

Gourmet 171

Chapter 171: Ructo's Tomb

“Shit...!” Buckle, or Hyun-Wook in reality, spat some profanities after being forced to log out. He had dropped his weapons, armor and golds. That was not all. He even dropped the Parchment of Reward’s Choice.

The Parchment of Reward’s Choice was a very, very,?very?special item. It was an item that could only be obtained after going through the Fifth Trial 40 times in a row. The Parchment of Reward’s Choice could be applied to the boss monster once the Sixth Trial began. It was an item that could maximize one reward while giving up another. In addition, there would be a four-item list that would be presented to the player.

1?Gold

2?Artifact

3?Food Ingredient

4?EXP

Even if the parchment was used before the player challenged the Sixth Trial, the parchment would not disappear upon failure. It was a special privilege for the players that challenged the trials 40 times in a row.

So far, Buckle had always chosen ‘Artifact’ every time he challenged the Sixth Trial. It was in hopes of getting a ‘Legendary Artifact’ if he ever succeeded in the trial. In the end, he had lost it all. What was worse was that this was something that they had done with his party members without even informing Guild Master Crone. He had lost everything and even leveled down. To top it all off, it seemed like it was not only Buckle who was experiencing such a setback.

[Tae-Min: Shit. I dropped my Rumadol’s Wand.]

[Hae-Seok: I dropped my Caroman’s Dagger...]

[Hyun-Woo: I lost a lot of items too... ?I’m doomed... I did it without my wife knowing it...]

[Ji-Min: Everyone. Please answer me seriously. Am I uglier than a Monk?]

[Tae-Min: ???]

[Hae-Seok: ???]

[Hyun-Woo: ???]

Hyun-Wook frowned. He thought,?‘Is there something wrong with Javin again?’

Hyun-Wook stopped thinking about their pitiful plight when he recalled something. He said, “Why the hell was he using a bow?”

It did not make sense to him at all. The arrows that he shot, the hit rate as well as the damage. No matter what he thought, it still would not make sense if Minhyuk said that he was not an archer.

Then, the phone rang. It was his Guild Master, Crone.

[Buckle, you've been forced to log out?]

Once they had reached the Fifth Trial, it was possible for them to run out of the dungeon whenever they wanted. In addition, there was also a passage that would lead outside in the Sixth Trial. This was one of the reasons why they were able to keep on challenging the dungeon. However, only the Bachran Guild knew of this information.

“GM, we had a conflict with the Frying Pan Killer.”

[The Frying Pan Killer?]

Hyun-Wook explained the full details of what happened to his GM.

[Hooo... So he'll try to attack it by himself?]

“That's right. But, I don't think he'll ever be able to break it. It took us two months to break the Fifth Trial. And the Sixth Trial is really hard to break.”

Crone, or Kim Ju-Bin, nodded.

[You said that there will be an undead vampire coming out of the Sixth Trial?]

[That's right. And the vampire is so tricky because the wounds and injuries that you have inflicted on it will be recovered once it sucks blood. I thought that we would be able to hunt him down in a little while but...]

Ju-Bin nodded. Buckle had told him that they would be able to break the Sixth Trial after some more time. After all, no matter how difficult it was, they have already attacked it 60 times. They already knew the in and outs of the final trial, so they would have definitely broken it anytime soon. He could understand things to some extent.

‘It seems like there's a reason why there is an undead vampire at the final trial.’

There were no monsters related to the undead at all from the first to the Fifth Trial. Strangely enough, there was an undead vampire in the Sixth Trial. When he thought back on Gorac's Legends, it seems like it had been quite a long time and his minions would definitely not have survived against time. Thinking along those lines, he believed that the undead vampire was Gorac's servant. He estimated that the monster's level was around Level 420.

‘If I provide Buckle and his party members with the best artifacts and support them with the most expensive potions, they'll probably be able to break it.’

They would have to drink potions that cost a few platinums like water, however, it would still prove to be more profitable to them if they managed to pass the Sixth Trial, since they were already nearing its end. Calauhel of Black Stone had promised to give billions of won to anyone that found a disaster artifact.

‘How much money does he even have...’

The servers all around the world were still not integrated yet. Yet, he was willing to give billions of cash to anyone who found disaster artifacts in this situation? He was a truly amazing man.

Right now, the Frying Pan Killer was starting to challenge the dungeon. However...

‘There’s no problem at all.’

From what Ju-Bin heard, he was able to kill four of his guild members alone. However, each and every trial was difficult, and Buckle was quite confident that Minhyuk would not be able to hunt the vampire in the Sixth Trial.

Just in time, a whisper came from Lark.

[Lark: We’ve already arrived at the tomb. It says that someone just finished the first trial and is currently going through the second one.]

Other players were not allowed to enter when someone else was challenging the trials. This was because the dungeon itself was almost like an event. The number of minutes and seconds that one stayed and challenged the dungeon would be displayed to boost the motivation of the next challenger. However, the dungeon was so difficult to break that most of the players had given up. Eventually, the dungeon ended up being occupied by Bachran Guild.

Crone looked at the table in front of him. There laid a chart that Buckle had sent to him two days prior. The chart had the time table for each trial, as well as what each trial consisted of. He started explaining the details to Lark.

“Kaistra.”

“Huh?”

Kaistra was looking at the text that was floating in front of the tomb.

[Currently challenging the Second Trial. 3 minutes 31 seconds.]

The numbers kept on increasing while Lark explained to him what he had heard from Crone.

“...The Frying Pan Killer?”

“Yeah.”

“Hmm...”

Kaistra frowned slightly. Meanwhile, Lark took out a pen and a paper and wrote something as Kaistra continued to watch the numbers. The first trial had already been cleared. And the Second Trial... Lark continued to write on his paper.

[Second Trial. Poison spews out of the wall. Bachran Guild: 13 minutes 26 seconds.]

[Third Trial. Mythril Ogre has a 3x higher defense than a regular Ogre. Bachran Guild: 17 minutes 38 seconds.]

[Fourth Trial...??Omitted]

“What’s this?”

“Bachran Guild’s almost at the end of the Sixth Trial. The total number of times that they challenged the trials is almost at 70. In other words, no one else can break these

trials aside from these people. It also means that we don't need to worry about the Frying Pan Killer at all."

Kaistra agreed with his words. Those people had already challenged the dungeon for almost 70 times, so it meant that they must be veterans when it came to dealing with the dungeon. In the case of the Frying Pan Killer, this was his first time challenging the dungeon. Furthermore, he was even challenging it alone. He would not be able to break the trials at all. No, that was what he had thought. However, not a minute later, Kaistra was already frowning.

"La...Lark..." Kaistra called out, voice trembling.

"Huh?" Lark asked, following his gaze.

"What the hell?!"

Lark's eyebrows crumpled in shock when he saw the words floating in front of the tomb.

"I...is it a bug?"

He thought that the words were so ridiculous that there must have been an error in the system.

[Second Trial, Completed. 4 minutes 1 second.]

Lark turned to look at the chart that he received from Bachran Guild. He looked at the fastest time of the guild to break the Second Trial.

[Second Trial. Poison spews out of the wall. Bachran Guild: 13 minutes 26 seconds.]

"...!"

"...!"

The two of them made eye contact. It seemed like they realized the situation.

"C...crazy...!"

"What the hell. Th...this... This doesn't even make sense!"

The Frying Pan Killer had killed and hunted four players all by himself, so they were fully aware that he was strong. However, the timer that was flashing in front of them did not make any sense at all.

Then...

[The Third Trial will now begin. 1 second, 2 seconds, 3 seconds.]

...the Third Trial began. The two of them stared blankly at the words that were floating in front of them. Without realizing it, both of them were holding their breath in trepidation.

Minhyuk was waiting for the Third Trial. During the Second Trial, various poisons were fired from the walls. He had seen on the website that there was a device that would turn off the poison from

firing off of the walls. However, it also said that even if one found it, they would still be poisoned no matter what. Instead of finding the device, Minhyuk just leisurely walked to the exit.

Shwaaaaaaa—

Green poison spewed out of the walls and sprayed on Minhyuk's face. He felt like it was a cool mist on a hot summer day. Minhyuk even thought, 'No drinking. Just leave it on my skin.'

Its taste was something that he did not enjoy at all. Finally, the Third Trial began.

[Your HP and MP have both recovered.]

[The Third Trial is beginning.]

[The time limit is 25 minutes.]

[We hope that you will be able to hunt the Mithril Ogre within the allotted time frame.]

'Didn't they say that there's a super defensive ogre that will come out here?'

Along with the notifications, a huge ogre appeared with its body showing off a sheen that was akin to iron.

"Graaaaaaaa!" The ogre roared as it ran to where Minhyuk was.

"Splitting Sword."

Minhyuk dashed forward as his greatsword started to glow with a red light.

Shwaaaaaaaak!

Then, the crescent sword light of the Splitting Sword flew out. However, the ogre just ran forward. It looked like it was confident that it would not be able to cut through its thick skin. At that moment, the welcoming sound of a notification rang in Minhyuk's ears.

[Intangible Sword.]

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

Shwaaaaaaaak!

The Splitting Sword's sword light sliced through the ogre's body, leaving a crescent shaped mark on the wall behind it.

"Greuoouoo?" The ogre groaned in confusion, its body split in half while still running forward.

Thud!

[You have set a new record for Ructo's Tomb's Third Trial.]

[There is a huge gap between the previous record breakers.]

[You have gained 40,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[Your score will be the sum of your new record and the gap between the second place to obtain a special reward.]

[You have acquired 30 SP.]

[You can invest your SP on stats that couldn't be raised with normal bonus points.]

‘Oh...’

On the Second Trial, Minhyuk received a double EXP Acquisition Rate. It seemed like the rewards truly depended on the new record and the large gap with the previous players' records.

‘The other players must be really bad at playing games...’Minhyuk thought. The others were doing it together in a five-man party, while he was doing it all alone, so he believed that they must have really been bad at playing games. Minhyuk placed all of his SP on his DEX. Then, he passed through the third gate and entered the fourth gate.

[Your HP and MP have both recovered.]

[The Fourth Trial is beginning.]

[The time limit is 10 minutes.]

[Various traps will attack your body fiercely.]

[Please head on to the exit in front of you.]

Just as Minhyuk stepped foot inside...

Click—

...a trip wire on the floor was triggered and a huge ax swung down on him.

“Step.”

Minhyuk took two steps forward, moving as quickly as he could. When he stopped for a moment, a cannon with a dragon's head shot out a burst of powerful flame towards his face.

Baaaaaang!

“Kghhk!” Minhyuk groaned, his body flying backwards from the impact. Just one shot had cut down his HP by 30%. Not long after, he could feel a huge tremor from the ground. He quickly jumped up as dozens of spears sprang up from the ground.

Stab!

Even though Minhyuk jumped up, his ankle was still pierced by one of the spears.

[You have received a huge shock on your right foot.]

[You will be restricted from using your right foot until you heal it.]

Minhyuk frowned. He knew that the higher the stage he went to, the more difficult the trial would become. However, the millstone was the goal. He needed to get that millstone. He limped and moved forward at the thought of eating those fresh, bouncy, and steaming hot tofu. The moment that he was about to eat the bread in his arms...

Baaang!

...another trap was triggered as huge flames sprang up engulfing his whole body. The first thing that he did was to quickly hide his bread in the inventory. Then he heard the notifications.

[Your HP has fallen below 50%.]

[Your HP has fallen below 30%.]

[Your HP has fallen below 10%.]

The explosion of flames had dealt his body a considerable amount of damage. Minhyuk frowned at his HP that was closely approaching zero. At that moment, the skill attached to Ellie's Kitchen Knife, which he had equipped back to his greatsword earlier, was triggered. In other words, the broken skill 'He Who Overcomes' had been triggered.

[He Who Overcomes.]

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

[All of your abilities will increase by 30% for 3 seconds.]

Minhyuk looked forward. He could see that the exit was not too far from him. He thought, 'If I'm invincible for 3 seconds...'

The remaining distance between him and the exit was 40 meters. If Minhyuk did it well, then he would be able to pass through this place easily.

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Minhyuk quickly dashed towards the exit.

Bang, bang, bang!

Shwaaaaaaak!

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang!

Countless traps would be triggered and released with every step that he took. A huge burst of flame burst out from the walls and engulfed Minhyuk's entire body, but he did not feel it. There was even a huge iron bead that slammed into his body, but just as expected, he did not feel any impact at all. After all, he was invincible for three whole seconds. Perhaps the skill 'He Who Overcomes' was the only ability that could exert the best results in this trial.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang!

The spears that flew straight at him all fell down uselessly on the ground after bouncing off his body. After running as fast as he could, Minhyuk was finally able to reach his destination. At the same time, the power that wrapped his body disappeared while his remaining 1 HP flashed dangerously.

"Phew~" Minhyuk breathed a sigh of relief, as he took out the bread that he was supposed to eat earlier. He munched on the bread as he listened to the notifications.

[You have set a new record for Ructo's Tomb's Fourth Trial.]

[There is a huge gap between the previous record breakers.]

[You have gained 50,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[Your score will be the sum of your new record and the gap between the second place to obtain a special reward.]

[You have acquired 40 SP.]

[You have set three consecutive new records.]

[You have acquired additional rewards for setting three consecutive new records.]

[You have acquired 20 SP.]

“Yeah!” Minhyuk shouted, pumping his fists in satisfaction after hearing the SP notification. He currently had 1,621 DEX and adding the SP that he had just received would bring it to a total of 1,681. As if on cue, the notifications rang once more.

[Your HP and MP have both recovered.]

[The Fifth Trial is beginning.]

[The time limit is 30 minutes.]

[Fourth~Fifth Tier Fire Magic and Poison Magic, as well as several monsters with high defense will appear.]

Minhyuk nodded. It was Fourth~Fifth Tier Magic this time. As for the Poison Magic, he could just ignore it. For the Fire Magic... He had eaten the Phoenix's eggs that were braised in soy sauce before. After eating that dish, his resistance against fire had increased significantly, but it still was not enough. So, he silently reached behind him. If the trial was talking about magic, then it was the frying pan's turn to shine.

Ju-Bin was currently being briefed on what was happening on the phone while he was eating. The person who was currently briefing him was a player with the in-game name of Karun.

[What shall we do?]

“You're asking me what we should do? Wipe them out.”

The report he had received earlier was about a poor village. However, just recently, there was a mine that was discovered in the vicinity of the said poor village. They still did not know what would come out of the mine, but they had to monopolize it. Therefore, Ju-Bin's decision was simple and final.

‘Kill all the NPCs.’

The poor village of Easden was extremely remote and out of touch with society. Even if it was far and out of reach, stories might still leak if they did not take care of loose ends, so before they could take over and monopolize the mine, they had to wipe out the NPCs.

‘They're just NPCs anyway.’

Ju-Bin smiled wickedly as Karun spoke on the receiver.

[Will it be fine? If the other guilds find out...]

“By that time, we could just say that Easden Village was cursed by the Great Mage Arfield,” Ju-Bin said, chuckling darkly.

He could just tell the world that they hunted those people because they were all undead under the curse of Great Mage Arfield. Were there any problems with such a method? True, It was an extremely shameless and dirty method. However, the only question was whether people would believe such a lie. Simply saying that would not suffice, the massacre that they would carry out had to be hidden in such deceit. Ju-Bin always took care of his best interests. It did not matter if the method was shameless or dirty. As long as his interests were protected, then that was all that it mattered.

‘The only reason why Kaistra and Lark personally went to the tomb is because they don’t trust me.’

