowess.

Based on the patch notes that they had read previously, even the most basic classes could stand against the hidden and transcendent classes to a certain degree after they cleared their respective promotion quests.

This feature put all of the classes on an equal footing, making the competition of the game more interesting. Though, the top players suspected that clearing those promotion quests was easier to say than done.

After all, the developers were not going to let the Transcendent Classes lose their advantages that easily.

According to the lore of those ascended classes, the powers that the players would receive were the legacy of the first batch of heroes, who managed to break free from their mortal limitations.

Anyone knew that they managed to rise in ranks and stood toe to toe with the Transcendent Races.

To be able to qualify for taking those promotion quests, the players first needed to get their hands on certain proofs. These things were like entry tickets for taking those tests.

And right now, three of those tickets were currently in the hands of a single person.

Shin was looking at the tree beads that they got after defeating the three armies earlier. The beads had the colors blue, black, and white while each of them had a figure of a wolf, a ghost, and a griffin respectively.

These were one of the spoils that they had gotten earlier alongside the special blueprints and army-formation certificates. The rest were just a bunch of special materials and top-class equipment.

After deliberation, the group decided how to divide their loot. S.Tigris chose to get the special materials and some of the equipment. They felt that they didn't do much in the previous battles which was why they didn't ask too much from the group.

This left Shin and the rest with the best loot that they could have. And these three beads gave them an important clue about the future classes that the players could possibly have.

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Shin was playing with the beads while they were resting before continuing with their quests. He was rolling the beads on top of his palms and controlling them with his fingers.

He took another look at their details while thinking deeply about what they were going to do with them later.

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Item Name: Blue Wolf Bead (Proof of Strength and Courage)

Item Rank: Special

Details: One of the required items to take the Peak Class Promotion Quest.

Class Qualifications: Berserker, Shield Warrior, Guardian, and Swordmaster.

Possible Class Advancements: Warlord, Royal Guard, and Sword Immortal.

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Item Name: Black Ghost Bead (Proof of Agility and Death)

Item Rank: Special

Details: One of the required items to take the Peak Class Promotion Quest.

Class Qualifications: Assassin, Twilight, Hunter, and Thief.

Possible Class Advancements: Executioner, Sentinel, Predator, and Guillotine.

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Item Name: Black Ghost Bead (Proof of Vitality and Vigor)

Item Rank: Special

Details: One of the required items to take the Peak Class Promotion Quest.

Class Qualifications: Shield Warrior, Guardian, Paladin, and Priest

Possible Class Advancements: Lord Knight, Templar, and Cardinal

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Shin looked that the possible class advancements that the players could have after the respective promotions and couldn't help but feel amazed by them.

He still didn't what kind of abilities could these classes could have since there was no information about them on the official website of the game.

But looking at their amazing names alone and using their experiences in the previous battles as a base, Shin could already picture how strong these classes were.

The one that caught his interest the most was the classes under the assassin-related classes. Not only did they have cool names, but the battle that gave Shin the most impressive was when they were facing the King Ghost Army.

That battle might not be as hard as their battle against the Great Blue Wolf Army. But the flexibility of each member of that particular army was the best even compared to the ones under the nimble wolf general from Lupus' Army.

Shin and the rest of the Empyrean Talons might not need these beads since most of them already have their special and transcendent races as well as classes, which were already the best among the rest.

They only needed to meet the respective instructors or organizations designated for their classes to take their special promotion quests.

But it would not hurt to save these proofs of qualifications for the time being. Who knew if they might come in handy in the future?

After that, Shin proceeded to the Master-Rank Blueprints that they got. These blueprints would definitely help him later when negotiating with his Big Sister. He now had another bargaining chip that he could use to have an advantage on the deal.

He might change a couple of his plans later because of these blueprints.

Then there were the army-formation certificates. As the name implied, these pieces of paper could grant the players the qualification of growing their own army. Not just ordinary guards, but a real army that could be used for wars and city defenses.

These certificates might be useless to ordinary players since there were some requirements before they could use them. They needed to first have a city and possessed a territory that they owned.

On top of that, they also needed to have a massive amount of funds since they were hiring a large number of NPCs to form an army. They also needed to equip those NPCs with the best set of armor and weapons and have a decent training ground to properly groom their strength.

The independent and casual players might not be interested in these certificates but the top guilds and leading organizations would go crazy just to get these pieces of paper.

They would definitely dominate their desired territory if they had their own army.

So far, the game only permitted them to hire a limited number of NPCs as Patrol Guards or City Guards for the security of their respective territories.

They couldn't mobilize a larger number of NPCs than the designated limit since their respective regions would take it as provoking the Kingdom or Empire's authority. Then it would brand their actions as a sign of rebellion.

No one would want that to happen.

Unless they were a part of the Corrupted Cult.

But even the player organizations working with the cult could not build their NPC armies since no one would be willing to join them in the first place. And most of the dark NPCs were already part of the Corrupted Cult anyway, so it was practically pointless for them to do such things.

Shin currently had three certificates and he already had plans on what he was going to use for the two of them.

He was planning to build a city on top of the mountain located in the Sky Deceiving Valley, and he already prepared the funds for it.

He was planning to use one of the certificates for this city since he could practically own the whole region if he had an army that could defend the place and even patrol the area regularly.

He was no longer planning to relocate the Calderock Town in that place after its promotion since he already possessed everything that he needed to build a city from scratch. Instead, he was going to relocate that town to another place where it could grow further.

This was also where he was going to use the second Army Formation certificate. With it, no one would dare to bother it.

Yet again, Shin gained another card that he could use against Shiella. The exploration of this place was really bountiful for him. Not only he improved himself and was able to catch up with the top gods of the

game officially, but he also gained a lot of things that were beneficial for the growth of the cities that he was planning to build.

With such a large asset within the game, it was not strange for him to call himself a local tycoon despite his very young age.

It might still be not enough to contend with the Hand of Midas Trading Firm in terms of wealth, but there was no doubt that he was one of the wealthiest players in the game.

As of now, he was thinking of what he was going to do with the third army-formation certificate. He might let Shiella deal with it later when they were done with this Empire Quest.

Maybe selling it to an allied force was not a bad choice.

After organizing his thoughts and taking such a good rest, Shin turned to the group who were now getting ready for the next battle that was about to come.

He stood up and walked closer to the edge of the cliff where they were staying. Then he looked ahead and observed the majestic army in the distance.

This was their next opponent, a whole army of knights donning a full set of dragon-pattered armor.

Shin was thinking about what kind of curse was cast upon the Dragon Knight Army. And right now, he saw that army became fallen humans, standing in a very organized formation.

Looking at them, he could instantly guess that the next battle was not going to be easy. This was the reason why he wanted the entire team to be in their best form before proceeding.

At the very least, the said Glacial Dragon was not present, or at least that was what they believed since they couldn't see it and Arthur couldn't sense it either.

But it didn't change the fact that this particular army was still the strongest one among the four armies, especially when the group could clearly spot the Grand Marshal sitting on top of a boulder.

His fierce and glorious aura was too overwhelming to the point where the group could even sense it even if they were standing miles away from the army.

Shin closed his eyes and took a deep breath before staring at the Grand Marshal once again. "Let's hope that we are strong enough to face him with our current strengths."

Chapter 874 Failed?

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Bang!

Arthur sent a group of Fallen Knights flying after colliding with them using his shield.

The power of his charge was so strong that it left a gust of wind behind him as he continued to move forward. And due to that, the surrounding knights failed to approach him as he led their group at moving ahead.

Leonard and Lawless were falling closely behind as they assisted Arthur in clearing out their enemies and creating a path for the rest of the group to continue their advance.

