

Destiny 981

Chapter 981 May Not Be As Simple As It Seems (Part 2)

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"I know that this may sound rude, your majesty. But can I exchange that reward with a favor instead?"

The moment those words left Shin's mouth, all of the vampires within the throne room revealed their fangs at him once again.

Boom!

Their powerful auras quickly exploded and surrounded Shin, seemingly trying to crush him. It was as if they had already forgotten that their representatives were swept on the floor just earlier. They even forgot that Vladimir, who could suppress them greatly, was serving Shin as one of the Reaper's Retainers.

They disregarded all of the dangers that could befall them. As long as someone showed any disrespect to their king, they were fully ready to devour that person regardless of any consequences.

But contrary to their reaction, Dracula was currently wearing a huge smile on his face when he heard those words from Shin. He was somewhat curious about what the interesting guy would ask him.

Swoosh!

With a casual wave of his hand, all the pressures that were assaulting Shin from every direction were instantly suppressed before disappearing the very next moment.

After that, Dracula gestured to Shin, telling the latter to continue. "Let's hear it. As long as it is within my capabilities, then I will grant whatever flavor you are going to ask."

Shin sighed with relief when all of the pressures were removed. If it was any later, then he would most likely be suffocated by them.

Taking a deep breath, Shin quickly started talking. "I and my comrades are planning to build a city on the land just outside of the Divine Wall of Ice."

"We wish to build a good relationship with your kingdom after establishing the city and when your land regains its freedom," he added after a brief pause.

Right after voicing out his favor, Shin saw Dracula frowning his brow, seemingly unsatisfied with something. And when he saw that reaction, Shin couldn't help but feel a little anxious. 'Am I asking too much? But isn't it just building a good relationship? I don't think it is hard enough.'

Fortunately, the thing that Dracula was unsatisfied with was not the thing that Shin was thinking about.

"Are you sure it is what you really want?" asked Dracula before frowning even deeper. "It is hardly a favor. Given that you and your friends are basically helping us to regain the freedom of our homeland, it is natural for you and my subjects to have a friendly relationship."

"Even building an alliance is possible, if you want," he added, emphasizing his point.

He then quickly continued after pausing for a brief moment. "You can ask for something else. You can take my word about that favor of yours."

Shin was slightly taken aback by those words before quickly understanding the meaning behind them. He also understood quite a few things from those words from Dracula.

With the blessing from Dracula, the gears inside Shin's head started working at an insane rate. He could now create a more solid plan for the city that they were planning to build.

Given that this region was full of monsters with a very high level, it would surely be the main hunting ground for most of the players once Shin and the others successfully unlocked it.

The holy lands of different races will still be the main battleground for the leading players and organizations, but based on the available information that the World Gaming Organization had released, many of the players concluded that not everyone could set foot in those regions.

With it, special regions just like the Frozen Kingdom would be the best place for the average players to progress when the right time came.

Frozen City was still going to be the main base of operation when the players reached this place, but since it was isolated from the rest of the world for such a long time, it would still not have any teleportation formation connecting to different cities.

In this case, Saint Heaven Kingdom would be the nearest region. And it would be the first candidate to establish those portals, connecting the Frozen City to the rest. But given the dark history that the two regions had, it was very unlikely to happen.

With that, the city that Shin was planning to build within the Sky Deceiving Valley, a free region, would be the only city that could bridge the Frozen Kingdom to the rest of the world.

Alongside the other arrangements that they had prepared, Shin could already see the money constantly rolling their way.

They could also add more profits if they could possibly get after establishing a trade route and other arrangements with the Frozen City.

Collecting his thoughts, Shin closed his eyes and calmed himself before turning to Dracula. With the main goal being achieved, he could now ask for the thing that he wanted to ask and was more curious about.

"Then I will accept your grace, your majesty," answered Shin in a very polite manner before adding. "I would like to ask for a good martial manual."

Hearing that Shin had chosen a reward, Dracula nodded fully satisfied. But he slightly creased his brow almost immediately as he suddenly remembered something.

"A martial manual, you say? I can grant it to you. But from what I have seen, you already have enough in your arsenal. You still want to get an additional one?"

Pausing for a moment, Dracula stared straight at Shin before continuing. "It is not that I am questioning your choice and I understand that having more than cards under our sleeves is always been good. But having too much of it will be more like a poison than a hidden weapon."

Shin became even more surprised when he heard those words from Dracula. He already knew that the AI of the high-level and powerful monsters and NPCs was pretty high, but he didn't expect that it would be on this level.

For Dracula to tell him such words, Shin could already put this Vampire Primogenitor as an expert in the real world.

Shin ignored the fact that Dracula had told him about his Martial Arts since he already got an idea that they were being observed by the latter given the information that he had.

But for Dracula to say that he already had a good number of sword and movement techniques as well as identifying them as high-leveled ones, Shin could tell that Dracula was pretty knowledgeable when it came to this area. Or at least the base of artificial intelligence that Dracula had.

Thinking about that, Shin suddenly got an idea. He wanted to see how Dracula would respond if he asked something that couldn't be easily answered by common artificial intelligence. "Pardon my ignorance, your majesty. Please, enlighten me with your insights."

Dracula didn't show any surprised reaction this time as if he was already expecting Shin to say those words. Instead, he directly answered. "You already have quite a number of sword and movement techniques, so you will not need any of them."

"Your 'sword' has a lot of complexity due to the sword techniques that you have learned. You also trained them very well that you are able to fully fuse them into your system. But-... Two of them couldn't be fused together due to the difference in nature."

"Adding more to it would only destroy your foundation, so I suggest you continue honing your techniques and sharpening your swords until you find a way to put them together."

Hearing those words, Shin knew that Dracula was talking about his 'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship' and the sword techniques that he somehow gained from the 'Jade Kirin Scripture'.

Even though Dracula didn't go deeper at talking about them, Shin knew that the vampire king had a decent understanding of them, or more like their natures such as one being tied to his Martial Arts while the other was to his Mentalism.

At this point, Shin basically got the idea that Dracula was most likely designed based on an expert from the real world. 'This game is really not as simple as we have thought.'

After that, Dracula continued to give comments. And the next discussion was about his movement techniques and fighting styles.

The more Shin listened to Dracula, the more he became convinced that the game have a different purpose than what was known to the public.

Not only Shin gained some insights from Dracula, but he also received a lot of guidance from the latter that he almost wanted not take any martial manuals.

But how could he refuse such an extra reward? He naturally accepted it wholeheartedly.

After considering it for a few more moments, Shin thought of a new idea. Since he only wanted to confirm something by taking a look at these so-called 'martial manuals', it didn't necessarily have to be a martial art that was meant for him – he could also ask for a martial manual that could be used by the others.

Given that, Shin thought about the members of the Empyrean Talons and tried to think if they needed a martial manual. Since the contract signed by each member of the adventurer team mentioned these benefits, he naturally did not hold back and planned to give it to the others.

Unfortunately, he couldn't find anyone who necessarily needed a martial manual. Each of them had a unique style and from what he had observed, almost every member of the Empyrean Talon was already practicing a particular discipline. And most of them were at least at the advanced level, so giving them a martial manual from the game might not be beneficial to them.

The only person that Shin could think of was Chaotic Luck. He was the only one who seemed to be not practicing any kind of discipline. And from what he knew, the guy was just an average guy in the real world who loved to play games, so he must belong to that type of player who was a non-martial artist or a non-mentalist.

Chaotic Luck was the most obvious choice. But Shin couldn't bring himself to finalize it since that guy was such an oddball.

Aside from insane luck that could even affect his battle, Chaotic Luck seemed not to have any other special qualities. At the very least, that guy was very willing to learn and improve himself, which was something that Shin liked about the guy.

Though, even Shin was doubting that Chaotic Luck could practice a martial manual within the game given the current mechanics that he had.

During this train of thought, Diablo suddenly flashed inside Shin's head. His thought process paused for a moment before multiple plans started forming one after another.

And when he was done with it, he couldn't help but grin. It was a kind of grin that was so evil that even Arthur and Leonard might smack him with their fists for being creepy.

"Maybe I can use this to lure that guy over and join our side," he muttered as his grin grew larger and more devious.

Chapter 982 Collecting The Pieces

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One of the servant vampires entered the throne room and headed straight to Shin handing him a thick book with strange runes and patterns.

Shin took the book and looked at it briefly before nodding his head. This was the martial manual that he asked earlier for his reward.

Comparing the martial manual to the skill books that he had gotten before, he couldn't exactly tell the difference at first glance. They seemed to be the same thing.

Shin also checked its details and learned that this martial manual was really similar to the skill books. They could also be used directly as long as the player met all of the requirements listed on them.

But instead of learning a set of information about a single skill, the contents of this martial manual should be the entire martial practice that needed to be honed by the players constantly so that they could fully master it.

It was like a special memory capsule or martial insight container that was used in the real world.

It was really a wonder for Shin that the developers even recreated these kinds of things inside the game.

"This game is really progressing to become the second world," muttered Shin before turning the martial manual and looking at the title engraved on its cover. "The Way of the Shadows."

From what Dracula had told him, this manual was supposedly the best assassination martial manual that they had. Shin was not asking that much, but the Vampire Primogenitor insisted that he needed to give him the best.

Moreover, it would only be collecting dust in their treasury since no one would be learning it now since most of his people became cursed beings.

At the same time, Dracula seemed to find Shin's choice rather interesting.

After the servant left, Shin was left inside the throne hall alongside Dracula and Duke Bellion.

Dracula ordered everyone to leave after Shin chose his rewards. And aside from Duke Bellion who was the closest aid of the king, everyone else left the throne hall.

"Is it in your liking?" asked Dracula to break out of the silence.

