

GODS' IMPACT 171

Chapter 171

Aurora's stats had reset back to default. All her stats were 100 (her agility 10), and her level was 1. However, her physique remained the same as her body in the real world had already evolved.

"How... did this... happen?" Zach asked while stuttering. "Did you..."

Aurora hugged Zach and said, "The cake we ate at Misha and Kayden's house last night, crepe was mixed in with other sweets."

"What?!" Zach explained. "How is that possible? My family runs a bakery shop, and I know what crepe cake looks like. That wasn't... oh..."

"There was another cake too...?" Zach asked.

"I was so busy walking with Misha that I ate without confirming. I mean, all the other sweets ere cake, so I didn't think there would be crepe mixed with them." Aurora sobbed. "I can't play with you now! I can't ascend together with you..."

"It's okay." Zach patted Aurora's head and said, "We can level up again. In fact, we are going on a dungeon raid, right? Let's go and level up real fast."

Aurora shook her head and said, "I lost everything, even my skills. I can't do anything as a level one player."

"..."

"The new update won't allow other players to carry low-level players..." she added.

'Why did this happen? Everything was going so well and...' Zach controlled his emotions and took a deep breath. Then, he looked into Aurora's eyes and said, "Don't worry. I won't leave you behind. We will ascend together."

"No. You should ascend with Aria. I don't want to drag you down," she said while crying. "I will catch up to you once I level up on my own. So go without—"

Zach stopped Aurora from speaking by kissing her on her soft lips. He kissed her for a few minutes until Aurora started to kiss back.

After the kiss, Zach looked into Aurora's eyes and said, "I am not leaving you behind."

"But—"

Zach kissed Aurora again until she stopped resisting.

"You don't—"

He kissed her again.

"Listen to—"

Zach kissed Aurora whenever she tried to say something. He didn't want to hear any negative words from Aurora's mouth.

Aurora was a princess, so naturally, she was spoiled. She could get anything she wanted, and no one could say no to her except her parents.

However, they didn't have time for Aurora, and her masters took care of her, who spoiled her rotten. Part of it was because Aurora was a princess, and they could defy her orders, and another reason was Aurora's beauty.

Because of all that, Aurora had developed a mentality that everything should go her way. Of course, she got angry and upset when things didn't go as per her wishes. But she never hated anyone for that.

She believed that there were certain circumstances where no one could control them. But because of all that, Aurora used to get depressed easily because reality was always dream-shattering for everyone.

When Aurora's maids died protecting her, Aurora blamed herself for it. She was ready to kill herself, and she would have committed suicide if she hadn't met Zach.

She didn't want to be left alone in a place she didn't belong. And currently, Aurora was going to be in the same situation.

If Zach had listened to Aurora and ascended to the higher realm with Aria, there were chances that Aurora would have harmed herself. If not, then it was highly unlikely that a level 1 player could survive in the first realm alone without any help.

In either case, Zach would have lost Aurora.

"..."

Aurora looked into Zach's eyes and didn't say anything because she knew Zach would kiss her to shut her up.

"Aurora..." Zach wiped Aurora's tears and moved his face closer to her ears. Then, he said in a gentle voice: "Let's get married once I come back from the dungeon raid."

"..."

"I am being serious."

Aurora bit her lips and said, "I don't want you to marry me out of pity."

"I am not." Zach hugged Aurora and said, "I want to marry you because I love you."

"...!" Aurora started crying again after that.

Zach rubbed Aurora's back and asked, "Why are you crying again?"

"This is the first time you have told me that you love me..." Aurora uttered in a muffled voice.

"Is... that so...?"

Aurora was telling the truth. However, Zach had once tried to tell her during Aquarius' birthday celebration, but he was interrupted by the waiter for the food.

"I mean.... Come on..." Zach kissed Aurora on the lips before saying, "We did many things. I let you sleep on the same bed as me. And I talk with you kindly. I wouldn't do that with a girl I don't love."

"And besides, I don't think you have ever told me that you love me either..." Zach added with a remark.

Zach pushed Aurora on the bed and started kissing her. He squeezed her breasts and fingered her to pleasure her.

"Hihi!" Aurora giggled as she tried to fight back. "Stop! You—"

DING!

Zach received a message, so he stopped and looked at the sender to see it was Aria.

[Where are you? The raid has already started. We are already on the 20th floor. Come as fast as you can. Bring Aurora too. Victoria looks upset. Come fast.]

"She should learn to text properly," Zach scoffed out loud and closed his menu.

"Was it Aria?" Aurora asked.

Zach kissed Aurora and answered, "Yes."

"Then go!"

"I don't want to. I agreed to go to the dungeon raid for you. So if you are not coming, I won't go either."
Zach looked into Aurora's eyes and said, "I am not leaving you alone."

"You are going to make another girl upset in order to please me," Aurora stated. She pushed Zach back and said, "Go. I will wait for you."

Zach kissed Aurora's hand and said, "I am serious about the marriage, by the way."

"I know," Aurora nodded.

"And then we will have lots of sex," he said with a grin on his face.

Aurora squirmed on the bed and asked, "Would that be considered as our wedding night?"

Zach gave Aurora a deep kiss on the lips and said, "I will make our every night into a wedding night."

Chapter 172

[Floor 49 has been cleared. Proceed through the portal to enter the next floor!]

The floor was filled with 5000 guild members, Victoria and Aria.

Victoria was leading everyone, and Aria was supporting her.

The 5000 guild members were divided into 100 groups of 50 players, and each group had a leader guiding them.

The groups took turns on the floors and dealt equal damage to the monsters so they could level up equally.

Since most of the players were low-level players, they could level up fast because of the low EXP capacity and requirements needed to level up. However, on the boss floors, all groups attacked at once to get as many EXP as they could.

Five group leaders approached Victoria and asked, "What should we do now?"

"Is that a question?" Victoria asked in an annoyed tone. "Surely, you are not saying that the players are tired, right?"

"They... are..." one leader said in a low voice.

Victoria furrowed her brows and said, "Most of the players haven't even taken out their weapon yet. They have only walked, and you are telling me that they are tired?!"

"..." The entire floor went silent.

"Listen!" Victoria raised her voice and glanced at all the groups before saying, "If you can't even manage the dungeon raid, then get out of here! We are not your babysitters! You have to learn to survive on your own!"

"..."

"What are you going to say next?! Blame me if any of you dies?!" Victoria shouted on top of her lungs.

