

Destiny 911

Chapter 911 Seeing Through The Enemies' Hidden Plot

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Justin swept his gaze at the battlefield to look for the source of his unease.

He then saw most of his members struggling, especially the ones who were fighting the Godlike Players of the other side.

Zero was taking one four of their members. Those guys were not Godlike Players or Titled Rankers but they were Peak Maverick Rankers who were comparable in terms of strength.

These four players had a very balanced composition. A frontline of a Swordmaster and a Guardian Knight, a mage who was providing range support, and a priest to give them buffs and healing.

They might not be as amazing as the rest of their members individually but their teamwork was perfect. They were able to cover the weakness of each other and perform their roles to perfection.

Even Justin and Jugo would have to be wary of them since these guys were pretty skilled. On top of that, their Demonic Transformation was also a little special compared to ordinary ones since it could link their minds to each other.

It was as if they were moving in the same body. This made their teamwork reach perfection.

If it was any other top player, then these four had already taken down that person. Unfortunately, they were facing and current number one player of the game, the Sword God Zero, so they were currently having a hard time.

Moreover, Zero was also using Reality Manifestation, so keeping themselves alive was already a problem, much less trying to take him down.

Well, staying alive was also a great feat already given the strength that Zero currently had. Though, it would definitely be a different matter when the Sword God familiarized himself with his current state properly.

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Aside from those four, there was also the trio of assassins of their group. These guys were the new recruit on their team after some of the original members parted ways with the rest of the Silent Night.

This particular trio was brothers, a triplet to be exact. This was also the reason why their teamwork ranked top among their group. They knew what the other two were thinking without voicing out their thoughts.

Their Demonic Transformation was similar to the previous four as they could also link their minds with each other after activating it.

But despite all of those amazing abilities, they were still having a hard time dealing with their current opponent – the God Slayer Lawless, who was also currently in the state of Reality Manifestation.

If not for their class having an insane speed and a variety of escaping skills, then the three of them were already been taken down ages ago.

They couldn't be more thankful for it being the case.

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In the meantime, Ember and Ravier also found their opponent. A player with a Brawler Special Class found his way to them in the midst of chaos.

This guy had lightning abilities, giving him not only quick movement and attack speed but also a set of powerful offensive skills to counter their magical attacks.

This guy was also a new recruit of the Silent Night. He was not famous as he was not a public figure but a private independent player. And based on the battle prowess that he was showing, he was at least a Maverick Player who was comparable to a Godlike Player.

This guy was known as the 'Lighting Fist' in the secret list but his real name was never been discovered. Ember and Ravier didn't know him personally but they were aware of his previous achievements.

They were surprised to see him with the Silent Night as he had never been fighting alongside anyone else. He was always been a solo player.

Regardless of the reason, it still remained that he was currently an enemy and the couple didn't have any intention of letting him off. They were also giving out their best as this guy was currently using a Demonic Transformation.

He might not have a contracted demon but his current power already surpassed most of the players. He was also stronger than the couple when it came to individual strength.

But since they were working together, he was barely able to hold himself against them. Fortunately, his lightning element gave him an overwhelming advantage when it came to speed, so the two also needed to be wary of him and keep their distance if they didn't want to get caught.

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The last final member of Silent Night was also busy keeping Charlotte busy.

She was a Demonic Human Archer and was the main marksman of the group and one of the original members.

She was known as the 'Shadow Queen' of the Adventurer Team as her achievements were not as amazing as the Godlike Players of their group but her strength proved something else.

She seemed to be the shadow of the group as she hid her real strength until it was absolutely necessary.

Charlotte and this Shadow Queen moved away from the main battleground while exchanging blows against each other.

The spells and skills that the two had were devastating enough to affect the other battles, so they tacitly distanced themselves away from the rest, making sure that they would not get in the way of their teammates unconsciously.

And as they were moving away, they left a devastated place in their wake, almost changing the terrain of the place due to their powerful attacks.

Getting a clear look at the whole battlefield, Justin finally found who were the missing members of the opposing side.

Shin and Cloe were not present alongside another priest who was mentioned in the reports. There was also the guy who always followed Zero wherever he went. Justin didn't know the reason behind it, but he was sure that this was not a good sign.

The outcome of this battle was no longer important. What they needed to do now was to retreat and reorganized themselves before thinking out their next move.

At the same time, the fact that Immortal was somehow forced to be isolated away from them was also bothering him.

But before anything else, he needed to take care of this annoying guy in front of him.

"I guess I also need to show my Contracted Demon too," he muttered in a solemn tone while glaring at Arthur.

In the meantime, a few distances from the chaotic battlefield, Shin was looking for something alongside Cloe and Black Hand.

It might be strange for him not to join the battle as it was going to be an easy win if they partook in it.

But Shin had another plan in mind. And it was going to be more troublesome if they took down Immortal and the rest right away.

"Are we heading in the right direction?" asked Shin as he cut down more branches while walking ahead.

"Don't worry, I am sure of it," replied Cloe with full confidence.

"It is going to be hard to find if Immortal die since the Mana Signature that he left behind will be erased without a trace. It is a unique ability of his Class based on what Zero had informed us."

"He had been on Immortal's tail for a long time as well as the rest of the top 'Dark Players' of the game, so he is very familiar with this method," she added as she held the special device that Zero had lent them.

"Yeah, that is the reason why I ask him to come with us instead," said Black Hand but immediately shook his head. "But we will not have enough people to hold the members of Silent Night if that is the case."

It was better if Shin and Zero swapped places in this particular job since they were practically equal in terms of battle prowess right now. But unfortunately, the latter was not that familiar with the area of Magic Array and Formations, unlike Shin who had a bit of knowledge regarding it.

Moreover, Shin could also apply his knowledge in Mentalism Formations and Array Building when it came to that area. On top of that, he could also use the Reality Manifestation to increase his proficiency in it when he was inside the game.

As for Cloe and Black Hand, they also had some experiences when it came to that area. Cloe was almost a Master Ranker Alchemist and already opened a branch path of that profession, a Talisman Master.

She still hadn't explored that area since she wanted to focus more on alchemy, but she was already familiar with the Magic Sequence required for creating the talismans. After all, Holy Magic also had a unique magic sequence of its own.

As for Black Hand, he was an Array Master himself. It was a rare profession but not that uncommon since it was one of the required professions for building a town or a city, as well as setting up defenses for the territory of large guilds and other organizations.

It was rare not because it was hard to find. But it was due to the difficulty of passing the test required for it. This was also one of the reasons why the guilds treasured their Array Masters.

Shin was surprised earlier when he heard Black Hand's a real lifestyle profession, but at the same time, he also found it reasonable.

Given that Black Hand had a good head on his shoulders alongside his strategic skills, it was the best subclass that Shin could think of.

It also made him wonder how an Array Master fought in battle. From what he could tell, it must be similar to the methods that a Mentalist would employ in battle.

This thought also made Shin curious if the Hand of Midas Trading Firm also possessed an Array Master of the same caliber as the other Masters of that lifestyle guild.

Setting that aside, the real reason why Shin brought these two was to look for the teleportation formation somewhere in the vicinity.

He experienced the methods of the Corrupted Cult multiple times already, so he would not be tricked by them again.

The first time was the incident in the Shunkai Forest, where he first encountered the Undying Guild. In that battle, the Corrupted Cult managed to sneak such a huge army of corrupted undead without anyone knowing.

Then there was also the incident in the Beast Glades Kingdom as well as the recent event that took place in the Saint Heaven Kingdom.

Those incidents had multiple things in common, but the thing that stood out the most was the presence of the Corrupted Cult and its army that managed to sneak into those Kingdoms.

If such an army was being mobilized, the surveillance of different kingdoms shouldn't have missed them, especially when they had such a huge number.

Then how did they manage to do it?

The answer couldn't be more obvious, the Corrupted Cult definitely hid a Teleportation Formation somewhere, which was also huge enough to transport such a large army.

Right now, out of the members of their opponents, Immortal was the only person who could build it, and Shin knew that it would be hidden somewhere in the area.

The only problem was how they were going to look for it given the size of the Frozen Kingdom. And even if they managed to deduce the major location of that teleportation, locating the exact spot would also be another problem. Especially if Immortal hid it properly.

Fortunately, Zero was with them right now. As someone known as the 'hunter' of the 'Dark Players' of the game, he surely had the means to track those guys down and one of them was the special tracking device that Cloe was currently using.

That device could sense the recorded corrupted mana that a certain individual had. It could lead them to the place where Immortal hid the teleportation formation.

Even if Immortal managed to erase some of the traces left behind after building it, he wouldn't be able to hide the residual mana lingering in the air.

After all, it was a recently built formation, so the mana ink used to draw it was still fresh and would emit small fluctuations in the air. And it was what Shin was targeting right now.

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Not long after, Shin, Cloe, and Black Hand were standing on top of the Teleportation Formation that Immortal had built recently.

"He sure hides it very well," muttered Shin as he looked around.

It was still just a formation and couldn't transform anyone yet, but it was already been built properly, only missing an altar to be completed and create a portal.

"It is also built it perfectly," he praised after not seeing any flaw in the formation.

But not long after, his lips curved into an evil grin. "Tsk! Unfortunately, they are not the ones who will be using this nor can benefit from it."

"Maybe we should thank him for giving us such a good preset," he added as his grin turned higher.

Chapter 912 Wade Paige

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Real World, Sun-Moon Continent.

A few moments after Shin and Diablo fought each other.

Pssh!

A special gaming cabin opened its door. And when the fog coming out from it finally subdued, it revealed a young man who seemed to be in his late teenage years.

If Shin was here, he would instantly recognize this person as he was the guy who dueled against him just earlier, he was Diablo or known as Wade Paige in the real world.

Wade didn't immediately come out of the cabin as he was feeling slightly dizzy. It felt like his world was spinning right now.

At the same time, he also could feel that the heat of his body was pretty abnormal. It seemed like he was having a fever of more than forty-degree Celsius. He could die at this rate.

