

## Gourmet 131

### Chapter 131: Joining a Guild

Changwook smiled softly as he watched the four friends together. He thought, 'I've never seen Minhyuk look this happy before.'

After all, he only came to know Minhyuk after the latter suffered from eating addiction. Throughout the years that they had known each other, the first time that Changwook had seen Minhyuk smile happily was when he ate hard bread for the first time in Athenae. However, right now, Minhyuk was showing a much brighter smile than that.

"Ah. That's right. You must be hungry now," Changwook said, approaching them quickly.

"We have a buffet ready for today."

"Oh! A buffet!"

"Buffet!"

All of them looked excited and happy. They were looking forward to the buffet. It seemed like they were finally going to be able to eat legit food in this 'country' that regulated and controlled the food! They followed Changwook to where the buffet was prepared.

"Well then. Please help yourself. There's tomato steak, tomato juice, tomato chips, tomato..."

"Ack..."

They were shocked by the newest trend in the world, a tomato buffet. However, Minhyuk was enjoying everything happily. Then, Jihye peeked at him and cautiously said, "Minhyuk, by any chance, do you want to join our guild?"

Minhyuk froze on the spot with a tomato still hanging on his lips. When Rován asked him about joining his guild, Minhyuk told him that he wanted to be with his friends. Of course, the premise was that they would not steal his food. However, now that it came down to it, he suddenly felt anxious. He did not know whether it was right for him to join their guild or not. Upon consideration, he realized he was fine now. He had finally realized what they thought of him.

"Sure."

Jisoo, Jihye and Seoktae's expressions all brightened with his answer. Jihye hesitated again. It seemed like she wanted to say something.

"What is it?" Minhyuk asked. He was quick-witted so he realized that she had something to say.

"You see, I checked your cooking skills when you handed me the steak you made for King Varen."

“And then?” Minhyuk prompted. He looked like he knew where this was going.

“I know that it hasn’t been a long time since we’ve met, but I want to ask you for a favor.”

“A favor?” Minhyuk asked in confusion.

Jihye looked very apologetic as she said, “Yeah. Can you cook buffed dishes for our guild members?”

Minhyuk pondered for a moment. He realized that this was a chance! A chance to get the second God’s Dish! A Restaurant’s Full Course Meal!

The first dish allowed him to level up his Food God’s Cooking Skill and acquire an invincible body. Besides, the Pig Trotter Set was truly delicious. So, what about the second dish? How would the Restaurant’s Full Course Meal taste? What abilities would it give him? For him to receive it quickly, he had to cook for others. Of course, he would still be able to take advantage of it by using his skill ‘The Joy of Eating Together’. The only problem was...

‘King Varen only gave me a 5% increase in satisfaction. I believe it would be hard for ordinary players to give me even a 1% increase.’

According to his class quest ‘To Have a Feast with Other People’, there were a lot of factors that could influence the increase in the satisfaction level, things like position, level and abilities. If that was the case, then the members of Legend Guild might be the best customers that he could have. After all, they were high-leveled unofficial rankers.

Then, Jihye said, “Of course, I’m not asking you to do it for free.”

Even if they were guild members, who would even cook for others for free? No, it was also because Jihye wanted to give Minhyuk the best treatment so he would agree to her request.

“We’ll pay you as much as you want. We will also bring you the ingredients for the food. You only need to prepare and cook the dishes.”

It was an interesting offer. They would bring the ingredients for Minhyuk to cook and he would be able to eat with them. That was good. Those were truly decent terms.

“I’ll give you however much you want depending on the amount of buff the dishes would have.”

“To be honest, I don’t really need any money.”

“Ah. R...really?” Jihye asked. Then, she nodded, knowing the reason why. In fact, Jihye was aware that Minhyuk’s artifacts were not just great, they were amazing. When they were attacked in the carriage, his armor had deflected physical attacks and his frying pan, which not only boasted a high defense, it could also deflect magical attacks. Even his sword was not something that was easy to break.

“It’s just... If you don’t need money... Then, what should we do? Should we help you bomb your way through your levels?”

The Legend Guild would drive a bus if it came down to it! Anyone would kill for this opportunity. However, Minhyuk still shook his head. He said, “No. Whenever I cook, you just have to bring me delicious ingredients.”

“De...delicious ingredients?”

“Yeah. Delicious ingredients! Something more special than the regular ingredients!”

“For example?”

“From A-grade cooking ingredients to S-grade cooking ingredients!”

In fact, there were still plenty of ingredients that Minhyuk could not get because of his level. Quite a few ingredients were hidden in high-leveled hunting grounds. However, Minhyuk was sure that Legend Guild would be able to bring him those ingredients, or probably find a way to obtain them.

“OK!” Jihye readily accepted his conditions.

Minhyuk, who had been waiting for the right timing, said, “Then, should we access Athenae first? This is too tasteless... I want to go and eat something delicious...”

“A...agreed...”

They all readily agreed.

“Is there a capsule room here?” Jihye asked.

Minhyuk nodded and said, “Yes. This building has it.”

Minhyuk guided them to a room that was filled with capsules.

“Wow... L...look at all these capsules... A...all of them are new!”

“This is awesome... This is class...!”

They all went into the capsules with awe in their eyes. Meanwhile, Minhyuk went to his own room since he could only fit in his extra large capsule.

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Varen finally met Ellie. He was given a warm welcome while partaking in an enjoyable dinner with her in Eivelis Empire’s Imperial Palace.

‘If the Eivelis Empire can help the Northern Continent with the monster situation, we will give them as much information and support as we can.’

This was proof that Eivelis Empire was moving ahead of Collodis Empire. Countless quests were even given to players affiliated with Eivelis Empire.

“Foreigners, pay heed! We are recruiting troops to subjugate the monsters of the Northern Continent!”

“Hey, hey. Amazing. We should definitely do that quest!”

“Kyaa! Pioneering the Northern Continents!”

It was not just the players of Eivelis Empire that jumped on the opportunity to pioneer the Northern Continent. Even the players from Collodis Empire tried to get a piece of that cake.

“Right now, Eivelis Empire will be doing their best to explore the Northern Continent. We must be the first to conquer and succeed in this exploration! We need to be the first to get the monster drops and valuable resources! Are there any foreigners who want to join this conquest?!”

It might have been worded differently, but the fact that they wanted to explore the Northern Continent remained unchanged.

With the help of the members of Legend Guild, Ellie’s 500 soldiers, and another 50 knights, Varen was able to meet up with the surviving soldiers of the Valkyrie Kingdom.

“Your Highness! We’re very sorry!”

Sob, sob, sob!

Varen’s loyal subjects welcomed him with tears in their eyes. Following Varen, the members of Legend Guild became the first ones to set foot in Valkyrie Kingdom.

[You are the first to discover Valkyrie Kingdom.]

[You have gained 30 REP.]

[The people have been informed that you have saved King Varen.]

[In Valkyrie Kingdom, the Legend Guild will be known as the heroes who saved King Varen.]

[You can purchase items, skill books and potions with a 10% discount.]

[Your high favor with the citizens of Valkyrie Kingdom will make it easier for you to receive quests.]

“Kyaa!” Ace suddenly exclaimed. He said, “There’s definitely a Robin-like woman in this place, right?”

“You’re going to go out with an NPC?”

“Hyung. NPCs are human beings too!”

Crow clicked his tongue and asked, “When is our GM coming?”

“She’ll arrive soon, right?”

Genie, Khan and Locke were all currently logged out but they could easily come here with the ‘Valkyrie Kingdom Return Stone’ that Varen had given them. Giving the return stones or any items between guild members was easy. They only needed to place it in the guild vault and they would be able to access it right away.

“But I still wonder what kind of territory King Varen would give us?”

“I know right?”

“Genie Noona will be the one to receive it, right?”

“Of course. The one with the highest REP in the guild is Genie.”

Genie’s REP was overwhelmingly high. It was almost twice the REP of all of the members of the guild combined. Usually, if the guild received a title or territory, the person with the highest REP would be the one to receive it and not the GM. Someone with a high REP would definitely have an easier time managing the land and the soldiers.

They arrived at Verce, the capital city of Valkyrie Kingdom. All of the members tilted their heads in confusion.

“What’s this? Why are they all so busy?” Ace asked in confusion.

They were not even this busy when their king arrived. The knight assigned to them, a knight from Valkyrie Kingdom’s Silver Knight Order, explained, “It’s because we’re currently preparing for a ritual.”

“A ritual?”

“Yes. Our Valkyrie Kingdom is protected by the Goddess Juis. It is because of the blessings of the Goddess Juis, that monsters do not invade our Valkyrie Kingdom.”

“Ho.”

There were many gods in Athenae, the highest among them being Athenae. Athenae was also more commonly known to its players as the supercomputer that oversaw the worldview of Athenae. There were five other gods that sat beside him, and one of them was Goddess Juis.

“Once a year, everyone would gather together with the priests to hold a week-long memorial and ritual service to express our gratitude to the Goddess Juis.”

“Gasp... A week...”

“We are very grateful to her, so a week is only natural,” The knight said, looking up at the sky and folding his hands in a prayer.

“Goddess Juis is a gourmand. She has an extremely demanding palette for food.”

“Gourmand?” Crow asked, his interest piqued ever so slightly.

“Yes. After each ancestral rite, Goddess Juis will come down to our land and taste the dishes made by the legendary chef, Rald, before ascending once again. She has a really picky taste. There was a time when a salmon, which had been spoiled, was sent up by mistake.”

“Yes.”

“Goddess Juis was extremely furious. Back then, the Northern Continent suffered from drought for a long time. Even the monsters became extremely ferocious and attacked the villages at the outskirts of Valkyrie Kingdom. It was a punishment from

Goddess Juis. Ever since then, every citizen has been very meticulous in the details of the ritual.”

Crow nodded. He thought, ‘So to put it simply, she turned the table upside down because the food was not good. Right?’

She must be a goddess that was very demanding and difficult to please. At that moment...

[Guild Chat: Guild Master Genie has logged in.]

...Genie had logged in. It seemed like she had plenty of things to say right away.

[Guild Master Genie: I have some good news. We have two new guild members joining us.]

Ace and Crow looked at the chat with interest.

[Guild Master Genie: The first one is Root.]

“Oh. Root’s skills with the bow are amazing.” Crow said in awe.

Then...

[Guild Master Genie: And the other one is the Frying Pan Killer who killed Rumad. In fact, his real class is...]

Genie paused for a moment and both Crow and Ace tilted their heads in anticipation.

[Guild Master Genie: ...A chef who can make buffed dishes.]

“Gasp?!”

“OMG?! This is more shocking than that time when White Beard died!”

Ace and Crow’s eyes met. A chef had such ridiculous power?! The guild chat was suddenly very active.

[Guild Chat: Minhyuk has joined Legend?Guild.]

## Chapter 132: His Worth

All Collodis Empire players were on alert. The Valkyrie Kingdom from the Northern Continent and the Eivelis Empire had formed an alliance. This meant that there was a high possibility that the players from Eivelis Empire would have monopoly over countless artifacts, information and other various valuable things. In addition, there was also a possibility that the guilds stationed in the Eivelis Empire could outclass and outperform the guilds from Collodis Empire.

Player Callian was the guild master of Iris Guild, one of the top four guilds in the country. He was ranked 22nd in the overall local rankings, and was considered to be one of the strongest players in the country. In addition, Iris Guild was so overwhelmingly strong that when players were asked?‘Which’s the best guild in the country?’?all of them would answer:?‘Of course it’s Iris Guild!’. There might be four great guilds in the country but among the four, Iris Guild had the most advantageous position.

Iris Guild’s Callian was standing in front of a cave with a grave expression on his face. The door that led inside the cave was shut tight and the person who was inside the closed-off cave was none other than Necromancer Bach.

‘Bach. You’re the only one I can trust.’

Necromancer Bach had an outstanding ability—soul summoning! If the soul summoning skill was triggered successfully, they would be able to summon a soul and ask them some questions. However, this was a special skill that had a rare chance of being successfully triggered. In addition, there would be a large penalty inflicted on Bach with each question asked.

Bang, bang, bang!

The door of the cave slowly opened and the black-robed Bach walked out.

“Did the soul summoning succeed?” Callian asked.

Bach slowly nodded. What he summoned was the soul of a deceased priest from Valkyrie Kingdom. The body was recovered by Iris Guild in case the raid to take away King Varen failed. Through the body, they could summon the soul and locate the Valkyrie Kingdom.

“Can it help us change the situation of the game right now?”

Bach smiled deeply and said, “Yes. There’s actually a simpler way to drive out Legend Guild from Valkyrie Kingdom.”

“...Oho?!” Callian exclaimed in surprise.

There was a simpler way to drive out Legend Guild. Right now, all of the guilds were trying to find a way to keep the growth of Legend Guild in check since they were set to be the first guild to acquire a territory in Valkyrie Kingdom.

Bach chuckled deeply before explaining, “You can poison the ritual food for Goddess Juis.”

“Poison the ritual food for Goddess Juis?” Callian asked, looking at Bach in doubt as Bach retold him the stories that he had heard inside.

It was said that Goddess Juis once found the ritual food to be distasteful and cast a terrible drought over the kingdom for several days. Therefore, what if the food was poisoned?

“There would be a great disaster...” Callian murmured to himself.

What if the ritual food that would be served to Goddess Juis was something that she did not like? What if they went beyond that and gave her something that was laden with poison? It was likely that a devastating catastrophe might sweep the whole of the Northern Continent.

“The priest was a high ranking priest.”

“Really?”

“And I received a lot of information from him, you know?”

If the soul summoning was successful then the summoned soul had no choice but to answer the question of the summoner.

Then, Bach said, “The Valkyrie Kingdom will be thrown into disarray for quite some time because of the angry Goddess Juis. And since it will happen during the appearance of the Legend Guild, the public will be furious.”

Callian nodded. It definitely made sense. However, what could they get from something like this? Was he saying that they could only achieve the fall of Legend Guild and nothing else?

Bach spoke as if he had read his mind, "We can find a way to save them from their situation. Originally, the priest was someone amazing. He was someone that could give a hidden quest to players. He said that if we want to calm the angry Goddess Juis, then we have to find the 'Corrupted Juis' Dungeon'. If we find the dungeon, then we will be able to find the 'Spirit of the Wrathful Juis' inside. Once we find the 'Spirit of the Wrathful Juis,' we can calm her down if we offer her a sumptuous banquet. He also said that there will be amazing rewards."

Callian once again nodded at his remarks. It was definitely an extremely high-ranking quest. In this update, the players were told that there were SS-ranked quests that were released so this might be one of them. Of course, this quest was something that they needed to fabricate. Especially placing and retrieving the poison.

"...What if we broadcast it live?"

Iris Guild was related to a game broadcasting channel called 'Dungeon Attack Live!'. If they were to broadcast how they clear an SS-ranked quest as well as saving the day like heroes, it would definitely be an interesting feed. If they did this quest, the Collodis Empire would be the one to save Valkyrie Kingdom. Perhaps King Varen would even become close enough with Iris Guild instead of the other guilds. It was also possible to hide the fact that Iris Guild was involved with the raid since it was only Ares Guild and Rumad that attacked him.

"There are two problems."

Callian rubbed his chin in thought as he listed the two problems. He said, "The first problem... How do we get the poison in the food?"

"Of course, I've already asked the soul I have summoned about the whereabouts and the exact situation of Valkyrie Kingdom," Bach grinned widely, he was after all, a very meticulous person.

