

GODS' IMPACT 21

Chapter 21

Zach rushed to the church and saw Kayden and Shay were waiting for him.

"I was about to send you a message to ask what's taking you so long," Kayden informed Zach and closed his menu. He then pointed his gaze at the female NPC healer standing below a statue inside the church and said, "Go get yourself healed."

'I am already healed. But I guess I will pretend to get healed.' Zach thought and entered the church.

"They charge ten coins for 1 HP, by the way!" Kayden shouted, knowing how corny Zach was when it was something related to money.

Zach stood in front of the NPC and said, "Can you pretend to heal me?"

The NPC looked into Zach's eyes and uttered, "What brings you here, my lord?"

Confused, Zach raised his brows and asked, "What?"

"You are not one of the gods?" she asked with a curious yet calm look on her face.

"Um, do I look like one?"

The NPC inspected Zach from head to toe with her eyes and placed her hand on her chin. "Now that I look closely, you don't seem like one."

"You do have a physique of one, but you are not a true god," she added.

"Thanks for the chit-chat. I will leave now." Zach left the church and went to the inn with Shay and Kayden.

"It's good that we booked our rooms before we left for the dungeon. Otherwise, we would have to sleep in the garden, forest, or streets like more than half of the players," Kayden remarked.

"Although the room charge is 500 coins per night, it's still better than sleeping like a homeless person," Shay added.

"Uhh... Kayden, Shay. I have something to talk to you guys," Zach uttered.

"What is it?" Kayden wondered with a curious look on his face.

"What are we doing tomorrow?"

Kayden was about to reply, but Shay quipped: "Nothing."

"Huh?"

"We are stuck in this game for only seven days. So we will wait for the six days to pass and log out," Shay shrugged.

Zach and Kayden glanced at each other with troubled expressions on their faces after realizing Shay was still ignorant about the fact that they were truly trapped in a game.

"Shay..." Kayden placed his hand on Shay's shoulder and said, "Don't you think everything the black slime said was true?"

"Hah! Since when did you start believing in all that bullshit about gods and stuff? They don't exist! And if the developer of this game truly has a god complex, then he will get arrested sooner or later. Don't worry about it. Let's all just enjoy the remaining six days and have fun."

Zach walked past Shay and Kayden and said, "I have something to do tomorrow. See you guys later."

Zach entered his room and sat on the bed. He sighed and uttered, "I guess I will be playing alone then."

Zach opened his menu and saw his stats.

"Hmm. My MP has automatically refilled to 10." He opened the information tab and read more about MP regeneration.

The standard MP refill was 1 MP every ten minutes, so 6 MP per hour. However, the MP refill was faster when the player was sleeping or resting; that was 1 MP every three minutes, so 20 MP per hour.

"The default MP of all the players is 100, so five hours of sleep would refill their MP to the max," Zach muttered and read more.

"The MP usage is calculated nicely. And the refill time is based on the player's level. The limited MP and refill time would stop the players from grinding all day and night."

That was the reason why this game had an option for a secondary class. If the player had only one class, they would be doomed if they ran out of MP in the middle of a battle. However, the players were allowed to use their HP as MP in an emergency.

"Why would gods consider about mortals? Don't they want us all to die?" Zach wondered. "Or are they giving us a second chance to survive and beat this game?"

Zach then read about the realms systems and the requirement to ascend to the higher realms. The players had to meet two conditions to ascend to the respective higher realms. One was their physique, and another was their level. After evolving to a certain physique and meeting the level requirement, the player could ascend to the higher realm.

"I don't have to worry about my physique as it is already maxed. So now, I only need to focus on leveling up."

Zach closed his eyes and sat in a lotus position to start cultivating. He cultivated for about 10 minutes and stopped to check the increase in his MP.

"It's 70. So I cultivated 60 MP in 10 minutes. If I cultivate for three hours daily, I can have over 1000MP, excluding the rest of the MP I might get from resting."

After pondering for a while, he muttered, "That's enough to deal more than 100,000 HP DMG to the monsters. If I work on my techniques and get better equipment, I can ace this game in no time."

What a way to raise an unwanted flag.

Zach wanted to cultivate for three hours, but he fell asleep after cultivating for one hour. He was exhausted as he hadn't taken a rest after clearing ten floors and fighting with the crazy girl Aria. So it was astonishing that he was able to cultivate even for one hour.

Seven hours later, Zach woke up with a severe headache. He opened his eyes and sat up.

"Why didn't Zoe come to wake me up?" He glanced around and remembered what had happened yesterday.

"Right..." He groaned and muttered, "I should get used to waking up alone."

[Congratulations! You have unlocked a new cultivation technique!]

Zach opened his menu to learn more about the technique.

«Heavenly Rank Technique- Sleep Cultivation.»

«Benefits- You can cultivate 1 MP per minute while sleeping.»

"That's an extra 60 MP per hour. I am getting triple MP compared to other players, and with my infinite MP points... I can become limitless."

"Was this technique active while I was sleeping? Or I got it after waking up?" Zach wondered and opened his stat to check the increase in MP.

"It's 570. So I guess it wasn't active before...." Zach had no idea his current MP was the highest among all the players.

He opened his friend list and messaged Aurora: [Meet me at the gazebo after 30 minutes.]

Total players in the game 52254.

6754 new players logged in.

972 players died.

Chapter 22

It was only 5 AM when Zach woke up, so he regretted sending a message to Aurora.

"She must be sleeping, right?" he wondered. 'And even if she wasn't, there is no way she can get ready within 30 minutes.'

Zach went downstairs and saw many players were already awake and they were having a meeting.

'I do think a bigger team would help me level up fast, but more team members means more dead weight. I only want to level up with strong players, so I won't have to worry about saving them or help them in any sort.'

The inn had the facility for breakfast and dinner. Hence, the players who weren't interested in playing just lazed around all day and enjoyed the scenery of the beautiful world.

After having a light breakfast, Zach made his way to the garden, where he was meeting up with Aurora. However, he stopped in the cafe along his way and bought two cone crepes similar to what Aurora was eating last night.

Zach was the type of person who always chose to save money wherever he could, but he never held back when it came to food. He believed that food is essential and the price must be paid. But that was wavering now.

"Ten coins for this crepe?" He sighed and went to the garden.

Zach was expecting that Aurora wouldn't be there, but she was waiting for him. He walked to her and handed her one crepe. "Here."