Then S.Tigris was leading the others to catch up with the three. He didn't need to face the knights that managed to sneak past the first three since his main job was to make sure that the others would not be left behind by their frontline.

He only needed to stop those knights for a brief moment and the mages and marksmen of their group would take care of the rest.

Ravier, Ember, and Charlotte would focus their attacks on the knight that S.Tigris was blocking while Ara and Alucard were going to make sure to land the final hit if that knight somehow survived.

In the meantime, Shin and Zero were guarding both sides of the formation, preventing the other fallen knights from approaching the group.

The two of them were showcasing their amazing swordsmanship and godly control not to suppress their enemies but to skillfully ward off the approaching knights from their respective sides.

Faker, on the other hand, was guarding the rear to make sure that the group was not going to get ambushed from behind. With his amazing skills and insane speed, catching up with the others would not be a problem even if he was left behind.

Cloe and Black Hand were still supporting the group to the best of their abilities. Their Healing Spells and all types of buffs were crucial in this battle. It was because their opponents this time were not only powerful enough to inflict grievous damage on the group but they also possessed a very sturdy physique that made it hard for the group to take them down.

The sustainability that they could provide was required in this kind of prolonged and intense battle. The two healers needed to keep their focus sharp since a single misstep could spell disaster for the group within an instant.

"It is coming!" shouted Shin as he gave a sidelong glance at the frontline while warding off the fallen knight in front of him.

If there was someone who was keeping his mind sharp and also maintain his focus all the time, then it was definitely Shin.

He needed to do multiple things at the same time once again.

As the leading figure of the group and the one who was responsible for giving out commands, he was required to constantly observe their surroundings to read the movements of their enemies so that he could immediately respond with an accurate countermove whenever the opposing side tried to plot something.

If there was something that gave them the most trouble in this battle, then it was not the powerful strength nor the insane defense of these fallen knights. But instead, it was their high-combat AI that could perform a battle formation.

And it was not just a basic battle formation that they had seen earlier, but a series of complex formations that were capable of changing every time.

They were even responding with every move of Shin. It was as if they were constantly changing their formation whenever he thought of something to counter them.

And adding to his problem, he also couldn't focus on commanding their team since he also needed to divide his attention between it and defending the rest of their group.

These fallen knights were still an army of the most elite soldiers of the Divine Empire, so their individual skills were not something the group could ignore.

If Shin could compare them with the skills of the players of the game, then each of these fallen knights was like a skilled Ranker at the very least. And not only that, but they also possessed great teamwork that could give a lot of trouble for Godlike Players such as Shin and the others in the group.

This was the reason why the group couldn't let their guard down even for a brief moment.

Everyone was aware of the pressure that Shin was getting and this was the reason why Black Hand tried to lend him a hand by giving out commands whenever Shin was too occupied with the fallen knights on his side.

But despite their combined efforts, they still couldn't outmaneuver the opposing side. Instead, they kept being pushed back by the formation of their enemies regardless of the strategies that they tried to implore.

The trio of Arthur, Leonard, and Lawless immediately halted their advance when they heard that shout from Shin. They had already experienced it earlier, so they already knew what Shin was trying to warn them.

The formation of their opponents was changing once again.

The three of them immediately get ready for the moves that the fallen knights were going to take.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Behind the knights that Arthur had sent flying earlier, another group of knights suddenly appeared and charged straight at him while holding their shields in front of them.

The power and speed of their charge were no joke. Individually, their respective charge attack was a little weaker compared to the one that Arthur did earlier, but they were much stronger if they were put together.

Arthur didn't dare to face them head-on, so he quickly gave a single at the two behind him to retreat. They would definitely suffer if they were hit by such a powerful charge.

But the opposing side seemed to be expecting their move which was why two groups of fallen knights with spears suddenly appeared on each of their sides, trying to block off the retreat path of the trio.

"Fire Wall!"

"Ice Wall!"

Ember and Charlotte quickly cast their spells at that moment and summoned a pair of flaming walls separating the trio from the incoming fallen spear knights.

But despite the blazing walls blocking their path, the fallen knights continued to charge ahead and decisively jumped into the fire, ignoring the damage that they would receive.

Fortunately, Ravier also cast his ice spell and created a blockade of ice on each side for the trio, halting the advance of the spear knights that were trying to trap them.

Arthur, Leonard, and Lawless continued of retreat, distancing themselves away from the shield knights in front of them.

No matter how strong the charge that those fallen knights had, it was still going to lose its momentum after covering a certain distance. And the three would naturally not going to miss the such window to counterattack, so they quickly made their move the moment it happened.

Bang!

As the main vanguard, Arthur was the first one to make the charge ahead. He covered his body with a golden aura that immediately turned into a dragon's head as he continued moving forward.

It was his signature move that he loved to use the most.

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

Roar!

But unlike its name and despite its majestic form, Arthur failed to push the group of fallen knights. Even if they already lost a lot of momentum during their charge, they still managed to hold their ground and forcefully stopped him from advancing.

Boom!

The collision created a powerful shockwave that cleared the area around them. The wall of fire and ice that the three mages had summoned earlier was even swept away by it, clearing the paths of the spear knights once again.

But before those fallen knights could even make their move, they immediately greeted the powerful shockwaves created by the shout of the two Beastmen in front of them.

'Beast King Skill: Lion's Roar'

'Heavenly Berserker Skill: Tiger's Roar'

Boom!

Their respective roars did not send those fallen knights flying despite the explosive powers that they had. Instead, they completely immobilized those knights, preventing them from doing anything.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Whoosh!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

It was at that moment when the three mages and the two marksmen made their moves and started firing their spells and skills one after another.

It didn't take long before they successfully eliminated those spear knights with the help of Leonard and Lawless.

The teamwork of the group was still getting better and better as more time passed while their individual skills were slowly becoming stronger. But unfortunately, it was still not enough to pass the hurdle that they were currently facing.

No matter how strong they grew or how better their teamwork became, they still couldn't defeat such a powerful army with highly skilled and well-coordinated knights.

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"F\*ck! We lost again!" Arthur couldn't hide his frustration after the group retreated to a safe place.

He was not blaming anyone. He just openly shows his feeling after their repeated failure.

That was right. Their "repeated" failure. Or to be exact, it was their seventh failure.

They already tried doing everything they could to repeatedly challenged the now-cursed Dragon Knight Army, but they still failed in every attempt.

Lawless turned to Shin, who was currently sitting under a tree and seemed to be completely exhausted, before speaking. "It looks like we really can't tackle this one with just us. I think we should ask for some help for now."

Shin didn't immediately respond as he leaned on the tree behind him and close his eyes to relax for a bit. He couldn't help but remember their seven failed attempts when he did that. And in all of those attempts they didn't even break through the outer defense of the opposing side.

They reached several attempts not because he was too prideful for asking for some assistance. But because he and the rest of the group could feel the explosive improvement of their teamwork after trying to fight those fallen knights.

They just wanted to see how much they could grow together from this battle. And also check if they could improve their individual skills at the same time.

Unfortunately, they were spending their time in this place a little too much. And if they let themselves get stacked in here any longer, then it would buy more time for the Corrupted Cult to plot something against them.

But the problem was they couldn't ask for more help from the other members of their group guarding the portal leading to this place since it was too important to be left unguarded.

They could at least ask Chaotic Luck to come over since his 'Legion of the Chaotic Sun' would definitely solve all of the problems that they were currently facing.

But at the same time, the reason also applied to the other side. Chaotic Luck had an important role there since his existence made the Corrupted Cult hesitate at attacking the others guarding the portal.

The famous Legion of Chaotic Sun was not only comparable to the high-leveled and powerful undead army that the Corrupted Necromancers had but they could also be considered as their bane because of the holy property that was created by the blessing that Chaotic Luck received from Solus.

