

Destiny 951

Chapter 951 The Frozen City (Part 1)

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After the arrangement that Shin and the group had made, the team immediately proceeded toward the Frozen City ahead of them.

The distance of city was not far from their current position, but it was also not near either. They could see the silhouette of the city from the distance because of how massive it was, which also signified how wealthy it was in its glory days.

From the current standard of the cities within the game, and given that it was too majestic compared to the Holy City which was about to be promoted into a Capital City, the group was thinking that this particular city was at least at Royal Rank, if not in Imperial Rank already.

Having that thought, the group could not help but see the Frozen Kingdom in a new light. From their knowledge, there were only a handful of cities that were in the Capital Rank within the game and all of them were from the largest countries that they had known so far.

And the kingdoms and empires which had a Capital City or more were the wealthiest regions within the game. And not a single guild or organization was able to control the resources running within them.

A huge war was always present in those places because of the rich resources that they could get from them.

The powerful guilds and large organizations were also doing their best to occupy a decent space within those cities since the possible benefits that they could get from just staying within those Capital Cities were pretty appealing.

Just having the high-mana density from the environment of those cities was already beneficial for the players, so there was no need to ask about the improvement that they could make after training in that kind of environment.

This was also one of the reasons why a lot of powerhouse guilds were eyeing the Holy City of the Saint Heaven Kingdom. For such a city that had the potential to become a Capital City, any organization would want to take root within it while it was still at its improving stage.

If they managed to build a solid foundation within it while it was still at the 'infant' stage, the benefits that they were going to get once it fully 'matured' would be astronomical.

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If a Capital City was already that appealing, then what more about a city with a higher rank than it?

Just mentioning the words Royal City and Imperial could make any organization drool over it together with their eyes that were full of greed.

Seeing the silhouette of such a huge city from the distance, the group could already understand why this ridiculously lengthy quest was set in the highest difficulty – it was an Empire Quest for a reason.

If the other guilds and organizations learned about the existence of this city, then all of them would surely go crazy.

A massive region full of rare and unique resources, filled with powerful and high-leveled monsters, alongside a Royal City situated at its center – these things alone were already rewarding if they became available to everyone.

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As a member of a Powerhouse Guild, the trio of S.Tigris, Black Hand, and Ara were tempted to report it to their Vice Guild Leader.

If only it was not included in the confidentiality contract that they had signed earlier, then they might have reported it already.

At the very least, they could only ask their vice guild leader to tell the Alliance Leader to continue building a good relationship with the Empyrean Talons and Hand of Midas Trading Firm.

They just hope the greedy elders of the Wing's Alliance would not be blinded by their greed later when they learned about the existence of this place once the Empire Quest was over.

Knowing how greedy could the higher-ups of their guild be, the three couldn't help but think twice while looking at the matter, especially for S.Tigris and Black Hand who were very familiar with those people.

– "This couldn't be shared with the others, only Amanda, the Vice Guild Leader that is on our side, could only know about their relationship with the Empyrean Talons, or the Alliance Leader himself." –

– "If it is learned by either of those sly foxes, then the consequence will definitely be serious, especially when the internal struggle within the guild is not in their favor." –

Different thoughts entered the heads of the two as they were reminded of the current problem that their guild was facing.

Setting aside his inner thoughts, Black Hand resumed observing the surroundings sharply, looking for any potential dangers that might come out and attack them at any time.

Since Shin was currently not present and Cloe wanted to focus on the supportive role for this battle, he was assigned as the shot caller once again.

His performance earlier also helped the others with this decision. His earlier instructions were always decisive and accurate, which made the others perform properly. That alone was more than enough for the others to further entrust him with such an important role.

As they were proceeding forward, the group was currently maintaining a solid yet flexible formation, where they could showcase their battle prowess unrestricted and able to make some adjustments when the situation call for it.

At the forefront of the group, Owen and Arthur were leading everyone, three meters away from each other, while Lawless was running closely behind with Zero following after him at the same distance as the other two.

They were moving in an arrow formation without a tip.

Slightly behind them were S.Tigris and Lawless who were running aligned with each other just like Owen and Arthur. But compared to those two, the pair were slightly spread away, leaving a huge empty space in between them.

Then a little behind them, Seven was running positioned at the center behind the empty space that the two left.

Then there was Cloe and Black Hand running side by side behind him, a couple of meters away from each other.

Then forming a diamond formation around them, alongside Seven, were the three mages of Charlotte, Ember, and Ravier, with the latter two flanking them on both sides.

There was also Chaotic Luck who was behind them. He hadn't summoned any of his Solaris Soldiers yet as he was instructed to save his mana as much as possible.

If the upcoming battle required them to increase their numbers, then he was free to summon his legion. But if it was not, then he could only use some of his magic spells to deal additional damage.

But he could only do it moderately since his role would still be important in the possible ambush that could happen in the raid. They need his Legion of the Chaotic Sun to deal with Immortal's Undying Army at that time.

Meanwhile, guarding the rear of the group, Alucard and Ara who had the longest range among them, were following after everyone. And since they had the sharpest perception compared to most of the group, they would be able to quickly sense it if they were ambushed from behind.

Faker, on the other hand, was left on his one once again. He was moving a little ahead of the group, scouting the area. Being the fastest of the group, he was able to quickly return to the group and inform them about his findings.

The group moved at the same pace to maintain their current formation, fully ready to fight anytime.

But after a long time of running, the group felt that there was something wrong. They didn't encounter a single monster along the way, not even a cursed knight or a vampire in sight.

Not encountering a vampire might still be understandable since they might be the final monsters that they were supposed to fight at the very end of the quest. Even if they were too near their nest, the Frozen City.

But it was completely different when it came to cursed knights, undead monsters, and other beings that they faced so far.

Based on the previous battles that they had experienced since their arrival in this place, they were supposed to fight a bunch of mobs first before facing the final boss – a usual setup for a standard setup.

Following the pattern, they should be fighting monsters first before Grand Marshal Draco appeared.

Swoosh!

While they were currently confused, they suddenly heard the sound of someone rushing in their direction.

"Wait! That must be Faker. Let's stop here for now and listen to his findings," Black Hand signaled everyone to wait.

Not long after, Faker finally arrived and appeared right in the middle of their formation like a ghost. The others walked over to him but still maintained their formation by only shirking it.

"Did you discover something?" asked Black Hand as he walked over.

Faker was currently wearing a deep frown as he didn't know how to respond. After a brief moment of silence, he finally spoke. "It is strange. I don't find any signs of life up ahead of us, not even an undead monster is present."

"I continue all the way close to the city, but I still found nothing," he added while wearing a deep frown.

"That is indeed strange."

"Hmmm."

"..."

"Not even a life signature? Suspicious."

The others gave their different opinion but their thoughts were the same.

After thinking deeply about it for a few moments, Black Hand finally said. "Does this mean our next battlefield will be inside the city?"

The others didn't react to those words verbally but their reactions signified that they agreed. And when they thought about it, they couldn't help but looked at the huge city up ahead, having similar thoughts in mind.

"Sounds like a perfect place to close the curtain," muttered Arthur before gesturing to the others. "Let's go! I've got a good feeling about this."

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Chapter 952 The Frozen City (Part 2): Update And Clues

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Shin took a long detour when he was heading to the Frozen City since the others were supposedly near the front gate.

He didn't know whether they were going to fight near the city or enter it for their battle against Grand Marshal Draco. But to make sure that they would not be caught up with it, he chose to take a roundabout route.

But as he was circling around the city, he noticed that there was something wrong. He couldn't find any enemies in the surrounding area, not even a single soul.

Having his suspicions, he opened the party chat channel to ask about the situation on the other side, but the moment when he did that, he suddenly discovered that it was currently unavailable.

This could only mean one thing, the whole area surrounding the city was completely sealed by a powerful force.

"Tsk! This is going to be troublesome," Shin couldn't help but wear a deep frown.

This was going to be a problem for him since he would not be able to get any updates from the other side. And if he didn't know their situation, he would not know how he needed to hold out when facing the First Vampire.

At the same time, the others would also not know how he was doing or if he could still hold his ground before they arrived.

"Let's just hope they would be able to wrap things up properly... and quickly," he muttered before running towards the city wall ahead of him.

Seeing that there was no one to stop him, he flipped his cloak a little, revealing his tactical belt, before pulling out his flying daggers from it.

Before he reached a certain distance away from the wall, he used his 'Elemental Skill – Telekinesis' to control the flying daggers before sending them towards the wall.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The daggers planted themselves on the wall with alternating left and right patterns upward. They created a small foothold that Shin could use when climbing.

Swoosh!

Ta-ta!

Sprinting towards the wall, Shin leaped in the air before landing his foot on the lowest dagger before jumping from towards another, swiftly climbing the wall unhindered.

Not long after, he reached the top of the walls, giving him the full view of the city behind it. And when looked at the scenery in front of him, he couldn't help but become stunned.

It was a majestic sight. The buildings of different sizes were laid in front of him alongside their designs that were from the medieval period.

Shin didn't know if the stones and bricks used to build the houses and other buildings within the city were the same or if it was because of the cold weather of the kingdom, but the walls of each of them were all the same.

They all have a faint blue hue on their smooth surface which made them look like a frozen block from his perspective.

Shin had to admit it, but the city truly lived up to its name. It was truly fitting to call it the Frozen City.

While he was enjoying the view, a series of notifications from the system suddenly interrupted his thoughts.

Ding!

Snapping him back to reality, Shin turned his eyes at the notification in front of him and raised his brows.

System: You've discovered the Frozen City.

System: Congratulations! You are the first person/group to discover the Frozen City! You are rewarded with 2000 Fame Points.

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Quest Update: You have discovered the Frozen City! Now, follow the clues that you have collected and find the great Dragon who sacrificed himself to save this Kingdom.

