

Gourmet 271

Chapter 271: Curse of Baldness

Ruben replied jokingly, "Of course it's water."

"...!"

The boy's body trembled. He said, "Y...you're correct... *Gasp...* A...amazing!!! Genius!!!

Wow!!!"

The boy raised his thumb at him in approval, his expression one of genuine admiration.

"*Fufufufufu.*?He's really a moron."

"Then, is it ansungtangtangmyeon or sshin ramyeon?"

"Ramyeon is not good for you, punk."

The boy's lips were upturned as he threw the chopsticks that were in his hands.

"You're wrong!!! All ramyeon are delicious!!!"

Ruben thought that the kid was just joking around but at that moment...

Spurt—

...the chopsticks stabbed through his throat before he could even finish his thoughts.

[Your vital point has received an attack.]

[It was a critical hit.]

"Ugh!!"

Ruben grabbed the chopsticks stuck in his neck. However, no matter how hard he pulled, they remained stuck. The notifications rang at the same time.

[You have been attacked by a Unicorn's Weapon.]

[You will not be able to pull out the weapon easily.]

'*Th...this is a Unicorn's Weapon?*'

'*A unicorn is a legendary monster... But you're telling me that this wooden chopstick is a Unicorn's Weapon?*'

Then, Conir shook his hand.

Swoooooooooosh—

Blood spurted out of Ruben's neck as the chopsticks got pulled out. His HP was reduced by as much as 40% in just that one attack.

"Keuheok! Th...this is impossible...!" Ruben shouted in shock at the ridiculous situation.

"This goddamned crazy punk!!!" Debuff Hunter Rochan shouted as he pulled out his hammer and slammed it on the ground.

Baaaaaang—

[Debuff Hammer]

[All the abilities of the single specified target will be reduced by 30% after being slammed with the shockwaves from the hammer.]

The ground was riddled with cracks, as black energy flooded straight toward the boy.

At that moment, the shape of the bloody wooden chopsticks suddenly changed once they returned to the boy's hands, turning into a landing net.

"...?"

"...?"

"...?"

The three players were all at a loss for words. The boy then dashed forward, staring at the debuff hammer that was aiming at him while singing a song happily.

“Hururup chap, chap! Hururup chap, chap!?Yummy ramyeon! Curly, curly, yummy ramyeon!”

This was a song sung by a black man named Nichol in Grown Up Dinosaur Dooly.

Rochan said, “This crazy punk...!”

Then...

[Frustration’s Sword Dance]

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

The black mist-like energy that was flowing out of the cracked ground slowly disappeared.

“...OMG?”

“...Crazy!”

They were rendered speechless. Things did not end there. When the boy wielded his landing net, powerful strength flowed from the tight holes of the net and formed black sword lights that flooded straight toward them.

“Sh...shit...!”

“Th...that’s not even a sword, that’s a landing net?!!”

All of them were astonished.

Rochan quickly moved. In his “Debuff Warrior’s Hammer”, there was a top-notch skill that could invalidate and nullify the attacks that would hit him all at once. However, just as he was about to raise his hammer to block the sword lights...

Shweeeeeeeek!

...the trajectory of the sword lights suddenly changed and stabbed his entire body.

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

“Keuhaaaaaack!” Rochan shrieked loudly. Debuff hunters were classes that had higher HPs compared to the average classes, but at that moment, his HP had dropped by 50%.

Then, Conir’s landing net had changed its form once again. This time, it became a pair of tongs. His artifact kept on changing its form because it was the ‘Unicorn’s Mysterious Weapon’ that Minhyuk had gifted him not too long ago. The Unicorn’s Mysterious Weapon was one of the three artifacts that Minhyuk had selected from the Emperor Asvon’s Treasure Room.

(Unicorn’s Mysterious Weapon)

Rank: *Legendary*

Requirements: *Vassal*

Attack: *851*

Special Abilities:

?A 16% increase in all five basic stats.

?Can change into the weapon that the user wants.

?The user’s skills and abilities will be expressed and transformed to suit the form that the artifact changes into.

?If the vassal’s HP drops below 10%, the vassal will be automatically summoned back to the vassal room.

?Active Skill: Unicorn’s Wrath.

Description: *A legendary weapon acquired from Emperor Asvon’s Treasure Room. The Unicorn is Collodis Empire’s guardian deity. It transforms into the weapon that the user wants. In addition, the skills of the player will be transformed to suit the changed form of the weapon.*

There were quite a few skills that would become unavailable or available, depending on the artifacts that were worn by the player. For example, it was common for someone with a sword skill to use a

sword. Of course, there were also special cases where there were not any requirements in particular too.

Alas, just a few moments ago, Conir's landing net had expressed the power of a swordsmanship skill, the Reckless Child. It even released dozens of sword lights when he swung it.

"Do you put cheese or rice cake in ramyeon?"

The three of them hurriedly turned towards their chatting window as they watched the boy slowly approaching them.

[Party Chat | Ruben: I'll use Burning Spider.]

[Party Chat | Rochan: Then, I'll use Reckless Hunter.]

[Party Chat | Jing Chao: Okay, I'll use Poison King's Continuous Kills.]

The three of them shook their heads in unison. They did not know who the punk was, or what the hell he was, but they were sure that they had to use their strongest single attack skill to take him down.

"Huh? Do you put cheese or rice cake in it?"

"Of course it's cheese for ramyeon!!!" Ruben screamed as he pulled out his revolver.

White light formed at the tip of his revolver before bursting out of the barrel, forming a white sphere that exploded in the air and formed a net. Once this net was cast, all of the skills that were being used would be controlled.

Clack—

Ruben also took out another revolver and fired it at Conir to make sure that he did not avoid the net.

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

Sparks flew off of his gun as dozens of bullets got fired off. However, the boy just ran as he shouted, "Wrong. You can put both in!!!"

"Crazy. You f*cking bastard! This is your end!!!"

The boy was rushing forward to escape the influence of the spider web-like net. In the end, the boy was pierced with the bullets and turned into a hive. However, that was what Ruben thought he saw. The boy's body was filled with unimaginable force.

Then, the boy triggered his skill.

[Sword Saint's Invincibility]

[Returns 80~90% of the damage inflicted by the enemies. Lasts up to 15 minutes. There's also a 5% chance of achieving a 10~13% recovery rate once the enemy attacks.]

The Burning Spider that Ruben had sent towards the rushing boy had become completely useless. Just when he expected that the boy would die from the dozens of bullets that he had fired...

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

"Urkkk!"

...Gunner Ruben's body flew backward. It was as if he was the one that received dozens of bullets, instead of the boy. He could also see his HP falling at a rapid pace. When Ruben looked at the rushing boy, he could see that his body was recovering rapidly from the bullets that he had fired at him.

'Th...this is crazy...!'

By the end of it...

[Party Chat: Ruben has been forced to log out.]

Rather than despairing at the fact that their party member, Ruben, had been forced to log out, the remaining two were busy thinking about ways to survive this ordeal.

'What the hell is that skill?'

They saw Ruben hit the body of his enemy, but there was little to no damage. On the contrary, it was Ruben who was forced to log out after attacking him. Of course, Ruben had already been stabbed at the neck by the chopsticks earlier, so his HP was a lot lower than normal, but what was more appalling was the fact that the boy's wounds were rapidly recovering.

"This, wh...what the hell did you do, you bastard!!!" Jing Chao shouted as he used his Poison King's Continuous Kills towards the boy, who was dashing fiercely toward them with his tongs. Poison King's Continuous Kills was a skill that could send out hundreds of hidden weapons toward the vital points of the enemy. The weapons would guarantee a critical hit wherever they struck. It was basically an AOE attack skill, but could also be considered Jing Chao's one-shot kill skill.

Pipipipipipipi—

Hundreds of hidden weapons flew straight towards the rushing boy as Jing Chao thought, *'These hidden weapons may not have that much aggressiveness, but the moment they get to your vital points, they would unleash a devastating critical strike together with a poisonous effect...! This time, surely, you will not be able to stand it!'*

That was what Jing Chao had concluded.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang!

Unfortunately, the devices just bounced off of the boy's body.

Stab—

When one of the devices stuck on the boy's body...

[Critical hit!]

[The paralysis poison is taking effect.]

[Your enemy's movements will slow down.]

"Ouch!?An ant bit me. Ants are bad!"

"..."

"..."

Jing Chao felt that everything was absurd right at that moment.

'An ant?'

Poison King's Continuous Kills was his best skill. These hundreds of hidden weapons had a poison effect that would be triggered randomly. The effects were different every time. Sometimes, a flesh-melting poison would be triggered. There were also times like this, when a paralysis poison would be triggered.

Jing Chao thought that the paralysis poison was the perfect poison to be triggered for the monster in front of them. They would be able to cut off his neck through the gap created by the paralysis. Just like he expected, the boy stopped running.

'As expected...!'

Jing Chao and Rochan made eye contact. Then, they both rushed forward. They could see that the boy was shivering and trembling.

Then, the boy shouted, "Co...Conir!!! Conir's stomach hurts! I have to go to the bathroom! Hyung told Conir to go to the bathroom if my stomach hurts..."

"What?!"

"HUH?!"

'He wasn't paralyzed?'

They were not aware that the boy was a chimera, and that his body had the thousand-poison resistance effect. Then, the rest of their attacks landed on the boy.

Pipipipipipipi—

Clang, clang, clang!

Some of their attacks were deflected, while some stopped the boy in his tracks. Then...

Spurt!

[The attack has been reflected.]

[You have been poisoned.]

[Your skin will feel like it's burning.]

"Keuaaaaaaack!" Jing Chao screamed. The same part where the hidden weapon was embedded on the boy's body felt like it was burning.

The boy was confidently wielding his tongs at that moment. He said, "Tongs gigantification!"

Baaaaang!

Jing Chao flew back after he got hit by the tongs. He thought, '*Such herculean strength...!*'

It finally dawned on Jing Chao as he flew back, that he was sent flying after being hit by a tong!

As for Conir, even though the boy shouted loudly, the tongs did not grow bigger. Then, the boy became sullen. He said, "Why didn't you get big, just like the one with hyung?"

The boy was suddenly overcome with sadness. Jing Chao could not help but sputter while he was flying backward.

"Who the hell is that punk?! I think he's an NPC, but who would bring someone like that?!"

"That would be me. You f*ckers."

"..."

A voice suddenly rang loudly from the direction where he was flying towards.

"Frying Pan Gigantification."

'F...frying pan gigantification...?'

Jing Chao could feel a powerful impact hitting his back just as he was about to turn his head to check who the owner of the voice was.

Baaaaaaaang—

Just like a baseball being hit by a batter, Jing Chao was sent flying to the other side.

"Keoheok!" Jing Chao let out a shriek. He saw his HP dropping towards the bottom as he rolled on the floor. When Rochan turned his head, he saw a man wearing a rugged helmet and a giant frying pan in his hands.

"So, you bullied my younger brother, huh?"

It was none other than Minhyuk.

1. If you want to listen: Noodles song, it's a song that's sung by Michol in Dooly the little dinosaur. The exact lyrics were: ??? ?? ??? ?! ? ?? ?!!! ???? ???? ? ?? ?!?

Chapter 272: Curse of Baldness

"...!"

"...!"

The two of them could tell that he was the Frying Pan Killer.

"Hyuuuuung~" Conir shouted and jumped happily as he dashed to Minhyuk's side.

'Aruvel won't become my vassal just because he accompanied me, right?'

Earlier, just the possibility made Minhyuk feel exhausted, so he decided to disconnect first and take a breath of fresh air by talking with the broadcasting company. He then logged back inside to head to the Demon World Shelter, prepare for his climb to the Demon World's Tower, and have a conversation with Aruvel. After that, he logged out again to get some rest.

Conir had told him that he would study making ramyeon while he was gone. He felt reassured since the Unicorn's Mysterious Weapon had a special effect that would allow Conir to enter the vassal's

room when his HP dropped below 10%. Entering the vassal's room was only possible, thanks to an effect attached to special artifacts.

Hence, Minhyuk logged out with confidence, but he was greeted with a situation the moment he came back.

Minhyuk knew that Conir was a child who would not harm anyone. Conir might be loud and would talk to himself sometimes, but Minhyuk knew better than anyone that he was not the type to cause harm to others.

As soon as he arrived, Minhyuk had already noticed the overturned pot and gas burner. This fact alone had proven that they were the first ones to touch and bully Conir.

"F...Frying Pan Killer... Y...you bastard... C...Calauhel won't let you off!"

'Calauhel?'

When he heard his words, Minhyuk recalled that Calauhel was the one who manipulated Carr and put pressure on him and the other members of Legend Guild during Athenae: Korean War. Since Minhyuk appeared, the two had the illusion that this was a 'trap' that Minhyuk had set.

Jing Chao looked around as he prepared the Poison King's Dagger. Then, he quickly dashed towards the Frying Pan Killer.

Vwoooooong—

The Poison King's dagger quickly split into a dozen images and moved freely as if they had a mind of their own. It would immediately lower the HP of the target once it struck the body. Then...

Oiink—

...Beanie was summoned. The summoned Beanie was wearing Hepas' pot like a helmet, while holding the flipper and the lid on both of its paws. It seemed already prepared for the battle since inside the summoning room.

"There's really no sane bastard in this area...!"

Then, Minhyuk said, "Beans, absolute defense."

"Oiink!"

[Absolute Defense.]

[No attack will land on Beanie and his master for two seconds.]

With absolute defense, Minhyuk was able to ignore the dozens of daggers that were aimed at him. Taking advantage of that gap, Minhyuk used 'Like the Wind' and arrived in front of Jing Chao.

Stab—

"Keoheok!"

Jing Chao's neck got stabbed. He slowly collapsed as the screen in front of him turned black.

Rochan did not stop to look at his comrade, only focusing on lifting his hammer as high as he could.

Shwaaaaaaaaaak—

[Cursed Hammer]

[As soon as the hammer slams on the ground, your body will explode causing a 500% damage to your surroundings.]

It was literally a self-destructing skill. However, Conir suddenly moved.

"Are you trying to bully my hyung?!"

The tongs that Conir was holding turned into a sword, as he used Wailing Child, the Third Chapter of his swordsmanship. Dozens of powerful black sword lights were fired, one after the other. The intensity of the sword lights was so strong, far surpassing the attacks made by Conir from earlier.

Pipipipipipipi—

After being hit by the dozens of sword lights, Rochan eventually had to stare at the black screen without being able to slam the hammer into the ground. Before he could lose consciousness in the game, he was able to hear Minhyuk's voice.