Fortunately, the cabin that he was using could naturalize the heat that his body was emitting. At the same time, a vial of blue liquid was injected by the cabin into him, making his body return back to normal.

"I guess buying this gaming cabin and those expensive health serums are worth it. I will surely die if something goes wrong," muttered Wade to himself as he rested his body inside the gaming cabin.

But not long after, an aged voice suddenly sounded from the side of the cabin, seemingly scolding him. "It is good that you understand the risks. But I must say that you are too reckless this time."

"Ah!" Wade seemed to recognize the owner of that voice and wanted to get up to at least greet the person. Unfortunately, he didn't have the strength to do it in his current state.

Seemingly understanding his thoughts, the man stood in front of the gaming cabin's door and revealed himself while saying. "It is fine. You can rest for now as I assess your current state."

This man seemed to be in his late sixties and had a head full of white hair, even the beard that he had was also the same.

He was wearing a lab coat that was usually seen worn by doctors and researchers. And as he stood in front of the cabin's door, a tablet was current present on his hands while he was reading the contents displayed on it.

Wade stared at the old man for a few moments before saying. "Grandpa Morel, what are you doing here? Weren't you out for the research assignment in your lab?"

The old man clicked his tongue when he heard those words and glared at Wade. "This ungrateful brat! Do you know how I rushed here when I heard the alarm I set on your cabin?"

"You may not know it, but your heartbeat is way off the charts! Your heart should have exploded if you continue whatever you were doing inside that stupid game!"

"I will not be able to face your father in the afterlife if something happened to you before I kicked the bucket!" he added with a sharp tone.

He then composed himself a little later and continued. "Fortunately, nothing serious happened, so you should be fine."

"You should be feeling the aftereffects right now, so you should rest for a few moments. You will return back to normal after a couple of hours of rest."

He then put down the tablet for a moment before focusing his gaze on the young man. "So... you must have succeeded, right? It is written all over your face."

Wade smiled widely and slightly nodded his head. "Yes, Grandpa Morel. I finally entered that state."

"Your father must be proud that you achieved his dream," said the old man dotingly.

He was friends with the father of this young man. And after the accident that caused his friend's unfortunate death, he took this kid under his care.

But Wade was an independent young man who managed to endure all of the hardships of being an orphan by himself. He didn't need guidance or help from older people as he was already mature enough despite his young age. He was also responsible and could take care of himself just fine.

But there were still some instances that he needed the support of an old-timer such as Doctor Morel.

"That technique that your father had left you is indeed amazing. Based on the readings of your body, it seems like it surpassed most of the players who also entered the state of Hyper Active Immersion," said the old man with a warning tone.

And after pausing for a brief moment, he continued. "You are not the first person to achieve it but your chase is a little special since it managed to go beyond the expected limit of what an average person can do."

"You are not a Martial Artist nor a Mentalist, so your mind and body will not be as tough as those guys. You will not be able to endure the burden in the future if you continue doing this recklessly."

"You need proper equipment and nutrients to assist the growth of your body. This gaming cabin and special serums might do the trick for the time being, but in the end, they are still not enough to support you as they will reach a certain limit."

He then showed the data that was recorded on the tablet and continued. "Your cells are currently in a state of extreme hunger. It is because they are overworking themselves to match the growth of your brain."

"Hyper Active Immersion is amazing as it can make you achieve a lot of things. Your brain will work twice – or even three times based on your growth. And alongside it, you will be able to perceive some things that you can't before."

"But it also comes with a price. If your body can't match the growth, then it will only consume your life and will lead to your death. This is why a proper training exercise and a set of nutrient meals is important."

Doctor Morel then became even more serious and added. "As I said before, this is not my area of expertise, so I still suggest you look for a good organization that can suit your needs. Or at least someone who can help you in this"

"I still have a lot of friends in the other field. If I ask them for a favor, I am sure that they will give me some face. And given that your Hyper Active Immersion is quite special, I am pretty sure that there are a lot of them who will be willing to assist you."

Wade understood Doctor Morel's concern but he didn't want to work in any organization. Not after knowing the shady side of the virtual world.

He might not be old but he already encountered quite a lot of things after working under the Pandemonium Descendants and understood the risk of exposing himself to them. He didn't want to be the guinea pig for their experiments.

Unless it was a trustworthy organization or a person who was really willing to help him, then he would not mind working with them. And based on his knowledge, there were only a very few organizations or people who would fall on those criteria.

The Sun-Moon Continent was the most advanced region in the world as they focused more on technologies compared to others. They were a handful of places that could stand on par with them in this area from the other regions.

Unfortunately, none of the organizations situated on this continent could be trusted, not even the government, so Wade didn't want to work with any of them.

He also knew his worth, so the path that he should be taking was very clear in his eyes. And with that in mind, he shook his head and politely refused the offer of the old man. "I am sorry, Grandpa Morel. I know that you care for me, but you should know my answer to that."

Doctor Morel could only sigh helplessly when he heard those words. He knew how stubborn this young man could be, and no one would be able to change his decision.

But still, the old man could not give up on Wade. "You have to think this through, Little Wade. You can't continue being like this."

Ring~! Ring~!

Doctor Morel wanted to continue persuading Wade but his Advanced Watch suddenly started ringing while was in the middle of talking.

At first, he thought that it was from the research lab and wanted to reject it. After all, his research could wait while the life of this young man could be at risk if left alone.

But when he saw the caller ID saved on his watch, he couldn't help but frown his brows in confusion. "Why is this old guy calling me right now?"

He wanted to reject the call but since the caller rarely contacted anyone, it must be an important matter.

"We are still not done here, Little Wade. Let me take this call and we will continue to discuss this later," said the old doctor before walking away and answering the call.

"Oh! This is quite rare for you to contact anyone. Aren't always busy, Mr. Head of the World Research Center?" said Doctor Morel with a sarcastic tone.

"You are still the same as always, Morel," responded the person from the other side of the call before continuing. "And you are right, I am very busy right now because of a troublesome kid, so I will get straight to the point – I need your help with something."

Doctor Morel started chuckling when he heard the latter part of those words. "This is quite rare. You? Asking someone for help? That is new. Alright, tell me what is it and I will take care of it immediately. After all, it is 'you' who is asking for a favor."

The person on the other side of the call cleared his throat for a moment before continuing. "It is like this. An old friend asks me to take care of someone because he is currently in danger."

"But due to the policy of their company, they can't give me any private information about that person aside from their name and where they live."

Hearing that, Doctor Morel couldn't help but ask. "Aren't you asking for help from the wrong person? Why not ask for an Investigator or something? You haven't forgotten that I am also a researcher, have you?"

"Hah! Do you think that I am stupid? Of course, I already did!" replied the other person before continuing. "But the funny thing is you seemed to be related to the person that I am looking for."

"His name is Wade Paige, 17 years of age, and an orphan with his parents who died in an accident. Based on the investigation of the person that I've asked, you are taking care of the kid, which is why I am personally contacting you."

Doctor Morel's face suddenly turned serious when he heard those words before turning to the young man who was still resting inside his gaming cabin. "Continue, let me hear the details."

To which the other person responded. "Alright, it is like this-..."

Chapter 913 A Mysterious Case

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Wade stared at the gaming room that he built with the help of Doctor Morel and reminisced about the past.

This was the place that he built after his parents left him in this world. He had a lot of memories here since it was also the place where his father first introduced him to the virtual world before it was renovated by him.

"I guess, I'll let it to Grandpa Morel to clean this place until I come back," muttered Wade to himself as he already made his decision.

"But before that, I have to finish what I started in the Frozen Kingdom. I need to clear everything before I travel towards the Souring Continent," he added as he walked towards his gaming cabin.

He already rested enough and could now go back to the game. Doctor Morel also gave him permission to play, but at the same time, he was also warned not to use the Hyper Active Immersion for an extended period. Or at least not to use the Fifth Phase of the Demon's Eye – even the fourth phase if possible.

His Hyper Active Immersion was quite special and it was most likely due to his Demon's Eyes based on the analysis that Doctor Morel made. If that was the case, then he needed to limit using those two together – at least, until he was in the right facility where he could be supported after using them.

Having that in mind, he went back to his specialized gaming cabin and started pressing a couple of buttons before closing the cabin door to log in to the game.

"Initiate Game Login, «Destiny's Fate»!"

In the meantime, in the Eastern Sea Region of the Soaring Continent, the World Researcher Center was very busy as usual.

Senior Students of the Special Research Department and the Researchers were coming in and out of the center.

Professor Henry walked out of the front door while a row of researchers followed after him. He was constantly giving his final instructions to them before leaving.

The researchers bowed at him as they send him off before they ran back to their respective stations to continue their assignments.

"Tsk! Tsk! I am already busy enough in my research, then that troublesome kid is added to the list that I need to do," complained Professor Henry as he remembered the course that he needed to prepare for Shin.

Then there was another task that was added just recently. "Then there is another kid that I need to take care of. Fortunately, all I have to do is to monitor him and his progress. I can at least assign the job to my assistants and check on him from time to time."

The professor was walking back to his personal shelter within the Magic Ace Academy when he suddenly felt someone was spying on him.

The expression on his face suddenly turned serious, narrowing his eyes. He already found the sources of the gazes locked on him despite them hiding their presence and intention.

But despite that being the case, he didn't turn his head towards them to avoid unnecessary trouble.

"These people are getting bolder as time goes by. It is going to be more troublesome if they finally run out of patience," he muttered as he was getting annoyed.

He couldn't even ask the guards protecting him in the dark since he knew the background of these people.

As the Head Researcher of the World Research Center, he knew all of the projects that were taking place in the center no matter how important or trivial it was. Because of this, there were quite a lot of organizations that wanted to kidnap him if the opportunity presented itself.

But despite the 'fact' that Professor Henry 'couldn't' use either Martial Arts or Mentalism, no one dared to make a move against him since those organizations had a tacit agreement not to mess with this person.