"Why is she so angry today?" a player whispered to the player standing next to him.

"I don't know. But she looks more pissed off than usual for some reason," the player replied.

"Come on, give her a break. She is a high school student, younger than us..." a female player wearing glasses said. "She is given the responsibility of 5000 guild members. She has huge pressure on her shoulders."

"Yeah. I am honestly surprised and impressed by her," another player said.

"Do you have any idea what Elliott was saying about all of you?!" Victoria asked in a loud voice. "If you don't manage to impress him today, then he will most likely kick all of you out!"

"...!"

After hearing that, all the guild members started whispering and talking to each other.

"And honestly, I don't think anything is wrong with his decision. So unless you think you can manage on your own, learn to survive!" Victoria asserted in a solemn voice.

"This is not our world where we can do anything we want. We can't post an online video here and influence people's thoughts. We can't ask for our rights here! This is not a world run by democracy or monarchy; we are in a freaking death game where the gods are constantly trying to screw us over!"

Victoria pointed her finger at the portal and said, "To those who want to survive and stay alive, pass through the portal. And those who are fed with everything, retreat and find another way to live in this world."

Victoria might have sounded harsh to a few players, but most of the players took Victoria's words as a statement of wisdom.

Out of 5000 guild members Victoria was leading, 1869 players retreated, and the rest moved forward to enter the 50th floor.

However, there was only one portal to enter the next floor and too many players. Naturally, it took a while for all the players to pass through the portal.

Victoria and Aria were the last ones to enter the 50th floor.

Aria glanced at Victoria from the corners of her eyes and said, "Not going to lie, I took you as yet another girl who was charmed by Zach, but you are different. You do have a backbone and a voice to state."

"I was charmed by him, and that's why I gave him my everything. But now that I am no longer in his charm, I feel empty from the inside," Victoria said in a disdainful tone.

"Are you angry that he hasn't arrived yet even though he promised he would?" Aria asked Victoria with a judging and curious look on her face.

Victoria shook her head and said, "I am not angry, but I am disappointed.

"I don't see any difference..." Aria muttered under her breath.

Victoria turned to Aria and asked, "Can I ask for how long have you known Zach for?"

"Not for long, at least, no more than you," Aria replied with a shrug.

"Do you... love him?" Victoria asked with a judging look on her face.

"What's with everyone asking me that?!" Aria walked forward as she said that.

Last night, after Zach left, Aria and Aurora were eating cake at Kayden and Misha's house, and there they asked Aria how she felt about Zach. Of course, Aria denied their claim and got angry.

"You should know that Zach is hard to deal with," Victoria stated. "I believe you have spent enough time with him to realize his true colors."

"..."

"I am not bad-mouthing about him, by the way. I just wanted to let you know that you have to be prepared to get disappointed again and again if you want to be with him," Victoria scoffed out loud and added, "He might even joke about this himself."

'She doesn't know about Aquarius and Ruli, does she?' Aria asked herself. 'I am not sure if Zach told her or not, but I probably shouldn't mention them in front of her.'

Normally, Aria would have found Zach's weakness and ways to mess with him, and mentioning Aquarius and Ruli to Victoria was the best way. However, Aria was now afraid to get hated by Zach.

Small things had changed her greatly, and that was the proof that she was turning into an ordinary girl.

Once all the players entered the 50th floor, a colossal serpent spawned as a boss.

Its size was so big that it could crush over 1000 players just by moving around them.

Level 100- World Serpent

HP- [5,000,000]

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Victoria unsheathed her sword and walked into the group of players.

"Healers and priests! Stand back! Heal the players as you are trained to!"

All the healers and priests went to the last row.

"Witchers and mages! With the healers!"

The witchers and mages lined up with the healers and priests.

"Hunters, and rogues! Head on!"

"Archers, and rangers! Back us up!" Victoria walked past the groups after saying, "Warriors, and knights! With me!"

All the hunters, rogues, warriors, and knights dashed at the world serpent. The warriors and knights surrounded the world serpent from one side because it was too big to be surrounded by multiple sides.

The hunters and rogues kept running towards the world serpent with their weapons in their hands.

The archers and rangers loaded up their ranged weapons to support the hunters and rogues.

The witchers and mages charged up their magic attacks and prepared to aid the other players.

The healers had surrounded all the player base from all the sides. They were trained to heal the players in need. Each healer focused on a specific group within a formation and watched over them.

Victoria was in the front line with hunters, rogues, warriors, and knights. While Aria was with the Archers and rangers.

Aria was watching over Victoria, and her safety was her top priority. Aria knew Victoria was very important to Zach, and she couldn't let anything happen to her in her presence.

The groups of players were about to jump on the world serpent, and Victoria was the first one. However, a player ran past everyone with a swift motion and jumped on the world serpent.

The moment later, the world serpent was chopped into pieces, and all the players present heard:

[Floor 50 has been cleared. Proceed through the portal to enter the next floor!]

Everyone was left speechless, and they couldn't comprehend what had just happened. They started talking and glancing at everyone as though they were looking for answers.

Even Victoria was left baffled. But Aria smirked with a scoff and muttered, "Finally."

In the middle, where once the world serpent was crawling, stood a black-haired young man, facing his back to all the players and looking up at the sky.

"..."

He tilted his back and looked at Victoria. Then, he smirked and said, "You didn't call my name. Not going to lie, I am sad."

"Zach!" Victoria exclaimed. "...Zach!"

"Now you called my name twice..." Zach walked to Victoria and stood in front of her with a grin on his face.

He looked at Victoria's chest and saw she was wearing armor.

"I can't believe you really wore armor..."

"Obviously! We are in a dungeon raid..." Victoria squinted her eyes and said, "Did you just... did just one-shot a level 100 boss?!"

"It wasn't a one-shot, though. I had to strike it a couple of times," Zach remarked.

"You killed a boss in two seconds!"

Meanwhile, the other players were bewildered by Zach's presence. Seemingly, they hadn't encountered a player as strong as Zach before.

"He has to be over level 100," a player whispered.

"But who is he?!"

"He is Zach," a girl replied.

"And...?"

"He is our classmate," another player said. "And Zach and Victoria were a couple."

"What?!" the player standing behind them whispered violently. "Vice-captain... you are telling me that someone like her actually has a boyfriend?!"

"Had..."

"So they broke up? Well, obviously. There is no way anyone could tolerate that bitch," he scoffed.

