

Gourmet 251

Chapter 251: Territorial Defence (Bottom)

‘Wh...what the hell...?’

The emcee, Jan, was left speechless, amazed at the excellent display of magic. It was such a huge AOE magic.

'No. That magic was not exactly an AOE magic.'

[Th...that magic... It, it's Entangle! It's Second Tier Magic!!!]

[Can Entangle really exert that much power? Hundreds of hellhounds exploded even before they approached their base!!]

[Hellhounds are known for the abilities attached to their bodies. They are not very strong themselves. The problem is that it explodes even if the attack is weak!]

Then, PD Kim Dae-Guk finally recognized him.

“Black Mage Ali...! Why is he with Legend Guild? Hurry up and put the caption on the bottom and pass it on to the emcees!”

Not long after, the MCs shouted in shock.

[A...a black robe and a black hat... D...don't tell me that's Black Mage Ali?]

[The world's greatest mage, Black Mage Ali, has joined Legend Guild!!!]

Along with their words, Ali tried to throw his magic at the flocking Bone Wyverns and the incoming hellhounds.

“Fire Storm.”

Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!

Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!

Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!

Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!

Four giant tornadoes made out of fire went out and devoured the hellhounds.

[A...an incredible spectacle is happening right before our very eyes!!!]

[I...Is it even possible to summon four AOE firestorms in a row? I know that the 2nd ranked in the country, Panther, can only summon two!]

Then, Genie's lips curled up in a smile. Her voice rang loudly as she declared, "Our Legend Guild won't get pushed back that easily."

[Our Legend won't get pushed back that easily.]

“Our audience ratings are rising rapidly!”

“We’re reaching 10% in ratings!”

“Our ratings are soaring with the appearance of Black Mage Ali!!!”

“*Kghhkk!*? As expected of Legend! We know that it’s not going to be easy, but perhaps Genie knew that the enemies would dig the ground instead?”

“Yeah. I wonder how she knew that?”

“It seems like she really has a different view on things.”

They were not aware of it, but Genie simply made use of Abel’s skills. One of Abel’s special abilities was called ‘Monster Analysis’. It was a simple skill, which allowed the user to identify the characteristics of a monster.

Abel, who was using his stealth skills as well as the Monster Ability, noticed that something was strange when he looked at the hellhounds. The hellhounds that were recreated by the Alchemist Rufel all had their front paws made similar to that of a mole. Once he used his Monster Analysis, he knew that they would try to ‘Dig the Ground’.

“Let’s keep this up! Just like this...! Hang on a bit longer!”

However, even though Black Mage Ali had appeared, there were still too many enemies. Regardless, PD Kim Dae-Guk believed that their ratings would definitely achieve a high result.

What they were not aware of was that today would mark the day when ATV received their highest rating in their broadcasting history.

“Huh?”

Even though the mage floating in the air sent four firestorms to ravage the hellhounds that were advancing towards Philip Village, Rufel just looked at them with interest. He even had a relaxed smile on his face, thinking, *‘Humans do have a lot of strong men in their midst, but...’*

Rufel knew that they would eventually be pushed back by their numbers. He did not look too worried about their current situation. With that, the demons that were being pushed back by the firestorms, snuffed out the huge tornado of flames as they started to run forward.

Bang!!!

Crack—

Black Mage Ali hurriedly formed a solid shield in front of him when he saw a lightning strike coming at him. Being a high-level mage, his shield was much stronger and more massive than that of other ordinary mages.

When he turned around to look for the source of the lightning, he saw a woman waving her hands. Along with the wave of her hands, the huge firestorms dissipated and dispersed in the air.

‘Dispel...?’

Black Mage Ali had realized that the opponent that he was facing was none other than Kenny, the Slayer of Anguish.

According to the information provided openly, the Slayers were some kind of 'Chimera', a 'killer weapon' that was made just to kill. There was no accurate estimate of their level as of now. However, one thing was for sure, since she could dispel his magic, she clearly had a huge amount of magic in her body.

When Ali tried to use the AOE attack skills that he had saved earlier in order to deal with the mobs flocking below him...

Bang—

...a flash of lightning stretched out from Kenny's fingers, targetting Ali. The latter hurriedly waved his wand to create a shield to counter and nullify the lightning.

"Let's see. How about this?"

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh!

Then, dozens of magic strands shot out of Ali's wand, just like bullets from a gun. Most of them were only first tier or second tier, but their strength and power was beyond what one could imagine.

Bang, bang, bang! Bang!

The Slayer of Anguish also hurriedly created a black shield to protect herself from his attacks. After successfully defending against his attacks, a wicked grin flashed on her face.

Then, Ali folded his arms and said, "F*ck off."

"...?"

Then...

Baaaaang!

...a huge white ball hit her on the back of her head. Then, Ali raised his middle finger at her.

"It's the SuperUltraGreat Magic Missile."

"..."

The Slayer of Anguish's face distorted when she saw Ali's provocation and taunt.

Meanwhile, below...

The members of Legend Guild were all preparing for the battle with bated breaths.

"Crazy..."

"You're really very ugly."

"Haaaa.?Can we even come back alive?"

Each and every single one of them had complicated expressions on their faces. Ali was putting up a good fight, but he only inflicted damage on 1/20 of the forces that came for them. What was worse was the fact that Ali would definitely have halved his mana, since he was using his AOE attack spells continuously.

“We have to watch out for the Silver Wolves and those demons.”

The demons that were deployed this time were much stronger compared to the previous ones that attacked Allentian. This was what they had confirmed after Abel used his Monster Analysis.

“Their defense and offense are far more overwhelming compared to the previous attack.”

“Ah. Don’t be too discouraged. Abel-hyung~”

Abel smiled wryly at Ace’s words.

‘But, what if it’s the truth?’

Before they knew it, the guild members were all using their AOE attack skills to attack the enemies that approached them. Ace even used his best skill.

“Flaming Red Hell’s Carriage!!!”

Four horses with flames licking their bodies jumped out of space. Behind them was a huge carriage that was as large as a five-ton truck. The carriage approached the enemies at a rapid pace.

Meanwhile, Ascar had drawn a circle with her two katanas.

“Ghost Sword’s Slaughter.”

The space within the circle was torn apart, as hundreds of swords shot out of it and flew towards their enemies.

On the other hand, Khan had pulled his arm back as the mana from the surroundings concentrated at the end of his fist. The mana even started to heat up.

“Exploding Heat Fist.”

Hwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Abel also threw his dagger one after another.

“Life’s death!!!”

When the dagger was thrown, hundreds of afterimages were formed.

Their attacks all pushed forward towards the demons. In an instant, the Hell Carriage was already in the middle of the enemy camp. The carriage stopped gobsmacked in the middle of their enemies, before exploding and creating an eight-meter crater.

Baaaaaaaaaang!

Ascar and Abel’s hundreds of swords and daggers afterimages stabbed through their incoming enemies, effectively knocking them down. Even the Exploding Heat Fist blew apart numerous enemies, and opened the way in the middle of the incoming troops.

The Guild Members continued to throw out their AOE attack skills. They were able to hunt more than 600 mobs in one fell swoop. However, there were still a lot of the enemies that were fine and energetic. It was none other than the Silver Wolves.

No matter what they did, they were only barely able to scratch some of the Silver Wolves, which were still running at them furiously.

“Is there anyone with an AOE attack skill left?”

“No, no, nope!”

“No can do!”

“Then, what’s left?”

“Only hand-to-hand battle.”

Locke and Khan raised their heads as they breathed roughly. All they could do was look forward. They could see that their guild members seemed nervous. Then, Locke said, “Did you guys see the recently released ‘*Nivengers: Bam, It exploded. Whoa*’?”

“Hey, of course I watched it!”

“It was fun. *Chanos!*? You son of a bitch!”

They laughed, shaking the tension off of their bodies. Even Khan, who usually did not resort to doing weird things like Locke, also agreed, just to shake off his nerves.

“Then, let’s do that.”

“What?”

He had his hands crossed on his chest and shouted, “Legend forever!!!”

It was the Prince of Nakanda’s famous line.

“...”

“...”

.

“...”

“...”

The faces of the members of Legend Guild looked like they were asking what was wrong with him.

“Legend Forever!!!”

“Legend Forever!!!”

Not long after, both sides collided.

Slash!

Stab!

Baaaaaaang!

Bam, bam, bam, bam, bam!

“*Keuhahahaha!*? Die! Die! Do you know who I am?!!!”

“Punk!!! I am very confident!!!”

Slaaaash!

Feeling the tension from hunting the terrible and frightening demonic beasts, demons, and mole-like hellhounds, the guild members all spewed out funny lines all on their own. Somehow, doing something like this had easily released their tense nerves and increased their efficiency.

“Punk!!! What did you do with your commander yesterday?!!! Did you eat together?! Huh?!! Because I did!” Locke shouted loudly while he hunted the incoming demons.

Flash!

Then... Ascar, who had always been quiet, shouted just like the real goddess of the battlefield, with her fluttering silver hair and katanas raised highly...

“S...stop moving...! Did you even take your weapons?!”

“...”

“...”

“...Th...that’s great.”

With her guild members’ reactions, her face reddened in embarrassment, just like a tomato.

Meanwhile, the commentators were shouting...

[That’s really amazing.]

[How can they defend themselves with such small forces?]

[Legend Guild’s contribution is soaring! Without knowing it, it’s already reaching a sky-high number!]

[Th...they’re not being pushed back at all! On the contrary, they’re even pushing forward with overwhelming strength!]

[It’s like they’re telling us this... ‘We’re the best of the best among the humans!!!’.]

[It’s still in the early phase. They need to spare some energy. Due to the skills’ cooldown and reduced MP, we expect them to last less than 10 minutes.]

[Right at this moment, a Silver Wolf is running straight towards Ascar!]

“*Kyaaak!*”

A giant Silver Wolf jumped up and bared its teeth at Ascar. Despite attacking it with all her might, she was barely able to leave a scratch on its body.

“*Grrrrrrrrrrr!*”

Just as she was going to be devoured...

“Heup!!!”

...a strong and flashing white light enveloped Khan's fists. As soon as he stretched out his fist...

Shweeeeeeeee—

A thin and long force stretched out, tearing the back of the Silver Wolf's head. It had the sharpness of the sword!

Chiiiiiiiik—

Blood spurted out slowly from the inflicted injury.

‘How high is this guy's defense?’

Not long after, Abel shouted, “According to the Monster Analysis, Silver Wolves have a special magic that reduces the skill damage by 50%, while doubling their defensive power!!! It won't be easy to kill!”

“Goddamn!”

However, thanks to that short window of time, Ascar was able to escape the clutches of the Silver Wolf.

Right now, there were 30 Silver Wolves approaching them. The Silver Wolves easily broke down their encampment as they began to approach them furiously.

Khan looked around coldly.

Because of their skill cooldown, they had to resort to plain attacks. However, even that began to falter due to their lack of stamina.

And...

Step, step—

...the Slayer of Frustration, who was wrapped in bandages from his head down to his toe, was walking towards them. He had a long sword strapped behind his back, and looked like he was out of it, which was very strange considering the situation that they were in.

Abel quickly moved to observe the Slayer of Frustration to confirm his information. However, when he saw the information, he could not stop himself from letting out a loud gasp.

‘611...?’

Chapter 252: Territorial Defence (Bottom)

It had only been two years since *Athenae* had gone online. There were plenty of people that had hidden their strength. This was especially the case for NPCs and mobs. However, even with those things taken into consideration, the Slayer of Frustration, Conir's level was so high that one could only say that it was too crazy.

It was at that moment that Abel saw one of his guild members rushing forward to deal with the Slayer of Frustration.

“N...no...!”

Before Abel could finish his words, he was already using his beast transformation to leap high into the air and attack the Slayer of Frustration with his lion claws.

Then...

Slash, slash, slash, slash—

...the sword of the ‘Slayer of Frustration’ moved in a straight line. The movements were so fast that only an afterimage could be seen.

“...!”

With the appearance of the ‘Slayer of Frustration’, Legend Guild began to stumble and falter.

“This f*cker!” Locke shouted, rushing towards the Slayer of Frustration with his two huge axes, unleashing two strong and powerful forces that flew straight towards Conir.

Bang—

At that exact same moment, the Slayer of Frustration gently waved his sword, easily canceling the huge force that was coming straight at him. Then...

Bang—

...his sword stretched forward, with only the tip of his sword stabbing Locke’s shoulder.

“*Keup!*”

Locke was knocked back strongly.

Dash, dash, dash!

Abel hurried forward. He quickly threw a smokescreen before the Slayer of Frustration could move to slit Locke’s throat.

Poof!

Bang—

Then, he quickly fell back with Locke.

“That bastard is strong...”

“He’s extremely strong... I don’t know if he’s even made to be killed...”

Abel looked around. He could see that his guild members who were doing well earlier were starting to get pushed back. Some were even collapsing.

“Heok— heok—”

Khan’s rough and ragged breathing seemed to ring loudly in Abel’s ears.

The commentators were shouting loudly.

[It’s over.]

[This is their limit. However, Legend Guild still did a great job.]

[They’re really amazing. Even Black Mage Ali, who’s floating above them, has not yet dealt with the Slayer of Anguish.]

[Right now, what’s left is the Sun Guild Alliance.]

On the other hand, many of the viewers were disappointed. However, regardless of their disappointment, they still clapped their hands.

[Good job, Legend.]

[This much is good enough. Who can even kill thousands of those beasts with just their numbers?]

[Agree, agree. Let’s drop the items and die in a flash!!!]

However, at that moment, Genie fired a flare.

“Run!”

[R...run...? Where to?]

[Do they have somewhere to be?]

The commentators expressed their confusion and doubt, while the members of Legend Guild that were fighting fiercely in front of Philip Village fell back and went back inside the village in unison. They made sure to tidy up the demons and mobs as they went inside. The moment they all entered...

Genie shouted loudly, “Use 250,000 points. Convert the village into a bunker!

[You have used 250,000 points.]

[Philip Village has now transformed into a bunker-type village.]

At that moment, something extraordinary happened. When a demon tried to enter the village, the ground shook loudly. Then, in a row...

Chaeng!

...Iron bars rose from the ground one by one, splitting the body of the demon that almost stepped inside the village.