Seek out the truth about the disaster that befalls this Kingdom and free the souls that are trapped in here for generations.

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System: Link Quest has been found! Adjusting the scenario of the ongoing quest.

System: Additional Sub-Quest has been created!

System: Blind Quest condition has been detected! Quest Establishment will proceed with the current information that has been collected.

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Quest Update: A Great Demon King has detected the sudden change of heart of one of his contractors.

Because of this, he gives out an order to his followers to seek out the target of the contract and subdue him before they cause harm to him.

Quest Condition: Prevent the followers of the Demonic Churches from getting their hands on the body of the Vampire Primogenitor.

Quest Reward: Will be added to the current quest.

Quest Failure: Descent of the 'Devil Ancestor' will decrease by 5 years.

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The long string of notifications made Shin's eyes hurt. Not because of how long they were, but because of the contents that they had.

Their overall suspicions were mostly on point but Shin couldn't help but feel a little sour after getting the confirmation from the system.

Moreover, he felt that the situation was going to be even more annoying than it already had been, especially when they had an ongoing contract with the Pandemonium Descendants, so they couldn't directly harm each other.

Fortunately, the system indicated that they only needed to 'prevent' the opposing side from getting their hands at the so-called Vampire Primogenitor, which he suspected to be the First Vampire from its name alone.

It was going to be much easier than fighting the Pandemonium Descendants when they were in their exhausted state after a series of intense battles that they went through.

"Tsk! Looks like my job also gain more impact on our quest all of a sudden. I really can't afford to be careless in this and mess everything up," he muttered before turning his eyes to the special quest that he received.

"I just hope that this 'Bloody Ghost Quest' will enhance the power that Vladimir has by a great margin," he added before turning his attention to the speck of light with crimson color revolving around his body.

Earlier, due to some unknown reason, he couldn't communicate with any of his Elemental Spirits. He was not sure if it was a restriction from the system due to the nature of their Empire Quest, but he was thinking that it was most likely the case.

Boom!

While he was still in the middle of his thoughts, a powerful outburst of aura suddenly exploded from the distance.

Turning his head to the side, casting his gaze in the direction where the outburst came from, Shin saw a majestic castle standing at the far end of the city.

He stared blankly at that castle, completely astounded. From all of the places that they had visited both from the real world and here inside the game, this castle might be the most luxurious thing that he had seen.

It didn't matter where the atmosphere enveloping the whole city was very gloomy, this particular castle seemed to be completely unaffected by it.

Shin stayed rooted on his spot for a couple of moments before snapping out of his daze due to the increasing pressure directed at him, coming from inside the castle.

He then started grinning widely before muttering in a smirking voice. "It looks like I am being invited inside it. I guess they are aware of our movements within the Frozen Kingdom but choose not to make their moves against us."

Based on the clue that he received from the system, Shin was suspecting that the Vampire Primogenitor was trying to do something to go against the contract that they had with the Great Demon King.

He might not know what it was, but he was sure that it was big enough to trigger a World Quest, concerning the whole Atlas World.

Moreover, he also got an idea of who would be the final boss for that upcoming global event.

"The Devil Ancestor, huh? It sounds like a hideous and terrifying being and a powerful one at that. Are they the king of Demons or something else?" muttered Shin solemnly.

He then paused for a moment and recalled a certain god that he heard from Lycan, especially how they addressed that god.

"The Wicked One," muttering those words, Shin couldn't help but wear a weird look on his face. "It can't be, right?"

He didn't dare to think further about it but he could no longer erase the thought inside his head, especially now that he was aware of the existence of divine beings.

"Whether they are the same or different beings, the fact that they were powerful beings that could trigger a disaster for the world still remained."

"Tier 3 is definitely not enough to stop it," muttered Shin before frowning even deeper. He now understood the gravity of the additional quest that they suddenly received. "It is more serious than I have thought. I guess I have to put enough effort to delay this so-called descent as much as possible."

He now became even more determined to put more care and effort into this task that he put on himself. Failure was not an option as it would not only cause their demise but also the fate of the whole of Atlas World.

Bracing himself for the hardship that he was about to face, Shin took a deep breath before heading to the castle.

"Since you personally give me an invitation, it will be impolite of me not to accept it."

Chapter 953 Ascended Beings (Part 1)

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As Shin was heading over to the Castle situated at the far end of the Frozen City, Arthur and the rest of the team finally reached the gates of the city.

"Woah! It sure is huge, huh?" commented Arthur as he looked at the huge gate in front of them which was completely wide open.

"There are no guards nor people here. It looks like a complete ghost town despite having majestic and luxurious buildings," said Owen as he swept his gaze through the surroundings after entering the gates.

"Duh~? Of course, no people are guarding here or roaming around. This place is devoid of humans and other creatures long ago. If ever, undead monsters or vampires were the ones that we are expecting," said Arthur while looking at Owen as if he was an idiot.

The team was still advancing with the formation that they had earlier but on a much smaller scale. They had enough space away from each other, enough for them to not affect the others from making their movements and hindering the people near them.

But at the same time, they keep a close distance from one another to make sure that they would be able to respond in time and help each other if something unexpected happened.

"Keep vigilant, we don't know when we are going to get ambushed," said Black Hand, reminding everyone to keep their guards up. He also swept his gaze at the surrounding houses before adding. "Moreover, this is a perfect place to launch an ambush on us. There are a lot of buildings that can obstruct our line of sight, a perfect hiding place."

No matter how beautiful and amazing the city that they were, they didn't have the time to enjoy it due to the nature of their quest, especially with the eerie vibe that the city had.

But despite being anxious for such a long time, they never encountered any enemies along the way.

The whole group was confused at what was happening as it continued to be that way until they reached the city plaza where a beautiful fountain with frozen water stood.

But stay rooted in the mesmerizing sight in front of them as it seemed to be a masterclass painting displayed for an exhibit.

Looking at the scene in front of them, they unconsciously forgot about everything â€" about this place and their purpose of coming here, specifically.

They seemed to be enchanted by the sight which was supposedly a dangerous thing to do in their current situation. Fortunately, nothing happened even after a long time had passed.

Instead, they felt that their minds became clear. They also felt that all of the accumulated mental fatigue that they had were washed away just by looking at the frozen fountain.

"Hmmm?"

"What is happening?"

"Huh?"

The first to wake out from that state were Zero, Arthur, and Leonard. They tilted their heads and frowned their brows after discovering that there was something wrong.

But despite that being the case, they didn't wake up the others since they were also aware of the benefits that they could get.

"As expected, you are the ones who have the strongest mental strength aside from that little guy with monstrous willpower."

Then they heard a person talking from the side, making them fully on alerted mode. They quickly assumed a battle position without disturbing the others.

Casting their gaze toward the direction of the voice, they saw a silhouette of someone sitting on a frozen bench and hiding under the shade of the nearby houses.

"Relax, it is not time yet. You guys needed to be at your full power and most ideal state if you want to go against me," said that person in a leisurely manner.

The three didn't need to guess the identity of that person as they already had an idea of who he was – the commanding general of the Great Dragon Knight Army, Grand Marshal Draco.

The trio couldn't see his actual appearance as their sight seemed to be obstructed by a veil of an aura surrounding the grand marshal. It was a type of power that prevented the others from spying on him.

Grand Marshal Draco waited for his words to sink into their heads before signaling them to sit on the few benches near him. "We can take our time and have a chat first while we are waiting for the others to recover their mental strength."

The trio could feel the sincerity in his words but they still couldn't bring to trust him. Moreover, they were currently pressed for time. Aside from Shin who was trying to buy as much time as he could for them, there was also the matter regarding Immortal and the others who might attack them later.

On top of that, there was also the Pandemonium Descendants to consider as well. They were too many factors that they needed to consider, so they didn't have the time to relax and have a chat.

Seemingly able to read what was running inside their heads, the grand marshal gave them a meaningful smile and reassured them. "There is no need to worry. I am aware of your situation and enemies heading here."

"But didn't you find it odd that you haven't encountered a single enemy coming here? That is because we let you come unhindered," he added, catching the three off-guard.

He ignored the expression that the three had and continued. "But it is going to be different for those guys. They are going to face the remaining forces that you guys are supposed to fight while we are finishing our business here."

"That sounds good thing but it also looked too good to be true. Why are you even bothering to do this?" asked Zero in caution, not willing to believe those words yet.

Leonard and Arthur were the same. They remained vigilant and circulate their mana inside their bodies, getting ready to spring into action at any given moment.

Seeing their actions, Grand Marshal Draco couldn't help but become amused. "You, young lads, sure are interesting."

Then the expression in his eyes immediately changed and went back to his nonchalant attitude. "I have a lot of answers for that particular question, but I can seem to find the right one that can satisfy you."

"How about this? Let's say that I am quite curious about what your Predecessors see in you to pass their mantles."

"There is also a rather interesting guy in the other group who is also a Transcendent Being. But unfortunately, his greed far surpassed the person who first holds that mantle before."

"He deviated from the original goal that his race is supposed to be. He is already walking a path of no return. And he is long gone in the darkness and could no longer be saved."

"That is why our interest is directed to you, young people from another world, who are now carrying the legacy of those heroes. I may not know how did you get into our world, but I do know why you were."

He then took another pause and stared at the cloudy sky before continuing with a mystifying tone. "Some of them may have nasty personalities, but I also respected but nevertheless."

"And some of them may have made a wrong choice when choosing a successor, but I still trust that you are the right ones from those who have been chosen," he added while lowering his head and looking at the with eyes full of emotions.

Flashing a lonely smile at them, he suddenly added. "And right now, I am asking you to help me tell the world about us, who have been forgotten due to the passage of time."

Taking yet another pause, he continued. "Have you guys heard of Ascended Beings?"

Right after those words left his mouth, a string of system notifications appeared right in front of the eyes of the three.

Ding!

System: Another clue had been added to the ongoing quest!