Unfortunately, some of those organizations really wanted to get their hands on the data of some projects within the Research Center, especially the most important ones such as the 'Unification of Martial Arts and Mentalism', the 'Study of Different Disciplines', and the 'Secrets of Ancient Cultivation'.

These three were the most attractive ones in the eyes of those organizations, the first and third studies in particular.

They even tried to do all of the underhanded tricks just to get their hands on those precious sets of data. Unfortunately, none of them work. Even planting a spy in the Research Center was ineffective nor stealing the data.

The security system within the World Research Center was impenetrable and Professor Henry was the only person who was immune to all of those restrictions.

This was the main reason why the other organizations were constantly monitoring all of the activities that the professor was doing.

Terrorism was the only available solution that these organizations had. But who in their right mind would dare to do that if the other organizations would set their eyes on them the moment when they did such a stupid move?

No matter where they hid, they were going to be discovered wherever they went since the whole world would be looking for them.

Regardless of those thoughts, it was still a possibility since there would always be stupid ones who would dare to do such a foolish move. That was also why Professor Henry was always under protection wherever he went.

But recently, some of these people monitoring him were getting bolder. Perhaps, he needed to make an example out of a few of them.

Having that thought, a cold glint appeared in the professor's eyes, planning to make a couple of arrangements later.

"Let's see who will fall into our trap. I hope I catch a big one this time," he muttered to himself as he continued walking to his quarters, still ignoring the guys spying on him.

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At the same time, somewhere in the Eastern Sea Region, Nathan Springfield stood in a certain place within a forest. It was a pretty remote area perfect to hide something.

Not far from him was a crime scene where a couple of people had their limbs separated from each other while their innards were scattered in all directions. It was a very gruesome scene that could make the stomach of anyone flip over.

Police and military officers were surveying the scene, investigating what could possibly happen. It was already impossible to recognize the identity of these people since their bodies were no longer intact.

But based on the clothes that they were wearing, they seemed to be police officers who were investigating a particular case last night. The IDs that were recovered at the scene also helped to identify them.

The police force recognized that this was not an ordinary case, so they asked for some help from the military.

Nathan happened to be in the middle of a discussion with the general stationed in the region when the report came, so he decided to tag along.

Nathan continued to walk around to survey the surrounding area, trying to see if he could find some clues. But after failing to find anything, he shook his head and decided to join the others.

"What do you think?" asked a man wearing black military attire right after standing beside Nathan.

"This is definitely done by a Martial Artist based on the trances left here. And they are also not your average guy at that," answered Nathan in a calm tone.

He then focused his gaze on the air filling the area, seemingly able to see all of the substances mixed in it. "They are also some Qi residuals left behind, so it has already been obvious."

"But isn't it a little amateurish mistake? Look at the scene, whoever did it is not able to control their strength properly, causing such a mess," said the military officer who seemed to be the same age as Nathan.

"That-... Or that person doesn't care what will happen next," refuted Nathan before continuing. "Based on the reports, the four people belonged to the special investigation unit, so they are at least in the Early Phase of the Ethereal Opening Stage."

"Based on the traces left behind, they must have died on a single strike. For experts like them to die like that, then their opponent must have overwhelming power."

"Even an ordinary Void Manifestation Stage Expert shouldn't be that strong to dispose of these highly-trained officers in a single strike."

"Their opponent should at least be at the late phase of the Void Manifestation Stage or early phase of the Domain Realm."

He then turned to the guy beside him. "Now, I'm curious, what is the case that the police force is investigating to encounter such a powerful expert?"

Nathan didn't have enough information, so he was still missing a few pieces. At the same time, this was not his area of jurisdiction, so he couldn't demand any additional information, much less continue the investigation.

Regardless of those thoughts, he couldn't help but ask since he could sense something fishy in this case.

Moreover, the Qi residuals left in the scene seemed to be familiar to him. He still couldn't remember where he felt it since it was somewhat vague, but he was sure that he felt it somewhere before.

"And I'm having a bad feeling about this," he muttered as a solemn expression appeared on his face.

Chapter 914 Partial Victory

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Atlas World, Frozen Kingdom

The members of the Earners Mercenary Groups were currently gathered together as a lot of bodies of players lay around them. Some of the fallen bodies were also turning into specks of lights that dissipate in the air after a few moments.

Flouree swept her gaze in the surrounding before waving her hand. "Clear up everything. We are leaving in five minutes."

After that, she turned around and walked towards a nearby boulder and sat on it. From the air surrounding her, anyone could tell that she was currently in a bad mood.

Seeing that, one of the members of her group leaned over the nearby member and whispered. "Hey, the boss is in a really bad mood, right? Are we going to be fine?"

"Tsk! What can we do? We have let our guards down, causing us to lose three of our members," replied the other guy as he recalled what happened earlier.

They were supposedly slaughtering the Sweepers of the Pandemonium Descendants sent to deal with them. They already killed quite a lot of members from the other side, so they knew that they hit them really hard.

The skill level of the Sweepers was much higher than they had expected as they received a lot of trouble during the battle. Based on their experience, they should be a hidden rank within the Sweepers as their strengths varied from one to another.

They also discovered a few of them. Some of the Sweepers were very skilled in one-on-one battles while some of them were highly trained at working together.

The ones who were experts in isolated battles couldn't kill the members of Earners but they were troublesome enough to buy enough for the rest of their team to finish their respective jobs. It seemed like these guys were purposely trained to hold their target in place and let the rest of their group deal with the respective assignments.

Even the members of the Earners, who were Monster Class Players, were having a hard time finishing them off due to the variety of movement and lifesaving skills that those guys had.

On the other hand, the ones who were trained to work together were the real problem. It seemed like they were used to hunting down highly skilled players with their seamless teamwork.

After exchanging blows with them, the members of the Earners understood that these groups were used for hunting down players who were more skilled and powerful than them.

Aside from those guys, the rest of the Sweepers were cannon fodder. They were neither too strong nor weak for the standards of the Earners, but they were useful enough to serve as a distraction at the most critical time.

But despite that being the case, this batch of Sweepers couldn't pose a threat to the members of the Earners. It couldn't even be called a warm-up session as the mercenary group slaughtered the opposing side one-sidedly.

Everyone was going smoothly until a particular group of Sweepers joined in. They didn't belong to the categories that the Earners had discovered. They were just skilled at it.

One of the members of the Earners was caught off-guard at the ambush and unable to retaliate until he died.

The other two members managed to fight back and quickly adjusted to the sudden appearance of the newcomers but they were still taken down by the combined forces of those guys.

It was only at that time that the rest of the Earners reorganized themselves. Everything happened a little too fast which was why the three who died previously failed to protect themselves, but the moment when took the matter seriously, the opposing side couldn't touch them anymore.

Regardless, they still lost their comrades in battle. Even though the Sweepers suffered a devastating blow in the process, none of the Earners members felt good.

This was the cost of their arrogance. They became overconfident in their strengths and underestimated their opponents a little too much.

Their mercenary group was pretty famous among the powerful guilds and organizations. The success rate of their commissions was also pretty high, making them get recognized as one of the most powerful groups within the Mercenary Guild.

Well, they had the strength to back up their arrogance. After all, each of their members was highly skilled and recognized within the circle.

Unfortunately, this was also what caused their current situation.

They still hadn't failed this commission but the fact that they suddenly lost three of their members out of nowhere annoyed Flouree.

She repeatedly warned her members to be on guard every time but they just didn't listen to her. Their egos always got over their head since their a little too strong compared to most of the players of the game.

"It looks like a hellish training is waiting for us once we return to the headquarters," another member as he picked up the dropped items on the other ground.

"Tsk! The training is one thing, but her scolding is on another level. It looks like we are going to get an earful once this commission is over," whispered the other while avoiding the sharp glare of their captain.

In the meantime, Flouree was currently wearing a deep frown while thinking about herself. "This won't do. I will not stop until we let those guys pay more."

"This is those three's fault. If only they listen to my orders and stop playing around, then this is not going to happen. It looks like they become too arrogant lately, I guess I need to humble them a little once we go back."

After that, she suddenly remembered something and opened a virtual screen, displaying the details of each member of the Empyrean Talons and the rest of the guys who were working with them.

She then separated the guys who were supposedly present in this region before comparing them with the remaining members that they had. "If the information that we have is right, then our current strength should be able to match these guys."

She paused for a brief moment before shaking her head and continuing. "No, we are actually at a slight disadvantage now. We are missing a single member to even out the battle prowess of our groups."

She then became even more annoyed and shouted out frustratedly. "Urgh~! This is those idiots' fault!"

The members of her group suddenly paused what they were doing and simultaneously turned to her due to the sudden outburst.

Then they quickly turned their heads away and went back to their jobs the moment they saw Flouree sweep her sharp glare at them.

"You guys better do a proper job later, or else, your punishment will be engraved on your memories for the rest of your lives!"

Hearing that, the rest of the members couldn't help but curse their three comrades who dragged them into the pits of hell.

At the same time, Flouree calmed herself down and reminded herself to focus. Then her eyes turned even sharper as she also remembered her other purpose for accepting this job. "Just you wait, Siegfried! I'll show you that your decision is wrong!"

In the meantime, on the other side of the Frozen Kingdom, Arthur suddenly felt a shiver that ran through his spine, almost costing him to lose his rhythm.

"D*mn! What was that? Is a hidden boss hiding somewhere or something?" muttered Arthur to himself as was caught off-guard.

But after sweeping his gaze at the surroundings, he failed to find the source of his sudden unease. This made him wear a deep frown. "D*mn! I have a bad feeling about this."

Seeing that Arthur was slightly getting distracted in the middle of the fight, Justin became even more enraged and started throwing a powerful flurry of attacks. "You dared to lose focus in our battle? You are underestimating me a little too much, Siegfried!"

Bang! Bang!

Cling!

Boom!

Unfortunately, Arthur blocked each of his attacks with ease and causally replied. "Hey! Are you really not going to use that contract or something? The one that Jugo and Elise used?"

"This is getting a little boring you know?" he added with an urging tone.