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa, shwak—!

Iron bars continuously rose from the ground as they began to circle around Philip Village.

It was like...

[A...a turtle ship?]

[Wh...what? Something unexpected happened!]

The sturdy iron bars had spikes covering them. It was literally a bunker in the shape of the turtle ship, and it was so sturdy that the mobs could not easily break them.

Just then, the centermost part of the top suddenly opened. Then, something stuck out of the opening.

“Kiyeeeeeee!”

[It...it’s a dragon!]

[A dragon came out!!!]

[H...how can this be? For the first time in broadcasting history, a dragon is being shown live on screen!]

A black dragon soared into the sky. They could see that there were a few people standing on top of the dragon. In fact, there was another dragon flying underneath it!!!

[Keheok!!!]

[Th...there are two dragons!!!]

[Crazy! Is there a dragon tamer?!!!]

On top of the black dragon, there was a taciturn man with his arms crossed in front of his chest. Genie smiled happily as she looked at them.

.

“This is our 2nd sortie.”

Along with her words, the man riding on the black dragon opened his mouth. The viewers, commentators and even the demons all held their breaths as they focused on his mouth.

“Roar! Black Dragon and the Boys!!!”

Genie almost burst into tears. She said, “Un...Uncle... Pl...please...”

[Bl...Black Wagon and the Boys?]

Due to the commentators’ mistranslation, ‘Black Wagon and the Boys’ appeared as the top article in the real-time search terms.

Meanwhile, Genie could see the appearance, defense and special powers of the bunker fortress in advance thanks to the hologram projection. This was their privilege for securing Philip Village. She also divided themselves into two teams. The first team was the members of Legend Guild with their slightly large number, while the second team was the Black Dragon and the Boys.

Black Dragon and the Boys were only composed of seven people. However, each and every single one of them was much stronger than the members of Legend Guild. Especially the two dragons, they had the same strength as those of the members of Legend.

This was a military operation, in fact, it was a large-scale war. If their opponents had an advantage in number, then they needed to have a certain amount of rest to deal with it. They needed to have the time to drink potions, restore their cooldown time and restore their stamina. That was what they were going to do in the bunker. Then, once the 2nd team got tired and tagged them, the 1st team

would go out. They would go in turns, for as much as they could. In addition, the bunker had a harder, sturdier, and more powerful strength than Genie had thought.

“Kiyyyyyyyyyyyyye!”

A huge amount of force condensed and concentrated in the mouths of both Britney and Destiny as they flew in the sky.

[It...it's like those things that I saw in a fantasy novel!!!]

[D...dragon's breath!!!]

At that moment, a huge burst of flame poured out from Britney's mouth.

Puhaaaaaaaa!

As if proving that she would not lose, Destiny also let out a huge ice breath.

Most of the troops that surrounded Philip Village, which had now turned into a bunker, were destroyed by Britney's flames, while the creatures that were directly hit by the ice dragon Destiny's breath were frozen into popsicles.

At that moment, General, who was standing on Destiny's back, threw a shield.

Spin, spin, spin, spin—

As if it had consciousness, the square shield that was thrown and spinning fiercely descended and flew around the frozen creatures, breaking them one by one.

Crack— crack— crack—!!!

Grab!

General single-handedly grabbed the shield that came back to him automatically. Although he was not as strong as the four Hyenas, Black Dragon, nor the members of Legend Guild, he was still listed as a semi-ranker.

From the hands of the Mage Killei, a whip made out of white light was formed.

Crackle!

His whip stretched out as it wrapped around the ankle of the 'Slayer of Anguish' that was entangled with Black Mage Ali.

“Th...this coward...!” The Slayer of Anguish, who was enjoying her 1:1 battle, shrieked loudly.

Ali quickly approached her and shouted, “What's so cowardly about being able to live instead of dying?!!!”

Then, a storm of magical attacks fell on her body.

“Double Fireball! Wind Cutter! Lightning Sword!!!”

Chaechaechaechaeng—

Dozens of shields quickly formed in front of her.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—

The Slayer of Anguish defended against the incessant bombardment of magical attacks, and when she could, she tried to flick her fingers and use dispel.

Baaaaaang—

“Ugh!”

Not long after, the whip made of light, that was wrapped around her ankle to tie her down to the ground, slipped and disappeared. Killei, who was also standing on Destiny’s back, delivered magical attacks one after another at a fearsome speed.

“Laughable fools!”

Kenny casted magic one after another to defend against Killei’s attacks. She even countered and used magic against Killei who was high up in the air.

Flaaaash—

A giant fireball flew towards him at a speed that was comparable to a bullet being shot from a gun. Killei hurriedly created a shield to defend against the attack.

Crack—

However, Black Mage Ali was not aware that it was not magic that Killei could handle.

Craaaaaack—

Bang!

As soon as the shield broke, General stepped forward and struck with his shield, successfully defending against the attack that almost slammed at Killei.

“You’re just the same...”

The Slayer of Anguish laughed as she watched them rushing to defend themselves. Then, she suddenly realized something. She realized that Ali, who was constantly bombarding her with magic, had turned quiet. When she turned her head quickly back to him, she could see an influx of white dots rapidly forming at the speed of light in the sky from the torn space. Before she could move, something appeared in front of her.

Stab!!!

A huge spear made out of light stabbed through her chest. It was Ali’s most powerful magic, his magic with the highest damage. It was none other than Diss.

“Urk!”

Kenny was appalled by the huge amount of damage that she had incurred.

Without missing a moment, Killei and Black Mage Ali bombarded her with magical attacks.

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

“Kyaaaaaak!”

“She has the ability to recover, so we have to destroy her until she doesn’t have any shape or form.”

“I know! Fire Field!”

Crackle!

All three of the chimeras had tough resilience and because of that, the two of them poured down their magic like crazy. They did not stop until the notification rang!

Then, the notification rang loudly in Ali’s ears.

[You have successfully hunted Kenny, the Slayer of Anguish.]

[You have gained 2,552,315 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have acquired 194,171 Contribution Points.]

[You have acquired the Wand of Anguish.]

“Yes!”

Black Mage Ali was very happy. Since he basically hunted Kenny, the Slayer of Anguish, alongside Killei, it meant that they would share their contribution and EXP. In addition, the Wand of Anguish would be divided equally with the Legend Guild. Then, Black Mage Ali once again joined the battlefield.

Meanwhile, Black Dragon had ordered his two dragons to use their breath thrice until they were no longer able to use it.

“Descend!”

“Descend!”

The six men that descended rapidly dealt with the mobs that were sticking close to Philip Village. Black Dragon also flew at a high speed with Britney and Destiny as he attacked the Silver Wolves.

Bang!

“*Graaack!*”

Destiny’s fangs were embedded deeply in the thick and hard skin of the Silver Wolves. The black dragon on top of it glared fiercely at the wolves as Black Dragon bombed his way through the mobs, leveling up in the process.

With his ridiculously overgeared self, together with his unexpected gaming skills, he had done a tremendous amount of leveling up with the help of the two dragons, Britney and Destiny.

[Merchant’s Sword.]

[A quick sword dance that can easily destroy the enemy.]

The black sword lashed at the Silver Wolves rapidly, leaving only after images behind.

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh—

“Kiryaaaaack!”

Vwoooooooooom—

A Silver Wolf collapsed. This was the first successful hunting of a Silver Wolf.

Black Dragon threw his sword forward as he scrutinized the demonic beasts with his sharp glare.

[Sword Manipulation.]

[Your sword will wander and fly through the air according to your orders.]

[Your attack power will temporarily be increased by 170%.]

Pipipipipipipi—

Black Dragon’s sword flew in a straight line stabbing through a line of enemies in an instant. His sword moved towards the path where his arms pointed at. Not long after, Black Dragon’s sword penetrated through the center of the enemies.

[Thorn Festival]

[Thorns, with 140% additional attack power, will fly from your sword and stab your nearby enemies.]

Hundreds of black thorns burst out of the sword as they stabbed through the enemies.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

Then, they floated in the air for a bit before coming back to the sword. When Black Dragon moved his hand, his sword came back to his hand immediately.

[Wow, s...so powerful!!!]

[Black Wagon and the Boys are unexpected variables in this situation! That’s some unbelievable power! They even defended Philip Village from the enemies that stuck close to their walls!]

Just then, another surprising thing happened. Hundreds of thorns sprung up in the round bunker that is Philip Village.

Genie murmured to herself, “Launch the cannon.”

[Launching the cannon.]

[You have used 30,000 points.]

[Available number of uses 2/3]

Creak, creak, creak!

Creak, creak, creak, creak!

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

Hundreds of thorns flew and rained down on the enemies at a high speed, causing a long chain of thorns to stab through the enemies.

Stab—

Stab—

Stab—

The sharp, pointy thorns stabbed into the incoming enemies, before quickly exploding.

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

The blast that swept off the nearby enemies was by no means weak.

Creaaaak!

The thorns recovered and returned back to the bunker all by themselves.

[Magnificent.]

[I didn't know that they were hiding such a special village.]

[Legend Guild is doing really great!]

[Even with the contributions, they have been running hard towards first place!]

[The netizens were initially divided as to whether they would not last for 5 minutes or 10 minutes but unexpectedly, they have been holding on for more than 20 minutes now!]

[Right as we speak, the 2nd team had gone back on top of the dragons. They headed back inside the village through the opening at the top!!!]

[The Legend Guild Members are back again.]

[It's a very smart strategy!!!]

Elf King Gorn was clairvoyant and he could see everything within a thousand miles. For that reason, he was very amazed when he saw that the defense in Philip Village was doing unexpectedly well. However, his expression soon fell dark again.

'Rufel hasn't sent all the chimeras yet...'

Once they came out, then they would collapse.

Right at that moment...

Clip, clop, clip, clop—

...Gorn's ears twitched when he heard a mysterious sound. Most of the elves had good hearing and sight. Among all of them, Gorn was a cut above the rest.

'The clattering of hooves...?'

His head turned to the direction where the sound was coming from.

Chapter 253: Territorial Defence (Bottom)

Rufel was surprised. He thought, *'With only fewer than thirty people...?'*

They had already hunted 1/6 of his troops. The decisive factor was Philip Village turning into a bunker. Despite the demons' continuous attacks and arrows, they still could not leave any scratch on the bunker.

However, Rufel soon let out a derisive laugh, and gave his orders to the Slayer of Death.

‘Detonate.’

The demons still had a lot of their numbers left, and that bunker would fall under their hands eventually.

“Heok, heok, heok, heok.”

“Keuheuk. It’s getting dangerous.”

“Three of our guild members just died.”

Once again, the members of Legend Guild went back inside the bunker after taking their turn. They quickly took their potions and rested. Meanwhile, the 2nd team, Black Dragon and the Boys, also tagged back in. It looked like it was a push-and-pull battle, but they had just lost another two guild members. As their number decreased, the Legend Guild felt the increasing pressure pile up on their shoulders.

[The Bunker has sustained 1,315 damage.]

[The Bunker has sustained 1,161 damage.]

The Legend Guild also saw the current status of the bunker’s defense.

[Philip’s Turtle Ship Bunker. 498,315/601,315]

They were still a long way from collapsing. However, at this rate, they could last another hour or two at most.

Just then, Ascar looked out and mumbled, “Wh...what’s that?”

“What?”

Genie hurriedly stood up and looked outside, following Ascar’s gaze. When she saw the scene outside, she was appalled.

In their sight, creatures that were far bigger than the exploding hellhounds, had appeared. In addition, the skin was not the hideous, melted black from earlier, but a shining silver. What was worse was that they looked like they were about two or three times faster than the regular hellhounds.

Dash, dash, dash, dash—

Hundreds of such creatures were running straight towards them.

“Kiyeeeeeeeeee!”

Britney fired out a breath. However, only a few of them were killed.

“Stop them!”

Black Dragon felt his gut tighten as he sensed something, and shouted loudly. The guild members launched a barrage of attacks. However, no matter how strong their attacks were, they were not able

to damage them at all. They were only barely able to scratch them, just like with the Silver Wolves earlier. For those with more lethal moves, they were only able to hunt around one or two.

“Shit...!”

Not long after, the larger wolves leapt high up in the sky, before sticking to the walls just like a magnet.

Stick, stick, stick, stick, stick, stick—

As soon as they got stuck on the walls, they watched as the Slayer of Death flick his finger from afar.

Flick—

Then, at that moment...

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

[The Bunker has sustained 16,313 damage.]

[The Bunker has sustained 14,615 damage.]

[The Bunker has sustained 11,316 damage.]

[The Bunker has sustained 19,625 damage.]

The bunker began to suffer a barrage of damage, and...

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—

...an ominous sound began to ring loudly in their ears.

“It’s a real suicide squad...”

“They even exploded on their own...”

[Philip’s Turtle Ship Bunker. 88,315/601,315]

In an instant, the bunker’s durability had almost reached zero. However, the hellhounds, from just now, were still running towards them.

‘If the bunker collapses... We won’t be able to last ten minutes...’?

Every single one of them was exhausted. In addition, their AOE skills were still under cooldown and could not be used for another hour. Because of that, they would be wiped out immediately.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

Then, another explosion began to shake up the bunker.

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—

Cracks started to break out from their shields. Genie hurriedly fired the cannons. She wanted to hunt as many as she could before the bunker collapsed.

“Launch cannon.”

[Launching the cannon.]

[You have used 30,000 points.]

[Available number of uses 1/3]

Creak, creak, creak, creak!

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

The surrounding demonic beasts exploded. Once the thorns were recovered, she fired another shot of cannon.

“Launch cannon.”

[Launching the cannon.]

[You have used 30,000 points.]

[You have used up the cannon.]

[The cannon is no longer available.]

Then, at that moment...

Crack, crack, crack, crack!

Spider web-like cracks started to appear on the walls one by one. Not long after, the notifications went off.

[Philip's Turtle Ship Bunker's durability has run out.]

[It will be destroyed.]

“Everyone, take cover!!!”

The debris swept over the guild members, almost burying them. Thankfully, they moved quickly after hearing Genie's command.

“Uwaaaaaaaaa!”

“Goddamn!”

“We're f*cked!”

Now, they were sitting ducks, and would definitely die.

Grrrrrrrrrrrr.