"Tell this to Calauhel."

The voice was low and filled with a bone-setting coldness.

"I'll go up there, so he should wait for me."

In real life, Rochan quickly leaped out of his capsule. Rochan, or Pierre, a Frenchman with shining blonde hair, hurriedly went out to contact someone.

Demon World's Tower, 28th Floor.

Calauhel was walking over countless demon corpses that were piled up almost as high as a mountain, with no expression on his face. Then, a whisper came.

[Rochan: Calauhel, Frying Pan Killer has appeared in the Demon World Shelter.]

"..."

Even the expressionless Calauhel was startled by the message, a crack suddenly appearing in his otherwise stern face.

This was the man who ruined his plans time and time again. Calauhel was also told that three of his guild members had been killed in the skirmish. Then, Calauhel gave them his instructions.

[Calauhel: Inform Blackstone's two monarchs right now.]

The two monarchs were Blackstone members with special characteristics. The Monarch was a legendary class that could summon more than 20 people per day at any time they wanted. In addition, with the presence of the monarch, the guild members would receive a 5% buff in all five basic stats, as well as a 10% increase in EXP acquisition. In addition, the two monarchs were both leading giant guilds in Blackstone. People might wonder if their guilds were equivalent to Korea's four great guilds, but no, their guilds were far more than that.

[Calauhel: Also, tell the two monarchs to gather our elites in the Demon World Shelter. Make sure to chase him down and kill him.]

'That bastard won't be able to come up here. You think I'm afraid of you breaking my record? No. It's because you're just annoying.'

Grin—

Calauhel grinned wickedly as he continued to move forward.

Minhyuk once again entered the Demon World Shelter. The inside of the Demon World Shelter looked like it was a very huge dining hall. He could see some players and demons here and there. The demons in the Demon World Shelter were all quite friendly and amiable.

Right now, Sage Aruvel was sitting in front of Minhyuk.

"Hahahahaha!? This is really delicious!"

Aruvel was currently eating the ramyeon that Conir had cooked. Aruvel, with his gigantic horns, was currently slurping the noodles, while Minhyuk watched him with a heartbroken expression.

'This glutton...!'

Aruvel was truly a foodie. He really loved to eat. That was where the problem lied. Minhyuk's heart could not help but break when he saw Aruvel eating like that. Then, in order to try and ease the pain, he went ahead and checked Aruvel's information.

(Aruvel)

Rank: Legend

Type: Pledge of Allegiance (Penalty Applied)

Level: 625 (547)

Attack Power: 6,461 (5,261)

Defensive Power: 4,374 (3,973)

Special Abilities:

?Passive Skill: Sage's Knowledge

?Active Skill: Sage's Potion Manufacturing

?Active Skill: Demonic Dragon's Spear Arts.

Potential: 151

Experience Value: 13% / 100%

Aruvel was an NPC that was on a higher level compared to the current Minhyuk. This resulted in a penalty after he made a pledge of allegiance to Minhyuk. The values enclosed by brackets was his power now. However, even if his level was currently downgraded and his strength was lowered, the numbers were still formidable.

After having his fill, Aruvel handed Minhyuk a table that he had filled in. The table listed the rewards that he would be able to receive on every floor of the tower.

[1st Floor, new record rewards:] You will gain an additional EXP acquisition rate once the first floor is cleared at a record-breaking time. **Food Rewards:** Italian Pizza and Carbonara Spaghetti.]

[2nd Floor, new record rewards:] Mysterious Scrolls. **Food Rewards:** Bulgogi Hotpot.]

[6th Floor, new record rewards:] 200 reputation points. **Food Rewards:** Sushi and Udon.]

[8th Floor, new record rewards:] Demonic Races' Count Nadhl's Purple Earrings. **Food Rewards:** Vietnamese Rice Noodle Soup.]

[13th Floor... Omitted.]

[17th Floor... Omitted.]

[23rd Floor... Omitted.]

Minhyuk smiled happily as he checked the reward listed for each floor. He also discovered something special written on the table that was handed to him.

"There are artifact rewards every 10th floor?"

"You're praiseworthy enough if you're able to reach the 10th floor. You can think of it as a special reward if you achieved a new record on every 10th floor."

Minhyuk nodded as he asked another question, "Why isn't there any information about each floor?"

"I may be called the Demon World's Sage, but I was not necessarily involved in the creation of the Demon World's Tower."

"Then, we won't be able to get the tower's information?"

"No. I know of a way," Aruvel said confidently.

Right now, Minhyuk and Aruvel's relationship was close enough to call them 'Trading Partners'.

Aruvel would only give Minhyuk information if the latter gave him something delicious. He would not open his mouth if Minhyuk did not give him anything. Because of this, Minhyuk had come close to slitting Aruvel's throat and he barely caught himself. He believed that suffering from such a small loss would eventually net him a huge return later.

'Just look at the enormous food rewards hidden all throughout the tower when you achieve new records!'

The listed rewards could already make his mouth water as he imagined those delicious things filling his stomach and teasing his taste buds. The first floor rewards were pizza and carbonara, something that one should definitely eat when in Italy. The second floor had a bulgogi hotpot, a dish that was famous in his own country. The sixth floor had sushi and udon, a dish that was well known in Japan. The rewards listed were the country's representative food, but they were also globally popular food.

“What’s this?”

“All we need to do is get the information from the tower’s creator.”

“The tower’s creator?”

“Yes. The tower creator. In fact, there’s a tower creator in this place too.”

“Ooh?”

Minhyuk nodded. He knew that he had gained Aruvel, a high-leveled hidden NPC, for a really cheap price. If anyone knew about this, they would be shocked that he was able to recruit Aruvel, the Demon World’s Sage, with just a bit of food and some ramyeon. What was even more broken was that he could get the tower’s information from the creator himself through Aruvel.

“He’s the demon drinking booze over there.”

According to the information that he had heard from Aruvel, demons were divided into two categories. They were the ‘Fighter Race’, who loved to fight and participate in wars, and the ‘Peaceful Race’, who loved peace and prosperity and loathed the idea of fighting. Aruvel had also explained that the demons that invaded the human world were demons from the fighter race. The peaceful race only wanted to live their daily lives in peace. Just like the demon that was gulping booze over there.

“He knows all of the tower’s design.”

“Oho.”

Aruvel’s words meant that they would be able to receive the remaining information about the tower from this demon.

“But, how do we get the information from him?”

“It’s simple. The tower creators are very prideful beings. In fact, no one had crossed the tower’s 40th floor for decades now. So, if you look down on the tower that he has created, then he will initiate a bet with you, because he likes to bet.”

Minhyuk sighed. He said, “I’m not good at that stuff.”

He had never done something like that because he had always been kind and polite to others.

“You mean being cocky?”

“Yes.”

“But aren’t you going to do it? So you can eat what you want?”

“*Sigh.*? That’s true.”

Minhyuk really sucked at these kinds of things.

Conir was busy making ramyeon, Aruvel was busy eating several bowls of ramyeon and Beanie was also busy eating ramyeon with rice. All of them were concentrating on their own matters. Minhyuk was forced to stand up alone and sit in front of the man that Aruvel pointed at earlier.

“*Ha~*? That’s really the Demon World’s Tower?”

He turned to look at the window. It offered a view of the Demon World’s Tower that was standing tall from a distance.

“There are not that many floors. It seems like I’ll be able to finish climbing it in a day.”

The demon smirked at Minhyuk as he continued to drink his booze.

“That’s what they all say. But the Demon World’s Tower is not as easy as you think.”

“Really? *Eyy.*? I don’t think so. But, it doesn’t look that good from the outside? Ah. I’ll just try and do it! I think I’ll be able to get to the top!”

“I’m rendered speechless by your arrogance.”

“*Eyy.* I think I can make something better with my feet. No, maybe I can break through that place easily with just my feet?”

Roven, the demon who was one of the creators of the tower, suddenly felt agitated.

“Your feet will easily break it? Humans are really conceited!”

“It’s not conceit, it’s real though? I can break through the first floor within 10 minutes. Do you think I’m lying? Ohohoho. I’m not lying!”

“Th...this... Crazy human...?”

“*Blahblahblah!*?I’ll break it with two of my fingers!”

“You won’t!”

“Ole~!”

Minhyuk grinned at him mischievously as if he was an uncle that was going to do something bad.

Then, he said, “I will~”

“You won’t!”

“I will do it~”

“You won’t!”

“I will! *Hahahahaha!*?I’m the strongest!”

“...”

“...”

“...”

Meanwhile, Aruvel, Conir and Beanie who were all watching Minhyuk while eating their ramyeon, thought at the same time...

‘H...he’s doing good though? Even I want to make a bet with him. He looks so hateful right now!’?

‘As expected of my master. Oink!’?

‘W....woooooow... Hy...hyung is so cool...!’?

Not long after, Demon Roven said, “Then, boy, make a bet with me!”

Minhyuk could not help but tilt his head when he heard his words.

‘I think I’m really bad at doing something like this, but why did he fall for it so easily?’

Minhyuk did not think that he did well. However, his performance was unexpectedly good!

Then, a quest window floated in front of him.

[Quest: A Bet with Roven, one of the Demon World’s Tower’s Creator.]

Rank: A

Requirements: Roven had offered a bet.

Rewards: Partial information about the Demon World’s Tower.

Penalty for Failure: Banned from entering the Demon World’s Tower.

Description: Roven, one of the Demon World Tower’s creators, takes great pride in the Demon World Tower that he and his colleagues had created. If you win a bet against him, you will be able to get some information about the Demon World’s Tower’s attack patterns.

Chapter 273: Good Guy, Bad Guy, Weird Guy

Roven was completely dumbfounded. A puny human had just told him that he would conquer the Demon World’s Tower in just a single day. Of course, he was aware that these kinds of people were just conceited and too full of themselves. However, Minhyuk’s unique way of teasing had made him fume with anger.

The Demon World’s Tower was a magnificent and massive architecture, comparable to the Great Wall of China and was created by countless demons. Baal, the Demon King from hundreds of years ago, together with the Four Heavenly Kings, the main pillars of the Demon World, had created this stunning tower together. This was the Demon World’s Tower that no one had been able to go beyond the 30th floor.

‘This impudent punk! I’ll definitely smash your nose flat!’

Then, Roven said, “60%. If you pass the first floor with just 60% of the current record, then I’ll acknowledge you.”

“Eeeeh~? 60%? Doing 130% is easy~”

“This human bastard!” Roven shouted, completely losing his temper.

However, there was only one reason why Minhyuk continued to tease him just slightly. According to the quest rewards, he would be able to receive some information about the Demon World’s Tower. However, he believed that he could coax more information out of Roven if he continued to provoke him.

“Then, let’s do this bastard. If you can’t break the previous record, you will give me a lot of artifacts?”

“Hmm... And what if I set a new record?”

“I’ll tell you everything I know about the tower!”

There were a lot of things that Roven had to consider but giving all of the tower’s information could be done. It was because he knew that the tower could not be targeted and broken easily, even if one had all of the information given. It was just like how a Level 10 player could not pass any of the higher leveled quests just because they knew the methods and rewards.

Minhyuk had also heard the notification about the changes in the quest. After hearing the happy results, Minhyuk and his group began to move towards the Demon World’s Tower.

Meanwhile, Conir said, “Conir. Conir wants to cook ramyeon here...!”

“Hmm?” Minhyuk hummed. Contrary to what others thought, Conir did not like to fight that much. However, Minhyuk did not hate him for that.

“However, we can also climb and cook there?”

Conir spoke proudly, “When Conir goes inside, Conir can’t ‘anguish’. Too noisy. Conir has to anguish!”

‘Conir has to anguish?’

His words did not fit, but it seemed like Conir liked to study cooking ramyeon in a quiet environment just like a team of researchers.

Minhyuk just shook his head at his thoughts. Conir was not a child that needed to live under his wings. The three men that attacked him earlier were clearly not there to tease him but to cause trouble, but he dealt with them easily. If necessary, Conir could be sent to the summoner’s room. If he summoned Conir again, the latter would appear in front of him so he was not that worried about Conir’s safety.

“Then, play safe. Alright?”

“Thanks, hyung!” Conir said, smiling happily as he squatted down on the floor while Minhyuk and the rest of his party entered the tower.

Mage Monarch Aincarr ranked second in the Global Mage Rankings. His one and only goal and standard was Alex, the first on the same list.

Aincarr and Alex were only separated by a level or two, but their differences were quite distinct and clear. Alex had excellent magical control which brought him to the top spot in the Global Mage Rankings. Alex even had a special magic that allowed him to predict his enemies’ skill casting time. That skill brought endless despair to most of Alex’s mage enemies. After all, he could easily prepare a spell that would counter theirs once he used the skill.

However, that did not mean that Mage Monarch Aincarr was inferior to Alex. He was the leader of the guild Golden Staff, a guild that had 250 people and all of which were elites. There were around

150 mages that mostly consisted of rankers from France while the remaining 100 were all archers. In addition, Mage Monarch Aincarr was also a member of Blackstone.

He had arrived at the Demon World Shelter at the call of Calauhel. Aincarr waved his shining golden wand in front of the shelter. Following the will of his wand, the space was torn and a circle opening opened in front of him.

[Monarch's Summons]

[Calls for the guild's designated targets.]

Each day, Aincarr could summon around 20~30 people. The monarch class especially had the class 'Monarch' in addition to having another class. In addition, possessing the monarch class would not impose any restrictions or penalties on the player's other class.

Mages and archers wearing golden robes began to walk out of the opening in front of him.

'*The Frying Pan Killer...*?' Aincarr thought as he turned to look at the Demon World Shelter.

One of the archer classes quickly moved inside the Demon World Shelter. When the archer came back, he reported, "He's gone."

"As expected."

40 minutes had already passed from the time that Calauhel had given his orders.

'*We'll be able to catch up with him in no time at all.*?'

Aincarr immediately led his guild members towards the Demon World's Tower's entrance. Monarch Arch still had not arrived yet. Since Golden Staff Guild mainly consisted of long-distance attackers, they would be able to work efficiently if Monarch Arch and his melee guild got together with them before they started.

As they walked towards the tower, Aincarr could not help but frown at the sight that he saw. He said, "...What's that?"

An extremely strange sight had unfolded in front of his eyes. There, in front of a tower was a boy and a man. The boy was sitting while eating something, while the man was standing in front of a dragon. Then, the man addressed the dragon. He said, "Sit."

Fwoosh!

"Stand."

Swoosh!

"Oh my, my child. You did well!"

Then, the man touched the head of the dragon before throwing a snack at it.

