

Destiny 881

Chapter 881 Unexpected Proposal (Part 2): Old And New Enemies

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At the end of the Sky Deceiving Valley, at the towering wall of ice.

David was currently sitting in a lotus position with his eyes closed. He seemed to be meditating despite being inside the game.

Behind him was the portal that would lead to the other side of the ice wall, the land of the fallen Dragon Worshippers, now known as the Frozen Kingdom.

A few distances away from him were the other members of the Empyrean Talons, S.Tigris' party, and Laweless' group.

Morgan and Raven were constantly roaming the area, making sure that there were no members of the Corrupted Cult in the vicinity.

Akailu was also ordering his beast summons to scout the surroundings, creating another layer of the perimeter that they control.

Archimedes was sitting on a branch of the highest tree, looking at the distance. The Sky Deceiving Valley might be covered by a thick fog that extended as high as the trees. But after staying in this place for a long time, Archimedes already developed immunity to the effects of that fog.

He did not only receive a powerful battle capability after inheriting the combat skills from Garuda and the other tribe leaders of the Wingman Race, but he also gained a variety of ocular skills. And each of them had a unique ability.

One of those ocular skills, was the 'Eye that can see through Storm', a sub-ability of 'Eagle's Eye Skill'.

It was said that eagles loved to dive in the storms, unlike most birds. They were using the wind of the storm to rise higher in a matter of seconds. They could use the pressure of the storm to glide higher without expending their own energy.

Due to that, eagles could also possess the ability to see through the storms to navigate their way through them.

As the inheritor of the peak of the Wingman Race, it was natural for Archimedes also to possess such an ability.

He trained this particular ocular skill in the harsh environment of the Sky Deceiving Valley and was able to master it after a long time. He was one of the main reasons why the group was able to spot all of the scouts of the Corrupted Cult hiding in the dark.

His sharp eyes could spot their opponents in an instant, making it easy for Raven, Morgan, and Akailu to take them down.

Because of those four, the rest didn't have the time to showcase their skills. They just stood in front of the portal, waiting if they were some opponents who would somehow reach them.

But with David guarding it, it looked like they would not have a chance to showcase their strengths.

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A few moments later, David suddenly opened his eyes and looked at his head. His sight seemed to be able to pierce through the thick fog and able to see much farther than Archimedes.

He squinted his eyes and muttered. "They've brought quite a lot of their friends, huh?"

His voice was a little quiet but the others were able to hear his words. Then they quickly picked up their weapons and get in positing, getting ready for battle.

They were not sure how David was able to see their opponents before Archimedes could even spot them. But none of them questioned his words as they knew how strong this person was.

As they were organizing themselves, David suddenly frowned and thought to himself. 'These guys are pretty skilled but why I can't see any powerful opponents among them?'

'Not even a single Godlike Player is present. Am I being underestimated? Or those guys are plotting something,' he added and thought that the latter was most likely the case.

He stroked his chin a couple of times and muttered. "Then, are they planning to send a bunch of cannon fodder first to exhaust us? Or are these guys just a misdirection?"

"Hmm... maybe I should leave these guys to you guys first and observe a little more," said David enough for the others to hear as continued to sit on the ground.

Hearing those words, the rest of the group quickly became spirited as they finally have something to do.

They were already getting tired of sitting here and doing nothing. It was a good thing that they could stretch their bodies a little.

The Guardians of the group, Ringgo, and Hayden, quickly picked up their shields and charged ahead, leaving the portal to David. They were veteran players, so they naturally knew what the former number-one player could do. They fully trust him that he could defend the portal alone.

Morgan, Ithilien, and Archimedes, on the other hand, looked for a good vantage point where they could snipe down their enemies.

Daulla was the sole mage of this group, so she would have a hard time if the assassins of the opposing side targeted her. But she confidently moved ahead despite not having the protection of their Guardian Knights.

She and Archimedes were already used to fighting in this kind of situation since they were always being hunted down by some powerful guilds during their time in their previous kingdom. She had already developed a method to fight an unknown enemy hiding in the dark.

Moreover, Akailu and his summoned beast monsters were already scanning their surroundings thoroughly. With their formation and their bestial senses, it was impossible for an assassin to sneak past them.

It didn't take long for the group to spot their enemies and immediately engaged in a fight with them.

In the meantime, David continued to sit on his spot, completely unmoved. He even closed his eyes once again and resumed his meditation, seemingly unaffected by what was happening around him.

He was confident that the rest was more than enough to deal with these small fries.

He was waiting patiently for the opposing side to reveal their final card before making his move. And when that time came, he would immediately figure out their plans.

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Hiding deeper within the woods, the head of the Necromancers and Corrupted Assassin attacking the group was observing the battle through a spying stone.

He later noticed that David didn't make his move and let the others fight their forces.

"Tsk! As expected of Khing, he really is not going to make his move until he sees through us," he muttered after observing for a while.

"His presence alone was more than enough to intimidate our forces. And after learning that he slaughtered our Elders alongside the undead horde backing them, none of us want to charge at him blindly."

"Fortunately, we are only a distraction," he muttered as he continued to observe the battle and gave an appropriate order from time to time.

He then turned to the side and looked at the hooded player leaning on a tree not far away from him and added. "What's more, we also have this monster to match him."

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In the meantime, Immortal lead a group of players to another side of the Sky Deceiving Valley, avoiding all of the scouts that the Hand of Midas and Assassin Union stationed in the region.

The aura of each member of this group was terrifying enough to scare the ordinary players of the game. Their presence alone was more than enough to suffocate someone by only standing beside them.

The ones who had the scariest aura were naturally Immortal and the two players following closely behind him.

Those two were a knight with a pitch-black set of armor that was continuously emitting black smoke and a mage completely hidden by her cloak as she held a two-meter scepter with one hand.

The knight didn't bother to hide his appearance and just turned off the visibility of his helmet. He was wearing a solemn expression on his face as he seriously followed Immortal.

Seeing that expression, the mage beside him couldn't help but laugh softly and tease him. "What's with that look? It clearly shows that you want to kill someone."

The knight gave her a sidelong glance before ignoring her. And when the mage saw that, she continued. "Oh~! mighty Demon God Justin, it looks like you are eager to get your revenge."

"Tsk! Well, I can't say that I don't understand what you are feeling. Getting crushed by emerging talent in front of everyone sure is embarrassing," she added with a provoking tone.

That was right, the knight with dark armor was Justin, the guy who got his *ss kicked by Shin during their battle.

Even though he already regained his strength and even got a hidden class much stronger than the previous one that he had before, he still couldn't wash away the shame that he suffered after that last

defeat. Especially when it looked like he was spared by Shin when his level was not taken away from him.

What was even more humiliating about it was when all of it happened in front of Cloe.

Justin couldn't help but clenched his fist when he recalled what happened. He then glared at the mage and warned her. "Don't try to provoke me, Flouree. Even if we are working together right now, it doesn't mean that I can't deal with you."

Flouree, the current leader of the Earners Mercenary Group, giggled when she saw his angry face and tried to provoke him even more. "Do you think that I will be scared? Especially when the threat comes from a loser such as yourself?"

Bang! Bang!

Then both of them released an even more powerful aura than what they already emitting.

But not long after, they quickly retrieved those auras as Immortal stopped them from fighting. "I don't care if you fight each other, but do it when everything is already over."

He turned his head, looked over his shoulder, and reminded them why they were there. "Justin, we know that you want your revenge, but you can't vent your anger to your current partners."

"Miss Flouree, please refrain from provoking him. I am aware that you want to fight strong opponents but you must remember that your position is no longer the same as before. You are now a hired mercenary and you must follow the contract."

Hearing those words, Justin ignored the mage and resumed his steps.

Flouree, on the other hand, clicked her tongue but didn't refute those words. "Tsk!"

Chapter 882 The Spark That Will Start The New Era

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As the battle progressed David couldn't help but raised his eyebrows as he finally sensed that there was something wrong.

The opponent was definitely buying time for something. And they brought as many followers of the Corrupted Cult as possible to make sure that the opposing side had no choice but to deal with them.

Because of this, David would be forced to stay in this place even if he realized their true goal.

Of course, they also prepared a contingency plan if ever their numbers couldn't stop David. After all, the guy already slaughtered one of their armies and a monster horde all by himself even if those forces were led by powerful messengers of the cult.

A few moments later, David suddenly made a couple of hand signs, seemingly activating a skill. The movements of his hands were so fast that he was able to finish the series within a couple of seconds.

"Ha!"

With a shout, a magic circle suddenly shone from the ground beneath him and illuminated the whole area.

His actions attracted the people fighting in a distance, making them stop what they were doing for a moment and looked in his direction.

But it was only for a moment. The rest of the Empyrean Talons alongside Morgan, Hayden, Ringgo, and Raven immediately resumed taking down their enemies one after another.

David seemed to not care about them as he continued what he was doing. And when the light of the magic circle finally subdued, a small trance was left behind and pointed towards a certain direction.

If Immortal saw this, then he would be surprised that this light was accurately pointing in their direction.

David looked where that light was pointing as his eyes shone brightly. His body was also emitting a similar brilliance, making his appearance look like a deity.

His sight was able to pierce through the thick fog enfolding the whole Sky Deceiving Valley. The trees blocking his line of sight were also unable to obstruct him.

Swoosh!

His view seemed to zoom in as he spotted a group of players approaching the wall of ice from a different location.

