

Gourmet 261

Chapter 261: Sword Saint Making Ramyeon

‘...?!’

Minhyuk was somewhat surprised. Her potential was comparable to Grandpa Ben’s potential. Even her ‘rank’ said that she could become a legend. What was more, she was a child capable of becoming a legend if she became a tactician, a strategist, or a merchant!

Then, he checked her skills.

Passive Skill

‘There’s a saying that a soft word turns away wrath. She can speak well enough to make such a thing possible.

‘Once she starts talking, the people will start to unconsciously empathize with her.

‘She might be able to sell water from the Nakdong River’ for millions of gold.

Passive Skill

‘Born with the talent to become a legend. If she becomes a tactician, she will be able to show great skills on the battlefield.’

‘Whatever she learns, she will learn and grow much faster than anybody else.

‘She hasn’t unlocked all of her powers yet.

Even her passive skills looked quite special. For the NPCs that he found in the market, most of them did not have any passive skills when he checked their stats. What was even more surprising was the fact that Haze’s powers had not been fully unlocked yet.

Minhyuk shook his head as he heard the voices of the children all around him.

“Hungry...”

“I’m going to die...”

“If I just have something delicious to eat, I would not wish for anything else even if I die.”

There was nothing in this prison. It was like they were preventing them from picking something up to commit suicide because of their hunger.

Meanwhile, Conir's spiritual body crouched in front of Haze as he tried to stroke her head. However, there was no way that he could stroke her head since he did not have a physical body. His hand could only brush through air.

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

"Am I going to die tomorrow?" Minhyuk quietly asked Haze.

He looked like he had finally calmed down and had reared in his fear and sadness to some extent. Haze looked at him as if she did not know what to say to him. She said, "What do priests usually do?"

Haze tried to ask him about trivial things. It seemed like she was trying to alleviate his nervousness. In return, Minhyuk answered her questions. Then, the stories about food started to come out.

"Out of all the food, I'm good at making curry."

"Curry?" Minhyuk asked, interest sparkling in his eyes.

"Yeah. Curry. I have loved curry since I was a kid so I have been studying how to make it ever since then. Hehe. No one can be as good as I am when it comes to making that."

Minhyuk looked mildly impressed.

Curry was curry. Almost anyone could easily find a curry shop in their neighborhoods. Curry shops were usually run by foreigners.

People would usually dip a bread called 'naan' in curry. Naan would usually come with a choice of chicken, lamb or beef in the bowl filled with curry sauce. One would find it extremely delicious if they dipped garlic naan in curry. Tandoori chicken would also taste good when paired with curry. It would also taste good with a sip of an Indian traditional drink called 'Lassi'. To put it simply, lassi was a type of yogurt, but traditional lassi had a strong salty flavor. Recently though, lassis that were sold in cafes had a sweet flavor that tastes similar to plain yogurt.

Not long after, Haze said, "I'll make it deliciously for you later."

At that moment, a notification rang in Minhyuk's head.

Ring—

: Save Haze.]

Haze now had a reason to live.

The next day, Barchel had started to prepare and make arrangements for his meeting with the dragon in the Dungeon of Sin.

After he had gone and checked on the dragon, Barchel had realized that the dragon was much more terrifying and more powerful than what he had originally thought. The dragon was none other than one of the four legendary dragons, the poison dragon, Ambacca. He was well-known for his formidable poison.

Right next to Barchel were three men that came from the Knight Tower. They served him, since he was the successor of the Tower's chief, and were selected due to their greed and ambition. If they completed this mission perfectly, they would also be able to receive money from Count Peru.

They began to move.

As soon as they entered the place, they could see the priest and the children tied tightly with a rope. There was exactly five children. And this was the room that held all of them.

Usually, when they were making chimeras, they would not throw in dozens per day. They would instead make a few of them, usually in this amount, on alternating days.

‘These are the materials that will bring me great fame and fortune.’?

Barchel believed that he would be the very first and only person in the empire to evolve into a legendary class once everything was done. He was staring at the children with greed as he led them deeper underground.

Right below the castle was the entrance to the ‘Dungeon of Sin’. It was quite surprising that it was located in this place. However, what Barchel and his three knights needed to do was simple. They would hunt the regular mobs in the Dungeon of Sin and once they arrived in the boss room, they would push in the priest and the children inside before closing the door. After a while, they would go inside and raid Ambacca. The three knights that came with him were at the bottom of the Knight Tower, but even if that was the case, they were still far stronger than the empire's knight commander.

‘There seems to be no problem at all.’?

Barchel did not see any disruption in their work.

“Pl...please! Help us! Please!!!”

The priest that they dragged along collapsed as soon as they stood in front of the entrance to the Dungeon of Sin. He looked like his legs had softened from fright as he grabbed his legs and begged.

“Is a priest of the Athenae Religion afraid of death? Shouldn't you be happy? You will now meet with your God, Athenae.”

“Please save us. I'll do anything if you let me live!”

Barchel smirked at them. He could see that Haze and the children were all clenching their teeth as they tried to hold back their tears. Their legs were even trembling like the trunks of cottonwood trees that were being blown by the wind. One of the boys even dropped to the floor as he peed his pants.

"Tsk, tsk. Poor NPCs. In your next life, please be born as a real person and not as an artificial intelligence."

Barchel clicked his tongue and kicked the priest as he said those words.

"Urgh!"

The knights threw the priest inside as they continued to drag the children in the dungeon.

President Kang Taehoon was sitting in the conference room with a grim look on his face. He was talking with the executives of Joy Co. Ltd.

"The problem looks serious. The players have been constantly asking."

"That's right. The Food God, Player Minhyuk's Holy Power seems high enough to be able to cripple all of the systems that we have built."

The topic of their conversation was none other than the Food God, Player Minhyuk, and his Holy Power.

Due to the effects of the double buff, his Holy Power had exceeded 4,000. He even had the Saint's Sword which was an artifact that was not meant to be pulled out in the first place.

It was quite laughable. A single player had increased his Holy Power, a stat that could not easily be increased by bonus points, to 4,000. It was a result that none of them had expected. Currently, the person that was second in terms of Holy Power was Bavecka's Child. However, his Holy Power was only less than 1,000. Hence, one could imagine how strong Minhyuk was.

In particular, what made Minhyuk stronger was the additional strength that he had received based on his Holy Power stat. He had as much as 100 additional attack, and an additional 10% in defense based on his Holy Power.

Even the Saint's Protection that was attached to the Saint's Sword was a problem. This skill could increase the attack and defense power of the player by 30% of their Holy Power. It could even increase the power of his vassals, allies, party members and guild members too.

As a result, Minhyuk shone brightly on the battlefield. However, the balance had collapsed too much. And, Joy Co. Ltd. was not such an irresponsible company that they would immediately patch the broken balance.

"What that player has achieved is something amazing. I believe that we should introduce a reasonable patch for that. According to the current patch, the benefits of the Holy Power had now changed from what it was before. The paladins' percentage in healing has increased, and their HP's self-recovery rate has also increased. I believe there's no problem at all."

If their healing percentage, as well as their HP self-recovery rate, had increased, then the players would definitely applaud the patch and praise it. However, for those figures on the same stage at Minhyuk, it was something different.

“The Saint’s Sword should be retrieved as compensation for his 4,000 Holy Power.”

Kang Taehoon tapped the table with his finger. He seemed to be drumming up a rhythm as he continued to tap.

He did not know what Minhyuk would ask for. The 4,000 Holy Power and the Saint’s Sword were not insignificant rewards. The only person that could decide about that in Joy Co. Ltd. was Kang Taehoon, and only him alone.

“I will meet with Player Minhyuk personally to negotiate.”

Barchel and his knights had easily slaughtered the monsters in the Dungeon of Sin. The monsters lurking inside of the dungeon were mostly undead, but they were not that strong so they were easy to handle.

Before they knew it, they had already reached the entrance to the boss room. Barchel quickly pulled his sword out.

[Continuous Draw]

[One draw sends four continuous attacks.]

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa!

The monsters that were blocking their way were quickly dealt with by Barchel’s quick draw. Then, Barchel and the knights quickly shoved the priest and the children inside the bossroom.

Creaaaaaak—

Then, they quickly pushed the entrance to the bossroom close as they jammed a rock outside.

Haze calmly looked around. There was a head of the dragon made out of stone stuck in the wall hanging over the huge altar in front of them.

Creaaaaaak—

And with that, the boss room began to shake.

“*Keuhuhuhuhu...*”

“Don’t cry, Rona. It’s alright, Connie.”

Haze hugged them tightly. It was said that once they became chimeras, they would not be able to remember anything since their minds would be controlled and turned hazy. She was also told that they would become murder weapons and would only be used for killing.

As she encouraged the other children, Haze’s legs began to tremble. That was when she began to remember someone. His name was Conir. He was a chimera, but strangely enough there was a very small part of him that was not controlled. There was a part of him that retained some of his

personality and memories. He would sometimes sneak delicious things in Haze's room. However, she no longer saw Conir anymore. Conir's eyes were always filled with sadness.

Then...

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—

...the head of the dragon started to crack as the stones began to fall down with a bang. What appeared in front of them was a dragon that seemed to have removed its molten skin.

"Kiyeeeeeeeeee!"

Starting from its head, the dragon began to wiggle and squeeze out of the opening on the wall. Haze's legs began to tremble.

"Noona, I'm scared..."

"I want to live... I don't want to die yet!"

"Mom, mom, mom! *Waaaaaah!*"

Haze wept silently as she listened to the children's cries. Then, she took something out of her bosom and threw it in front of the children. They were 'blade fragments' that she had stashed and kept away from sight.

"The choice is yours."

Haze did not force them. She simply clenched a piece tightly in her hands despite her fear. Her hands felt hot. Blood fell and dripped from her hands. However, she still slowly brought it towards her neck.

'I'd rather die than become a chimera.'

One by one, the children picked up the blade fragments. Even though they were still young, these childrens had their own free will. They should be given a choice and allowed the freedom to choose their decisions freely. During their stay with Haze, these childrens had all matured.

"Kyaaaaaack!"

Finally, Ambacca got out of the wall to devour them. During her last moments, just as she was about to stab herself on the neck, Haze turned around and looked at the children. Tears were running down her cheeks, but she still smiled broadly at them, and said, "Let's meet in heaven."

Just as she was about to move her hands...

Swoooooosh—

...she felt a breeze blowing past her. Haze's eyes turned and looked to her side. The priest that was burying his head in fear was nowhere to be seen. Instead, there was another man that was wearing the priestly robes.

"...?"

Just as Haze was about to turn her head, a baby piggy appeared in front of her. The baby piggy took away the blade fragment that was in her hand.

“Oink! Oink!”

‘You can’t do this! Oink!’

Haze slowly turned around. She saw three black kitchen knives popping out of the man’s body that was clad in a priestly robe.

“Protect the children.”

The black knives that seemed to have consciousness stopped in front of Haze and the children. Before she knew it, something huge had appeared in the man’s hands.

‘F...frying pan...?’

For a moment, Haze wondered if that was really a frying pan. At that moment, Ambacca’s mouth reached the man.

“N...no...!”

Haze unconsciously cried out.

Then...

Claaaaaang—

Ambacca was directly hit by the huge frying pan, causing him to fly back and his body slammed on the wall.

Baaaaaaang—

Crack, crack, crack—

A dense cloud of dust rose from the ground as Haze’s hair fluttered from the wind created by the impact.

The man grabbed the priestly robes and tugged. *Rip!*? The robe got torn off of his body. What appeared was a sturdy and tough-looking armor that was made out of bones.

‘D...dragon... how...?’

Haze also knew how strong a dragon was. The man slowly turned his head, causing Haze to ask, “Wh...who are you...?”

The man smiled softly at her question as he approached her. He wiped the tears off of her cheeks with his warm and big hands and said, “A good adult... or something like that?”

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Baaaaaaang—

When they heard the sound of an explosion from inside the boss room of the Dungeon of Sin, Barchel and his knights shrugged as they laughed merrily.

“Oho~ I guess that poison dragon bastard is very excited today.”

“Fufufufu. If Sir Barchel successfully hunts the poison dragon, you will be more powerful. You have the chance to become the deputy tower master now.”

The corners of Barchel’s mouth curled up in joy. If he became the deputy tower master, then he would become more powerful in terms of the sword in the country, compared to Carr.

Then, one of the other ambitious knights said, “Just like the stories and legends of the past, a hero has appeared to come and hunt the poison dragon.”

“Fufufufufu. So, are we the villains?”

Barchel found their words funny.

‘Well, what if I’m a villain? Anyway, this is just a game.’

Even if a hero appeared, they would not be able to kill the poison dragon.

“Not too long ago, the Bone Dragon Lord appeared. It’s not one of the four legendary dragons, but it’s true that it was the first dragon to show up.”

He could remember that day clearly. He heard that ATV had reached their highest rating of 60% that day. It was safe to say that more than half of the entire country had watched the broadcast, including those that watched Ztube on the internet, so it was only natural that they achieved such ratings. As for the Bone Dragon Lord there...

“That bastard was killed by a foreigner.”

“A...a foreigner?”

“Yes.”

Barchel shook his head when he saw the knights look at him in surprise.

The fact that a foreigner killed a dragon was extremely surprising. Of course, the dragon was already dead and was infinitely weaker compared to a regular adult dragon, but nevertheless, it was still surprising. Still, even if foreigners grew surprisingly quick, their strength was still insufficient compared to the guardians that dominated the world of Athenae. Hence, the knights were wondering how the foreigner was able to kill the dragon.

“According to the information that I gathered, the bone dragon lord is infinitely weaker than the four legendary dragons. I also heard that there were dragons of fire and ice present back then, but they still needed a long time to grow. So what if they grew up? Even if there were three bone dragon lords, they still wouldn’t be able to handle one legendary dragon. On the contrary...”

Barchel looked at the cave that was not that far from them.

“The poison dragon is the third among the four legendary dragons. And, it also achieves its full growth as soon as it breaks out of its egg.”

“What an amazing bastard.”

“So even if a hero appeared, he wouldn’t be able to kill that, unless he’s a lot stronger than all of us combined. Also, Poison Dragon Ambacca is capable of spitting out extremely terrible poison. There are only a select few people that can handle that poison.”

Barchel shrugged.

It was the unmistakable truth. He had already reached Level 490. Even if that was the case, hunting the poison dragon inside would only be possible if he did it with the three knights together. In addition, they also procured the ‘Poison King’s Potion’ from the Knight Tower just for this occasion. The Poison King’s potion would be able to increase their poison resistance by 60%.

‘Ah, but what if...’

What if it was the Frying Pan Killer? Perhaps it was possible? However, he just smirked at such an impossible thought.

Minhyuk heard the children’s cries as he buried his head on the floor while pretending to be afraid.

“Noona, I’m scared...”

“I want to live... I don’t want to die yet!”

“Mom, mom, mom! *Waaaaaah!*”

The reason why Minhyuk wanted to hunt Poison Dragon Ambacca was because he wanted to eliminate the root of everything. If the Dungeon of Sin and Poison Dragon Ambacca remained, the creation of chimeras and the atrocious deeds that Count Peru was guilty of would most likely continue.

Another reason was because the Dungeon of Sin was located at the end of the basement. It was a convenient space that was small enough to prevent a lot of enemies from flocking towards him.

When Minhyuk heard Haze’s voice, he realized that they were trying to kill themselves. It seemed like these kids were forced to grow up too fast during the time that they stayed in this hell.

The reason why Minhyuk hid his identity from the children was also simple. There was a saying that walls have ears. Count Peru might have installed some device that could listen in on the situation of the children, or perhaps he might have hidden his own spy among the children. Was it not natural for him to be suspicious? After all, he had been creating chimeras for a long time, so he was probably not stupid.

When Haze and the other children decided to kill themselves, Poison Dragon Ambacca flew towards her at a breakneck speed and tried to devour her completely. That was when Minhyuk knew that this was now or never. If any of these children were Count Peru’s men, then they would already be out of this place.