When the bunker collapsed and a hazy smoke rose from the piles of debris, the emcee, Jan, felt despair. She thought, ‘N...no...’

The underdog, Legend Guild, had shown everyone that they were really the best in their country. Unfortunately, the bunker had collapsed, and it seemed that the members would eventually be wiped out too.

Just then, a man flew on the black dragon. The Slayer of Death also summoned a bone dragon to face off against the man. The bone dragon was not just a normal bone dragon.

‘Bone Dragon Lord?’

Jan was a taming master so she could tell. She could tell that it was the most powerful dragon that was ever killed in history. Not long after, the ice dragon and the fire dragon fought fiercely to defend and protect their master. However, they were easily knocked down by the overwhelming strength of the Bone Dragon Lord. Even ‘Black Wagon’ fell down on the ground.

However, even after he was knocked down, he just glared at the Slayer of Death and the Bone Dragon Lord with a stubborn and indomitable expression on his face.

Then, at that moment, voices from the ATV’s side were suddenly sent over to her ears.

[W...what’s that?]

[Heok!!! What’s that?]

[It...it’s an army!!!]

Jan turned towards the screen that was shown to her not long after. There, on the screen of a monitor, were 150 black horses running under the lead of two white horses. An elf was sitting on top of one of the white horses, while a baby piggy wearing a red hat was on the other. Sitting on top of each of the black horses were 150 men. It seemed like each and every single one of them were knights.

Not long after, an even more surprising turn of events happened. A black mist began to seep out from behind the 150 troops, which suddenly formed and produced soldiers wearing solid black armors, spears, swords and bows. The troop of 150 knights soon turned into more than 600 soldiers.

Then, she heard another voice.

[The third camera!!!]

[Miss Jan, look at the 3rd camera!!!]

Jan turned to look at the screen that the 3rd camera was showing. She saw that something was shining brightly in the air. There was someone mysterious and unidentified falling down on the swarm of bone wyvern in the air. To be exact, he was falling towards the Bone Dragon Lord that was going to attack ‘Black Wagon’, and he was carrying a very large weapon.

Jan narrowed her eyes to confirm the weapon, and when she saw it clearly, her eyes could not help but widen.

‘F...frying pan?’

It was an extremely huge frying pan. The man, who was descending rapidly, slammed against the Bone Dragon Lord, which almost landed an attack on Black Dragon. With his strength amplified by the gravity from his descent, a huge impact slammed into the Bone Dragon Lord.

Baaaaaaang—

The Bone Dragon Lord was instantly struck to the ground. At the same time, two black kitchen knives surrounded the man, soaring through the air and stabbing the enemies that flocked around him.

As for the sudden appearance of the 600 soldiers, the baby piggy and the soldiers devoured the demonic beasts along their charge. Just like a tsunami, the demonic beasts were washed away and cleaned up. The troops displayed their enormous strength as they started to fight back against the enemies.

Jan, the commentator, could immediately tell who that person was. There was only one person that owned such a frying pan. It was none other than the Food God, Minhyuk.

[Th...the Frying Pan Killer has appeared with hundreds of soldiers!!!]

At the same moment, PD Kim Dae-Guk, with his eyes wide open, asked the broadcasting station, "F...Frying Pan Killer?!!! What's the ratings now?"

"35%. N, no. 37%. No...! It's more than 40%!!!"

"The ratings are growing extremely fast."

"The number of viewers is increasing with word of mouth."

"This is the appearance of the two users of our country that entered the Hall of Kings!!!"

PD Kim Dae-Guk, with his shocked expression, was also able to see the Frying Pan Killer.

'What the hell are those soldiers?'

The knights actually had the symbols of both the Collodis and Eivelis Empire.

'But who are those unidentified men that came from the black mist?'

Just as that question floated in his mind, another extraordinary thing happened.

They thought that most of the Legend Guild were covered under the rubble and forced to log out, but there was a man coming out from the gaps. It was the Legendary Explorer, Lark! He had the power to control gravity! His face was flushed as he supported the debris and remnants of the falling stones around him, preventing everything from falling with all his might.

"Keuaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Baaaaaaaaang!

Lark was able to clear out the rubble and pushed them out towards the mobs! Huge piles of stones and debris swept away towards the mobs in an instant.

"C...crazy..."

Another gasp of exclamation came out from PD Kim Dae-Guk's mouth. Their ratings were still climbing higher.

"We're over 45% in viewership ratings!!!"

'Well then, Frying Pan Killer. What are you going to do next?'

Not long after, they saw him talking to 'Black Wagon' about something. Then, a voice was heard from a distance.

[Friiiiiieeeeeeeend!]

All the cameras were concentrated towards the source of the voice. There, they could see Black Mage Ali floating in the sky with his skill 'Fly' as he smiled cheerfully at Minhyuk. The camera also zoomed in on his wrist. They saw a token 'X' drawn on his wrist.

'What the hell? Minhyuk and Black Mage Ali know each other? This is a scoop! The two users in the Hall of Kings are close to each other?!'

At that moment, Minhyuk also raised his arm. Along with him, Black Dragon and the Boys also raised their arms. Even the members of Legend Guild raised their arms hesitantly.

There was an 'X' clearly drawn on each and every single one of their wrists.

[Friieeeeend!!!]

[Friieeeeend!!!]

[Friieeeeeeeend!!!]

PD Kim Dae-Guk gave up and laughed helplessly. He said, "I think it's some kind of bullshit, but somehow, it looks cool...?"

Chapter 254: Territorial Defence (Bottom)

When Minhyuk saved Ruwan and his guild members, he only took five minutes. Minhyuk could not ignore Ruwan when he saw his defeated look when facing certain death. He could not pass by like nothing happened when he saw that.

After that, the troops that had hidden behind the bushes and the wooded areas with Prince Argon had begun to run quickly. After a long time, Minhyuk was finally able to see Philip Village. It had become a bunker in the middle of the war. He could also see the swarm of enemies that surrounded his friends.

Among the chaos, Minhyuk was also able to find the face of his father. He could see his father fighting a fierce battle against a huge dragon made out of bones, and that his friends were starting to falter and be pushed back.

'Those bastards!'

For Minhyuk, his dad was his very special person. Just recalling that his dad had been PK-ed before and forced to log out made him seethe in anger. That was why he came running without any rest, and the moment he witnessed the scene, his anger and fury towards the Bone Dragon Lord soared.

Minhyuk and his troops kept on running on horseback. However, the moment he saw the Bone Dragon Lord try to devour his dad, Minhyuk immediately took out his 'Instantaneous Movement Parchment'.

It was an item that he had purchased in the Royal Shop, an artifact that was vastly different from the return scroll. In the case of a return scroll, one needed to designate a village or an inn where they could return to. If you named it as 'Return to Ber Village', then it would send you back to that village. On the other hand, the instantaneous movement parchment was a special parchment that could allow the player to teleport to the place that he had seen with his very own eyes. It could also

allow them to move to a place where they had previously been to, even if it was not a village or an inn.

Just as he was about to tear the parchment, notifications rang in his head.

[The Monarch's Seeds have borne fruit.]

[You will be able to summon 500 ancient soldiers for 4 hours.]

[Ancient Soldiers will appear once you say 'Summon'.]

'Ancient Soldiers...?'

That was when he learned about the identity of the 'Monarch's Seeds'. The Ancient Monarch, the Food God's subordinate, had suffered greatly after being controlled by Verus. Therefore, he hid his troops in the Monarch's Seeds, as a weapon that could be used against them.

"Summon."

[It will take about one minute for your summons to appear.]

However, Minhyuk did not have the time to wait for them to be summoned. He quickly tore the parchment and said, "Beans, I'm leaving the rear to you."

"Oiink!"

Flash—

Minhyuk was covered in a bright light the moment he tore the parchment. When the light faded, his figure had already disappeared. Since the parchment was only meant for one person, Beanie, who was sitting snugly on his shoulder, fell down abruptly on the horse.

"Ooiink!" Beanie cried loudly, feeling a little embarrassed since it fell on the horse in an ungraceful manner. Still, Beanie quickly grabbed the reins of the horse and galloped forward.

Meanwhile, Argon looked at the scene incredulously, mumbling, "A pig... is riding on a horse..."

It was quite a spectacle, something that Argon had never seen in his 3,000 years of elf life.

Black Dragon watched as the hellhounds clung on the walls of the bunker and made themselves explode. Because of that, Black Dragon and the Boys failed to switch with Legend, which allowed them to be pushed back.

Black Dragon quickly gave the orders to Britney and Destiny. He said, "Wipe out the enemy!"

"Kiyeeeeeeeeee!"

"Kiyeeeeeeeeee!"

The two of them roamed the skies as they tried to stop the influx of the enemies. At that very moment, the Slayer of Death appeared in front of him.

Crack!

As soon as the Slayer of Death shook his wand, huge bones burst through from the ground, and started to form into a gigantic creature. The creature that was slowly beginning to form was none other than the great and gigantic Bone Dragon.

Along with that, the notifications began to ring.

[You have met the Bone Dragon Lord.]

[The Bone Dragon's Sphere has been triggered.]

"Graaaaaaaaaa!"

Black Dragon heard a loud roar accompanying the notifications.

[Britney's Breath is sealed for 5 minutes.]

[Destiny's Breath is sealed for 5 minutes.]

"...!"

Britney and Destiny were part of the four legendary dragons. However, the problem was that they had not yet reached their full potential yet. At best, they were still at the young dragon stage. In comparison, the Bone Dragon Lord that was in front of them looked like it was already close to full growth.

In fact, the information and content about dragons had not yet been fully released in *Athenae*. After all, these were dragons! The strongest creatures in this world!

The Bone Dragon Lord looked similar, and yet different, to a dragon. When talking about bone dragons, then Genie, Khan and Locke had also hunted them in the Time Attack Dungeon. However, they were the weakest among the Bone Dragons that had ever been born. On the other hand, the creature in front of Black Dragon had already almost achieved full growth, and it was also one of the highest-ranking members of the bone dragons.

The Slayer of Death, who had summoned the Bone Dragon Lord, had a deep, dark smile on his face. Even though his strength in dark magic had risen considerably in terms of summoning the dead, the Bone Dragon Lord could only be summoned for about half an hour. Still, that was more than enough. He was also aware that Destiny and Britney were nothing more than fledglings, no more than young dragons at this stage, and posed no threat to him.

'I'll kill them and turn them into undeads...' The Slayer of Death thought, mouth almost tearing apart with his wide nasty grin.

Britney and Destiny flew furiously.

Crack—

Bang!

The two of them bit all over the Bone Dragon Lord's body, but the only thing that they got were aching teeth.

Unlike ordinary mobs, the bones of the Bone Dragon Lord were sturdy, solid and hard. The bones were hard enough to match against that of a real, living and breathing dragon.

"Gaaaaaaa!"

At that moment, bone blades sprouted all over the body of the Bone Dragon Lord. The blades stabbed and pierce through the bodies of Britney and Destiny.

"Kihyaaaaaack!"

"Gaaaaaaa!"

[Bone Spear.]

[The skin and flesh pierced by the bone spear will melt rapidly and will induce extreme pain.]

Britney and Destiny fell to the ground. They writhed and struggled hard from the terrible pain of their skin melting. The Bone Dragon Lord approached them in order to finish them off, but Black Dragon blocked its path.

'Britney... Destiny...'

Britney and Destiny were both very precious to Black Dragon. Even though they were just creatures born in this virtual world, he still considered them to be his friends and family. Even if he died, he would just come back to life, but he knew that these children would not.

Black Dragon glared fiercely at the Slayer of Death and the Bone Dragon Lord. Even if his neck got sliced through by a sword, he did not want them to touch these children.

Britney and Destiny felt his feelings through their 'connection'. They trembled and struggled to stand up.

"Kyahaaaaaack!"

"Kihyeeeeee!"

They were grasping at their last straw to protect Black Dragon. Even if they staggered and fell down with their shaky legs, they still struggled to stand up.

"These punks..."

Just like the saying, sometimes animals were purer, more innocent and better than humans. They were creatures that loved and cared for Black Dragon in a pure manner.

"You won't be able to touch these children, even if you put a blade to my neck!"

"Ho?"

The Bone Dragon Lord took one step forward as it opened its huge maw.

"Gaaaaaaa!"

Whether it was Britney or Destiny, it did not matter. They heard the voice of the man that cared, loved and wanted to protect them.

"You've touched someone that you shouldn't have touched."

Suddenly, a cold and sharp voice rang loudly.

The Slayer of Death and the Bone Dragon Lord looked up. When they looked up, they saw a gigantic frying pan quickly descending down on them.

‘Frying pan?’

At that moment, the Slayer of Death could not help but smile.

‘That’s just a giant frying pan, can that even scratch the head of the Bone Dragon Lord?’

In addition, the bones of the Bone Dragon Lord had a ‘Break Armor’ effect. In the event of an attack, the impact would be returned to the weaker mineral, weapon or armor. In worst case scenarios, the opponent would even have their weapons shattered.

‘That huge frying pan is going to break.’

Then...

Baaaaaaang—

...a loud noise erupted from the point of impact as a cloud of dust rose in the air. The face of the Slayer of Death that was smiling earlier was now filled with shock and wonder.

‘That frying pan... is sturdier... than the bones of the Bone Dragon Lord?’

He could even see clearly that the head of the Bone Dragon Lord was slammed into the ground. Rhond slowly turned his head around. He could see a man with a now smaller frying pan glaring fiercely at him.

“I’m going to show you what happens to people who mess with this person.”

Minhyuk had already decided to devour him.

‘Killing intent...?’

There was something that closely resembled killing intent emanating from the human in front of Rhond. The man was even able to ram the Bone Dragon Lord’s head in the ground easily. Of course, the Bone Dragon Lord was still not dead yet.

Then, Rhond heard the sound of fierce fighting from behind him.

‘It’s changing. The winds are changing...’

Just like the wind that was previously blowing eastward could flow westward, it seemed like the human troops were now forcing them back.

As for Black Dragon who was staring at Minhyuk from behind...

‘I’ve always thought that you’re still young.’

This was his son who was suffering from eating addiction. When Minhyuk got sick, Black Dragon had made up his mind to become this child’s pillar.