Then came their second problem...

"Who will cook the banquet?"

...It was easy to find the location of the Wrathful Spirit of Juis. However, it would be a big problem if they could not satisfy her with the meal that they brought. However, who could make a dish that could satisfy a Goddess? The two of them were lost in thought for quite some time. Not long after, Callian's finger popped up as if he had thought of something.

Pop!

"The Twilight Chef, Black!"

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Minhyuk looked disappointed after accessing Athena. He came in to eat the sushi made by the Legendary Chef! But when he came in, the Legendary Chef and King Varen were both busy

preparing for the ritual and ceremony. However there was nothing that Minhyuk could do, this was something that was necessary for the Valkyrie Kingdom. He just had to wait for a bit.

In the meantime, Minhyuk tried to find other ways to eat delicious food.

“I’m Minhyuk, the new member. Please take good care of me,” Minhyuk said, bowing his head at the members of Legend Guild that welcomed him with a warm round of applause.

They successfully recruited the Frying Pan Killer, the person that’s currently on fire! This was an event that none of them would ignore. Then, there was also Root.

“I’m Root. Please take good care of me.”

Then, Genie said, “As I have said before, Minhyuk is also my friend in real life. Due to some things, this is our first time meeting after five years. And just like what I have said before, Minhyuk is a really, really, really good chef.”

“For real?”

“I still can’t believe it...”

The guild members were still in shock. The Frying Pan Killer was an excellent damage dealer. His strikes were so powerful that they could crush the enemy in one go. He was even comparable to rankers with his impressive armor, incredible strength, and high HP that was far higher than his level. But what the guild members thought was...

‘Buffed dishes...’

Buffed dishes!? It was not bad. However, the members were slightly apprehensive, after all, the better the effects, the more expensive the dishes were. In the case of priests, higher buffs meant having a greater consumption of their MP. Compared to the expensive buffed dishes, using MP was far more cost effective. It was the only thing that was restricting other players from purchasing plenty of buffed dishes.

“Minhyuk can make really awesome buffed dishes. But, there’s nothing free in this world, right?”

Genie smiled lightly as she continued to speak. “Whenever Minhyuk cooks for us, all of us should provide him with the ingredients.”

“Ah. That’s a matter of fact.”

“Of course.”

All of the guild members nodded in agreement.

Meanwhile, Crow asked, “How much is it?”

Crow asked this since buffed dishes were literally more expensive compared to their effects. He once bought and ate a dish made by the Twilight Chef Black. It cost four platinum just for a bowl of buffed food. It’s worth at least 20 million won in cash. Of course, the effects were excellent. There was a 13% increase in EXP Acquisition Rate and a +2% on all stats for an eight-day duration. Crow

was in the middle of a leveling spree so he had no choice but to bite the bullet and buy it. When he asked them why a dish was so expensive this was the answer that he got from one of the guild members of Louvert, the guild headed by Twilight Chef Black...

‘The dishes are made only with expensive ingredients.’

It was the only reason why it was expensive. It had to be expensive since they used plenty of expensive ingredients for the dish.

“Uhm. I think it’s best we make a final deal with Minhyuk here,” This was Genie’s answer. In fact, Minhyuk said that it was enough for him to get ‘Delicious Ingredients’. However, she felt that Minhyuk’s compensation should differ depending on the value of the buffed dishes that he had made.

Minhyuk understood what Genie meant. Guilds could not be kept running just on friendship. Everyone should be helpful to each other and pay for their services according to their value. Most of the guilds that depended only on friendship were still at the bottom of the ladder.

“Then, why don’t we do it like this? I’ll cook for you and you’ll get the delicious ingredients for me.”

“D...delicious ingredients?”

All of the guild members looked at him in confusion. Not millions of gold, nor a few platinum, but delicious ingredients?

“Our Minhyuk here is a glutton for food...”

“Ha, haha... That’s a bit too much,” Crow laughed awkwardly.

Genie did not bother explaining to them about Minhyuk’s condition. She also did not think that it was necessary to explain about his family.

“If you don’t mind it, how about 20 million gold for a rare buffed dish, an A-grade ingredient for a unique buffed dish, an S-grade ingredient for an epic buffed dish and two S-grade ingredients for a legendary buffed dish?”

Minhyuk made a rough calculation for the rest of the guild members. For a rare buffed dish, 20 million gold. In comparison, a rare buffed dish costs about one platinum coin from Twilight Chef Black. In the case of the unique ranked dish that Crow bought from them, it was at around 400 million gold or four platinum. If they used purely A-grade ingredients for the dish then the price could range anywhere from 50 million gold to one platinum. Chef Black’s dish was priced at four platinum. This was because a dish was priced depending on the reputation of the chef, the cost of the cooking and ingredients and the value of the grade of the dish.

What Minhyuk did was something similar. His rate would differ depending on the cost of the cooking, the price of the ingredient and the grade of the dish. However, there was still a loophole here.

“I think it’s still too expensive. GM.” Crow said.

“...I think it’s a bit cheaper,” Genie said, her words turning into a mumble as Crow tilted his head in confusion.

“Cheap?”

The other guild members were also confused.

Ace said, “Eyy. Noona. The dishes made by the world-renowned Chef Black are around 400~600 million gold but that was Chef Black. But he...”

Minhyuk was a chef that no one had ever heard of. In all honesty, his strength as the Frying Pan Killer was already proven. However, plenty of them had said that he was just lucky. Of course, aside from his strength, he had not proven his skills with cooking. People would not believe anything that they had not seen.

That was when Genie realized it. She thought, ‘I was sending out a proposal to the guild members without showing them what Minhyuk is capable of...’

Genie smiled wryly. This was an understandable response. The dishes made by Black, the Twilight Chef, were superior to the rare classed dishes made by other chefs. And there was also his name which added value to his dishes. In fact, the dishes made by Twilight Chef Black were said to be extremely delicious so the high price was completely validated.

But for Minhyuk? Nothing has been proven yet. Whether it was the buff or the taste, there was still nothing. There was also the question of whether his cooking could replace the buff of priests. Buffed dishes were basically not eaten unless they could surpass the buffs cast by priests. If they considered all of this, then it was safe to say that Minhyuk’s demands were extremely absurd.

Minhyuk stayed quiet while the guild members spoke. He assessed their responses before speaking. He said, “Twilight Chef Black? Were his buffs that good...? I don’t know about that.”

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

All of the guild members turned to look at Minhyuk.

### Chapter 133: His Worth

You think that Twilight Chef Black’s buffed dishes are not that good?

No. Black, the Twilight Chef, was clearly an outstanding chef. He was even considered as one of the top chefs in the world. Even the buff effect, the shelf life, and the preservation time of his dishes were ridiculously high. Crow was willing to be a testament to this fact.

“Are you serious?” Ace asked incredulously. This was the normal reaction of anyone who heard Minhyuk’s words.

Minhyuk had checked the information regarding Twilight Chef Black’s dishes on the official homepage of Athena. He could tell that Twilight Chef Black’s dishes had a lower amount of buff compared to his, even when using the same ingredient grade.

“Yes.”

“Uhm...”

The guild members hummed in disagreement while Genie interjected and said, “Crow, why don’t you taste Minhyuk’s dish first?”

“Then, let’s do that.”

In a way, it felt like he was taking one for the team. However, in reality, Crow preferred solitude. He would even buy other people’s buffed dishes if he was not able to buy Twilight Chef Black’s dishes.

‘Good. Let’s see. I wonder what delicious food I’ll be able to eat through Crow?’

Minhyuk thought. After all, he could eat with him. Then, he used his Create a Recipe skill.

[Creating a recipe that the other party desires.]

[You can now check the recipe for Curry Rice.]

[The amount of buff that can be used has been decreased due to creating a recipe.]

‘Ooooooh. Curry rice!’

Minhyuk smiled slightly. Curry rice. It was a yellow-ish steaming dish with plenty of vegetables and meat. A very tasty dish that was perfect with rice! Minhyuk quickly checked the recipe.

(Curry Rice Recipe for Crow)

Required Ingredients: Red Pig’s Tenderloin, Curry Powder, Aveinro’s Broccoli, Onions, Moonlight Potato, Carrots.

Expected Dish Grade: Unique~Legendary

Expected Effects:

?Dramatic increase in Crow’s EXP Acquisition Rate.

?Great increase in Crow’s Spearmanship Mastery.

After Minhyuk checked it, he thought,?‘It was the same as last time too...’

Minhyuk knew that his Create a Recipe skill was incredible. Based on what he had seen, the recipe will give out buffs that the person truly needed at that moment. To prove his assumption, Minhyuk asked Crow. He said, “By any chance, are you desperately trying to level-up these days?”

“...That’s right.”

“As expected.”

“What was expected?” Genie asked, a bit confused.

Minhyuk explained, “I have a skill that allows me to see a recipe that the other person wants the most.”

The Create a Recipe Skill was literally like that. It would show Minhyuk what the other party liked, or wanted to eat the most. Then, Minhyuk said, “Crow, do you want to eat some curry?”

“H...how did you know that?”

A few days ago, Crow wanted to eat some curry so badly. However, Crow lived alone so the only curry that he could eat was the three-minute instant curry pack. What he wanted to eat was real curry, the one with potatoes, carrots and meat, not just instant curry.

“And you like broccoli in your curry, right?”

“Gasp!” Crow gasped in surprise. He looked like he had seen a ghost. Broccoli in curry was a debatable ingredient. However, it was something that was entirely dependent on the person’s preference. However, Minhyuk could tell because of the recipe that was created.

“Th...that’s right.”

“But Minhyuk, how did you know that Crow desperately needed to level up? Crow actually has a lower level compared to others in the guild.”

The bounty hunter, Crow! He was someone that was more interested in bounty hunting than increasing his level. He was a great damage dealer and was necessary for the group. But these days, the effect of his damage was almost negligible thanks to his low level. That was why Crow thought of increasing his level here in the Northern Continent.

“Because there’s a buff that’s related to increasing the level for Crow in the dish that I will make.”

“Oh. That’s good,” Crow said. He looked like he was satisfied when he heard that part.

“By any chance, can you bring me the ingredients that I ask for?”

“Yes.”

“Red Pig’s tenderloin, curry powder, Aveinro’s Broccoli, Moonlight Potato, onions and carrots.”

“Huh... Uhm, wait...” Crow said, flustered at the ingredients. The carrots, onions and curry powder seemed like they were normal ingredients. However, the other ingredients sounded unfamiliar to them. However, all of them were fully aware that all of the ingredients that he said could be found in Athenae.

Crow quickly searched for the ingredients. He first looked for the Red Pig’s tenderloin. The Red Pig was a pig that only grows in Adred Village and is an A-grade ingredient. It was said that it was juicier compared to other meat and its texture was soft and chewy. Then, there was Aveinro’s broccoli, it was said that it could only be obtained from Aveinro. From what Crow read, Aveinro was a man that had been growing broccolis for four generations. And the Moonlight Potato was a mysterious potato that was nurtured and grown under the light of the moon.

“Th...these ingredients. Are there simpler ingredients?” Crow asked. He was a bit embarrassed since he did not expect the ingredients to be more expensive than what

he expected. If he failed, he would lose money. That was something that he could not afford.

“Well, if you don’t have the ingredients, we can replace them with regular ingredients. However, the maximum grade and the buff effect of the dish will drop. Ah, right. I should also let you know that you can only taste my dishes once per month.”

“Hmm...” Crow hummed. He looked around when he heard that the buff effect would also drop.

“Do you guys have any of these ingredients?”

“Huh? I think I have Aveinro’s Broccoli?” Locke said, rummaging through his inventory. Then, he pulled out a broccoli saying, “Tadah!” and showed it to them.

“It’s here!”

“Ooooooh. Locke. Thanks!”

“Just thanks? Pay up.”

“...I’ll pay you with our guild member’s D.C.” Crow said, grabbing Aveinro’s Broccoli from Locke. He said that he received the broccoli from a strange quest and that Aveinro’s Broccoli had a strange ability wherein it would not be spoiled or damaged even after a long time. Aveinro’s Broccoli was an A-grade ingredient and since it was a material, it was not owned by the guild and their guild members.

“Then, take this one first.”

In fact, Crow was not really expecting much.

‘Still, the price for Aveinro’s broccoli.....’

He traded Aveinro’s Broccoli with Locke for 20 million gold.

Minhyuk nodded as he began substituting the rest of the ingredients with regular ones. After he had finished that, he finally began to cook. The rest of the members of Legend Guild were originally going to hunt or look for quests, but they stayed back and watched him cook. After all, Minhyuk had been so confident with himself, and based on his tone, it seemed like he truly believed that Chef Black’s cooking was nothing noteworthy. If he did not meet their expectations, he had to pay the price.

‘I wonder how much the satisfaction level will increase with this?’ Minhyuk thought as he cooked. However, the satisfaction level was just the satisfaction level, what he was truly looking forward to was eating curry. After all, the dish contained Aveinro’s Broccoli.

The first thing Minhyuk did was season the pork tenderloin with a tablespoon of cooking wine, two pinches of salt, and some pepper. Then, he cut the potatoes and carrots into small cubes while mincing the onion and cutting the broccoli into bite-sized pieces. After finishing all of his preparations, Minhyuk greased his pan with cooking oil and heated it with fire. He also sliced the seasoned pork tenderloin before placing them inside the frying pan.

Sizzle!

Once the pinkish meat had turned white, he added the vegetables and stir fried them together.

[This is the best time to add water and curry powder.]

Food God's Cooking Skill assisted him again today. Perhaps it was because the cooking felt a bit more special today, compared to other days. There was also a delicious curry. Minhyuk knew of a better way of eating curry, but he felt that the other members of Legend Guild were still a bit wary and distrustful of his skills, so he refrained from telling them. He felt it more especially from Crow, the person whom he was cooking this dish for. Therefore, Minhyuk wanted to feed him delicious curry to prove it to him. Of course, it was also because he could taste it together with him, so he was doing his best for this dish.

Minhyuk poured water into the pan before adding the curry powder and letting it boil. Once the powder was completely dissolved in the boiling water, he stirred the dish as it began to thicken.

[This is the best time to turn off the heat.]

The magical ability that was attached to Minhyuk's frying pan automatically turned off after the notification. The curry rice was finally finished. The spectacular colors of the vegetables in the bright yellow curry could make anyone's mouth water. At that moment, a series of notifications rang in his head.

[You have completed a Curry Rice.]

[Crow's dish is the only dish with the buff effect.]

[The Create a Recipe Skill Effect can only be tasted by the same person once per month.]

[Trance. It's a dish that has your 'soul' poured into it.]

[Due to the effects of Trance, the buff effect has become better.]

[Unique Grade.]

[You have gained 2 DEX.]

[You have gained 4 REP.]

[You have gained AP.]

The passive skill Trance appeared once again. Triggering the skill Trance was quite difficult since there were a lot of different factors like mindset and circumstances. When he cooked for Chef Len before, Trance was triggered because he felt that he wanted Len to be happy and regain his lost sense of taste with the first dish that he made. Right now, it seemed like it was triggered because he wanted to feed Crow delicious food and prove to the guild members his superb skills and make them 'feel the joy of cooking'.

‘Buff effects are better when Trance is triggered!’

After confirming this fact, Minhyuk smiled.

‘With this...’

Minhyuk was sure that Crow would be satisfied!

“Wow. It looks really delicious!”

“I...I just want to eat the meat right there.”