Is this really a huge black dragon? This one that is enjoying its snack while lying down with its belly high up in the sky?

"..."

"..."

"..."

"I...Is that really a dragon?"

"He's training a dragon like a dog..."

The boy was smiling happily as he watched the man look at the giant black dragon. Then, the man turned to the boy and asked, "Isn't our Poisonnie really cute?"

"Ack. I... its name is Poison ...?"

"N...no. What kind of dragon is that..."

The dragon in front of them was clearly the Poison Dragon but the 'nie' added at the end of its name made them feel like they were looking at their neighbor's and friend's dog, Poppy.

Twenty minutes ago.

Minhyuk climbed the tower, leaving Conir by the entrance in his own anguish.

'What is the basic method of cooking the most delicious ramyeon?!'

"Keuaaaack...?Conir... So hard..."

In the end, Conir slumped down and laid on the ground. At that time, a man wearing a black mask arrived in front of the Demon World's Tower. The man crouched down and looked at Conir's glistening eyes. He said, "Kid, you'll catch a cold if you sleep here."

"Conir didn't fall asleep! Conir is training to become a ramyeon master!"

"Ho? So it's ramyeon," The man in the black mask said with interest.

Conir could somehow faintly feel a strange sense of familiarity from the man in front of him. He knew that he had seen the man before, but he could not remember where.

Then, the man said, "It's good for you to have a goal. What is the current level that you're trying to reach?"

Conir answered, "Conir wants to cook the best basic ramyeon!"

Conir was filled with determination. Perhaps it was because he thought that the man in front of him was a reclusive master that he bared his feelings like that.

The man scratched his head for a while before saying, "If it's about the way to make the best basic ramyeon, then it seems like I know a little about it."

"Wh...what is it?!!!"

"It's to cook ramyeon according to the instructions in the packet."

"...!"

Conir was very shocked. He felt like he had suddenly been hit on the head.

Then, the man continued to say, "The instructions written behind the packet will give you the most delicious ratio of ingredients. It has undergone hundreds of thousands of studies by many researchers, so if you cook the ramyeon following those instructions, you will be able to get the best taste."

Conir immediately tried it. Just like the instructions had said, he added 550 mililitres of water. Then, he only added the soup packet and the noodles after the water started to boil. Then, just like Minhyuk had told him, he started to lift the noodles with his chopsticks when they began to loosen up in the pot.

"Hoo. You know how to do that, huh? What a good kid."

"Conir! Conir was praised!"

The man in front of Conir looked like he was quite nice and friendly to children. He was completely unlike the men who came and disturbed him earlier. As soon as the ramyeon finished cooking, the notifications started ringing in Conir's head.

[You have successfully completed the Level 1 Quest: Cook the Best Ramyeon.]

[You have learned the Passive Skill: Chewy Noodles.]

[The Level 2 Quest: Ramyeon and Ramyeon's Combination has been created.]

Compared to other vassals and NPCs, Conir received quests through his 'tenacity' skill. He finally accomplished his first quest. Conir could not help but be shocked when he checked the passive skill 'Chewy Noodles'.

'...Conir can make more chewy ramyeon when Conir stirs the noodles! Wow!'?Conir thought in shock.

Then, he approached the man, who was only below Beanie in greatness, and said, "Wow!!! Uncle's so cool!!!"

"Hahahahaha! You made it, right? That's really great! Hahahahaha!" The man laughed happily. He looked extremely pleased to see Conir achieve what he wanted to achieve.

Then, Conir asked with a bright smile on his face, “Uncle, what’s your name?”

“I’m Black Dragon.”

That was right, he was Minhyuk’s father, Black Dragon. Black Dragon came to the Demon World and met with the Dragon Knight after receiving a linked quest. He came here after hearing that the Dragon of Destruction was asleep in the Demon World’s Tower.

“Uncle’s name is so cool!!!”

“Thank you.”

“Hmmm. ?Conir has a second homework!”

“Oh. So your name is Conir.”

“Yeah! Conir’s second homework is ramyeon and ramyeon’s combination. *Hnggh...* What’s combination? Conir! So hard!”

Black Dragon listened to Conir’s mumbles. He also pondered about it before saying,

“Combination... Kid, do you know chapaguri?”

“Chapaguri?”

“That’s right.”

“Don’t know!”

“Well then, you should follow my instructions.”

Black Dragon, Minhyuk’s dad, always dreamt of the day that his son would be completely cured. He kept learning how to cook while eagerly waiting for that day to come. He wanted to cook and set a table that was filled with food that his brat liked. That was when he learned about the combination of ramyeon, chapaguri.

Black Dragon smiled as he taught Conir the step-by-step process. He could see that he was trying very hard even though he was clumsily following him.

Conir was also able to follow the caring, considerate, and kind Black Dragon. With his kind help, he was able to make the combination ramyeon by using the soup and noodles of Neoguri Ramyeon and Chapagetti Ramyeon. He even placed a fried egg on top of it.

Then, the notifications rang in Conir’s head.

[You have successfully completed the Level 2 Quest: Ramyeon and Ramyeon Combination.]

[You have learned the Passive Skill: Master of Combination.]

[The Level 3 Quest: The Way to Deliciously Eat Mixed Noodles has been created.]

Conir was in awe. Thanks to the man in front of him, he had successfully completed two of his quests! He even gained the skill: Master of Combination, an amazing passive skill that allowed him to determine the best possible combination of ramyeon with just a glance.

“Conir likes Uncle Black Dragon! Respect!”

“Hahahahaha. How about we eat first?”

Conir looked at the chapaguri that he and Black Dragon made. It was chapaguri ramyeon with fried egg on top of it!

Conir quickly poked and tore the fried egg with his chopsticks before clamping them with some noodles. The glossy noodles and the spicy scent of the Neoguri ramyeon soup tickled his nose and made his mouth water.

Chapter 274: Good Guy, Bad Guy, Weird Guy

“Sluuuuuurp!”

Conir took a big bite of his noodles. The sweet blend of the scent of olives, as well as the sweet flavor of the chapagetti, spread in Conir’s mouth. Even the spiciness added to the chapaguri felt strangely addictive to Conir.

This time, both men took an entire egg and slurped it together with the noodles. The slightly greasy flavor of the chapagetti, the soft texture and yummy protein from the eggs were a perfect combination.

"Hmm. It's very delicious since I made it with Conir."

"Conir! Really delicious!"

After eating everything, Black Dragon was able to learn about Conir's identity. He realized that Conir was Minhyuk's vassal! He also realized that the reason why he looked quite familiar was because he was the Slayer of Frustration who made them suffer during their battle against the Demon Corps. However, compared to the previous time, he did not feel any pressure from Conir now. Conir was completely like a child.

Then, Black Dragon summoned Poison Dragon to play with Conir. His original name was 'Poison Dragon Ambacca' but he was much more charming and cuter compared to Destiny and Britney.

"Sit!"

Then, Poison Dragon sat down quickly.

"W, wow... C, cool!"

"Stand!"

Conir watched in admiration as Poison Dragon moved with Black Dragon's words. Before they knew it, Poison Dragon had lied down with his belly out in the open. Black Dragon smiled pleasantly. Then...

"Dragon Tamer? Get out of the way."

When Black Dragon turned his head, he could see dozens of people wearing golden robes.

"Ah, so I was in the way. Sorry about that."

Black Dragon hurriedly moved out of the way with Conir. The people stood at the place that Black Dragon and Conir had vacated.

"It's clearly a dragon... but, it seems like the dragon did not find a proper owner."

That was the voice of the man who had just them to get out of the way. However, Black Dragon just replied them with an easygoing smile. After all, Black Dragon and Conir were the ones who were blocking the passageway before.

"Hahahaha. But, this guy is quite happy to be with me. Isn't that enough?"

"Hmm."

The man did not say anything anymore. Then, Conir said, "Wow! Gold robe! Wow! So cool!"

"...What's wrong with this punk? Maybe he's a dimwit?" The man leading the group said, trying to cut off the conversation between them.

Black Dragon's brows furrowed when he heard those words, "Aren't you being a little harsh? Do you say that when you see children like him in our society?"

"Shouldn't you call a dimwit a dimwit? They mean the same thing, right?"

Black Dragon's brows wrinkled. He said, "I want you to apologize... These people that are a part of our society are not what you say they are. They are just people who are uncomfortable and sick. In the end, as we grow older, there will be a part or two of our bodies that will become sick and uncomfortable. Isn't it our job, as people with morals and kindness, to understand them and help them with their inconveniences?"

"Pfft. You must think that you're someone just because you have a dragon with you?"

The people surrounding that man also chuckled at him. Black Dragon's face began to harden as they continued to laugh at his words.

"I want to call him a dimwit, so what? You should just shut up and mind your own business."

Black Dragon's patience had run thin by then. When he heard those words, he snapped, and squeezed his left arm.

'Fine.'

Craaaaaaaaack—

[Dragon Armor]

Beginning with Black Dragon's left arm, white scales began to stretch out and cover his body. He looked like he was wearing a brand new white-scaled armor after the scales had covered his body. Even the helmet that he was wearing had changed into a helmet with the figure of a dragon on it. When Destiny and Britney evolved, they had acquired additional skills. One of them was this 'Dragon Armor'.

Dash—

Black Dragon kicked the ground and dashed forward. In just a blink of an eye, the man that spat out those hateful words was now under the mercy of Black Dragon. With his hand on the man's neck, ice began to cover the man's entire body. When the man's body was entirely frozen...

Crack!

...it broke like fragile pieces of glass under Black Dragon's tightened grip.

"Then, from now on, I will teach you what morality and kindness are."

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

It was only a moment. Only three seconds had passed, but in that short moment of time, one of their guild members was forced to log out.

Silence pervaded the entire area.

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

Aincarr and the Golden Staff guild members were all left speechless. The guild member who was forced to log out earlier was the mage named Rove, one of the top 20 mages in France.

'But he sent Rove out just like that?'

'Th...this is crazy. Does this mean that he has a higher magical attack than Rove's magical defense?'

Aincarr was flustered. His family was a fairly prestigious French aristocratic family. Because of that, he had never learned how to be considerate towards others. What he said to the boy was the reason why this happened. Basically, the situation right now had unfolded because of his careless words.

"Attack!" Aincarr hurriedly ordered his men. The rankers under him quickly gathered. The mages began to prepare their magic, while the archers loaded their bows with arrows. Then, they all fired their attacks.

[Piercing Arrow]

[A strong arrow that pierces the enemy's vital point.]

[Dragon Arrow]

[A fire arrow shaped in the form of a dragon which can devour the enemy.]

[Open Fire]

[Once the arrow is shot, it will only take 0.3 seconds to kill the enemy.]

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh!

Dig—

Black Dragon placed his weight on his toes as he dashed forward. Dozens of arrows rushed towards him, but he did not care. Then, something moved on his right arm.

“The being on my right arm is going to go berserk!!!”

“...!”

“...W...what!!”

“Crazy bastard!”

They thought that Black Dragon was just spouting crazy nonsense when something surprising happened. Blazing flames burned and stretched out from Black Dragon’s right arm.

Crackle—

The blazing flames slowly formed and turned into a sword that could burn everything. ‘Dragon’s Tear Sword’ was something that Black Dragon had received together with the Dragon Armor. It was an artifact that allowed Britney to change into the shape of a sword.

Shwaaaaaa—

When Black Dragon brandished the sword, a powerful force poured out of it and slammed into the incoming arrows.

Shwaaaaaa—

Pipipipipipipipi—

The arrows failed to reach their target as they disappeared into nothingness. The strong force did not stop and even surged forward to devour some of the guild members who were casting their magic from behind.

“Keu...keuaaaaack!!”

“Aaaaaaargh!”

“Keoheok!”

More of Aincarr’s guild members disappeared after receiving one shot.

‘Th...this is sick...!’?

Aincarr was now panicking. The man single-handedly dealt with dozens of high ranking mages and archers from France. No, it was safe to say that he overwhelmed them completely.

Aincarr did not know this, but Black Dragon was a candidate in line for a new class—the Royal Class. The candidates chosen for the Royal Class were people who had reached the peak of their own classes. Even though Black Dragon had yet to transfer to the Royal Class, he was several times stronger than before, after Britney and Destiny’s evolution through the Dragon Orb

Just like how twenty Level 400 players would not be able to fight and overwhelm a single Level 500 player, the members of Aincarr’s guild also could not overwhelm the extremely powerful Black Dragon.

Their biggest problem was that dragons had innate ‘magical defense’ and ‘magical attack’. In other words, Black Dragon had received a tremendous boost to his magical attack and defense the moment the Dragon Armor and Dragon’s Tear Sword had formed. This was the main reason why he could easily break through Aincarr’s guild members’ magical defense and deal enormous damage to them. Their strong magical attacks were also reduced when fighting Black Dragon.

Grab!

Once again, Black Dragon dashed forward, quickly grabbing the neck of one of the mages in front of him.

Crackle—

[Destiny’s Wrath]

[A huge explosion of flame will erupt, just like an active volcano erupting.]

Baaaaaaaang—!

A huge explosion broke out as it engulfed the mages in the surrounding area. Not long after, the mages finished their casting. Their skills began to burst out on a rampage.

[Fire Spear.]

[Lightning!]

[Fire Field]

[Firestorm]

Grrrrrrrrrrr!

Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!

Attack spells flooded Black Dragon, who then punched the ground.

Crack!

A shield made up of gigantic bones sprang up from the ground. Black Dragon quickly hid behind the shield as he prepared for the incoming impact that would collide with his shield.

Baaaaaang—!

However, no matter how powerful they thought their attack was, they could not penetrate Black Dragon's bone shield. Then...

"Conir!!! Conir is angry!!! You're bullying Black Dragon!"

Fwoosh—

"Urkk!"

Fwoosh, fwoosh—

Conir began to move quickly. His movements were quite elusive. In just a few seconds, Conir was able to log out some of the mages near him.

'*This is ridiculous...!*' Aincarr thought, finding the situation to be completely absurd. What he thought was a hindrance was actually such a strong person!

Conir was already someone powerful, so how could those mages that had low physical defenses and a basic HP amount withstand his blows? Even the cute Poison Dragon, who just had its belly up in the sky earlier, started to spray out powerful poison against them.

[Poison Dragon's Deadly Venom]

[You will be left in a daze as soon as it hits you.]

[Nullifies magic casting.]

"Wh...what kind of bullshit is this?!!!"

"Goddamnit!"

The Golden Staff was among the top three guilds in France. The pillars of the guild were even present. Being caught in a bind like this made the mages flustered.