Victoria clapped her hands and said, "We cleared the 50th floor! Now, we will take a 10 minutes break! Rest yourselves because we still have 50 more floors to clear! And they will be more difficult than the first 50!"

All the players formed groups and took rest wherever they could.

Zach, Victoria, and Aria were sitting in the corner, staring at each other with a judging look on their faces.

"Was there any need for such a heroic entry? And all the players were waiting for the boss floor so they could get more EXP, while you just one-shotted it..." Victoria sighed in disbelief and continued, "Before I ask anything else, where is Aurora?"

"Well... things happened, and she can't come..." Zach muttered with a sigh.

"What happened?" Aria asked with a concerned look on her face. "Even when I knocked at her door in the morning, she didn't respond. But then she messaged that she could come later with you. Is she okay?"

Zach nodded and said, "You will know when we go back."

Zach looked at Victoria and said, "You are ready to leave the guild, right?"

Victoria nodded and said, "Everything is set. I am just waiting for this raid to end."

"Why did you even conduct the raid, though?" Zach asked. "The new update messed everything up, right?"

"It would still help the player level up by some degree," Victoria replied with a shrug. "Those who are serious about surviving will get some benefits."

"But there are a lot of players...."

Victoria squinted her eyes at Zach and said, "Care to explain how and when did you get here?"

"I asked Aria about the raid progression, and she told me they were nearing the 50th floor," Zach responded. "So I hurried over and joined the raid on the 49th floor."

Victoria raised her brows after hearing that and asked, "So why didn't you let us know?"

"You were giving such a wonderful and motivational speech; I thought I shouldn't ruin the impact," Zach replied nonchalantly.

"Oh?" Victoria knitted her brows and asked, "And the real reason?"

"You looked pissed, so I kept myself hidden," Zach replied with a straight face.

"Of course, I am pissed.... Idiot. Hmph!" Victoria averted her gaze and said, "If you were going to be late, you should have informed me. I thought you weren't coming or changed your mind about me."

"That's not happening, not even in a million years," Zach said as though he really meant it. However, he wasn't going to come in the raid if Aurora hadn't asked him to.

Of course, Zach planned to tell Victoria if he had decided not to come.

Zach looked into Victoria's eyes with a serious look on his face and said, "I am going to marry Aurora after the raid."

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"..." Victoria stared at Zach without saying anything.

"..." Zach stared back and waited for Victoria to say something

"..." Aria glanced back and forth at Zach and Victoria, but she was shocked and confused too.

"Come on, say something..." Zach groaned.

"What do you want me to say?! Congratulations?!" Victoria exclaimed.

"Well, you can be happy that your ex moved on, and now he is happy with another girl," Zach teased with a grin on his face.

Victoria squinted her eyes with a judging look on her face and asked, "I honestly didn't know you would actually make moves on other girls. But I did expect you to do that since I was the one who started this war by kissing you in front of Aurora that day. However, if you expect me to congratulate you, then that's not happening."

"You are going to be the bridesmaid, by the way," Zach scoffed out loud and said, "You too, Aria."

"Wait..." Aria furrowed her brows and uttered, "You are genuinely serious about this?! I thought you were simply trying to tease Victoria."

"Uhh... I don't think I would joke about a serious matter such as marriage, you know? That's not a joking matter. And besides, if it was truly a joke, then I would have ended it after one remark," Zach said in a solemn voice.

"Wait..." Victoria closed her distance with Zach and asked, "Is that why she didn't come to the dungeon raid today?"

"Kind of... yeah," Zach nodded.

"..." Aria stared at Zach in disbelief and said, "I think I know why Aurora didn't come today and why you are marrying her all of a sudden."

"Oh?" Zach was amused after hearing that. He thought, 'As expected of Aria. She is smart.'

Aria moved her face close to Victoria and whispered something in her ears.

"..." Zach watched Victoria's expression change from a straight to disgusted look on her face.

'What the hell did Aria tell her?!' Zach yelled inwardly.

Victoria shook her head in disbelief and muttered, "I somehow don't doubt that happening."

"But what?!" Zach asked with a curious yet perplexed look on his face.

"You r*ped Aurora didn't you...?" Victoria asked with a disgusted look on her face.

"What the—!" Zach immediately turned to Aria and frowned his face at her. "What's wrong with your mind?!"

"Did I guess it wrong?" Aria wondered with an innocent look on her face. "Because otherwise, I don't see why you would suddenly decide to marry Aurora."

"Listen..." Zach let out a weary sigh and muttered, "I didn't know you think that low of me..."

Aria's face immediately turned pale after hearing that. She grabbed Zach's hand with an anxious look on her face and said, "No, you are wrong! I didn't mean it that way!"

'She is so gullible,' Zach smirked inwardly. However, he was truly hurt that Aria thought he could do something so hideous to Aurora.

"So what is that made you—"

"Vice-captain! Vice-captain!"

Victoria was interrupted by the guild member.

She stood up to see who was yelling her name and asked in a loud voice, "What is it?!"

"It's the ex-couple again!" the player yelled. "They are fighting again!"

"Oh, come on!" Victoria groaned loudly and rushed the couple who was fighting, leaving Aria and Zach alone to stare at each other.

Aria and Zach could hear Victoria yelling in the distance. Some of her words were:

"If I see you or anyone fighting again, I will ask them to fight in the frontlines regardless of their level, and I wouldn't save them even if they are about to die!"

"Heh!" Zach snorted. "Sadist as always."

Aria raised her brows in amusement and murmured, "I almost forgot that you like rude and arrogant girls."

"What about you?" Zach asked with a knowing look on his face.

"What... do you mean? Are you perhaps asking what type of boys I like?" Aria wondered.

"I am curious about your taste in men, but I want to know what type of girl you consider yourself as?"

"I think... I am kind...? I have never hated anyone in my life, nor have I ever tried to take revenge or blamed anyone for my suffering," Aria responded in a calm voice.

"But you were rude and arrogant at our first meeting," Zach remarked. "Although I was too."

"Don't remind me of that..." Aria sighed and said, "It was my first time meeting a human after thousands of years. Also, I hated humans before that because they had killed my sister. I knew I shouldn't have, but I just did that to keep myself distracted from reality. I didn't want to admit that I was betrayed and left alone by the people I thought of as my children. I was sad and lonely. It was as though—"

Before Aria could get any more sentimental, Zach brought her back to reality by kissing her on the lips. And as soon as their lips parted, Zach kissed her again, but this time, he gave her a longer and deeper kiss.

