

Gourmet 151

Chapter 151: Grilled Clam

Kiari, one of the Dragon King's children, sighed despondently as she entered her room.

'Jevis, where are you...'

It had been days since Jevis, the third child, had been missing.

'Did you really run away?'

No, that could not be. Although Jevis was the youngest among the three of them, no one else could be said to trust and follow the Dragon King more than her. Jevis' loyalty to the Dragon King was as wide as the sea, so much so that she would have willingly given her Rabbit's Liver if the Dragon King asked for it. That was how much love she had for the Dragon King.

At that moment, Kiari frowned because she felt something.

"That...?"

She turned to look under her bed, where a piece of paper was tucked away neatly. When she pulled it out, she saw that it was a letter.

[If there is anything in this world that can heal the Dragon King, I will find it no matter what. That's why I'm going to hunt the predator. I'll be right back. Kiari.]

There was also a rabbit's pawmark, as if to prove that it was really from her. Perhaps, when Jevis had written the letter and placed it on her desk, the wind had entered through the gaps from the door, displacing the letter until it rested underneath her bed.

'Jevis...!'

Jevis was the weakest among the three of them, but it was still a fact that she was one of the Dragon King's children. It was quite possible for her to successfully hunt the legendary Clam Golem that they had deemed to be a predator.

Originally, the Dragon King had forbidden the hunting of the Clam Golem because it ate up the trash scattered around in the Dragon King's Sea. However, Jevis had ignored the Dragon King's past orders and had gone ahead to hunt it. This showed that she was prepared to receive any punishment just to find a way to cure the Dragon King. This was how deep her love was for the Dragon King.

Jevis might have been the weakest among the three of them, but she had special powers. From childhood, she was the only person who could communicate with Sea God Roves, something that even the Dragon King could not do! This was the reason why her holy power was high and why she excelled in various production jobs. Jevis could even create huge batches of fine quality potions. From her letter, Kiari could tell that she wanted to make a potion using the materials from the predator and feed it to the Dragon King.

Jevis also had a lot of buff abilities, as well as aggro skills. Her aggro skills were so superb that she could even attract stronger and amazing creatures. Kiari was not entirely sure, but it was not entirely impossible for Jevis to draw the attention of the predator.

At this point though, there was one problem...

‘Why isn’t Jevis back yet...?’

Did something go wrong? No, she could easily take down the predator. Did something unusual happen?

‘D...don’t tell me... Did the predator become angry?!’

From what Kiari knew, the predator had only become angry twice in history. The enraged predator would undergo a complete physical change, and would become much stronger. The predator’s anger would only rise if there were plenty of trash under the sea, and once its anger reaches its peak, the predator would then become the Angry Predator.

‘An angry predator... the Clam Golem...’

If that was the case, then even Jevis might not be able to win against such an opponent.

Minhyuk tightened his grip on his sword as he watched the bastard close its mouth. He thought, ‘It’s quite close, so it would be good if I can kill it all at once.’

The only way to attack the bastard was through its mouth. If Minhyuk was able to strike it successfully, he would definitely be able to kill it at one go.

[Scattering Sword has been completed.]

[A single attack will deal six additional damages with a 40% increase.]

Chichichichiiiiik!

A weird sound came out from an empty space not far from where the Clam Golem was located.

“Grrr?” The Clam Golem growled curiously as it opened its mouth widely.

Minhyuk quickly used this opportunity to send a strike towards its open mouth as he rushed forward.

Clang!

‘...?!’

The moment the attack connected, Minhyuk heard the jarring sound of metal clashing with metal.

‘What the hell? Why does it sound like I’m hitting metal?’

Minhyuk accurately landed his attacks on the Clam Golem’s mouth, five times, consecutively.

Ting, ting, ting, ting, ting!

However, he still could not scratch it with his sword. At that moment, the wide-open mouth suddenly started to return back to its original state. Then...

Fwiiiiiiish!

...Minhyuk sent his final attack with a horizontal strike!

“Keuaaaaaack!”

[Intangible Sword.]

[Your sword strike has ignored all of the enemy’s defenses.]

Clam shells slowly fell down as his strike finally landed.

‘What a crazy defense...!’

Minhyuk finally realized why only one attack came through from all of his other strikes.

‘How high is this bastard’s defense?’

The beady eyes of the Clam Golem suddenly turned towards Minhyuk. Since the invisibility would be lifted two seconds after an attack, Minhyuk was now fully visible! The bastard looked like he was about to dash towards where he was. Minhyuk quickly turned around to run, however, he faintly realized how disadvantageous his situation was.

“S... tep!”

Vwooooooooooong!

As soon as his feet left the ground, a fist slammed straight through the afterimage that he had left behind.

Vwoooong!

Minhyuk had barely escaped the attack. However, the Clam Golem quickly turned around and swung its fist at him again.

Vwoooooong!

Minhyuk felt the strength of the wind from the Clam Golem’s fist, as he used Step to evade the attack once more. The g-force was so strong that it turned his hair into a mess.

Dash!

Minhyuk successfully evaded the attack once again! Of course, he also tried to strike it with his sword.

Clang!

Just as he expected, he was not able to leave so much as a scratch on its body.

‘What kind of nonsense is this....!’

At that moment...

Bang!

...the ground was smashed once again.

Swoosh!

Minhyuk quickly narrowed the distance between them.

[Sword of Fury]

[Additional 60% attack power for strong lunges and stabs, if a vital strike is successful, the bonus will be 100%.]

Swoosh!

Minhyuk's sword, which was filled with a strong force, stabbed strongly at the Clam Golem's body. Sword of Fury was literally a stabbing attack. Once the attack was successful, the condensed power in the sword would then explode inside the body of the enemy.

'As long as Intangible Sword is attached to it...!'

If that happened, then Minhyuk might really be able to subdue the monster in front of him. However...

Dash!

...black energy suddenly covered the fist of the Angry Clam Golem as it ran towards Minhyuk.

Fwoosh!

The bastard swung its fist as it countered Minhyuk's sword with a punch. A powerful force resulted as the punch collided with the tip of Minhyuk's sword, traveling straight towards Minhyuk's body!

Bang!

"Ack!"

The force that was condensed at the tip of Minhyuk's sword exploded from the clash against the Clam Golem's fist. The force was so strong that Minhyuk's body was sent flying backwards. The Clam Golem quickly straightened its body and caught up with Minhyuk. Minhyuk's eyes widened in shock. However, thanks to his amazing reflexes, he was still able to attempt another attack despite being in a disadvantageous position.

[Rampant Sword.]

[A flurry of rampant swords with additional 35% attack power will be created for 7 seconds.]

Slash!

Slaaaaaash!

The quick and indiscriminate sword strikes from the Rampant Sword appeared! Minhyuk believed that using this skill was a better choice than blocking the monster's attack. Dozens of sword lights swung indiscriminately towards the Clam Golem.

[Intangible Sword.]

[Your sword strike has ignored all of the enemy's defenses.]

Slaaaash!

Bang, bang, bang!

[Intangible Sword.]

[Your sword strike has ignored all of the enemy's defenses.]

Wounds finally started to appear on the Clam Golem's body. However, the attack was not enough to stop the Clam Golem from chasing after Minhyuk, who was still flying. Minhyuk quickly slashed his sword at its chest.

[Intangible Sword.]

[Your sword strike has ignored all of the enemy's defenses.]

The reason why Intangible Sword was considered to be a ridiculous skill was because it could ignore all of the enemy's defenses. It was like attacking a completely defenseless person who only had a shirt for their armor. This meant that, as long as the enemy's HP was not high, Minhyuk would be able to kill them easily. However, the bastard in front of him still looked as energetic as ever.

'How high is its damned HP...!'

Before he knew it, his body had already landed and rolled on the ground. Minhyuk stood up, quickly adjusting his footing. The Clam Golem swiftly narrowed the distance between them. Minhyuk realized that he would not be able to evade this attack, so he hurriedly took out his frying pan.

[Frying Pan Gigantification.]

[You can adjust the size of your frying pan depending on the mana that you will input.]

Minhyuk quickly enlarged his frying pan as he covered his body with it. Then...

Baaang!

...The bastard's fist slammed straight at the frying pan.

"Ugh!"

The force of the fist was so strong that Minhyuk's body flew back and slammed straight into the walls of the cave.

'My HP dropped by 10%...?'

Even though most of the impact was received by the frying pan, he still received a huge amount of damage. Left in a daze, Minhyuk realized too late that the Clam Golem's fist was already right at his face.

Bang!

A notification rang out as soon as the punch landed on his body.

[Your HP has dropped below 50%.]

[The powerful blow has left one of your eyes temporarily blind.]

One of Minhyuk's eyes slowly closed, narrowing his vision. As if realizing that Minhyuk was incapacitated, it geared for another attack.

Baang!

Its foot stretched out and kicked Minhyuk in his abdomen.

“Kghk!”

Minhyuk threw up blood after being sent deeper into the wall of the cave from the kick. His consciousness blurred and became hazy, but he still held his sword tightly.

‘I’m going... to eat... grilled clams...!’

The taste of the shellfish meat on an open-mouthed white clam and the clear soup in the plate-like shell. The taste of the clams being dipped in vinegar... Minhyuk wanted to taste these flavors once again. He had to taste it.

[Your HP has dropped below 3%.]

[Excessive bleeding is making your body deteriorate slowly.]

Blood was dripping from Minhyuk’s head and his body was not in a good condition. However, a bright light suddenly covered his body, recovering his injuries rapidly. This was the Armor of Immortality’s effect.

[Three Consecutive Quick Assault]

[Your attacks will deal damage thrice.]

The Clam Golem was watching Minhyuk since he was on the verge of death. That was why it was caught off guard and thus, was stabbed in its abdomen.

Ting!

However, its extremely sturdy shell was able to stop Minhyuk’s attack. Minhyuk stabbed it again.

Tiiiiing!

As expected, his attack was blocked again. And his final attack...

Stab!

...finally pierced through its stomach.

[Intangible Sword.]

[Your sword strike has ignored all of the enemy’s defenses.]

[You have dealt a critical strike.]

“Keuaaaack!” The Clam Golem shrieked loudly as its hands swung once more to punch at Minhyuk.

Swoosh!

[Step.]

[You can attack while instantly travel a distance of one meter twice allowing you to quickly narrow or widen your distance from your target.]

Minhyuk’s first step was used to move to the left to avoid the incoming punch.

Puhaaaaa!

[Intangible Sword.]

[Your sword strike has ignored all of the enemy's defenses.]

The shells from its thick armor-like body fluttered down to the ground in troves.

“Gruooooo!”

The Clam Golem screamed angrily as Minhyuk quickly dashed away to increase the distance between them. Then, he stabbed the ground strongly with the tip of his sword.

[Earth Quake!]

[A violent earthquake is triggered within a ten meter radius.]

“Keuhaa!”

The Angry Clam Golem stretched its hands out to try and catch Minhyuk. However, the ground started to shake violently, trapping the Clam Golem in its clutches. Minhyuk used this moment to increase the distance between them further.

‘What skill do I have that has the fastest cooldown?’

The skill was Scattering Sword. However, there were still twenty seconds left before he could use it again.

Rumble—

The Clam Golem demonstrated its immense strength by crushing the rising ground that trapped it. Minhyuk took this opportunity to increase the distance between them to about 100 meters. Just like that, the Angry Clam Golem broke free from its restraints. Then, it turned to glare at Minhyuk and...

[Clam Golem's Roar.]

[All abilities will temporarily increase by 30%.]

“Graaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

“Ack!”

Minhyuk heard the ear-shattering roar of the Clam Golem.

‘Did it say 30% stronger than before?’ Minhyuk thought. However, before he could think further...

Bang!

...The monster stomped on the ground and dashed to where he was.

‘...!’

Minhyuk's eyes widened. The Clam Golem's speed had greatly increased to the point that it could break the ground beneath its feet. Minhyuk quickly dashed away.

“Step!” Minhyuk shouted, barely avoiding the galloping golem in front of him! The Clam Golem screeched to a halt before slamming its foot down and sticking to Minhyuk's back.

[Scattering Sword.]

[A single attack will deal six additional damages with a 30% increase each.]

Taeng, taeng, taeng!

Just like what Minhyuk had known since earlier, the Clam Golem's defenses were truly difficult to deal with. It quickly turned around and grabbed Minhyuk.

"...?!"

Minhyuk's eyes widened when he saw its eyes slowly being dyed black.

Clang! Slash! Clang! Slash!

Two of his attacks slammed straight at its chest. However, due to its monstrous HP, it still did not collapse. Then, the blackness that covered its eyes slowly spread out, creating a sphere. The huge, black and powerful sphere suddenly descended on Minhyuk.

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

Grrrrrrrr!

The entire cave shook strongly as piles of stones fell down from the ceiling.

"N, no!" Ben shouted in frustration after seeing the cave shake strongly.

Quite some time had passed since Minhyuk had entered the cave. However, Ben knew that he had already found the Clam Golem since he could keenly hear the sounds of fighting which was followed by the sounds that he was currently hearing.

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

Grrrrrrrr!

It was not just the cave, even the Dragon King's Sea was shaking strongly from the force inside. Ben dropped to his knees as he peered into the darkness of the cave with frustration and despair.

"...Th...this can't be happening."

'I already lost my son, am I going to lose this young man who reminds me of him too?'

Ben's eyes began to lose their shine as he looked at the cave in a daze.

"...!"

The Clam Golem's eyes bulged in surprise. It believed that everything was over. It was sure that the intruder that recklessly entered its cave had died with that attack. However, there was something standing in between itself and the intruder. The being was smaller than its fist and was floating in the air. It was none other than Beanie, the baby pig with a flipper spatula and a pot on its head.

"Oiiiiink...!"

[Beanie is angry.]

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Minhyuk was startled when Beanie suddenly popped out of the summoning room by itself. With the little guy's appearance, a string of notifications rang in his head.

[Beanie has been summoned.]

[Pet Summoning Buff. Your attack will temporarily increase by 13% and your defense will temporarily increase by 8%.]

[Pet Artifact Buff. Your STR will temporarily increase by 4% and your defense will temporarily increase by 10%.]

Minhyuk received buffs as Beanie's owner! Beanie's defense was almost 4,000. Considering that the Armor of Immortality had a defensive power of 1,100, Beanie's defense was on a whole other level in comparison.

Then, several spheres made of the condensed black light flew straight at Minhyuk.

[Flipping Blade]

[AGI doubles and Slashing Force increases by 1.3x for 30 seconds.]

A faint, yet unmistakable, black glow covered Beanie's body and followed its every movement like scattered smoke.

Bang!

Beanie used his spatula to block a black sphere flying towards them.

Bang, bang, bang!

Beanie's speed increased until its movements could not be tracked by the naked eye as he continued to block the spheres of light that flew at Minhyuk. However, Beanie was not omnipotent, there were still quite a few spheres that went past his defenses.

Baaaaang!

A black sphere grazed past Beanie and slammed into Minhyuk.

"Urk!" Minhyuk groaned loudly from the powerful force that exploded in him.

However, Minhyuk could see that Beanie was trying its best to block the hits, knowing that they would deal a critical blow on Minhyuk if they landed on him. Beanie's body was slowly covered in wounds as it blocked the spheres. However, it still floated in the air with a majestic air as it glared at the Clam Golem.

"Oiiiink...!"

"G, grrr...!"

Minhyuk looked at them strangely. He thought, 'What's this?'

Beanie had a high defense. In a way, his defense was high enough to even exceed that of the Clam Golem in front of them. That was the reason why they could endure the Clam Golem's attacks. However, it seemed like the Clam Golem was slowing down.

'Is it afraid? Of Beanie...?'

That was preposterous! However, it seemed like the Clam Golem had quickly gotten over whatever it was afraid of, as it dashed forward to attack again.

"Oink!" Beanie cried loudly as he gestured to Minhyuk. Minhyuk understood what he meant immediately. Beanie would stop the Clam Golem's attacks, so Minhyuk had to attack!

Swoooooosh!

Beanie flew straight at the golem.

"Keuaaaaaack!" The Clam Golem shrieked loudly as it aimed its punch towards Minhyuk.

Bang!

However, Beanie quickly intercepted the attack with its small body. The attack was powerful but Beanie still held on. Taking advantage of the gap in the Clam Golem's attacks, Minhyuk quickly narrowed the distance with Step as he launched his attack.

'Sword of Fury's cooldown is coming to an end soon...!'

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

Baaaaaang!

"Oink!" Beanie cried as it got pushed back. It looked tired, and the Clam Golem was not faring any better. The Clam Golem was even breathing heavily now. Minhyuk quickly narrowed the distance and attacked relentlessly.

Slash!

[Intangible Sword.]

[Your sword strike has ignored all of the enemy's defenses.]

[You have dealt a fatal blow.]