Justin didn't reply immediately and just continued to attack. It was not he didn't want to use his Demon's Contract. He really wanted to use it right now and shut Arthur's mouth, but he couldn't reveal that trump card right now.

Moreover, his contracted demon was a little too strong. Unlike Jugo and Elise who would be fine after the duration of their Demonification ended, he would suffer a serious backlash if he used it now.

As much as he wanted to teach Arthur a lesson, he couldn't forget their real purpose in coming here. He would only use that trump card at the final battle.

"Ah!"

While Justin was focusing on his battle against Arthur, he suddenly heard a painful cry from one of his teammates, making him take a quick glance in that direction.

Then he saw Zero killing one of his opponents and was about to proceed to his second target. Not long after, another member of their group died at the hands of the Sword God.

It didn't end there, Lawless also killed one of his opponents and continued his onslaught, riding the momentum.

Swoosh!

Almost at the same time, Justin sensed a powerful presence rushing towards this place at unbelievable speed.

Focusing his senses, he discovered that that person's aura was very familiar. It belonged to the guy that he wanted to kill the most.

Justin had the urge to break away from Arthur and head over to where Shin was coming from. Unfortunately, he also knew that they already lost this battle and would only worsen their losses if he persisted.

Gritting his teeth, he could only swallow this defeat once again and ordered their retreat. "Disengage in battle, we are falling back!"

Hearing that, Arthur quickly rushed forward, planning to stop Justin. "Not so fast!"

Unfortunately, a huge demonic hand appeared from the ground, forcing Arthur to retreat due to how threatening it was.

"We are still not done, Siegfried! We are going to meet again!" said Justin as his entire body was grabbed by that huge hand and pulled toward the ground.

Seeing that their leader was retreating, Jugo, Elise, and the rest of the Silent Night also used their special means to escape despite their unwillingness.

They lost five of their members in this battle, three from the guys who were fighting Zero with the priest surviving while the other two were the ones who were battling against Lawless.

They wanted to at least take down a few on the opposing side before retreating, but given that Lawless and Zero were basically free to do whatever they wanted, the group understood that they would only lose more members if they persisted to fight.

In the end, the most logical choice was to give up and retreat. They might still have a chance once they regroup and reorganized themselves.

In the meantime, the opposing side could only watch them escape as understood that it was already too late to stop those guys the moment when they use such a high-end escaping tool.

Regardless, they already achieve their goal and weakened the battle prowess of their opponents, which could give them a lot of room for the next part of their plans.

The next time, they encountered those guys, they would make sure to end things properly.

Chapter 915 Partial Victory (Part 2)

...

At the snow field at the edge of the forest, Immortal was currently having a dark expression on his face as he watched the battle between his Undying Army and the Legion of Chaotic Sun of his opponent.

This battle was already taking a while now but it still remained in a deadlock. He already expended quite a lot of Master Rank Potions in the process yet the opposing side seemed to be not showing any sign of exhaustion.

He knew that the Empyrean Talons were wealthy but that only applied to a couple of their members and not everyone.

But from what he could see this so-called 'Herald of Chaos', shouldn't be one of those members.

Given that Immortal was forced to use multiple Master Rank Mana Potions, the opposing side should have exhausted the same amount as him. Even if he managed to win somehow, he couldn't say that he really won since he already used more than half of the supplied potions that he brought.

But that was not the most frustrating about it. Instead, it was the fact that he couldn't overpower his opponent since the start of the battle.

He, who should be the apex of the Necromancer Players, the Lich God Immortal, should have won this battle ages ago!

Everything was working in his favor. The strength of their army might be on a similar level but he was obviously superior in every other area.

He had a more solid foundation in terms of strategical thinking where he could use the available battle formations in the most efficient way possible. He was also better when adjusting their forces in the most unexpected moments.

Immortal was winning that battle most of the time, but for some unknown reason, his opponent always found a way to escape those predicaments.

At first, he thought it was luck since he summon undead monsters, the Perfect Ghoul in particular, who accidentally threw an attack on their forces.

Immortal didn't think about it much since it happened all the time whenever he summoned the Perfect Ghoul on the field. That guy would always go on a rampage, not caring whether he was hitting his allies in the aftermath.

After all, they were undead monsters, to begin with, so it was not a big deal.

But Immortal found something odd when it happened repeatedly. Not only the attacks of the Perfect Ghoul, but they were always an 'accident' whenever he cornered the opposing side, making him pay the price instead.

The first one might be luck and the second one could be a coincidence, but it was definitely not the case if it happened more than twice, much less a repeated occurrence.

This made Immortal doubt if those 'accidents' were real or if his opponent was purposely leading the movements of his corrupted undead and using them against him.

Well, this problem could easily be solved as long as Immortal took down the summoner on the opposing side.

And sure, he did!

But unfortunately, he didn't find his opponent even though the undead scouts that he sent searched every corner of the forest not far from them.

He should have found the opposing lich given the number of elite undead scouts that he sent in there. But none of them managed to find a clue on his opponent's whereabouts much less caught a glimpse of that person.

Immortal could only think of two reasons why he couldn't find his opponent. First, that opponent had a much wider range of control than him. This particular necromancer might have a special ability that could let him control his summoned monsters from a very far distance.

Such remote-controlling skills might be rare but they did exist. Immortal wanted to get his hands on such skills too, but he was not lucky enough to find them.

He might have enough money and influence, but it didn't mean that he could easily get his hands on those skills. That was how rare those skills were – he couldn't just buy them even if he had enough resources for them.

On the other hand, the other reason was pretty bold. The opponent might not be hiding in that forest at all. He might have a skill that could disguise himself as one of the undead monsters on the field and watch him the other the entire time.

This was the most logical answer that Immortal could come up with. After all, he also had such skills in his possession. It was just a little useless right now since his opponent was already aware of where he was.

It was pointless to hide if the opposing side already know where he was going to hide. He was not an assassin, so he couldn't just disappear in thin air like them.

And if it was true that his opponent was closely observing him, then it was already too late to try to hide.

Immortal didn't know if this was how it felt to have a taste of his own medicine. As a player who joined the Dark Faction, he had always been in the dark, manipulating everything while watching his opponents suffer.

But at this point in time, it looked like the roles had changed. He was now the one who was suffering against his opponents while not knowing where they were or what they were thinking.

He couldn't help but curse silently due to his frustration. If the news got out and this battle became known to the public, then he would surely suffer greatly.

Not only his reputation would suffer a devastating blow but his standing within the Corrupted Cult was also going to be affected.

His position within the cult was already been shaky due to his previous failures. If this continued to happen, then his seat as the Messenger of the Cult would be stripped away from him. Especially now when a lot of people were eyeing his current position.

He might not want to admit it, but it looked like he needed to give up that title and make the necessary preparations before it was too late.

He was still unwilling to do it, but the signal to make finalized that decision suddenly arrived at this most critical moment.

Ding!

A message suddenly arrived, making him frown his brow quite deeply. And when he saw the contents of that message, the expression on his face became even darker.

"Tsk! Yet another defeat!" he muttered before glaring at the opposing forces ahead.

After hesitating, Immortal waved his bone staff in the air to open a dark portal. He looked at the ongoing battle one last time before raising the staff and unsummoning his entire army of undead.

"This is not the end! We will see each other again!" shouted Immortal before entering the dark portal.

That signified the result of this battle.

...

In the meantime, Chaotic Luck couldn't believe what was happening.

He didn't unsummon his Legion of Chaotic Sun nor remove his disguise when he saw Immortal retreat. He was afraid that the latter was playing tricks on him.

But after waiting for quite some time and confirming that Immortal indeed left, he finally had the time to think about what happened.

At first, he just wanted to buy enough time for Shin and the others to do their jobs as well as waiting for them to rescue him, but he didn't expect the current result presented in front of him.

He indeed disguised himself as an average undead mage and hid in their ranks up until the end. He remembered what Shin had told him before.

The most dangerous weapon that a summoner had, necromancers, in particular, was their army – the inexhaustible army of undead. As well as the special monsters that had unique powerful abilities.

But no matter how strong their summoned monsters were, they were still useless weapons when their summoners died before they could showcase respective their strengths.

This implied that the summoner needed to have the strength to protect themselves from all kinds of threats or became extremely skilled at hiding themselves so that their opponents would not be able to find them.

Obviously, Chaotic Luck still didn't believe that he could protect himself, so he chose the second option. And the tip that Shin gave him that time was hiding among his summoned army.

They were saying that the safest place to hide was the most dangerous place. This could imply different things depending on the situation.

But his current situation needed him to disguise himself as an undead mage and hide within his army.

He knew that it was dangerous to hide within the force since Immortal could just send a batch of monsters to look for him.

This was the reason why he disguised himself and followed along with the rest of his undead monsters the moment when he restarted the battle earlier.

Fortunately, his gamble paid off and Immortal failed to find him.

But still-...!

He didn't expect that he would be able to force Immortal, the Lich God himself, to retreat.

Of course, he was aware that it could be because the latter heard about what was happening on the other battlefield, but it didn't change the fact that he was successful at making Immortal stay in this place until Shin and the rest won their battle.

He finally could feel some sense of achievement this time!

It was also that that moment he felt the accumulated fatigue of the battle. The adrenaline finally disappeared and the strength left his body, making him collapse on the ground. It was not a physical exhaustion but a mental one.

After all, keeping up with one of the strongest players that he knew was much more tiring than he could expect.

He was powerlessly lying on the ground but he didn't mind it at all since he could at least be proud of himself from this day onward.

He raised one of his hands with full of difficulty, collecting the Spying Stones that were scattered in different directions.

When he collected them all, he quickly put them on his inventory with a huge smile on his face. "I can't believe it, Big Brother! How can you see this far ahead?"

"I thought those are only words of encouragement, but I didn't expect that it was really going to happen."

Chapter 916 Inviting Diablo

...

"We already weakened their forces to a certain amount. They shouldn't have enough strength to face us head-on when we encounter them later," said Shin to the others as sat under the nearby tree.