Minhyuk quickly enlarged his frying pan as he ran forward while triggering ‘Food God’s Blessings’. Three black knives popped out from his back as he summoned Beanie. Minhyuk quickly

slammed Poison Dragon Ambacca with his frying pan. The dragon flew backward after receiving a fierce smash from his frying pan.

Baaaaaaang—

The long priestly robes covering his body was pretty annoying so he quickly tore it off of his body.

“Wh...who are you...?”

Haze was clearly bewildered. It was because the man who was crying and begging for his life earlier suddenly stood up and smashed the Poison Dragon Ambacca.

Minhyuk pondered over how he should answer that question. These children were dyed with despair due to the evil deeds that were done by adults. These children suffered from hunger due to the adult's greed for the 'essence' that would be squeezed out from them. He did not know what to say to these kids. Hence, he approached her as he gently wiped the tears off of her cheeks.

“A good adult... or something like that?”

Minhyuk wanted to let them know that the world was not filled with bad adults. At that moment...

Baaaaaaang—

...Poison Dragon Ambacca jumped out of the wall where he was rammed in earlier.

“*Kiyeeeeeee!*”

When Minhyuk first saw him, notifications rang loudly in his ears.

[You have met with one of the Four Legendary Dragons.]

[Poison Dragon Ambacca is a dragon that has achieved full growth.]

[You have gained 50 REP.]

[Whoever hunts Poison Dragon Ambacca will gain plenty of rewards.]

A dragon that had achieved full growth!

Minhyuk's father, Black Dragon, was better at handling dragons than anybody else. Britney and Destiny, the dragons that Black Dragon had tamed, were dragons that were still in their infancy stages. Compared to them, Poison Dragon Ambacca, who was standing in front of him, had already achieved full growth. This meant that he was not going to be an easy opponent.

Then, Ambacca flew towards Minhyuk.

“*Kihaaaaaaa!*” Ambacca roared loudly.

Beanie quickly led the children towards a fairly hidden corner. Then, it took something out.

[You have torn the Space Protection Parchment.]

[All attacks within a one-meter radius will be nullified.]

This was an item that was also sold in the Royal Shop, and it was very rare. In fact, there was only one copy sold in the shop. It was only available since the war episode was still not completely over yet.

The children huddled into the small magic camp created around Beanie. At the same time, poison bursted out from Poison Dragon Ambacca's body as he flew fiercely towards Minhyuk.

[Poison Dragon's Wrath.]

[You will receive 2.4% damage per second once you inhale the poison from the Poison Dragon's body.]

"...!"

The degree of damage was too horrendous. 2.4% of damage every second would cause a huge drop in one's HP. As soon as Minhyuk took a breath, he also inhaled the revolting poison.

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

[You have resisted an abnormal state.]

However, the poison was useless against someone like Minhyuk. In other words, Minhyuk might have just been the worst opponent for Poison Dragon Ambacca.

[Human... What in the...!]

Minhyuk was shocked. The sound that came out of the dragon's mouth was not a roar, but a clear voice. Unfortunately, Minhyuk could not understand what Poison Dragon Ambacca was saying because he did not understand the 'Dragon Language'. At the same time, dozens of giant poison spears sprang up around Poison Dragon Ambacca.

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!

The dozens of poison spears flew towards Minhyuk, who quickly used Like the Wind to approach Poison Dragon Ambacca, narrowing the distance between them. As soon as Minhyuk was near the dragon, he used Rampant Sword.

Pipipipipipipipi—

The sword lights slammed into Poison Dragon Ambacca's body, but none of them could cause a scratch on the sturdy and solid scales.

'Are you telling me that it wouldn't work even after using Rampant Sword with extremely high additional attack power?'

What was worse was that Minhyuk could not utilize the special privilege from his Holy Power, since this bastard was not classified as a demonic beast, demon or undead.

Then, Minhyuk quickly struck out with his reddened sword. It was none other than the Splitting Sword move. Two crescent sword lights flew straight towards Poison Dragon Ambacca, and Minhyuk dashed forward together with the sword light.

At the same time, he found something unusual somewhere near Ambacca's mouth.

'A dragon orb?'

The orb looked like a huge pearl with its gleaming white color. However, it quickly disappeared from his sight.

[Dragon Orb]

[With the help of the power of the Dragon Orb, Ambacca can exert a greater strength and force.]

At the exact same moment...

Kuhaaaaaaaak—

...terrible poison suddenly started bursting out from Poison Dragon Ambacca's body. With the poisonous explosion, the two crescent sword lights also disappeared from the air.

“...!”

Minhyuk was shocked. Before he could stop running, a green light suddenly flashed in front of him and pierced through his chest.

Thwaaaack—

[Poison Dragon's Poison Spear.]

[The Poison Spear has been influenced by the Dragon Orb and is now 2x more powerful than before. The chances of triggering a fatal hit has also increased by 80%.]

[Fatal blow!]

[The Poison Spear has inflicted triple damage.]

“Argh!”

Minhyuk tried to stop the spear from penetrating through his chest, but to no avail. The force sent him hurtling, before being smashed directly into the wall.

“Ugh!”

Crash—

[Your HP has fallen below 10%.]

Strong.

The single word floated in his mind. He realized how powerful a dragon was once it achieved its full growth. Just hitting a vital point could cause triple the damage on him.

“U...uncle!” Haze shouted at Minhyuk when he crashed down on the floor. She was trying to run out of the safe space without realizing it.

“Oink!”

However, Beanie blocked her way. Its expression was quite somber as it firmly signaled no to her. Beanie believed in Minhyuk more than anybody else, so it would do what it was tasked to do to support him.

Haze was helpless as she looked at Minhyuk worriedly. He was the only adult that had offered to protect her and the children who were abused and hurt by other adults. She was very grateful to him and that was why she was worried about his safety. Then...

Flash—

...an intense light flashed from Minhyuk's body. The deep wound caused by the spear that looked like it was impossible to recover from had completely recovered. It was the effect of the Armor of Immortality's special ability.

"Haze."

Minhyuk slowly stood up as he called her name. Haze looked at him with tears in her eyes, as she listened carefully to his words.

"I'm not an uncle, I'm an oppa."

"..."

It seemed like he felt bad because he was called *uncle*.

Black Dragon had reduced his login time as much as possible in *Athenae* recently because he was busy working as the president and chairman of the Ilhwa Group. However, he made sure to log in at least one hour every day. His reason was simple. It was because he needed to feed Britney and Destiny a delicious meal.

Black Dragon treated these kids as his own children and would give them special treatment. Perhaps that was the reason why a new skill appeared in his skill window.

It was a passive skill called 'Communication', allowing him to understand and feel what they were trying to convey, even if he did not know their language or he could not hear their voice.

Today, Black Dragon also heard their voices through the skill.

[I want to become stronger...]

[I want to protect you, Black Dragon.]

[I don't want to watch helplessly like what happened back then.]

Black Dragon felt moved. Remembering their helplessness during the fight with the Bone Dragon Lord, Britney and Destiny spoke of those words every day as if there was a clot in their hearts that they could not remove.

The only thing that Black Dragon could do was find ways to help them. He had asked Abel, an informant, about ways to make them grow faster.

"Britney, Destiny. I'll be back again tomorrow."

Black Dragon tried to cancel the Communication skill with a bit of regret.

"Kkiiiiii..."

"Kkiiiyeeeeee..."

The two majestic and lovely dragons approached him. They bowed their heads and rubbed him as much as they could.

"S...so cute...!"

‘This is why I can’t quit Athenae!’

Black Dragon petted their heads gently. It was time to say goodbye. Right at that moment...

“...!”

Black Dragon’s eyes widened.

‘There’s finally a solution that can quell these children’s sad cries every day! And it’s an artifact that can help me see these kids grow even more!’

Not long after, Abel’s whisper came back.

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Poison Dragon Ambacca was a special dragon. Up until now, he had repeatedly been killed before being reborn from an egg each time. Poison Dragon Ambacca was a dragon that could not die. Once his egg was formed, he would be reborn with all of his memories intact. Immortal. Perhaps that was the term that was apt for his situation.

Even so, Poison Dragon Ambacca was shocked to see the man standing up again after he had received his attack that was strengthened by the Dragon Orb. When the man finally stood up, a faint breeze began to blow from the sword of the man who was slowly standing up. Hundreds of falling silver leaves also began to flutter from all over the place.

“Fluttering Sword.”

The wind that blew from his sword swept the falling leaves as they rained down on Ambacca.

Pipipi—

When one of the leaves grazed Ambacca’s body, green blood slowly dripped down from the injury.

“Kiyaaaaaaack!”

At the same time, the Dragon Orb appeared and disappeared from Poison Dragon Ambacca’s mouth once again.

[Dragon Orb.]

[Instantly doubles your defense.]

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang, clang—

The black scales covering Poison Dragon Ambacca’s body had become sturdier and firmer than before. Ambacca quickly flew out as he ignored the rapid influx of the falling leaves.

Pipipipipipipipipipipipi—

He believed that those falling leaves would not be able to penetrate and tear through his hardened skin. Just like he expected...

Thwack, thwack, thwack, thwack!

...the falling leaves that grazed his scales were easily blown away. Ambacca's defense had already exceeded 6,000. With the help of the doubled defense, it instantly became over 10,000. It was truly a formidable defense. Of course, it was only because it was increased through the use of the Dragon Orb, and it was a given that there were limitations to this ability. At the very least, he believed that he could tear the neck of the man that stood up again before it wore off. But...

Piii—

"Kiyeeeeeeee!"

Even though Ambacca flew fiercely with his strengthened defense, the leaves kept on fluttering towards him. They even dug deep into his skin after penetrating through his scales, before disappearing. In his pain, he could not help but let out a scream.

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

The leaves still continued to stab into his body.

'But what did he say a while ago?'

Then...

Pipipi—

"Graaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Several falling leaves stuck to him as warm blood started to flow down from his body.

'This punk... I will not lose to this punk...'

A terrible death always awaited Poison Dragon Ambacca, but this person right in front of him was just like a ghost of his past. What was worse was the fact that his poison did not work on him at all. The ghost of his past was none other than 'Conir'. Although Minhyuk was unaware, Conir was special even among all of the chimeras. His 'Ten Thousand Poison Resistance' had allowed him to completely ignore poisons. In addition, the ability that allowed Minhyuk to tear through Ambacca's defenses was none other than the 'Intangible Sword'. Hence, a terrible death would still await him.

'You can't take away my Dragon Orb...!'

The Dragon Orb...

The only dragon that could live forever was Poison Dragon Ambacca. The other dragons would completely lose their memories as they leave behind their eggs before being reborn as children. This was the fate of the other dragons after their death.

Although they might not have remembered it, during the time when the Four Legendary Dragons were all gathered together, they would lose part of their energy forever and would not be able to regain them again. Their energies were then received by an artifact called the 'Dragon Orb'. The Dragon Orb was a special artifact that contained all of the energy and power of the four dragons.

The reason why Ambacca was the one tasked to protect the Dragon Orb was that he was the only one among them that would be reborn as a fully grown adult with his memories intact. He was the best choice for protecting such a special artifact.

The Dragon Orb was something that could not be kept by the guardians. It was an item that could only be kept by foreigners. The person in front of him was clearly a foreigner. Ambacca did not know the reason for this, but this was a system that was set up by the game *Athenae*.

Despite the pain tearing through his body, Ambacca still flew fiercely and swung his tail strongly. Once again, the Dragon Orb appeared and disappeared from his mouth. At the same time, a light flashed at the end of his tail.

The Dragon Orb was the crystallization of the powers of all four of the legendary dragons, although it only contained the dragons' partial strength. However, the strength that was available for Ambacca, the third dragon in ranking, was the power of the fourth dragon.

This was the power of the fourth dragon, 'Cracana of Destruction'. It could temporarily triple his tail's attack power.

Baaaaaaaang—!

The man flew back after being directly hit by his strengthened tail. Ambacca did not miss a single moment as he opened his huge maw to devour the man.

Crack— crack—

'Brothers, I will definitely protect this Dragon Orb!'

Ambacca felt lonely. He missed his older brothers. However, he still continued to protect the Dragon Orb alone.

"Urk!"

Just as he was about to bite down again, the man's sword suddenly emitted a red light.

[Your HP has fallen below 80%.]

[Critical hit!]

[Your HP has fallen below 50%.]

"Urk!"

Minhyuk's body was constantly being bitten. Ambacca's speed was incredibly fast and it was quite hard to get out of his mouth since he had such a mighty bite strength. He kept on targeting Minhyuk's neck, and the latter was only able to hold out by hitting or blocking Ambacca's chin with his left arm. However, Minhyuk could not hold on any longer.

Finally, the cast time for Sword of Fury was over. Minhyuk made sure to stab the ferocious and chaotic force in the mouth of the bastard. He wanted to rip Ambacca's head off through his mouth.

Splurt!

[You have succeeded in stabbing a vital point.]

[100% additional damage!]

Minhyuk stuck the sword directly in Ambacca's mouth. After all, there was no other vital point that he could stab except for the mouth.

"Kiyeeeeeeeeeeek!"

The dragon started to thrash around due to the pain. However, the effects of the Sword of Fury was still not done. The strong wind that could tear apart anything within a two-meter radius rampaged inside the dragon's mouth.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

The dragon's mouth was torn apart by the horrendous storm that rampaged inside.

"Kyaaaaaack!" Poison Dragon Ambacca roared in despair. He was struggling so much from the pain that he fell down to the ground. However, he still persevered to fly back up again. He was desperately struggling.

Minhyuk could see the tears falling from the eyes of the dragon. The dragon was desperately trying to squeeze out every last bit of strength that was in his body.

[You have seen the Dragon's Tears.]

[Your resistance to poison will increase by 50% for one week as an effect of witnessing the tears of a dragon.]

It was meaningless for Minhyuk since he already had a body that was immune to ten thousand poisons. In any case, the dragon still struggled desperately.

"Have to... protect... for my brothers... dragon orb..."

Once upon a time, when the Dragons of Beginnings were still gathered, the four dragons happily spent their time together. However, that moment would never happen again. He was not even aware if the other dragons had awakened already.

However, Minhyuk interpreted things differently. He thought, *'Did this guy not want something like this either?'*

Conir had told him that the Poison Dragon Ambacca would die and revive. He had also attacked him using different patterns. From his words, Minhyuk could deduce that his memories remained intact after his rebirth.

'Who would ever want to do something like this, anyway?'

Minhyuk, who had seen other dragons from his father, Black Dragon, knew that they were gentle and loyal creatures. However, regardless of his thoughts, the dragon in front of him succumbed to his death. In the end, Ambacca could not stand the fatal blow that he had received in the mouth.

[You have gained 8,317,842 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have successfully hunted Poison Dragon Ambacca.]

[You have acquired the Dragon Orb.]

[You have acquired the egg of Ambacca, one of the four legendary dragons.]

[You have acquired Poison Dragon Ambacca's Cursed Dagger.]

'Egg? Dragon Orb?'

Minhyuk could not help but be confused, especially because of the egg. He knew that one of the reasons why Ambacca could be reborn through his egg was because they would sacrifice a man with a high, pure holy power, or so he had been told.

'But why is the egg still here?'

He was not aware of this, but Ambacca's egg could still be acquired even if he did not devour a man with holy power. However, the power to produce chimeras had now disappeared.

At that moment, Minhyuk thought of someone, *'Will my dad like it if I gave this to him?'*

The guy inside the egg had always kept his memories intact. If that was the case, then, would he be willing to serve Minhyuk?

'No, I'd rather give him to my dad.'

After all, his father, Black Dragon, was already well known as the 'Legendary Dragon Taming Master'. He felt that it would be better if his father was the one to take on this egg.

Then, he went ahead and checked the Dragon Orb.

?Can evolve a dragon to the next level.

?A 1.5x increase in commanding ability.