The guild members of Legend Guild were in awe as they looked at the piping hot curry over the steaming rice. Curry rice was usually served in large quantities but this dish was made only for Crow!

“Well then, we can’t leave out the kimchi, pickled radish and seaweed.”

“Kghk! Minhyuk, you have the same taste as me!” Crow said as he admired the dish. Crow liked eating curry with kimchi. Even wrapping the curry rice in seaweed would bring about a different taste. However, before he ate it, Crow first checked the dish’s information.

‘Shall we look at the buff effect that he’s boasting about?’

(Curry Rice)

Material Grade: A

Rank: Unique

Restrictions: Only Crow could have the buff effects.

Shelf Life: 12 days

Preservation Time: 12 days

Special Effects:

?Spearmanship Mastery +2

?EXP Acquisition Rate +23%

Description: A dish made solely for Crow. This dish had the power of Chef Minhyuk’s Trance which enhances the effect of the buffs.

“...!”

Crow remained silent, his body trembling widely.

“Huh? Huh...”

Crow was holding a spoon earlier in excitement, but the spoon had now fallen to the ground.

Clang—

‘This is impossible. I can’t breathe.’

Crow took a deep breath to calm himself down.

“W...what’s wrong? Crow Hyung!”

“C...Crow?”

The guild members looked at him curiously. Meanwhile, Genie smiled lightly. She thought, ‘I know that feeling better than anyone else.’

When she first saw the dish made by Minhyuk, she also could barely believe her eyes. Not long after, Crow finally opened his mouth. He said, “Th...the buff... is really high. A +2 on my spearmanship mastery and my EXP... my EXP...”

The words were stuck in Crow’s throat. He could not bring himself to speak, that was how unbelievable it was. He had paid four platinum coins before to eat a dish that gave him a 13% increase in EXP Acquisition Rate for 8 days. However, the dish in front of him right now would be giving him almost twice the amount for half the price.

Earlier, he completely ignored what Minhyuk said, believing in what the members of the Louvert Guild said about the price of the ingredients being expensive. Back then, the dish made by Twilight Chef Black also had A-grade ingredients. It had at least around 2~3 A-grade ingredients. He knew this since players could see the rank of the ingredients used in the dish. However, Minhyuk clearly used only one A-grade ingredient, and he was able to exhibit such an effect.

“C...Crow... Tell me! What about the EXP?!” Ace urged Crow as he gulped at the sight of the curry rice that Minhyuk made.

“The rate increase is up to 23%... It also has a 12 days’ shelf life and a 12 days’ preservation time. That’s on top of the +2... on my Spearmanship Mastery!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

#### Chapter 134: His Worth

The guild members' eyes all widened in surprise. 23%?!? A player could only receive such a huge EXP Acquisition Rate during special events. For a player to reach that level of EXP buff effect, they needed to wear two ‘Growth Rings’ easily worth 300 platinum each. These growth rings had the ability to increase the experience by 5% each. Furthermore, the players also had to eat a buffed dish made by the Twilight Chef, Black. Yet, right in front of their eyes, such an effect was displayed for less than one platinum.

There was even a +2 on the Spearmanship Mastery! Each class had an examination that would determine their rankings, if the player ranked high, they would receive a mastery passive skill. This mastery passive skill had a wondrous effect where it could increase the attack power, movement speed and attack speed whenever the skill level increases. Crow’s Spearmanship Mastery was at Level 7. With the dish that Minhyuk made, it would be temporarily increased to Level 9. With that temporary increase, Crow’s attack power, movement speed and attack speed were boosted by 8%.

“C...crazy...! Crow, don't mess with us!”

“Can you even think of White Beard's death as a joke?”

“H...how can I think of something like that as a joke!”

“I'm also not messing around. All of you should take a look at it!” Crow said, as Ace hurriedly went in front of the curry rice. After checking the dish, Ace took not one, but two steps back in shock before...

Thud!

...falling down on his butt and crying out, “C...crazy...!”

Even the silver-haired Goddess of Battle, Ascar, a person whose expression was constantly stoic, looked intrigued. She quietly loosened her crossed arms and approached the dish. Ascar's eyes widened ever so slightly as she looked at the dish and the ingredients used. She said, “I...I can't believe this.”

Her eyes stared straight at Minhyuk. The guild members now finally realized that Minhyuk was not being arrogant nor conceited when he said those words earlier. In fact, it could clearly be seen that Minhyuk's dishes were far superior to anyone else's dishes. If they compared the dishes made by Twilight Chef Black with Minhyuk's dishes, it seemed that Black's dishes were truly too shabby.

“I...I'll eat this! Minhyuk, I'll pay you ten platinum!”

“Huuuuuh? I'll pay 20 platinum!”

“30! 30!”

A 23% increase in EXP acquisition rate would give them the possibility to overtake and beat the rankers that were higher than them in the rankings. This was also the reason why all of them were so surprised. It would not be strange if the price would increase by a lot.

“It's mine!” Crow shouted, his face crumpling in annoyance. Then, he smiled and gloated, “This is a dish made just for me!”

It was clearly labeled on the dish that it was specifically for Crow and the buff effect would only take effect if he was the one who ate it. The guild members groaned, their faces filled with regret.

“Please take a seat, Crow!” Minhyuk said. He did not care one bit about the reactions and responses of the rest of the guild members. He picked up the spoon that fell on the ground, replaced it with a new one and handed it over to Crow before urging him again.

“Ah. Yes.”

Crow's face was filled with confusion as he sat down and placed the steaming curry rice on top of his manly, fatherly legs. Then, as if on cue, the same curry rice appeared in front of Minhyuk.

“Hehe! Delicious curry rice!”

“...A special ability.”

The guild members looked on in surprise as they saw the curry rice appear in front of Minhyuk. Then, Crow picked up his plate and savored the deep and flavorful aroma of the curry rice in his hands. The strong smell of the spices was already making his mouth water endlessly and he could not help but drool.

‘Wouldn’t it be great if this also tasted good?’ Crow thought as he looked at the plump, glossy rice sitting on the side of the plate and the thick curry beside it. Then, he moved his spoon and mixed the curry and the rice together. After mixing, Crow took a spoonful to his mouth. The unique aroma of the curry slowly spread in his mouth as he chewed. The thick curry sauce, together with the plump rice, slightly ripe carrots, onions, broccoli and potatoes mixed together to create a beautiful harmony. The carrots were also not too soft, nor too hard, but still a bit crunchy, which added a pleasant texture to the dish. Even the pork tenderloin was chewy and juicy which perfectly rounded up the dish.

“...”

Crow looked down at his curry rice for a moment. It was nothing short of spectacular, its taste thick and flavorful. He only had one bite, but he already felt sorry for himself that he had not yet eaten it to his heart’s content. So, he mixed the dish thoroughly and ate another bite.

“Crow, say something!”

“Crow?”

However, Crow did not answer them. He was focused on adding a well-ripened kimchi on top of his mixed curry rice. After adding the kimchi, he carefully placed it in his mouth.

Crunch, crunch!

The crunchy kimchi with its sweet and spicy flavor had caught the taste that curry lacked and made it whole. He quickly ate another bite. However, this time it was with pickled radish. The combination of the sweet and sour pickled radish was also divine. Then, he wrapped the curry rice with the savory roasted seaweed. Since the curry was cooked well, this bite was completely savory and delicious.

‘It’s really delicious.’

Crow ate it all in one go. He could not help but reach his hands out for the pan. He quickly ladled out the remaining curry while Minhyuk scooped up some rice from his rice cooker and added it to the curry. The two of them ate and ate again. Crow easily ate three servings in one sitting. He picked up a glass of cold water.

Gulp, gulp—

After gulping down the water Crow let out a breath and closed his eyes in bliss, a small smile hanging at the corner of his lips. He stayed like that for a moment, before opening his eyes and saying, “My god. I have never tasted such delicious curry rice in my life...”

Crow said this with all his heart and sincerity. A person could experience plenty of emotions and feelings whenever they ate delicious food.

‘Ah, it’s delicious.’

‘Ah, I really want to eat it next time.’

‘I feel good since I had a hearty meal today.’

Such thoughts would definitely surface in the mind. However, Crow was sure of one thing... the dish made him happy and satisfied. He turned to Minhyuk and said, “Thank you, Minhyuk. It was truly delicious.”

Minhyuk looked up at him after he finished eating his curry rice. ?All of the guild members looked at him. Especially Locke. He was drooling all over as he looked at Minhyuk and his plate longingly.

“Waah. Me, me too... I want to eat too.”

It had great buffs and it was delicious too. They felt that this was the best restaurant since the food was both affordable, delicious and useful to them.

“Should I go next? Hoho!” Locke swiftly and naturally raised this matter.

Ascar looked at him and frowned. She said, “No. It’s me, Locke.”

The usually silent and frigid Ascar spoke firmly for the first time.

Ace also spoke up, “No. Hyungs and Noonas! It’s the best time for me to eat and grow up, are you not going to give this chance to your lovely youngest?”

“No.”

“No.”

“No.”

“A...a straight refusal...” Ace said, taken aback. ‘How can these people be like this!’

Genie finally mediated between the rest of them. She said, “I’m really, really sorry, but I think one among the three of us should eat his dish next.”

The three people that she spoke of were Genie herself, Khan and Locke.

“Wow, Genie Noona! You’re so cunning!” Ace said while sulking, and the rest of the guild members looked at Genie in confusion.

“We don’t have much time left, the dungeon needs to be cleared.”

“Ah...!”

“That’s right. Ah.”

Genie, Locke and Khan were trying to clear a dungeon. They wanted to take a video of them clearing that dungeon to show the world about Legend Guild and the time for them to clear that dungeon was coming to an end.

Dungeons like this would pop out sometimes. If the number of failures increased and they still did not clear the dungeon, it would either disappear from that place or close permanently. The dungeon that they were challenging was just like that. Right now, the three of them needed to eat some buffed dishes to quickly clear the dungeon. The rest of the guild members looked a bit disappointed.

However, at that time Crow suddenly shrieked, “Aaaaaaack!”

“Ack?! W...what! What’s wrong?!”

“Don’t tell me there’s a side effect with the buffed dish?”

“Does he want to go to the bathroom?”

“D...damn,” Crow said. He looked like he wanted to cry as he continued to say, “W... why did I only use one A-grade ingredient... If I used the rest of the ingredients, the effects would definitely be even more amazing!”

“Ah...”

“Uhm...”

The guild members understood Crow’s dilemma. Minhyuk made it clear to them earlier. He said that they could replace the ingredients, however, the rank of the dish and the buff effects would definitely decrease. However, right now the meaning could also be interpreted differently.

“W...what... if Crow Hyung used all of the ingredients that Minhyuk Hyung listed earlier, what kind of dish would he make?”

“...”

“...”

The guild members all fell silent. Meanwhile, Minhyuk shook his head and said, “Considering the A-grade ingredient that we have this time, the effects of the buffed dish were already good. We were also lucky to have a unique ranked dish.”

“But, a unique dish came out this time, is it possible for an epic or a legendary dish to come out next time?”

“That’s always the case, right? Of course, the better the grade of the ingredients, the more likely you are to eat that rank of dishes. However, you should also keep in mind that you can only eat my dish once a month.”

The guild members all nodded in understanding.

‘Wow, for real... his abilities are really amazing.’

There was only one reason why the guild members thought like that. If you bought an artifact from a blacksmith, even if the quality was good, they would usually only use it for a few months before asking for another artifact to be made again.

On the contrary, what about these dishes? Although they had to pay for it handsomely, they will be able to eat it once per month. Artifacts, of course, were much more expensive than dishes, but they would eventually reach a limit depending on the material that was used. What about Minhyuk's dishes? They would not hit any limit besides the once-a-month restriction. Besides, anyone that saw the buff of his dishes would definitely come back again like junkies looking for their supply. What if they got used to the 10% additional strength and the buff suddenly disappeared on them? They would definitely not get used to it. ?It was like Minhyuk's worth jumped to 10 billion, no, to one trillion with just one dish.

At that moment, Genie suddenly said, "Among the three of us, can you cook for Locke first?"

"Woohoo!" Locke rejoiced. He laughed happily as Genie explained her reason.

"Locke's heal effect is very strong. If his ability to put the enemy in a bleeding state becomes stronger, I believe we can take down the enemy easily. I think it will also work well in that dungeon."

"Really? I understand."

Minhyuk nodded as he used his 'Create a Recipe' skill. Once he checked the recipe for the dish that he would be eating, he could not help but jump up in surprise. He said, "It's steamed monkfish. Yay!"

Minhyuk was supposed to cook for Locke, but it was him who was delighted with the fact that he would cook steamed monkfish.

'Ah. That's right. Minhyuk can also eat with us, right?'

Locke was also in high spirits. He said, "Kyaa! Steamed monkfish! I can't wait. I'm definitely going to collect the best ingredients and eat them!"

Then, Ace burst his bubble and said, "Wow. Hyung, you'll also eat food that looks like you?"

"...Y...you want to die?!"

\*\*\*

The chefs of the Valkyrie Kingdom were moving busily. Among them was Legendary Chef Rald. The reason why he was dubbed as the legendary chef was simple. There was once a dragon that attacked Valkyrie Kingdom. The dragon, together with his powerful soldiers, wreaked havoc and almost devastated the kingdom. That dragon was the Black Dragon, Aspel. He continued to invade the kingdom despite the protection of the God Juis.

At that time, Black Dragon Aspel transformed and hid himself in the palace. He killed the king and all of his knights, before trying to kill the rest of the people in the palace. However, before he could do so, it was said that he had been drunk by the smell of the cooking and that he desired Rald to cook a delicious dish for him.

Even monsters regarded food as something important in their lives. Therefore, delicious food was also something that they would covet. Rald feared that Black Dragon Aspen would kill him and the rest of the people so he had no choice but to cook for him. However, it was likely just a legend. It was a fictitious story that came from the mouths of the people around him. They made that story to

express how delicious Rald's cooking was. Since he was the one in charge of cooking the food that would be served to satisfy the Goddess Juis, they had already considered his story to not be too far from that legend.

"I believe that Goddess Juis will also be satisfied with this dish again."

The ingredients were the best of the best. The dish could only be made with ingredients above the S-grade. Furthermore, the dish he made was always at least at the epic rank! To make this one dish, Rald repeatedly cooked with S-grade ingredients until he got it perfectly. Goddess Juis was picky and she would not eat anything below the epic rank.

And the dish that would be served to her was....

...Braised short ribs! To be exact, it was not just a simple serving of braised short ribs. The braised short ribs would be the main dish and there would be various delicious side dishes that would be served along with it. Even those side dishes were made to be extremely delicious and appetizing. Rald smiled pleasantly, unaware of the looming disaster.

#### Chapter 135: His Worth

King Varen and the priests raised their hands high up in the sky solemnly saying, "Goddess Juis, we are grateful for your blessings... let us cherish you and show you our respect...?chatter, chatter..."

Hundreds of priests also continued to chant spells behind them. As per tradition, the ritual food was quickly served and placed on the altar. There was only one thing left... a week-long process. Goddess Juis would soon descend and taste the food.

'The dish this time is much better than the last time, so maybe, just maybe, Goddess Juis will bless Valkyrie Kingdom to be richer and more abundant this time,' Rald thought, smiling softly.

Then, the priests and King Varen prostrated in front of the statue of Goddess Juis. The priests bowed down to the ground with their palms facing up towards the sky. A small ball of white light, the size of a thumb, slowly floated up from their palms. Tens of thousands of spheres of light floated up in the sky.