Just when the mages were starting to panic...

Baaaaaaaang—

...a gigantic bolt of lightning slammed into Conir and made him fly back.

"Damn bastards! I did not want to use this."

The attack came from Aincarr. He was currently holding a small wand with sparks flying out its ends. It was the 'Lightning's Wind Wand', a legendary artifact. No, perhaps it was something that was far better than legendary artifacts, one that showed a strength that was almost on par with Demigod artifacts. A powerful bolt of lightning would be unleashed with every swing of the wand. However, the mana consumption was 1.5x greater than normal. This powerful artifact that could unleash a bolt of lightning without any casting was a perfect complement for a mage that was considered to be the weakest in close combat.

The moment he brandished the wand...

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

...dozens of lightning bolts fell and struck Conir and Black Dragon.

“Urkk!”

[You have been hit with a strong lightning bolt.]

[You will be stunned for 3 seconds.]

Aincarr was the top ranker in France’s Mage Rankings. He was also ranked second in the Global Mage Rankings. Compared to the attacks of the other mages, his attacks could hit and damage Black Dragon.

Then, Aincarr stopped and said, “Let’s call it a day. We’ll also apologize for what happened earlier.”

Aincarr knew that the losses between them would only increase if both sides continued to fight. No, to be exact, something far more embarrassing would happen to his side if they continued to fight.

“I hope you will be kind to the people who are sick and unwell in the future.”

Black Dragon calmed down when he saw Aincarr speaking and trying to make peace with them, even though he could continue his attack. Conir also stopped when he saw Black Dragon stopping.

“R...right. I got it. Kid, I’m sorry for this time,” Aincarr said, looking at Conir, who was a distance away from him.

However, in his heart, Aincarr thought differently, *‘This dimwitted and disabled punk...’*

Then, Black Dragon said, “Let’s go Conir. We have received their apology.”

“Conir! Conir will follow Uncle Black Dragon’s words!”

Both of them began to move. Then, at that moment, Aincarr saw how angry his guild members were so he tried to pacify them, not realizing that he was speaking out loudly, “We should minimize our losses so we can kill the Frying Pan Killer. It’s the correct choice for us to stop here. Calm down.”

Black Dragon turned back again and said, “On second thought, let’s just kill them all here.”

Another monarch had appeared at the entrance to the Demon World. He was Monarch Arch, a fighter class that had both of his hands wrapped in bandages. He was also garbed in rough, rugged leather armor.

If the Mage Monarch was in charge of leading the mages and archers units, Arch was in charge of the melee classes. He was also ranked fourth in the Global Fighter Rankings.

Unlike Aincarr, Arch was someone that was not designated in the Demon World. ‘Designated’ meant that they were assigned to that place.

Most of the summons and the return scrolls would only be applicable if players had been to those places before. Arch had not yet visited the Demon World’s Tower, so he had no stored area near the place. He thought that he would get there quickly if he passed by this place. More than 60 melee class players began to move quickly towards the Demon World’s Tower.

“GM. Calauhel will reward the first person who killed the Frying Pan Killer, right?”

“I suppose.”

Arch’s blood boiled while he was deep in thought. As a fighter, he would feel a sense of camaraderie whenever he watched videos of the Frying Pan Killer, who even beat the Olympic gold medalist, Carr. That was the reason why he wanted to fight against the Frying Pan Killer, even if it was just once.

‘Of course, it will only be a one-sided victory.’?

Even if he was the Frying Pan Killer, he would still not be able to handle this number. Hence, Arch continued to walk forward with that thought.

Suddenly, a man blocked their path. The man was wearing a black robe while holding a staff. One of the man's sleeves was lowered since he was holding a staff. From his exposed wrist, they could see a stark mark glaring sharply on his fair skin.

'X...?'

Arch had also seen the manga One Diss, so he could tell what the X mark meant.

"A friend's token?"

Chapter 275: Good Guy, Bad Guy, Weird Guy

The person with the X mark in front of Arch and his guild members was none other than Black Mage Ali.

He had been heading towards the Demon World's Tower for the same reason as Black Dragon. Not too long ago, he became a candidate for the 'Royal Class', just like Black Dragon.

Black Mage Ali's class was going to be transferred to the Royal Class 'Great Mage Moldoron's Descendant'. Moldoron was a person that was on par with Great Mage Arfield, and was known as the father and role model of all mages.

Based on what the people in front of him said, Ali could tell what they wanted to do and who they were targeting. He thought, *'How dare you try to harm my friend...'*

For Ali, Minhyuk was his benefactor. Minhyuk was the one that had helped him enter the Hall of Kings. Minhyuk was also the one who helped him overcome his limitations, which enabled him to further widen the gap with Alex, the world's number one mage. He also liked Minhyuk's friendly smile and pleasant attitude.

There was one fact that all of the players who stepped foot in the Demon World would know. This information was listed on *Athenae's* official website. This was what was written...

[Due to the thick demonic energy in the Demon World, God Vades' power, a power that punishes those who kill other people, does not have any influence in this area.]

Simply put, God Vades was the god of 'Chaos'. The fact that his influence did not reach this realm meant that PK between players was allowed and would not result in a chaotic state.

That was why Ali knew that they came here for that reason.

'The Demon World is a place where players can compete against each other.'

Most of the people that came to the Demon World's entrance were usually representatives and top rankers of their own countries. There was usually only one thing the rankers of each country wanted to do...

'I want to quickly compete with the rankers from all over the world. I hope the server consolidation finishes quickly!'

The content that will relieve the itch from the competitive players was none other than the 'Demon World'.

"Look here. Get out of here if you don't want to get hurt," Arch growled at Ali, his expression wrinkling in annoyance.

Arch did not know who this mage was, but in a battle between a mage and a melee class player, the melee class player would generally be triumphant.

Mages and melees were both on different sides of the spectrum. Mages had extremely low AGI, STR and defense. When they exert their power, most of the time, they would showcase an AOE attack skill. Also, most of their magic skills had a cast time. Since mages had low AGI and took quite a long time before they could start, melee characters could easily deal with them.

For that reason, Arch believed that the mage in front of him that was garbed in a rugged black robe was an easy opponent. He could easily do a '3-second cut' on him.

Then, the man said, "I will not forgive anyone who tries to harm my friend."

"...What an otaku-like line," Arch snorted, lips curling up in a disgusted smile after hearing the line. However, the smile on his face was soon erased.

When Ali swung his staff, a powerful force came from the staff and slammed into Arch.

Baaaaaang—

"...!"

The melee tankers immediately dashed forward the moment they saw Arch being thrown back by the force of Ali's attack. Their response speed was extremely fast.

Flash—

Ali was immediately covered with a black current as he disappeared from his original spot. Then, he reappeared next to the man that was reaching out for him. He said, "Magic Missile."

"*Bwahahahaha!*?What can you do with a Magic Missile...!"

However, before the guy could even finish his words...

Baaaaaang—

...the man flew back with a loud explosion.

"*Keoheok!*"

[You have been hit with a Magic Missile.]

[You have been stunned for 3 seconds.]

Magic Missile was the most basic magic that a new mage player would have. This was a skill that would make the target fall into a stunned state after an attack. However, the mage's magical attack had to be five times higher than their opponent to inflict a stun, and it would usually only last for one second.

But what's with this situation?

The man who had been hit with Ali's Magic Missile was stunned. Even his HP had fallen by 30%.

Then, the other guild members tried to narrow the distance between them and Ali.

However, just as they were about to reach Ali, he stretched out his index finger. A white sphere of light appeared on the tip of his finger and flew towards the man he had hit before. The unfortunate man named Gerron was hit by the Magic Missile and fell into a stunned state once again.

Crackle—

"*Keoheok!*"

Then, the notifications rang for Gerron once more.

[You have been hit with a Magic Missile.]

[You have been stunned for 3 seconds.]

"Sh...shit...! I was stunned again!"

Although stun was already subjected to a five-fold magical attack power proportion, it was also entirely up to probability. Yet, Gerron got stunned again? When the guild members tried to narrow the distance again...

Baaaaaaaang—

...Another Magic Missile formed at the tip of Ali's finger and slammed into Gerron.

"*Keuaaaack!*"

The guild members faltered as they made eye contact with Gerron. In the end, they decided to abandon him. It seemed that Ali expected this outcome too.

Flash—

Black Mage Ali shot another Magic Missile at Gerron before disappearing in a black current.

Baaaaaaaang—

[You have been hit with a Magic Missile.]

[You have been stunned for 3 seconds.]

[You have been forced to log out.]

Gerron was almost at Level 440. However, he had been killed by the most basic magic: Magic Missile.

This was mainly because his opponent was already at a horrific level. The moment Ali became a candidate for the Royal Class 'Great Mage Moldoron's Descendant', he had received an effect that raised his stats, as well as his 'Magic Combination'.

Ali's Magic Missile had completely transformed and was no longer the regular Magic Missiles. Ali had combined his Magic Missile with Intangible Magic, a magic spell that ignored ones' magical defense, giving the once simple and basic magic skill an immense amount of power. Of course, there were clear limitations to the skill, since he could only combine a set number of spells.

However, everything would be different once he transferred to Royal Class.

The rest of the guild members rushed towards Ali.

[Cannon Bomb]

[Quickly drops off a powerful explosion akin to a dragon's rampage.]

[Banging Snatch]

[You will move as fast as a ghost to grab the enemy. Once you grabbed a hold of them, you will be able to slam them to the ground causing 200% damage.]

They cast their skills and techniques to narrow the distance between them and Ali, but Ali just disappeared in a flash of black again.

Shwaaaaaaa—

When Ali next appeared, he was standing above them with dozens of Magic Missiles surrounding him.

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

The dozens of Magic Missiles rained down on the players like bombs dropping from aircrafts.

[You have been hit with a Magic Missile.]

[You have been stunned for 3 seconds.]

[You have been hit with a Magic Missile.]

[You have been stunned for 3 seconds.]

[You have been hit with a Magic Missile.]

[You have been stunned for 3 seconds.]

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

"What kind of ridiculous situation is this!!!"

"Keoheok!!!"

All they could do was stare in horror. Half of their numbers had fallen into a stunned state after they had been hit with the Magic Missiles. This showed the clear difference between Royal Class candidates and the non-Royal Class candidates.

Then, Ali's staff moved.

"Shit...! Saved magic!"

With the movement of his staff, three gigantic firestorms appeared and engulfed the stunned guild members.

Crackleeee!

Crackle!

Crackleeee!

"Keu...kueaaaaack!"

"Ugh...aaaaaaack!"

Black Mage Ali was a very strong player. Melee players usually looked down on mage players, after all, they could easily defeat these mages. However, Ali, with just his Blink and Magic Missile, was able to easily overcome this.

Blink was originally a magic skill that had a long cooldown. However, among Ali's newly acquired skills, there was a skill that '*significantly reduces the cooldown of a designated skill*'. Through that ability, he was able to reduce the cooldown of his Blink to one-fifth of the original cooldown time. In just an instant, more than ten of the guild members had died under his hands. Just as Ali was about to use magic again...

Craaaaaaaaaaack—

...the sound of something breaking rang out loudly. Ali keenly felt the incoming danger so he quickly created shields.

"Shield! Shield! Shield! Shield! Shield!"

Shields formed one layer after the other around him! Then, he saw what was flying towards him. It was none other than Arch, the guild master of this guild, and a player in the fighter class.

[God of Fist's Punch]

[Ignore 40% of the enemy's defense while dealing 200% additional damage to your penetrating punches.]

Flash—

A bright light erupted when the fist collided with the shield.

Crack—

A crack appeared in Black Mage Ali's shield, a skill that boasted tremendous amounts of defense, before shattering into pieces.

Baaaaaaang—

Ali quickly used Blink and avoided the attack.

Flash—

Arch swung his fist at a tremendous speed.

Baaaaaaang—

Ali quickly moved his staff, piling up one shield after another on top of his staff. The shields then collided with the incoming fist.

Crack—

"You bastard! You're Black Mage Ali...!" Arch shouted, realizing who their enemy was.

Alex was recognized as the official number one in the Global Mage Rankings. However, from what he heard, there was a mage user who reached a higher level than Alex. Arch had heard that the mage played a huge role during the demon invasion in South Korea.

However, there were plenty of rankers who were only known in their own countries. Rarely do rankers from other countries know them. Arch could only guess Ali's identity because he had heard before that 'Alex was not the greatest mage in the world'.

Meanwhile, Ali only laughed, while holding his staff in his hand.

"Why the hell are you doing this to us!!!"

Ali answered him, "I'm not going to let you touch my friend."

Shwaaaaaaaaa!

Then, a huge spell suddenly appeared around Ali.

"...!"

Arch could not help but be shocked.

'D...don't tell me...!'

In the past, there was information posted on Athenae's official website about the method on how mages could compensate for their 'close combat disadvantage'. However, it also announced that only the best among the best could use this technique. This technique required the player to achieve the peak of the Eight Tier, as well as have a huge mana reserve pool. The ability to make up for their shortcomings was none other than...

'Do...double casting...?!'

Casting other spells while secretly preparing for an AOE attack skill, which Ali was doing right now.

"Lightning Storm."

Crack, crack, crack—

Bang, bang, bang, bang—

A huge lightning storm engulfed Arch who had just arrived in front of Ali.

"Keuaaaaaaack!"

A small smile hung around Calauhel's lips.

[You have achieved a new record on the 30th floor.]

[You have acquired additional clues about the Royal Class Maestro of Destruction.]

He was also one of the candidates for a Royal Class. The conditions for the Royal Class were different from player to player. In Calauhel's case, he needed to achieve a new record on the 30th floor of the Demon World Tower.

Just like that, a clue was laid in front of him.

Flutter—

[Hunt Cerberus, the Demon World's gatekeeper, on the 34th floor.]

Calauhel nodded. Now, he had two choices. Hunt Cerberus and move on to the Royal Class, or wait for another clue to emerge. However, there was one thing that he was sure of. He could feel it down to his very core. He would soon be a Royal Class.

'Perhaps, the new Royal Class will be announced with a World Message.'

Just as he was about to move on...

[Bachur: Calauhel, this is Bachur. I'm the 1st Magic Commander of the Golden Staff Guild. Many of our guild members are receiving huge damage from an unknown dragon tamer now.]

"...?"

Calauhel's face was filled with confusion.

'A dragon tamer? Are you telling me that all members of Golden Staff are having a hard time?'

[Calauhel: What's the situation?]

He received a reply only about five minutes later.