"We may not be able to take down the key figures within their group, but we have already done enough to create a clear advantage in the future," he added while looking at everyone.

The rest of the group was currently checking their equipment. They were also calculating if they still had enough potions for later.

Aside from Chaotic Luck who expended almost every Master Class Potions that he had during his fight against Immortal, the rest didn't burn their supplies.

"They needed to reorganize themselves for quite some time given the losses that they suffered just now. They will not make a move against us too soon, so we have enough window to prepare for our next move," said Black Hand after assessing the current situation.

"The only problem is those guys from the Earners Mercenary Group," said Lawless from the side.

Hearing that, Shin turn to Zero and asked. "Speaking of those guys – how is the situation on that side?"

"Seven just contacted me, he said that the Sweepers managed to take down three members of Earners," answered Zero.

"Tsk! Tsk! Those guys sure are something. To think they are able to hit that group of Master Class Players that much? Their organization is really not something that can be underestimated," commented Lawless as he found that feat impressive.

He was familiar with the strength of those Master Class Players, so it was not an exaggeration when said those words.

On the other hand, Zero raised his brow a little before continuing. "But those Sweepers suffered greatly in that exchange. It shouldn't be an overstatement to say that they already run out of 'expendables', Tsk!"

Lawless paused for a moment before nodding his head in silence. It was true. If the Pandemonium Descendants didn't pay that much, then those monsters from Earners Mercenary Group will not be able to live up to their reputation.

"That means, they only have their most elite people left, right?" ask S.Tigris.

"Based on the reports that Seven sent me, it is most likely the case," answered Zero. But he quickly added after a brief pause. "But it seems like they also hid some of their remaining forces deep in the Frozen Kingdom."

"He overheard their conversation, and it seems like they are requesting some backup from the other force," he added.

"That means, we still can't disregard them, am I right?" asked Arthur with a deep frown. He felt like these people from the Pandemonium Descendants were like a pest that was hard to wipe out.

"Actually, we can at least forget about them now. The gift that we receive from Immortal is more than enough to take care of them later," said Shin with a mystifying tone.

Hearing those words, the others immediately understood what he meant. Arthur even voiced out the thoughts of the others. "You mean to say – we can now have enough reinforcements?"

Shin shook his head and answered. "Not exactly. After all, they still need to take care of the other side. But at the very least, we can expect a reinforcement coming to our aid during the most critical situation."

"For example, during the final stages of our quest when we are most vulnerable to get backstabbed by those cunning wolves," he added, clarifying his point.

"Tsk!" Arthur clicked his tongue in disappointment but still accepted the answer nevertheless. After all, it was better than nothing.

"So, what's our next move then?" asked Cloe who was sitting near Shin.

Shin thought for a brief moment before replying. "I am thinking we should guard this place until Big Sis finds enough people to take over the job."

"We can't just leave this place behind since Immortal and those guys can always come back here and claim it," he added while sweeping his gaze over the surroundings.

With his skills alongside Cloe and Black Hand's assistance, they were able to completely hide the teleportation formation as if it was not there in the first place.

The other understood his intention and nodded their heads in agreement. They also could use this chance to rest a little more.

Moreover, they could also reflect on themselves and reevaluate their performance in the previous battle. Especially for Chaotic Luck who should be the one that gained the most during his battle against Immortal.

He might have won that battle in the end, but he knew that he was completely suppressed by Immortal in almost everything. He knew that he was just lucky to have the time on his side.

The others also gained considerable experience, but compared to him, their gains would not be able to affect them much.

Leonard and Faker might have familiarized themselves with the Reality Manifestation to a greater degree since both Jugo and Elise were thought opponents who underwent a specialized demonification with their contracted demons.

But those battles might be a little intense but they were far too short for them to properly explore the real mysteries of those states.

Ding!

While everyone was lost in their thoughts, Shin suddenly received from a certain person. And when he saw to whom it came from, he couldn't help but wear an even larger grin.

He turned to Zero and then to Faker, calling them out. "Zero, Brother Faker, come with me for a minute. Let's meet someone."

The two turned to him with a confused looks on their face but still followed after him. They might not know who they were going to meet, but they could at least make a guess who it was.

"Are we going to meet Diablo?" asked Faker as he caught up to Shin.

Shin slightly nodded, confirming the guesses of the two. "Yeah. He just contacted me. He just got online."

"How are you going to ask for his assistance? We can't just openly work with him since we have a deal with the Pandemonium Descendants," asked Zero after catching up.

"That's true, but we also can't just waste the chance of having his assistance since he is too skilled," responded Shin.

Faker knitted his brow before asking. "So, what are you planning?"

Shin shrugged his shoulders at that question. "Not sure, it is up to him. I've already sent him our contract with the Pandemonium Descendants and also mentioned a part of our plans briefly, so we can only hope for the best."

Faker and Zero gave him a weird look when they heard those words. The part regarding the contract with the Pandemonium Descendants was understandable but mentioning their plans was unnecessary, after all, they were still not working with Diablo to trust him that much.

Understanding the meaning behind their gazes, Shin waved his hand in the air. "Don't worry, I know what I am doing."

"I may not be familiar with Diablo since I only meet him once, but I can at least tell what kind of person he is during our previous duel," he added.

Faker shrugged his shoulder, indicating that he didn't care anymore. Zero, on the other hand, just nodded his head and said that he was going with his plans.

Nothing serious happened yet with all of Shin's arrangements no matter how strange it was, so everything should be fine.

...

After walking a few minutes, the three finally arrived in a secluded part of the forest where the bushes were the densest. It was a perfect place to hide and launch an ambush, especially when the fog within this place was quite thick

Aside from the layout map that Shin and the others had drawn, they were still unaware of the names of the places within the Frozen Kingdom. But given the different environments and types of monsters that they had encountered so far, they were able to partially divine the whole region and drew an imaginary border between them.

Shin observed the surroundings for a brief moment before slightly nodding his head. "The maps within this Kingdom will most likely open only after we are done with the quest."

Faker nodded his head, agreeing with Shin's comment. He was also observing all of the regions that they went through earlier and he found certain differences and unique characteristics between them as well as their similarities.

Such knowledge was necessary when looking for hunting grounds in the future. If this place was going to be unlocked by them and they were familiar with all of the resources available within the place, then their advantages over the rest of the players would definitely be great.

Faker was observing the surroundings when a certain spot attracted his attention. He squinted his eyes and locked his gaze on that place, observing it carefully.

A moment only past at that time, but Faker quickly made his move. He disappeared from his spot and instantly appeared on that particular spot while swinging his daggers in the process.

Clang!

Aside from that place being an empty space, there was nothing remarkable in it. But despite that being the case, Faker's daggers seemed to collide against something and created metal sparks in the air.

"It is sure hard to fool the senses of the former best assassin of the virtual world," then a voice suddenly sounded alongside a person materializing in front of Faker.

"You are not that bad either. Getting this near given our senses is no easy feat," said Faker as he stared at the person in front of him.

"I must say that reaching thirty meters away from us unnoticed is something that not everyone can achieve," he added before retreating away, putting enough distance between that person and himself.

Seeing that, Diablo couldn't help but smile inwardly. Those movements might be simple but they were essential for a top-class assassin.

Diablo only developed such habits after playing assassin-related classes in all games that they previously played. But what he saw from Faker was something that was built up properly and drilled within his body.

'This is what a real assassin looks like,' thought Diablo to himself before sheathing his weapons and greeting three in front of him. "I am sorry for the little prank. I just want to see how far my stealth can get me in against the current 'bests' of the game."

"We can save the introduction for later since we have a much urgent business to take care of," said Shin as he walked forward, planning to get straight to the point.

He paused for a moment before asking in a tone that was neither demanding nor polite. "Will you lend us your strength? Of course, we will also help you at achieving your goal in return."

Chapter 917 More Than Enough To Handle Them

.....

"Will you lend us your strength? Of course, we will also help you at achieving your goal in return."

Diablo was taken aback by those words as he was not expecting Shin to say them straightforwardly. He stared at the latter with an observant gaze, he wanted to know what this person was thinking right now.

Those words might look simple on the surface, but they could be interpreted in different ways depending on the intention of the speaker. And from what Diablo could tell, Shin was not only asking for his help for the quest that they were currently trying to clear, but the guy seemed to also be conveying something else.

Even Faker and Zero were looking at Shin with astounded expressions on their faces. Like Diablo, they could also tell that Shin was saying something else aside from asking Diablo to help them with their current quest.

'Is this guy trying to recruit Diablo to their adventurer team?' thought Faker as he continued to stare at Shin.

Zero was also having a similar thought. At the same time, he also remembered what Arthur told him before during the Shadow Ranking Cup. – "That guy is much harder to read which makes him unpredictable. And he is most likely the person that we lack to recreate that 'Legend'." –

– "What do you think? Feel think joining me climbing that summit? I can assure you that we can reach it." –

Thinking about the current strength that the Emyrean Talons had alongside their unique composition, Zero was thinking Arthur's words might be right. Especially when he thought about Arthur, Leonard, and Shin being in the same group as well as Cloe who was the best healer within the game.

Zero could tell that the trio would be an unstoppable force in the future and they were a few people who would be able to stand in their way. And adding the best support that anyone could ask for, their future was pretty much guaranteed.

Moreover, their group was also attracting more players who had a unique talent of their own, making their future prospects even brighter.

Zero was really tempted to accept Arthur's offer after witnessing the potential that the Empyrean Talons had.

Unfortunately, he had already chosen his own path and planned to see through it until the end. Walking the same path as those people who created unparallel legends might be appealing, but creating his own legend was also quite amazing.

Zero promised Arthur before to join him to climb that summit if ever he succeeded at creating a group that had the potential to match that legend.

But it didn't mean that he couldn't join the climb if he was not with their group. He could also reach that summit alongside them without directly joining them.

Regardless, Zero was also looking forward to the future that the Empyrean Talons held. And at the same time, he was also thinking that Diablo's addition to their group would make them even more 'complete'.