Aria couldn't do anything but enjoy the pleasure of a kiss.

After the kiss, Zach looked at Aria and said with a grin on his face: "You don't look angry even when I kiss you without your permission."

Aria savored the flavor of the kiss in her mouth before saying, "I have gotten used to it. Besides, it's not like I can stop you. You are my master, and I can't defy your orders."

"So..." Zach looked at Aria from the corner of his eyes and asked, "You are going to get revenge-kiss me, right?"

Aria's face flushed a little, but she managed to hold her embarrassment. She stared at Zach for a while and waited for the perfect chance to kiss him back.

After a few seconds, when Zach wasn't paying attention to Aria, she moved forward to kiss Zach, but she stopped when she heard footsteps approaching them.

A few seconds later, two guild members (male and female) came with Victoria and sat beside Zach. They were the ex-couple who were fighting.

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It had been a few minutes since the ex-couple sat with Zach and the others, but they didn't speak a word.

"..."

"..."

Zach nudged Victoria and asked, "Who are they?"

"They are medical students," Victoria whispered to Zach. "They used to date but broke up because of certain circumstances. And now they met again in the game and ended up in the same guild and group."

"..." Zach looked at the couple and wondered, 'It doesn't look like they hate each other.'

"Their situation is somewhat similar to us," Victoria added.

"No, no." Zach shook his head and said, "This is nothing like us. And for your information, I used to think you broke up with me because you were moving to mars. I didn't know that you dumped me."

"We have already solved this matter, so don't mention it," Victoria uttered in an annoyed tone.
"Especially when you are going to marry another girl after this raid."

"In all fairness, you are the one who didn't want to date me again," Zach commented. "But I would still have made moves on other girls even if we were dating..."

"Wow. So you would have cheated on me?" Victoria asked in disbelief. "You know, what? I wouldn't be surprised if you were seeing other girls even when we were dating."

Zach chuckled and rubbed his cheek on Victoria's cheek to annoy her more.

Victoria obviously pushed him aside and said, "Don't do that!"

"But you used to do this to me all the time when we were dating," Zach remarked with a grin.

Victoria's face flushed a little as she heard that. She furrowed her brows at Zach and said, "I will also spill the beans!"

"I don't think there is any bean left for you to spill, though. Aria knows everything about me, and so does Aurora," Zach scoffed.

"Are you sure about that?" Victoria asked with a smug look on her face in a haughty manner, as though she had some real dirt on Zach.

Even Zach was having second thoughts after seeing the arrogant smirk on Victoria's face.

'What could it be?' Zach wondered. 'I have so many peculiar habits, and even I don't know which one Victoria is talking about.'

Victoria cleared her throat and turned to Aria before saying, "You know, he likes being called daddy."

"...!"

"I am already aware of that," Aria sighed.

"Is... that so...?" Victoria glanced at Zach, only to see him smirking at her.

"It seems his shamelessness has no limit," she commented.

Zach rubbed his cheek against Victoria's cheek again and said, "My ears still remember that voice. You looked so cute."

Victoria pushed Zach to the side and stood up to change her seat.

'At least, she is back to normal,' Zach uttered inwardly. Zach was simply trying to calm Victoria down.

Zach had spent enough time with Victoria to know her personally. He could tell Victoria was feeling pressured and stressed because of obvious reasons. He knew that a tiny mistake from Victoria could lead many of the guild members to lose their life. While he didn't care much about the others, Zach was

certain that Victoria would have blamed herself for any of the guild members' death, even when she wasn't to be blamed.

Death in wars and raids were inevitable. No one could take responsibility for the lives of all the players.

Zach turned to the ex-couple and asked, "So, who broke up with who?"

Both of them pointed their fingers at each other.

"You are the one who broke up with me!" the woman yelled.

"It was you!" the man yelled back.

"..." Zach turned to Victoria, and she shrugged her shoulders in response.

"What's your name?" Zach asked the girl.

"Doctor Cindy," the woman replied.

"And what's yours?"

"Doctor Munbeta," the man responded with a proud look on his face.

"Drop the doctor from the name," Zach scoffed. "Your degree is useless in this game."

"I know. But what else can I do? I sacrificed our youth in studying. I took huge loans for our majors. I still have a lot of debts to pay, and here I am stuck in this game..." Cindy sighed. "I shouldn't have agreed to play this game with my friends."

"..."

"And what's worse is that I am stuck with this guy!" Cindy added after glancing at Munbeta.

Zach turned to Munbeta and asked, "What's your story?"

"Same as her. But in my case, I played a VR game because my brother asked me to," Munbeta responded.

"Isn't this a good thing then? You two don't have to pay the loans now. And even if you manage to survive and eventually get out of this game, you would already have a considerable amount of money in your bank accounts because of this game," Zach asserted in an annoyed tone. He was annoyed because he remembered something while saying that.

"That would be the case 'if' we manage to survive," Cindy remarked. "And honestly, with no offense, I don't think we are meant to clear this game."

"Obviously, we are not." Zach stood up and stretched his hands in the air as she said, "That's why... we have to beat this game. We are already in the worst state possible. What worse could happen now?"

'But the Gods do realize that they can't screw us over and over again, right? If they keep doing that, eventually, all the players would die, and there would be no point of Gods' Impact. What would they do in an empty world?' Zach scoffed as he thought that.

"You know..." Munbeta looked at Zach and said, "You are strong. So obviously, you will have no fear. It is given that you will survive any and all circumstances."

"Yeah. You have no right to say that. You wouldn't understand what it feels like to be us," Cindy seconded Munbeta.

That would have been true if that was the case. It wasn't as though Zach didn't risk his life and tried his best to become what he was today. Anyone could become as strong as him if they practiced hard enough.

In a way, Zach was prepared for the Gods' Impact ever since he was born. His father trained him and raised him as a weapon to make him the annihilator.

Zach stared at Cindy and Munbeta with a solemn look on his face, as though he wanted to say something in return to shut them up. He glanced at Aria, and she shook her head in return as though she was asking Zach to keep his mouth shut.

Victoria realized the tension in the atmosphere. She stood and clapped her hands loudly.

"Everyone! Get ready! We are proceeding to the next floor!" she announced loudly.

All the players got up and slowly passed through the portal to enter the 51st floor.