"It is perfect, your majesty," answered Shin within an instant.

Dracula nodded his head and didn't ask further. Instead, he went straight to the main topic that needed to be discussed. "Then let's now talk about the plan that we have prepared."

Shin immediately turned silent when he heard that. He knew that the next stage of their quest was going to be discussed next. It might not be the same as what he expected, but it was at least quite beneficial to them.

At the very least, he was not going to suffer at fighting Dracula alone like he first expected.

"You seem to be a very smart lad, so I am confident that you have already figured out some parts of our plan just by hearing the words that I said earlier," said Dracula before continuing. "As you can see, we are still waiting for my curse to fully bloom before making our move."

"The blooming of my curse is only just the signal for the real battle that you and your friends need to face."

"Once my curse fully blooms, it will immediately start clashing against the curse that the Wicked One had cast upon our kingdom. Normally, it is impossible for me to create a curse that is powerful enough to fight the one that is created by a Divine Being."

"No matter how powerful a Sovereign Being is, it will always be inferior to Divine Beings. And only a Divine Being can fight a Divine Being, even if it was just a hint of their powers."

"But since the curse is already been weakened after you and your friends defeat the cursed armies and Grand Marshal Draco absorbs the rest of the curse, we gain a chance to fully lift it."

Pausing for a moment, Dracula turned his head toward the ceiling with a gaze that seemed to be able to penetrate it. "With the curse being weakened in such a state, my curse will be able to fight it until both of them will perish."

"But it will still take a couple of hours before the curse is fully lifted. And it was more than enough for the people from the Higher Plane to sense what is happening here."

"And when it happens, they will be sending their army once again to interfere with us one more time, just like what happened during that time."

He then turned to Shin and continued. "But this time, it will be different."

"I will use the rest of my powers to seal the gate that those hypocrites will create and stop their army from entering the lower plane. And it will be more than enough for all of the curse cast upon our land to be fully lifted."

"They will not be able to do anything after that."

Reaching this point, Dracula's voice suddenly turned solemn as he continued. "But the real problem will only come after that."

"With me using the rest of my powers to prevent the higher plane from interfering, I will enter a weakened state, and that Great Demon King that I am contracted with will take advantage of that situation to seize my body."

"And if I am not mistaken, then I will most likely lose my mind at that time and need to be taken down before I slaughter everyone within the kingdom."

Shin fully understood what Dracula was trying to say. It still ended up with this Vampire Primogenitor being the final boss of this quest, though the situation was a little different than what they had expected.

But at the very least, it would not be as hopeless as they were thinking since they were most likely going to receive a lot more assistance than originally planned.

Dracula slightly nodded his head as he could see that Shin was able to read the entirety of the situation. He then continued after a brief moment. "The rest of my subjects will not be able to help you since they needed to preserve themselves if things went wrong."

"But Duke Bellion here will be helping you with everything. Take him with you when you go back with your friends and will be a great assistance."

Shin would naturally not going to refuse such a powerful helper — only an idiot would do. But at the same time, he also understood that the next phase of the quest would most likely be a very difficult one given that they had quite a lot of helpers.

"You guys need to awaken the Guardian Dragon for everything to succeed. And in order to do that, you have to get Draco's help first."

"But given the current state that he has, I am not sure if it is still possible," said Dracula, voicing out his concern. Given that he needed to save as much energy as possible, he couldn't lend a hand to Shin and the others in this matter.

Hearing that, Shin quickly opened his mouth and spoke. "You don't have to worry about that, your majesty. We have already thought of a way to deal with that situation. You can trust us with this."

Dracula couldn't help but raise his head a little when he heard the full confidence in Shin's words. He also felt that he could trust those words for some unknown reason.

"Then I will leave it to you," said Dracula with a meaningful smile. He also told Shin that he could now leave alongside Duke Bellion.

Shin gave Dracula another respectful bow before turning around and was about to leave. But before he could even take a step, he suddenly halted his actions due to the next words that he heard.

"Oh! Before I forget, I give will be giving one of your friends a special gift since he managed to cultivate his bloodline to such a degree."

Shin turned to Dracula with a confused look. Unfortunately, the latter didn't say anything and just reassured him. "Don't worry, it will not harm him. And if he is lucky enough, then the benefits that he is going to get will be very much rewarding."

Shin continued to look confusedly at Dracula, trying to understand the meaning behind those words. But since the latter was not willing to continue, he could only shrug his shoulders and wait.

He then gave one bow at Dracula before finally leaving.

In the meantime, the rest of the group was currently recuperating at the center of the Frozen City while waiting for Arthur.

They didn't know what that guy was planning to do, but given that his name was still blinking brightly at the party, it indicated that he was somehow still alive. They could do nothing but patiently wait.

Swoosh!

A few moments later, a beam of light suddenly fell from the sky before landing at the center of the plaza.

Boom!

Everyone quickly picked up themselves and wield their weapons, getting ready to fight. But after seeing the person who was crawling out from the rubble, they could not help but sigh in relief.

Then they looked at Arthur with questioning gazes. And before Leonard could ask what happened, another beam of light followed not far from their location, giving them an ominous feeling.

And as if responding to what they were currently feeling, they saw Draco walk out of that beam of light with an entirely new form. If not for the glaring red name flashing above his head, the group would think that he was an entirely new opponent.

From what they could see, the grand marshal became much stronger compared to what he was earlier.

When they realized that, they simultaneously turned to Arthur as if they were asking "What the hell did you just do?"

"How are we going to face this guy now?" said Leonard cursedly as he knew that it would be impossible for their current strength to face such a monster.

Cough! Cough!

After coughing out a couple of times, Arthur picked himself up from the ground with great difficulty before replying. "Don't worry. I feel like we can still manage it somehow-..."

He paused for a moment to look at Grand Marshal Draco before adding. "...-Probably."

Chapter 983 Collecting The Pieces (Part 2)

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Earlier, inside the Ancient Battlefield, Arthur fought Grand Marshal Draco alongside his golden dragon pet. He was learning the dragon riding skills and aerial combat of a Dragon Cavalier during the battle.

He had been beaten up quite a lot of times but he indeed learned many things during the process. He was also able to master the dragon riding fighting style and other things.

He felt quite good about it. He was also able to buy a lot of time for the group to recuperate outside the Ancient Battlefield, so both of his goals were pretty much achieved.

The only problem was the Power of Calamity within the grand marshal's body. It now fully consumed its host and took over the body, the mighty and honorable grand marshal was now nothing but a mindless monster of slaughter.

Arthur struggled a lot during the last phase of the Dragon's Challenge. He did everything he could just to survive it, though he was further beaten up during the entire process.

He needed to survive until the final tick of the clock fell. If he was hit by a lethal strike, then he would instantly die, erasing everything that he built up until now.

Not only his struggle to learn the techniques of Dragon Cavalier would go to waste, but everything that they did so far just to clear his Empire Quest would most likely disappear too.

His account would also disappear forever alongside it as well as the others.

During the final moments of the challenge, the fully corrupted grand marshal suddenly went on an outburst and charged at him.

The momentum that the corrupted grand marshal was so strong that made Arthur hopeless. He could do nothing but run for his life.

But despite all of his efforts, everything became a pointless struggle. The corrupted grand marshal caught up to him within a couple of moments and was about to end his life.

Fortunately, the time for the Dragon's Challenge also reached its end at that time, saving his ass at the most perfect time.

Before he was cleaved in halves by the weapon of the corrupted grand marshal, he was swallowed by a beam of light that transported him out of the Ancient Battlefield.

Arthur couldn't thank the system enough for being saved by it. He almost went into tears while thanking it repeatedly during the transport.

Moreover, he also saw the string of system notifications that informed him about his success. He successfully got his second combat profession alongside a series of boosts on his stats. He also got a couple of titles that made him feel rewarded.

He might have been beaten up pretty badly, but the rewards that he got in exchange for it were very bountiful. He felt that the lady of luck was finally rewarding after his countless struggles. It was as if he was on the same side as Shin's luck now.

Though, he also knew that he was not as lucky as that bastard.

'Tsk! Such a show of favoritism,' even though he wanted to complain a little, he could no longer do it since he was now being rewarded.

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After enjoying the sensation of being lucky for a moment, it was now time to wake up and come back to reality.

Arthur might be a little successful with his 'little' gamble, but the problem that he brought back was pretty big. The others wanted to beat him up at this point in time after seeing the current form of the grand marshal.

If the previous state that the grand marshal had was enough to make them feel helpless, then what they were currently feeling was nothing but despair.

How were they going to win against such a powerful monster?

The corner of everyone's mouth twitched uncontrollably while looking at the information panel flashing in front of their eyes.

Monster Name: Demon of Slaughter

Monster Type: Vessel of Calamity

Monster Rank: Emperor Rank – Calamity Grade

Bloodline: Full-bloom Cursed Being

Tier: (Mid) 4

Level: 600

Status: Weakened (In process of full recovery)

HP: 500,000,000,000

Five hundred billion Health Points – forget about the fact that they would most likely die in a single shot if they got hit by the corrupted grand marshal, the group didn't even know if they could last until they exhausted that Health Bar.

With such a large pool of health, they didn't know if their damage was enough to fight until the end. Their Mana Pool also needed to be considered, they would surely exhaust it before they could even reach a quarter of that Health Bar, much less kill it.

They were also lamenting about the fact that the corrupted grand marshal was in the process of recovery. They couldn't imagine how much of a disaster would this monster become after it fully recovered.

Arthur was also starting to doubt if they really needed to go to Plan B which Shin had prepared. If such a monster fell in the hands of Immortal, he didn't know what kind of disaster would befall in the game.