The three people leading the group seemed to sense something. They felt that a gaze completely locked on them.

"Found you!" muttered David with a smirking smile.

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In that location, Justin and Flouree couldn't help but frown deeply because of the uncomfortable feeling of being spied on.

They could sense that someone was watching them but they couldn't find the location where it was coming from.

"What a terrifying spying ability," muttered Flouree as a shiver ran through her back.

Justin squinted his eyes but didn't say anything. He felt that this gaze was somewhat familiar but he couldn't recall where and when he experienced it before.

Immortal was also knitting his brow. He opened a special chat channel and contacted someone. And after talking to the person on the other side of the line, he turned to the others. "Let's continue."

Justin and Flouree raised their eyebrow when they heard that but still nodded their head. They then resumed their steps and followed Immortal.

Demon God Justin only had a single thing on his mind right now and that was to get his revenge on Shin and the other members of the Empyrean Talon. That was the only way left for Arielle to look in his direction and come back to them.

He needed to prove that their group was inferior to Silent Night. This was his final chance and there was no room for mistake.

But it was a little different for Flouree. She might be a mercenary who needed to strictly follow the contract set by their contractor, but it didn't mean that she had to ignore some variables that could risk the safety of her members.

She looked at Immortal and asked. "Did you know who is it?"

Immortal slightly slowed down his steps and turned his head, looking over his shoulder to give her a sidelong glance. "It must be Khing. The guys keeping him in check saw that he was using a special technique."

"He must have a method to lock on our location and see what we are doing," he added.

Hearing those words, the frown that the two had turned deeper. They couldn't imagine how scary Khing was right now.

That guy shouldn't be that strong yet since he just joined the game. But with just a short period of time, not only did he manage to catch up with the leading players, he even surpassed most of them and gained an overwhelming ability.

These two were confident about their strengths as they were Godlike Players and held their titles for such a long time. But both of them knew that they would not be a match for such a crazily powerful player.

Learning that Khing had set his eyes on them, the two couldn't help but feel a sense of crisis.

What if he suddenly attacked them out of nowhere?

They were not confident enough to fight him despite their advantage of numbers.

After all, that person was also previously known as someone who had unrivaled prestige.

There was a time when he fought against a large number of experts that made a mark in the history of virtual games.

It was a plot set by a powerful force to get their revenge on him.

They gathered all of the top players who had a grudge against him. Each of the players who participated in that plan was an absolute expert among the experts, so their battle strength was definitely terrifying.

He didn't only survive that battle, but he also slaughtered all of them without missing a single person.

It didn't matter if he was outnumbered or if those opponents were powerful, all of them were the same in his eyes, an obstacle that he needed to overcome to continue moving forward.

It was a hard battle, but he still emerged victorious!

That incident was known as the Blood Trail on a Snowfield. It was also a mark of the emergence of the King!

A lot of legendary players had a similar incident and also managed to overcome it, but they still couldn't surpass his prestige because of how historical it was.

Aside from the unrivaled players of that time, no one would dare to fight such a terrifying player.

Immortal knew what the two were thinking, so he immediately reassured them that they already had a plan. "Don't worry. He will not have time to deal with us because he is going to be busy taking care of himself."

The two instantly understood his words and couldn't help but gave him a strange look.

Justin clenched his fists while Flouree knitted her brow. Then they asked at the same time.

"You manage to find someone who can deal with him?"

"You have such a person on your ranks?"

Immortal smirked when he heard their questions. He then his head back in front of them and spoke. "If there is a light, then there is always been a shadow."

"He may have a powerful strength and prestige of a King, but there are still people who also possessed a similar might and reputation."

"And such a person happened to be one of us," he added with a mystifying tone.

They two wanted to know who it was but Immortal refused to disclose such information to them. They could only wear a solemn looks on their face while trying to figure out the answer themselves.

Going back to the place where the portal was located.

The light surrounding David and his glowing eyes finally subdued. He picked up the umbrella placed on his lap and started to stand up.

He was preparing to kill all of these Cult Followers and get over everything. He already had a suspicion that these guys were just a distraction to mislead him. But he couldn't immediately leave since the skill that he just used needed some time before he could cast it.

Now that he knew the plan of the opposing side, it was better to clear this place before heading to the location of his main target.

But before he could even make his move, he suddenly sensed a dangerous presence coming from a certain direction.

He cast his cast towards a certain tree and did not move. He just locked his eyes on it as if he was waiting for someone to reveal himself.

Not long after, a laugh suddenly sounded from behind the tree as a hooded person revealed himself. "You still haven't changed after all these years, cautious yet also fearless at the same time."

The appearance of that player was hidden by his cloak but David seemed to recognize that person. "I don't expect you to be making your move this early."

That person laughed once more and responded. "Hah! You revealed yourself in such a high-profile manner, so you should expect the others will also start making an entrance."

"The Frost Goddess and the Goddess of the Drifting Moon already make their appearance, then the God Slayer and Death God are steadily making their comeback."

"With such incidents, how can we continue staying in the dark? The era may have changed but you still can't count us out with our strengths," he added with a serious tone.

Then he slightly raised his head, revealing his face at David. "This fight is going to remind everyone of our existence."

"Tsk! Stop with the cringe talk and come at me already. Let's see if you improved after my 'little' vacation," said David with a provoking tone.

That player took out a pair of chained sickles and started charging at David. "Hah! More like me checking if your skills did not get rusty!"

And just like what he said, this battle was going to be the signal for the change that was about to come.

The re-emergence of the forgotten Myths.

And...

The birth of the new Legends.

Chapter 883 David's Special Class (Part 1)

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Saint Heaven Kingdom.

In the outskirts where the Corrupted Cult was building their territory.

There were a pair of players sitting across from each other with a chess game laid between them.

One of them was the mysterious person who was currently leading the operation of the Corrupted Cult in this kingdom while the other person was a familiar face for the Empyrean Talons, the Greed Devil of the Pandemonium Troupe, Beelzebub.

Beelzebub moved a chess piece, making his move while saying. "Pogo, the Killer Clown, and one of the founding members of the Blood Carnival."

"He is one of the most notorious figures within the virtual world. They managed to groom their organization into one of the Powerhouses, so their founding members hide in the dark and let their subordinates run the organization."

"Who would have thought that he is going to show himself again after Khing returned to the gaming world."

"If this battle became known to the public, I am pretty sure that those experts who choose to play silently in the dark will start to make their comeback."

The other person quickly made his countermove and replied. "That is our plan, to force those guys to reappear on the stage and make the board larger."

Beelzebub suddenly laughed after hearing that. "Hah! Are you sure that you are not biting more than you can chew?"

"I don't know if your Corrupted Cult can handle the aftermath of luring them out. After all, not only the old 'villains' are going to show themselves after this, there are also those guys who claim to be the people of justice."

The man opposite him smirked in return and answered. "It is true that our Corrupted Cult is a little inferior compared to the Demonic Churches when it comes to foundation and power. But it doesn't mean that we are weaker."

"Instead of worrying about us, how about you think about your organization instead? Once those old experts showed themselves, the influence that the Pandemonium Descendants have will significantly decrease."

"At that time, I wonder if the ambition that you guys have will still persist after being suppressed by them."

Beelzebub chuckles and nodded his head. "We, the Pandemonium Troupe, are indeed underdeveloped compared to those hidden experts. But we still have the backing of our elders, and they are not inferior to those people."

"They promise that they are going to help if those Master-Class players of the old ranking list make their appearance."

"Our main task is to deal with the players who are in the current ranking list and dominate the leaderboard," he added while giving the other side a mocking look.

Seeing that the other person was not willing to respond, Beelzebub clicked his tongue and continued. "Let's go back to business. We don't care whether you are going to deal with the Empyrean Talons and interrupt their quest-..."

"...-but to get in our way, or else, you will not like the consequence," he added with a threatening tone.

The other person slightly raised his head and looked Beelzebub straight in the eye. "Trying to threaten me? I am giving you a face since earlier since Senior Brother ask me to, but it looks like I've been too good to you, huh?"

Boom!

Then a powerful aura suddenly exploded from his body.

Seeing that, Beelzebub smirked and also released his own aura and fought back.

They glared at each other as they tried to suppress the opposing side with their respective auras.

A fight was about to break out.

Going back to the place where the portal leading to the Frozen Kingdom was located, an intense fight already broke out.

The members of Empyrean Talon, S.Tigris' party, and Lawless' group couldn't help but look at the sight in front of them in awe.

They already cleared the area and most of the Corrupted Cult members already retreated. From the looked of it, those guys already achieved their goal, so there was no point in staying here any longer.

The group wanted to help David but they discovered that they didn't have the ability to do so. They would only be a burden to David if they insisted on getting involved.

The intensity of the battle seemed to be a little inferior compared to most of the sensational battles that they saw, but the abilities that those two were showing were high-leveled.

David's opponent already revealed his appearance as he took off the cloak he was wearing earlier.

They still couldn't see his basic information since he was wearing a clown mask that was preventing the others from spying on him.

At first look, that person looked like a warrior due to the set of armor that he had. But the strange thing was the fact that he was moving at an insane speed despite wearing that kind of armor.

Morgan and Hayden even thought that his speed was on par with Faker's. Even his method of fighting was also similar.

Those chained sickles seemed to be alive on his hands. He was controlling them very well and even able to change their trajectory from time to time, chasing after their targets like a vicious snake.