?Some of the powers of the four legendary dragons could be borrowed through the use of the Dragon Orb.

?Sealed.

?Sealed.

?Sealed.

Minhyuk was surprised when he saw that it was an artifact that could evolve but he was taken aback after he saw that it could also evolve a dragon.

'Wow. I think my dad will really like this, right?'

Especially because his dad was already the owner of two dragons, so the moment he received the Dragon Orb, the orb would immediately become a lot stronger.

Finally, he checked Poison Dragon Ambacca's Cursed Dagger. Minhyuk's eyes widened in surprise when he saw the information about the dagger.

?Upon successful attack, there's a 50% chance of inflicting double damage.

?Active Skill: Poison Dragon Ambacca's Curse

Active Skill

?If the opponent dies after being stabbed by the dagger, he will be cursed by Ambacca and his soul will wander around the stream for 30 days.

?The soul wandering around the stream will suffer from terrible hunger that is on par with the Seven Deadly Sin: Gluttony for the entire 30 days.

?Can be used on NPCs.

Minhyuk was grinning widely, a scenario already hatching in his head.

After a few hours, Barchel and the three knights who accompanied him leisurely went back to the Dungeon of Sin after having a satisfying meal.

"Deputy Tower Master Barchel."

"Fufufufu.?Don't say that. I'm still not the deputy tower master."

"Won't it happen soon?"

"De. Pu. Ty. To. Wer. Mas. Ter. Barchel."

Barchel was grinning widely. He would definitely receive a lot of benefits if he became the deputy tower master.

Everything was going smoothly. After he had received the Essence of Flavor, then his class would be upgraded. He swaggered happily as he pushed the rock that they used to block the entrance to the dungeon.

Then, he saw the egg on the altar with the Cup of Essence, and could not help but whistle happily.

"Whistle~?The poor kids had been eaten~ Where did the chimeras go?"

He giggled happily as he thought about drinking the water that filled the Cup of Essence. Perhaps he had stumbled upon the platform of 'awakening' that he had heard from the rumors. There had been rumors circulating recently that a lot of players had reached their limits.

However, *Athenae* had prepared a new class that provided new content every day. This was a class that could help their existing class become stronger. Perhaps, it was him that was going to be the first of a kind.

Just as he was about to reach the Cup of Essence, he could see a sword pointing at his neck.

“Woah, woah. Is there an uninvited guest?”

Barchel's brows furrowed in annoyance. The knights were flustered when they saw a sword hanging in the air. It was none other than the invisible Minhyuk.

“A... player?”

Barchel was surprised but he still remained calm. After all, they were plenty in numbers. The knights behind him would definitely not lose ground if they fought against the mysterious man, so he trusted their strength. Even if their levels were lower, he was sure that their strength would still be above their opponent.

On the contrary, this mysterious man had just finished a fight against Ambacca. Barchel was sure that he would have lost a lot of stamina in his fight against Ambacca. His skills would still be under cooldown too.

Barchel, who was second to, or perhaps on par with Carr, was confident that he could avoid this man's attacks easily.

“The children were crying of hunger... Weren't you ashamed that you did something like this because of your greed?”

“Woah, woah. Let's be honest, shall we?”

Barchel shrugged his shoulders. He said, “Didn't you come here to get something too? Those NPCs are just artificial intelligence so what's the big deal?”

He was pretending that he was trying to persuade the mysterious man, but he quickly pulled out his sword as he tried to widen the distance between them.

“What does it matter to us, players, whether an artificial intelligence dies or not? Huh?”

The man fell silent for a moment before asking Barchel, “Have you ever been hungry?”

“What?”

“Please let me eat something, anything. Have you ever begged for something in your life?”

Barchel's brows furrowed deeply.

‘What the hell is this guy talking about? Is there anyone that goes hungry in Korea these days?’

Barchel grew up in a wealthy family, so he was clueless about the harshness of reality.

“...Hunger. Well, that's not that big of a deal, right?” Barchel answered him lightly.

The man who had his sword around his neck, Minhyuk, could see that Barchel was taking this situation lightly. The latter was devoid of any guilt from his despicable actions.

“Then, from now on, I will show you something that will make your face distorted in despair.”

“Hmm.”

Barchel grasped the hilt of his sword tightly.

‘Make my face distorted? In a situation where our chances of winning are very high? Unless he’s someone on par with Carr?’

If that was not the case, then his face would not be distorted. No, he thought that he should roughly agree with him.

“I’m the Frying Pan Killer.”

“...!”

At that moment, Barchel’s lax and carefree expression suddenly hardened. The hairs all over his body stood on end and his mouth dried up in tension.

Then, Minhyuk said coldly, “For being such an adult... Shame on you.”

Chapter 264: Sword Saint Making Ramyeon

Barchel could not understand what was happening right now.

‘How can the Frying Pan Killer be here?’

Barchel also firmly believed that the Frying Pan Killer had some of his allies with him. After all, it was hard to believe that Minhyuk hunted Poison Dragon Ambacca all on his own. Barchel was more inclined to believe that his allies were hiding somewhere and waiting for the right time to step in.

However, if the person in front of him was really the Frying Pan Killer, then things would still make sense even if he was alone. That was when he remembered that he was Blackstone’s enemy. Calauhel wanted the death of the Frying Pan Killer. Even if he was alone, he had a high chance of winning. After all, the Frying Pan Killer was a powerhouse that defeated the gold medalist Carr in Athenae: Korean War.

However, the knights from the tower who were accompanying Barchel wielded their swords from a young age. They were talented and hard working. Each and every single one of them were on par with Carr. In addition, they had achieved the highest level of the Faramil Swordsmanship, the strongest swordsmanship of the Collodis Empire.

There was a legend about the Faramil Swordsmanship, it was said to have happened when the Knight’s Tower was just built. This swordsmanship was praised as the strongest swordsmanship in the continent and was created by Arakkan, the man who established the Knight Tower. Arakkan had also said, *‘This swordsmanship originated from a boy, who had told me that he wanted this sword to protect and not to kill.’?*

He then said, *‘Also, I was defeated by this little boy.’*

His words came as a surprise back then. Arakkan, the person that built the Knight Tower, was the strongest swordsman of his time. No, he was only second to the Sword God, but he was actually

defeated by a child. He then imitated the child's swordsmanship to create the Faramil Swordsmanship.

From then on, Faramil Swordsmanship was known to be the strongest swordsmanship of the continent. It was a difficult swordsmanship that only a few from the Knight Tower could learn. However, once they learned this swordsmanship, their strength would surely increase by leaps and bounds. These knights who accompanied Barchel had learned such swordsmanship. Of course, there still existed a wall between the players and NPCs, so even if the knights were of lower rank in the Knight Tower, they were still a lot more powerful than most players.

'I can win against him... And once I kill him, I can report it to Calauhel!'

With this, Barchel believed that he would be able to climb comfortably to the deputy tower master position. In time, he would be able to sit on the Tower Master's throne of the Knight Tower.

"You shithead, don't keep on blabbering!"

At the same time, Barchel gripped the hilt of his sword and tried to strike at Minhyuk. However, before he could even land a strike, Minhyuk's sword had already slashed his sides.

Slash—

[Intangible Sword.]

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

"Urgh!" A groan spilled from Barchel's mouth. His opponent's reflexes were extremely fast. He never thought that Minhyuk would be able to strike him with his sword at that moment.

'20% of my HP has been cut down with just a single attack, crazy shit...!'

Barchel's hairs stood on end. The three knights who accompanied Barchel also moved quickly.

Dash—

'Quite fast, huh??'

Minhyuk was a bit surprised. They narrowed the distance like ghosts suddenly appearing in front of him, and their swords flowed smoothly like water running down a stream.

'I can't see the trajectory of their swords??'

Minhyuk could not see it. Usually, when fighting with swords, one could predict the attack through their muscle and arm movements. The attacks were not determined through the swing of the sword. However, he could not read their movements at all. He could not even get through to Barchel, since they easily narrowed the distance with their efficient moves.

Clang!

The three knights' eyes made eye contact. It seemed like they immediately made a unanimous decision as they triggered their swordsmanship at the same time.

[Faramil Swordsmanship Chapter One]

[Wailing Child]

[An unpredictable fast swordsmanship.]

Papapapapapapapapapa—

The swords of the three knights moved unpredictably fast.

‘...*that’s a lot faster, right??*’

Minhyuk frowned. He could see that the speed of the swords of the three knights were much faster than his Rampant Sword. The sharpness of their flashing swords were also extraordinary.

Minhyuk quickly took a step back with his ‘Like the Wind’.

At the same time, the three knights stabbed their swords strongly.

[Faramil Swordsmanship Chapter Two]

[Roaring Child]

[A powerful force is condensed at the tip of the stabbing sword, it will give a longer range than what it looks to the naked eye.]

Stab!

Minhyuk clearly tried to steer away from the range of the swords, but his abdomen was still pierced, even though the range was far shorter than their distance. Then, another attack flew towards his chest.

‘*This is dangerous...*’

As soon as that thought crossed his head, he heard a loud sound even if the sword did not reach his chest.

Clang!

[Physical Damage Reflection! Returns double the damage received.]

“Keuaaaack!”

One of the knights staggered as he clutched his chest after the Armor of Immortality’s effect was triggered. Minhyuk took out his frying pan and enlarged it to block another attack.

Clang—

Their swordsmanship was quite unpredictable. Without realizing it, Barchel had taken a potion out.

‘*It will be hard to use Fluttering Sword or Rain of Kitchen Knives.*’ Minhyuk thought.

It was because his cast time was reduced. In fact, even before he had met them, he had already reduced his cast time by 60% by tearing up one of the parchments that he had. However, it was quite difficult to use his skills because their movements were quick.

Then, at that moment...

[Lis... ten...]

Minhyuk had heard Conir’s voice from his spiritual body. Conir continued to speak to him.

[Sound... listen...]

‘The sound??’

Minhyuk was confused for a moment. That was when one of the knights named Radvel approached him quickly. Radvel was using the third chapter of their swordsmanship, the Reckless Child. Reckless Child had the power to explode anything indiscriminately within a certain radius. Several strands of black lights spilled out from Radvel’s sword.

‘Why am I familiar with this swordsmanship...??’

He was definitely familiar with this technique. Minhyuk knew that he had seen this swordsmanship somewhere before. Then, Conir spoke.

[Listen... to the... sound... coming from the tip... of the sword...]

Minhyuk was not afraid of the strands that were stretching out from the sword. What he was worried about was the damage that would come, even if the sword had not touched him yet. So Minhyuk decided to listen to Conir. He quietly focused on the sound.

Then, he heard it.

Shwwiiiiiiiik—

He could hear a sound coming towards him ahead of the sword that was targeting him. Minhyuk slashed his swords towards where the sound was coming from.

Bang!

The strands of black light that were stretching from the sword scattered in the air and disappeared.

“Gasp...!”

Barchel and Radvel both let out a gasp of surprise.

At the same time, Conir continued to speak to Minhyuk.

[Lend... me... your... body...]

‘...??’

Minhyuk frowned for a moment. However, he understood what Conir was feeling. These people were clearly those who took advantage of the children’s hunger just so they could seek and accumulate plenty of riches. He must have wanted to take revenge on them. Besides, Minhyuk had faith in Conir’s strength. Even if the entire Legend Guild had cooperated, they were still unable to hunt the latter. They were only able to do so because they used food.

[Conir is attempting to ‘possess’ your body. Are you willing?]

‘Yes.’?

Minhyuk’s eyes began to turn black as Conir was sucked inside his body.

Count Peru had quite a serious expression on his face. He thought, *‘Why isn’t Conir coming back?’?*

Conir was on an entirely different level compared to other chimeras who were made from ordinary children. Count Peru had found Conir lying beside the Cup of Essence when he discovered the Dungeon of Sin. Conir was a mummy, to be exact. Other than that, he was just like a normal person with extreme hunger and desire. Count Peru had also found Arfield's writings there.

'The Devil Sword Saint has fallen asleep.'

When Count Peru looked at the supposed Devil Sword Saint, he realized something. This was the boy whom Arakkan, the first captain of the Knight Tower and the creator of Faramil's Swordsmanship, was talking about. The boy was none other than Conir. Unfortunately, Conir would not be able to come back and shine on the world anymore.

However, when Count Peru realized that Conir was dead, he thought about the Cup of Essence and the Essence of Flavor. The Essence of Flavor that filled the Cup of Essence.

'Arfield was a very cunning and devilish man.?'

Count Peru was given two choices. The first choice was for him to drink it and his second choice was to give it up. But for someone like Count Peru, whose greed and ambition had reached the heavens, it would not make sense for him to choose the second choice.

'Wh...what the hell...!'

Barchel's thoughts were in disarray. He was using Faramil's Swordsmanship's Sixth Chapter, 'Skilled Child'.

The skill would show the opponent's weak points and gaps through red dots. For ordinary players, there would be at least seven dots appearing on their bodies. His knights had around four dots on their bodies. With Minhyuk, he was able to see around 2~3. However, that was earlier. Right now, Minhyuk, with his blackened eyes, did not show a single weakness or gap, even though he was just stretching his sword out.

Then, Minhyuk approached them. He did not use any skill at all. He was just approaching them, plain and simple.

Radvel hurried forward to block his front with Chapter Five: Dancing Child. The skill enabled them to move around like a skilled dancer. It allowed them to avoid any and all attacks from the enemy in a single breath.

However, just as Radvel was about to continue his dance-like evasion...

Slash—

"Keuaaaaaaack!"

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

...blood spurted out of Radvel's chest with just a light swing of Minhyuk's sword. Arancar, who was standing beside Barchel, quickly dashed forward with his sword using the first chapter.

Minhyuk was immediately besieged with quick sword strikes from all directions.

Claang—

However, he easily blocked it. Using the recoil from the block, he quickly twisted his sword and pierced the neck of the knight in front of him.

[You have hunted the Knight's Tower Knight Radvel.]

[This is an NPC that has an accumulated Chaotic Number, your status will not become chaotic.]

[You have gained 3,154,673 EXP.]

If one killed an NPC that had accumulated quite a lot of chaotic numbers, the player would not become chaotic. NPCs who were in this state were usually those that had killed innocents, or were the miscreants of society.

Minhyuk then dashed forward.

“C...crazy...!”

Barchel could not believe the scene in front of him. Arancar quickly used Chapter Three: Reckless Child. Dozens of black strands of light stretched out of his sword. At the same time, Knight Roband used the most powerful chapter out of the six chapters of Faramil's Swordsmanship, Surging Child.

Several sword lights that looked like they could tear everything on their path to pieces rushed at Minhyuk, who easily blocked the sword of the knight.

Clang!

Just like before, Reckless Child was offset by his strike as it scattered through the air.

“This...!”

Barchel ran towards Minhyuk when he saw the latter trying to pierce through the neck of the remaining knights.

[Faramil's Swordsmanship Chapter Eight]

[Storming Child.]

[A powerful tempest of swords will rush straight towards the enemy.]

A storm of blades immediately formed when Barchel brandished his sword. Minhyuk just looked at it indifferently before striking his sword out. Two sword lights quickly flew from his sword. It was none other than the Splitting Sword. The moment the sword lights met with the storm of blades...

Shweeeeeeeeeee—

...the storm of blades scattered and disappeared in the air, just like a cogwheel being stopped from rotating by a metal chopstick.

“...”

The overwhelming difference in their strength and skill made Barchel tremble.

‘Th...this is impossible!?’

He knew everything about Faramil’s Swordsmanship. From its power, to its movements and patterns and how to prevent them.

“Wh...what the hell...”

Just as he was flustered and confused...

Stab!

...another one of the knights fell down.

Puhaaa!

The final knight also fell under Minhyuk’s sword.

[You have hunted the Knight’s Tower Knight Arancar.]

[This is an NPC that has an accumulated Chaotic Number, your status will not become chaotic.]

[You have gained 3,511,473 EXP.]

The notification rang one after another in Minhyuk’s head.