"Nice save," Zach said to Victoria.

"You don't plan to one-shot every monster, right? Leave some for the guild members," Victoria said with a grin on her face.

"Don't worry. I won't interrupt you guys now." Zach frowned his face and uttered, "But I will be participating on the boss floors. So if you want your guild members to get more EXP, order them to play accordingly."

"I won't be waiting for them to clear the floors at snail's pace," he added in a solemn voice.

Chapter 176

It has been over 10 hours since the dungeon raid continued to floor 51.

Since there were too many players and the monsters, it took them approximately 1 hour to clear one floor.

The guild members had formed groups of 50 members each, and they attacked a specific horde of the monsters that spawned. Out of the 50 members, 5 were healers, 5 were witchers, 10 were hunters and rogues. Ten were archers and rangers. While the rest 20 were warriors and knights.

Upon looking at them, Zach thought of this raid as training rather than a dungeon expedition.

"..."

Zach, Aria, and Victoria were standing on the high ground and watching all the players from above. Victoria had also assigned the high-level players to watch over the groups and ensure no one died.

"What are we even doing here?" Zach let out a weary sigh and turned to Victoria before saying, "And you do this every day?"

Victoria nodded and said, "There are a lot more players in the guild. And I have a lot more responsibilities on my shoulders."

"Sounds though..." Zach hugged Victoria from behind and wrapped his arms around her stomach. He rubbed his chin on her shoulder and said, "You have to take responsibility for stealing my heart too."

Victoria leaned back on Zach and said, "Your heart has been stolen by many girls, though."

"That just shows how big my heart is," Zach scoffed softly and kissed Victoria on the cheek from behind.

"..."

Victoria didn't say anything after that and simply enjoyed Zach's embrace.

"So... are we more than friends now?" Zach asked in a gentle voice.

Victoria furrowed her brows and said, "Don't test your luck."

"Ouch." Zach let go of Victoria and gazed down at her thighs.

Victoria was wearing half-body armor that covered her chest area and thigh area. But the hips area was a loose end so the player could move freely and comfortably.

Zach thought it would be funny to squeeze Victoria's butts to test his luck.

"...!" Victoria shot a glare at Zach and placed her hand on the hilt of her sword, as though she was warning Zach not to do that again.

Of course, Zach knew that Victoria wouldn't truly hurt him over that, but he didn't try to touch her again.

"They have gotten softer than I remember," Zach muttered in a slow voice.

"Shut up!"

Aria nudged Zach and said, "One floor is taking approximately 1 hour. And the boss floors would take longer. Not to mention, the number of monsters spawning and the difficulty level would increase as we proceed to the higher floors. I wouldn't be surprised if it took us a couple of days to clear the entire dungeon up to floor 100."

"Yeah. But we can't do anything else," Zach sighed. "I am still here because I haven't cleared these floors either, so it's my first time. I want to see the boss on the 100th floor and fight it. And this dungeon raid is one of the best options since all I have to do is walk alongside the guild members."

"Of course, I can go alone too if I want to. Or take Aria with me. But..." Zach smiled at Victoria and said, "I don't want to leave my lovely ex behind," Zach stated with a grin.

Victoria's face flushed a little after hearing that. She knitted her brows at Zach and muttered, "You have gotten a lot better at flirting."

"Practice makes one perfect," Zach uttered with a proud face.

"You have changed, you know? I don't know if I liked the old Zach better or the current one. But as long as you are being considerate of others and loving us girls without wanting anything in return..." Victoria kissed Zach on the cheek and continued, "I would gladly be your back-up girl."

"..." Zach smiled wryly and lowered his gaze before saying, "Don't expect too much from me. I don't want to disappoint or betray your expectations again."

Victoria rested her hand on Zach's shoulder and said, "Don't worry. We are not dating, so I can't dump you again."

Aria shook her head after watching Victoria and Zach flirting in front of her eyes. She was frustrated that her relationship with Zach was different from the relationship Zach had with other girls.

Zach was direct and blunt with other girls, while he was being indirect with Aria. However, there was a reason behind them.

Zach was aware of Aria's feelings towards him, and he knew that her feelings were growing day by day. Zach wanted Aria to realize her feelings and admit that she loved him.

If he made the first move, there were chances that Aria would simply go along and not realize her feelings. Or perhaps, she would think of it as yet another 'order' from her 'master' and mistook her feelings.

Of course, Zach also wanted to flirt with Aria. He wanted to touch her breasts, squeeze her butts, and do many more things to her. But he would do it once Aria realized her feelings.

Honestly, Zach felt excited by just imagining that. He felt a guilty pleasure since Aria wasn't only his party member and a servant, but she was also technically his aunt.

Right now, Aria was waiting for the perfect opportunity to revenge kiss Zach. But she wasn't getting any chance as Victoria was always around them.

"I am surprised you didn't partake on the 55th floor," Victoria uttered in a low voice.

"I am only interested in the single boss floors," Zach responded in a calm voice.

Floor 5th, 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 100th, had a single boss. Other boss floors had multiple monsters, including high-level and evolved forms of the regular monsters from the other floors.

Zach wanted to use his DT, and the best way to use it was on the single bosses. The other reason why Zach wasn't partaking in the fight was that he was constantly cultivating.

Even now, when he was flirting with Victoria, he was cultivating. Sure, his MP regain was low because it wasn't full cultivation, but he was getting somewhat MP regardless.

In the last 10 hours, Zach had cultivated over 2000 MP while talking and flirting with Aria and Victoria.

While other players' MP was limited by their stats, Zach casually cultivated passively and prepared himself for the end game.

Chapter 177

[Floor 65 has been cleared! Proceed through the portal to enter the next floor!]

It had been ten more hours, and they had cleared floor 65 just now.

However, the players who were fighting on the previous floors were now resting, and the other players were taking turns in fighting.

It took more than an hour for the players to clear each floor, and the 65th floor took three hours.

Zach had gotten so bored that he had fallen asleep with his head resting on Aria's lap.

Victoria was fighting alongside the players and helping them guide the other players.

This was the best chance Aria could get if she wanted to revenge kiss Zach, but she wasn't sure if she should do it or not.

'He is sleeping, so he won't even know it if I kiss,' Aria uttered inwardly. Suddenly, Aria's eyes widened as she realized something.

'He is sleeping, so he won't know if I kiss him...' Aria repeated the same thing again. 'That means... I can literally kiss him for as long as I want, and I won't get in trouble!'