"I just ate one, but thanks," Aurora said as she took the crepe from Zach.

Zach bought the crepe for her because he wanted to gain Aurora's favor by being kind to her. He still couldn't completely trust Aurora and didn't want her to backstab him later, so he was earning brownie points from her. It was just his plan. He also owed 1499 coins to Aurora, so he had no other choice.

After eating the crepe, Zach reached his hand to Aurora and said, "That was ten coins."

"Wha-! Are you seriously charging me for the crepe?" Aurora asked with a surprised look on her face.

"You bet I am."

"I thought you were giving it to me..." Aurora sighed and asserted, "And you already owe me the coins worth 149 more crepes."

"So, where are we going today?" Zach tried to divert the topic.

"Where do you want to go?" Aurora asked. "Have you seen this entire world yet?"

"Not interested in that," Zach replied.

"This world is of 25 KM radius. That means a player can explore one world in one day."

"I said I am not interested in that."

Aurora matched her pace with Zach and said, "You can get special quests from the NPCs, extra bonuses, and secret treasures, hidden maps. At least, that's how other VR games work."

"For a princess, you seem to have too much time on your hands that you can play and explore the worlds in other VR games," Zach commented.

"At first, my father was against it, but I convinced him by saying I can learn many things such as practicing real-time sword fighting with opponents, getting accuracy in shooting, and many more things."

After a brief pause, she continued, "He reluctantly agreed but made sure to send two maids with me to keep their eyes on me and report everything back to him. Of course, I wasn't allowed to talk with boys."

"Then you must be enjoying your freedom here," Zach joked with a grin on his face.

"The maids died because of me. I can't enjoy my freedom like this," Aurora muttered.

After reaching the center of the first world, Aurora turned to Zach and asked, "So, have you decided where we are going?"

"You said the tower gives equipment and rewards. While the dungeon gives skills and EXP, am I right?"

Aurora nodded and said, "You can also get rewards and EXP by completing your quests. Once the player has reached level 5, they receive personalized quests depending on their gameplay, personality, and class."

Zach opened his quest menu to see the quests before deciding on where he should go next.

[«Quest- Equip a Gold Rank Weapon.»]

⟨Time- ∞.⟩

«Reward- 500 Epic grade material powder. (Can be used while crafting new equipment to boost its stats. One powder = 10 points.)»]

"This one is old." Zach looked at his inventory and furrowed his brows. "Say Aurora. You also had a quest where you had to equip a gold rank weapon, right?"

Aurora nodded and pointed her finger at her sword. "Here it is."

"So if the player equips a weapon with a higher rank than gold, will the quest get completed?" he asked with a puzzled and curious look on his face.

"I don't think so." Aurora shook her head. "You will need a gold rank weapon to complete the quest."

"Hmm~" Zach hummed in wonder and gazed at Aurora's gold rank sword. He pointed his finger at it and said, "Can you show me your weapon?"

"What... are you going to do with it?"

"Just give me."

Aurora reluctantly handed her sword to Zach.

"Heh!" Zach smirked and equipped the gold rank weapon.

[Congratulations! Quest 'Equip a Gold Rank Weapon.' has been completed!]

[Congratulations! You have received the reward of completing the Quest. Reward- 500 Epic grade material powder.]

"That was... easy..." Zach muttered. He glanced at Aurora and saw her staring at him with her jaw dropped in surprise.

He unequipped the sword and gave it back to Aurora.

"Here."

Even the gods couldn't stop him from cheating the system.

Total players in the game 52260.

11 new players logged in.

5 players died.

Chapter 23

"Now, let's see my new personalized quests."

[«Quest- Slay 1000 monsters of any difficulty.»

⟨Time- 24 hours.⟩

«Reward- 50 Royal grade jade runes.»]

"What is a jade rune, and what does it do?" Zach asked Aurora.

"It depends on how you want to use them. You can convert them into coins; 1 normal jade is worth ten coins."

"You can use them to upgrade your equipment and enhance their stats, but in my opinion, you shouldn't use them in that. It's not worth it."

"Then you can use them to craft items. Uhh, it's like a material used for crafting. But that's only for those who have the crafting ability."

"You can also use them as normal runes and exchange them for the artifacts in the magic shop."

"Magic shop?" Zach uttered in wonder after hearing that. "What's that?"

Aurora squinted her eyes and said, "You haven't read anything about this game, have you?"

"If I start reading everything, then it will take me a week to read everything. It's that long," Zach replied.

"Magic shop is a personalized shop; where you can buy and sell your unique items, and get anything you want in return. However, the magic shop rarely appears, and it differs from player to player," Aurora explained.

"I see..." Zach pondered, 'I wonder if I can find gloves there.'

[«Quest- Cultivate 5000 MP.»]

⟨Time- 7 days.⟩

«Reward- ???.»]

'That's easy. But what's with the reward?' Zach thought the reward wasn't guaranteed.

[«Quest- Do something you would never do.»]

⟨Time- 1 minute.⟩

«Reward- 1 coin.»

«Penalty- 50% of your bank amount will be deducted.»]

"What the—!" Zach remembered what Aurora told him a while ago. 'Once the player has reached level 5, they receive personalized quests depending on their gameplay, personality, and class.'

'Sons of bitches!' He cursed the gods.

Zach was lost in thoughts. There were so many things he would never do, and he was thinking of something easy as he had only one minute left to complete the Quest.

"I guess I have no other choice..." Zach placed his hands on Aurora's shoulders and gazed into her eyes with a serious look on his face. "Aurora..."

"W-Wh...at?" Aurora stuttered with a flushed face.

"I am going to do something I would never do to anyone," Zach asserted in a solemn voice.

Aurora's face flushed even more as she said, "Ok...ay."

'I can't believe I am really going to do this...' Zach sighed and asked, "Are you ready?"

Aurora quietly nodded, with her face still flushed red.

Aurora closed her eyes and waited for Zach to do something. Suddenly, she received a prompt on her screen.

[Zach has sent you 100,000 coins. Press 'yes' to accept.]

Aurora lost all her excitement and asked, "What is this?"

"Accept it. Don't ask any questions."

Aurora pressed 'Yes', and 100,000 coins were transferred to her.

[Congratulations. Quest 'Do something you would never do.' has been completed!]

[Congratulations! You have received the reward of completing the Quest. Reward- 1 coin.]