System: Generating an alternative path for the quest!

Ding!

System: Due to the quest scenario, the party leader role is temporarily transferred to player Siegfried for the decision-making.

Ding!

System: Would you like to listen to Grand Marshal Draco's words and learn more about Ascended Beings? 'Yes' or 'No'?

System: Choosing 'Yes' will generate an alternative scenario for the quest.

System: Choosing 'No' will make you proceed with the current path that you are taking, forcing you to fight Grand Marshal Draco directly.

System: Please note that there is no going back after making your choice and it will affect the completion rate of your quest, so make your choice wisely.

...

The three became even more surprised when they read the series of notifications in front of them, not knowing how to react. Especially Arthur who suddenly took over the leader's role temporarily.

They somewhat expect the positive and friendly attitude that Grand Marshal Draco based on the last moments that both Nel and Caelum had.

They also knew about the Ascended Classes and Races since the game company had already leaked them to the public when the major regions were released.

The thing that they didn't expect was the thing what these system notifications were implying.

From the clue words that they could get from the notifications laid in front of them, they could tell that the grade of their quest could suddenly become different based on the choice that they were going to make.

If it now had the information about the Ascended Beings, then this quest would trigger new in-game content that could affect the players not only from the neighboring kingdoms but also the global players.

It would trigger a major patch that would change everything.

They now understood why they kept getting different types of 'Proof of Qualifications' despite the Empire Quest being related to Dragons.

"This might be because of the choice that, Shin Bro had made earlier. The nature of the Empire Quest slightly deviated from its original path the moment we 'saved' Lycan," muttered Leonard in a low voice.

He was also an expert in the game and quite an experienced one at that, so he was very familiar when these kinds of chances in the middle of their quest progress. They just didn't notice it earlier since their Empire Quest was a blind quest where they needed to gather information related to it while proceeding.

Zero also agreed after hearing that, and with more understanding at that since this also happened to him a couple of times, in the past, already.

If they were following the designated path for the quest, then all they have to do was clear every monster in their way, solve a couple of puzzles if needed, and defeat the boss, to clear it.

At first, he thought that it was because this quest was connected to the quests that the Corrupted Cult and Demonic Churches had, which was why it became too complicated. But it now became clear to him that it was because of an unexpected choice that they made.

If only they were aware of the fact that they belonged to the 'Miracle Players' that the World Gaming Organization were keeping an eye on, then they would understand why it was the case.

They were a group of players who always exceed the calculations of the great AI running the game, the AI Chronos. They always took a path that was out of the expectations of the system which was why these kinds of scenarios were being generated in the middle of the quests.

Their unexpected actions always created a new path that was not supposed to be in the script.

This was also the major reason why the monitoring team and development teams hated these miracle players. They were always the source of their 'troubles', which also lead to them needing to work overtime.

And right now, it seemed like another 'overtime' were currently waving at those poor guys.

Chapter 954 Ascended Beings (Part 2)

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Arthur, Leonard, and Zero stayed rooted in their spots as they read the series of notifications in front of them.

They looked at each other before turning their heads to the rest of the group who were currently in the state of healing their minds.

They chose not to disturb them earlier since they had experienced the benefits of that state themselves. Moreover, they also agreed with the words that Grand Marshal Draco had said, they needed to be at their peak state if they want to fight him right now.

Zero was even wearing a serious look on his face as he looked at the series of question marks written above the grand marshal's head. This indicated that their current opponent far surpassed their strengths.

It was impossible to defeat him if the gap between their strengths was that huge. Given that, the system was somewhat helping them right now.

Based on the notifications that they received, the scenario that was going to be generated was related to the upcoming battle. And when it happened, they would either get a huge buff from the system or Grand Marshal Draco would suddenly become weakened.

Either way, both cases would give them a significant chance of winning.

Arthur had a similar thought in mind and understood what was currently the best choice that they could make. He exchanged looks at the two before nodding his head.

He then hit the 'Yes' button presented by the system and responded to the grand marshal. "We have heard of the Ascended Beings before, but we don't know much about them, Elder."

He didn't forget to address the grand marshal respectfully since he was now engaging in a conversation with a named NPC.

Grand Marshal Draco smiled at his words before nodding his head. "That is only natural since you can only hear about 'us' if you reached the Great Regions of the Atlas World."

"And to be able to qualify on entering those sacred lands, you need to at least be a Tier 3 Rank individual. After all, even the most average person residing there are at least around those ranks."

"The citizens of those sacred lands are all capable individuals, so you are only able to set foot in there, if you have the qualifications," added the grand marshal, giving the three an important clue about the major regions of all of the races.

He then took a brief pause before continuing. "As for us, the Ascended Beings – we are the individuals who break free from the restraints of the world and surpassed the mortal's limits."

"We are the ones who strive to become comparable to the Transcendent Beings, who are supposed to be the apex of different races."

"Us, Ascended Beings, call ourselves the ones who are the closest to being a Divine Being and reaching the godhood."

Arthur slightly knitted his brow before mumbling to himself. "It sounds like an evolution of the basic races."

His voice might be soft and could only be heard by himself, but given the current strength that Grand Marshal Draco had, his words were loud enough to be heard.

"You can put it that way," said the grand marshal, catching Arthur a little off-guard.

With a slight nod, Grand Marshal Draco continued. "It may sound too simple but not everyone can reach that state, where they can all themselves an Ascended Being."

"For an individual to become an Ascended Being, they needed to endure a series of hardships, surpassing their limits repeatedly, before they can reach it."

"We are individuals who pave our own paths. We became the ones who control our fates and create our own destiny."

He turned to Zero and smiled. "Let's take the humans for example."

"Humans are known to be the weakest among all of the races because they didn't possess the innate abilities that the others have – such as the sharp senses and powerful strength of a Beastmen, or the mana sensitivity and elemental affinity of the Elves, or the creative minds and intelligence of the Dwarves."

"But what they have is their ability to adapt in every kind of situation. They also looked like a blank paper, so they can train towards the path that they think is most ideal for them."

"After training for a very long time and breaking from the world's restraints, they would become an Ascended Being called the 'Conquerors'."

Reaching this point, he pointed to himself and continued. "Us, Conquerors, are humans who manage to accumulate a series of 'great achievements' and gain the 'acknowledgment' of the world itself."

"At that time, we will undergo what you call an 'evolution' after basking ourselves under the 'blessing of the heaven'."

Since the grand marshal was looking at him, Zero couldn't help but ask. "You said earlier that Ascended Beings are comparable to Transcendent Beings, then can I assume that a 'Conqueror' is also a 'High Human'?"

Grand Marshal Draco slightly nodded his head. "In a sense, yes, but not entirely."

"Unlike Conquerors, High Humans are individuals who are said to be the first human beings. They are already in this world since the very beginning and lived alongside the other Transcendent Beings such as Dragons, Giants, Primordial Beast, Ancient Elves, and the others."

"They also possessed great powers comparable to those powerful existences, giving them the qualification to stand alongside them. Though, they are not known as 'High Humans' at that time. Instead, they are called 'Immortals'."

"As time goes by, the purity of their bloodlines becomes thinner whenever it is transferred to their offspring, losing a portion of their powers during the process. That is how the Immortals cease to exist and become the humans of today."

"As for the modern High Humans, they are the ones who managed to awaken the powers of their ancestors. They gain the insight recorded on their bloodlines and become a powerful being."

He hesitated for a moment as he looked at Zero once again before continuing. "There is a ritual for someone to awaken this bloodline's powers but not everyone can awaken those powers even with its help, so being a Conqueror is the most ideal for the humans of today if they want to reach the heavens. But even that is not easy."

He then took another pause to let the information sink inside the heads of the three before continuing. "That is only an example. There are different types of Ascended Beings from the other races as well."

"If you want to know more about them, then you can have a trip to the Imperial Library of the Divine Empire. Everything about this world is recorded there. And given your strengths and talents, I am confident that you will be able to reach that place."

The three nodded before Zero asked yet another question. "Transcendent Races have their unique classes, and I heard that Ascended Beings have corresponding classes as well, are they really comparable with each other?"

Grand Marshal Draco gave Zero a meaningful smile as he could tell what the young man was planning. He had been observing them since the group entered this place, so he knew everything that happened.

He then moved his gaze toward Seven who lost the blessing of the Vermillion Bird just recently.

After being silent for a couple of moments, he finally answered. "Not entirely. It still depends on the owner of the class. An Ascended Class can be comparable to a Transcendent Class if the wielder is talented enough to showcase its full potential, but it can also be weaker than an ordinary class if they are not into it."

"Ascended Classes are still different from Transcendent Classes," he emphasized.

"Transcendent Races and Classes come to hand in hand. It is because of the knowledge recorded into the bloodline."

"If someone becomes a Transcendent Being, then the memories of their bloodline will be awakened alongside it. And they will continuously grow alongside that knowledge passed to them through it."

"On the other hand, Ascended Classes are the paths created to turn an individual into an Ascended Being."

"This means, anyone can have an Ascended Class as long as they have the qualification for it, but it doesn't guarantee that they can become an Ascended Being just by having it."

Hearing that, the trio finally understood what was going on. And they also figured out that it must be the Tier 3 Promotion Quest that everyone had to face if they want to get those Ascended Classes.

As for the Ascended Races, they have to work extra hard in their promotion quest if they want to achieve it. Or there might be an additional quest that needed to be done separately.

But at the same time, there were also the special beads that they got from Nel and Caelum. It said that anyone who used it would be able to get both an Ascended Class and Race as long as they conquered the trails recorded within it.

Seemingly able to read what was in their mind, Grand Marshal Draco slightly chuckled and added. "Of course, there are always been an exemption."

"For someone like me, who created an entirely new system for my class, I can directly pass down the knowledge that I have to my successor."