‘Let’s not frustrate and worry this child.’

Perhaps he believed that his child was still young and needed his protection, but before he knew it, his son had already become a reliable adult himself.

“You bastard, who the hell are you? Why are you spouting nonsense?” The Slayer of Death asked after gathering his senses. He held back a laugh after seeing the Bone Dragon Lord get caught in a surprise attack.

Baaaaaaaang—

The Bone Dragon Lord jumped up as it rushed towards Minhyuk furiously.

“Kiyeeeeeeeeee!”

However, Minhyuk just said, “Scattering Sword.”

He used the Scattering Sword that condensed the damage of eight basic sword attacks into one! A powerful and overflowing force slammed into the Bone Dragon Lord’s body.

Baaaaaaaang!?

Crack!

At that moment, they heard a crack from the bones of the Bone Dragon Lord.

‘...?!!!’

‘It’s not just his frying pan! This bastard’s sword is built with a harder mineral that can ignore the Break Armor!’

At that point in time, Minhyuk realized that it was futile to try and cut the bastard’s bones into pieces. So, instead of cutting it down, he decided to just pulverize the bastard.

Minhyuk quickly switched to his frying pan again. He enlarged the frying pan and activate his Rampant Sword. Dozens of afterimages of his frying pan slammed constantly at the Bone Dragon Lord’s body.

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

Crack, crack, crack— Crack, crack, crack—

The Bone Dragon Lord also had a tremendous regeneration ability. As soon as its bones cracked, it would immediately stick back together. Unfortunately, right now, the Bone Dragon Lord’s bones were beginning to crack to the point that it was beyond repair.

Baaaaaaaang!

As soon as Rampant Sword ended, Minhyuk used ‘Like the Wind’ to narrow their distance by three meters, which he followed up with Sword of Fury.

Shweeeeeeeeeek—?

The Sword of Fury had a tremendous force. Even though what Minhyuk was using was a frying pan and not a sword, the power that was condensed in it was still tremendous.

The Sword of Fury could now kill enemies within a two-meter radius, through the strong wind force that would be produced. It even had an additional 100% damage on enemies.

Baaaaaaaang!

Then, his last attack slammed into the Bone Dragon Lord.

Shweeeeeeeeeek—?

At that exact same moment, a fierce and bitter wind blew strongly as it tore the surrounding area around the Bone Dragon Lord.

.

“...?!”

The Slayer of Death was shocked to see that the Bone Dragon Lord flew back and rolled on the ground.

Minhyuk finally answered the Rhond's question from earlier, and said, “His son.”

Chapter 255: Territorial Defence (Bottom)

Right at that moment...

Bang, bang, bang!

...magic rained down on Rhond.

“*Keuaaaack!*”

Rhond was blown away by the huge impact. When Minhyuk turned around, he saw Black Mage Ali.

“Frieeeeeeend!!”

Ali raised his left arm that had an X drawn on it, and smiled cheerfully at him. Seeing his raised arm, Minhyuk also raised his arm that had an X on it, high up in the sky.

“Frieeeeeeend!!”

Meanwhile, Black Dragon looked at them impressed.

‘Isn’t that so cool!!!’

“Frieeeeend!!!”

“Frieeeeeeeeend!!!”

Black Dragon and the Boys also raised their left arms and shouted along after seeing them. The members of Legend Guild hesitated for a moment when they saw what they did.

‘Shit... I’m, I’m so embarrassed.’?

‘Ca...calling out frieeeend...?’

‘Uhhh...?’

When Ascar raised her arm, the rest of them raised their arms one by one.

“Frieeeeeeeeend!!!”

The tides of war were changing.

When Minhyuk turned to look back at the battlefield, he saw Prince Argon firing an arrow that split into hundreds of arrows, easily sweeping through the enemies. In addition, the ancient soldiers, together with the 150 knights, were all actively fighting against the enemies. However, they were still plagued by a huge horde of enemies.

Minhyuk did not hold back at all when dealing with Rhond, the Bone Dragon Lord, and the hundreds of enemies that were rushing towards him from behind them.

“Fluttering Sword.”

Fluttering Sword first created hundreds of silver falling leaves. When Minhyuk moved his sword, the hundreds of blade-like leaves rushed towards the Bone Dragon Lord and Rhond, before sweeping through the enemies that were further behind them.

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh—

It did not just stop there. Thanks to the 60% reduction in skill buffer, Minhyuk was able to use his AOE attack skills quite rapidly.

Blooming Sword.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

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

In no time at all, the hundreds of demons and demonic beasts that flocked towards them died.

Meanwhile, the commentators were shouting in excitement.

[Ah!!! Upon his arrival, the Frying Pan Killer took down the Bone Dragon Lord and the Slayer of Death. He even wiped out the hundreds of surging demons and demonic beasts!!!]

[It’s amazing!!! But, if he used all his skills in the beginning, then won’t he be at a disadvantage in this large-scale war?]

Then, the notifications rang in Minhyuk’s head.

[You have hunted the largest amount of demons and demonic beasts in the shortest amount of time.]

[You have acquired an additional 40,000 Contribution Points.]

[You have successfully hunted the Slayer of Death.]

[You have gained 4,162,031 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have acquired 340,501 Contribution Points.]

[You have acquired Death’s Crystal Ball.]

[You have successfully hunted the Bone Dragon Lord.]

[You have acquired the Bone Dragon Lord’s Sturdy Bone (5kg).]

[You have acquired 151,167 Contribution Points.]

[You have acquired 54 platinum.]

That was when Minhyuk realized something, ‘*The Slayers are not affected by my holy power at all.*’

In other words, Minhyuk would not gain any additional bonus attack or defense against the demonic humans and the undead. The reason for this was simple. It was because they were creatures that were created by Rufel and thus, did not possess any demonic energy.

Then...

[The silver and sparkling hellhounds have appeared once more!]

[Hundreds of hellhounds are running again!]

[Aaaaaah! Player Minhyuk! Are you going to be forced to log out as soon as you appear?!]

[The silver hellhounds have extremely high defensive power!]

[No matter what, they are creatures that are not easy to hunt!]

[At this moment, Black Mage Ali had descended from the sky to talk to Player Minhyuk!]

“It’s been a long time,” Ali said.

Minhyuk reached for Ali’s hands and clasped them tightly. He said, “Thanks. Thank you for protecting my guild and my dad.”

“I just did what I could do.”

Ali grinned at him. Then, Minhyuk handed him a sheet of ‘Elf’s Character HP, MP, Skill Cooldown Reset Parchment’. Fortunately, this item could be transferred. Ali needed this item the most at this critical juncture.

“Wow. There’s such a great item like this...?”

At that time, Minhyuk saw hundreds of flashing silver hellhounds. Ali quickly explained to him what they were like. After listening to his explanation, Minhyuk pondered for a moment before speaking.

.

“Let’s get them first. Please prepare a barrier.”

“A barrier? Not an AOE attack magic?” Ali asked, looking at him curiously.

“I’ll explain it in a bit...”

Right now, the hellhounds were running furiously towards them. Meanwhile, the members of Legend Guild, as well as Black Dragon and the Boys had yet to complete their rest and skills cooldown.

Bbbiiiiiiiiiii—

Minhyuk ran out while using the Gryphon’s Cry. Hundreds of silver hellhounds changed their direction as they ran towards Minhyuk.

Gallop— gallop!

Just in time, Beanie, who was riding on top of the white horse, arrived near him. Minhyuk hurriedly jumped on the horse, as he started to ride away, kiting the hundreds of silver hellhounds.

The viewers were leaving comments quickly.

[Legend Guild and Black Dragon and the Boys faced off against the silver hellhounds earlier. They were barely able to deal with them after using their strongest skills. What's he going to do?]

[What can the Frying Pan Killer do? How can he get that number? He just used all of his skills earlier, but he was only able to do so since he can handle the defenses of the demons and demonic monsters. Those guys' defenses are on a completely different level.]

[Will the Frying Pan Killer ride on his white horse as he runs with hundreds of mobs and hellhounds following him towards the end of the world? Hehehehehe.]

PD Kim Dae-Guk also looked at the viewers' comments seriously.

He knew that the Frying Pan Killer's appearance was spectacular, but the million-dollar question was what he would do with the hundreds of hellhounds. Minhyuk continued to circle around the area as he kited the hundreds of silver hellhounds.

"Can he kill them...?"

"...How can he kill them? Legend Guild was only able to deal with them after using their one-shot skill. Everything will be over if Player Minhyuk is caught just once. Imagine being caught in such a mob after doing something completely reckless."

Everyone thought of the same thing. Just as they were mocking Minhyuk, one of the black kitchen knives that were circling around Minhyuk's body appeared in front of him.

"Skill casting?"

The PD tilted his head in confusion. When he thought about it, he had never seen a black kitchen knife before. Then, at that moment...

Minhyuk started to shout something. At the same time, Black Mage Ali quickly descended before grabbing him and climbing high up in the sky again.

'What the hell are you thinking?' Ali thought as he prepared to cast a barrier.

Minhyuk had asked him to use Fly and take him high up in the sky. Hearing his shout, Ali quickly descended and grabbed Minhyuk before flying up again.

"Please go towards the center of those guys."

"What? Over there?"

Ali glanced down and saw hundreds of silver hellhounds scattered around as they stared at Minhyuk and Minhyuk alone.

However, Ali did what he was told. Once they came to the center, Minhyuk said, "Please drop me."

"Wh...what?"

"Quick. Ali, I believe you!"

"...I don't really know anymore!" Ali said, letting go of his tight hold on Minhyuk.

At the same time, Minhyuk fell down in the center of the hellhounds rapidly.

[Th...the Frying Pan Killer has descended in the middle of hundreds of hellhounds!!!]

[What in the world is he thinking?! They will detonate as soon as they get touched!!!]

[Their explosive power is extremely tremendous. I'm sure that we will not even be able to find the shape of the Frying Pan Killer in the aftermath!]

[Huuuuuuuh? But what is that?!]

[A kitchen knife?!]

Then, a kitchen knife appeared near the descending Minhyuk. It was a skill that had never been seen by any of the commentators and viewers. Meanwhile, the hundreds of hellhounds bared their teeth towards the falling Minhyuk.

"Grrrrrrrrr!"

"Roaaaar!"

"Kyaaaaack!"

With his fall, a light flashed in the sky as a black knife accurately struck the head of one of the hellhounds.

"Kiheeeeeeeek!"

Hundreds of kitchen knives started to rain down as soon as the hellhound collapsed.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

[M...magnificent!]

[The kitchen knives that rained down from the sky stabbed through the bodies of the hellhounds!]

[Ah. Player Minhyuk has landed on the ground! The hellhounds that had perceived their deaths had started to explode one by one!]

The creatures seemed to have awareness as they started to explode all by themselves. Since they had awareness, they believed that it would be smart if they could die together with their enemy. Anyway, they somehow knew they would die, so it was a smart move for them to drag their enemy down with them.

The hellhounds began to crowd together as they trampled on each other to get to the middle of the encirclement. They continued to swarm towards Minhyuk amidst the raining kitchen knives, so tightly compressed that they even damaged their own allies when they exploded.

Once the dust had settled, Ali and Minhyuk could be seen inside a protective circle.

[Ah. When did Ali get there?]

[He used Blink! That's such a crazy control! It was definitely done in just a flash...!]

[His aggro skill had driven the mobs towards the middle. He then allowed them to flock towards where he was. Next, he attacked the gathered mobs with his raining kitchen knives, which caused them to explode, allowing him to hunt the rest of the hellhounds.]

[I believe Player Minhyuk could tell that the hellhounds had awareness and that they would try to explode and kill him in the process. And it's also impossible to attack when he's in the barrier, so that skill that he used towards the end was done right before the barrier was erected.]

[It's an extremely formidable strategy. I can't believe the control that both Players Ali and Minhyuk have. How many players in our country can execute such a strategy in just a matter of seconds?]

[That's not all. Their chemistry is extremely great. I'm sure the viewers of our country will be amazed by the fantastic chemistry that Mage Ali, our country's top mage, and Player Minhyuk, our country's top close combatant, had shown us!]

[Ah. The hellhounds failed to recognize this fact and they still continued to explode themselves!]

[The Barrier is the best magic for this situation. They will be invincible while they stay inside!]

The hellhounds that kept on exploding finally felt that there was something strange. They found out that their explosions were meaningless.

At that moment, Minhyuk spoke, "Ali, dissolve the barrier."

"Yes? Ah, I understand."

Ali had always believed in Minhyuk, so he did what he was asked. As soon as the barrier disappeared, Minhyuk's kitchen knife went up in the sky once more.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

It was none other than his skill Rain of Kitchen Knives that he had kept using his 'Save' skill.

[I...is it possible to use that skill again?]

[C...crazy...!]

Then, the hundreds of kitchen knives in the air stabbed and caused the remaining hellhounds to explode. At the same time, Ali grabbed Minhyuk as they flew high up in the sky.

"Nice timing! As expected of Ali! You have no hesitations at all."

"Ha...hahaha..." Ali just laughed awkwardly at his words.

With that, all of the silver hellhounds had been wiped out by the Rain of Kitchen Knives.

[...]

[...]

The commentators were lost for words for a moment. It was not just them. Even the members of Legend Guild, as well as Black Dragon and the Boys, were left speechless.

"..."

“...”

“...”

They were barely able to hunt one, but Minhyuk swept them away so easily before quickly moving to Philip Village.

“Hello, everyone?”

“Huh, oh. R...right.”

“Y...you’ve come?”

“Hahahaha. H...hello?”

Minhyuk greeted them politely, just like he usually did before looking around Philip Village. Thankfully, the village was still well and alive, since only the outer walls had disappeared.

Then, Minhyuk took out the Elven Heart, which had the appearance of a rough stone, from his inventory. When he placed it down on the floor, the notifications continued to ring.

[The Elven Heart can be applied to Philip Village.]

[Would you like to use it?]

“Yes.”

The Elven Heart immediately penetrated through the ground as soon as Minhyuk agreed to the notification. This was a military weapon that was created by the three Elven Chiefs.

At that moment, the members of Legend Guild and Black Dragon and the Boys heard a sound.

Ba... dump—

It was the sound of a beating heart.