Flash!

A strong burst of light flashed as Rald and the rest of the chefs bowed down to welcome her.

Then...

Step, step, step—

...They heard the clear sound of footsteps. Rald had never seen her face before. However, according to King Varen, she was so beautiful that only the term goddess was enough to describe her countenance.

Clack, clack—

They could hear the clack of the utensils on the table, then... the sound of the spoon stopped.

Chew, chew—

She let out a small sigh of appreciation. Even though Rald could not see her face, he knew that she was smiling in satisfaction. Her spoon was even moving so fast.

King Varen smiled softly as he watched everything in silence. He thought, 'I heard that this dish was the best... I guess it's true.'

Varen believed that Valkyrie Kingdom would be blessed with more abundance and riches next year. In addition, with the help of the blessings of Goddess Juis, he would be able to drive away plenty of monsters from the northwestern side of the continent and expand his territory some more. Just as he was thinking about that...

"Cough!"

...He suddenly heard a cough. King Varen's expression hardened.

'What? Did she just cough?' However, he could not raise his head.

Clack!

It was the sound of the tableware being placed down.

Then...

Brrrrrrrrrrr!

'Gasp....!'

'Ack!'

'W...what's happening?!'

...the entire temple trembled and shook. Even the huge pillars looked like they were about to collapse as a strong force swept the entire area, suffocating everyone present.

'Ugh, aaaack...!'

However, the people present did not dare to make a single sound in front of the Goddess Juis. They could only swallow it and suffer deep inside.

[How dare you give me something that tastes bad...]

'Something that tastes bad?'

King Varen's brows frowned. Did they place something bad in the food? No, that was impossible. Rald had checked the ingredients personally and was very strict during the process. They even tasted it themselves and have used only the freshest of ingredients.

[Poison...]

'...!'

Everyone's lips turned shut. Crazy...! Poison? Did she say poison?! How dare they poison the food for Goddess Juis?! Of course, Goddess Juis was immortal and a poison could never kill her. This meant only one thing...

'Someone deliberately... wanted to make her angry...!?' King Varen thought, his eyes widening in shock.

Brrrrrrrrrr!

The trembling and shaking of the ground grew in intensity.

[I can't believe that you're repaying my blessings with this.]

Grin—

She laughed grimly. Even if they could not see her expression, they believed that she had such a chilling smile on her face right now. Then, at that moment...

"Ack!"

One of the chefs grabbed their necks.

"Ugh!" The chef groaned as blood gushed out from the chef's mouth. However, the rest did not move. They only listened to the sound of blood flowing down on the ground.

Creaaaaak!

It was the sound of her fingernails scratching the ground. It was so ear-grating and terrible but they still did not move a single muscle. Then, Goddess Juis spoke...

[Hey. Raise your heads.]

Varen slowly lifted his head up. As soon as he lifted his head up, he saw the beautiful goddess, Juis. Juis was the goddess of healing and blessing. However, when Varen turned his head to where she was looking... he could see the fallen chef. No, he was not a chef. He was wearing a black mask and was clearly a thief.

[I know that this was not your work but... someone has to pay for your sins.]

"Cough!"

"Kghhk!"

One by one, the body of the chefs started turning black, and they could sense something penetrating their bodies through their blood. One of them was the Legendary Chef, Rald. His body had turned black, but he still did not move.

[The ground will split and the roars of the ferocious monsters will not stop. And the screams of your people will ring loudly in your land.]

Varen understood what she meant. There will be a huge disaster. A huge catastrophe will fall upon them. Then, Juis slowly turned around...

Flash!

...Her body faded away in the light.

“Huff, huff!” Varen’s breath was ragged, his body trembling uncontrollably.

“I...impossible...!”

He could not believe that this happened. He was overcome with rage as he walked towards where the black-masked man was.

‘Someone disguised themselves...!’

They had sneaked into their ritual. They purposely did this to anger Goddess Juis... who was it?

At that moment... Chef Rald...

“Kgghk!”

...vomited a mouthful of blood.

\*\*\*

Hosmin was a Level 250 player at the Northern Continent’s Subjugation Force. He joined his friends to explore the Northern Continent since there was a huge amount of gold and EXP as a reward and there were even new monsters to see. They were all looking forward to it. Before he knew it, the 500-man subjugation force had already stopped their monster subjugation.

“Halt! Halt!”

Hosmin could see plenty of monsters crawling in front of them.

“Kyaa. What kind of artifacts do you want to get?”

“Please let it drop something good!”

Just when the expectations of the players had reached their peak...

[The Wrath of Goddess Juis.]

[All monsters will become ferocious.]

[The monster’s abilities have increased by 20%.]

[The first catastrophe of Goddess Juis. The powerful rays of the sun will make all living beings tired.]

“...Huh?”

“W...what the hell?”

The players were all taken aback. The monsters were suddenly going to be more ferocious? It did not end there... Their bodies suddenly started to become hot. The surroundings became hot and humid, as if they were in a sauna. They all silently looked up at the sky. The red sun was spitting harsh and powerful flares all over. The heat that it was blasting off was not just any normal heat.

“This is crazy...!”

“Ah... Isn’t it really hot?!”

They tilted their heads in exhaustion, the heat making things even worse. At that moment, the growling monsters rushed up to them.

\*\*\*

All of the players in the Northern Continent had begun to complain.

[MoreTopHunts: Ah. It's so crazy...! The monster's abilities increased by 20%! We almost got wiped out.]

[kl3g: Even Empress Ellie sent out a messenger to find out what's going on. Isn't it crazy?]

[gasd36: Is this caused by Athenae? I can't play well because it's too hot! Don't go to the North! The monsters are 20% stronger and you can't get your items nor enjoy the scenery at all!]

The players who were excited to pioneer the Northern Continent and believed that it would be fun, since Athenae would be updating for real this time, had suddenly started to change their tunes! It was around then, that the rumors started to spread.

[gad254: Isn't this because of Legend Guild? As soon as they arrived in the kingdom, their goddess suddenly became angry. Did they do something there?]

[Caron: I don't think so. Legend Guild is famous for their good manners. In fact, I believe Legend Guild has nothing to do with it.]

[gadd31: It's just... This is a disaster that affects the whole of Athenae? Can you even plan this?]

Fortunately, Legend Guild seemed to be avoiding the arrows targeted at them. However, at that moment, another rumor started to spread.

[IrisAmazing!: Guys, did you hear? I heard that Iris Guild is trying to find a solution for this catastrophe. And I learned about this just recently! They're recruiting a large number of rankers to get rid of the catastrophe and conquer Goddess Juis. There's even a trailer in Dungeon Attack Live now!]

[FAD: Oh. For real? So funny. They're going to raid a goddess? Ah! Iris Guild GM is famous for being a gentleman. Is he sacrificing himself for the players?]

The people began to cheer again. If that hot sun and the strange buff for the monsters disappeared, then they would be able to enjoy playing in the Northern Continent again! Iris Guild, that was trying to raid it for the rest of the players, quickly gained plenty of support and cheers. The other players waited for them to broadcast on Dungeon Attack Live, completely unaware of them being the origin of the disaster that they were encountering.

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Varen looked at the priest, Eidni, coming out of the temple. Priest Eidni only took a sip of water after praying to the angry Goddess Juis without any rest. He had been praying for a few days now.

They were now in a dire situation. The blazing sun had quickly dried up the crops that they had meticulously grown. In addition, ferocious monsters had begun to attack Valkyrie Kingdom. Of course, it was still bearable since the damage that they had received was not that significant yet. However, if it dragged on any longer, this catastrophe would only get stronger and stronger.

“Did Goddess answer?”

“Yes,” The priest answered, wiping the sweat off of his face from the heat that was constantly bearing down on them. Even King Varen was dressed as lightly as possible due to the heat.

“Fortunately, it seems like her anger had been relieved to some extent.”

Varen sighed in relief. However, the next words that the priest uttered had put him once again in a dilemma.

“But Goddess Juis ordered us to prepare something more delicious.”

“...!”

Rald was taken by surprise as the rest of the chefs fell down to their knees. Even though Rald was being treated by the priest, he was not getting any better at all. The skin of the chefs struck by Goddess Juis were all slowly rotting away piece by piece. How could they cook if they were like that?

However, his next words were even more shocking. He said, “She said that she wanted to eat a legendary ranked dish.”

“Th...that...!”

At that moment Varen thought, ‘Aah. She must have said that her anger had been reduced somewhat, but this order still showed how fickle Goddess Juis is, right? Legendary? She wants to eat a legendary ranked dish?’

Of course, there had been records of legendary dishes appearing. However, the only person that had the ability to make one was in a bad condition. And that was Rald.

“The only other way is ‘The Spirit of the Wrathful God Juis’...”

“...Shut it!”

“...Forgive me, Your Highness!” The priest immediately knocked his head down on the ground. The words that he had uttered were words that should not be spoken.

There was a story in Valkyrie Kingdom that peace could only be restored if they soothed and satisfied the wrathful spirit of Goddess Juis, before killing it. However, this was something that was sacrilegious. How dare they lay their hands on Goddess Juis’ body?! And even if they were left with no choice but to do that, they would not know where it was, since the dungeon location was not fixed at all.

Then, Varen thought, ‘I heard that Goddess Juis’ treasure was there... Ballad’s Cup.’

Ballad's Cup was a God’s treasure! It was an object that possessed great power. It could even give a single person a blessing. However, he still shook the thought off of his mind. It was not something that he should covet. Was there no other way?

“Maybe we could ask for help?from Eivelis?Empire and ask them for an excellent chef...” The priest said.

Then, Varen’s eyes widened. He said, “Th...there is...!”

“Yes?” The priest tilted his head in confusion, as if he was asking him what he meant by that.

“Th...there’s only one chef that can rival Rald and make a legendary dish!”

“...?!”

The priest was shocked. There was someone like that? A person that can make a ‘legendary ranked’ dish that one could only hear from the stories? ‘Isn’t it impossible except for Rald?’

Then, Varen said, “Minhyuk...”

Varen clenched his fist tightly. He was sure of it since he had already tried his fascinating dish. He finally found a way to appease the angry Goddess Juis. In other words, he was placing the fate of Valkyrie Kingdom in Minhyuk's hands.

Chapter 136: Legendary Dish

Genie and Khan were both sporting the same disappointed looks on their faces.

“The dungeon will close tomorrow.”

“I know...?Phew. We’ve been working hard for quite a long time.”

Unfortunately, the dungeon that they were challenging would close tomorrow. It took a longer time than expected for them to get the buffed dish, because they wanted to gather all of the ingredients that Minhyuk had listed. Minhyuk also agreed with Genie and Khan’s view. If they gathered the best ingredients and ate the dish made from these ingredients, they would be able to boost the power and strength of the guild for quite some time.

However, their biggest problem was gathering all the ingredients together. It would take a lot of time to comb through the auction house to search for the ingredients. Most of the time, they would even need to hunt the ingredients themselves.

“Well, we’re still lucky that I will be able to eat it today,” Locke said. After struggling a lot, Locke was able to find all of the ingredients, except for one. However, it was still debatable whether a single buff increase could help them win the match against the boss monster. Of course, they did not think that way because they doubted Minhyuk’s craftsmanship. However, Minhyuk himself had told them that the buffs were random and could only be inspected upon finalizing the dish.

“I feel a bit hotter than normal.”

“Me too...”

It was all because of the intense heat of the sun which led to Valkyrie Kingdom being in a state of crisis!

Genie gnashed her teeth in anger and said, “Those Iris bastards...!”

Legend Guild was aware. According to the people present, the thief player was forced to log out after he vomited blood and instantly collapsed from a hit from Goddess Juis. Around the same time,

Iris Guild had suddenly declared their intent to attack the dungeon and quell the disaster. It was literally a show. A huge show!

They even announced it not too long ago. The dungeon that they were supposed to clear was an SS-ranked dungeon. In addition, this was the very first SS-ranked quest that had been discovered in the country. It was only natural that people would flock and be enthusiastic about such a quest. Especially since the first SS-ranked quest was going to be broadcasted live in Dungeon Attack Live. It was like they had hit the jackpot. Once they succeeded, they would be hailed as heroes.

“It seems that they want to drive us away from here...”

It was a relief that King Varen and the citizens of Valkyrie Kingdom were convinced that it was not because of Legend Guild. They had saved King Varen and their image as ‘heroes’ was already embedded deep in their hearts. The two of them approached Minhyuk and Locke. However, before they could even greet them, they saw Locke trembling in excitement as he ran up to Minhyuk and gave him a big hug.

“I love you Minhyuk! Love you!”

Locke even tried to imprint a sloppy kiss on Minhyuk’s face. Minhyuk, on the other hand...

“Aaaaaack! Stop, no, stop! Waaaaah!”

...really hated his enthusiasm.

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Locke went looking around for ingredients without resting. However, try as he might, he could not find the last ingredient, ‘Dragon King’s Water Parsley’. They were sure that it was something that could be found in the Dragon King’s Sea, but no other player had ever gone there. In the end, they had concluded that it would take a lot of time for them to get the Dragon King’s Water Parsley.

Locke quickly handed the ingredients to Minhyuk.

“Please take good care of me, Minhyuk.”

“Delicious steamed monkfish! Monkfish, monkfish!”

“So you will make it well? Please give me that great buff effect too! Crow had been yapping so hard about his food that my stomach had started grumbling. It’s killing me already!”

“Yeah. Beanie? Isn’t it delicious?”

“Oooooink? Oink!”

The baby pig, Beanie, nodded fiercely as he perched himself on Minhyuk’s shoulder.

‘I think you’ll make it well because you want to eat instead of giving me my buff,’? Locke thought, pouting cutely to try and convince Minhyuk to give him a higher buff. All it did was make himself look uglier than usual.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk smiled happily as he stared at the ingredients for the steamed monkfish. The quality of the ingredients that they had brought for him had improved ever since he made the excellent buffed dish for Crow. This meant that the taste of the dish would also improve. In other words, Minhyuk could just sit still and cook, and he would still be able to eat something delicious.

‘Did my satisfaction level go up when I cooked earlier?’

When Crow ate the dish, he confirmed that his satisfaction level had increased by 2%. This was because Crow was a high-level player. It was a bit lower than when King Varen ate his dish but, it was still considered high. Minhyuk began to cook the steamed monkfish.

‘Usually, I always find this thing to be regrettable whenever I eat steamed monkfish.’

It was the bean sprouts. Of course, bean sprouts were a good combination for steamed monkfish. However, most people who loved to eat steamed monkfish would always doubt their eyes. They always wondered whether they bought steamed bean sprouts or steamed monkfish.

Minhyuk smiled as he talked to Beanie. He said, “Beans. I’m going to cut down on the bean sprouts and add more water parsley in this steamed monkfish.”

“Oink!”

It was like Beanie was saying: ‘You really know how to eat! Oink!’. Beanie even did a little jig, as if it was extremely happy with what he said.

If Minhyuk followed the recipe creation, then everything would work well, but if he made changes and tried to be original, he might also get better results. Once he started cooking, he made sure to reduce the amount of bean sprouts and add more monkfish to the dish. He also added more of the tiny sea squirts. He was quite excited about these since sea squirts would always be overflowing with the sauce in every bite. In no time at all, Minhyuk was able to finish cooking the steamed monkfish.