Puhaaaaa!

Then, one of the Clam Golem's arms was cut off.

"Keuaaaaaack!"

The angry monster swung its fist against them indiscriminately.

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

Beanie groaned loudly as it blocked the strikes of the Clam Golem, "Oiiiink—"

[Beanie's HP has gone below 20%.]

Fortunately, pets could still be summoned after a cooldown of 24 hours, even if they died.

Baaaang!

Beanie was suddenly hit by a powerful blow. It could not stop the blow completely and was sent rolling on the floor.

Roll, roll, roll—

“Oiiiiink...!” Beanie cried loudly as it struggled to stand up, to no avail. The Clam Golem immediately approached Beanie and kicked it.

“Oiiiiink...!”

Beanie flew backwards as its small body got embedded in the wall. At that moment, there was a faint glow that was emitting from the ground where the Clam Golem was standing.

[Paralyze.]

[The enemy's body will be paralyzed for two seconds.]

The special effect that was attached to Hepas' Silver Pot had been triggered. Paralyze. It was a skill that could completely paralyze the body of the opponent for two seconds. Minhyuk took advantage of this opportunity and tried to resolve the crisis that they were in. He quickly used Step to get close to the Clam Golem...

[Sword of Fury.]

...gathering power into the tip of his sword once again, he stabbed into one of its vital points. Then...

Crumble!

[Intangible Sword.]

[Your sword strike has ignored all of the enemy's defenses.]

...the sword went straight through its chest.

“Gruoooo?!” The bastard screeched.

Minhyuk smiled lightly and said, “Grilled clams, let's go...!”

Baaaaaaaang!

The powerful force that was condensed by Sword of Fury exploded in the Clam Golem's chest.

“Keuaaaaaack!” The Clam Golem roared as it stumbled back, the shells on its gaping chest moving slowly.

‘D...don't tell me it's regenerating?!’

If the Clam Golem had regeneration, then it was a fight that Minhyuk could never win. It was a relief when he saw that it was not the case. However, its body suddenly started to swell.

‘Is this what its body originally looked like...?’

Minhyuk could see that this enormous body looked exactly like what Ben had described to him earlier. Not long after, the bastard’s mouth opened widely, making both Minhyuk and Beanie tremble in nervousness. Then, at that moment...

“Kueeeeeeeeeeeck!”

...fish, trash and all sorts of things suddenly started pouring out of its mouth in droves.

“Eeeeck!” Minhyuk shouted as he quickly jumped up and held on to one of the stalactites on the cave’s ceiling. Things constantly poured out of the Clam Golem’s mouth. Strangely enough, the trash that they were talking about was valuable artifacts.

‘Did it also eat artifacts?’

Anyway, Minhyuk was told that it could eat anything and everything under the sea so he thought that it might be possible. After vomiting everything out of its stomach, the Clam Golem finally collapsed.

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[...leveled up.]

The notification sounds of leveling up constantly rang in Minhyuk’s head. He had leveled up 23 times in a row! From what was said before, Minhyuk had double the EXP Acquisition Rate and Item Drop Rate during the Clam Golem hunt. Was it perhaps it was because he entered the cave? No. It was likely because the Clam Golem was in an angry state, which would give twice the amount of the rewards compared to the original Clam Golem. Minhyuk quickly jumped down and used his Ingredients Acquisition skill to acquire his prized shellfish and clams.

[You have acquired an Abalone.]

[You have acquired a Scallops.]

[You have acquired a Mussel.]

[You have acquired a Manila Clam.]

[You have acquired a Clam.]

[... a Pen Shell.]

“Kyaaa!” Minhyuk shrieked in joy and satisfaction as he looked at all the shellfish that he had collected from the Clam Golem.

[You have acquired 35,523,151 gold.]

[You have acquired Roves’ Ring.]

[You have acquired the Clam Golem’s Hard Shell.]

[...acquired Varda’s Sword.]

[...acquired Chemil’s Armor.]

[...acquired Shark’s Blade.]

Among the things that Minhyuk had acquired, only one thing made him stop...

‘Th...that is...?’

Oysters were delicious whether you eat them raw, in a pancake, or with kimchi! It was an oyster! Of course, Minhyuk was still able to acquire oysters from the Clam Golem. However, compared to the others, there was one in front of him that looked unusual. Oysters usually had rough, rugged shells and a dull color. However, this oyster was completely white in color. He quickly bent down to pick it up.

[You have acquired a Purification Oyster.]

Minhyuk did not hesitate to check the information of the oyster in his hands.

(Purification Oyster)

Material Grade: Medicine

Special Effects:

?Holy Power+100

?Magical Defense+100

Description: The predator that was living in this cave had held on to this Purification Oyster for quite a long time. The Purification Oyster had grown slowly for decades under the care and nourishment of the Clam Golem’s power. The taste is naturally superb!

“Kyaa!” Minhyuk squealed at this unexpected luck. This was the only Purification Oyster in the world!

‘How should I eat this guy? Should I make some oyster pancakes with it? Or should I make soup with it? Oyster rice soup? Or maybe, oyster in kimchi? It will definitely be delicious in everything!’

However, he only had one! After some thought, he decided that it would be delicious if he ate it raw, with some garlic, spicy peppers, and chili paste vinegar. Minhyuk quickly placed the oyster in his frying pan. Raw oysters were more delicious if they were cooled and almost frozen.

[The Frying Pan has recognized the ingredients.]

[The First Tier Ice is recommended.]

[Would you like to use it?]

The frying pan could determine the most appropriate temperature for the dish. The oyster that was placed in it was still closed. Then...

Crack, crack, crack—

...frost started to form and cover the surface of the frying pan. After achieving the most suitable temperature, the frost immediately withdrew and disappeared. Minhyuk quickly pried open the mouth of the shell to see the white flesh of the oyster.

“Wow...”

Gulp—

Minhyuk’s saliva dripped down from his wide open mouth. Then...

“Oink!”

...Beanie cried as it held its stomach sullenly, looking at Minhyuk pitifully. Beanie had truly worked hard today.

‘He might be my emergency food, but I have to admit, he was cool and awesome today...!’

So, Minhyuk pulled out an oyster that he had received from the Clam Golem and pried it open for Beanie.

“Oink!”

Beanie gulped in anticipation as it looked at Minhyuk preparing the food for it. Minhyuk then placed some garlic, and peppers on top of the oysters. However, it seemed like Beanie had a firm grasp on what it wanted, gesturing for Minhyuk to add the wasabi with soy sauce, instead of the chili paste vinegar. Beanie nodded fiercely when Minhyuk pulled out the soy sauce and wasabi. After preparing everything, Minhyuk brought the oyster to his mouth. As soon as the white flesh entered his mouth...

“Wow...”

He could smell the faint smell of the sea. It was truly amazing. Minhyuk looked down at the shell on his hand and said, “It does not taste fishy at all...!”

There was no fishiness at all. Once he chewed it, he could taste the flavors of the oyster, garlic, chili paste vinegar and peppers, combining to produce the magnificent harmony of seafood flavor that he had longed for.

Even Beanie’s body trembled as it also closed its eyes to savor the delicious flavor.

“Oiiiiiiiink...!”

[Beanie is happy.]

Minhyuk shuddered in happiness as a set of notifications rang in his head.

[You have eaten the Purification Oyster with Garlic, Spicy Peppers and Chili Paste Vinegar.]

[Food God's Greatness.]

[You have ignored the medicine penalty. However, it still remains ineffective for other people.]

[A Medicine Dish. You have obtained additional stats.]

[+111 on Holy Power and +108 on Magical Defense.]

[You will inflict an additional 5% damage towards undead monsters.]

Minhyuk's holy power had now reached an astounding 600 points. Combined with the effect of Pandora's Helmet, he would be able to exert double the amount. However, Minhyuk felt that it was just a nuisance to him. All he could think of at that moment was that it was a pity that he could only eat one Purification Oyster.

‘I'm going to make oyster pancake later~’

Fortunately, he still had plenty of oysters, even if they might not be as delicious as the Purification Oyster. Minhyuk tried to look for a place to eat grilled clams, only to realize that the cave was much wider than he initially thought. He went further inside until he heard the sound of waves crashing.

Shwaaaaa!

Minhyuk slowly walked forward. His eyes widened at the sight. He said, “Wow. There's a sea inside another sea...”

There was literally a sea in front of him. However, even though the cave was placed under the sea, there was no water inside at all. Once he had walked and climbed further inside, he saw the waves of another sea below him crashing by the shore. It was both a mysterious and amazing sight to behold.

‘What if I eat grilled clams while watching these waves?’

“Kgghk!?Beans, let's hurry...!” Minhyuk said as he turned to look at Beanie and urged it to move. However, when he turned, he could not help but be surprised.

“Huh?”

Beanie quickly rushed up to the sea in front of them. Minhyuk could see some land below.

“Huh...?”

Minhyuk quickly hurried after Beanie.

“Beans?”

Beanie was sniffing on the ground as it moved at a high speed.

‘What's this? Huh, don't tell me...?! Doesn't Beanie have that incredible ability where he can immediately find amazing medicine?’

Not long after, Beanie stopped to look at a very small gap.

“Oink!”

Minhyuk hurriedly approached it. Once he arrived in front of the small gap that Beanie was looking at, he could see something inside. At first glance, the item was quite small in size. Also, it looked like a well-cooked liver that one could normally find in ?soondae. He reached out and took it with his hands. Then, a series of notifications rang in his head.

[Rabbit’s Liver.]

[Its hidden and unique abilities have been sealed.]

[Please use Ingredient Appraisal to check the sealed abilities.]

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“Huh...?” Minhyuk muttered dumbly, his head tilting in confusion. A faint red light flashed in the Rabbit’s Liver as the notifications rang. However, the light just flashed and disappeared immediately. Minhyuk checked the information, just to be sure.

(Rabbit’s Liver)

Material Grade: A

Special Effects:

?Abnormal State Resistance +5

?WIS +5

Description: The Rabbit’s Liver hidden by a rabbitman. It has the same flavor as the liver in blood sausage but is much more delicious than regular blood sausage.

‘OMG?!’

Minhyuk was in shock. It said that it tasted just like the liver in blood sausage! The thinly sliced liver that tasted a bit dry, but still had a deep flavor when dipped in salt or tteokbokki sauce?! And it was even more delicious?!

‘Wait. Will it taste better if I used Ingredient Appraisal on it?’

Minhyuk gulped. He would receive a huge penalty whenever he used the Ingredient Appraisal skill. Three points would be permanently deducted from his stats, while he needed to consume 1,000 MP just to activate the skill. However, in front of the delicious Rabbit’s Liver, such a penalty was nothing.

“Ingredient Appraisal.”

[Ingredient Appraisal.]

[Penalty. Permanently deducted -3 from all stats.]

Minhyuk’s hands glowed brightly. The white light then slowly engulfed and penetrated the small Rabbit’s Liver, causing it to grow bigger in size.

‘Kyaa! The liver is getting bigger! If it gets bigger then I can eat more!’ Minhyuk thought in admiration as the notifications rang in his head.

[You have appraised the ingredients.]

[You can now check the sealed unique and hidden abilities of the Rabbit’s Liver.]

Minhyuk immediately clicked on the Rabbit’s Liver and checked the information.

(Roves’ Treasure of the Seas)

Material Grade: Medicine Bestowed by God

Special Effects:

?Abnormal State Resistance +200

?WIS +100

?Holy Power +400

?Increase in defense and attack towards undead monsters depending on the amount of Holy Power.

Description: An excellent treasure hidden by Sea God Roves inside the Rabbit’s Liver. This divine treasure is said to be much more delicious than the Rabbit’s Liver from before.

“...!”

Minhyuk’s eyes widened. The change was very surprising, especially the part about the material grade.

‘Medicine... Bestowed by God... there’s a class like this among the medicines?’

Minhyuk thought, rubbing his chin. That was when Minhyuk recalled the update that he saw with Genie, Locke and Khan in reality. The update said that there would be new classes of medicine that were yet to be discovered in the Northern Continent. It seemed like Roves’ Treasure of the Seas was one of them.

Besides, the effects that one would be able to obtain from this material were not that simple. The most eye-catching effect was the final effect, where the attack and defense against undead monsters would increase depending on the amount of holy power. Minhyuk already had an additional 30% attack power against undead monsters. There was also Pandora’s Helmet’s effect wherein it doubled the force of his holy power. In other words, Minhyuk could already exert an additional 60% attack power against undead monsters.

With the addition of this special effect, aside from the attack power, Minhyuk would also have an increase in his defense against undead monsters, which would further protect him from their attacks. In other words, Minhyuk could have as much as a 60% increase in his defense if he was attacked by undead monsters.

Most importantly...

‘It’s much more delicious. Hahaha!’

Minhyuk smiled in satisfaction. Then he thought, ‘But if you look at this Rabbit’s Liver...’

The Rabbit's Liver reminded him of a folktale, in which, the rabbit was deceived by a turtle's lies and was dragged into the Dragon King's Palace. However, it was able to successfully run away by tricking its captors, telling them that it had to retrieve the liver that it had hidden on land.

Perhaps?Athenae?had used a real Rabbit's Liver for this setting? Minhyuk hesitated for about 0.1 seconds wondering if he should eat it or not. He shook his head and thought,?How do I know if that rabbit is a bad guy or not?'

After that short contemplation, Minhyuk nodded to himself and called out, "Well, let's go Beans! Let's eat grilled clams!"

"Oiiink!"

The two of them ran off excitedly.

Minhyuk looked around happily after he finished his set-up.

Shwaaaaa!

The refreshing sound of the waves crashing by the shore, the cool wind that tickled his face, together with the griller placed on top of a coal briquette stove, everything looked picturesque at that moment. On top of the griller was a silver foil made into a box and filled with a special red sauce that was personally made by Minhyuk. It was currently reaching boiling point. Lined up next to the sauce were grilled clams and their perfect partner in crime, grilled prawns with coarse salt sprinkled on top of them!

"Hiyaa... Look at how the color changes."

The almost-translucent flesh of the prawn was slowly turning red as it started to get cooked. On the other side, a grayish-white clam slowly opened its mouth. The shellfish lined next to it were cut in half as it slowly got grilled. The large pen shell, scallops and abalones looked completely appetizing.

Minhyuk layered a pair of plastic gloves on top of the cotton work gloves that he had worn earlier. Then, he turned to Beanie and said, "Beans. Hyung will peel it for you."

"Oink!" Beanie oinked loudly as it looked at Minhyuk in anticipation.

Minhyuk smiled deeply and thought,?Fufu. The person who grills eats the most.'

Minhyuk volunteered to peel the shellfish for Beanie not because he wanted to help Beanie, but because he wanted to eat more! Minhyuk quickly lifted one of the clams and pried it open with force.

Crack—

"Wow..."

"Oink...!"

Steam rose from the clam as soon as Minhyuk opened the shell. Once the steam cleared, they could see the plump meat of the clam, as well as the white soup inside. Minhyuk excitedly pried open all of the cooked clams, then he used his chopsticks to pick up a lump of clam meat off of its shell.

This was the start of their mukbang.

Minhyuk sighed in amazement at the white and plump clam meat. He quickly took a sip of the refreshing soup from the clam and let the flavor slowly spread out in his mouth. The clam meat was also surprisingly chewy and soft!

Next, Minhyuk focused his attention on the boiling special red sauce in the middle! This sauce was filled with plenty of seasonings and ingredients like cheese, butter, red chili paste, and other vegetables. Minhyuk quickly dipped a piece of clam meat in the sauce. A string of cheese stretched out, connecting the sauce and the clam meat as Minhyuk lifted it up. When he placed it in his mouth, he could immediately taste the cheese and red chili paste. The greasy flavor was the best combination, complementing the bland and refreshing flavor of the clam meat.

This time, it was the pen shell. Since this shellfish was large, Minhyuk had to cut it into bite-size pieces with his scissors. Minhyuk clamped a piece of the pen shell meat and dipped it in chili paste vinegar before placing it in his mouth. The sweet, sour and spicy flavor of the chili paste vinegar added flavor to the chewy meat in his mouth.

“Hiyaa...”

This time, Minhyuk’s chopsticks stretched towards the king of the shellfish, abalones. Minhyuk skillfully cut the abalone meat with his scissors, clamped one, and dipped it in chili paste vinegar. Abalones were chewier than other shellfish meat.

Then, it was time for the scallops. Minhyuk made sure to add ample amounts of butter and cheese on the scallops before grilling them. Just one look at the pristine-white scallop meat being covered by a layer of melted cheese was making Minhyuk’s saliva drip down his chin. As if in a trance, Minhyuk lifted a scallop shell and slurped the meat and cheese. The scallops and the stretchy and chewy cheese tasted wonderful together, which gave Minhyuk plenty of joy.