'And even if he catches me or wakes up during the kiss, I can simply tell him that I was revenge-kissing him.'

'Wow! Is this what they call a golden chance?!' Aria asked herself. 'Aurora is so lucky. She and Zach sleep together so she can do anything to him.'

Aria stroked Zach's hair and thought, 'She can kiss him on the lips. She can play with his hair. And she can stare at his face all night long...'

"I am jealous of her..." she muttered under her breath. 'And he said he is going to marry her after the raid.'

Aria placed her hand on the chest and murmured, "Why do I feel this tightness in my chest?"

'It's not like he will throw me away, or I won't get to spend time with him. Aurora is okay with sharing him with other girls, so it shouldn't matter even if he marries one or ten girls.'

"But... I want to be one of them..." Aria bit her lips and caressed Zach's face with her hands.

She looked at him with her eyes full of love and kindness and smiled at him.

"I have fallen in love with you, Zach," she mumbled quietly in a gentle voice:

It was about time Aria had finally realized her feelings for Zach. Even though she had no prior experience of loving someone or being loved, she had learned about it by witnessing Zach and the girls.

'I wonder since when I fell in love with him?' Aria asked herself. 'I felt the same way when we talked about dual cultivation in my domain. I was curious about him and his powers, which led to my interest and attention more and more to Zach. I always thought about him and imagined conversations with him.'

"But..." Aria looked at Zach and muttered, "Should I tell him?"

'How am I supposed to do that, though?!' Aria panicked. 'I can't just tell him 'I love you' after everything I did to him.'

'Besides, Aurora and others also asked me about that. Even Zach asked me if I loved him or not, and I denied their claims! And now, if I suddenly tell them that I love him...'

While all the other guild members were fighting in danger and risking their lives, Aria was having her own dilemma after realizing her feelings.

In the end, she decided not to think about it and focus on the raid.

'Aurora is the only girl I can talk to about this. Once this raid ends, I will tell her about my feelings for Zach and ask her some tips to make Zach fall in love with me,' Aria decided.

However, she had no idea that Zach had already been smitten by her charms a long time ago.

Aria looked at Zach's lips and slowly moved her face close to kiss him. She pressed her lips against his lips and gave him a kiss. But that wasn't enough for her. She inserted her tongue inside Zach's mouth and kissed him passionately.

After a few kisses, Aria glanced around to make sure no one was looking at her, and then she started kissing him again. She kissed him for more than 30 minutes, and she still wanted to kiss him more.

'What's happening to me? I don't want to stop kissing him. It feels so good, and I...' Aria looked at her cave and uttered inwardly: 'I feel weird there.'

Aria had gotten horny after kissing Zach so many times.

She once again started kissing Zach, but this time, she was a little aggressive because of the pleasure. She continued kissing him for 20 more minutes, and her lust had risen past limits.

She would have continued kissing him and maybe done something more if Victoria hadn't arrived there to take a break.

"Is he still sleeping?" Victoria asked Aria, completely oblivious to the fact that she had been taking advantage of Zach's condition for more than an hour.

"Yeah." Aria nodded meekly and asked, "Should I wake him up?"

"Well..." Victoria looked at the floor's progression and said, "This floor is almost cleared. So yeah, wake him up."

"Okay."

Aria rubbed her thumb on Zach's face and stroked his hair.

"Zach, wake up," she said in a calm voice.

Zach slowly opened his eyes and saw Aria and Victoria's faces in front of him. He was confused at first, so he stared at them for a while and asked, "Where is Aurora?"

"We are in a dungeon raid," Victoria stated.

"Oh..." Zach collected his thoughts and looked at Aria. "Why... am I on your lap?"

Zach was initially sleeping while leaning on the rock, but Aria felt uncomfortable watching him, so she placed his head on her lap, unbeknownst to the fact that she would later kiss him for an hour.

"I thought I should be a good servant and serve my master," Aria replied with a grin on her face.

"..."

Victoria helped Zach get up and asked, "It seems you had a nice nap."

Zach tasted his mouth and muttered, "Yeah. I feel like I had a nice dream, but I can't seem to remember it..."

Zach was genuinely sleeping because he hadn't slept for more than two days since he spent the last night cultivating without taking any rest. He had no idea what Aria said and did to him and how she took advantage of him when he was sleeping.

Meanwhile, Aria licked her lips with a mischievous smile on her face and touched her cave to make sure she wasn't wet. And she was indeed a little wet.

Aria gazed at her cave to ensure that it wasn't visible.

SIGH!

She sighed in relief and muttered, "It would have been so embarrassing and humiliating."

[Floor 66 has been cleared. Proceed through the portal to enter the 67th floor!]

Zach held Aria's hand and said with a smile on his face: "Stay with me."

Chapter 178

[Floor 74th has been cleared. Proceed to the portal to enter the next floor!]

The remaining player started passing through the portal to enter the next floor.

"I still can't believe it took them 25 hours to clear eight more floors," Zach sighed in disbelief.

"The numbers of players were lower than the monsters. And the monsters are strong as well." Victoria turned to Zach and said, "But you disappeared many times during the fights."

Since it was taking them more than 3 hours to clear each floor, Zach used to go into Aria's domain to rest and cultivate. However, Aria's domain had no sense of time. It was impossible to know how much time had passed unless Zach manually checked the clock in the menu.

Zach couldn't tell if the players outside had cleared the floor or not, so he had told Aria to message him whenever the floor was about to be cleared.

Of course, Aria also felt exhausted, so she came into her domain to rest while Zach cultivated.

When Zach summoned the portal to Aria's domain for the first time and showed it to Victoria, she freaked out. But Zach later explained some things and told her about his true origin. He also told her about the Sea Realm and what happened there, including his engagement with Aquarius and affair with Ruli.

Initially, Victoria got confused and asked him many questions, and Zach replied to each of them. It was a lot to take in, and there were still certain things she couldn't comprehend. But she believed everything Zach said since she knew he never lied to his loved ones.

Victoria realized why Zach acted and behaved like he did when they were training. She realized that she knew very little about Zach. She felt terrible and guilty for blaming Zach for the things he had no control over.

Zach thought Victoria would finally agree to date him again, but she still wanted to stay as a friend.

In truth, Victoria was scared. Zach was the only boy she had loved and dated. But if they started dating again, it would bring responsibilities as well.