[Bachur: I was eventually forced to log out. There were about 30 guild members who were forced to log out by a mentally challenged boy and a dragon tamer.]

Calauhel was left speechless for a while. Just as he was about to send a whisper back...

[Casio: Calauhel, Black Mage Ali has suddenly launched an assault on us.]

"...!"

Calauhel had collected a lot of information about the rankers from all over the world. He knew who Black Mage Ali was. He was a very strong mage that Alex could not even compare to.

'Why is he attacking the members of Blackstone?'

[Calauhel: Your situation...]

Calauhel could not even finish his whisper.

[Player 'Anonymous' has broken the record, and attained a new high score for the first floor.]

[There is a significant gap from the previous record.]

Calauhel's eyes widened in shock. Someone broke the record that he was confident and proud of.

Chapter 276: Good Guy, Bad Guy, Weird Guy

Minhyuk entered the first floor of the Demon World's Tower with Roven, one of the creators of the tower. The notifications rang loudly as soon as he entered the place.

[You have entered the Demon World's Tower's 1st floor.]

[The Demon World's Tower is divided into either 'Trial' or 'Normal' floors. Trial floors would be like its name, where there would be a trial. Meanwhile on normal floors, demon villages might appear with regular demon residents in a part of the tower.]

Just like what was said, the Demon World's Tower was divided into two types. It could be a place where demons live, or perhaps it could be a place where trials appear.

Minhyuk could infer from the notifications, that the trial floors was where he needed to clear the area first, before he could head to the next floor. As for the normal floors, it was a place where one could take a 'break'.

Although Calauhel was the new record holder of the Demon World's Tower, there was still a way for Minhyuk to have his score listed as the new record: Exceed the range that the operators had set. That was the only way for his record to become a new record.

Right now, the designer, Roven, was quite proud. He said, "Now, I can break that arrogant nose of yours."

Roven was very confident about the Demon World's Tower. After all, this place was created after hundreds of knowledgeable demons had gathered their heads together. In Roven's eyes, Minhyuk's words about breaking the record in just a few minutes was just a crazy man's arrogance.

Then, Minhyuk looked at the words written at the entrance of the first floor's trial.

[1st Floor, Best Record: 25,824 points.]

It was not only Minhyuk who saw this, Roven also saw the best record. When Roven saw the record, he could not help but be surprised.

'H...how can this be... I did not expect someone to achieve 25,000 points on the first floor...!'

It was something unbelievable. For a player to climb the Demon World's Tower's best record, they needed to exceed 10,000 points. However, this was 2.5x more than that.

'That man back then.'

Roven's eyebrows crumpled. Not too long ago, a man came to the Demon World Shelter. He silently drank tea, and before he left for the Demon World's Tower, he heard him speak to his colleagues. The man had said, *'Take care of it.'*

The impact of his short words were quite great. His men, assuming that they were his men, camped in the Demon World Shelter and brutally murdered the powerful players who came in the shelter. At that time, Roven thought that this was something common.

Just as he thought that, Minhyuk and Aruvel began to move.

"Fufufufufu. ?You bastard, you're going to die on the first floor," Roven cursed. Although he could not get inside the trial with Minhyuk, he could still meet up with them once it was over.

Not long after, Minhyuk and Aruvel went to challenge the first floor.

[The 1st Floor Trial will now begin.]

[Rewards will be given once the trial is cleared.]

[The EXP acquisition rate will be doubled as a special privilege upon achieving a new record.]

There was a small smile hanging around the corners of Minhyuk's lips when he entered. Then, he also began to film.

[You have started filming a video.]

Minhyuk was filming a video to fulfill his end of the deal from the discussion that he had with the TTBC broadcasting station. He planned to continue filming each floor while he climbed up the tower.

Then, another set of notifications rang.

[The Demonic Ghost Unit will be summoned.]

[Demonic Ghost Unit.]

[A small unit that participated in the Great Heavenly Demon War. This troop is composed of outstanding demons that defeated one of the strongest of the Heavenly Race. These demons were born to slaughter and were considered to be the strongest fighters among the demons.]

Based on the personal explanation from the system notification, there were six of them in total. The contents of this trial was something that Minhyuk already knew from Aruvel.

"The first-floor trial is much more difficult than the other trials above."

Aruvel kindly explained the information that he knew, in case Minhyuk had forgotten about what he had said.

"The first trial is this difficult because we are looking for people who are qualified to challenge the rest of the tower. You can say that this is a qualifying floor."

The Demon World's Tower was the demons' sacred place. Basically, this was the place where the power of the Demon King and the Four Heavenly Kings resided. That was the reason why they could not just let anyone step in. Only when they were able to clear the first floor would they be able to climb the rest of the tower.

Then, the notifications rang again.

[From this point on, the Demon Ghost Unit will hunt the demonic monsters. Hunting demonic monsters will give you hunting points.]

[You will be able to clear this floor if you acquire at least 20% of the hunting points acquired by the Demon Ghost Unit.]

[The higher the points you get, the higher your record will be.]

Minhyuk would be able to win if he was able to at least hunt 20% of what the demons hunted. Of course, the Demon World's Tower was open to a lot of people, but because of that, the difficulty was also set to be higher than normal.

"There's no way a human can keep up with us."

"Challenging the tower, idiot."

The Demon Ghost Unit cackled, looking down on Minhyuk completely. The Ghost Unit actively participated in the Great Heavenly Demon War in the past, so the squad leader was confident in their skills.

At that moment, the space in front of them was torn apart. Then, hundreds of demonic beasts swarmed.

"Kihyaaaaaaaack!"

"Graaaaaaaaack!"

"Groooooowl!"

"Human. Go back. You should see the difference between us."

Rockon, one of the demons, confidently pulled out his sword as he stepped forward. Then...

Stab—

...a bone-chilling sound suddenly rang loudly in the area. When Rockon lowered his head, he could see a spear sticking out of his abdomen.

“Ugh!”

.

Red blood flowed out of his mouth.

“Th...this...!”

Then, Aruvel said, “The tower is incomplete and there are loopholes.”

There was a simple method of clearing this floor. They only needed to get 20% of their points. If they broke that record, then they would achieve a new record. However, if instead of that...

‘If we kill them all...’

It would be a very simple solution to their problem. Although Aruvel got drunk and gave Minhyuk his pocket money’s worth of information, he was still the Sage Aruvel. Aruvel was also someone that the Demon Ghost Unit could not easily deal with.

“D...Die!!!”

“Th...this...!”

The demons rushed towards Aruvel. That was when Minhyuk moved.

“Rain of Kitchen Knives.”

Minhyuk had already prepared the Rain of Kitchen Knives. Once he unleashed his skills, a black kitchen knife fell down on a demonic beast’s body from above.

Spurt—

Then, the rain of kitchen knives began to fall.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

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

The sound of the demonic beasts being devoured and the Demon Ghost Unit being hunted by Aruvel rang loudly in the first floor.

“Keuaaaaaack!”

“Keoheok!”

In less than 40 seconds, all the demons on the first floor had collapsed. This feat was only possible since Minhyuk had a very powerful helper in the form of Aruvel.

Then, the notifications rang.

[Calculating your score.]

[The score calculation attempt has failed.]

“Huh...?”

Minhyuk could not help but tilt his head in confusion.

‘You failed to calculate the score?’

A moment of silence passed before the notifications rang again.

[Attempting to calculate the scores again.]

[Score calculation has succeeded.]

[You have achieved an impossible score that went beyond what the operators had measured.]

[1st floor cleared. 100,000 points.]

[You have achieved a new record.]

[1st floor cleared. Additional rewards will be added to the new record rewards after achieving 100,000 points.]

[You have acquired 2,500,000 EXP.]

[You have acquired an additional 2,500,000 EXP in compliance with the new record rewards.]

[You have acquired an additional 2,500,000 EXP for achieving an impossible score.]

[You have acquired 10 platinum.]

[You have acquired Italy's Pizza and Carbonara.]

[You have acquired an additional Grill Platter for achieving an impossible score.]

"Oh...!"

Minhyuk was surprised. The Italian pizza and carbonara, together with the additional grill platter was served before him.

"...This is definitely a grill platter!"

Minhyuk could tell that this was definitely the steak plate that achieved the highest sales record in Seoga and Coke. The grill platter in front of him had about four slices of pork neck with plenty of vegetables. There was also a long slice of cheese, pineapple, and a half-cooked fried egg on top.

This grill platter tasted extremely delicious, especially with the vegetables that came with it.

Then, Minhyuk changed the filming mode.

[The filming mode has been changed.]

[You have changed to drone mode. The filming will now resume.]

The drone mode was an expensive add-on that players usually purchased. Once he chose the drone mode, several drones popped out of nowhere as they began to circle around Minhyuk to film him.

"Is this how they do it?"

Minhyuk just tilted his head. Among the several drones that were filming, one of them started filming the food.

"Hehe!? Thanks for the food!"

The first thing that Minhyuk picked was the pizza turner. He placed the pizza turner below the pizza before lifting a slice up. The cheese stretched long as Minhyuk pulled the steaming pizza up. He could not help but gulp his saliva, as he placed the pizza down on the plate.

Then, he put some ice in a glass as he poured some soda inside. A smile appeared on his face. This kind of food was best paired with soda.

Just like that, he pulled out the parmesan powder that he always had with him. Then, he sprinkled it all over the pizza slice.

The smell of the rich and creamy cheese wafted through Minhyuk's nose as he lifted the pizza close to his mouth. The cheese stretched down when he took a big bite while pulling the pizza down. The cheese was only cut off when he chewed the pizza with his teeth. In his second bite, he could finally bite the potato and the bacon that were sprinkled on top of the pizza.

The plain and salty taste of the potato, the crispy bacon, the rich and creamy cheese, together with the soft bread combined together and created a harmonious flavor in his mouth. Then, Minhyuk took some pickles from his small jar before placing them in his mouth.

Crunch, crunch, crunch—

Minhyuk sucked his fingers as he savored the lovely taste of the pizza and the pickles. After he ate a few slices of pizza, he gulped down the refreshing cola to cleanse his mouth of the greasy flavor.

"Kggghk!"

Minhyuk could not help but exclaim from the stinging sensation that he felt in his throat. This time, he stretched his hands towards the carbonara. His left hand was holding a spoon, while his right hand was holding a fork. Once the noodles were scooped up with his fork, he brought the fork gently towards the spoon before turning it around. As the spaghetti noodles were turned perfectly, he used his spoon to support the twirled spaghetti and placed it in his mouth.

The rich and savory flavor of the carbonara spread in his mouth. Every bite of the noodles made his smile go wider. Then, Minhyuk used his spoon to scoop out the white sauce, making sure that he scooped up the bacon, mushroom and other toppings, before putting it in his mouth.

‘Abundant and rich.’

Those were the words that fit the carbonara in front of him perfectly. Finally, he turned towards the grill platter. He quickly cut the pork neck meat. Then, he used his fork to pick the vegetables that were plated beautifully around the meat. When Minhyuk saw that the fork was filled with vegetables, he went ahead and picked a pork slice making sure that it was covered with the sweet sauce underneath it. Then, he placed it in his mouth.

The sweet, juicy flavor of the meat and sauce spread in Minhyuk’s mouth. However, it did not end there, as the soft and pleasant texture of the meat together with the crunchy and fresh vegetables created a mind-blowing harmony in his mouth.

This time, instead of the vegetables, he picked a piece of the pineapple with a slice of meat and dipped it in the sauce. The combination of the sweet, sour, fresh pineapple and juicy meat tasted exquisite. Minhyuk continued to eat deliciously like that.

“Wow. So delicious.”

A soft smile spread out on Minhyuk’s mouth as he patted his plump and bulging stomach. Then, he realized that he was filming.

“This is how you do it, right? Should I send it like this?”

He decided to send this as an experiment. He believed that it was better to make sure of things like this. Hence, Minhyuk sent the video right away.

[Sending the video file named ‘Demon World’s Tower’s First Floor Attack’ to Player TTBC.]

Chapter 277: Good Guy, Bad Guy, Weird Guy

TTBC used to be quite an influential game broadcasting channel in the past. They used to be unrivaled among the four existing gaming broadcasting channels then. Also, TTBC had always achieved number one overall, including the viewership ratings.

However, the current TTBC was facing a big crisis. Viewers had chosen them as the lowest ranking channel among the game broadcasting channel. From the viewers’ standpoint, they believed that TTBC was at the bottom of the list, especially in terms of the beneficial attack information. TTBC was also the current lowest in terms of ratings among all available game broadcasting channels. If this went on, TTBC would be in danger of being left out of the race. Because of that, the TTBC director always had a vein popping out of his neck during every meeting.

“No, you missed Cane in the end?”

Cane was a player that TTBC had spent a lot of effort and time recruiting. In the end, he was taken away by ATV broadcasting station.

“What the hell are you good at then?! You can’t even recruit one player. How the hell can we start a program?!!”

For the first time in a long while, TTBC had received plenty of love from the players. The players had praised their content as fresh and new. Unfortunately, over time, the freshness disappeared, and the players demanded information that was beneficial and were tailored to their needs.

TTBC tried very hard to get that information, but things always ended up poorly. As soon as they got top-rated information from Athenae, other broadcasters would jump in to release the news earlier and faster, while they waited for the right timing to release it.

“If you’re going to be like this, just send me your resignation!!!”

‘That bald eagle. He’s mad again today.’

The program producers and reporters at TTBC were definitely not happy about the director’s daily outbursts. The staff ran out of the room and went back to their posts.

Go Eun-Ah also rushed out to sit in front of her computer. As soon as she booted her computer, she saw an e-mail waiting for her.

‘P...Player Minhyuk...!’?

The person that might probably become TTBC’s savior!

[A video file named ‘Demon World’s Tower’s First Floor Attack’ sent by nickname ‘Delicious Food is the Best’ has arrived in your mail.]

She hurriedly tried to check the video file. Then...

“Delicious Food is the Best? What a nickname.”

These days, the director’s voice was filled with grudges, so the voice that rang behind her was filled with gloom.

“This childish nickname, who the...”

“It’s Player Minhyuk!”

“...hell would say that it’s a childish nickname.”

‘That’s a quick change of attitude!’

The director also had a faint sense of anticipation. This year, there was still no video from Korea that could be placed in the Hall of Fame.

‘What if Player Minhyuk, who signed a solo contract with us, got listed in the Hall of Fame?’

At this point, it was just his expectations. In fact, even if there were plenty of rankers, the number of players who entered the Hall of Fame could be counted on one hand. Only the most popular had a shot to do so. There were a lot of rankers all over the world, and they also had a lot of different content and styles, so this was just a shot in the dark.

