

## Gourmet 191

### Chapter 191: Infinitely Refilling Lamb Meat

Athenae: Korean War? was a competition that would be held to select the best player from the country. Competitions with the same format would also be held all over the world to determine their own best. Huge prizes, as well as the title of Korea's MVP, awaited the victors of the competition. Those players that receive the title of Korea's MVP would also be eligible to participate in the world competition as a 'national representative'.

A meeting was currently underway in one of the conference rooms of the makers of Athenae, Joy Co. Ltd., regarding the game event. It seemed like what they were discussing was going to be never ending.

Athenae: Korean War? was divided into two categories: production class and combat class. The currently ongoing meeting was to discuss the 'Production Class' competition. The first on their list of discussions was the 'Flag War'. The team leader of the Development Team, Lee Seokhoon, began to explain the contents displayed on the screen.

"The Flag War's rules are simple. The system will basically have the players team up in groups of three and the team that can take away the most flags will win. In addition, once the Flag War had started, the players will only be given the most basic and normal ranked artifact that's fit for their class. They will not be able to use their currently equipped artifacts."

The reason why the players were not allowed to use their current artifacts during the Flag War was simple.

"If they were production class players, then they can be self-sufficient. Think about it. Our country's top production rankers will become self-sufficient and produce their own artifacts to fight. Our country's players will grow crazy over them."

President Kang Taehoon nodded and asked, "What's the chances of our country winning a medal if the Flag War was done in Athenae: World War, and not Athenae: Korean War?"

"..."

The entire room was plunged into silence at the president's words. They all knew that the probability of them winning in such a large scale competition was too low. Hepas' Descendant, Hyemin's Daddy, was in their country, but there was no guarantee that he would participate in the competition. There were only a few production class players in the country that could rival Hyemin's Daddy's power. What was more, the event required them to be in groups of three. They might not be as good as Hyemin's Daddy, but they should at least be able to support him if they participated. It was hard to find such a player with that strength and power among the players in their country. Among the employees in the room, only Team Leader Park Minggyu thought of one player, and one player alone.

'...Player Minhyuk.'

However, there were some problems. How sure were they that Player Minhyuk would participate in the?Athenae: Korean War? In addition, how likely was it that he would receive the title of Korea's MVP and become one of the national representatives?

Player Minhyuk was a player that was still a mystery. He did not want to show himself, nor did he want to gain fame. More than anything else, he was a player that did not care about artifacts and was a person that would pursue something delicious or something that was more delicious. With that, Park Minggyu was sure that his answer would be 'no'.

At that moment, one of the staff from the Development Team came inside. The staff looked like he was in a hurry as he tried to approach Lee Seokhoon to whisper something. Before he could do so, President Kang Taehoon suddenly interjected. He said, "Just say it out loud."

"Athenae?and our team of developers have added an additional event."

"Ho. Is that right?"

There were still events that were being made. The supercomputer?Athenae?would collect the opinions of the Development Team before it would create a corresponding sport or event. Finally, one of such events had been completed.

"Wasn't there an event that we believe would garner the most enthusiastic response? The production class players'?Monster Hunting'?event."

President Kang Taehoon nodded in agreement.?Production classes' monster hunt!?Since they would hunt the monsters with their various special abilities, the world would definitely pay attention to? Athenae.

"That's right."

"That part is already complete."

"So, what's the name of the event?"

When the staff heard the words 'name of the event'?he hesitated for a moment before opening his mouth. He said, "It's called 'Speed Eating'."

The moment his words came out, Team Leader Park's eyes widened even his fists clenched tightly. He thought,?'Speed... Eating?'

Just hearing the name made him think that Player Minhyuk would jump up in excitement and say?'I'll win first place!'?right?

"The name's a bit... right?"

"But, I think the content of the event itself is very solid and fun."

President Kang Taehoon nodded as if to stop the development team staff from explaining any further.

"In the Speed Eating contest, they would run out of food whenever they hunted monsters."

“Ho?”

In the first place, the nature of the monster hunting event was not that hidden. It was simply running out of food the moment they hunted the monsters.

“And since it’s Athenae: Korean War, won’t it be good if we can showcase our country’s local food as drops, right?”

“Right.”

“And with the consensus between the supercomputer, Athenae, and our development team, we have already decided which food will be dropped.”

It was as if the staff of the development team was telling them that it was something to look forward to.

“It’s ‘market food’.”

“That’s interesting?”

“It’s good.”

Everyone let out a small sigh. However, President Kang Taehoon knew why the food was good.

“Our country has its own unique flavor. When I was young, I used to go to the market with my parents. But these days, the huge supermarkets have already overtaken the traditional markets.”

“That’s right. And you can really taste a lot of market food in this event. In addition, it will be an opportunity for our country to introduce our market food and culture to foreign media. With this, we can naturally attract tourists.”

President Kang Taehoon nodded, while Manager Kim Daesik said, “What food are there?”

Team Leader Park Minggyu’s ears perked, already gulping his saliva. His mouth could not help but water at the thought of such food. Right now, he was imagining himself as Player Minhyuk.

“Sugar-coated twisted donuts, mochi donuts filled with red beans, mung bean pancake, japchae and nude kimbap combination which is the current hottest trend in Gwangjang Market, market chicken, market pork trotters and noodles.”

Team Leader Park’s mouth was overflowing with his drool. Even President Kang Taehoon gulped as if his mouth was watering too.

“It’s a combination of food that will make your mouth water, right? Haha!”

A thought flashed through Team Leader Park’s mind, ‘Player Minhyuk will probably be drooling once he hears this.’

Team Leader Park shook his head and grinned at the thought.

\*\*\*

[You can acquire the Active Skill: Save.]

[You can acquire the Active Skill: Dark Fire Storm.]

[You have a total of three skills that can be saved using the Eccentric Food God's Skill.]

[You can either delete 'Earth Quake' or 'Absorption' to acquire both new skills or only select one of the new skills.]

Minhyuk had successfully acquired two new skills, but he could see that he was given two options. He could either delete his existing skills or give up one from his newly acquired ones. Before making his choice, he first checked the information on the skills.

(Save)

Active Skill

Level: None

Mana Required: Depends on the skill

Cooldown: 72 hours

Effects: You can store one of your active skills in your weapon. The skills stored in a weapon can be used immediately regardless of its cooldown.

The first skill was 'Save'.

'Isn't this very useful?'

The skill's concept was literally storing one of Minhyuk's active skills in his weapon. For example, if he used 'Rampant Sword' then he would consume his MP and the cooldown time would start. However, if he activated the 'Rampant Sword' that he had stored in his weapon, he would be able to use the skill again without waiting for the cooldown to finish. In a way, it was similar to the way mages store their magic in their staffs, parchments and wands. The higher their level, the more magic the mage could store in their artifact, which could sometimes make it seem like they were not restrained by cooldowns. However, no matter how outstanding the skill 'Save' was, its cooldown was still too long. Which meant that he could only store one skill within three days.

Next, he checked Dark Fire Storm.

(Dark Fire Storm)

Active Skill

Level: Sixth Tier

Mana Required: 400

Cooldown: 1 hour

Effects: A storm of dark fire will engulf and devour your enemies within a radius of six meters dealing a damage of 600~1,000 per second.

It was an AOE attack skill. It might not be comparable to Blooming Sword or Lightning Hell, but it was a Sixth Tier magic. Players that could reach the Sixth Tier were few and far in between. In addition, it was much more superior to his currently saved skill 'Earth Quake'.

After looking through the skills, Minhyuk finally decided. He said, “Delete Earth Quake.”

[Are you sure you want to delete Earth Quake?]

Minhyuk nodded in answer.

[You have deleted the skill Earth Quake.]

[You have acquired the Active Skill: Save.]

[You have acquired the Active Skill: Dark Fire Storm.]

Then, without hesitation, Minhyuk used the skill ‘Save’.

[Please choose the skill you want to store.]

[You have stored ‘Blooming Sword’.]

Minhyuk nodded in satisfaction and thought, ‘Well then, let’s do it again...’

It was time to hunt Bachran Guild again.

\*\*\*

Crone was already on the verge of tears.

[Guild Chat: Hayac has left Bachran Guild.]

[Guild Chat: Carcass has left Bachran Guild.]

[Guild Chat: Hekhek has left Bachran Guild.]

[Guild Chat: Downpour has left Bachran Guild.]

[Guild Chat: Robin’s Butt has left Bachran Guild.]

[Guild Chat: Damn has left Bachran Guild.]

His guild members were constantly withdrawing from the guild. The Four Hyenas, the Frying Pan Killer, and even Legend Guild had been hunting and slaughtering them mercilessly. The massacre only lasted for four days, but the damage that the guild had incurred was extremely severe. A few days ago, Pharaoh moved to meet with the nobles to find a different way to break through, but he ended up in prison.

‘It doesn’t make sense!’

The nobles suddenly turned their backs against them and Pharaoh was imprisoned. And it was not only that, there was even an imperial warrant placed against Bachran Guild in the empire.

One of the noblemen told him, ‘Why would you even dare to touch...’.

‘Who the hell was behind the Frying Pan Killer?’

There was even a post on the official bulletin board.

[We will pay 10 million gold for information about the guild members of Bachran Guild.]

This was the reason why no matter what they did, players still tried to ‘find Bachran’. In the end, the guild members could not endure the hunt anymore. They started leaving Bachran Guild one after the other.

Even the netizens were still commenting.

[gadad31: But didn't Legend Guild started this first? Legend's Ace killed a player for no reason at all, right? Or, is that not the case? Anyway, Bachran Guild is a rude mannered guild so no one's going to tell Legend off for killing Bachran~]

[cbcvb: I feel like that too. But, Bachran Guild is not entirely filled with trash... To be honest, is this a witch hunt or not?]

[baddadd313: Yeah~ No~ It was manipulated by Bachran Guild. Ladies and Gentlemen, it was obviously rigged so Bachran can make a name for themselves.]

Very few believed in the validity of their reason for attacking. However, Crone was already on the verge of losing everything. He was someone that had quit his job, ran a guild with all the money that he got and made a fortune! If everything kept on going like this, he would definitely be ruined. So in a desperate attempt, he posted on the official bulletin board so they could reach an agreement.

'Frying Pan Killer, please contact me.'

Finally, he got a call from the real Frying Pan Killer. With his trembling heart, Crone met with him at a luxurious restaurant that sold the most expensive food in Eivelis Empire.

Minhyuk was wearing a helmet while looking at Crone with a frosty expression. Meanwhile, Crone looked bitter. He felt as bitter as those sinners in prison. Even right now, his guild members were either being captured by the Imperial Army, or hunted by the other bounty hunter players.

Then, Minhyuk asked, "Are you paying for the meal?"

"Ah. Of course! Eat as much as you like!"

Right now, Minhyuk was party 'A' while Crone was party 'B'.

'How much do I even need to pay for his food?'

When Minhyuk heard Crone's words, he drove the wedge deeper to make sure.

"You're really paying for the meal? You shouldn't complain later then."

Then Crone burst out laughing and said, "It's alright even if you eat here for seven days and six nights!"

"...Is that so? Well then..."

The corner of Minhyuk's lips lifted up in a smirk.

## Chapter 192: Gremory's Trial

Crone confidently stuck the menu towards him. Most of the items on the menu were extremely expensive. This place was literally? 'The most expensive restaurant in Eivelis Empire and the continent'. In reality, people could buy one can of sturgeon caviar for 25 million won, while a rare melon named Yubarasi would cost around 13.4 million won. A restaurant in New York also sold hotdogs for 2.5 million won each. So, Crone was a bit confident about the depth of his wallet.

However, Crone was unaware of the real implication of Minhyuk's laughter.

Some time later.

“Pl...please stop! Please!”

Crone was already on the verge of begging. At the rate that things were going, he believed that he would truly become a beggar. He thought that the Frying Pan Killer sent a whisper to him so they could reach an agreement. While he was in a daze, the Frying Pan Killer had already ordered all of the items on the menu.

“I’ll do whatever you tell me to. So please, let it slide just this once. If you want, I’ll make it up to you.”

Minhyuk looked at him coldly. Crone could not see his exact facial features because of the helmet, but he was sure that his expression was extremely frosty. He could feel the frigid aura leaking out from under the helmet after all.

Minhyuk nodded and said, “Then, please post an official statement about the incident between Ace and Crow first.”

Crone’s lips shut tight when he heard his words. He was grasping at straws earlier but Minhyuk’s words... he meant for Crone to acknowledge the fact that the Bachran Guild had in fact, manipulated the war. He wanted Crone to have Bachran Guild acknowledge that they were ‘trash’.

“You don’t want to do it?”

However, Crone did not have any other choice. It was better to admit that they were trash and save his remaining guild members.

“It’s not that I don’t want to do it!” Crone shouted, nodding furiously as he quickly typed an official apology and posted it on the official bulletin board. After he posted it, he breathed a sigh of relief.

‘W...with this... I will still have my guild.’

Crone’s official post went like this.

[Hello. This is Bachran Guild’s Guild Master, Crone. This is a formal apology for manipulating the recent PK carried out by Legend’s Ace. I would like to apologize to Legend Guild. I have nothing else to say even if I have two mouths. I’m sorry.

fadghg313: The crazy dogs finally got their medicine by being beaten with a club. They really came after Legend Guild but now they have to straighten things out and admit it. Hehehehehehe.

vadedl3: Who was the one that said Bachran Guild was the one who manipulated things? You did well.

hgsfsflll: Really nasty... Disgusting...

God, god: As expected of Legend! I love you! Legend, I don’t like those Bachran dogs!]

The comments were constantly criticizing the Bachran Guild. Meanwhile, Crone was smiling ingratiatingly while scratching the back of his head. He said, “Then, will you withdraw the warrant?”

Crone thought that once he paid some additional material compensation, everything would be over. However, the Frying Pan Killer spoke words between stuffing his mouth with food.

“What are you talking about?”

“...Eh?”

“I just told you to post it. When did I say that I will let you go already?”

It was at that moment that Crone realized, ‘I...I’ve been tricked...’?He tried to quickly delete the post. Unfortunately, the next words of the Frying Pan Killer felt like he was hit strongly in the gut.

“Ah, I already took a snapshot. Thanks.”

On top of that, the Frying Pan Killer kept on ordering food while Crone just nodded blankly while thinking to himself, ‘I don’t know when but he’ll probably let us go soon’.

Crone felt hopeful at the possibility, but as the plates continued to pile up, he could not help but be startled, thinking, ‘Oh...my... god! I, is this bastard still a human?!!’

Six hours passed just like that.

“That... When will the meal... be over?”

“Can’t you see that I’m just eating my appetizer?”

“You... You have eaten exactly 86 bowls of that... but you’re still eating the appetizer?”

[You’re really paying for the meal? You shouldn’t complain later then.]

[It’s alright even if you eat here for seven days and six nights!]

Minhyuk turned on his favorite recorder. He paused the movements of his spoon and scoffed, saying, “Why, are you already regretting your promise that I could eat as much as I want? This is, well, a meal that I’m eating reluctantly, so I have to chew well. Chomp!”

Then, Minhyuk continued to scoop up a spoonful of expensive caviar. He looked like he was eating extremely well.

‘F\*cker! What does this bastard mean by eating this meal reluctantly?!’

“N...no. Haha, eat as much as you want! Haha. R...really... as much as you want.....”

“Yes! I’m going to do that even if you did not say it anyway.”

The Frying Pan Killer nodded. Two days passed just like that. The worst part was the fact that this restaurant was open for 24 hours!

“Zzzzzz, phew, zzzzzz, phew.”

“Waiter!”

“Ah. Are you done eating... huh?”

“I want everything from this to this again. And from now on, please don’t take my orders anymore. Just bring them to me until they run out!”



“Ah. Yes!”

“...”

Just like that, another day had passed.

“Ah. Let’s log out for now.”

“You’re finally done eat...”

“I’ll log out and come back to eat again.”