But after giving it more thought, he felt that it was for the better. The system would naturally not let such a weapon of destruction fall into the hands of a player. Its real ability and overall strength would most likely be sealed just like the Elemental Spirits that had a contract with the Transcendent Being.

Though, Immortal would surely become a much stronger villain of the game after he acquired such a weapon and turned it into one of his high-ranking undead monsters. Especially if he let one of his Abomination Elemental Spirits host it.

"Well, it is not like we are not going to become much stronger after this Empire Quest," muttered Arthur to himself as he thought about the Guardian Dragon sealed within this Kingdom.

Moreover, he also had a powerful trump card in his possession. An ancient dragon that survived a series of calamities and even created one on its own.

Thinking about that, Arthur couldn't help but feel a little excited. He couldn't wait to execute Plan B already.

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Naturally, this Demon of Slaughter didn't care about the thoughts running inside the heads of the group. All it knew was to kill everyone and continue to kill more.

Roar!

It opened its mouth wide and released a powerful and deafening roar that resounded throughout the whole kingdom. It even shook the ground during the process.

Rumble!

The powerful monsters residing within the Frozen Kingdom immediately became agitated when they heard such a dreadful roar. They also felt challenged by the owner of that roar, making them become enraged.

They wanted to quickly head over and teach the arrogant one a lesson. But after seeing the direction where the roar came from, they immediately came back to their senses and calm down.

If the owner of that roar was in that place, then they didn't have to worry since there were a lot of 'monsters' residing within that city. Not all of them were a match for this particular demon, but they had enough numbers to deal with the situation.

Moreover, a couple of those 'monsters' had strength that was comparable with that newly emerged demon. And they would not sit idle after causing a scene in that sacred place.

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Unfortunately for the group, none of those so-called 'monsters' appeared to aid them.

They stood rooted on the ground after the roar sounded. Their bodies became paralyzed after hearing it. It was as if their innate fears were brought out by that roar, immobilizing them in the process.

Roar!

With another dreadful roar, the Demon of Slaughter launched itself toward the group while brandishing its greatsword at them.

Seeing that, Cloe quickly cast a mind-cleansing spell to free herself from the effects of the roar before swiftly raising her staff to also free the others.

Unfortunately, despite her efforts to be as quick as possible, she knew that it was already too late. Even if she was able to free the others with her blessing, they would not have enough time to dodge the incoming attack.

The others also knew about it. But they didn't fall into despair as they did their best to respond to the current situation. They were fully prepared and would quickly move away right after Cloe released their immobilized bodies.

Swoosh!

But before what they thought to be inevitable arrived, a moving silhouette with an insane speed suddenly came out of nowhere and headed to the Demon.

Bang!

The Demon of Slaughter failed to respond in time. All it felt was a heavy force hitting the back of its head. It pressed down with powerful pressure, forcing it to fall to the ground.

Bang!

The face of the Demon of Slaughter was pressed on the ground, being planted in it deeply.

The group finally saw who saved them at that moment. They saw a majestic wolf donning a set of armor stepping on the body of the corrupted grand marshal.

Lycan Steel finally arrived!

And from the aura that this wolf currently had, he seemingly regained a portion of his original powers. It might still be a little weaker compared to the demon lying under its feet, but it was enough to be a powerful helper in this battle.

"It is about time for this stupid dog to make his move," muttered Arthur as he subconsciously sighed in relief.

In the meantime, Lycan Steel looked at the corrupted grand marshal under his feet. He could no longer see its former glory due to its current form. All he could see was a monster that was hungry for slaughter.

A deep emotion was currently present in Lycan's eyes. He was very saddened at the current sight of the previously great general.

"It pains me to see you in such a sorry state, my old friend. Allow me to help you relieve the burden on your shoulders and free you from such suffering," he said with a voice full of emotion.

Chapter 984 Collecting The Pieces (Part 3)

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The group sighed in relief when they saw Lycan Steel finally arrive. If he was any later, then they would really be in trouble.

Bang!

After Lycan suddenly jumped in the air the corrupted mana with the demon of slaughter exploded, trying to catch him with it.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The others also reorganized themselves and went into formation to get ready to fight. And when Lycan saw that, he slightly nodded and instructed them. "I will be holding him down, support me with everything you have."

Right after saying that, Lycan quickly sprung into action. He didn't even wait for the group to respond as he immediately pounced back at the Demon that was picking itself from the ground.

He opened his mouth widely, trying to bite the exposed neck of his opponent. And when the Demon sensed the immense threat coming from behind, it quickly held its greatsword tightly before swinging it while turning around.

Swoosh!

Puff!

Lycan suddenly exploded into a black smoke right after the greatsword swept through his body. And quickly after that, he appeared behind the Demon, coming out from its shadow.

Grr!

The Demon of Slaughter was still able to respond in time and turned around, raising its arm to guard itself.

It was already too late for it to dodge or properly block Lycan's attack, so it could only let its arm get bitten by the latter while focusing its mana on it. It was building an extra layer of protection over its already hardened scales.

After that, the Demon swung its arm backward, pulling Lycan toward it. At the same time, it quickly brandished its greatsword downward, trying to cleave the wolf with it.

But despite how fast its actions were, Lycan seemed to be able to read it and quickly let go of the arm that he was biting on before twisting its body for a quick spin-roll in the air, barely dodging the descending blade.

Bang!

Ta-ta!

Lycan's feet landed on the ground at the exact moment when the greatsword hit on it. Then he quickly borrowed the momentum that he had from his previous actions to pounce forward and ram its head on his opponent.

Bang!

The Demon of Slaughter was sent flying by that attack. And before it could even recover its balance in the air, Lycan quickly opened his mouth and gathered a large amount of mana in it which turned into a beam of light that flew forward.

Swoosh!

The Demon flipped in the air and placed its greatsword in front of it. It poured its corrupted mana into the sword as it used the surface of the greatsword to protect itself from the incoming beam of light.

Boom!

Lycan didn't even look at what happened to his opponent as he quickly charged forward once again. He turned into a blurry silhouette that flew straight to the center of the explosion, heading over to the demon of slaughter.

Swoosh!

In the meantime, the group couldn't help but looked weirdly at the ongoing battle, fully agape. They knew that Lycan was supposedly a powerful helper for this battle, but they didn't expect him to fight this way.

He was still a little weaker compared to the fully corrupted grand marshal, but he was still able to bridge that gap with his skills. And since the latter was solely relying on its battle instincts to fight, Lycan was able to take advantage of that to fool its senses.

From their perspective, Lycan seemed to have a huge advantage in battle.

Aside from that, they were also amazed by the series of maneuvers that Lycan had executed just earlier. Even the godlike players in their ranks were not confident that they would be able to do it better.

And what was even more amazing about it was the fact that Lycan executed them smoothly and naturally despite the disadvantages of his constitution, especially his wolf body.

That state of amazement only lasted for a moment as the group was able to quickly recover themselves. When they saw that Lycan was able to get the Demon to focus on him, the frontline players sprung into action and joined the battle.

Arthur didn't quickly join them as he needed to rest for a few moments. He pretty much exhausted himself earlier, especially when he pulled the corrupted grand marshal in the Ancient Battlefield earlier.

He stayed on his spot and let Leonard and the rest of the guys fought, which was quite surprising given his character.

At the same time, Arthur also needed to preserve his energy as much as possible to make sure that he would be able to hold his ground when it was finally time to execute their contingency plan.

Meanwhile, Leonard, Zero, Lawless, and Faker were the supporting characters that assisted Lycan in battle.

They all knew that Lycan was their main tank and damage dealer in this battle, so the only thing that they did was hinder the movements of the Demon of Slaughter with their skills. They were not going to get greedy and deal additional damage since it was pretty much unnecessary.

They were only giving Lycan more openings that he could take advantage of. That was more than enough for the group.

If their role was to assist Lycan, then Cloe, Black Hand, Chaotic Luck, and the mages of the group were responsible for protecting the wolf guardian. They would only send their spells whenever Lycan most needed them.

The Healing Spells that Cloe and Black Hand had might be useless to Lycan but the buffs that they could provide were huge. It had a great impact on the battle since Lycan was able to further bridge the gap between him and the Demon.

On the other hand, Ravier and Charlotte had the most critical role in this battle. Not only they could hinder the Demon of Slaughter with their ice spells, but they could also protect the others with ice walls and similar spells.

Chaotic Luck had the most leisure time too. Now that he didn't have to worry about the Demon focusing on him when he was casting a Solar Spell, he could throw as many spells as possible. Though, he was still keeping an eye on his mana pool, making sure that he would not overuse them and save as much as he could for later opponents.

Ara and Alucard were instructed by Black Hand not to partake in this battle. He told them that there was no need for them to join since Lycan's damage was more than enough. Moreover, the rest of the group was enough for additional damage.

Even though it was always been good to have an extra source of damage, Black Hand had a different thought in mind.

Instead, he had a mission for the two. He instructed them to climb the roofs of the surrounding houses and looked for a good vantage point where they could see everything and also hide.

Now that they had Lycan to assist them in taking down the fully corrupted grand marshal, their success in this battle increased significantly.

They only needed to be patient and drain the overwhelming health bar of the Demon of Slaughter in a very steady manner. It might take some time but they would take down this monster eventually.

What they needed to do right now was to make sure that no one would be able to interfere in the battle. They didn't know when Immortal and his group would show themselves, so it was better to be on guard against those guys before they caused trouble.

Grand Marshal Draco told them that those guys were being held back by the rest of the guards of the Frozen City, but quite a lot of time had passed already, so Black Hand was expecting that those guys would already be moving toward the city.

If Immortal managed to sneak past their senses and caused trouble at the most critical moments, then the success of their quest would be at a huge risk.

Having that in mind, Black Hand told Ara and Alucard to scout the surrounding area and quickly report if they found anything strange.