Zach sighed in relief and looked at Aurora.

"Why did you give me money?" Aurora asked with a confused look on her face.

"I had a quest. Now give me back my money," Zach uttered nonchalantly.

Aurora's face twitched in frustration. Her expectations were betrayed twice within 10 seconds.

Zach could have given her only ten coins, but that was a normal amount he would have given to anyone in need. He could also give 100 coins to his friends, even 1000 coins. But he would never give 100000 coins without a valid reason provided by the opposite party.

Of course, there were many other things Zach could have done. For example, kissing Aurora, flipping her dress, spanking her butt, groping her; those were the things he would never do to the girl he barely knew. But he chose to do the simplest thing possible. After all, he had to survive Aurora's wrath later.

Aurora returned 98511 coins to Zach and said, "I have deducted my payment for healing you." She smiled in a creepy manner and added, "Enjoy."

Zach turned his face to the side and muttered, "Girls..."

As Zach had completed the Quest, he received a new quest.

[«Quest- Deal 30000 DMG within 1 second.»

⟨Time- 10 hour.⟩

«Reward- 500 Magic Shop points.»

Zach didn't know what shop points were used for, but he had a pretty firm idea. However, he chose to confirm it with Aurora.

"What do shop points stand for?"

He expected Aurora to answer, but she didn't. She simply 'hmp'h'ed' Zach and averted her face to the side.

"Princess is sulking."

Zach opened the info tab and chose to read it himself. He scrolled to the shop system and came across the magic shop system.

'Shop points can be used to summon the magic shop. They can also be used to buy items from the magic shops.'

(Each summoning cost 500 points.)

'All of my quests require me to slay monsters. So let's go to the dungeon and clear more floors. I already have enough MP to finish the first two quests, and I can cultivate once I get back from the dungeon.'

Zach turned to Aurora, who was still pouting, and said, "We are going to the dungeon."

They then made their way to the dungeon.

'I will reach level 10 today and unlock my secondary class, no matter what happens.'

Total players in the game 52283.

30 new players logged in.

7 players died.

Chapter 24

After reaching the dungeon, Zach turned to Aurora and said, "It's about time you stop pouting."

"I am not pouting," Aurora said as she averted her face to the side.

"Then stop sulking."

"I am not sulking." Aurora sighed and shook her head in frustration. There was nothing she could do. After all, it was her fault to expect something from Zach.

"So, from which floor do you want to start?" Aurora asked.

"Can we resume our last progress?" Zach asked with a surprised look on his face.

"Not exactly. But suppose you cleared five floors last time, so you can start from the sixth floor. If you cleared nine floors last time, then you need to start from the sixth floor," Aurora explained.

"So the boss floors are the checkpoint," Zach muttered. "Wait, does that mean I can use my solo dungeon progress in the mixed dungeon?"

Aurora nodded and said, "However, you can't use your mixed dungeon progress on the solo dungeon."

"Makes sense." Zach pondered for a while and glanced at Aurora from the corner of her eyes. "Before we go further, I want to ask you something," Zach uttered with a curious yet calm look on his face.

"What is it?"

"It's about the Classes."

"What about it? Do you want to ask which class is the best?"

"No. I might sound stupid to ask this, but I am curious about it."

"Go ahead and ask."

"Suppose, if a swordsman class player tried to use a bow or a gun, doesn't that mean the classes are useless?"

"They can indeed use any weapon they want, but that's only at the basic level. Once they reach level 5, they won't be able to equip any weapon other than the one that belongs to their respective class," Aurora answered sincerely.

"I thought so. But what about the sword? Sword is a default weapon, and it can be used by any Class player, right?"

"Yes. But they won't receive skills for using the weapon. Their stats for using the weapon won't increase."

Zach raised his brows and pondered for a while. 'I am a cultivator, but I can use swords. It's not as if cultivators can't use swords, but it's not beneficial for me. I can use sword-fighting as a backup combat style since it's not going to benefit me. However, I can't use any other weapon. I can learn spells by practicing, but that's not the efficient combat style. There will be enemies and monsters who won't let me cast the spell.'

Zach's eyes widened as he thought of a plan. 'What if... What if I become versatile? I already know how to use most of the weapons, so it doesn't matter what weapons I use. However, I know I won't get the skills of those weapons, but that doesn't matter. I will use my cultivation spells to amplify the weapon's stats temporarily.'

Once again, Zach had come up with a brilliant plan to use the weakness to his advantage. However, it wasn't as easy as he was making it out to be. But he had the benefit of infinite MP, so it wasn't impossible.

'I will have to learn enchantment techniques.'

Aurora snapped her finger to get Zach's attention. "Hey, bro! Are you there?" Aurora said in a different accent.

"... Don't call me bro," Zach said with a disgusted look on his face.

"Why not?"

"It sounds weird. And hearing 'bro' from your mouth makes me wanna puke," Zach remarked with an even more disgusted look on his face.

Aurora stared at Zach with a solemn look on her face. Then, she smirked and grinned with a smug look on her face. "I will be calling you Zach bro from now on."

Zach facepalmed himself and rubbed his hand on his face in frustration. He took a deep breath to calm himself and muttered, "Reasons why I hate girls. They do the very thing you told them not to do, and then they get on your nerves."

"Can we go now? Or else, I will go alone in the solo dungeon," Zach uttered and opened the portal.

"How many floors had you cleared in the solo dungeon?" Aurora asked and walked to the portal with Zach.

"10."

"So we will be starting with floor 11... sigh," she sighed.

"What's with the sigh? And how many floors had you cleared?" Zach asked with a hint of curiosity in his voice.

"34. That's where my two maids died," Aurora answered with a sad look on her face. "I didn't have any courage or mood to proceed further."

"So are you saying that 34 floors are enough for me to reach level 14 like you?"

"I got some EXP reward from my personalized quests. But yeah, 34 floors should be enough to reach level 13 at least."

Zach and Aurora entered the blue portal and proceeded to floor 11. Both of them grabbed their sword and stood in a defensive position.

"Let me warn you... don't you dare steal my kill," Aurora asserted.

"Right back at you. I will kill all the monsters I see, so if you don't want me to steal your kill, make sure to keep up with me." Zach scoffed. "Or maybe not, since that will help me get more EXP, and I will be able to level up faster."