[You have hunted the Knight Tower’s Knight Roband.]

[This is an NPC that has an accumulated Chaotic Number, your status will not become chaotic.]

[You have gained 3,154,673 EXP.]

Barchel was left dumbfounded when he saw the overwhelming gap between them.

Right now, the approaching Minhyuk looked like a demon to him.

‘C...Calauhel could not handle him if he’s this strong...!’

Of course, it was because he was unaware that the person he was fighting right now was not really Minhyuk.

“Th...this is ridiculous...!”

Stab!

His chest was stabbed by the sword.

[Your HP has fallen below 60%.]

“Argh!”

He was stabbed by Minhyuk’s sword continuously.

Stab, stab, stab, stab!

Barchel met with a black screen after experiencing those continuous stabs. The sword that he was holding earlier also dropped on the spot where he had died and disappeared from.

[The possession has been released.]

Then, Conir's spiritual body separated from Minhyuk's body.

"..."

Minhyuk was left speechless when he saw Conir's strength. No, he had the exact same reaction as Barchel earlier. He also could not understand how Conic knew the swordsmanship that they used well.

Then, Minhyuk put the thought aside for a moment, as he walked towards the Cup of Essence. He purposely left it behind just so he could easily catch Barchel's eyes.

Then, the notifications came in.

[You have acquired the Cup of Essence.]

[There are two different methods on how you can use the Essence of Flavor.]

[You can immediately ingest the Essence of Flavor and your class will immediately be upgraded.]

[When those who have been deprived of their 'desire and longing' eat the Essence of Flavor, they will be able to escape the pain of their desire and longing.]

"...?"

Minhyuk tilted his head in thought.

There were two choices offered to him for the Essence of Flavor. From what he had read, his class would only get upgraded if he drank everything in the cup without leaving a drop behind. On the other hand, if he chose to let the children, who had their desires deprived of, drink it, that effect would not be triggered anymore.

Minhyuk stared at the Cup of Essence for a moment. Then, he saw Haze and the other children feeling relieved that they were alive and well. There was also Conir who was watching them silently.

Not long after, Minhyuk smiled at them.

Conir knew the power of the Cup of Essence. After all, Count Peru had retrieved it dozens of times already.

He was very grateful to Minhyuk for saving the children and preventing Count Peru from making any more chimeras. Even if Minhyuk drank everything from the Cup of Essence, he believed that it would still be fine, because it was a reward for helping him.

Not long after, he saw Minhyuk taking out a frying pan as he started to make fried rice. When he completed the fried rice, he made sure to sprinkle a drop or two of the Essence of Flavor on it, before placing it in front of the children.

"Wow! It's really, really delicious!"

"It's very, very, very delicious!"

.

The same dish was also created in front of Minhyuk.

“It’s very delicious?!!”

“Yes, it’s very, very delicious!”

It was very ironic. They were all eating happily even though Poison Dragon Ambacca’s body and corpses littered the place. However, Conir could not help but smile when he looked at this scene.

The notifications rang while Minhyuk was savoring his fried rice.

[You have chosen the second method for the Essence of Flavor.]

[You have achieved the Hidden Piece: The One Who Makes Good Choices.]

[As a reward, your class will be upgraded and enhanced.]

[Food God is a class that can no longer evolve.]

Surprisingly enough, even though he chose the second method, he was still able to obtain the rewards from the first method when a hidden piece was triggered. However, the reward was something useless for Minhyuk.

Then, the Cup of Essence started to crack. The light that came out of the cracked silver cup started to envelope Conir’s spiritual body.

[Selecting the second method will destroy the Cup of Essence.]

[The Cup of Essence is exerting its last power before getting destroyed.]

When the shining light disappeared, what appeared in front of him was a clean and neat boy. Not some bandaged person, or a spiritual body, but a neat and lively boy.

“I’m Conir.”

Minhyuk was speechless, and immediately, a feeling of dread spread in his guts, something ominous coming for him.

“I will serve you.”

[Sword Saint Conir vows his eternal allegiance and loyalty to you.]

Minhyuk’s face distorted in pain.

Chapter 265: Emperor Asvon

‘No, you just have to give me a reward!’?

Why did they have to give him another mouth to feed? Minhyuk felt disappointed at the moment.

Conir was a boy with big doe-like eyes and fair skin. He looked very simple and naive. It seemed like he was around 15 years old.

‘But he’s a Sword Saint?’

Minhyuk checked his information right away.

?Active Skill: Faramil Swordsmanship

?Active Skill: Sword Saint's Invincibility

?Passive Skill: Tenacity

?Passive Skill: Divine Blessings and Curses

‘...*Wow.*?’

Even if Minhyuk was dismayed, his mouth still widened in shock. Conir's attack, defense, and potential were overwhelming when compared to Ghost Spear Ben. Furthermore, since he had high potential, it meant that he could grow further.

Next, Minhyuk checked the Faramil Swordsmanship. The moment he checked the skill, he realized that there was something off. It resembled the swordsmanship that Barchel and his knights used earlier. However, the only difference was that Conir's version was much more powerful and destructive. When he saw the description...

‘A sword art created by a young and innocent boy to protect others.’

That was when Minhyuk realized that Conir was the one who created the Faramil Swordsmanship. Surprising things kept on appearing one after the other. He was wondering how a 15-year-old boy could create such a strong swordsmanship.

Minhyuk also looked through the other skills.

Active Skill

?When an enemy attacks you, 80~90% of the damage will be reflected back to them. This will last for 15 minutes.

?In the event of an enemy attacking, there is a 5% chance of achieving a 10~13% recovery rate.

Passive Skill

Rank

: Legendary

?You will show tremendous concentration on one thing.

?You will try harder than anybody else to achieve the best result.

?To achieve the highest level of your abilities, skills and various quests will be created.

?There is a possibility of receiving and awakening a special ability when you reach the highest level.

Passive Skill

?Physical skills and abilities will have a higher and faster acquisition rate compared to anybody else.

?Mental skills and capacity will have a slower acquisition rate compared to anybody else.

?Conir. God was fair. He gave him a gift and made him into a genius that can easily master whatever he did with his body and flesh, but did not give him 'wisdom'.

The Sword Saint's Invincibility was a very fraudulent skill. The same was true for Conir himself. He was truly a fraudulent NPC. The reason for this was very simple. For example, when an ordinary player or a monster attacked Conir, he would not receive much damage, but the one that attacked him would receive almost the same damage in return. In addition, he had a 5% chance of triggering a 10~13% recovery rate. Once an enemy attacked Conir, he would be able to recover from the minor damage that he suffered, as long as the 5% chance was triggered.

'This is completely...'

If Minhyuk were to throw Conir in the middle of hundreds of mobs, he might be able to handle the aggro by himself. Even if he just stood still, he might not receive any damage. Of course, Minhyuk was not someone that would do something like that.

Conir's Tenacity would also allow him to achieve the highest level in anything he did with his body. In fact, it was a very unusual skill that would create skills and quests related to the ability that he was learning.

The description of 'Divine Blessings and Curses' had told him that God was fair. Minhyuk wanted to confirm the meaning of this skill.

"Conir, I want you to live your life well. Go and find the meaning of your life."

Conir tilted his head in confusion when Minhyuk said that with a soft smile on his face. He replied, "I'm Conir. I serve you!!!"

"...N...no. Conir. I want you to live your life happily, you know?"

"I'm Conir... I serve Minhyuk!"

"Conir, are we really going to do this?"

"I'm Conir. I like Minhyuk!"

"..."

When Minhyuk did not respond to his words, Conir pumped his fist in the air and shouted, "I'm Conir! I protect Minhyuk!"

This was the moment when Minhyuk realized what the skill, Divine Blessings and Curses truly meant. Conir was clearly less intelligent when compared to other ordinary 15 year olds.

Conir looked up at Minhyuk again. He said, "I'm Conir. Meeting Minhyuk, I'm happy!"

Conir's big doe-like eyes were sparkling brightly. Minhyuk could not help but smile when he saw him looking like this.

Minhyuk could also tell after sharing a few words with Conir that he remembered everything that he did before, including meeting Haze. However, he could not remember creating the Faramil Swordsmanship in the past. For some reason or other, he wanted to serve Minhyuk.

If they were forced to be together, then Minhyuk had to think long and hard about what he could do.

“Conir.”

Conir listened intently as his wide eyes sparkled at him.

“Can you make ramyeon?”

Count Peru bursted out laughing, “*Keuhahahaha!* I’m so glad to hear that the chimeras that you bought are working very well.”

The people sitting in front of him were the finest nobles in the Collodis Empire. The reason why Count Peru laughed loudly just a while ago was because of Marquis Annes.

“After we discovered Cades Mine, the residents of Odis Village caused a lot of trouble saying that God would be angry if we touched the mine. I even sent my soldiers wearing armor with my symbol engraved on them, promising them ample rewards as long as they left, but somehow it did not work out.”

Marquis Annes was a very influential man in the Collodis Empire. He was currently shaking his whiskey glass as he took a sip to moisten his throat.

“That’s why it felt a bit refreshing when that chimera cleaned up those filthy mongrels.”

“Because it was done by chimeras, you can report to the palace that they had been attacked and wiped out by monsters.”

“That’s right. They are very useful creatures, those chimeras.”

All of the people sitting here were the people that had attended the opening of the chimera market hosted by Count Peru, when he had started the daily production of chimeras. These nobles were also the very same people that were helping with the production, distribution, and sale of the chimeras. All of them were naturally sitting in jaw-dropping positions.

Emperor Asvon was an emperor that cared for his nation. He was a man that listened to the voices of the people, more so than the voices of the nobles. Hence, Count Peru had resorted to this expedient method to gain wealth.

“I’m looking forward to the chimeras that are going to be on sale tomorrow.”

“Are there any chimeras that can make one feel good at night?”

“Hahahahaha!”

Count Peru guffawed before speaking in a low voice. He said, “There’s a little girl named Haze, and that child is very...”

Unfortunately, he was not able to finish his words.

“Aaaaaaack!”

“Keuaaaaaaack!”

“Keoheok!”

Shrieks suddenly rang loudly from somewhere. Count Peru frowned when he heard the sound.

‘What the hell??’

He thought that it was about time that Sir Barchel came up, so he was wondering why shrieks suddenly rang out from somewhere.

At the same time, the nobles’ faces also wrinkled in displeasure.

“Let’s first hurry and get out of here.”

“Let me open the warp gate.”

Count Peru hurriedly ordered the mage behind him. Since they were all nobles, it was only natural that they were accompanied by escort knights and mages.

“How long will it take?”

“About four minutes.”

“That’s plenty of time.”

If the soldiers that were marching here were numerous, then they would not be able to reach this place within four minutes. Although they did not know the real cause of the screams, the first thing that they needed to do was to hide their faces. It would not be too late to find out the reason for the screams later.

Then, at that moment...

Creaaaaaak—

...the door opened and an unidentified man, a short boy and a little pig came inside. As soon as they came in, the man’s sword fired two crescent swordlights towards the mage that was casting from the back.

“Bastard, who are you!”

“Impertinent fool!”

Count Peru scoffed at the swordlight that he shot out. The one he attacked was one of the Thousand Grand Mages from the Collodis Empire. Being a part of the Thousand Grand Mages meant that they were the best mages in the empire. His sword would not be able to reach the mage’s Prime defense.

At that moment...

Slash—

“Keuaaaaaaack!”

...the Prime Shield that the defense mage had put up was easily broken.

‘W...what the hell...!’?

Even though there was a huge difference between a Hundred Grand Mage and a Thousand Grand Mage, it was unbelievable that he could break that solid shield in just one strike.

“You bastard, who the f*ck are you?!”

“Who knows?”

The man, Minhyuk, looked around them coldly as the knights and soldiers pushed in from behind. Before they knew it, dozens of knights had surrounded them with their swords pointed at their throats.

Count Peru could see the Phoenix pattern on one of the swords.

‘Phoenix? A person from the Eivelis Empire?’

He tilted his head and spoke briskly, “A person from Eivelis Empire doing something like this to a person of Collodis Empire? Bastard, you won’t be able to escape death with this!”

“...But you bastards will be the one who won’t escape death, you know? You buy and sell chimeras to slaughter villagers, while you kill other nobles that pose a threat to you.”

“You’ll die here anyway, so it won’t be exposed to the public,” Count Peru smiled deeply as he continued to say, “I am a man who has Emperor Asvon’s trust. I’m not someone that a bastard like you can touch!”

“You speak too much.”

Minhyuk dashed forward as afterimages appeared from his sword. It was none other than Rampant Sword.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang, clang—

The knights hurriedly blocked the swords as they tried to protect the nobles. Then, Count Peru recognized Conir.

“N...no way. Co...Conir?”

His appearance was clearly different. Conir used to have bandages wrapped all over his body, just like a mummy. However, his gait and posture was unique so he could easily tell who he was.

“B...be careful of that punk!” Count Peru shouted hurriedly when he realized that something was wrong, but it was all too late. The knights had crumpled and fallen after Conir passed by them.

Then, one of the knights thought, *‘Huh... he’s just a wee, nice boy?’?*

Conir was smiling at them. His smile was so pure and naive that it could bring a smile to other people. Then, with a bright smile, he shouted, “Conir!! Today, Conir learned how to make ramyeon!!!”

Conir looked like he was extremely excited. He was unable to control the trembling in his body.

“...”

“...”

“...”

The knights all fell silent at the same time. Then, Conir asked them, “When you cook ramyeon, do you put noodles first? Or soup first?”

He looked like an innocent boy that was wondering about such a trivial matter.

One of the knights jumped up when he heard his words. He said, “You rude, crazy and insolent brat! I’m going to fix your manners for you...!”

Stab—

It was only a single blow. However, the smiling boy had already pierced the neck of the knight that spoke harshly. Then, the knight crumpled to the floor.

Then, Conir asked again, “Noodles? Soup?”

“...”

“...”

The knights took a step back. The knight that had just died earlier belonged to Marquis Annes and was one that Emperor Asvon had bestowed upon him.

‘So, what now?’

“Noodles, soup?!”

“Noodles, noodles!!!” One of the knights answered hurriedly. Then, Conir moved with a wide smile on his face.

“Wrong! Minhyuk taught me to start with the water!”

Conir was extremely pleased because Minhyuk had put him ‘in charge of ramyeon’! Minhyuk also taught him how to make ramyeon, as well as how to eat it!

“Ack!”

“Gasp...”

‘What kind of ridiculous answer is that?’

The knights once again took a faltering step back. Conir followed up with another question, “You like *ansungtangtangmyun*, you like *sshin ramyeon*?”

The knights faltered before one of the knights hesitantly spoke up, “It... it’s ramyeon, so of course we go with *sshin ramyeon*!”

Then, Conir stabbed him with his sword.

Stab—

“Urkk!”

The knight was also knocked down in a single blow. The rest of the knights asked Conir, “W... what’s the answer?”

“Are you telling us that ansungtangtangmyun is the answer?!!!”

Conir smiled at him before answering, “Wrong. All ramyeons are delicious!”

“Ugh!!!”

“Wh...what kind of answer is that!!!”

“Shit! How dare you, you bastard!!!”

Alas, with the sword in his hands, Conir was the law. He held their lives in his hands. Conir smiled again as he asked them, “What do you put in ramyeon, cheese or rice cake?”

The knights had never experienced something as frightening as this in all their lives. It was even more frightening because he was just an innocent-looking young boy with a pure smile on his face, but he could kill them with just a single blow.

Then, one of the knights shouted, “C...cheese!”

Conir grinned at him.

“Wrong! Minhyuk told me that I can put both if I’m not sure!”

Stab—

Count Peru fell into a panic. However, he quickly gathered his wits back. He took advantage of the knights dying while fending the intruders off, as he hurriedly activated the magic crystal ball.

Then, he stood in front of a small button.