The dish was filled with red sauce and bean sprouts. Below these, there was plenty of monkfish. He even made sure to add 1.5 times the amount of monkfish than what was usually served in stores. Just as he finished cooking the dish, a string of notifications rang out.

[You have completed a Steamed Monkfish.]

[Locke’s dish is the only dish with the buff effect.]

[The Create a Recipe Skill Effect can only be tasted by the same person once per month.]

[Trance. It’s a dish that has your ‘soul’ poured into it.]

[Due to the effects of Trance, the buff effect has become better.]

[Epic Grade.]

[You have gained 4 DEX.]

[You have gained 10 REP.]

[You have gained 1,000 AP.]

According to the original recipe, the expected rank of the dish was supposed to be somewhere between unique~legendary. However, since there was an ingredient missing, the rank of the dish

was only limited to epic. Even so, it was the highest possible rank. The dish this time was epic-ranked, and he was even able to receive greater rewards. Compared to the unique-ranked dish that he had made before, he received an additional 2 for DEX, 6 for REP and 600 for the AP. It was a huge leap in the rewards!

“Kggghk... Epic will taste much more delicious, right?” Minhyuk said excitedly.

“Y...you’re done? Shall we check it?” Locke asked.

Minhyuk nodded as Locke moved to check the dish’s information.

(Steamed Monkfish)

Material Grade: S

Rank: Epic

Restrictions: Only Locke could have the buff effects.

Shelf Life: 20 days

Preservation Time: 22 days

Special Effects:

?Crazy Priest’s Heal +3

?All of the Crazy Priest’s skills can be used as a regular healer’s skill.

Description: A dish made solely for Locke. The chef supplemented the usual disappointing side of the steamed monkfish using his own creativity. You will be able to enjoy plenty of monkfish in this dish.

“...Gasp?!”

Locke was extremely shocked. He had never been considered lucky all his life. So what if he was a good ranker? He could not even pick up a unique artifact that people could easily pick! He was so unlucky that he even pulled out the most shocking result in the golden treasure box, a measly 400 gold reward! Locke was so unlucky that he was even nicknamed as ‘Misfortunate Guy’ by everyone else.

This was one of the reasons why he was extremely nervous when he was gathering high ranked ingredients. He even thought...?‘What if I get a normal-ranked dish because of my unlucky nature?’. To be honest, he thought that it would be unbelievable if he were to receive a high rank for his buffed dish. However, he was proven wrong, as an epic-ranked dish was sitting perfectly in front of him and none of his guild members had ever tried one. On top of that, there were the special effects.

‘I can now use the Crazy Priests skills like a normal healer’s skill?’

In fact, his Crazy Priest’s healing skills were derived from the normal healer’s skills. Just like in the case of his Crazy Priest’s Heal, it was originally used to heal his opponents, but in his case, bleeding would be triggered if they were healed and slashed. It was the same with the priest’s beloved ability. For priests, they could cast a buff for their party while in Locke’s case, he could cast a debuff against his enemies. However, once he ate the steamed monkfish, he would be able to use the

abilities and skills of a normal priest whilst maintaining his Crazy Priest's skills. Before, he could only be considered a damage dealer instead of a healer. However, with this dish, he would be considered both a healer and a damager dealer! This was a huge improvement! What was even surprising was the fact that his Crazy Priest's Heal had shot up from MAX. He quickly checked the information about his Crazy Priest's Heal.

“Wow. S...so sick...!”

What did it mean when the skill was at MAX? It meant that the player had seen the end of the road for his skill. However, this dish allowed him to go beyond the MAX limit. It even added an additional +3 levels in his Crazy Priest Heal. Originally, Locke's Crazy Priest Heal could produce a +35% possibility of triggering bleeding whenever he wounded an enemy. It could even cause the skin to rot. The body of the enemy would suffer continuous bleeding and their wounds would suffer from accelerated deterioration. With the +3 in the skill, the possibility of triggering the bleeding had now increased to 50%. What was even more surprising was...

‘When Crazy Priest's Heal is used, there is also a 20% chance of triggering various abnormal conditions in the opponent. It can either be a stun, blindness or reduction of all skills and abilities!’

It was truly a ridiculous ability. Locke's body shivered in excitement. In recent years, he had felt that he had lagged behind the rest of the guild members. He was a healer, but he was more effective as a dealer. Even if his class was a legendary one, he would still hit a wall in his role as a dealer. Yet right now, he was given a chance to go beyond that wall. So, he quickly approached Minhyuk.

“I love you, Minhyuk! Love you!”

Locke even tried to print a sloppy kiss on Minhyuk's face. Minhyuk was flustered with the sudden hug from Locke, but when he saw him stretch out his lips towards his cheek, his heart almost stopped.

‘Looking at him at this range... Locke looks really ugly!’

He was even pouting his lips to try and kiss his cheek! Unknowingly, Minhyuk had let out a shriek. “Aaaaaack! Stop, no, stop! Waaaaah!”

“Oink, oink, oink!”

Beanie pulled Minhyuk's collar to save him from Locke's grasp. Beanie felt that his owner's life was being threatened! Then...

Bang!

...Minhyuk swung his fist! Locke rolled on the floor helplessly after being caught off guard. Even so, his happiness was not diminished in the slightest.

“This is good too. Hahahahahaha!”

When he tried to hug Minhyuk again, Minhyuk quickly pulled his sword out.

Shiin!

“.....Hurry up and eat!”

“Kghk. I...I should do that...” Locke said as he looked at the baby piggy, Beanie.

Beanie had already jumped back up on Minhyuk’s shoulder and was glaring at Locke with his arms crossed! Locke was suddenly struck dumb when he saw Beanie’s expression. It was like Beanie was telling him, ‘I’ve never seen such an ugly animal like this before... Oink!’

Locke felt sad when he realized that he could understand Beanie’s expression. He decided to just comfort himself with the excellent buffed dish in front of him. Just in time, Genie and Khan arrived in front of them.

“What’s the matter?”

“Locke tried to rot my cheeks!”

“...Huh? He tried to use Crazy Priest’s Heal on you?”

“No. He tried to kiss me!”

“...”

“...”

Both Genie and Khan were at a loss for words as they turned to look at Locke.

“Why did you harass...”

“You were scared, right? It’s okay now.”

“N...no! I was just so happy...!” Locke said.

Khan had already approached Minhyuk and inspected his cheeks. Khan said, “Fortunately, your cheeks did not rot.”

“Phew!” Minhyuk breathed a sigh of relief as Beanie patted his cheeks as if to tell him that it was fine. Then, Beanie turned and glared at Locke again.

Glare!

‘W, why do you only hate me...!’? Locke thought. He was harrumphed and looked away from them.

“Once I eat this dish, I won’t heal you!”

“I refuse.”

“There’s no need.”

Genie and Khan knew that Locke’s heals were completely terrible.

Locke grinned and said, “Really? But, once I eat this, I can heal wounds, you know?”

“What are you saying?”

“Isn’t that just as weird as you saying you’re handsome?”

“Che...! Check it out yourselves! You punks!”

Genie and Khan checked the steamed monkfish. Both of their eyes met over the dish. It seemed like Genie had lost her tongue at that moment. She kept on opening her mouth but no words came out. After calming herself down, she finally was able to speak. She said, “...Whenever I see Minhyuk’s dishes, I always feel amazed.”

It was truly a heartfelt admiration. Then, Minhyuk finally saw his skill ‘The Joy of Eating Together’ was triggered as a bowl of steamed monkfish appeared in front of him. He hurriedly sat down as he poked his chopsticks into the dish.

Chapter 137: Legendary Dish

Even though it was a little disappointing to have plenty of bean sprouts piled on top of the monkfish, they were still essential to the steamed monkfish dish. Minhyuk quietly lifted some bean sprouts off of the bowl. One would be able to see how the bean sprouts were thoroughly soaked with spices from how red it was. Then, he slowly placed it in his mouth and chewed.

Crunch, crunch—

Minhyuk heard the pleasant crunch of the fresh bean sprouts as the spicy flavor of the sauce slowly spread in his mouth. He smiled happily as he picked up a piece of monkfish. The monkfish was so plump and white that it looked like he picked up a piece of meat from a spicy stir fried chicken dish, instead of a steamed monkfish dish. Then, he placed the piece of fish in his mouth. It tasted light, fragrant and spicy. Chewing on it felt like he was chewing on a softer piece of chicken meat.

“Kghhhhk! It’s really delicious!” Locke exclaimed as if he was trying to convey both his and Minhyuk’s feelings about the dish.

Beanie also exclaimed loudly. It was also eating steamed monkfish with them. It sounded like Beanie was agreeing with Locke’s words as it squealed, “Oink, oink, oink!”

Minhyuk picked up a piece of monkfish, topped it with some bean sprouts and water parsley. Then, the tasty combination entered Minhyuk’s mouth!

Crunch, crunch—

Minhyuk felt the fresh and lingering fragrance of the water parsley as he chewed carefully. Water parsley was truly a mysterious ingredient. If you added this ingredient to a spicy soup or any seafood dish, its taste would definitely change. After chewing on the water parsley and bean sprouts, the flavor of the steamed monkfish was truly divine.

“Haaaaaa!” Minhyuk unknowingly exhaled loudly in satisfaction. Then, he turned to Beanie and said, “Beans, let’s try to eat it evenly this time. Look at how I’m doing it and try to copy it.”

“Oink?” Beanie oinked as it tilted its head in confusion. Beanie liked to eat meat, but still, it added water parsley and bean sprouts on its chopsticks and followed Minhyuk’s suggestion before chomping down. As it placed the food in its mouth and tasted the combination, Beanie’s eyes widened in surprise.

“Oooink...” Beanie cried out as tears welled up in its eyes. It seemed like this was the first time that it had ever tasted such a delicacy.

“Oink, oink!”

‘Today’s meal is a success, oink!’

Khan and Genie just stared at Locke, Minhyuk, and Beanie as they ate the steamed monkfish deliciously.

“Slurp!” Genie slurped, wiping the drool off of her mouth as she turned to look at Khan and said, “D...do you want to go and get some steamed monkfish later?”

“C...call...!”

Minhyuk even used the remaining red sauce to make some fried rice before finally putting down his chopsticks. After they had finished eating, Beanie climbed on Minhyuk’s shoulders and laid down. It must have felt so satisfied with the meal that it ended up falling asleep after laying its head down.

“Wow. He fell asleep the moment he laid his head down...!”

“So jealous... It’s best to lie down after eating!”

Minhyuk sent Beanie back to the summoning room to let it sleep peacefully. ?On the other hand, Locke jumped up after finishing his meal. It looked like he was filled to the brim with energy. He said, “Let’s go! Quickly!”

“Where?”

“To attack the dungeon!”

Genie and Khan were both brought back to their senses. Right now, Locke could act as two people. He could be both a healer and a dealer. Thanks to Minhyuk’s incredible buffing ability, they would be able to take down the dungeon, even if Genie and Khan did not eat any buffed dish.

“We’ll see you later, Minhyuk!”

“We’ll be back soon!”

“I’ll pay you back later for the steamed monkfish!”

As soon as they disappeared, Minhyuk pulled out an ice cream from his inventory.

“Hehehe...!” Minhyuk laughed.

‘Eating ice cream after eating something spicy is the best! Melon flavored ice cream, Meluna!’

At that moment, some priests and knights approached Minhyuk.

Chomp, chomp!

Minhyuk quickly took a bite of his delicious Meluna as he looked at the approaching knights and priests.

“We’re really sorry, but we need you to come with us.”

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Chief Priest Eidni’s expression was not that good. The knights kept on whispering as Minhyuk continued to enjoy his Meluna behind them.

“Th...that’s the 100th piece...!”

“...!”

“You’ll definitely catch a cold...!”

Minhyuk looked at the knight with confusion when he heard his words. He said, “Eyyy. I tried it a few days ago. I’ll still be fine even if I eat 300 of these.”

Gasp?!

“My goodness?!”

All Eidni could do was shake his head in helplessness. Eidni might be a priest, but he also had a title that was on the same level as the Commander of the Royal Knights. He was also a man with great devotion and piety. Right now, he could barely understand the situation.

‘You want this guy to make a meal for Goddess Juis on behalf of Rald?’

That was impossible. It was also impossible for him to know the reason why King Varen trusted and believed this person so much. He clearly believed that something would definitely go wrong.

Then, at that moment...

Plop!

“A...aaaack! M...my Meluna...!”

.

...Minhyuk accidentally dropped his Meluna as he blamed himself saying, “This stupid idiot, worm, sea cucumber, sea squirt, sea anemone! How can you drop your own food...!”

Then, Minhyuk plopped down on the floor in tears. He tearfully reached out to his fallen Meluna, muttering, “W...won’t I be able to eat it, if I just dust it off?”

Minhyuk was the only foreigner who would say such weird things! His face was covered with snot and tears.

‘Sigh...’ Eidni let out a sigh.

‘The future of our kingdom is in his hands?’

Not long after, Eidni brought Minhyuk to the temple’s waiting room where Varen was staying. When they opened the door, they could see Varen pacing back and forth, waiting for them anxiously.

“Come in.”

Minhyuk quietly entered the room, the door closing behind him. Eidni shook his head after seeing Minhyuk off. He said, “How can we let such a crude and vulgar person cook for the Goddess Juis?! To think that we’re betting the future of the kingdom on a man who will cry when he runs out of ice cream!”

“...Even if you’re just looking at him superficially, you should at least know his cooking skills before judging him like that. His Highness had told us that he had personally seen his skills...”

“Sir Perle.”

Perle was the head of the knights of Valkyrie Kingdom. He was one of the most powerful men and could easily compete with Rumad. The only reason why Perle did not accompany King Varen on his journey to Eivelis Empire was that he was tasked to obtain the ingredients needed for the ritual.

At Eidni’s call, Perle tilted his head.

“You seem to be believing in His Highness’ choice right now, but I still think that we should all be careful,” Eidni said as he peeked inside.

“Goddess Juis was mad because her food had been poisoned and you’re still putting up with someone ridiculous to make her food?”

“...Hmmm. Yes. That’s what I heard.”

What if Goddess Juis was angered once more? At that time, perhaps, Valkyrie Kingdom would have no future at all.

“But...we might not know it now... perhaps this foreigner is as good as Rald.”

“Ha...!” Eidni scoffed before clicking his tongue. Perle might be a good swordsman but he was definitely not as excellent in such areas. Rald was literally a legendary chef. He was a man who was hailed to be even better than the top craftsman in cooking!

‘How can you compare him to that vulgar guy inside?!’

“I’m telling you, we’ll just be wasting all of our ingredients. Even if he used all the ingredients, it would still be lucky if that guy created a rare dish!”

“What would happen if he served a rare dish?”

Then, Eidni continued to talk confidently, “I’ll take off my underwear and dance in front of him if he ever did that!”

“...I suggest that you don’t talk carelessly,” Perle said, sighing lightly. Truthfully, he was also slightly doubtful of the king’s choice. His Highness had told them that he was starving for days when they were outside of the kingdom, until he came across

the power that Minhyuk's dish had given him. He had recounted the tale clearly, with such confidence as well.

'If he ate it because he was hungry, then he might have thought that it was really the best dish.'

Perle was also quite worried. At that moment.

"You two. Come in."

"Yes? Ah. Yes, Your Highness."

...Varen poked his head out as he invited them inside.

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Varen smiled softly at Minhyuk. He asked, "Is it delicious?"

"Yes. It's really, really delicious!"