On the other hand, Shin also couldn't ask for any help from Shiella since he knew that she already had a lot on her plate. They were keeping each other updated on their respective progress and the state that they were in, so he was fully aware of her situation.

Given that, Shin couldn't help but think of another way to solve their current problem. Or at least find another group that they could trust to join their expedition team.

"Since Lycan still hasn't appeared yet despite our predicament, the system must be thinking that we still don't need his assistance yet."

"Maybe, we still haven't found the right solution for our current problem yet," said Shin, answering Lawless.

He then continued to think, trying to see what they could do in this situation. 'Maybe, the help that we need is located here somewhere.'

Chapter 875 Falling Into A Trap Or Taking Advantage Of The Schemes (Part 1)

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Shin told the rest to try challenging the fallen Dragon Knight Army a few more times, seeing if they could learn more about their battle formations, and came up with countermeasures that they could use against those.

The next few attempts went a little smoother compared to the previous ones as they were able to break through the outer layer of the army. But unfortunately, they were stacked in the middle and unable to advance further.

In the end, they were forced to retreat once again, knowing that it was only going to be dangerous for them if they insisted on going further.

They indeed failed three more times and felt disappointed. But it didn't mean that they gained nothing from it. Shin learned quite a lot from the strategies the opposing side was using. He also learned how to counter most of them despite having a limited number.

But at the same time, Shin also learned that the variety of battle formations the army could use was endless. He already memorized the formations that they were using and none of them were repeated even a single time.

This was the main reason why he couldn't think of a good countermeasure against them. Even if he tried to lure the opposing side towards a trap, none of his tricks seemed to work since they were using a different battle formation every time.

It seemed like they had a corresponding battle formation in all kinds of situations.

"So, what is the plan?" asked Arthur as he sat beside Shin.

The others were also looking at him since he was the main shot caller of this team. They were waiting for his instructions.

Shin knew that they now had no choice but to retreat further and tried challenging these guys later when their reinforcements arrived.

Though, he still was not sure where they could get them.

The nature of this quest was very unique and they couldn't just invite anything. The penalty for character deletion was pretty harsh. Forget about the fact that they needed some people that they could trust, looking for people who could ask for help was already a problem.

Their current problem required a large number of people, so the solution that he could think of was to ask the guys guarding the portal on the other side of the towering wall of ice.

'Owen and Chaotic Luck are perfect for the areas that we are lacking right now,' Shin fell in deep thought, trying to consider the possibilities that could happen if he summoned the two to help them.

The defense on the portal was going to weaken greatly if Owen and Chaotic Luck left, so he needed to at least find someone who would fill the role that they had.

After contemplating for a long time, Shin could only think of two people. The first one was Shiella who was obviously out of the question since she needed to oversee everything on the other side, especially keeping an eye on the Corrupted Cult.

This left him with the other person which was David. Or most commonly known in the virtual world as Khing, the former number player in every game.

It was also a good idea if joined them in this Empire Quest since his strength was definitely going to be a big help to them.

Unfortunately, what they needed the most right now was not strength, but numbers. An overwhelming number to be exact.

The Fallen Dragon Knight Army was powerful and their numbers were quite high. But they were not as large as the other armies that the group had faced, so Shin thought that it was not the main issue that needed to be solved.

He still believed that the strength that the current team had was more than enough to handle those fallen knights. He only needed the right number of people to match the opposing side so that he could counter the combat formations that were giving them real trouble.

After thinking for a few moments, Shin finally contacted Shiella and David before asking them about their current situation and also proposing his idea.

The two fell into deep thought and tried to see if Shin's suggestion was going to affect their overall plan. They were also considering other options that could solve their problems.

But after thinking for quite some time, they also came up with the same conclusion as him. They agreed that the easiest and safest choice that they have was to call Owen and Chaotic Luck over and leave the teleportation portal to David.

Though, it also meant that Shiella had to deal with the issue concerning the Saint Heaven Kingdom and the Corrupted Cult alone. But it was way better than risking the Empire Quest by asking for some outsider's help.

After discussing a little longer with the two, Shin finally ended the call and informed the others of the adjustments to their original plans.

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"That's everything for now. Let's rest a little more while we are waiting for Owen and Chaotic Luck," he said before going back to rest.

Shiella and David needed more time to finish all of the arrangements that they needed before proceeding with everything, so they still had a lot of free time they could spend.

But before he could fully relax his body, he suddenly remembered something and quickly turned back to the others. "Ah! We also can explore the surrounding areas a little more when we are done resting and regroup with those two."

"It is also a good opportunity to get familiar with the new formation that we are going to have when they join us. We can perfect our team that way."

"We also need to restock our supply of potions since we already spent a lot of them earlier. We can harvest all of the herbs that we are going to see along the way as usual."

The others agreed without question before finding a good spot to rest. And as usual, Cloe sat on the empty space beside Shin and leaned her head on his shoulders.

Shin didn't mind it at all since he was already used to it, but the other people who were unfamiliar with them couldn't help but look at them with weird gazes.

"Tsk! Tsk! Taking advantage of the situation again, huh?" Arthur clicked his tongue repeatedly when he saw the scene.

Cloe glared at him for a moment before sticking her tongue out on him. "Mind your own business!"

He was already used to them being this close, but he still couldn't stand them being used to those actions despite not being in an official relationship. Though, he was also fully aware that it was still his brother's fault. 'Just how long is this guy going to be stubborn.'

'Don't tell me he still thinking about the words that Auntie Claudia had told him before?' thought Arthur to himself as he remembered when he overheard Shin being scolded by Cloe's mother before.

At that time, Arthur was sure that Shin took all of those painful words personally and kept them inside his chest. The guy didn't say anything and also did not want anyone to learn about it, which was why he kept it a secret.

Arthur looked at Shin for quite something before taking a deep breath and shaking his head. 'Ah! Whatever! I will talk to him about it some other time!'

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In the meantime, somewhere within the Frozen Kingdom, another battle was taking place with Shin and the others knowing.

Sha!

Diablo picked up his dagger, pulling it from the chest of another player lying on the ground. "Tsk! I already know it, but I still don't expect that they are going to send this many people when they are busy dealing with the matters on their side."

This was the thirteenth wave of enemies that he dealt with, and all of them were first-class sweepers from the Pandemonium Descendants.

"This is really troublesome," he muttered with a little annoyance. He could just solve this problem if he left this place right now.

Unfortunately, he couldn't do that since he knew that sooner or later, the Pandemonium Troupe would make their move.

It was a perfect time to weaken their forces. And if he managed to capture one or two of them, then it would greatly affect their future plans.

He was sure that this place was related to the quest that the Troupe was doing, so the success of the people from the other group was very important to them.

He was here to interrupt the quest and make the Dragon God and the rest fail. But these pursuers were giving him some trouble which was why he couldn't focus on his plans.

And since it was already like this, then all he could do was to keep killing these small fries and forced a troupe member to make their move.

There was also a high chance for the Pandemonium Troupe to make contact with the other party to propose a collaboration for clearing their respective quests.

Diablo was not sure if the Dragon God and the others would accept the offer since he was aware of the previous conflicts that happened between the two groups. But everything could be possible as long as the benefits were decent enough for the ceasefire.

And given his knowledge about the leader of the troupe, he was sure that that cunning guy would propose something that the other side could not refuse.

"Or if it even doesn't work, then that guy will definitely use force. And that is a perfect time for me to strike," he muttered to himself as he swept his gaze at the surroundings, making sure that he didn't miss anyone.

When he was about to leave, he suddenly received a call that made him frown deeply. "Tsk! Why is this greedy guy calling me at a time like this?"