With that kind of speed, precise control, and complex attack patterns, anyone who would be facing him would definitely have a hard time.

But David was different. Not only he was able to dodge the sickles with ease, even the chains attached to the bottom of their hands couldn't catch him.

No matter how tricky and confusing their movements were, David would always be able to escape their encirclement without a problem.

If the others, who were watching this fight, were already confused about the class that the other person had, then they would have a hard time figuring out the class David belonged to.

They already found that his weapon, an umbrella, was strange. It made them wrack their brains, trying to figure it out. Even if he belonged to hidden and special classes, it would always have a class among the basic ones as its base.

But after watching this battle, they already had an idea of what his class belonged to.

He was some sort of a Shaman and Spirit Summoner.

David was mostly holding his umbrella behind him as he was dodging the attacks of his opponent. He was also using it to fend off the attacks he couldn't avoid.

There were also some instances where he was opening that umbrella and use it to block the flying daggers that the opposing side was throwing at him from time to time.

At times, that umbrella was also acting as a scepter when casting some spells. It was also being used to write a series of runes in the air when he was casting a more complicated spell.

Pogo, the Killer Clown, his opponent, figured it out and used everything he had to restrain that umbrella and prevent David from using it.

But when he successfully captured that annoying umbrella with his chains, David casually took out some talismans and threw them at Pogo.

Those talismans were similar to magic scrolls that the mages created, but the spells that they possessed were a little inferior compared to the latter.

At least that was the case when they were used individually. But the moment when they were used together, their power was close to what a magic scroll had and their utility was way better.

Pogo first ignored those talismans at first since they didn't have much threat to him. But he later realized how troublesome it was to deal with them.

David was able to cast a variety of skills with their help and even summon a different kind of power. One of them was the power of Ghost and Spirits while the other was the power of Natural Elements.

Moreover, those talismans were not consumable items, but they were generated from David's skill set.

By generating a different combination of talismans, David was able to cast a different kind of spell.

The more the battle progressed, the more disadvantageous it was for Pogo. The variety of spells that David could use was steadily growing in number the longer they fought.

Spirit and Ghost Summons alongside a variety of Elemental Spells, the combination of these two gave Pogo a hard time. And what was more insulting about it was the fact that David didn't even step out of the small circle that he created earlier.

But despite that being the case, no one could say that this was a one-sided fight since David also didn't land a clean hit at Pogo so far.

Pogo might be more proactive in this battle and continuously moving since the start of the battle, and it might look like he was being suppressed on the surface, but the truth was that this battle was still in a deadlock.

Swoosh!

Pogo suddenly stopped attacking and stood a few meters away from David, looking at the latter with a calm gaze.

He seemed to ignore the fact that he was still surrounded by his opponents. But even if he stood in the open, none of the group dared to attack him straight away. Their instincts were warning them not to make a move.

Moreover, David also warned them in the party chat channel not to get involved right after Pogo stopped moving.

He wanted to test his current strength on a worthy opponent. He was away from playing games for a long time, so it was natural for him to know where he currently stood compared to the other top players who played in the same generation as him.

This was the perfect time to see if he was still worthy to stand on the same footing as them.

'Now that the warm-up is over, I guess it is time to take this seriously,' thought David as finally done familiarizing himself with the skillset that he currently had.

'It is rare to find someone who is worthy enough for me to test my limits, I guess I can't afford to waste this chance,' he added while locking his gaze at Pogo who seemed to figure out his thoughts.

The two remained standing for a few moments as the air within the vicinity seemed to become heavy.

From here on out, David was going to showcase the real ability he had.

Chapter 884 David's Special Class (Part 2)

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David was originally interested in playing «Destiny's Fate» since his master keep on giving him missions out of nowhere. And he needed to take care of them as soon as possible to avoid getting punished by her.

Moreover, after roaming around the world and challenging all of the geniuses of different houses and organizations, he already lost the thrill of playing the game.

He also could fight some of the old experts who had a similar level of strength as him. Even if they were already surpassed by a lot of talented individuals, their experiences were still there, which made them formidable opponents. He could even learn a lot from them.

This was why David loved to roam around, not only he was experiencing the thrill of battle, but he was also learning a lot of things during his journey.

But after he did some research on the current state of the gaming world, David realized how much it changed. A lot of talented individuals started to pop out, some of his past rivals even became stronger, and most of all, the current Powerhouse Guilds and Organizations also became much stronger and larger than what he remembered.

Then he proceeded to the current rankings. Not all of them were as impressive as he imagined and some of the guys that he knew were already not in there, but after learning about the Secret Ranking List from his old friend, he realized that this current virtual game was completely different than the ones that he played.

When he logged in to the game, he also found some interesting things, like the freedom of creating a couple of skills. The self-created skills, fusion skills, and class fighting styles completely caught his attention.

He wanted to create his own set of skills but after learning that there was a limit on it, he decided to delay it for the time being.

What troubled him was how he was going to choose a class. After skimming through the basic ones that were available, the only class that caught his attention was the Shaman of the Beastmen Race and the Summoner Class of the Human Race. But they were not that appealing enough to his eyes.

He also knew about the existence of the so-called Hidden and Special Class, as well as the Transcendent and Greater Races. But he didn't put much hope in it since it involved too much luck to stumble upon them.

After careful thinking, David decided to choose the boring Human Race. It was not because he had a special reason or something, but it was just the most flexible race out of the ones that he could choose.

After choosing the race was the designated region where he was going to be 'born'. He already planned out how he was going to catch up with the leading players, so he quickly chose the lawless area where Dark Players ruled.

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Despite not playing the game for a long time, he still had a lot of contacts within the virtual world. He might have had a lot of enemies during his time playing the games, but he also created quite a number of friends during those times.

After contacting them, he learned that an Underground Arena actually exists. It was similar to the ones in the real world where the spectators and the participants could bet almost anything.

That kind of setting was perfect for David which was why he chose the lawless region, making it easier for him to enter that arena.

The mode he chose was obviously 'Winner-takes-it-all'. A mode, as its name suggested, where he could get everything from his opponents. Whether it was equipment, skills, achievements, titles, and most importantly, their levels and experience points.

David met quite a lot of interesting individuals during his time in the Underground Arena and he also got a lot of skill books during the process. And since he didn't have a class when he joined in, he could learn all of the unrestricted skill books from the spoils that he received as long as he met the stat requirements for them.

The interesting part was he reached the point where no one dared to fight him anymore, forcing him to hop on a different arena. But it also didn't take long for the next few arenas to refuse to register him.

Fortunately, he already reached his desired level when it happened. Then he sold almost all of the materials, equipment, skill books, and class conversion tomes that he got from his battles. He already got the ones that wanted, so he didn't have any use for the others aside from turning them into gold.

But the most satisfying thing that he got from his 'grinding' in the Underground Arena was the class that received after going through everything.

His main class was a self-created one. No one heard or even knew that it was possible but he indeed achieved it and the system granted it to him.

After every battle, David would choose a skill to his liking. And most of the skills that he chose were from Shamans, Summoners, and other related classes. There were also a couple of skills from different mage-related classes such as Human Wizards and Elven Elementalist, some even came from Dark Mages.

What David really about those skills was their similarities to the Mentalism Arts in the real world, especially the Shaman and Elementalist Classes.

He could also imitate some of his real-world techniques in the game just as talisman attacks and formations, as well as rune magic and enhancements.

And since it was a self-created class, he could name it. He didn't even bother to think too deeply about it and quickly name the class Mentalist.

As for the Secondary Class that he got. It was a class that was granted by the system after he won all of the battles in the Underground Arena.

The class was called Gladiator. It was a hidden-special class, but it was not that rare since there were quite a lot of players who also had it in the Underground Arena. What this especially was the title that he got alongside it, the Champion Title.

This particular title could only be achieved after winning a hundred consecutive battles. And his opponents should either be on the same level as him or higher.

The Champion Title made his Gladiator Secondary Class much stronger. It granted him a massive buff on his melee skills and even granted him the ability to use all types of weapons.

It was also not affected by the restrictions on the skills that he wanted to learn. As long as he met the required stats of the skill, he could learn it regardless of which class it belonged to.

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With such overpowered classes, David could be ranked as one of the most powerful players once again. But what depressed him the most was the fact that he couldn't find a suitable opponent to test those skills out. He couldn't learn its limits nor find its weakness.

Shiella, as Snow White, the Frost Goddess, was one of the candidates that could possibly match him. There was also Cold Moon, the Goddess of the Drifting Night. But both of them were heads of their respective organizations, one was the Guild Leader of the Hand of Midas while the other was the Union Head of the Assassin Union.

Both of them were too busy with their respective obligations and didn't have the time to deal with him.

As for the current Titled Rankers and Godlike Players, David didn't think too much about them as they were too low compared to his desired standards. Even dealing with the Messengers of the Corrupted Cult that he faced previously was just child's play in his eyes.

But at this point, he now had a chance to properly test his limits. This was the reason why he drew a circle on the ground despite facing an old rival.

Pogo, the Killer Clown, belonged to the group of players that he acknowledged, so he took this opportunity to hone his skills and tried to see where he currently stood compared to them.

Fortunately, he managed to quickly adjust after their previous 'warm-up'. And he continued to grow after fighting against Pogo.

The current state of his battle couldn't be compared to the previous one they had. The scale of destruction was way larger compared to it.

Numerous trees had fallen during their battle, and even the group watching them was forced to move away, afraid that they would be caught in the crossfire.