Unlike Aurora, who had a traditional mindset, Victoria grew up in a highly modernized society, so naturally, her mentality was different from other girls in Zach's harem.

The only reason she was okay in sharing Zach was that she wanted to be with him. She loved him, and it didn't matter how many girls Zach loved. As long as Zach loved her, she was happy.

Victoria had decided that once the raid ended and she joined Zach's party, she would slowly close her distance and break the boundaries in the relationship. Her first dating experience didn't end well, and she didn't want to make the same mistakes again. That's why, she wanted to start her relationship from scratch.

It had been two days since the dungeon expedition started, and of course, the same amount of time passed outside the dungeon too.

Zach was getting worried and anxious about Aurora, so he messaged her to ensure she was okay.

Aurora didn't reply at first, and that got Zach worried. Zach was about to leave the dungeon raid and go back, but Aurora replied and told him that she fell asleep while masturbating. They talked for a while, and Aurora asked about the progress of the raid.

Zach told her that it could take him approximately three more days to clear floor 100th since the difficulty level was drastically increasing with every floor. Not to mention the monster's quantity too.

The dungeon expedition started from floor 1 with 5000 guild members, Aria and Victoria, making it a total of 5002 players. On floor 49, 1869 players retreated, leaving 3133 players.

The main goal of this dungeon raid was to help low-level players to level up fast and increase their physique. Once the players had met the requirements to ascend to the higher realm, they retreated in the following floor. Hence, the number of players slowly decreased while the difficulty level and quantity of the monsters increased. 911 players had left, and 2222 players remained, plus Zach.

'It's highly unlikely that all the players will be able to meet the requirements,' Zach uttered inwardly. 'And if I follow the pattern of the difficulty of the floors, the monster from the floor 75 would be crazy strong. A few of the guild members might die too.'

Zach walked forward with Victoria on his left and Aria on his right.

"Floor 75 has a single boss, so I will be taking care of it," he said in a solemn voice with a serious look on his face.

"Are you sure you don't want any of our help?" Victoria asked hesitantly.

It wasn't as though she didn't trust Zach's strength, but she was simply worried about him like a girl in love would.

"Yeah, it's fine." Zach nodded and said, "But do me a favor and keep your guild members at bay. I don't want them to get in my way."

"Got it."

Zach turned to Aria and smiled at her without saying anything.

"What's with that smile?" Aria asked with a confused look on her face.

"I will be needing your help," he said in a gentle voice with a grin on his face.

"...!" Even Aria was surprised after hearing that. "My... help...?" she stuttered.

"I will probably get immersed when I fight the boss, and there are chances that the boss might try a secret attack or pull any hidden tricks," Zach stated. "I want you to keep an eye on the monster and back me up if needed."

"Oh..." Aria was a little disappointed because she thought Zach would ask her to fight alongside him. But she was happy regardless since he was relying on her for the first time in a while.

Once all the players had passed through the portal, Zach, Aria, and Victoria entered the 75th floor and waited for the boss to spawn.

However, the boss was not how they had expected.

Level 150 - Soul Eater

HP- [10,000,000]

Chapter 179

Level 150- Soul Eater

HP- [10,000,000]

It was an ugly, disgusting-looking monster. But it was scary too.

It was five times bigger and longer than the world serpent on the 50th floor.

It was a mixture of the worm and the centipede, but more gruesome. Instead of having thousands of legs on two sides, the 'soul eater' had legs all over his body, making it able to move in any direction with precise control.

Each leg was twice the height of an adult human, and hairs were growing out from each leg. The monster looked like a furball while it was hiding its sharp pointy legs within them.

Its mouth stretched open into 36 sides, and each side had hundreds of teeth on them. Its eyes were hidden within the fur.

Its body was throbbing and glowing in a pattern that resembled its veins. The entire floor quacked with even a little movement of the soul eater.

Most of the guild members stepped back in fear, while those who were strong stood still with their legs trembling to a certain extent.

It was as though they all had seen death.

Even Victoria had lost her cool after seeing the monster, and she was more worried about Zach since he was going to solo the floor.

"...."

'Something so disgusting... and creepy...' Zach sighed in disbelief and muttered, "But I guess cute-looking monsters won't look intimidating."

Zach stared at the soul eater and inspected its body and movements from the distance to plan his attacks accordingly.

Sure, Zach could use his DT skill and end the soul eater by simply touching it, but that would cost him 10,000 MP, which was not a wise move.

Sure Zach could cultivate more MP any time he wanted, but there were still 25 floors left to clear. Zach was certain that he would need to fight on the other floors to help the other as the difficulty was increasing.

Zach had cultivated 15,000 more MP by resting and passive cultivating for two days. And his total MP was 26000.

His heroic entry on the 50th floor, where he slayed the world serpent, took Zach 4000 MP since he used a magic weapon. However, if Zach had used DT on the world serpent, it would have used 5000 MP.

Zach had realized that using DT wasn't the best choice since it charged more MP, but it also killed any monster in one hit. However, if he used magic weapons instead, it would not only cost him less MP, but the night would be time-consuming.

Currently, Zach has to decide what to do. He could use DT and end the battle within a second, or use Magic weapon and show off his sword art skills. One of the major drawbacks of his DT skill was that he needed to touch the monster to use it. However, there were monsters he couldn't touch even if he wanted to because they were either too fast or not suitable to touch.

'DT would use 10,000 MP. But I am sure if I use a magic weapon, I will end the fight within 7500 MP usage,' Zach uttered inwardly.

After pondering for a while, Zach decided to do it the hard way and use the magic weapon.

'I would save 2500 MP, which would take 4 hours to be cultivated here, and 2 hours in Aria's domain.' Zach conjured a fire sword in one hand and a lightning sword in another.

'But, I will use DT if this battle gets annoying,' Zach decided.

Zach merged the fire and lightning swords, making a fire-lightning sword. Not only that, the sword was emitting sparks of lightning and lava, and it looked as though the sword was alive.

If the monster was called a soul eater, then the suitable name for the sword would be a monster eater.

All the guild members present there felt a sudden change in atmosphere, not in a good or relieving way, but in a bad way.

They felt chills down their spines after watching Zach walking fearlessly to the monster without any hesitation.

It was their first time seeing Zach in action after briefly witnessing his power on the 50th floor.

Everyone present there, including Aria and Victoria, had the same thought in their minds:

'So cool!'