The rest of the group also agreed, so the two quickly sprung into action and moved as instructed.

In the meantime time, S.Tigris, Seven, and Owen were now responsible for protecting the rest of the group. They didn't know when the tide of the battle would change, so it would not hurt to be prepared for any kind of surprise.

...

While the whole group was busying themselves with their respective roles, Arthur closed his eyes and cast his consciousness at his 'inner world'. It was where the consciousnesses of his Elemental Dragons were gathered.

Arthur dived deep into it as he looked for something. He was looking for the trump card that they needed to ensure the success of their plan.

After arriving at the deepest part of his inner world, deep inside a void, Arthur stopped and raised his gaze.

He stared at the void for quite some time before opening his mouth. "Come out, Archon."

Responding to his call, a pair of huge eyes suddenly opened from behind the darkness of the void and peeked at Arthur. It was the Chaos Dragon that Arthur had 'captured' during their trip to Sky Island.

Seeing that the dragon was not saying anything, Arthur decided to state his purpose first. "Let's make a deal."

Chapter 985 Immortal's Plans

.....

On the other side of the Frozen Kingdom, a little far from the Frozen City, Immortal was leading his group to advance forward.

He and the members of the Silent Night Adventurer Team had already re-grouped with the people of the Earners Mercenary Group. And right after organizing themselves, they quickly headed toward the city situated at the heart of the Frozen Kingdom.

The two groups thought that it was the final destination of the Empyrean Talons. And they were heading there to sabotage their quest as they planned. This was the main reason why the Silent Night cooperated with Immortal as well as the job that the Earners were commissioned.

That was what they thought, but it was the real purpose that Immortal had.

Immortal had a special position within the Corrupted Cult due to his Transcendent Race and Class. He was also the source of information when it came to special events as his connection was pretty wide within the circle of top players.

As one of the Godlike Players ranked within the Godlike Ranking List, his connections within the gaming community would not lose to the top Guilds. He even had some contacts within their ranks.

His arms run deep within the circle.

This was why the Corrupted Cult was not punishing Immortal despite the recent failures that he had. Moreover, the Undying Guild, which was full of lunatics idolizing him, was a great force that even the Corrupted Cult would not underestimate.

Immortal was the one who initiated the quest that the Corrupted Cult was currently doing. He was also the person who leaked some information about it and spread it within the cult.

The Corrupted Cult was a great force but they were not as united as it seemed. They were just an organization where the lunatics and insane people within the game gathered.

Even though the members of the cult were following the Supreme Elders within the organization, mainly the powerful NPCs behind it, each of them had a different agenda of their own.

Even the Supreme Elders were just using each other to gain what they wanted. As for the players who managed to become part of this dark faction, they were no different from those elders.

If the gains that they could get from a certain individual were no longer enough to satisfy their needs, they would most likely disregard that person or group.

This was what happened to Immortal. Due to his repeated failures, the Supreme Elders within the Corrupted Cult started to lose their trust in him and looked for another person who should be able to fill his role.

Immortal still had a loud voice within the cult but it was no longer as strong as before. Some of the minor groups within the cult were starting to doubt his abilities and look for another potential collaboration.

Even though they didn't cut off their connections with him completely, it still weakened quite considerably.

One proof of this was the fact that multiple Messengers and candidates for that role were sent in this big operation that they were doing. At the same time, the leading figure in her was one of the recently emerging members who just joined the organization.

Even if that particular was just a new member of the cult, a lot of people acknowledged him due to the successive success that he achieved recently.

Those achievements were not known to the public but the higher-ups of different organizations were aware of them which was why they were being wary of the movements of the groups related to Corrupted Cult.

Immortal still had an important position within the cult, though it was rather shaky right now. A few more mistakes and he would lose the role that he was currently playing, not even his previous achievements and special abilities would be able to save him.

He might have a Transcendent Class and Race but he was not the only person who had it. His connections might be huge, but the entire cult already had enough of it already.

His current position within the cult was no longer irreplaceable.

These were the main reasons why Immortal started making his own plans as well as the reason why he leaked the information about the Frozen Kingdom and spread the large-scale quest related to it secretly.

First, he was planning to lure those people eyeing his position and let them do all of the hard work. Then he would use the free manpower provided by the cult and take advantage of it to achieve his personal goals.

The Corrupted Cult didn't have much to lose in this, so they would not look deeply into it even though they were suspicious about a couple of things.

Moreover, there were a lot of benefits that they could get from this piece of information, so they overlooked all of the suspicious points along the way.

Meanwhile, Immortal would be making his preparations slowly and steadily. Since the Corrupted Cult was planning to toss him away, then he would take the initiative and toss the cult instead.

But before anything else, he had to squeeze them dry until there was no longer anything that he could get from them.

...

Immortal and his group were currently recuperating from a certain part of a forest after going through an intense battle.

He didn't know what exactly happened, but he was sure that the surrounding monsters near their destination were targeting them.

He was suspecting that Shin and the others were responsible for it, but he couldn't be completely sure. It was just what his instincts were telling him.

"We will stay here for a moment until we regain our peak forms," said Immortal as he swept his gaze at the group.

The members of Silent Night showed some discontentment on their faces after hearing his authoritative voice. But despite that being the case, they still followed his words and stayed.

On the other hand, the members of Earners Mercenary Group didn't show any reactions. They were mercenaries, so they had to follow their contractors without any complaint as long as their bottom line was not touched.

Immortal ignored the gazes directed at him and found a corner for himself. After that, he opened a personal panel and looked at the progress of a particular quest.

Quest Name: Emissary of the Underworld

Quest Type: Secondary Combat Class Acquisition Quest (Solo)

Quest Rank: Special

Quest Difficulty: N/A

Details:

Gather 13 different undead monsters with special and unique abilities

Progress:

Special Undead Monster Acquired: 12/13

- Banshee Queen, Spectral Wraith, Lich King

- True Ghoul, Dullahan, Skelton King

- Death knight, Undead Knight, Shadow Paladin

- First Abomination

- Forsaken King

- Zombie Dragon

Rewards:

- Permanent owner of the 'Records of Undead'.

- Secondary Combat Class – Emissary of the Underworld

Penalty:

- N/A

Quest Clue: Potential Doom Knight has been located!

Coordinates: 51°54'22.2"S, 6°11'25.5"E

.....

Immortal looked at the progress of his personal quest and nodded his head. He then quickly closed it and looked in the direction where the Frozen City was located.

He was very close to his target. And once he gets his hands on this doom knight, then he would no longer need to stay in the Corrupted Cult. He could immediately look for another nest to stay.

This Doom Knight would also be added to one of his final trump cards alongside the top three undead monsters from the undead codex in his possession.

Once he acquired the Doom Knight, he could immediately proceed to the Forsaken Islet to initiate his Tier 3 Promotion Quest. And once he completed all of the quests needed for his promotion, he would immediately pay these guys who owed him a debt.

Aside from the potential Doom Knight, he also got an interesting piece of information. From his contacts within the Pandemonium Descendants, they seemed to be a Guardian Dragon sleeping under the Frozen City and that dragon seemed to be closely related to a certain cursed NPC.

And based on their investigations, NPC should be the vessel that could become his Doom Knight.

Immortal was very excited about that news. He did not expect that he would receive an additional reward for this quest.

Capturing the cursed NPC and turning him into a Doom Knight would be easy as long as he had the 'Records of Undead'. It was a special item that could seal any kind of undead and corrupted monster regardless of their levels. Even a cursed being could be sealed within the stone table.

The only downside of that item was it required a huge number of recourses for it to be activated. It also had a very long cooldown time before it could be used again.

Moreover, any undead monsters, corrupted monsters, and cursed beings sealed by it would be weakened proportionally to his current strength.

But it was just a small price to pay in exchange for acquiring a set of powerful trump cards.

Immortal was thinking of corrupting the sleeping guardian dragon with the help of the Doom Knight that he is going to create. And if he was successful, then he would have a pair of powerful dragons on his side, a Zombie Dragon and a Corrupted Dragon.

Alongside his powerful and special undead monsters, he would no longer have to fear anyone when that time happened, especially when he could fuse them with his Abomination Elemental Spirits.

Immortal couldn't help but grin evilly when he thought of the plans that he had for the future.

Chapter 986 Arrival

.....

Boom!

Yet another powerful collision created a strong shockwave because of the clash between a huge armored wolf and a corrupted reptilian humanoid monster.

The strong ripple in the air prevented the surrounding people from approaching the two, forcing them to stay in their place and maintained a defensive posture to not get swept away.

Black Hand kept his eyes sweeping the surrounding, making sure that no one would be able to sneak an attack on them. He left the state of the battlefield to the rest of the group as he fully trusted their abilities.

Each one of them was an expert in their own right, so they didn't have to be instructed constantly. Especially when they had Lycan Steel helping them and acting as their main frontline.

What Black Hand needed to do right now was to keep monitoring the surroundings, expecting the unexpected, and taking note of the ever-changing terrain.

S.Tigris, Seven, and Owen were also doing the same. Their main job right now was to keep the backline safe, after all. They didn't have to worry about the others who were fighting in the frontline since they knew the capabilities of those monsters, so they could fully commit to getting ready for the battle against Immortal and his group.

Chaotic Luck also stopped assisting the rest of the group as he was now focusing on the scouting task. He summoned some of his skeleton soldiers and scattered them in different directions.

He could sense the danger lingering in the air and knew that the next moment would be an important moment for the rest of the battle.

A few moments later, Chaotic Luck suddenly opened his eyes as one of his skeleton soldiers died without him knowing the cause.

"They are here!" he shouted, informing the rest of the group about the arrival of their long-awaited guests.