Ju-Bin had given information to Lark so that he would be able to receive a distribution of the rewards. However, Ju-Bin’s image was truly not very good. It was obvious with how the Legendary Explorer Lark and the Envoy of Incarnation Kaistra were moving solemnly. Right now, 20 of his guild members were heading towards the tomb, just in case something unexpected were to happen. Even though they were all Black Stone members, it was clear that there was a stark difference between Crone, and Lark and Kaistra. Both Lark and Kaistra were careful and cautious about not touching any dirty money at all.

‘Goddamn African bastards, so what if they almost died from hunger. Why do they have to nitpick about those kinds of things?’

Ju-Bin believed that it was because Kaistra had never really touched or felt the taste of money yet, so he was being too rigid and nitpicky. After finishing his meal, Ju-Bin went back and accessed Athenae.

‘The Frying Pan Killer must be dead by now.’

Once Buckle and his party members’ penalty was lifted, he would immediately invest in them and make them work. It was unfortunate, but he still had to give some face to Kaistra and Lark. After all, he could not afford to make two big shots as his enemies. The moment Crone accessed the game, he couldn’t help but tilt his head in confusion.

“Huh?”

The whispers from Lark came in waves.

[Lark: The Frying Pan Killer completed the Second Trial.]

[Lark: The Frying Pan Killer completed the Third Trial. Was the team that your Bachran Guild sent really the best of the best? The Frying Pan Killer broke through the Second Trial in just 4 minutes and 1 second, and he broke through the Third Trial in just 1 minute and 32 seconds.]

“What the hell is he talking about?” Crone asked loudly, frowning at the whisper.

‘What did he mean by 4 minutes 1 second? No, more than that, he defeated the Mithril Ogre in 1 minute and 32 seconds? The Mithril Ogre’s defense is three times higher than a regular ogre. And he’s telling me that the Frying Pan Killer killed that Mithril Ogre in less than two minutes?’

Ogres were monsters with tough and hard skins, which made hunting them quite difficult. This particular ogre had a defense that was three times higher than those of regular ogres. Buckle and his party could only finish the trial after countless failures. Even their occasional success was wrought with plenty of minor injuries, yet they could only complete it after more than 10 minutes. Yet the Frying Pan Killer broke through in 1 minute and 32 seconds? Impossible. The whispers continued to come in.

[Lark: The Fourth Trial... He completed it in 4 minutes and 56 seconds.]

The Fourth Trial was filled with enormous traps. Anyone that challenged the trial needed to find the device that would turn off the traps. That was extremely difficult to do with all the traps that could be triggered and released from all directions.

‘But 4 minutes and 56 seconds?’

Crone’s eyes narrowed sharply. He thought, ‘These bastards...’

Lark and Kaistra, were they lying to him? Were they trying to pretend that the Frying Pan Killer took the millstone? The changes that could possibly happen once all of the trials were completed and broken were still unknown to them. This was also the reason why he lied about the attack patterns, so that he could still gather players at Level 380 just to get the millstone.

At that moment, a whisper came in.

[Haurin: GM, we’re all gathered in front of the Tomb.]

[Crone: Haurin! Check the numbers in front of the Tomb right now! How many trials have been cleared?!]

The Frying Pan Killer might have died already was what he thought. Then, another whisper from Haurin came through.

[Haurin: It’s been 3 minutes and 36 seconds since the Fifth trial started.]

Crone’s eyes widened in shock. He thought, ‘Th...then did he really break the five trials all by himself?’

Haurin’s brows furrowed as he thought, ‘What’s going on here?’

Buckle and his party members had focused and given their all to Ructo’s Tomb. The members of the guild all heard from them about how difficult this dungeon was. However, right now, someone was challenging the Fifth Trial already. After Haurin sent her reply, Crone remained quiet in the guild chat. Then, he sent her his orders.

[Crone: Haurin. Listen to me carefully.]

[Haurin: Yes, GM.]

[Crone: If the Frying Pan Killer completes all the trials and comes out, attack him with everything you've got.]

[Haurin: The Frying Pan Killer? But... isn't the Frying Pan Killer part of Legend Guild?]

[Crone: Don't make me say it twice. Just make sure to kill him then pick up whatever he drops and report to me about what you have acquired.]

[Haurin: I understand.]

Haurin started sending whispers with the orders that she had received to the guild members with her. Then, their eyes began sending out signals toward each other.

Lark turned to look at Kaistra and said, "Kaistra."

"...Yeah."

"Things seem to be going the way we thought."

Kaistra's expression hardened as he turned to look at his surroundings. When the members of the Bachran Guild made eye contact with him, they all looked away. However, they still held on to their weapons tightly.

'They have no reason to attack us...'

It seemed like they were after the Frying Pan Killer. Kaistra turned his head to look at the words in front of the Tomb, but the words made his pupils shake.

'The Sixth Trial is beginning...'

Minhyuk had also set a new record for the Fifth Trial. As a special reward for the huge gap between the previous record holder and him, he received an Attack Skill Point. Attack Skill Points were SPs that could only be added to attack skills. He had also received 50 SP for breaking four consecutive records.

'So does it mean that the more records I break consecutively, the higher the rewards I get?'

Just like what he had previously done, Minhyuk added his SP to his DEX. At this point, his DEX had already surpassed the 1,700 benchmark.

'It's already at 1,700, but there's still no notification about a special reward...'

Nonetheless, it was fine. What mattered the most was that the taste of Minhyuk's food would increase and improve as his DEX increased. Then, Minhyuk invested his one Attack Skill Point on Ellie's Swordsmanship.

[Chapter 1. Sword of Fury: An additional 4% attack power has been added to the attack power of stabs and lunges.]

[Chapter 2. Rampant Sword: Duration has increased from 7 seconds to 8 seconds.]

[Chapter 3. Scattering?Sword: Consecutive attacks have increased from six to eight.]

[Chapter 4. Ellie's Swordsmanship: All stats has received an additional +2% increasing it to 22%. The duration has also increased from 8 minutes to 9 minutes.]

[Chapter 5. Step: Evolved into 'Like the Wind'.]

[Like the Wind allows you to take three steps. Each step lets you travel a one meter distance while attacking. Like the Wind also allows you to take one step and travel a three meter distance in one go.]

[Chapter 6. Blooming Sword: Radius has increased to nine meters.]

[Chapter 7. Splitting Sword: Additional 5% attack power.]

"Oh..."

Skills with chapters usually needed different levels to increase each chapter. It seemed like this level up had allowed 'Step' to reach MAX making it evolve in the process. The skill 'Like the Wind' looked much more useful than the previous 'Step'. This was because 'Step' only allowed him to travel a distance of one meter with every step. He would have to stop for a brief period to take another one-meter step. However, with 'Like the Wind' he had the ability to travel a three-meter distance at one go.

Then, Minhyuk proceeded with the Sixth Trial.

[Your HP and MP have recovered.]

[The Sixth Trial is beginning.]

[Please hunt the Undead Monster, Vampire Loon.]

"Oh...?"

'Undead.' Minhyuk's mouth widened into a grin. Then, he quickly tore the parchment that he had received earlier.

'I wonder what kind of delicious food it will give me!'

It was the Parchment of Rewards' Choice. The item that Buckle had dropped before. A hologram popped out in front of him.

[#1. Gold]

[#2. Artifact]

[#3. Food Ingredient]

[#4. EXP]

And of course, Minhyuk decisively selected #3.

[You have selected #3 from the Parchment of Rewards' Choice.]

Then, the notifications ended. Just as he was about to finish his pizza bread...

Shwaaaaaaak!

...a powerful force came straight at him. Minhyuk's body reacted instinctively and twisted away from his spot, just as a sharp blade made of blood passed through. Suddenly, a man with long silver hair and pale white skin walked in front of Minhyuk. It was a sudden attack that came through, just as he was checking the contents of the notification window.

Minhyuk looked at the man, before looking down at his pizza bread to finish it, only to stop in his tracks.

‘...!’

Minhyuk's body trembled.

‘Oh, oh my god...!’

The part where the sausage was located in his pizza bread was completely cut off. He had tried to eat his final pizza bread, while leaving the two remaining sausages for the finale. The most important part of the pizza bread was the sausage, but that sausage was now lying on the ground. Minhyuk's body trembled in rage. He grabbed his sword tightly as he glared at Vampire Loon. At that moment, a notification rang.

[Successfully hunting Vampire Loon will let you obtain the Blood of a Noble Vampire.]

Chapter 173: Disaster Artifact

‘Blood of a Noble Vampire?’

Minhyuk might not know it, but Loon was the only pure-blooded vampire left in the world. The only reason why Vampire Loon survived even after thousands of years was because Gorac had turned him into an undead. Gorac, being a mischievous demon, had placed plenty of his undead minions, including Loon, to guard the trials and challenges that he had set up all over the world.

Minhyuk watched as Vampire Loon walked towards him while licking his lips. As if to answer his provocation, Minhyuk also licked his lips.

Halt!

Vampire Loon stopped in his tracks. The reason why Minhyuk licked his lips was because he recalled the ‘ox blood hangover soup’. He was sure that the ‘Blood Of A Noble Vampire’ would be cleaner than any blood ever. Furthermore, since it was mentioned that there was a ‘Food Ingredient’ in the rewards, he was sure that even ordinary players could eat it.

Flap, flap, flap!

Flap, flap, flap, flap, flap!

Dozens of bats that were surrounding Vampire Loon flapped their wings strongly as they flew towards Minhyuk. He hurriedly pulled out the bow from his back.

[Master Archer's Random Fire.]

[One arrow will become dozens of arrows.]

As soon as Minhyuk let go of the string, the single arrow that shot out immediately scattered and turned into dozens of arrows.

Plop, plop, plop, plop, plop, plop, plop, plop, plop, plop, plop!

The bats that were directly hit by the arrows fell down on the floor.

Flutter, flutter, flutter—

Most of the bats that were still struggling to fly suddenly sagged as if they had been dried up. Minhyuk tightened his hold on the hilt of Barraca's sword when he saw this scene.

Then, Vampire Loon stretched his arms forward as the blood from the surroundings was sucked into his outstretched arm, before slowly congealing into a rapier. Then, Vampire Loon quickly dashed towards him.

Lee Minhwa continued to stare at her monitor as she said, "Team Leader, the Sixth Trial is starting."

Team Leader Park hurriedly moved behind Lee Minhwa to watch the ongoing situation with her. He said, "He achieved four new records..."

There were usually rewards for players whenever they broke a record. There was no problem up to this extent. However, the Sixth Trial was more difficult and strenuous than any other trial. Of course, its rewards and compensations were also tremendous. The rewards for the Sixth Trial generally varied depending on the clearing time, but clearing it alone would give the player a new record reward. Additionally, the shorter the time it took for the player to clear the trial, the better the reward he would get.

"If he successfully hunts Vampire Loon within 15 minutes, then he will get 5x the EXP. If it's within 10 minutes, he will also be able to acquire one of the artifacts that Vampire Loon cherishes..." Lee Minhwa said, opting to stop at this point.

Team Leader Park was the one that finished her words, "And if you hunt him within 5 minutes, then you will be able to summon Gorac himself."

"Yes."

The Mischievous Demon, Gorac. He was set to be one of the Three Great Demons in the Athenae world lore. He was one of the absolute and important rulers of the Demon World.

The Demon World. There was also the Spirit World, the Heavenly Realm and of course, the Human Continent. In each world, there existed the strongest monsters and beings. It had not been updated yet, but the developers believed that there would be a time when the players would be able to visit those places someday.

When it came to the Demon World, Gorac was considered to be the king of that place. ?

Mischievous Demon Gorac was also known as the Eccentric Gorac. With his eccentric and ill-tempered behavior, he had created a multitude of classes and professions all by himself.

There were plenty of methods of acquiring Gorac's class. Demon Worshipers all over the world could change into one of the classes that he created by completing quests. There was also this method... becoming the first person to summon Gorac that had been sealed for thousands of years.

It was programmed this way so they could make sure that the person that met Gorac for the first time was strong and powerful.

Encountering Gorac for the first time would give the player 'Gorac's Book'. Once a player acquired Gorac's Book, the book would choose one of Gorac's classes and give them the quest related to it. However, Gorac's Book would only give the player a new class. In other words, the player had to have no class at all, or they would have to give up their current class in order to acquire the class.

"Player Minhyuk would definitely not give up on the Food God class."

Anyone could tell that Food God was the best class for Minhyuk.

"But, if Player Minhyuk had Gorac's Book with him, he would definitely shine someday."

Team Leader Park nodded in agreement.

"His DEX is slowly inching towards 2,000."

Lee Minhwa looked at the monitor and grinned. She said, "But, do you think he will be able to wipe Loon out within 5 minutes? Loon is definitely strong. In fact, he can be quite tricky since he has that ability to recover."

Vampires had a craving for blood. Among these creatures, the pure-blooded Vampire Loon had the ability to recover. If he was ever in a scenario where his HP had dropped to 1, just a single drop of blood would be able to restore all of his HP. The problem for most players was that his ability had no cooldown at all. What was even worse was that the effect would be stronger if he was given the chance to suck blood directly; it even had the ability to copy the abilities of the beings that he had sucked blood from.

This was the reason why Buckle and his party had tried more than 60 times, but still could not overcome the Sixth Trial. To kill such a guy, they would have to stop any attack that came their way and finish him in one go. In other words, if Buckle and his party were able to cut him down and clear the trial within 5 minutes, then someone would have gotten Gorac's class already.

In response to Lee Minhwa's words, Team Leader Park said, "Do you think that Player Minhyuk's blood is just normal blood?"

"Just normal blood...? What does that mean..."

She thought deeply about the meaning of his words. Her eyes widened in shock when she finally realized what he meant.

"...Ah!"

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang, clang!

'He's fast.'

Vampire Loon had unbelievably fast swordsmanship.

Vwoooooooooong!

When Minhyuk swung his sword, Vampire Loon would swiftly avoid it all while thrusting his rapier forcefully.

Clang!

Minhyuk was able to block his sword, however, he saw Vampire Loon stretch his left hand as a swirling blood spear congealed and aimed his way.

Shwaaaaaaaak!

For a moment, he could see the blood spinning strongly from Loon's left hand as it shot straight through him.

"Like the Wind," Minhyuk said, moving one meter to the left to avoid the attack.

Baaaaang!

The wall that was just behind him suddenly collapsed with a bang. This time, Minhyuk took another one meter step and narrowed the distance between him and Loon.

Claaaaang!

He quickly attacked Loon as he moved, but it was easily blocked. However, at that exact same moment, Minhyuk was able to take advantage of a gap as he penetrated through Loon's defenses.

"Scattering Sword."

Shwaaaaaaaak!

A single successful attack could seriously injure Vampire Loon. Currently, Vampire Loon was well within the range of his attack. Minhyuk tried to swing his sword towards Loon's sides, but something unexpected happened.

Flash!

Vampire Loon suddenly turned into a bat the size of a fist! After leaving the range of Minhyuk's attack, the bat returned to its original form.

Slash!

Scattering Sword slashed wildly but futilely in the air, while a rapier stabbed straight at Minhyuk's sides.

Stab!

"Kghk!"

"Human blood always tastes sweet," Vampire Loon's androgynous voice rang clearly in the dungeon.

Meanwhile, the blood that fell from Minhyuk's injuries slowly floated in the air. The blood that dripped endlessly turned into a huge droplet in Loon's palms. Then without wasting any time, Loon savored the blood.

"Hmm. Delicious. Truly delic..."

At that moment...

“Keuhaaaaaak?!” Vampire Loon shrieked loudly, his body staggering back.