"As long as they pass the trials that I've prepared for them, then they will immediately become an Ascended Being like me since the trail itself is the process that they need to take to acquire the 'great achievements' that I have."

"Passing our direct trials is the same as getting those 'great achievements' which will lead to them gaining the 'acknowledgment' of the world."

The three understood what he meant by those words and silently nodded their heads. They still wanted to ask a couple of things but they suddenly felt a small outburst of power within the grand marshal's body.

Creasing his brow deeply, Grand Marshal Draco stopped talking and focused his energy on suppressing the berserk power within his body.

A few moments after that, he turned to the three and gave them a bitter smile. "It looks like our time is already running out. I can no longer suppress it with my current strength. I guess we have to end this already."

Right after he said those words, the others behind the three started to wake up one after another before looking at them in full confusion.

The trio also didn't have the time to explain the situation either, so they could only give them a simple smile before turning back to the grand marshal.

Arthur then took a step forward and spoke. "It looks like it is already time, Elder."

After that, he raised his weapon, signaling the others to prepare for the battle. He still wanted to hear more about the Ascended Beings and Classes, especially the one that Grand Marshal Draco had since it seemed to be related to dragons.

But after sensing the berserk powers within the grand marshal's body going out of control, Arthur understood that they no longer had the time for that.

They needed to finish this and get over it.

Chapter 955 It's My Turn (Part 1)

.....

Grand Marshal Draco focused his senses on the berserk powers rampaging within him, trying to suppress them for as long as he could.

The curse within him was getting stronger and stronger as time went by. It even reached the point where even someone as powerful as him could no longer contain it. It was also attempting to take over his body and wanting to turn him into a mindless monster that was only driven by its instincts to slaughter everything.

With his curse getting out of hand, presenting the trial that he prepared for Arthur and the rest was going to be more challenging for him.

He originally wanted to further improve the strengths of each member of the group, but given the current state that he was in, he could no longer afford to do it anymore. And since it already came into this, he could only go with the contingency plan that he prepared for this situation.

Having that in mind, he slowly stood up and revealed his towering figure to everyone. He might not be as huge as Nel, who looked like a small giant, but his a little more than two meters height and muscular body were enough to make the others feel so small.

Adding the heavy pressure that his body was emitting, Arthur and the rest of the group felt that they were insignificant beings.

Realizing the effects of the heavy pressure pressing on them, Arthur and Owen quickly took a step forward and released their respective Aura Manifestation, trying to protect the others.

Ha!

With a solemn yet powerful shout from those two, the powerful pressure crushing at everyone suddenly vanished.

The others also quickly get in position, preparing themselves for the upcoming battle.

Cloe didn't wait for the grand marshal to make any moves as she quickly slammed the bottom of her staff on the ground, summoning a huge magic circle on the ground which covered the entire plaza.

She didn't hold back and poured as much mana as she could on the magic circle, ensuring that they would be able to utilize its maximum effects.

'Holy Maiden Skill (Tier 2): Blessings of the Great Heaven'

The whole place was illuminated by the light coming from the magic circle. And since the walls of the houses around them seemed to be covered by ice, the brilliant light was reflected by them and amplified the intensity of the brilliance of those lights.

On the other hand, the others immediately sensed the series of buffs cast on them, boosting all of their stats by a great margin.

Seeing that Cloe took the initiative for this battle, Grand Marshal Draco quickly made his preparations. He could feel the curse within him getting agitated after the appearance of the magic circle underneath their feet. If he didn't do anything right now, then the power of that curse would become even more berserk to the point that he could no longer control it.

At first, black armor suddenly materialized, covering his entire body. And when its materialization was completed, a black helmet appeared and covered his head, only revealing his glowing eyes from its game.

There was also a crimson cape made of corrupted mana that appeared behind him before flapping alongside the wind and revealing the majestic emblem of a dragon embroidered on it.

Grand Marshal Draco extended his hand to the side before making a grabbing motion in the air. And immediately after that, a black light suddenly escaped from the gaps in his hand before extending in opposite directions.

It later turned into a double-edged greatsword with a series of magical runes on its surface. It also started to emit black smoke that drew an arc in the air whenever the sword was swung in the air.

Seeing those actions, Arthur quickly charged forward, while covering himself with his signature golden aura. And just like it always been, it later transformed into a dragon with a wide-open mouth as he charged ahead.

Roar!

But unlike how it always ended, that golden dragon didn't even reach his opponent since it immediately dissipated after a moment.

...

Grand Marshal Draco inhaled deeply, filling his lungs with air before releasing all of it with a powerful shout.

Ha!

During the process, a silhouette of a huge dragon's head appeared behind him before opening its mouth to release a powerful roar.

Right after the powerful roar swept through everything in its path, the golden dragon surrounding Arthur suddenly disappeared and dissipated in the air, leaving him stunned.

It was the first he experienced something like this kind of situation. This particular skill was one of his signature moves yet it was instantly obliterated by a single shout.

But his shock only lasted for an instant since he somewhat expecting it. After all, he already suspected that the class Grand Marshal Draco had was somewhat related to dragons.

After recovering his shock, Arthur continued to charge forward while rising his shield in front of him. His momentum noticeably weakened due to his momentary pause, but the force that he had was still strong.

Bang!

Grand Marshal Draco forcefully halted Arthur's advance by thrusting his greatsword forward and slamming it at the incoming shield.

Urgh!

Arthur couldn't help but groan painfully due to the powerful impact. He felt like his body was slammed into a metal door, making his innards shake violently.

But regardless of the pain, he endured all of it before pushing his shield further forward. He ground the shield on the greatsword, making it hard for the grand marshal to pull it back.

It was at that moment that Owen suddenly overtook him and charged straight to Grand Marshal Draco with similarly strong momentum.

Seeing that, the grand marshal tensed his muscles and tightened his grip over his greatsword before flicking his whole arm, exerting strong force forward.

His actions resulted in Arthur being sent away from him.

He didn't see how far he pushed Arthur as he was already bending his arms and rotating his wrist alongside his greatsword.

Bang!

Then, at the very next instant, Owen found himself flying in the opposite direction of where he was heading earlier.

But he was not worried. It was because they already achieved their initial role of attracting the attention of their opponent.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Right after Arthur and Owen were sent away consecutively, a barrage of spells and skills poured down from the sky and bombarded Grand Marshal Dragon.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Different kinds of magic spells, magic arrows, and magic bullets befell the grand marshal, not giving him the time to react while also blocking all of his retreat paths.

But even though those attacks looked powerful, they didn't even leave a scratch on the body of their target. It was as if the grand marshal was telling them that those attacks were not enough.

Though, those attacks were also a form of diversion. The real ones were just about to come.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

While the smoke from the explosions started to dissipate, Leonard and Zero appeared on each side of the grand marshal, brandishing their fist and sword respectively.

Leonard had his fist covered with his blinding crimson mana, acting like a miniature sun, as he threw a powerful punch forward.

While he was throwing that punch, eerie wails could be heard as if the souls of the dead were being punished with that glowing fist.

'Blood Sutra: Puño del Purgatorio'

On the other hand, Zero's sword was currently covered by a razor-sharp gale rotating around it. And due to the rapid spinning of that wind, it created a jade glow that could also blind their target temporarily.

'Divine Swordsmanship: Blade of the Storm'

Being both in the state of Reality Manifestations, Leonard and Zero executed these attacks in absolute perfection. No matter whether it was the timing or the execution itself, these attacks were meant to land on their targets regardless of the situation.

But despite facing such a difficult predicament, Grand Marshal Draco remained calm and responded to it accordingly.

He held his sword invertedly before moving it around his body by slightly rotating his wrist and adjusting the angle of his arm.

Clang!

Swoosh!

With those simple actions, he managed to deflect Zero's sword and forced Leonard to stop his actions and retreat.

Bang!

Swoosh!

Not only that, but he also stomped on the ground and kicked the ground, propelling himself forward. And during his flight, he extended his sword in front of him, pointing its tip at Arthur who was currently charging back at him.

Seeing the incoming attack, Arthur quickly halted his charge and firmly planted his feet on the ground, raising his shield in front of him.

Bang!

"Urgh! Bastard!" Arthur couldn't help but curse out loud right after the collision as he felt like a huge trailer truck hit him at its full speed.

Enduring all the pain, he stubbornly held his ground while looking over his shield. "This old man sure knows how to hit hard. I feel like my innards are being shaken within a spinner, making me vomit both my breakfast and lunch earlier."

He then took a deep breath as he looked at the system notification from the corner of his eyes before grinning widely. "This time, it is my turn to stand at the center of the spotlight."

Chapter 956 It's My Turn (Part 2)

.....

System: Alternative Quest Scenario has been generated!

System: Quest Details have been updated!

Quest Update: Due to Grand Marshal Draco being able to suppress the corruption of his curse and contain it within his body, he was able to retain most of his memories and human emotions.

But after suppressing it for a long time, the power of the curse started to become more berserk and powerful, making it hard for the grand marshal to fully control it.

Knowing that he would not be able to escape his fate, he decided to create a plan, alongside the Vampire Primogenitor, that would help the prophesied heroes at withstanding the dark future ahead.

But for the plan to succeed, the two of them needed to give up their lives in the process.

Grand Marshal Draco was planning to use the power of the curse within him to absorb all of the curses cast on the Frozen Kingdom and contain them within his body.

Given his current state, he would not be able to withstand the power of the curses which would lead him to be consumed by them in the end, turning him into a mindless Demon that would know nothing but slaughter.

But in exchange for his sacrifice, the burden that the Guardian Dragon and the Vampire Primogenitor were carrying would decrease greatly, leaving them with enough power to deal with the problem that would arise after Grand Marshal Draco turned into a Cursed Demon.

Quest Condition: Grand Marshal Draco had already absorbed almost all of the curses within the Frozen Kingdom, making the curse within him evolve into the Power of Calamity.