What should one do when things start getting a bit greasy? The answer was to drink clam soup, of course! The clam soup was filled with different types of shellfish such as clams, pen shells and mussels. Minhyuk quickly scooped a spoonful of the white soup.

“Kgghk! It’s so refreshing and cool! Beans, try this one. The greasiness in your mouth will definitely be washed away!”

“Oink!” Beanie burst out in admiration after taking a sip of the soup.

Minhyuk swiftly threw some shellfish meat in the red sauce that was boiling in the middle of the griller. The red sauce permeated the meat well and added a deep savory flavor to the refreshing taste of the shellfish meat.

In between bites of the shellfish meat, Minhyuk did not forget to eat corn cheese. The white corn was covered with cheese! When Minhyuk scooped some corn, the cheese would stretch out in an appetizing manner. Once he took a bite, the corn popped out deliciously and the sweetness hidden in each kernel would fill his mouth.

After eating a variety of shellfish meat, the prawns were finally cooked and were perfectly red. Minhyuk immediately pulled the head and legs from the prawn. After all, he was a man who knew how to eat! Then, he swiftly dipped the prawn in red chili paste before taking it to his mouth. The

juicy and plump prawn meat jumped up in his mouth as the savory flavor of the lightly-seasoned shrimp spread in his mouth!

Minhyuk and Beanie ate their grilled shellfish deliciously! After filling their bellies with shellfish, Minhyuk did not forget to make ‘dessert’. Their dessert was none other than rice cake and Rabbit’s Liver, no, Roves’ Treasure of the Seas!

“Beans. Look at this. There’s plenty for you since you worked hard today. Make sure to eat a lot, dear Beanie.”

“Oiiiink...” Beanie cried out, tears gushing out of its eyes as Minhyuk placed a plate full of the liver in front of him.

[Beanie is feeling touched.]

‘Fufufu...! My plan worked perfectly,’ Minhyuk thought. It seemed like this was Minhyuk’s scam! He pretended to cook Roves’ Treasure of the Seas, but served common pig’s liver instead for Beanie.

‘Fufufu...! Roves’ Treasure of the Seas is said to be much more delicious after all!’

Minhyuk quickly dipped Roves’ Treasure of the Seas in salt. Once he took it to his mouth, he could not help but feel impressed with the salty flavor, as well as the dry but soft texture of the liver.

“Wow. It doesn’t taste fishy at all, right?”

“Oink!” Beanie answered as he happily ate the liver on his plate, completely unaware that Minhyuk had scammed him.

This time, Minhyuk dipped the liver in tteokbokki sauce before placing it in his mouth. He said, “Kggghk! As expected, liver tastes best when paired with tteokbokki sauce!”

A set of notifications rang in Minhyuk’s head the moment he emptied his plate.

[Food God’s Greatness.]

[You have eaten Roves’ Treasure of the Seas in a variety of ways.]

[You have ignored the medicine penalty. However, it still remains ineffective for other people.]

[A Medicine Cooking. You have obtained additional stats.]

[You have gained Holy Power +434, WIS +121.]

[You gained an additional 20% attack power against undead monsters.]

[Defense against undead monsters will now be on par as your attack power.]

[Defense against undead monsters has increased by 50%.]

Minhyuk set out with Beanie after eating happily. However, the scene that greeted him out of the cave made him tilt his head in confusion. Ben’s head was buried on the ground as he weeped loudly. He cried, “Because of me, that young chef had died.?Huhuhuhuhu!”

Minhyuk suddenly felt heartbroken at the sight of Ben. He could not believe that someone that he had just met would care so much about him.

“I already told you not to go in there. Huhuhuhu! What were you so confident about, you sloppy cook!”

‘I, I’m not sloppy. Right...?’

“You’re so sloppy! You’re a chef! What the hell! What do you mean! By! Trust me! Huhuhuhu!”

“...”

Minhyuk was speechless. The ‘sloppy’ Minhyuk called out and said, “That... Grandpa Ben...”

“...Hiiiiiiiiik?!” Ben shrieked, body stumbling back in surprise. He said, “B...boy. How...?”

“I’ve taken care of the Clam Golem on your behalf, Grandpa.”

Ben’s eyes widened as Minhyuk’s words finally registered in his dazed mind. He thought, ‘C... Clam Golem...?’

Ben did not know about the details, but if he did, he would definitely be shocked that Minhyuk fought against a monster that was twice as strong as the original Clam Golem.

“B...by any chance... in the cave... was there a pocket watch... or something like that?” Ben asked.

Minhyuk rummaged through the things that he acquired and pulled out a ‘Rusted Pocket Watch’ from his inventory. He quietly handed it over to Ben’s trembling hands.

“This... was a gift that I gave to my son when he was young,” Ben said, cradling the pocket watch as he closed his eyes. He looked like he was trying to feel the soul of his deceased son through this small trinket.

Then, Ben slowly said, “The moment I lost my son, I realized that power isn’t the most important thing. But... What am I to do after losing everything? I have lost my most precious treasure and now I have nothing.”

Ben’s dried and chapped lips curled into a smile as he continued to say, “Boy, I want to do something, anything for you. But, right now, I don’t have anything.”

Minhyuk had heard the notification about the completion of his linked quest. As he recalled, the reward was listed as ????. So, what was it? The next words that Ben uttered almost gave Minhyuk a heart attack.

“I, Ghost Spear Ben, swear to God?Athenae that I will become your hands and feet and follow you, and you alone from now until forever.”

“...!”

His words shocked Minhyuk. The shock even made his body shake. He thought, 'Th...this can't be happening...!'

This was a very shocking reward. However, Minhyuk wanted to make it clear that this was a reward that he did not like. There was only one reason...

'I have another mouth to feed...?'

Chapter 154: Grilled Clam

[Ghost Spear Ben has offered to become Player Minhyuk's subordinate.]

Team Leader Park and Lee Minhwa both looked at the monitor solemnly.

"Wasn't Ghost Spear Ben supposed to only accompany him for two weeks as a reward?"

"...Yeah."

Rewards might be marked as '???' but they were still somewhat fixed and determined to a certain extent. The '???' only meant that there might be some changes that the operators had not determined yet.

If it went along the original course, Ben should have been the one to lure and hunt the Clam Golem out with the Golden Salmon as bait. However, the one who hunted the Clam Golem was Minhyuk. Because of this, Ben's favor had reached the highest level.

"The two-week reward was already huge..."

Two weeks accompanied by Ghost Spear Ben? Of course it was a huge reward! Ben was one of the Pinnacle Strong Men in the past. Of course, there might be unofficial and official rankers around the world that could rival him in terms of power, since he was only ranked last among the Pinnacle Strong Men in the past, but only a few among the hundreds of millions of Athenae players could rival him. Perhaps only 0.001% of the Athenae players could rival him. This meant that the player who received that reward would be able to ride on Ghost Spear Ben's bus and go to high-level hunting grounds to get plenty of artifacts and increase their levels. This was an opportunity that no one could buy with money. However, Ghost Spear Ben had actually offered to be Player Minhyuk's subordinate.

Then, they saw Player Minhyuk's figure tremble through the monitor.

"Maybe it's because he's happy?"

"Well, this reward is too extraordinary after all."

Then, they watched Minhyuk slowly bow down and hold Ben's hands. He looked at the old man seriously and said...

[I understand how you feel, Grandpa. But it's fine. You've been through a lot, so you should just let go of everything and live your life happily.]

"Eh?!"

"Gasp?!"

Lee Minhwa and Team Leader Park looked at each other.

However, Ben felt moved instead of just accepting his words.

[No. I will live my life for you. I will even do anything for you!]

[No. Grandpa. I hope you forget about that and live a very, very happy life!]

[N, No... Boy! I want to stay with you forever! I'll even give you my life!]

[Oh my god, Grandpa! Go and live a happy life!]

[This is my happiness!]

[Please go!]

[I won't go!]

[Go!]

[I won't!]

Lee Minhwa looked at the monitor in awe. She said, "Player Minhyuk... is a really warm-hearted person."

"I...is that so..." Team Leader Park murmured as he scratched his head.

My goodness! This was the first time that he had seen a player show such a warm-hearted approach towards an NPC! Player Minhyuk looked like he was truly and sincerely hoping for Ben to live the rest of his life happily. But, why would he reject one of the Pinnacle Strong Men so strongly?!

"...He's a really cool guy."

Minhyuk was going crazy.

'No, perhaps it's this grandpa that's crazy?'

Grandpa Ben even jumped up and latched onto Minhyuk's arms. He looked like he would not let go until Minhyuk took him along.

"I'll do whatever you want me to do, I'll be your sword or even your shield!"

Minhyuk pondered deeply after hearing his words. He realized that Grandpa Ben would not let go. Although it was a bit embarrassing to admit, this was his loss. Then, Minhyuk thought,?'Come to think of it, there was that thing called vassals. Right?'

If someone was granted a title and a territory, they could recruit a vassal and appoint them to perform their duties in the guild.

'I'll just have Grandpa Ben run the territory...!'

However, Minhyuk wondered what he should make Ben do in the meantime? Looking back, Ben had become skilled in brewing coffee after Minhyuk had nagged at him.

Right. He should ask him to brew coffee for him while they traveled together. Minhyuk thought that it was also a good idea to have some tea time whenever he came back to the territory. Then, what?

‘Oh. I’ll ask Grandpa Ben to become a barista!’Minhyuk thought. It was an extremely good plan.

“You’ll do anything?”

“Yes!” Ben answered as he nodded his head energetically. He could see Minhyuk’s eyes shining brightly as if he had thought of a good idea.

“Then, you should just brew some coffee. How can I let Grandpa Ben do something rough and dangerous like going on a monster hunt? Let’s live a comfortable life~ A very comfortable one~ So please make coffee~!”

“...”

Ben’s mind turned blank when he heard his words. He thought,?‘B...but I’m Ghost Spear Ben...?’

The words were stuck in Ben’s throat as he remembered the nightmare of making 200 cups of coffee in one sitting! Nothing was more embarrassing than that!

“You don’t like it?”

“N...no. Of course I like it...!” Ben nodded.

‘How happy I would be if I could feed this young man who’s like a son to me!’

It was quite hard to make coffee, but Ben still felt pleased whenever he saw that Minhyuk enjoyed the coffee that he had made. At this very moment, Ben had unknowingly signed the barista slave contract with Minhyuk.

[Ben swears his eternal loyalty to you.]

[Ghost Spear Ben will only accompany you for 2 weeks.]

[In order to fully use and see all of Ghost Spear Ben’s attributes, you will need a title that is above his own.]

[A skill has been created for Ghost Spear Ben. Skill: ‘Minhyuk's Fan’]

Then, the notifications rang! Minhyuk realized that everything had been set in stone now. It was not that there were no players that became nobles, but it was quite rare for an NPC to be a player’s vassal. NPCs that became vassals to players usually were only at Level 100 or below.

‘That’s right. From what I heard, one needs to be granted peerage if they want a high-leveled NPC or a special NPC as a vassal.’

At the very least, one had to be a Viscount. Viscounts were a rank above a Baron and had more influence. In fact, players that received the title of a viscount were considered to be among the best in the world. Just then, Minhyuk remembered something.

‘...Didn’t Genie send a whisper to me about being a noble?’

At that time, Minhyuk was having fun catching fish so he could not check the message. Minhyuk opened the whisper window and clicked on Genie’s whisper. She asked Minhyuk if he wanted to

become a noble and also explained the reasons why. Back then, he had no intentions of being one, but he was still very thankful that Genie had thought of him and their friendship.

[Genie:...You don't have to and I'm not forcing you if you don't want it. I support your goals of having a "Let's Eat Life"!]

She had believed that having a title and a territory could be a stumbling block to Minhyuk's happy eating life. However, once he thought about it carefully, Minhyuk realized that it would only be beneficial to him.

'Sometimes, people in the territory would also offer grains to the nobles. Right?'

Minhyuk nodded resolutely, then sent a whisper to Genie.

[Minhyuk: I understand. I'll get the title. I think the grandpa who makes good coffee for me can make a good vassal.]

[Genie: Genie has logged out.]

"Hmm..." Minhyuk hummed.

'Well, she'll see it later when she logs in.'

Then, Minhyuk checked Ben's status window. It seemed like he was wondering about the effects of the skill 'Minhyuk's Fan'.

(Ben)

Rank: Former Pinnacle Strong Man

Type: Temporary Subordinate

Level: 509

Attack: 4,959

Defense: 2,683

Special Abilities:

?Passive Skill: Minhyuk's Fan

?Active Skill: Ghost Spearmanship

?Active Skill: Ghost Defense Arts

Potential: 137

Experience Value: 13%/100%

(Minhyuk's Fan)

Passive Skill

Level: None

Effects:

?10% increase in all abilities when within a 10-meter radius of your liege, Minhyuk.

?You will feel temporarily better if you received a sincere compliment from Minhyuk.

?You will have an unwavering spirit to serve and follow your only liege, Minhyuk.

?I love Minhyuk, Minhyuk is so good.

“...”

Minhyuk stared at Minhyuk's Fan skill skeptically. He knew that if the favorability between a pet or a subordinate was raised to the max, then a skill like this would be created. However, it was not possible for all NPCs or pets. They had to be a special person for such a skill to be created.

‘And he has such a high level too...’Minhyuk thought happily.

Grandpa Ben had a high level and potential, although not as high as Beanie’s potential. He thought, ‘I’m sure that he’ll quickly learn the art of making coffee. Yes!’

Minhyuk was aware that people with higher potential tended to have a faster and stronger learning ability compared to others. Minhyuk felt happy about this. Then, a thought flashed through his mind. He turned to Ben and asked, “Ah. Do you know anything about the Rabbit’s Liver?”

“Rabbit’s Liver?”

“Yes. It’s very, very delicious, you know. So I wanted to find more of it to eat. I found one somewhere inside the cave, in another entrance inside.”

“I’m sorry, but this is the first time I have heard of it.”

The two of them talked about the Rabbit’s Liver, not knowing that there was an unknown creature stealthily approaching them from behind. The creature was none other than a bipedal turtle.

One hour ago.

Raphael, Great Mage Arfield’s subordinate that took over the body of the bipedal turtle, Radin, was tasked to recruit foreigners on land. The only problem was that no foreigner had reached the vicinity of the Dragon King’s Sea yet. Because of that, they had no way of entering the cave where the rabbitman Jevis had hidden herself in.

‘Perhaps the rabbitman Jevis has already been eaten by the predator?’

Great Mage Arfield and Raphael did not know everything, after all, they had just entered and forcefully taken over the bodies through soul exchange. Entering the body through such a method did not allow them to read through the memories of the body’s owner. So they did not know much about the Dragon King’s Palace. The knowledge that they knew were things that they have only heard from others.

‘Kiari seems to have started doubting our identities...’Raphael thought with a frown as he recalled about the Dragon King’s first child, Kiari. All he had to do was find the Rabbit’s Liver and find out how to retrieve it.

‘If Jevis has been swallowed by the sea’s predator...’

Then, the liver could be extracted from the predator's body. If that was the case, there was still a way since the Great Mage Arfield could perform unimaginable feats through dark magic. The problem was that they had to capture the predator and bring it back to Arfield. Black magic could exert a lot of power whether the opponent was alive or had just died.

However, it still had to be done by a foreigner and right now, there were no foreigners present. Raphael had to go back to Arfield and report so they could think of other methods to retrieve the Rabbit's Liver.

Splash!

He quickly jumped back into the sea, swimming at a frightening speed. Just as he was swimming back to the Dragon King's Palace...

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

...a powerful shockwave shook the sea.

'This...?'

Raphael's eyes widened in shock. The origin of the shockwave was from the cave that only foreigners could enter. Although he was far away from the cave, he was still able to swim there in an instant since he was the fastest in the sea.

Shwaaaa!

Radin saw an old man bawling his eyes out in front of the cave the moment he arrived. He thought, 'He's not a foreigner.'

His eyes narrowed sharply, waiting to know the reason why the old man was crying in front of the cave.

"A weak chef like you, huhuhuhuhu, went overconfident! You've overdone it, huhuhuhuhu, now you'll die just like this...!"

'A chef...?' Radin thought in confusion. He watched the man cry loudly until a man walked outside of the cave. The man was a foreigner! At last! A foreigner that he had been looking for. He stealthily approached them as he listened in on what the two of them were talking about. He could see the surprise in the old man's face as they talked.

'Hoo? That stranger hunted the predator, the Clam Golem...? Then what about Jevis...?'

As he pondered about their words, the two of them started to shout loudly at each other.

"Go!"

"I won't go!"

The man looked quite shabby and humble with his rough helmet and armor. He was refusing the old man intently. The old man even begged the man, telling the man that he would support him in any way.

‘Well... looking at it, he’s just an old man without any strength at all.’