“M...my throat...!”

White smoke came out from Vampire Loon’s mouth as he grabbed his neck. Minhyuk realized that he was not acting.

‘...He’s melting?’

After drinking Minhyuk’s blood, Vampire Loon’s throat was suddenly disintegrating. He looked at Minhyuk strangely for a moment, before realizing the reason for it.

‘The holy power...’

Minhyuk’s Holy Power was at 1,000. It seemed like drinking Minhyuk’s blood was akin to drinking holy water for Vampire Loon, which was dangerous.

“B...bastard...!”

Vampire Loon could recover and copy the abilities of his enemies once he drank their blood. This was his biggest strength. However, even after he drank Minhyuk’s blood, he was not able to get anything at all. Whether it was HP or skill, there was none. Instead, he had given Minhyuk a gap that he could take advantage of.

Minhyuk quickly approached Loon for an attack.

Clang, clang, clang, clang!

While he was suffering from his burning throat, Vampire Loon started to struggle in the midst of defending himself against Minhyuk’s attacks. When Minhyuk found another gap and tried to attack him...

Flash!

...he quickly turned into a bat as he tried to escape from Minhyuk.

Slash!

However, Minhyuk did not hesitate at all. He slashed his hand with his sword and sprinkled the blood that trickled down from his wounds on the bat.

Shwaaaaa!

Fwiiiiiiish!

“Keuaaaaaaaaack!” Vampire Loon screeched, forced to return to his original form from the searing pain. White smoke continuously rose up from the parts of his body that were slowly melting and disintegrating.

Of course, Minhyuk did not let go of the opportunity. He quickly stabbed his sword into the ground.

[Blooming Sword.]

[Swords will indiscriminately rise from the ground and attack your enemies within a nine meter radius from your position. Successful stabbing of the swords will cause an explosion that deals an additional 70% damage.]

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

Dozens of swords rose from the ground and stabbed Vampire Loon's body. It was a pathetic scene as Loon struggled to rise in the air while the sword blades stabbed his body.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

Then, the sword blades exploded, blasting Vampire Loon's body into pieces. Then, notifications rang in Minhyuk's head.

[You have set a new record for the Sixth Trial of Ructo's Tomb.]

[You have gained 200,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have obtained the rewards for being the only record holder of the trial.]

[You have gained 100 SP.]

[You have gained 100 REP.]

Minhyuk gained 100 SP in one go which he invested into his DEX, as usual.

'It's at 1,800 now... Huh,' Minhyuk thought, smiling in satisfaction. Then, he waited in anticipation for the 'Blood of the Noble Vampire', as well as the important millstone to appear.

Brrrrrr!

One of the walls suddenly shook before slowly sliding down to reveal a hidden compartment with...

'A statue?'

...a mysterious statue standing inside. The statue had bat-like wings and two horns on its head. He could see the statue's arms raised up to its chest with its palms facing up. On top of its palms, there was a millstone floating quietly.

'Finally...!?' Minhyuk thought, running excitedly for the millstone.

At the same time, black smoke slowly rose from the ring left behind from Vampire Loon's explosion. The black smoke writhed and moved until it gradually took shape.

Demon Gorac was a cold-blooded but mischievous demon. This very same demon was surprised. He thought, 'Vampire Loon died within five minutes...? And against only one guy?'

There was a limit to the number of people who could enter Ructo's Tomb. That was why it did not make sense that Loon died in under five minutes. After Loon's death, Gorac rose from the ring and gradually took shape until he achieved his original two-meter tall figure complete with two horns on his head and a bizarre figure. The moment he took form, Gorac looked at the figure of the human that stopped in his tracks while on his way to get his millstone.

‘...He has my jar.’

Gorac found it interesting. The human in front of him had one of his jars, the Aging Jar to be exact. Right now, he was about to get a second one, Gorac's Millstone of Abundance.

‘That's the best combination.’

The combination was also important for Gorac's artifacts. The strength of the artifacts would differ depending on the combination. Of course, unlocking the seal of the artifacts was also dependent on this human.

Gorac saw the human tremble in restlessness upon seeing him. He thought, ‘Is he afraid?’

Gorac was a demon, anyone could tell just from his figure alone. The human in front of him probably figured out his identity by now.

Just then, the human in front of him suddenly said, “A...are you Gorac? I give you my respects! I truly admire you for making such great artifacts!”

The young man smiled brightly at Gorac as if he had met his long-time idol.

Chapter 174: Disaster Artifact

[You have met with Demon Gorac, one of the Seven Myths.]

[You have acquired 100 REP.]

Minhyuk's eyes widened when he heard the notifications. Gorac was the one who created the Aging Jar. A jar that would immediately ripen and mature any food placed inside it. When Minhyuk received the artifact, he firmly believed that Gorac was a good chef who also had a love for good food and delicious flavor. If that was not the case, then how could he make such an amazing artifact? Because of that, Minhyuk had great respect for Gorac, especially with his gigantic form standing in front of him.

Gorac looked at Minhyuk with a grin. He said, “You're an interesting human.”

Minhyuk just smiled wider as Gorac continued, “You have my aging jar.”

“That's right. I have been using it well!” Minhyuk said. Then, he looked around as if he was looking for eavesdroppers before leaning forward and whispering, “Not too long ago, I ripened and matured some soybean paste. Don't you think that I can make some really good soybean stew with the tofu made from this millstone?”

Gorac was eccentric, this was also the reason why he found Minhyuk's existence to be interesting. He liked the unusual. Of course, Gorac's Aging Jar had that ability, however, he did not think that anyone would use it at all. However, from what Gorac could see, the young man in front of him had used the jar for that ability alone.

‘I can’t believe that this lad is the one who killed Loon in just five minutes.’

Gorac found him to be an interesting character.

Grin—

That was when Gorac decided to settle what had already been set. Before being sealed by his subordinates, Gorac made it so that the Demon Worshippers would be able to summon him through the ring once they fulfilled the conditions that he had placed. If he was successfully summoned from the ring, then it meant that the person that summoned him would have the ‘Demon Name’ that could succeed him and his position. This was also the reason why Gorac was so surprised when he came out.

Brrrrrr—

Demon Gorac stretched his black index finger, showcasing his sharp and long nails, as a weak black light appeared and condensed into the form of a book. The book with the image of the demon printed on its covers floated before landing in front of Minhyuk.

At that moment, notifications rang in Minhyuk’s ears.

[You have acquired Gorac’s Book.]

[Gorac’s Book can allow you to transfer to one of the special classes created by Demon Gorac. This book will give you a class according to your preferences.]

[The classes that Demon Gorac had created are all ranked ‘Legendary’.]

[You currently have the God Class, Food God. You are not allowed to give up your God Class.]

Minhyuk was confused when he suddenly heard the notification about a new class. Meanwhile, Gorac watched as the light that flashed from Gorac’s Book got deflected as it tried to seep through the human’s body. This meant that the human in front of him had a class that could not be replaced by the class selected by Gorac’s Book.

‘As expected, he’s an interesting human.’

“That Gorac’s Book is extremely priceless, you should keep it well.”

“Yes, I understand. But, you really have cool horns.”

“...”

Gorac hummed at the sudden and unexpected flattery.

“Wow! You even have veins showing on your arms! You’re truly such a manly man!”

Minhyuk shouted. There was only one reason why he was laying on the flattery without a shame, and that was because he could smell something delicious from Gorac. Minhyuk continued to say, “You’re even two meters tall... Wow~”

Gorac just watched the human in front of him sing his praises. Then, the man coughed loudly before asking cautiously, “Gorac, I believe you know about delicious food ingredients, right??Cough, cough!”

Gorac grinned widely. He thought,?‘A man who wants something from me...’

Such an existence was very rare. Normally, humans would be speechless and trembling in fear at the sight of him. Then, a great idea came to him. The eccentric Gorac thought, ‘Come to think of it, those ingredients are still there.’

Gorac smiled deeply. He loved to play pranks on other people. It was his hobby of some sort. So, he said, “If it’s delicious food ingredients, then I know all about them. I know of a famous area in the Demon World where you can get special ingredients.”

“Waaaaaaa. Really?”

Gorac nodded and said, “But! The ingredient can only be found in the temple. Those ingredients are as special as the Aging Jar and the Millstone of Abundance.”

“Oh...” Minhyuk exclaimed in awe, his lips curling up in a smile. Maybe it was a place where many special and mysterious ingredients were hidden?

“Lad, I’ll tell you where that place is since you’re special,” Gorac said, stretching his finger as an old and worn map appeared in front of him.

[The Map to the Hidden Temple can be obtained once you accept the quest.]

At that exact same moment, a quest window popped up in front of Minhyuk.

[Quest: A Hidden Temple.]

Rank: Sealed.

Requirements: Level 340

Rewards: Sealed

Penalty for Failure: Sealed

Description: Sealed

Everything was sealed. However, Minhyuk still accepted it without hesitation.

‘I accept.’

[You have acquired the Map to the Hidden Temple.]

(Map to the Hidden Temple)

Requirements: Level 340

Description: Currently Sealed.

Minhyuk still could not check anything since he had not reached the required level yet.

“It’s time for me to go back now,” Gorac said, turning around.

Minhyuk quickly bowed and said, “Please get back home safely! Thank you very much!”

Gorac’s mouth twitched, his grin widening further. Anyone that saw the grinning face of the Eccentric Demon Gorac would say that it was terrible. A newborn child would definitely burst into tears with how scary it was. He thought, ‘Fufufufufufu! That’s right, there are very special

ingredients there! But there.... Puhahahahahaha! There's someone who's on par with me that would be waiting for you there.'

Gorac cackled. Then, he stopped and thought, 'If he can get through it then he will be able to obtain unimaginable powers but if he fails then he will undergo immense, terrible pain.'

Shwaaaaaaaak!

Gorac was sucked back inside the ring while Minhyuk looked at his back that was disappearing like he was looking at an idol.

"He's such a nice guy!" Minhyuk said, smiling brightly. However, his bright smile disappeared the moment he turned around. It was then replaced with a cunning grin.

'As expected. I was right.'

The notification about Gorac's appearance somewhat surprised Minhyuk. Even the notifications described him as a demon.

Demon. They were existences that anyone should be wary of. Even though there was not much information released about them yet, Minhyuk was sure that Gorac was a big shot with tremendous power in the Demon World. For the first time since playing Athenae, Minhyuk had felt 'dread'.

Gorac seemed like he was interested in him, but Minhyuk's heart trembled in fear. He thought that Gorac was the person that made the Aging Jar, so it was highly likely that he was also the one that made the millstone.

'Is it possible that he knew the location of another ingredient or material? He should know about some, right?'

Minhyuk pretended to be innocent as he smiled brightly at Gorac. Of course, Minhyuk would always have a bright smile whenever he was eating food or thinking about food. However, over the course of his stay in the world of Athenae, he realized that his silly and innocent smile was very helpful to him. In other words, Minhyuk received a quest from Gorac by using his 'I'm a fool who knows nothing!' appearance. This meant that Minhyuk had one-upped Gorac without him knowing it at all.

'There should definitely be delicious ingredients there. The only problem is that I don't know what else is in there,' Minhyuk thought, nodding. Then, he walked to the millstone and acquired it by reaching his hand out.

[You have acquired the Millstone of Abundance.]

Minhyuk quickly checked the information of the millstone.

(Millstone of Abundance)

Rank: Unique

Requirements: 400 DEX

Durability: 5,000 / 5,000

Special Abilities:

?You will get double yield if you put something inside and grind it.

?The first grind will have a very, very special power and it will be extremely delicious.

Description: It's a very special millstone where you can get twice the amount of the ingredient that you placed inside once you grind it.

"Hmm," Minhyuk hummed, looking at the place where Gorac had disappeared. Before, Minhyuk would never have guessed that Gorac was the one who made this artifact. Now, he was sure that the millstone was also made by Gorac. Minhyuk had also discovered that Gorac was not the good chef that he thought, but a demon instead. That was why he was a bit skeptical.

'Is there something else hidden?'

Minhyuk thought. Then, he shook his head.

'Right now...'

This was the time for him to focus on one thing, which was eating delicious tofu made from the millstone! Minhyuk quickly took out the beans that he had placed in his inventory in advance. To make tofu, he needed to soak the beans for at least eight hours. That was why he had prepared it in advance. Right now, it was the time for him to make delicious food with the tofu that he would make with the millstone.

'Fufufufu!'

Minhyuk put some beans over the millstone before holding the handle and turning it to grind. Before he started making his tofu, Minhyuk made a grave decision. He would make tofu and eat about 300 pieces of it, he would then leave some pieces for the meal that they would eat together since his father loved to eat tofu too.

Minhyuk suddenly paused and said aloud to himself, "Eyyyy. Isn't that amount of tofu too little? I should at least eat 500 pieces~ Let's eat some more tofu. Ahahahaha!"

The tedious and repetitive work of turning the millstone finally began.

Haurin and the guild members of Bachran Guild were in a buzz.

"Th...the Sixth Trial has been cleared..."

"Crazy shit!"

All of them were astonished. Even Lark, who was left alone since Kaistra went back to his village for some personal business, was in complete disbelief.

'H...how did he do it alone...'

Five people attacked it dozens of times but they could not break the trial. What was more shocking was that he took less than five minutes to clear the trial.

There were already more than 50 guild members of the Bachran Guild gathered in front of the tomb. They surrounded the tomb as if they were preparing for a siege. As soon as the Frying Pan Killer came out, they would immediately attack him.

However, Lark had different thoughts. The Frying Pan Killer would definitely only have one Gorac's Artifact with him, so they were planning to pay him the price of a legendary artifact in order to acquire it from him. He had talked with Kaistra and he knew that there was a story between them.

Lark also heard a story about Kaistra before. He heard that there was a local broadcasting network that visited Kaistra's village in the past. They were documentary filmmakers so the village elders danced and sang for them. However, did the villagers really want to do that? The answer was no. They were told that they would earn money, food and other necessities if they did that. Therefore, in order for them to earn money, the villagers had forced themselves to laugh, dance, sing and hunt. However, the filmmakers had just left without giving them anything that they had promised before.

Kaistra said, "I couldn't forget the feeling of despair, sadness and tears back then."

Kaistra had told him that even though they longed for money, they did not wish to be slaves to it. The same was true for Lark. Lark thought, 'I believe it's worth that much.'

The Frying Pan Killer would not be able to unseal it, so Lark knew that it would be worth around the same price as a legendary artifact. So, he waited. However, something was weird. The Frying Pan Killer did not move on to the Seventh Trial and instead, stayed in the Sixth Trial. However, it had been five hours since he had cleared the Sixth Trial and there was still no movement.

"Yaaaaawn. What the hell. Why isn't he coming out?"

"What the hell is he doing inside?"

Ten hours passed by. The members of Bachran Guild had already taken turns guarding the vicinity since the sun had already set.

Just like that, a day had passed. Kaistra still had not come back as well. Lark wondered if something was wrong. However, an absurd thought flashed in Lark's head. Perhaps the Frying Pan Killer was turning the millstone inside. If that was the case, then the waiting was a waste. By now, Lark could tell that the Frying Pan Killer also knew about the disaster artifacts.

Three days passed by.

"Yaaaaawn."

The members of Bachran Guild had already set up tents in various places, exhausted from the waiting. Just then, Lark's eyes widened. He took a coin out of his pocket. The coin had the image of Demon Gorac on it.

'It's the coin used for finding disaster artifacts...?' Lark thought as he watched the coin flash with a black light. The coin? in his hands was a mysterious artifact that could sense when two disaster artifacts were gathered. This meant that the Frying Pan Killer had another disaster artifact with him.