“Pushing this button will destroy the underground with all of the chimeras. All of this will be reported to the Imperial Palace through this magic crystal ball. Even if you talked for a hundred days, will the Emperor listen to you, a person from Eivelis Empire or me, a person who is envied by many?”

If all of the evidence were destroyed, then Minhyuk would just become a man who slaughtered all of the nobles. Count Peru was confident of this.

“I have a very close relationship with Emperor Asvon! We even enjoyed tea and refreshments a few days ago! You bastard, you look like a foreigner! I won’t let you step in this world ever again!”

“Ah. That’s a bit flustering.”

Not long after, the magic crystal ball began to operate.

Then, at that moment, the voice of a man sounded.

“That’s right, I have a very special relationship with him.”

Count Peru’s eyes widened when he saw a man entering the room together with an unidentified paladin and a dozen of knights behind him.

Emperor Asvon had appeared!

Chapter 266: Emperor Asvon

“Y...Your Majesty!!!”

At that moment, everyone in the room prostrated themselves on the ground. Count Peru’s hope was also ignited.

‘He definitely said ‘I have a special relationship with him’, right?’

In other words, Emperor Asvon might not know the whole story. Or perhaps he had not find out about it. There were thousands of thousands of reports from all over the empire that piled up on Emperor Asvon’s desk every day. In addition, he might not be here just because of a foreigner. He did not know the reason why the emperor came here but Count Peru started to speak eloquently. He said, “Your Majesty, the Emperor, this man is framing me. He also tried to kill me by bringing up a ridiculous excuse that I was making chimeras.”

“...Is that so?”

Emperor Asvon turned to look at Minhyuk. When he saw that, Count Peru shouted with excitement, that the veins on his necks bulged out.

“Making chimeras in our family’s Asratue’s fief! What kind of nonsense is that?”

Then, the nobles who were prostrated on the ground also chimed in to fan the flames.

“Your Majesty! We’re sure that he’s an assassin sent by the Eivelis Empire!”

“That woman, Ellie, must have sent an assassin to shake up the Collodis Empire!”

“Please bring us justice and punish that sinner severely!”

Emperor Asvon nodded and said, “Good.”

The nobles all had greasy smiles on their faces. Then, Emperor Asvon said, “Stand up, everyone.”

“Yes!”

They all stood up as quickly as they could. Some of them had a hard time trying to hide their smiles. The corners of their mouth were twitching from the joy of reversing their situation. They looked gloatingly at the man with the sword in front of them.

Emperor Asvon and his knights were all very strong. In fact, Chaos, the captain of the knights, was a former knight from the Knight Tower and was approaching Level 650. The reason why his level was higher than Conir was only because Conir’s level was lowered after he became a chimera.

When they stood up, Emperor Asvon grinned widely and said, "I can finally beat you up comfortably!"

"Hahahahaha. That's right!"

"That's correct. Your Majesty! Punch him in the guts...! What?"

They tilted their heads in confusion. They were so drunk in relief, believing that they had already survived and lived through this disaster. However, at that moment, Emperor Asvon narrowed the distance between them and he punched one of the nobles in his guts.

Crack—

The man flew back together, his ribs cracking loudly. Then, Asvon grabbed the wrist of the noble right next to him as he twisted it quickly.

Twist—

"Keuhaaack!"

Then, he struck his neck with his outstretched hands.

"Ugh!"

Asvon looked at the crumpled nobles and said, "This is your punishment for the sin of touching my people."

Bang!

"Keuaaaaaaack!"

"This is for the sin of using the children."

Slam!

"Ugh, uaaaaaaack!"

"And this is for the sin of using the chimeras to kill innocent people."

"Keuaaaaaaack!"

"And the sin of taking advantage of my ignorance to deny this matter."

Punch!

"Argh!"

Each and every single noble present collapsed with a shriek.

Emperor Asvon had come to this place with Paladin Corr. He had been informed by the paladin about Count Peru and his peers' use of chimeras. However, he did not believe those words then. Regardless, he still went with the paladin to this place to see the situation.

The moment they arrived in this place, a clever child approached them. The girl named Haze accompanied Emperor Asvon to the basement and showed him the imprisoned children.

Emperor Asvon was seething in anger when he learned of the truth. The anger that brewed in him was now being taken out on the nobles who took advantage of his people and the children.

Then, Minhyuk took out a dagger and said, “Your Majesty, I have received this dagger from Poison Dragon Ambacca. If you finish them off with this dagger, their souls will wander through the stream suffering from extreme hunger for 30 days.”

“That’s a very good dagger! It’s only right that they experience how terrible the deeds that they have done are!”

Along with his consent, Minhyuk approached the nobles rolling around the floor in pain. Then, he stabbed one of them by the neck.

[You have hunted Count Gener.]

[This is an NPC who has an accumulated Chaotic Number, your status will not become chaotic.]

[You have gained 6,154,673 EXP.]

[You have acquired 44 platinum.]

[The effects of Poison Dragon Ambacca’s Dagger have been triggered.]

At the same time, a shrieking soul sprang out of the fat and ambitious body of Count Gener.

[Keuaaaaaaaack!]

Count Gener shrieked loudly. His soul that escaped his body was immediately assaulted with extreme hunger. He felt as if someone was shouting in his head saying, ‘*Eat! Eat everything!*’

[H...hungry...]

Count Gener’s soul reached out towards the fruit that he was eating earlier. It seemed like he wanted to alleviate the extreme hunger that he was feeling right now. However, his hand only passed through the fruit.

[I’m hungry! I said I’m hungry! I want to eat!!!]

Extreme hunger pangs assaulted his entire being! However, he could not eat anything in front of him.

Minhyuk continued to stab the nobles who had fallen down on the ground with his dagger.

[You have hunted Count Argad.]

[This is an NPC who has an accumulated Chaotic Number, your status will not become chaotic.]

[You have gained 7,154,673 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have acquired 86 platinum.]

[The effects of Poison Dragon Ambacca’s Dagger have been triggered.]

When he hunted the nobles, the EXP that he received was higher compared to the knights from the Knight Tower. After all, it was very rare for a player to hunt nobles, especially nobles with high

Chaotic Numbers. He continued doing that until most of them were dead, and only Count Peru was left.

“S...save me. Your Majesty!!!”

However, Emperor Asvon had no mercy for someone like him.

Slash—

One of Count Peru’s hands fell down to the ground. The pain of his hand being cut off was too much that all he could do was writhe in pain and struggle helplessly. Then, his other wrist was also cut off as well as both of his ankles.

Count Peru, the person responsible for all of this, had his hands and feet cut off. He was now facing a vicious death as a result of his atrocious deeds. Finally, Minhyuk approached him. Count Peru spoke spitefully as he watched him approach him slowly. He said, “*Fufufufufufu.* ?Don’t think it’s over just because you killed me!!! Asvon!!! They will finish you off...”

Stab—

Minhyuk finally stabbed the dagger on Count Peru’s neck.

[You have hunted Count Peru.]

[This is an NPC who has an accumulated Chaotic Number, your status will not become chaotic.]

[You have gained 9,154,673 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have acquired 186 platinum.]

[The effects of Poison Dragon Ambacca’s Dagger have been triggered.]

There was an overwhelming amount of EXP from Count Peru showing the terrible amount of atrocious deeds that he had done. His reputation and a variety of things also added to that huge amount of EXP. By hunting the nobles present in this room, Minhyuk was also able to acquire 714 platinum.

Minhyuk watched them roam around in the air clamoring for food and moaning out their hunger.

[I’m hungry!!!]

[I’m so hungry I could die!!!]

[Please! Please give me something to eat!!!]

However, it seemed like this scene was invisible to Asvon and the others. After all, Minhyuk was the one who used Poison Dragon Ambacca’s Cursed Dragon, so he was the only one who could see them.

“Now that I finished this one thing, I would like to ask you a favor,” Emperor Asvon said solemnly.

However, Minhyuk had to do something before doing what Emperor Asvon asked him to do.

“May I please have a meal before we go?!” Minhyuk asked carefully.

Emperor Asvon looked at him curiously after seeing his expression. It was vastly different from the expression that he had earlier. It seemed like ‘eating’ was more important than his ‘request’ right now.

Haze was looking around in fear. They were still in Count Peru’s residence, but all of them were sitting inside the castle’s restaurant.

Emperor Asvon and the Sun Knight Order sat down with them and waited for one man. Emperor Asvon could have very well been angry, but instead of raging, he just sat there and watched the man carefully. He thought, *‘He’s the only person who can solve this curse...!’*

Sadly, Emperor Asvon’s curse of baldness was so powerful that Corr could not treat it! This was the reason why Emperor Asvon personally came to pick up Minhyuk. According to Corr, his cooking had the power to fulfill whatever the other party wanted and desired.

“Hehe. It looks delicious! Curry!”

Despite this fear-inducing sight, Minhyuk continued to smile happily.

Haze could not make heads or tails about the situation right now. Earlier, Minhyuk looked colder than anybody else, but now he was warmer and brighter than the rest of the people sitting here. Even if the emperor was sitting in front of him, Minhyuk still stubbornly insisted that he would eat.

As a result, Haze was now making the curry that she was most confident in making. The meat that she used in the curry was chicken. At Minhyuk’s request, she also prepared a traditional Indian blueberry lassi, tandoori chicken, salad and garlic naan.

Before the curry came out, Haze made sure to give Minhyuk an Indian-style soup. Compared to other soups, the Indian-style soup was a bit more watery. Minhyuk took a sip of the soup, and smiled happily.

‘Isn’t the meal you eat after doing hard work very delicious?’

Finally, the curry that he had been waiting for came out. It was served in a traditional Indian iron bowl with lit candles underneath it that prevented it from getting cool. He could not find any other vegetables inside the curry like the one that he had eaten domestically. However, once he placed his spoon and chopsticks inside, he could see the chicken that was used in the dish.

Before he started his meal, Minhyuk first took a sip of the blueberry lassi. Lassi was a traditional Indian drink. It was a type of fermented yogurt that was good to drink when cold and when one wanted to refresh themselves. As soon as he took a sip, he could taste the sweet lassi, as well as the bits of blueberries that added texture to the yogurt.

After taking a sip, Minhyuk grabbed the large garlic naan. He tore a piece off of the steaming garlic naan, before dipping it in the curry. Thick curry clung on the naan as he placed it in his mouth, allowing the sweet taste of curry to spread in his mouth. This type of curry had both sweet and spicy choices. Since Minhyuk preferred the sweet flavor, the curry that was served to him was also the sweet curry.

“Delicious... Haze. You’re really a curry master!”

“Hehe,” Haze smiled bashfully.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk scooped out a large serving of curry. The spoonful was filled with a lot of chicken and curry that he spread on top of the torn garlic naan. He also made sure to carefully place the meat on top of the garlic naan. Just like that, he placed the entire piece into his mouth. The unique scent and the sweet flavor of the curry and garlic naan swirled and spread in his mouth.

This time, Minhyuk stretched his fork towards another food. It was none other than the tandoori chicken. Tandoori chicken got its name as it was baked in an oven called ‘tandoor’. It was a unique Indian dish that was cooked with a variety of spices and yogurt. There were even some blackened parts on the reddened chicken when he looked at it.

Minhyuk quickly sliced a piece of the tandoori chicken with his knife and fork before placing it in his mouth. As soon as he chewed the chicken, he could taste the unique taste of tandoori chicken. He could taste the spiciness, the sweetness, as well as the uniquely dry texture of the meat. When he dipped it in the red sauce that accompanied the chicken, the spiciness was amplified. This was the tandoori chicken that one might get tired of, if they ate it often, but would occasionally float in everyone’s head.

After eating the tandoori chicken, he focused his attention back to the curry. This time, he poured the curry over the rice placed on the plate. He made sure to mix everything thoroughly before eating it. Curry could be eaten with naan, a type of bread, or rice. It was entirely dependent on the tastes of the one who ate it. Of course, curry tasted different in every country, but these two were still the best choices for curry’s accompaniment.

While Minhyuk was eating deliciously, Haze hesitantly called out, “Oppa.”

“Huh?”

Minhyuk turned to look at her. Then, Haze said, “I have nowhere to go... Can I go with you?”

The notifications rang again at that exact same moment.

[Haze, the one who can become a legend, vows her eternal allegiance and loyalty to you.]

Minhyuk’s body began to tremble. He thought, *‘The...these punks! Why are they all doing this to me?!’*?

Minhyuk’s expression was distorted in pain. He looked like he was about to cry again.

Chapter 267: Curse of Baldness

Minhyuk knew that most of the children, excluding Haze, were either orphaned or had some difficulties that made it hard for them to return. He decided to accept them all as part of his territory. He also handed all the money that he had earned during this quest to Corr and said, “Give this money to Deputy Lord Ben so that we can afford to house these children.”

Asvon watched this scene with great interest. He thought, *‘This foreigner is taking care of the children first instead of himself... interesting.’*?

Many foreigners were filled with greed. With that in consideration, Asvon could see that Minhyuk was a fairly decent person.

Minhyuk had already heard the story along the way to the Imperial Palace.

“The curse on Emperor Asvon’s head is so powerful that his hair won’t grow, despite me playing my Talmor Hymn.”

‘My God!’

So far, all those that suffered from baldness grew their hair as soon as Corr played a song, but Emperor Asvon’s head did not grow a single strand of hair at all. The reason why Corr had brought Emperor Asvon to Minhyuk was simple—Minhyuk’s ‘Create a Recipe’ skill! He thought that feeding Asvon food that was created with Minhyuk’s skill would probably have some effect on his seemingly incurable baldness.

As such, Minhyuk used the Create a Recipe Skill on Emperor Asvon.

[Creating a recipe that the other party desires.]

[You can now check the recipe for seaweed soup & braised tofu.]

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

Seaweed and beans that were used for making broth and tofu respectively, were ingredients known for their effectiveness in preventing hair loss and baldness. When Minhyuk checked the recipe he could see that it was not as difficult as he thought it would be. It seemed like Emperor Asvon’s baldness could be cured, even if he just made a rare-grade dish. Still...

“I’m very sorry, Your Majesty, but I think it would be difficult to treat Your Majesty’s incurable baldness.”

“Wh...what do you mean?”

Minhyuk said gravely, “My buffed dish is not infinite. Your Majesty, the Emperor, should know that there is such a thing called Buff Volume.”

“I’m aware. Chefs can create and cook different amounts of dishes per day, depending on their buff volume.”

“For me to cure Your Majesty’s baldness, I need a high amount of buff volume, something that I currently don’t have.”

“Th...then is there another way?” Emperor Asvon asked urgently. He looked very eager and desperate. After all, he did not know if there was another way for him to cure this disease. Perhaps this was the only way that Asvon could be liberated from the curse of baldness that haunted their family generation after generation.

Minhyuk replied, “It’s not like there’s no other way.”

“I don’t know what method it is, but whatever it is, I will do everything I can to make it possible.”

Then, Minhyuk began to explain very logically.

“The only way I can exceed my current buff volume is to eat the local specialties. In addition, I have to go there personally so I could receive a temporary increase in the

buff volume. The thing is, I've only arrived in the empire a few days ago, so I'm not aware of them, and I haven't tasted them at all. If I eat the empire's specialties, I believe the effects will definitely be maximized. And it has to be the best of your specialties! It would also be good if it's delicious. *Uhm*. What is the most famous food here in the Collodis Empire?"

Yes. Right now, Minhyuk was trying to pull a fast one over Emperor Asvon! However, instead of having a greasy look on his face, his face was radiating sincerity. Emperor Asvon believed that someone like Minhyuk, a person who willingly gave money for the children, would not lie. Alas, his belief was wrong. Minhyuk was someone who would lie to an emperor just so he could eat. He had also picked up the art of dealing with others from his father.

'When someone needs something from you, and you're the only one that can do it, then raise the value of your service!'

Not long after, Emperor Asvon answered Minhyuk's question about their empire's specialty.

"It's buckwheat."

Minhyuk trembled.