Of course, no one would like to bring an old man like him along. That old man did not even look like he was good at anything, right? However, the young man was someone whom he was interested in. The Clam Golem was not that strong, but it could still pack a punch.

Raphael laughed derisively. He thought, ‘It’s fine.’

His original body was considered to be on par with the Pinnacle Strong Men. However, now that he was in the body of the Dragon King’s second child, he was unable to unleash all of his power. The turtle, the Dragon King’s second child, was well-versed in stealth and assassination. So, Raphael was confident that he could kill that foreigner in a single blow

Then, he heard the foreigner say, “Ah. Do you know anything about the Rabbit’s Liver?”

Raphael’s eyes widened, his ears perking up to listen attentively.

“Yes. It’s very, very delicious, you know. So I wanted to find more to eat. I found it somewhere inside the cave, in another entrance inside.”

‘...!’

Raphael’s eyes widened further.

‘Je, Jevis...!’?Raphael thought, finally realizing that Jevis had the power to remove her Rabbit’s Liver from her own body, unlike the turtle or Kiari. In fact, there was nothing that could definitely prove that a rabbitman has to die for them to retrieve the Rabbit’s Liver. This method was not even shared among the people within the palace walls. Raphael believed that Jevis was aware of the power that her Rabbit’s Liver had. After all, she was the only one who could communicate with Sea God Roves. She must have hidden that fact from them.

Based on what he heard, he would interpret it as, ‘I don’t know why she wanted to hunt the predator, but she must have taken out her Rabbit’s Liver as a precaution in case she did not survive the battle...’

In addition, what else could he infer from this foreigner’s words?

‘He ate the rabbit’s liver...!’

It was clear to Raphael that the Treasure of the Seas was inside that cave and that this man had eaten it. However, he still had a chance right now. The Great Mage Arfield could perform black magic that could retrieve whatever a monster ate.

Plenty of sea creatures may die, but we have a chance to get that rabbit’s liver from this human!

However, there were conditions that should be met. To remove the Rabbit’s Liver, he had to at least arrive at the Dragon King’s Palace alive. He should be alive when meeting with the Great Mage Arfield. In other words, Minhyuk had become the rabbit. And according to folk tales, the poor rabbit was tricked into the Dragon King’s Palace by a turtle, right? Raphael finally made his decision as he approached them.

However, Raphael was unaware that the folktale had an unfortunate ending for the turtle. He did not know that the rabbit, that was deceived by the turtle, managed to escape the palace successfully while leaving a big pile of shit as a present for them.

Chapter 155: The Great Mage Arfield

Ben immediately pulled Minhyuk behind him at the sudden appearance of another being. However, his expression turned skeptical when he saw the being that approached them. He said, “The Dragon King’s second child, Warrior Turtle.”

“Yes. You’re right. Hello! Land dwellers,” Raphael said, trying to smile as gently as he could.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk was quite surprised when the second child of the Dragon King appeared. This was right after he asked Ben details about the rabbit’s liver that he wanted to eat more of. The Legendary Chef had warned him that the children of the Dragon King were all strong. Of course, it was a given that even the Legendary Chef did not know about the exact strength and power that they had. However, the most important thing was...

‘The Dragon King knows the location of the Kong Qing Elixir!’

Minhyuk looked up and saw the expression of the turtle. He tilted his head wondering why the Warrior Turtle looked so happy.

Then, the turtle said, “It’s a great pleasure for us to have land dwellers visit our Dragon King’s Sea. I’m Radin, the Warrior Turtle and the second child of the Dragon King, just like what this gentleman had said earlier.”

“Oh. Is that so? That eye patch looks so cool. You’re like that pirate turtle from a game called Crazy Cade!”

“...T...there’s something like that?”

“There is. It’s a game with water balloons!”

“I see. Haha.”

Minhyuk started to play the role of an earnest glib tongue.

‘I’ll first increase my favorability with him so I can meet with the Dragon King!’

“Hiyaa. Your short stubby legs, wrinkled skin and back shell that looks delicious with rice... No, no, cool shell. You look really amazing!”

“Thank you,” Raphael responded, thinking that this would be an easy job after seeing the interest in Minhyuk’s eyes.

“Ah. By any chance, do you have any knowledge about the Kong Qing Elixir?”

‘So he was looking for it,’ Raphael thought. He had also heard about the Kong Qing Elixir. The problem was he did not know of its location.

‘I heard that it is black water that tastes like some carbonated drink and only accumulates after a long time since it only drops one drop at a time.’

That was the only thing that Raphael knew about and he was unaware of the location. As for the Dragon King? The Great Mage Arfield did not know of this information, nor did he have any interest in it. Right? However, Rapahel still smiled at Minhyuk and said, “I know. If you want, I can show you the way.”

“Really?”

“Yes.”

“Hiyaa... Hmm...?” Minhyuk said, suddenly having a thought, ‘I was told to be careful about people who buy and give me meat for no reason at all...!’

In fact, Minhyuk wanted to pave the way so that he could obtain the Kong Qing Elixir. He was prepared to put in some effort. However, Minhyuk had not done anything for the turtle, why would Radin offer to guide him to where the Kong Qing Elixir was? He suddenly felt cautious about the turtle’s intentions.

Seeing that Minhyuk had hesitated, Raphael got flustered.

‘I have to take this bastard alive...!’

So, he hurriedly tried to entice him by saying, “If you go with me to the Dragon King’s Palace, you will be able to taste delicacies that are only available there. In addition, I will also give you plenty of treasures!”

“De...delicacies that can only be tasted in the Dragon King’s Palace?! ”

“Yes. Haha, they’re truly amazing!”

“Let’s go now!”

Raphael felt that it was quite easy to trick him. He only needed to mention food and his problem was already solved. Minhyuk was about to set off, but his movements halted as his eyes flashed with a cunning glint. Ghost Spear Ben was still with him, right?

Then, Minhyuk stopped and said, “Ah. That’s right. Before we go to the Dragon King’s Palace, can I go up on land for a moment so I can eat this salmon?”

Minhyuk promptly pointed at the Golden Salmon that was still tied to the rope that he was holding.

‘If that happens then we’ll be delayed...’Raphael thought, pointing his fingers towards the Golden Salmon as a transparent bubble appeared and trapped it inside.

[The Golden Salmon has entered the Magic Aquarium.]

[The Golden Salmon will not die and can be kept in the aquarium for two days. The aquarium can also be placed inside the inventory.]

“Oh!” Minhyuk let out a gasp of surprise as he followed Radin to where the Dragon King’s Palace was. On their way, Minhyuk kept pestering Radin about information and

methods on obtaining food in the seas. He learned that there were quite a few places in the Dragon King's Sea where there was no water and you could walk freely.

Once they entered the place, Minhyuk quickly made long arm octopus sashimi by chopping up an octopus. As soon as he chewed a piece, the savory flavor of the sesame oil, as well as the sweet and soft flavor of octopus spread in his mouth. The texture of the wriggling octopus even added a blissful harmony to the cacophony of flavors.

Ben watched Minhyuk and said, "Oh my. You're eating so well. My goodness. You eat so well~ Hohoho!"

Ben was smiling at Minhyuk, the way a grandfather would smile at his grandchildren and tell them, "That's right! Go on, have some more!".

"Here's a shot of soju! If you spill it, then it's over."

"Oh my, my bab... Does our Minhyuk know about this too?"

"Of course!"

"You're all grown up, you're a big boy now! Hohohohoho!"

Raphael shook his head as he watched the two of them carry out this charade. He thought, 'To think that he's speaking like that to a grown up, he's definitely a senile old man. The other guy too, he's definitely a strange man that's crazy for food. Tch... This work is easier than what I had expected.'

Raphael grinned. Was it not a good thing that he caught some morons? After Minhyuk finished eating some long arm octopus sashimi, they all stood up and made their way to the Dragon King's Palace again.

As soon as they arrived inside the palace, Raphael immediately dropped them off at a restaurant. Bipedals and land dwellers could walk inside the palace. In addition, there was no water inside so they could breathe freely.

Minhyuk sat down inside the restaurant with great expectation and said, "Hehe! I'm so excited! We're going to eat food from the Dragon King's Palace!"

Raphael grinned widely and said, "I have already told the chefs. They will serve you a feast soon. After that, I'll take you to look around the palace, then we'll go and find the Kong Qing Elixir."

"I understand," Minhyuk said as he nodded fiercely. Ben sat next to Minhyuk, nodding along.

"I've never seen the Dragon King's Palace before. Although the situation of the palace is favorable to land dwellers, I didn't expect you to show us around," Ben said. This was also one of the reasons why Ben came inside with Minhyuk. In fact, he was still vigilant and on guard against Radin.

On his way out, Raphael walked to the chef, a bipedal shark, and told him, "Add Baida's Poison on the dishes."

The shark was also one of the undead under the command of the Great Mage Arfield. When the shark went inside, Raphael could hear a voice excitedly crying out, “Gasp... I...I’m sorry. But, will you be angry if I ask you for some of your fin?”

“...Really a moron!”

The gentle smile on ‘Radin’, the turtle, had disappeared. He immediately went to gather his troops. Of course, it would be easy since they would be poisoned with Baida’s Poison, but he still had to make some additional preparations, just in case.

Baida’s Poison was an extremely deadly poison. As soon as it was consumed, the person’s vision would instantly blur and their body would become paralyzed. However, after an hour, the effects would disappear entirely, and he would then be able to bring him alive in front of Great Mage Arfield.

After gathering the troops, Raphael came back. He listened to the sound of munching and chewing. After quite some time, the sound gradually started to slow down and recede. The sound of the two people that were talking and laughing also slowly disappeared.

Before realizing it, the elite knights of the Dragon King’s Palace had already gathered in front of Raphael. The elite knights of the Dragon King’s Palace were all originally at around Level 350, but all of the knights gathered here were undead. All of them had undergone soul exchange. In fact, this was also the case for almost everyone in the palace. The palace was already almost taken over by Great Mage Arfield’s minions.

‘My strength keeps on getting weaker...’

Raphael looked down at his clenched hands. Radin’s body was not worth caring for. However, just like Raphael, Arfield was also starting to get weaker the longer he stayed inside the Dragon King’s body. This meant that the soul exchange had finally reached its limits.

‘However, isn’t it all over now that we have him?’

Raphael smiled deeply and said, “Shall we give those foolish land dwellers a taste of hell?”

However, the moment he opened the door, a sword was immediately aimed at his neck.

“...?!”

Raphael’s eyes widened in surprise.

Minhyuk stood in front of him with a cold expression on his face. Behind him stood the senile old man with a spear hanging ominously behind his back.

Minhyuk was notified as soon as he ate the food that was served to him.

[You have eaten Baida’s Poison.]

[You will experience dizziness and restriction of body movements due to paralysis for one hour.]

[You have an invincible body that can ignore and resist all abnormal states.]

[You have resisted an abnormal state.]

Minhyuk immediately grabbed Ben's hands and stopped him from eating the food. Ben immediately understood the situation, and promptly and swiftly knocked out the chef. Minhyuk waited by the door for 'Radin' to come inside.

Raphael was taken aback but he regained his calm and laughed crazily at them, saying, "Keuhuhuhu. Haha! This is driving me crazy. It's really interesting!"

"The sumptuous feast and the Kong Qing Elixir were all lies, right?"

"Isn't the sumptuous feast spread over there, right now? And the Kong Qing Elixir? How would I know about that?" Raphael said. He was confident. He believed in his strength and the strength of the troops behind him. Besides, they were also superior in numbers. There were even assassins lying in wait from the backdoor.

As soon as Minhyuk heard those words, his body could not help but tremble in rage. He thought, 'My Kong Qing Elixir... My sumptuous feast...!'

He had even dragged himself here and acted as bait! In the end, it turned out that everything was a lie?

"Just now, you admitted that you lied to me about food?" Minhyuk asked. There were three things that Minhyuk hated the most in the world. One, wasting food. Two, playing with food. And three, lying about food.

"What's your reason?"

"That Rabbit's Liver that's in your belly now. Our Dragon King needs it, so I will take it out of your belly and present it to him."

"...Ah. Why do I feel so annoyed right now?" Minhyuk said, a smile adorning his lips.

However, Raphael suddenly felt that winter had arrived, with how cold Minhyuk's smile was. He even felt a little impressed with how intimidating Minhyuk was at the moment. He thought, 'It seems like he knows how to look fierce.'

Minhyuk was already seething with anger. This guy wanted to split his stomach and take what he had already eaten? Minhyuk had decided not to show any mercy towards this unscrupulous bastard. As soon as he moved his sword...

Dash!

...the flower crab knights that were standing behind Raphael immediately made their move. In response, Ben, who had been standing behind Minhyuk leisurely, also made his move. This was the first time that Ben had used his spear to attack others in quite a long time.

The Ghost Spearmanship had three chapters. At that moment, Ben displayed the first chapter as he pulled his spear back and stabbed forward. Raphael wanted to quickly deal with this crazy old man. Unfortunately, the moment he wanted to move, Ben's power manifested.

[Ghost's Dance]

[The spear dances freely like a ghost as it tramples upon its enemies.]

Crack, crack, crack!

The shells of the flower crab knights behind Raphael cracked and shattered as the spear stabbed straight through their hearts.

Stab, stab, stab!

Plop—

Plop—

Plop—

.

More than ten knights behind Raphael fell down in an instant. At the time of their death, the black souls that overtook the body during soul exchange floated above the knight's heads and shrieked loudly.

"Keuaaaack!"

"Aaaaaaaaack!"

Flames engulfed these black souls, turning them into ashes that scattered in the wind. Ben's brows furrowed at the sight. He thought, "This ability...?" It seemed like he knew what this ability was in just a glance.

"Gasp...?!" Raphael gasped, eyes widening in surprise. He tried to deal with the pest by pointing a sword at his neck by gripping the hilt of the katana from his back.

Clang!

At that moment, Minhyuk heard a series of notifications in his head.

[You have encountered an undead.]

[Your Holy Power Special Privilege will be implemented.]

[Pandora's Helmet's special effect has doubled your Holy Power. Your attack and defense against the undead have increased by 100%.]

Chapter 156: The Great Mage Arfield

That was not the end of the notifications. A sudden quest window popped up in front of Minhyuk!

[Unexpected Class Quest: Dragon King's Palace in Crisis.]

Rank: SS

Requirements: Food God

Rewards: Dragon King's Snow Crab.

Penalty for Failure: All Stats -30

Description: The Food God had saved the Dragon Palace in the past, establishing a good relationship with the Dragon King. The Dragon King even prepared and carefully selected Snow Crabs to give as gifts to the Food God once they met again. However, he never came back. But you,

his descendant, have come! Solve the crisis and save the Dragon Palace! Then you will be able to eat the Snow Crabs that the Dragon King had carefully prepared.

‘...!’

Minhyuk was shocked by the sudden quest. He thought, ‘S...snow crabs?!’

Snow crabs were an extremely amazing delicacy that ordinary people could only taste on special occasions. If one held both sides of the snow crab and pulled it apart, they would be able to see that plump, white, soft snow crab meat that was hidden inside. What happens when you took a bite out of it? You would definitely taste a whole new world of flavor. There was a reason why Minhyuk was particularly interested in snow crabs.

‘My dad really likes it...’

Minhyuk’s father, Kang Minhoo, loved this food.

“How dare you stand in front of me in a daze...!” Raphael snarled. He frowned when he saw Minhyuk standing in a daze, and he quickly launched a ferocious attack to deal with this bastard that had neglected his existence.

Swoosh!

Minhyuk hurriedly dodged the attack with Step.

‘He’s an undead...?’Minhyuk thought, coming back to his senses.

Then, he wondered. ‘Undead?’He looked around and surveyed his surroundings. Perhaps all of the creatures around them were undead? Minhyuk turned his sight towards ‘Radin’. He looked at him cautiously as he watched him prepare for another attack.

Dash!

Ben slammed his feet on the ground and dashed forward.

Clang!

Ben’s spear immediately bypassed Minhyuk and countered Raphael’s katana. His spear struck and pushed the katana upwards. Then, he began to attack Raphael at a rapid pace.

Clang, clang, clang, clang!

Raphael’s eyes widened in shock. The spear that was attacking him was moving at a tremendous speed that he could not afford to do anything aside from defending. After realizing that all of the enemies around them were undead, Minhyuk quickly applied Pandora’s helmet’s skill on Ben.

[God’s Targeted Praise]

[The holy power of the specified target will increase to the same level as the holy power of the helmet’s bearer. The target’s previously possessed holy power cannot be used alongside this skill.]

A bright light popped out of Pandora’s Helmet that flew straight towards Ben’s body. Minhyuk also quickly summoned Beanie.

[Beanie has been summoned.]

[Pet Summoning Buff. Your attack has temporarily increased by 13% and your defense has temporarily increased by 8%.]