Pogo controlled his chained sickles perfectly and they covered a large area, limiting the choices that David had when dealing with them.

But not of them managed to work since David's skills and talisman spells were also not simple. All of his defensive skills were had to crack much while the offensive ones were very powerful.

At times, the two of them were also engaging in a melee battle.

Pogo thought that he could at least overwhelm David with his melee skills since ranged attacks were pretty much ineffective.

Since David was mostly using range and large-scale spells, Pogo thought he had the edge when they fought in close-combat-quarters, but little did he know that such a battle was more favorable to David.

David's melee skills were not as flashy as the ranged ones that he had, but their power and utility were not inferior in comparison.

In fact, David was much harder to deal with when it came to the melee battle. This threw Pogo into a difficult predicament.

He realized that he would not be able to defeat David if he didn't show all of his cards. "You really are still the same! I guess I have to give everything I have now!"

After saying that, he quickly created a distance between himself and his opponent before stabbing his sickles in his chest.

David suddenly frowned deeply when he saw that, sensing an immense danger. But he knew that it was already too late for him to stop it now, so he could only set up his defense and fortify, preparing for what was about to come.

Chapter 885 David's Special Class (Part 3)

...

David stared intensely at Pogo, waiting patiently for the latter to finish his transformation. He really wanted to stop it from happening but he knew that it was already too late for it.

Instead, he threw his talismans in the air and scattered them in different directions. And when reached a certain distance, those talismans suddenly stopped and floated in the air while emitting dim light.

A moment later, those talismans produced a thin line of light that connected them with each other and formed a strange formation.

David formed a series of seals with his hand, controlling the talismans and adjusting their positions.

On the other hand, some changes were also happening in Pogo's body.

His muscles did some creepy movements, moving as if they were alive. Then his armor suddenly burst due to the irregular movements of those muscles.

Ah!

He shouted as his body underwent a metamorphosis.

His arms grew longer alongside his fingers that turned into terrifying claws. His torso also turned larger and became more muscular. And as he grew taller, his legs turned into the pair of legs of a goat.

His head also had the same changes, it turned into a goat head as a pair of horns grew on it. Then a strange symbol of a crescent moon with a cross appeared at the center of his forehead.

When he finished his transformation, a dark light suddenly appeared in front of his chest. He then raised his hand and grabbed that light. And right after he did that, a large scythe suddenly appeared on his hand.

David watched all of it happen and clicked his tongue. "Tsk! What a disgusting transformation."

"You can stomach turning yourself into an ugly being?" he added with a face that seemed to be full of disgust.

The transformed Pogo didn't reply and directly attacked right after his metamorphosis.

Swoosh!

He disappeared from his spot and suddenly reappeared above David as he swung his huge scythe downward.

David shook his head with a bitter smile, not even bothering to raise his head. And with a snap of his fingers, the talismans that were forming a magic formation released a blinding light before releasing a dome-shaped barrier, blocking the incoming attack.

Bang!

The barrier shook violently and showed a lot of cracks on its surface after the collision, showing some signs of collapsing.

The power behind that attack was too powerful. Fortunately, the barrier was able to withstand it in the end.

But Pogo didn't end his attack there. He quickly disappeared and reappeared in a different direction before swinging his scythe again.

Bang!

This time, the barrier was instantly shattered as it failed to withstand that attack. And before David could even react in time, Pogo disappeared for another time and reappeared in the opposite direction.

His current speed greatly surpassed what he had earlier, making it hard even for Archimedes and Morgan to see his movements.

Swoosh!

The sound of the scythe cutting through the air could be heard as it approached David at an insane speed.

But before its tip could even reach its target, David suddenly turned his head towards its direction, wearing a calm look on his face.

Bang!

Then the scythe suddenly stopped as its tip suddenly collided with an invisible wall.

David was completely unfazed by that attack despite how powerful it was. He put a lot of trust in the sturdiness of his barrier and believed that it was not going to collapse despite witnessing the power that Pogo showed in the previous two attacks.

Pogo didn't stop and continued to change his position and attack David with the same level of attack.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Consecutive explosions could be heard as he threw a barrage of attacks at David. No one could even catch a glimpse of his silhouette as he continued to move at an extreme speed.

The only trace that he left behind was the shockwaves that were being produced by his attacks, and all of them were from a different direction each time.

But despite all of that, none of his attacks land a clean hit on his opponent.

David continued to stand on his spot, completely unmoved.

At least, that was how it looked on the surface. But in actual fact, David was also knitting his brow as he watched his opponent continue to bombard him with those powerful attacks.

He wanted to cast a spell to counterattack but immediately realized that Pogo's current speed was too fast for him to do it.

"I guess I have no choice but to engage in a melee battle," muttered David as he found that he didn't have another choice.

He actually wanted to use a few more combinations with his spells. But from the looked of it, he could no longer do it.

Swoosh!

He quickly took away the talismans he was holding and held his umbrella as if it were a sword.

'Mentalist Special Skill: Rune Summoning'

Activating this skill, a series of runes suddenly appeared in the air around him before spinning around him.

'Mentalist Special Skill: Rune Enhancement'

Then, after activating the next skill, the runes suddenly implanted themselves on his skin, leaving a rune series on it.

The same thing also happened on his weapon as the glowing runes also appeared on the surface of the umbrella.

Bang!

Quickly after that, he turned around and swung the umbrella behind him, colliding with the scythe coming from behind.

Pogo's attack was much stronger than the previous ones that he had. But despite that being the case, he still failed to force David to move.

And before he could even make his next move, David was already making his own.

He twisted his wrist, turning the umbrella in a circular motion and controlling the weapon of his opponent with it.

Shing!

He then pulled the umbrella backward and twisted his waits in the same direction before thrusting the umbrella once forward.

'Gladiator Skill: Counter Strike'

Swoosh!

His movements were flawless and fast, catching Pogo a little off-guard. His current movements were much smoother compared to how he moved earlier.

Fortunately, Pogo's current stats were much higher compared to earlier, so he could move his body much earlier too. He jumped backward, managing to respond in time.

But to his surprise, the tip of the umbrella chased after him like a snake that was unwilling to let go of its prey.

Swoosh!

The moment David saw that Pogo was moving backward, he quickly adjusted his posture. He moved his right foot forward, following the moments of his thrusting motion. He also slightly raised his left hand to maintain his balance while moving forward.

Puff!

Unfortunately, his opponent turned into black smoke right after his umbrella pierced through the target.

Then Pogo appeared behind David like a ferocious beast and swung his scythe as strong as he could.

Swoosh!

But despite the insane speed that his opponent had, David was still able to respond in time and quickly turned his body to face Pogo before opening his umbrella to block the incoming attack.

Boom!

The area around them seemed to shake violently as the tip of the scythe collided with the surface of his umbrella.

Pogo was about to change his position once again when he saw the umbrella move forward and seemingly wanted to collide with his body.

Fortunately, he was fast enough to move away from its path and reappeared in a different direction. But right after he emerged in his new position, when he was raising his scythe and was about to swing it at David, he suddenly discovered that the latter was already facing him.

David held his right hand forward and pointed it forward, forming a hand gesture of a gun with it.

Strange runes were floating around his hand and suddenly moved in a circular motion to form a magic circle in front of his fingers.

'Mentalist Special Skill: Piercing Star'

Swoosh!

A beam of light suddenly flew straight to Pogo, piercing through the air and drawing a beautiful line on its path.

Pogo was completely caught off-guard and couldn't dodge in time. He was struck by that beam of light. It pierced through his chest and deleted a huge chunk of his Health Bar.

In the meantime, David quickly extended his left hand on his back, catching the umbrella midair. He pushed it forward and let go of its handle earlier to trick Pogo.

After that, he quickly charged ahead while throwing a batch of talismans in his opponent's direction.

"You are too easy to read. You kept on repeating the same attack pattern since earlier and just changing the tempo of your speed," said David as continued to move forward.

"It is much better fighting you when you haven't transformed. Your strength might become stronger when you transform but your movements become more predictable," he continued to give his comment seeming to encourage his opponent to show him more.

He might be away from the virtual games for a long time, but he was still familiar with his former rivals' strength. And he knew that this was not everything that Pogo had.

Or else, he would really be disappointed.

Chapter 886 The Monarch Of The Frozen Kingdom

...

Frozen Kingdom

In the Castle situated at the very center of the Frozen City.

A black coffin was floating at the center of the throne room while emitting a miasma of alternating black and crimson color.

There were a series of purple runes written on its surface, moving with a certain tempo. Those runes were also glowing with the same rhythm as if they were synchronizing with a beating heart.

Black chains connected on different corners of the room as they wrapped themselves in the floating coffin at the center.

Bang!

A few moments later, an armored knight suddenly destroyed the door of the room and entered.

The armor that this person was wearing was completely black as blue lights were glowing out on its segments.

There was animal fur wrapped around his shoulders as the blue cape extended down from it. And on that cape, a symbol of the dragon was embroidered, giving off a majestic feeling.

If Shin and the others were here, then they would instantly recognize this person since he was the commander of the Fallen Knight Army that they faced earlier, the former Grand Marshal of the great army tasked to subdue the evil force within this region.

He was Grand Marshal Amar.

He continued to walk toward the center of the throne room and only stopped when reached a few meters away from the floating coffin.

He then unsheathed the sword hanging on his waist before swinging it in the air.

Shing!

Cling! Cling! Cling!