Zach and Aurora had a significant advantage until floor 34, at least. Aurora knew what type of monsters would spawn on the following floors, and she was familiar with their attacks.

Total players in the game 52301.

21 new players logged in.

3 players died.

Chapter 25

[Floor 14 has been cleared!]

It had already been three hours since they entered the dungeon, and they were clearing floors without any breaks.

Zach looked at Aurora from the corner of his eyes and uttered, "Don't tell me you are tired already."

"I am not. Let's go to the next floor."

"It's the boss floor, huh?"

"Orc king," Aurora nodded.

Floor 11- 15 had Orc as the monsters.

As the difficulty of the floors was getting higher, more monsters were spawning.

Floor 11 had 10 low-rank Orcs. 80 EXP each.

Floor 12 had 20 mid-rank Orcs. 100 EXP each.

Floor 13 had 30 high-rank Orcs. 120 EXP each.

Floor 14 had 50 Supreme Orcs. 150 EXP each.

Floor 15 was supposed to have 50 Supreme Orcs and 5 Orc kings.

Zach had leveled up by one, and he had increased his stats using accessible points.

Aurora and Zach's kill count was the same as they had killed the same amount of monsters. At first, Zach was surprised after seeing Aurora's sword skill. Aurora's sword skills were swift and perfect, almost as though she had mastered it. Zach, however, had stopped practicing everything after his father's death. His skill and talents had become rusty, but God's Impact was now challenging him to hone his skills again.

Both Zach and Aurora were far from their true potential, and neither of them had gone all out yet.

As soon as they entered the 15th floor, 50 supreme orcs and 5 Orc kings spawned.

Zach and Aurora glanced at each other from the corners of their eyes and nodded at each other.

They both dashed at the monsters in the opposite direction. Aurora went to the left, and Zach went to the right.

Zach's stats were still lower than Aurora's, and she was better than Zach in everything except for one. Zach's perception ability allowed him to think ten times faster than everyone else.

He wasn't aware where or when he got this ability, but when he checked his stats menu a while ago, he saw that he had this ability. Even the description and the information provided by the ability was minimal and didn't provide anything. Later Zach found out that the ability was the second benefit of Aria's blessing.

Even without this ability, Zach could perceive things fine, but it became much better after this ability. It was so powerful that Zach could easily predict the next move and attack of the low-ranking monsters.

Aurora cleaved 10 Orcs at once while Zach slashed through 5. Then, they cut down 20 more supreme Orcs.

'This is bad. If I keep going like this, I won't reach level 10 even when I clear the 34th floor.' Zach thought as he slashed a few more orcs.

'I never thought Aurora would be able to keep up with me. I thought she was at a high level because she used her maids to level up. But it seems I was wrong. She is truly talented.'

Zach looked at Aurora and smirked as he thought of a plan. 'Forgive me for this, but I need to do what it takes to level up.'

Aurora was busy killing the Orcs. She was so focused on them that she forgot that she was defenseless to Zach. She trusted Zach and thought of him as a companion, but it wasn't the same with Zach.

If Zach were to stab Aurora from behind, she would die.

'Don't hold a grudge against me.' Zach gripped his sword tight and dashed at Aurora. He ran past Aurora and went straight for the Orc kings.

He wanted to use his Devourer's touch skill, but for that, he needed to have direct contact with the enemy. If the enemies were wearing armor or a suit of protection spell, then the skill wouldn't work. Similarly, if Zach touched the enemy with a sword, the skill wouldn't work. He needed to touch the enemy's skin with his bare hands to activate the skill.

The Orc kings were wearing full body armor, and the only uncovered part of their body was their joints so they could move freely.

Normally, it wouldn't be a problem, but the size of the Orc King was two times bigger than a normal adult human.

But Zach had a plan where he could expose their skin. He threw his sword at the first orc king's neck and dashed at the second orc king standing beside it.

Now that he didn't have any weapon equipped, his ATK was increased by 500. Combined with his strength and agility, Zach could easily make them trip.

Zach punched the Orc King, and it tumbled on the third orc king. Then, Zach plucked out his sword from the first Orc king's neck and plunged it into the fourth orc king's leg.

He used his Devourer's touch skill on the first three orc kings and dashed to the fifth orc king. He conjured the dagger made from Aria's feather and made a cut on the fifth orc king's hand.

The fifth Orc king's HP started decreasing rapidly. He then used the Devourer's touch skill on the fourth orc king and grabbed his sword. Then, he used DT on the fifth orc king.

Everything happened in a mere 3 seconds, and Aurora was not only surprised, but she was scared of Zach after seeing that.

Each orc king had 10000 HP, and Zach used DT skill on all of them. However, he had used the dagger on the fifth Orc that dealt 30 HP DMG in three seconds, which was useless.

The cursed dagger's ability was only useful in long fights where the DMG would be passive.

Zach dealt 49970 HP DMG in three seconds and barely missed to finish his quest about dealing 30000 HP DMG within one second. 500MP was consumed, leaving Zach with only 90 MP left.

[Leveled Up!]

[Leveled Up!]

[Congratulations! You have received 100 accessible points!]

Zach glanced around and saw five orcs had left, but he let Aurora deal with them. In the meantime, he assigned the points to his stats.

His current stats were:

Level 9.

HP- 3500/3500

ATK- 173.

Physical Strength- 173.

Mental Strength- 786

Soul Strength- 0

Physical DEF- 150.

Mental DEF- 712

Soul DEF- 0

AGILITY- 139.

MP- 90/∞

EXP- 6800/20000 (to level up.)

Floor 15 was supposed to be cleared in 30 minutes, while Zach and Aurora cleared it in less than 30 seconds.

Total players in the game 53321.

1389 new players logged in.

369 players died.

Chapter 26

Aurora killed the remaining Orcs and stared at Zach from a distance. She was afraid of going near him.

'I was expecting her to be mad, but she looks... scared.' Zach raised his brows in confusion and uttered, "Are you okay?"

"What was that?!" she shouted in a meek manner.

"That's my skill," Zach replied. "Moreover, I went for the king. Are you not angry?"

"Of course I am. You betrayed me."

"Oi oi. Calling it a betrayal is going too far." Zach snorted. "There wasn't a rule where you said I can't go for the king."

"That's common knowledge. You shouldn't go for the king first," Aurora asserted in a calm voice. She was still somewhat afraid of going near Zach.