Just like that, the long-awaited seventh day had finally arrived.

‘H...how can a human eat just like that for seven days straight?! Bastard!’

Crone was truly shocked. However, the words that the Frying Pan Killer spoke after standing from his seat had left him reeling in despair.

“We’ll continue the massacre. If you show a genuine sign of repentance, then we will stop.”

After that, the Frying Pan Killer went out of the restaurant. Before he could leave, the manager caught up to Crone.

“Mister, your total bill for the food is 61 platinum.”

“H...how much...?”

Just like what was mentioned before, this restaurant was the most expensive restaurant in the continent. Crone was left speechless when he checked the bill. The bill that was given to him looked like it was as long as five meters! The total was truly 61 platinum, which was over 300 million won in cash.

“...”

Tears trickled down from his eyes. Then, he said in a tearful voice, “C...can I pay in installments here...?”

“You can’t.”

It was a straight refusal from the manager.

‘I think I have to sell my house deed.’

\*\*\*

In no time at all, Bachran Guild, which had been the eighth in the guild rankings, had descended and disappeared from the top 100 rankings. In all honesty, Minhyuk had picked the right ‘boost’ from Bachran Guild. Not only did he get to eat a free meal from Crone, he also got the spoils from killing the members of Bachran Guild continuously!

At first, the thought in Crone’s head was? ‘There’s no way that they will continue, right?’. Unfortunately for them, Minhyuk, the Four Hyenas, and even the other members of Legend Guild truly continued. Eventually, when 40% of the guild had left, Crone imposed a ban on access. As a

result, the remaining Bachran Guild members could not connect and the guild ranking dropped out of the top 500 in an instant. What was worse was that even the other small and medium sized guilds that had previously been hit and ransacked by Bachran Guild, were looking for an opportunity to hit back at them. They had been waiting for them all day long. In the end, they had seen their career in? Athenae?as ‘done for’.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk was buying clothes in reality. Before he knew it, he had lost some weight and was at 150 kilograms already! Hence, he needed to buy new clothes for himself! He could not believe it, but it just naturally happened!

The internet shopping malls needed to go through an email verification process. So, for the first time in a long time, Minhyuk was redirected to Navar to verify his email. After verifying his email, he tilted his head in confusion.

‘Huh?’

[Joy Co. Ltd. Hello. Player Minhyuk.]

Minhyuk saw that he had received an email from?Athenae.

‘The date that the email was sent... was when I changed to become a Food God?’

Players’?Athenae?Account was linked to their Navar Mail. However, Minhyuk very rarely used his email, so he was not able to check its contents earlier. He quickly opened the mail and read what was written on it.

‘OMG...?’

Minhyuk frowned. The contents of the Athenae email included a story about the ‘God Class’. In the case of the Food God, from Level 350 onwards, his stats increase from eating would be restricted. Of course, it did not mean that eating good medicine and good food would not increase his stats. It just literally meant that the Food God’s True Worth would be restricted at that point. According to the explanation, it was because of ‘Balance Control’.

Minhyuk nodded in understanding. He thought,?‘This is also my fault for not checking my mail for a long time....’

Joy Co. Ltd. had sent this email at the same time he had received the Food God class, and even if Minhyuk did not read the mail, they had kept on sending them. They even sent one just recently. He noticed one thing. Joy Co. Ltd. had predicted that if he reached Level 350 as a Food God, he would have the power of someone that was 100 levels above his current level. Incidentally, Minhyuk’s stats were much higher than what they had expected.

‘Well, it doesn’t matter. Right?’

He was already on track, and if Minhyuk kept on eating and increasing his stats, they would just go up endlessly. After all, Minhyuk’s goal was to?‘eat something delicious’?so he readily accepted such limitations.

‘But I will reach Level 350 soon though?’Minhyuk thought, standing up. Before he could leave his room, he saw a text message flashing on his phone.

[Beloved Dad: Son, access your Athenae. I have something to give you.]

[Minhyuk: Okay. Dad.]

A soft smile hung around Minhyuk's lips.

Delicious Neolbing!

Just like that, Minhyuk connected to?Athenae.

\*\*\*

Minhyuk met with his dad, Black Dragon, in?Athenae. He had exchanged a few words with him as Black Dragon knew that Minhyuk and the Legend Guild had slaughtered Bachran Guild.

Coincidentally, it overlapped with the day Bachran Guild attacked Legend Guild so Minhyuk just pretended to not know anything. On the other hand, Black Dragon admitted that he had been playing the game for a long time as he guided his son somewhere. The place that he had guided Minhyuk to was a gigantic carriage.

"Huh? Isn't that a kitchen carriage?"

"Nope. It's a freezer carriage."

"Freezer carriage?" Minhyuk asked in confusion. Although a bit similar to a trailer, the frozen carriage could be compared to a food truck in real life. The only difference was that it utilized magic that could control the temperature inside.

"Open the door. It's my gift in return for the snow crab that you made for me."

Black Dragon smiled softly as he watched Minhyuk open the door. As soon as the door opened, a freezing chill blasted out. When Minhyuk saw the inside of the carriage, he was immediately frozen in shock.

"...Gasp!?This, this design!"

Minhyuk trembled as the words naturally flowed out of his mouth. He said, "Baskin~ Rabbins~ Thirty~ One!"

"Hoho!" ?Black Dragon chuckled happily.

The inside of the carriage was designed exactly like Baskin Rabbins, an ice cream store that was popular in the market. When Minhyuk went inside, he could see 31 different flavors of ice creams. There was even the delicious 'Cheese Neolbing', 'Melon Neolbing' and 'Strawberry Neolbing' lined up next to the flavors of ice cream. The weather in?Athenae?was just starting to get hot, so this was the perfect food for such weather.

"Kgghk. Almond Bonbon, Shooting Star, Mom's Only Daughter...!"

'Ah! How much I craved for these during summer!'

It was a feast of 31 different flavors of ice cream! In addition to what Minhyuk had blurted out, there were also other flavors, like Cherries Jubilee, Cookies And Cream, Berry Berry Strawberry, Shooting Star, New York Cheesecake, Love Me Strawberry.

Minhyuk was both thrilled and moved by his father's kindness. He even went so far as to prepare a Baskin Rabbins carriage like this for him.

“Yayy!”

Black Dragon smiled softly when he saw that Minhyuk liked his present. This was his favorite expression from his son. Minhyuk quickly picked out a purple plastic spoon as he tasted Mom’s Only Daughter. The chewy and sweet flavor of the chocolate ice cream slowly spread in his mouth.

“...Delicious,” Minhyuk said as his smile widened from the sweetness. Then, he tried the Shooting Star.

Pop, pop, pop, pop—

That was the sound of the small grains popping in Minhyuk’s mouth! Then, he tried the New York Cheesecake. He chomped on the small cheesecake that was added inside the ice cream. The rich taste of the cheesecake together with the milky ice cream spread out in his mouth.

Next, the Berry Berry Strawberry! It tasted sweet, while the Love Me Strawberry tasted like fresh strawberries. After tasting each and every flavor, he stopped in front of the Neolbing. Minhyuk’s hands first reached out for the melon bingsu. The melon bingsu was placed inside the melon that was turned into a bowl, with plenty of crescent-shaped melons on top. He used a small knife to slice the melon into pieces before taking one into his mouth.

The cool and refreshing juice from the melon spread in his mouth and brought a smile to his face. After eating all the melon on top, he could see the white ice cream, the shaved ice, and the strawberries that were placed inside. Then, he poured some condensed milk into the bowl of bingsu. The condensed milk trickled in as Minhyuk poured it in a whirlpool manner onto his bowl.

‘Bingsu tastes good if there’s a lot of condensed milk.’

After that, he quickly ate some ice cream, before scooping a spoonful of shaved ice. His spoon was filled with shaved ice and strawberry that were topped with plenty of condensed milk. Then, he placed it in his mouth. Minhyuk’s head turned blank due to brain freeze.

‘Kggghk...! This is a delightfully cold taste!’

Although he felt a bit of a headache since it was too cold, he still could not help himself since it was very addicting! After he finished eating the melon bingsu, Minhyuk continued to stuff himself full of the bingsu that he wanted to eat so much.

At the exact same moment that he finished eating everything, the notifications went off.

[You have eaten the Neolbing made out of the Special Ice Fragment.]

[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 gained 800,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have gained 106 SP.]

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

‘Oh.’

Minhyuk smiled silently. If he invested all of his special points in DEX, then it would reach 1,950 points. This meant that he would soon reach 2,000 DEX points.

However, the notifications did not end there.

[The Map to the Hidden Temple has been unsealed.]

### Chapter 193: Gremory's Trial

In front of a dark and dreary temple, a statue in the form of a female demon stood tall. The space beside the statue was suddenly torn apart, revealing a woman whose skin was jet black and glistening. To anyone who looked at her, she was seductively charming and beautiful. This was none other than the demoness, Gremory. Gremory, one of the three great demons, stood beside the statue as she murmured about something that caught her sight.

‘Someone unsealed my map. Will they be coming to my temple soon?’

Gremory chuckled lightly before starting to mutter something. After the spell-like incantation, a middle-aged man was suddenly summoned in front of her.

“Why did you call me?”

The man that spoke impudently in front of Demoness Gremory was none other than a human being! This scene might have been shocking for others, but Gremory just smiled as she crossed her arms and said, “It seems like being cold and frosty still lingers over time, right?”

“Just tell me the reason why you called me,” the middle-aged man asked irritably.

“Well, I just wanted to see the face of the man they call ‘Sword God’ who saved the world a long time ago, you know?”

She had summoned the man, ‘Sword God’. However, the man just furrowed his brows at her words. Gremory and the Sword God. These were two existences that were strongly connected in the? Athenean?System. Their story was something that dated back more than ten years ago. During that time, an unidentified entrance was found in a small village. From the depths of the entrance, a huge number of demons jumped out to wreak havoc and kill the people in the vicinity. That was when he appeared: the Sword God and his Ghost Squad. Their techniques and movements were elusive, which helped them in killing the demon race. Eventually, they also succeeded in closing the ‘entrance’. This was how the middle-aged man in front of her became known as the Sword God.

Gremory, on the other hand, was created due to the conflict between two different demons in the system. In addition, even if she was a demoness herself, she did not wish for the demon race to invade the human world. She was an emotional and sentimental demon. She only wished to look

and play in the mortal realm where humans resided. During that time, Gremory had lent her great skills and strength to the Sword God and his Ghost Squad. Because of that, the Sword God was now in front of her.

Sword God was also one of the Seven Myths, but no one knew anything else about the Sword God and his squad. Whether it was their faces or their names. They just showed up like ghosts, and disappeared like ghosts.

“Are you still in seclusion?”

“It’s comfortable this way.”

“What are you doing now?”

“I teach the foreigners that step into this world for the first time, in a small village. I think it was what the Athena God wanted me to do.”

“...”

Gremory was left speechless. She asked, “Just, just... like a teacher?”

“Yeah. I got married too. My wife recently just gave birth to a baby.”

It was their small reunion after a long time, but Gremory squinted at him. She said, “Where did you put that sword that you always carry around all the time? That shabby-looking sword that did not suit you.”

He smirked at her and said, “I gave it to a person that gave me good memories.”

“Hmmm.”

Gremory nodded. She knew that in the end, the Sword God was also a human. However, he was also a human that used the most amazing sword that had ever existed.

Then, the Sword God asked, “Is someone going to arrive soon?”

She nodded and said, “If they overcome those things, they will be able to gain some of my strength.”

Then, the man grinned as he said, “I can’t wait to see who it is.”

\*\*\*

Minhyuk had heard the notifications. Gorac had given him the Map to the Hidden Temple when he asked the former for something delicious before and Gorac promised him that there would be delicious ingredients in that place. So, he quickly checked the contents.

[Linked Quest: Hidden Temple]

Rank: SSS

Requirements: Level 340

Rewards: 300,000 EXP

Penalty for Failure: -30 to all stats

Time Limit: 48 hours

Description: This is the map to the Hidden Temple. Once you find the hidden temple, you will know about the rewards that you can receive. You have to go there within 48 hours. Otherwise, you will have to face the penalty. In addition, if you have a noble title, you can take one of your vassals with you, and share the quest with one player.

The rewards were still ‘undetermined’, but he was sure of one thing.

‘I think there will definitely be ingredients...’

Minhyuk did not know what ingredients there were, but the penalty for failure was too huge. Furthermore, there was a time limit, and the quest had a very surprising rank.

‘SSS.’

When one looked at the country or the entire world, there were few instances of SSS-ranked quests. However, they were difficult to find, comparable to finding and transferring to a God class.

‘I’ll have to do it because of the restrictions.’

Of course, even if there was no time limit, Minhyuk would have still gone to do the quest. He knew that something tasty was hidden there, so he had to go. Looking at the description, he tilted his head in thought.

‘I can take a vassal and a player with me?’

However, the description was also implying subtly that he did not need to bring anyone with him. It would be good if Minhyuk did not need to find someone to come with him. He felt that it would be good to do it alone. At the same time, Minhyuk had read something about these kinds of quests before. It was said that the trials would be stronger and more difficult, if there was a need for a vassal or a player to come along with them added in the description. Of course, it meant that the rewards would also be better.

‘Hehe. If Kaistra and Grandpa Ben are done with getting the ingredients, I’ll ask them.’

Minhyuk chuckled loudly. He looked quite similar to a wicked lord with a wicked plan, with how he was smiling.

\*\*\*

“Of course!” Kaistra answered loudly and smiled when he heard Minhyuk’s proposal.

“I’ll go there with you right away!”

‘Anywhere is fine as long as I’m by Minhyuk’s side!’ His expression was something similar to that. It was the same for Grandpa Ben.

“Hoho. Are we going out on a picnic? With my son... No, we’re going out with the lord?”

“...We’re not going out on a picnic.”

“Well, if you’re going out together like this then it’s an outing, right?”

“That’s right. I’m so excited! Going out on an outing with Minhyuk! Ah, I’ll wash the dishes as best as I can!”

“I’ll also work hard to make coffee! I got Luwak beans this time, it will taste super amazing!”

‘...These people aren’t normal either,’ Minhyuk thought. He felt that he was the only normal person around here.

The hidden temple was an extraordinary quest, but there were no signs of nervousness from the participants at all. If one thought about it, it was because they have ‘confidence’ in themselves. Kaistra was the unofficial number one in the country’s ranking, and Ben was a legendary spear master. So, it was only natural that they did not feel any tension at all. Minhyuk first shared the quest with Kaistra. As soon as he shared it with Kaistra, the same notification rang in their heads.

[Please select the quest’s main host.]

Both Minhyuk and Kaistra tilted their heads in astonishment when they heard the notification.

“Of course, the main host should be Minhyuk.”

Minhyuk had received the quest, and Kaistra was only the spoon that was added on top of the dish. Not long after, Minhyuk chose himself as the main host. Right before they started their quest, Kaistra said, “Wait, Genie Noona wanted to meet with Minhyuk. She told me that you should take all the ores?”

“Is that so?”

Not too long ago, Minhyuk received two types of ores after he successfully hunted Baphomet. One of them was antarinium. Antarinium ores had a subtle red glow on them. It was from the Demon World, but since no one had entered the Demon World yet, Minhyuk was the first person to ever acquire the ores from that place. It seemed like Genie was trying to yield more benefits to him since he was the one who successfully hunted Baphomet. The antarinium that was in his hands was identified as ‘mysterious ore with unknown properties’. On the contrary, the other ore, blutinium was well-known for its weapon-enhancing effects.

Weapon-enhancing ore.?The weapon-enhancing ore was something that was not yet released in? Athenae. However, the operators said that they would release the update slowly. Just as its name implied, blutinium could reinforce a weapon, just like a normal reinforcing stone. However, the only difference was that blutinium could randomly strengthen a weapon ranging from 1~3 levels. While artifacts would disintegrate if the strengthening failed for most reinforcements, in the case of blutinium, there were no such side effects. This meant that the artifact would not disintegrate, even if the strengthening had failed.