Tremble, tremble, tremble—

Lark's body started trembling. Currently, Calauhel had two disaster artifacts, of which one was the disaster artifact that he had obtained. Gorac's Coin was also with him when he met with Calauhel to give the artifact. Back then, the coin flashed with a purple light.

The light from the coin would show the rank of the combination of the disaster artifacts. If the coin flashed red, then it was a low-ranking combination. If the coin flashed orange, then it was considered as an ordinary combination. If the coin flashed purple, then it was a top-ranking combination. Calauhel's disaster was a 'Typhoon'. And right now, the coin was flashing a black light.

'Th...the strongest combination...'

Shwaaaaa!

The black light became more intense.

Badump, badump—

Lark's heart shook wildly as he looked at the entrance of the tomb. The most powerful disaster was being born in the world, right at this very moment.

Chapter 175: Disaster Artifact

Reality.

Kaistra was sitting next to Riche, a close brother of his in the village. The two of them were sitting atop a hill overlooking the wide thicket of trees. Kaistra gently covered Riche's body with a blanket.

Riche had been following Kaistra since they were kids. They had been together almost every step of the way. Kaistra cared for and treated Riche as if he was his own brother. However, Riche was very sick right now. His body was extremely feverish to the point that he felt like he was boiling. Kaistra had hired doctors to come to this remote village in Africa, despite the steep price, but he still did not know how long it would take for them to get here. Kaistra bit his lips in worry and desperation.

'No! Please don't come...!?'Kaistra pleaded. He was desperately begging the dark clouds that had been gathering not too far away from them.

'No, you can't do this!'

If that happened, then it would be hard for a helicopter to fly and come to where they were. African children generally had a weaker immune system than normal children. In addition, their medical facilities still had to make contact with the outside world before they would be able to get any help. What was worse was that the illness that Riche had contracted was different from any other normal illness found in other countries. The symptoms that Riche currently had might possibly be only the cold or the flu. However, if that was not the case, young Riche's life might be in danger.

"...Kaistra."

"Huh?"

Kaistra turned to look at Riche with a gentle smile on his face. He had originally refused to come here with Riche. However, Riche had cried and begged for him to take him to the hill where they always went.

“Do you remember?”

“...”

Kaistra listened quietly to his words.

“Back then, when I was mostly only skin and bones, they came.”

Kaistra nodded in understanding. Back then, both Kaistra and Riche were all skin and bones, on the brink of death, but the Ilhwa Group miraculously arrived in their village together with some medical staff. They saved them from death. The person named Park Munsoo even gave them?Athenae? Access Capsules as a means to contact them and for them to experience a new world. Thanks to that, Kaistra became a ranker and gained unexpected profits that lifted their village’s situation from the negatives until it finally stabilized.

“The food I ate at that time... I still can’t forget it,” Riche said.

One of the people that Ilhwa Group had brought with them was a chef. For quite some time, the only thing that they had fed the children who were almost skin and bones, was a gruel of some sort.

“It was delicious. But, do you know what’s strange?”

There were only five capsules installed in their village. Each capsule was designed to be powered with solar-powered generators so they would remain operational regardless of the circumstances they had. With the help of these capsules, Riche was also able to try the taste of food from all over the world.

“No matter what I taste, I can’t seem to find the flavor of that time...”

The white and steaming chicken porridge that was made by boiling various ingredients was certainly delicious. However, what was strange was that he really could not find nor taste the flavor of the food back then.

A smile hung around Kaistra’s mouth. He said, “Me too.”

‘How can I ever forget? The taste, the texture and the feeling back then... I can never forget it for the rest of my life.’

The taste of that food was the signal for their salvation. Perhaps, they could not find the same taste because they did not feel the same way as back then.

“Kaistra. I have a favor to ask of you before I die.”

“...Riche, don’t say that!” Kaistra exclaimed at Riche, but he soon calmed down his anxious heart.

“That flavor... Please let me taste it again.”

“...”

Kaistra’s couldn’t mutter a word. He knew that the answer was in that capsule. Then, Kaistra’s eyes lit up.

‘Frying Pan Killer...’

Kaistra had heard rumors that his cooking skills were superior to that of Twilight Chef Black's skills. Then, Kaistra firmly told Riche, "You won't die, and I will also let you have a taste of that flavor again. Let's go back now."

"Yeah."

Kaistra carried Riche on his back as the two of them slowly made their way back to the village before the dark clouds reached them.

"Hoo, ah," Minhyuk spat out a trembling breath as he stared at the tofu feast in front of him. He excitedly opened the lid of the earthen pot that was cooking on the gas burner in front of him.

Shwaaaaaa—

The first thing he made after making tofu was soft tofu stew. The steam was consistently rising out of the pot. Just like that, he quickly cracked an egg from the golden chicken inside, the egg slowly fell inside the hot broth of the stew. Then, without wasting any moment, he quickly turned on the gas burner again, and waited for a while before turning it off again. The egg was quickly cooked while the soft tofu, clams, squid and pork quietly laid around it as they all floated in the red soup made from red chili paste.

Lying next to the stew was a well-sliced tofu that was still piping hot. The tofu was freshly made and still steaming. It was just like the tofu that was usually sold in the market. Placed next to it was the stir-fried kimchi that had a darker color than the regular kimchi. There were also plenty of various tofu dishes placed side by side on the table in front of him.

Minhyuk first stretched his spoon towards the soft tofu stew, which was slowly cooling down. After stirring the soup for quite a while, he scooped up a spoonful of the slightly hot soup.

"Hoo!?Hoo!"

After blowing on it slightly, he quickly brought it to his mouth and...

Slurp!

"Ha, hot!"

Minhyuk felt the unique texture of the soft tofu stew in his mouth despite the scalding heat.

"Let's see."

Then, he quickly scooped up some soft tofu. The soft tofu had already slightly taken in the redness as it absorbed the soup. It was jiggling on the spoon and looked quite chewy.

"Sluuuurp!"

As soon as Minhyuk placed it in his mouth, he could feel the softness of the tofu that was akin to steamed eggs. The spicy soup, together with the sweetness of the soft tofu, tasted wonderful in his mouth. Minhyuk quickly took another spoonful of soft tofu stew. This time, he scooped some of the pork, squid, clams and soft tofu and packed it on top of his bowl. Of course, he did not forget the soup. After packing it in his bowl, he did not forget to mix it thoroughly before taking another bite.

The first thing that greeted him was the chewiness of the squid and the pork, as well as the savory and refreshing flavor of the clams. The soft tofu, rice as well as the slightly hot soup also danced happily in his mouth.

“Kgghk, I think this soft tofu stew will also taste good even if it's cold.”

Minhyuk nodded happily as he stretched his chopsticks to the steaming hot tofu beside it. He sliced the hot tofu in half and tried it without anything first. It was clearly just plain tofu with no seasonings, but it still tasted wonderful.

A pleased smile gently hung on Minhyuk's lips as he picked up some tofu and stir-fried kimchi at the same time. Then, he placed them in his mouth. The soft, savory flavor of the tofu, as well as the spicy, crunchy flavor of the kimchi met together.

Crunch, crunch—

The stir-fried kimchi had added a dash of flavor to the otherwise bland taste of the tofu. He smiled widely as he picked up another tofu and placed it in his mouth.

Chew, chew.

The combination of the tofu and the kimchi that had been seasoned well had a slightly salty taste to it. This was also the reason why it was called a rice thief. It was not just 'salty', in fact, it was 'pleasantly salty'. Minhyuk had no choice but to eat a spoonful of rice to balance the flavor, smiling in satisfaction.

“Tofu, why are you so healthy and delicious?”

The beans that were used to make the tofu sprouted from a field called Sogogi. They were even beans that could work well and compliment any kind of stewed dishes, so it was guaranteed to be something delicious. After Minhyuk finished eating about 100 pieces of tofu, he heard notifications ringing in his ears.

[You have eaten the Soft Tofu made with the Millstone of Abundance.]

[You have acquired 400,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

Minhyuk's level increased by five in an instant. This five-level increase, together with all the level ups that he had experienced in this place, brought his level to Level 318. After eating all of the tofu in front of him, Minhyuk sat back down in front of the millstone. It had only been a day, so he began his beans grinding once again.

Minhyuk was spinning the millstone again today. Just a bit earlier, he had made some ox blood hangover soup from the 'Blood Of A Noble Vampire' that dropped from Vampire Loon. As usual, upon consumption, the notifications rang out.

[You have eaten the Ox Blood Hangover Soup made from the Blood of a Noble Vampire.]

[Food God's Greatness.]

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

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

[You have acquired the Passive Skill: Bleeding.]

The Blood of a Noble Vampire was an extremely amazing medicine. However, unlike other medicines that only increase the stats, this medicine gave a skill or increased an existing skill's level. He had thought that he would not be able to learn, acquire or improve any skills since there were no skill books for the Food God, so it was a relief for him that he could learn skills this way.

Minhyuk quickly checked the skill, Strengthened Bleeding. Originally, it was just a 2% chance of triggering bleeding whenever there was a successful attack, but thanks to the Food God's Greatness, it had increased to 3%. Once bleeding has been triggered, a 10% damage would continue to be inflicted on the opponent until they were able to stop the bleeding.

After Minhyuk checked his new skill, he sat in front of the millstone again. He said, "Well then, let's spin it again!"

He started spinning the millstone with all his might. After around one or two hours of continuous spinning...

"Huh?"

...a black light suddenly burst out of the millstone. Along with the light, the aging jar suddenly popped out of Minhyuk's inventory and floated in the air. The millstone that was glowing with a black light slowly floated in the air too. Minhyuk did not know why the two artifacts suddenly floated in the air before him, so he just watched and waited. Then, not long after, the black light was suddenly sucked into the aging jar.

Then, came the notifications.

[The Millstone of Abundance has now evolved and turned into 'Gorac's Lightning Millstone'.]

[Gorac's Lightning Millstone and Gorac's Aging Jar belong to an artifact set.]

[Depending on the properties and nature of the two items, the force and strength will be attached to one of the artifacts.]

[Gorac's Lightning Millstone has evolved from a Unique Artifact to a Disaster Artifact.]

"Disaster...?" Minhyuk asked aloud, confused.

Disaster Artifact?? He had never heard of it before so Minhyuk checked the item right away.

(Gorac's Lightning Millstone)

Rank: Disaster

Requirements: Gorac's Artifact Set

Durability:?

Special Abilities:

?Basic stats will increase by 8% just by having the item in your possession.

?Passive Skill: Lightning

?Active Skill: Lightning Hell

Description: This is one of the artifacts of the set hidden by Gorac. Only when two of the artifacts in a set meet will they be able to show their true strength. If two of the best artifacts meet, then they will be able to create the strongest disaster.

(Lightning)

Artifact Skill

Level: None

Mana Required: None

Cooldown: None

Effects: With Gorac's Lightning Millstone, you are given a 5% chance to trigger 2-4 lightning strikes with similar damage to your attack upon successful attack on your enemies.

(Lightning Hell)

Artifact Skill

Level: None

Mana Required: 2,000

Penalty: -1 to all 5 basic stats.

Cooldown: 480 hours

Effects: Powerful lightning strikes with an additional 120% attack damage will indiscriminately strike a radius of 20 meters for one minute. This will be triggered by holding on to the handle of the millstone and turning it.

Then, another set of notifications rang.

[Unsealing the artifact had allowed you to inadvertently complete the Seventh Trial.]

[You have completed the attack on Ructo's Tomb.]

[You have acquired 500,000 EXP.]

[You have gained 300 REP.]

[You have acquired the Title: The Man who Reached the Goal.]

Brrrrrrrrr!

The entrance to Ructo's Tomb suddenly began to shake, prompting the lazy members of the Bachran Guild to jump up and move. They clearly saw the phrase in front of the tomb stating 'The Seventh Trial has been completed.' before the door completely disappeared in front of them. This meant that others could now enter and challenge the dungeon freely. In other words, the dungeon had been cleared. However, no one came out.

'What the hell? D...don't tell me...!?' Lark thought, eyes widening in surprise.

From what he knew, the person who had cleared the dungeon could go to another entrance upon the successful clearing. Even the members of the Bachran Guild seemed to think that way.

That was when Lark saw Kaistra accessing the game before summoning Penrus.

"Th...that's Penrus, I have only heard of him..."

"Th...the Incarnation Of Light!"

Then, Kaistra climbed on Penrus.

'What in the world is he doing?'

Kaistra heard Penrus howl in the summoning room the moment he logged back inside? Athenae. This meant that there was an incarnation nearby. For some reason, Kaistra believed that it was the Frying Pan Killer. He believed that the Frying Pan Killer had an incarnation with him as well.

Shwaaaaa!

"F...fast!"

"Gasp?!"

"...!"

Kaistra disappeared from the place where he was just now, leaving behind a ray of light.

Dash! Run!

Penrus continued to run while Kaistra thought, 'What should I give him in return?'

Kaistra was going to ask the Frying Pan Killer to cook for Riche so he needed to give something in return. Maybe money? Artifacts? The Frying Pan Killer was a strong person... so Kaistra wondered what he would want in return.

Dash!

Penrus was already running as fast as he could, but when he arrived, he found the Frying Pan Killer ready to tear the return scroll. Kaistra shouted at him in a panic, "Th...there's a hungry child!"

Kaistra's head turned blank. He knew that he had to do something to somehow get a hold of him. Because of that, all of the things that he had thought of and prepared in his mind all went to trash as he spoke gibberish. He said, "The child is an African like me and he's very hungry. The child said that he wanted to eat this particular food very much."

At that moment, reason slowly came back to Kaistra as he gathered back his thoughts. Most of the players in Athenae had one thing in common. They usually wanted good artifacts and good rewards. However, he did not even say anything about it and just told him about his request. If anyone went to a village, one could easily see players begging.

‘What would be the difference between them and me?’

He had spoken a lot of gibberish before. As a result, Kaistra tried to remedy that by saying, “What do you want in exchange? If there’s anything that you want, I...”

“What do I want?” The young man smiled as he continued to say, “For the world to have no more hungry people.”

“...!”

Kaistra slowly lifted his head up. Only then was he able to see the man’s face. The man had a tall nose, big doe-like eyes, a sharp jawline and a tall stature. At that moment, Kaistra saw the image of someone else overlap with the young man’s figure. Even that thing that he said earlier was something that he had heard from Kang Minhoo, the chairman of Ilhwa Group. The man once said in an interview with a volunteer agency...

[Chairman Kang Minhoo, not only do you support Africa, but you also give support to the orphanages in our country and even give plenty of support and help to nursing homes. What is your reason for doing all of these?]

[Because I hope that there will be no more hungry people in the world.]

Kaistra’s lips quivered as he asked, “Can you please tell me who you are?”

Chapter 176: The Envoy of Incarnation Becomes a Dishwasher

Hunger was something that one would feel, when they could not eat even if they wanted to. It was a truly terrible thing to experience. Every day would feel like hell. Minhyuk had once chosen to get locked up in a room to treat his eating addiction, but he could not overcome the hunger and ended up eating tissues to satisfy his stomach. Experiencing that hunger was really hell. However, he knew that his case was different from the other’s hunger. He was a person that had a lot, but still could not eat them because of his rare illness.

However, having experienced that hunger made him think of the people suffering from such a hell. Especially those little boys and girls! The children whose stomachs were empty because they had no money, no rice, nor hundreds of won for a bag of ramyeon. Were there people like that still in this day and age? Minhyuk thought hard and long about it and realized that there must be a lot of them. They must have just been out of sight and invisible to the public. That was why Minhyuk believed that they, as well as those people, should not experience such hell-like hunger. He knew the pain better than anyone else after all.