-Solo Player Condition (Player Siegfried): Before the Power of Calamity could fully consume the grand marshal, he wanted to pass his knowledge about Dragon Style Fighting to you through battle.

Participate in the battle and be the vanguard during the first pace of the raid.

Special Note: Enduring the attacks from Grand Marshal Draco would improve your understanding of Dragon Aura.

Time until the Power of Calamity could fully consume Grand Marshal Draco's mind: 00:59:59↓

-Team Battle Condition: Fight Grand Marshal Draco and stay alive until he was eliminated.

...

Arthur looked at the string of system notifications and understood his role in this battle. "Of course, that guy is right again."

Earlier, during his discussion with Shin, he was informed that his role in the upcoming battle was going to be a critical one.

Shin had deduced that Arthur would be the one who would be dealing with Grand Marshal Draco the most in the battle. This active role was affected by the quest since he was the main initiator of it.

Aside from the contingency plan that they had prepared when Immortal and the others made their appearance, Shin discussed everything with the group and asked them to take on the supporting role in the battle and let Arthur deal with the rest.

For them to achieve the perfect score in this Empire Quest, they needed to clear all of the conditions that needed to be cleared. It was more ideal if they performed better, if possible.

"An hour, right? A piece of cake!" muttered Arthur with full confidence.

After that, he called out the names of his two Elemental Dragons and initiate a dual Elemental Fusion with them. "Vulcan, Oceana!"

Following his words, two of the specks of lights revolving around his body broke free from their respective cycle and positioned themselves behind him.

Not long after, the two turned into an illusionary figure of their humanoid forms before initiating the Elemental Spirit Possession. And with the dual fusion, the form that Arthur had was slightly different from what he usually had.

His current armor changed into one that resembled the scales of a dragon. But instead of having the red and blue scales of the Infernal and Ocean Dragons, the color of the armor was purple.

Then his round shield turned into a liquid before fusing with his left arm and morphing into sharp scales and claws. Meanwhile, the spear on his other hand grew a little longer while its tip turned into a blade that seemed to be a hybrid of a trident and a triangular dagger.

At the same time, his cape transformed into a huge pair of bat-like wings as a reptilian tail with sharp pins above grew from his tailbone.

'Elemental Dragon Fusion (Dual): (Infernal and Ocean Dragons) Hellfire Leviathan'

After the transformation, Arthur extended his left hand and held the spear with his right hand, making throwing posturing.

He then inhaled deeply, filling his lungs with air before throwing the spear with all his might, releasing all of the air that he just collected.

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Dragon Slaying – Piercing Dragon'

Swoosh!

Right after the spear was released from Arthur's hand, it left a blazing trail in the air which connected the points where it started and ended.

Grand Marshal Draco might be in an awkward position to defend himself due to his previous actions. But before the tip of the blazing spear reached his body, he quickly retracted his arm and position his greatsword in front of it, using the broad surface of the sword to block.

Bang!

But despite blocking the spear perfectly, he was still pushed back due to the powerful force accompanying it, making him drew a long trail on the ground.

And before he could even recover himself, a series of spells and skills were thrown at him. There were even a group of black chains that shot up from the ground and wrapped on his arms and legs, preventing him from doing any kind of retaliation.

But despite being restrained, he was still able to obliterate the magic spells, magic arrows, and magic bullets raining down from the sky with a powerful shout.

The strong wind current that was produced by his shout was cut down by Zero who appeared in front of him right after the previous attacks were obliterated.

He tried to overwhelm the grand marshal with his swift swordsmanship but he was the one that got pushed back by the latter despite being restrained by the black chains summoned by Faker.

It even reached the point where Zero almost got cleaved by their opponent if not for Owen who timely arrived in front of him and blocked the attack.

It was only at that moment that Leonard and Lawless arrived on each side behind Grand Marshal Draco, flanking him with powerful attacks that they used against Nel earlier.

Sensing the danger coming from behind, Grand Marshal Draco put more strength on his arms and legs, snapping the black chains wrapped around his limbs. And right after freeing himself, he quickly stabbed his sword into the ground, channeling a portion of his powers into it.

Boom!

Not long after, a huge image of a dragon appeared behind him before forming a spherical barrier that protected him the incoming attacks.

At that time, Arthur was already in the air to catch the spear that he threw earlier. He then flapped his wings to propel himself toward the grand marshal while slamming the blazing spear at the spherical barrier.

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Dragon Slaying – Descending Dragon'

During his descent, a dragon image of a similar size to the one behind Grand Marshal Draco appeared behind Arthur. It opened its mouth wide, seemingly trying to devour the other.

Roar!

With a powerful stomp on the ground, the grand marshal detonated the barrier surrounding him and caused a powerful explosion that sent Leonard, Lawless, and Arthur right after they come in contact with it.

Boom!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

"Urgh!" even Owen who just blocked an attack for Zero earlier was swept away by that explosion, making him collide with the latter and pushing them back.

In the meantime, Cloe quickly raised her staff in the air, casting a healing spell for the frontline players and also summoned a barrier on each of them.

Black Hand, who was standing near her, was currently giving out a series of commands for the others. "Ember and Ravier, use your combine skills to prevent the grand marshal from catching up with the others."

"Charlotte, use your wind element to clear the cloud of dust so that the two of them know where to focus their spells."

"Ara and Alucard, cover them with your attacks – use your powerful skills if possible. Chaotic Luck, wait for them to set the rhythm back to our favor before using your 'Solar Binding'."

"Tigris, Seven, stand by and get ready to join any time if the situation asks for it."

The others didn't reply verbally but used their actions instead. They executed the commands given to them without any hesitation right after they received them.

As for the ones who were fighting at the frontline, they didn't need his commands as they were already aware of their respective roles. And that was to assist the main character of this battle, they only need to give Arthur a hand until Grand Marshal Draco was done with the 'lesson'.

Though, enduring the beating for a whole hour was a little too much.

Bang!

Regardless, Arthur quickly sprung back into action right after he regain his footing. He launched himself toward the grand marshal once again and immediately engaged in an intense melee.

Each of their attacks created an explosion due to the collision of their powers, destroying their surroundings during the process.

Arthur was clearly at a disadvantage due to the difference between their stats. Fortunately, there was the team to cover his weakness and took over the aggro when necessary.

During the entire exchange, Grand Marshal Draco couldn't hide his smile as he was very satisfied with the performance of each member of the group, especially Arthur was fearlessly facing him head-on and repeatedly coming back on his feet each time he fell.

The fighting spirit within Arthur's eyes was only getting stronger and stronger whenever he was sent flying and went back on his feet.

He was also clearly going back stronger every time he fell. He might not be the same as Shin was gradually growing stronger during the battle, but he was noticeably learning his lessons whenever the grand marshal showed him a special technique that he needed to learn. Especially when those techniques were related to some sort of Dragon Fighting Style.

The battle progressed just like that without a problem, but when they get to the halfway mark of the designated timer, there was a massive turn of events that almost spell a total disaster for the group which almost cost them their lives.

Chapter 957 It's My Turn (Part 3)

...

Arthur was having a hard time dealing with Grand Marshal Draco despite the assistance that the group was giving him.

But despite that being the case, he was still gradually getting stronger as he continued to exchange blows with the grand marshal. Especially with the hidden reward that the system was providing him whenever he faced the attacks from their opponent head-on.

...

System: Received an attack empowered with the Power of the Dragons! Familiar with the Dragon Aura rose to 15%.

System: Familiarity with the Dragon Aura +5%

System: Familiarity with the Dragon Aura reached the 'Advanced Rank'

...

...

...

After a series of intense exchanges, Arthur accumulated an ideal amount of familiarity with the said power, making him able to sense the hidden powers flowing through his veins.

If it was in the real world, then he would have a much easier time sensing it due to his innate talent. And since his family bloodline was also related to dragons, doing was a simple thing to do, especially now that he already underwent a bloodline ceremony.

And now that he was starting to sense that familiar power within the game, an idea suddenly entered his mind.

"Since I am now able to a much purer power of the dragons, I think I can now use the special Dragon Arts that Uncle Nathan had thought me," he muttered as an excited look appeared on his face.

Unfortunately, he repeatedly failed at doing it despite being in the same Reality Manifestation. He might have most of the tools that he needed for it, but he was still lacking something in the end.

"The purity of the Dragon Aura is still not enough, I can only use the simplest skills with this," Arthur started mumbling to himself with a deep frown.

With the things he could do with his current Dragon Aura, Arthur continued to exchange blows with Grand Marshal Draco while also learning everything that he could learn from the latter.

From the skills, techniques, and Dragon Aura applications, Arthur absorbed everything and turned it into his own. He even used his Martial Art Prodigy talent to improve the things that he learned and turned them into a weapon that he, alone, could only use.

His fighting style also started to evolve into something new. He started to utilize his wings, tail, and dragon claws that he received after using the Elemental Spirit Fusion.

And as the battle progressed further, Arthur's style was starting to take shape and steadily mature throughout the battle. His newly found style of fighting was gradually fusing with his spearmanship.

And with this growth, he was able to fight Grand Marshal Draco despite the overwhelming differences between their stats. He was able to hold his ground even without the others helping him.

In the meantime, the others were also starting to notice the changes in Arthur's style of fighting. And the moment they saw those changes, they started adjusting their movements to match his pace.

The state of the battle continued to be like this up until they reached the middle mark of the battle. And that was where an unexpected accident occurred.

...

Grand Marshal Draco was very satisfied with what Arthur was showing him and became more motivated to pass his Dragon Fighting Style knowledge to the young man. He might not be able to pass his legacy to them, but he could at least teach them everything he could.

He was starting to enjoy teaching Arthur through the battle, which led him to commit a momentary slip in his concentration. That small window might come a little too short but it was more than enough for the Power of Calamity within him.

