

## **GODS' IMPACT 31**

### Chapter 31

"What's going on?" Zach wondered as he glanced around. "Why is no one spawning?"

Zach tightened his grip on the sword and walked further in a defensive stance. 'Is this another secret floor or something?'

The same thing had happened when he entered Aria's dimension; no monsters had spawned. Zach thought the same thing was happening again. However, the floor they entered was indeed the 25th floor. The entire map was covered with snow and the visible snowstorm in the distance.

"I think someone cleared this floor just before we entered," Aurora stated in a calm voice.

"Hah?!"

"This is a mixed dungeon, so you have high chances of running into the other players, who entered before or after us— depending on the time we take to clear each floor."

Zach furrowed his brows at Aurora and uttered, "I can guess that much. So spare me the common knowledge. You are making me look like an idiot."

"I was just explaining things to you as you haven't read anything yet."

Zach let out a weary sigh and glanced around before looking at Aurora with a curious look on his face. He looked into her eyes and asked, "To be honest, I was expecting we are the one with the highest stats record." Zach rolled his eyes in disbelief and muttered, "But I guess there are players better than me."

"That's not the case." Aurora shook her head and continued, "Players have already formed guilds to rise through quickly with minimal efforts. I am sure only a party of more than ten players can survive after the 20th floor."

"That's true..." Zach turned around and pondered, "But how do they level up? Imagine a guild of a minimum of 50 players, the EXP gain among them will be so low that they will need to clear many floors to level up. It seems pointless to me."

"Not all players level up in the guild," Aurora uttered in a low voice.

"I guess the strong players use weak or low-level players as support to level up faster? They use multiple healers and mages as extra, while the knights and Assassins do the rest?" Zach snorted.

Aurora nodded in response and said, "You guessed right."

"Bunch of idiots," Zach scoffed. "Just think about it. If the support players also level up and grow strong, the efficiency of the battle will automatically increase. Yet..."

Zach threw all these thoughts aside and turned to Aurora. "So, what are we going to do now? When will the monsters spawn again?"

"My quest is on the line. And I swear, if I fail it, then I am going to hunt the players who cleared the floors before us," he added with a furious look on his face.

"It takes 10 minutes for the floors to reset," Aurora stated.

"..." Zach furrowed his brows in annoyance and muttered, "I guess my name tag color is going to change to red soon."

"You are not serious about that, are you?" Aurora asked with a pale face.

Zach stared at Aurora with a straight face and smirked at her with a smug look on his face.

"...."

Zach didn't waste his time and cultivated for 10 minutes until 100 wolf monarchs spawned. He looked at his HUD and saw 'Three minutes left to finish the quest' written in red color.

Aurora glanced from the corner of her eyes and asked with a concerned look on her face: "Do you think you can do it?"

Zach turned to Aurora with a grin on his face and answered, "Of course."

Zach had a total of 410 MP, which was enough to deal 41000 HP DMG. However, the quest was to do it within 1 second.

"Aurora..." Zach tossed his sword in the air and caught it. "How much do you trust me?" he asked in a calm voice.

Aurora's face flushed a little as she answered, "Why are you asking that when we are facing 100 bosses?"

"Just answer me."

"My trust for you is equal to my love for a crepe," Aurora answered with a grin on her face and walked forward to stand beside Zach.

"Heh!" Zach scoffed and muttered, "Not what I expected, but okay."

Aurora chose to eat a crepe as a last meal before committing suicide, so it must be valuable.

"Do you think you can handle your own shit?" Zach asked in a solemn voice.

"Huh?"

"I am going to do my stuff. And I want you to do your stuff," Zach asserted. "However, if you feel outnumbered, feel free to yell my name. I can't have you die on me. Who knows, I might not find a personal healer again."

Zach sheathed his sword and conjured the cursed dagger in his hand.

The cursed dagger was originally one of the features of Aria's wings. It dealt damage of 0.1% (per second) of the total HP of the enemy. This dagger was useful in three conditions; one when the monster's HP was high, second when the battle was long, and third, when there were a high amount of enemies on the field.

Here, the battle was going to be long, and the number of monsters was high. It was possible to hit the enemy once with the dagger and never attack the same enemy again; the 0.1% DMG per second could kill the enemy.

The horde of the wolf monarchs was so enormous that the wolves from the backside weren't even visible to the sight.

Zach took a deep breath and dashed at the horde with nothing but the cursed dagger in his hand.

Of course, the wolf monarchs also sped in packs. Some ran to Aurora while most of them ran to Zach as he was running far ahead of Aurora.

Zach had only two things in his mind: one was to touch as many wolves as possible with the dagger, and the second, was to make sure he didn't get hit by any of the wolf monarchs. Because if one of them pinned Zach down, the horde would rip him apart.

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Total players in the game 73047.

4755 new players logged in.

777 players died.

## Chapter 32

Zach tossed the dagger from his left hand to his right hand and clashed with the wolf monarchs.

Aurora was baffled by Zach's direct approach to the wolf monarchs. She ran after him to back him up, but then she remembered what Zach asked her a while ago.

'How much do you trust me?' Now, Aurora realized what Zach meant by that.

However, she still wanted to run after him, but then she recalled her answer.

'How am I supposed to stay calm when he is going straight to the death's door?! I can't focus!'

Aurora took a deep breath and focused on her prey. In the meantime, Zach had touched over 40 wolves with the cursed dagger.

Zach was making use of his agility to run as fast as he could. He had to dodge the wolf monarch's attacks, examine his route, and touch them with the dagger.

[Cursed Dagger's ability has reached the limit. You have used it on 50 enemies!]

'This wasn't mentioned!' Zach immediately dodged his way out of the horde, but the wolf monarchs weren't going to let him escape.

Fortunately, the 50 wolf monarchs that Zach had injured couldn't run as fast as before, and Aurora fought with 25 wolf monarchs, so Zach had to deal with the other 25.

Zach moved his hand to his waist to get his sword, but his gaze fell on his HUD that showed only 5 seconds had left to finish the Quest.

"Great." Zach sighed and stood still as he spread his arms, as though he was inviting the wolf monarchs to attack him.

The wolf monarchs jumped on Zach and pinned him down on the snowy floor.

Of course, that was all Zach's plan. He had too little time to run and dodge the wolf monarch's attack. So instead of going to them, he invited them to attack him.