Then, the African boy in front of him suddenly asked him a question, “Can you please tell me who you are?”

Minhyuk could not understand the intentions behind that question.

“...A person who likes to eat delicious things?” Minhyuk said, grinning as wide as he could.

Suddenly, the sounds of footsteps rang from a distance.

“Where is he?!”

“Frying Pan Killer?!”

“The goddamn bastard, where did he run off to?!”

“Huh?”

Minhyuk was taken aback when he heard the rough and crass voices of the people that were trying to find him. They even knew that he was the Frying Pan Killer.

‘Buckle and Javin...’

There was a high probability that it was their colleagues. However, the noise level of the voices were quite more than what he had thought. He estimated that there were at least 30 people in the area.

Kaistra looked around and said hurriedly, “Get up. We need to get out of here quickly.”

Minhyuk went silent for a moment.

‘Get out of here? I can be out of here as soon as I rip this off though?’

Then, Kaistra spoke again. He said, “You wish that there are no hungry people left in the world. I’m happy that you feel that way.”

Then he smiled. Kaistra knew hunger more than anyone else. He had seen people die because of hunger. Because of hunger, Kaistra was forced to eat the bark of a tree, even if he knew that his stomach would be upset. Nevertheless, he still ate the bark of the tree the next day.

Kaistra opened his mouth once again, “Can you please cook something delicious for my brother? Of course, I’ll give you a reasonable amount of compensation.”

Minhyuk nodded when he heard his words. His work was not free. He would move if there was reasonable compensation. In fact, it was fine for Minhyuk to not receive anything in return, but he had a reason to receive compensation. Kaistra had requested and begged for Minhyuk’s help. If Kaistra had requested and begged for his help, and he did not receive any compensation, then it would not be a fair trade for Minhyuk. Also, he had felt that Kaistra had a lot of strength and power.

Minhyuk climbed on top of Penrus and sat behind Kaistra. Then, he took off his helmet. The reason why he took off his helmet was because when he made some soy milk from the black beans with his millstone, some of the milk splashed on it.

At that moment, Kaistra spoke to Penrus, “Penrus, run at the speed of light.”

Flash!

A flash of light passed through the empty space.

“...Kaistra?” Lark asked aloud when he saw the flash of light disappear. It seemed like he had been looking for Kaistra too. Even the Bachran Guild members saw Penrus disappearing in a flash of light. However, no matter what they did, they could not find the Frying Pan Killer. It seemed like the light that emitted from Penrus was so bright that it hid the figure of the two men sitting on top of the wolf.

“Goddamnit! Where in the world did the Frying Pan Killer go?!”

Dash! Dash!

Minhyuk had no choice but to be surprised when he saw how fast Penrus was running. He could determine that Penrus' single step could traverse a kilometer. Then, at that moment...

[Beanie is requesting a summons.]

‘Huh?’

Minhyuk was taken aback by Beanie’s sudden summon request, but he still summoned Beanie out. Suddenly, a baby pig appeared out of thin air and landed directly on Minhyuk’s shoulders. Then, it squeezed Minhyuk’s shoulders tightly so that it would not fall off.

Kaistra turned his head and saw Beanie with a silver pot on its head.

“Is that your incarnation?”

“...Incarnation?” Minhyuk asked in confusion as he turned to look at Beanie. However, Beanie was just looking down on Penrus.

[Beanie is feeling curious.]

The pet and its owner could read each other’s thoughts and feelings to some extent. Currently, Beanie was extremely curious about the pet that they were riding on, Penrus.

Meanwhile, Kaistra’s forehead frowned in confusion when he heard his question. He thought, ‘...What’s this?’

He could not understand the situation at all. From the looks of it, Minhyuk, as well as the mysterious baby pig, looked like they did not know about Penrus.

‘One of the five incarnations has been born...’

There were five incarnations that existed in the past. Before they died, the incarnations had laid a total of five eggs. What was more important was that there was a hierarchy among these five incarnations.

Kaistra had seen information about the incarnations from carvings on stone tablets. Four of the incarnations were written and depicted showing great courtesy and respect towards the middle, where the fifth reincarnation that was marked with a ‘???’ was drawn. The fifth incarnation looked like he was reigning supreme over the rest of the incarnations. He looked like he was their king. Also, Kaistra knew what the other incarnations looked like. However, Beanie, who was behind him, did not look like it was any one of the four incarnations that he was aware of.

‘Should we check it out?’

Kaistra had no malicious intentions. He also realized that Minhyuk did not know what kind of being he was with.

Kaistra was the Envoy of Incarnation. His main purpose was to collect the incarnations and it was for that reason that he was given a special ability, one that allowed him to check the abilities of another pet, even though it was not his own.

[The Envoy of Incarnation’s Scan.]

[Checking for Incarnations.]

[It is an existence that can not be approached.]

[The scan has failed.]

“...!”

At that moment, Kaistra finally realized that the being behind him was indeed the incarnation that stood at the pinnacle of all five incarnations.

“Oiink.”

“Beanie, are you hungry?”

The baby pig rubbed its belly pitifully as if it was saying? ‘Please give me food, oink!’.

‘That baby pig... I didn’t expect him to be the king...’

However, why did it look like that? Was it originally supposed to look like that? No, it could not be. Kaistra believed that he should tell them about what he had seen from the scan. He had peeked on Beanie without permission after all, and if he kept this to himself, then he would just be like a small, petty thief.

“Your pet is not just some ordinary pet.”

“Of course. It’s a pig. And it eats too much...! Ah, wait. He’s also my emergency food!”
Minhyuk mumbled softly, his body trembling.

“...”

Kaistra was left speechless.

‘H...he’s an incarnation... and furthermore, he’s also the king, but you’re saying that he is your emergency food ration...?’

Kaistra tried to keep his expression straight and calm, as he spoke once again, “Your baby pig. He’s one of the five incarnations.”

Then, Kaistra began to tell the story about the five incarnations. The five incarnations had the form of god-like monsters or animals, and they existed all over the world. Just as there were gods, there were also incarnations.

“Each incarnation has great power within them and the same is true for Penrus. Actually, I might only have come this far because of Penrus.”

Kaistra was a boy from Africa. Therefore, he was good at handling beasts. At first, he had taken the class of Monster Tamer and increased his intimacy and favorability with monsters to the extreme. As a result, he was able to transfer to the God Class ‘Envoy of Incarnations’.

“That’s all I can tell you.”

Kaistra turned his head to look at Minhyuk.

“If there are truly gods in this world, then there will always be a god who can rule among those gods. And that would be your incarnation.”

“...”

Minhyuk tilted his head as he looked at Beanie, which had just finished drinking the black bean soy milk. The bottle popped out of Beanie’s mouth as it looked at it in awe.

“Oink!”

After it finished eating, it wanted to eat some more, so Beanie tapped happily on the glass bottle.

“Oiiiink!”

‘I want to eat more, oink!’

“This guy...?”

Kaistra nodded and said, “To put it simply, he is the king. However, it seems like this king still hides plenty of secrets.”

Kaistra let out a bitter smile. ‘The king’s secrets.’?Those were secrets that Minhyuk needed to uncover by himself. However, it was also possible for Kaistra to aid him a bit.

‘Penrus’ Breath.’

Penrus’ Breath had the power to evolve other pets and summoners’ strength. However, it was an extremely valuable ability and each time Penrus used it, he would not be able to exert most of his powers for several days. In addition, the owner would also have a penalty of a permanent decrease of 10 to his basic stats.

Kaistra thought,?‘Perhaps after I get to know more about this person...’

By that time, he would decide whether to use it for him or not.

Riche hurriedly accessed the game after receiving Kaistra’s call. They were currently in Hesdam, a very small village. This place was where Minhyuk and Riche met.

Minhyuk had heard plenty of stories about Riche along the way. He learned that Riche was a 13-year-old boy. However, he was a bit short for his age. Minhyuk did not hesitate to use the ‘Create a Recipe’ skill on Riche.

(Chicken Porridge Recipe for Riche)

Required Ingredients: Moonlight Chicken, Borta's Carrot, Cronie's Onion... (omitted)

Expected Dish Grade: Unique ~ Legendary

Expected Effects:

?Brings out the taste from Riche's memories.

?Vitality +15%

Athenae?could gauge the person's brain waves and their current mental state, it could read what one wanted to eat the most, as well as one's needs. This was why the food that Riche wanted to eat the most, the chicken porridge, was presented to him in the recipe. What was most surprising was that there was an effect that would bring out the taste from one's memories. The thought of?‘How can this be possible?’?flashed through Minhyuk's mind briefly before replacing the materials with what he had on hand.

(Chicken Porridge Recipe for Riche)

Required Ingredients: Peston's Chicken, Heto's Carrot, Silver Onion... (omitted)

Expected Dish Grade: Rare ~ Epic

Expected Effects:

?Brings out the taste from Riche's memories.

?Vitality +8%

‘What a relief. The part that says ‘Brings out the taste from Riche's memories.’ did not change.’

Minhyuk began preparing the chicken porridge. First, he boiled the chicken. He also did not forget to take out the scum from the water when the chicken started boiling. Then, after he boiled the chicken, he took it out of the water and tore it to shreds. For the chicken broth, he boiled the well-soaked glutinous rice, minced onions, chopped carrots, and green onions.

Boil, boil—

Minhyuk stirred the porridge continuously while using a wooden spatula, to make sure that it did not stick to the bottom of the pot.

“Woooooow. It looks delicious!” Riche said, smiling widely and showing his little white teeth.

Minhyuk rubbed Riche's head gently as he smiled at him. Then, he continued cooking the chicken porridge with great care. He was able to finish it in no time at all. Unfortunately, it was only a rare dish. Minhyuk briefly placed the chicken porridge in his food storage inventory.

‘I want to make it better...’

Minhyuk did not know why. He did not know why he was feeling a bit greedy. The child had said that his life was in danger so he wanted to give this hungry child a good present. So he began to boil

another chicken porridge, and if he was not satisfied with it, then he placed it in his food storage inventory.

It did not matter to him about the amount that he had made and wasted, since he would eat them all anyway after everything ended. So, Minhyuk continued to do his best in cooking. Anyone that saw him right now would think that this was not the usual Minhyuk. After all, the usual Minhyuk would eat whatever he thought was delicious. However, right now, he was different.

‘I want him to eat my food and feel happy,’ Minhyuk thought. In fact, he was already feeling this way recently. Compared to all the dishes that he cooked, he had never put forth his best effort, even when he cooked for God Juis. Unlike right now. Perhaps, it was because he felt like Riche was similar to him, or maybe it was because Minhyuk just wanted to see the child become happy.

He suddenly felt his tears welling up in his eyes.

‘I truly hope that there will be no more hungry people in this world.’

Unfortunately, it just was not how real life worked. Minhyuk hated the fact that all he could do right now was cook for the boy. Nevertheless, Minhyuk gave it his all. After he had finished cooking the porridge, he placed it carefully in a bowl. At that moment, the notifications rang out.

[You have completed a Chicken Porridge.]

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

.

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

[Trance. It’s a dish that has your ‘desperation’, ‘sadness’, ‘efforts’ and ‘delight’ poured into it.]

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

[Epic Grade.]

[You have gained 4 DEX.]

[You have gained 10 REP.]

[You have gained 1,000 AP.]

It was finally completed. There were even as many as four?emotions?in his trance. However, the notifications did not end there.

[You have completed the Secret Quest: ‘Your Enlightenment’.]

[As a reward, the satisfaction for your Class Quest: To Have a Feast with Other People’ has increased greatly.]

[The satisfaction level has reached 100%.]

[You have acquired the second God’s Dish, Restaurant Full Course.]

Chapter 177: The Envoy of Incarnation Becomes a Dishwasher

“...!”

Minhyuk's eyes widened in surprise. His satisfaction level was just around 50%. However, all of a sudden, the quest had already been completed.

At the same time, a full course restaurant meal suddenly materialized in front of Minhyuk.

From soft bread and broccoli soup to steak, carbonara and pilaf. Everything looked appetizing. Minhyuk could not hide the excitement on his face at the appetizing spread. However, a series of texts appeared in front of Minhyuk.

[I can roughly guess that my descendant will be busy eating by himself. But, I also believe that there will come a day when you will cook for others sincerely and with all of your heart.]

That was the end of the statement. In other words, it was highly likely that this was the Food God's exact intention when he left the second class quest 'To Have a Feast with Other People.'

No one knew the answer, but perhaps, this task was more difficult than any other task for Minhyuk, whose class was Food God. It was possible that if he was not able to get the second God's Dish and finish the second class quest, then he also would not be able to get the third or the fourth dish, nor would he be able to move forward. Minhyuk smiled happily.

'An untimely kindness and good deed has given me plenty of rewards.'

Then, Minhyuk placed the steaming chicken porridge, as well as a plate of well-ripened kimchi in front of Riche.

'Wow, so beautiful.'

The color of the chopped carrot, as well as the chopped scallions, gave a unique and beautiful contrast to the steaming white chicken porridge. Riche looked at it in excitement. When he looked at Minhyuk, he could see that he was smiling softly at him.

Not long after, the same chicken porridge appeared in front of Minhyuk.

"Chicken porridge is best eaten with well-ripened kimchi," Minhyuk said as he grabbed his spoon to stir the chicken porridge in front of him.

Steam slowly rose from the bowl of porridge. Then, Minhyuk scooped a spoonful and blew on it gently before placing it in his mouth. The clean, refreshing flavor of the chicken broth as well as the well-cooked grains of rice met and created a perfect combination of texture and flavor.

Riche quickly followed him. He scooped up a spoonful of the chicken porridge and blew on it. The boy stared closely at Minhyuk and copied what he was doing. When Minhyuk scooped up a spoonful of porridge and placed a piece of kimchi on top of it, Riche copied him too.

The spicy and sour taste of the kimchi contrasted and added a flair to the clean and plain flavor of the chicken porridge. It also washed away the feeling of greasiness. However, Riche was still unaware that the side dish called kimchi was very spicy.

"Ha... Spicy," Riche said, sticking his tongue out and fanning it with his hands. Then, he quickly gulped down plenty of water to wash away the spiciness. Even though he

found it quite spicy, strangely enough, his hands continued to add the kimchi while eating his chicken porridge.

Riche kept on eating his chicken porridge with kimchi. When he raised his head and looked at the person in front of him, he saw that Minhyuk had already finished his chicken porridge, and was already getting his hands on his restaurant's full course meal.

‘A restaurant full course meal.’

After gobbling up his chicken porridge, Minhyuk quickly picked the before-meal bread. Minhyuk felt the warmth and the crispiness of the bread crust, as he tore a piece and dipped it in the accompanying sauce.

A warm, languid smile hung at the corners of his lips. As soon as Minhyuk finished the before-meal bread, he turned towards the warm broccoli soup to whet his appetite. His eyes were already trained on the main dishes in front of him even before he finished his broccoli soup.

The main dishes were steak, carbonara and pilaf. Minhyuk first sliced the beef. He could see that the exterior of the steak was well-done, but as soon as his knife sliced the beef, he was greeted with a blood-reddish glow and plenty of juices. He quickly stabbed a piece with his fork and placed it in his mouth. It was medium rare, Minhyuk's favorite and preferred cooking of steak. It really suited his preferences to a tee. As soon as he chewed on the meat, he could feel the soft texture of the meat. The savory taste of the meat together, with the taste of the onions and mushrooms that were grilled together, slowly spread in his mouth.