Minhyuk currently had two blutinium ores. He had decided that he would strengthen and reinforce his team first, before they left to do his quest. According to the description, only those with a DEX above 500 could use and work with blutinium.

[An anvil is needed to use blutinium.]



Minhyuk raised the Ancient Water Dragon Barraca's Sword on top of the anvil. Then, he grabbed the hammer and struck at it with all his might.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

Of course, Minhyuk's vision was filled with red marks so he made sure to hammer exactly on those parts. Then, the notifications rang loudly.

[You have achieved the perfect strengthening.]

[You have succeeded in strengthening +1.]

[You have succeeded in strengthening +2.]

[You have succeeded in strengthening +3.]

"Oh!"

Minhyuk realized that the effects of DEX were also quite great in this aspect. Then, he used another blutinium.

[You have achieved the perfect strengthening.]

[You have succeeded in strengthening +4.]

However, even if he achieved the 'perfect' again, there was no miracle like having another +3 strengthening in one go. After finishing his strengthening, Minhyuk quickly checked the Ancient Water Dragon Baracca's Sword.

(Ancient Water Dragon Barraca's Greatsword+4)

Rank: Legendary

Restrictions: Can only be used by Minhyuk

Durability:?

Attack Power: 850

Special Abilities:

?STR +18%. AGI +17%.

?Passive Skill: Sword Advanced Mastery Level +7

?There is a 18% chance of triggering the abnormal state: Difficulty in Breathing in every successful attack.

?Attack Failure Rate is reduced by 70%

?Skill: Artifact Subspace

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

The attack increased by as much as 150 and the Sword Advanced Mastery had a +2 increase. The attack speed that was originally 1.5x had also increased to 1.7x as a result. In addition, there was an additional 8% to STR and 7% to AGI. The effects of the reinforcement stone were much stronger than what he had thought.

When he finished all of the preparations, Minhyuk spoke up while riding behind Kaistra with Ben on Penrus' back.

"Kaistra."

"Yep?"

"What are you going to do if you get some delicious ingredients from the Demon World?"

"I'll give it to Minhyuk of course!"

"Hahaha. But you don't have to, though? If you really wanted to give it to me then I would have no other choice. Despite the 'serious look' on my face, I won't give you a very hard time, you know? But, I would feel bad if I don't accept it. Since you're giving it to me with sincerity, I will have no other choice but to receive it wholeheartedly."

"Yep. Please make me some bread instead."

Kaistra liked bread very much. He liked it regardless of its kind. It was because Minhyuk always made bread for him, so he liked it. Even Grandpa Ben had told Kaistra, "You're truly a bread addict."

It was like saying that he was a 'junkie'. In truth, Kaistra was really addicted to bread. Recently, the bread that Minhyuk made for Kaistra had become truly delicious. It was so delicious to the point that if he did not eat at least one each day, he would get withdrawal symptoms. This was the reason why he called Kaistra a 'bread addict'. Since they were riding on Penrus' back, they were able to arrive at the place that was indicated on the map in no time at all.

"I think this is the right place."

Minhyuk looked around, but all he could see were trees. It seemed like they were in the middle of a forest.

'But is it a place that players can't find easily? That shouldn't be the case.'

"Hmm."

Minhyuk did not know this, but the Hidden Temple was a dungeon that would only appear as soon as the quest began. Also, admission to the dungeon would be impossible if the players did not receive the quest. As he thought about how they would proceed, Minhyuk saw a subtle glow from the Map of the Hidden Temple. Minhyuk tried to move his body and the glow intensified and sparkled in some parts of the map.

"Let's go this way!"

Minhyuk and his party members moved forward. After moving for quite some time, the sparkling glow disappeared and was replaced by a white light. A thicket of vines in front of them covered the way forward and hindered their vision. Penrus' opened his mouth and a faint light emitted out of it.

Flash!

Crackle!

The vines immediately grayed out then the 'entrance' appeared in front of them. They looked through the entrance and slowly moved inside. At that moment...

Creaaaaak—

Bang!

They heard the sound of the entrance closing with a bang from behind them. Along with the ominous bang, the notifications began to ring out loud.

[You are the first person to discover Gremory's Temple.]

[You have gained 10 REP.]

[You can now begin challenging Gremory's Trial.]

[The 'Second Trial Type' will be carried out since you have brought a vassal and a player with you.]

Then, at that moment, he felt a presence appear near them.

"Welcome to Gremory's Trial."

'Huh?'

Minhyuk quickly turned his head around. It was because he felt that the voice that he heard was somewhat familiar. When he looked in the direction where the voice came from, Minhyuk's eyes widened. Even the man who spoke was looking at him wide-eyed.

Then, Minhyuk said, "Why did Instructor appear here...?"

At that moment... he heard the notifications.

[You have met the Sword God Valen, one of the Seven Myths.]

[You have gained 100 REP.]

#### Chapter 194: Gremory's Trial

Instructor Valen was the first NPC players would see if they started in Isbin Village. In other words, he was the most memorable NPC to the players. The reason why he was firmly imprinted in the players' minds was because of the cool and frosty aura that always emanated from him, despite being an NPC that only wore a simple leather armor and carried a sword on his waist. Even if he was just standing leisurely with his arms folded languidly, his cold and elegant aura would still flow out. Valen became an instructor in a starting village because the God of?Athenae?wanted him to do so. Since he also wanted to live a normal life, he willingly followed the orders of the God. However, he was truly the?'Sword God'?of the past, a hero who had once saved the world.

Sword God Valen had a rare look of embarrassment on his face. He asked, "...Then, why are you here too?"

"Ah! Hello Instructor! Hehe, how have you been?"

There was a subtle smile on the face of Instructor, no, Sword God Valen. Without noticing it, the shock in Minhyuk's voice was already gone and he was bowing politely to Valen just like he did in the past.

'I didn't expect that Minhyuk would be the one to challenge this trial...'

Valen knew that Minhyuk must have definitely become stronger for him to acquire the map to this place. However, the trial itself was extremely difficult.

"How are you and Instructor Roina?"

"We got married and already have a baby."

"Congratulations!"

"Yeah. Thanks. From now on, let's get down to business."

"Yes! I understand!"

Valen knew the clear boundary between his delight and happiness and the trial. They were two completely different things. Minhyuk also clearly understood his intentions.

"I will first check your qualifications as the main host of this trial. The confirmation will be done once."

Then, Valen began to explain. He said, "In addition, the power that you received from *Athenae* will be temporarily sealed. You can only fight with your pure strength."

Minhyuk tilted his head in thought when he heard those words. Only after Valen said those words did the additional notifications ring in his ears.

[All of your stats are temporarily changed to the most basic stats.]

[Please check the temporary status window.]

[All skills and artifacts are restricted.]

Without waiting any further, Minhyuk checked his temporarily modified status window.

(Minhyuk)

Level: 340

Class: Eccentric Food God

HP: 55?MP: 50

STR: 5?AGI: 5?STM: 5

WIS: 5?INT: 5

Fullness: 100%

Minhyuk could see that his stats had changed and were similar to the stats that he had when he first entered *Athenae*.

"You will be dealing with Orcs. Originally, the Orc Warriors should be stronger than you are now but for this trial, their stats and power would be similar to yours."

Stats and power that were similar to Minhyuk's powers. This meant that his own skills and abilities would be the one to play a decisive role to determine whether he would win or lose.

Meanwhile, Valen thought, 'It won't be easy.'

Valen had heard that plenty of the foreigners who came to Athenae did not exercise or practice any kind of sport in their world. As for the Orc Warriors, they were very fond of hunting and were extremely ferocious when it came to killing. If these Orcs were compared to ordinary people, then the Orc Warriors were comparable to a centurion that had received systematic training. Also, from what he heard, the foreigners usually only learned martial arts to 'defend' themselves. However, the Orc Warriors had evolved and lived to kill.

'You're an extraordinary foreigner. But, will you be able to make it?'

Valen felt quite sorry. He knew that the Orc Warriors were truly formidable foes that could not easily be killed. If he was defeated, Minhyuk would receive a quest failure penalty and he would be thrown out of this place. However, he still had to fulfill his duty as the trial's host.

The space in front of them was torn apart with a wave of Valen's hand as two Orc Warriors walked out. It was not just one, but two. Of course, their level of abilities was similar to Minhyuk, but they were still Orc Warriors that were experienced in killing and were even given the title of a warrior. Minhyuk had to hunt them using only his pure 'skills'.

\*\*\*

Diet Manager Hyejin had a sullen expression on her face. She said, "Ah, I have to ask for a kimchi refrigerator...!"

"Just look at this!"

"Haha. Ms. Hyejin. Just look at this."

Oh Changwook and Doctor Lee Jinhwan were both sitting on the sofa and hogging the TV watching UFC.

"That's right! Let's go Amba!"

"Hoho. But isn't that guy really good?"

Hyejin glared at them as she muttered, 'Men.' with a huff when she suddenly remembered a question that she wanted to ask. She said, "Ah, that's right. I heard that Minhyuk was good at kendo and mixed martial arts before, is that true?"

Just at the right time, the show on the TV ended.

"Shit... He lost."

"Hoho. That's too bad."

Only after saying those words did they react to Hyejin's question.

"I don't know about that. I only met Minhyuk after he contracted his eating addiction."

It was not Changwook but Lee Jinhwan who answered her question. Jinhwan said, "He's good at it. Not just kendo and mixed martial arts, even archery and boxing. There's no sport that he can't do."

Before he continued his words, Lee Jinhwan fell in deep thought for a moment.

“Do you know the kendo gold medalist, Lee Da-Woul?”

“Kgghk!?Doc, who in the world does not know about Lee Da-Woul, the gold medalist?”

The gold medalist Lee Da-Woul was the country’s joy and pride. He had won the gold medal in the Olympics two years ago with his overwhelming skills in kendo.

Lee Jinhwan just smiled at them and said, “Lee Da-Woul and Minhyuk are the same age, right?”

“Ah. Really?”

“When they were 15 years old, the two of them had an unofficial kendo competition.”

“Wow, for real?”

Hyejin and Changwook’s eyes both widened. Their eyes were sparkling with interest.

‘The gold medalist and Minhyuk had a match?’

“Yes. And he lost.”

“...As expected.”

“Kgghk. So there’s an opponent that Minhyuk couldn’t beat.”

Jinhwan tilted his head at them as he opened his mouth again and said, “No. Not Minhyuk, but Lee Dawoul.”

“...Yes?”

“OMG. For real?”

“Lee Da-Woul felt that Minhyuk was his one and only rival, but Minhyuk did not feel that way at all.”

“Wow...”

“OMG... Amazing.”

They felt Minhyuk’s greatness once more. Then, Hyejin said, “But he’ll probably lose to Lee Da-Woul now, right?”

This time, it was both Oh Changwook and Lee Jinhwan who answered her question.

“Who knows.”

“Who knows.”

“...Eh? Why? It has been quite a long time already.”

This time, it was Oh Changwook who answered her with a bitter smile instead of Lee Jinhwan. He said, “Minhyuk has also been training repeatedly every day.”

“But that’s just to lose weight, right?”

“That’s right. But Minhyuk tries to lose weight by doing kendo, boxing and swimming. And he keeps on doing them over and over again. His only reason is? ‘Because I feel less hungry if I raise myself to the limit.’”

“Really?”

“Since Minhyuk’s body is a bit fat right now, his jabs, one-two combis, uppercuts and kendo swings might have looked dull and boring.”

In fact, Hyejin was a woman who knew nothing about sports. That was why she could only see dull and boring movements whenever she watched the 170kg Minhyuk move his body. However, that was not the case at all.

“Have you been punched by Minhyuk?” Changwook asked, as someone that would sometimes act as Minhyuk’s sparring partner.

“...The strength of his punches is tremendous.”

Then, Changwook continued to speak. He said, “For years, Minhyuk has been training as much as any athlete has been training, just so he could lose some weight. So I...”

Changwook stopped talking while Hyejin looked at him nervously.

“If Minhyuk still had his talents of the past, then if he went and joined the Olympics now, I believe that he would be able to at least show a skill level that is on par with Lee Da-Woul’s performance.”

\*\*\*

Once Minhyuk stepped forward, he was able to hear the notifications about the linked quest.

[You have completed the Linked Quest: Hidden Temple.]

[You have acquired 100,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[Linked Quest: Gremory’s Trial.]

Then, another quest window popped out in front of him.

[Linked Quest: Into the Hidden Temple.]

Rank: SSS

Requirements: Level 340

Rewards: Depends on the degree of clearing the trials.

Penalty for Failure: You will not be able to acquire EXP for 1 week, all stats -10.

Description: You have now reached the Hidden Temple. Overcome Gremory’s Trial! Every time you overcome a trial, you will be given a chance to get out of the dungeon.

Minhyuk nodded as he stepped forward. Then, the notifications rang once more.

[Gremory's First Trial will now begin.]

[We wish you victory against the 2 Orc Warriors up ahead.]

[If you successfully overcome the trial, you will be able to acquire the ingredient 'Demon World's Grilled Black Pork Belly'.]

[If you successfully overcome the trial, you will be able to acquire 200,000 EXP.]

[However, please take note that if the trial fails then all of the rewards that have been listed will disappear.]

[You are required to either overcome the trial or reach the end of the hidden temple to receive the rewards that you have earned.]

'...!'

.

Minhyuk's body trembled in shock when he saw the reward that was listed in front of him.

'Demon World's Grilled Black Pork Belly?!'

It sounded like the Black Pork that could be found in Jeju Island! However, Minhyuk felt that it was a bit disappointing since he could not get the rewards right away. If he successfully overcame the trial then he could go outside of the dungeon as it is, and the rewards that he had accumulated from the point where he went out would only be given at that time. However, if he died while trying to challenge the trial, then all of the rewards would disappear. Therefore, if he felt confident about himself, he could continuously challenge the trials, but it was also wise to step out if he already overcome a trial so he would not lose anything.

Minhyuk quietly pulled out Barraca's Sword from his waist. The two Orc Warriors in front of him also pulled out the same Barraca's Sword. They were equally matched with the same weapons too. At that moment...

"Well, well. Let's first have a cup of coffee before you start."

"Oh, thanks Grandpa Ben!"

When Ben handed the cup of coffee over to Minhyuk, he also called over Kaistra with his rubber gloves. The three of them clinked their cups together before drinking.

"..."

"..."

"..."

For a moment, Valen and the two Orc Warriors were left stunned and speechless. Then, one of the Orc Warriors' said, "*Chiiiiik*. He doesn't feel nervous at all. *Chiiiiik*. It seems like he thinks we're not worthy opponents."

"*Chiiiiik*. I won't let this go! That human!"



Minhyuk drank 20 cups of iced americano while Kaistra showed him his quick dishwashing skills. It was the amazing power of the Craftsman's Dishwashing skill that Kaistra could wash dishes even without water!

When Valen saw the old man hand over the coffee to Minhyuk, he could not help but ask him, "Are you his vassal?"

"Yes. That's right."

'...'

Valen was left speechless. After the trial that Minhyuk had to face alone, there was still a trial waiting for the three of them. However, Valen was unaware of the origins of the person in front of him. It was also only natural that he did not know of Ben. After all, even though Ben was deemed as the 'Legend', there were only a few people that knew what he looked like. It was also natural that Ben did not know of Valen, as similarly, 'Sword God Valen' had hidden his identity.

"He's quite good and he's a legend too! Instructor Valen, you should have a cup of coffee too!" Minhyuk said, offering Valen a cup of coffee, since it had been a long time since they last saw each other. It was a great achievement for someone to be offered food by Minhyuk. This meant that he felt really happy seeing him after a long time. In addition, Minhyuk had used the utensils and gas burner that he had given him before, so he was extremely grateful to him.

After tasting the coffee, Valen thought, 'Is this coffee a 'legend'...?'