Then wind blades were released from each of his swings, cutting the black chains wrapped around the coffin.

Bang!

Each of the chains was heavy as they created a cloud of dust right after they fell on the ground.

Pssh!

Then black smoke was released from the coffin as its top was slowly opened.

Amar watched the coffin calmly as the cover of the coffin was pushed to the side by a pair of pale hands.

Then a man suddenly sat up and slowly stood up from the coffin before jumping down from it.

That person with a very pale face had a handsome appearance that was out of this world. He might be even more beautiful than most women with the appearance of a goddess.

The man swept his gaze at the surroundings, seemingly unaware that he was completely naked. After confirming that nothing seemed to have changed after his long slumber, he slightly nodded his head before snapping with his fingers.

Swoosh!

Then a black aura suddenly shot up from his shadow and wrapped around his body before turning into a fancy black suit and huge cape.

That was only the time when he turned to Amar and greeted him. "It has been a while old friend."

Amar seemed to scoff at him after hearing that. "We are not that close to addressing each other as a friend."

"Tsk! Tsk! You don't have to be like that. We can at least be considered as people of the same race right now, so you don't have to be that distant," said the handsome man.

"Dracula, the first vampire. Let me remind you, we did not help you at that time because we sympathize with you and your people. He rebelled against that Wicked God because of the crimes that she committed," said Amar with a sharp tone.

"If not because of Fionn begging me to spare your pitiful lives, then we have already annihilated you, spawns of a Demon King," he added as the glowing embers under his helmet burned much stronger.

Dracula, the ancestor of all vampires, smiled widely when he heard those words, showing his canine teeth. "Is that so? Then how come you become a Fallen Human after rebelling against the Divine?"

"How come an ascended person such as your esteemed self, who first became an Immortal, fall into such a terrible state?" he emphasized.

"You used to be worshipped by the people who surpassed the limits of humanity and become on par with Transcendent Beings, but look at you now, you can even leave this land because of the curse cast upon you," he added, further provoking the Grand Marshal.

Amar didn't refute those words and turned. "You should get ready right now. Some of the Righteous Churches send their respective representative to investigate the area. Three of the great army are already been freed by them."

"Hoh!", Dracula suddenly became interested when he heard those words and suddenly pinched his thumb, index, and middle finger together, seemingly deducing something.

Then his eyes suddenly shone as if he found a hidden treasure. "A Dragonkin, a Primordial Beast, a High Human, an Ancient Elf, and a Nephilim. Interesting, truly interesting!"

Then his brow suddenly turned higher as he spotted an even more interesting entity aside from the ones that he just said earlier. "Oh~! Look at this, there is even a guy that came from my lineage?"

"Even though his bloodline is a little impure, can easily be solved. Should I make him my successor? His compatibility with my bloodline is much better compared to my retainers," he muttered, seemingly ignoring Amar.

Then he suddenly sensed a few more presences within his land. "Eh!? There are also some Demonic Beings. Tsk! Tsk! Looks like I've slept for too long. Are these younglings trying to conquer my territory in my absence? How dare they?"

"Oh! There is another one? What is that? An Elf with Demonic Powers? A Demonic Being but, at the same time, it is not? Strange, this guy is strange," he continued.

Seeing that Dracula was getting lost in his own world, Amar decided to leave. He already did his role, what was left now was for this Vampire Ancestor to do his part.

Sensing that Amar was already leaving, Dracula quickly turned his head. "Leaving already? We still haven't settled our scores, are you sure that it is fine for you to run away?"

Amar knew that Dracula was only trying to provoke him, so decided to ignore him and just waved his hand without looking back. "You should wake your retainers now and prepare for what is about to come."

"If I am not mistaken, the prophecy should be close. It is even possible to occur now because of the presence of different Transcendent Races," he added as he exited the room.

Dracula narrowed his eyes as he watched Amar leave before muttering with a solemn tone. "The prophesy of our great ancestor, huh?"

From his tone, he was not talking about his current race, but about the civilization and religion that he had before, a Dragon Worshipper.

He then recalled certain phrases from that so-called prophesy. – "At the land of promise, when darkness shrouded the sky, the great heroes of the world would gather once again and stop the re-emergence of unprecedented calamity." –

– "The Gate of Darkness would be reopened once again, creating a rift between the pure justice and the corrupted." –

– "The Corruption would spread on an even greater scale than what it used to be and throw the world into chaos." –

After muttering those words, Dracula suddenly wore a scornful smile before turning his head to the ceiling of the throne room.

There was a great mural drawn in the entire ceiling that seemed to be there for ages. The mural was projecting the great wars that the entire world had suffered, starting from the vague Dark Era of ancient times all the way to the Repelling Era of the recent generation.

He observed the mural for quite a long time before casting his gaze at the center where a black vortex was formed. It was summoning strange monsters of different sizes and hideous appearances.

After that, he shook his head with a bitter smile as if this problem was not his concern. In a sense, he was no longer a part of the so-called 'Just' and 'Righteous' Functions.

He then stomped on the ground, releasing a powerful shockwave that shook the entire throne room.

Not long after, a door was suddenly opened on the floor alongside the appearance of stairs leading to the underground.

Climbing down those stairs, he arrived in a special room that was filled with coffins. He continued to go deeper within the room towards the center where seven coffins were floating in the air.

He extended his hand, releasing a dark miasma that covered those coffins. And after a few moments, the floating coffins started to open one after another, waking up his retainers from their deep slumber.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right after waking up, none of them asked a question why they were wakened up and just quickly jumped away from their respective coffins before arriving in front of Dracula and kneeling on the ground in a respectful manner.

"Greetings our lord!"

They shouted with all their might, shaking the whole room.

Dracula swept his gaze at them and observed their auras before nodding his head satisfyingly. He then turned around and walked towards the exit. "Start preparing. The end of our contract is about to arrive, so make sure that you are prepared."

"We can no longer rely on those cursed ones and can only depend on ourselves. But in exchange, the restrictions cast upon us can no longer affect us," he added without turning back.

Chapter 887 The Grim Reaper And The Shadow Dancer (Part 1)

.....

Frozen Kingdom

The expedition group was scattered in different parts of the kingdom as per Shin's instructions, trying to locate most of the members of Pandemonium Descendants.

They were trying their best to avoid conflict and engage in a fight since they needed to know their goal first before making their move.

Unfortunately, the Sweepers would immediately attack them, forcing them to do nothing but retaliate. They already tried to communicate multiple times but the other side was unwilling to listen to them.

Due to this, the initial plan was instantly scrapped, forcing them to fight the Sweepers nonstop. Since the situation already became like that, the group fought for real. They were no longer holding back and went all out.

They were also capturing squad leaders from time to time using the prison prisms. For Corrupted and Demonic Players, being captured was much more terrifying than getting killed.

After all, they could just lose a level when they died, or five to ten levels at most depending on the curses that were cast on them.

Shin, Faker, Zero, Lawless, and Leonard were still moving alone as they swept through the entire region, looking for their targets.

The main group, on the other hand, finally met Owen and Chaotic Luck, increasing their efficiency to a great degree.

Shin was moving alone, scouting the area that was assigned to him and looking for targets.

He already caught quite a lot of squad leaders and all of them seemed to have a decent position within the Pandemonium, so he no longer needed to capture more. That was unless he didn't encounter someone who had a higher position than those guys.

He was moving at an extreme speed but he was not leaving any mark on his path. His body seemed to be weightless while he was moving. He looked like a feather being swept by the wind.

Ever since their first battle in this land where Shin regained his familiarity with his real assassination techniques, his movements became more and more polished. Especially when he applied these techniques to swordsmanship.

Due to this, his assassination skills and swordsmanship seemed to fuse together, creating a new form and polishing his style.

He also started to see the Yin-Yang Arts and Swordsmanship that Professor Plum passed to him in a new light. A lot of things became clear to him, which also make him more familiar with the so-called Yin Style of the particular Martial Art.

Right now, he fused the 'Mystic Movements' that were gradually increasing his speed the more he moved and the 'Silent Movement' of his assassination techniques that was making his weight lighter due to his extremely fast movement while also erasing his presence at the same time.

The others might even mistake him for a gust of the wind if they encountered him right now.

...

While he was scouting the area, he suddenly sensed the presence of a huge group of players from a certain distance.

Focusing his senses on that area, he discovered that the battle seemed to be taking place there. That battle was most likely not that intense given that there were very few collisions with weapons, the explosions were also not that many or loud.

Based on the shout that was coming from one of the sides, their opponent completely overpowered him.

Having that minimal information, Shin could instantly guess what was happening on that side. He even had an idea who the people fighting in that place were.

"It is definitely not our people, so it can only be that person and the members of Pandemonium," muttered Shin while also wearing a smirking smile as he continued to move forward.

"It must be that guy!" He then slightly slowed his speed and further weaken his already unnoticeable presence before moving ahead.

He sneakily went past their senses and appeared on a tree branch, observing the fight in silence. This was his chance to finally saw how strong this person called 'Diablo' closely and he would not let it slip away from his hands.

And right after found a good spot, what he saw was something that couldn't be called a battle. It was nothing but a one-sided slaughter. He saw a single person turning into a moving silhouetted that killed everyone he went through.

Even with his enhanced eyesight, he couldn't get a clear look at the appearance of that person since he was moving at an extreme speed that was way faster than what he had earlier.