Regardless, even if Player Minhyuk did not enter the Hall of Fame, the director believed that they would at least be able to achieve the most benefits from the contract that they had signed.

“Open it.”

“Yes.”

Just as Go Eun-Ah opened the video...

“Minhyuk?”

“The Food God?”

“Oh, I think I’m looking forward to it?”

...people began to flock toward her desk.

Minhyuk had become the nation’s best player, both in name and skills, after he defeated Carr in Athenae: Korean War. Even those that worked under Athenae had no choice but to look at him with interest, since he had kept himself tightly under a veil of mystery.

Then, the video started. The director and the rest of the employees who flocked to Go Eun-Ah’s desk had their mouths wide open as they watched the video.

“I...Impossible score...?”

“C...crazy...! That’s ridiculous!”

There was no other reaction than shock and astonishment. Once a player started filming, the notifications that popped up in front of them would also be recorded in the video.

“My goodness... To twist it like that...”

“I don’t think that’s a method that anyone can do. At the very least, I don’t think I can do it since the demons are extremely strong. A while ago, didn’t it say that the demons were from the Ghost Unit?”

“Y...yeah...”

All of them gulped unconsciously at the level of strength displayed in the video. Then, Player Minhyuk’s mukbang began. It seemed like the employees became more focused than ever when the mukbang started, compared to earlier.

'Wow. Look at that cheese... When that stretchy cheese, hot bread and potato meet in your mouth...'
Go Eun-Ah unknowingly gulped down her saliva.

'R...right. You should try carbonara now. Th...that's right! That's right! Have those sweet and sour pickles too...!'

Go Eun-Ah was in awe. This was the best among all of the other mukbangs she had ever seen. Then, Minhyuk started eating the meat platter after drinking some cold cola.

Gulp—

Someone gulped loudly. When she turned her head around, she saw her bald eagle director. Despite Go Eun-Ah's protest of 'I want to eat pasta today!', the director would always speak with his status, saying 'As expected, we should have pork back-bone stew or rice soup for lunch!'. However, right now, he was watching this mukbang with awe and admiration.

When the video ended, the entire area was filled with silence.

Then, one of the reporters stammered, "Sh...shall we rewatch the video? Just the part where he eats..."

"O...Okay."

Thus, the part where Minhyuk started eating got replayed. All of them were watching with rapt attention once more. This time, when the video ended, Go Eun-Ah was the one that broke the silence. She said, "He, he's too..."

Everyone focused on the sound of her voice.

"...happy whenever he eats."

"R...right! That's right. He looks really happy when he eats."

"Correct! Wow...! Although I'm only looking at him, I also can't help but smile. You feel that too, right?"

Everyone nodded. At this moment, the director had a hunch.

'A video on challenging the Demon World's Tower...?'

It was a rope that descended from heavens to save TTBC! And, it was a golden rope to boot!

"Start preparing the trailer."

Everyone turned toward the director as he spoke.

"Make the trailer simple. Just put the scene where Player Minhyuk is eating and make it a trailer!"

It was going to be a groundbreaking move.

'Are you telling us to skip the entire process and just release a preview of him eating?'

The video where Minhyuk attacked the Demon World's Tower was definitely excellent content, but the eating was the key moment.

Then, the director continued, "Shall we have that for lunch today?"

'Nice!'?

Reporter Go Eun-Ah unknowingly yelled out in her head.

Roven, one of the tower's architects and designers, waited for Minhyuk at the entrance of the first trial. He currently had a big smile on his face.

'Fufufufufufufu. He's been there for a very long time. No, maybe he did not clear it?'

Roven could not stop himself from cackling in a greasy manner. After all, even though the arrogant man went in proudly, he still had not come out after thirty minutes.

However, Roven did not know that Minhyuk was just eating deliciously inside. Then, at that moment...

[The first-floor trial has been completed and closed.]

"Ho? He must have cleared it."

With that notification, Minhyuk and Aruvel came back out. Then, the notification rang loudly.

[You can climb the 2nd floor at any time you prefer.]

Roven could not help but laugh at Minhyuk. He said, “*Keuhahahahaha!*? You said that it will be over in five minutes, but it must have been harder than you thought, huh? As expected, humans are just conceited and arrogant.”

“Eh?”

Minhyuk could not help but tilt his head in confusion. Once Minhyuk returned, the top record on the entrance had also changed. The record that was listed above the entrance the newest high score. However, because of the time Minhyuk took to come out, Roven did not even think to check it out. “Now that you’ve realized your arrogance, go back to the human world!!!” Roven shouted confidently.

After all, Minhyuk would not be able to climb the tower again. In response, Minhyuk just gestured with his chin at one spot, and did not even say a word.

“What’s there?”

Then, Roven turned his head with a happy smile, his mood high that he made the human suffer a defeat. However, what he saw made his face harden.

‘*Wh...what’s this...?*’?

For a moment, Roven thought that he had seen it wrongly. The previous mysterious man’s score was just 25,000, but the score that was written right now was...

“1, 1, 1, 1, 1... 100, 000?!!”

.

‘*No, this is an impossible score!*’

It was literally a ridiculous score.

“Wh...what the hell did you do...?!”

Then, Minhyuk said, “I told you. It won’t take long! Now, please give me a reward!”

Minhyuk was very happy. He finally received the rest of the information about the tower from Roven. Then, he took a step forward to challenge the second floor.

Aincarr looked around. Most of the guild members of Golden Staff had been wiped out. Even the agile and quick-footed archers had been wiped out.

He looked in horror at the man wearing a black mask and the little boy in front of him. They had been attacked because he said that the little boy was a ‘XXX’. Yet, it turned out that the boy was stronger and more nimble than the dragon tamer. What was worse was that, just one strike from the boy’s lithe body could easily log out his guild members. In addition, the man with the dragon also had a high magical attack and defense.

‘*I, I’m one of Blackstone’s monarchs...*’

They were also one of France’s top three guilds.

‘*We are on the brink of collapse with just the two of them...*’

Then, Black Dragon said, “I hope you don’t forget what I said.”

Slash—

Then, Black Dragon slashed Aincarr’s neck without any mercy, before packing the spoils that they had left behind.

“*Hoo...*”

“*Kiyeeeeee!*”

Poison Dragon curled his body down as he gestured for Black Dragon to lean his body on him. Black Dragon laid down as he leaned on Poison Dragon's body. Exhaustion overflowed from his body, but he felt that he needed to climb the tower quickly.

'I won't let these bastards touch my son...!'

If he were not aware that they were after Minhyuk, he would have definitely ended it at just that. However, knowing that fact meant that he could not let a single person be left alive. Then...

Step, step, step, step—

Poison Dragon suddenly reacted to the faint sound of footsteps that registered in his ears.

"Kiyeek!"

In response to his call, Black Dragon got up again and slowly lifted Dragon Tear's Sword. Then, he saw the man walking from afar. When he saw him, Black Dragon could not help but let out a sigh of relief.

"Black Minute Man...! No, Black Mage...!"

"Huh? B...Black Minute Man?"

"N...No. Haha."

Black Dragon knew how mean it was to speak of a man's 'insecurity', so he did not say anything further.

Ali was also on his way towards the tower, after hunting all of the guild members, including Arch, near the entrance to the Demon World Shelter.

After meeting, the two people talked about the experience that they had.

"Hoo. So, you got the Royal Class quest too?"

"Yes. I don't think there would be any problems if we went up together."

Parties could enter the Demon World's Tower, but individuals could do so as well. However, when individuals enter, they need to conquer the tower's first floor under the same conditions. For that reason, individuals would not overlap with others, even if they climbed together. In the case of the normal floors, such a setting was null so players could freely meet.

"Let's climb quickly."

At this moment, the two men's goals had aligned: To clear their Royal Class quest and protect Minhyuk. The two powerful people who easily defeated the elites of a large guild alone started their trek towards the Demon World's Tower for one person's sake.

[Aincarr: I'm too ashamed to see you.]

[Arch:...I'm sorry.]

Calauhel was speechless.

The person who cleared the first floor and set a new record with a huge gap from his score was definitely the Frying Pan Killer. What was more surprising was that the people he assumed to be Minhyuk's friends suddenly appeared and dealt with the elites of a large guild.

However, Calauhel still thought, *'It's impossible for him to close the gap between us.'*

Calauhel had already crossed the 30th floor. He was sure that it was impossible for Minhyuk to catch up to him when the latter had just started on the first floor. On top of that...

'Why are there so many strong people around this bastard?'

Minhyuk had the backing of the empress of an empire, and friends who could easily lay waste to elites of a large guild alone. However, Calauhel could tell that Minhyuk was very different from him. If the relationship between Calauhel and Blackstone was that of a contractual relationship, then the relationship between those people was fueled by the desire to purely 'protect' the Frying Pan Killer. This was not logical. He could not understand them at all. However, Calauhel believed that

he could solve anything with the power of money. Thus, he might not be able to find the answer in this lifetime.

Right at that moment...

[Player 'I'm' has broken the record, and attained a new high score for the second floor.]

[There is a significant gap from the previous record.]

“...!”

‘The second floor?’

Calauhel’s eyes widened in shock. Just five minutes after this notification...

[Player 'Going Up' has broken the record, and attained a new high score for the third floor.]

[There is a significant gap from the previous record.]

Another notification rang out.

Calauhel knew that while nicknames for records could be changed, the person was saving his nickname for every floor.

2nd floor: I’m

3rd floor: Going Up.

And...

[Player 'Just You Wait' has broken the record, and attained a new high score for the fourth floor.]

[There is a significant gap from the previous record.]

Finally: Just You Wait.

‘If I combine these words...’

Grit, grit—

Calauhel’s teeth ground together. It was a ‘warning’ message that was solely meant for him.

Chapter 278: Fragment of the Golden Crown

[Minhyuk: The mukbang is the trailer so the people won’t know where it is at first, right?]

Reporter Go Eun-Ah nodded fiercely, as if Minhyuk was in front of her, although she was replying to the whisper that he had sent.

Minhyuk had also sent her videos from the 2nd and 3rd floors of the tower. Meanwhile, TTBC had informed him that they would use his ‘mukbang’ as a trailer. However, Minhyuk had told them that he wanted the video to be released only after some time.

Go Eun-Ah could easily guess the reason for this. It was because once the video was released while he was still going up, people from all over the world who had watched the video would try to use his methods. They were fully aware of this. However...

‘Even if others know of this method, they will not be able to imitate it at all.’

Go Eun-Ah knew that his new record would definitely not be broken. There were things that one could not achieve even if they knew the method to attack, and the Demon World’s Tower was just like that.

Soon, she was able to get the confirmation as the team leader of the Editorial Team said, “I’m done editing the mukbang!!!”

All of their preparations were done.

The 20-year-old university freshman, Mi-Jin, had huge aspirations. She had been single for all twenty years of her life, mainly because she weighed 75 kilograms despite being only 160 centimeters tall. Yes, she believed herself to be fat.

Because of that, Mi-Jin had been swimming and working out at the same time these days. After undergoing extreme workouts, she had already lost 12 kilograms. If this continued, she might just be able to achieve her target weight of 50kg by the end of winter vacation!

This was only possible thanks to Mi-Jin's 'strong will and mindset'. Once she deemed herself pretty enough, there was no temptation that could cause her to waver from her burning desire to get into a relationship.

'I'm hungry...'? Mi-Jin thought, feeling extreme hunger after coming back from her exercise. However...

'If you eat now, you're not a human! You're a pig!'

Mi-Jin overcame it with her strong will. Instead of eating, she thought that it would be better for her to watch a video from her favorite game, *Athenae*. Whenever she focused on the rankers' game videos, she would forget her hunger.

The moment Mi-Jin opened her mobile phone, the video with the highest number of views appeared on the screen. It had only been uploaded for two hours, but the number of clicks had already reached about 500,000, and was already on the top 10 videos on Ztube. The title was...

'*The Food God's Happiness.*'?

"O...our Minhyuk-oppa?!!!"

Mi-Jin was a huge fan of Food God Minhyuk. It was not just because of his handsome face, but also because of his polite personality, superb skills, and most importantly, his adorable, lovely manner of eating!

"Oh my! I must see this!"

She quickly clicked on the video as a phrase flashed on the screen.

[The nation's best player is challenging the Hall of Fame. Food God Minhyuk!]

[This is the epic story of his great challenge!]

[His mukbang has more surprising results than the number one box office!]

Then, the video started. When Mi-Jin watched the video, she felt like she had been possessed by something. Watching it made her feel happy and good, but it also made her mouth drool.

'I...I want to eat...!!!'?

Every time she saw Minhyuk eating happily, she also felt happy. Mi-Jin even watched the trailer thrice just to see his happy face. After watching the video, she hurriedly grabbed her wallet and ran out of the house.

'N...no... I, I have to lose weight!!'? Her mind shouted at her, but her body continued to run to Seoga and Coke. After eating deliciously...

'Right. I'm a pig... Oink, oink... oink!!'

Tears welled up in her eyes, but her stomach felt full and happy. Meanwhile, the comments on the video began to reach an all-time high.

[I'm the owner of a Seoga and Coke franchise. Thanks to Minhyuk, our sales increased by 300% today. All hail!! Food God!!]

[Take responsibility! My diet has failed!!!]

[Wow... How can a person eat so happily? I'm just watching, but I think I'm really smiling like a mom?]

[Our manager who said that he would only eat rice soup every day has changed his mind!!!]

[Wow, I can't wait for the full episode...]

[Where the hell is this place? I don't know where it is, but there's food? It looks like a dungeon or something...]

[Wow... I'll watch the show once the main episode comes up...!]

[Our country doesn't have any video that can challenge the Hall of Fame this year as well! Is God Minhyuk going to challenge it? I'll make sure to watch it!!!]

[Wow. Challenging the Hall of Fame with eating. The boss is on another level. Hehehehehehe.]

The comments were filled with anticipation for the main episode.

Aruvel's expression was somber as he said, "I'm going to say this again, you can't overdo it on the 10th floor."

His seriousness was because of the existence on the 10th floor.

"The predator residing on the 10th floor is an extremely powerful snake. Besides, the way to pass the 10th floor is very simple. That guy sleeps a lot in his position, so all we need to do is to go to the 11th floor without making a single sound."

Aruvel had given him groundbreaking methods to set new records so far. However, that was not the case for the 10th floor. Instead of challenging the 10th floor, he recommended that they should clear it as fast as they could.

According to Aruvel, the predatory snake residing on the 10th floor was an extremely powerful snake that was around Level 700.