The Power of Calamity took advantage of that brief moment to launch an all-out attack, forcing the grand marshal to commit a grave mistake.

When Grand Marshal Draco was about to use one of his personally created moves for Arthur to learn, the Power of Calamity within him suddenly exploded, making for the skill to fail and letting Arthur's attack slip through his defense and land at him alongside the other attacks from the rest of the group.

Puchi!

The spear in Arthur's hands pierced through the chest of the grand marshal, catching everyone off-guard. They were expecting Grand Marshal Draco to either block or deflect that attack which was why they launched a series of coordinated moves to match Arthur.

But since the grand marshal failed to defend himself against it, the successive attacks that were following after Arthur's skill landed on his body, further damaging him.

And due to those attacks, that further damaged his core, the grand marshal failed to suppress the outburst of the Power of Calamity, making it run amok within his body.

The cursed power also took advantage of his weakened state to spread across the different parts of his body, strengthening the contamination within him.

"This is bad!" muttered Grand Marshal Draco with a deep frown as he tried his best to suppress the cursed power.

Unfortunately, it was already too late. He could no longer stop its advances and took over his body within a dozen seconds. He was only barely holding with the willpower that he had.

At the same time, a series of system notifications appeared in front of the eyes of everyone, all of a sudden.

Ding!

System: Emergency Alert!

System: The Power of Calamity breaks out from the suppression of Grand Marshal Draco! It is now attempting to take over his body!

System: The raid is now starting to enter the second stage!

...

Black Hand, who was very experienced in this kind of situation during a group raid, was the one who was first to recover from the shock. "Quick! Pour everything you have to stop the berserk state!"

The others were also veteran players, so they were already making their respective moves right after he recovered his composure.

Arthur, who was the nearest among the group, pulled out the spear stuck on the chest of the grand marshal before flipping it a couple of times as he took a step backward.

He then took a powerful stomp forward before thrusting the spear in front of him, releasing a purple beam of light from its tip.

'True Nine Dragon Arts: Dragon Slaying – Annihilating Dragon'

Roar!

A huge dragon head was suddenly formed from the beam of light that he released before dragging the grand marshal alongside it.

Boom!

It then buried Grand Marshal Draco underneath the rubbles of the house that it destroyed. But that was only the start.

Zero suddenly appeared above that mountain of rubbles, carrying his swords glowing with jade lights before throwing a spinning slash straight into it.

'Divine Swordsmanship: The Great Strom burying the World'

Swoosh!

A roaring air vortex suddenly fell from the sky and landed on the spot where the grand marshal was currently buried, seemingly trying to further submerge him into the ground.

Lawless and Faker also appeared at that time and used one of the strongest skills that they could currently use within the game.

The latter swung his arms up in the air, directing his dark powers with them. And at the very next moment, black chains suddenly shot up from the ground and drew a beautiful arc in the air before falling at the spot that Zero had attacked earlier.

Their appearance resembled a group of snakes launching themselves toward the ground, chasing after their prey and planning to devour him alive.

'Valentine Family Secret Style: Ancient Serpent – Hundred Serpentine Descent'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Then Lawless positioned himself right in front of Faker, drawing his fist backward and accumulating a massive amount of mana into it.

And when the accumulation of powers reached its peak, he threw a punch forward and released all of the accumulated powers from it.

'Berserk Heaven Killing Style: Massacre of Second Heaven'

Boom!

A blast of wind that seemingly tried to obliterate everything in its path was released from that punch. It created a powerful vortex that swept through the place in front of them, clearing the rubbles and revealing the body of the grand marshal during the process.

Swoosh!

It was at that moment when Leonard suddenly fell from the sky, resembling a falling meteor. The momentum of his descent was too powerful that even the air around turned red as if it was burning.

There was also a spiraling mana around him during his descent. It looked like a tornado made of blood.

'Blood Sutra: Descenso de Sangre'

Swoosh!

With the previous attack that Lawless had thrown, Leonard was able to accurately locate the grand marshal and landed with one of his feet at the target.

Boom!

It then created an explosion as well as a huge crater on the ground.

The series of attacks they had thrown were all very powerful, but the group was wearing solemn expressions on their faces as they could clearly see their opponent standing at the center of the crater and holding Leonard's foot with one hand.

"Careful!" shouted S.Tigris as he suddenly got a bad premonition.

Then, at the very next moment, Leonard was slammed on the ground very strongly, burying him in the process.

Bang!

"Urgh!" Leonard couldn't help but release a painful groan due to the impact.

And before he could even think of what to do, he suddenly felt a strong force that pulled him out from the ground. At that moment, he knew what was going to happen next, he was about to get slammed down once again.

Fortunately, the others already came to rescue him.

Bang! Bang!

Swoosh!

Consecutive gunshots could be heard as Alucard fired shots from his magic rifle. It didn't take long for the bullets to accurately hit the shoulder of the grand marshal, making him lose his grip over Leonard's foot.

There was also an arrow enhanced by magic that also hit the same time spot of those bullets, piercing through it.

Leonard took advantage of that opening to free himself and create a distance between himself and the grand marshal.

Cloe and Black Hand quickly healed his almost half Health Bar back to full right after he was freed.

Grand Marshal Draco was about to chase after him, when Owen threw himself into him, ramming him with a shield and throwing him out of balance.

With a deep frown, the grand marshal was about to grab onto Owen's head, seemingly planning to crush it. But before he could even do that, Arthur suddenly arrived and totally cut off his balance with a sweep of the spear.

Bang!

Thrown on the ground, the grand marshal found himself tied by black chains, wrapped around his limbs and prevented him from making any sudden moves.

Then Lawless threw a punch in his face, trying to deal massive damage.

Boom!

But before the fist could even touch the face of its target, a strong outburst of power exploded from the body of the grand marshal, sending everyone surrounding him in the process.

Not only that, but the explosion also devoured a huge chunk of their Health Bars, making them realize that the worst was yet to come.

And before they could even respond to it, the group found themselves forcefully rooted on the ground, as a heavy pressure suddenly descended onto them.

That was the moment when the system practically spelled to them that they were f*cked!

Chapter 958 It's My Turn (Part 4): Might Of The Cursed Grand Marshal

...

Boom!

Arthur, Leonard, Zero, Faker, Lawless, and Owen were sent flying like bullets right after they were swept by that explosion. They even collided against the surrounding houses, burying them underneath the fallen rubbles.

Cloe and Black Hand were able to summon a barrier in time that shielded them from the shockwave created by the explosion, but it only lasted for an instant before it got destroyed like shattering glass.

Swoosh!

It was at that moment that they saw a hole in the cloud of smoke at the center of the explosion followed by the sound of someone heading in their direction.

S.Tigris and Seven quickly responded in time, positioning themselves in front of the others and raising their weapons.

Unfortunately, they were not fast enough to stop the person charging at them. The group suddenly got chills the moment they saw Grand Marshal Draco standing right in the middle of everyone.

Ember and Ravier were the first ones to recover and quickly cast their spells at their opponent. The latter summoned a wall of ice surrounding the grand marshal and trapped him inside. Then the former followed it with a magic circle that appeared on the ground which spat out a pillar of fire towards the sky.

Boom!

Then the others quickly scattered and distanced themselves away from the grand marshal, as fast as they could.

Bang!

Not long after, the wall of ice exploded, revealing Grand Marshal Draco casually walking out of the pillar of fire.

Seeing him, Charlotte summoned five pillars of fire that transformed into flame dragons that rushed toward the grand marshal. They bit the limbs of the target, restraining his movements and locking him in place.

'Class Fighting Style: Elemental Dragon Dance – Dragon Seal'

Then Cloe waved her staff in the air, casting a buff that cleansed the minds of everyone and freeing them from the fear that the grand marshal had cast upon them. And with another wave of the staff, a series of buffs that enhanced the stats of everyone followed.

It was at that moment when Chaotic Luck, who was waiting for his chance since the very beginning, finally found the opportunity to cast the spell that he prepared.

Using the residual flames from Ember's spell and the flame dragons that Charlotte had summoned as a medium before casting his spell.

He pointed the tip of his staff at the grand marshal while chanting out loud. "Obey my words, a servant of the Sun God, all flames shall follow his will!"

'Solaris Lich Skill (Tier 2): Solar Restraint'

Boom!

A pillar of blazing light suddenly fell from the sky and landed on the body of the grand marshal like a tidal wave with unstoppable pressure.

The rest of the group took advantage of that opening to throw everything they had at the grand marshal, bombarding him with spells and skills.

But despite the pouring everything they had, the Health Bar of Grand Marshal Draco was barely moving. It made them think that their spells and skills didn't have any effect on him.

Roar!

On the other hand, the grand marshal forced himself to move and released a deafening roar that made the heads of everyone ringing, forcing them to halt all attacks.

Chaotic Luck even suffered a backslash due to his sealing spell being broken.

When they recover themselves and raised their heads, they saw Grand Marshal Draco underwent a massive change.

His majestic armor disappeared and turned into scales that were similar to the ones that Arthur had. His arms filled with scales also seemed to grow longer while his fingers and nails turned into razor-sharp claws.

The cape wrapped on his shoulders was ripped apart as a pair of devilish wings grew from his back and spread wide.

His helmet was also shattered as a pair of horns stuck out from each side of his forehead and covered upward. His teeth were replaced by sharp ones alongside the fangs sticking out of his mouth.

There was also a dark miasma coming out from his body and spreading toward his greatsword, also contaminating it. Crystalline spikes grew out from its guard as a black liquid flowed through the edges of the sword before solidifying after a couple of seconds and forming another later on the blade.

His appearance could strike fear in the people surrounding him, especially with the suppression aura that he was releasing.

Fortunately, the mind-cleansing spell that Cloe had cast earlier was still in effect, making the others to be able to withstand that aura.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

S.Tigris and Seven launched themselves towards Grand Marshal Draco, planning to hold him in place and prevent him from touching the others.