Zach simply brushed his hands on the wolf monarchs who touched him, and they were obliterated into pieces.

[Congratulations! Quest 'Deal 30000 DMG within 1 second.' has been completed!]

[Congratulations! You have received the reward of completing the Quest. Reward- 500 shop points.]

Zach had finally finished the Quest, which he risked his time to complete. However, it wasn't the time for celebration.

[Warning! Insufficient MP. HP was used for the magic attack!]

He had touched more than two wolf monarchs when he had only 410 MP, which was enough for two wolf monarchs. But there were 25 wolf monarchs.

10 HP was equal to 1 MP, and 1 MP inflicted 100 HP DMG to enemies.

Fortunately, Zach had 5000HP, which was enough to deal 50000HP DMG, which was enough to kill three more wolf monarchs.

Zach killed five wolf monarchs in total.

[MP- 0/∞]

[HP- 500/5000]

Twenty wolf monarchs were on their way to attack Zach. He could have used his sword, but the other 50 injured wolf monarchs were also approaching Zach, so he didn't have enough time to deal with them at once.

'I need more HP...' Zach shot a glance at Aurora from the corner of his eyes and tried to call her, so she could heal him. But she was in the middle of the battle with the wolf monarchs.

She didn't have the liberty to heal Zach.

However, Aurora had noticed Zach looking at her. She equipped her staff in her other hand and muttered something.

Suddenly, a golden-colored magic circle appeared beneath Zach, and his HP began to increase at an insane speed.

"Don't worry about anything!" Aurora yelled. "Go all out! Your HP will heal by 150% every second, for 2 minutes!"

Zach smirked inwardly and uttered, "That's more than enough."

Zach's HP increased by 150% every passing second. His initial HP was 500, so Zach's HP was increasing by 750 every passing second.

However, the area of the magic circle was only one meter, so he had no other choice but to stay inside the circle to get himself passive healing. But, that wasn't a problem for Zach. He simply needed to touch and use this DT skill to eradicate the wolf monarchs.

The horde of wolf monarchs jumped on Zach to attack him, but Zach, however, casually touched them with a malicious smirk on his face.

In the next two minutes, Zach had killed more than 60 wolf monarchs, excluding the 4 four he had killed before.

[Congratulations! Quest 'Slay 1000 monsters of any difficulty.' has been completed!]

[Congratulations! You have received the reward of completing the Quest. Reward- 50 Royal grade jade runes.]

[Congratulations! Your skill 'Devovour's Touch' has reached the threshold limit! It is now upgraded to 'Dominator's Touch'!]

«Dominator's Touch- It can now deal 10x DMG for 1 MP.»

(50x 10 = 500 HP DMG for 1 MP)

Now, only 21 wolf monarchs were on the field. Aurora was dealing with the 10, and Zach was taking care of the remaining ones.

After 10 minutes, they had cleared the 25th floor.

[Leveled up!]

[Congratulations! You have reached level 13!]

[Leveled up!]

[Congratulations! You have reached level 14!]

[Leveled up!]



[Congratulations! You have reached level 15!]

[Leveled up!]

[Congratulations! You have reached level 16!]

[Leveled up!]

[Congratulations! You have reached level 17!]

[Leveled up!]

[Congratulations! You have reached level 18!]

[Congratulations! You have received 600 accessible points!]

[Floor 25 has been cleared!]

[Enter through the blue portal to proceed to floor 26. Proceed through the yellow portal to exit the dungeon.]

Aurora walked to Zach, who was looking at the portals with a serious look on his face.

"Don't tell me you want to go further?!" Aurora panicked.

Zach shook his head with a sigh and said, "Hell no. I want to go back and eat something and rest."

"Same..."

"What was that, by the way? A skill?" Zach wondered.

Aurora nodded and answered, "It's my second skill called Super healing. I used it with Holy Maiden, so I got the maximum affect."

"Not going to lie... that skill was something else. It gave me nearly 90000 HP in 120 seconds."

"Yeah..."

Zach raised his brows and asked, "How much MP does it cost to cast that skill, and how long is the cooldown?"

"It takes all my MP, and the percent (%) of healing depends on how much MP I had left. And the cooldown is 12 hours."

'She has done so much for me.' Zach let out a weary sigh and thought, 'I wouldn't have made this far without her... no, I would have made it this far even in a solo dungeon, but not in 10 hours.'

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Total players in the game 76776.

4531 new players logged in.

802 players died.

### Chapter 33

Zach and Aurora left the dungeon and stopped at the summoning point— where the players were spawning at a crazy speed. Even though that wasn't the only spawning point of the game.

"So many players are getting transported here, unknown to the fact that their lifeline is hanging on the thin thread which can snap at any moment..." Zach uttered in a solemn voice.

"If it's thin, then it must be sharp too," Aurora remarked. She glanced at Zach and continued, "Sharp enough to survive."

"Sharp enough to cut others' lifelines..." Zach asserted without looking at Aurora.

He gazed in the direction of the town and uttered, "Let's go."

After walking halfway to the town, Aurora sighed while glancing at Zach. Zach was walking ahead of Aurora, so he couldn't see her, but he heard her sigh.

"What's wrong? Why are you sighing?" he asked.

"It's nothing."

"As far as I know, people sigh when they are either bored or frustrated," Zach remarked with a soft chuckle.

"I am both," Aurora retorted. "This sucks. Why do players have to walk all the way to the town from the dungeon? They should have at least created portal points."

"This is just a beginner's realm; more like a tutorial stage," Zach asserted in a solemn voice. "The real game starts on the first realm."

"If that's the case, then this tutorial is too hard," Aurora muttered under her breath.

After walking for a while, they finally reached the town.

"Do you want to join me for lunch, or should I say dinner?" Zach scoffed.

Aurora's face flushed after hearing that. She never expected to be asked out by Zach. However, her expectations were going to be betrayed soon when she realized she had misunderstood his invitation.

"Of course, you have to pay for your food," Zach added nonchalantly.

"Argh!" Aurora groaned loudly as she tried her best not to show her dissatisfaction on her face.

"Was that a growl? Then I will take that as a yes," Zach snorted after looking at Aurora's face.

They went to the restaurant and ordered food. Zach ordered some meat and vegetable dishes. While Aurora ordered crepe and salad.

"How can you eat salad?" Zach asked with a shocked expression on his face.

"With my mouth?"