Shin didn't urge Diablo to immediately reply with his invitation. After all, his invitation was a little too sudden. But it didn't mean that he hadn't put any thought into it. It was quite the contrary.

He had a little understanding of Diablo after what he heard from Zero. Especially when they dueled against each other earlier.

Aside from that, he also considered the history that Diablo had with the Pandemonium Descendants. Or to be more precise, his reason for joining that organization which was the same reason why he left those people, the Irregulars.

Shin was still unfamiliar with the group and he also didn't have the chance to inquire about them from Arthur due to the series of events that were happening. But he knew that they influenced quite a lot of people due to the amazing achievements that did.

This particular group of legendary players was also the reason why Arthur insisted on forming an Adventurer Team alongside him and Leonard. And alongside it, this brother of his also wanted to teach the Pandemonium Descendants, the Troupe members in particular, for trying to tarnish the reputation of his idols.

Since their goals somewhat aligned with each other, then why not they joined forces and created a much more powerful group to take down that organization?

Shin knew that Diablo would not blindly accept his invitation. This was also the reason why he didn't extend his hand after their duel earlier.

During that time, he first wanted to make a good impression on Diablo and also showcased his ability which could be helpful in this situation.

Aside from that, he also confirmed quite a few things regarding Diablo, his cautious nature for example. He would not make a move unless he was certain that he could win or at least had the advantage.

Shin had that thought earlier when he learned that Diablo was observing them earlier. And even if he had a good opportunity to ambush them, he chose not to do it since he needed their strength to confront the members of the Pandemonium Descendants and weaken their forces.

Having that thought in mind, Shin was sure that Diablo would definitely look deeper into the backgrounds of each member of Empyrean Talons, especially when he showed his brilliance during the previous duel.

Shin was confident in their group and he knew that Diablo would also have some thoughts of being a part of such a formidable group.

Now that Shin had properly laid the net and thrown out the bait, he only needed a small push to further lure Diablo towards them and patiently wait for results.

Though, he also knew that this was not going to be easy. After all, they were still not familiar with each other and there was also the factor of uncertainty to be considered.

On top of that, there was also the matter regarding Diablo's previous group. Shin was aware that the latter was going to have a second thoughts due to that.

'If that is the case, then his decision was most likely to refuse us,' thought Shin as he stared at Diablo.

Exactly at the same moment, Diablo shook his head and replied. "I'm afraid that I have to politely decline your invitation at joining your team. Though, I appreciate that you are thinking highly of me."

Shin was already expecting that and was not disappointed. He at least conveyed his intention. And if ever Diablo suddenly had a change of heart and decided to join a group, the Empyrean Talons would definitely come first in his mind.

He didn't want to be this calculative when it came to building up relationships but he couldn't be helped since Diablo's talent and potential were way too good to give up.

Though that thought of recruitment could only wait to be continued in the future, and it might also be good in some ways.

"Sigh, I guess that's a pity then," Shin immediately 'gave up' on recruiting Diablo to their team which made the two beside him to be confused.

He could feel that Faker and Zero had a lot of questions with the gaze that they were giving him. But Shin just ignored them and continued. "Then we should discuss the real business time."

"You should have read the message that I sent you, so I supposed you already had a gist of the situation?" he asked, catching Diablo off-guard at the sudden change of the topic.

Diablo stared at Shin in an even stranger way. He needed a few moments to reorganize himself and adjust his thoughts before nodding his head. "Yeah. I'm somewhat aware of the current situation."

"And even if it is a little bold, I think your plans are pretty good. You can both a direct confrontation with the members of the Earners and let the Sweepers deal with them to weaken their battle prowess."

"That way, you only needed to keep your eyes on the Corrupted Cult while you are continuing your quest," he added, agreeing with the majority of the plan.

"As you can see, we have a deal with the Pandemonium Descendants, so we can't work with you openly," said Shin.

"I can understand that," Diablo nodded his head before asking. "So, what role do you want me to play?"

Shin was glad that Diablo was able to see through what he wanted to do. And after a brief pause, he quickly stated. "Before that, we still need to ask your opinion."

"Since you are familiar with the Pandemonium Descendants, we want to know if it is possible for them to send their Troupe members for this operation."

This was the concern that Shin was most worried about. The matter with Immortal, Silent Night, and the Earners was already troublesome enough, so he didn't know if they could handle more than it.

If they were still something to add and make their situation much more complicated, then they didn't know what to do next.

They just dealt with the current problem at hand and weakened their forces, so the next encounter should be much easier to handle. The problem was if there were still some variables that they needed to consider.

Diablo could tell what Shin was worried about and quickly understood what was the job that Shin wanted him to do. "Given the scale of this operation and the importance of the quest that they were doing, there is a high chance for the high-ranking troupe members to arrive."

"But you shouldn't have to worry about them. I can at least buy you enough time to deal with them until everything is over," he added with full confidence.

Shin slightly knitted his brow before voicing out his doubts. "We know that you are familiar with them and we are also aware of your strength but are you sure that you can handle them alone?"

Diablo shook his head a little, also smiling at the same time since he could understand Shin's thoughts. "Just like you said, I am familiar with them, so I know how they are going to operate."

"They are definitely going to send their Troupe members to assist this quest but they can send all of them since they still have some matters to attend – and those were as equally important as this one."

He paused briefly before continuing with a confident tone. "At most, they can only send one of the four 'archdevils' and three 'upper demons'. If they send anyone weaker than those guys, then they can forget clearing this important quest."

Chapter 918 An Unavoidable Battle

...

Frozen Kingdom

Seven was currently observing the movements of the Pandemonium Descendants in a sneaky manner, maintaining a distance where he could observe the other party clearly unnoticed.

After following Zero for a long time and watching the Sword God work, Seven learned how to move skillfully in the dark despite being a swordsman. He might not be as skilled as Zero in this area but he was skilled enough to fit the job.

He was ordered to observe the movements of the Pandemonium Descendants and report any suspicious actions that they were doing.

His job might be simple on the surface but it might be more dangerous compared to fighting the members of Silent Night.

Not only the Sweepers were skilled at assassinations, but they also had keen senses, making it hard for Seven to observe them.

Even watching the battle between the Earners and Pandemonium Descendants made him very vigilant, especially when he witnessed the battle prowess of each side.

They were also some instances in the battle where he almost got discovered by the two groups. Fortunately, he was at a safe distance which made it hard for the other party to notice him.

Earlier, Zero just contacted him and said that he already had done enough. He could now come back and regroup with them as they were now another person who would take over his job of monitoring the movements of the Pandemonium Descendants.

Swoosh!

Seven was running at full speed, heading towards the coordination that Zero had sent him. During his travel, he encountered quite a few Sweepers, trying to pick a fight with him. But since his current priority was to regroup with his young master and the others, he avoided fighting any of those people.

The Sweepers also didn't pursue him since their boss informed them not to bother the members of Emphyreans Talons and the others for the time being. Even if they wanted to give Seven trouble and make a couple of excuses to dodge the punishment, they would not be able to catch up with him since he was fully focused on running.

"Eh?"

But despite avoiding those Sweepers, trouble still caught up to Seven. He encountered one of the players who were impossible to avoid.

"Tsk! Such bad luck meeting one of them!"

.....

Voltage, one of the members of the Earners Mercenary Group. He belonged to the low-rank members of the group as he was too lazy to do the paper works every time their commission ended.

Regardless of his rank, he was still a Monster Rank Player just like the others. And during his time in «True Era» Online, he was known as the Spear of the Wind and Lightning because of the way he fought.

His spear technique was top-notch, showcasing the flexibility of the wind and the speed of lightning.

Right now, he was assigned to patrol the area around the place where their group was resting. And since he was too bored with the job, he ventured farther than the area assigned to him.

Fortunately, he found a couple of Sweepers during his patrol, relieving his boredom. And when he was about to go back, he suddenly sensed someone moving at extreme speed.

Curious, Voltage headed over, planning to intercept the other party. And when he saw who that person was, he couldn't help but grin from ear to ear, thinking that his luck today was pretty good.

"Hoh! Look who we have here. Isn't this the right-hand man of Sword God Zero?" he said after seeing Seven.

Seven, on the other hand, wore a deep frown when he saw Voltage. It would be hard for him to escape right now since the latter already discovered him. He would only be asking to be killed if he turned his back on such a skilled expert.

Realizing that it was impossible to run away, he decided to face it head-on.

He might be facing a Monster Class Player but he was not afraid. He was following Zero for a long time already and met quite a lot of experts along the way. He even faced a much stronger foe than this person, so there was no need for him to panic.

He unsheathed his swords very calmly while locking his gaze on Voltage.

Shing!

As someone who was responsible for giving Zero all of the information related to the gaming world, Seven knew almost all of the experts within the game. Especially the ones who needed to pay special attention.

'Voltage, B-rank Mercenary, the Spear of Wind and Lightning. He specialized in fast and unpredictable attacks mixed with wind and lighting magic. He should have the Magic Spearman Class or the Battle Mage Class.'

'His strength should be between the Peak of Titled Ranker and a Godlike Player. This is going to be a hard battle but winning is still possible.'

'He may be skilled and strong but he still pales in comparison when it comes to the real monsters that I have encountered,' he thought as he tried to compare Voltage to Zero, Shin, and Faker.

Compared to those three, this current opponent was really insignificant.

While Seven was lost in his thoughts, Voltage smirked after seeing the guy prepared to fight. "Heh! Interesting~!"

Voltage put his spear on his shoulders and rested his arms by hanging them over it. His form and stance were very relaxed, seemingly indicating that he was not putting Seven in the eyes.

It also showed that he was not planning to attack.

Swoosh!

But all of a sudden, he suddenly took a large stride forward and flicked his spear, swinging it at the head of his opponent.

Such an unexpected move would surely catch anyone off-guard, especially when it came too suddenly.

But it was different for Seven since he was keeping an eye on every movement that Voltage could possibly make. And because of that, he was able to instantly respond to the sudden ambush.