Minhyuk grinned widely as he turned towards the carbonara. He was not entirely sure, but he knew that the people of his country loved two types of spaghetti the most. They happened to be tomato spaghetti and carbonara. As for Minhyuk? He personally liked carbonara. He held the spoon with his right hand while he picked up some of the pasta with the fork in his left hand. Then, he brought the fork with the pasta towards the spoon and gently rotated the fork. He looked expectantly at the slightly steaming and gently wrapped pasta on the fork, before placing it in his mouth.

Chew, chew—

Minhyuk could taste the rich flavor of the milk, bacon and mushroom spreading in his mouth.

‘It's truly rich and savory.’

That expression fit the carbonara that he had just tasted. Then, Minhyuk quickly turned towards the pork pilaf. When he scooped a spoonful of the pilaf, he could see that it was packed with plenty of minced vegetables and meat. As soon as he chomped on it, the harmony of flavors of the different ingredients rolled in his mouth, giving off a pleasant and enjoyable taste.

‘Really delicious... The craftsmanship is no different from the Pork Trotter Set that I had before...’

It was the best of the best. The meal was more than enough to draw gasps of admiration from him for a long time.

Minhyuk looked at the second God's Dish, the 'Restaurant Full Course' in admiration, the same way he looked at the previously eaten Pork Trotter Set. Before he knew it, he had already finished everything.

Riche also finished his chicken porridge at the same time. He said, "I'm full..."

Minhyuk looked at Riche in confusion. He said, "A hundred bowls of porridge is the basic amount. You're already full?"

"Yes. I'm very, very full!"

Minhyuk could not understand him at all. Nevertheless, he still gave the boy in front of him a gentle smile. Then, the notifications rang.

[You have eaten God's Second Dish, the Restaurant Full Course.]

[The amount of your Buffs has increased by 100%.]

[You have acquired the skill: Allurer's Cooking.]

[You have gained 50 REP.]

'Allurer's Cooking?'

Minhyuk was taken aback as he quickly checked the contents of the skill.

(Allurer's Cooking)

Active Skill

Level: 1

Penalty for Use: -2 to all stats.

Effects:

?There is a possibility of taming the opponent once they eat the food that you made from the recipe of the dish that the opponent wants to eat. The probability of successful taming increases or decreases depending on various requirements.

?It is impossible to tame a creature that is 100 levels or higher than you.

?Current number of possible uses: 3/3

It was an interesting skill, literally telling him that he could tame and get a subordinate just by feeding them his cooking. However, in a way, he still had to be careful.

'The mouths that I need to feed might increase...!'

Minhyuk should definitely avoid the increase of mouths to feed.

Then, Kaistra went up and approached them. Kaistra asked, "How was it?"

"It was really delicious, Kaistra! Surprisingly, I remembered the time when we were fed that kind of food...! No, it was even more delicious than that time before."

Kaistra grinned widely at Riche's enthusiasm. Minhyuk also smiled at the scene in front of him.

‘He finally looks like a kid.’

Just one look at Kaistra and he knew that he was just a boy. When Minhyuk looked at Kaistra again, he could see that Kaistra did not know how to express his gratitude. Then, Minhyuk said, “There are more children in your village, right?”

“Yes, there are.”

Minhyuk smiled at him as he continued to speak, “They should access the game. I’ll treat you all to a dish, but the ingredients should be provided by you, Kaistra. It’s still up to you if you want to do this. Oh and, don’t forget to pay for that dish.”

Kaistra smiled at him. He thought, ‘He’s trying to show me that he did not suffer any loss. I can feel that he’s being considerate to me...’

Minhyuk was thorough like that. If Minhyuk had said, ‘I won’t accept your payment,’ then Kaistra would have been at a loss. Kaistra was a powerful person and he had more than enough to offer something of the same value as the dish that he had made. That was why Minhyuk just tried to relieve him from his feeling of gratitude by asking him to pay for the dish.

Reality.

Kaistra immediately went to Riche’s house the moment the day broke out. He saw that Riche had gotten up early and was now drinking some water.

“Kaistra! It seems like I just caught a cold! My body is filled with energy now!” Riche said. He grinned widely, showing his white teeth at him.

Kaistra hurriedly approached him and hugged him tightly. He said, “That’s a relief, Riche... That’s a relief...”

“Yeah, Kaistra,” Riche said as he gently patted Kaistra’s back. Both boys had tears flowing down their faces. After quite a long time, the two of them went out of the house together.

“Let’s eat first!”

“Me too! Me too!”

They heard the sound of the children’s laughter ringing loudly in their village.

“I ate the chef’s dish yesterday. It was really delicious!”

“It was really delicious, but he’s somewhat strange.”

“Why?”

“My goodness! The chicken porridge bowl was this big, but he said that we should at least eat 100 bowls of chicken porridge. Does it even make sense for him to eat that much?”

“Woooooow.”

That was right. Yesterday, Minhyuk taught these African children the greatness of the ‘almighty chicken’.

A smile was constantly hanging on Kaistra’s lips as he watched the children having fun. Kaistra ? brooded over what had happened yesterday. He thought,?‘Kang Minhoo and Minhyuk.’

Plenty of things overlapped between those two people. First, both of them had the ‘Min’ character in their names. Then, a thought suddenly flashed in Kaistra’s head. Back then, he had asked Park Munsoo whether there were also hungry people in Korea, and Park Munsoo had answered,?‘There’s a man who’s very, very close to the Chairman. That’s why he knows about hunger more than anyone else.’

Incidentally, Minhyuk acted like he was a person who was always hungry. After thinking for quite some time, Kaistra stood up and accessed?Athenae?with a determined look on his face.

Kaistra accessed?Athenae?only to see the stuffed Minhyuk surrounded by the equally stuffed children. He approached them just like that and said, “I want to repay you now.”

Kaistra smiled widely as he looked at Minhyuk and the baby pig named Beanie that was perched on his shoulders. He summoned Penrus. As soon as Penrus came out, the two of them made eye contact. Penrus was a huge and majestic wolf with white fur. He was quite intimidating, but he still stared at Kaistra as he asked him through their link.

[Kaistra. Are you really willing to give all my Breath to that incarnation?]

Kaistra nodded at him. Penrus’ Breath had a limited number of available uses. His breath had an amazing power that could boost the power of other pets and his breath, but it would eventually be consumed. However, Kaistra still nodded with a sunny smile on his face.

[Penrus. That person is my benefactor.]

Penrus slowly nodded.

.

[I will always trust you and follow your decisions. Kaistra.]

Penrus smiled slightly at him and Kaistra also answered him with a smile. Kaistra slowly walked to where Minhyuk was.

At that moment, Minhyuk asked him, “How is Riche’s condition now?”

“It must have just been a cold. He’s now filled with energy.”

Minhyuk smiled broadly when he heard his words and said, “That’s a relief.”

Minhyuk looked so happy and relieved, as if it were his own concern too. Kaistra shook his head as he smiled at him. Then, Kaistra asked, “By any chance, is your father’s name ‘Kang’, ‘Min’ and ‘Hoo’? Am I right?”

“...?”

Minhyuk's eyes widened in surprise when he heard his question. However, he quickly schooled his expression to blankness. Kaistra smiled slightly at him. Then, he slowly got down on one knee. He was given a new life by a single person, and that person was the Ilhwa Group's chairman, Kang Minhoo. He might not be aware of his existence, but Kaistra truly cared for and respected him. Now, he had even received his life's second blessing from Kang Minhoo's son.

Kaistra put his hands together and prayed, "Uhmbad, ahbad, sa baht."

It was their tribe's ritual. There was a saying in Kaistra's tribe, 'You must not forget if you have been given kindness. And you must remember and honor the person that had given you such kindness as your friend, forever.'

This was the ritual of connection. Kaistra mumbled the words in order before slowly opening his eyes. As soon as he opened his eyes, he saw Minhyuk staring at him. He said, "I don't know you, but I am indebted to your father. I would also like to repay you for that."

Minhyuk looked at him in confusion as sweat began to rain down from his forehead. He thought, 'W...why does this sound familiar?'

Then, the next words that came out of Kaistra's mouth brought infinite shock to Minhyuk. He said, "I want to follow you, Minhyuk."

"...!"

Kaistra was a God Class holder, the Envoy of Incarnation and ranked ninth in the unofficial global rankings. He was currently at Level 482. However, he willingly bowed his head and asked to follow Minhyuk.

'If the Ilhwa Group did not come to our village at that time, I wouldn't be here in the first place.'

Perhaps, it was Minhyuk and his father that had given him a new life. Kaistra did not regret the words that he had spoken. Whether it was him or his father, he would be willing to follow them forever.

Minhyuk hesitated for a moment, before asking him with trembling lips, "Are you good at washing dishes?"

"...?"

Chapter 178: The Envoy of Incarnation Becomes a Dishwasher

Kaistra knew how to wash dishes. Washing dishes meant wearing rubber gloves while squatting by the corner of the village. Washing dishes meant foaming the sponge with soap and scrubbing the bowls with them!

[K...Kaistra...]

Penrus looked at him in a fluster. Meanwhile, Kaistra just grinned widely, showing all of his teeth at him. He said, "I...I'm alright, Penrus. R...really."

At that moment, Penrus could see Kaistra's eyes suddenly becoming misty. Even though Penrus saw Kaistra as a young boy, he was still a charismatic boy. He was someone who was recognized as the

ninth ranker in the unofficial global rankings. However, that Kaistra was now crouched down and washing dishes!

[Wh...what in the world is...]

Penrus was shocked as he looked at Minhyuk.

‘I can’t believe that you’re making the one and only Kaistra wash the dishes!’

Then, Kaistra told him, “Penrus, please bring me the dishes that are piled up over there.”

[...]

Penrus was one of the five incarnations, the Incarnation of Light. Yet right now, he was assisting Kaistra in washing the dishes.

Meanwhile...

“Oiiiiink...! Oink, oink!”

Another pet sat next to Kaistra while pointing at a plate. It was none other than Beanie. Beanie had both of its paws over its waist while pointing out the grease that was still left unwashed on one of the plates.

‘Do it right, oink!’

Beanie was originally the one in charge of washing the dishes. That was why it was standing beside Kaistra and severely reprimanding him as his senior.

“...”

Kaistra was left speechless with the situation that he was in right now. He thought, ‘I’m the Envoy of Incarnation... but I’m being scolded by a pig...’

Beanie even patted Kaistra on the shoulders after it had scolded him. It seemed like Beanie was using the carrot and stick strategy on him.

“Oink!”

‘If you work hard, I’ll promote you to be the main dishwasher. Oink!’

Beanie looked pretty cute to him. Then, Kaistra saw Beanie’s tiny paws. Kaistra was a big fan of domestic animals like cats and dogs and strangely enough, those guys have a savory, nutty and mysterious smell on their paws. In fact, Kaistra had a cat so he was familiar with such a smell. He unconsciously sniffed Beanie’s paws. His eyes widened in shock when he realized what it smelled like.

‘Th...this smell...!’

Kaistra was shocked beyond belief after he had smelled Beanie’s paws.

Minhyuk held back the tears as he watched Kaistra wash the dishes. He thought, ‘Th...there’s another mouth to feed...’

He truly did not know why the world was always doing this to him. He quickly shook his head to shake off all of his negative thoughts. He thought, 'Kaistra is clearly a high-level ranker.'

Minhyuk still did not know the extent of his strength as a ranker, but he could tell that he had a strong presence. That was why he thought that he could ask him to do errands and find ingredients for him. Of course, Minhyuk did not intend to use Kaistra as his hands and feet. However, Kaistra looked like he was willing to do that so he first ordered him to wash the dishes.

Ellie's Kitchen Knife, that was currently in Minhyuk's possession, was a versatile artifact that could transform and modify into any shape. In addition, both the frying pan and the kitchen knife were equipped with the automatic cleaning function. However, the same was not true for the bowls and plates that they had used and were piled over. In a day, Minhyuk could use more than 400 plates. Originally, Beanie was in charge of washing the dishes, but someone new came and volunteered to do it themselves.

While he was deep in thought, he could see Kaistra running towards him. He said, "Mi... Minhyuk...!"

With a shocked expression on his face, Kaistra ran towards Minhyuk while hugging Beanie in his arms.

"Oink!"

[Beanie is feeling grumpy.]

Beanie was scowling at Kaistra, who ignored it and just ran straight towards Minhyuk with Beanie in his arms. Then, he said, "Th...the smell of his paws. It, it's an innovation!"

"...?"

Minhyuk looked at him as if there was something wrong. Not long after, he also smelled Beanie's paws and his eyes widened in shock.

"Be...Beanie, you..."

Minhyuk was very, very shocked.

"They smell like pork trotters..."

That was right. Minhyuk thought that from now on, if he ever craved pork trotters, he could just smell Beanie's feet as he ate rice.

[Beanie is feeling proud and confident.]

Beanie just shrugged its shoulders as it looked at Penrus.

'You don't have something like this, don't you? Oink.'

[...]

Penrus was not envious of him at all. Nevertheless, he still walked beside Kaistra.

"Ah, I still have something that I wanted to give you."

Minhyuk tilted his head in confusion.

“From now on, I will be unlocking Beanie’s powers.”

“...Oh.”

Minhyuk turned to look at Beanie with a bit of expectation. When Minhyuk ate the second God’s Dish, Beanie ate together with him. Both of them were able to level up after eating the delicious Restaurant Full Course Meal.

(Beanie)

Rank: ???

Race: Pet

Level: 6

Attack: 713

Defense: 3,541

Summoning Duration per Day: 5 hours.

Summoning Waiting Time: 19 hours

Special Abilities:

?It will immediately detect if there is a medicine nearby.

?Pet Owner’s attack will increase by 14%.

?Pet Owner’s defense will increase by 9%.

?Passive Skill: Instinctual Protection

?Can now equip three artifacts.

Condition for Growth: The more delicious the food the owner eats, the higher the EXP and the higher the level it could evolve.

Potential: 184

Experience Value: 32% / 100%

Beanie’s attack had increased slightly, and the number of artifacts that it could equip had increased from two to three. So, Minhyuk was a bit excited about what changes Beanie would have.

Penrus slowly approached Beanie. However, Beanie quickly flew towards Minhyuk. It was silently asking for a hug as though it was scared by Penrus’ sudden approach. Minhyuk cradled Beanie in his arms as a white light started to flow out from Penrus’ mouth. The white light slowly began to get absorbed into Beanie’s body.

“Oiiiink...!”

[Penrus’ Breath.]

[The breath of Penrus, a divine incarnation, has the power to unlock or level up a pet’s hidden strength.]

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Penrus' breath continued to get sucked into Beanie's body while Beanie just blinked in confusion.

"Penrus' breath does not feel harsh to the body, but feels warm and cozy."

Minhyuk nodded as Penrus closed his mouth and stopped releasing his breath. Beanie's eyes that had been closed for a while suddenly opened wide. At that exact same moment...

Flash!

...A bright light bursted out of Beanie's body as it floated in the air.

Athenae?was operating in dozens of countries all over the world. Each country had different empires, maps and fields. Currently, the?France Athenae Server?had Hell's Battlefield. It was originally called?'Baham's Battlefield', but most players refer to it as Hell's Battlefield. The reason was simple. It was because it was a land that had never been pioneered. The Black Rose Guild, the guild that ranked fourth in France's guild rankings, once led around 400 members to try and clear Hell's Battlefield. However, the result was a catastrophic failure. What was even more shocking was that they were all wiped out in just three hours.