"Oy! I didn't ask for any information this time, why are you contacting me right now? It is very unusual for you," he said immediately after answering the call.

"Hey-ho~! Don't be like that, our dear customer! Don't you know how we value you over our customers?" answered the voice from the other side of the line.

"Tsk! Stop with flattery and tell me what you want. And make it quick, I am currently busy," said Diablo with a little annoyance.

The information merchant chuckled a little before continuing. "Straightforward as usual, this is what I want about you, Mr. Diablo."

"But don't worry! I am sure that you are going to like this information that I am going to give you. It concerns that thing that you are currently occupied with."

He then paused for a moment as if he was purposely teasing Diablo. "But before that, how about we talk about the price first?"

'Tsk! I knew it,' thought Diablo to himself but still said. "Continue! I will pay the same amount as usual."

"Ho-ho! It is really nice doing business with you. But unfortunately, it is still not enough. I at least need a double since this is a piece of important information that I've got from the inside," said the greedy merchant, trying to bargain.

Diablo squinted his eyes when he heard those words. But it was not due to the price of the information, but because of where it came from.

He was only asking for information regarding the Pandemonium Descendants and the matters related to them

He was familiar with them and he knew that the classified information about their quests and actions was strictly controlled. It was impossible for it to leak, unless someone purposely did it.

Diablo was very suspicious this time. 'I am only predicting their moves by looking at the movements of the Troupe and their Sweepers, which are very hard to hide. That is the main reason why this greedy guy is able to keep track of them.'

'But for their plans to have leaked like this? I can't help but feel that this is a trap,' he added to his thoughts but still continued. "I understand, but I need the credibility of this information."

"If it turns out to be wrong information, then you need to give me a refund and triple the usual as compensation," he added as a warning. He knew how this guy loved money and he would do anything just to earn them.

This information merchant was even afraid of losing a single cent when doing a transaction.

And just like he was expecting, the greedy merchant hesitated for a moment before accepting his offer.

Though, the guy still agreed to him. But also added a condition of his own in the end. "Alright, but I also need you to promise me that my business is not going to be affected after everything is over!"

"Deal!" answered Diablo. "Then tell me everything about this and don't leave a single detail behind."

Chapter 876 Falling Into A Trap Or Taking Advantage Of The Schemes (Part 2)

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Hu!

"Tsk! The climate here sure is cold. Fortunately, Brother Sickarius warns us about it," said Owen right after they went through the teleportation portal.

Beside him, Chaotic Luck immediately summoned his Solar Undead Monsters one after another. He spread all of them in every direction to scout the area while also organizing their formation according to what Shin had thought him.

Owen couldn't help but click his tongue when he saw the sole Solaris Lich of the game be this efficient. "Tsk! You are starting to live a tiring life, Luck."

Chaotic Luck gave him a sidelong glance and spoke. "Big Brother said to never let our guards down to avoid any accidents from happening."

Owen shook his head before patting his partner's shoulder before emphasizing. "That is why I said you are going to live a tiring life."

Chaotic Luck didn't put those words to heart and just shrugged his shoulders before continuing his job. And after a few moments of scouting, he confirmed that there was nothing that could threaten them in the area. "Let's go! I am sure that they have been waiting for us for ages."

"Yeah, yeah. Let's go," answered Owen in a nonchalant manner before walking ahead.

Despite the unwillingness that his face was showing, Owen was actually quite excited to join this exploration. He really wanted to test his current limits.

Shin gave the equipment set that he got from his bet with the Demon God Justin to Owen. And because of that, Owen's battle capabilities reached a whole new level.

He got used to his new strength and was very satisfied with his previous performance when they were fighting the other members of the Corrupted Cult members earlier. Especially when they were guarding the portal, he was able to repel most of the advances of the opposing side with ease.

On top of that, the customized sword that Shin had requested from Black Hammer was also been delivered to him just earlier when David took over their post.

Since the glaive that Justin was originally using was not suitable for him, Shin promised Owen that he was going to get a sword that was going to be perfect for his fighting style.

This was one of the advantages that the members of the Empyrean Talons could have. They would never have a problem finding the best weapons and equipment for them as long as they followed the contract. And so far, they were not getting anything but advantages since the time they joined the adventurer team.

This was definitely one of the best decisions that Owen have in his life.

...

As the two were moving towards the location that Shin had indicated on the map, Owen and Chaotic Luck went through the areas where the main group battled against the monsters of this place.

The traces of battle were still present and all of them indicated how intense they were. The accumulation of the falling snow couldn't hide the fallen trees and scorched lands left by their battle.

There were the remains left behind by the monsters, especially their incomplete corpses could still be found in those places.

While they were moving ahead, one of the skeleton soldiers of Chaotic Luck suddenly spotted a group of hooded individuals scattered around the place.

Seeing them, Chaotic Luck quickly halted the movements of his skeleton soldiers and positioned them in the trees, acting like the remains of the dead.

"Wait! There are some players who manage to sneak in," Chaotic Luck quickly informed Owen about his discovery and ask him to hide.

"What? There are other players here? How the heck did they sneak inside?" asked Owen in surprise.

They were guarding the teleportation portal and made sure that no one would be able to go through it without their notice.

'Unless there are other entrances that we are not aware of,' thought Owen as he quickly opened the team chat channel and informed Shin about their discovery.

A few moments later, Owen closed the team chat and turned to Chaotic Luck who was currently using his 'Shared Vision Skill'.

Owen waited patiently for Chaotic Luck to finish as he scanned their surrounding with a sharp gaze, guarding the Solaris Lich against the potential threats.

Not long after, Chaotic Luck finally finished observing unwanted 'guests'. He creased his brows right after he cut off the shared vision as he found their movements quite strange. "Hmm... there is something amiss."

"They are not heading to where big brother and the others are heading. Instead, they seemed to be targeting someone else."

Owen knitted his brow and asked. "How skilled are they based on your observation."

Chaotic Luck thought for a brief moment as he tried to compare these players to the others that he knew. And immediately after that, he answered. "They seemed to be highly skilled. Based on their sneaky and quiet movements, they looked like a group of highly trained assassins."

"Maybe, much weaker compared to Sir Faker but slightly stronger than that guy Raven who is working with us earlier," he added.

"Are they wearing any kind of symbols or emblems? Are they from any guild or organizations?" asked Owen as he found their situation troublesome.

Chaotic Luck shook his head and quickly answered. "I don't see any emblems. It seems like they are hiding their identities pretty well. Ah-...!"

He suddenly stopped talking when he reached that point and wore a solemn look. "It looks like we have been discovered!"

"Huh? Did any of your skeleton soldiers are killed?" asked Owen as he quickly unsheathes his sword and raised his shield.

Chaotic Luck shook his head and answered. "No, they didn't discover any of them as I put all of my skeleton soldiers in a dead-like state. They are not even emitting their flame armors and only look like skeleton remains of dead people."

"Then how can you say that we have been discovered?" asked as he never let his guard down and continued to sweep his gaze at their surroundings.

"Because they are all heading towards our location with an insane speed!" answered Chaotic Luck as he also got ready for battle.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then the duo started to hear the sounds of movements from a distance.

"That fast?" muttered Owen as he could guess the speed of the opposing side based on the sounds of the wind from the distance.

But at the same time, he also couldn't help but frown his brow as he found that something didn't add up. "But that is strange. I thought they are highly trained assassins based on what Luck have said. Then why are they moving so loudly and exposing their locations?"

In the meantime, one of the hooded figures suddenly appeared behind Chaotic Luck without them knowing. He was planning to stab his dagger at his target's lungs which would inflict a huge amount of damage.

But to his surprise, that target suddenly moved backward and 'headbutted' his face, making his perfect assassination fail.