Seven ducked forward, dodging the tip of the spear and letting it fly over his head. And at the same time, he was also swinging his swords simultaneously, throwing horizontal strikes at his opponent's waist.

Since Voltage's move was way too sudden and came a little too fast, he couldn't stop his body from moving forward.

He was not expecting that Seven would be able to react to his ambush, which now put him in his current predicament.

But aside from being a little surprised, Voltage was still wearing a calm look on his face, seemingly not taking his fight seriously.

Right before Seven's swords touched his body, Voltage suddenly kicked the ground and sent him in the air.

He was still unable to stop himself from moving forward but could avoid colliding with Seven by twisting his body in the air and spinning around. He also put his free hand on the head of his opponent while flying over.

Ta-ta!

And right after his feet touched the ground, he quickly turned around and threw a straight thrust with the spear, targeting the back of his opponent's head.

He maneuvered his body very smoothly as it only take him an instant to complete those series of movements.

Swoosh!

But despite that being the case, he still hit nothing but thin air Seven's body suddenly faded away the moment his spear stabbed forward.

He was about to look for Seven since the latter's presence suddenly disappeared right after his previous attack.

But he was about to look for traces, and he suddenly discovered Seven ducking in front of him once again and throwing a rising slash at him.

'Sword Guardian Skill: Rising Phoenix Slash'

Seven's sword was suddenly ignited with a blazing flame as it made its way to his opponent.

Seeing that attack, Voltage quickly put all of his strength on his feet and kicked the ground, propelling himself backward and dodging the tip of the blazing sword with the skin of his teeth.

Hu~!

"That was close~!" whistled Voltage after distancing himself away from Seven.

It was at this moment that he realized that he shouldn't underestimate the swordsman in front of him. He might be a Monster Class Player, but Seven still followed the current number player of the game, so his skill couldn't be underestimated.

No matter how skilled he was, there was still a chase where he could get taken down by anyone if was too careless.

"Okay, fine. Let's take this a little seriously. If another accident happens here, I will surely get scolded by our scary captain," said Voltage as he took a battle stance.

He firmly held his spear with of his hands and gently supported its upper body with the other. There was also a hit of electricity flowing through the body of the spear, creating a series of crackling sounds rhythmically.

The air surrounding him immediately changed the moment he took that stance. And the moment when he cast his gaze forward, a heavy pressure was immediately pressed on Seven, making it hard for him to breathe.

"You better brace yourself, Seven. This is going to be a little different from what you've experienced so far."

Chapter 919 Ignite

...

Seven instantly recognized that he would not stand a chance if he didn't give his all from the beginning.

'I only have a single chance to end this, so I need to stay focused and not let my guard down,' he thought as he also took a battle stance.

At the same time, his swords also underwent a transformation. Both of them became blazing swords with crimson blades while a flickering fire flowed through his arms.

His armor, on the other hand, turned from white to black as golden patterns appeared on its edges.

'Sword Guardian Skill: Spirit of the Flame Lord'

Bang!

Right after his transformation, Seven quickly initiated the fight, now willing to wait this time. He knew that he was weaker compared to his opponent, so he needed to seize this opportunity to control the rhythm of the battle before he was suppressed by the opposing party.

Swoosh!

Voltage was already expecting that to happen, so he quickly threw a stab forward, perfectly timing his attack and matching it with Seven's speed.

Cling!

Seven swung his sword to redirect the spear that heading toward his head. He also leaned to the side before twisting his waist and swinging his swords forward in a horizontal manner.

'Sword Guardian Skill: Twin Talons'

The counterattack came a little too sudden and put Voltage in an awkward position to retaliate. But despite that being the case, he was still able to respond properly.

He pressed the lower part of his spear, positioning it in front of him vertically. Quickly after that, he slammed the spear on the ground planting it firmly like a sturdy pillar.

Crackle!

Then an electric current flow through the spear before transforming its whole body into lightning.

'Storm Spearmaster Skill: Lightning Spear'

Bang!

The blazing swords and the lightning spear collided with each other, creating a powerful explosion that sent the two away from each other.

Swoosh!

A curtain of snow blocked surrounded the two as they continued to slide backward. They firmly planted their feet on the ground as they slid the snow and left a long trail on it.

Whoosh!

While Voltage was trying to stabilize himself, the curtain of snow in front of him was suddenly split open in a spiraling manner as Seven jumped through it.

Seven was holding one of his blazing swords beside his waist while the other was being held over his shoulders. He left a blazing trail in the air as he flew straight to his opponent.

'Sword Guardian Skill: Cross Talons'

He then swung the blazing swords successively with a speed that seemingly made his movements look illusionary.

Shing! Shing!

The sword slashes left a blazing cross in the air, moving straight to Voltage who was still in the middle of stabilizing his footing.

Seeing that he would not be able to counter this attack, Voltage quickly used his movement skills to escape his current predicament.

'Storm Spearmaster Skill: Lightning Steps'

Crackle! Crackle!

Voltage's body suddenly turned into a lightning current that move forward, passing through the blazing cross as well as Seven who was behind it.

Seven quickly covered his body with fire elemental mana as another layer of protection when he saw the lighting current heading towards him.

Swoosh!

After failing to harm Seven, the lightning current continued to move forward before gathering in a single spot and later forming a humanoid figure that turned into Voltage in the very next second.

Voltage was holding a lightning spear in his hand as he postured a throwing motion right after materializing his body.

'Storm Spearmaster Skill: Lightning Strike'

Crackle!

The moment when Voltage threw the lightning spear, a flash of blinding light immediately followed before leaving a lightning trail in the air.

Boom!

And just like the appearance of real lighting, the thunder immediately followed after it, resounding in the whole forest.

Voltage was confident that this attack would land cleanly on Seven's back, injuring the latter severely, if not killing the swordsman in the process.

But contrary to his expectation, Seven manage to turn around at the last moment and crossed his sword in front of him, accurately blocking the tip of the lightning spear with them.

"Hoh~! You survive that?" commented Voltage, showing his surprise.

But it didn't take long for him to smirk mockingly when he noticed that the HP Bar above Seven's head only had a sliver of health on it, signifying that he was barely hanging with a thread of life left.

Voltage was about to say something when he saw the flame covering Seven's body was suddenly absorbed, giving him a big surprise.

It first turned into a blazing bird, spreading its wings wide before embracing Seven with them. After that, the HP Bar that only had a tiny health left was suddenly healed back to full, turning Seven back to his healthy state.

'Sword Guardian Skill (Tier 2): Blessing of the Vermillion Bird'

Voltage suddenly remembered something and spoke. "Vermillion Bird? I see, so you are the one who gets its recognition. No wonder, you fearlessly stayed here instead of running away."

"Our Big Boss is looking for the traces of the 'Four Guardian Beasts' of this world, but who would have thought that one of their hosts will come at us on its own."

Seven frowned deeply when he heard those words, trying to read the meaning behind them. From the tone that the opposing side had, he couldn't help but had a feeling about it.

Voltage ignored the dark expression that Seven had and continued. "Now, this is going to be a little troublesome. I am originally planning to kill you and move on, but I guess I have to put more into it since I need to catch you now."

"Ah! That's right, it is also going to be troublesome if the Sword God learns about this. After all, it is the same as provoking him if we capture someone under his protection. I better inform the captain about this matter."

He then opened a virtual screen in front of Seven, not caring if the latter was going to ambush him while he was distracted. Right now, it was more important to inform his captain about his discovery than anything else.

Swoosh!

As expected, Seven quickly charged forward when he saw Voltage not paying attention to him. But before he could even reach the halfway mark between them, he immediately halted his tracks and started hopping backward.

It was because of the lightning spears hovering behind Voltage and also creating a fan-shaped formation.

"I suggest you not make any funny moves as I may accidentally kill you, causing you to fail your quest," said Voltage with a warning tone.

"I heard from those guys from the Corrupted Cult that it is Quest with at least a character-deletion penalty."

"Tsk! Tsk! It is pretty harsh, but it is completely understandable given the scale that it has. I guess it is a top-class Empire Quest given its harsh condition," he added as he moved his fingers and controlled the floating spears behind him.

Seven didn't know what Voltage was thinking but he could feel that it was not good in any way, especially when he heard that the latter was planning to capture him. It was giving him an unpleasant feeling.

Ding!

Then Voltage received a message from Flouree, giving him permission to take action. Receiving such a positive reply, he couldn't help but smile from ear to ear before casting his gaze at Seven.

"Tsk! It sure is your unlucky day today, Seven. But don't worry, aside from losing a couple of levels as well as your special class, nothing much is going to happen to you."

"Who knows, our Big Boss may even give you a suitable compensation," he added as if he was not putting Seven in his eyes. He was also not afraid of provoking Zero, who was behind Seven.

Crackle! Crackle!

Then Voltage was suddenly clad in lighting armor as well as a helmet that looked like an eagle's head. There was also a pair of wings made in wind and lightning behind him, spreading widely on each side.

'Storm Spearman Skill: Descent of the Thunderbird'

"I don't have much time left, so let's wrap this up before my captain arrives here," said Voltage as he walked forward while dragging his lightning spear behind him, drawing a long trail on the snowy ground with its tip.

Seven understood that there was really no escaping this time, so he quickly activated another strength-boosting skill, initiating a two-fold berserk.

'Mystic Inheritance: Embodiment of the Vermillion Bird'

Blaze!

Seven's body was immediately covered by a vermillion flame transforming his armor once again. And this time, the armor turned bright red as if it was a metal that was being heated by a raging flame.

Golden patterns also appeared on the surface of the armor as its edges were filled with a series of runes.

His head was also covered by a helmet that had the appearance of a mythical beast, the vermillion bird. Then a pair of blazing wings appeared behind him, matching the span of the ones that his opponent had.

Then his swords also underwent another transformation, making them grow in size as well as having strange mystical patterns on their blades.

'Five minutes, that is the longest I can hold on this form. I hope the young master and the others arrive in time,' thought Seven as he got ready to give his all for this battle.