Shin creased his brow when he saw that. He wanted to use his True Sight ocular skill but immediately denied the idea since Zero had told him some of the abilities of Diablo as well as that person's skill level.

If he used the True Sight Skill right now to observe, the other side could sense his presence. He had no choice but to observe the battle with his naked eye. Fortunately, he was still able to vaguely see how Diablo was moving despite that being the case.

He narrowed his eyes as he looked at the battle he could see how different Diablo to the rest of the assassin players that he had met.

He was not overwhelming his opponents with his extreme speed. Instead, he was using that speed to make more advances over his enemies. His speed was only a tool in fighting and not his main weapon.

What made Diablo amazing in Shin's eyes was his utilization of his surroundings and the situation on the battlefield.

At first look, Diablo seemed to be taking down his opponents blindly with the help of his speed. It was understandable for the opposing side and the spectators to think that way since he kept on appearing in different places on the battlefield.

For this kind of one-against-many battle, it was natural for everyone to take down the ringleader as soon as possible if running was impossible. It was foolish to fight out a situation like this in a straightforward manner unless the individual was someone who possessed absolute strength.

With Diablo's abilities, it was possible for him to slaughter all of his opponents in an orthodox way. But instead of taking it traditionally, he chose the other way around where he was taking down the players of the opposing side one after another.

Such a situation was torturing the leader of the group and the rest of the members mentally. Watching his subordinates fall in front of him one by one as he was giving out orders, the squad leader was greatly pressured.

Every time the squad leader was giving out an order, Diablo would always take down the key person for that particular command. Given his speed, it was not a problem for him to run around his opponents.

He kept appearing behind that person who was the centerpiece for the counterattack that their team leader was trying to create, crushing not only their plans but also their spirit.

After Diablo did it repeatedly, the squad leader and the rest of the group finally lost their will to fight and gave up.

Seeing that, Diablo knew that it was now time to wrap everything up. Then he started killing the group mercilessly.

Shin further raised his brows as he could see through the meaning behind Diablo's actions. "After destroying his opponents in such a crushing manner, it will not be strange for those guys to annoy him again in the future."

"Striking their cores and crushing their spirits will surely affect their mentality," he added as he shook his head with a bitter smile.

He then focused his gaze on Diablo and couldn't help but admire the guy. "This must be one of the methods that he develops after fighting such a large organization alone."

"What a terrifying enemy. He truly lives up to being a former core member of the Pandemonium Descendants."

He then paused for a moment, looking at Diablo meaningfully. "I am starting to like this guy more."

His eyes were shining brightly as he thought of something. His fighting spirit and competitiveness were completely awakened after seeing Diablo fight.

"Should I test his skills personally?" he muttered as his eyes glinted.

After that, he jumped down from the branch and started walking towards Diablo who was now wrapping up the battlefield.

...

Diablo was picking up the items that were dropped by the Sweepers that he just took down when he suddenly sensed someone approaching him.

He raised his eyebrows and quickly turned in the direction where that person was coming from. Then he squinted his eyes as he found something strange in the latter.

"This guy, he is clearly a swordsman, but why can I sense different kinds of disciplines coming from him," he muttered as he further creased his brow.

He couldn't clearly see the appearance of that person because of the curtain created by the snow floating in the air. He could only see a vague silhouette walking in his direction.

He was on guard since he couldn't lock on the aura of that person, signifying that he was now facing an expert.

But since he couldn't sense any malice from the other side, he chose not to make his move and decided to wait.

Chapter 888 The Grim Reaper And The Shadow Dancer (Part 2)

...

Looking at the silhouette walking towards him, Diablo couldn't help but become more and more surprised. "Such well-trained steps of a martial artist, yet also carry the essence of silence from assassination. It also has a hint of a disciplined footwork of a swordsman."

He had already seen quite a lot of talented individuals and monstrous prodigies during his time in the Pandemonium Troupe. Alongside the vast knowledge that he gained from watching the recorded battle clips and informative videos from his father's collections, it was very rare for Diablo to be surprised.

But among all of the monsters that he had met so far, this was the first time he saw someone carrying the essences of three different disciplines.

But after looking deeply into it, Diablo thought that achieving such a feat was not impossible. "There are a lot of ways how to use a sword, though it was mostly known as a tool for killing. Even if swordsmanship is the method of using the sword, it was also a method of killing someone."

"In a sense, Swordsmanship and Assassination are the same. And those two disciplines were also just a form of Martial Arts."

It might be hard to achieve to combine their essence but it was not an impossible feat. Diablo even saw a few people who succeed at achieving an even crazier thing.

Though, Shin was only able to achieve it because of his understanding of the Yin-Yang Arts that Professor Plum had created.

Regardless, Diablo somewhat admired this mysterious person who was walking towards him. At the same time, he was also somewhat excited about fighting such an expert and testing his skills against them.

But he couldn't help but exclaim when got a clear look at that person. "What? That guy is-...!"

...

Shin, who was walking towards Diablo, took his time and waited for the latter to clear the battlefield, looting up all of the dropped equipment.

He only quickened his steps slightly when he saw that the latter was fully focused on him. And when he walked out of the curtain of snow, just like Diablo, he also had a clear view of the other.

Based on Diablo's appearance, Shin guessed that this expert was slightly older than him but younger than David and Shiella.

A few moments later, he felt the sudden change of aura from Diablo. And that aura quickly manifested behind him, turning into a huge panther with a pair of crimson eyes and a body releasing a shadowy aura.

"Releasing his Aura Manifestation from the get-go?" Shin was slightly taken aback at Diablo's straightforwardness and wear a helpless smile.

He also wanted to test the strength of the latter but he was not planning to fight Diablo straight away. He intended to talk first, trying to see if this person was targeting them and would put them at risk.

Based on what he heard from Zero, this guy was here to sabotage the plan of the Pandemonium Descendants as he was treating them as his worst enemy.

The strength of this person was definitely not a joke given that he had the guts to face such a large organization alone. And based on the pressure that he was emitting, Shin could tell that he was at least as strong as the top Godlike Players of the game such as Arthur, Leonard, and Zero.

If Diablo was planning to launch an ambush on them at the most critical moment of their quest, then they would definitely suffer great losses. With such strength, it was not impossible for him to penetrate their backline defense and take down their priests.

'If he is really planning to get in our way, then it can only mean that our quest somehow coincides with the operation that the Pandemonium Descendants were doing.'

'After all, there is no reason for him to provoke our group that has multiple players who possess similar strength to his own,' thought Shin before raising both of his hands in the air, showing that he was not here to fight.

"I am no intention of fighting you, at least for the time being. After all, there is no grudge between us," said Shin with a calm tone but not daring to let his guard down.

He didn't know if this guy was willing to talk. He might as well get attacked by Diablo if he lowered his guard even for a little.

But Shin couldn't help but wear a helpless smile when he saw that Diablo was not willing to retrieve his Aura Manifestation.

"But I am down for a little sparring match," he added in a helpless tone.

In the meantime, Diablo was wearing a cautious look while staring at Shin. He didn't know why this guy approach him but he could at least tell that the latter only wanted to talk.

But since the situation was already like this, it would not hurt to test Shin's strength for himself. He was planning to cooperate with these guys anyway, so it would be better to do it now to see if this rising star was truly worthy of his current Title.

He didn't attack Shin straight away as he wanted the latter to be fully ready when they fought.

Understanding Diablo's intention, Shin could only shake his head and smile helplessly. Then he sent an invitation for a duel to Diablo, clearly showing his intention.

It was already been a while since he last dueled since he was killing his enemies most of the time. Moreover, they could also avoid killing each other accidentally when dealing with a fatal strike.

While waiting for Diablo to accept the invitation to duel, Shin suddenly thought of something and released a bunch of spying stones in every direction.

Diablo obviously saw that but he didn't mind. He knew about the fan page that the Emphyrean Talons had, so he was aware that he needed to regularly post certain content from time to time.

He actually admired their page as it was very detailed and easy to understand. Well, it was to be expected since the manager of that fan page was the famous Miss Bunny. He had to admit that the quality of their battle clips and other types of videos was very high.

He accepted the request for a duel and prepared for the battle.

Duels within the game would always have a five-second preparation time right after it started, ensuring that both sides were fully ready.

In the meantime, Shin also released his Aura Manifestation as he unsheathed the [Dusk Blade] and [Dawn Blade] hanging on each side of his waist.

He also used his 'Eclipse Wielding' straight away, making the sabers on his hands to be enfolded with their signature energies.

After experiencing the 'Reality Manifestation' and familiarizing himself with the mental fatigue that it was causing him, Shin could use this particular Epic Combat Technique without exhausting himself.

The moment when he activated it, the Aura Manifestation behind him was split into two types of beings, representing each of the energies covering his sabers and the styles of his swordsmanship.

But unlike before, the beast forms of his auras were a little different. One of them was a white tiger with a ferocious yet majestic atmosphere around it while the other was a black dragon carrying the air of a vicious ruler and a monarch of darkness.

This was the clear representation of the Yin-Yang Arts and Swordsmanship that Shin had mastered after the accumulated experiences that he gained earlier.

The white tiger and black dragon sizes were a little smaller compared to the black panther standing behind Diablo, but their combined auras were as strong as it.

This also signified how strong Diablo was despite Shin achieving his current state after mastering the styles of Yin-Yang Arts.

The two of them stood across each other, waiting for the countdown of the duel to reach zero. And when the final tick of the clock fell, both of them quickly made their respective moves.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Their figures suddenly disappeared from their respective positions and reappeared after meeting at the center.