There were many powerful beings in the Demon World that had yet to be released to the world. In addition, even if Aruvel and Roven, one of the creators of the tower, were knowledgeable, they did not know of any method to set a new record on the 10th floor. Roven also did not know much information about several floors on the tower.

Roven had told them, *'I don't know the information about the 10th and the 21st floor since those floors were made by the general architect of the tower, Arlead. I also don't know about the rewards on those floors.'*

It was the 10th floor of the tower that even Roven did not know of! Minhyuk also heard about one other thing from him.

'Although I don't know about the information on that floor, I've been told that the predatory snake on that floor is trying to protect something.'

The snake was trying to protect something. Minhyuk decided to follow Aruvel's words. After all, if he was forced to log out for no reason inside the tower while he was trying to set a new record, he would not be able to enter the tower again. In the first place, the tower was designed to not allow any other challenges once the player died inside once.

Then, Minhyuk moved to climb the stairs going up to the 10th floor.

[You have entered the Demon World's Tower's 10th floor.]

[Please arrive at the exit without waking up the gigantic sleeping predatory snake.]

[There are stepping stones all over the place. Step on them and move quickly to avoid the sleeping predator underneath.]

Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr—

Minhyuk felt a strong vibration on the soles of his feet as soon as he stepped foot on the 10th floor. For a moment, he wondered where the vibration was coming from until he saw it with his own eyes.

'Th...the snake's breathing...?'

The vibration was caused by the snake's breathing.

'My god! The snake's breath is causing the entire floor to vibrate?'

Minhyuk was shocked to see the solid wall-like thing in front of him. However, it was not really a wall, but a part of the snake's gigantic body.

'Wow. So big...'

Aruvel had strongly recommended moving quickly without even letting out a single breath. So Minhyuk held his breath as he looked at the stepping stones above the snake.

Minhyuk quickly jumped up and stepped on one of the stepping stones. The stepping stone was so small that he could only barely stand on it with one of his feet. Mage players could use their fly magic while archers had their agility. However, it would be difficult for warriors with only their high endurance when they increased their ‘stamina’ stat. This floor was a test of the player’s agility and swiftness.

Just like that, Minhyuk and Aruvel quickly moved forward as they stepped foot on one stepping stone after another. Once they reached the middle, Minhyuk crouched down to look at the snake's closed eye.

‘I think its eye is about as big as my body?’

That was how big this predator was. Just as Minhyuk was about to move towards another stepping stone...

Blink!

...the gigantic predatory snake opened its eyes!

“...?!”

Minhyuk and Aruvel were both caught in surprise.

‘Wh...what the...?! We didn’t even make a single noise...! We didn’t even stumble towards its body...!’

This was a completely unpredictable situation.

Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr—

Then, the giant snake began to move.

“R...Ruuuuun!!!!” Aruvel shouted. Both of them ran quickly.

“Kiyeeeeeeeeee!”

The snake's tongue flickered as its gigantic head moved. Then, Aruvel moved with his spear.

[Demon Dragon's Spear Arts Chapter 3.]

[Dragon's Roar.]

Hot flames flew out of Aruvel's spear. It was a fire spear that was far stronger than a hellfire in terms of devouring everything in its path!

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

He threw it at the snake that was approaching him with its mouth wide open but...

Clang—

...the spear could not even pierce the snake's skin. Both Aruvel and Minhyuk were appalled at the scene. In just a blink of an eye, the snake was already in front of Minhyuk. The snake opened its mouth wide.

However, just when Minhyuk was just about to use his skill... he made eye contact with the snake. Then...

Drop, drop, drop—

'Wh...what the hell?'

...tears flowed down from the snake's eyes and Minhyuk's skill was nullified.

[You have witnessed the Predatory Snake's Tears.]

[You will not be able to use your skills.]

However, more than that, Minhyuk was wondering why it cried. The gigantic predatory snake opened his mouth wide to swallow Minhyuk.

At that moment, Aruvel shouted, “N...no!!! My food supplier!!!”

Yes, just as Minhyuk thought of Aruvel as his knowledge and information provider, Aruvel had also thought of Minhyuk as his food supplier!

However, an unexpected event suddenly occurred. The gigantic snake did not swallow Minhyuk. Instead, with Minhyuk's head in his mouth, the snake jerked its head to the left. Then, the snake opened its mouth, letting Minhyuk fly towards that direction.

Just as Minhyuk was about to hit the wall...

Vwoooooom—

...the wall suddenly disappeared and Minhyuk passed through it.

'What?'

Aruvel tilted his head in confusion when he realized that it was not a wall, but a mechanism. He caught a glimpse of something inside. Then, the gigantic snake just stared at Aruvel. It did not even attack him. Aruvel tried to step on the stepping stone to get inside but...

Bang—

...Aruvel could not get past the clear wall. The predatory snake used its tail to gently support the falling Aruvel.

'Why are you... *protecting my food supplier and me?*'

Aruvel was now convinced that the predatory snake had no intention of harming the two of them.

[You have entered a Mysterious Dungeon.]

[You have gained 30 REP.]

Minhyuk looked over the wall after being thrown inside by the snake. Aruvel tried to jump in, but he fell down after hitting the clear and transparent wall that separated them.

"Aruvel!!!" Minhyuk shouted at him, but it seemed like Aruvel could not hear him. Curious, he reached out towards the transparent wall.

[You cannot go outside until you reach the end of the Mysterious Dungeon.]

That was when Minhyuk realized that his only way out of here was reaching the end of this dungeon. As he continued to move forward, Minhyuk saw the murals on the walls. He saw a gigantic wolf in one of the murals.

Then, the notification sounded.

[The Incarnation of Light, Penrus. The incarnation that saved the empire single-handedly.]

'Incarnation of light...?'

Kaistra had called his giant wolf Penrus.

'Perhaps they are the same?'

He continued to walk forward just like that.

This time, Minhyuk also stopped in front of another mural. In the mural, there were four gigantic dragons.

[The Four Legendary Dragons. No one will be able to beat them once they come together.]

'Hmm...?'

Did the four legendary dragons have anything to do with the five great incarnations? Without an answer to his question, Minhyuk continued to move forward. Finally, he was able to see another mural.

[The Incarnation of Death, Predatory Snake. The Snake King who devours everything in the world.]

'The Predatory Snake...?!'

Minhyuk was so shocked. The Predatory Snake was also an incarnation just like Penrus. Minhyuk continued to move forward until he reached the light at the end of the dungeon. When he arrived at

the end, Minhyuk saw a huge temple. It was the temple that he had seen from the four murals earlier.

Then, the murals began to move. The moving murals moved toward the ‘?’ painted in the middle of the temple. Once they reached the ‘?’ in the middle, the beings in the mural bowed their heads.

“Grrrrrrrrrr!”

“Kiyaaaaaaack!”

“Kiyeeeeeee!”

“Keuaaaaaack!”

Then, the ‘?’ was engulfed with a bright light. The ‘?’ slowly began to form a figure under the bright glare of the light. Not long after, a figure was shown in the painting. It was none other than a baby piggy wearing a golden crown and holding a sword high up in the sky.

“I...Isn’t that Beanie?!”

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It was definitely Beanie. The only differences between the Beanie that he knew, and the Beanie in the mural, were the golden crown and the sword that mural Beanie was wearing.

Then, another picture began to be painted. Minhyuk watched with bated breath as the colors moved. A black current seeped and imprinted itself into the painting.

When the painting was finished, Minhyuk could not help but mutter to himself, “Dragon...?”

The painting was clearly a dragon. However, the dragon in the painting looked different from Britney, Destiny and Ambacca who were with his father. Dragons were the greatest existence in this world! In the painting, Beanie, with his golden crown, was staring at such a dragon.

Then, the notifications rang.

[You, the master, have taken the Incarnation of Gluttony as your pet.]

[You have met the conditions for viewing the Quest: Incarnation of Gluttony’s Golden Crown Fragment.]

[You can view the video of the birth of the Incarnation of Gluttony (1).]

[If you do not wish to view the video, you can just say ‘I refuse’.]

Minhyuk was also curious about Beanie the baby piggy. He already knew that Beanie was the Incarnation of Gluttony.

‘Well, just in case...’?

Perhaps there was something delicious hidden in Beanie’s secret since the word “Gluttony” was attached to him. He was also very curious about Beanie’s existence.

“Accept.”

[You have accepted to view the video.]

[Your character becomes ‘invincible’ while watching this video.]

Minhyuk’s soul flew out of his body as a bright light wrapped around him. The shell of his character fell into a deep sleep. Then, Minhyuk’s soul disappeared into the light.

[Around 500 years ago, chaos engulfed the world as continents waged war against each other.]

When the light faded and Minhyuk opened his eyes, the first thing that greeted him was bloody red words imprinted on a white background.

[There were more than ten continents that existed all over the world. The war had killed countless people, including the people of the Asgan Continent, Foricon Continent, Carbia Continent, Vale Continent, and Bireae Continent. The cause of this war was none other than the ‘Empires’ Ferocious Guardians’.]

There were also guardians in the two empires in the Asgan Continent where Minhyuk's local server was located. The guardians of the Eivelis Empire were the Minotaur and the Phoenix, and as far as he knew, one of the Collodis Empire's guardians was the Wyvern.

[The guardians once lived together in 'Utopia'. One day, the guardian of the Rontley Empire, the Griffin, suddenly attacked the other guardians. The attack resulted in the death of the guardian of the Archden Empire, the Black Leopard.]

'Hmm...'

Minhyuk nodded.

There was a huge difference between the guardians and the regular monsters. For example, the Phoenix. The Phoenix was the guardian deity of the Eivelis Empire, but the Phoenix that was classified as a guardian and a regular phoenix were completely different from each other. First of all, the guardian Phoenix known as the 'Empire's Guardian', was stronger than regular phoenixes thanks to its special privileges. In other words, those that were classified as guardians would be considered as emperors and kings of their own races.

'But the Griffin killed the other guardian?'

This was definitely not a simple matter over guardianship. Such a huge commotion would also bring forth conflicts between Empires.

Then, the words started to appear again.

[The disaster did not end there. The guardian of the Iron Empire, the Dark Bear, suddenly became violent as it started to attack the other guardians too. One after the other, the guardians began to become violent and ferocious. As a result, the empires became enraged as they began to cross other continents. They used all means possible, including ships and magic. This was the reason why the 'Continental War' began.]

Minhyuk continued to listen to the explanation. According to the video, the war between the empires escalated and led to the war between continents. In the midst of that war, Great Mage Moldoron announced one fact.

[The guardians started to fight after being subjected to a very powerful brainwashing spell.]

The guardians basically had incredibly high magical defenses. In addition, Utopia was a place where lower or moderately high magic could not fully express its power. Many had wondered about who had used such magic.

However, even if they knew this, there was no end in sight to the continental war that had already broken out. Eventually, the war began to spread in the entire world as the divine beasts started to battle against each other. A lot of blood was spilled as countless people died. And towards the end of the war, the video finally changed.

"The divine beasts and the people are dying. This must be stopped."

A man suddenly appeared when the screen changed. The man was wearing a helmet in the shape of a wolf, while a gigantic white wolf stood beside him.

Then, the man's information suddenly appeared in Minhyuk's head.

[The Envoy of Incarnation. Baroque.]

'The Envoy of Incarnation?'

Minhyuk, who was watching him in soul form, could easily guess that he was the 'Envoy of Incarnation' of the past. In other words, he was the original owner of Kaistra's class.

Then, someone came in. It was a man with dragon tattoos all over his body.

'Is he the one similar to dad?' Minhyuk thought as he looked at the man littered with dragon tattoos all over his body.

Then, the man's information also appeared in his head.

[Dragon Monarch. Barnacle.]

‘Dragon Monarch...? I heard from dad that he recently received a class quest for the Dragon Monarch class...’?

Not long after, the Dragon Monarch opened his mouth and said, “Baroque, I finally figured out the root of all this commotion. It’s the Black Dragon, Vormon.”

“Black Dragon Vormon?”

“Right. Among the dragons, he was the most destructive even when they were children. But what’s surprising is that when he was still a young hatchling, he used so much magic and power that even the Dragon Lord couldn’t defeat him.”

“Why is that guy...”

“I don’t know what his reason is but he manipulated the guardians and started a war between the continents. We must kill him and stop this war from spilling any more blood.”

Then, the words floated in front of Minhyuk again.

[The masters of the three great divine beasts and the divine beasts that ruled over the other beasts did not want to have a war between the two races, so they tried to stop it.]

Barnacle suddenly said, “I’ve found out where he is so I’ll go right in.”

The images in front of Minhyuk immediately changed.

The result was disastrous. The masters of the three great divine beasts were forced to flee under the assault of Black Dragon Vormon. The three divine beasts that existed ever since the world’s creation could not win against him, even when they combined their powers together. Black Dragon Vormon easily defeated them, and they were only able to escape with a breath of their lives left.

“At this rate, we will not be able to stop the final war...”

The final war would divide them into winners and losers. The war might end but it would result in disastrous damage that could not be easily repaired.

Then, Great Mage Moldoron piped up. Moldoron joined them since he was able to summon his divine beast, the predatory snake. He said, “There’s a way.”

Everyone listened carefully when they heard the word ‘way’.

“We need to awaken the Supreme Divine Beast.”

“...!”

“...!”

[Supreme Divine Beast. A divine beast that is leagues stronger than the three great divine beasts. The object of dread and terror among the divine beasts.]

The explanation briefly passed by as Baroque, the Envoy of Incarnation, said, “But, the Supreme Divine Beast is dangerous. Isn’t he either of the two?”

The Dragon Monarch also chimed in, “Right. He either brings forth great catastrophe or serene peace.”

Either of the two. Whatever would happen would depend on what personality he had when he was awakened.

“But, what’s clear is that this is the only solution to this impasse.”

They could not deny his words. In the end, they decided to awaken the Supreme Divine Beast. All of them went inside a dark dungeon, and inside, was a huge coffin surrounded by thick, large chains.

“It was said that God Athenae had sealed the Supreme Divine Beast because he thought that he could bring forth dangers in the world. That’s why he used the Ten Thousand Year Cold Iron to stop his awakening.”

The masters of the three great divine beasts stood in front of the ten-thousand-year cold iron. It was only when they combined their powers that they would have enough strength to cut off the ten-thousand-year cold iron.

Each of their divine beasts used its powers. Penrus, Predatory Snake and the four Legendary Dragons all let out white lights from their mouths. The white light started to corrode the ten-thousand-year cold iron.