"Get ready," said Black Hand while adjusting the formation of the group before contacting Ara and Alucard. "Stay in your hiding place and don't initiate an attack until I give you the signal."

He knew that they would be at a disadvantage when it came to numbers, so the sneak attack that their two marksmen could provide would have a huge impact on the upcoming battle.

If they could take out a member or two from their opponent's ranks, then the pressure that they would be having would decrease considerably.

Before completing his instructions, Black Hand immediately asked. "Why are they coming from?"

Chaotic Luck immediately responded without a delay. "Seven o'clock from our current position."

Black Hand immediately nodded his head and adjusted their formation according to the information that they had.

At the same time, Chaotic Luck quickly added. "They increased their speed. They are moving without hiding their presence now."

"They must have an idea of our current situation given the huge commotion that Lycan and that Demon of Slaughter is creating," commented Black Hand as he nodded his head.

The entire group was now on high alert as they considerably slowed down the pace of their attack. They started conserving their energies and mana pools in a preparation for the upcoming battle.

Looking at the current health bar that the Demon had, the group was able to deal quite a lot of damage. They managed to cut down half of that massive health bar while supporting Lycan.

Compared to the Demon of Slaughter, Lycan Steel was relatively healthy due to the buffs and healing spells that Cloe and Black Hand had given him.

But despite that being the case, the group couldn't let their guard down. They knew just how strong this Demon of Slaughter was and saw its insane ability to grow in battle, so they couldn't let their guard down just yet.

And since they needed to direct their focus on dealing with Immortal and his group, they would no longer be able to give the wolf any kind of assistance.

They didn't know if Lycan would be able to handle this Demon of Slaughter on his own.

Whoosh!

But while they were in a difficult dilemma of whether to divide their forces to deal with both sides, a swift crescent wave with a sanguine glow flew through the air and headed to where Lycan and Demon of Slaughter were fighting.

The group suddenly tensed up when they saw the crescent wave fly past over their head, not giving them the time to react. But after taking a closer look at it and seeing its target, the group suddenly relaxed and sighed in relief.

"That guy has arrived." – Thought everyone.

Even though they were somewhat confused about why Shin suddenly came despite the arrangements that he made earlier, they were still thankful for his arrival.

His timing couldn't be more perfect for their current situation.

Shin making a presence here could only mean a single thing. He somehow dealt with the situation on the other side and even benefited from it. And from what they could see, the 'extra hand' that he had brought was quite a powerful one.

Boom!

It was at that moment when the sanguine energy wave arrived at its target. It might have been blocked by the Demon of Slaughter, but it pushed the target backward.

The Demon even collided with the frozen houses behind it and got buried under the rubble, making the battle come to a sudden pause.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Then the group saw Shin arrive alongside a stranger donning a crimson armor.

"Always arriving like a main character, don't you?" said Leonard teasingly.

Shin rolled his eyes after hearing those words. "It is not like I've done it on purpose, okay? I am not like a certain someone."

He then paused and turned at the group, who were currently in a battle formation, getting ready for an intense battle. "Looks like I've arrived at the right time. The party is about to start?"

"Yeah! Immortal and his gang are coming at seven o'clock. They will be arriving anytime now," said Lawless as he walked forward. He briefly looked at the stranger that Shin had brought, before shooting an inquiring gaze at the latter.

Shin casually waved his hand and responded. "I'll tell you the details later. For now, let's focus on the current situation at hand."

He then shot a glance at the Demon of Slaughter and got an idea of what happened. He was sure that the curse fully devoured Grand Marshal Draco's consciousness and turned him into his current form.

"I don't know what exactly happened, but I've got the gist of it," he said before telling the rest. "We can leave that guy with Lycan and this comrade for now as we fight Immortal and his gang."

He pointed his thumb at Duke Bellion, who was currently in his Blood Transformation, before continuing. "This guy over here is a Vampire Duke, you know? He is pretty powerful."

"With Lycan's help, I think they can handle that Demon whatever on their own," he added before looking at the armored wolf in the distance and still marking the Demon of Slaughter, who was under the rubble.

"I am sorry to trouble you with this, Senior. But we don't have the power to help now. We also have to deal with the incoming enemies," shouted Shin.

Lycan Steel laughed a little when he heard those words before replying. "Don't be too humble, kid. Bringing Duke Bellion here is more than enough. And the fact that he is following you can only mean that you are now aware of our plans."

'So, he is also a part of that plan. Well, that is understandable given that he is a peak Enlightened Beings in his prime,' thought Shin before saying. "Thank you, Senior!"

Lycan shot a quick glance at the group before his eyes lingered on Leonard for a moment. After that, he suddenly added. "I am in a somewhat troublesome situation of my own, so please hear me out later when all of this is over. I also have a request that I want to ask."

Naturally, Shin and the others would not refuse such a request. Forget about that Lycan was giving them a huge hand right now, those words alone were more than enough for them to agree to it – they could completely smell a hidden quest miles away from it.

"Then we will be relying on you and Duke Bellion to deal with that Demon, Senior," said Shin after repeatedly nodding his head, agreeing with Lycan. He then turned at the vampire duke standing beside him. "Senior Bellion, we will be troubling you too."

Duke Bellion didn't have many words to say and simply responded. "I am just following his majesty's orders."

After that, he turned around and calmly walked toward Lycan.

Shin shrugged his shoulders after that before turning to the group. "Alright, let's welcome our 'old friends', shall we?"

He then looked at Black Hand and continued. "I will be leaving the commands to Black Hand this time as well since I want to personally partake in the battle. We will be following his arrangements and responding to the unexpected situations ourselves when the time comes."

When Shin was making simple arrangements, Arthur, who kept his eyes close until this time, finally woke up.

He then turned Shin and gave the latter a slight nod.

Shin knew the meaning behind that nod. It was the sign that Arthur managed to get the most important piece for the upcoming battle.

What was left now was to patiently wait for all of the pieces to fall into the right places before making the final move.

Chapter 987 Ambush

.....

Immortal led the members of Silent Night and Earners toward the center of the Frozen City right after they heard the commotion the moment when they step through the city gates.

They didn't know what was happening in that place, the loud sounds of explosions and crumbling structures were more than enough for them to know that a fight was going on.

And since they could only think of a single reason why there was a commotion in that place – the Empyrean Talons and the rest of their group were currently fighting in that place.

While heading over to the center of the city, Immortal immediately noticed the 'gazes' directed at them. And since he was very familiar with those kinds of gazes, he was able to quickly locate their sources as the group advanced forward.

He then instructed the assassins in their group to make quick work of the skeleton soldiers monitoring their movements. And with his accurate directions, the group was able to quickly eliminate the spying skeletons.

Immortal also gave a series of instructions while they were moving. He originally wanted to divide their team into three different groups to surround their opponents in three different directions. But after remembering the individual strength of the opposing side, he immediately disregarded that thought and solidified their formation, instead.

Moreover, the opposing group was already aware of their presence, so dividing their forces would only do them more harm if the other side decided to ambush one of the smaller groups before facing them.

With the number of Godlike Players from the opposing side, eliminating the groups would be an easy job, especially when players like Zero, Faker, Lawless, Simba, and Sickarius were on that side.

He already learned the lesson after hearing from Flouree what happened to their group. There were only three people who fought them at that time, yet they almost lost their members if not for them using their trump cards.

Immortal was also aware of how vulnerable the current Earners were after learning that Flouree was currently in a weakened state. It was not because they were weak overall, but it was due to their leader being a fatal weakness of the group when the fight broke out.

Her commanding skills were still going to be very helpful in the battle later, but she would still be prone to attacks from the opposing side now that she didn't have the ability to properly protect herself.

Naturally, there were some evil plots that flashed through Immortal's head. But he knew that Flouree would not be foolish enough to let her guard down, especially when she was very familiar with his habits of backstabbing the people around him when the opportunity presented itself.

Moreover, the success of his plans would be a great risk if discord suddenly arose from their ranks. They would only be presenting their necks at Shin and the others if it really were to happen.

While Immortal was trying to organize their formation, a sudden sense of danger assaulted the whole group.

"Ambushed!" shouted Justin right after sensing the danger looming in the air.

The others didn't need to hear his reminder as they were also aware of the danger. They quickly halted their steps and maintained their formation while sweeping their gaze at the surrounding.

They kept their high alert as they knew how troublesome their opponents could be.

They first thought that they would be the ones who would launch an ambush on the opposing side. After all, the series of explosions could still be heard from the center of the city, which meant that an intense battle was still happening in that place.

They were still a little confused why the opposing side chose to ambush them when they were still fighting such an intense battle.

In order to do that, Immortal and the rest of his group thought that their opponents would need to divide their force in order to hold both forts.

Dividing their forces when they were already at a disadvantage in terms of numbers would only weaken their overall strength even further.

But after thinking deeper into it, they thought that it was also quite understandable. After all, their group would be causing trouble to the opposing side while those people were dealing with whatever they were fighting on that side.

Dividing their forces would indeed be a good decision when the group looked at it that way. Though, it would still be a bad choice if it was really the case.

While the entire group was thinking that way, there were two people who were looking at it differently, Immortal and Flouree.

They were still confused by the decision of their opponents, but they were sure that there was a deeper meaning to it. Based on their past experiences, they knew that they couldn't look at the opposing side at a superficial level.

...

While Immortal and his gang were still thinking about the seemingly foolish decision of their opponents, the other party was already making their moves.

Faker, one of the best, if not the best, assassins in the entire gaming world was already in the middle of their ranks without them knowing.

He used a series of cloaking skills to enhance his stealth skill as he walk through the opposing side fearlessly.

With the help of one of his family's foot techniques, the Shadowless Footwork, he was able to silently sneak past everyone like a ghost.