My goodness! He had never tasted a coffee as delicious as this anywhere else in the world!

'Minhyuk, the food lover, really deserves to have this type of vassal.'

However, from a different perspective, it would be difficult for an old vassal and a short, skinny boy to overcome Gremory's Trial. This was what Valen thought. However, the most important thing was the situation right now. Valen said, "Then, now that you have moistened your throat... let's get started!"

The two Orc Warriors stepped forward, quickly launching an attack.

"Chiiiiik! Cheeky human! Die!"

Dash!

Vwoooooong!

The Orc Warriors were fast. One of them shot forward, its sword stabbing quickly.

Clang!

Minhyuk blocked the incoming sword with a horizontal slash, as the other Orc Warrior tried to slash his flanks. Minhyuk dug his foot on the ground and twisted his body to avoid the strike. Then, with the chest of the Orc Warrior who tried to stab him earlier as the target, he moved his arm as if he was going to stab the opponent.

Swoosh!

The Orc Warrior moved to defend its chest, but at that exact same moment, a small smile could be seen hanging on Minhyuk's lips.

Those who had fought for survival for a long time, or those who had undergone systematic training, were different from ordinary people. They might not see how the sword moved, but they could see the movement of their opponent's arms. Through the movement of their arms and body, they could predict their opponent's next movements. Just a moment ago, the Orc Warrior had seen Minhyuk's arm move to stab its chest. However, at that same moment, Minhyuk's arm movements changed trajectory. In other words, the Orc Warrior fell for Minhyuk's trap.

Puhaaaaa!

Minhyuk easily cut down the Orc Warrior.

"Chiiiiik!" The orc shrieked loudly. It staggered back as blood spurted out from its chest. At that moment, a sword swung again towards Minhyuk.

Dash! Dash!

Minhyuk moved fast and leaped high, maintaining his current posture. He stepped on the chest of the staggering Orc Warrior and slashed at the incoming sword attack.

Slash!

"Chiiik!?Hu, human. Fast...!"

The Orc Warrior was struck down and fell to the ground. Minhyuk took advantage of the gap and quickly approached the orc. As soon as the punk tried to raise its sword again...

Kick!

...Minhyuk kicked the hand of the Orc Warrior that was holding the sword.

Clatter!

The sword fell down with a loud noise. Then...

Stab!

...Minhyuk stabbed the neck of the Orc Warrior with his sword.

"Chwiiiiik..."

The Orc Warrior grabbed its neck as if it could not believe that its neck was stabbed. It fell down just like that.

When Valen saw this scene, his eyes could not help but widen in surprise. He thought, 'Just three times...'

That was the number of attacks that the Orc Warriors had initiated. During those three attacks, Minhyuk was able to take advantage of the gap and succeeded in attacking. Those three attacks were carried out within only four seconds.

Valen could not help but tremble. He thought, '...I knew that he was much better than other foreigners, but I did not expect this at all.'

He was shivering in excitement.

‘Perhaps...’

As the Sword God, he thought that it might be possible for Minhyuk to learn his swordsmanship.

#### Chapter 195: Gremory’s Trial

Black Mage Ali was a ranker, first in the Local Mage Rankings. He was currently exploring a dungeon after receiving the quest, ‘The Liberation of the Cursed Hero’. The quest was ranked ‘SSS’, a level that was completely different from regular quests. Although the rewards were generous, the quest was truly hard to clear. In fact, there were already quite a few people who received SSS-ranked quests, however, none of them had succeeded in clearing them.

If Ali successfully cleared this SSS-ranked quest with a very high score, he would be able to trigger a system. The system was none other than the ‘Hall of Kings’ system. Once ‘Hall of Kings’ was activated and released, players from all over the world would be notified. It would be a glorious and enormous achievement for Ali. In fact, it was much more than that.

‘Players that clear an SSS-ranked quest with a high enough score to trigger the Hall of Kings will be given immense rewards.’

An enormous reward. A typical example was the ‘demigod’. It was a name that players made up. The god class players were trying their hardest to create ‘god’ ranked artifacts. However, not a single person had successfully completed one yet. On the other hand, there were those who had successfully mastered and created demigod skills and artifacts. However, these people could only be counted on one hand, to be exact, on three fingers. The demigod artifacts were originally ‘legendary’ ranked artifacts. However, the power of these artifacts far exceeded the other legendary artifacts, so the players dubbed them as ‘demigod artifacts’, or in the case of skills, ‘demigod skill books’.

‘And that thing right now...!’

It was a huge opportunity for Black Mage Ali. However, it had become apparent to Ali that this SSS-ranked dungeon was very difficult to clear. Even though Black Mage Ali was the top mage in the country, he still struggled due to the difficulty of the dungeon. After all, the mobs had a high level of magical defense. After struggling against many twists and turns, he successfully arrived in front of the final boss room.

At that moment, the notifications rang in Ali’s ears.

[The Cursed Hero has appeared.]

A single man walked out from the shadows. His figure was extremely daunting and muscular, especially with the thick club in his hand.

‘It seems like the theme is Heracles.’

The dungeon was called ‘The Tomb of the Cursed Hero’, so it was only natural that a hero would appear in the final boss room. Just like that, the fierce battle between the cursed hero and Black Mage Ali began.

As a high-leveled mage, Black Mage Ali had stored one Seventh Tier Magic, two Sixth Tier Magic, and five Fifth Tier Magic in his wand. If others were to know of this fact, they would definitely be shocked. With those magic stored in his wand, Black Mage Ali confidently strode into this dungeon and explored this place. Besides, the higher the level of the mage, the shorter their casting time. Any high-leveled mage could even instantly cast a Third Tier Magic and below.

“Fireball.”

Because of his high INT and WIS, the size of Ali’s fireball was three times larger than a normal fireball. This huge fireball flew straight towards the cursed hero.

Slam!

However, what was surprising was the fact that the fireball disappeared easily after being hit by the hero’s club.

‘Shit...!’

Ali’s face distorted.

Bang, bang, bang!

The hero ran towards him.

“Fire Storm!”

“Fire Wall!”

Crackle!

A huge barrier made of flames appeared, blocking the path towards Ali, while a huge fire tornado swirled around him and grew larger.

Shwaaaak!

The raging flames devoured and engulfed the area. However, a huge hand stretched out right in front of the flame barrier that was protecting Ali, as if it was nothing.

“Blink.”

Tap!

Ali increased the distance between them in an instant, cold sweat drenching his back.

‘As expected, this is not easy either. But I have to succeed! The Hall of Kings...!’

So far, there have only been nine names listed in the Hall of Kings. Among those nine, three were achieved by a single anonymous person only known by the name ‘Kenra’. The remaining six had been named and hailed as a King once. However, one thing was for sure, each and every single one of them had now become representatives of their own countries. And disappointing as it was, there was not a single Korean player in the Hall of Kings.

Ali’s gaze turned cold as the flames in his heart blazed strongly. As a citizen of this country and someone who had always looked up to those in high places, Ali wanted to be listed in the Hall of Kings.

Puhaaaak!

Puhwaaaaa!

Puhaaaaaaaaa!

Dozens of magic formed around him.

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

Half an hour later, Ali finally won this arduous battle, his body staggering from exhaustion.

‘Please, please...’ ?Ali desperately begged, hoping for a good outcome.

‘Please let me be in the Hall of Kings!’

At that moment, the notifications rang.

[You have completed the Hidden Quest: Liberation of the Cursed Hero.]

[Your rewards will be given based on your score.]

[You have gained 2,000,000 EXP.]

[You have acquired the Robe of the Cursed Hero.]

[You have acquired the Skillbook: Diss]

[You have acquired the ore: Cartinium.]

[The Episode Quest: Hero’s Will has been created.]

“...Goddamnit!” Ali shouted, face filled with disappointment. He had failed to be admitted into the Hall of Kings. Even though he was disappointed, he knew the reason why he failed.

‘I’m short of mana.’

Short of mana, in other words, his MP was not enough. If other players knew of his MP, they would consider it an enormous amount. However, he still felt that it was still lacking. The MP was usually filled through natural recovery, or through the use of potions. However, the cooldown after using a mana potion was much longer than when using a STM potion. In addition, natural recovery was also slow since it was a step-by-step process.

‘What if my MP was already high to begin with before I entered the dungeon? I would have cleared it faster with stronger, and more powerful, magic.’

Ali felt regret at failing to reach the Hall of Kings. However, he did not dwell too long on it. The only thing that he could do was sigh at the regrettable fact. Not long after, the smile was back on his face. After all, the artifact and the skill book were more than enough rewards for him.

The skill, Diss could summon a giant spear from the sky to attack the enemy. It could easily penetrate through the tanker’s defenses and deal a lot of damage all in one attack. What was even better was the robe. It was a legendary artifact! That was not all, there was even an episode quest and an ore among his rewards.

‘What’s this?’

All of the information in the Episode Quest was listed as ‘???’ and even the Demon World’s ore was described as ‘unknown ore with unknown use’. While expressing his doubt and confusion, another thought formed in Ali’s head.

‘I should first increase my mana.’

There was something that he had heard before.

‘The thousand-year-old ginseng. Rumor as it that eating one would allow the consumer to get a 1.5x increase in their mana, right?’

\*\*\*

[You have completed the first trial.]

[Would you like to challenge more trials?]

Minhyuk nodded to answer the notifications.

“Yes.”

[You have accumulated 200,000 EXP.]

[The Demon World’s Grilled Black Pork Belly will be saved.]

[Gremory’s Second Trial will now begin.]

[For the Second Trial, you can proceed together with the player and the vassal that you brought with you. To complete the trial, you need to clear the dungeon in front of you.]

[Sword God Valen, together with two of his squad members, will enter a different dungeon.]

[The trial will fail if you spend more than 20 minutes to clear your dungeon than the time Sword God Valen and his squad members took to clear their dungeon.]

[If you successfully overcome the trial, you will be able to acquire the Demon World’s Cooking Ingredient ‘Demon King’s Largehead Hairtail’.]

[However, please take note that if the trial fails, then all of the rewards that have been listed and accumulated will disappear.]

[You are required to either overcome the trial, or reach the end of the hidden temple, to receive the rewards that you have earned.]

‘Wow...!’

Minhyuk was in awe. As soon as he read the notifications, he could tell that the ingredients that he could get from these trials were ingredients that were famous in ‘Jeju Island’. Especially the Largehead Hairtail! If he placed the plump, steaming flesh on top of a spoonful of hot rice and placed it in his mouth, he would be able to taste the savoriness and sweetness of the fresh fish! It would definitely bring a smile to anyone’s face!

Valen, who was thinking about passing on his sword skill to Minhyuk, was left stunned when he saw the latter gulping down his saliva. He thought, ‘...It must be difficult.’

Up until now, he thought that they would be able to overcome the trial because of Minhyuk's performance earlier. However, when he saw the vassal and the player who would join Minhyuk, he felt that they would fail.

"Hiyaaa. This bread is really delicious!"

"Bread addict. Are you eating another piece of bread?"

Valen shook his head after seeing Kaistra eat his bread happily together with Grandpa Ben. Of course, he thought that they were also a member of Minhyuk's 'optimized party', but they still seemed unready for battle.

Then, the two people who would accompany Valen to attack the dungeon appeared. They were two of the squad members whom he personally led before. They were less capable in fighting compared to Valen. After all, Valen boasted enough power that was worthy of the title 'Sword God'. This was also the reason why his squad members were not able to show much of their prowess. However, even if it was only Valen who had entered the dungeon, his dungeon clearing time would still be extremely short.

'The trial is mainly concerned about choosing 'him'. That's why I can't slack off just because it's Minhyuk,' Valen thought. He vowed to do his best to clear this dungeon quickly.

Then, the two teams walked towards their respective dungeon entrance.

"My Lord, let's have one more shot before going inside."

"Bread's delicious!"

Then, Valen thought, 'They don't have any signs of nervousness at all. Sigh.'

Valen sighed as he entered the dungeon. Then, he began to move forward as Level 350 monsters began to flock in front of them.

'Map to the Hidden Temple' could only be unsealed once the player reached Level 340, that was why the mobs that existed in this place were between Level 340-500.

"Flutter. Wind."

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

A slight wind started to blow around Valen's body. Then, it began to grow in intensity, as it started to flutter and blow fiercely, before flying straight towards the incoming monsters.

Chik, chik, chik, chik, chik, chik!

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

The strong wind blew away everything that was in front of them. Even the mobs that were blocking the way were torn to pieces.

Plop, plop, plop, plop, plop!

Everywhere the wind blew, the monsters died quickly without much resistance. Then, Valen and his party reached the final boss room.

Shwaaa!

Inside the boss room, Valen was able to hunt and kill the boss monster in just under three minutes. He thought, 'The total time was about 20 minutes.'

In other words, Minhyuk, together with the other player and his vassal, would need to clear their dungeon within 40 minutes to pass the trial. Then, Valen and his squad members slowly walked out of the dungeon. As soon as they got out of the dungeon, he could not help but tilt his head in surprise.

"...What's happening?"

Right outside the dungeon, the three people were sitting around. They looked like they did not even leave their places earlier.

"Wow. Minhyuk. Chocolate cake paired with americano is so delicious!"

"Kaistra, you finally know the greatness of this combination!"

"Hohoho. Our bread addict finally knows the taste of coffee!"

Valen's brows furrowed. He thought, 'Don't tell me?'

He thought that perhaps Minhyuk knew that they would lose, so they did not go inside.

'Is Minhyuk that weak? He won't even try knowing that they would lose? Is it because he now know that I'm the Sword God, that was why they gave up even before it started?'

Valen felt immense disappointment. Was it alright for the three of them to just sit and play tea time just because they could not challenge it?

Valen could see that Gremory was also there. However, he was overcome with so much anger and disappointment that he could not stop himself from speaking out. In his rage, he even failed to realize that Gremory's pupils were shaking.

"Minhyuk."

"Yes, Instructor!"

"I'm so disappointed in you, boy!"

"...Huh?"

"How can a man like you not even try?! Weren't you the one who was smiling brightly while striking on scarecrows just to get ten loaves of bread? My goodness! You know that you're going to lose so you didn't even try?! You have betrayed my expectations, boy!"

"What are you saying...?"

"You did not even go inside the dungeon to try?! Why did you just sit here and chat with them? Huh?!!!!"



Minhyuk tilted his head in confusion when he heard his words. He hurried to explain, “But, we went inside and got outside, Instructor!”

Valen looked at him incredulously.

‘What kind of nonsense are you saying? You went in and got out?’

This meant that they cleared it faster than him. Valen thought that Minhyuk was lying through his teeth and his anger rose to the top of his head. He roared, “If your words are true, then you will be the instructor from now on, I will be the trainee!!!!”

At that moment, Gremory slowly turned her head. The tremble in her voice was unmistakable as she said, “Val...Valen...”

“...”

The fuming Valen turned his head to look at her. Then, she said, “...They really cleared the dungeon ahead of you.”

## Chapter 196: Hall of Kings

As soon as Valen and his team entered the other dungeon, Kaistra quickly pushed the bread into his mouth. Grandpa Ben also moved to step inside after confirming that Minhyuk had finished drinking his coffee. Both Kaistra and Grandpa Ben entered the dungeon together. The thoughts that were running through their heads were on the same wavelength.

‘We need to quickly clear this dungeon so that our foodie Minhyuk can become stronger.’

‘Maybe we can do it faster than them too.’

Kaistra and Grandpa Ben saw through the two squad members at a glance. They knew that they were not that strong, so Valen was as good as going into the dungeon alone. On the contrary, the three of them were all strong. Minhyuk, Ben, Kaistra. These three people made up their party.

“The Largehead Hairtail sounds delicious!” Minhyuk said excitedly. This was the next reward that he would receive.

As for Kaistra and Grandpa Ben’s, they both received a different rewards list. For Grandpa Ben, it was ‘Demon World’s Pork Ramyeon Ingredient’. As for Kaistra, it was ‘Demon World’s Mandarin Chocolate’.