When it came to buckwheat, the common food associated was buckwheat noodles, cold buckwheat noodles soup, whole buckwheat noodles, spicy kimchi buckwheat pancakes, and a whole lot of others!

'Fufufufufu!'

Minhyuk chuckled deeply.

Poison Dragon Ambacca was waiting to be awakened from inside the egg. He was currently predicting the future that awaited him.

He had served as a factory for chimeras by greedy humans who had fed him with children. Although it was not something that he wanted to do, he thought that there would be no difference after he was hunted by his newly acquired owner. He thought that those greedy humans would once again use him as a tool to kill monsters or people.

Dragons were more sentimental compared to other races, so when Poison Dragon Ambacca thought of his bleak future, he could not help but feel sad. On top of that, he thought that every day would be even more frustrating especially since the Dragon Orb was taken away from him.

Then, at that moment...

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

It's finally time for me to come out. Well, it doesn't matter who my owner is. Anyway, they'll still be the same human.

This was what Ambacca believed.

'My brothers, I hope you meet people that truly care and love you.'

Unlike him, the rest of his siblings did not retain any of their previous memories, so he cheered for them even though they were far away from each other.

Right now, he was recalling the days long gone when they used to fly over the fields together. The time when they still danced, laughed and cried together.

And finally...

Flash—

...the egg shell that surrounded him was completely broken, and a bright light welcomed Ambacca. His eyes blinked from the glare of the light as his tears of grief flowed down from his eyes.

At that time, a man spoke above him and said, "Child, why are you crying?"

The voice that spoke to him was filled with everlasting warmth and friendliness. Poison Dragon Ambacca finally saw the man in front of him. The man was wearing all black, from his head down to his toe, including his armor. Even his mask was black.

The man brushed and patted Ambacca's head gently with his warm hands.

"Don't cry. I don't want you to cry anymore."

Then, a sound rang loudly in Poison Dragon Ambacca's head.

[You will now serve Black Dragon as your master for eternity according to the rules set by God Athenae.]

Dragons were born with the ability to read and feel other people's feelings. Right now, what he was feeling was...

I'll protect you.

I'll take care of you.

I won't let you become lonely.

The man looked at Ambacca with a soft smile and said, "Let's introduce you to your friends."

"Gruwooo?"

Ambacca tilted his gigantic head when he heard the word friends. Then, at that moment, two dragons, nesting on Black Dragon's left and right arms, appeared in front of him.

"Kiyeeeeeee!"

”

"Kyaaaaaaaaa!"

Ambacca was shocked when he saw them appear.

The first among the dragons was the Dragon of Extinction and Fire. The second among them was the Dragon of Wisdom and Ice. Right now, the two of them were in front of him.

The two of them came out of Black Dragon's arms as they slowly approached Ambacca. They tapped his body with their snouts, scenting him and crying happily.

"Hahahaha. Destiny and Britney must be very fond of you!"

Poison Dragon Ambacca was extremely thrilled and excited.

'This is where I'm supposed to be. This is where I belong. And the master that can lead me is standing right in front of me.'

Then, the notifications rang loudly in Black Dragon's ears.

[You have become one with three dragons.]

[You have met the criteria for challenging the Royal Class.]

[You must meet the qualifications to transfer to the Royal Class: 'Dragon Monarch'.]

[The Transfer Quest: 'Find the remaining dragon, the Dragon of Destruction' has been created.]

Ring!

'Royal Class?'

It was a strange term for Black Dragon. However, he recalled that he might have heard something about it from the rumors circulating in the game.

The higher the level of the players, the more difficult and challenging the dungeons and quests would become. So in preparation for this, he had heard that there was a class prepared for high-leveled players that could give them some sort of privilege.

Black Dragon looked at the detailed explanation of the class.

[Transferring to Royal Class means you have a new class, but this is only possible if you have reached the highest level in your current class. In general, the classes in Athenae are divided into levels: Rank 1 God Classes, Rank 2 Legendary Classes, Rank 3 Hidden Classes and Rank 4 General Classes. However, Royal Classes can be anywhere between Rank 1~3.]

"Ah..."

Black Dragon easily understood the gist of it. The Royal Class was a class that one could transfer to if they had a Rank 4 General Class. Perhaps, this was a way for the players with general and ordinary classes to reach their peak and exert power that could rival those in the God Class.

According to the explanation, Royal Classes could be anywhere between Rank 1~3. This meant that if one transferred to a Royal Class, they had a chance to be comparable to God Classes that were in Rank 1. It was also possible for one to be in Rank 3. Basically, they could go anywhere from Hidden to God, depending on the Royal Class they would challenge.

At that moment, the notifications went off again.

[The Dragon Orb is evolving.]

[The Dragon Orb has evolved from Epic to Legendary.]

[The Dragon Orb is exerting a tremendous amount of power.]

[Britney will grow further.]

[Destiny will grow further.]

Scales suddenly began to cover Britney and Destiny's bodies. Their transformations looked similar to Iron Man when he changed into his suit in the movies. Then, the length of their bodies started to increase as the horns on their foreheads grew larger and harder.

[Britney has evolved from Level 457 to Level 524.]

[Destiny has evolved from Level 415 to Level 542.]

[All of Britney's skills have increased by +4.]

[All of Destiny's skills have increased by +4.]

[An additional new skill has been added to Britney's repertoire of skills. Please confirm.]

[An additional new skill has been added to Destiny's repertoire of skills. Please confirm.]

[Destiny and Britney's summoning time has increased by an hour.]

It was a huge change.

Poison Dragon Ambacca was already at Level 532. Compared to them, it seemed like Poison Dragon Ambacca was infinitely weaker than them, despite having a body that had reached full growth from birth. In fact, it was quite surprising and astonishing to know that Britney and Destiny could still grow further.

After watching the changes in his dragons, Black Dragon once again pondered on the contents of his quest.

'It seems like I have to go to the Demon World to find the Dragon of Destruction...'

Minhyuk began to eat the specialties in each region of the Collodis Empire. After eating like that for a few days, he stared at the last food that was placed in front of him. Although he had eaten a lot of local specialties so far, these final dishes were also the empire's representative dishes. They were none other than cold buckwheat noodle soup, buckwheat noodles, and tonkatsu!

Minhyuk personally liked eating buckwheat noodles with tonkatsu. The cold buckwheat noodle soup had a thin sheet of ice on top of it after being cooled, before serving. There was also a dollop of wasabi placed on the bowl. He could add wasabi depending on the amount that he preferred. There were also some chopped, ground radish and chives placed together in the bowl.

The first thing that Minhyuk did was to add some wasabi to the bowl of cold buckwheat noodles soup before adding some radish and mixing them gently. Then, he scooped them all at once.

‘Wow, it’s cold.’

The coldness of the dish immediately drew out a sigh of admiration in his mouth. Just like that, Minhyuk picked up some noodles and slurped them in his mouth. The noodles in cold buckwheat noodle soup were quite gritty and rough to the taste, but this was the charm and beauty of this dish. Then, he immediately picked up a slice of tonkatsu, dipped it in sauce and placed it in his mouth. The crunchy texture of the tonkatsu and the sweet sauce that coated it created a pleasant harmony of flavors in his mouth.

Then, Minhyuk turned his attention to the buckwheat noodles. The red color that spread in the noodles as he mixed them together made his mouth water. He quickly picked up the entire bowl, then poured the buckwheat noodles with cabbages and cucumber into his mouth. The magnificent flavor of the noodles and vegetables was further enriched with the addition of the seaweed powder that was sprinkled on top of the dish.

After happily eating all of the dishes, Minhyuk finally began cooking for Emperor Asvon.

“We have finished the long and tedious preparations.”

Minhyuk had a serious look on his face! Seeing his expression, the expression on Emperor Asvon’s face also turned grim as he slowly took off the wig that adorned his head.

When Minhyuk saw his head, he unwittingly asked, “Is that Hi-Moo...?”

“Hi-Moo? What’s that...?”

“No, nothing.”

Minhyuk asked the question because he was reminded of a middle-aged uncle sweeping his hair with his hands and saying ‘This wig is Hi-Moo!’.

When he looked at Emperor Asvon’s head, he could see a glint from the barren top of his head. It looked like the sun was about to rise with how brightly his head was shining.

Minhyuk spoke seriously, “The power of the curse is trying to hit me with that glare! *Hooo!*”

He breathed heavily. In fact, Emperor Asvon really did not know how others’ hair grew so he could only believe Minhyuk’s words.

“I...Is the curse really that strong that it can cover my entire head?”

“The baldness demon is hovering on top of your head, Your Majesty.”

“...!”

“It’s staring at me! Talmor!”

“Yes, my Lord.”

Corr and Minhyuk were working together as pseudo-swindlers!

“Drive him out immediately. I will quickly prepare a dish that can work against his curse!”

“Yes!”

Then, Corr began to play his recorder.

Ppippippippippi~?

Corr also made sure to shout loud enough that the veins around his neck popped out.

“Grow!!! Hair!!! Grow!!! Hair!!!”

Emperor Asvon was looking at them with reverence in his gaze. If someone else were to see this scene, they would definitely find it funny. Emperor Asvon, with his shining bald head and ever so serious expression, was sitting in the middle of the two.

Then, Corr said, “Your Majesty!”

“Speak.”

“Your Majesty, you have to shout with me as well.”

“Co...cough. Is that so?”

‘That weird spell? But what’s the point of feeling this momentary shame if I can treat my curse?’

“G... r... ow... hai... r...”

“Louder!!”

“Grow... Hair! Hair!!!”

“Loudeeeeeeeer!!!”

“Grow!!! Hair!!!”

Ppippippippippi~?

“Uwooooooo!?Grow haiiiiiir!!!”

In the end, Emperor Asvon got absorbed into the rhythm as he shouted with his hands high up in the sky.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk continued to act as he sweated cold bullets. Then, his eyes met with Emperor Asvon. At that moment...

“Urgh!!”

...Minhyuk suddenly covered his mouth, turned around and ran far away as he vomited out a mouthful of blood. Emperor Asvon looked at him in horror.

“Wh...what happened to you?”

“The curse is too strong... *Ugh!*”

Emperor Asvon was shocked to see Minhyuk coughing up a mouthful of blood. Before the emperor could say anything else, Minhyuk quipped, “But... I can do it... So that... so that... Your Majesty’s... Your Majesty’s hair can grow... even if I die... I’ll do it!!! *Ugh!*”

Then, Minhyuk vomited another mouthful of blood. In fact, he just purposely bit on his cheeks hard enough to draw blood. However, Emperor Asvon was appalled when he saw Minhyuk vomiting out mouthful after mouthful of blood.

‘I...it’s ok if y...you fail.’

In Emperor Asvon’s eyes, Minhyuk was a good and loyal man who willingly vomit blood just for his sake. He could feel Minhyuk’s sincerity since the latter was not even a person under his Empire.

At that moment, the notifications rang in Minhyuk’s head.

[You have received Asvon’s favor.]

[You have received Asvon’s favor.]

[Asvon’s...omitted.]

[You have received Emperor Asvon’s trust.]

[You have successfully raised Emperor Asvon’s favor to the highest level.]

[The quest rewards have gotten better.]

The quest was named ‘Emperor Asvon’s Curse,’ and the reward was as much as 100 platinum. However, he just heard additional notifications related to the quest.

[If you successfully clear the quest: Emperor Asvon’s Curse, you will be given 500 platinum and a chance to choose three artifacts from the Emperor’s Treasure Room.]

[You have gained the Title: The One Who Exploited Even the Emperor.]

Minhyuk grinned widely.

Chapter 268: Curse of Baldness

Minhyuk looked at Emperor Asvon, he could see that the emperor was genuinely moved by his actions. Just like that, Minhyuk eventually moved on and succeeded in his cooking.

[You have completed the Seaweed Soup & Braised Tofu.]

[Rare grade.]

[You have gained 1 DEX.]

[You have gained 2 REP.]

[You have acquired 200 AP.]

Minhyuk realized that he did not receive a higher rating from what he had expected. However, it was more than enough for the quest that he had received. Just like what was written before, even a rare dish had the effect of promoting the growth and regeneration of Emperor Asvon's hair several times over.

Then, he placed the seaweed soup and braised tofu in front of Emperor Asvon.

"Huff, huff..." Minhyuk gasped loudly as he wiped the cold sweat off of his forehead.

Emperor Asvon began to eat the seaweed soup and braised tofu placed in front of him.

Emperor Asvon's eyes widened in shock when he sipped a spoonful of seaweed soup. He thought, *'It's thick...'*?

He had never tasted such thick flavor in his life. Then, Emperor Asvon scooped a spoonful of rice and placed it in his mouth, before slicing some of the braised tofu and placing it in his mouth too. The spicy and savory flavor of the braised tofu spread in his mouth, as it tickled and enchanted his taste buds.

'My goodness... this flavor is superior to the dishes of the chefs in the Imperial Palace.'

It was so delicious to the point that Asvon wanted to recommend Minhyuk to enter his palace. Then, he placed some white rice in his seaweed soup before scooping them up again. He also placed some well-ripened kimchi on top of the spoonful of seaweed soup and rice before eating it. The warm soup and the crunchy kimchi blended to create a pleasant flavor in his mouth.

Emperor Asvon closed his eyes to savor the flavor of the dishes as he continued to wolf them down hurriedly. He even added a ton of rice in his seaweed soup, before lifting the entire bowl of soup and tipping it in his mouth. He looked like he was drinking water with his posture.

He could not help but smile happily at the pleasant taste of the dishes. Then, Asvon felt a hot current coming out of his head. He suddenly shouted out loud when he felt such a sensation.

"Grow! Hair! Hair! Grow! Hair!!!"

Then, something amazing happened. Emperor Asvon's barren head suddenly began to sprout hair, as it regenerated and grew at a rapid pace. When he realized what was happening, he could not help but shout louder.

"T...Talmor!!!"

Right at this moment, more than anybody else, he realized the vast greatness of Talmor.

"I am both grateful and in awe," Emperor Asvon said as he gently patted the rich and thick hair that grew on his barren head in an instant.

With his words, the notifications rang for Minhyuk.

[You have completed the Quest: Emperor Asvon's Curse.]

[You can now choose three artifacts from Emperor Asvon's Treasure Room.]

"I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You have fulfilled my lifelong aspirations and dreams."

"I just did what I had to do. I'm also happy for Your Majesty."

Minhyuk did not stop his acting as he thought of ways to continue to win the favor and trust of Emperor Asvon.

"Your work for this Emperor should be taken to the grave, no?"

Minhyuk looked at him in confusion. He said, "Was there something else that I did? I was called because I am an excellent chef, so that I can serve you a delicious meal!"

"Hahahahaha!"

Emperor Asvon smiled pleasantly when he saw how witty Minhyuk was.

"Boy, you're free to live here. No one would say anything if you come and visit here. Also, I would like to eat your cooking once in a while, would that be alright?"

"There are conditions."

"Conditions?"

Emperor Asvon's brows furrowed. He had always seen Minhyuk as a foreigner who had no greed in him.

'But you're saying that there are conditions?'

Just as he was about to feel disappointed, Minhyuk said, "Can I call you hyung?"

"Hahahahahaha! Hyung? Hahahahaha!" Emperor Asvon burst out laughing when he heard his request.

'He's not being greedy, he's just asking to call me hyung!'

He could see that Minhyuk just wanted to get closer to him. Hence, Emperor Asvon looked at him and said, "Alright, you can do it."

"Hyuuung~"

Minhyuk's voice was filled with endearment and it sounded a lot like the embodiment of "Hyuuuung~?".

Minhyuk was filled with expectations after being given the chance to select three items from Emperor Asvon's treasure room. The notifications suddenly rang just as he was about to walk around.

[You can now choose three artifacts from Emperor Asvon's Treasure Room.]

[You cannot check the information of the three artifacts beforehand.]

‘The artifacts’ information is not available?’