Bang!

The collision of their weapons instantly created an explosion that sent a shockwave in every direction.

Neither of them was forced to step back, signifying that their respective strength was to the same degree.

Shin knitted his brow as he found it surprising. He had a swordsman-related class, so he should have a slight edge when it came to strength.

Seeing that his opponent didn't even move and had a steady posture, Shin could instantly tell that their STR Stats were pretty much on the same level.

But unknown to him, Diablo was also having a similar thought in his mind. He was supposed to have an advantage in terms of speed since his class focused more on agility whereas swordsmen needed to distribute their stats in multiple categories.

Based on the distance that they covered, it was clear that their speed was on par with each other.

With this single exchange alone, Shin and Diablo knew that this battle would be more exciting than they expected.

Moreover, they were also expecting that this duel would help them improve and further advance on the respective path that they were taking.

Chapter 889 The Grim Reaper And The Shadow Dancer (Part 3)

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Clang! Clang!

A pair of silhouettes were moving at an extreme speed as they moved across the snowy field and clashed against each other from time to time.

Shin was matching Diablo in speed, surprising the latter greatly. But at the same time, he was also impressed at the assassin since their strength was clearly on par with each other. He could clearly feel it every time their weapons collided with each other.

If a spectator was trying to watch their battle, then they would definitely have a hard time catching a glimpse of their figures due to how fast they were. If not for the metal sparks that were flying in the air for each collision, it would be impossible to guess their positions.

Shin had a lot of stacking passive skills that were granting him a massive increase in attack speed, movement speed, and attack power. This was the main reason why he was able to match Diablo in terms of speed.

Unfortunately, he was gradually falling behind despite those stacking effects.

If he had those kinds of skills, then how come an agility-type class such as a Shadow Dancer would not?

Diablo would obviously have a similar skill that was slowly stacking up as the battle progressed. And since his class greatly focused on AGI Stats, it was not surprising for him to outclass Shin in terms of speed.

Realizing that it was no longer possible for him to match Diablo's speed, Shin quickly changed his approach in battle.

He suddenly stopped at a certain location and quickly assumed another stance for battle. He then waited for Diablo to come at him, without moving a single muscle.

This time he would use his main weapon in battle, his reaction speed!

Seeing that Shin suddenly stopped, Diablo didn't hesitate and quickly launched an attack coming from the blinded spot of his opponent. Together with his insane speed, his attack was definitely going to be a dangerous one.

Swoosh!

But contrary to his expectation, Shin responded to it almost instantly!

Right before the tip of his stiletto reached his target, it was immediately deflected by the saber of his opponent and redirected its course.

Sensing how dangerous to move forward, Diablo forcefully halted his steps and hopped away from Shin, barely dodging the swing that was thrown at him.

The tip of the [Dawn Blade] barely missed him. He could feel the heat of the brilliant flame coving the saber as it brushed past his face.

Diablo knew that it was not an ordinary mana control technique. He was sure that it was an advanced one that could be ranked as one of the top energy techniques.

But it didn't mean that Diablo didn't possess a similar skill.

In this battle, he was using his best weapons to match his opponent. He knew that Shin's skills were way stronger compared to the Sweepers that he was fighting since earlier, so he needed to be at his peak to avoid any accidents from happening.

In his right hand, he was holding a shortsword with ancient runes written on its blade that gave off a strange aura.

Then a pitch-black stiletto was being held by his left hand. It looked like an ornamental item given the fancy design on its handle.

This pair of weapons definitely had a high quality given that they were able to withstand the attacks of Shin's sabers enfolded with the powers of the Brilliant Sun and Abyssal Moon.

But it was not the most impressive thing that Diablo had. Instead, it was the purple aura that was covering his body.

This aura was able to ward off the negative effects that the 'Eclipse Wielding' had.

Most of Shin's opponents were having a hard time facing him in such a long battle mainly because of that Combat Technique.

The power of the Abyssal Moon was giving a slowing effect every time he hit his opponent with it. It was also gradually stacking up which would turn into a freezing effect which was fatal for the fight.

On the other hand, the power of the Brilliant Sun had the stacking heat effect that was slowly turning into a burning effect that would hinder his opponents during the span of the battle.

But these two effects were ineffective to Diablo as he was being protected by the purple aura covering his body. And due to this, his speed was getting much faster as the battle progressed.

But despite his insane speed, Diablo's attacks were also ineffective against Shin. Even if he combined that speed with the unpredictable courses where it was very hard to defend.

It didn't take long for Diablo to realize that Shin was actually using powerful defensive techniques to ward off his attacks.

The first technique was something that set up a territory surrounding Shin, where he could sense every single movement, no matter how minimal they were.

It was the 'Zone' Territorial Technique that Shin had created after combining his knowledge of the 'False Territory' of a Martial Artist and the 'Spiritual Sense' of a Mentalist in the real world. He recreated this technique within the game using his 'Sensing Circle' and 'True Sight' Skills as its core.

The other skill was the 'Infinity Edge' Combat Technique which was making Shin grow stronger as the battle progressed. He was absorbing the force behind each attack of his opponent and sending it back to them with doubled power.

Combining the strength of these techniques with his innate talent within the game, the Ultra Instincts, landing a clean hit to Shin became practically impossible.

Cling! Cling!

No matter how much Diablo attempted it, breaking through such a solid defense would always end up in failure.

Unless he overpowered Shin, it was impossible for him to win this battle.

Having that thought, Diablo decided to reveal more of his cards. He stopped attacking Shin and created a considerable distance between the two of them before moving in circles.

While doing that, he gathered some mana towards his eyes, making his pupils have a purple color. Then he focused his gaze on Shin, seemingly studying the stance that his opponent had.

Sensing the gaze locked on him, Shin felt that something serious was about to happen. He was not sure what it was but he could sense the threat that it had.

'Special Ocular Skill: Demon Eyes'

Swoosh!

Then Diablo suddenly changed his direction and charged at Shin with the same speed that he had since earlier.

He was sprinting at Shin with large strides. He was so fast as if he was moving with the speed of light. And as he approached Shin, he swung his shortsword forward, leaving a purple trail in the air behind him.

'Shadow Dancer Skill (Tier 2): Vorpall Steps'

'Basic Combat Skill: Second Drive'

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Shining Cut'

Despite seeing how insane the speed Diablo had, he still had a calm look on his face as he responded to it with a powerful vertical slash.

'Slayer Skill: (Modified) Solar Cut'

The [Dawn Blade] left a trail of burning flame in the air as Shin swung it downwards. The power behind the strike was quite heavy as it was supported by the force that he had accumulated previously.

But since Diablo took a brief pause on his attack to prepare his next move, some of the accumulated force already vanished.

This was one of the weaknesses that the seemingly perfect combat technique such as the 'Infinity Edge'.

Bang!

Due to the powerful momentum that Diablo had, the power behind his attack was much stronger than what it was supposed to be. And because of that, he slightly overpowered Shin, forcing the latter to take a step forward.

Diablo might have found the weakness of the impenetrable defense of the 'Infinity Edge' by accident but it didn't mean that he successfully cracked the technique.

Shin immediately absorbed all of the force behind that powerful attack upon contact with their weapons. He then quickly contained it within his body and swiftly transferred all of them towards the other side of his body.

As he took a step backward with his right foot, he borrowed the momentum of his movements to swing the [Dusk Blade] accompanied by the force that he just absorbed.

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Destructive Slash'

That counterattack seemed to be in an instant, making anyone get hit by it without being able to dodge, much less retaliate against it.

But there was always been an exemption for everything and Diablo happened to be one of them.

'Shadow Dancer Skill (Tier 2): Extreme Vanish'

Diablo suddenly disappeared in front of Shin, making the [Dusk Blade] hit nothing but air. His presence also disappeared which made Shin unable to sense his location.

It was at that moment that a figure appeared behind Shin completely unnoticed. He then swung the shortsword in his hand, targeting the back of his opponent.

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Backbreaker'

Swoosh!

Right before the sword land on his back, Shin's body suddenly turned into a light that moved forward, dodging that attack with the skin of his teeth.

'Slayer Skill: Moonlight Steps'

Now that he already broke the perfect stance of his opponent, how could Diablo let Shin re-establish it?

His 'Demon Eyes' completely locked on Shin as he gave chase with a similar speed as that moving light.

'Shadow Dancer Skill (Tier 2): Shadow Waltz'

A Shadow Dancer might not have a lot of powerful offensive skills unlike the other special classes, but it was definitely the one that had the greatest number of movement skills which was the reason why running away from them was a foolish thing to do.

Even if Shin had exhausted all of the three charges of his 'Moonlight Steps' and even use the 'Void Step' to teleport away, attempting to shake off his opponent, Diablo was still able to catch up to him with ease.

Shin already knew that it was impossible to outclass Diablo in terms of speed and movement techniques but he still did it to buy enough time as he tried to re-establish a stable footing where he could gain an advantage.

Bang!

When Diablo tried to strike Shin with his stiletto right after catching up, a dome-shaped barrier with alternating black and white color suddenly blocked it.

'Slayer Skill: (Modified) Eclipse Pulse'

Diablo suddenly raised his eyebrows as he remembered this skill from a few of the battle videos that Shin had, so he quickly escaped without any hesitation.

'Twight Skill: (Modified) Shadow Decoy'

He then disappeared with a soft poof as Shin detonated the barrier protecting him.