‘It’s for Minhyuk! For him!’

As soon as the three of them entered the dungeon, they decided to do their very best. Along with their firm determination, the sound of the notification rang in their ears.

[All of your skills that are currently unavailable due to their cooldown will now be available. You can now use all of your skills.]

This meant that they could use their skills that were currently on cooldown. For example, the Lightning Millstone. It had a cooldown of 480 hours and could only be used after 20 days in the game. However, inside this place, the cooldown of the Lightning Millstone had been lifted. Of

course, this still did not mean that Minhyuk could use his skills continuously. Nonetheless, he would still be able to use it once, and he believed that it was more than enough.

“Kaistra, can you kite the mobs?”

“Yes. Penrus has an ability among his special skills called ‘Temptation of Thick Blood’. With this ability, every monster will follow me wherever I go.”

Minhyuk nodded. Then, the space in front of them was torn apart as Penrus leaped down from the void. Kaistra gently climbed on top of Penrus.

[Temptation of Thick Blood.]

[The monsters will be agitated by the smell of blood coming from Penrus.]

“I’ll go ahead and kite the mobs.”

Dash!

Penrus dashed forward while Minhyuk and Ben hurriedly followed along.

“Keuhaaack!”

“Kiiiiieeeeck!”

“Groooooowl!”

The mob in front turned towards Penrus and followed the scent of blood that was coming from Penrus’ body. The monsters’ aggro was firmly grabbed by Kaistra. These monsters unknowingly followed Penrus and gathered around the middle of the open area. Then, Minhyuk activated Roves’ Ring.

[Roves’ Wave]

[A seven-meter high tidal wave will engulf and devour all of your enemies. This magic cannot be nullified.]

Since the dungeon had a high ceiling, Minhyuk was quite confident that there would be no problem even if a seven-meter high tidal wave appeared inside.

Shwaaaaak!

“Kiiiiieeeeck!”

“Keuaaaaack!”

“Grrrrraaaaack!”

The monsters shrieked and floundered as they got swept away by the huge tidal wave. As soon as the tidal wave disappeared, Minhyuk spun his Lightning Millstone.

Turn, turn, turn!

[Lightning Hell]

[Powerful lightning strikes will indiscriminately strike down within a 20-meter radius and deal 120% damage for one minute.]

Lightning began to rain down from the clouds that formed in the air above them.

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

The monsters were unable to come back to their senses after being flooded and soaked by the huge wave. Before they could even take a breather, they were already dying one by one. To be honest, the dungeon was not that high-leveled. It would probably be difficult for the normal Level 340 players. But Level 340 Minhyuk had almost the same strength as someone at Level 450, so it was a piece of cake to him. In the end, the monsters that were?kited?all died from Lightning Hell.

Then, Penrus began to draw the mobs' aggro once again. This time, it was Grandpa Ben who dealt with the gathered monsters by using his 'Ghost's Dance'.

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

After dealing with more than 200 monsters easily, the three of them reached the entrance to the boss room.

"Splitting Sword."

"Penrus' Breath."

"Ghost's Blow."

All three of them used the most powerful attack in their arsenal. In just four seconds, the turtle-shaped boss monster had disappeared in smoke. After the three of them finished attacking the dungeon, they leisurely went out.

"Huh? I don't think Instructor Valen is done yet. Let's have our tea time first!"

Were they supposed to just sit around while waiting? Not at all. Hence, the three of them sat down and had some relaxing tea time. Then, Demoness Gremory appeared. The three people were wary and cautious of her at first, but they soon realized that she was the master of this trial. She could not help but stare at them quietly as they had their tea time.

Then, Valen came out. As soon as he saw their leisurely posture, Valen began to rage and shout at them. Gremory turned to him while trembling and said, "...They really cleared the dungeon faster than you guys."

"...!"

Valen's eyes widened in shock. It was a ridiculous, unbelievable story. The trial itself was a place where only Level 340 players could challenge. Normally, the players at that level would need to be extremely lucky to receive a peerage. Even if they received a noble title, the level of their vassal would only be at most around Level 200~Level 300. Yet, Gremory was telling him that they cleared the dungeon that quickly?

'Crazy...'

This meant that the vassal, as well as the foreigner boy, were quite unusual. Then, the notifications rang in Minhyuk's head.

[You have completed the Second Trial.]

[Would you like to challenge more trials?]

One of the reasons why this trial was so frustrating was because of the system. It would propose the challenge of another trial, but they did not know what it was that they needed to challenge. Even so, Minhyuk still nodded.

“I will continue.”

[You have accumulated 400,000 EXP.]

[The ‘Demon King’s Largehead Hairtail’ will be saved.]

[Gremory’s Final Trial will now begin.]

[For the Final Trial, all the stats of the vassal, the player, and yourself would be temporarily changed to the most basic stats.]

[Please check your temporary status window.]

[All of your skills will be restricted and your artifact’s special abilities will be unavailable.]

[The skills of Sword God Valen and his two squad members will be matched to the challenger.]

[A 1:1 PVP showdown will now take place.]

[If you successfully overcome the trial, you will be able to acquire the Demon World’s Cooking Ingredient ‘One of the Demon King’s Black Pigs’.]

[If you successfully overcome the trial, you will be able to gain 1,000,000 EXP.]

[However, please take note that if the trial fails, then all of the rewards that have been listed and accumulated will disappear.]

[You are required to either overcome the trial, or reach the end of the hidden temple, to receive the rewards that you have earned.]

‘...Demon King’s Black Pig?’ Minhyuk thought, his intuition already telling him that this was something extremely delicious.

Besides, this trial was similar to the first trial. The ability and skill of the opponents would change and would be equal to theirs. In that state, they would fight 1:1 against each other. For them to win, they had to win the first two fights. In other words, Minhyuk would not be able to win just because he was good at fighting himself. Even if Minhyuk won his fight, the trial would still be considered a failure if Ben and Kaistra were defeated.

“I will be your opponent.”

The opponent that matched with Minhyuk was none other than Valen. He was already notified earlier that Valen was the ‘Sword God’, so he knew that he would not be an easy opponent. Minhyuk nodded in agreement, as Grandpa Ben and Kaistra stood beside him. Their opponents did the same.

After standing in front of each other, Kaistra and Minhyuk were notified together.

[The trial will now begin.]

Slash!

At that moment, Valen’s sword swung straight at Minhyuk.

‘I’m sorry Minhyuk, but this is going to be hard.’

Valen was hailed as the Sword God. Although he found it surprising when Minhyuk easily hunted the two Orc Warriors, he was a class beyond them and would be a difficult opponent for him.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk, who saw the flood of incoming swords, thought, ‘He’s fast. Then... I’ll have to do my best.’

In fact, Minhyuk still had not shown everything of his. He had dealt with the Orc Warriors in just three attacks. He was quite lucky that he had killed them with just those three attacks. However, it was still a fact that Valen had only seen just a tiny part of his fighting skills and prowess.

Claaaaaaang!

Minhyuk blocked the sword. However, Valen suddenly stopped just as he was about to swing at Minhyuk again.

“Keuaack!”

“...!”

Valen glanced to the side. There, he saw his squad member lying down in front of Grandpa Ben. Then, he heard Grandpa Ben say. “This damn punk! You carry a sword with just this kind of skill?!”

‘What?! It’s only been three seconds?!’

The rules of the game would allow Minhyuk, his vassal, and the African boy to win if they landed an attack on their opponents. The same was true for Valen and his squad members. However, it seemed like his squad member was not even allowed the gap to attack and instead, was the one left lying down on the ground.

The reason why Valen’s squad members were weaker than him was because they lacked power. In addition, they also received less power from Gremory. However, if one compared them with others, they were still as good and as strong as the knights of a kingdom.

Valen had not yet gotten over his shock at his squad member’s easy defeat when he was stunned once more. This time, his sight landed to his left.

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

Kaistra was easily pushing back his squad member as he slashed at him with his scimitar.

‘His moves are sharp, it’s not superfluous and his every move is efficient!’

Valen’s eyes widened in shock. He might not know this, but the African boy Kaistra had been hunting to survive ever since he was a little boy. He was such an outstanding hunter that the people in his village even expected him to become ‘Africa’s Greatest Warrior’. In addition, he even had a pet leopard in his village. The sight of him hunting on top of a leopard with a wooden spear in his hand was shocking even to the adults of his village.

Even though Kaistra was young, his skills were outstanding. What would happen in a situation where he and Valen’s squad members were of equal strength? This meant that Kaistra would not be pushed back with strength alone.

‘It looks like they’re going to lose...’

Just as Valen was thinking about this...

Shwaaaaaaa!

...a sharp and glinting sword ripped the air and flew straight towards Valen's vital point.

Clang!

After he deflected the attack, Valen heard Minhyuk say coldly, "Instructor, are you really taking your eyes off of me in this situation?"

"...?!"

Valen felt a chill run down his spine. He had always seen Minhyuk as someone who was playful and with a bright and sunny smile on his face. However, the eyes of the young man in front of him were completely different. Valen recalled how he became fond of the foreigner named Minhyuk. It was because Minhyuk was the most serious and most diligent person when striking against the scarecrows.

"Let's do this properly."

Shwaaa!

Valen stretched out his hand that was holding his sword. Then, he started to rush towards Minhyuk.

Clang, clang, clang, clang!

Minhyuk tried to find a gap while he was blocking Valen's quick consecutive attacks. However, he could not see any gap at all.

'Then, let's just make one,' Minhyuk thought as he took a step back.

Tap!

Valen followed his steps closely. Seeing that Valen was still tightly following him, Minhyuk deliberately attacked Valen on his waist.

Shwaaaaa!

Clang!

Valen skillfully twisted his sword to block the attack. However, it did not end there. Minhyuk continuously attacked his sides.

Clang, clang, clang, clang!

'Break the balance.'

If he attacked continuously, there would be a short gap when the balance was broken. That was the opportunity that he needed. Therefore, he continued with his fierce attack.

Stab!

Valen pierced Minhyuk's shoulders with his sword. In response, Minhyuk only continued to attack his sides. Anyway, he would win this fight if he succeeded in attacking just once.

Shwaaaaa!

“Crazy...!”

Valen was left in shock when a sword stabbed through his shoulders. He moved urgently to dodge to his side.

Stumble.

At that moment, the precarious balance that they had maintained was broken. Valen staggered back and Minhyuk did not miss his chance. He twisted his wrist.

Shwaaaaa!

His sword followed his wrist's movement as it fiercely moved towards Valen.

“...!”

Valen hurriedly moved his sword to defend, but he was a step too late.

Stab!

Drip, drip, dri—

\*\*\*

Lee Seokhoon, the development team's team leader, was exhausted from drinking too much last night. He quickly pulled out a cup from the coffee machine, brought it to his nose, and savored the scent of the coffee. That was when he saw some of the staff from the customer center department running in a hurry.

“Huh? What's going on?”

They were running to the Special Players Management Team's location. Not long after, someone that was running in the same direction caught sight of Lee Seokhoon.

“Quick!”

“If you miss this moment, you'll regret it forever!”

“...?”

Team Leader Lee Seokhoon tilted his head in confusion. He felt that something strange was happening. Then, he roughly set aside his coffee cup before running towards the same direction.

He silently greeted President Kang Taehoon when he saw him also moving urgently in the same direction. President Kang Taehoon waved his hands at Lee Seokhoon roughly in response, as the latter opened the door and entered the room.

As soon as they entered the room, Lee Seokhoon saw countless teams' team members gathered inside the Special Players Management Team's office. Just in time, Team Leader Park, who was sitting in front of a monitor, glanced at them and said, “...President.”

“Y...yeah. What happened!”

Team Leader Park focused on the monitor again with a wide grin on his face.

“Our country’s first king has appeared.”

“...!”

“...!”

“....!”

Chapter 197: Eccentric Gourmand

‘K...King...?!’

Team Leader Lee Seokhoon’s eyes widened in shock. Saying that a ‘King’ had been born in? Athenae? simply meant one thing. It meant that someone entered the ‘Hall of Kings’.

“Who in the world is it...?!” Lee Seokhoon asked loudly. After all, he came here without knowing the situation.

All Team Leader Park did was to point at his monitor in answer. Team Leader Lee Seokhoon turned to look at the monitor. As soon as his eyes grazed the monitor, he could tell who it was. It was none other than Player Minhyuk.

Without waiting for his reaction, Team Leader Park Minggyu said, “And it’s a good thing too.”

“Which one are you talking about?” President Kang Taehoon asked in confusion.

Then, Team Leader Park explained himself. He said, “By becoming a King, Player Minhyuk would gain a lot of EXP. This means that he will ‘level up’, and will not be able to easily raise his stats just by eating.”

“That’s really quite a welcoming thought.”

“Yeah. Otherwise, if things went on like it was, the players would definitely go crazy and complain.”

They felt happy that Minhyuk entered the Hall of Kings. However, the people in this room felt happier when they realized that his growth would finally slow down. All they wanted was for his crazy growth to slow down and be comparable to the regular players.

Meanwhile, the new employee of the Special Players Management Team, Lee Minhwa, looked around. It was because she could see that the boss was here too. When Team Leader Park noticed her actions, he tilted his head at her in confusion and asked, “What’s wrong, Minhwa?”

“The Food God will be receiving a new class, right?”

Team Leader Park nodded when he heard her question. When he thought about it, there was also another thing that Player Minhyuk could receive aside from the EXP, and it was the ‘Special Points (SP)’. Once Player Minhyuk received the points and invested them in his DEX, then he would be the first ever dual-class player in the world.

“What if the class that he gains is something similar to the Food God class, where he can raise his ‘stats’ easily?”



The people around her burst out laughing. It seemed like they did not believe that such a possibility would happen.

“Eyy. No way.”

“Our new employee, aren’t you too worried about nothing?”

In fact, even the Development Team and the Special Players Management Team were unaware of what class he would receive. The class that would be selected through Gorac’s Book was randomly selected so they would not know what it was in advance. Even President Kang Taehoon did not know about what class would be selected.

In the case of Gorac’s eccentric classes, it was planned and created by the supercomputer?Athenae, and it made sure to place the highest ranked access restriction on it. This meant that the only way for them to know about the class that would be received, was only after it was released.

‘Why...why do I feel so nervous?’?Lee Minhwa thought. Despite her seniors’ joking words, she still felt a strange sense of anxiety, something similar to a woman’s ‘intuition’.

\*\*\*

Drip, drip, drip—

Valen was flexible, he had quickly twisted his body away and avoided the strikes that were aiming for his vital points. However, he was still left with an injury on his side. Valen looked at Minhyuk incredulously after feeling the blood drip from his wounds. However, their swords never stopped clashing. Minhyuk even landed two more skillful attacks at Valen.

‘Phew.’

Minhyuk breathed a sigh of relief when his attack successfully landed. Valen sheathed his sword and placed it on his waist. Minhyuk did the same thing. When Valen looked around, he saw Kaistra landing three successful attacks on one of his squad members.

‘It’s a complete defeat,’?Valen thought, smiling wryly.

Then, the notifications rang in Minhyuk’s head.

[You have completed all three of Gremory’s Trials.]

[You have gained 600,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have acquired the Demon World’s Grilled Black Pork Belly.]

[You have acquired the Demon King’s Largehead Hairtail.]

[You have acquired the Demon King’s Black Pig.]

[You can now learn Sword God Valen's Swordsmanship.]

[If you have already mastered swordsmanship, you will be able to incorporate it into your skills.]

‘Ho?’

Minhyuk was very interested. He was not able to see Valen's swordsmanship in person before. However, he still found the Sword God's swordsmanship to be unusual. In addition, he was also able to ‘incorporate’ it into his previous skill. The incorporation meant that the existing skill would get reinforced and would be stronger without losing its main essence.

When Minhyuk looked at the notifications, he realized that they were not yet over.