"Stop with that lame joke. It's not funny." Zach raised his brows and uttered, "You need to eat some healthy food that can give you energy. This is a game, a survival game, and you need to stay as healthy as possible."

"I have to follow my diet schedule as a princess. I am not allowed to eat certain things, especially the ones that can give me a stomach ache...." Aurora said while looking at Zach's dish.

Zach knitted his brows and asked with a puzzled and curious look on his face: "Do you maybe have weak metabolism?"

Aurora nodded in response and said, "My mother said I had many near-death experiences due to my health, so my diet was always strict."

'What about crepes then?!' Zach wanted to ask that to Aurora, but he wanted their conversation to end so they could eat in peace.

DING!

The bell rang as the door of the restaurant opened, and Shay and Kayden walked in. Zach was facing his back at the door, so he couldn't see them, but Kayden recognized him at first glance.

Kayden and Shay approached Zach with a "Yo!"

Zach was chewing the food, so he waved his hand in response.

Kayden placed his hand on Zach's shoulder and said, "Where have you been?"

After swallowing the food, Zach gulped down and replied, "In the dungeon."

"Heh!" Shay smirked and commented, "Well, someone's taken a liking to this game."

Zach shrugged his shoulders in response and gestured to Kayden and Shay to join him for lunch.

"Neh, we just ate," Kayden answered. "How come you are—" Kayden stopped when he saw Aurora.

"What's wrong?" Shay wondered. "Why are you—!"

Shay frowned his face and yelled, "Why is she here?!"

"Oh! It's the creepy boy from yesterday," Aurora uttered while eating a crepe. She then glanced at Zach and asked, "Is he your friend?"

Zach ignored Aurora and turned to Shay. "Shay, don't you have something to say?"

Shay sighed and glanced at Aurora with a nervous look on his face. "I am sorry for yesterday. I was agitated and took out all my anger on you. I shouldn't have done that, and I am truly ashamed of myself."

Zach smiled a little and knitted his brows at Aurora, who was focused on eating the crepe and ignored everything Shay said.

'Savage...' Zach and Kayden thought the same thing.

"Anyway!" Shay turned to Zach with a baffled expression on his face and said, "So you were fooling around with this girl?"

"Her name is Aurora."

"That's not the point! Why are you hanging out with a girl when you already have a girlfriend?!" Shay exclaimed.

"Who says I can't hang out with a girl if I have a girlfriend?" Zach uttered casually and added, "And besides, we broke up."

"What?! When?!"

"Last week."

"On your birthday?!"

Zach shrugged his shoulders and continued eating.

Shay was bewildered by the news, but Aurora seemed more affected by the information than anyone else.

'He had a girlfriend?! I never thought he was the type to get a girlfriend. But they broke up...' Aurora smiled inwardly. 'Wait! Why am I happy about it?! This is sad news... for Zach.'

After eating the food, Zach and Aurora went to the garden. Zach wanted to go back to his room and get proper rest, but Aurora said she had something important to talk about, so he had no other choice but to follow her.

"What is it?" Zach asked with an annoyed expression on his face.

"Do you..." Aurora muttered something under her breath.

"Do I, What?"

Aurora took a deep breath and gathered her courage to say: "So I have bought a house and it's big enough for four people to stay. So I was thinking... maybe... you would like to stay at... my... place?"

She continued with a flushed face: "I mean, you are a cheapskate, and you think of saving money, so you can save enough money if you stay at my place. I can even cook for you, so free food."

Aurora insulted Zach as though it was completely normal. She looked at Zach with a curious and anxious expression on her face and waited for Zach's answer.

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Total players in the game 86786.

12535 new players logged in.

2525 players died.

## Chapter 34

Aurora invited Zach to cohabitate with her for a free stay and free food. It was a golden offer for Zach, and Aurora was aware of it.

"Before I answer, I am amazed how you insulted me like it was a normal thing to do." Zach furrowed his brows at Aurora and uttered, "Sometimes, you are truly rude."

"But I just stated the fact. Am I wrong?" Aurora wondered with an innocent look on her face. "I didn't mean anything bad by it, and if you felt offended, then I apologize."

"Unfortunately, I can't stay at your place." Zach casually denied Aurora's golden offer.

"Why?!" Aurora exclaimed. "Is it because I said all those things?!"

"No." Zach shook his head and said, "I have already paid for the week in advance. So if I check out now, my money will be wasted."

"So, does that mean you will come after six days?!" Aurora asked with a curious and excited look on her face.

"I can't promise. Once I reach level 20, I am ascending to the first realm," Zach answered. He knitted his brows and uttered, "Wait a minute... what will happen to your house if you ascend to the higher realms?"

"According to the information provided, I will still own the house, and I can descend whenever I want. However, suppose that if I am in the first realm, I can't teleport directly to my house in this realm. I will need to descend to this realm, and then only I can enter my house."

"... why would you want to descend...?" Zach asked with a puzzled look on his face. "And you just wasted your money on the house."



"There is also an offer that I can buy houses in any realm,"

"Still, you wasted your money."

"Free of cost," she added.

"Let's talk about it in detail." Zach suddenly changed his way of talking.

"If I buy a similar type or same size house, then I can exchange for free of cost, but I will have to pay extra if I want a bigger one," she asserted.

"That's actually interesting."

"..!" Aurora recalled what Zach said a while ago and uttered, "Wait, you are going to ascend when you reach level 20?!"

"Yup."

"What about that physique requirement?"

"Everything is set. I can ascend now if I want, but I will wait until I reach level 20," Zach stated in a calm voice.

"Why 20?" Aurora wondered with a confused and curious look on her face.

"Think about it. The players who have already ascended must be stronger than me, so if I ascend now, I might be the weakest one." Zach wasn't considering his skills and Aria's blessing when he said that. He only considered his stats, which were higher than most of the players.

His physique was the biggest advantage for him, plus his unique cultivation and hidden class.

"What level are you at right now?" Aurora asked reluctantly.

"18. What about you?"

"I am also 18..." Aurora replied.

"I thought you would be higher."

"I could have been if a certain someone hadn't obliterated 75 wolf monarchs," Aurora remarked.  
"Thanks to me," she added.

Zach smirked and asked, "Are you salty about that?"

"Why? In fact, I am glad," Aurora answered honestly.

The smirk on Zach's face vanished, and he furrowed his brows. He moved his hand to Aurora's face and pinched her nose. "Stop that."