'Slayer Skill: (Modified) Eclipse Counter'

Bang!

The barrier exploded sending a strong shockwave in every direction, preventing Diablo to approach him.

After that, the two stood a few distances away from each other, resetting the battle back where it begone.

But this time, the two of them already familiarized themselves with the battle styles of the opposing side, so the next round would be different since they would not showcase their real strengths.

Chapter 890 The Grim Reaper And The Shadow Dancer (Part 4)

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Hu~!

Shin adjusted his stance a little and relaxed his arms, getting ready for the next round. Now that he relieved the stiffness of his body and familiarized himself with the style of his opponent, he now knew how he was going to approach this duel.

From what he had seen so far, Diablo's Class focused more on movement techniques and skills. Unlike Faker's Class which had a lot of burst attacks and various utility skills, Diablo only had a limited number of attacking skills.

But in exchange for that, the number of his movement techniques was vast while the offensive skills could easily be chained together.

Shin already experienced a seamless chain of attacks from Faker before but those combinations still pale in comparison when it came to Diablo's series of attacks.

The two had a similar level of speed but their attack patterns and battle styles were slightly different.

Faker was someone who overwhelmed his opponents with his speed and continuous attacks when fighting in a one-on-one battle. But he also had some flexibility when it came to it since he could always change his approach in battle depending on the situation.

Most of the time, he was stalking his opponents as if he was treating them as prey, putting a lot of mental pressure on his targets before striking at the most unexpected time.

On the other hand, Diablo was showcasing a completely different style right now compared to when he was fighting the group of Sweepers earlier. At that time, he was not only suppressing them with his insane speed, but he was also crushing their spirits by destroying their plans before they could even execute them.

But this time, during a one-on-one battle, Diablo was employing a different strategy. He was not using his speed to suppress Shin. Instead, he was only using it as a supplement for the barrage of attacks that he was throwing.

And the complex combinations were too overwhelming, attempting to break Shin's perfect stance and rhythm.

Diablo accidentally broke the 'Infinity Edge' earlier by accident, so he now knew how he was going to approach this battle to break the deadlock earlier.

This time, he was not planning to consciously attack Shin to avoid the latter accumulating more force and re-enforce the attacks through that powerful Combat Technique.

He would attack with unpredictable rhythm while also creating a certain pause from time to time to avoid Shin from building up a desirable tempo.

'Let's exhaust a powerful combo every time I attack him before retreating. I will repeat this process, again and again, to slowly bleed him,' thought Diablo as he squatted his hips a little to get ready to attack.

Bang!

Swoosh!

But before he could even make his move, Shin suddenly kicked the ground and launched himself forward.

There was a Sword Aura surrounding his body as he charged forward. Then he thrust the [Dawn Blade] forward while focusing the Sword Aura towards it.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

A vortex of air was suddenly created during his charge before producing a blazing fire that started from the time of the saber.

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Sword Rush: Blazing Thrusting Dash'

A blazing trail of light was left behind as his speed was suddenly accelerated, arrived in front of Diablo almost in an instant.

The Shadow Dancer was slightly taken aback by the sudden burst of speed that Shin had shown. That surprise attack also caught him off-guard, but it was not enough to completely catch him.

'Twilight Skill: Fleeting Wind'

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right after activating this skill, Diablo's body seemed to become weightless as he swayed his body left and right to confuse Shin's senses before moving away from the path of the incoming attack.

Diablo perfectly timed his movements and only dodged at the very last moment, barely dodging the attack. By doing this, he could instantly break the rhythm of his opponent while also having a small window to counterattack.

That opportunity might look insignificant at first glance, especially when it was only coming out in a brief moment. But for someone like Diablo, that small window was plenty enough to launch a deadly counter.

A cloud of black smoke was suddenly released from his black stiletto as he positioned himself beside Shin who was still executing his previous skill.

Swoosh!

Then he suddenly stabbed forward, targeting the now exposed waits of his opponent.

'Twilight Skill: (Modified and Enhanced) Vital Strike'

This attack might be coming at a perfect time to counter him but Shin already expected it which was why he canceled the skill ahead of time.

He suddenly retracted his arm backward, spun around, and swung the [Dawn Blade] alongside those simultaneous movements.

The blade of the saber was still carrying the blazing flame that was produced by the previous skill, leaving a trail of its blaze in the air.

During his turn, Shin even kicked the ground to move towards the direction where his opponent was positioned, not carrying about the coming stiletto that was threatening his exposed waist.

He activated the second charge of the previous skill!

'Extra Skill: (Modified) Sword Rush: Blazing Slicing Dash'

Whoosh!

His decisive actions surprised Diablo, catching the opponent completely off-guard once again.

Diablo completely understood why Shin was fearlessly doing this counter. It was because he would be at a complete disadvantage in this exchange.

Diablo might be able to land a clean hit on Shin and chunk down the latter's Health Bar, dealing an insane amount of damage. But he would be sacrificing his head in exchange since the trajectory of the incoming saber was clearly targeting his neck.

If he insisted on continuing in this exchange then, Diablo would find his head flying in the air in the very next instant.

Diablo processed all of this inside his head in an instant and could only smile bitterly before deciding to retreat.

'Shadow Dancer (Tier 2): Instantaneous Escape'

Swoosh!

Diablo was forced to retreat once again, but Shin hit nothing but air for another time.

He thought that it was a perfect opportunity to instantly decide this battle but he was not expecting that his opponent would still be able to instantaneously respond at that attack.

But he was not too disappointed with it since he now gained the upper hand in this battle. He quickly spread his senses and swept his gaze at the surroundings, trying to find Diablo once again.

And when he caught the presence of his opponent, he immediately gave chase, now willing to give Diablo a window to re-establish himself.

Seeing that Shin instantly spotted him, Diablo couldn't help but be amazed at the sense of this person.

Moreover, he was also impressed by Shin. It was because the latter was able to instantly guess what he was planning.

'This guy clearly understands the strength and weakness of his powerful sword stance. He must also recognize that I find the solution for it which is why he suddenly change his approach in battle,' commented Diablo as he looked at Shin who was coming after him.

Swoosh!

He was impressed since most people would insist on using their powerful techniques, not recognizing that their opponents were able to find a way to deal with them. This could become their weakness during the battle.

But Shin took a completely different approach and quickly abandon that technique the instant it was broken. He avoided using that technique before his opponent could even take advantage of the weakness that they found in it.

It was rare for talented players to recognize their weaknesses. But the moment when they accepted it, they would become a real expert that would survive a lot of ordeals.

Diablo continued to create a distance between himself and Shin, patiently waiting for the opportunity to strike.

But the Shadow Dancer was still surprised how Shin completely changed his style. This was the second time when this particular swordsman changed his approach in battle.

During their first exchange, Shin tried to match Diablo's speed and even compensated for his inferior speed with the number of movement skills from his arsenal.

But when he quickly found that it was pointless, Shin quickly changed his style once again and focused on counterattacking instead.

He stood on a single spot and patiently waited for his opponent to consciously attack from different directions while responding to each of them and also counterattacking at the same time.

His 'Infinity Edge' combat technique greatly helped in those exchanges. And since Diablo was still unaware of how to deal with such a solid defense and powerful attacks of that style, that round heavily favored Shin.

But now that the secret of the 'Infinity Edge' was broken, Shin changed his style once again, giving Diablo some trouble adjusting.

This time, Shin was doing a seemingly reckless offensive. He was matching Diablo's speed by constantly using his movement techniques just like in their first exchange. But the difference this time was Shin utilizing his magical skills.

Since Diablo still had a complete advantage when it came to speed and movement skills, he was able to find some instances where he could launch a counterattack.

But before he could even execute his plan, Shin seemed to be always ahead of him. This strange swordsman would always throw a sword wave in the direction where he found the opportunity to attack.

Diablo didn't know how Shin predicted his moves and even set up some traps on it. Fortunately, his raw speed was sufficient enough to escape every time.

Reaching this point, Diablo showcased the real capabilities of a Shadow Dancer. He utilized his movement skills to their peak potential, overwhelming Shin with his unparalleled speed and seamless combinations of his skills.

Shin struggled to keep up at first since Diablo was repeatedly breaking his rhythm. But he was able to quickly adjust to it with the help of his quick reflexes enhanced by his Ultra Instincts innate talent.

But as the battle progressed, Shin couldn't shake off the uneasy feeling that he was getting. He didn't know what exactly was it, but from what his senses were telling him, something seemed to be observing his movements and stalking him in the dark as if he was some sort of prey.

Shin couldn't help but wear a solemn look on his face because of that uneasiness. But he could do nothing but wait patiently until it revealed itself.

In the meantime, Diablo, who had a purple glow in his eyes was looking closely at Shin. He was observing the latter's movements as if he was still studying his opponent.

That was also when the Aura Manifestation behind him in the form of a huge Black Panther took a sudden change.

It became a dark shadow with a pair of glowing eyes. It had an indistinct form and was seemingly clumsy due to its continuous swaying alongside the wind.

But despite that being the chase, the air around it was completely dark and gloomy which was entirely different from the previous Aura Manifestation that Diablo had.

Shin didn't immediately notice the change of atmosphere surrounding Diablo since he was too focused on fighting. He seemed to be completely unaware of the disaster that was about to come.

Then Diablo, as his name suggested, slowly revealed his true form.

"I guess it is about time to bear my fangs and show my real face."