[You have completed the SSS-ranked quest with a high score.]

[Your name has entered the Hall of Kings.]

[You can choose to remain anonymous or post your ID or a different name.]

[You will receive additional rewards for reaching the Hall of Kings.]

[You have acquired 3,000,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have reached Level 350.]

[Even if Food God's True Worth has been triggered, your stats will not increase.]

‘Hall of Kings?’

When Minhyuk saw the three words ‘Hall of Kings’, his expression started twisting. He did not care about being famous, most of his attention was placed on eating and finding food. The thought of releasing his name to the world was something very unpleasant to him. Quickly, Minhyuk simply set the name that would be entered into the Hall of Kings as...

‘Anonymous.’

After all, it would be in his own best interests if he hid his name and just posted it as Anonymous.

[The tenth King of the world has been born.]

[South Korea's King ‘Anonymous’ name is spread all over the world.]

At the same time, the players all over the world were struck with surprise.

In Japan...

[A message was sent all over the world five minutes ago to announce the birth of the new King in South Korea, the country deemed as a game?pharmacy.]

In America...

[South Korea is now the eighth country to have a king enter the Hall of Kings. This means that a new strong player has been born from a country in the land of the East, South Korea. This player is expected to be one of those that will lead Athenae in the future.]

In China...

[A new king has sat on his throne and made himself known. Though, no one knows who he is. What's more, he's the only player that had set his nickname as 'Anonymous' in the Hall of Kings.]

And in Korea.

[South~ Korea! Clap, clap. Clap, clap. Clap!]

[South~ Korea! Clap, clap. Clap, clap. Clap!]

[Finally, the first king from our country that rose to the throne has been born! Ah, my heart can't stop thumping!]

[This is the birth of a gamer that will write a new history for our country!]

[Anonymous player! Who might you be? It's safe to assume that the guilds in the Korean server of Athenae are already on the move starting from now! So they can cast their net and get 'Anonymous'!]

[But why did they name themselves 'Anonymous'?!]

[The fact that his name has entered the Hall of Kings means that he will become the target of many. Perhaps his level is not that high yet. It does not necessarily mean that only rankers can challenge the SSS-ranked trials after all.]

[Then, that means that they will show up soon. If they're that good then it means that they will be soon listed on the ranker's list.]

[That's about right. Haha, but I'm still curious. I wonder where and what they are doing right now?]

[Maybe their heart is still trembling in excitement? I'm sure they're really happy since they were the first person in our country to become king.]

As for Minhyuk...

'Ah~ I've finished all the annoying things!'

...he smiled in delight. He clearly knew that something bothersome would happen if he posted his nickname as it was. For Minhyuk, entering the Hall of Kings was not some kind of a big deal, since he only played the game so he could eat. He picked his ears nonchalantly.

'Why are my ears so itchy?'

Minhyuk, who was picking his ears openly, chuckled as his heart thumped wildly in excitement. For others, they might think that his heart was thumping like this because he entered the 'Hall of Kings', but that was not the reason at all. Instead, his heart was filled with anticipation and excitement because of the 'Demon World Ingredients' that he had received.

He had a huge grin on his face as he started cooking.

\*\*\*

Minhyuk stared at the long plate in front of him. The plate was about a meter long, and lying snugly on top of it was the largehead hairtail that he had received earlier. He felt a bit happy when he thought of it as ‘the largehead hairtail that one can get in Jeju Island’.

The largehead hairtail was a common food fish in Jeju Island. It was an expensive delicacy and would cost around 70,000 won to 100,000 won for around 2~3 servings. If the number of servings increased, the price would also increase proportionately. Right now, this largehead hairtail was only for Minhyuk. This largehead hairtail was even called ‘Demon King’s Largehead Hairtail’.

(Demon King’s Largehead Hairtail)

Material Grade: Medicine Bestowed by God

Special Abilities:

?Special Points +300

?STM +200

Description: This is a special largehead hairtail that was personally caught by the Demon King in the Demon World Sea in the past. However, it was a pity that the Demon King was not able to eat it due to an allergic reaction to fish so Gremory took it.

‘What a pitiful man! My god! You can’t eat something this delicious!’

In addition to the largehead hairtail, there was reddish, well-fried meat next to it. The dish was none other than spicy stir-fried pork. The spicy stir-fried pork was made out of the Demon King’s Black Pig. It was a bit unfortunate since the Demon King’s Black Pig did not have any ‘Special Abilities’. However, it was still fine since it was something that tasted delicious.

This time, Minhyuk was not eating alone. Ben and Kaistra had made huge contributions in this trial, so he would share his food with them. Both Kaistra and Ben even received the ingredients ‘Meat Noodle Ingredients’, ‘Demon World’s Mandarin Chocolate’ and ‘Demon World’s Regular Pig’ as rewards for completing the trials. Minhyuk had used the Demon World’s Regular Pig and gave them a meat party.

Meanwhile, he said to both Gremory and Valen, ‘It’s a shame but it can’t be helped. I’m already going to be satisfied if no one touches my table!’

The largehead hairtail, as well as the spicy stir-fried pork, was something that was only reserved for him. In addition, he wanted to hurry and eat his food so he could join the meat party. So Minhyuk stretched out his chopsticks towards the largehead hairtail. His chopsticks quickly pierced through the golden-brown hairtail. Then, with a skillful twist of his chopsticks, he lifted a piece of the white flesh off of the fish. He could still see the steam rising out of the plump, chubby flesh. Since the fish was a largehead hairtail, it was only given that the flesh was something extraordinary.

Minhyuk quickly tried a huge mouthful of the white flesh. His mouth was filled with the plain, savory and slightly salty taste of the largehead hairtail. With every chew, he could feel the unique texture of the fish. It was a texture that one would not be able to taste in regular hairtails. It felt similar to the honey-filled rice cakes. Then, he swallowed the meat down his throat as he continued

to move his chopsticks. He hurriedly clamped on the thick meat, piece by piece. This time, he placed the steaming fish on top of the piping hot rice. As soon as he placed the combination in his mouth, he could taste the flavor of the rice and the hairtail mixing, creating a harmonious flavor.

After he finished eating the largehead hairtail, his chopsticks deftly moved towards the spicy stir-fried pork. He quickly clamped on the pork and placed it in his mouth. The spicy and sweet flavor of the pork complemented its excellent texture. The crunchy texture of the vegetables was an excellent flair to such a delicacy.

“Wow. It’s really delicious!”

Minhyuk ate the spicy stir-fried pork deliciously. If one looked through his plate, they could probably only see a hint of the meat, due to the speed at which he moved and ate with his chopsticks.

After eating all of that, what was the best thing to do? Minhyuk quickly pulled out his gas stove and lit the fire. Then, he placed his frying pan and put some oil on it, before cracking some eggs on top of it.

Sizzle!

It was the sound of the pan sizzling when the egg made contact with the oil. Once the sides of the four eggs were cooked well, he quickly flipped them over to cook the yolk before removing it from the pan and placing it on top of his rice. As soon as he placed the egg on top of his rice, he scooped some spicy stir-fried pork together with its sauce and sprinkled it on top of his rice.

‘Now, it’s a stir-fried pork donburi.’

He quickly pressed his spoon to separate a piece of the egg white. Then, he scooped it together with some spicy stir-fried pork and rice. Then, he lifted his spoon and placed the huge mouthful of food in his mouth. The rice, spicy stir-fried pork and eggs were only three normal dishes, but when mixed together, they would create a pleasant taste that anyone could enjoy. It was a simple dish that would bring a smile to anyone’s face. After tasting the simple dish, he added some seaweed flakes and ate it together with his spicy stir-fried pork. Just like what he had expected, it was a great improvement in its deliciousness.

After eating all of the largehead hairtail and the spicy stir-fried pork, the notifications rang continuously.

[You have eaten a Grilled Largehead Hairtail made from the Demon King’s Largehead Hairtail.]

[Food God’s Greatness.]

[You have acquired 330 SP.]

[You can also invest your special points on stats that can’t be raised with bonus points.]

[You gained +220 STM.]

Although Food God’s True Worth would not work anymore, his Food God’s Greatness skill would still work. Just like that, Minhyuk invested all of his 330 SP in his DEX.

‘With this, I have already surpassed 2,000. Right?’

He thought that perhaps there was nothing special, even if he reached more than 2,000 DEX. Just when such doubts were surfacing in his head, a book suddenly jumped out of his inventory and floated in front of him. It was a pitch-black book.

[Gorac's Book has escaped from your inventory.]

Then, the first chapter of Gorac's Book unfolded by itself. Then, the next chapter, the third chapter, and the fourth chapter. The pages of the book turned by themselves at a tremendous speed. It looked like a strong wind blew and flipped through the book.

Flutter, flutter, flutter!

Minhyuk just stared at the bizarre situation in front of him. Not long after, the sound of the notifications rang once more.

[You will be able to receive a Special DEX Privilege once you have accumulated a total of 2000 DEX.]

[You can now have a Dual Class.]

[Gorac's Book had moved on its own and chose an 'eccentric' class that is suitable for you.]

Minhyuk could see that the previously fluttering pages had now stopped at a page. The words that were written on the page were none other than a new class. When Minhyuk checked the information of the class, his eyes could not help but widen in surprise.

## Chapter 198: Eccentric Gourmand

There was nothing else on the page of the book except for a picture. Then, the picture began to move like a video. Within the video, the beings that he assumed to be a part of the demon race moved when they discovered the alleged existence of ores. As soon as they found the ores, they ground them. Fine powder that shone with a bright yellow light fell down from the ores that were being sharpened and grinded. Along with the moving pictures, words appeared in Minhyuk's mind.

[The MSG that was created from the ground ores was vastly superior to any seasoning that Gorac had ever tasted in his life.]

"...!"

Minhyuk's eyes widened in surprise. Vastly superior to any seasoning in the world? The pictures suddenly disappeared only to be replaced with words and sentences.

[Gorac. He was an eccentric fellow. Therefore, he created many special and powerful classes. Mysterious one, Gorac's Book is now granting you one of these classes.]

Flutter!

With a flutter, the phrases written on the book scattered in the air and disappeared. Then, two words appeared in his head.

[Eccentric Gourmand]

[This is not about those monkey head dishes or foie gras. This is a person who enjoys regular and mundane foods more deliciously than everybody else. Someone that uses amazing and special

ingredients in their own way. In addition, Gorac has prepared a reward for the Eccentric Gourmand.]

Flash!

A black light flashed from Gorac's book and entered Minhyuk's body.

[You have changed your class to the Legendary Class 'Eccentric Gourmand'.]

[You will need two times the amount of EXP to level up.]

[Class Quest: Make a Special Tool.]

Rank: Class

Requirements: Eccentric Gourmand

Rewards: Gorac's Special Skill

Failure for Penalty: None

Description: A special tool can be something like this, for example, you can use the Gardin Trees. The Gardin Trees are an excellent material that is used to make bows. You can use this SS-ranked material to make charcoal. This is how an Eccentric Gourmand makes a tool. The quest will only be completed if it meets Gorac's criteria and requirements.

[Class Quest: A Surprising Dish with the Help of a Special Existence!]

Rank: Class

Requirements: Eccentric Gourmand

Rewards: Resistance to Demonic Energy

Failure for Penalty: None

Description: There are countless monsters, gods, demons, angels that exist in the world. There are also legendary characters, mythical monsters or people. Create a delicious dish with the help of legendary, mythical or higher beings. For example, the Water Dragon Barraca has a cintamani pearl that creates a 'holy water'. With the help of this cintamani pearl, make ramyeon. That's how an Eccentric Gourmand makes a dish. The quest will only be completed if it meets Gorac's criteria and requirements.

[Class Quest: Special Seasoning]

Rank: Class

Restrictions: Eccentric Gourmand

Rewards: Gorac's Artifact

Failure for Penalty: None

Description: There are countless ores in the world. In addition, there are God or Dragon ores. You can use these ores to create seasonings. The quest will only be completed if it meets Gorac's criteria and requirements.

[Passive Skill: Eccentric Chef has been created.]

[Passive Skill: Eccentric Gourmand's Insight has been created.]

[Passive Skill: Eccentric Gourmand's True Worth has been created.]

[Passive Skill: Eccentric's Greatness has been created.]

(Eccentric Chef)

Passive Skill

Level: None

Effects: Once the Eccentric Chef creates a uniquely surprising dish, they can earn stats or reputation points depending on the Eccentricity Score.

(Eccentric Gourmand's Insight)

Passive Skill

Level: None

Effects:

?When something special is placed in front of you, it will guide you on 'what way' it can be used.

?When someone special is in front of you, it will guide you on 'what way' you can make a dish more special.

(Eccentric Gourmand's True Worth)

Passive Skill

Level: None

Effects: With various ingredients, the Eccentric Gourmand can make a dish with special powers when following the way of the Eccentric Gourmand's Insight. The power from the special dish will be permanently gained by the person who ate it. However, only one dish can be eaten with the same effects. After eating a new dish, you can only forgo the existing effects.

(Eccentric's Greatness)

Passive Skill

Level: None

Effects: ???

Minhyuk checked every notification and skill. Once he finished everything, he had no choice but to tilt his head in confusion. The only thought that passed through his mind was a vague? 'Huh?'.

The reason for his confusion was none other than the contents of the 'Eccentric Chef'. It was because he would be able to gain additional stats and REP depending on the Eccentric Score. It seemed vaguely similar to his Food God's True Worth, his skill that had just recently lost its effect upon hitting Level 350. This meant that he would still be able to continue increasing his stats by eating and cooking.

\*\*\*

"..."



“...”

“...”

Everyone that was gathered in the Special Players Management Team was at a loss for words. Meanwhile, Lee Minhwa had a subtle look on her face. She thought, ‘My gut feeling is giving me goosebumps.’

Then, everyone’s eyes turned towards Lee Minhwa.

“Y...you can now?spread your mat, huh?”

“Ho...hoho,” Lee Minhwa laughed awkwardly.

In fact, it was something that she could not just laugh off. In order for them to balance the Food God, the effect of the Food God’s True Worth was set to disappear at Level 350. Even now, Player Minhyuk was so powerful that he surpassed the expectations and predictions of the Development Team. Yet now, it was like a slap to them, even though it was a bit different from before, he would still be able to increase his stats. That was not all. No, he could even raise his REP.

“What’s the ranking? That’s more important!” President Kang Taehoon shouted loudly as he urged them.

Rankings were assigned to classes of similar nature. One of the classes with rankings was the ‘Eccentric Class’. The Eccentric Class was made by Gorac. In this class, the lower the number in the ranking, the more amazing the power of the class. It was graded from rank 1~3. In addition, it was not possible for them to check the Eccentric Class until it was given to a player. However, once someone changed into the Eccentric Class, the developers would be able to check the information to some extent.

“It’s rank one.”

“...”

“...”

“Sigh...”

Someone’s rueful sigh rang loudly in the silence. First, the God Class, now an additional rank one legendary class. Those were the classes that player Minhyuk currently possessed.

\*\*\*

Gremory was in awe at the taste of grilled pork belly. Especially if she placed the meat, some spicy dipping sauce, garlic, green onions on top of the perilla leaves and lettuce. The flavor of the dish was truly spectacular.

While she was eating happily like that, Gremory suddenly saw a black book unfold in front of the human that had just finished going through her trials. The book was none other than ‘Gorac’s Book’. When she saw the book, she was taken by surprise. Gorac was one of the three Great Demons, just like herself. It was a surprise to see something that belonged to him appear right in front of her. Then, she saw the man’s body suddenly being wrapped in black light.

‘Did he get new powers?’ Gremory thought. She knew that she needed to get down to business at some point. After all, the people that passed her trials had something that they needed to do. However, it would be extremely difficult.

“You will now be able to inherit the power of the Sword God. My trial is, in fact, set to prepare for something else,” Gremory said, making Minhyuk turn to look at her in confusion.