[Wh...where did that mysterious sound come from?]

[It sounded like the heartbeat of a giant heart.]

Then, the sound began to grow louder.

Badump, badump, badump, badump, badump, badump—

The sound was loud enough to fill the entire battlefield.

Then...

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

The commentators were shocked when they heard loud banging sounds ringing so suddenly.

[Wh...what’s that?!!!]

[Gasp...!!!]

Chapter 256: Territorial Defence (Bottom)

[T...tentacles?!]

[No. Looking closely, it looks more like giant tree roots!]

Indeed. There were hundreds of gigantic roots that sprung up from the ground. The tip of the roots were all pointy and sharp, just like the tip of a wooden spear. These tree roots suddenly appeared and loomed over Philip Village.

Then, the notification rang for the people inside Philip Village.

[Following the Elven Heart's activation, you will be able to inherit the power of a noble High Elf for an hour.]

At the exact same moment, the ears of the members of Legend Guild, as well as Black Dragon and the Boys, started to elongate and become pointy.

[All five of your basic stats have increased by 15%.]

[Your HP and MP recovery rate have increased dramatically.]

[AGI has increased by 15%.]

“Wow...”

“A 15% increase in all five of our basic stats? Plus a 15% increase in AGI? Isn't this too ridiculous?”

For these rankers that stood above other players, increases in percentage were bound to have a tremendous effect on their strength and power.

Meanwhile, the viewers that were watching the tree roots growing all over Philip Village spoke in wonder.

[I...I think they will be defending against the demons with that?]

[Wow. So f*cking awesome...!]

[I can't wait to see those tentacles move!]

On the other hand, PD Kim Dae00Guk of ATV broadcasting station was told that their ratings were already close to 60%.

“C...crazy... ! What the hell are those tree roots? Hahahahahaha!”

He was smiling happily. However, at that exact same moment, they heard the voice of Genie, the guild master of Legend Guild. Genie and ATV were connected since they were currently on air and doing a broadcast.

[PD. I am requesting you to stop broadcasting some of my guild members. The list of players that are requesting to not appear on broadcast are Player Minhyuk, Black Mage Ali and all of the masked players.]

PD Kim Dae-Guk was caught in shock.

‘What in the world does she mean by that?’

Right now, the viewers wanted to see the power of those tentacle-like tree roots. Yet, they were suddenly requesting interruptions in the broadcast?

“W...what do you mean?”

Genie calmly explained to PD Kim Dae-Guk after he had asked her to clarify her words.

[Legend Guild might have agreed to the broadcasting, but I was sure that I have put up a list as well. The players on that list had agreed to participate in the broadcast. Are there anyone on the list that are named Minhyuk, Black Dragon, General, Black Mage Ali, etc.?)

“...”

PD Kim Dae-Guk was left speechless. Yes. She was right. Minhyuk’s name was not written on that list. Even Genie and the rest of her guild members did not know that Minhyuk would appear, so she did not write his name on the list.

PD Kim Dae-Guk was now in a bind. The people that the viewers wanted to see the most were Black Mage Ali and the Frying Pan Killer.

‘But you want me to take them out from the broadcast?’

If he did that, then the biggest highlight of the scenes would be taken out and the rest of the scenes would naturally become dull videos. It was important for them to keep showing what the viewers wanted, if they wanted to maintain their high ratings.

PD Kim Dae-Guk could not let the chance slip away so he asked, “What do you want?”

He asked because he was not a fool. Genie fell silent for a while before answering.

[They’re asking for 2.5 billion won.]

“...!!”

His eyes widened in shock.

‘2.5 billion.’

“Will they give us 2.5 billion, Father?”

“They will have no choice but to give it to you.”

The person that requested Genie to negotiate and request more profits was none other than Black Dragon. Those were the words that he told her the moment he came inside the bunker. Black Dragon was an outstanding businessman. After all, he was the chairman of Ilhwa Group.

However, Black Dragon did not do this so they could get profits themselves, this was something that he knew would benefit everyone. ATV had currently signed with Legend Guild only, not with Black Dragon and the Boys. So, for their compensation, Black Dragon had to reap and induce profits.

In fact, the profits that he would reap from Black Dragon and the Boys would be given to the ‘Share a Love Lunchbox’ programme. This was so he could help the needy and hungry children, elderly, and boys and girls all over the country! To some, he would appear to be a ‘greedy’ man. However, he had no greed for money. He only believed that one should not live their life suffering losses.

By negotiating, Black Dragon and the Boys, as well as Legend Guild would only appear to look like people that were blinded by money on the ATV's side. However, this was certainly not true. Since they were increasing the profits of the broadcasting station, it was only natural that they give them a fair price. This was the 'Chairman's Management Secret'. Of course, millions would be deducted from the 2.5 billion to be shared among Minhyuk, Black Mage Ali and Legend Guild. However, Genie had doubts about this plan. Would the broadcasting station be willing to fork out this much money?

Then, at that moment...

[I just talked to the Director and he has approved. Also, please record this conversation in Miss Genie's character. Well then, please continue the broadcast.]

His words sounded like he was telling her to? *'I beg you, don't cut off the show!'*. Genie turned back to look at Black Dragon in surprise.

'Black Dragon. He is a Legendary Class in Athenae and he is also the chairman of Ilhwa Group.'

Prince Argon hurried back inside the village with the knights. With his return, the Royal Shop had opened!

"Wow. Th...this is crazy...!"

"What the hell? A 40% HP and MP recovery potion? It's only 3,000 points!!!"

"Who the hell is this elf?"

"What the hell did Minhyuk do?"

The members of Legend Guild were all shocked at the things that the shop was selling. There were even the tentacle-like roots that surrounded Philip Village! The tree roots accurately flew straight as they stabbed through the bodies of the Silver Wolves.

Stab!

After stabbing the Silver Wolves, the tree roots wriggled and flung them far away.

"...!"

"...!"

"Aren't the tentacles extremely strong?"

They had a hard time leaving some scars on those Silver Wolves, but just one stab from the roots had killed them. The members of the Legend Guild quickly began to buy goods from the shop. They each chose items that suited them and their fighting style. Together with Legend Guild, the Black Dragon and the Boys were also sent out to the battlefield.

Minhyuk also pulled out the Saint's Sword.

"Saint's Protection!"

[Saint's Protection.]

[Your physical attack and defense, as well as magical attack and defense will increase by 30% of your Holy Power for 15 minutes.]

[Your guild members and allies' physical attack and defense, as well as magical attack and defense will increase by 20% of their Holy Power for 15 minutes.]

"Uwoooooooooo!"

"Kyaaa!"

In just an instant, the tide of war had turned. In addition to the items that they had purchased from the Royal Shop, their stats had also risen sharply with their Holy Power stat. The members of Legend Guild literally flew around the battlefield. The demons and demonic beasts could not keep up with them anymore, and they fell one by one.

At that moment...

Vooooooooooooooooom—

[Commander-in-Chief Rufel has issued a retreat order.]

[Only a few of his troops remained as they fled towards the Elven Forest.]

[Members of Legend Guild, as well as Black Dragon and the Boys, have each earned 100,000 Contribution Points.]

[Guild Master Genie has earned 300,000 Contribution Points.]

The number that Legend Guild had successfully hunted was about half of the numbers of the marching enemy troops. However, if they kept on fighting? Legend Guild would have definitely been pushed back in the end.

Then, at that moment...

"Keu, keuaaaaaack!" Crow, a bounty hunter and the best dealer in Legend Guild, shrieked loudly.

His body was suddenly pierced through. The being that stood in front of him was none other than the Slayer of Frustration, Conir.

"Be careful. The Slayer of Frustration is much stronger than any of the mobs that I have ever seen. What's worse is that Minhyuk's Holy Power will not have much of an effect on him since he is a chimera."

"..."

Minhyuk nodded.

The knights of Collodis Empire jumped in. However, something extraordinary happened next.

Pipipipipipipi—

With Conir's fast movements, more than five of the knights fell down.

“Get away!” Minhyuk shouted.

He wanted the knights of Collodis Empire to return to their empire as safe as they could.

The members of Legend Guild and Black Dragon and the Boys surrounded him. However, they were extremely nervous that their mouths had run dry.

Then, Conir muttered, “Hungry...”

“...”

Minhyuk tilted his head in confusion. When he looked at him closely, he felt like he was looking at himself. Conir’s expression, his eyes and his words, he looked exactly like Minhyuk from before. He knew that Conir was feeling an intense amount of hunger right now.

‘...What the hell.’?

Even though Commander Rufel had ordered for a retreat, he still had a deep smile hanging on his face.

Conir, the Slayer of Frustration, was his most powerful chimera among all of the troops that he had. He was someone that could never be killed. However, Conir only had half an hour to remain invincible. In that 30-minute time frame, Conir would slaughter as many as he could before returning back to him.

He was a weapon that was exclusively designed for slaughter. Interestingly, it was not the demons nor Rufel that created Conir. It was the humans. The power that created him was none other than ‘hunger’.

The Sun Guilds, the strongest after the four great guilds, had the wild ambition of sweeping the enemy with the troops that they had amassed once Legend Guild fell down. For that ambition, they did not lend a helping hand towards Legend Guild.

However, they were bound to get flustered.

“Re...retreat...?”

“W...we’re in trouble...!”

The Sun Guilds had even hired talented mercenaries. Yet, the enemy was already retreating?

“Let’s hurry up and go now! Let’s hunt the rest of the troops!”

“Right.”

They urgently moved.

Elf King Gorn watched the scene and said, “I feel sorry for you.”

His expression looked solemn and sincere. Since he had that look on his face, it only meant one thing, right? His words came from the depths of his heart!

“...”

“...”

“...”

The heads of the Sun Guilds had nothing to say. Some guild leaders could not even raise their heads in shame. Some were even heartbroken.

With just one word, Gorn had given all of them a punch to the gut!

Gorn continued to watch the situation with his thousand-miles eyes. He watched the man that saved his son. The very same man that created a miracle in this desperate situation.

‘I’m willing to do whatever that man asks of me.’

The members of Legend Guild, and Black Dragon and the Boys stared at the advancing Conir vigilantly. Conir, who was covered with bandages all over and only had his eyes visible, could give goosebumps to anyone that saw him.

Everyone held their breath as they focused on Conir’s each and every movement, preparing their best one-shot skill.

Genie’s whip was covered in fire. This was her most powerful skill that could give her a 170% additional attack power.

On the other side, Locke’s double-handed axe was also filled with curses. It was the power that would cause the opponent’s skin to rot as soon as it touches their body; it was the skill, Jeffrit’s Madness.

Abel also prepared his ‘Mortal’s Death’. The skill allowed him to stab his dagger straight into an enemy’s chest in a blink of an eye before exploding.

Minhyuk was also preparing his Splitting Sword.

“Right now!”

Genie sent the signal.

Dash—

The first one to move was Abel. He rushed straight at Conir who was standing in the middle. Since he was an assassin class, he was bound to be the fastest when launching an attack.

Shwaaaaaaaaa!

Just as when he was about to stab the dagger straight into Conir’s chest... Conir’s sword moved. Abel’s dagger was easily blocked by his sword.

“...!”

Abel was shocked. He had confirmed Conir's strength through his 'Monster Analysis', but the force was too much. It was almost nonsensical. Abel's AGI had tripled so his speed was extremely fast. Nevertheless, Conir was still able to easily parry his attacks.

Shiiiiiiiing—

Conir's sword moved smoothly and gently. Then...

Pipipipipipi—

...several cuts were drawn on Abel's body.

Spurt!

Spurt!

Blood spurted out all over his body.

"Keoheok!"

"Goddamn! Jeffrit's Madness!"

Locke slammed his double-handed axe straight down on the ground with all his might. At the same time, two powerful red lines stretched out from his axe before flying straight towards Conir. The moment these lines hit something, their body parts would immediately rot and would be unusable for the next 20 seconds.

However, Conir moved away swiftly, his movements as light as a feather.

Dash—

He had escaped from the attack with just a light leap. At that moment, Khan suddenly appeared behind him. He grinned as he struck out without missing a beat.

"Caught you. Giant's Fury!"

This skill allowed him to hit his opponent from above. With both his arms crossed together, his attack could have as much as 200% additional attack power.

Right at that moment, Conir's bandage loosened. The bandage wrapped around Genie's neck.

"Urkk!"

Conir's body was drawn from the bandage that he had wrapped around Genie's neck. With this movement, Khan's fist slammed into nothing but air.

Hundreds of afterimages of the soldiers' swords, Black Mage Ali's Fire Field, Minhyuk's Splitting Sword, Ascar's Hundred Weapons. All those attacks rained on Conir's body. However, Conir held his sword as he danced around like a ghost.

"You crazy son of a bitch! Go to hell!" Locke could not help but scream out curses.

Conir's movements were truly horrifying. He looked like a ghost as he moved his joints around. It was a creepy sight to behold.

Then, something more extraordinary happened.

[The Frustration's Sword Dance.]

[All of the players who have seen the Slayer's dance will have their attacks nullified as they fall into frustration and breakdown.]

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

The guild members looked on in horror. This was a skill that could nullify and cancel a huge number of attacks in an instant. They already knew that he was strong, but they did not know it was to this extent.

They gulped as they watched Conir trudging along.

Chapter 257: Hungry Children

Conir grabbed his sword and swung it as hard as he could, causing dozens of black sword lights to rain down on the guild members.

"Ghost's Protection!"

"Jeffrit's Giant Shield!"

"Whip Shield!"

The members of Legend Guild hurriedly activated their defensive skills. Dozens of ghosts appeared and blocked the way to Ascar with their shields, while Locke slammed a huge red shield into the ground. Genie's whip created a hexagram in the air as it formed a barrier in front of her. Each of the guild members gave their all to defend themselves.

However, something shocking happened. The sword lights that were heading straight towards the guild members suddenly changed directions, and the person that they targeted was none other than Ali.

"...!"

"...!"

Everyone was shocked.

'A sword that changes its trajectory? This is the first time that I've seen something like this.'

In addition, they thought that Conir was just a 'mindless chimera', but it seemed like that was not the case at all. He even went so far as to aim for Ali first, the most dangerous person to him. This was because Ali's one-shot attacks were much more powerful than Minhyuk's, since Minhyuk's Holy Power could not exert its full effects. The sword lights instantly appeared in front of Ali's barrier.