This particular movement technique was not the fastest footwork. In fact, it was way too slow to be considered a movement technique. Compare to the other techniques, the Shadowless Footwork could be considered a turtle movement.

But in exchange for the slow movement, each of his steps became soundless. It was so soft and silent that no target would be able to notice him approaching them.

And to further enhanced this particular movement technique and let sneak past any kind of defensive measure, Faker was also using a type of 'Turtle Breathing' technique unique to his family.

It was a type of breathing technique that could further erase already unnoticeable presence. And due to it, he was able to walk past the awareness of his opponents even though he just brushed past them a meter distance away from their position.

Faker could not use such a pair of techniques in any games that he had played previously. But due to the help of the 'Reality Manifestation' mechanic of this game, such a thing was possible.

He was able to sneak into the ranks of their enemies without being noticed. And since he was the type of assassin that could totally hide their killing intent, he was able to reach his target silently as if he was the manifestation of Death itself.

...

Flouree, who was keeping a sharp eye on her surroundings couldn't find any sign of their hiding opponents. And as the more time passed, the greater unease she felt while standing in her position.

She couldn't help but cursed her current state. If only she was not weakened, then she would be able to use her 'Magic Sense' to scan their surroundings. And with the help of that skill, they would be so passive like this.

While she was thinking about that, she suddenly felt that there was something amiss. And without any hint of hesitation, she quickly cast a series of defensive skills on herself such as 'Mana Shield', 'Ice Shield', and 'Mana Mirror'.

And due to her decisive actions, she was able to save herself at the most critical moment.

A dagger silently cut through the air!

Swoosh!

The power behind this silent dagger was so strong that it instantly broke the shields Flouree had summoned in quick succession.

Fortunately, those shields slowed down the dagger considerably, giving her enough time to use 'Blink' and escape her current predicament.

After barely escaping the clutches of death, Flouree quickly looked at her assailant and spoke gravely. "It is not going to be the same as the last time."

She and the group already suffered an ambush from Faker earlier and the losses that they suffered were considerably big, so she made sure that she would always be prepared for such things to not let it happen ever again.

The people surrounding her were greatly caught off-guard. They were not expecting Faker to silently appear right in the middle of their ranks without them knowing.

They were keeping a close watch on their surroundings and even maintain a solid formation that could prevent any assassin from sneaking past them, but from the looked of it, all of the preparations were useless in front of this God of Death.

After being surprised for a moment, the rest of the group quickly responded to the current situation and immediately attack Faker.

Mirage was the person who was most depressed in the current situation. As the Archer of the group, it was supposedly his job to keep an eye on any possible sneaked attacks of an assassin. But not only he failed to notice their opponent entering their ranks, he even let it happen more than twice in a row now.

Recollecting himself, Mirage quickly picked up his bow and aimed at Faker with its already-nothed arrow, pouring all of his frustrations into it.

At the same time, he also cast 'Hunting Decree' to Faker to fully mark him. It was a mark that would stay on him even though he entered stealth. It would only be removed once the duration ended or once the caster died.

Due to his pent-up emotions, Mirage's awareness slipped for a moment, making him fail to sense his surroundings in that instant.

It might be momentarily short, but it was more than enough for him to pay a fatal prize.

Click!

That was also the moment when a subtle clicking sound rang silently near him.

It was then followed by a flash of light that cut through the space, passing through his neck and drawing a thin line in the air.

Mirage's body suddenly tensed for a moment before freezing completely. He was still confused at what just happened as his vision slowly turned dark.

The terror of death suddenly assaulted his mind as he released what happened. Unfortunately, he didn't know what actually killed him as he could no longer see his surroundings.

He wanted to warn his colleagues about the danger. Unfortunately, no sound came out of his mouth no matter how hard he opened them.

Aside from the soft sound of a silent sheathing of a sword behind him, nothing else could be heard.

A manifestation of death different from Faker silently approached the battlefield.

Chapter 988 Ambush (Part 2)

...

The members of the Earners Mercenary Group were completely caught off-guard at the sudden death of Mirage.

It was only an instant! A brief moment when they turned their heads to their leader to assist her, yet it was already too late to respond to what had happened.

Moreover, it was only the beginning as the mysterious assailant had already disappeared when they recovered themselves. And when he reappeared, another member of their one died on his katana, the Shaman of the group died with his eyes wide open, full of confusion.

It was only at that time that Sabec, Basion, and GoodyShoe were able to regain themselves and quickly charged at Shin.

Shin gave them a cold look before charging at them fearlessly. He was already in the state of Reality Manifestation like Faker, so his martial prowess was no laughing matter.

But instead of continuing to use the [Yamato] and get himself more accustomed to the sword-drawing style, he chose to use the swordsmanship that he was more familiar with. After all, he would be facing a group of Monster Class Players of the previous games.

He didn't have to switch his current equipment set as he was already wearing the [Dusk and Dawn Equipment Set]. This set might be a little inferior compared to his other set, but when it came to stealth, this set was his best choice.

Alongside the [Nightwalker's Cloak], Shin was confident that his stealth was only a level behind Faker. And with the latter creating such a perfect opening, he was able to take down a target with ease.

Swapping the katana with a pair of sabers, the [Dusk and Dawn Blades], Shin accelerated forward and reached his opponents within an instant and quickly swung them without any hesitation.

Swoosh!

GoodyShoe, as the Guardian Knight, quickly positioned himself in front of Shin and raised his shield. He also used one of his defensive skills in preparation.

He didn't dare to underestimate this opponent. Being able to sneak past their senses and kill Mirage before any of them could respond was already enough proof that this person was not weaker than Death God Faker.

But he still underestimated his opponent a little.

Bang!

The Guard Knight was still pushed back after his shield collided with the sabers. He slid backward and drew a long trail on the ground after absorbing the impact.

"What kind of monstrous strength does this swordsman have?" muttered GoodyShoe in complete shock.

In the meantime, Sabec and Basion seized that opportunity to flank Shin from each side. They already witnessed that this guy was such a monster, so they didn't hold back. They quickly swapped their weapons and revealed their real capabilities.

After the consecutive death of their comrades, who didn't even know how they died. The pair was sure that Shin was definitely as strong as them when they used their real strength, if not stronger.

They couldn't afford to hide their real strength any longer, or else, they would pay a heavy price. A single mistake would definitely be a fatal one.

Sabec took out a pair of rapiers and took a deep breath. And quickly after that, he sprinted forward and threw a series of stabs at Shin.

His movement and attack speed couldn't be underestimated.

Sabec turned into a blurry figure as his arms seemed to disappear and transformed into a series of flashes in the air.

In the meantime, Basion also swapped his weapon. He was now holding a huge hammer with a size that was almost as big as his body. He didn't swing it directly at Shin and instead targeted the possible retreat route that the latter would take.

He was confident with Sabec's abilities, so he chose to take the supporting role instead.

Despite being flanked by the two, Shin remained calm and responded to their actions accordingly.

His sabers released a pair of energies with opposing properties – it was his 'Eclipse Wielding' which quickly became the energy base of his Yin-Yang Swordsmanship, the Power of the Brilliant Sun acted as the Sacred Qi while the Power of the Abyssal Moon being the Demonic Qi.

Then he planted his feet on the ground firmly as an invisible circle seemed to cover his surroundings, giving him the ability to fully sense his surroundings. Using the 'Sensing Circle' skill, he established a 'False Territory' of Martial Artists from the real world.

After that, he swung his sabers and created a series of black and white crisscrossing lines around him, creating a seemingly solid spherical barrier.

'Yin-Yang Swordsmanship: Sword Transmigration'

Bang!

Cling! Cling! Cling!

The first strike sent a strong force that made the huge hammer rebound back upon contact while sparks flew in the air on the other side as the series of Sabec's attacks was repeatedly repelled back by Shin.

The two were completely surprised at that sight as he didn't expect that Shin would have such a solid defense. Moreover, Sabec even discovered that it was getting more and more difficult to continue attacking.

Each time he tried to pierce through the spherical defense of Shin, the force that greeted his strikes was much heavier compared to the previous one.

Realizing what was happening, he quickly halted his attacks and disengaged from the fight. And taking over him was GoodyShoe who quickly charged toward Shin.

Basion also regained himself at that time and changed his position, circling around Shin before attacking from behind.

The momentum that the two had looked like a pair of bullet trains charging at him with unstoppable momentum.

But despite facing such a pair of forces, Shin remained calm.

He waited for the two to come at him before halting his actions as he guided all of the absorbed forces from the previous exchange with Sabec, equally dividing them to each of his sabers.

Quickly after that, he adjusted his position and launched an attack at the two, the [Dusk Blade] stabbed forward while the [Dawn Blade] swung at the incoming hammer.

Boom!

A massive explosion quickly followed due to the collision. And when the dust settled down, the trio couldn't help but look at Shin with weird gazes.

Shin was standing steadily in between GoodyShoe and Basion. One of his sabers was pointing at the Guardian Knight, pressing its tip at the shield and preventing the guy from moving forward. Meanwhile, the other saber was pressed on the hummer after nullifying all of the force that it had.

The three quickly regained themselves and started attacking Shin once again. But despite their combined forces and perfectly coordinated attacks, the latter was still able to hold his ground without being suppressed.

He was fighting them comfortably without showing any kind of weakness.

And when the three couldn't find the upper hand in battle despite their combined forces, they couldn't help but think to themselves. – "Just where did this monster come from?!"

...

In the meantime, Faker was also busying himself on his side. Right after failing his assassination attempt to Flouree, the heart of the Earners Mercenary Group, he quickly changed his target to their sole priest.

His movements were fast and decisive.

But despite that being the case, he still failed his reached his target. That was because their opponents were no longer holding back. They didn't care about hiding their real strengths anymore.