Varen smiled at him kindly as he nodded at Minhyuk. Varen had once believed that Minhyuk was unreliable. However, Minhyuk saved him from his enemies and even fed him delicious food. He promised to give him the best possible reward, but everything had been postponed because of the ritual and the situation with Goddess Juis.

"I'm sorry."

"...?"

Minhyuk looked at him in confusion. So, Varen continued to say, "I was supposed to feed you the best sushi, but it turned out that Rald is not feeling well and is on the verge of death."

Minhyuk nodded in understanding. He knew about the matter since he had heard the people talk about it.

"There's something else that I want to ask you," Varen sighed as he explained everything to Minhyuk.

"Legendary dish?"

"That's right. But! I'll make sure to give you plenty of rewards. Furthermore, if Goddess Juis' catastrophe and anger is lifted, Chef Rald will also be able to recover! At that time, I'll be able to feed you delicious food!"

Minhyuk thought carefully about his words. A legendary dish! The royal court even said that they would support him and provide him with all of the ingredients that he needed. This was what mattered the most.

'They're saying that they'll keep on supplying me with the ingredients until I make a legendary dish, right?'

They could only put one dish on the altar. That meant that Minhyuk had to repeat the process until he could make a satisfactory dish. So, what did that mean?

'I can eat anything that's not legendary, right?'

Of course, his 'Create a Recipe' Skill was only for a single person, but it did not mean that it was something that others would not be able to eat. It just said that they would not be able to get the buff effects if they ate it!

"And before that happens... I think you need to prove your cooking skills to my subjects?"

"My cooking?"

"I told them that your cooking was comparable to Rald's.... But my subjects won't trust you with just that. So please cook just one dish for them."

"Well, it's not that difficult. But I have a condition."

"Condition?"

Minhyuk was not a person that would do something for anyone, just because they asked him to. Besides, the quest window had not yet opened, so he would still be able to negotiate and add to the lists of rewards.

"Please let me eat more delicious and special sushi."

"Alright. I'll order my knights to bring in only S-grade ingredients for your sushi."

"S-grade ingredients? Kghk!" Minhyuk exclaimed happily. His so-called A-course meal had now been upgraded to the more expensive S-course meal! This was already enough for Minhyuk.

Then, Varen opened the door and called for the others outside, "The two of you. Come in."

"Yes? Ah. Yes, Your Highness."

Eidni and Perle came inside the waiting room. Both of them had confused looks on their faces, especially Priest Eidni.

"I'll just make a dish for the priest," Minhyuk said as he used his 'Create a Recipe' skill on him.

"Be honored. This child is making a dish for you."

"Yes, Your Highness," Eidni answered. He was dumbfounded.

'I'm afraid that I will lose my appetite if I eat this guy's cooking.'

"Is it fine with the ingredients that I have?"

"Of course."

Minhyuk's words made Eidni think, 'Without using any special ingredients? Just the regular ingredients?'

Then, Minhyuk began cooking the dish. The recipe that he had checked was none other than toast! Priest Eidni was a very busy person and the only thing that he could grab to eat was toast. Over the course of time, it had become his favorite food. Minhyuk covered the pan in butter as he placed bread on it. Then, he beat the eggs, baked the ham and chopped the cabbages.

‘His cooking form looks quite good.’

However, it was not easy for anyone to achieve a good rank for a dish using normal ingredients. Not long after, the steaming toast was completed. The first person to check the dish was King Varen. After checking the dish, he looked at Minhyuk speechlessly. He thought, ‘As expected... I wasn’t wrong with my judgment.’

Varen was caught in surprise once more. Then, Eidni went ahead and checked the toast.

(Toast)

Material Grade: D

Rank: Rare

Restrictions: Only Eidni can have the buff effects.

Storage Time: 7 days

Preservation Time: 6 days

Special Effects:

?Holy Power will increase by 7%

?All stats +4%

Description: A toast made specifically for Eidni. It is made of simple ingredients but the chef that made it is not someone to be taken lightly.

Gasp?!

Eidni was frozen stiff.

‘Are you telling me that a rare dish came out in one try even though he only used normal ingredients?!’

It was something completely unbelievable. Then, Varen reached out for his toast and said, “Eidni, can I eat this?”

“Ah. O...of course.”

Eidni wanted to eat it so badly, but he could not just slap His Highness’ hands and not let him take it away, could he? Not long after, Minhyuk’s Joy of Eating Together skill was triggered and he was also able to enjoy the food. Of course, the buff did not take effect.

“Phew. Boy, your dishes are truly delicious.”

“Hehe. Toast is delicious!”

The combination of the crunchy cabbage, eggs, cheese and sweet apple sauce was superb. It almost tasted like Crunch Toast.

When Varen went out to go to the bathroom, Eidni fought hard to not let his tears fall. He thought, 'I...I also want to eat...!'

Then, Perle approached him and whispered to him quietly, "Didn't you promise something earlier?"  
"...!"

Eidni coughed vehemently as he tried to deny his words earlier. He said, "N...no! That was just a joke."

"That wasn't a joke though," Perle said. Perle was a man that was sensitive when it came to the word 'promise'. He also made it clear to Eidni his stance on the matter. He continued to say, "If you don't keep your promise, I'll have to report this to His Highness."

"T...that...!"

Eidni had made a declaration against the foreigner that His Highness had specifically chosen. Once Varen knew it, he would definitely be angry. However, Eidni wanted to try and avoid this ending.

"I...I don't think he would like that if I just did it so suddenly. Why don't I ask him first?"

"Hmm. You're right."

Then, Eidni went and approached Minhyuk to explain himself. He said, "...I had misgivings about you, so I did not believe in your skills. However, right now I believe that you're truly a great chef. Taking off my underwear and dancing naked....?Ahem.?Instead of that, should I just give you a blessing? How about it?"

Minhyuk was quite shocked when he heard about the promise that they were talking about. Eidni was already an old man. With his priest's white uniform, if he took off his underwear and danced in front of him...

"Ack?! J...just imagining it...! Don't ever do that! I'll kill you if you do it. I'm begging you not to! If you danced naked like that, your fur...?Ugh!" Minhyuk shouted. He hurriedly covered his mouth at the thought.

Eidni was quite happy with this outcome. He said, "Thank you. Really, thank you so much! Hahahahahahaha! You're not only good at cooking, but you're also magnanimous. I'll give you a blessing instead!"

Eidni was really relieved. Just then, a thought suddenly flashed in his head. 'Huh? But why do I feel bad...?'

Then, Minhyuk once again opened his mouth. He said, "I'll kill you if you do it!"

Eidni got out of the tricky situation, but strangely enough, felt bad about himself.

Genie, Khan and Locke entered the dungeon sporting solemn expressions on their faces. This was the dungeon that they had failed to clear not once, not twice, but six times in total! And today was their final chance to clear this dungeon. Shortly after they had entered the dungeon, the huge form of the Cursed Dragon appeared in their sights.

The Cursed Dragon! This was a Level 450 monster that had its body rotting in many places. However, having a rotten body did not mean that it was weak. After all, it was still supposed to be a dragon. A sword could not even penetrate its thick skin and its powerful skill, Breath could deal a huge amount of damage to players. It could even bring the players under an 'abnormal state'.

Puhaaaaaa!

The monster fired out its disgusting and horrendous green Breath! Genie, Khan and Locke quickly moved aside to dodge the incoming Breath.

Shwaaaaaaa!

Genie immediately struck her whip towards the Cursed Dragon.

[Your attack has failed.]

However, it was something that she had expected. Its skin was too thick to be penetrated with just one whip attack. Then, the King of Fists, Khan gathered a powerful energy on his fists.

[Battering.]

[A flurry of punches with additional 40% attack power.]

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

[Your attack has failed.]

[Your attack has failed.]

"Kiiiiiyeeeeeeeh!" The Cursed Dragon roared. Some of Khan's attacks might have failed to go through, but it did not mean that all of his attacks did! The Cursed Dragon almost reeled in place after it allowed three attacks to land on its massive body. However, its skin still looked solid, without any hint of a scratch or a dent on it.

"Keuhahaha! Go to hell! Go to hell!"

Locke kept on slashing at the Cursed Dragon with his ax.

[Your attack has failed.]

[Your attack has failed.]

Slash!

Locke finally landed a hit on the Cursed Dragon's tough skin. Then, he quickly used that opportunity to cast his Crazy Priest's Heal on it.

[Crazy Priest's Heal.]

[Continuous bleeding will be triggered. In addition, there is a 20% probability of triggering various abnormal conditions.]

Spurt!

“Kiiieeee?”

The Cursed Dragon finally realized that something strange happened to its body. A long time had passed, but there was still rotten blood spurting out of the injury that it received from the ax earlier. It did not even end there, as the area surrounding the injury began to rot faster than normal.

[The Cursed Dragon has fallen under the abnormal condition ‘Limited Abilities.’.]

[Breath is temporarily unavailable for use.]

“...!”

Locke was caught in surprise when he heard the notifications. He said, “It...it said that Breath is temporarily unavailable since it has fallen under an abnormal condition!”

“Gasp...!”

“...!”

Khan and Genie’s eyes both widened in shock. They kept looking at him as if they could not believe what he had just said.

‘Locke’s Crazy Priest’s Heal can also cause bleeding!’

In the past, his skill did not have much of an effect on the Cursed Dragon. However, right now in front of them, the Cursed Dragon was bleeding profusely. Furthermore, the Cursed Dragon even had its abilities restricted by Heal. The +3 Heal effect was truly something that truly could not be ignored. The skill that they had previously seen was completely different now after acquiring that +3.

Puhaaaack!

Puhaaaaaaack!

The Cursed Dragon suffered from their attacks and finally collapsed on the ground. Its insides were a mess and it could not use its Breath. Its body even started to rot at a speed visible to the naked eye, restricting its movements further.

Thud!

The Cursed Dragon fell with a thud.

Genie trembled in excitement. She thought, ‘If this video gets out in the world...!’

They would definitely be able to get a huge response from the public! They continued raiding the dungeon at a rapid pace. They wanted to finish this as fast as they could, with as much flair as possible.

Finally, they arrived in front of the boss monster. It was none other than the knight of the dead, the Death Knight, which was equipped with a white sword and a golden armor, its body bathing in red light!

“Keuk!”

“Ugh!”

.

Genie and Khan both let out groans of pain as they blocked Death Knight’s attacks.

Then...

Stab!

...A blade ran straight through Genie’s chest.

“Ugh!”

Locke quickly used heal on Genie after watching the situation from behind.

[Heal.]

[You have a 20%~30% probability of recovering the HP of your target.]

The blood spurting out of Genie’s gaping wound slowly trickled down until it stopped. Even her HP slowly filled up, making her body fill with energy and warmth.

“I have never seen Locke look this pretty before, really!”

“Pretty...? That’s not...”

“Keuhahaha! The pretty Locke is coming through! Die! Die! Keuhahaha!” Locke laughed happily, literally flying all over the place. He did not forget to deal a huge amount of damage to the enemy. Of course, he also did not forget his role as a healer of their party. It was truly an amazing sight.

Finally...

“Keuaaaack!”

...The knight of death, Death Knight, was fiercely struck by Khan’s fists and fell down with a shriek. The Death Knight’s sword flashed brightly as huge amounts of gold and artifacts dropped after its death.

[You have leveled up.]

After finishing the Death Knight off, the party took off with great achievements and rewards. They were even able to increase their levels by one.

Everyone was aware that it would become harder to accumulate enough EXP to level up the higher their levels became. In fact, it was already difficult for Level 400 players to even increase their level by one in three days. This was also the reason why rankers were only separated by one level. However, even if the difference was only a single level, the difference was truly substantial. It was like the difference between heaven and earth, be it in terms of strength, attack, or defense.

“We did it!”

“Yay!”

“Keuhahaha! It’s all thanks to this body!”

Khan and Genie both shook their heads at his remarks.

“It’s all thanks to Minhyuk,” Locke laughed crazily, but he still admitted the truth.

It was not because they were overgeared, but simply because he ate an amazing dish! Since this amazing dish had brought about such results, he was definitely going to be Minhyuk’s firm believer! Just then, messages popped out in front of them. It was a totally unexpected set of messages too.

[You are the first group to have conquered a Time Attack Dungeon.]

[You have gained 20 REP.]

[You have acquired +3 on all your basic stats.]

[Time Attack Dungeons will now be opened to the world.]

[The Time Attack Dungeons can only be accessed for 2 weeks.]

[The possible number of attacks per day is 5.]

[Your attack time is limited to 2 hours. If players fail to clear the dungeon, then they will not be allowed to enter the dungeon again.]

[After 2 weeks, the three highest-ranked parties will be given special rewards.]

Time Attack Dungeon!? It was an event dungeon. This event dungeon ran on the rule of ‘the shorter the attack time on boss mobs, the higher the EXP rewards.’.

‘Don’t tell me that the dungeon that we had just cleared was the start of the time attack dungeons?’

What was more surprising was...

‘The Time Attack Dungeons will be open to the world?’

In other words, people from all over the world would be competing for the Time Attack Dungeons. What would happen if their names appeared on that list?

‘We can show them that our country is not dead yet!’

And in order for them to do that?

‘Right now, we can cut our target time to fifteen minutes. So, once we can get out of here and eat Minhyuk’s food, then...?’

Perhaps they could shorten that time even more, and clear the dungeon in less than fifteen minutes!

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Minhyuk finally received the blessings that Eidni had promised to give him.

[You have received a blessing from Eidni.]

[You have gained 100 points in Holy Power.]

[You have gained +5 in all of your stats.]

[You have gained 10 REP.]

[You will now have 5% additional damage against undead monsters.]

The priest's Holy Power!?Minhyuk even received 100 points directly after obtaining the Holy Power. Along with this blessing, he also received a notification about Varen's quest.

[Kingdom Quest: Make a Legendary Dish for Goddess Juis!]

Rank: SS

Requirements: Varen's Favor

Rewards: Sushi made entirely with S-grade ingredients, Ballad's Cup

Penalty for Failure: Your favor with the citizens of Valkyrie Kingdom would drop and you won't be able to enter the Northern Continent anymore.

Description: Due to the wrath of Goddess Juis, Valkyrie Kingdom and the rest of the Northern Continent is now in a crisis. Goddess Juis wants to taste a dish that is much more delicious than what is usually served to her. Cook for her!

An SS-ranked quest!

"Ballad's Cup? Is it a wine glass?"

"...Cough.?W...wine glass," Varen coughed in surprise when he heard Minhyuk compare it to a wine glass.

"Ballad's cup is a God's treasure. Its size is in fact larger than the regular size of a goblet, but the water that is held in Ballad's Cup is said to be holy. It is said that drinking water from the cup will give you a different level of power, comparable or even more powerful than whatever the best medicine can give you."

"Ho? Is the water in Ballad's cup much more delicious than normal water? Hiyaaa," Minhyuk said, eyes glittering in excitement. He even licked his lips and gulped his saliva as he imagined the taste.

Varen was speechless. For some reason, he could not afford to look at Minhyuk right now. He said, "Oh... Uhm... I...I think so?"

"I'm going to make a legendary dish!"

"..."

Minhyuk's will was burning brightly, not for the kingdom's sake, but for the sake of delicious sushi and water from Ballad's Cup!

'God...!?'Varen thought as he looked wordlessly up in the sky.

"Ah, right, before I start cooking, can I see Goddess Juis?"

"...It's possible if we ask."

“I can only cook for her once I have seen her.”