Aurora's nose had become red as a beet, but her face was redder because of the embarrassment.

"Well then..." Zach waved to Aurora and said, "See you tomorrow."

"Wait!" Aurora stopped Zach by pulling his clothes.

"What is it?"

"Show me your status menu," Aurora demanded.

"Why?"

"So you still don't trust me even after we survived a life and death situation?" Aurora muttered with a sad and disappointed look on her face.

Zach sighed and flicked his finger on Aurora's face. "This cute face won't work on me. And It's not as though I don't want to show you my stats. Even if I did, you wouldn't understand anything."

Aurora squinted her eyes and said with a confident look on her face: "Try me."

Zach opened his status menu and showed it to Aurora.

10 seconds Later.

"What the hell is this?!" Aurora exclaimed with a baffled expression on her face. Her cute face looked terrible.

"What happened to that 'try me'?" Zach commented with a grin on his face.

Zach's current stats:

Level 18.

HP- 10500/10500

ATK- 363.

Physical Strength- 363.

Mental Strength- 800

Soul Strength- 0

Physical DEF- 340.

Mental DEF- 730

Soul DEF- 0

AGILITY- 469.

MP- 0/∞

EXP- 59850/90000 (to level up.)

Physique- Celestial- Max.

Class- Cultivator. (Maxed)

Secondary class- Healer

Guild- Not joined.

Title- 1) Forbidden Existence. 2) Child of Atrocity. 3) Sign of Impurity. 4) The Last Survivor

Skill- 1) Martial Warrior. 2) Dominator's Touch.

Zach's MP was currently Zero, so Aurora couldn't see the infinity sign.

"There are so many things I don't understand. And what are these titles?" Aurora asked with a surprised and curious look on her face. "What did you do to get such horrible titles?"

"Except the last one," she added.

"You don't need to know, or rather, I can't explain it to you even if I wanted to," Zach replied.

"I don't want to be annoying, so I won't ask any more questions." Aurora opened her status menu and showed it to Zach after saying, "Here. You can look at mine too."

Aurora's stats were:

Name- Aurora Edens.

Level- 18.

HP- 10500/10500

ATK- 390.

Physical Strength- 250.

Physical DEF- 350.

AGILITY- 300.

MP- 0/395

EXP- 14750/90000 (to level up.)

Physique- Mortal- 820/1000 (to evolve.)

Class- Warrior

Secondary class- Healer

Guild- Not joined.

Title- 1) Holy Maiden.

Skill- 1) Lyda Strike. 2) Super Healing

Aurora's stats were incredible too. However, Zach was focused on her physique.

'It was 800 before. Now it's 820.' Zach pondered for a while and uttered, "I guess you can get physique points for training your body since that's what the name means."

After talking with Aurora for a while, Zach went straight to his inn room and slept like a slob for the entire night.

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Total players in the game 109242

30977 new players logged in.

8521 players died.

## Chapter 35

Zach woke up and rubbed his eyes. He yawned and stretched his hands in the air.

"That was a nice sleep."

Zach opened his status menu to see how much MP did he cultivate while sleeping.

"900... not bad," Zach muttered.

He then looked at his quest menu to see his new quests.

[«Quest- Cultivate 5000 MP.»

<Time- 6 days.>

«Reward- ???.»

Progress- 1300/5000.]

"This is the old one." Zach pondered for a while and uttered, "Even if I cultivate for three hours daily, I can finish this quest in under four days."

"Although I am more curious about the reward," he added.

[«Quest- Equip a mythical grade rank weapon.»

<Time- ∞.>

«Reward- 50 Royal grade jade runes.»

"I already have the mythical rank weapon." Zach conjured the cursed dagger in his hand and saw the prompt.

[Congratulations! Quest 'Equip a mythical grade rank weapon.' has been completed!]

[Congratulations! You have received the reward of completing the Quest. Reward- 50 Royal grade jade runes.]

"Nice."

It hasn't even been a minute since he woke up, and he has already finished one Quest.

[«Quest- Deal 50000 DMG within one second.»

⟨Time- 24 hours.⟩

«Reward- 1000 Epic grade material powder. (Can be used while crafting new equipment to boost its stats. 1 powder = 10 points.)»

"This type of quests are annoying," Zach sighed.

[«Quest- Reach level 25 .»

⟨Time- ∞.⟩

«Reward- 50000 coins.»

"Now, this is what I like," he said and closed his menu.



Zach lazily got off the bed and made his way downstairs to eat breakfast. There he saw Shay and Kayden waiting for their order to arrive.

"Someone forgot to invite me," Zach remarked and sat beside Kayden as he was the closest.

"I was going to invite you, but Kayden said you might have gone to grind EXP," Shay defended himself and continued, "You are alone? Where is that chick from yesterday?"

"Who knows." Zach shrugged his shoulders and said, "She must be wandering around this realm."

Zach had told Aurora to message him whenever she goes to clear dungeons or towers. Since Aurora hadn't messaged him yet, Zach assumed she must be busy with something else.

The waiter placed the dishes on the table while saying, "Here is your order."

Zach ordered his breakfast and opened his friend list to check something.

"Phew!" he sighed in relief after confirming Aurora's name was still there. He was afraid that she might have gone somewhere alone and died.

"So..." Shay took a bite and asked Zach: "Have you two done it yet?"

"Hmm?"

"You know what I am talking about." Shay winked at Zach with a knowing look.

"Oh! No... what the hell is wrong with you?" Zach replied with a disgusted look on his face.

"What do you mean? That's a normal thing to ask..." Shay turned to Kayden and said, "Is it not, Kayden?"

"Well..." Kayden looked at Zach from the corners of his eyes and replied, "Zach's normal is different than ours."

"Argh!" Zach groaned and wondered with a curious look on his face: "is it possible to do it in the game, though?"

"Yeah." Shay nodded. "In fact, almost 50% of the VR game players play a VR game for that."

"I wouldn't be surprised if that's true," Zach scoffed.

"You know, even the players who are in a relationship in the real world do it with other players for fun," Shay added.

"Isn't that cheating?"

"They say 'It's not real, so it's not cheating'," Kayden quipped.

"Oh!" Zach exclaimed and uttered, "Just like how some say, 'Sex with a condom isn't cheating because you are not making direct contact.' This is like an upgraded version of that one, right?"

"Yup."