Of course, what Aurora said was true. Going straight for the boss when the minions were alive was a suicidal move as the boss could control the minions, but that was in the solo dungeon. In the mixed dungeon, it didn't matter who fought with who. However, it was still risky as their party was only of 2 members. If it was someone other than Aurora, then they would have been overwhelmed by the situation and died.

"Alright, from the next boss floor, I will go for the bosses, while you can get to kill all the minions, happy?"

"The EXP gain from the minions is too low compared to the boss. But fine~" Aurora groaned. "You can do that until you reach level 10."

Zach knew better than anyone that he wouldn't be able to use his DT skill. He had only 90 MP left, and he was saving it for the emergency."

After taking a little rest, Zach and Aurora proceeded to floor 16.

Floor 16-20 had goblins as monsters but with higher stats and levels.

Floor 21-25 had wolves as monsters but with higher stats and levels.

Floor 26- 30 had orc as monsters but with higher stats and levels.

50 high-rank goblins spawned on the 16th floor. 100 EXP each.

50 supreme goblins spawned on the 17th floor. 120 EXP each.

80 high-rank and 80 supreme goblins spawned on the floor 18th.

120 high rank and 100 supreme goblins spawned on the floor 19th.

80 Goblin king spawned on the 20th floor. 1000 EXP each.

Of course, the 20th-floor boss was weak compared to the other boss floor. But on the floor 20th, the quantity was increased. That was challenging for the solo dungeon players and the parties who had fewer members.

However, Zach and Aurora were equal to a dozen players.

[Floor 18 has been cleared!]

Zach and Aurora had killed the same amount of monsters and received the same amount of EXP.

Aurora was getting more and more interested in Zach after seeing his fighting style. Even though Aurora's stats were higher, Zach was keeping up with her.

[Congratulations! You have reached level 10!]

[Congratulations! You have received 100 accessible points!]

[You can now select secondary class!]

[Congratulations! You have met the requirement to ascend to the First realm!]

'This wasn't the first realm? Although the game didn't specify it, I assumed this realm was the beginner's realm.'

'Now that I think about it, Aurora also had 800/1000 in the physique. So she needs another 200 points to evolve.'

"Say, Aurora, how did you gain physique points?" Zach's physique was maxed, so he had no idea how to gain it as he didn't need to learn.

"I don't know. It was 800/1000 when I entered this game," Aurora replied.

Zach knitted his brows and thought to himself: 'It wouldn't be surprising if there are other people like me in the real world who are not human. Aurora's ancestors must be one of them.'

"What's wrong?" Aurora asked when she saw Zach pondering something. "Do you want to retreat? It has already been 7 hours since we entered the dungeon."

Zach had only 90 MP left, and he was saving them for the emergency, so he had to clear all the floors using sword fighting and martial arts. Of course, Aurora was tired but not exhausted. Zach, however, lost all his exhaustion from the excitement of unlocking the second class and meeting the requirement to enter the first realm.

"I reached level 10, so I can now choose a secondary class," Zach informed Aurora. "I am having doubts about which class I should take."

"Every class has its own merit and demerit. Just choose the one you think suits you the best."

'I am not interested in swordsman. Bandit doesn't interest me either. What about bowman? It should be good for ranged attacks. I don't want to be a healer.'

"Why don't you be a healer then?" Aurora suggested with an innocent look on her face.

"Why...? I already have you, and you are enough for me."

"...!" Aurora's face flushed after hearing that. "You seriously need to work on your phrasing," she muttered in a low voice.

Zach was earning brownie points from Aurora even without realizing it.

"You can heal me if you become a healer," Aurora stated.

"Huh? Wait..." Zach furrowed his brows and exclaimed, "Healers can't heal themselves?!"

Aurora shook her head and shrugged his shoulders in response.

Zach was surprised to learn that healers couldn't heal themselves. However, the more he thought about it, the more it made sense. Now Zach had one more thing to worry about, and that was to make sure nothing happened to Aurora.

It was for her sake and his sake too. If anything were to happen to Aurora, Zach would lose his personal healer.

'Should I choose healer then?' Zach wondered. 'I can change my class anytime using Aria's blessing, but then I won't be able to change again for the next 24 hours.'

Total players in the game 55555.

2765 new players logged in.

531 players died.

Chapter 27

Zach let out a weary sigh as he was having a hard time deciding what classes he should choose. He glanced at Aurora, who was staring at him with an eager expression on her face.

"Let me guess, if I don't choose any secondary class before I reach level 11, I will get a random class," Zach uttered to Aurora.

Aurora nodded in response.

Zach pondered for a while and decided to choose the witcher class.

"I will go with the witcher," he declared.

"Then you will have to keep an eye on your MP because you might gain some spells that would use a high amount of MP to cast," Aurora informed Zach.

'Witcher + cultivator. What a weird combination. But it's going to be an awesome combo.' Zach scoffed. 'I can't use cultivation spells because I am not aware of them. I couldn't cultivate in the real world, so I never bothered learning them. And cultivation spells need to be exact. While witcher is different, I will use my cultivation to enhance the witcher spells, but first, I need to gain spells.'

'I read about the witcher class, and it was written that witchers can learn new spells by finding the scrolls scattered in the worlds and realms. It was also written that some scrolls have basic spells, while some have unique spells. So yeah, even the scrolls have grade ranks.'

Zach had a significant advantage over other players, and that was MP. As he could cultivate infinite MP, he would be able to cast the spells again and again until he ran out of MP. However, he first needed to get his hands on scrolls.

He opened his menu and selected the witcher as his secondary class.

[Congratulations! You have received the benefit of witcher class.]

Zach received four basic magic attacks; fire, wind, water, earth. Each consumed 10MP for one shot and dealt the damage, according to ATK.

'They are useless, for now at least. Once my ATK is high enough, I can use them to one-shot the weak monsters.'

"Well then..." Aurora turned to Zach and said, "Shall we go further?"

"Of course."

Zach and Aurora entered floor 19th.

120 high goblins and 100 supreme goblins spawned.

Zach raised his brows and nudged Aurora with his elbow. "Hey!"

"What?"

"There are 120 high goblins, and each of them gives 100 EXP. And others are supreme goblins, and each of them gives 120 EXP. In the end, we will receive the same amount of EXP, no matter who we kill. So let's make it easier by selecting a target."

"You are right." Aurora walked one step forward and said, "I will deal with the high goblins; you take care of the supreme goblins."