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa, shwak!

The black sword lights began to strike at his barrier. Ali looked on in horror at the scene in front of him. Conir immediately followed up, kicking off the ground and dashing forward.

Dash—

[Failure's Slaughter]

[A sword filled with tremendous frustration and setbacks.]

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa, shwak!

Blood spurted out from the bodies of the guild members that were in Conir's vicinity.

"Keuaaaaaack!"

"Ack!"

The guild members received severe damage from Conir's light swings. Minhyuk quickly narrowed the distance between them and activated Sword of Fury. His sword was surrounded by a bright red light, as he aimed straight at Conir's vital point.

Shwiiiiiiiiik—

At the same time, Conir slammed his sword down on Minhyuk's sword.

Bang—!

[Sword of Fury has been offset.]

"...!"

It was a skill offset. Then, Conir's sword quickly stretched towards Minhyuk. As soon as Minhyuk twisted his body to avoid the strike, the sword snaked around, before digging into his sides.

Stab—

"Keuheuk!?Too strong!"

Minhyuk was not at the peak of what he could do as of yet. However, he clearly had the potential to be a true athlete. He even won against the Olympic gold medalist Carr. Unfortunately, even he was helpless in front of the Slayer of Frustration, Conir.

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa, shwak!

Minhyuk was easily pushed back by Conir's fast attacks. Then, the Slayer of Frustration suddenly lowered his entire body, as he twisted his toes before spinning and brandishing his sword. As soon as he moved, dozens of blades spun wildly, creating a slight storm in the area.

Spin, spin, spin, spin—

"Rampant Sword!"

Minhyuk quickly used his Rampant Sword to counter and fight against the storm of blades that was in front of him. Dozens of afterimages clashed against the storm of blades, but Conir did not even miss a beat as he launched another attack. The tip of his sword was aimed straight towards Minhyuk's chest.

"Mi...Minhyuk!" The guild members shouted in alarm. Then, two black kitchen knives suddenly popped out from behind Minhyuk.

Hwaaaaaaang—

The two black kitchen knives formed a cross and protected Minhyuk's vital point.

Clang!

Thanks to that split second of reprieve, Minhyuk was able to execute 'Like the Wind' to increase the distance between them. Then, he hurriedly took out a chocolate bar from his inventory, in order to use his 'Absorption Conversion' to restore his physical strength and HP. He had the potion that he received from the elves that could instantly fill his HP and MP back to 100%, but since he had used it earlier, a cooldown was imposed.

Then, at that moment...

"Grrr?"

The Slayer of Frustration reacted strangely.

"...?"

Conir's eyes widened when he saw Minhyuk placing the chocolate bar in his mouth. His eyes only went back to normal when Minhyuk put down his hand holding the chocolate bar.

'Shall we try to put it in my mouth again?'

"Grrr?!"

"..."

'Then, take it out again.'

"Huwoo..."

Then, Minhyuk opened his mouth again as he bit on the corners with his front teeth.

"Grrr...?!"

Tears started to well up in the Slayer of Frustration's eyes.

"Huwoo..."

"..."

Minhyuk was left speechless.

'I guess he's really hungry...?'

It would have looked like a funny situation to others, but Minhyuk could understand him and his situation more than anybody else. Those that tend to suffer from extreme hunger would react just like that. Besides, he could tell something from the look in Conir's eyes.

'I don't want to have just one bite. I'm willing to give you everything so please give me something good to eat.'

Minhyuk did not know about Conir's situation. However, as someone that had all the money in the world but still could not eat what he wanted, he could sympathize with him. He felt sad at the thought of someone else feeling that hunger.

Then, Abel shouted loudly, "I...I thought of a way!!!"

"A way?"

"Yes. Let's lure him away with food!"

"..."

However, Minhyuk did not like that at all. First off, he did not like the thought of playing around with food. Second, he did not want to take advantage of that hunger.

'But even if I don't like it...'

Minhyuk knew that he could not let everyone die here. His dad was even here.

"...I...am...hung...ry...pl,pl...ease..." The Slayer of Frustration muttered slowly with his broken words.

Minhyuk first placed the chocolate bar in his mouth.

"Keuwooo..."

Tears welled up in Conir's eyes again. However, Minhyuk ate it all up to heal and recover.

Fwiiiiish—

Along with that, the wounds in his body started to heal up and disappear.

It was true that Minhyuk did not need to be the one to throw the food. Others could do it.

Everyone stood firm on their places as they prepared for another attack. Then, Conir's sword began to draw a circle in the air. The circle that he created turned out to be a moon that was stained with blood. It was quite a strange sight. However, what everyone was certain about was the fact that they had to do something before this attack was unleashed.

Then, Genie gave the signal. Locke quickly took out some food from his inventory. It was none other than sweet red bean bread.

'Ugh... Throwing that delicious red bean bread...?'

Minhyuk felt frustrated. However, he was still preparing his Scattering Sword for the attack.

"Guwoo?"

Conir quickly threw himself on the ground where the bread was going to fall. As he jumped, the bloodied moon that was hanging quietly in the air slowly disappeared.

Then, they let out a rain of attacks.

“Diss!”

Spears of light.

“Giant’s Howl!”

Consecutive punches with additional 180% attack power.

“Hell’s Red Flames!”

Exploding horses straight from hell.

A variety of skills flew straight towards Conir. However, not long after, notifications suddenly rang out to everyone who sent an attack on Conir.

[The conditions for triggering a quest have been met.]

[The Hidden Quest: Hungry Children has been created.]

[Only one person is allowed to do the quest.]

[You have successfully hunted Conir the Frustration.]

[You have acquired the skill book Frustration’s Sword Dance.]

[You have acquired 2,616,751 EXP.]

Right at that moment... Conir, who died at that same spot, suddenly appeared again in front of them.

“Gasp!”

“K...Kill!!!!”

“What the hell!!!!”

It was clearly Conir that appeared in front of them. However, it was just a spiritual body. Then, Conir opened his mouth.

[Me... too... Help... Child... ren... save...]

“...”

“...”

“Wh...what’s happening?”

Everyone present in the area felt flustered. When he heard his words, Minhyuk quickly looked at the quest window.

‘Th...the chimeras were created from extreme and terrible hunger? What the hell??’

Hunger? Minhyuk did not know what they were hungry for. However, one thing that crossed his mind. The humans had used hunger to create these chimeras.

‘What kind of bullshit...’ Minhyuk thought, brows furrowing.

Asvon was the current Emperor of Collodis Empire. He was known as the most powerful Emperor in the history of the empire, and was said to be only second to Ellie.

If Ellie was known to be a sword genius, Asvon was known for his strong punches and sharp kicks. In fact, he was someone as talented as her and could go toe to toe against her in a fight.

Emperor Asvon had everything that he could have, but, there was one problem.

“...Goddamn,” Asvon cursed as he peeled off the wig that covered his head, only to reveal a shining, bald head. The top of his head looked like a dry desert when compared to the luscious prairies on the side of his head.

Asvon’s biggest issue was none other than his baldness. His father, his grandfather, his great-grandfather and his ancestors were all bald. However, all of them had worn wigs to hide this fact. The same was true for Emperor Asvon.

The absolute problem that none of his ancestors had solved for hundreds of years, was none other than ‘baldness’!

There was no useful method at all. Asvon had already applied the blood of a troll on his head, and even rubbed a phoenix’s feather gently on it, but not a single hair had grown at all.

At that moment, his aide, Haroman, came inside. Haroman was the only other person that knew about this secret.

Fortunately, Haroman’s lips were sealed tightly. After all, Asvon would have already slit his throat if he had heard him say, *‘His Majesty, the Emperor’s head is smooth, shiny and bald~’*.

“Y...your Majesty...!”

“You did not even knock... What a shame. Do you want to lose your head?”

‘Even if Haroman is my aide, don’t I still need to protect this part of me?’

Asvon was furious. However, Haroman had brought urgent news, so he hurriedly opened his mouth. He said, “Y...your Majesty! I’ve found a way to cure your incurable disease!!!”

Of course, the incurable disease that he was talking about was Asvon’s baldness.

“What?!!!!”

This was the curse that had been passed on for hundreds of years!

‘You’re telling me that you have the solution for this goddamn curse?’

Haroman continued to say, “It’s the Talmor Religion.”

“Talmor?”

For some reason, he felt that the name was quite unpleasant. However, Emperor Asvon heard about the miraculous story of a small town located in the Northern Continent.

Hearing that it was a small town, he did not look worried at all. He was already gracious enough to let the town lord and his town serve him. After all, they were not the people from Collodis Empire.

“Quickly, send an invitation to the Lord of Valhalla and to that man named Talmor, and bring them to me in person!!!”

“Yes!!!”

Haroman moved quickly.

Emperor Asvon’s mouth twitched in joy at the thought of finally having the cure for his baldness.

Chapter 258: Hungry Children

Conir was successfully hunted. However, the members of Legend Guild were all baffled by the sudden quest that was created. Only after seeing Minhyuk trembling in anger, did the guild members come back to their senses and checked the quest.

‘The humans created the chimera? Not Rufel...?’

‘Hunger...?’

The decision that they had made was simple. According to the quest window, the only thing that they needed to do right now was to listen to Conir’s story. So they listened as Conir began to speak in his slow and muffled speech.

[Collo... dis... Empire... Peru... Count...]

With the name that was mentioned, his story began.

There were three most influential people in Blackstone’s Korean server branch.

The Envoy of Incarnation, Kaistra.

Pharaoh.

And the tower’s unofficial successor, Barchel.

Barchel was considered as an unofficial successor to the tower, since he was aiming to become the deputy chief in the Knight’s Tower.

The towers were spread all over the Empire. There were even various types, including the Chef Tower, Sculptor Tower, Bard Tower, Knight Tower and Mage Tower. However, there were only a few of the players that were affiliated with the towers. It was because the towers were a source of ‘strength’, as well as ‘proof’ of one’s abilities.

A tower would usually have dozens of people affiliated with them. Every single one of these people would have a strength that transcended that of the general population.

One could take the Athenae Temple as an example, after all, it had a lot of similarities with the towers. In the Athenae Temple, only those that had achieved the highest rank would be allowed to enter and serve their faith. The same was true for the towers.

In fact, some would say that the people that belonged to the Knight Tower far exceeded the knights of the empire in terms of rank and strength. Some would go as far as to say that those from the Knight Tower could even surpass the Sword Emperor Ellie.

The two most outstanding towers among all were none other than the Mage Tower and the Knight Tower. The Knight Tower was located at Collodis Empire, while the Mage Tower was located in Eivelis Empire.

Currently, Barchel had received an order from Calauhel. Calauhel wanted Barchel to bring the members of the Blackstone one by one to the Demon World. The first person to ever set foot in the Demon World was none other than Calauhel. Just like Beas Village, the Demon World was also a meeting place where players from all over the world could gather together.

However, the order that was given to Barchel was to make contact with Count Peru and do what he was told to do. Calauhel had told him that he hoped that he would know what he would do by himself once they met. While following his orders, Barchel was able to learn about the 'Essence of Flavor'.

As a result, he was standing in front of Count Peru whose chin was high up in the sky.

Count Peru was a respected and envied noble in the Collodis Empire. However, Barchel knew the sinister plot that he was keeping under wraps, as well as the cruel nature that he was hiding. Right now, he was talking about the Essence of Flavor.

"The Essence of Flavor is a power that emerged from the 'Seven Deadly Sins, Gluttony' that Great Mage Arfield had left in this world."

"...Seven Deadly Sins, Gluttony?"

The Great Mage Arfield?

Barchel had spent a vast amount of silver, gold and treasures to get close to the Count. This was the reason why he could talk to him with a leisurely tone.

"Yes. He hid the Seven Deadly Sins all over the world. Their powers were expressed through the artifacts Great Mage Arfield had also left behind. For example, one of the Seven Deadly Sins 'Wrath' that he created could be expressed through the 'Treasure Box of Wrath'. Those that entered the sphere of influence of this artifact would be influenced by Wrath and would not be able to hide their anger and fury. Just like that, Great Mage Arfield had created seven artifacts that corresponded with the sins that he created. Six among the seven of them had already been destroyed from this world. Except for one. There was one artifact that had been left behind."

"What is it?"

"It's none other than the Cup of Essence."

"Cup of Essence...?"

"Yes. The Cup of Essence will not contain any liquid when it's first obtained. However, there's a simple method to fill this Cup of Essence."

"How?"

"It's with pure 'hope and desire'. We... no."

Count Peru corrected his words as he handed him a teacup.

“You know that I’m making chimeras in secret.”

Barchel nodded.

“It’s none other than the Cup of Essence that’s creating the chimeras inside the ‘Dungeon of Sin’. What the Cup of Essence needs the most is a man’s pure desire and longing. If there are a lot of people that purely longed and craved for water near the Cup of Essence, then the cup will be filled with water.”

“Ho?”

“When do you think would be the time when they purely long for something?”

“...Who knows.”

“It’s when children are feeling extreme hunger.”

“Hunger...”

“Children will crave purely for something when they are hungry. *I want to eat something delicious. I want to eat food. I won’t wish for anything if I just have a bite.* The hungrier the children get, the more essence we get. And the essence that we get has more ‘power’ than any other force. And when their hunger reaches its peak, they will receive power from Arfield’s ‘Dungeon of Sin’ and they will become the horribly powerful ‘Chimera’.”

“...What the hell is in that dungeon?”

“It’s an extremely ferocious dragon. It’s a huge dragon that’s over 20 meters long. The dragon will devour the children and the children will be transformed in the dragon’s belly into chimeras by the ‘desire and longing’ that they had built up so far. Once the dragon finishes its preying on that longing, it will vomit the children out. The children that came out of the dragon’s belly will then become a fully functional weapon called a chimera.”

“Interesting. But...”

The Cup of Essence was an interesting artifact. However, Barchel was more curious about the Essence of Flavor. It was literally the essence that came from the cup.

“What powers does the Essence of Flavor have?”

“It is said that it can let a person rise above their limitations. So, do you want the Essence of Flavor? Can you do what I ask you to do, then?”

Ring!