At least, that was what the two tried to do. But unfortunately for them, they were not a match for the current Grand Marshal Draco. If his previous stats were too overwhelming that could suppress the four Godlike Players within their groups, then his current stats were more than enough to annihilate the entire group.

They felt useless as they watched the grand marshal take a step forward before disappearing from his current spot. And within an instant, he reappeared right in front of Chaotic Luck who he felt the most threatening among the group after summoning the pillar of light earlier.

The two were unwilling to accept the current situation. Their current job was to protect the others while Arthur and the rest were fighting on the frontline.

Hah!

With a strong shout, the two stomped on the ground before using their fastest movement skill to save Chaotic Luck.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Fortunately, the current grand marshal seemed to be unbothered by his surroundings as he unhurriedly raised his left and extended it to Chaotic Luck, trying to grab his face and crush it.

Chaotic Luck could sense the intention of the demon-like person standing in front of him and wanting to save himself. But since he was standing too close to the corrupted grand marshal, he could clearly sense the immense pressure coming from such a monstrous individual.

He was petrified by fear, unable to move. He stayed rooted in place as he watched the demonic hands of the grand marshal slowly magnified right in front of his eyes.

Well, his luck still hadn't run out yet since he was saved by the two in time.

S.Tigris was ducking forward and snatching Chaotic Luck's waist with his arm and dragged the latter away from those terrifying hands.

On the other hand, Seven suddenly appeared in the air on the other side of the grand marshal, holding his swords tightly. Then twisted his waist and forced himself to spin while swinging the swords, seemingly attempting to chop the arm extended by Grand Marshal Draco.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Unfortunately, aside from the series of metallic sounds and sparks, nothing else happened. And when Seven saw that, an ugly expression appeared on his face as he couldn't help but think about the blessing of the vermillion bird that he just lost.

'I can at least make decent damage on it if only I have the Sword of the Vermillion Flame,' he thought before quickly shaking his head. 'Why I am making excuses? It's just I am not strong enough.'

Steeling his resolve, he forced himself to fall to the ground before unleashing a series of slashes at the grand marshal.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Just like earlier, his attacks didn't inflict any kind of damage, but the strength behind each strike was strong enough to send a shock to the body of the grand marshal.

Grand Marshal Draco creased his brow slightly, seemingly finding Seven's actions annoying. He was about to swing his cursed sword at the latter when a barrage of spells started bombarding him once again.

There was also a group of golden chains with sacred properties wrapped around him, finding his movements restrained once again.

He then ignored Seven entirely, who was currently creating a distance between the two of them, as well as the magic spells bombarding him, and locked his eyes on Cloe.

Bang!

Then the wind around him suddenly exploded and quickly created a sonic boom after lightly flapping his wings.

He then instantly appeared right in front of Cloe who was clearly expecting it as she quickly cast Blink to get away as well as leaving an imprisonment spell at her previous locations. Her timing was too perfect, making the grand marshal unable to respond.

Grand Marshal Draco was about to give chase but the others, who were buried under the rubbles earlier, already picked themselves up and came for assistance.

Swoosh!

Faker was the fastest to arrive and threw a series of slashes with his daggers that his Elemental Spirit Possession currently enhanced. His actions left flashes in the air, wounding the grand marshal.

Bang!

But Grand Marsal ignored the damage that he received and grabbed Faker's head before slamming him onto the ground. Everything happened a little too fast, making Faker unable to respond to it despite his sharp senses.

Leonard then arrived at that time and threw a punch straight to the face of the grand marshal, creating a loud sound.

Bang!

But the expression on his face turned ugly as he saw Grand Marshal Draco didn't even budge despite receiving the punch directly. It was a punch that was supposedly more powerful than his previous attacks since he was currently in his state of Elemental Beast Possession.

Boom!

Then Leonard followed Faker and was buried on the ground after getting hit by the grand marshal.

Similar things happened when Arthur, Lawless, Zero, and Owen arrived as they were either sent flying or slammed on the ground by each strike of Grand Marshal Draco. The damage that they received was also pretty serious and almost caused their lives.

If not for Cloe and Black Hand constantly healing them, then they were most likely got eliminated from this quest and experienced the existence wipe.

Their attacks were barely damaging the grand marshal, making them feel completely hopeless.

Arthur was frowning deeply as he completely understood their current situation. If they could find a way to deal with this predicament, then he could forget about their Plan B, they might even die right now and fail the whole quest entirely.

"Based on the 'script' of this quest, this is supposedly the time when we are going to gain a powerful helper from the system. If not, then this quest is clearly unbeatable," he muttered while continuing to endure the attacks from the cursed grand marshal.

"If Lycan doesn't appear right now, then we are completely doomed," he added with a solemn tone.

Understanding that they didn't have a choice, Arthur could only tell the others to forget about saving their trump cards and go all-out.

"Trust me and leave the rest to me later. I'll deal with whatever is going to happen after," he said with full confidence.

Chapter 959 It's My Turn (Part 5): Challenge

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Arthur was currently wearing a very dark expression as he stared at the cursed grand marshal standing a few distances away from them.

He then swept his gaze to the surroundings and saw that the state of the group was terrible. Most of them were already reaching their limits due to using everything they had earlier. But despite giving their all, they still couldn't deal much damage to the grand marshal, much less defeat him.

Even Leonard, Faker, Zero, and Lawless were also currently in their exhausted state. The first three had used their Elemental Spirit Possessions on top of using the Reality Manifestation, so the fatigue that they were suffering was definitely big. Lawless was not in a better shape either as the extended usage of the bloodline power was also starting to show some aftereffects.

If those four were in a such terrible state, then there was no need to ask about the others. They were in a much worse state than them.

Owen, who was fighting alongside those four on the frontlines, was already on the verge of collapsing after pushing himself too hard to match the pace of such monstrous individuals.

The beating that he got from the grand marshal was one time, but keeping up with Arthur and the others in the frontline was an additional problem since it was putting too much strain on his mental strength.

And to make it even more terrible, he was not like them who were aware of the existence of Reality Manifestation, much less use it in the battle.

It could be considered a miracle that he was able to hold himself up until now.

Seven and S.Tigris were also feeling the same. Ever since Grand Marshal Draco lost his mind and started attacking the others in the backlines, the two of them had no choice but to join the battle.

They only fought alongside those five gods for a few minutes, yet the mental burden that they experienced was no different from the beating that their bodies were suffering.

Fighting such a cursed monster with overwhelming stats was already a problem for them, but since they also had to consider not getting in the way of those Godlike Players during the battle, they had to expend more concentration by keeping their minds sharp all the time.

Ara and Alucard were also in a similar situation to them since they couldn't afford to accidentally hit the others with their skills. But fortunately for them, the grand marshal remained stationary most of the time aside from the situations where he suddenly disappeared during the outburst of his speed.

Ember and Ravier were in a slightly better state than them. After all, they were already used to these kinds of situations. After fighting alongside Faker and Lawless for a long time, they no longer need to be extra careful with their spells. Even if it was such a high-intensity battle, they would be able to adjust their rhythm after getting used to the fighting style of the others.

Charlotte was also the same as those two. And with her being a Godlike Player herself, fighting such a powerful enemy while keeping up with the others was not a problem here.

The combination of her unique combat techniques and class fighting style skills was also a great help in the battle. With her constant harassment of spells, the grand marshal's movements were greatly restricted.

Cloe also lived up to her reputation as the best healing within the game. She was able to keep her calm at all times and accurately help others whenever they were in danger. Whether they were on the verge of dying or receiving a deadly blow, her timely healing was always saving their lives.

What was even more amazing was the fact that she was doing it while being under constant pressure from their enemy.

Grand Marshal Draco was specifically targeting her due to her Holy Powers. It was because of that power that she became the most threatening member of the group.

Chaotic Luck, on the other hand, was the one who felt that he was the most useless member of the group. Without his Solaris Soldiers, he felt that he was nothing.

With his talent, he couldn't keep up with such a high-intensity battle. Forget about the fact that he might have some spells that could harm the grand marshal, he couldn't even bring himself to throw those spells due to his fear of accidentally hitting the others.

He felt that he was more of a burden if he joined the battle, so he could only stand dumbly on the side and be a spectator in the battle.

Even Black Hand, who was relatively performing a great job during the entire battle, couldn't find a good role for him aside from standing on the sidelines.

...

The previously beautiful plaza was now currently in its devastated state. The frozen fountain was nowhere to be seen while the surrounding houses turned into a pile of rubbles.

Arthur, with his solemn, expression couldn't help but cursed their luck. They didn't expect that the corruption of the curse would reach this level.

This so-called Power of Calamity was indeed powerful. It was not an exaggeration to say that it was a miracle that no one had died yet.

But at the same time, the group understood that it was just the beginning. The corruption of the curse was only at its initial stage, so the strength that they witnessed from the grand marshal was just the tip of the iceberg.

Given that, they could even imagine how strong this monster would become when the Power of Calamity fully took over the body of Grand Marshal Draco.

Sweeping his gaze at the others once again. Arthur knew that they couldn't let this continue. Especially when there was another problem that they needed to take care of later.

Immortal and the others still hadn't made their appearance, so the situation would be direr if those guys found them in their most exhausted state.

Arthur might not be the brightest but he knew that he couldn't let the worst-case scenario happen. For Shin's contingency plan to work, he needed to personally take this matter into his hand, alone.

They needed to have the others be in their best possible condition so that they could respond if some unexpected accidents occurred during the process.

"Tsk! I am planning to use this during the main event, but I guess I no longer have the luxury of doing it," he muttered to himself.

He shouted, catching everyone off-guard. "That is more than enough! You guys take a rest for now and recuperate. You need to prepare for the latter, let me take care of this for now!"

He didn't even wait for the others to respond to him and charged at the grand marshal. He even flapped his wings to propel himself forward, further increasing his speed.