"Heh!" Zach smirked and remarked, "So you choose quantity over quality, huh?"

"Shut up."

Zach and Aurora dashed in the opposite direction and started killing the goblins.

Both supreme goblins and high goblins were weak for Zach and Aurora, but they were in quantity. Zach and Aurora had to keep their eye in every direction and watch their backs for possible attacks.

It took them an hour to clear the floor.

[Floor 19 has been cleared!]

"Do you want to take a break or enter the 20th floor?" Zach asked impatiently. He was running out of time to complete his quest of dealing 30000 HP DMG within one second, and only 2 hours had left to finish it.

However, it was impossible for Zach to finish that in his current state, and he was aware of it. That's why, he wanted to clear the 20th floor as soon as possible and cultivate for an hour to get some MP to use this DT skill; it was the only way for Zach to finish that quest.

"I am fine. Let's go to the next floor," Aurora slightly nodded.

However, she wasn't fine. She was exhausted. Unlike Zach, Aurora had been running around too much. Even on floor 19, she chose to kill high goblins, who were more in quantity, causing her to move around more.

But, she didn't want to drag Zach down by taking a rest. So she entered the 20th floor with Zach.

Soon after they entered the 20th floor, 80 goblin kings spawned. They were wearing armor, and their skin was thick.

At first, they were doing fine, but Aurora was having a hard time dealing with them. Zach was also having trouble, but he was managing it.

After killing 20 goblin kings, Aurora could barely stand. Zach was so immersed in fighting the goblin kings that he didn't pay attention to Aurora. However, when he glanced at her to check, he saw she was surrounded by the goblin kings.

"Aurora!" he yelled.

Aurora took a risk, and she had to pay for it.

"Aurora!" Zach yelled and dashed at her, but he was slammed by the goblin kings around him.

"Dammit!"

The goblin kings who were surrounding Aurora jumped on her and started attacking her. Even the other goblin kings who weren't surrounding her also jumped on her.

The horde of 50 goblin kings attacked her.

"No!" Zach wanted to save her, but the remaining ten goblin kings were blocking his way.

"Get out of my way!" he shouted on top of his lungs and used fire magic in one hand and wind magic in another. A firewhirl was created by the mixture of two magic attacks. Then, he used water and wind to create ice, and after that, he used earth and water to create a plant that sprouted the veil.

[Congratulations! You have reached the threshold limit of the basic magic attacks. You have gained a new attribute: Lightning!]

Without wasting his time, Zach fired lightning, and then he created a whirlwind by using wind magic two times. The lightning and whirlwind merged and formed a lightning whirlwind.

[MP- 0/∞]

He did all that just to kill the goblin kings who were stopping him. He had yet to save Aurora, but he had no MP left, nor could he use his sword skills to annihilate 50 goblin kings at once.

He was helpless, and all he felt was despair.

"No! Not again!"

Total players in the game 56550.

1400 new players logged in.

405 players died.

Chapter 28

Zach dashed at the horde of the 50 goblin kings with nothing but a sword in his hand, even though he knew he couldn't do anything.

Suddenly, a bright light shined from under the horde, and all the 50 goblin kings were obliterated into pieces.

[Floor 20 has been cleared!]

"H..uh?"

Aurora was sitting on her knees with her head lowered on the floor.

'What just happened?'

Zach rushed to Aurora and asked with a concerned look on his face: "Are you okay?!"

"Yeah. I still have 10 HP left."

"Then you are not okay!" Zach shouted.

Aurora stood up and let out a weary sigh. She then yawned and said, "No need to worry. I don't feel any pain or whatsoever."

"What was that just now?" Zach asked with a mixed expression on his face.

"That was my sword art skill— Lyda strike. It allows me to strike infinitely for 1 second, and each strike deals 100000 DMG," Aurora answered honestly.

Here, infinite means not limited, non-finite. She still has to strike (move her hand and use her strength) to deal the DMG. If she activates the skill and doesn't strike, then the skill will deal 0 DMG.

"Then you should have used it before!" Zach exclaimed and groaned. His heart was still beating fast because of what had happened just now.

"This skill has a 6-hour cooldown, so I only use it when it's an emergency." Shen looked at Zach with an anxious look on her face and asked, "What about you? Are you okay?"

"Don't worry about me."

After a brief moment, she exhaled sharply and said, "Shall we go back now?"

'What should I do?' Zach wondered. 'Aurora is down to 10 HP, so I can't let her in danger anymore. But...' Zach had only 100 minutes left to finish his quest.

"What would happen if I failed to finish the quest?" Zach asked Aurora in a gentle voice.

"If there is no penalty mentioned, then nothing should happen. You will get a new quest after that," Aurora answered.

'Should? So she is not sure.' After thinking for a while, Zach placed his hand on Aurora's shoulder and asked her to go back: "You should retreat. I will clear some more floors."

The reward for completing the quest was 500 shop points, which was enough to summon a magic shop. The appearance of the magic shop was already rare enough, and Zach didn't want to miss the golden chance.

However, he was also exhausted, and it was impossible for him to deal 30000 HP damage in his current state. His MP was 0, and he had no strength left.

"Then I will come with you!" Aurora insisted.

"There is no need. You are currently useless to me, and you will be dead weight," Zach uttered blatantly.

What he said was true, but there were many other ways to say it. He phrased it wrong, and after looking at Aurora's pale face, he regretted saying it.

Aurora lowered her head and started trembling.

'Uh oh. Now she will start crying, and there will be a cliché moment where I will try to comfort her,' Zach sighed inwardly and prepared his comforting speech.

"You are doing the same thing as I did," Aurora uttered in a low voice.

"Huh?"

"I did the same thing yesterday!" She shouted with her eyes full of tears. "Yesterday, when I was transported to this game with my two maids, the black slime told us that if we die in the game, we will die in real life too. Of course, I took it as a prank and went to clear the dungeon to pass the time."

Zach stayed quiet and listened to Aurora's story.

"The first 15 floors were pieces of cake. Then we cleared five more floors. My maids and I were both tired, but I still wanted to proceed further. Then, we cleared five more floors. My maids were exhausted at that point, but I pushed them further."

Aurora sniffed and continued, "We cleared 33 floors. At that point, my maids wanted to go back. I was exhausted too, but we still proceeded further. However, the monsters suddenly got a lot stronger after the 30th floor, or maybe it was because we were tired that they looked strong."