However, it was obvious to him that the things placed inside the treasure room were outstanding artifacts. In a way, the restriction seemed like it was a way to stop him from taking three of the best artifacts away from this room. No, perhaps being able to choose artifacts from the emperor’s treasure room was too much of a ridiculous privilege.

Then, at that moment...

“...?”

Minhyuk tilted his head in confusion.

‘You’re not a regular operator but the president, Kang Taehoon, himself?’

A bright light wrapped Minhyuk’s body, and when he reopened his eyes, he saw the figure of President Kang Taehoon.

“Nice to meet you.”

“Yes. Hello.”

President Kang Taehoon smiled at Minhyuk when he saw him greeting him politely.

Then, Minhyuk proceeded to ask him, “May I ask what business you have with me?”

Kang Taehoon began to tell Minhyuk the reason why he went ahead and contacted the latter. It was not that long before Minhyuk heard the entirety of the story. His words were about the patches that they would implement based on his high Holy Power. Minhyuk was convinced by Kang Taehoon’s words.

‘This game company is different from other companies.’

When other game companies implemented patches, they would usually make it worse for the players. However, Joy Co. Ltd increased the percentage of the heals and Holy Power efficiency, and they even went to negotiate with some of the best players with high Holy Power that would be affected and might lose out during the patch.

They even told him that they needed to take the Saint’s Sword away from him.

“I’m sure you have heard of this, but the Saint’s Sword is something that was not supposed to be pulled out.”

“But I pulled it out easily?”

“....”

President Kang Taehoon’s lips were pressed tightly together. There were even words that tickled the end of his throat.

‘It’s because you seduced all of the priests with food and increased your Holy Power to 4,000!’

That was what he wanted to say, but he just laughed awkwardly.

“Ha, hahahaha! I-Is that so? I wonder why it got pulled out so easily? Why was that the case?”

“Really?”

“In any case, I intend to retrieve the Saint’s Sword. Don’t worry, we’re going to compensate you with an artifact that’s comparable to it. I’m also going to patch up the double effect on the Holy Power of Pandora’s Helmet and pay the right price,” President Kang Taehoon said as he looked at Minhyuk, who was thinking deeply about the former’s words. Then, Minhyuk began to present his own conditions.

President Kang Taehoon entered the Special Players Management Team with a carefree expression on his face.

“I’m done talking with Player Minhyuk.”

“Really? What did he ask for?”

“He had no greed for other things except for food, so what he asked for was obviously not that great. As compensation for retrieving the Saint’s Sword, he asked that he be allowed to verify the information of the artifacts in the Emperor’s Treasure Room, a place where it’s impossible to check the artifacts’ information.”

“If it’s that much, then it should be fine.”

The Emperor’s Treasure Room was filled with legendary artifacts. Whatever Minhyuk picked would likely be a legendary artifact at the most. However, if he was given the chance to check the information, then he would be able to get the best among them.

“And as compensation for the Holy Power, he asked for an additional 20% recovery rate in his Absorption Conversion Skill, as well as two of the Four Heavenly Kings’ treasures.”

“The treasures of the Four Heavenly Kings...”

Team Leader Park Minggyu shook his head. He knew that Minhyuk was now trying to collect the treasures of the Four Heavenly Kings. Once he collected them, he would use them in combination

with the Demigod Production Method. However, in Team Leader Park's opinion, Minhyuk would at least take four months to complete this quest.

'He'll use Gorn's SSS Treasure Chest to get one extra treasure so all he needs to get is three more.'

Minhyuk still did not check Gorn's SSS Treasure Chest, so he was still unaware of it, but its effect would give him the artifact that he wanted. It would definitely be a way for him to obtain an artifact that he knew the information of, but was difficult to obtain. In this way, Player Minhyuk would have already obtained the treasures of three of the Four Heavenly Kings. Regardless of that, he would still need four months to collect the other treasure.

Then, President Kang Taehoon continued, "Finally, he asked for the information on the Demon World's Tower, as well as a promise to maintain the additional 50% on attack and defensive power based on the Holy Power against the demons for one week."

"Demon World's Tower..."

Team Leader Park shook his head. This request was also not too much.

"Player Minhyuk's request is because of the treasure of the Four Heavenly Kings, right?"

"Who knows? I don't think that's the case. He said that he's going to the Demon World's Tower because of the food from all over the world that he can receive every time he clears a level, or so I recall?"

The Demon World's Tower was a place where players from all over the world could gather. And the players who could achieve a new record inside the tower would receive one of the most famous dishes in the world. For example, assuming the country was Korea, then they would receive bulgogi. If it was Japan, then they would get a Japanese dish like sushi.

'That's a good enough choice.'

Then, Team Leader Park realized something strange.

"Gasp...!"

"What's wrong?"

"President... Don't you think there's something strange?"

"What do you mean?"

When President Kang Taehoon tilted his head in confusion, Team Leader Park explained. He said, "How did Player Minhyuk know that food will be rewarded for clearing the level with a new record in the Demon World's Tower?"

"Well, of course..."

When Team Leader Park saw President Kang Taehoon mumbling the end of his words, he could not help but frown.

Currently, there was only one player who had achieved an unrivaled record in the Demon World's Tower, and it was none other than Calauhel.

'Did Calauhel publicly share the information about the world's food reward when hitting a new record? No, definitely not. So, how did he know? This information can only be known once the tower was opened to the public!'

Then, at that moment, Lee Minhwa shouted, "Te...Team Leader! We have a problem!"

"...!"

"...!"

President Kang Taehoon turned around to look at Lee Minhwa. He asked, "What's the problem?"

"P...Player Minhyuk is now in contact with Aruvel, the Demon World's Sage."

"Wha, what...!"

There was only one reason why they were all shocked. It was because Demon World's Sage Aruvel was the person who knew the most about the mob information in the Demon World's Tower. In addition, Demon World's Sage Aruvel was the Demon World's hidden NPC. One could only meet him after meeting countless criteria and difficulties.

'You're telling me that Minhyuk met him in less than an hour after he entered the Demon World?'

"I...It seems like Player Minhyuk already knew how to find Aruvel."

"How the hell did he know? The only way to know how to meet him is upon entering the Demon World."

All of them had the same question in their heads. Meanwhile, Team Leader Park thought of something.

'Although everything that he had asked of us seemed reasonable, maybe what he had proposed were the best conditions that he could get from us. After all, he's a man who can't lose...'

Not long after, Lee Minhwa felt relieved.

"Well, Aruvel is still a Level 635 Marquis-class demon. Player Minhyuk will never be able to win against him."

Before Minhyuk could hear the mob information in the Demon World's Tower, he needed to win a fight against Aruvel himself. Even though he had a 1.5x increase in his physical and magical attack and defense, it was still impossible to achieve.

Then, President Kang Taehoon murmured under his breath, "That's right... Even with Conir, it's still impossible."

'That's a good thing.'

Minhyuk laughed happily as he stepped into the Demon World.

He had chosen three artifacts from Emperor Asvon's treasure room and most of them were for his vassals. The only reason he did that was because there were no groundbreaking cooking utensils that Minhyuk wanted among the artifacts. Even if all of them were legendary artifacts, they still could not compare to the sword and armor that he was using right now. For that reason, Minhyuk focused on Beanie's and Conir's artifacts.

Minhyuk also received information about the way to the Demon World's Tower from President Kang Taehoon.

Gremory had also given information about the Demon World's food every time she ate Minhyuk's food. He heard from her that once he achieved a new record in the Demon World's Tower, he would be able to get food from all over the world. However, she did not provide him with information on how to get to the Demon World's Tower.

However, he also got information from her about the Demon World's Sage Aruvel. He needed Aruvel to be able to achieve a new record in the tower. Gremory had told him that Aruvel was around Level 650. However, there was a way to overcome his strength.

Hence, Minhyuk moved towards the Demon World.

[You have entered the Demon World.]

[You have gained 30 REP.]

Following Gremory's information, Minhyuk headed to Aruvel's home. The corners of his mouth rose slightly at the contents of his inventory.

The first thing that he had heard from Gremory about Aruvel was that he had tasted the human's food in the past. She said that he had admired the taste and flavor of the food. He was also known for being quite a gourmand.

The second one was...

'He talks a lot when he drinks.'

That was exactly the key point of the information.

Chapter 269: Curse of Baldness

Once Minhyuk's plan was all set, he immediately started walking towards where Aruvel was.

The Demon World was generally dark since the sun did not rise in their world. There were also various traps and illusions hidden in every corner to fool the unsuspecting players.

When Minhyuk arrived at the place where Aruvel was supposed to be, he was suddenly subjected to an ant hell. Although Minhyuk, Beanie and Conir were all sucked in an ant hell, they did not fall into panic. Then, at that moment...

"How dare you step foot in here, you fools!"

...they heard a gloomy and dark voice ringing loudly in the area. Then, the notifications began to ring.

[You have encountered the Demon World's Sage, Aruvel.]

[You have a 200-level difference with this monster.]

[Extreme fear has been triggered.]

Warnings would ring once one encountered a being that was at least 200 levels higher than their current self. This was always the case in the Demon World.

The Demon World had yet to be explored. This unexplored area was a place where demons thrived. Demons could exert 1.3x of their power here as compared to when they were in the human world. In other words, the Level 400 demons that Minhyuk could easily hunt in the human world would be able to exert the power of a Level 500 being here.

At that moment, Sage Aruvel was holding a bright red spear in his hands, as he shouted, "Die!!!"

Hundreds of spear lights from Aruvel's spear immediately flooded Minhyuk's vision.

'I'll never win against that.'

Minhyuk was not a fool. He did not need to clash against Aruvel to know if they could stand a chance against the latter. He could already tell Aruvel's strength just by the force the sage showed with that one attack. Seeing the attack, Minhyuk quickly shouted, "Let's Have a Meal!!!"

[An invincible barrier has now been created with a radius of five meters. You cannot release an attack on your enemies outside of the barrier.]

[There is a high chance of receiving a higher grade dish when cooking buffed dishes for your party members, guild members and vassals. The party will receive the buff effect accordingly.]

A transparent, round barrier with a radius of five meters was created in a flash. The flying spear lights slammed straight into the barrier.

Baaaaaaaang—

The spear lights struck the barrier but were deflected and flew away. The invincible barrier was truly unbreakable, but the impact remained.

Bang, bang, bang—!

Aruvel slammed the barrier with all his might. He said, "You're cowards for putting up such things!"

Meanwhile, inside the barrier, Minhyuk thought, *'The effects of Let's Have a Meal will depend on how I use it.'*

Skills and abilities would have different effects and efficiency depending on how they were used.

.

Then, Minhyuk said, "Hehe. Mister Aruvel, hello! I couldn't greet you properly because you suddenly attacked me, but I'm Minhyuk. As a matter of fact, I heard that Aruvel was quite a gourmand so I came here to treat you to a meal."

“Stop playing tricks on me!”

Alas, Aruvel did not listen to his words as he continued to strike the barrier fiercely.

“I really don’t want to fight Mister Aruvel. How am I even supposed to fight against you?”

“I told you to stop playing tricks on me...!”

Aruvel’s expression was clearly filled with anger. Minhyuk could not help but sigh as he took out his grill. He looked like he did not have any other choice. Then, he started grilling pork ribs on the grill.

Sizzle—

The dark sauce that coated and marinated the ribs made a loud and sizzling sound as soon as the ribs made contact with the grilling pan.

Then, the tempting smell wafted over and entered Aruvel’s nose.

‘Who the hell is this guy?’

This man suddenly appeared in front of Aruvel and said that he wanted to treat the latter to a meal, since Aruvel was a gourmand. When he could not communicate with Aruvel properly, he just sat down and began to grill some unknown meat in front of him.

‘But the meat the humans cooked back then was really delicious.’

Aruvel was shocked when he tasted human food back when he went to their world. The only dishes they ate in the Demon World were raw meat from the demonic monsters and plants that tasted like rotten eggs. On the contrary, the human world had pigs, cows, chickens and vegetables that were fresh and delicious.

Suddenly, a mouthwatering smell tickled the tips of his nose.

‘N...no. What kind of smell is this that can make my heart tremble so much...!’

Aruvel’s eyes shook. The smell was sweet, with a faint scent of charcoal, easily stimulating his appetite. Without realizing it, his mouth was already watering as he continued to watch the man in front of him gnaw on the glossy red meat. He could not help but slurp his saliva back inside his mouth.

‘It looks really delicious...’

Aruvel had only one desire in his life, and that was to taste food from the human world once again.

‘Wait, that guy is a human.’

Aruvel did not know what the human was up to and he kept on telling himself in his head that he should not approach the man. However, his feet were already bringing him closer to the man. He could see the man placing some pickled onion on top of the seasoned meat. Just when he was about to put it in his mouth...

"I...I want to try that," Aruvel unknowingly said. He immediately came back to his senses.

'My goodness! I almost fell for this cunning guy's ulterior motive!'

Then, the man said, "We can't attack each other in this barrier. If that's the case, then I can't do anything bad to you, right? Come on in, quickly."

His words were somehow stronger than the alluring whispers of the three great demons.

"Are you sure that we can't attack each other there?"

"Yes, please look carefully."

The man lifted his sword and tried to use his skill, but the red light that quickly flashed on his sword disappeared just as quickly.

'It's true.'

The thoughts in Sage Aruvel's head quickly turned.

'There's no way that they will harm me there since they can't attack me.'

Sage Aruvel realized one other important thing.

'That's right. When was the last time that I tasted human food? Once that barrier gets terminated and I have finished eating, I can just kill them by then.'

He laughed gleefully as he finally moved into the barrier. Once he stepped inside, Aruvel also tried to point his spear at the man just to double check. At that exact same moment, an unidentified force controlled his attack.

'It's really true.'

That meant that he could eat freely. Once he was done eating, he could kill this human being in front of him.

Aruvel hurriedly chomped on the pork ribs. Then, Minhyuk carefully placed the spicy cold noodles in front of him.

"This dish is called pork ribs, while this one is called cold noodles. It's best to eat them together."

"Ahem, ahem.?Right, I'll give them a taste."

Aruvel placed a piece of pork ribs on top of the glistening red noodles. Then, he slurped the noodles and ribs together. The spicy and sweet flavor of the noodles together with the soft and sweet taste of the meat spread in his mouth. Aruvel's eyes widened in shock when he tasted such delicacy.

"It...It's really delicious," Aruvel said in awe.

Minhyuk could not help but look at the demon with a little disgust when he saw Aruvel hurriedly devouring the dishes in front of him. However, this was the only plausible method since he knew better than anyone else that Aruvel longed for something delicious.

Then, Minhyuk took something else out of his inventory.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

The sound of cracking came when he turned and opened the lid. It was none other than soju. It was even the blueberry fruit type.

“Well then, it’s delicious if we drink this together!”

“What’s this?”

“It’s some kind of juice, but it’s a superb combination with the food that we’re eating right now.”

Minhyuk smiled softly. He knew that Aruvel would try to avoid his urge to drink in order to not get drunk. However, fruit soju was sweet enough for it to be called a juice and Aruvel, who most likely did not have enough experience with human drinks, would most likely believe this.

Minhyuk poured the alcohol generously in the shot glass. Then, he drank the soju in one shot.

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

Then, he got a notification.

When Aruvel saw that nothing happened to Minhyuk, he eagerly filled his shot glass with alcohol. Then, he drank it and said, “*Hoo?* This is quite an interesting drink. At first, it has a sweet and fruity flavor, but there’s also a bitter and pungent aftertaste.”

“That’s the charm of this drink.”

“I see.”

Aruvel found the drink to be delicious as he gulped the contents of the glass in one shot. Then he said, “One more glass.”

“Yes.”

One glass became two, then two became three, four and so on.

Then...

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

...without realizing it, Minhyuk had already opened a few more bottles.

“*Kggghk.* This tastes so good! The meat is good and the drink is great too.”

“*Hahahahaha.* Right?”

It was all going according to Minhyuk’s plans.

While Minhyuk was eagerly offering drink after drink to Aruvel, Conir and Beanie sneakily came out of the barrier.