"I don't understand why would they cheat if they truly love their partner?" Kayden asked with a disappointed look on his face.

"Heh!" Shay scoffed and said, "You have never been in a relationship before, so you wouldn't understand. Even Zach has been in a relationship. You should give up on your step-sister and find someone else."

"There is no need for that," Kayden replied in a calm tone. "We are engaged now."

"How long are you going to—" Shay stopped speaking and furrowed his brows, "What did you say?!"

"Misha and I got engaged, and our parents know about it," Kayden repeated.

"When did that happen?!" Shay exclaimed in disbelief.

"Last week."

"Why didn't you tell me about it?!"

"Someone was busy with his birthday party when I called him to inform the news," Kayden stared at Shay with a furious look on his face.

Zach and Shay's birthdays are on the same day, so they couldn't celebrate them together at once.

Zach's order arrived, and all of them ate without speaking a word.

After that, Zach received a message from Aurora: [Do you want to try out the towers?]

Zach had nothing else to do, so he agreed.

Unlike the dungeon, the player could retreat at any time— even in the middle of the battle. Hence, most players preferred that over the dungeon. However, the EXP gain from the tower was only 10% of that of the dungeon. But the tower guaranteed treasure chests to drop on every boss floor.

The tower was similar to the dungeon in one aspect, that was the tower type. The players could play solo and with a team, where the players were rewarded according to the DMG dealt to the monsters.

Zach cleared the first 20 floors of towers with Aurora and returned to the inn after late noon. Unfortunately, the HP of the monsters on the first 20 floors was low, so Zach couldn't complete any of his quests.

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Total players in the game 127873

20952 new players logged in.

2321 players died.

## Chapter 36

Zach was sitting on his bed and looking outside the window. It was night, but he couldn't sleep because he was feeling homesick.

Homesickness finally triggered Zach after spending two nights in the game. The first night, he was tired after clearing ten dungeon floors, and he was exhausted on the second night after clearing 25 floors with Aurora. On both nights, he fell asleep as soon as he placed his butt on the bed, but today he couldn't.

He wasn't as tired as he was the past two nights, and he had too much time to reminisce about his home.

He wanted to go back home, but he needed to beat the game first. He regretted agreeing to play the VR game, but there was nothing he could do. He couldn't blame himself, nor the circumstances.

"SIGH!" He sighed and got up from the bed. He walked to the window and leaned on the ledge to enjoy the mind-blowing scenery of the night sky.

"What should I do now?" he wondered.

Today, Zach cleared the first 20 floors of the towers with Aurora, but the rewards were 'meh' to him.

Just like how every 5th floor was the boss floor in a dungeon, the tower had the same, but the monsters dropped chests in the tower. The rewards on the chest depended on the classes and levels of the player.

They got a bronze dagger on the fifth floor, which was useless for both Zach and Aurora. Upon clearing the 10th floor, they got armor that increased the defense by +30.

Zach wasn't interested in wearing armor as it decreased his Agility and quick moves. So he gave it to Aurora, but she didn't want it either.

They got a wooden staff on the 15th floor, which could only be used by a healer. Aurora already had a bronze staff which she had bought from the weapon shop. And Zach was going to change his class soon.

They got a bronze sword on the 20th floor, which could be used by a swordsman. Zach's primary class was a cultivator, so he couldn't equip the sword. Even when he tried to hold it, the game didn't register it.

Zach found it weird since he was able to equip Aurora's gold rank sword to complete his quest. But then he learned that there were two types of weapons in this game. One where the weapon could only be used by the respective classes and could not be equipped by the players of other classes. And the other one was where any classes would equip any weapon, but the non-class players wouldn't be able to use the weapon skill and increased ATK.

In other words, there was no weapon Zach could use, so he needed to find himself a suitable weapon for his class. And the only way to do that was to summon the magic shop.

"There is no point in summoning the magic shop right now."

Summoning a magic shop cost 500 magic shop points. Zach had 500 magic shop points which he got after completing the quest. But what would he do after summoning a magic shop?

Unlike the regular shop where players could buy stuff using the coins, which were equivalent to real-world money, the magic shop's currency was magic shop points and runes which could only be obtained by completing the quests.

Zach had 100 Royal grade jade runes, which he thought weren't enough to buy something useful.

"I don't know where I will get a quest to earn magic shop points again, so I don't want to make a rookie mistake where I use all my fortune and regret later on. Not in this game, at least— where one small mistake can make one cry."

However, Zach planned to summon the magic shop before ascending to the first realm. He needed a strong weapon for future battles.

40% of the total players were still thinking of Gods' impact as a prank— including Shay, and that's why they spent their time fooling around. While the majority of the other 60% of players were convinced of the Gods' impact, and they were trying their best to beat the game.

Zach was feeling annoyed and frustrated for some reason. He jumped on the bed and rolled for a few minutes to calm himself down, but it got worse.

Suddenly, he stopped when he remembered that 24 hours had passed since he used Aria's blessings, and now he could change his class.

He immediately opened his menu to change his class, but he noticed something interesting.

"What are these classes?" Zach muttered.

There was a class that he had never heard of.

'Crafter...' Zach furrowed his brows and wondered, 'Isn't that an NPC exclusive class?'

Indeed, it was an NPC exclusive class, but Aria's blessing allowed him to access the class.

'Should I try it?' Zach was curious, but he wasn't sure whether he could change his secondary class to Crafter or not.

"If I change, I wouldn't be able to change back for the next 24 hours..." Curiosity got the best of Zach, and he ended up selecting the crafter class as his secondary class.

«Class- Crafter. Can be upgraded after qualifying for the next condition.»

"At least, show the conditions..." Zach muttered.

At first, Zach didn't notice any change or benefit of his new class. But a strange idea crossed his mind.

'No way that's going to work, right?' he asked himself. 'But it's worth trying.'

Zach was unaware of the fact that his 'strange idea' was going to bring a revolution to the Gods' impact using his crafter class.

\*\*\*

Total players in the game 136614

10550 new players logged in.

1809 players died.

Chapter 37

[Congratulations! You have crafted a new item!]

"Finally..." Zach let out a weary sigh and dropped his back on the bed to relax. "After seven unsuccessful tries, I finally succeeded on the eighth attempt."

'Although I was going to give up on the tenth try.' Zach sat back up and looked at his inventory to see the item he crafted.

It was a tiny flask bottle with yellow liquid inside it.