Ugh!

"Ah!"

On the other hand, Chaotic Luck had no idea that he just survived a disaster. He just wanted to move behind Owen to hide since their opponents were coming from the opposite direction.

But when he took a step back, his foot suddenly slipped on the wet root of the tree and stumbled backward. Then he felt that his head collided with something hard, making him think that he hit a tree.

But Owen, who was on high alert, was different. He quickly swung his sword in that direction the moment when he heard the pained voice coming from behind.

Swoosh!

Chaotic Luck was already falling at that time, so the blade of the sword barely missed him as it flew past his face and continued to move toward the assassin.

Fortunately, the assassin was pretty quick and immediately hopped away after recovering himself.

'That was close!' thought the assassin as he looked at the two cautiously.

In the meantime, Owen couldn't help but look at Chaotic Luck with a weird look and thought to himself. 'His insane luck saved him once again.'

He already experienced how much of a headache fighting against Chaotic Luck was. He could even imagine how frustrating it was when the rest of their team tried to spar with him.

They even swore that they would rather fight the three Gods of Empyrean Talons and endure the torture rather than sparring with this guy.

"Hey! Stand up already and get ready," said Owen as he threw those hellish experiences at the back of his head and turned to their assailant.

Naturally, the assassin was no way of knowing what was running inside Owen's head. All he knew was he almost got tricked by these two. 'No wonder I found it strange that I managed to get near them easily. So, they are actually luring me in by acting like they didn't notice my presence.'

"They may be dangerous but we outnumber them," he muttered as the other Sweepers arrived one after another.

They surrounded the two from every direction, not having any intention of letting the two leave.

Owen looked at their opponents who were emitting a very dangerous aura.

"Looks like they want to trap us using their numbers. But I wonder if they have enough people to restrain us. Or rather..." He then trailed his words for a moment waiting for Chaotic Luck to finish the preparations.

Whoosh!

Shoosh! Shoosh!

Then the skeleton soldiers that were buried in the snow started to stand up one by one alongside the skeleton mages. There were also the skeleton archers hiding in the tree branches who were now aiming their bows, loaded with arrows, toward their enemies.

The blessing of the sun was also been activated by Chaotic Luck, so the heads, weapons, and armor of those skeletons started to blaze with a brilliant flame, illuminating the dark surrounding.

They were clearly showcasing the mightiness of the famous Legion of the Chaotic Sun.

Then Owen finally finished his words. "...should I say, who is trapped right now?"

Seeing that they were not surrounded by the army of blazing skeleton army, the assassin, who first ambushed the two earlier, couldn't help but said inside his head. 'I knew it! We have fallen into their trap!'

Chapter 877 Falling Into A Trap Or Taking Advantage Of The Schemes (Part 3)

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Tagon was one of the squad captains of the Sweepers from the Pandemonium Descendants.

He also belonged to the First-Class Unit even among the Sweepers. But unlike Drin who was highly skilled when it came to target tracking and information gathering, Tagon's skill was meant for assassination.

He might not be as skilled as the ones who were working directly under the Troupe Members, but it didn't mean that he was not inferior to them.

Tagon even had a fair share of Godlike Players fall on his hands. As a first-class assassination unit, his squad was one of the scariest groups even among the lower-rank Sweepers.

As long as their target was not one of the monsters among the Godlike Players and Maverick Gods, he was confident they could take them down without a problem.

But at this point in time, Tagon couldn't believe what he was seeing. His unit which was supposedly powerful enough to take down the top gods of the games couldn't even deal with a pair of Official and Maverick Titled Rankers.

Moreover, the battle even looked like they were the ones who were having a hard time surviving. His subordinates might still be alive, but he had already lost count of how many times they escaped from death after using their life-saving skills.

"What kind of Rankers are this strong? They are already comparable to the lower-ranking gods of the game!" muttered Tagon as he started at their opponents with a solemn expression on his face.

"Don't tell me that the information that we have about the Empyrean Talons is wrong all along?" he couldn't help but doubt the data that they had about the adventurer team.

Based on the reports, the organization only had to be wary about Godlike Players among the Empyrean Talons while the rest were just a bunch of average players according to their standards.

But from what he could see in front of him, these two members of that famous adventurer team should have a much higher evaluation than what their information network had reported.

"The Herald of Chaos Chaotic Luck and the Dark Knight Owen," muttered Tagon solemnly as he observed the two very carefully.

From what he could see, Chaotic Luck should be ranked among the top Necromancers and Summoners of the game.

In fact, from his evaluation, this guy was one of the strongest even among that group.

Chaotic Luck might look a little clumsy on the outside, especially when he was controlling his undead army. But the individual strength of the summoned undead was more than enough to compensate for that weakness.

Moreover, Chaotic Luck was also using a strange battle formation from time to time, catching Tagon and his unit off-guard. They also almost lost their lives during those times.

After a close observation, Tagon also noticed that some of the summoned undead formed small units with well-balanced compassion.

These small units were moving independently compared to the rest of the summoned undead, they looked like a detachment of an army that specialized in dealing with unexpected situations. These were also the very units that were giving Tagon the greatest headache since they always came out at the most unexpected time.

In his opinion, the level of intelligence of this strange army of undead was comparable to the ones Immortal was controlling.

Chaotic Luck might be inferior to Immortal in terms of overall performance, but the strength of his famous Legion of the Chaotic Sun was already as strong as the peak of all of the Necromancers within the game, the Lich God Immortal himself.

The Legion of the Chaotic Sun might be strong and powerful, but it didn't mean that they were impossible to defeat.

No matter how strong they were, they were still a bunch of undead monsters that would disappear instantly the moment when their summoner died.

It had an obvious weakness, just like any other Necromancers and Summoners. And only Immortal was the one who managed to overcome this weakness by making himself capable of fighting as an individual.

In «Destiny's Fate» online, Immortal became a player who could fight without relying on his undead legion. And his individual capabilities were on the same level as the other Godlike Players, this was why he ranked very high in the list of gods within the game.

Tagon thought that Chaotic Luck's spells were strong and powerful but it was not enough to put him on the same level as Immortal in that area, especially when his controls were not as good as the latter.

This made Chaotic Luck show his weakness, he could become the made target of their assault. Tagon could lead his unit, overwhelming the Solaris Lich with their repeated and well-coordinated attacks.

Unfortunately, Owen always stood in their way.

As one of the top tanks in the games that he played, Owen's defensive capacities belonged to the highest ranking within the game. Even Arthur had to admit that Owen was better than him in this area.

If Owen didn't play a little later compared to most of the leading players, then he was confident that he was going to be one of the Top Tanks in this game.

Now that he had the best set of equipment that he could ask for, he became even more confident with his skills. Especially when the finest shield was in his possession alongside a customized sword crafted by the best blacksmith of the game.

Owen drew a circle on the ground and asked Chaotic Luck to never step out of it no matter what happened. As long as he stayed within that circle, Owen promised him that no one would be able to touch him, not a single strand of his hair.

Chaotic Luck might be a little cowardly at times but he always trusted the words of each member of the Empyrean Talons. In his eyes, all of them were reliable people.

With that, he stood silently within the circle and continued to control his summoned undead while also throwing a couple of spells from time to time.

In the meantime, Owen skillfully repelled all of the attacks of their opponents, not letting any of them go beyond him.

He was circling around Chaotic Luck when he was doing that. He was not moving at an extreme speed but each of his movements was steady and accurate.

Owen was able to cover all of the blind spots that Chaotic Luck had and blocked every approach of their opponents without getting in the line of sight of the latter.

Their teamwork was perfect, one focused on offense while the other was responsible for defense. They didn't even need to communicate with each other as they were able to work together properly.