[Pet Artifact Buff. Your STR has temporarily increased by 4% and your defense has temporarily increased by 10%.]

A powerful force flowed through Minhyuk's body as Ben's spear grazed Raphael's flanks.

Shiiiiing!

"Aaack...!" Raphael groaned in shock. The tip of the spear only grazed his side, but there was already a numbing pain spreading in his body. It felt like he had been attacked by a powerful skill from the degree of pain. The attacks did not end there. Once Ben saw that there were creatures that wanted to attack Minhyuk sneakily, he immediately used the second chapter of his Ghost Spearmanship.

[Ghost's Attacking Spear]

[Dozens of spears will stab through the enemies' vital points.]

Spearlights immediately appeared and flew towards the enemies, piercing through their vital points.

Stab!

Stab!

Stab!

Stab!

Stab!

Stab!

The enemies fell down one after the other after being stabbed on their vital points. Raphael moved, taking advantage of the gap. He was possessing the body of one of the Dragon King's children, and he was originally a capable person, so he was quite confident with his skills. A black light engulfed his sword, the tell-tale sign of his assassination skill that could immediately double both his movement and attacking speed, which would allow him to instantly approach and pierce through his enemy's neck.

Raphael narrowed the distance between him and Ben, stabbing his katana towards Ben's abdomen. He thought, 'You're done for...!'

He believed that this farce would end once he had dealt with Ben. However, something surprising happened.

Stab!

"...What the hell?"

Raphael was pretty sure that his katana had stabbed through Ben's abdomen. However, when he looked closely, he could see that his katana did not penetrate nor push through. In other words, his successful stab was only the tip of his sword scratching a little into Ben's abdomen.

Whenever an enemy moved to attack Ben's body, he could easily utilize his Ghost Defensive Arts, which would create something called 'Ghost's Armor' and protect his body. This Ghost's Armor would instantly double his defense. Ben had also received the God's Targeted Praise from Minhyuk which increased his defense against the undead.

Then...

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

...Minhyuk joined the fray, using Scattering Sword against the now-defenseless Raphael. Blood spurted out from the injury.

Spurt!

"Urk?!" Radin groaned from the excruciating pain. The blow that he received was unbelievably strong. However, the problem was the attack did not end with just one blow. Instead, five more excruciatingly painful strikes landed on him one after the other, bringing forth unimaginable damage to his body.

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

Blood continued to gush out from Raphael's wounds as new injuries appeared on his body. In the end, he collapsed on the ground.

Thud!

As soon as Radin's body fell down, a black entity flew out and shrieked loudly.

"Keuaaaaaaack!"

The black entity slowly disappeared along with its shrieks. Not a single trace of its existence could be seen from the aftermath.

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

Minhyuk saw his EXP rising sharply as he fought against them. It seemed like they were being regarded as monsters which led to the rise in his EXP. After dealing with the enemies around them, Ben and Minhyuk finally had the time to examine the bodies of their enemies in detail.

'They look fine?'

The turtle looked fine. Rather, it looked like he had fallen into a deep and sweet sleep. Minhyuk looked at them in wonder. When he looked up, he saw that Ben was looking at the bodies with a look of surprise and understanding.

"Don't tell me..."

Ben was one of the Pinnacle Strong Men in the past. Of course, Arfield was in the same generation as him. However, even if he knew the other Pinnacle Strong Men, that did not mean that he was aware of their exact abilities and strength. However, Arfield was pretty famous for his abilities, so

he knew quite a bit about it. It was at this moment that Ben finally became certain. He said, "Soul exchange."

"Soul exchange?"

"That's right. It's a high-leveled black magic that allows the undead to get inside another person's body. Once you attack a body that was possessed by an undead, the body will not die, but the soul of the undead that entered it will."

"Ah..."

Minhyuk understood it to some extent. In other words, what Ben and Minhyuk had hunted and killed earlier was not the real Radin, but instead, the undead named Raphael that had entered his body.

"However, the only person who can perform this soul exchange is the Great Mage Arfield..."

"The Great Mage Arfield..."

Minhyuk had once encountered and faced one of his curses, one of the Seven Deadly Sins so he was quite familiar with the name.

"Yes. Perhaps there was something unusual that had happened in the Dragon Palace. Maybe the Dragon King is possessed by the Great Mage Arfield."

Minhyuk's teeth gritted in anger. This meant that the person who wanted to split his stomach and take the Rabbit's Liver inside him was Arfield.

'Maybe he knew about the Rabbit's Liver's hidden power?'

That was possible. Then...

Baaaaaaaang!

...a powerful shock wave rocked the palace. Minhyuk and Ben quickly turned their heads behind.

"Keuaaaack!"

"Aaaaack!"

"Graaaaaaa!"

Screams began to resonate within the palace.

Two hours ago.

Jevis finally opened her eyes after fainting. She recalled the last piece of memory that she had before she lost consciousness. She remembered hiding the Rabbit's Liver near the secret entrance to the cave before attracting the attention of the Clam Golem with her aggro skills. This entrance was only known to a select few people inside the palace.

Jevis had hidden the Rabbit's Liver just in case she was killed or eaten by the predator, even though she believed that it would not happen. However, she still hid just to be on the safe side.

After hiding the Rabbit's Liver, she immediately used her aggro skills. However, there was a problem. She had used her aggro skills on the day when the predator became angry. The Angry Clam Golem had dragged her inside the cave. That was when Jevis realized that there was a way to enter the cave even if they were not foreigners, which was when the owner of the cave allowed them entry.

The predator ate a variety of things, which included other creatures from the sea. In other words, they would be able to enter the cave once the predator had deemed and recognized them as food. Jevis tried to fight against it with all her might. However, she realized that she was no match for it so she quickly ran away outside.

Jevis fled as far as she could and hid among the rocks. However, due to the adrenaline and stress wearing off, she could not stop herself from losing consciousness. When she opened her eyes again, she knew that a lot of time had passed. However, she was still unaware of how long she had lost consciousness.

Just to make sure, she once again approached the area in the vicinity of the cave. She slowly tried to enter again. However, she found it surprising that no force had pushed her away when she tried to enter the cave.

When Jevis ventured deep inside, she could see traces of a fight between the Clam Golem and someone else. She went to the wall where she had hidden the Rabbit's Liver, and found it to be gone. It seemed like whoever entered the cave had successfully defeated the Clam Golem and took away her Rabbit's Liver.

Jevis was aware that she would not be able to go after the person in her current condition. So she quickly went outside to treat her wounds and recover. However, her abilities were limited since she was focused on a special buff, instead of healing. With a body riddled with wounds, Jevis dragged herself back into the palace.

“Jevis!”

The oldest child, Kiari, immediately hugged her to her bosom once she saw her. Once she was in the arms of a familiar person, Jevis could not help but cry.

“Heuk... heukheukheukheuk...?In the end, I couldn't hunt the Clam Golem, Unnie...! The Dragon King... I wanted to save the Dragon King but...! Our Dragon King would have already returned to his old self but...!”

All Kiari could do for the crying Jevis was to hug her tightly and give her comfort and warmth. She said, “It's alright Jevis. It's alright...”

In a way, what Jevis did was something stupid. She had wanted to create a potion that could cure the Dragon King using the ingredients that she had hunted from the Clam Golem.

‘No. It's not stupid. Perhaps what she did was better than what I have done,’Kiari thought, smiling bitterly. She stepped out and did something in order to deal with their situation.

Jevis finally calmed down after letting out all of her grievances. Kiari gently led her to a chair and served her a cup of tea. After moistening her throat with tea, Jevis said, "I... I actually have another thing to say to you..."

Kiari's ears could not stop twitching as she pricked her ears to listen.

"...I've lost my liver."

"...!"

When Kiari heard her confession, she was surprised. She lost her liver? Kiari also had a Rabbit's Liver, but all she knew was that she needed to die before it could be removed from her body. Did Jevis know of another way to do that?

"I can live freely with or without my liver..."

After finally letting out her worries, Jevis narrated the events that happened in the cave.

"When you went back inside the liver was already gone...? This means that someone had successfully hunted the Angry Clam Golem, right?"

Jevis slowly nodded as she continued to speak, "Sea God Roves actually gave my liver special powers. In truth, it was actually Sea God Roves' Treasure. However, Sea God Roves clearly told me this...? 'Give this liver to him as a gift later.'"

Kiari tilted her head in confusion. Then she said, "In the past, the palace was left in danger. Maybe you were tasked to give it to the one who saved the palace before."

"Ah..."

Kiari nodded. He was an exceptional man. In the past, the Dragon Palace was facing a crisis. At that time, plenty of powerful land dwellers sought to take away the gold, silver and all the treasures in the Dragon Palace. The palace was filled with screams of pain as the people of the palace began to get pushed back. At that moment, a mysterious man appeared in front of them. That man said, 'I heard that the seafood here is much more delicious than others? But... What's wrong with this place?'

He then talked with the Dragon King and the Dragon King welcomed him warmly as he served him the most precious meal in the entirety of the Dragon King's Sea. The next day, he came back as a legend.

'Dragon King, the lobster I had yesterday was amazing! I don't know about anyone else but I won't be able to forget about the delicious kindness that you have given me!'

He went out of the palace along with his subordinates and fought against hundreds of thousands of monsters. The most powerful human, the emperor, dispatched knights while the Dragon Lord sent his dragons to aid him. After a fierce battle, the Dragon Palace experienced peace once more.

That happened when Kiari was still very young. Jevis was born years after that incident.

"Sea God Roves had told me to give it to him once he gets back..."

“Ah...”

Kiari finally realized something. Sea God Roves could not involve himself directly with the affairs of the palace. So perhaps, he had sent Jevis as a gift for the palace and along with her, the gift for that legendary man.

Chapter 157: The Great Mage Arfield

When Kiari had heard that Jevis had lost her liver, she could not help but feel somewhat relieved. She thought, ‘...Perhaps this is for the best.’

Kiari could vividly remember the look in the eyes of the Dragon King, when he was told that he needed a Rabbit's Liver. His entire demeanor had changed completely, the light in his eyes when he had looked at Kiari showed how greedy he was for the Rabbit's Liver. It seemed like he would not hesitate to kill her to obtain it.

Kiari knew that even if it was Jevis, the outcome would still remain the same. However, Jevis did not have her Rabbit's Liver with her right now. If she had kept it, she would definitely die. Kiari believed that it would be better for them to find another way to cure the Dragon King.

“I need to have an audience with the Dragon King.”

“In this state?”

Jevis nodded. She had been away too long and the Dragon King might be furious with her disappearance.

“Let's go together,” Kiari said, holding Jevis' hands and smiling softly at her.

‘No matter how much the Dragon King has changed, I believe...’

Kiari wholeheartedly believed that the Dragon King would pardon Jevis for her disappearance once he knew that Jevis risked her life and fought bravely against the Clam Golem to find a cure for him. Kiari and Jevis both walked towards the place where the Dragon King was currently resting. Once they had arrived in front of the room, Kiari and Jevis took a deep breath as they looked at the large doors.

Just when Kiari was about to knock on the door...

Creaaaaaaak!

...the door, accompanied by a loud and eerie sound, slowly opened by itself to reveal the figure of the Dragon King. Jevis looked like she was about to cry at the sight of the Dragon King but she still fought hard to hold it in.

‘H...his face...’

The Dragon King had grown thinner in her absence. There was even a black light that was covering his face. There was only one reason why the body that Great Mage Arfield had taken over degraded faster than everybody else. It was because the Dragon King was still greatly resisting inside his body. He was so powerful that even the Great Mage Arfield needed to use a lot of strength just to keep him at bay.

“Greetings to Your Majesty.”

Kiari and Jevis bowed in greeting. Kiari wanted to speak about the Rabbit's Liver disappearing but...

“Dragon King...”

...the Dragon King's hand moved as a jet of water formed and aimed toward Jevis.

‘N...No...!’

Kiari's hands quickly moved as a water barrier formed in front of Jevis, immediately blocking and protecting Jevis' body. However, the jet of water that the Dragon King had fired was filled with tremendous power.

Bang!

The barrier that Kiari created was no match for such a powerful attack. The barrier cracked and the jet of water slammed onto Jevis' back.

“Arghhh...!” Jevis shrieked in pain.

“Je...Jevis...!” Kiari called out as she quickly approached her.

“Get out of the way, Kiari.”

“D...Dragon King... W...what's... what's the matter with you?!”

“...Didn't you hear before? Only Jevis' Rabbit's Liver can save me. It might also be the answer to me going back to what I used to be.”

The Great Mage Arfield was unaware of what had happened. He was entirely unaware of the fact that Jevis had already lost her Rabbit's Liver. When he saw Jevis coming inside the room, the only thought that passed through his mind was to remove the Rabbit's Liver from her body.

Kiari's body trembled. She said, “Je...Jevis doesn't have a Rabbit's Liver anymore. That's why, please...!”

“The Rabbit's Liver is gone?” The Dragon King asked, slowly raising his 2.5-meters tall body while rubbing his chin in confusion.

Kiari took that time to hastily explain the events that had transpired.

“For the Dragon King, Jevis...! Jevis fought hard against the predator!” Kiari shouted lowly. Her voice sounded like it was a plea. A desperate plea for the Dragon King to spare Jevis, as well as for him to return back to normal.

However, the Dragon King only smiled coldly at the two of them. He said, “Jevis, Kiari. Stop spouting lies.”

“What do you mean that we're lying? She laid her life and braved the dangers for Dragon King...”

“Kiari. It’s alright. I’m fine,” Jevis said, standing up with her bleeding back. She keenly felt the danger that they were in as she reiterated, “I’m really fine...”

Jevis still smiled softly at the Dragon King even though he treated her cruelly. Kiari looked at her with clenched fists. She felt frustrated with how helpless they were in this situation.

At that moment...

Shwaaaa—

Shwaaaa—

Shwaaaa—

...Small vortexes of water appeared beside the Dragon King. The vortexes of water slowly combined until they formed into a large spear. The large water spear was spinning strongly and ferociously.

“Get out of the way, Kiari,” the Dragon King said as a large water spear rushed towards Jevis.

Shwaaaaaaak!

Kiari looked at the Dragon King and Jevis helplessly. She could not decide on what to do. Should she heed the words of the Dragon King, or should she ignore it and save her youngest sibling?

‘I hate it. Even if it’s the Dragon King who told me so, I still hate it! It can’t be a choice between him and Jevis.’

“I hate it...!”

Puwaaa!

A jet of water suddenly burst out in front of Kiari. As soon as Kiari grabbed that jet of water, it immediately solidified into a sword. It was the Sea Guardian’s Sword, the sword that Sea God Roves had bestowed upon Kiari, the Dragon King’s eldest child. It was an item that was legendary, no, perhaps it was something that was even greater than that. This sword was the strongest sword in the entirety of the Dragon King’s Sea.

Shwaaa!

A sturdier and larger barrier stood in front of them when Kiari swung her sword strongly. Not long after, the spear collided with the barrier. The area shook strongly as sparks appeared from the collision.

Bang!

“Kiari! How dare you defy my orders!”

“You cannot harm... Jevis!” Kiari said, grabbing her sword tightly as she glared fiercely at the Dragon King. However, she did not move anymore.

The Sea Guardian's Sword was a sword that was made to protect the Dragon King. It could never be used to attack him. No matter how dire the situation was, Kiari could not bear to attack the Dragon King.

'How can I lay my hands on the Dragon King...'

The furious Dragon King slowly trudged down one step at a time.

"Don't you remember?! Jevis is the one who cared and followed your orders the most...!"

"Do you not realize that I have to quickly recover my health to regain peace inside the Dragon King's Palace, Kiari? Peace will only come at the sacrifice of one."

"That's impossible! Dragon King, you have cha...?Ugh!"

The Dragon King stood in front of Kiari and grabbed her neck.

'These girls are so easy to deal with.'?Great Mage Arfield thought as he chuckled to himself. Although they had defended against his attacks, they could not bear to launch an attack against the body that he currently had.

"Urk, Dragon King! Please wake up! The peace in the Dragon Palace does not require Jevis' death..."

"No. What I'm trying to take is yours and Jevis' lives."

Arfield had thought that it was high time that he killed Kiari. It was just good timing that the two of them delivered themselves to him. As soon as he decided, his hands started to tighten.

Then...

Twitch!

...extreme dizziness suddenly hit his body.

'Urk... ?I've been in this body for too long...!'

Kiari saw something when the Dragon King staggered back.

'Just now... what was that?!'

She was the person nearest to the Dragon King, so she saw it clearly. There was an unidentifiable smoke that rose from the body of the Dragon King, before it was immediately swallowed back inside.

Arfield believed that he did not have much time left.

Shwaaaaak!

A black sword immediately shot out from his hands as it aimed straight toward Kiari.