Currently, there was one man standing in Hell's Battlefield. He had short, blonde hair with a fan in one hand and soft robes on his body. Not long after, a red flash of light abruptly came out of his body.

Flash!

[King's Call.]

[A 70% ~ 90% chance of drawing the aggro and increasing your stats by 30% for 30 minutes.]

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud, thud, thud!

The monsters that saw the flashing red light suddenly lost all their sense of reason as they began to run. There looked to be at least hundreds of monsters coming towards his direction. At that moment, the man tapped his left hand with his fan.

Rustle, rustle!

A black cape suddenly formed behind him as a black, glittering, full plate armor was slowly created around his body.

Chak!

The man suddenly opened the fan in his hand. Then...

Shwaaaaa!

...black clouds formed in the air above him as the wind picked up. In the end, strong winds blew all over the place.

"Kkiheeheheeeeeek!"

"Kahaaaaack!"

The wind began to tear the bodies of the running monsters. It lasted for about five minutes before coming to a stop. The typhoon-like strong wind had torn apart the monsters beyond recognition. Then, the fan suddenly flew out of the man's hands all by itself before penetrating the bodies of the monsters that were still intact and alive.

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

After hunting and killing off the remaining monsters, the fan shook the blood off of its body as it returned to the man's hands. Then, the man folded the fan once more. The fan in the man's hands was one of the disaster artifacts, Gorac's Wind Fan. It had the ability to continuously blow cool air with just a single fan on one's face. However, this was still a disaster artifact, and the owner of the said artifact was Calauhel.

Suddenly, a pigeon landed on his shoulders. Calauhel took out the note and checked the contents of the message. It was a note that came from South Korea.

[This is Crone. The disaster artifact was taken by a player called Frying Pan Killer. I tried to get my guild members to chase after him but he had already disappeared from sight.]

“...”

Calauhel just stared at the note silently before ending his connection to the game. As soon as he got out of the game, he began collecting information. The information was quite easy to find. Frying Pan Killer. Legend Guild. The territory they received, as well as a myriad of information related to him. He quickly sent his instructions to Crone and plenty of other people.

At that moment, someone knocked on his door.

Knock, knock?

An old butler wearing glasses and a suit entered his room. He said, “Young Master, it's time for dinner.”

He was called? Young Master. ?He stood up as he nodded at the butler. He was about to step out when his eyes caught sight of his computer. Then, he laughed in ridicule before stepping outside. In the middle of his room was a large red shield engraved with a pattern. It seemed to suggest that he was a noble.

Flash—

The powerful light that engulfed Beanie's body gradually faded away. A creature silently walked out of the light. Minhyuk's eyes widened in shock at the sight before him. It walked confidently with a cold expression on its face, slowly approaching Minhyuk. Then, it turned towards Kaistra and smirked at him. It continued to look at Kaistra, Penrus, and Minhyuk with an arrogant and pompous attitude, before raising its hands to Minhyuk. It looked like it was asking him to kiss its hands in greeting.

“...”

“...”

[...]

Minhyuk, Kaistra and Penrus were all left speechless. Then, Minhyuk said, “You clearly did not remember anything. You’re just pretending.”

According to Kaistra, there was a high possibility that Beanie was unaware of its identity or that its memories were sealed. Most incarnations were born from eggs, but Beanie was not an egg when Minhyuk first met it.

“Oiink!”

[Beanie is surprised.]

Beanie placed its little paw on its head as he got lost in thought. It could not understand why it was caught just like that.

“...”

Beanie still remained the same old Beanie.

‘How come he looks the same time and time again?’

At this point, Kaistra’s myth-like story was slowly losing its credibility. However, Minhyuk had only heard Beanie level twice this time round. When Beanie ate the first God’s Dish, it was able to level up twice. When it ate the second God’s Dish, it only leveled up once. In other words, Beanie needed a lot of EXP to level up. Having an increase of two levels at one go meant that Penrus’ breath was more powerful than what he had initially thought.

Minhyuk quickly checked Beanie’s status window.

(Beanie)

Rank: The Sealed Incarnation of Gluttony

Race: Pet

Level: 8

Attack: 2,941

Defenss: 3,541

Summoning Duration per Day: 8 hours.

Summoning Waiting Time: 16 hours

Special Abilities:

?It will immediately detect if there is a medicine nearby.

?Pet Owner’s attack will increase by 20%.

?Pet Owner’s defense will increase by 20%.

?Passive Skill: Instinctual Protection

?Can now equip three artifacts.

Condition for Growth: The blood of your enemies.

Potential: 184

Experience Value: 0% / 100%

“...?”

Minhyuk could see that the rank that was previously written as “???” had turned into the Sealed Incarnation of Gluttony. In addition, There were significant changes in the attack, which had increased by more than 2,000. The attack and defense buffs had also increased significantly. As he looked through the contents, he saw that the condition for Beanie’s growth had also changed.

‘The blood of your enemies?’

Minhyuk turned to look at Beanie in shock.

Chapter 179: A Pleasant Meal

‘What’s this...?’

The condition for growth was an extreme contrast to Beanie’s cute and lovable appearance. Minhyuk quickly clicked on the detailed explanation of ‘blood of your enemies’ to confirm.

[In order to unseal Gluttony’s Incarnation, you have to prove your strength and be recognized by him. The blood of your enemies means hunting and successfully killing players, NPCs, or humanoid type monsters. The percentage increase will increase differently depending on the strength of your enemies. If your enemy’s strength is higher, then the percentage will also increase. Once you have reached 100%, the Incarnation of Gluttony will awaken.]

In fact, Minhyuk had already recognized the fact that Beanie would awaken once the bar reached 100%, and that he was not yet awakened up until this point. However, even without awakening, the current Beanie was already a very powerful pet. A pet with an attack of almost 3,000 was not common. In addition, even Beanie’s buff skills were extremely outstanding with both attack and defense having an increase of 20%.

Right at that moment, a whisper came in.

[Genie: Minhyuk, we’ve collected everything^^!]

It was a whisper from Genie. The whisper came just in time for his Dad’s birthday tomorrow. Minhyuk was thinking of just treating them to a meal with whatever ingredients that he currently had, if they were not able to collect all the ingredients within this time period, but it seemed like he did not need to worry after all.

A small smile hung around Minhyuk’s mouth. He called out, “Kaistra.”

When his name was called, Kaistra turned to look at him curiously.

“Would you like to come with me and see my Dad?”

“Yes!” Kaistra nodded fiercely as he answered Minhyuk.

Park Munsoo had served beside Chairman Kang Minhoo and Ilhwa Group for almost 35 years. When he was younger, a man had reached out his hands to him, a ten-year-old orphan that was just begging around the streets. That man was Kang Minhoo. Back then, Chairman Kang Minhoo was

not the big name like he was right now. Park Munsoo was there every step of the way as Kang Minhoo's name grew larger and larger.

Right now, Park Munsoo was smiling softly at him. He asked, "Chairman, are you really that happy?"

Kang Minhoo could not stop himself from smiling today. Even when he was working, he would put down his pen and laugh softly. Even when he was taking a break and drinking tea, he would smile while looking over the horizon with eyes that seemed to be slightly misty. His figure was also a source of happiness for Park Munsoo.

"Of course I'm happy. Aren't you looking a bit chirpier today too?"

"It's because I'm looking forward to the Young Master's meal," Park Munsoo said, smiling.

Park Munsoo felt happy whenever he saw Chairman Kang, the person that he served, smiling happily. He had promised to live his life for Kang Minhoo ever since that fateful day, so it was natural that he would feel happy for the person who had given him a new lease in life.

Then, the two of them went ahead and accessed the game.

"Wait. You have an?Athenae?ID, right?"

"Ah, yes," Park Munsoo said. He had created an ID in the game because he wanted to support Kang Minhoo even in the game. However, they had not been able to play the game together at all.

"What's your ID?"

"It's King God."

Kang Minhoo smiled softly at him. He said, "You really have a great naming sense."

"Really? Hahaha!"

In fact, Park Munsoo and Kang Minhoo already knew that IDs like?Black Dragon?were like some sort of joke to other people. However, Park Munsoo still chose the ID?King God?to share the same shame with the chairman.

Meanwhile, Kang Minhoo answered a call. The call was from an information collector that he had hired in?Athenae. After listening for quite some time, surprise suddenly colored Kang Minhoo's face.

"Yeah. Keep going."

Kang Minhoo was not looking for something simple. He was looking for excellent cooking ingredients.

.

'Ingredients that can make my son happy!'

[This information came from Callame Island. If you pass through the 'Ice Cliffs' in Callame Island, you will be able to see hundreds of icebergs that sprouted from the ground. And there's only one iceberg there that is glowing with white light.]

"So what is that iceberg?" Kang Minhoo asked, voice filled with excitement.

[If you dig up that iceberg, you will be able to receive a surprising 'ice fragment'. However, this fragment tastes much better than the normal 'Neolbing' that you can find in the market.]

"...!"

Kang Minhoo's eyes sparkled when he heard the information.

"I...is that true?"

Minhoo clearly remembered the words that his son had told him whenever it was summer.

'I want to eat spoonful after spoonful of Neolbing bingsu until my head goes blank with a brain freeze...'

Every single time he heard it, Minhoo would feel like his heart was breaking. He hated himself for being a father who could not even put food in his child's mouth. It was even a common thing for other parents, asking their child, 'It's so hot outside, shall we go to Neolbing?' then sitting down in the cafe while eating bingsu. However, Kang Minhoo and Minhyuk could not do it at all.

Kang Minhoo trembled. He would make sure to get it without fail. Then, he would feed his son all the strawberry bingsu, melon bingsu, choco bingsu, and all of the bingsu that he wanted to eat.

[However, an ice witch resides in the place, so you have to be careful.]

"Thanks."

Kang Minhoo hung up the phone. He decided to put the promise behind at the moment and do what he needed to do right now.

"Let's connect."

"Yes."

Both Kang Minhoo and Park Munsoo accessed Athenae through their office capsules. Then, Black Dragon went to the beginner's village where King God was currently located. When they met in the game, King God could not help but be surprised with the chairman's presence. He was riding a six-meter long creature that was covered with black, impregnable scales.

"He's one of the legendary dragons in the world of Athenae. His name is Britney."

"I see."

'As expected of the Chairman, he really is great.'

This was what went through King God's head as he climbed on top of the dragon. Then, the black dragon, Britney, flapped its wings strongly and soared in the air.

"May I know how you got him?"

“It was a strange event. One day, I found out that other people laugh and giggle when they hear the name ‘Black Dragon’. But strangely enough, I didn’t feel ashamed at all.”

King God nodded when he heard his words.

“That’s why when someone asks me, I feel confident telling them this name. I also brought judgment to the people that made fun of my name.”

Park Munsoo knew that Kang Minhoo was a man that did what he wanted to do. He was also a man that could make others smile with just his merits alone.

“So I just played like that when I suddenly heard a notification for a hidden quest.”

“A hidden quest?”

“Yeah. That hidden quest...”

Kang Minhoo recalled the vague memories in his head.

“A person who possesses the quality to have a true chuunibyou. Or something like that.”

King God nodded at him in awe.

‘As expected of the chairman, he does his best in whatever he does. But... what does chuunibyou mean? Ah...! I’m sure it’s short for ‘Charismatic and Nimble’... so what does the last syllable ‘byou’ mean? Hmm... Anyway, I’m sure that he’s one of the best chuunibyou in the world!’

Caught in his own misconceptions, Park Munsoo thought that Kang Minhoo was someone that truly deserved to be respected all over the world. Before they knew it, Britney was already arriving at their rendezvous point.

Minhyuk and Kaistra, together with General, the diet manager Hyejin, with her ID AmazingHyejin, and the others were all sitting in the restaurant that he had rented out. They were all currently waiting for the chairman and his secretary to come.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk was looking at the cake in front of him with a pleased smile.

‘Dad likes sweet potato cake.’

Next to the cake was the gigantic Dragon King’s snow crab. The snow crabs were well-boiled with its legs, claws, torso, and shell skillfully separated from each other. The Dragon King’s snow crabs were at least two times larger than regular snow crabs, so they were really huge. Placed next to them was the japchae and braised pork ribs that his dad liked. Of course, all of the ingredients that he had used were special ingredients.

Just in time, Black Dragon and King God came inside the restaurant. The two of them looked like they were just novices who had just entered the game. They hid their levels because Black Dragon

wanted to surprise his son. He wanted to hide it until he found the ice fragment and showed it to him.

As soon as he came inside, Kaistra immediately bowed down and greeted, “Ch...chairman. Please accept my greetings!”

“Boy, you must be Kaistra?”

Kaistra was at a loss for words. This was his idol, the idol whom he had wanted to meet for quite a long time. Black Dragon had already heard his story from Minhyuk beforehand, so he was aware of his identity. King God smiled happily as he looked at Kaistra.

‘He’s the African boy from back then...’

He was the boy that had inquired about Chairman Kang Minhoo from him. The boy that wanted to repay his kindness. Black Dragon was this kind of person, he had the ability to attract people to his side. It seemed like this characteristic was also passed on to his son, Kang Minhyuk.

Meanwhile, Kaistra felt something strange. For some reason, he felt restless from the powerful presence wriggling in Chairman Kang Minhoo’s left hand. Kaistra and Black Dragon’s eyes met. It seemed like Black Dragon had realized that he noticed it, so he shook his head while smiling slightly at him. Britney had told Black Dragon that he felt the power of Kaistra’s Penrus.

‘The chairman is really playing the game just like what the rumors said, but it seems like he’s hiding the reason why.’

Kaistra was shocked beyond belief after realizing this fact.

‘His son, Minhyuk, is an Envoy of Incarnation... And, the chairman is also powerful... plus they’re really rich...’

Kaistra nodded slightly as if to acknowledge that he was keeping his secret. At the same time, Minhyuk hurriedly approached Black Dragon and guided him to his seat. He said, “Dad, you have to sit in this seat today!”

“Hahaha. Punk,” Minhoo said as he happily sat in the middle of the table where a cake and a hearty meal was located.

“You have to blow the candles!”

Minhyuk clapped his hands and started singing, which prompted the rest to start singing too.

“Happy birthday to you~ happy birthday to you~ Beloved Dad, happy birthday to you~”

“Waaaaaaah!”

“Hoho. I feel a bit embarrassed.”

“Dad should make a wish and blow the candles!”

Kang Minhoo closed his eyes and made a wish before blowing on the candles.

‘I hope that my son’s illness will be cured someday... ?so we can sit down and eat a meal like this in real life.’

This was his dream. After he blew the candles, the meal finally started. Black Dragon first picked one of the legs of the snow crab before stretching it out.

“It’s really big,” Black Dragon said in awe. The snow crab legs in his hands were at least two to three times larger than the legs of a regular snow crab. It was because he loved snow crabs so much that he was forced to lose weight after eating so much.

When Minhyuk saw his dad starting to eat, he also began to eat happily. He brought a strange-looking crab fork and used it on the snow crab leg.

“Wow. It’s really plump...!”

It was surprisingly plump and overflowing with meat. It looked like a crab meat stick with how plump it was. Minhyuk quickly brought the plump meat into his mouth. The warm and rich flavor of the snow crabs brought a smile to his face. Some would say that the meat tasted exactly like crab meat sticks, but the flavor of this crab was much more luxurious and rich than that.

After swallowing down the meat, he quickly tore off another leg but this time, he dipped it in the crab sauce. The savory taste of the snow crab sauce and the slightly bland, yet sweet flavor of the meat met, creating a harmony that could bring a smile to one’s face.