Varen nodded as he called for Eidni. Eidni, who had been called again, prayed and prayed for days to call for Goddess Juis. After a few days, he came out covered in sweat and said, “You can now go inside. However, the only person that she allows in is Minhyuk. Your Highness... she doesn’t wish to see you.”

Varen felt extremely sorry when he heard those words but he still begged Minhyuk, “Please, I’m begging you. When you go inside, don’t say anything like, ‘I’m hungry.’, ‘What does the water in the Ballad’s Cup taste like?’ or ‘Can I just lick it once so I can taste it?’! Please don’t!”

“...Gasp?! My god. Then, can I ask Goddess Juis about what’s delicious?”

‘I knew it! I knew it!’

Varen’s expression hardened. He said, “My goodness! Don’t ask Goddess Juis about what’s delicious! I was just about to ask you to not do that!”

Varen and Eidni both exasperatedly said at the same time.

“P...please don’t say anything weird...”

“We’re begging you, please don’t say anything weird...”

“Eyy. So disappointing,” Minhyuk said, clicking his tongue in disappointment. Even though he felt that it was disappointing, there was nothing that he could do but agree, since they were begging him so loudly and desperately.

“When you get inside, just keep your head down. Don’t raise your head at all. And please, be as polite as possible. The future of our kingdom depends on it!”

“I understand,” Minhyuk said, nodding his head as he entered the temple.

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Goddess Juis finally agreed to answer the prayers of Priest Eidni after he prayed to her for days. In fact, she could answer him right away but she did not want to do it.

‘You need to go through a bit of trouble!’

She only went down to eat delicious food once every year. In fact, she truly enjoyed having the delicious meal that was served to her rather than that long and boring ritual. However, this time, she discovered that her food was covered in poison. She always hated whenever her meal was compromised, so she had no choice but to show her wrath.

Not long after, the person that would cook for her entered the temple. He tactfully bowed his head as soon as he entered and said, “I greet Goddess Juis!”

His head almost touched his stomach from the stance that he was taking. However, When Goddess Juis looked at his figure, she was so surprised that she even took a step back.

‘W...why is he here?’

This question floated in her head, her slim figure trembling. Then, she took a deep breath and calmed herself down. There was a huge shadow hiding behind Minhyuk. This shadow was in the shape of a baby pig. Juis could not believe her eyes. However, as soon as she tried to open her mouth and ask about the pig...

[The God of Athenae is imposing sanctions on you.]

Juis bit her lips hard to control herself. The 'God of Athenae' was the absolute authority. He was the ultimate god among all of the gods. She could not go against his orders, even if she was a god herself.

When Juis turned her attention towards the bowing man, she realized that something was strange. Although still weak, she was sure that the man was emitting a very familiar aura.

'A god...?'

The power and aura that the man was emitting was definitely the power of a god.

Chapter 139: Legendary Dish

Juis could see that the power, while present, was very weak right now.

"Goddess Juis, can I raise my head and look at you directly just once?"

She hastily gathered her expression and showed a calm facade, saying, "How dare someone like you try and gaze at my visage?"

Juis scoffed at Minhyuk's presumptuous request but Minhyuk said, "Because I'll only know what dish I can make for the person if I saw their face directly."

"...That's an unusual ability. What's your class?"

"It's Food God."

"...Food God," Juis mumbled, nodding in understanding. She thought, 'He must be one of the Continental Gods.'

Continental Gods were gods who lived on the continent among ordinary people. It was no wonder that she had never heard of him or his name before.

"I'll allow it."

The man slowly raised his head to gaze at her face, then immediately bowed down again.

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Minhyuk had quickly used his 'Create a Recipe' skill when he peeked at Goddess Juis, and was finally able to see the dish that she wanted the most.

(Spicy Stir-fried Chicken Recipe for Juis)

Required Ingredients: Daybreak Chicken, Sun-filled Red Chili Paste, Snow Mountain Sweet Potatoes (omitted)

Expected Dish Grade: Rare ~ Legendary

Expected Effects:

?A sharp increase in God's Blessings.

?A sharp increase in Valkyrie Kingdom's holy power.

'S...Spicy stir-fried chicken?!'?Minhyuk thought, eyes widening in surprise.

Spicy stir-fried chicken! It was a dish that could be enjoyed by anyone at an affordable price of 10,000-15,000 won! This dish lined up cabbages, chicken, sweet potatoes, and rice cakes around the grilling pan. However, the most noteworthy part of this dish was the add-ons! Udon, ramen, cheese! Plenty of additional ingredients could be added to this dish!

'If you order cheese as an add on...'

This was the cheese commonly sprinkled in the middle of the pan once the spicy stir-fried chicken was cooked! Minhyuk imagined a skilled part-timer lending a hand, adding a magic touch to mix everything. Everyone would definitely fall silent as they watch the part-timer work his magic and mix the spicy stir-fried chicken and the cheese together! Then, after waiting for a long time, the part-timer would say,?'You can eat now.?'before leaving the patrons to enjoy the spicy stir-fried chicken to their hearts' content.

The thought alone was giving Minhyuk satisfaction. Interesting to watch, interesting to eat and there were even interesting ingredients to choose from!

Then, at that moment, Juis opened her mouth and said, "You, I'm quite hungry right now. Tell that to Varen!"

"Yes!"

"The second catastrophe will soon hit the Northern Continent."

At the same time, Minhyuk also heard the notifications in his head.

[Four days later, the second catastrophe will befall the Northern Continent.]

[The Second Catastrophe. All players in the Northern Continent will have a 10% reduction in all their skills and abilities.]

This notification was probably heard by all of the players and people who were currently in the Northern Continent. Once Minhyuk stepped out of the temple, Juis looked down and grinned mischievously. In all honesty, she believed that her demands were impossible.

'I also haven't tasted a legendary dish in my life.'

The existence of the legendary dish was just like a story that had been passed down from one generation to another. At the same time, she could not help mumbling to herself as she looked down at the spot where Minhyuk was earlier.

'The Food God and the Incarnation of Gluttony are together...?'

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Minhyuk immediately rattled off the ingredients that he needed to Varen the moment he came out of the temple. However, the ingredients that Minhyuk needed were all very high-ranked and rare. They would definitely have a hard time getting them.

The most crucial thing was...

‘Among the ingredients that we have, all the ingredients for spicy stir-fried chicken are missing.’

In other words, all the add-ons that the recipe required were missing. In fact, even the ingredients that the recipe required were also hard to find. However, Minhyuk still wondered about the result if they replaced all of the missing ingredients with higher-ranked ingredients. If that was the case, he might still be able to produce the expected Legendary ranked dish.

Varen quickly ordered his men. He said, “Use all of your forces and procure the ingredients to the best of your abilities!”

Even the Legend Guild’s informant also moved to help. The informant had an introverted personality, however, he knew almost all of the information about Athena. In addition, he had the ability to return to the places that he had been to, even if he just had a normal return scroll. Using this ability, he quickly went to Ellie’s side and informed him of the happenings in Valkyrie Kingdom.

Ellie quickly mobilized her forces to look for the ingredients. Together with the informant, they began collecting the ingredients at a much faster speed compared to everyone else. They collected as much as they could of the best of the best of ingredients!

With this speed and scale, even if they did not want to know, the rumors had spread to the ears of the Iris Guild. It even reached the ears of the guild master of Louvert Guild, Twilight Chef Black! He was informed that Legend Guild’s chef was trying to please Goddess Juis with his cooking.

“Puhahahaha! This is a complete joke!” Black laughed loudly.

He knew slightly more about this matter since Iris Guild had quickly contacted him and asked him to join the raid. If Black joined the raid, he believed that he would be able to garner enough heat and attention to promote Louvert Guild. In addition, he would also be able to get the god’s treasure, Ballad’s Cup! It was a treasure that could give the player special powers and abilities! It was a priceless item that could only be received from such a quest.

Black knew that they had received a quest to eradicate the Wrathful Spirit of God Juis and appease her with ritual food. If he was able to complete this quest, Twilight Chef Black would definitely gain a lot from this transaction.

Meanwhile, Callian told him, “But, what if that chef actually satisfies Goddess Juis before we do?”

Black snorted condescendingly. He said, “It’s absolutely impossible.”

“Impossible...”

“Up until now, the highest-ranked dish that any player has ever made is only epic. It was only an epic dish even though the ingredients that were used in the dish were all S-grade. We even made it after continuous trial and error, and we have only made 100 of such dishes.”

‘A buffed dish that was made only by the highest qualified chefs, but they were only able to make 100 of them?’

“I...is it that difficult?”

“That’s right. Even if you only heard of the rumors, they still said that they will try and make a ‘legendary’ dish, right?”

“Yeah.”

“It’s impossible. In fact, I don’t think that it will be possible until a year later when the game is opened to the world. In all honesty, I heard that you have to be someone that has surpassed the master craftsman’s level to produce a legendary dish, so I don’t think it’s possible right now.”

Even Black was still under the master level, miles away from that breakthrough that could take him to the master craftsman level.

“We tried a thousand times using the best of ingredients, but we were only able to make only 100 of these dishes. Do you know who was able to make the epic ranked dish in the end?”

“...who?”

“I did.”

“...!”

The only chef to have ever made an epic ranked dish was Twilight Chef Black! Soon after, Callian’s face was almost ripped in two with the wide grin he had.

‘Come to think of it, it’s Black after all! He’s one of the top 10 chefs who are known in the world, and he also ranks 1st~2nd in Athenae’s Chef’s rankings!’

And...

“After receiving the quest and eradicating the Wrathful Spirit of Goddess Juis, all we have to do is place an epic dish in front of the altar.”

Black shrugged his shoulders in confidence. He said, “I can make an epic dish after I put in plenty of effort, several trials and errors. So all you have to do is prepare yourselves for the attack and be treated as heroes. Of course, we could always prepare the food in advance and cast a food-maintenance spell on it.”

Callian found his arrogance to be something fun and interesting. He said, “Anyway, are you sure that we will be the first one to satisfy Goddess Juis?”

“Of course.”

“Then, how about we do this?”

“Please speak your mind.”

“Let’s slowly circulate those rumors.”

“Ho.”

Black finally noticed his cunningness.

“Who will do it first? Legend Guild or Iris Guild?”

“Yeah. Of course, we will be the ones that will win, but wouldn’t people mock and laugh at Legend Guild for this loss?”

“I see,” Twilight Chef Black said. He grinned wickedly. It seemed like he liked this type of games.

“Ah. When are we going to attack the dungeon?”

“On the day the second catastrophe falls.”

If they did it at that time, then the players would all feel relieved and grateful to them. They would cheer for them more. Iris Guild was well prepared. They were confident that the victory would be in their hands, after all, they had the best rankers from their guild and the best mercenaries participating in the raid. In addition, they had already found the location of the dungeon and were just waiting for the right time to attack the dungeon. They firmly believed that they would definitely receive huge rewards.

However, there was just one thing that he was curious about.

‘The artifacts and gold will only be dropped if we hunt Goddess Juis...?’

Strangely enough, nothing would drop in the dungeon even if they attacked it and they would only be able to acquire the drops once they destroyed the Wrathful Spirit of Goddess Juis. In other words, if they acquired 10,000 gold in their first round of dungeon attack then they would only be able to get 10,000 gold from Goddess Juis. This was the very first SS-ranked quest in the country so they would be expecting plenty of rewards.

Then, Callian turned his attention back to Black and asked him, “How many tries do you need before you produce an epic ranked dish?”

“I probably need to try at least 50 times.”

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Only twice. After trying to cook the dish twice, an epic-ranked dish already came out.

“...It’s really unbelievably crazy.”

“Does this even make any sense?”

“...”

Varen, Eidne and Perle were all speechless.

‘It’s really different when you make a dish using S-grade ingredients...’

It was truly a different experience. So far, Minhyuk had only tried cooking a dish based on his 'Create a Recipe' skill using S-grade ingredients. He only had to use a few S-grade ingredients then. He was not able to cook anything with purely S-grade ingredients, until now.

The 'Create a Recipe' skill even recommended more ingredients. Originally, he only needed Daybreak Chicken, Sun-Filled Red Chili Paste, Snow Mountain Sweet Potato and the Rabbit Warrior's Carrot. However, he was not able to get the Rabbit Warrior's Carrot so he added the Ground Tree Udon Noodles that were said to be cultivated deep underground. Ground Tree Udon Noodles were a great medicine. In fact, many of the other ingredients that he added to the dish were also great medicines!

Medicines seemed to produce a much more ideal effect than S-grade ingredients. When he used such ingredients to cook, the material grade that came out was much higher, and even the dish rank came out pretty high. Of course, not all dishes would result in a higher rank just because he used high-ranked ingredients. It was also due to Minhyuk's double effect playing a big role in getting those high-ranked dishes. Also...

'I think DEX has a higher impact this time?'

It seemed like Minhyuk's DEX and his Food God's Acquisition Skill had played a great role in his cooking. Food God's Acquisition Skill would literally teach him about the perfect timing of the actions that needed to be done in the dish, while his DEX supported and supplemented his cooking skills. This allowed Minhyuk to have the best results in his dishes. In other words, the double effect from the DEX was showing at least 5-6 times the efficiency than what it stated.

'There won't be another chance like this.'

The entire empire and kingdom were moving tirelessly to supply him with the best ingredients. This was a chance that he would never be able to get again, so he had to give it his all. After all, this was also the first time that Minhyuk would be able to taste a legendary dish.

In the midst of all his musings...

"Kgghk. It's a bit of a disappointment. If he was a bit more careful then, a legendary dish might have already come out."

"That's true."

...Varen and Eidni sang their own tunes.

However, on the other hand...

"Hehe. Udon is really delicious!"

...Minhyuk had used the best of the best ingredients. However, since it could not be presented to Goddess Juis, his only choice, not that he was complaining, was to eat this?failed?dish. Of course, the buff effect nor the power that could be obtained from this dish and the previous dish could not be obtained at all, since the owner of the dish had already been chosen.

"Ahem, ahem. Can I have a bite, too?" Varen said, sitting in front of Minhyuk.

For a moment, Minhyuk thought of something bad. He thought, 'I wish that the legendary dish would come out as late as possible...!'

That way, he would be able to eat more delicious food!

On the contrary, Varen was thinking, 'I hope that it will come out soon, so we can eradicate the catastrophe already...'

Then, he grabbed his utensils and tasted Minhyuk's failed dish. His thoughts suddenly did a turnaround.

'...Maybe it's alright if it comes out a bit later?'

Varen was truly a gourmand. After a single bite, he realized that he also wanted to keep on eating such an amazing dish! After all, it was so delicious that he could not even put it into words.

"Wow... Wow... Really... Wow..."

The taste was so superb that he could only exclaim 'wow' to express his delight. Still, Varen shook his head in disappointment. He thought, 'No matter what, I really hope that it comes out soon!'

"You have to satisfy Goddess Juis quickly. We don't have much time!"

When he heard his words, Minhyuk quickly finished his bowl and continued on his cooking. However, his 'Create a Recipe' skill would consume his buffing ability, so Minhyuk could only cook four times per day.

Was there any other way? None. So King Varen instructed his men to bring this ingredient to him. Ramis' Honey!

"Kgghk! It might not be Lefender's honey, but it's still delicious honey!" Minhyuk said as he quickly made grilled rice cake and ate it with Ramis' Honey. He could not stop himself from eating such a delicious combination! Ramis' Honey was not the best of the medicines that could be found, but once ingested it could randomly increase the person's EXP and restore their buff ability.