This surprised Tagon even more. It was not his first time to see such perfect coordination but that was only when their targets were already working together for a very long time.

From what they knew, the Empyrean Talons was created just recently and most of the members of the group were lone wolves, in exemption of the duo of the Wingman Archer Archimedes and the lighting mage Daulla.

It was practically impossible to have this level of a tacit agreement after only working together for such a short period.

"What kind of Rankers are these? We at least need to have the Guardian Sweepers of the Troupe Members to take these guys down," said Tagon as he realized that it was impossible for their group to face these two.

Little did he know that Owen and Chaotic Luck were only able to achieve this feat after undergoing a hellish experience during their 'sparring' sessions. Or to be more precise, all of those sparring matches were more like torture.

After getting beaten up by the Gods of their group, every member of Empyrean Talons already adapted to fighting such powerful players. This was the main reason why Owen didn't panic despite realizing that they were currently fighting the group of Sweepers.

As for Chaotic Luck, well, he was one hell of a guy with an insane amount of luck. Even Shin, Arthur, and Leonard didn't want to fight him if possible since they found it troublesome. Though, they were making sure that he would experience a real nightmare the moment they did.

"Our task is to clear the area before the main group arrived. We are also told to be on guard against the previous Second-in-Command of the Troupe, but it looks like the other members of the Empyrean Talons are going to give us more trouble if we underestimate them."

Tagon realized that the operation that the higher-ups were preparing would be a risk if they didn't take the other members of that adventurer team more seriously aside from the leading figures of the group.

Having that in mind, Tagon quickly opened the communication panel designated for every member of the Sweepers, planning to report their discovery to the leader of the main group.

But it was already too late.

He discovered that the area that they were in was currently inside an isolation barrier that prevented him from using any kind of communication device.

"F\*ck!"

All he could do was curse out loud since he knew that it was already impossible to escape this predicament.

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Chapter 878 Falling Into A Trap Or Taking Advantage Of The Schemes (Part 4)

...

Diablo found it strange when he didn't encounter the next batch of Sweepers that were supposedly monitoring him.

"That's odd? Why can't I sense any of them now? Did the main group finally arrive?" he muttered to himself before continuing to look for traces.

A few moments later, he finally discovered why the Sweepers didn't find him. They were actually fighting a pair of players.

Feeling interested, Diablo chose to not make a move and observed the battle a little. But not long after, he couldn't help but have a complicated feeling after watching the battle.

The first-class sweepers were being suppressed by the two players. The notorious sweepers who could assassinate some of the Godlike Players couldn't deal with a pair of Official and Maverick Titled Rankers.

"The Dark Knight Owen and the Herald of Chaos Chaotic Luck," muttered Diablo as he recalled the data that he had about the two. And the moment when he reviewed their information, he could help but have a different view of the Empyrean Talons.

"Looks like those guys are really not simple," he thought as he listed every member of the adventurer group as one of the players that he needed to monitor.

At first, he thought that he only needed to take note of the Godlike Players of the group, but it looks like he really needed to re-evaluate each member of Empyrean Talons. "That vampire is also pretty unique. The accuracy of his aiming was also top-notch."

Having that thought in mind, Diablo decided to observe the two members of the group even further. And it didn't take long for him to have an even more complicated feeling. It was not because of how strong they were individually or how amazing their teamwork was, but it was due to the odd scene that he was seeing.

He couldn't help but look at Chaotic Luck in a weird way. He didn't know if he was going to evaluate the guy as a skilled player or someone who just didn't know what he was doing.

Chaotic Luck's control over his strange undead army was not bad. He was even using some battle formations that could take Diablo off-guard.

Diablo thought that it must be the reason why the Sweepers were having a hard time dealing with him. Especially when he was under the protection of a top-notched tank such as Owen.

But the thing that made Diablo look at Chaotic Luck weirdly was his magic usage and control. He didn't know how such a clumsy way of casting could complete a spell.

Moreover, the awkward way how those magic spells flew toward their targets made it hard for Diablo to watch. As an experienced and skilled player such as himself, that scene was too painful for his eyes.

But 'miraculously', none of those magic spells missed, not a single one of them. All of them managed to find their way toward the sweepers somehow and even inflicted a considerable amount of damage.

No matter how hard Diablo wracked his brain, he couldn't find the reason why it happened.

Unless the clumsy attitude that Chaotic Luck showed was just a façade to fool his opponents and made them let their guards down. But if that was the case, then he must be a good actor to make it look so realistic.

"The Herald of Chaos," Diablo didn't know why but it seemed like this title perfectly fitted Chaotic Luck. It was as if the title was personally tailored just for him.

After observing the battle for a few more moments, Diablo finally couldn't take it anymore and decided to lock down the area with the isolation barrier. It was also to prevent the Sweepers from reporting to their superiors.

He was familiar with the methods that the Pandemonium Descendants had. He also knew their plans right now, so it was better to take advantage of their scheme and have them run in circles.

In exchange for them traversing between the forbidden land of Frozen Kingdom and the neighboring kingdom, the Howling Kingdom, they needed to pay a certain price.

The Frozen Kingdom was currently a Quest Location, so the players who didn't have a quest related to this place were forbidden from entering it.

Unless they went through a certain portal that was leading here.

This was the reason why the Corrupted Cult put a lot of importance on conquering it. And it was also why Shin and their group needed the others to guard the portal outside.

As for Diablo, it was obvious that he had his own means of entering this place. It must also be the reason why he was so familiar with the method that the Sweepers were using.

"If I kill more of their Sweepers, the Pandemonium will eventually run out of people. It will take at least a day or two before the dead Sweepers can log in to the game because of the Restriction Curse."

"They will have no choice but to send their main group to avoid it from happening. After all, they couldn't afford to have a lack of personnel when the gate opens."

Diablo couldn't help but fall in deep thought as he recalled the 'tip' that the information merchant gave him earlier.

"If that greedy guy is telling the truth, then I can't stop the disaster from happening alone," he muttered before turning his attention back to Owen and Chaotic Luck.

"If this region is going to be unlocked regardless of which side is going to do it, then I rather have these guys clear it and claim the pioneering rights than let the Pandemonium succeed with their plans and make them stronger," he continued as he started to consider changing his plans.

Beep! Beep!

While he was lost in his thoughts, the watch that he was wearing suddenly started ringing, indicating that another batch of Sweepers arrived.

He knitted his eyebrows deeply. "That is much earlier than the scheduled time. Is the main group finally making their move?"

He then turned to the ongoing battle and saw that Owen and Chaotic Luck were about to wrap up everything. The encirclement of the Legion of the Chaotic Sun was also tight, so it was impossible for the remaining Sweepers to escape.

Swoosh!

After confirming that the two could finish everything, Diablo suddenly disappeared as he headed toward the location indicated by his watch.

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Somewhere within the Frozen Kingdom, a group of mysterious individuals walked out from a crimson portal.

Based on the sinister aura that the portal had, it was clear that it was not made by normal means.

One of the guys was carrying a huge rectangular shield on his back. He walked forward and swept his gaze at the scenery in front of them before nodding his head. "Not bad. This is indeed a good place to develop our forces."

Swoosh!

Then another player suddenly walked out of the crimson portal and kneeled before reporting. "All of the preparations are finished, Sir!"

The guy with a rectangular shield seemed to frown his eyebrows when was suddenly interrupted by the newcomer. He slightly turned his body and glared at the guy who just reported.

He then shook his head and turned back the scenery upfront. "I will overlook this for now since we are running low on people that we can mobilize."

"Tsk! Diablo sure is giving us a lot of trouble," he clicked his tongue before giving the person standing beside him a sidelong glance.