Puhaa!

“Ugh!” Kiari screamed in pain as the sword stabbed straight through her abdomen. As she was bowled over in pain, another sword strike flew out, but this time, it aimed right at her chest. Kiari quickly swung her sword.

Shwaa!

Her sword aimed straight at Arfield’s neck.

Clang!

A black shield immediately popped out to block her attack and defended the side of Arfield’s neck. However, even if he was attacked straight at his neck and was not in a good position, he was still able to launch a quick counterattack. Eventually, Arfield waved her off and threw her far away.

Roll!

“Kyaaak!” Kiari shrieked as she quickly righted herself. Once she stood back up, she glared fiercely at Arfield.

“I think I’ve been caught.”

“...Arfield!”

The black shield that popped out to defend the vulnerable neck of the Dragon King was something that she had seen before. It was the shield that made the Dragon King struggle during his battle against Arfield.

Arfield realized that his identity had now been compromised. So, he let go of the mana that he had hidden before.

Shwaaaaa!

The black mana burst out and swirled above them as Great Mage Arfield slowly stretched his hand out and pointed at them.

“Die.”

Shwaaaaaaaak—

From the black mana that erupted from Arfield’s body, a sphere of black flame started to form, its size large enough to engulf Kiari’s whole body. Its target was none other than Kiari. The powerful flames immediately headed straight towards her.

Shwaaaaaa!

Kiari hastily stabbed the Sea Guardian's Sword into the ground.

Brr, brr, brr, brr!

The ground shook strongly as a powerful wave about four meters high sprung up.

Baaaaang!

A powerful shockwave resulted from the collision of the powerful flame and the high waves. For a moment, the two opposing powers seemed like they were in a deadlock. However, Kiari was sporting a severe injury on her abdomen.

“Keughhh!”

A gap suddenly appeared from the waves. The black flame immediately took advantage of the gap as it whizzed past through and engulfed Kiari’s body.

“Kyaaaaaaak!” Kiari shrieked in pain as she collapsed on the floor.

Taking advantage of this moment, Great Mage Arfield unleashed the power inside his body. Black smoke-like forces erupted from his body as it scattered and entered the bodies of the creatures all throughout the palace. The remaining souls that he had housed in his body immediately replaced the souls of the creatures through soul exchange. As a result, the palace was drowned in screams. The spirits had engulfed everyone in the palace.

‘I have to hurry.’

Great Mage Arfield quickly approached Jevis to retrieve the Rabbit’s Liver. Jevis looked at him incredulously. It seemed like she could hardly believe what was happening in front of her.

‘H...he’s not the Dragon King....’

Jevis felt her blood boil in anger. She fought against the predator for him, she did everything for him, but it turned out that she was deceived.

Right at that moment...

Creaaaaaaak—

Baaaang!

...the large door opened with a bang. An unknown man walked through the door with a baby pig on his shoulder. As soon as he saw the situation inside, he quickly threw his sword at Arfield. Arfield easily twisted his body to the side. The sword flew past Arfield and embedded itself into the wall. Arfield glared fiercely at the man that sent a crude attack toward him.

“You bastard...”

Just as he was about to say something, he saw the man stretch his hand forward. However, nothing happened. No. It was just not happening in front of him.

Puhaaaa!

The sword that was clearly embedded in the wall suddenly whizzed past through him. Great Mage Arfield trembled for a brief moment from the powerful shock that came with the tearing pain on his back.

“Aaack...!”

It was only a light graze, but he felt a tremendous amount of power from that unintentional blow.

Fwiiiiiiish!

Arfield could feel the affected area burning, as smoke rose from the injury inflicted by the sword. At that moment, Great Mage Arfield knew...

‘T...this is the power of a strong holy power!’ Arfield thought.

The sword swiftly passed through Arfield’s body before laying snugly on the hands of the man. The young man that barged inside the room was none other than Minhyuk, and the skill that he used earlier was a skill that was attached to Ellie’s Sword.

Retrieval.

Real name, Somin, Nickname, Joo-Ah. She was currently working as a Ztuber. Right now, she was anxiously waiting for someone in the Barrett Kingdom. She was the Ztuber that recently posted a video of Rován and the Frying Pan Killer. In fact, she believed that there was no player in the world that did not want to be famous. At that time, Joo-ah also could not hide her excitement. The battle between the two of them was so thrilling that even the viewers felt their blood boil and reacted ecstatically.

She had gained a huge amount of profit once the broadcast ended. She had wanted to give a percentage of her profits to the Frying Pan Killer, but she was unable to find him regardless of her efforts. Left with no choice, she posted on the bulletin.

[I’ll give you money, contact me.]

However, she felt that it was definitely wrong. She did not even ask for their consent before starting the broadcast, and now she wanted them to accept the money after she had finished the broadcast.

‘I should have asked for their consent first before I recorded it...’

Joo-Ah bit her lips tightly as she reflected on herself. After quite some time, a complaint was filed against her in violation of the portrait rights.

‘What do you want?’

The Frying Pan Killer’s lawyer snorted at her when she stated that she would give all of the profits and that she would pay the compensation for violating his rights. Joo-ah wanted to plead her situation. She somehow managed to ask for them to meet with her. Right now, she was going to meet with one of the close aides of the Frying Pan Killer.

She saw a man entering the restaurant where she was waiting anxiously.

“Hello,” Joo-Ah bowed in greeting.

The man, General, also bowed in greeting as he sat down in front of her.

“I’m sorry! I’m really sorry!” Joo-Ah kept on bowing as she admitted her mistakes.

At that moment, General interrupted her and said, “You should apologize to him, not me. Do you know how much trouble he was experiencing because of you, Miss Joo-Ah?”

“I’m sorry...”

She could not even raise her head in shame. In the whole world, she was probably the only person that had encountered a person that did not want to be famous.

Then she said, "I'm really sorry. I feel so remorseful and I have been deeply reflecting on myself. I have uploaded the video of the Frying Pan Killer in my admiration for him... And... I also want to apologize again for calling myself a fan."

"As expected, that punk really can see through you," General said with a grin. He and Minhyuk had talked about the person that had shared the video. Minhyuk had also told General to pass on a message if the person who shared the story reacted in a certain way...

"My friend told me to say this to you if you said something similar."

"Yes. What...?"

General cleared his throat as he tried to mimic Minhyuk's voice and expression to the best of his ability. He said, "How can you call yourself a fan, that you can easily do something like this?"

"..."

Joo-Ah's face flushed red in shame. She could not help but keep her head down.

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General looked at Joo-Ah with her head buried down to her chest. He knew that she had taken it for granted. She used a video featuring other people and their faces, and made money with that. It was clearly a breach of privacy and a crime.

General knew for a fact that Minhyuk was a kind person. However, a kind man and a pushover were two different things. Minhyuk might be a kind person, but he was someone that would take care of everything, even to the finest details. Furthermore, he absolutely would not take any losses.

"I...I'll do my best... t...to give... the highest amount of compensation..."

General finally decided to get to the main point. They both knew that Joo-Ah was a pretty famous Ztuber, so she probably had plenty of valuable information. He said, "Do you have any information about delicious food?"

"...Huh?"

Joo-Ah was taken aback for a moment. She could not understand why he suddenly asked her about that. Usually, this was the part where they would start negotiations until they had reached an agreement. The usual question would be? 'How much can you give me?'. However, General's words were a bit different from the usual script.

"I want you to give us information about something delicious. Ah, also, it should be something special."

"...S...something delicious?"

"Yes. Something delicious. I think something that can only be eaten in Athenae will be the best?"

"..."

Joo-ah pondered deeply. She quickly combed through all of the information that she had on hand, and there was only one thing that matched that request. It was a very valuable piece of information.

“It’s not something delicious, but it’s something along those lines...”

“What is it?” General asked, tilting his head.

“It...it’s information about a millstone.”

“A millstone?”

When General heard the word ‘millstone’ the first thing that he thought about was, ‘He who shuns the millstone, shuns the meal.’

He soon shook the thought out of his head. He said, “A millstone... that’s not something delicious... hmm...”

However, Joo-ah’s next words made sense to him. She said, “It’s not something delicious, but if you grind some soybeans, then you can make tofu and eat it. Also, it’s not an ordinary millstone.”

“It’s not just a simple millstone?” General asked. He was suddenly interested in her information.

Joo-ah nodded and said, “Yes. In fact, there is no exact and official information released yet, but according to what I have gathered, if you put something inside and turn it...”

“If you turn it...?”

“You will produce double the amount of what you initially placed inside.”

“...Go on,” General urged her. He could not help but be interested in her information.

“This millstone is rumored to have tremendous abilities. They say that it even has endless powers. It was said that if you make tofu with soybeans using this millstone, you will be able to produce a piping hot tofu that tastes better than any other tofu in the world.”

Gulp.

General gulped down his saliva as he listened to her. He started to imagine the hot, freshly-made tofu that was always sold on the sidewalks. He imagined buying a large tofu as the seller cut it up into bite-sized pieces then, they would add some stir-fried tuna and kimchi on top of it. Once he placed it in his mouth?

‘Just thinking about it is already amazing...’

“That... uh, your d...drool...”

Sluuuurp. “Ah. Yes.”

‘This is it!’ This was the thought that flashed in General’s mind. He knew that this was something that Minhyuk would definitely like. Also, it was clearly not an ordinary

millstone based on what she had told him. This information was enough for them to reach an agreement with Joo-Ah.

“We need to find out more information about it, as well as its exact location. So, can you tell me your nickname so I can add you in-game?”

“...”

General could not help but wipe his drool at the thought of such an item.

Minhyuk and Ben came out of the restaurant only to see black souls flying all over the palace and trying to possess the people. Ben immediately used his Ghost Spearmanship and dealt with the enemies that surrounded them.

[You have leveled up.]

Since Ben became Minhyuk’s subordinate, Minhyuk was still able to get some EXP from him and level up. Not long after, they were able to push through the throngs of enemies and made their way to the front of a huge door. The enemies kept on flocking to where they were so they had no choice but to make their stand here.

“Open the door! We’ll stop these bastards here!”

If they opened the door and limited the area where their enemies could come through, they would be able to stop their fierce assault. This situation was much better compared to blocking their attacks from all sides. Minhyuk opened the door as Ben jumped up to deal with twenty enemies at once. Just then, a set of notifications popped out when Minhyuk touched the door.

[One of the Pinnacle Strong Men, Great Mage Arfield has appeared!]

[You have met one of the Pinnacle Strong Men as your enemy.]

[Whoever hunts and kills one of the Pinnacle Strong Men will gain plenty of rewards.]

“...!”

Minhyuk looked inside and saw the giant figure of the Dragon King. He looked no different than a catfish that could walk. However, he was wearing a luxurious king’s robe, with the image of a dragon on it. Minhyuk watched as he approached a severely injured rabbitman.

‘...He’s the one that wanted to open up my belly and take away the Rabbit’s Liver that I ate?!’

Minhyuk would already get angry if someone snatched the food that was in his hands, what more if it was someone that wanted to steal and separate the Rabbit’s Liver that he had already eaten. So, Minhyuk threw his sword with all his might. When his sword shot past Arfield and got stuck in a wall, Arfield laughed at him as if he was looking at some ridiculous being.

“You bastard...?” Arfield said. However, before Arfield could finish his words, Minhyuk raised his hand.

‘While his guard against me is still down...’

The sword that was stuck neatly in the wall vibrated strongly as it got sucked back towards Minhyuk’s outreached hand.

Spuuuurt!

“Arghhh!” Arfield, with his back unguarded, screamed in pain as the sword grazed his back. He could see black smoke rising from the injury inflicted on his back.

Minhyuk clenched his sword tightly and thought, ‘I’ll definitely get that delicious snow crab and enjoy some snow crab pancakes, as well as snow crab ramen at the end of this fight...!’

He remembered eating plenty of snow crabs with his father back when he was a child. And every time they ate it, Minhyuk would always say, ‘Dad, it tastes like crab meat sticks!’

‘Haha. It’s an extremely delicious and hot crab meat stick!’

In fact, the taste of snow crabs was really too similar to crab meat sticks and Minhyuk wanted to taste the flavor of the snow crab again.

Minhyuk looked behind him and saw Ben standing by the door as he blocked the enemies from entering. He was fighting against them alone. Minhyuk grabbed Ellie’s Sword tightly.

Dash!

That was when he started running.

“Bastard!” Great Mage Arfield shouted as he glared at him fiercely before waving his hand in the air. Following his movements, a huge wand sprang up in front of him. Arfield grabbed the wand and waved in Minhyuk’s direction.

Suddenly, black mana flew out and surrounded Minhyuk’s body.

[Great Mage Arfield’s Seven Deadly Sins. Sloth.]

[You have become lazy. You do not want to do anything.]

[You have an invincible body that can ignore and resist all abnormal states.]

[You have resisted an abnormal state.]

It was the Seven Deadly Sins! The curse of Great Mage Arfield! Minhyuk had fought against one of his curses, the Sin Of Gluttony, before. Back then, he fought against it without any protection whatsoever against abnormal states. This time, he was able to resist it, thanks to his invincible body.

“...!”

Great Mage Arfield took a step back when he saw that Minhyuk was unaffected and was still running straight at him.

‘H...how...?’

Arfield was dumbfounded. He was well aware that his curse had a powerful force that could never be resisted. Once someone had fallen under the Sin Of Sloth, they would not want to do anything at all. Even if someone slashed them right in the neck, they would still do nothing. However, the

young man in front of him was different. He was clearly running straight toward himself with no signs of stopping at all.

[Fire Field.]

[A huge area of flame will engulf your enemy in an instant.]

Puhaaaaaaaaa!

Blazing black flames suddenly rose from all over the floor. Minhyuk quickly pulled the frying pan off of his back and held it in front of him. His frying pan could double his magical defense and was perfect in countering the flames that threatened to swallow him.

Crackle!

Minhyuk felt the heat that the flames were emitting. He thought, 'It's not that hot...'

It was not just his frying pan that contributed to the increase in his magical defense. Holy power was also a factor; it not only increased his physical attack and defense, but also boosted his magical attack and defense. Minhyuk's magical defense could already be considered to be leagues beyond any ordinary rankers' magical defense.

Minhyuk quickly launched a fierce magic attack towards Great Mage Arfield's Fire Field. Dozens of spears of water flew off straight at the fire. Sparks were created when both magical attacks clashed with each other. However, Minhyuk was still able to blow away the black flames that surrounded the area.

Arfield stood just outside the range of the flames when he heard a weird sound.

Clang!

'...Clang?'

Arfield's forehead creased in suspicion.

At that moment...

Clang!

...another strange sound rang clearly in his ears, as a spear of water aimed straight towards him.

Shwaaaaaa!

Bang!

Arfield hurriedly blocked it with a black shield. Then, the remaining half of the magic attack that Minhyuk had casted arrived in front of Arfield.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang!

Clang, clang!

Puhaaa!

Minhyuk also took this opportunity to burst through the flames and went straight for Arfield's neck. Great Mage Arfield quickly set dozens of black shields around him.

“I’m going to eat snow crabs...! I’m going to eat! Spicy braised snow crabs!” Minhyuk shouted as he triggered Scattering Sword.

[Scattering Sword has been completed.]

[A single attack will deal six additional damages with a 40% increase.]

Minhyuk raised his enlarged frying pan and used it to slap Great Mage Arfield.

Claaaang!

The frying pan collided against the black shields that Arfield created.

Crash!

Great Mage Arfield breathed a sigh of relief when he saw the shields had blocked Minhyuk’s attacks successfully. He thought,?‘You won’t be able to break my shields!’

Arfield decided to end this useless fight once and for all. He sent out a strong and ferocious attack towards this daring man that delivered himself in front of Arfield. However, just as he was going to move his arms...

Clang!

...another attack came through. This time, the shield was not able to endure. It started to crack.

Clang, clang!

Crack!

The shield soon shattered into pieces. Then...

Clang, clang, clang, clang!

...four straight attacks slammed on Great Mage Arfield’s head.

“Urk!”

The attacks seemed to take a toll on Arfield. He was left in a momentary daze. Then, Minhyuk appeared right in front of him with his sword, not his frying pan, in his hands.

[Sword of Fury]

[There will be an additional 60% for strong lunges and stabs, if a vital strike is successful, the additional attack power will be 100%.]

Great Mage Arfield saw that the sword in front of him was suddenly filled with a great force. He keenly felt that he would take heavy damage if this sword stabbed him.

Vwoooooooooom—

Great Mage Arfield immediately gathered a huge amount of mana in his hands before quickly thrusting it towards Minhyuk.

Baaaaang!

The tip of Minhyuk’s sword and the explosive mana collided.

Swoooooooooosh!

The Sword of Fury ripped the mana into pieces, piercing through Arfield's abdomen.