The quest window popped up in front of Barchel. He immediately checked the contents and was shocked after seeing the Essence of Flavor.

‘I...It can let me evolve into a legendary class?!’?

Barchel was really shocked.

He currently had the secret class, Tower’s Successor, which allowed him to become the Knight Tower’s unofficial successor. He was even able to reach this level thanks to the endless support of the tower. However, when compared to legendary classes and God classes, the limits of his class were very glaring.

A swordsman player had to go through a variety of sword stages and what Barchel wanted to do was to surpass those levels and climb even further than his limits. If he drank the Essence of Flavor, his Tower’s Successor could evolve into a legendary class. This meant that his skills and stats would change and would allow him to grow stronger again.

‘What a great item!’?

This was the information that he had gotten from Calauhel. The strongest powers in the country that was affiliated with Blackstone, which were Kaistra and Pharaoh, had either turned away from them or collapsed. It was clear to him what Calauhel wanted to do to him. He wanted to turn him into the best in the country.

Barchel was now blinded by greed. He clearly knew that what Count Peru was doing was something that should not be done. After all, he was experimenting with children and it was an extremely atrocious deed. He also knew that Count Peru was selling those chimera as weapons and held hands with the demons.

However, Barchel still accepted the quest. He thought, *‘You want me to hunt the dragon?’?*

Hunt the dragon. That was what was in the quest. It seemed like Count Peru wanted him to hunt the dragon that was creating the chimeras.

According to Count Peru, the dragon would no longer produce chimeras after it preyed on 30 people. That was the reason why he had to kill it. However, he was told that he needed to feed the dragon a person with high holy power before doing so. On top of that, it had to be a man, not a woman. He was told that it should be a man with pure and high holy power. If he did that after the dragon swallowed the 30th child, the child would become the most powerful chimera. Once the dragon was killed, it would lay huge eggs. The existences that would come out of the eggs will also become dragons that can produce and make chimeras again.

“We’ve already captured a male priest as a sacrifice. As for Sir Barchel, all you need to do is wait for the man and the child to be eaten before entering the dungeon. That’s when you will hunt the dragon. Anyway, my goal is to produce chimeras, so it doesn’t matter whatever you do.”

“Good.”

Barchel smiled. Then, he asked, “Ah. Then, how many times has this happened already? Killing the dragon?”

“Yes. There’s a guy that did this before you. He’s also a chimera, but not too long ago, I sent him temporarily to someone that needed him. He’s the most powerful chimera that I have ever created. He was also a natural sword genius before he became a chimera.”

“*Hoo*. A sword genius... May I know his name?”

Count Peru smiled confidently at him. He said, “It’s Conir.”

Rats and cockroaches were swarming around the five starving children. Count Peru had raised these five children to make them into chimeras. The oldest among the children was named Haze. She was a 19-year-old girl.

Hard bread and water were distributed to them every day. However, the bread was coated with an alchemic potion that could ‘promote hunger’. The alchemic potion would always make them hungry but nevertheless, the only thing that they could do was to keep eating. They could not control their hunger and craving.

“Hungry...”

“If I could just have a piece of meat...”

“S...something delicious... I want to try something delicious before I die.”

The children who were brought here were either kidnapped or bought from the slave market. They were chosen to become chimeras so they needed to have ‘talent’. That way, a great and powerful chimera would be born.

Then, at that moment...

Creaaaaak—

...the huge door opened as one of the soldiers kicked a man inside.

Bang!

“What a loud man!”

“*Aaaaaaaaack!*?S...save me! Help me!”

This was the first time that an adult male was sent inside. The man stuck to the door as he continued to scream. He was dressed in a priest robe that was engraved with the symbol of the Athenae Religion. The priest’s robe was covered with dirt and kick marks.

“*A...Athellujah!*?God, please save me from this mess and mete out the divine punishments towards these sinners...”

He trembled as he continued to pray.

‘*God? There’s no God.*’

That was what Haze believed. If there was a God, then they would not have become lab rats trapped in bars. She was someone that was forced to grow up quickly despite her young age.

Tomorrow was the day when everyone here would lose their emotions and turn into a chimera. In other words, tomorrow would be their death. Then, at that moment...

Creaaaaak—

...the huge door opened again.

“These children are the ‘materials’ for the chimera.”

An unpleasant-looking man suddenly came in. In just a glance, Haze knew that the man was a foreigner. The foreigners that lived with immortality! That foreigner had even called them ‘materials’. He then looked around before stopping his gaze at the man who had just came in.

“So, this is the ‘sacrifice’?”

“That’s right.”

The man, who looked to be a knight, nodded his head as the foreigner asked him a question, “It’s been quite some time since Count Peru’s experiment had started. It seems like the number of knights and guards are no less than the knights in the Knight Tower.”

“Hahahaha. If we get caught, then won’t we be dead?”

When they turned around, the doors closed again.

“Sooooob... Sa, save me... I don’t want to die. God Athenae, please save me.”

When she saw the priest was still terrified, Haze slowly stood up and approached him. She said, “It’s alright. It’s alright. It’s not that scary.”

Haze smiled wryly. If there really was a ‘hero’ in this world, then they should have been rescued long ago. If there was a ‘God’ in this world, then they would have never been here. Haze only told him that because there was nothing they could do, but to accept that fact. It was because she did not believe in any of them.

“Th...thank you...”

The trembling priest slowly raised his head.

“Wh...what is your name, child?”

She turned to look at him and answered, “Haze.”

“It...it’s a pretty name. May God Athenae be with you.”

After the priest tapped his head and his chest with his fingers, he clasped Haze’s hands as he started praying.

Haze then looked down at him and asked, “What’s your name?”

The man raised his head and said, “Minhyuk.”

Chapter 259: Hungry Children

“Those despicable bastards!”

When Minhyuk heard the story from Conir, who had turned into a spirit body, he looked genuinely angry. Genie, Khan and Locke understood the reason why. Minhyuk was after all someone that knew what hunger was, more than anybody else.

In a way, *Athenae* was just a game and the NPCs were just virtual people created inside it. However, Minhyuk thought differently from the others. For him, this world that was called *Athenae* had given him a second life.

He had met a lot of people in this world. Instructor Valen, Instructor Roina, and Ellie cared for him like he was their own brother. There had been countless people that he met and Minhyuk had treated them genuinely. He treated them like they were real people and not NPCs. After all, even though they were just NPCs, they still had their own thoughts and feelings. He thought that even though this world was just a game for the players, for the people that lived in this world, this was their reality.

“They make children go hungry and feed them to the dragon to make chimeras...”

Genie pondered over the words that they had heard earlier. The process of creating chimeras was extremely horrifying. Meanwhile, the huffing Minhyuk checked the information about the Essence of Flavor as he tried to calm his anger.

[Essence of Flavor. Just one drop can help boost all stats. Dropping a single drop of this on any food will tremendously improve its taste due to the concentrated desire, hunger, and cravings. If one drinks all of the content of the cup, one will be able to overcome their limitations and grow further. For example, an ordinary knight class will become a stronger knight class.]

The reward, Essence of Flavor was quite amazing since there would be an increase in the class ranking once all of it was ingested. Of course, the part that caught Minhyuk’s attention the most was the part that said ‘A single drop of this on any food will tremendously improve its taste’. It seemed like it was caused by the power of essence from the accumulated hunger.

However, they had a lot of problems to face. Conir had told them to go to ‘Collodis Empire’. Collodis Empire was currently in a ceasefire with Eivelis Empire. However, ultimately, they were still at war with each other. In addition, Peru, the person who produced chimeras, was a count in that empire. It was very difficult for Minhyuk, someone who held a title in the Valkyrie Kingdom, to punish a count in an empire that was larger and more powerful than the kingdom he belonged to. He also heard from Conir that Peru had amassed a huge number of troops from the money that he had earned from selling chimeras.

That was his main concern. He knew that this was something that could not be solved easily and quietly. So, he pondered about ways to approach this problem and save the children. Then...

He was contacted by his vassal Ben. The person whom they left behind to take care of the territory. Even if they were not in front of each other, the vassals and their lord could exchange messages and calls with each other.

“...?”

Minhyuk tilted his head in confusion as he continued to listen to Ben’s words.

Minhyuk shook his head. Collodis Empire did not have any reason to harm Minhyuk. In addition, they should be aware that foreigners were immortal beings that could come back to life, even if they killed them.

‘So why?’

He was also wondering why Corr had to accompany him. Then, Ben continued to speak.

“Talmor?”

Minhyuk listened to the entire story from Ben.

‘Hoo... What a scary person...?’

Based on the story, it seemed like Corr had inherited his mantle and created a new religion all by himself. Perhaps, just like the members of the Talmor Religion, Asvon also needed the powers of Talmor. In fact, if that was not the case, then he did not know what else they needed from them. However, with this, he had a clear way of getting there.

‘After all, Emperor Asvon is the one that personally invited me, right?’

Just like that, the problem of his entry to Collodis Empire was solved.

Just then, another set of notifications began to ring in his head.

[The gate to the Elven Forest has opened with the retreat of the Demon World Troops.]

[The mission in Elvenheim’s Area A is completed.]

[Announcing the Contribution Rankings.]

[Rank 1. Legend Guild & Black Dragon and the Boys & Black Mage. Total Contribution Points: 7,314,180.]

[Rank 2. Iris Guild & Ares Guild. Total Contribution Points: 4,154,197.]

[Rank 3: Artheon Guild. Total Contribution Points: 2,671,311.]

[Rank 4:...omitted.]

[Rank 1 Legend Guild and their allied guilds will receive a 20% EXP buff for one month.]

[Gorn's Treasure Chest (A~SS) will be given randomly.]

The guild members were surprised when they heard the notifications. They were shocked because the total contribution points were higher than what they had initially expected. It was even in a situation where their contribution points were reduced by thirty percent since they allied with other guilds. The operators had imposed this restriction to prevent the reckless formation of alliances. Regardless of that, their total contribution points were still too high.

Then, the individual contribution points started to show up one by one.

[Rank 1. Minhyuk. Total Individual Contribution Points: 3,413,613.]

[Rank 2. Ali. Total Individual Contribution Points: 1,231,713.]

[Rank 3. Black Dragon. Total Individual Contribution Points: 604,139.]

[Rank 4...omitted.]

"...!"

"...!"

Everyone present was shocked. They were not the only ones. The total contribution points were also posted on *Athenae's* official website, causing the commentators to open their mouths.

[C...crazy... He's done more than a large guild all by himself.]

[What? Was Player Minhyuk's contribution not reflected when he was outside of Elvenheim?]

[I think so too. However, what is certain is that he was receiving contribution points from quests that were related to the Demon World Troops. I think it started to reflect when he arrived in Elvenheim.]

[Hoo. That's a really unbelievable score. That's an extremely high score. I think this is the perfect time to say that he has eaten everything all by himself.]

Then, the notification for the rewards for the individual contribution rankings resounded in everyone's ears.

[You have received 5,000,000 EXP for achieving Rank 1 in the contribution points rankings.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have acquired Gorn's 'Eye of the Abyss'. This will be applied immediately.]

Minhyuk had now reached Level 398. He was now close to reaching Level 400. Then, his eyes suddenly turned red before returning back to its original state. It happened at the exact same moment when the notification for the Eye of the Abyss rang in his ears.

[Eye of the Abyss. You can display the status window of monsters or NPCs that are weaker than you. Not applicable to other players. Can only be used once a week.]

'Oh...?'

It was a useful ability. Eye of the Abyss could help him discover powerful and useful people like hidden NPCs. Of course, Minhyuk was unhappy if that hidden NPC was brought in as his vassal. Still, his lips curled up.

‘However, it’s not bad if they became a member of my territory.’

Minhyuk had one question though. He was wondering why he did not get a notification about receiving Gorn’s treasure box.

At that moment, Commander-in-Chief Gorn appeared. Behind him were countless elves.

The commentators were shouting excitedly.

[Elf King Gorn stood in front of Player Minhyuk with hundreds of high elves behind him.]

[It’s like the Elf President met with the Human President. Looks cool.]

The viewers watched with bated breath, admiring Minhyuk and his deeds. They watched as the king of another race stood in front of Minhyuk with eyes filled with gratitude.

Not long after, the high elves rushed towards them carrying along a huge treasure chest. Then, they placed it in front of Minhyuk.

“This is my gift for you. We haven’t recaptured the Elven Forest yet, but we can’t deny the fact that you have done the most to help us.”

Then, the notifications rang loudly in Minhyuk’s head.

[Elf King Gorn has given you 1,000 platinum.]

[You have acquired Gorn’s (SSS) Treasure Box.]

It seemed like the notification was only for Minhyuk. 1,000 platinum was an enormous sum. It would be worth as much as 5 billion won when exchanged with cash.

Meanwhile, the commentators started to predict his rewards.

[The S-rank Treasure Box is colored red and the SS-rank Treasure Box is colored blue. That golden color is not revealed yet. No one else in Legend Guild has a box of this color... I’m pretty sure that’s SSS-rank!]

[I can’t wait! I’m looking forward to what will come out from an SSS-rank Treasure Box!!!]

The viewers, commentators, and people from all over the world had their attention focused on the treasure box. However, Minhyuk just threw the treasure box in his inventory.

[Wh...why didn’t you check!!!]

[If you received it, then you should check it right away!!! Don’t cut us off here, no!!!]

[Please check it! Please! We’re begging you! Player Minhyuk! Commentator Lee Dae-Jin please do something about this!]

[Aaaaaaaah! Why don’t you check it?!!! I’m going crazy out of curiosity!]

Alas, it seemed like Minhyuk remained unaware of the howls of the commentators and the viewers in front of the TV wanting him to ‘Check it ouuuuuut!!!’. Instead, he continued to smile and talk to Gorn.

“Your Majesty!”

Gorn smiled gently as he nodded at Minhyuk’s loud and confident voice. He said, “Say it.”

“I would be very happy if you just give me something delicious instead of something like this.”

“Hahahahaha, what?” Gorn laughed loudly as he personally handed over the S~SSS ranked ingredients that the elves had gathered for Minhyuk. Then, Gorn moved on and talked with Genie separately.

‘I want to eat something from the Food God’s Shop, but there’re just too many eyes here.’?