Once Gremory saw that she had gotten Minhyuk’s attention, she continued speaking. She said, “In the past, there was an entrance to the Demon World that opened in a small village. When the entrance opened, the demon race came out of it and started killing people indiscriminately. He who prevented the demon’s invasion is the one sitting in front of you, Valen. I gave some of my strength to Valen and his squad members.”

Minhyuk nodded in understanding.

“One of the demons that opened the entrance was ‘Verus’. Verus is a cruel and vicious demon. Right now, I have reason to believe that Verus’ movements are quite unusual. Unfortunately, Valen can no longer fight against them like he did before. It’s because the God of Athena had now given him a new mission. One thing that’s certain though, Verus will definitely let the demon race out in this world again. However, there is no telling when. And you, the person who will learn Valen’s swordsmanship, I want you to stop him instead. Before that, I need something.”

“What do you need?”

“That’s right. I need something. It’s a Demon World’s ore. I have hidden ‘my powers’ in ordinary and unfamiliar ores from the Demon World.”

Minhyuk could tell that it was similar to when Sea God Roves had hidden his power in the rabbit’s liver.

“When you acquire this ore, it will say ‘Mysterious ore that we don’t know the use of.’ or something along those lines. You have to get one of those ores and it’s going to be a very, very difficult trial.”

“Is it really that difficult?”

“Weak humans like you can’t make it.”

When he heard her words, Minhyuk looked like he hesitated for a moment. Gremory glanced at him with a slight smile. Just then, he said, “If I find it quickly, will you praise me?”

The smile on Minhyuk’s face was bright.

“...Aren’t you too conceited?”

“Nope. There’s no way I’m conceited. It’s just that I think I will feel happy to be praised by someone as beautiful as Gremory!”

Gremory chuckled at him in embarrassment. It was true that he had finished her trial surprisingly well, but the process of getting the ore was definitely more difficult than the trials. Hence, getting it quickly was nigh impossible.

“If you bring the ores over swiftly, I’ll give you a blessing.”

“Wow! For real?”

“That’s right.”

Gremory was also a person who liked to bet, so she agreed quickly. She said, “That is, if you can bring it to me in three days. From now on, I’ll explain to you how to get...”

Just as she was trying to continue her words, she saw the young man in front of her take something out with his hand. Then, he proudly stuck it out in front of him. It was none other than the ‘antaranium’, one of the ores that she had hidden.

“Tadah!”

“...”

\*\*\*

When Minhyuk heard her talk about ores, he became stunned. That was because he already had an antarinium, a ‘mysterious ore that we don’t know the use of.’ in his hands.

Before revealing this fact, Minhyuk pondered about some things. He had just recently acquired the skills of the ‘Eccentric Gourmand’, as well as the quests related to it. One of the quests was even called ‘A Surprising Dish with the Help of a Special Existence!’. Gremory, one of the three Great Demons, was definitely a special existence. Just to be sure, Minhyuk used the ‘Eccentric Gourmand’s Insight’ on Gremory. At the same time, a notification was heard.

[Gremory’s Blessing]

[Gremory’s blessing would give you some of her demonic energy. Her demonic energy is so powerful that it is nearly impossible to compare it with the other demons of the demon race. If you use the powerful demonic energy and make ‘dry black bean noodles’, you will be able to taste dry black bean noodles that are the most delicious in the world.]

“...!”

Minhyuk was once again caught in surprise.

‘So is the demonic energy black? That’s why it’s dry black bean noodles?’

He did not know what the conditions were, but perhaps, it was really possible to make dry black bean noodles with demonic energy. It was truly worthy of the name: Eccentric Gourmand’s Dish. Just hearing the name and description was enough to make his mouth water.

Hence, Minhyuk gently led Gremory around without any feelings of guilt or remorse. As expected, she fell for Minhyuk’s tricks. The NPCs’ degrees of freedom were quite lax and free, just like ordinary people, and when they did things like ‘asking’ or ‘betting’ with the players, a quest would be triggered.

Just like that, the ‘Quest: Gremory’s Blessings’ was triggered. In the blink of an eye, he heard the sound of the quest completion.

[You have completed the ‘Quest: Gremory’s Blessings.’]

[You can now receive Gremory’s Blessings.]

“H...how...”

Minhyuk hid his laughter with a serious expression. He thought, ‘Hehe. You got caught in my net!’

It was time for him to check the power that he received as soon as he got the class.

Gremory was shocked. The antarinium was the most remarkable ore that she had ever hidden. Of course, that was not the only one. She thought, ‘If he gathered everything...’

If that happened, then Minhyuk would be able to unlock her powers.

“Right. A...a promise is a promise. I don’t know where you got this ore but...”

It was a bit ridiculous for her since she was unaware of the fact that Minhyuk had hunted the ‘Demonic Monster Baphomet’. However, she still had to hold her end of the deal. Just as she was about to give her blessings, Minhyuk suddenly said, “Please wait!”

Then, he suddenly began to cook. He began to stir-fry the dry black bean noodles sauce in his frying pan. Gremory, Kaistra, Ben and Valen looked at him, wondering what he was doing. When he was almost done cooking, Minhyuk said, “Well then, please give your blessings right here! Clap, clap!”

“...Right...right there?”

“Yep! It’s because Gremory’s demonic energy will make my dry black bean noodles taste better!”

“...”

Gremory was left speechless as she let her demonic energy flow out from her hands. The demonic energy slowly seeped through the dry black bean noodles sauce in the frying pan.

‘I’m... one of the three great demons... but my demonic energy.... My demonic energy is being used for dry black bean noodles right now...’

Nonetheless, a promise was a promise, so she had to endure it. For a moment, Gremory suddenly had the urge to hit the head of the human in front of her with a large Chinese fan. Still, she endured. When she was pouring her demonic energy on the dry black bean noodles sauce, the notifications went off.

[You have completed the Class Quest: A Surprising Dish with the Help of a Special Existence!]

[You have acquired resistance to demonic energy.]

## Chapter 199: Eccentric Gourmand

Minhyuk was taken aback by the sudden notification about the Demonic Energy Resistance. So, he checked the detailed description of the skill.

[Demonic Energy Resistance. Reduces the physical and magical attack damage caused by demonic energy by 20%.]

‘It’s not that bad?’

The contents about the demon race were not yet released, but based on what Gremory had said, Minhyuk could tell that they would be released slowly. He believed that this would also be helpful to him. The damage from the physical and magical attacks caused by demonic energy would be reduced by 20%. In addition, Minhyuk had the 100% physical defense against demonic monsters with his holy power before too. Just then, the notifications began to ring again.

[Eccentric Chef.]

[You have made Dry Black Bean Noodles using Demon Gremory’s Demonic Energy.]

[Calculating the Eccentric Score.]

[You have gained a total of 39 points for your Eccentric Score.]

[You have acquired bonus stats based on your Eccentric Score.]

[You have acquired +1 on all five of your basic stats.]

[The Normal Grade ‘Eccentric Dry Black Bean Noodles’ has been born.]

‘...It’s still graded normal even though I used Demoness Gremory’s demonic energy?’ Minhyuk thought in confusion.

That was when he realized...

‘Ah, perhaps...’

...Eccentric Chef was not only influenced by the ingredients, but also by a variety of things. First he would try to make the Eccentric Chef’s tools and seasonings. If he used them together, he might be able to increase the Eccentric Score.

Then, Minhyuk checked the information about the ‘Eccentric Dry Black Bean Noodles’.

(Eccentric Dry Black Bean Noodles)

Grade: Normal

Requirements: Eccentric Gourmand

Shelf Life: 12 days

Special Abilities:

?Gremory’s Blessings

?+3 on all five basic stats

Description: This is an Eccentric Dry Black Bean Noodles made by an eccentric. It’s a dry black bean noodle that tastes better than regular dry black bean noodles. Once this is consumed, the effects of Gremory’s Blessings will be triggered, and even if you ‘saved’ another dish, the effects of Gremory’s Blessings will not disappear and will be permanently applied.

‘Ah... Yeah! That’s right!’

Minhyuk nodded. Gremory’s blessings were added in the dish and Minhyuk could absorb the ability that was added on the dish. However, what would happen if Gremory’s blessings disappeared when he ate another dish? It would obviously be a loss for Minhyuk. However, just like what was described, Gremory’s blessings would not disappear.

After he had finished checking everything, Minhyuk started to prepare to eat the dry black bean noodles. He also made sure to fry two eggs as toppings for the dish. Strangely enough, he felt like one fried egg was not enough for a bowl of dry black bean noodles. There were times when it was completely disappointing to see nothing on top of the dry black bean noodles. It also felt disappointing if there was only a small quail egg on top of it. From the looks of it, dry black bean noodles without any topping seemed oddly disappointing, right?

After Minhyuk fried the eggs, he gently placed them on top of the Eccentric Dry Black Bean Noodles. Then, he started mixing everything together. The stir-fried vegetables that were added to the dry black bean noodles looked more appetizing than the regular dry black bean noodles. He could also see that the sauce was thicker and richer than the sauce used in common black bean noodles. After he mixed it thoroughly, he could see a faint sheen on the black bean noodles.

Minhyuk quickly clamped a huge mouthful with his chopsticks. Then, he slurped the noodles just like that. After filling his mouth with dry black bean noodles to the point that it was almost full, he still grabbed some pickled radish and chewed it carefully. His cheeks looked like they were about to burst with how full his mouth was.

Crunch, crunch—

When eating dry black bean noodles, pickled radish must never be left out. There was even a plate filled with well-ripened kimchi in front of him. Minhyuk personally liked the combination of dry black bean noodles and kimchi, so he made sure to prepare them well.

“Sluuuuuuuurp!”

Minhyuk began to inhale the noodles again. This time, he popped some kimchi inside his mouth.

Crunch, crunch—

The sweet and sour flavor of the kimchi easily captured and balanced out the slightly greasy flavor of the dry black bean noodles. Minhyuk grinned as he finished eating all of the noodles. Then, he took out some ‘instant rice’ from his food storage inventory. Once he had finished all of the noodles, he stir-fried the remaining sauce with meat and onions. He believed that there was only one way to eat such a meal without leaving any regrets, which was to mix it thoroughly with rice.

He swiftly dropped the instant rice into the dry black bean noodles and mixed it thoroughly. Then, he chomped on a spoonful of rice that was mixed with the dry black bean noodles sauce.

“Delicious...!”

It was not as good as the dry black bean noodles earlier, but nevertheless, it was still delicious. After he finished eating everything up, the notifications went off.

[You have eaten the Eccentric Dry Black Bean Noodles.]

[You have received Gremory's Blessings.]

[You have gained +300 Demonic Energy.]

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

Demonic Energy was literally a 'stat'. To understand what it was, he clicked on the detailed explanation.

[In the case of the Demonic Energy stat, every 100 points accumulated in the stat will give you a 0.3% increase in resistance to the beings from the Demon World. In addition, if your Demonic Energy stat is high enough, you can exert 'pressure' against your enemies.]

The explanation was simple so he thought that there still might have been some information that was not yet released about demonic energy.

While he was checking the information, Gremory approached him.

[The Episode Quest: Hero's Will has been created.]

Minhyuk quickly looked at the quest information. However, all of the information was still 'sealed'.

"When the time comes, the information will be revealed on its own."

"Alright. I do have a question though."

"What?"

"You are a demoness, so why do you want to help us?"

"It's just that... I don't like fighting."

To be exact, she was aiming for the 'Demon God' position. Demon Gorac died long ago and even though his powers still lingered all over the world, he was no threat to Gremory and her aspirations.

But unlike him, Demon Verus was still as strong as Gremory. Gremory knew that she did not have enough power to go against Demon Verus. However, if she used the 'excuse' of protecting humans, then she could go against Demon Verus. In a way, Gremory could be considered the 'shrewdest' demon among their race.

Gremory hesitated for a moment, but she still opened her mouth. She said, "Say..."

"Yes?"

"I would also like to eat the dry black bean noodles that you ate just now. Is that possible?"

"..."

Minhyuk thought that if he did this well, he might significantly increase Gremory's favor. He was not aware but he was already building a friendship with Gremory, the demon that had the highest chance to be the 'Next Demon God'.

\*\*\*

[You have received Gremory's favor.]

[You have received Gremory's favor.]

It was extremely hard to find delicious food in the Demon World. Usually, the demon race would hunt the lowest-ranked demonic monster to solve their meals, so it was not that palatable nor enticing. This was one of the reasons why Gremory loved the human world. After all, the human world had plenty of 'delicious' food.

Even among those delicious foods, the dry black bean noodles that Minhyuk made was extremely special. Especially with more than 2,000 points in DEX, as well as the Food God's Cooking Skill, an extremely delicious dish like the dry black bean noodles was made for her. Minhyuk smiled happily when he saw the increase in Gremory's favor.

Meanwhile, Gremory thought, 'I want to eat it again...!'

When she saw Minhyuk stir-fry her demonic energy into the dry black bean noodles, she thought that he was a 'human who's crazy for dry black bean noodles'. However, the moment she tried the dish, she understood why he ate it like that.

"Can't you cook for me again?"

Minhyuk stopped copying the movements that Valen was teaching him as he turned to look at her. Being the son of the one and only Chairman Kang Minhoo, he personally learned the art of making deals from his father.

"That... I'm a bit busy right now..."

'First, make them nervous!'

Just like that, Gremory was left restless after tasting the delicious dry black bean noodles.

'But... what if they wanted more? Then, deflect and reject them once.'

Hence, Minhyuk declined her request once.

"Please."

'My goodness!'

Demoness Gremory was already on the verge of asking for Minhyuk's favor. In other words, she was already getting withdrawal symptoms from Minhyuk's cooking. This was the first time that Gremory had felt a strong sense of craving for something. She turned to look at Minhyuk with sparkling eyes.

"Then... No. I don't think that's right."

"What is?!"

"How about I exchange a dish for important information about the Demon World?"

Important information about the yet to be revealed Demon World! It was like first-class confidential information! In addition to important information, Minhyuk wanted to get information about how to get 'delicious ingredients' from there.

"If you don't want to, then it's fine not to eat it. Right?"



Just when Minhyuk was about to turn around, Gremory said, “Y...yeah! Let’s do that!”

Then, Minhyuk turned back to her. The end of his lips curled up ever so slightly. Valen, who was watching from the sidelines, could not help but gulp dryly when he saw that smile.

‘I’m the same too... but I can’t believe that he got Demoness Gremory wrapped around his fingers.’

Just as he expected, Minhyuk was an amazing foreigner.

“It’s fine for now. And... the next dish will be?tangস্যুক. Ah, before that, I have to learn swordsmanship from Valen first!”

“...N...no...”

Before Gremory could even say another word, Minhyuk and Valen had disappeared in a flash of light. The two of them had already gone to the land where Gremory’s trial was set. He went ahead to learn or incorporate the swordsmanship skill from Valen. This was all under Minhyuk’s thorough and careful considerations. After all, a person would feel more grateful if their heart ached and longed for something for a period of time.

“Tan...tangস্যুক. What in the world is that dish?!”

Meanwhile, Grandpa Ben tilted his cup of tea while sitting cross-legged on one side. He said, “You pour the sweet and sour sauce on top of the crispy fried pork and eat it.”

Then, Kaistra quipped, “Tangস্যুক tastes more delicious than dry black bean noodles.”

“Well. Of course, tangস্যুক is naturally a lot better than black bean noodles.”

“...!”

It went without saying that Grandpa Ben and Kaistra were Minhyuk’s staunch supporters. Meanwhile, Gremory was left imagining the dish. She could hardly stop her saliva from flowing from her mouth.

‘I...I hope they come back soon...!’

She had high expectations of the dish that she would be eating.

\*\*\*

Valen and Minhyuk appeared together in a vast, wide area of land.

“You can choose to inherit my power, or you can choose to add it to your existing power.”

“Then, I’ll choose to incorporate it. Instructor,” Minhyuk said. He did not want to give up Ellie’s Swordsmanship, mainly because it was a powerful skill, but also because it was a sign of ‘friendship’ between him and Ellie.