"It took me about an hour to craft it. I also wasted the 1000 epic grade materials I got from the cost." Zach was showing mixed expressions on his face. However, he was happy that he was able to craft something that didn't and shouldn't exist in the game.

"I will try using it when I get a chance." Zach looked at his menu and wondered, "Can I alter my system with my crafter class?"

Zach tried to alter the system and added the option for the third class.

[Unauthorized action! User doesn't have permission to access the program.]

"Well... I expected as much, but at least, it was worth trying."

Zach fooled around with his crafter class and tried to do many things with his system, although he failed all of them with the same error as before.

He then tweaked his skill menu and converted it into a skill tree. It looked better and easier to understand. He only had two skills, so the tree only had two branches; one was of his skill— Martial warrior, and another was Devour's touch that later evolved into Dominator's touch. The branch of the Devour's touch had a leaf on it that represented the evolution of the skill.

Zach did the same thing with his class menu and turned it into a class tree.



Normally, it would have been impossible, even with the crafter class, as the players were allowed to have only two classes. But Zach, however, could change his class, which gave him the ability to craft this class menu and turn it into the class tree.

The class tree looked different from the skill tree, and it didn't have any branches or leaves on it. Each class had its own tree, and the root of the respective class tree was connected to the root of the skill tree.

Zach created skill tree so he could save the progress of the skills and the different classes. So he could change to the said class and use the saved skills whenever he wanted, without losing the progress and evolution of the skill. And the class tree was going to help him with that.

Zach couldn't alter anything else, but he was satisfied with the result.

"Now then..." Zach looked at the time, and it was past 12 of night. "I should get some sleep."

Zach was going to clear the tower with Aurora the next day, so he needed all the rest he could get.

Zach woke up 8 hours later and cultivated 480 MP while sleeping. After that, he ate breakfast with Shay and Kayden and went to the garden where Aurora was waiting for him.

"How many floors are you planning to clear today?" Aurora asked curiously.

"We can resume from where we left off, so I guess we can clear 30 more floors today and make it to the 50th floor," Zach replied nonchalantly.

"The monsters get a lot stronger after the 30th floor. The same with the dungeon," Aurora stated and added, "So save your MP for the boss floors."

"I know that." After reaching the entrance of the tower, Zach turned to Aurora and said, "If we don't find anything useful today, then we are going to clear the dungeon tomorrow."

"That's the plan," Aurora nodded.

13 hours later.

Zach came out of the tower with Aurora in his arms.

"I am fine. You can let me down.." Aurora muttered with a flushed face.

"Not until I get you to the church where the NPC healer can heal you," Zach replied in a solemn voice and made his way to the church.

It was already past 11 in the night, and neither of them had eaten anything in 13 hours.

When they entered the tower, they cleared up to floor 25 within an hour. It took them another hour to clear the next five floors.

However, as Aurora had mentioned, the monsters got a lot stronger after the 30th floor.

They cleared the next five floors in 2 hours, but Zach had used half of his MP by that time. Then, it took them 2 hours to clear the next five floors, and they made it to the 40th floor. Zach had used all his MP on the bosses of the 40th floor.

After that, Aurora and Zach proceeded to the next floors. They were tired but not exhausted as they simply needed to jump around rather than move everywhere like they did in the dungeon.

They cleared up to the 45th floor in the next 3 hours. Aurora used her sword art skill on the 45th floor and cleared it alone in one second.

However, things got serious after the 45th floor. It took them one hour to clear one floor. The main problem was the regeneration abilities and high defense of the monsters, which got higher and higher as they proceeded to the next floors.

But, things became dire on the 50th floor. Aurora used her second skill— super healing so Zach could use his DT skill for 2 minutes straight, but the monster attacked Aurora and interrupted her.

In the end, two minutes weren't enough to kill the bosses of the 50th floor, and Aurora ended up using 90% of her HP as MP to continue her super healing skill. Aurora was injured, but she still had 1000 HP left.

"You are a healer, too, right?" Aurora asked Zach. "Why don't you heal me?"

"I am out of MP." Zach was telling the truth.

Twenty-four hours had passed since Zach last used Aria's blessing, and he could change his class to healer again, but he had no MP left.

After some seconds of getting out of the tower, Aurora insisted Zach to let her down from his arms. Then, they walked to the church, and Aurora got herself healed by the NPC healer.

\*\*\*

Total players in the game 185569

55487 new players logged in.

6532 players died.

## Chapter 38

It's been a week since Zach and his friends got stuck in the Gods' impact. One week was the minimum limit of the long-dive, and the players could log out of the VR games, or so was the case with the other games, but Gods' Impact was different. It wasn't even a game in the first place. It was a world, an online world created by the gods.

Even if their body were removed from the VR capsule, they would still be in the game.

Even if there was a power outage in the real world, nothing would change in the game.

They didn't know that it wasn't their consciousness in the game. It was their soul— which was connected to their body in the real world.

Thousands of others thought they would be able to log out sooner or later, or perhaps the governments of their respective countries would help them out. They believed the scientists and experts would be able to find a solution.

Maybe they would, but perhaps it would be too late.

Zach woke like he always did and saw his quest progress.

[4970/5000 MP cultivated.]

"It seems I don't have to worry about this quest. I might even clear it by sleeping."

He got off the bed and warmed up by stretching his hands and legs.

"I wanted to go to the dungeon today, but I will hold that thought for tomorrow." Zach remembered what happened two days ago and muttered, "Tower is a lot easier than the dungeon. We can't even retreat in the dungeon..."

Zach wanted to have more than 5000 MP before entering the dungeon again as he was going to clear the 31st floor onwards.

"Not to mention, Aurora's maids, her masters who taught her sword fighting, died on the 34th floor. I should consider her feelings."

Zach had noticed that whenever he mentioned the dungeon raid, Aurora tried to divert the topic. He soon realized that she was afraid, or rather, the 34th floor was traumatizing her.

Zach checked his notification to see if he had received any messages. Much to his surprise, he had received over 50 messages from Kayden.

"What's with him?" Zach read the messages, and most of them were spam, saying, 'Come to my room. Shay has lost it. Help me out.'

Zach let out a weary sigh and went to Kayden's room to see what was going on. When he entered Kayden's room, he saw Shay was making a ruckus and yelling, "That's not possible!"

'What happened to him now?' Zach wondered and approached Shay and Kayden.