He was already in front of the grand marshal when the others recovered themselves. And before they could open their mouths to say something, Arthur took out a stone tablet from his inventory space while yelling. "With the honor of the Dragon King, I, a successor candidate of the sanctuary, challenge you, a warrior of the dragons, in a duel!"

Seeing that Arthur suddenly appeared in front of him, Grand Marshal Draco followed his instincts and swung his greatsword.

Arthur quickly threw the stone tablet in the air when he saw those actions, letting it get cleaved by the grand marshal.

On the very next instant, a series of system notifications were sent to Arthur.

Ding!

System: You have issued the Dragon's Challenge!

System: Checking the target's constitution!

System: Searching for Dragon's Aura!

System: Basic conditions are met, searching for additional challenges-...

System: Blessing of a Royal-Bloodline Dragon has been found, increasing the stakes of the challenge.

System: Unknown powers have been detected.

System: Corrupted Powers has been confirmed to be the Power of Calamity! Increasing the stakes of the challenge.

Ding!

System: Dragon Knight Siegfried challenges the Cursed Knight, Dragon Rider Draco.

System: Establishing the new Quest Scenario.

System: The Ancient Battlefield is being summoned. You and the target of the challenge will now be transformed.

...

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Arthur hadn't read the whole string of notifications when his eyes were suddenly blinded by a brilliant light. And before the others understood the meaning of his words, he was suddenly swallowed by a pillar of light alongside the grand marshal.

When the pillar of light disappeared, Arthur and Grand Marshal Draco were nowhere to be seen, making the others stare blankly at the empty space in front of them.

"What is that idiot planning to do now?" said Cloe frustratedly after realizing what happened.

Leonard, who was the most familiar with him among the group, aside from Cloe, was currently wearing a solemn expression on his face.

He knew that Arthur was not foolish enough to pull that stunt if he was not confident, but he still couldn't help but worry given that they just experienced how powerful the grand marshal was.

Unfortunately, they could no longer do anything about it. All they could do right now was to trust Arthur's success and pray that he didn't show off too much this time, biting more than what he could chew.

Hu~!

After taking a deep breath, Leonard quickly recovered his composure before turning to the current state of the group. Without Shin and Arthur around, he felt that he needed to work extra hard for the next matter at hand.

"I need to recuperate as fast as possible and recover my peak state."

Clenching his fists tightly and bumping them together, he resolved himself to also give everything he had.

"The next one should be my turn."

Chapter 960 Dragon's Challenge

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Swoosh!

Bang!

Arthur fell on the ground like a meteor but he was able to land on his feet properly, seemingly used to this situation.

He then swept his gaze at the surroundings and saw the familiar desolate place that was void of light. Aside from the dry land and irregular rock formations of the boulders near him, he could not fight anything.

"It has been a while since I've come here," he mumbled before closing his eyes and feeling the energy filling the air. "It seems like the Dragon Energy here also become much purer and denser compared to before."

Ding!

It was at that moment when he received a series of notifications from the system.

System: You have entered the Ancient Battlefield! The restraints of the World are temporarily lifted.

System: You have initiated a Dragon's Challenge, and as the challenger, you will receive a significant boost in stats based on the gap between your opponent.

System: Stabilizing Stat Equalizer!

System: Dragon's Challenge has been successfully established. Please defeat or subdue your opponent, or survive until the end.

...

Swoosh!

Bang!

Then he saw Grand Marshal Draco land a few meters away from him.

The grand marshal remained expressionless despite what happened. He swept his gaze at the surrounding before locking it to Arthur who was standing a distance across him.

Seemingly sensing something, Grand Marshal Draco tightened his grip on his greatsword before stabbing it to the ground and releasing a deafening roar.

Roar!

The air in front of him was pushed forward, creating a powerful gust that headed over to Arthur who remained standing on his spot, completely unbothered.

Arthur looked at the boosted stats that he had from the system, before turning his attention back to the grand marshal.

Ding!

System: The Dragon's Challenge will now start! Challenge duration: 00:29:59↓

Bang! Bang!

Right after that final notification sounded, like it was tacitly agreed, both Arthur and Grand Marshal Draco simultaneously kicked the ground and launched themselves at each other with a momentum that clearly resembled a pair of dragons.

Brandishing their weapons at each other, an image of a dragon appeared behind them, roaring at one another which led to a collision of two powerful auras.

Roar! Roar!

Boom!

Grand Marshal Draco didn't budge despite the strong collision while Arthur was forced to take a couple of steps back, clearly signifying that there was still a considerable difference between their stats despite the series of boosts that the latter had received from the system.

"A half of an hour, that is the maximum time that I can buy them. Though, I first have to do my best to survive here," Arthur muttered with a deep frown.

Slightly tilting his head to the side, Arthur flipped his spear before thrusting it in a powerful manner.

Seeing that, the grand marshal casually swung his greatsword, deflecting the incoming strike with ease. And quickly after that, he did another swing that was threatening to cleave Arthur in halves.

Arthur borrowed the momentum of the previous deflection to turn around and swing his spear alongside that spin.

Bang!

Yet another explosive explosion was created at that exchange, making the ground under their feet to sink and creating a crater filled with cracks.

Arthur gritted his teeth, enduring the shock that his body had suffered from that simple exchange, before putting more strength on his arms to force the greatsword back.

Hah!

And when he was successful, Arthur quickly circulated the energy within him before channeling them toward his spear. At that moment, the spear was enfolded with a golden aura that turned into a purple flame in the very next instant.

'Imperial Tactics: Secret Style – Hellfire of the Great Dragon'

Swoosh!

Arthur then brandished the spear at the grand marshal, leaving a blazing trail in the air.

Grand Marshal Dragon sensed a very dangerous threat coming from that particular attack from Arthur and was finally forced to use one of his skills.

A black flame covered his left arm as he extended it forward, seemingly planning to catch the incoming spear with it.

Clang!

A metallic sound could be heard as the grand marshal successfully caught the spear that was trying to cleave him just earlier.

Seemingly expecting that to happen, Arthur inhaled a large amount of air, making his chest expand. At the same time, a blazing flare flashed from the corner of his mouth as some air escaped from it.

'Imperial Tactics: Secret Style – Breath of the Great Dragon'

Roar!

Opening his mouth and releasing all of the air that he breathed, a torrent of purple flame shot out and swept through his opponent who was currently defenseless against it.

Boom!

When the dragon breath finally subdued, the grand marshal was revealed, maintaining his previous position. He continued to hold on to Arthur's spear, seemingly unaffected by the torrent of flame that just swept through him.

Arthur frowned deeply as he understood that he needed to try harder if he wanted to win this duel.

While he was lost in thoughts, the grand marshal suddenly swung the greatsword toward his direction, forcing him to abandon his weapon.

Boom!

Arthur was barely able to dodge that strike by utilizing the great mobility provided by his wings. And when he was about to assume a new battle position, he suddenly saw the tip of his spear right in front of his face.

Swoosh!

Swiftly tilting his head to the side and leaning his body in the same direction, he let the spear fly past him.

Boom!

The huge boulder a few meters behind him was reduced into small bits of rocks after the spear landed on it.

But Arthur didn't have the time to worry about that as the grand marshal was already upon him and currently in the middle of swinging the greatsword at him once again.

'Imperial Tactics: Dragon Dance'

Combining the mobility that he got from his dragon wings and his signature foot technique, Arthur dodged the next barrage of attacks that the grand marshal threw at him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Grand Marshal Draco continued to chase after Arthur while brandishing his greatsword. Sword shadows were being created around the grand marshal as his attacks were getting faster each time he swung his sword, putting a lot of pressure on Arthur.

But despite that being the case, Arthur calmly dodged each of the attacks. Aside from his current speed and mobility, he also relied on the 'Pinnacle Omnidiscipline' Talent that he had to read the trajectories of his opponent's sword whenever it was swung at him.

Of course, Arthur was aware that he couldn't let this continue since his mental strength was limited. Even if his body inside the game could endure the burden, his mind would not be able to withstand it.

Unlike his opponent, who could continue swinging that heavy sword endlessly, he couldn't continue dodging forever.

Extending his hand, a suction force was released from his palm, pulling the spear buried under the rubble. And when he caught it, he quickly flapped his wings multiple times, creating a great distance between him and his opponent in the span of seconds.

After that, he flew up in the air, only stopping when he reached a good attitude.

He then looked at the grand marshal, who also flew in the air to chase after him, before pointing his spear toward the sky while positioning his other hand in front of his chest in a half-praying manner.

Moving the spear in a counterclockwise motion, Arthur created a glowing circle in the air behind which later turned into a magic formation. And when he channeled his mana into that formation, it summoned a group of spears made of purple flames, pointing towards his opponent.

Arthur stared at the incoming grand marshal for a couple of seconds before extending his free hand forward and pointing it toward the opponent, sending the flaming spears.

'Imperial Tactics: Formation Skill – Punishment of Heavenly Dragon'

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The flaming spears flew towards the grand marshal one after another, making them look like a group of meteors falling from the sky.

Seeing that sight, Grand Marshal Draco swung his great sword in the air, releasing a huge crescent wave that flew straight to the volley of spears pouring down from the sky.

Boom! Boom!

A series of explosions immediately followed as the opposing powers collided with each other.

The crescent wave was clearly stronger than the volley of flaming spears since it continued to fly toward the sky while the latter was starting to get obliterated one after another.

But at the same time, that crescent wave was continuously losing its power as it progressed forward and later turned into specks of light that disappeared in the air.

Roar!

And not long after, a hole was created at the center of the cloud of smoke created by the previous collision, revealing a purple dragon that was descending from the sky.

It opened its mouth widely, seemingly planning to devour the grand marshal who was currently charging toward the sky.

'Imperial Tactics: Formation Skill – Descent of the Heavenly Dragon'

Boom!