"Chomp!"

The steaming rice cake was dipped in Ramis' Honey and placed in Minhyuk's mouth. Once he chomped on it, he could taste the sweetness of the honey and the crunchy texture of the grilled rice cake. After chewing for quite some time, Minhyuk tasted the chewy inside of the rice cake which further enhanced his experience! It was truly a delightful snack.

"Kgghk!"

[Your buff has recovered.]

[You have leveled up.]

[Your buff has recovered.]

[Your buff has recovered.]

[You have leveled up.]

He continued to cook the dishes according to the recipe from the 'Create a Recipe' skill. Then, once his buffing ability was used up, he would go and eat Ramis' honey before cooking again. This cycle continued on and on. Ramis' Honey was around five platinum per dose but Minhyuk was being supplied an endless amount of Ramis' Honey. This was a feat that no player could ever hope to replicate.

Minhyuk was even able to bomb his way through his levels just by eating Ramis' Honey. Previously, when he successfully hunted Rumad, he was able to gain twenty levels which raised his level to Level 241. However, just by eating Ramis' Honey, he was able to increase his level to Level 249.

Minhyuk continued on for two days. He just continued to cook and eat Ramis' Honey before cooking again. However, the results...

"Two epic, 20 unique... uhm..."

...were disastrous. After the two epic-ranked dishes, the rank of the dishes began to deteriorate.

"W...we'll be in big trouble tomorrow! The catastrophe will definitely fall on us tomorrow!" Varen said, almost pulling his hair out of his head from his anxiety.

Minhyuk had suddenly started to lose his luck. This placed Varen's heart in tenterhooks. He was too nervous. He did not know if Minhyuk knew of his troubles, but he still watched as Minhyuk ate Ramis' Honey.

[Your buff has recovered.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have unsealed Great Mage's Arfield's Cloak.]

This cloak laid in his inventory quietly. Without this notification, Minhyuk might have completely forgotten about this item. This cloak was the cloak with the 'invisibility' function that could be worn at Level 250 and above. Now, this cloak had been unsealed.

#### Chapter 140: Legendary Dish

The Great Mage Arfield's Cloak! It had an invisibility effect that could allow the player to attack the enemy undetected for two seconds. However, if the attack was made after the allotted two seconds, the invisibility effect would be lifted and the mana consumption would be greater than what was expected. The cloak would consume 100 MP per second as per normal.

Minhyuk stowed the Great Mage Arfield's cloak away. He did not have time to check it. He had to hurry since the catastrophe would fall tomorrow. Just like what Varen said, they did not have enough time. Minhyuk started to cook again without taking any rest. However, he was still quite happy. After all, he could eat spicy stir-fried chicken every time he failed! Varen might look like he hated iron for not becoming steel, and was disgruntled with Minhyuk's happiness, but he could not scold Minhyuk since he could see how hard the boy was trying for their sake. Finally, the day that Iris Guild would attack and raid Goddess Juis in the dungeon arrived.

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Iris Guild was currently under the spotlight. Today was the day where all of the players of Athenae in the country had their eyes on them. Their dungeon attack squad had rallied their way in front of the dungeon of the Corrupted Goddess Juis and was now waiting for the right time to raid and attack the dungeon. Among these people was Han Taesung, the PD of Dungeon Attack Live.

‘Kyaa! There are at least 30 rankers who have gathered here...! Amazing!’

Half of the people present were mercenaries, while the remaining half were from Iris Guild. Of course, not all of the people present were rankers, there were also semi-rankers in their midst. Even though these semi-rankers did not have much of an influence in Athenae, they could still deal plenty of damage against their opponent.

‘The money that Iris Guild spent on this raid is enormous.’

They had no choice but to cough up money. The mercenary rankers’ payments were already enough to break the bank. Besides, the dungeon that they would raid was housing the Corrupted Goddess Juis. It was a huge dungeon that could accommodate 30-40 people in one go. Large-scale dungeons like these were more tricky and harder to raid, compared to normal dungeons.

‘Even so, if Iris Guild and Louvert Guild are successful in this SS-ranked dungeon raid quest, it will be a huge break for them,’ Han Taesung thought as he nodded.

Not long after, the live broadcast in Dungeon Attack Live began.

“We are here in front of the dungeon where the Corrupted Goddess Juis is located. Right now, Iris Guild has taken the initiative to help the rest of the players and make it easier for the whole Northern Continent. They have given up their hunting and leveling up for days just to speed up their preparations to attack the dungeon. Iris Guild’s Guild Master Callian had even spent plenty of money and incurred great losses, all just to hire rankers and mercenaries to join them in this quest today! These are all just to stop the catastrophe! They will also support the players with huge amounts of potions as well as the price for equipment maintenance.”

PD Han Taesung immediately tooted his horn for Iris Guild to let the players know about their ‘hardships’ for them. Of course, their viewers responded to them well.

[GoodIris: I love you, Iris! Make sure you solve the catastrophe that will once again come to the Northern Continent!]

[AnotherTopHunt: It’s seriously hot in here... Aren’t they saying that if another catastrophe comes then the players should get out of the continent, right? May Iris succeed in conquering this dungeon...]

[Cardi: Iris Guild so cool! The first SS-ranked quest, kyaa! Sounds fun!]

The players watched the broadcast filled with interest. After a while, Han Taesung heard the whisper that he most wanted to hear.

[Henry: PD, the viewer ratings are now over 20%!]

It was only the beginning but they had already reached 20%! They might even be able to get up to 40% in the viewer ratings today.

“We’re starting!” Callian said as the attack squad entered the dungeon.

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While Iris Guild started to raid the dungeon...

“...”

...Varen, Eidni and Minhyuk were all speechless. Unique ranked dishes had come up 20 consecutive times.

“...This is driving me crazy,” Varen said. He had been informed that a guild had entered the dungeon to hunt the Wrathful Spirit of Goddess Juis. Their problems had now escalated.

Valkyrie Kingdom had encountered a problem and the actual suspect for the sabotage was now trying to attack the dungeon? They even wanted to damage Goddess Juis’ body? This would not do! However, if they all failed, then the kingdom would face the second catastrophe. The best way was for Minhyuk to succeed!

[Unique ranked...]

[Unique ranked...]

[Unique ranked...]

Minhyuk continuously failed. By this time, his nerves were frayed in anxiety and he could not help but sweat. When he peeked at the guild chat window...

[Guild Chat | Crow: It seems that attacking the dungeon was harder than we thought... There are plenty of rankers in their midst but they still haven’t gone past the entrance...]

[Guild Chat | Locke: They’re just wasting their potions, hehehe. Are they drinking the Grass’ Dew Potion like powerade? Isn’t that potion about three platinum per bottle? Wow, and they’re just spraying it like that.]

[Guild Master Genie: They have betted Iris Guild’s life and death this time, and...]

Genie did not finish her sentence, but Minhyuk knew what she wanted to say. Iris Guild would definitely get a larger return if they succeeded in this quest. Promotional effects, hordes of players wanting to join their guild, Ballad’s Cup and many others, these would be the gains of a guild that could overcome and appease a catastrophe.

And Minhyuk...

‘I have to do it.’

...had a reason to do so. A very crucial reason... Sushi. Not only sushi, but he also had one dish that he wanted to cook with the help of Ballad’s Cup.

‘If I can eat sushi dipped in wasabi and hot sauce partnered with a sip of a delicious and savory hot soup... Kgghk! I have to do it, I must...!’

Even so, it was truly not an easy task. Back when Hyemin’sDaddy made a legendary artifact, he also experienced plenty of setbacks, but his luck had played a great role in him completing such an artifact in a short amount of time. Time continuously flowed and his failures kept on piling up.

[Guild Chat | Locke: They have reached the center of the dungeon but they are dying one by one...]

[Guild Chat | Khan: Serves you right, you sons of bitches!]

[Guild Master Genie: hehehehe. Just thinking about the penalty... their guild will definitely suffer a lot.]

The dungeon attack squad had already reached the middle of the dungeon and they were slowly heading towards the place where Goddess Juis’ corrupted spirit was located.

Minhyuk sighed deeply. He knew that he needed to clear his head for a moment before going back to cooking. This was already the fourth day, and Minhyuk had not rested or slept at all. His favor with Varen, Eidni and Perle had even reached the maximum because they could see his efforts for their kingdom.

After closing his eyes for a moment, Minhyuk stood back up and began his arduous cooking once more. He carefully added the cabbage, mixed chicken meat, sweet potato, carrots, onions and the rest of the ingredients to the round pan. Then, he started to stir-fry all of the ingredients.

Sizzle!

As the sound of the sizzling ingredients grew louder and louder, Minhyuk thought carefully about the dish named spicy stir-fried chicken.

‘Isn’t it the world’s cheapest course meal?’

The first course was meat. Just wrap the spicy stir-fried chicken with lettuce, add some spicy dipping sauce and garlic and eat it as a wrap! Then, there were the add-ons. Seasoned udon noodles, sweet and flavorful sweet potato, even chewy hand-pulled dough. After that? Of course it was the final course. Stir-fry some rice with the remaining sauce and sprinkle it with seaweed. The seaweed flakes would dance from the heat and add more flavors to the rice. Then, press the rice before scooping and eating it carefully. There was also the frozen radish water kimchi, a sip from this side dish would give one a refreshing break from the greasiness of the dish. That was how excellent and satisfying the dish was.

Minhyuk’s forehead was dotted with sweat. His nervousness coupled with his extreme concentration had already soaked him in sweat. He quickly wiped off the sweat with the sleeves of his shirt and continued cooking.

[Guild Chat | Khan: It’s the boss room. Ah... We’re in trouble.]

Minhyuk finished cooking the moment Khan sent his message. Just then, the notifications rang.

[You have completed a Spicy Stir-Fried Chicken.]

[Juis’ dish is the only dish with the buff effect.]

[The Create a Recipe Skill Effect can only be tasted by the same person once per month.]

[Trance. It's a dish that has your 'efforts', 'passion' and 'desire to create a better dish' poured into it.]

[Due to the effects of Trance, the buff effect has become better.]

[Legendary Grade.]

[You have gained 30 DEX.]

[You have gained 200 REP.]

[You have gained 5,000 AP.]

[You have created the very first Legendary Dish.]

[You have gained the Title: 'The Man Who Created a Legend.']

[All basic stats will increase by +2.]

[The Man Who Created a Legend can place his or her name or nickname on the dish.]

[Please specify a name or a nickname.]

Finally, he had done it.

Minhyuk quickly checked his rewards. The rewards for making a legendary dish were truly enormous. His REP had increased by 200 points in a single go, just like when he successfully hunted Rumad. On top of that, he was also able to gain another title. Back when he received the title 'The Man Who Hunted One of the Pinnacle Strong Men,' he received an effect that increased his stats by 10% whenever he was fighting an opponent that was 100 levels higher than him. As for 'The Man Who Created a Legend' he quickly checked the title.

(The Man Who Created a Legend)

Unique Title

Requirements: The Man Who Created a Legend

Title Effects:

?The probability of creating a legendary dish has doubled.

?Buff ability volume has doubled.

?Increases the shelf life and prevention time.

It was quite a good title. After he checked the title, Minhyuk quickly checked the legendary dish.

(Spicy Stir-Fried Chicken)

Material Grade: S

Rank: Legendary

Requirements: Only Juis could have the buff effects.

Shelf Life: 65 days

Preservation Time: 60 days

Special Effects:

?God Juis' Blessings +6

?Holy Power x2.

Description: This is a legendary dish made by a chef with surprising powers and abilities.

"...Wow."

Minhyuk had always easily exclaimed whenever he was confronted with food, but the only thing that he could utter right now was a single wow.

Juis' skills would have an additional +6? Even her holy power, the crystallization of God's power and body would double?! God Juis would definitely acquire a great deal of holy power with just this dish alone. Her holy power was already unimaginable. So, how great would it be if it got doubled?

Minhyuk realized that it was not the time to admire the dish. Varen and Eidni had also realized that something strange had happened when Minhyuk finished making the dish. It was because a strong, bright light enveloped the dish after he finished plating it.

"D...don't tell me...?"

"Let's go. It already came out!"

"...!"

Varen was curious. So, before coming to the temple, he asked. "Can I look at it?"

Minhyuk nodded as Varen quickly checked the spicy stir-fried chicken but... he was just left speechless.

"Your Highness?" Minhyuk called out to Varen. He only came back to his senses at the call.

Varen nodded as he ran with Minhyuk. Then, he thought, 'I want to eat it too...'

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PD Han Taesung's mouth was going to rip with how wide he was grinning. He was forced to log out of the dungeon together with the others, but he was still extremely happy.

"Kyaa! Our viewer ratings are over 38%!!!"

There were plenty of viewers watching their broadcast. Chilling tension! Rankers' abilities! And monsters that were as powerful as the rankers! The rest of the players had finally entered the boss room and they could see that the boss monster, Wrathful Spirit of Goddess Juis, was extremely strong. The corrupted holy power that leaked out of her body constantly could instantly rot the players' skin and bring them under an abnormal state.

'Hunting Juis had brought us a huge promotional effect, what would happen if they successfully get the rewards?'

The viewers would definitely cheer. Meanwhile...

[Keuaaack!]

...another player was forced to log out and only four people were left in the boss room. The only people left were Black, Callian, and two other Iris Guild guild members. Callian went all out just to save Black. Even though the dish was already cooked, they thought that it would have a better effect if they showed how he cooked. Callian winked at his guild members.

[Aaaaaaaaargh!]

[Beast's Blade!]

The guild members squeezed the last of their energies to attack the Wrathful Spirit of Goddess Juis. No, to be exact, they ran in front of Goddess Juis to take the bullet for Callian and Black.

“Sacrifice of the few for the many.?Kgghk!” Han Taesung exclaimed. He was quite impressed with how the Iris Guild members threw themselves in front of Goddess Juis.

[Keuaaaack!]

[Graaaaaaack!]

Their bodies were ripped to shreds with just one touch from Goddess Juis. At that moment, Callian moved.

Slash!

[Aaaaaaaaargh!]

Juis shrieked as the voices of the guild members who fell down rang loudly. They sounded too in sync.

[Y...you must succeed!]

[The Northern Continent must be explored with safety. Do it for all of the distressed players...!]

They sounded too stiff and weird, as if reading their lines roughly and mechanically from a script, but the audience's ears would not recognize this irregularity. They would only see Juis falling down as Callian held his sword firmly.

[I'll surely put the catastrophe out of everyone's sight!]

Callian's sword was engulfed with a bright light, as he squeezed out all his strength and ran straight towards Juis. He successfully stabbed Juis' chest! Juis staggered back as Callian pulled out his sword and tried to slash at her abdomen.

“He kil...!” Han Taesung shouted to declare their success. But then, something happened...

[Shwaaaaa!]

...Goddess Juis burst in a flash of bright light and disappeared.

“H...huh... W...what the hell? Did he kill her?” Han Taesung asked in confusion, turning to look at the people behind him.

“His sword did not reach her yet, though...?”

They saw the same scene as what Taesung saw and they were sure that the sword did not stab Juis yet.

“W...what the hell?!”

The broadcasting station was suddenly turned upside down with chaos. Callian was also looking around suspiciously. Even the viewer’s message board was exploding in comments. All of them were saying that they were certain that the attack did not push through and they were wondering why Juis suddenly disappeared. Right now, the words of the players, the viewers, the broadcasters and the members of Iris Guild were all one and the same.

[GoodIris: W...what...?]