After the consecutive downfall of their comrades, they immediately recognized that this was not going to be an easy battle. Moreover, they already experienced the terror of this person who fearlessly entered their ranks. A single mistake and they would lose their lives.

They were furious at the death of Mirage and their shaman, but they couldn't dwell on it since the opponents would definitely not going to give them the time to think about those two.

The three thieves of their group, Thayrin, Zurra, and Asprey, quickly threw themselves in front of their priest after realizing the intent of their opponent.

And with their decisive actions, they were barely able to save the priest from being killed.

Jia, on the other hand, quickly went to Flouree to protect her. After all, they didn't know if Faker would target their captain once again, especially with her current weakened state.

At the same time, she was constantly surveying their surroundings. They already learned their lesson after suffering an ambush from Faker and Shin, they didn't know if the same thing was going to happen.

...

The moment when the battle broke out from the ranks of the Earners, Immortal, his two apostles, and the members of the Silent Night noticed it too.

They were shocked that two of the members of the other side were already taken down without them being able to respond to it.

Justin, the Demon God, instantly spotted Shin who was fighting against three members of Earners on his own.

His eyes quickly turned bloodshot as he wanted to rush over to that side and crush that person as soon as possible. It was the guy who ruined everything and even humiliated him in front of countless players.

Boom!

But before he could even make his move, an attack was launched in their rear. Even though the rest of their members were able to respond in time, two of them still died in the process.

Looking over to that side, they saw Leonard and Lawless ferociously looking at them. Their savage eyes were glaring at the group, making the two of them look like a pair of wild beasts.

Unlike the other side where Shin and Faker chose to eliminate their targets silently, these pair launched an attack openly. They didn't care if their opponents discovered them, all they knew was to grab a target and rip them apart.

Leonard was holding the face of the assassin, who was responsible for being the lookout on the rear, as he stared at the opposing side. And after sweeping his gaze at them, he crushed the head of the guy he was holding, turning it into bits.

Beside him, Lawless was stepping on the head of a Demonic Berserker lying on the ground. And just like Leonard, he also crushed the head of that person as he put stronger pressure on his foot.

Seeing that scene, the rest of Silent Night became furious and wanted to avenge their comrades. But unfortunately, they knew that they couldn't act rashly.

They already experience the strength of these two, and it was not something that they could underestimate. At the same time, they also needed to watch their surroundings since they knew that there were still other opponents hiding from them.

They just adjusted their formation and patiently waited for the commands.

...

Immortal was currently wearing a dark expression on his face. His eyes also locked with the person walking towards them at an unhurried pace.

It was Zero who chose not to launch an ambush directly. It was not because he didn't want to, but because he knew that he was already been spotted by Immortal before he could even make his move.

He might not be unsuccessful at launching a direct attack, but the mental pressure that he could deal with his actions was heavy enough for the opposing side to endure.

Immortal was previously planning to launch a three-way ambush at the opposing group and trapped them like helpless prey. But from the looked of it, they were the ones who got surrounded instead.

He was not expecting the opposing side to boldly ambush them like this.

Plus, he didn't know if Shin and the other four gods were the only ones in here. After all, he couldn't find any sign of the others hiding in the vicinity.

Moreover, he could still hear the sound of an intense battle happening at the center of the city. It was hard to gauge if these were the only members that the opposing side had brought. He was lacking an important piece of information.

But one thing was sure.

He knew that these guys would not dare to attack only a few people if they were not confident. He understood how the other side operated – they would not fight an unfavorable battle without a reason.

And when he thought about how Shin strategized from their previous battles, Immortal knew that this was not a simple ambush to weaken their forces.

"They are confident that they can annihilate us here," he muttered with a heavy tone.

Chapter 989 Reading The Opponent Like An Open Book (Part 1): Arrangements

.....

Immortal scanned and briefly scanned their surroundings and noticed that they were currently in the part of the city where there were a lot of structures. It was indeed a perfect place to hide and lay an ambush.

He had to admit that he got careless once again. Due to the urgency of the situation and based on the sound of the intense battle coming from the distance, he thought that the opposing party was currently occupied on the other side.

He had gotten greedy as well. After seeing the high compatibility of the possible Doom Knight, he wanted to see the vessel and turn it into one of his special undead monsters as soon as possible.

He then turned to Zero, who was still calmly walking toward them. His unhurried pace signified that they were confident in this particular ambush.

Fortunately, the rest of their group was able to regain their composure before it was too late. They only had five opponents currently, so they could rely on their numbers to suppress the opposing side.

'I refuse to believe that you can send enough members to deal with us when the battle on that side is that intense,' thought Immortal before giving a series of orders while keeping an eye on Zero.

Due to his timely command, the group was able to quickly reorganized themselves and hold their ground against the four monstrous assailants.

Shin and Faker were now completely occupied with the members of the Earners Mercenary Group. Those guys really lived up to their reputation as they were able to quickly regain their footing and respond with their satiation properly.

Even if they lost their marksman and shaman, they still fearlessly launched a series of attacks on the two without holding back. They dealt with the situation and took advantage of their numbers.

Moreover, they also have a priest on their side, so they could just recklessly throw themselves at their opponents. As long as they properly put their guards up and avoid getting one-shotted by the two, everything would be fine.

Seeing that their opponents finally regained themselves, Shin and Faker decided to temporally cease their attacks and retreated.

On the other hand, Leonard and Lawless also failed to gain a solid advantage on their side. With Elise, Jugo, and Justin personally dealing with them, they couldn't firmly grasp a good opportunity to increase their gains.

Dealing with these three Godlike Players and the rest of the Silent Night was still not an easy task even if the two of them were currently in the state of Reality Manifestation.

Just like Shin and Faker, the two also decided temporarily retreat.

Naturally, Immortal and the others would not let that happen. After suffering from the ambush, they refuse to let those four just run away like that. They quickly increased their pace and forced the four to stay.

That was only the moment when Zero made his move. After seeing the predicament of the four, he quickly charged forward, seemingly trying to give a cover.

Unfortunately, Immortal personally faced him, preventing the Sword God to lessen the pressure the four were facing. Afterward, he ordered the rest to quickly give their all at attacking Shin and the others.

Seeing the actions of the opposing side and the restless response of Zero, Immortal became confident that they didn't bring enough numbers to their side. He was suspecting that Shin and the others were only betting on bluffs to intimidate their group.

The previous ambushes also became more understandable in his eyes two. Immortal had no idea about the Reality Manifestation, so he was only suspecting that Shin and the others only used a one-time special method for that ambush earlier.

'They might be betting that they could take us by surprise earlier and kill as many of our members as possible while we are currently intimidated!' thought Immortal after seeing the restless assault from Zero.

'Unfortunately for them, we are able to reorganize ourselves rather quickly,' he added as he couldn't help but grin evilly.

Unfortunately, he couldn't summon his undead monsters recklessly now. He had already spent quite a lot of mana potions earlier when he was fighting Chaotic Luck, so only had a limited number of them right now.

Moreover, he also needed to save as much mana as possible because he would be needing them for the activation of the [Records of Undead] later.

He actually didn't care about the well-being of Silent Night and Earners. As long as he could get his hands on the vessel for his Doom Knight and corrupt the slumbering Guardian Dragon, he could use these people as disposable pieces.

But before he threw them, he first needed them to serve their purpose – to be his meat shield until he achieved his goal, so he also couldn't let them die that easily.

And if he could also kill these nuisances along the way, then he would refuse such a bonus reward?

Unfortunately for him, he didn't know that he was only dancing at the palm of his opponent.

...

Know yourself, know your enemy, and know the battle – master these things and you would not lose a single battle.

This was an important lesson that people could learn from the Art of War. And as someone who was trained in a Mafia Training Camp and grew up in a Military Family, Shin was very familiar with such things.

He had faced Immortal multiple times already and he somewhat understood this so-called Lich God. From his attitude, his background within the game, his fighting style, and his habits as well as his past achievements, Shin already studied them thoroughly.

Adding the previous clashes that he had with Immortal, Shin could say that he knew this opponent confidently. One of the proofs was when he read some of the latter's plans earlier.

Shin was always a couple of steps ahead of Immortal.

And when he learned about the possible objective of the opposing side, the game was practically over.

Immortal would never expect that Shin was actually reading him now like an open book.

Shin had already formulated a solid plan to crush this guy the moment everything became clear to his eyes.

He knew how greedy Immortal could be. And when he added his infamous reputation, Shin knew very well that Immortal was plotting something behind the back of his current 'comrades'.

This was the reason why he kept targeting Immortal during their collisions. It was not only because he was strong and the strategist of the group, but also the real target that needed to be taken down.

The Teleportation Formation was just a bonus earlier.

Training Chaotic Luck was also just a secondary reason why he tasked the guy to face such a formidable opponent. The real reason for that arrangement was to exhaust the resources that Immortal had.

Shin even instructed Chaotic Luck not to hold back from using his mana potions during the battle. It was in order to force Immortal to burn more potions of his own.

With such a limited number of resources, Shin knew that Immortal would sooner or later run out of mana. And when that time came, he would be nothing but a lamp presented on a chopping block, waiting to be butchered.

Shin was also aware of Immortal's cunningness. He knew that this scheming fox might save as many resources as possible until he got his hands on the body of Grand Marshal Draco and corrupted the Guardian Dragon underneath the city.

He could even sacrifice his 'comrades' to achieve it. And based on the incidents of backstabbing his own people, Shin could even see Immortal turning the people accompanying him into powerful undead servants.

In that scenario, he would not be suffering such losses. Gaining an additional number of undead monsters would always be beneficial to necromancers, especially for him who was entitled to be the Lich God.

Regardless of the choice that Immortal was going to make, it would be a win-win situation for Shin and the others.