"How are the negotiations with the Corrupted Cult going?" he asked after a brief moment.

That person was carrying a longbow on his back, signifying his class. He shook his head at that question and answered. "It seems like the one taking care of the business concerning this place is Immortal. Negotiating with that guy is much harder than the others.

"It looks like we are going to have more problems than we originally thought," he added with a deep frown.

"Tsk! That guy is cunning. We better wait for him to come to us later when he failed," said the guy with a rectangular shield.

Another hooded person walked over and stood in line with them. He had a pair of swords hanging on each side of his waist. He then quickly jumped into the conversation. "I heard that they are inviting a couple of strong groups to join them in this task."

The guy with a rectangular shield suddenly laughed when he heard those words. "Strong groups? Can they compare to us? The God-Slaying Group?"

They were the main team of the Sweepers of the Pandemonium Descendants. They were composed of the Unit Captains of the groups working directly under the troupe members.

Aside from the Pandemonium Troupe, they could be considered the most elite group in the organization.

Because of how powerful the Troupe Members were, and since this group was said to be second them, the guy with a rectangular shield couldn't help but feel skeptical whenever he heard of the powerful groups or adventurer teams.

But the arrogant look that he had immediately turned weird when he heard the next words that the swordsman said.

"I heard that the Silent Night and Earners are among the groups that decided to join them."

Chapter 879 Falling Into A Trap Or Taking Advantage Of The Schemes (Part 5)

...

Shin just contacted Owen and learned that the two encountered a group of mysterious individuals on their side.

At first, they thought that those people were from the Corrupted Cult. But after learning that that group of players was using a Demonification Skill, Shin immediately said that they were from the Demonic Churches.

Shin kept in contact with Owen as he told the others about the situation. Then they later learned that those mysterious people were Sweepers.

The group wanted to help the two since they knew how troublesome those people were. And if Owen and Chaotic Luck were too outnumbered by the opposing side, then they were going to be in danger.

But Owen told him that they were going to be fine. He told Shin that the Sweepers that they were facing were not that strong. Well, at least not as scary as Shin, Arthur, and Leonard, not even close.

After confirming that they were confident that they were able to hold on their own, Shin turned to the others and spoke. "Looks like we have another group that we need to be wary of."

The others quickly knitted their brows as they immediately recognized their situation. Their current quest was already troublesome enough, especially when they were encountering a lot of powerful monsters. And on top of that, it seemed like they were going to face much stronger ones as they continued to move ahead.

Their situation was going to be more and more dangerous if they let such unknown variables hide in the dark, while they were continuing their quest. It might even risk the failure of the quest if some accidents happened.

"Maybe that is the reason why Diablo is in this place?" muttered Zero after a deep thought.

Shin and the others turned to him before Lawless voiced out their thoughts. "What do you mean by that? Do you think that the Pandemonium Descendants have some business here and that guy Diablo is lurking in the air to stop them?"

Zero nodded his head and answered. "Most likely. The conflict between him and the Pandemonium Descendants is already been unsolvable and they were doing their best to get rid of each other, so I will not be surprised if that organization appeared here now that Diablo is here."

"Or it can be the other way around. Diablo may have an important quest in this place and the Pandemonium Descendants are here to stop him. He is like a thorn in their side, so they are going to do in their power to prevent him from getting stronger."

Shin nodded his head and added. "Either way, we can be sure if they can affect the outcome of our quest, so we can't let them roam freely now."

"It is still fine earlier since Diablo is only a single person, he can't deal with all of us alone. But it is not different since the Pandemonium Descendants are finally involved. We can no longer ignore them."

He then paused for a moment and continued. "Moreover, there is still the Corrupted Cult and we don't have any information about their movements. We don't even know if they are working with the Pandemonium Descendants."

"After all, the last time we clashed against them in the Blind Abyss Empire, Immortal seemed to be working with the members of the Demonic Churches."

Arthur clicked his tongue and asked. "So, are we going to set aside our quest again and deal with them first?"

Shin nodded his head and answered. "That should be our best choice. Let's pause our progress for the time being and clear out all of the hidden variables before continuing."

Arthur was really getting annoyed at these opponents. They were always getting in their way whenever they had an important quest that needed to be cleared.

The others didn't have anything to say about it since they also agreed with Shin. They needed to clear all of the obstacles first so that they could continue on their quest smoothly.

Faker turned to Shin and asked. "So, who is our main target? Diablo or the Pandemonium Descendants?"

Shin thought for a moment before answering. "We still don't know their purpose for coming here, so it is better if we investigate it first. Who knows we can turn either of them as cooperation partners."

Shin was originally planning to lure Diablo to their side and asked him to work together since he also had a conflict with the Pandemonium Descendants.

But when it came to this kind of situation, no one would know who could give them the more benefit.

Shin was not as well-informed as Diablo when it came to the Pandemonium but it didn't mean that he was not familiar with them.

After clashing with the organization a couple of times and reading a little information about them earlier, he discovered that they were having a large-scale operation if they were mobilizing a large number of Sweepers.

Shin already suspected this before, to his opinion, the Sweepers might not only have the job of assassinating the top players and delaying their progress. He was thinking that they were also responsible for clearing out the path for the organization whenever they were doing an important quest or something similar.

He was considering cooperating with them.

If the quest that the Pandemonium Descendants had was really related to the one that they are doing, then it would not hurt to have the help of such a powerful organization, especially in this kind of situation.

As long as he was careful and laid out a good plan where both sides could benefit, it might be worth the risk.

Shin was also not afraid of getting backstabbed since he already had a contingency plan that would be able to deal with that situation.

'I'm sure that Lycan would be present at the final stage of this Empire Quest, the Pandemonium Descendants will not dare to touch us if we have such a powerful NPC on our side,' thought Shin as he considered the possibility.

He didn't even consider that the Pandemonium Descendants were not going to agree with his proposal. After all, he was familiar with this kind of business talk.

For such a large organization, they would prioritize the benefits that they could receive first before thinking about their grudges.

But if the quest that the opposing side had was in conflict with their Empire Quest, then there was no need to question it, they would have no choice but to fight.

Or if the Pandemonium Descendants were really working with the Corrupted Cult. There was no need for negotiation if this was the case, after all, the latter wanted them to fail this quest in the first place.

But if they were not, then Shin could also use the force of the Pandemonium Descendants to deal with the Corrupted Cult. He knew that the cult and the Demonic Churches didn't have the best relationship and they were sometimes taking advantage of each other.

They could take advantage of that situation if it really happened.

This thought also applied to Diablo. They still don't know what this guy was up to, so Shin was thinking of knowing their purpose of coming in here before everything.

Shin turned to Faker and continued. "Let's investigate first. We have to know what they are after before making a decision. Who knows, one of them can help us later."

"Are you seriously thinking of cooperation with those guys?" commented Arthur from the side as he could understand what Shin was thinking.

"Forget about the fact that we can trust them or not, but do you think they are going to accept whatever proposal you have?" he added in a sarcastic tone.

Shin shrugged his shoulders. "We can never be sure."

He then turned to the others and asked. "What do you guys think?"

The others didn't care too much since they still trust Shin. Though, there were still others who were thinking about it like Lawless, Faker, and Black Hand.

They could also see what Shin was trying to do and they knew that they were not going to lose much from it. They might even get the most benefit if everything worked out.

"It may be worth trying it," muttered Black Hand.

After seeing that everyone seemed to agree with him, Shin immediately start making arrangements. "Alright! Ara and Alucard, form a two-man group and work together as we are tracking our opponents. "

"Don't immediately engage in a fight and contact us immediately when you encounter them. Retreat, if you are forced to fight them."

"Remember, our priority is not to fight them but to learn more about their plan," he emphasized.