"Sup? Did you eat something spicy?" Zach joked and leaned on Kayden's shoulder.

Shay grabbed Zach's collar and uttered with a furious look on his face: "What is the meaning of this?"

"What?" Zach asked, dumbfounded.

"Why can't we log out?! It has been more than six days!"

Zach pulled Shay's hands from his collar and said, "Why are you asking me? You are the gaming nerd, not me."

Shay gritted his teeth in frustration and sat on the bed. "Nothing is making sense! Why is this game like this?! There are so many strict rules and limitations!"

Zach and Kayden glanced at each other and nodded.

"Shay..." Kayden sat beside Shay and said in a calm voice: "It's about time you start believing in what the black slime said was true."

"No way! There is no way I would believe in gods and shit!" Shay shouted. He looked at Kayden and said, "Come on Kayden. You know me. I don't believe in things I don't see. And stuff like gods is just a myth. No one believes in them. If you do, you will get laughed at."

Zach looked at Shay and uttered inwardly: 'This has shocked him so much that he is speaking in a monotonous tone.'

'Well, I can't blame him. This is a normal reaction.'

Shay was like a king of the city and the Prince of the country. He could do anything and could make anything happen using his parents name.

For him to be stuck in Gods' Impact with no powers or connection was nothing but hell. It was like he was stripped from his powers and became a nobody.

Zach and Kayden somehow convinced Shay and went downstairs to eat breakfast.

'I wonder what Aurora is doing? We met a day ago, but we missed each other yesterday.'

Yesterday, Zach was strolling around the realm to know the game better. So he went to ask Aurora to show him around. However, Aurora had gone to the Tower.

She said she was only going to clear the lower floors to practice her sword skills. But when Zach asked if he could help her, she denied him and told him to stroll around the realm.

However, Zach didn't want to go alone, so he went to the Tower. On the other hand, Aurora felt bad, so she left the Tower and went to the spot Zach initially waypoint-ed.

They missed each other and couldn't meet.

After eating breakfast, Zach messaged Aurora and asked her to accompany him on his stroll around the realm.

At the same time, something was hovering in the sky, as though it was about to do something.

DING!

DING!

DING!

DING!

DING!

All the players heard a voice in their heads that said: [Listen, you mortals. You are in the presence of the archangel Gabriel!]

Chapter 39

In the heavens.

[...]

[...humans...]

[That was expected.]

[Indeed.]

Some gods sighed, some groaned, while some laughed. They were talking and discussing matters with each other regarding the Gods' impact and what had happened so far.

[It's been a week since we trapped the humans' souls in our newly created online world.]

[And?]

[Only 10% of them are taking it seriously. 30% are trying to take it seriously. 30% are playing it casually. While the rest, 30%, have already given up.]

[What else do we want? Why did we even trap them in a new world anyway?]

[Who knows? It must be one of us.]

[I can't understand humans... like seriously. Why do they exist?]

[I ask myself the same question every time.]

[Humans were a mistake. We shouldn't have created them.]

[Who created them?]

[It wasn't us, right?]

[It wasn't us, but it was our idea. We wanted to create a perfect race. A perfect existence that can learn to evolve and survive in any circumstances.]

[Then it's our fault?]



[Humans are our responsibilities, aye?]

[We just provided the idea of perfect beings— humans, to the higher gods. They liked the idea and gave us the green light.]

[Now that to mention the higher gods, shouldn't we inform them about the punishment we gave to the humans?]

[Eh... they will just ask their gods, they will ask theirs. And I am pretty sure they don't even remember humans; they are busy with their own worlds.]

[We 12 are assigned to monitor this world, so we shall do so. Besides, out of billions of humans, only a few thousands are trapped in our new world.]

[Still, more than 50% of them are actually glad that they are trapped in the new world. They are spending their life leisurely. We have to do something, or that world might just become a heaven for them.]

[Let's do something, then.]

The clouds rumbled, and a sharp thunder echoed across the sky with a voice that said: [I summon you, Gabriel.]

A bright light shined, and a four-winged angel appeared in front of the gods. He had blonde hair and blue eyes. He kneeled down and placed his hand on his chest.

[You called, my lords?]

[Gabriel, we assign you as a new god of our new online world.]

A bright smile appeared on Gabriel's face. He bowed down and said, [I am honored.]

[Wait a minute...] A goddess interrupted and said, [Are you sure about making him the god? We created that world, and he doesn't even know a thing about the world or how it works.]

[Agreed. We can't just make an angel, a god.]

[But he is our best angel. He suits to be a god, and that world is nothing but hell anyway. He just needs to watch over it and make sure that the humans are living in our terror.]

[No. I am against this. We don't need a new god.]

[I am against it too.]

[I am in favor.]

[I am against this.]

[I am bored.]

The 12 gods and goddesses voted, and the result of a draw.

[This is hilarious!] a god laughed out loud.

[Seriously, a draw? This has never happened in 80,000 years where we last exiled the two sisters— Aria and Erza.]

[...]

[...]

The hall of heaven was filled with nothing but silence.

[My bad. I shouldn't have mentioned them since they were our creators. I forgot some of you worshiped them.]

[80,000 years... It has been 80 000 years, and yet the higher gods are angry with us. Why were they so liberal on the two sisters? They were failures. They didn't deserve to be gods, and that's why they created us to do their jobs.]

[We should be grateful that neither of them has come for their—]

[Stop this topic at once!] a goddess yelled. [We are discussing something else here, right?]

[Right...] All the gods gazed at Gabriel for a few seconds, and one god spoke, [Gabriel. We cannot make you a god, but that doesn't mean you don't have a chance. The votes are still a draw, so go and do something in our online world that the other gods vote in your favor too.]

[Do you understand Gabriel? This is your golden chance to show your true strength. Impress us gods, and you shall be assigned as not only the god of our online world, but you shall be given a seat in heaven too.]

[Does... that... mean...] Gabriel stammered on his words.

[Yes. It is what you think. You shall be the 13th god.]

[I will not disappoint you, my lords!] Gabriel said out loud.

[You better not, or you shall be stripped from all your powers, and then you will have to live among mortals in our online world.]

The clouds rumbled, and Gabriel disappeared from the hall of heaven.

He then appeared in the sky of the gods' impact. He was everywhere; in all the realms, all the villages, towns, cities, kingdoms. The players who were in the dungeon or tower were temporarily teleported to the nearest town.