“Yeah. I understand.”

Flash!

A skill book appeared in front of Minhyuk. The skill book contained most of Valen's powers. Originally, Valen's power that would be given to the player was dependent on how much they had accomplished in Gremory's trial so Minhyuk, the person that achieved the best performance, was given most of Valen's powers.

[You have acquired the Skill Book: Sword God's Swordsmanship.]

Minhyuk quickly looked at the information in the skill book. It was a legendary ranked skill book. However, even if it was ranked as legendary, he could clearly tell that the power that it possessed was far greater than any other skill in the legendary rank.

On top of that, he also had another formidable skill in the form of Ellie's Swordsmanship. After all, Ellie's Swordsmanship had evolved and become complete after he had fed her the flatfish and rockfish sashimi. It now had ridiculously overwhelming power.

'What will happen if the two get fused and incorporated together?'

[Sword God's Swordsmanship is added to Ellie's Swordsmanship.]

[Ellie's Swordsmanship has become even more powerful.]

[Chapter 1. Sword of Fury has changed.]

[There will be an additional 100% attack power to strong lunges and stabs and if the successful stab is a critical strike, the additional attack power will increase to 140%. A force will also explode and tear apart the enemies with a strong wind within a two-meter radius, causing additional 60% attack power to be added to the strike.]

The Sword of Fury. This skill made use of stabs and lunges. If a critical strike was successful, aside from the increase in additional attack power, it would create a strong wind that could tear apart the enemies within a two-meter radius. In other words, if Minhyuk used this to attack his target, then the risk of being sneakily attacked from the sides and from behind would be significantly reduced.

[Chapter 2. Rampant Sword's duration has increased from 8 seconds to 14 seconds.]

For Rampant Sword, there was an additional 6 seconds to the duration of the skill.

[Chapter 3. Scattering Sword has now changed from having eight consecutive strikes to having a single strike with 8x damage.]

On the other hand, the Scattering Sword had completely changed. The ability to attack the enemy with the same damage for eight strikes had now changed to the ability to strike a single blow, with eight times the damage and force.

[Chapter 4. Ellie's Swordsmanship duration has increased to 15 minutes and all stats will be increased by 25%.]

It had a 3% increase in all stats.

[Chapter 5. Blooming Sword will indiscriminately rise from the ground and attack your enemies within an 11-meter radius from your position. It will also cause a penetrative explosion that will have an additional 100% damage.]

The radius of attack had increased by two meters and an additional 30% damage was added to the skill.

[Chapter 6. Splitting Sword will have two powerful red swords fly at an enemy. The swords will have an additional 110% attack power.]

Another sword energy had been added to the Splitting Sword, which originally only had a single one.

[Blooming Sword and Splitting Sword have fused together to create a new skill.]

[Chapter 7. Fluttering Sword has been created.]

[Hundreds of fluttering leaves with an additional 110% attack power will be formed around the user's body. The leaves can move depending on the user's will to attack the enemies. Each leaf has a power that is equivalent to the power of the Splitting Sword. Each attack deals 110% damage.]

[The fusion of Ellie's Swordsmanship has been completed. It will now be given a new rank.]

'The skill's rank will be measured again?'

When Minhyuk saw the last notification, he could not help but wonder what it meant. If it were to be given a new rank, it meant that it would be ranked either as a legendary rank or something higher.

'But I don't think I have ever seen a skill book that's above legendary rank though...?'

At that moment, the notifications went off.

[Ellie's Swordsmanship's rank has evolved from Legendary to Demigod.]

[You have created the world's first Demigod skill.]

[Your name has entered the Hall of Kings.]

"...Huh?"

Minhyuk was left in confusion when he heard the notifications. He already knew about the Hall of Kings. From what he knew, those who had completed SSS-ranked quests with flying colors would rise and enter the Hall of Kings. Yet now, he had received a notification about entering the Hall of Kings again after a 'Demigod' skill was created.

'What's going on here?'

He became the first player to have his name enter the Hall of Kings twice in a row, and in less than a day too.

Chapter 200: The Speed Eating Contest

[You can choose to remain anonymous or post your ID or a different name.]

"Anonymous."

[You will receive additional rewards for entering the Hall of Kings.]

[You have acquired 10,000,000 EXP.]

[You have gained a ticket to Athenae: Korean War.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

Considering that Minhyuk needed five times the normal amount of EXP to level up, leveling up five times in a row was already a considerable amount of reward. As usual, he chose to remain anonymous. However, when he saw the ticket to Athenae: Korean War, he could not help but feel even more confused.

‘Huh?’

Minhyuk did not know this, but the notifications for entering the Hall of Kings would ring for the first person to get a ‘Demigod’ skill, the first person to create a ‘Demigod Artifact’, or plenty of other ‘firsts’ for the same rank.

If that was the case, what was the reason why no one had experienced such a notification? Simple, it was because no one had ever received or created one yet. In fact, players could gain ‘Demigod’ artifacts or skills through the Hall of Kings. Athenae had already planned these ‘Demigod skills’ and ‘Demigod artifacts’. However, players would only reach the ‘Demigod’ realm when they had reached a much higher level than the rest. In other words, Minhyuk had become the first ever player to have learned a ‘Demigod Skill’.

In addition, the ticket to?Athenae: Korean War meant that he could skip the qualifying round and advance straight to the finals. Of course, he would still need to undergo a strict examination by the organizers. Even so, compared to the others, he would have higher chances of being the ‘National Representative’ once he received the approval of the organizers. However, Minhyuk still had no thoughts nor intentions to participate right now.

Minhyuk checked the information of the Fluttering Sword in detail. The damage was exceptional, but it needed five seconds of cast time. In addition, the cooldown was too long. It could only be used once every two days. The amount of mana that it required was as high as 3,000.

“Why don’t you try it once?”

Valen clapped his hands and...

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud, thud, thud, thud—

...hundreds of monsters appeared ahead of them. Without wasting any time, They ran straight towards them. The monsters that appeared were around Level 350~400.

‘How will he hunt them?’

Valen was unaware that the skill that Minhyuk previously wielded was Ellie’s Swordsmanship. So, it was natural that he would be unaware of the strength of the skill that his swordsmanship had incorporated into.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk heard a notification.

[The Skill Cooldown will not be applied once you leave the site for Gremory’s Trials.]

Minhyuk nodded in understanding. This meant that the cooldown of the skills that he used inside would be restored to normal once he went outside. Among the various skills that got incorporated and created, he was most curious about the Fluttering Sword. He already had thoughts of trying it out.

The hundreds of monsters ran fiercely, as if to show how threatening their presence was.

“Kiieeeeeee!”

“Kyaaaaahaaaack!”

“Fluttering Sword.”

A light breeze suddenly started to blow around Minhyuk. Then, the wind that was created from the breeze began to blow and follow his sword.

Shwaaaaaa—

Hundreds of silver leaves appeared and fluttered with the wind. The leaves were fluttering gently as if they had just fallen from the branches of the tree. The Fluttering Sword required a cast time of five seconds, that was why there were a lot of things that happened before it was completed.

Valen looked in interest. After the grueling five seconds, Minhyuk moved his sword. Then, the falling leaves that were almost going to touch the ground suddenly rose in the air and began to fly towards the monsters at an unbelievable speed.

Shweeeeeeeek!

Fwish— Fwish, fwish, fwish, fwish, fwish, fwish!

Minhyuk heard the leaves tear through the air as they flew towards the crowd of monsters. Then, silence followed soon after.

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

The monsters began to collapse one by one. There was not a single monster left standing. Then, the falling and fluttering leaves swirled and turned into a whirlwind before disappearing in the air.

‘As expected, a demigod skill is really strong.’

Minhyuk nodded in satisfaction. When he realized that the person beside him was unusually quiet, he turned back and looked at him curiously.

“...”

Valen was looking at Minhyuk in shock.

\*\*\*

Valen could not feel anything. His head was blank and the only thought that was running through his head was, ‘Wh...what the hell is this?’

Valen gave Minhyuk the skills that he had honed and perfected through his life, allowing Minhyuk to incorporate it to his own skill. At first glance, he thought that it was just a unique or epic ranked skill. After all, any swordsmanship placed in front of Sword God Valen’s skill that held an infinite

amount of power would look shabby. Alas, that was not the case. When his swordmanship was combined with Minhyuk's skill, the results were completely ridiculous.

It was hard for him to put it into words. If the number of monsters that died was only 1/3 of their total, then Valen would have definitely clapped his hands. This was already in consideration of Valen believing that Minhyuk was an outstanding foreigner at Level 350. In fact, he really could not ascertain Minhyuk's entire strength since the only time that they had crossed swords was when their power and strength were equal. This was the reason why he was unaware of the fact that Minhyuk could exert strength equivalent to someone at Level 450. As a result, he was shocked when he saw what happened in front of him.

"How was it?"

"It...it's not that bad."

Somehow, Valen had created a monster. He said, "Let's also look at the other skills. I'll also teach you how to control your strength and force."

\*\*\*

Minhyuk cooked for Gremory the moment they came back. Every time he cooked for her, he got information in return.

"Chew, chew.?If you go to Area 88 in the Demon World, you will meet a demonic race called Andanis. If you go to that demonic race, you will be able to get the quest 'Poor Soul'."

"Chew, chew.?Wow. This spicy seafood noodle is really good, you know? If you go to Area 77 in the Demon World, you will be able to find a Demon World's Earthworm. Unfortunately, it's a legendary monster..."

Minhyuk made sure to sweep all of the information that he could get from the soon-to-be-opened Demon World. He was certain that the information could help him in the near future.

After getting all of the information that he could, Minhyuk went out of Gremory's Temple with Kaistra and Ben. Not long after they stepped out...

"...Did you really just tell them everything?"

"Well, anyway. I'm one of the three great demons."

"..."

Valen looked at her incredulously before turning into a light and going back to the life of being an instructor.

\*\*\*

Time flowed like a stream. A week had already gone by and the Athenae: Korean War was already starting. In the VIP stands, Alicia, Cain and Lucia were all sitting together, while hundreds of thousands of spectators were sitting in the general stands and looking forward to the start of the

competition. As usual, Alicia and Cain were sitting close to each other, while Lucia just sat there in the room with them.

“There’s a total of 12 MVPs that will be selected.”

“And those 12 players will get a ticket to?Athenae: World War.”

MVP was a prestigious title that was given to the winners of the various events of the competition. It was something similar to a gold medal. In the case of the?Athenae: Korean War, there were no bronze and silver medals. Only the winners of each event will be given the gold medal, the title of MVP. In addition, players were allowed to participate in different events and it was said that the ‘Best MVP’ of the?Athenae: Korean War would be given a huge amount of rewards. However, this information was not released yet.

“I’m looking forward to it.”

“What’s today’s game?”

Cain answered Alicia’s question. He said, “Speed Eating Contest.”

“Ah. Is that so? Wait.”

Alicia shook her head and said, “It’s for the production classes, right?”

Cain nodded. The Speed Eating Contest was a competition where production classes would fight it out.

Then, Lucia said, “Based on how the world sees us, our country’s combat classes are already weak and the same goes for the production classes. I wonder if our country’s production class MVP players will be able to defend themselves once they enter the World War.”

Alicia turned her head to look at her. She said, “That’s right. It’s a bit difficult.”

Cain nodded as he looked at the list of the participants of the Speed Eating Contest.

List of Players

Group 1: Hepas’ Descendant Hyemin’sDaddy, Labor God Hayi.

Group 2: Painting’s Monarch Vhad, Bomb Mage Fabian.

Group 3: Twilight Sculptor Lucan, Bard Master Kennedy.

Group 4: Trap Installer Valcharan, Prince of Bandage Hartz

Group 5:.....omitted

Group 6:.....omitted

Group 7:.....omitted

Nominated Player: Legendary Fisherman Kerry

“What’s a nominated player?” Lucia asked.

Cain said, "There are 20 people who entered and a total of 10 teams that participated in the Speed Eating Contest. Just in case something unexpected happens, they added one more person. After all, if any of the other players were not able to play, there would be a setback in the competition."

"But isn't that something that is unlikely to happen?"

"Yeah. Well, the Legendary Fisherman Kerry is kind of..."

Cain could not help but smile bitterly.

"He's neither one nor the other. What's more unfortunate was that he wasn't able to join the competition because he failed to pass the qualifying round by a narrow margin."

While they were talking, Cain remembered the notification that rang loudly not too long ago.

"Anonymous, the one that caused the notifications about the Hall of Kings to ring twice. Is he not going to participate in?Athenae: Korean War?"

"...That seems to be the case."

They had expected that a new wind would blow in their favor. When the notification for the Hall of King's rang twice, the whole country was on fire. They also knew that the person who secretly entered the Hall of Kings was given a ticket to the?Athenae: Korean War, bypassing the 'Qualifications War'. However, all of the participants were people that Cain and Alicia knew. Among them, there was no one that was able to enter the Hall of Kings.

Then, at that moment...

[Athenae: Korean War! The search for the best dancing 'Pet' begins now!]

[Search for the best dancing 'Pet'?]

[Yes. The official mascot of Athenae: Korean War has not been decided yet so Joy Co. Ltd. decided to choose the mascot as an event! Just like in America where they selected Iron Pooh as the American Mascot during the Athenae: American War. Even in Japan, their mascot was chosen to be 'King of Shibas'. Our country's mascot will be decided through the search for the best dancing 'Pet'.]

[Oh, that sounds like it's going to be fun.]

[The 'mascot' will be determined depending on the judge's votes as well as the audience's votes. And for the 'Pets' that will participate, only the pets of the participants in the Athenae: Korean War will be able to join. Ah. Of course, getting first place in this does not mean that you will get the title of the MVP.]

[So, the 3,000-year-old Eel that's a great medicine will be given to the mascot?]

[Of course. 3,000-year-old Eel. Ah, just thinking about it is making me feel energetic. I think my wife will love me more if I eat it!]

Then, music began to play in the large coliseum. It was?Psyn's Kangchon Style.

[?Oppan, Kangchon Style, Kangchon Style~?]



The participants and players in the audience felt relaxed and comfortable because it was a song that was once a huge hit in the world. The song, together with the horse-like dancing, was quite popular back in the day. Right on cue, as if they were willing to become a mascot, more than a hundred pets came out to dance in the coliseum.

“Puhahaha. What’s this? There’s nothing war-like in this.”

“It looks fun.”

Cain grinned as Alicia laughed loudly. It looked like some pets had felt that their pride would be lost, so they did not budge even if their players shouted loudly at them.

[?Oppan Kangchon Style~?]

[The bear over there looks like it extremely despises dancing.]

[Ah, I don’t think I’d like to see that either. A Kangchon Style with that huge body and sharp claws...]

[Wait. This is a cute event. Huh? Who’s that entering right now?]

[Oooh? S, sunglasseeeeeees?]

[Wow, his sunglasses really look great on him! It’s like I’m really seeing Psyn’s Kangchon Style!]

The commentators sounded surprised which caught the attention of Alicia, Cain and Lucia. Not long after, the screen showed the being that they were talking about. The scene on the screen was showing a baby pig with black sunglasses on his face running towards the stage. The mysterious baby pig wore sunglasses that were as big as his head as he pompously and proudly headed to the center of the stage.

Not long after, the highlight of the song began playing again.

[?Beautiful, cutie~?]

[?That’s you, hey! Yes you, hey.?]

[?From now on, let’s do it until the eeeeeeeeeeeend~?]

[?Oppan Kangchon Style!~?]

Along with the booming sounds of the speakers, the lights in the coliseum flashed!

[?Oppan Kangchon Style!~?]

At the same time, the mysterious baby piggy also started to dance Psyn’s trademark horse dance! The baby piggy looked like he was in a trance as he danced dazzlingly. It was like he was in a world of his own.

Then, loud and passionate cheers began to pour out from the audience.