The gloves' third benefit, 'look cool' was active, and it wasn't just a sham; it was effective.

Zach felt more confident and excited than usual because it was his first time showing off in front of Victoria. He wanted to impress Victoria, but he didn't know that Victoria was already impressed by him a long time ago.

Zach closed his distance from the soul eater while staring into its eyes even though they weren't visible. However, there was no need for Zach to look into its eyes as he was staring with a cold yet lifeless glare in his eyes.

The ground quaked as the monster rapidly moved towards Zach with its mouth wide-open.

Zach was about to use his flight ability and jump on the monster from the top. But suddenly, the monster shot a light beam from its mouth, razing everything in its way.

Luckily, Zach was already prepared to use this flight ability to jump, so he quickly dodged the attack.

Zach landed on the other side of the floor and looked in the direction where the soul eater shot the light beam.

"...."

Zach was genuinely surprised to see the damage the single light beam had caused. It wasn't as destructive as the secret boss (Lord Abomination). Still, it was enough to one-shot any player regardless of their level.

'If it was shot at the other side where Victoria and others are, they would have been obliterated...'

Zach released 5000 MP in the sword, and its color changed from yellow lightning to red, while the color of the fire turned purple.

The lightning around the fire covered the sword and formed a concentrated fire-lightning sword. The purple fire and the red lightning emitted simultaneously. It looked as though it was ready to devour everything it touched.

It was at this moment when Aria realized how grateful she was to meet Zach when he was still a newbie in the game.

"How benevolent, yet... malevolent," Aria muttered with a resolute expression on her face.

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'I don't know what other secret attacks and skills this monster is hiding, but I will slay it down before it gets any chance to use any more attacks!'

Zach leaned forward a little, but to spectators, it looked like Zach was falling forward.

He gripped his sword tight and slowly walked a step forward. Then, he disappeared from everyone's sight.

Literally.

Everyone was left confused and baffled.

'Where did he go?! He was right in front of my eyes!' Victoria exclaimed inwardly. She glanced around to check whether Zach had jumped off somewhere, but she couldn't spot him anywhere.

She looked at Aria, hoping she would know, but Aria was as puzzled as everyone else.

'What... just happened...?' Aria wondered. Then, she remembered something similar happening before too.

'When I fought him for the first time, he disappeared in front of my sight, just like his. And came from....!' Aria immediately looked up, and as she expected, Zach was hovering in the air with the sword aura forming the shape of a dragon's tail.

Zach swung the sword in the air as he dived down, and it looked as though a dragon was descending at high speed.

With a swift movement in the air of his body and the sword, Zach landed on top of the soul eater and plunged the sword into the soul eater's body.

However, the sword suddenly vanished from Zach's hand.

"...!" Zach was bewildered, but he had no time to panic. He didn't know what happened, but without wasting his time thinking about it, Zach immediately dropped to his knees and placed his hand on the soul eater's body to use his DT skill.

But much to his surprise, his DT skill had no effect on the soul eater.

The soul eater's centipede-like legs and hairs on it grabbed Zach and caught him in the trap.

Zach summoned a lightning sword and cleaved all the legs grabbing him. He jumped down and landed between Aria and Victoria. He caught his breath and retracted the sword to save his MP.

"What happened?!" Aria asked with an anxious look on her face. "I saw you stabbing it... so why didn't...'

Aria stopped when she noticed the furious expression on Zach's face.

"This monster... it sucked my magic...."

Zach looked at his MP, and he was left speechless.

MP- [11,000/ ∞]

'I had 26,000 MP, and I used 5000 MP on the sword. Then, I used DT. Even though it failed, I should have at least 13000 MP, but I am missing 2000 more MP.'

Zach frowned his face and muttered, "So this monster eats MP too. It sucked 10,000 MP when I tried to use DT on it, and it was only a split-second contact!"

'I can't use magic attacks on it now, or it will simply eat it. My advantage of cultivating MP is useless in this situation...'

Tables had turned. Now, the soul eater had a high chance of winning.

Aria realized what Zach was going through, but she couldn't do anything. Comforting him at a time like this would just make the situation worse.

Now that the soul eater had eaten Zach's MP, its body was glowing more than before.

"What are we going to do now?" Victoria asked with a serious look on her face.

She had to take the lead and do her job, which was to take care of her guild members. She couldn't lose her cool. Otherwise, all the guild members would be doomed.

"How many melee-based members do you have?" Zach asked Victoria.

"Around 800. But 700 of them are around level 20," Victoria answered.

"What about the rest 100? What level are they?" Zach asked impatiently. "Can they fight the boss?"

"60 are level 30, 30 are level 40, and the rest 10 are level 50. I brought them here as a backup in case of emergencies." Aurora responded in a calm voice. However, she was freaking out from the inside.

"Level 30 and 40 players are useless. But maybe level 50..." Zach muttered. He pondered for a while and turned to Victoria before asking, "Do you think they can stand a chance against a monster 100 levels above them?"

Victoria looked into Zach's eyes and replied, "I am level 52, and even I don't think that I can fight this monster."

"I didn't know you were level 52..." Zach muttered under his breath.

"My level is high, but my physique is low," Victoria stated. "For some reason, my physique points regain is slower than the rest of the players."

"..." Zach's eyes widened after hearing that.

"I am the cause of that," he uttered in a disdainful tone. "After we had sex, your life was in danger. So my mother sent a medic to your house, and she suppressed my essence in your body. But to do that, she had to suppress your physique too."

"Oh..." Victoria was taken aback by that. She cursed and hated gods when she first realized her physique regain was slow. But now, she learned that it was not because of gods but because of the man she loved.

She didn't know how she should feel about it.

"We will talk about this later," she said with a straight face. "But now, let's focus on this monster."

Suddenly, the monster fired a light beam at Zach and the others.

Zach jumped in front of Aria and Victoria, and pressed his hands against the light beam to absorb it using the third ability of his gloves.

Upon realizing its attack wasn't working, the soul eater moved his head and directed the light beam to the other players who were defenseless.

"...!"

"No!" Victoria yelled.

The light beam obliterated over 500 guild members with a single attack.

Zach's gloves had turned purple, and they had started pulsating. Seemingly, they had absorbed the maximum amount of magic.

'I can't use magic against this boss. It's useless! But I need to release the magic inside my gloves, or they will malfunction.'

Zach gritted his teeth and frowned his face at the soul eater as he uttered, "You are pissing me off."