He might be planning to buy a time before he was rescued by the others but he was not betting everything on it. If he wanted to survive against a Monster Class Player, then he needed to clear his thoughts, forget about everything else, and focus on battle.

This was his first time fighting a player who was much stronger than him aside from Zero. And instead of a sparring match, it was a real battle with his in-game avatar was on the time.

But rather than being afraid and having doubts in mind, he was feeling excited instead.

He was inspired by Zero and the others who reached a higher realm just recently.

He might not be able to reach the state that they were in, but he was confident that he would be able to barely touch it.

He might still be far from it but he could at least get a glimpse of their back from a faraway distance.

He was still not left behind!

Chapter 920 Ignite (Part 2)

...

Seven stood still in his current spot while staring solemnly at his opponent. The blazing wings behind him flapped softly and released flame embers in the air, scattering them throughout the whole area.

Seeing that full transformation that Seven had, Voltage couldn't help but smile as he was now sure that Seven possessed the Spirit of the Vermillion Bird.

Their group looked everywhere just to find the clues for the Four Guardian Beast, but who would have thought that they would stumble upon one of the possessors during their current commission?

The only problem was the fact that Seven was a lackey of a very troublesome guy, Sword God Zero.

"Well, all I have to do is to capture this guy quickly and leave the rest to captain," muttered Voltage as he halted his steps and waved his hand forward.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

With that simple gesture, the lightning spears floating behind him suddenly shot forward, heading towards Seven who was maintaining his stance.

'Thunderbird King Skill: Spear Storm'

Seven took a deep breath and held his blazing swords firmly before throwing a series of slashes in the air. And right after he was done with his actions, a gust of wind was sent forward while carrying an immense it.

'Guardian of the Vermillion Bird: Firestorm Talons'

Whoosh!

Then the gust of wind seemed to be ignited by something, creating a hell-like storm of fire that spun around like a tornado.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A series of explosions immediately followed after the collision of the two powers. It also turned the forest into a scorched land with only fully burned trees left behind.

But despite the transformation of the land around them, the two warriors continued their battle, not concerned about their surroundings.

Swoosh!

Bang! Bang!

The two turned into a streak of lights that repeatedly clashed against each other, causing a series of explosions in every collision.

One of them was clad with lightning that could destroy the land while the other was covered with a blazing fire that could burn anything.

Voltage jumped into the sky and raised his hand above him, materializing a huge lightning spear on it. And when he grabbed the spear made of lightning, the air around him seemed to contract as his appearance resembled the appearance of a great god.

'Thunderbird King Skill (Tier 2): Storm Torrent'

Then he swung his arm with great force, throwing a lightning spear toward the ground.

His movements seemed to slow down while he was doing that throwing motion. But immediately after it, time seemed to move much faster right after he released the lightning spear from the tip of his fingers.

Boom!

Swoosh!

The giant spear made of lightning suddenly disappeared with a flash of light as it headed toward its destination.

Given its extreme speed, anyone could tell that it was impossible to escape from this particular attack, especially when it was carrying a power that could annihilate everything in its path.

Seven couldn't see where the attack was coming from since Voltage suddenly disappeared in front of him during their melee exchange.

It was already too late when he noticed the giant spear falling from the sky and heading towards his direction.

Fortunately, the Spirit of the Vermillion Bird had a passive ability that could help him avoid certain death. Though, the cooldown time was quite long.

Shriek!

A blazing bird suddenly appeared behind him and wrapped its wings around him, forming a sphere of fire that protected him from the descending spear of lightning.

'Guardian of the Vermillion Bird: Protection of the Guardian Beast'

Boom!

Then a towering pillar of light shot up toward the sky right after the lightning spear sent by Voltage landed on the blazing sphere protecting Seven.

The ground shook before a series of cracks appeared on it, spreading like a spiderweb.

Bang!

And a few moments later, an unstoppable force pushed the blazing sphere and pressed it harder toward the ground which led to the formation of a huge crater.

Ta-ta!

Voltage fell on the ground in a relaxed manner as he looked at the cloud of dust a few distances away. His previous attack was one of his most powerful skills, and since he was able to catch Seven off-guard with it, he was confident that he won this battle.

But it didn't mean that he would let his guard down just because of that. He was not an average player to commit such an amateur mistake.

"Tsk! I controlled the strength of that skill, so it should only be enough to weaken him to a certain degree. Enough for me to capture him with the imprisonment prism," muttered Voltage while opening his inventory to take out a capturing item from it.

There was still a barrage of lightning strikes bombarding Seven in the distance, so he should have had enough time to take out the item that he needed.

Puff!

Whoosh!

At least that was how it was supposed to be. But when he was about to take out the imprisonment prism, a hole suddenly appeared on the cloud of dust in the distance followed by a gust of hot wind swept through him.

Then Seven appeared behind his left side with the blazing swords and was in the middle of swinging them.

'Guardian of the Vermillion Bird: Blazing Talons'

This skill might not be the most powerful one that he could possibly use, but they were the fastest ones to execute from the set of skills that he had.

Unfortunately, Voltage didn't lower his guard despite taking away his attention from the cloud of dust for a brief moment.

Crackle! Crackle!

His lightning armor released a flow of electricity that surrounded him from all directions. And that electric current paralyzed Seven momentarily, giving him enough time to counterattack.

'Thunderbird King Skill: Electric Body'

'Thunderbird King Skill: Wind Crescent'

He then twisted his waist slightly while holding his spear with both of his hands before throwing a circular swing, covering every direction.

Bang!

Seven was pushed away by that circular swing from Voltage since he was currently in the air when throwing his attack. He clearly didn't have a stable footing in that exchange.

But he was able to quickly halted himself from moving further away by spreading his blazing wings wide. And with a powerful flap of those wings, he flew straight back to his opponent like a bullet released from the gun barrel.

As he flew parallel to the ground, Seven crossed his arms in front of him and held both of the blazing swords parallel to one another.

'Guardian of the Vermillion Bird: Flame Road'

A trail of the blazing path was left behind him as he continued moving forward. And when Voltage saw that, a huge grin suddenly appeared on his face. "As expected of the right-hand man of the Sword God, you really are a tough one."

Bang!

He then stomped on the ground and spread his lightning wings behind him before launching himself forward, heading straight to Seven.

Swoosh!

Few minutes before Seven and Voltage started fighting.

Zero frowned deeply as he read the message that Seven had sent him.

Seeing the expression on his face, Shin quickly asked. "What's the matter? Did Seven encounter trouble?"

The others also turned their heads toward Zero when they heard those words.

Zero then turn to them and heavily nodded his head. "Yeah. It seems like he encountered a member of Earners."

Hearing that, the others couldn't help but also wear a heavy expressions. They just left the place where the teleportation was located and was getting ready to resume their quest.

Shiella sent a quite reliable group of people to guard the teleportation formation. Black Hand, Thinker, and Adept Hands were sent by her to personally oversee the situation.

Alongside them, there was also another chief from the firm who arrived at the Saint Heaven Kingdom just recently, Chief Runemaster, Balle.

These chiefs of the Hand of Midas Trading Firm were also here to build the altar required for the creation of the portal.

That way, they would be able to build a portal as soon as possible that could be their bridge to send immediate reinforcement when things go wrong.

If they were successful, then they would be able to save a lot of time when transporting their forces. It would directly cut down the time needed for traveling towards this place. This was the main reason why Shiella sent the four chiefs of the firm to personally build the altar.

With the presence of those four, Shin and the rest of the group were able to put their minds at ease and focus on their other problems.

This was also the reason why Shin suggested to continue tackling the quest. With Immortal and the Silent Night recuperating and the Earners worrying about the Sweepers of the Pandemonium Descendants, it was the right time for them to proceed with fighting the Fallen Dragon Knight Army.

But from the look of it, another problem suddenly appeared before they could even start executing their plans.

Zero understood their situation and was also aware that they would lose this chase if they waste more time saving Seven. But at the same time, he also couldn't abandon his friend just like that.

Dying once or twice by normal means shouldn't be a problem, but being captured by another player had another consequence behind it. Aside from that, Seven couldn't be killed while they were in the middle of the current Empire Quest since it would automatically count as him falling the quest.

From the message that he received, it looked like the members of the Earners were going to capture Seven to steal the Blessing of the Vermillion Bird, one of the Four Guardian Beasts.

While everyone was currently troubled, Faker suddenly asked. "They still haven't captured him, right?"

Zero turned in surprise before nodding his head. "Yeah. From the looks of it, the other members of the Earners are also not present as he is only facing a single person."

"Seven also said that he will pull his opponent away from the area and lead that guy towards our direction, so we will be able to meet him midway," he added.

Hearing that, Faker turned to Lawless, seemingly waiting for his permission.

Lawless understood the meaning behind that look as they were together for a long time already, both inside the game and in the real world.

Moreover, they were also in a similar position during one of the operations assigned to them by their family.

Lawless then turn to Shin and spoke. "You guys proceed with the plan. And leave the rest to us."

"Faker and I will accompany Zero to rescue seven and regroup with you late," he added as he started getting ready.

And before Shin and the others could even voice out their thoughts, he quickly continued. "Don't worry. We know our limits and will immediately retreat if it is an impossible task."

"Just make sure to stay alive until we came back," he then started walking away, not waiting for the others to reply.

Faker quickly followed after him as well as Zero who was taken aback and was in the middle of hesitation earlier.

Shin stared at their backs for a few moments, seemingly thinking deeply about something. But he immediately shook his head as he remembered that Faker and Lawless were still stronger than any of them in terms of Martial-Arts.

If those two were able to summon their true powers from the real world, then he was not confident that he would be able to fight them on an equal footing. After all, those guys were on the same level as Shiella and David.

He then turned to the others and waved his hand. "Let's go."

"Let's put our trust in them and focus on the current matter at hand. We can't embarrass ourselves when they come back later and regroup with us, can we?" he added as he led the group to proceed with the plan.