Even if Immortal gained something from this incident, it would be fine. After all, it was impossible to win everything. But as long as they get the longer end of the stick, it was their win.

Naturally, Shin would not passively wait for Immortal to make his choice. Instead, he would be forcing the latter for it.

This was the reason why he created this ambush with a 'limited' number of assailants. It was to give the opposing side a false impression that they didn't have all of their members in this battle.

If Shin led the others to face Immortal and their group head-on, then the latter would surely be on guard even if they had the advantage in numbers.

And when the group battle broke, even if Shin were confident with their group, the price they would pay would still be massive, especially when they couldn't afford to lose even a single member.

A single death was equivalent to that person failing their quest which also lead to them permanently losing their character.

At the very least, the group could make Immortal and the others wary of them when they ambush like what they were doing right now.

By hiding their real numbers, the opposing side would not only be wary of them, but they would also have the false sense of having the advantage.

And when it was finally time to reveal their cards, it was already too late for their opponents to save the situation.

They had already fallen deep into the trap that Shin had perfectly laid – caught and could not escape.

Chapter 990 Reading The Opponent Like An Open Book (Part 2)

.....

Black Hand who was currently hiding in one of the frozen buildings of the city slightly peeked at the ongoing baiting in the distance.

He originally planned to rely on guerilla tactics when facing Immortal and his gang. After all, those guys were still quite a strong group and they had the advantage in numbers, so they would be having a hard time facing them in a head-on collision.

Instead, relying on their familiarity with the city and the top agility-based experts, like Shin, Zero, and Faker would be a more ideal approach. With the three of them constantly harassing the opposing side while the rest were being the main 'bait' in that situation, Immortal and the rest of his gang would definitely suffer great losses.

Moreover, there were also Lawless and Simba who were familiar with that kind of strategy. And with the innate abilities of the Beastman Race, their threat shouldn't be any lower compared to those three.

In fact, they might even perform much better. After all, Beastmen specialized in hunting.

But after hearing the suggestion from Shin, Black Hand couldn't help but become more impressed. Taking advantage of the fact that their opponents didn't know the existence of their powerful supporters, namely Lycan Steel and Duke Bellion, the strategy that Shin had presented could give them better results.

They could use the lack of information on the opposing side to their advantage. And by setting an ambush point away from the battle, they could prevent Immortal from investigating their real situation.

Then they would slowly reveal their cards during the battle to give the opposing side the false impression of not having enough manpower.

By utilizing this strategy properly, they could take down as many members of the opposing side as possible before they realized what happened. This was the reason why this initial ambush was very important for Shin and the others. It was the only time they could deal the heaviest damage to Immortal and his group.

This initial damage that they deal to the opposing group was the strongest that they could do given the current circumstances.

Once Immortal and the rest figured out what was actually going on, it would be much harder for Shin and their group to deal with their opponents later. After all, these guys were not an ordinary bunch of players, they still lived up to their names as top experts of the game.

Black Hand had to play their cards right for them to reap the most benefit that they could get.

...

Seeing Shin, Faker, Simba, and Lawless having a hard time, Black Hand knew that it was now the time to reveal their next card.

He opened the party chat channel and give out the instructions. "Miss Ember and Sir Ravier, it is now your turn. Miss Charlotte, you also have to be on standby and wait for the right opportunity to strike."

Seeing his message, the two quickly made their moves. They didn't immediately walk out from their hiding place as they chanted out their spells. And once they were done, they used their respective 'Mana Sense' Skill to lock on the targeted location before releasing their spells.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

A rain of fireballs and a hail of icicles suddenly came out of nowhere and started pouring down on Immortal and his group. The sudden appearance of the spells didn't completely catch Immortal and the others off-guard as they were already expecting such a thing to happen.

All of them quickly responded to the incoming spells falling down from the sky. Some of them defected or blocked, the others dodged, while the mages and priests used their barriers.

At the same time Flouree, who was a Magic Freak, quickly used her superior Mana Sense to feel the surroundings. She read the mana flow in the air while looking for the source of the spell. And not long after, she found the locations where Ember and Ravier were hiding.

"The casters are hiding on the roof of the houses on both of our sides!" she shouted, informing every member of the group.

Hearing her words, the people who had the freest role on their side quickly made their moves.

The guy who was known as the 'Lightning Fist' quickly disengaged from the battlefield and headed in the direction that Flouree had said. He arrived at the roof of the building with a series of maneuvers and saw Ravier already waiting for him.

Without further ado, he quickly launched himself forward and threw a punch toward the mage. He already fought this guy during the previous ambush in the forest, he couldn't do much at that time since Ember was also present at that time.

But it would be different this time. Now that Ravier was alone, he was confident that he would win.

Ravier quickly cast 'Blink' to get away from the sudden charge of his opponent before sending a barrage of frost arrows to Lightning Fist. The Frost Arrow was just a basic spell and could not deal large damage, but its cooldown was very short and very convenient to use in battle, especially with its slowing effect.

Alongside the special trait that Ravier had, this spell almost didn't have a cooldown, making it look like a normal attack.

Ravier didn't stop in there as he continuously distance himself from Lightning Fist, not bothering to hide his intention.

Lightning Fist could see through the plan that their opponents were using. They were planning to lure him away so that he would be isolated from the group. And by following the basic strategy, there was most likely an ambush waiting for him if he continued his pursuit.

Unfortunately, Lightning Fist didn't have a choice since Ravier would be free to throw spells at them if he was not marked which would give them a lot of trouble.

Lightning Fist had already experienced how annoying the ice spells of Ravier were from their earlier experience in the forest. And if left alone, this ice mage would be an enormous threat to them.

Gritting his teeth, he could only inform the rest of his group about the goals of their opponents before pursuing Ravier.

On the other side, Larc quickly headed over to the other roof where Ember was hiding. He was already waiting for Flouree's words since earlier, so he was able to arrive at the roof within a short time.

But despite all of that, Ember already created a considerable distance between them as if she was already expecting his actions. There was even a barrage of fireballs greeting Larc right after his feet landed on the roof.

Dodging the fireballs skillfully, Larc quickly used one of his movement skills and chased after Ember after informing Immortal.

He was also aware of the intention of the opposing side so he would not continue chasing after Ember if she went too far, driving her away from the main battlefield was already enough. Without her constantly harassing the others with her explosive spells, the rest of their group would have an easier time.

Immortal specifically instructed the two to quickly stop their pursuit once they drove the two mages away far enough. He was already getting a bad feeling about their current situation despite re-establishing themselves. He felt that he might have to rely on his contingency plan, after all.

Little did they know, Ravier and Cloe were not planning to lure their pursuers too far. Isolating them away from the rest for a short period of time was already enough. Larc and Lightning Fist had no idea that they had already fallen into a trap right after their feet landed on the roofs.

Bang!

When Lightning Fist reached the center of the roof, the frozen tiles that he was stepping on suddenly collapsed, making him lose his footing. Fortunately, he was quick enough to respond and adjusted his position in the air before landing steadily on his feet.

He also swept his gaze at his surroundings right after he landed on the house. He vigilantly surveys the interior, looking out for a possible ambush. But despite waiting for a few moments, he failed to find any murderous intent directed at him or a presence waiting inside the room where he landed.

But despite that being the case, he didn't dare to let his guard down as he already figured out that the trap came at him earlier than expected.

Seeing that Lightning Fist didn't let his guard down, Ravier could only continue the bombardment of his spells.

Trapped within the room, Lightning Fist could only defend himself while finding to get back on the rook and escape. And when he finally found the opening, he immediately grabbed the chance and jumped into the room with quick movements.

But the moment he got out, he was immediately greeted by the edge of a shield, hidden behind the ice rampart where Ravier was standing.

Bang!

(-12,342)

The timing was so impeccable that it didn't him give the time to react. The impact was also strong and put him in a daze momentarily, making it impossible for him to block the next attack.

'Extra Skill: Heavy Strike'

(-21,443)

Lighting Fist was sent back to the room where he came from as a hail of icicles followed after him and continuously hit his body. And before he could even recover himself and stand, Owen jumped down from the roof and crush his body.

'Knight Skill: Heroic Leap'

Bang!

From then on, Lighting Fist continuously received a beating from the two. Even if he was somehow able to break from being pinned down on the ground, he still had to endure the combined forces of the two, not finding the opportunity to properly recover, much less come back.

...

In the meantime, a similar trap was set on the other side where Ember and Larc were located.

With his assassin-related class, Larc was able to quickly adjust himself and tried to escape the moment when he realized that he was in danger.

Unfortunately, his retreat path was immediately blocked by Seven. With both of them having a similar level of skill and movement speed, Larc found it hard to break through. At the same time, Ember didn't spare any effort at throwing her fire spells at him to make it harder to fight back.

Based on the current situation, it would only take some time before he was killed.

...

Immortal naturally noticed the commotion happening on both roofs of the builds, giving him a bad premonition. And before the others could even make their moves to check on those two, the sky above them suddenly showed some signs of magic movement.

The gathering of clouds and lightning sparks swimming on them clearly indicated that it was an advance and powerful spell.

Flouree, who was the most familiar with magic among the group quickly recognized the level of the spell that was being cast at that time. She also knew that it was already too late to find the caster and interrupt the spell.

If she was in her peak form, then she could only cast a powerful spell to counter it or a group barrier to defend themselves. She could even reverse engineer the spell and direct cancel it by messing up with the magic sequence.

But now that she was currently in her extremely weakened state, such things were definitely impossible.

All she could do was shout loudly and warn the others anxiously. "Quick, take cover! It is a Forbidden Spell Magic!"

Alas, by the time she shouted those words, it was already too late and the forbidden spell was already been cast by Charlotte.

Crackle!

Boom!