This time, he picked up the claws. Minhyuk had prepared crab tongs beforehand so that they could take the meat off of the claws easily. He quietly held the claw with one hand while pulling the meat out with the tongs on the other. As soon as he pulled the tongs out, a plump and jiggling amount of flesh popped out and greeted him. When he took it to his mouth, he could feel the chewier texture and lighter flavor of the meat from the claws.

Minhyuk smiled pleasantly at the food. The next thing that he picked up was the body of the crab.

Crunch, crunch—

The crab fork easily separated the shell and the meat. Then, he placed the separated meat on a plate that was already starting to be filled easily, before eating a spoonful of it.

“Kghhk...”

The flavor of the meat burst out in his mouth as soon as he chewed on it. He could not help but let out a burst of admiration at the flavor. Then, he picked some japchae and ate it just like that.

“Sluuuuuurp.”

The salty and savory japchae was filled with rich flavors coming from the various ingredients that he had added to it.

Crunch, crunch—

The taste of the spinach, mushrooms, onions, and pork combined to create a flavor that was to his satisfaction. The more he chewed, the more flavor he tasted in his mouth.

Then, he turned his attention towards the braised pork ribs. He believed that the braised pork ribs would taste better if the meat could easily be pried apart. As soon as he took the short ribs into his mouth, the meat and the bone separated easily.

‘Wow, it’s melting.’

The meat and the bones separating from each other clearly demonstrated how well-cooked the dish was. Once he chewed on it, the sweet juices of the meat spread in his mouth.

Just as they finished the food that was set up and served on the table...

“I’m full,” His dad said.

Minhyuk just shook his head and said, “Eyy. Dad, you can’t be full yet!”

“Hmm?”

Black Dragon tilted his head at him as Minhyuk smiled at him proudly and said, “There’s still snow crab fried rice and snow crab ramyeon!”

Chapter 180: Father’s Feelings

“Oh. You’re right. Wait.”

After eating snow crabs, the dishes that one must definitely eat after were none other than fried rice with snow crab’s guts, as well as seafood ramyeon with snow crab meat. Minhyuk quickly scraped off the guts from the shell and made snow crab fried rice, while he boiled the ramyeon with the rest of the meat and shells. After he finished cooking, he quickly placed them on the table.

“Ho.”

Black Dragon let out a gasp of admiration. The fried rice placed in front of him was packed tightly in the shell of the snow crab. He quickly scooped up a spoonful of the steaming fried rice.

‘It’s really good.’

The fried rice was overflowing with the guts and meat of the snow crab, and there were even seaweed flakes and sesame seeds sprinkled on top of it, which highlighted the savory smell of the dish that was stir fried in sesame oil.

Black Dragon placed the spoonful of rice in his mouth.

‘It’s really delicious.’

The taste was, no doubt, superb. Even though Black Dragon had tasted a lot of snow crab fried rice, he knew that this was the first time he had tasted such a flavor in his entire life. After eating two spoonfuls of fried rice just like that, the spicy soup suddenly appeared in his sight.

The snow crab seafood ramyeon was presented to Black Dragon. The ramen was filled with plump squid, open-mouthed mussels, bean sprouts and cheongyang?peppers. It looked both spicy and refreshing with just one glance. He quickly took a spoonful and chomped on it.

“Hoo.”

Black Dragon let out another breath of admiration from the refreshing flavor that burst out in his mouth. He quickly picked up some noodles and placed them on his plate before scooping more spoons of soup. Next, he grabbed a mouthful of noodles with his chopsticks, before dipping the bowl to sip the soup. The chewy texture of the noodles and the refreshing flavor of the soup brought smiles to the people that tasted such a delicacy.

“Really delicious...”

“Wow. How can it taste like this?”

It was not only Minhyuk, the rest of the people that ate together with him were all impressed. This was the result of Minhyuk’s Food God’s Cooking Skills, as well as his high DEX. This would definitely be the first time that the people he had invited for a meal would taste something like this. In fact, even the ambience and the mood of the place was really good.

Finally, everyone sliced the sweet potato cake and shared it with each other. Minhyuk quickly took his fork and sliced off a mouthful, before putting it into his mouth. The naturally sweet potato and the softness of the bread put a happy and bright smile on his face. Whenever he felt that his throat was getting dry and he got thirsty, he would drink some milk to moisten it.

“So General, tell us about the army.”

“Ack! Doc, please don’t call me General.”

After they finished eating, they talked and laughed together. Minhyuk was sitting in between them and laughing together with them. Black Dragon looked at everyone with both satisfaction and happiness. When he looked out of the window, he felt that the moon looked exceptionally brighter today.

Black Dragon had received the greatest birthday present of his life today.

After he finished preparing everything, Black Dragon prepared to leave.

‘I had a satisfying dinner today with my son.’

Now, it was time for the father to repay his son’s great meal. He had prepared everything he needed before going to Callame’s Island.

Callame’s Island was an extremely cold area. It was a place that was always filled with snow and ice monsters, even in the middle of summer. So far, most of the players had been reluctant to hunt in Callame’s Island since there were only normal monsters, normal drops and a normal EXP Acquisition Rate. However, even if they set aside those factors, Callame’s Island was truly too cold for them to do anything with joy. Any player’s perspiration that resulted from fighting the monsters would immediately become frozen. Many of the players that ventured into that place even died from frostbite. However, Black Dragon had to go. That place had the ‘Neolbing’ that his son wanted to eat so badly.

Black Dragon gently stroked Britney, the black dragon’s head.

“Kiiiiiyeeeeeee!”

Shwaaaaaaaaa!

Britney flew so fast that he was able to reach Callame's Island in just a blink of an eye. Black Dragon could see that huge difference between where he was and the island. He took out a telescope and looked at the island in front of him.

'Ice Kingdom. I think the name suits it well.'

In addition to the cold, there was a fierce wind and an intense blizzard of snow. Flying through the sky was going to be a huge obstacle for him. Britney landed on the ground with Black Dragon on his back. Then, they started to walk together.

"It's truly too interesting."

Black Dragon, with his black armor, looked a meter ahead of him. The weather from where he was standing and just a meter ahead of him was so different that it looked like there was a transparent barrier that separated the two places.

The place where Black Dragon was currently standing was a place where there was warm sunlight, and the trees and grass were currently flourishing. On the contrary, the place a meter ahead of him was a place that looked like all life had been lost and frozen, while a raging blizzard covered the whole place.

Black Dragon slowly went inside that area. As soon as he stepped into that place, the notifications rang in his ears.

[You have entered Callame's Island.]

[You have been restricted from using Fire Potion.]

[Your character will be affected by the cold if you logged out from a non-safe zone.]

One of the reasons why people were reluctant to challenge Callame's Island was due to the restricted use of fire potions. Using fire potions could help heat up the body and fight off the cold. Some people could bring mages with them, but the place made it difficult for the weak ones to hold out.

Shwaaaaaa—

Black Dragon felt the biting cold immediately. He hurriedly took out the clothes that he had prepared earlier once he felt the cold permeate through his armor and straight through his bones. As soon as he wore the clothes, he felt his body heat up like he was wearing hot packs all over his body.

'Fire Spirit Blacksmith's Coat.'

It was an epic ranked artifact that could instantly heat up the body. To put it simply, it had a similar effect to a hot pack.

Crackle!

Then, a black fire suddenly burned on Britney's body.

"Britney, save your mana."

“Kiiiyeee.”

Britney gave off a dark aura as it complained in discontent after feeling the comforting heat for a short second. The two of them slowly trudged forward as they set off to conquer Callame’s Island. As they slowly trudged forward, Black Dragon saw a huge tornado of snow slowly approaching them as it devoured the things around them.

“Britney, the blood is boiling in my chest. I’m not afraid of such a storm since I’m with you. Is it the same with you?”

Britney would sometimes nod at its master’s words, even though they were cringeworthy.

“Kki, kkiyeeeeee!”

“Well then, let’s go!”

There was no way for them to avoid the tornado so Black Dragon and Britney both soared into the sky and braved against such a huge tornado. Wounds of varying degrees littered their bodies one by one, but Black Dragon and Britney just continued forward.

Just like that, a day had already gone by.

Ice monsters like yetis and ice wolves continued to appear in front of him. Black Dragon, whose lips were slowly turning blue from being frozen, did not look discouraged even though he was among the swarms of monsters.

Riiip! Rip!

Britney also tore apart the monsters that tried to kill his master.

Night fell once more.

[Your hands and feet are suffering from frostbite.]

[Your STM is declining.]

[Your HP is continuously decreasing.]

Tremble, tremble, tremble—

Black Dragon was currently crouching inside the pit that he had dug earlier as his body trembled in the cold. Every breath that he let out had turned white due to the cold. His lips and nose had already turned white from the frost. He might be able to get out of the cold if he logged out, but he still would not be able to conquer the place. His character would still be affected by the cold and would be forced to log out in the end.

Black Dragon quickly checked the map with his trembling hands. He thought, ‘We’ll soon reach the Ice Cliffs.’

It was the Ice Cliffs that no one had ever conquered yet! However, Black Dragon wanted to make that happen. A safety zone would appear soon. Meanwhile, Britney stretched out its neck, while it looked at its master with worry as it continued to protect the pit.

“I...I’m fine, Britney. I can still go there! It...it’s there...! Th...the thing that my son wants to eat the most...!”

“Kkiiyeeeeee!”

Britney let out a cry. Black Dragon’s thoughts and feelings for his son, Minhyuk, flowed through its mind.

Crackle!

Britney covered the pit with its body before summoning a mild flame. Black Dragon felt like his frozen body had somewhat warmed up.

‘How many potions do I have left?’

A person could not carry an unlimited amount of potions in their inventory. Of course, Athena’s inventory itself had an unlimited capacity, but it worked differently for the potions. In the case of potions, the amount that one could carry would vary depending on their level. This was the reason why he had to look into the number of potions that he had left in his possession.

After taking a short break, Black Dragon began moving again. Finally, after walking for quite a distance, he arrived at the Ice Cliffs.

[There are plenty of restrictions in the Ice Cliffs with the sole exception of your stats.]

[Britney’s summoning will be recalled. You can only use climbing and hiking equipment if you want to climb up.]

This was one of the reasons why the Ice Cliffs were quite difficult to challenge. Britney was once again summoned back into Black Dragon’s left hand. Then, Black Dragon quickly wore the goggles that he had prepared beforehand, as he pressed down on the thick fur hat on his head, a determined look in his eye. After he finished his final preparations, he took out an ice ax and began his long trek up the cliffs.

Stab!

Black Dragon climbed up the Ice Cliffs with his sharp ice ax, slowly and steadily. The trek was so difficult, that he even lost his footing once.

“Keuheok!”

He was tottering over the edge, but he clenched his teeth as he looked at the top of the cliffs. Like his son, Minhyuk, he had also been doing various sports. They did not know if it was in their genes, but he was also talented in this aspect. And just like his son, he was strong-willed and stubborn that he had received the Will stat as well.

Clang! Clang!

Black Dragon felt like his hands and feet were starting to get frozen solid as he climbed higher and higher up the Ice Cliffs. There were times when he briefly thought of giving up but he would quickly shake his head and proceeded on.

‘I haven’t done anything for that rascal yet!’

Black Dragon was definitely a good dad. He thought that he was still lacking since he could not do such an easy thing like feeding his son with delicious food. Now, there was a food that his son wanted to eat so much nearby, so he could not give up that easily.

Clatter, clatter!

A piece of stone fell down from above the cliff and brushed past Black Dragon's cheeks.

Chiiik—

His cheeks were slashed by the stone and the red blood that flowed out of the wound immediately became ice. However, he did not stop his movements at all.

‘Wait for me! Neolbing!’

Clang! Clang!

Black Dragon kept on climbing up. He did not have the luxury to rest in his situation, and it was only the thought of Minhyuk happily eating the food that he would give him, that gave him warmth. He felt that his body was filled with warmth amidst the biting cold wind. Just like that, he was able to continue climbing. At that moment...

[Your Skill: Will has been triggered.]

[You will have a 10% increase in all of your stats.]

He had a considerable amount of Will points. To be quite frank, it even looked like it was much higher than Minhyuk's Will. As soon as the skill was triggered, his speed began to pick up.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

After climbing for quite some time, he finally caught sight of the summit. He pushed through the final stretch, and Black Dragon finally stood on top of it. Along with that, the notifications rang in his head continuously.

[You are the first player to conquer the Ice Cliffs.]

[You have gained +3 points to all of your 5 basic stats.]

[You have obtained the Title: The One Who Conquered.]

Black Dragon smiled in satisfaction. As he looked below the cliffs, he could see hundreds of huge icebergs standing erect from the ground. In the midst of these icebergs, a single white iceberg stood out among the transparent icebergs, its color akin to milk.

‘I...I'm sure... th...that's the iceberg that I'm looking for!’

Black Dragon was filled with joy. The path that he needed to take to get there was downhill so it should be an easy journey. Intoxicated with the excitement and happiness of finding the thing that he was looking for, he immediately ran towards it without a care in the world.

Dash, dash, dash!

“Graaaaaaaa!”

“Grooooooooooar!”

Along with his presence, the roars of the monsters rang loudly.

[The Ice Witch has appeared.]

[The cold has grown more powerful.]

“You dare to step foot in this land, how foolish!”

The Ice Witch was literally a woman made out of ice who wore a transparent dress on her body. As soon as she wielded the staff in her hands...

Crack, crack, crack!

...water droplets started to rise from the ground where Black Dragon was. These water droplets started to freeze quickly, forming into sharp icicles. The icicles aimed at him, before shooting out at a fast pace.

Puhaaaaaa!

At that moment, Britney, who was forced to sleep in Black Dragon's left arm before his climb, suddenly popped out.

Plop, plop, plop!

“Kkiyeeeeee!”

Britney's hard scales stopped the descent of the sharp icicles which stopped the attack aimed at Black Dragon. He climbed up on Britney's right arm as he patted him consolingly. The Ice Witch floated in the air as Black Dragon clenched his sword tightly. He looked at the iceberg that was not too far away from him.

“Let's go crazy, Britney!”

“Kkiyeeeeeeeeeeeeee!”

Crackle!

Britney let go of all the mana that it had saved up during their entire journey.

Puhaaaaaa!

Britney's entire body was covered with towering black flames. The flames were so hot that the surrounding ice, icebergs and snow started to melt.

[Britney's Roar]

[The mighty power of Britney has fallen upon you.]

[You will have a 14% increase in all of your stats.]

[The attack power of Decalid's Sword has increased by 20%.]

[Decalid's Sword has been granted the fire attribute.]

Crackle!

A black flame bursted out from Black Dragon's sword. His job class was a merchant, but he had been learning the sword from a merchant that was called 'Master Fencer'.

Dash, dash, dash!

He gripped his sword tightly as he dashed forward. At that moment, he felt the ground vibrate loudly.

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Brrrrrrr!

Not long after, a creature popped out of the ground that was frozen solid.

“Kkiyyeeeeee!”

It was a different dragon. An Ice Dragon, to be specific, appeared out of the ground. Along with that, a notification and a transparent window popped out in front of Black Dragon.

[Legendary Quest: Hunt the Ice Witch.]

Rank: S

Restrictions: Below Level 400, The one who conquered the Ice Cliff.

Rewards: Legendary Ice Dragon.

Description: This opportunity is only given to those who have climbed the Ice Cliffs. If you successfully hunt the Ice Witch Jarvis, you will be able to acquire the Legendary Ice Dragon.

A smile formed on Black Dragon’s face.

‘A punk that I can seal in my other hand has appeared.’