[Listen, you mortals. You are in the presence of the archangel Gabriel!]

All the players and NPCs left the building and gathered in the open. They all looked up in the sky and saw a four-winged man hovering in the sky, flapping his wings and looking down at them with an emotionless expression on his face.

[Kneel before me, you mortals, for I shall rule on you one day.]

None of them kneeled. They just kept looking at him with confused and puzzled expressions on their faces.

[I said kneel!]

All the players present in Gods' Impact dropped to their knees by an invisible force on them. They struggled to look up at Gabriel.

Gabriel glanced around with a smirk on his face and uttered, [What a delightful sight. This is where you mortals belong, weak and helpless—]

Everyone was on their knees, except one player with black hair and golden eyes.

It was Zach.

Zach was glancing at the other players, but when he gazed up and looked into Gabriel's eyes, Gabriel immediately soared through the clouds. He flew as hard as he could to make a distance between him and Zach.

\*\*\*

Total players in the game 431223

331899 new players logged in.

86245 players died.

Chapter 40

Gabriel soared through the clouds as his body trembled in fear.

[What was that?] Gabriel wondered. [Why is my body trembling? Is this fear?]

[I... am afraid? Me? The next god?] Gabriel clenched his fists in frustration and muttered, [But why?]

[That glare... the gaze... those eyes...] Gabriel gulped down in fear and muttered, [It was the same feeling as when I am in front of the gods. When they look at me.]

[No...] Gabriel uttered in a trembling voice. [It was more powerful. His gaze was more potent than the gazes of 12 gods combined.]

Gabriel gazed down in the direction and wondered, [Who is that mortal?]

Gathering his courage, Gabriel flew down and saw all the players and NPCs were now standing and looking at him. He glanced around the horde to search Zach, and he found him standing in the last row.

'Huh? What's this? He is still looking at me, but I don't feel any fear. I don't feel that murderous raging glare anymore...'

Gabriel scoffed and announced with a smirk on his face: [I have come with a message from the gods.]

Gabriel was everywhere but nowhere at the same time. His figure was visible in all the realms and kingdoms, but his real body was still in heaven.

[The gods want you mortals to take this world seriously. If you don't, you will end up dead like many others.]

"Fuck off! This prank is going too far!" one of the players yelled.

"The government will punish you!"

[Why would a mortal punish me? My lords are the gods, and I am their servant. I only obey their commands.]

"What is the meaning of trapping us in a game against our will?!" Another player asked.

[If gods want something, it happens. No questions asked. What about you, mortals? Answer me, why are you favored by the higher gods?]

"If the gods truly favor us, then why have they trapped us here!"

[The answer is simple. When a child disobeys, they need to get disciplined. The same goes for you mortals. You forget that it is because of them— you exist. They could annihilate you all with a snap if they wanted. Yet, they are forgiving you.]

"Bullshit!" A player who looked to be in his late fifties came out of the crowd and yelled, "Gods don't exist, and they haven't created us."

[Such blasphemy...] Gabriel shook his head in disbelief and asserted, [You mortals are not only ignorant, but you are clueless and arrogant too. You want to rule the world, but you don't want to be ruled.]

"Of course we don't! We are on the top of the food chain!"

[Hmm...] Gabriel hummed in wonder and said, [You mortals kill animals and eat them for food. Animals kill other animals and eat them for food. Insects eat other insects for food. That is your ecosystem. If one race goes extinct, the entire food chain will collapse, and that's how you will meet your end.]

"..."

[One after another. If plants cease to exist, the insects will die. If all the insects went extinct, the reptiles would starve and die. The rest of the food chain will follow.]

"..."

[Now answer me, mortals. What have you ever contributed back for the blessings given to you by the gods? Just as you are on top of the food chain of your world, the gods are higher than you, and their gods are higher than them.]

"Stop this boring ted-bullshit and tell us a way to get out of this game!"

[Heh!] Gabriel smirked. [Hahahaha!]

"What's so funny?!"

[There is no way to get out of this world. This is your new world now, and this is where you all will die, sooner or later,] Gabriel laughed aloud.

"You have got to be—"

[Silence! The gods want to speak something...]

After a brief silence, a bright light shined from the sky, and a voice echoed: [Mortals. There is a way to get out of this world, but you will have to work hard to do it. Your systems have been updated, and all the information is provided in the journal under the menu.]

After that, the light vanished, and so did the voice.

[Let me tell you the way to clear this game,] Gabriel asserted. [Do you see the 'Physique' under your stats?]

"Yes."

"I do."

"Yup."

"Yeah."

"What about it?"

All the players started talking at the same time.

[If you have read the journal about this game, then you must know that you need to ascend to the higher realms, and for that, you will have to cultivate.]

"...!" After hearing the word cultivate, Zach furrowed his brows with a shocked expression on his face and uttered inwardly, 'Everyone can cultivate?'

[You need to cultivate your physique, and once you reach a certain physique rank, you will be allowed to ascend.]

'Oh! It's just body cultivation.' Zach sighed with a groan.

"How do we cultivate it?" a player asked.



[There are three ways to cultivate your physique. The first is to train hard and fight as many monsters as you can.]

"That sounds dangerous. What is the second way?"

[The second way is to complete the quests, and you will be given physique points as a reward.]

"Ain't no way I am doing that. What is the third way?"

[The third way is the mix of the first and the second way.]

There was utter silence for a minute before a player asked, "Why do we need physique to ascend?"

[The higher realms would be too dangerous for lowly mortals like you, so first, you need to get strong enough to survive in the lower realms. It is for your own good.]

"How much do we have to ascend to get back to our real world?"

[You should be able to see the realm names and the physique names in the journal. Each realm will have its own sub realms. In each realm, you will fight with new types of monsters. In the lower realms, the bosses will be angels. In the mid realms, the bosses will be archangels. And in the higher realms, the bosses will be gods.]

[However, once you have reached the mid realms, you will get access to a portal where the players will be given a choice; to either go back to their world or keep ascending to the higher realms.]

"Only an idiot will choose to fight the gods or stay in this world!" a player commented.

[The reward for beating the gods is quite tempting, you know?]

"Just for reference, what is the reward?"

"The player who beat all the gods and cleared this game... will get to be a new god, who can rule not only this world but your dying world too.]

\*\*\*

Total players in the game 434233

3010 new players logged in.

0 players died.