'She is making herself look like a sadist!' Zach thought to himself.

"My maid's top priority was to protect me. On the 34th floor, I made a mistake by going straight for the boss. The minions came to attack me, and my maids died protecting me. However, I wasn't sad because I thought they would simply respawn at the entrance of the town. I somehow managed to clear the 34th floor and retreated."

"I.. I..". Tears came out from Aurora's eyes, and they rolled down her cheeks. She looked into Zach's eyes with her teary eyes and uttered, "I waited for them at the entrance of the town. I stood there for hours, but they never came back. That's when I realized that what the black slime said was true."

'Hours? Wait a minute; the time doesn't match up. I thought about it first, but I assumed she cleared the first 34 floors with her maids, so it was less time-consuming, but that wasn't the case. And now she is saying she waited at the entrance of the town for hours. Does that mean the Gods' impact didn't occur when we logged in, and it happened even before that?' Zach wondered. 'That explains why some of the players we met weren't freaking out like others were.'

"I was devastated, and I didn't know what to do, so I went to the restaurant to eat something," Aurora added.

"..." Zach wanted to comment something, but he held back.

"But a creepy boy picked up on me and started yelling at me to heal him. I was already in a bad mood, so I left."

'That creepy person you are talking about is my friend, but I do agree he is creepy sometimes.'

"On my way, I bought a crepe from the cafe and sat under the gazebo to eat it. I had decided to kill myself after eating the crepe."

Total players in the game 58290.

2840 new players logged in.

1100 players died.

Chapter 29

"On my way, I bought a crepe from the cafe and sat under the gazebo to eat it. Then I met you, but..." Aurora stopped and clenched her fists.

"But?" Zach wondered with a curious yet calm look on his face.

"I was going to kill myself after eating the crepe, but you approached me and asked me to heal you. Then, I realized something." Aurora wiped her tears and asserted in a solemn voice: "My maids died protecting me. They sacrificed their life for me, so I didn't have any right to kill myself. I decided to

survive this game, for their sake, and my sake too. You saved me. If you hadn't come, I would have killed myself. You are my knight."

"..." Zach was speechless. He was expecting a cliché moment, but things escalated beyond his expectation. He had to change his comforting speech to something else.

"It's not your fault that they died," Zach uttered in a calm voice.

"But I forced them to—"

Zach inserted his finger in Aurora's mouth to stop her from speaking. "Let me finish."

Zach frowned his face and continued, "Their duty was to protect you. It was their role, and they accomplished it. They couldn't have died in a better way. So don't blame yourself."

"Although, I am surprised your maids knew sword fighting," Zach added and pulled out his finger from her mouth.

"They were my master too..." Aurora muttered under her breath and looked into Zach's eyes. She held her tears back with a sad and painful expression on her face and uttered, "They were my only friends."

Zach smiled gently at Aurora and patted her head. "It's okay. You can think of me as a friend," he said in a calm voice.

Aurora burst into tears and ended up crying anyway. She hugged Zach and squeezed him with her body.

Zach tried to hug her back but stopped halfway and let out a soft chuckle. 'I don't think you should give a passionate hug to the person who just became your friend. And I don't like when girls touch me, but I will allow it for today.'

After that, Zach let Aurora hug him until she calmed down. When she came back to her senses, she was embarrassed and couldn't make eye contact with Zach.

Zach decided to take a rest as both of them were exhausted, and Zach also wanted to cultivate his MP. They sat under the tree and talked for a while. However, Aurora fell asleep with her head leaning on Zach's shoulder.

Zach tried to move her head, but he failed miserably. Aurora's head was now on Zach's lap, and he couldn't move even if he wanted to.

He sighed and facepalmed himself. If he hadn't tried to move her head, this wouldn't have happened, so he was responsible for his current situation.

Zach looked at Aurora's juicy lips, and then he gazed at the rest of her body.

'She is so defenseless right now.' He thought and glanced at her chest. 'Her body is well developed, and after looking at her closely, I can see how beautiful she is. Her beauty indeed justifies her as a princess.'

Zach remembered how he could feel the softness on his chest when she was pressing her body against him.

'Control, control yourself, Zach. She is 17 years old. She is a minor. Although she gives off a mature vibe—' Zach stopped thinking when he remembered how Aurora was pouting like a kid on their way to the dungeon.

'Sometimes,' he added.

He sighed and threw out all the impure thoughts he was having about Aurora.

'Luckily, I know how to abstain myself.' He sneered. 'Although I learn it the hard way.' Zach groaned as he remembered his ex-girlfriend.

"Now then, what should I do?" Zach had two options. One was to leave Aurora behind and proceed to the next floor without her. She had only 10 HP left, and any minor attack could kill her.

The second option was the solution to the first problem. Zach could use Aria's blessing to change his class to Healer and heal Aurora. However, he wouldn't be able to change his class again for the next 24 hours.

Zach couldn't leave Aurora behind after his declaration of friendship with her, so he chose the second option.

He used Aria's blessing and changed his secondary class from Witcher to the Healer.

"I can't believe it worked," Zach muttered under his breath.

"Heh!" he chuckled after he remembered Aria and his fight with her. 'I hate to admit it, but I am glad I met her.'

If he hadn't met or fought with Aria, then he wouldn't have received her blessing, nor would he be able to change his class freely.

"Oh, crap..." Zach remembered he didn't have any MP left, and he needed MP to heal.

He cultivated 180 MP in thirty minutes, and he received 20 more MP by resting. However, it still wasn't enough to heal Aurora to her maximum HP. He needed 600 MP, and for that, he needed to cultivate for nearly two hours. He was already short on time to finish the quest, so he didn't have time to waste.

"Let's heal her with 200MP. At least she will have 2010 HP." Zach decided to use 200MP to heal Aurora. He thought he would only be able to recover 2000 of her HP, but he healed her to 6000 HP, and it only consumed 60 MP.

He raised his brows in confusion and wondered, 'If I remember correctly, she said 1MP heals 10 HP, but I healed 100 HP for 1 MP.'

That was the benefit of his cultivator class. He enhanced the healing process by ten times using his cultivation. However, it was useless for him as he was going to change his class back to Witcher after 24 hours.

Total players in the game 61253.

4532 new players logged in.

1569 players died.