He then turned to the others and continued. "Brother Faker, Zero, and I are going to move independently."

"The rest are going to move together and wait how the situation is going to escalate. We will keep in touch with each other, so always be ready."

"We still don't know how many people the other side has," he added before waiting for the others to organize themselves.

"Let's move!" he said after a few moments.

Chapter 880 Unexpected Proposal (Part 1)

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Owen and Chaotic Luck finally took down the Sweepers that they were fighting after an intense battle.

Owen thought that the fight was going to be much easier since they already managed to trap their enemies within the encirclement of the Legion of the Chaotic Sun. But they were not expecting that the opposing side was actually a part of Demonic Churches.

If the Corrupted Cult have their undead army and the corrupted possession and enhancement, then the Demonic Churches had their Demonification accompanied by their overwhelming demonic powers.

This gave the two a lot of trouble than they expected. The sacred properties of the Chaotic Undead Monsters summoned by a Solaris Lich might be powerful against regular undead monsters, but they were not that effective against Demonic Beings, especially when their mastery over their demonic powers was pretty high.

Fortunately, the Sweepers were still trapped in the encirclement of monsters, making it hard for them to endure the onslaught of the Chaotic Sun Legion.

In this scenario, the only choice that Tagon had was to attack Chaotic Luck with everything alongside his subordinates. But unfortunately for him, Owen exploded at that moment and repelled all of their advances repeatedly, showcasing his defensive prowess.

Owen was a famous solo player who had the title of the Dark Knight. He was known for his solid defensive skills, but that was when he was fighting one versus one or one against many.

This time, he was showing these Sweepers of the Pandemonium Descendants that he could not only defend himself against many, but he was also able to protect his teammate despite being outnumbered by them.

After taking down Tagon and making sure that there were no enemies hiding in the dark anymore, Owen finally had the time to reply properly to Shin.

And when he received the instructions from the latter, he immediately turned to Chaotic Luck and told the Solaris Lich what they were going to do. "Brother Sickarius said that we are going on a scout mission while waiting for the others."

"Are we looking for these guys' colleagues?" asked Chaotic Luck.

Owen immediately nodded his head and clarified. "Yes, but we are not looking for them to fight. But we are tasked to observe them and see if we can find out their goal."

"You are perfectly fit for this task," he added, emphasizing what the Chaotic Luck had to do.

Hearing that, Chaotic Luck immediately summoned his undead monsters and put out their sacred flames for the time being before ordering them to scatter around the whole region. They were to act as remains of the dead people as usual while observing everything they saw.

After that, Owen and Chaotic Luck immediately left and looked for a suitable location to hide while the skeleton soldiers were scouting. They were also afraid that the other Sweepers would spot them here if they stayed longer.

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Mowglee, one of the strongest unit captains of the Sweepers, was known not only for his unparalleled strength within the Pandemonium Descendants but also for his ability to set up some cunning schemes.

Right now, he was tasked to lead the main group of Sweepers to prepare for the huge operation that the organization was trying to do.

He looked at the virtual map projected in front of him with squinted eyes. "This region is really huge, much larger than the average Kingdoms of the game."

He then turned to the Archer sitting right across him, who was tending his warbow and asked. "How is the portal, Azumi?"

Azumi, a Blood Elf Master Archer, didn't even bother to look at Mowglee as he answered. "We already established the portal properly."

"Everything is going smoothly, so there is nothing to worry about," he added with a slightly annoyed tone.

Mowglee ignored Azumi after that and then turned to the swordsman sitting on the other side with his feet crossed on top of the table. "How about on your side, Muriem? How are the reports going?"

The swordsman lazily replied. "We already have most of the Sweepers scattered within the region and looking for the leads."

"But unfortunately, most of the Sweepers who encountered Senior Diablo are getting wiped out," he added while clicking his tongue.

Mowglee knitted his eyebrows when he heard those words before asking. "How about the other side? I heard that the Empyrean Talons are working with Sword God Zero and the group under the God Slayer and Death God."

Muriem nodded his head and answered. "That is the case. We still don't know what is their quest or if it is going to affect one that the Troupe has, but it is safe to say that the two quests are somewhat related."

At this point, a female human mage suddenly entered the tent and quickly joined the conversation. "If you are going to ask me, it is better to set aside our grudges with them and propose working together."

Mowglee turned to that person and quickly asked. "You are no longer supporting the Corrupted Cult this time, Victoria?"

The mage found her seat and answered. "We actually don't have to work any of them. But we can benefit more if we work with the Empyrean Talons right now."

Mowglee didn't disagree with it as he could also see what Victoria was trying to say. "But in my opinion, the Corrupted Cult have an edge right now, especially with Silent Night and Earners joining them in this operation."

"But I heard that Demon God Justin lost to the rising star of the Empyrean Talons, losing his equipment and even his special class in the process," Muriem suddenly chimed in.

Then Azumi immediately refuted. "But he didn't lose his level. It is easy for him to replace his equipment given the resources that the Silent Night has."

Victoria nodded her head and added. "And there is also a rumor running around within the Demonic Churches that Justin converted to be a believer just recently. He even got a hidden class in exchange for that."

"Tsk! I also heard that it is a class comparable to a transcendent one. Even the Troupe Leader is thinking of inviting him to join them," added Azumi.

"Since that is the case, isn't it better to team up with them instead of thinking to work with the Empyrean Talons who we have a grudge against?" asked Muriem with a slight frown.

"Unfortunately, the Corrupted Cult wants the Empyrean Talons to fail the quest which may affect the one that the Troupe has," said Victoria.

"In my opinion, it is better if we let the two sides fight against each other and wait for the right opportunity to jump in," suggested Azumi.

"The Empyrean Talons have three more Gods on their side, the Sword God, Death God, and God Slayer, but the Corrupted Cult is not weak either. Especially when Silent Night recovered their peak strength and with the appearance of the Earners," he added.

Victoria fell into deep thought, trying to recall the information that they have about the Earners before voicing it out. "That mercenary group is pretty strong too, especially with their new captain."

"Flouree, isn't it? I heard she is one of the Monster Class Players of «True Era» Online. Her rank is even within the top them from what I've heard," she added.

Muriem nodded his head. "Not only her, but all of their members are also on the same level."

"If not for the appearance of the Empyrean Talons and the re-establishment of the group under the God Slayer and Death God, they are supposed to be the ones gaining a lot of attention with the quality of members that they have."

Azumi knitted his brows and muttered. "Flouree, that monstrous mage? I heard she working under the Central Order, what is she in the Earners? And the captain of that group at that."

Victoria shrugged her shoulders and answered. "I also have no idea, but there are a lot of rumors running around about that the most believable one is about her having a conflict with a powerful figure in the real world and she is forced to leave the Central Order."

"Tsk! That is the problem with an organization that has ties with the real world. Politics is hard to deal with," commented Azumi, clicking his tongue.

"The Great Leader should have scouted her and extended an invitation to join the organization," said Muriem.

Victoria shook her head and immediately answered. "I heard that she is already been invited by the mysterious figure supporting the Earners before the great leader could even invite her."

"Such a pity then," commented the two at the same time.

Mowglee listened to them as he fell into deep thought. Then he reminded them of their current task. "Let's talk about that later. What we have to do for the time being is to find Senior Diablo and eliminate him if possible."

"Kicking him out of this region is still our main priority," he emphasized.

After that, he quickly turned to Victoria and asked. "Do we have any update from the second group?"

Victoria nodded her head and answered. "The vice-captain is already making their own preparations. They also occupied a temporary base on the other side of the region, and only waiting for the single from the headquarters."

Mowglee nodded his head. "Then let's proceed to the next pace."