Sizzle—

Clang!

The corroded chains broke off and fell to the ground with a loud thud. Moldoron immediately cast powerful spells. The Envoy of Incarnation summoned a spear made out of bones as he and Penrus began to prepare for battle. Even the four Legendary Dragons and the Predatory Snake prepared immediately.

Creaaaaaaaaak—

Baaaaaaang!

The lid of the coffin opened loudly as a being slowly emerged from its depths. The being was none other than a sleeping baby piggy.

“Wh...what...?!”

“The Supreme Divine Beast is a pig?!”

“Keok!”

Every one of them was flustered.

“B...but he’s still the Supreme Divine Beast!!!”

“Everyone, don’t let your guard down!!!”

The being slowly opened its eyes as they all stood on alert.

Gulp—

Someone gulped their saliva loudly. With that sound, the baby piggy appeared in front of them with a broad smile.

“Oink!!!”

It was the happiest smile that ever existed in the world. The screen suddenly froze in that part. Then, the notifications rang.

[The video of the birth of the Incarnation of Gluttony (1) has ended.]

[You can now check the Incarnation of Gluttony’s Diary (1) ‘Who am I?’.]

[The quest will be triggered once you read the diary’s first entry.]

Minhyuk tilted his head in thought as a torn diary page appeared in front of him. Then, he started to read the contents of the diary.

[Who am I? This is the question that I asked as soon as I was born in this world.

There was only one being around me. That was ‘Athenae’. Athenae told me that I can either bring disaster or peace to this world. Then, he pushed me inside this cold and dark coffin.

.

Back then, I thought that it was not that frustrating. Because God Athenae said that this coffin was my one and only world and he even put a lot of things in there for me.?

A year later, three years later, five years later. I always ate something delicious there. I felt happy since I like to eat delicious food. I thought that it would be nice if I could always eat something delicious like this over time.?

But one day, I suddenly cried.

I don’t know why I cried. All I know is that tears kept on flowing.

Who am I?

Why am I alone here?

So a few decades passed like that.?

There was also a book here so I found out things while reading that book. It seems like there's this thing called friends in the world. There's also a thing called family. I finally realized that no one really exists alone in this world.?

The loneliness in me grew bigger.

Then, one day, I heard unidentified voices. Those voices began to cut off the big chain outside. The door that left me all alone in the world suddenly opened.?

When I opened my eyes, I saw that those unidentified voices were creatures with long arms, legs, two eyes and little fur. They were even holding something in their hands.?

Ah, are these the humans that I saw in the book?

There's also a hairy creature and creatures that are long with long mustaches.?

I felt so glad to see them. The corners of my mouth couldn't help but curl up the moment I saw them.?

Today, for the first time in my life, I learned how to smile.]

That was where the diary entry 'Who am I?' ended. Then, a bright light burst out of the page.

Flash—

Minhyuk's body was once again surrounded by light as he got sucked back into his character. After watching the video and reading the diary, Minhyuk was lost for words. He was no stranger to loneliness.

I did not wish nor want this. I did not want to have a disease called eating addiction. I didn't even do anything bad. I was just unlucky being born with this disease. I even cursed the world. This world that took everything away from me and left me all alone.?

Minhyuk knew this feeling more than anybody else, so his heart felt both pain and sympathy. Then, Beanie left the summoning room on its own as it tilted its head and looked up at Minhyuk.

"Oink?" Beanie cried out in confusion when it saw that Minhyuk remained silent.

Even though Minhyuk called Beanie his 'emergency ration' every day, it was more of a joke. Who could eat someone that protected him? Besides, Beanie had already become someone special to him, since they have been together for so long.

Beanie was even trying to make him feel relaxed by wiggling his butt and picking his nose in front of him. However, Minhyuk could not bring himself to laugh so easily after seeing what was written in Beanie's diary.

Then, Beanie jumped on his shoulder, as it pressed its paws on Minhyuk's cheeks.

"...Huh?"

"Oink!!"

When Minhyuk turned his head to look at him, he saw Beanie smiling happily, just like it did in the video.

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Minhyuk could not help but smile when he saw Beanie smiling like that. Upon seeing that Minhyuk's spirits were lifted, Beanie shrugged its shoulders, as if it was saying 'As expected, I'm the best. Oink!'.

Minhyuk jokingly teased back, "Don't wipe your nose sneakily on my cheeks!"

Pause!

Beanie was stunned.

Then, a notification rang.

[The Pet Awakening Linked Quest: Fragment of the Golden Crown has been created.]

A quest window popped out right after the notification.

‘Fragments of the golden crown...?’

Minhyuk recalled the golden crown sitting atop the head of Beanie in the mural. He also saw in the video that the incarnations were called the Three Great Incarnations, but now they were called the *Four* Great Incarnations. From what he heard from Kaistra, Beanie was like the king of the three great incarnations.

‘Perhaps I’ll find out more about it, or get a hint if I look at the additional video after collecting the fragments of the golden crown?’

Then, another notification came in.

[You will now be warped to the original 10th floor where the Temple of Incarnation was previously located.]

The executives of Joy Co. Ltd. were all sitting around President Kang Taehoon watching a video where Minhyuk disappeared in a flash of light from the Temple of Incarnation.

“This will be the biggest event in Joy Co. Ltd. ever,” President Kang Taehoon said after a long moment of silence. No one in the room denied his words.

“He found the ‘Crown Fragment’ faster than what we thought. Right now, Jiang Chen, the Black Dragon’s Guardian, will start collecting the ‘artifacts’ to awaken the sealed Black Dragon Vormon.”

All of them nodded in agreement. The two beasts, Black Dragon Vormon and Beanie, the Incarnation of Gluttony, were at the center of this massive unprecedented update and event in *Athenae*.

There was only one reason why President Kang Taehoon and the rest of the people in the room all sported serious expressions on their faces.

“Of all places...” President Kang Taehoon mumbled the end of his words.

“I can’t believe that our country has to deal with China in the continental war.”

That was right. As if to repeat history, another continental war would break out amidst the players, and this event would mark the beginning of the server integrations.

Joy Co. Ltd. had judged that it was virtually impossible to integrate all of the continents in *Athenae* all at once. As a result of countless blood, sweat and tears, they had determined that they could unite and integrate several countries under the pretext of the continental war. For example, the Japanese and the French servers would meet together and fight against each other. South Korea’s

opponent was none other than China, and the two servers would be integrated with this continental war.

Now, this was a problem.

China was one of the three major powers in *Athenae*. Aside from that, they had predicted that this would be the number one country in terms of power when a war between nations erupted in the game. Their reason was simple. Every person knew that China's population was tremendous and because of that, plenty of players held hidden classes, legendary classes, secret classes, and even God classes. They even had a lot of supplies for the war. These factors were definitely something that would work well for them.

However, there was a reason why South Korea was bound to China in this continental war. This was because of the relationship between the Incarnation of Gluttony and the black dragon.

In the first place, the Incarnation of Gluttony was a being that existed in many countries on every continent, so anyone could obtain him, regardless of their country. As it turned out, the person who got him was none other than Food God Minhyuk, and since he had obtained the Incarnation of Gluttony, all of the quests related to it would be conducted in his country. The same was true for the black dragon. The black dragon could be obtained in any country. It just so happened that the person who had obtained the black dragon was a Chinese player named Jiang Chen.

The Incarnation of Gluttony and the black dragon had to meet and end things once more. However, in this process, they had to fight against China.

'It looks like we only have a small chance of winning...'

At President Kang Taehoon's sigh, every person present in the room also began to sigh.

When Minhyuk came back to the 10th floor, he saw Aruvel sitting in one corner.

"I'm back!"

Aruvel quickly greeted him as he nodded towards the Predatory Snake that was looking at Minhyuk with his yellow eyes.

"This guy has no intention of hurting us."

Minhyuk nodded at Aruvel's words. He said, "I know."

Minhyuk had seen the Predatory Snake in the video. It was a divine beast that was summoned by Great Mage Moldoron, and this great, divine beast was currently in front of him.

The Predatory Snake turned to look at Beanie, who was perched on Minhyuk's shoulders, and once more...

Drop, drop, drop—

...he shed tears.

"Oink?" Beanie cried out in confusion.

The Predatory Snake then turned to look at Minhyuk as his tongue flickered out of its mouth. Then, the notifications rang.

[The Predatory Snake has granted you some of the rewards for the new record by its authority as the guardian of the floor.]

[You have acquired Vietnamese Rice Noodles and Vietnamese Fried Rice (C?m Chiên).]

Minhyuk's body trembled in excitement. There was an unexpected food reward that appeared in front of him.

“You... You're a good guy!!!”

That was when Minhyuk knew that the Predatory Snake was definitely a good guy.

Minhyuk looked at the Vietnamese rice noodles and fried rice in front of him with a pleased and delighted expression.

In the past, Vietnamese rice noodles were quite unfamiliar to the general public. However, in recent years, plenty of people have flocked to Vietnamese restaurants.

Vietnamese rice noodles were usually made with beef or chicken. The bowl of Vietnamese rice noodles that was placed in front of Minhyuk was filled with shredded chicken and chicken soup. There were even plenty of crunchy-looking bean sprouts floating in the milky white soup. Minhyuk personally preferred having plenty of bean sprouts in his Vietnamese rice noodles so this bowl, which was filled with plenty of bean sprouts, was perfectly suited to his taste.

Minhyuk first started his meal by grabbing his spoon and scooping up some of the milky white soup.

‘Wow... So refreshing.’

The taste of the rich chicken broth of the Vietnamese rice noodles strangely tasted similar to samgyetang. The difference was that it was not greasy at all, in fact, it even gave off a refreshing flavor.

Then, Minhyuk grabbed some noodles, bean sprouts and shredded chicken with his chopsticks. He quickly chomped on the perfect mouthful of noodles.

Crunch, crunch, crunch—

The crunching sounds from the bean sprouts were like music to his ears. The bean sprouts, together with the light and chewy rice noodles, as well as the delicious chicken, all came together to create a superb flavor in his mouth.

Minhyuk once again clamped some noodles. He slurped them up deliciously before bringing the entire bowl up to his mouth. Then, he lightly blew on the soup before tilting the bowl and gulping down the hot soup in one go.

“Kghhkh~”

A sharp exclamation of admiration automatically flew out of his mouth. Then, he picked up a spoon as he stretched his hand toward the Vietnamese fried rice.

The official name of the Vietnamese fried rice was Cơm Chiên. In Vietnam, they call 'rice' as 'cơm' and sometimes, they would even put some pineapple chunks in their fried rice. Of course, the flavor was a bit different from the fried rice in his own country, since they used different spices in Vietnam.

Minhyuk quickly scooped up a spoonful of the fried rice. The fried rice had chopped carrots, chopped onions, cocktail shrimps, and small pineapple bits. As soon as he placed it in his mouth, he could immediately taste the unique spice and texture of the rice.

'As expected! Fried rice is the best!'

Kimchi fried rice, vegetable fried rice and Vietnamese fried rice, all of them were truly delicious.

Minhyuk smiled happily as he placed a pickled radish in his mouth together with a spoonful of rice. Whenever he felt parched from the dryness of the fried rice, he would turn towards the rice noodles and gulp some of the soup. Just like that, he ate everything in front of him. Then, the notification rang.

[The Vietnamese Rice Noodles and Vietnamese Fried Rice has a special power that allows you to speak and understand the language of the snakes.]

Minhyuk already knew this fact since he checked the information earlier. In the first place, there were no recorded rewards for this floor. It seemed like it was a meeting place specially set up for the Predatory Snake and the master of the Incarnation of Gluttony.

Then, the Predatory Snake started to give him hints. He said, "A fragment of the golden crown is in the hands of Ankheseramun in the Demon World's Tower."

"Ankheseramun?"

"That's right. She's on the 14th floor and she is the master of the Aelcrei Territory, a territory located on that floor."

"I see. By any chance, can you tell me what happened in the past?"

At his question, the Predatory Snake lowered his head and stared at Beanie. It watched Beanie eat the fried rice and rice noodles that were the exact same replica of what Minhyuk ate earlier.

"I can't tell you. All I can say is..."

The Predatory Snake looked at Beanie sadly.

"...sacrifice."

Then, he opened his mouth again, "Regret."

And his last word, "Birth."

That was the end of his words. The Predatory Snake did not say anything anymore. Then, a bright light engulfed Minhyuk's and Aruvel's bodies.

[The Predatory Snake has warped you to the next floor.]

They disappeared in a flash of light.

Most of the members of Legend Guild had entered the land of the elves and were operating to wipe out the demons in there. Meanwhile, in Valhalla Territory, Deputy Lord Ben was seeking ways to gain more profits through Paladin Corr and the Talmor Religion.

Before Ben knew it, the middle of his empty head was already filled with rich black hair. Grandpa Ben's hobby these days was staring at the mirror and brushing his hair.

"Hmm. It's really abundant."

After Ben brushed his head, he went ahead and sat on the sofa. A man named Rookie was sitting in front of him. Rookie started to read the charts and tables that he had given to Ben the moment he saw the latter sit down.

Rookie was the man that they had left in charge of the finances of Valhalla Territory. He had a fairly good eye for commerce and money. He was also a prominent person that had led a fairly large-scale up and coming group.

'At this rate... I'm pretty sure we'll be able to make even better profits.'

Rookie proposed that they announce Corr's ability to grow hair to be limited. His reasoning was simple. If the ability was limited, rich aristocrats would definitely scramble for it. Anything scarce was something that they deemed worthy of buying. If they did that, then they would be able to sell it for a considerable cost. If this was approved, Valhalla Territory would definitely be able to earn twice as much as what they were earning now.

"How is it?"

"Sounds great."

Knock, knock.

Not long after, the door was opened and a girl came inside.

"Deputy Lord, here's your tea."

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The girl was none other than Haze. When she arrived in Valhalla Territory, Haze had told them that she wanted to work. She even took the initiative to take care of the deputy lord. Although she was new, Deputy Lord Ben readily accepted her proposal since she was bright and intelligent.

Haze placed the tea in front of Ben. In the short three seconds that she had gazed at the documents on the table, she had already read and analyzed the contents of the documents. It was truly an unimaginable speed.

Ben praised, "This could raise our current revenue by more than 300%."

Rookie sighed, "I see, so it's satisfactory. What a relief..."

Just then, a calm voice cut through Rookie's words while he was speaking with the tea cup in his hands. "But, if we use another method, we can increase it by more than 700%."

"...Hmm?"

“Huh?”

The one that cut through the conversation between Ben and Rookie was none other than Haze.