Chapter 30

After cultivating for thirty more minutes, he had 350 MP. He opened his quest menu and saw only 43 minutes remaining to complete the quest.

[«Quest- Slay 1000 monsters of any difficulty.»

⟨Time left- 14 hours.⟩

«Reward- 50 Royal grade jade runes.»

Progress- 325/1000]

"According to Aurora, the next floors will have a high amount of monsters, so I hope I can finish this quest too," Zach muttered.

[«Quest- Deal 30000 DMG within 1 second.»

⟨Time- 43 minutes.⟩

«Reward- 500 Magic Shop points.»

Zach looked at Aurora, who was sleeping as though there was no tomorrow, and thought, 'One hour rest is enough, right?'

Zach wanted to wake Aurora up, but he was having a hard time deciding how he should wake her up. After thinking for a while, he decided to choose the direct approach.

He tapped on her shoulders and waited for her to react. But she didn't even flinch.

Zach sighed and lifted his leg, causing Aurora's head to fall to the ground with a thud.

"..." Zach kind of felt bad for Aurora, but he had no other choice left to wake her up.

After the impact, Aurora moved her eyelids because of the pain and opened her eyes. Then, he stared at the sky of the dungeon for a while until Zach called her out.

"Wake up, princess. It's time for your daily stroll," Zach laughed out loud as he said that.

Aurora sat up and rubbed her eyes. She looked confused as to what was happening, but she soon realized she had fallen asleep. When she saw Zach sitting in front of her, looking at her with a wide grin on his face, she covered her chest and hugged herself with a pale face.

"Don't worry. I didn't do anything to you," Zach reassured in a calm voice and a gentle smile on his face.

"That's what one would say if they had done something!" Aurora shouted in a meek manner. Her face was blushing red, but she was trying her best to hide her embarrassment.

"Even if I had done anything, it would be your fault, to begin with," Zach commented. "It's your fault for falling asleep and leaving your body defenseless like that." The calm voice and the gentle smile from earlier were nowhere to be seen on Zach's face.

'As expected, there is no way I can talk with a girl, normally,' Zach clicked his tongue and looked at Aurora. "You can go back if you want to."

"I am not going back without you," Aurora retorted. She fixed her clothes and looked at her HUD to see her HP was full.

"How did my HP regenerate to 6000?!" Aurora exclaimed with a surprised look on her face.

"I healed you," Zach stated with a straight face.

"But you said you chose the Witcher class..."

"I lied. Now spare me your interview, and let's proceed to the next floor. I am sure they are also bored because of no development."

"Who... they...?" Aurora wondered with a confused look on her face.

"No one."

Zach and Aurora entered the blue portal to proceed further.

"Let me give you a piece of advice first..." Zach turned to Aurora and uttered with a serious look on his face: "If there is a problem, let me know. If you are in trouble, tell me. If you need my help, inform me. If you are in danger, yell my name. I will come to your rescue, no matter what happens, it doesn't matter where I am."

Zach furrowed his brows and continued, "If you want to fight alongside me as a team, as a friend, then you have to be dependent on me, and in return, I will rely on you too. If you dare to do the same thing you did on the last floor by forcing yourself to fight with me, then I won't forgive you."

After Zach's speech, Aurora smiled under her breath and grinned at Zach in response.

"Why the hell are you grinning?!" Zach hissed.

Floor 21-25 was supposed to have wolves as monsters but with higher stats and levels.

Now that both Aurora and Zach had taken rest, they were ready to go on a rampage. In the next 30 minutes, they cleared the 24th floor without breaking much sweat.

150 [level 50] high-rank wolves spawned on the 21st floor. 100 EXP each.

150 [level 50] elite wolves spawned on the 22nd floor. 150 EXP each.

200 [level 50] high-rank and 150 [level 50] elite wolves spawned on the floor 23rd.

300 [level 50] high rank and 250 [level 50] elite wolves spawned on the 24th floor.

100 Wolves monarchs spawned on the 25th floor. 5000 EXP each.

Zach leveled up two times, and his stats were almost double from yesterday. He assigned the accessible points to his stats, and these were his current stats:

Level 12.

HP- 5000/5000

ATK- 233.

Physical Strength- 233.

Mental Strength- 800

Soul Strength- 0

Physical DEF- 210.

Mental DEF- 730

Soul DEF- 0

AGILITY- 259.

MP- 350/∞

EXP- 19850/35000 (to level up.)

Physique- Celestial- Max.

Class- Cultivator. (Maxed)

Secondary class- Healer

His mental stats also increased after what happened on the 20th floor.

"I can't believe we cleared the floors so fast," Aurora uttered and let out a weary sigh.

Zach glanced at Aurora from the corner of his eyes and asked, "Are you tired?"

Aurora scoffed and replied, "A little."

"Do you want to take a little rest?"

"How much life has left for you to finish the quest?" Aurora asked with a curious look on her face.

Quest menu:

[«Quest- Slay 1000 monsters of any difficulty.»

⟨Time left- 14 hours.⟩

«Reward- 50 Royal grade jade runes.»

Progress- 950/1000]

[«Quest- Cultivate 5000 MP.»

⟨Time- 7 days.⟩

«Reward- ???.»

Progress- 360/5000.]

[«Quest- Deal 30000 DMG within 1 second.»

⟨Time- 14 minutes.⟩

«Reward- 500 Magic Shop points.»

"14 minutes..." Zach replied in a low voice.

"Oh!" Aurora gasped in surprise and said, "The next floor is a boss floor, and each boss has 15000 HP. If you use your skill and touch two wolf monarchs at once, you can easily clear the quest."

"The last time I fought with the wolf monarch, I almost died. Even though it was only one, I felt overwhelmed. But now... there are 100 of them, waiting for me..." Zach wasn't scared, but he was a little bit worried.

Aurora patted Zach's back and said with a grin on her face: "Don't worry. I am here now, so no need to be—"

Aurora wasn't trying to act cool, she simply wanted to reassure Zach, but it backfired.

"Stop with that grin," Zach remarked. "And do I need to remind you that you almost died on the 20th floor?" He scoffed.

They were in a survival game where one wrong step could end their life.

Zach and Aurora entered the 25th floor, where 100 wolf monarchs were supposed to spawn. However, when they entered, no wolf monarch was to be seen.

The 25th floor was empty.

Total players in the game 69069.

9669 new players logged in.

1853 players died.