[You have succeeded in stabbing a vital point.]

[100% additional damage!]

Baaaaaaang!

A powerful force exploded and ravaged the insides of Arfield's body.

"Kiheeeek!" A painful and indiscernible scream escaped from the mouth of Greath Mage Arfield. His black soul even popped out of the body of the Dragon King for a moment, before coming back inside.

"How dare you, how dare...!"

'Is his HP really that high?'

Minhyuk's eyes widened when he realized that his attack was not enough to bring Arfield's HP down to zero. Then, he saw Great Mage Arfield waving his arm. When Great Mage Arfield waved his arm, all of the black souls that were scattered all over the palace that entered the countless creatures dwelling inside were suddenly pulled away from those bodies. Their numbers were in the hundreds at the very least. With another wave of his hand, these black souls shrieked before being sucked back inside the body of Great Mage Arfield.

"Kyaaaaaak!"

"Keuaaaaaack!"

"Aaaaaaaaack!"

[Arfield's HP has fallen below 50%.]

[His Skill: Soul Devour has been triggered.]

[His magical attack and magical defense have temporarily increased by 1.8x]

[His Skill: Soul Recovery has been triggered.]

[All of his wounds are recovering at a rapid pace.]

"...!"

Minhyuk also remembered that Rumad, the person he fought before, also triggered some skills when his HP dropped below a certain level. He could easily fight toe-to-toe against Great Mage Arfield because of his tremendously high Holy Power. However, if this situation happened every time Arfield's HP got reduced, it would be an entirely different story.

Crackle, swoosh, fwoosh!

The space between them was suddenly torn apart by a flame that was far bigger and hotter than a regular flame.

[Hellfire.]

[A huge fire summoned from hell has now been created.]

Any player that could cast this high-level magic was considered to be the best in the world. Such was the greatness and might of the magic called Hellfire.

Minhyuk felt it too. He thought, 'If I get hit by that... then I'd die...!'

The items in the surroundings were slowly starting to melt. This just showed how terrifying the heat and might of this blazing ball of flame was. It was not even touching anything, but it could still melt the things in its surrounding. Minhyuk could still feel the heat even after widening the gap between him and Arfield.

"...!"

Ben also looked flustered when he saw the Hellfire spell.

"Die, you son of a b*tch!"

Shwaaaaaa!

The huge ball of Hellfire quickly flew towards Minhyuk at an astonishing speed. When Ghost Spear Ben saw this, he quickly dug his feet on the ground.

[Ghost's Counter Spear.]

[The rotating spear will offset the enemy's attack in an instant.]

Ben threw his spear with all his might. When he let go of the spear, a huge swirling vortex was formed as it flew straight towards the incoming attack. Once the spear and the hellfire met in the air...

Vrrrrrrrrrrr!

...it tried to offset the Hellfire. However, when it was just about to dig straight into it and break the attack, the spear suddenly fell down on the floor.

"This...!"

Grandpa Ben's eyebrows furrowed in distress. At this rate, neither he nor Minhyuk would be able to escape. Both of them would be swallowed by that huge hellfire.

However, right at that moment...

Shwaaaaaa!

...a huge wall of water sprung up from the ground and created a barrier between them and the hellfire. As soon as the barrier formed, the huge wall of water was formed into a tidal wave and rushed straight towards the hellfire.

Minhyuk and Ben's heads both turned towards the source of the water. There, they saw the injured and bleeding Kiari lying on Jevis' knees. Jevis also raised her hands shakily as she used her powers on them.

[The Chosen Child's Blessings.]

[All stats will increase by 30% and magical defense will increase by 50 for ten minutes.]

Then, Kiari shouted at them weakly. She said, “Anything. I’ll give you anything you want...! That’s why, please... please... save... our Dragon King and... our Dragon Palace...!”

Minhyuk did not know the exact situation, but he could still guess to some extent about what had transpired. So, he nodded in agreement as he enlarged his frying pan to cover both him and Ben from the incoming attack. Then, the Hellfire collided with Kiari’s tidal wave.

Fwiiiiiiiiiiiiish!

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The huge Hellfire was so hot that it engulfed and evaporated the tidal wave, filling the entire room with steam. It was still going strong, despite the interference of the tidal wave that had evaporated. In the end, it still collided with the water barrier that Kiari created in front of Minhyuk and Ben.

Bang!

The water barrier shattered and fell easily. It was a futile attempt at trying to stop such powerful magic. After shattering the water barrier, the Hellfire continued on and collided with the frying pan.

Bang!

“Ugh!” Minhyuk groaned loudly. He was expecting that magical reflection to activate, but it did not get triggered at all.

Shwiiiiiiiiing!

The Hellfire slowly pushed back Minhyuk’s body

‘It...it’s hot...!’

The high intensity of the blazing flames that could easily melt the items in its surroundings made Minhyuk’s whole body feel hot.

[Your HP is decreasing rapidly.]

[Your HP has fallen below 90%.]

[Your HP has fallen below 80%.]

[Your HP has fallen below 70%.]

Minhyuk could even feel that the handle of the frying pan was starting to get scalding hot. His hands that were holding on to it were starting to get cramps. Minhyuk knew that it would be soon before he lost his grip on the pan since his hands were starting to feel weak.

“Oiiink...!” Beanie cried out as he appeared on Minhyuk’s left side and pushed the frying pan. Meanwhile, Ben also stepped towards Minhyuk’s right and pushed on the frying pan too.

Tap, tap, tap!

Thanks to that, they were slowly able to push forward.

Shwaaaa!

However, the huge blazing flames of Hellfire still did not show any signs of stopping. The three of them braced themselves as they continued to advance through the flames, albeit slowly.

Shwaaaaa!

At one point, the flames finally subsided.

‘We endured it...!’ Minhyuk thought. Just then, something rustled from behind them just as he was about to sigh in relief. Ben hurriedly stepped forward and blocked the incoming attack towards Minhyuk. Then...

Bang!

...A large fist made out of black mana smashed at Ben with just a wave of Great Mage Arfield’s wand.

“Ugh!” Ben groaned. His body flew back from the powerful blow.

Whenever Arfield waved his wand, a light would flash and fists made out of black mana would be formed. These fists would then immediately fly and attack Minhyuk.

Clang!

Clang!

‘Too fast...!’

Great Mage Arfield was not only known for his great strength in magic, he was also strong in close combat and physical attacks.

Shwaaaaa!

Another wave of Arfield’s wand created dozens of fireballs that once again assaulted Minhyuk.

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

Beanie quickly stepped forward and blocked the attacks for Minhyuk.

Clang, clang!

Minhyuk also used his frying pan to smash the flying fireballs back to where they came from.

[Magical Reflection.]

[Returns the magical attack back to your enemy.]

Puhaa!

[Dispel.]

[Nullifies and dispels a magic attack.]

Great Mage Arfield cast a magic spell that easily extinguished the magic that was reflected back on him. He said, “You’ve got some annoying artifacts with you.”

Minhyuk declined to answer.

Vwoooooong!

He just continued to swing his frying pan fiercely.

“Keugh!” Arfield groaned and staggered back.

Minhyuk took the opportunity to take two steps back and widen the distance between them.

However, there was only one thought that was running in Minhyuk’s head right now. He thought, ‘I have to finish this quickly...!’

Minhyuk dug his feet on the ground, while Arfield waved his wand and cast a Windcutter spell, summoning dozens of blades of winds that flew towards Minhyuk.

Shwaa!

Shwaa!

Shwaa!

The summoned wind blades quickly flew towards Minhyuk. Great Mage Arfield had thought of using Blink to counter Minhyuk’s annoyingly fast movement whenever he used Step so he could kill him along the way. However, Minhyuk did not follow his expectations.

Slash!

Slash!

Slash!

[Your HP has fallen below 50%.]

[Your HP has fallen below 40%.]

[Your HP has fallen below 30%.]

The wind blades ripped Minhyuk’s body, causing blood to spurt out of his injuries. However, Minhyuk continued to dash forward to where Arfield was.

‘W...what....!’

Arfield raised a trembling finger and pointed it towards Minhyuk as a powerful burst of black mana shot out towards Minhyuk.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The mana bullets pierced through Minhyuk, his body riddled with holes. However, he still staggered forward and grabbed Arfield’s shoulders tightly.

“Keuhahahahaha!” Arfield laughed loudly after seeing Minhyuk bleed and vomit blood. But then...

Shwaaaaaa!

...Minhyuk’s body was engulfed in a bright flashing light.

[He Who Overcomes.]

[Your HP has increased to 1. You are now invincible for 3 seconds.]

[All of your abilities have increased by 30% for 3 seconds.]

Shwiiiiing—

Minhyuk smiled, blood still dripping from his mouth.

“...!”

Arfield hurriedly tried to get away from Minhyuk, but Minhyuk did not let him slip away. He shifted his hands to grab Arfield’s collar. Then, Minhyuk let go of his frying pan to switch it for his sword.

“Scattering Sword.”

Finally, the cooldown for Scattering Sword finally ended.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab!

Minhyuk’s sword stabbed Arfield’s abdomen six times in a row. However, Arfield’s physical and magical defense was so astronomical that he endured all of the attacks. But the final stab became this battle’s deciding factor.

[Intangible Sword.]

[Your sword strike has ignored all of the enemy’s defenses.]

Spurt!

“Urk...!” Arfield groaned as he looked down at the sword that pierced through his abdomen.

Fwoosh!

Minhyuk pulled out his sword. This time, he used the Sword of Fury.

“Haa!” Minhyuk shouted as he stabbed Arfield’s body with all the strength that he could muster.

[You have succeeded in stabbing a vital point.]

[100% additional damage!]

Arfield’s eyes further widened in disbelief when he saw the blood spurting out of his chest.

“N...no wa...!”

Bang!

Before Arfield could finish his words, his heart exploded.

“Keuaaaaack!”

Flop.

The Dragon King’s body fell down on the floor as the Great Mage Arfield’s black soul soared in the air. Great Mage Arfield’s soul shrieked in pain as he turned into ashes and disappeared. Then, plenty of artifacts and skill books fell to the floor as a series of notifications rang in Minhyuk’s head.

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

Minhyuk's level jumped by 22 levels.

"Haaa..." Minhyuk sighed as he slumped down on the ground. He quickly took out loaves of bread and pizza slices from his inventory. Minhyuk's body began to recover rapidly as his Absorption Conversion skill activated.

Then, the door slammed open as the Warrior Turtle Radin rushed inside and shouted, "Kiari! Jevis!"

He was shocked when he saw the state of both Kiari and Jevis. However, his eyes widened further when he saw the Dragon King slumped down on the ground.

"E...even the Dragon King...!" Radin said as he rushed to where the Dragon King was.

At that moment, Minhyuk approached Kiari and Jevis.

"W...what are you...!"

In all honesty, Kiari and Jevis did not know anything about Minhyuk so they were quite nervous about his next actions. Minhyuk ignored their apprehension as he immediately used his bandaging skill on Jevis. It was because she looked like she needed treatment the most.

"Bandage!"

"There's no way that a serious injury like this can be cured like that!" Kiari shouted as she looked at Minhyuk strangely.

However, Minhyuk's hands did not stop until he had bandaged Jevis and her back injury completely. Then, Minhyuk removed the bandage, revealing the wound that had now stopped bleeding. It even looked like it was almost healed.

Both Kiari and Jevis had high holy power. However, their forte was not in healing so the two of them did not have an ounce of skill that could help them heal their injuries. Right now, the doors to a whole new world had opened, and they had their first taste of the miraculous bandaging skill.

"Bandage!" Minhyuk shouted as he turned towards Kiari and her injuries.

"T...thank you...!" Kiari said, bowing sincerely before rushing to where the Dragon King was.

"D...Dragon King!"

"Please wake up, Dragon King!"

The two rabbits and one turtle surrounded the collapsed Dragon King and cried sadly. Minhyuk suddenly felt flustered when he saw this scene. He thought, ‘Gasp...?! Isn’t the Dragon King the only one that can give me those special snow crabs...?!’

Minhyuk became restless when he remembered that fact. However, it was rude to just go up and tell the Dragon King, ‘I want to eat snow crabs, Dragon King!’ right?

Just as Minhyuk was thinking of a way to politely request the snow crabs, the Dragon King finally slowly opened his eyes. He said, “...Kiari, Jevis, Radin. I’m so sorry! Urk!”

The Dragon King turned paler as he continued to talk with his sobbing children. Then, Ben stood beside Minhyuk after regaining his senses. He said, “There were rumors floating about the Dragon King being seriously injured after his fight with Great Mage Arfield. However, it seemed like instead of sustaining any injuries, Great Mage Arfield had possessed the body of the Dragon King. It looks like his body does not have any energy to hold on to life anymore.”

“...”

After he finished his speech, they saw the Dragon King slowly turn towards them and said, “For saving the Dragon Palace... as well as these children... I give you my tha...”

However, it seemed like the Dragon King’s energy was already spent. He was not even able to finish his sentence when his head drooped down.

“Dragon Kiiiiiiing!”

“Huhuhuhuhu!”

Kiari, Jevis and Radin’s cries echoed loudly inside the room.

Minhyuk hurriedly approached the Dragon King, taking something out of his arms. It was none other than the ‘Legendary White Chocolate’ that he had saved back when he was at the Chocolate Paradise. The white chocolate had the power to revive someone that was on the brink of death or someone that had died recently, as long as not too much time had passed. Minhyuk was unaware, but perhaps this white chocolate was the most valuable item in the world. However, Minhyuk did not care at all. If he fed this to the Dragon King, then he would become the benefactor of both the Dragon King and the entirety of the Dragon Palace. Of course, those were not his main concerns, there was only one reason why he would use it for the Dragon King.

‘This is so I can eat snow crabs...!’

Minhyuk had always valued food more than any abilities. The sweet chocolate fruits that he could harvest from the chocolate tree all tasted similar to the legendary chocolate that he had eaten before so it did not matter if he fed this one to the Dragon King.

“What are you doing...?”

“Huhuhuhu, ack...?”

The three of them looked at Minhyuk curiously as he took the white chocolate that was as big as his fist and brought it towards the Dragon King’s mouth.

‘But, how can this save someone that just died?’

It seemed a bit difficult for Minhyuk to feed the Dragon King, especially since he just died. If he could not feed him, how could he bring him back from death?!

“What are you doing?! How dare you do something like that in front of the Dragon King...!” Kiari shouted. However, before she could finish yelling at Minhyuk for insulting the Dragon King with his actions, something surprising happened. The white chocolate floated in the air above the Dragon King.

[The Legendary White Chocolate is expressing its power.]

The white chocolate that was silently floating in the air slowly began to melt. Then, the melted chocolate flew slowly and entered the Dragon King’s slightly open mouth. It continuously melted and entered the mouth of the Dragon King.

Kiari and Jevis looked at the scene with undisguised shock.

“I...I can’t believe that I’m feeling a tremendous amount of power from chocolate...!”

The white chocolate gradually shrunk in size until all of the melted chocolate entered the Dragon King’s mouth.

[You have completed your Unexpected Class Quest: Dragon Palace in Crisis.]

[You can now receive the snow crabs from the Dragon King.]

“...”

Minhyuk sighed in relief. Then, he watched as the Dragon King slowly, very slowly, opened his eyes. Even the Dragon King’s pale complexion started to rapidly recover. His catfish beard that had turned white from lack of energy also started to return back to its original color. The energetic, strong and majestic Dragon King of the past had finally come back!

“Dragon King!” Jevis shouted. She was the first one to dive straight into the arms of the Dragon King. Kiari smiled broadly as she wiped the tears that were dripping from her eyes.

“Waaaaaaaah!” Radin shouted happily as he raised his clenched fists in the sky.

Just like that, the sea creatures that had fallen unconscious around the palace started to wake up one after the other. And Minhyuk?

‘Snow crabs. I want to eat snow crabs...! B...but I don’t think this is the right time to ask for it...’

Minhyuk wished that this warm and joyful mood would end soon. In the meantime, he started to pick up the artifacts and gold that Great Mage Arfield had dropped.

[You have acquired 251,311,561 gold.]

[You have acquired Great Mage Arfield’s Wand.]

The Dragon King was now fully conscious and well-rested. He listened to the things that happened in the palace, as well as the story about the mysterious foreigner that saved him from death. He sat on his throne for a long time, seemingly lost in his thoughts.

“Hehe. Dragon King, please have some tea!”

“Oh. Thank you, Kiari.”

Kiari smiled brightly as she happily passed the cup of tea to the Dragon King. She was so happy that even her round and fluffy tail twitched wildly.

Then, the Dragon King said, “Kiari.”

“Yes. Dragon King?”

“Bring me my ancient treasure chest.”

“...!”

Kiari’s eyes widened in surprise when she heard his orders.