Minhyuk thought that it would be better if he ate it on the way to fulfill Conir’s quest. Furthermore, since Prince Argon was here, even if Minhyuk was not present, his guild members would be able to continue to use the Royal Shop as the quest to enter the Elven Forest appeared again.

Minhyuk had sent Genie a whisper that he would be going to the Collodis Empire. None of the guild members were dissatisfied when Minhyuk took on the quest that only one person could do. In addition, his father and the four hyenas said that their journey to the Elven Forest would be delayed since they were busy with work.

Since Minhyuk’s dad would not be able to access *Athenae* for a while due to his busy schedule, Minhyuk had decided to deal with the other troublesome things as he went to Valhalla and picked up Corr.

Clack, rattle, clank.

Paladin Corr, Minhyuk, Beanie, and Conir’s spirit body were all riding in a carriage that was bound for Collodis Empire. They were traveling at an extremely fast pace.

Beanie was holding the cool *Papinoco*?chocolate-flavored *chuchubar* with its tiny paws as it leaned against Minhyuk. Minhyuk had bought the refreshing popsicle bar earlier, albeit with a little reluctance.

As for himself, Minhyuk had finally bought the bossam set in the Food God’s Shop with the contribution points that he had earned. He planned to buy each item off of the shop one by one.

As soon as he bought the item, the Fantastic Bossam Set appeared in front of Minhyuk. The first thing that caught his eye was the plump and round bossam meat that was smack dab in the center. Looking to his right he could see pickled garlic, seasoned garlic chives, ssamjang, garlic, salted shrimp and radish, kimjang kimchi, as well as lettuce and perilla leaves to make a wrap. And to the left, there were bowls of tray noodles and soft tofu stew. In restaurants, they would usually serve dried radish miso soup, kimchi stew, or soft tofu stew when someone ordered a bossam set. It seemed like the same was true for this set that he purchased.

“Wow...”

The first thing that Minhyuk did was to mix the noodles. After mixing the tray noodles thoroughly, he admired the red color that coated every single strand of noodles. It looked so refreshing and appetizing that his mouth could not help but water.

After mixing the noodles, Minhyuk quickly placed a piece of kimchi on top of a bossam meat. As soon as he placed them in his mouth, he could feel the crunchy, soft texture of the kimchi, and the bossam meat combining together.

Then, he grabbed a piece of lettuce, before placing a piece of bossam meat on top of it. After which, he used his chopstick to grab a piece of garlic. He also made sure to dip the garlic in ssamjang, before picking some seasoned chives and dried radish to go with his wrap. Then, he wrapped everything tightly in the lettuce before putting it in his mouth. The various flavors that burst out in his mouth brought a happy smile to his face.

Grabbing a spoon, Minhyuk stretched his hand out towards the soft tofu stew that looked appetizingly spicy. When he brought the spoon to his mouth and took a sip, he could not help but nod at the refreshing spiciness of the soup.

This time, he placed some bossam meat on top of the tray noodles, before lifting them together and placing them in his mouth. The spicy and sweet flavor of the tray noodles complemented the somewhat greasy flavor of the bossam meat perfectly.

Then, he lifted a fresh cabbage leaf. The droplets of water still clinging to the washed leaf glistened and sparkled in the sunlight. He tore the cabbage leaf into smaller pieces before dipping them in the ssamjang dipping sauce.

Crunch, crunch.

“Isn’t this cabbage really sweet?”

‘Cabbages really taste sweeter the more you chew on them, right?’

That was what he was feeling right now. Then, he placed some bossam meat and garlic on top of the cabbage. He dipped the wrap in ssamjang before placing it in his mouth.

After eating happily like that, he took out a glass filled with ice and poured cold cider into it. Then, he grabbed the glass and gulped it with a smile.

“Kgghk—”

The cold and refreshing drink passed through his mouth, washing away the greasiness that the meat left.

Just as he was about to place the bossam meat and pickled garlic in lettuce and put it in his mouth, Conir spoke to him. It seemed like Conir had turned redder and redder with every minute he spent watching him eat.

[J...Just one bite...]

Then...

Beanie dropped the chuchubar that he was eating in shock. On the other side, Corr, who had his eyes closed with his arms crossed on his chest, turned to look at Conir with astonishment on his face.

Conir was completely unaware of the situation. All he could do was tilt his head in confusion.

[Guwoo...?]

Chapter 260: Hungry Children

Beanie and Corr knew a fact about Minhyuk, even though they were not explicitly told. If someone had asked Minhyuk for one bite, it was like he was being told ‘*Can I punch your guts?*’!

“...”

“...”

The carriage was filled with silence. Corr turned towards the coachman and said, “Coachman, pull over for a bit.”

He then sighed deeply as he shook his head and left the carriage. Beanie also stood up as it looked at Conir’s spiritual body with pity. Then, it slowly walked out of the carriage with the chuchubar in its paws.

“Ooink.”

‘*Cheer up. Oink.*’

Then, he went away.

[Gu, guwoo...?]

When everyone else went out of the carriage, Conir suddenly felt terrified. It was because Minhyuk’s expression was changing every second!

“Hahahahaha! You want a bite? A bite?”

[Gu, guwoo... H, hungry...]

“But, can a spiritual body eat?”

Minhyuk suddenly became curious as he gave a piece of cabbage leaf to Conir. Conir reached out to try and grab the food, but he could not touch it. Minhyuk finally realized that spiritual bodies could not eat. Conir also had a very sad and despondent look on his face when he realized this.

“I’m so sorry about this.”

Beanie and Corr went out without realizing that Minhyuk was treating Conir differently. It was because Minhyuk knew how much Conir had suffered from his hunger. He knew this more than anybody else. Sometimes, asking for one bite was a desperate plea.

Minhyuk had also experienced being too eager to eat his 5,000 pieces of cherry tomatoes, just so he could appease his eating addiction. He even thought that it would be fine for him to die if he would be allowed to eat all of the delicious food that he wanted to eat. He wanted to go to a buffet just like a normal person and bring a plate filled with food, as he continuously stacked his bowls. For others, those were just common routines. However, it was not the same for Minhyuk. For him, those were only a part of his dreams. As it turned out, it was also not a routine for Conir.

Then, Minhyuk suddenly asked him a question, “Conir, what kind of person were you?”

[I... don’t... remem... ber...]

“Huh?”

Minhyuk tilted his head in thought.

‘You don’t remember? That’s strange.’

Conir clearly told him about the girl named Haze, the other kids left behind, as well as the atrocities that Count Peru had committed. However, Conir could not remember who he was.

Minhyuk looked at Conir with a bit of regret. He shook his head as he continued to eat again.

The notifications in Minhyuk’s ears kept on ringing after he started eating the dishes that he bought using his contribution points.

[You have eaten the Fantastic Bossam & Tray Noodle Set.]

[One of your equipped artifacts will be randomly selected. The chosen artifact will have an increase in ranking.]

[The system has randomly selected Hepas’ Legendary Frying Pan.]

[Hepas’ Legendary Frying Pan has certain limitations and can no longer be upgraded.]

[The ranking has not increased. Only the effects of the artifact has been enhanced.]

?A +20% in all stats

?A +200 in Magical Defense

?The effectiveness of the Magical Defense will double.

?There will be a +50% increase in the probability of Magical Reflection.

?+50% increase in Spirit Affinity.?

?You can use Third Tier Magic of all of the five attributes without casting to cook with the frying pan.

?Skill: Gryphon’s Cry

?Skill: Frying Pan Gigantification

[You have eaten the Fantastic Chicken and Pizza Set.]

[The special abilities of one of your equipped artifacts will be upgraded.]

[The system has randomly selected ‘Food God’s Kitchen Knife’s Skill: Food God’s Blessings’ to be upgraded.]

Artifact Skill

?Three Food God’s Kitchen Knives with 817 attack will appear to protect the owner or attack the enemy at any time.

?There is a 17% chance of the Food God’s Kitchen Knife’s having an additional 160% critical damage.

In the Frying Pan's case, the attack increased by 200 and the defense increased by 150. In addition, the +100 on the magic defense had now become +200 and the Second Tier Magic had become Third Tier Magic. The most important addition was the appearance of low-leveled spirits that could help with his cooking. In the Food God's Kitchen Knife's case, the initial two kitchen knives had become three.

At that moment, their carriage had finally reached the Collodis Empire. They were entering an area named Vanchester. It was a territory under Count Peru.

"Can you show us proof of your identity?"

The guards looked at them suspiciously. Minhyuk showed them the invitation that Emperor Asvon had sent them.

"Sa...salute!!!"

"Please excuse us, you may enter."

This just showed how much power the invitation of the emperor possessed. Minhyuk quickly passed through the guards and entered Vanchester smoothly.

Vanchester was a holy ground. It was a territory famous for its riches. However, Minhyuk knew that all these dazzling displays, colorful marbles and stylish buildings were possible due to the production of 'chimeras'. The only thing he felt as he looked through these extravagances was disgust.

Now, this was their problem...

'How can we infiltrate the lord's castle?'

According to Conir, the defenses in the castle were no less than that of the Imperial Palace. After getting his riches from conducting chimera experiments through the use of children, it was only natural for Count Peru to be more vigilant with his territory's defense.

At that moment, something that Conir had mentioned before had flashed in his mind.

The dragon in the Dungeon of Sin must be killed after 30 cycles and a new one would hatch from a new egg. This had become a vicious cycle. In addition, they needed to find a sacrifice secretly for this cycle to continue.

'That's really strange though. He doesn't remember anything about himself but he remembers the process clearly.'

'Is it because he's a chimera?'

Meanwhile, Minhyuk was able to meet an unexpected character.

"Minhyuk-Ilujah! Pope... No, Minhyuk, what are you doing here?"

It was none other than the most fervent supporter of Minhyuk Religion, Priest Kenneth.

Priest Kenneth had received a commission through the Athenae Temple to travel around Collodis Empire and pray for the people.

Based on Conir's words, Count Peru's aim was none other than 'Kenneth'. It seemed like he was their target sacrifice this time. As it happened, a very convenient method to infiltrate the lord's castle had appeared in front of them.

Minhyuk pulled out one of the items that he had bought at the Royal Shop. He just bought it on a whim, but he did not expect that it would be used like that. It was none other than the 'Doppelganger Potion.'

Drinking this potion would allow the user to change into someone else. Once Minhyuk drank the doppelganger potion, he would be able to turn into Kenneth. Then, he also made sure to ask Kenneth for some change of clothes.

"I'm very honored! Minhyuk will be wearing my clothes!" Kenneth shouted. He looked like an excited fangirl with the way he reacted. He was also furious with Count Peru when he heard about the Count's atrocious deeds from Minhyuk.

"Those despicable bastards!"

Then, Minhyuk quickly turned into a replica of Kenneth before moving around wearing his priest robes. Kenneth told Minhyuk that all he had to do was say some good words, pray once and walk around.

"Good day, Priest?"

"*Athellujah*.?Please let me pray for you, sister."

Minhyuk stood in front of the woman as he clasped his hands together and prayed. The woman became excited. She hurriedly closed her eyes as she clasped her hands together.

"God Athenae who is in heaven, please give us our daily bread once, twice, thrice, four times. I hope that you can enrich the meat so that delicious side dishes are served every day. *Ramen*... Ah, no. Amen."

'Eh??'

The woman tilted her head in confusion while Minhyuk, who looked like Kenneth, just grinned widely at her.

"*Athellujah*. I hope you have something delicious every day."

The woman could not help but twirl her fingers on the side of her head as she watched the priest walking away.

Minhyuk wandered around the market all day. As he walked around, he faintly felt someone trailing his movements. The stalker ambushed him silently.

Slam!

A powerful hand chop hit the back of his neck. However, it did not cause much damage to Minhyuk's HP and defense. Regardless, he still pretended to sag and turn unconscious.

Then, they started to put something mysterious on Minhyuk's body. It seemed like it was an item that could determine his holy powers.

"He's filled with holy power."

"He's clearly a priest."

They quickly moved the 'unconscious' Minhyuk towards their destination. With that, he easily infiltrated Count Peru's domain. The assailants continued to go down after entering Count Peru's castle.

"Save me!!!"

"P...please give me something to eat!!!"

Then, he heard the cries of the children who were trapped in the prison. When he opened his eyes, he could see more than ten iron doors along the hallway. Each iron door had several children locked in them. In other words, they had captured dozens of children in this horrible place. Minhyuk's fist clenched tightly. These were still NPCs but nevertheless, this act was extremely disgusting and infuriating.

Then, the people who brought Minhyuk along woke him up as he felt something being placed on his wrist.

[You have worn the Devil's Bracelet.]

[All of your Holy Powers have been restricted.]

Perhaps they were concerned about the priest's holy power. After all, once an ordinary priest got his holy powers sealed, then he was no different from an ordinary man.

Minhyuk begged and screamed for help. Then, he was stuffed in one of the iron doors. When he was left there, he began to shout and beg for help again.

[Ha... z... e...]

Conir opened his mouth. Minhyuk had heard about this child. This child was special. The child was stronger than anybody else in this place. It was said that a chimera could only be transformed inside after the 'hunger' had accumulated for years. Perhaps this was the reason why Haze was special. She had always been told that she needed to become a pillar for the other children.

Minhyuk asked her in a trembling voice as she tried to console him, "Wh...what is your name, child?"

"Haze."

"It...it's a pretty name. May God Athenae be with you."

Minhyuk held her hands tightly as he prayed for her sincerely.

'May these children not experience hunger anymore. May the hunger of the people disappear from this world. And may there be no one who makes someone else go hungry.'

Haze looked down at him and asked, "What's your name?"

Minhyuk answered that question in his heart.

‘I’m here to save you, Haze.’

However, he opened his mouth to say, “Minhyuk.”

“Minhyuk... Minhyuk... I’ll remember that.”

She smiled as she continued to mull over the name over and over again. Minhyuk could see what she meant by remembering.

‘We’re about to die but I don’t want to forget everyone here.’

Haze truly looked like a special girl so Minhyuk used his ‘Eye of the Abyss’ on her.

[Using Eye of the Abyss.]

[Observation is successful.]

?Passive Skill: Clever Mind

?Passive Skill: Elaborate Language Skills

?Passive Skill: Legendary Aptitude