Conir was excitedly staring at the ramyeon that was starting to boil.

“Conir!!! This time will be a success!!!”

“Oink!”

Beanie nodded seriously with his arms folded on his chest. It had decided to teach Conir how to cook ramyeon so it was supervising the latter’s work right now.

Not long after, Conir was able to cook ramyeon. The ramyeon was piping hot with steam blowing above it. However, a notification rang loudly in Conir’s head.

[You have failed the Quest: Cooking Level 1 Best Ramyeon.]

“....”

Conir felt sad. This notification was thanks to his ‘tenacity’ skill. With this ‘tenacity’ skill, Conir would tenaciously focus on one task as various quests pop out. He would be able to obtain skills as rewards if he succeeded in the quests. This was a privilege that only NPC Conir had.

Beanie approached Conir when it saw him looking at the ramyeon sadly with his doe-like eyes.

“Oooink.”

‘It’s alright, Conir.’

“Oiink, oiink.”

‘You’ll be able to reach my level someday too.’

“Oooooooooink.”

‘Don’t be discouraged by your failures.’

“Oink, oink.”

‘I will teach you today.’

“Teach?”

“Oink, oink.”

Conir finally responded to the word ‘teach’. Beanie nodded at him. Then, it proceeded to speak to him with a grave and somber expression on its face.

“Oink, oink.”

“I’ll find out soon?”

Conir waited as he stared at his ramyeon. His eyes could not help but widen in shock when something happened ten minutes later. Beanie smiled quietly as he looked at the distant mountains with his hands behind his back.

Conir trembled as he looked at the ramyeon with admiration and awe. He said, “Woa... Wooooooooow...?The...there’s a lot of ramyeon!”

Beanie nodded slowly as it tapped him on his shoulders.

“Oiiink.”

‘This is exactly what I meant when I told you that I will teach you.’

It was a lesson where the amount of ramyeon increases even if one did not do anything. Beanie patted Conir’s shoulders once again as it turned its back on him. Then, Beanie slowly moved away from Conir with its hands behind its back. Beanie looked like a supreme martial arts master with his posture. Its expression was one of sadness, as if it was feeling the nostalgia of its oldest disciple leaving the nest.

Conir stared at Beanie’s desolate back and said, “Co...Conir... W...wants to be like B...Beanie... Conir! Will be like you!”

Strangely enough, Conir suddenly wanted to be like Beanie.

Minhyuk’s plan was finally getting ready for harvest.

“Pour me another glass.”

Glug, glug, glug—

Gulp, gulp, gulp!

“Kggghk!?Thwis dhrink ish really delishcious! In the old days!”

‘It has begun.’

This was the sound of an adult man getting drunk—*In the old days!*?And they would repeat themselves.

Then, Aruvel reiterated, “So in the old days!!!”

They would recount events from their past days, one event, two events, and another, and another...

“I used to be very...! Huh?!”

Their stories would always begin with ‘In the old days,’ and they would continue to speak about their success. Then, it would end with...

“Haa...”

Aruvel’s misty eyes stared despondently at the distant mountains as he began to shed tears.

“What’s so wrong about living my demon life...”

When this moment came, Minhyuk nodded as he patted Aruvel’s back gently.

Pat, pat—

"It's okay. Everything is just like that. Human life... n...no, de...demon life is just like that. Right?"

"Thanks. It feels good to be comforted."

"Come on, have another drink."

"Right. Boy, you're a very good person. This, this..."

Aruvel suddenly began to search all over his own body. Then, he took something out and stuck it out to Minhyuk's face.

"Come on, take this. Pocket money, this is pocket money!"

At the final stage of drunkenness, Aruvel gave him some pocket money! A notification rang in Minhyuk's head as he received his pocket money.

[You have acquired 210 platinum.]

"..."

Minhyuk stared blankly as he received pocket money equivalent to 210 platinum. If it was exchanged for cash, that would be billions of cold hard cash.

Aruvel just stared at Minhyuk blearily as he continued to speak, "But boy, thwis ish rearry delishcios. Best dish ever. In the whole world."

"Thank you."

Minhyuk smiled softly at his praise. Aruvel suddenly turned silent as he pondered deeply about something before asking Minhyuk, "Boy, will I be able to keep eating something delicious if I'm with you?"

"I guess?"

"*Hic?*"

Aruvel pulled something out from his sleeves again. Then, he wrote down some words before giving them to Minhyuk.

"Then I'll go with you."

At the same time, the notifications rang for Minhyuk.

[*Aruvel has created a pledge of allegiance.*]

[He won't be able to attack you for one week.]

[The pledge of allegiance has taken effect.]

[The effects of the pledge of allegiance will reduce the NPC's abilities significantly if the pledge was made by an NPC that has a higher level than you.]

"..."

An unexpected variable suddenly appeared in his plans.

Chapter 270: Curse of Baldness

[Aruvel has written a one-week pledge of allegiance to Player Minhyuk.]

Silence prevailed in the special players management team's office. President Kang Taehoon, Team Leader Park Minggyu and Lee Minhwa did not know what to say.

The first one to break the silence was President Kang Taehoon.

"Ha, hahahahaha, hahahahaha!"

Then...

"Hahahahahahaha!"

"Ho, hohohohoho!"

They all started laughing incredulously.

What kind of nonsense is this? A player seduced an NPC?

"The Let's Have a Meal skill was not supposed to be used that way..."

However, Minhyuk made use of the skill and made it into his own, turning it into a divine move. Player Minhyuk had used the 'Let's Have a Meal' skill, a skill that made him invincible inside the barrier, to talk to the other person. This allowed him to have a peaceful conversation with Aruvel. In short, a completely divine move.

"At this rate..."

Even though they were able to patch his monstrous Holy Power, Player Minhyuk might just be able to create greater effects from this point on. After thinking for quite some time, President Kang Taehoon finally opened his mouth and said, "Come to think of it..."

Team Leader Park Minggyu and Lee Minhwa turned to look at him.

"Player Minhyuk will still need to go and climb the top of the Demon World's Tower one of these days."

"That's right."

Team Leader Park nodded. They all agreed with this statement.

"After all, the tower has the way to unseal Gluttony's Incarnation."

TTBC's reporter, Go Eun-Ah, had received an important task from the broadcasting station. Her task was to scout for one player that would be able to make it to Athenae's 'Hall of Fame' this year.

'Hall of Fame.'

Those that could enter the Athenae's Hall of Fame meant that their videos had received the highest number of hits, views, or recommendations. In short, it was the best-played video of the year. The Hall of Fame was something that was hosted on the official Athenae website once every year. The

players that ranked from 1st~10th would also receive rewards. In addition, the players that ranked 1st~10th were those that had generated huge profits from their videos.

Meanwhile, Go Eun-Ah was already grumbling. She thought, *‘Eyy! You bald eagle bastard!’*

It was because the director had pecked her so hard. It was almost the end of the year, and there was still no video that had appeared in South Korea that was worthy enough to be in the Hall of Fame this year. On the other hand, the US already had two, China had three, Japan had one and France also had two. What was worse was that the director was a fervent and ardent patriot.

‘Does it even make sense that our country doesn’t have any Hall of Fame video this year? Regardless of the means and conditions, you have to recruit players who can challenge the Hall of Fame this year. No, it’s not players who can challenge; find players who will be in the Hall of Fame this year!’

Go Eun-Ah had already rubbed her hair up in frustration.

‘You’re telling me to find a user who can be in the Hall of Fame this year at this time? I’m just a reporter, not a shaman, do you think I can do that so easily? And there are more than 20 million Athenae players in Korea. How can I know if they can be in the Hall of Fame this year?’

She was starting to pick out the people that would be able to have the highest views when filming a video.

[Food God Minhyuk]

[Crazy Priest Locke]

[Crown Prince of Sword Carr]

[Dragon Taming Master Black Wagon]

[Hunting God Vercar]

“Ah, that’s right. It wasn’t Black Wagon, was it Black Dragon?”

Using her ballpoint pen, she crossed out Black Wagon and scribbled ‘Black Dragon’ beside it. Plenty of people had recognized him as Black Wagon instead of Black Dragon, due to the commentators’ misinterpretation back then.

Go Eun-Ah’s problem was that, aside from Carr and the Hunting God Vercar, she did not have their code number so she couldn’t send them a whisper. Legend Guild’s Genie’s code number was only available because the broadcasting station had it. In other words, she could only contact them through Genie, their guild master.

After thinking things through, Go Eun-Ah quickly wrote a proposal and sent it to Genie. She had delivered it to Genie, but the latter did not reply. She rewrote her proposal and sent it again, but after trying a few times, it was like her message just sank into the deep sea.

“Don’t tell me...”

‘Is it really impossible?’

She wrote another proposal, thinking that this would be her final proposal. Her final proposal was for 'Food God Minhyuk'. She had already sent him dozens of proposals, but he had not responded to any one of them. She felt exhausted knowing that nothing would come out of it, but she still started writing with the last of her strength and confidence. Then, she finally finished it.

[Hello! I'm TTBC's Reporter Go Eun-Ah. I don't have any other reason... omitted... it would be nice if we can talk over a meal. My treat. Please contact me.]

30 seconds later, the phone beside her rang. The call was from an unknown number.

"Yes, this is TTBC's Reporter, Go Eun-Ah."

[Hello. This is Minhyuk. I'm contacting you after seeing the proposal that you just sent to me.]

"...!"

Go Eun-Ah's eyes widened in shock as she tried to control her thumping heart. To be honest, Go Eun-Ah was Food God Minhyuk's fan. She even became one of the managers of Food God Minhyuk's fan cafe. The fan cafe was named 'Eat Until We Die!' and their numbers had exceeded 500,000. They were trying to diet together every day, but they failed every time. Even the founder failed to do so. In other words, this was how their fan cafe worked:

'I exercised very hard. Ah~ I'm so proud of myself for working hard today. I'm going to order some chicken!'

Yes, a lot of the people from their fan cafe did this on a daily. The fan cafe was exactly like Minhyuk.

Then, a thought suddenly flashed through her mind.

'What's so special about the final proposal?'

No, I'm sure there's nothing special. The conditions that I have listed so far have been the same as the previous ones. So, why did he react this time?

[The proposal says that you will give 50% of the revenue generated from the video. Right?]

"Yes. That's right!"

Then, Minhyuk said...

[If I'm going to shoot a video that will challenge the Hall of Fame, then I will demand 90% in return.]

"...!"

Go Eun-Ah's eyes widened in shock.

No, but shouldn't broadcasting station employees make a living?

To be honest, getting into the Hall of Fame meant that they would generate huge revenue from advertisements. But Minhyuk continued to speak.

[If you think it's not favorable, then I will turn down your proposal.]

"N...no! Please wait!"

As she thought about it deeply, this player was able to push ATV, a rising broadcasting station, to the forefront. So even if TTBC excluded the video transmission and advertising fee, it would still gain enough profit and value if this player was able to join the Hall of Fame. Also, it would be their job to announce and spread the name of TTBC so they would not incur any loss. However...

‘He really does not lose out...?’

Minhyuk was trying to create as much profit as possible from them. Minhyuk continued to speak.

[I also want you to send me the edited video first after the recording. I will review it, and you have to accept it if I don’t want you to upload a part of the video. If you agree to this, then I will seriously consider this contract. And there are additional conditions too.]

Go Eun-Ah gulped dryly as cold sweat beaded her forehead.

Minhyuk just continued to speak.

[Once I entered the Hall of Fame, I want you to take the responsibility to give me information about ingredients, specialties, and excellent dishes that I am satisfied with.]

Go Eun-Ah was obsessed with dieting. However, whenever she watched Minhyuk’s video, she always failed to control her appetite.

‘Aaaaaaaah! As expected of our Minhyuk! What a straightforward guy! Eating is greater than artifacts! Eating is greater than skill books!’?

Of course, just because Minhyuk was just asking for something that he could eat did not mean that they were not losing any money. Just like a bunch of elixirs and medicines, they were usually worth more than artifacts, since there were permanent stat benefits that they could get from the food.

“I will go and talk with my director for a moment!”

When she went to her director, Director Park Daehoon hugged her tightly. He said, “I was wondering why you were ordering late-night snacks every night, but it was because you wanted to cast Player Minhyuk. I’ll give you my word!”

She had been given approval, so she immediately let Minhyuk know about this happy fact. After informing him about the status of his conditions and the contract, Go Eun-Ah asked where he was since his every move right now was very important, “Where are you right now?”

[I’m going to the Demon World’s Tower.]

“...!”

It was a scoop! There were not many Korean players who had entered the Demon World as of now. Yet, he was going to the Demon World’s Tower!

‘I don’t know but maybe we will really get to the Hall of Fame??’

Then, Minhyuk asked her...

[But you know, about what you said in the proposal earlier?]

‘The proposal...??’

Go Eun-Ah tilted her head in confusion as Minhyuk continued to speak.

[That we will have a meal if we had a talk? When will you treat me to a meal?]

Among the countless conditions that she had listed in the proposal, the condition that made Minhyuk contact her was finally revealed.

The Demon World's Tower had 50 floors in total. In addition, each level of the Demon World's Tower was like a microcosm of the Demon World. Not only was the Demon World's Tower filled with monsters that players had yet to hunt, there were also trials, mobs, tricks, traps and even villages, towns, cities and other territories that had yet to be explored.

Currently, three men were standing in front of the Demon World's Tower. They were members of Blackstone. They had received instructions from Calahuel long before he reached the 28th floor.

Their orders were simple.

'Observe and kill the players who attempt to climb the Demon World's Tower.'

Observing and killing meant that they should kill those players that could possibly set a new record, while leaving the rookies and youngsters alone. The only reason why this order was possible was that the three players standing in front of the tower right now were high-leveled players that specialize in killing. They were also top rankers from France, Russia and China.

The three of them were getting rid of the players that were most likely going to be a threat to Calahuel. In addition, they were also able to get artifacts after they trampled and destroyed these players. Most of the players who came to the Demon World's Tower were at least of the upper or middle of the rankings. Hence, they were very happy and eager to perform this job.

France's Rochan started to move after hearing a report.

Before anyone could arrive at the Demon World's Tower, they had to pass through a place called 'Demon World Shelter'. It was a place where they could form parties or receive quests related to the Demon World's Tower.

Right now, the report had stated that a new player had appeared in that place, so Rochan was currently on his way to check the player out. Of course, if things did not work out the way he wanted to, then he would just kill the player and get the artifacts that he would drop.

France's Rochan was a Level 489 debuff hunter. He was well-known for slaughtering his enemies after he debuffed and downgraded their abilities. Russia's Ruben was one of the few players that used a gun. However, he could easily pierce through the players' backs. Finally, China's Jing Chao was someone that had an assassin class. He was also someone that flitted between the first and second rankings in China.

The three of them moved towards the Demon World Shelter. When they entered the area, they saw a boy.

"I'll succeed this time!"

The innocent-looking boy squatted down on the ground and said, "I'll definitely make it this time, for sure!"

“...”

The three people knew at the same time that this guy was underdeveloped in terms of mental capacity. He was even presumed to be an NPC. They did not know how he arrived here, but he was just annoying. He was a mentally incapable child and what was worse was that he was in front of the Demon World Shelter. They just wanted to clean him up.

Rochan kicked the gas burner and the pot that was blocking the way to the Demon World shelter.
Clang!

“Go play over there, filthy brat.”

“Don’t be so mean. You have to embrace the disabled and shower them with love. *Keke.*”

“*Kekekekeke.* You’re going to cry now, aren’t you?”

Unfortunately, Rochan would kill the child if he really did cry. Then, at that moment, the boy stood up with the chopsticks in his hand.

“I’m so angry! I’m very upset!”

“*Puhahahaha!*? So what if you’re mad?”

“Are you going to stab these uncles with those chopsticks?”

They laughed loudly, while the boy just asked them, “When cooking ramyeon, do you put the noodles first? Or the soup?”