The ancient treasure chest housed the three outstanding artifacts inside the Dragon Palace. All of these artifacts could exhibit remarkable power that exceeded artifacts at the legendary rank. These three artifacts were currently owned by Kiari, Jevis and Radin. The ancient treasure chest was an item that was given by Sea God Roves. However, for hundreds of years, the final treasure chest had remained unopened. This was because whenever a child of the Dragon King dies, their weapon would be inherited by the next child.

“...Is it really fine to give that treasure to a foreigner?”

“Kiari. He is our benefactor. Whether it’s our Dragon Palace, you or me. Wasn’t he the one that saved Jevis too?”

Kiari nodded. They were very grateful to him. So, she nodded and hopped away to retrieve the ancient treasure chest. When Minhyuk came inside the throne room, Kiari handed it over to him and said, “Please open it.”

Minhyuk slowly opened the treasure chest under the excited eyes of the Dragon King.

As soon as the treasure chest opened...

Shwaaaa—

...an item slowly appeared accompanied by a mysterious sound. The first thing that appeared was the hilt. Minhyuk could see that the hilt was attached to a wide blade. He was sure that this was a great sword. Minhyuk slowly reached his hand out and grasped the hilt of the greatsword. The moment his hand touched the handle, notifications rang in his head.

[You have acquired the Ancient Water Dragon Barraca’s Great Sword.]

[The Ancient Water Dragon Barraca’s Great Sword now belongs to you.]

Chapter 160: Minhyuk’s Activities

The Dragon King's eyes widened in surprise. He thought, 'Th...that hilt is definitely...'

The item that would come out of the ancient treasure chest was randomized. However, with just one glance, the Dragon King could already tell what item it was. If his memory served him right, then the hilt of the item that he had seen was something that belonged to the Ancient Water Dragon.

The Dragon Palace considered the Ancient Water Dragon as Sea God Roves' agent. To put it simply, it was similar to the Phoenix which was revered highly by the Eivelis Empire. In addition, the most outstanding out of all the Ancient Water Dragons was Barraca. The Dragon King keenly felt the power of Barraca from the hilt of the sword. He asked, "Have you checked it?"

"Not yet."

The Dragon King waved his hand, urging Minhyuk to check the item's information.

(Ancient Water Dragon Barraca's Greatsword)

Rank: Legendary

Restrictions: Minhyuk's Attributed Artifact

Durability:?

Attack: 732

Special Abilities:

?STR and AGI +10%.

?Passive Skill: Greatsword Advanced Mastery Level +5

?There is a 15% chance of triggering the abnormal state: 'Difficulty in Breathing' with each successful attack.

?Attack Failure Rate is reduced by 50%

?Skill: Artifact Subspace

Description: This is a greatsword made out of the bones of the Ancient Water Dragon Barraca and God's mineral, Adamantium. It is also called the Supreme Sword in the world of Gods.

'...T, the attack power is a bit ridiculous. Right?'

Minhyuk was not usually surprised by anything that was not delicious, but this item had definitely given him a shock with its attack of 732. It was even higher compared to Rumad's Demonic Sword. Furthermore, it had a special ability that could increase the Greatsword Advance Mastery by five levels. Minhyuk reached his hand out and grabbed the sword with all his might.

[Greatsword Advanced Mastery Level 5 has been applied.]

[The giant greatsword will feel lighter than a normal sword in your hands.]

[Your attack power has increased by 12%.]

Advanced Mastery was a passive skill that was difficult to increase. For average players, sticking to one weapon from Level 1 to Level 400 would only give them a Level 3 - 6 in mastery. The only way to increase the mastery of the weapon was to use it continuously. However, Minhyuk's advanced mastery had increased to Level 5 in just an instant.

He lifted the sword and tried to swing it.

Vwooooooong!

‘It’s light...!’

It was surprisingly light in Minhyuk’s hands. In fact, it felt even lighter compared to Ellie’s Sword. If he used this sword and successfully landed an attack, he would also have a 15% chance of inflicting a debuff on his enemies, which would make it hard for them to breathe.

Minhyuk felt that the sword was extremely useful simply because of the debuff. It would be advantageous for him in a fight if his opponent were to suddenly experience difficulty in breathing. It would be like running a hundred meters with one’s nose pinched and mouth sealed tight. Although the probability was a little low, just a few seconds of being under this debuff would be enough to break anyone’s concentration.

Finally, there was the Artifact Subspace. This meant that Minhyuk could place his greatsword in this subspace and just summon it whenever he needed it.

Minhyuk gently pulled out Ellie’s Sword. He thought, ‘Instructor Valen, please don’t feel upset.’

The Sword of Rebellion was the sword that he received from Valen in the Scarecrow Training Grounds. He had promised to use it well, so he prayed that Valen would not feel sad that he would not be using it in the future. Minhyuk unequipped Ellie’s Kitchen Knife from the Sword of Rebellion.

Shwaaaak!

The Sword of Rebellion and Ellie’s Kitchen Knife separated in an instant. Then, Minhyuk brought Ellie’s Kitchen Knife to Barraca’s Sword.

[Would you like to equip Ellie’s Kitchen Knife?]

“Yes.”

Ellie’s Kitchen Knife completely covered Barraca’s Greatsword as it started the combination process. Not long after, the image of a Phoenix was imprinted on the previously blank and rugged Greatsword.

“Amazing.”

The Dragon King looked at the scene in front of him with great interest. This was the first time that he had seen something like that.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk gingerly held the Sword of Rebellion. He carefully placed it inside his inventory.

‘I’ll keep this with me.’

Minhyuk decided to keep the Sword of Rebellion inside his inventory. He would not sell it. After all, it was a companion that had accompanied him up until this point. After Minhyuk finished dealing with his new weapon, he quickly moved on to the main topic. He said, “Snow crabs, I want to eat snow cra... No, you said that I would be able to get snow crabs as a reward!”

“...Hmm?” The Dragon King hummed. He could not help but frown when he heard Minhyuk’s words. It was as if he could not understand what he meant.

‘I have snow crabs.’

However, the snow crabs were sealed with magic. They would only be unsealed and meant to be gifted to the man hailed as the Food God once he returned.

“The rewards said that the Dragon King would definitely give me snow crabs. Dragon King!” Minhyuk said, smiling brightly as he demanded his rightful reward once again.

Taken aback, the Dragon King asked Minhyuk, just to be sure. He said, “Boy, your class...”

“It’s Food God.”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Jevis, Kiari and the Dragon King’s eyes all widened in shock. It was the legendary hero that saved the Dragon Palace in the past!

‘So, his descendant has come here.’

Perhaps this was what they called fate. After a long time, the new Food God had saved the place that the previous Food God had once saved. It seemed like it was truly fate.

The Dragon King nodded as he waved his hand in the air. Once his hands stopped moving, the space was slowly torn asunder, as two firm and fat snow crabs appeared in the air.

[You have acquired Dragon King’s Snow Crab (2).]

“I handpicked two of the best snow crabs out of millions so it is only natural that they taste more delicious compared to the others. Unfortunately, you will not be able to get any special abilities from them.”

“Yep! Thank you very much!” Minhyuk said. His mouth kept on twitching with how happy he was. Then, Minhyuk asked, “Ah. By any chance, do you know where the Kong Qing Elixir is?”

When the Dragon King heard his words, he could not help but laugh out loud. He said, “Boy. Why don’t you ask me to root out my Dragon Palace and give it to you?”

Of course, the Dragon King was only joking around. Minhyuk, on the other hand...

‘Huh? Where did I hear that before?’

For some reason, Minhyuk remembered Instructor Valen. He assumed that he was probably flirting with Instructor Roina right now.

Kiari guided Minhyuk to where the Kong Qing Elixir was located. It was located near the Dragon Palace. All they needed to do was to pass through a narrow passageway and they would arrive at where it was.

Minhyuk saw a mysterious black liquid dripping slowly, gathering in a small puddle in the middle of the dark cave. He could clearly see the bubbling in the puddle. It seemed like it was truly carbonated.

‘D...don’t tell me...!’

Minhyuk quickly approached the puddle as he pulled out a ladle and poured the Kong Qing Elixir into some glass cups.

‘...C...cold!’

Minhyuk’s hands felt numb from the coldness. The cup felt as cold as a drink that was just taken out of the freezer. Then, Minhyuk took a swig from the cup.

Glug, glug, glug!

‘...T...this taste!’

Minhyuk only knew that the Kong Qing Elixir was like a carbonated drink, but he did not have any prior knowledge of its taste. After drinking it, he knew that it was cola.

“Kyaha! As expected, cola is definitely coca!”

Minhyuk drank the cola quickly as he filled his glass cups with Kong Qing Elixir. The cola was so cold that his throat burned and stung, but he still continued to drink it. After all, it was very refreshing. Then, he heard the notifications.

[You drank the Kong Qing Elixir.]

[You have acquired 25 STR and 30 AGI.]

Kong Qing Elixir was also considered a medicine, so he was able to get some special points from drinking it. Minhyuk took one final glass and drank it happily.

Gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp—

Once again, he could not help but squeal at the refreshing taste of the cola.

Just then, Kiari said, “Thanks.”

“Hmm?” Minhyuk hummed and looked at her after drinking his fill, only to see her bowing. One of her ears was folded while her tail was wriggling in embarrassment.

In fact, Kiari had only always focused her attention on learning how to defend the castle and how to attack with her swordsmanship. This was why she was quite unaware of this creature that everyone calls a man. However, even if he was human, she still could not help but feel a huge attraction towards him. To put it simply, Kiari had a crush on Minhyuk.

“Our Dragon Palace will never forget you.”

“...Right,” Minhyuk said with a nod.

“Where will you be going now?”

“The Imperial Palace of Eivelis Empire.”

Ellie had given Minhyuk a bunch of return scrolls to the Imperial Palace of Eivelis Empire so he could easily come back to that place wherever he was. Kiari nodded.

Minhyuk was supposed to give Boroto the Kong Qing Elixir that he collected so he wanted to hurry over. A flash of light covered both Minhyuk and Ben as they disappeared in front of Kiari. Kiari continued to stare at the spot where he disappeared.

According to the circumstances, all of them could tell that the young man was the same person who ate Jevis’ Rabbit’s Liver. However, Jevis just nodded and said, ‘God’s treasure had finally found its true owner, right?’

She also heard the Dragon King say, ‘It seems like the new legend of the continent had stopped by our palace.’

Kiari smiled slightly as she recalled their words.

Minhyuk was able to meet with Ellie as soon as he arrived in the Eivelis Empire. He was set to return to Valkyrie Kingdom after he finished cooking for Ellie. He was so busy that he had been jumping from one place to another.

“You’re back.”

“I’m back, Noona!” Minhyuk said, looking at Ellie’s rosy complexion.

However, Minhyuk did not waste any time. He started to fillet the flatfish and rockfish for sashimi, before plating them on top of a white plate. At one point in time, the sashimi on the white plate became a familiar figure to Ellie. It was the Phoenix. Minhyuk had placed the sashimi on the plate in the form of a Phoenix. Of course, he did not forget to leave some ingredients for the spicy fish stew.

“Let me set it up,” Minhyuk said as he swiftly placed the lettuce and the perilla leaves on the table. He also did not forget to lay down the chili paste with soy sauce, chili paste with vinegar, wasabi sauce, rice, garlic and octopus.

“Well then. Shall we eat?”

“Can I eat with you?”

“Of course,” Ellie said with a nod. The food that Minhyuk made was quite a lot so it was no problem sharing the food with each other.

Minhyuk lifted three large pieces of sashimi on his own plate.

“Hiyaa!”

The slices all look plump and fresh and transparent. It looked so delicious that no one could resist taking a bite out of it. And as expected, Ellie also went for the sashimi first. She picked a slice and placed it in her mouth.

Chew, chew, chew, chew—

Ellie could feel the chewiness of the sashimi in every bite that she took. The more she chewed on it, the more she could taste the savory and plain flavor of the fish. This time, she clamped three pieces and dipped them in chili paste vinegar all at once. The sweet and sour flavor of the sauce met with the bland flavor of the sashimi, blending to create a delicious harmony of flavors. Then, Ellie dipped it in the wasabi sauce. The flavor of the wasabi and soy sauce seemed to add a deeper flavor to the sashimi, which made it all the more delicious.

“Let’s see.”

Minhyuk picked up some perilla leaves, before firmly placing a piece of sashimi on top of it, together with some spicy dipping sauce and garlic. He also did not forget to add some spicy peppers in his wrap. After wrapping them in the leaves, he placed the wrap in his mouth directly.

“Heuhahaha,?sashimi is so delicious!”

Minhyuk’s mouth curled into a smile. The fragrant scent of the perilla leaves together with the delicious flavor of the garlic, pepper, spicy dipping sauce and sashimi had combined and was slowly spreading in his mouth. His mouth turned numb from the spiciness, but it was still arguably very delicious!

Then, Minhyuk picked up some octopus that he had placed on the table as a service. He quickly placed the squirming octopus sashimi in his mouth. He could feel it move and wriggle every time he chewed and by the time that he swallowed it down his throat, he could feel that it had all gone soft and chewy.

The two of them happily ate sashimi together.

“Phew...” Ellie breathed out, closing her eyes to savor the flavor of the dish that she ate. It was so delicious that a smile adorned her lips. The taste of the food made her recall the memories of the past. She felt like she was transported back to that time, when she was that young girl, going out to fish with her father.

When she opened her eyes again...

“Oh?”

...Minhyuk was already peeling open a bag of ramyeon noodles over the pot of boiling spicy fish stew.

“Ramyeon is always good, right?”

“Of couuuurse~”

Minhyuk grinned as he added the noodles to the pot. He also did not forget to add his hand-pulled dough into the pot. The spicy fish stew boiled loudly as the ingredients began to cook in it. Ellie took her spoon, intending to have a taste of the soup.

“Not yet. It still needs to boil more.”

“Yes!”

The spicy fish stew would taste better the longer it boiled. The starch from the noodles, as well as the hand-pulled dough, would also make the soup thicker and tastier. However, the noodles were just added, so it still needed to boil more.

Then, Ellie took another sip before nodding and saying, “It’s done.”

“Oh.”

Ellie was the first one to scoop out some noodles into her bowl. Then, Minhyuk scooped out a huge amount of noodles before ladling some hot soup. Minhyuk’s bowl was overflowing with water parsley, crown daisy, noodles and flatfish. He quickly blew on his noodles before slurping them up.

“Oho. Ramyeon noodles are the way, the truth and the life.”

Then, he took a sip of the spicy soup. There were no words, instead, only a sound of admiration could be heard from his mouth. The soup tasted perfect! If Minhyuk let it boil just a little more, it would taste too salty. Therefore, he swiftly turned off the stove, before continuing to slurp his noodles as he picked the flesh of the fish away from its bones.

When eating spicy soup, rice could not be left out, so he filled up the amount that was lacking in the bowl. Ellie had already finished two bowls of rice when Minhyuk glanced at her. She was in a good mood and was smiling so brightly that Minhyuk could not bring himself to remind her of her promise.

Once she finished eating, Minhyuk finally heard the notification for his quest completion.

[You have completed the Linked Quest: Make Rockfish Sashimi for Ellie.]

[You will now be able to master Ellie’s Swordsmanship.]

[You will now be able to get ancient cooking ingredients.]

Then, Ruth, who had been standing nearby, swiftly handed a skill book over to Minhyuk, along with a small box.

Minhyuk realized something as he was trying to open the locked box and check the ingredients inside. He thought, “I don’t have a key?”

“I know what you’re thinking. I’ll look at your swordsmanship first. Only then, will you be able to eat something delicious,” Ellie said, smirking slyly at Minhyuk as she let the key dangle and jingle from her hands. Ellie had now become proficient in taming Minhyuk.

Minhyuk pouted as he reached out for the skill book. In fact, Minhyuk’s skills had already evolved and leveled up thanks to King Varen. However, at present, there was an opportunity for his skills to evolve once again. This time, it was different. Ellie would not personally teach him, only allowing him to learn through a skill book.

Minhyuk checked the skill book before acquiring the skills. He sighed in relief after he checked the skill book.

‘There are no requirements.’

Minhyuk was not able to learn skills through skill books due to the class requirement. However, this skill happened to ignore requirements, much like the ‘Intangible Sword’ skill.

“Acquire.”

Following his words, the skill book floated in the air and flashed with a deep red light. The red light was sucked into Minhyuk’s body as a strong wind blew around him.

Shwaaaaa—

[A chapter of Ellie’s Swordsmanship has been added.]

[You have learned the Blooming Sword]

[Swords will indiscriminately rise from the ground within an eight meter radius from your position. These swords will attack your enemies and cause explosions with additional 70% damage.]

[You have learned the Splitting Sword.]

[A powerful red sword with an additional 110% attack power will soar and fly towards your enemy.]