

## Gourmet 281

### Chapter 281: A Strange Date Between Him and Her

Deputy Lord Ben and Rookie both turned to her in confusion. Haze began to speak calmly in order to clarify, "It's very good to have a limited sale. But in the end, limited sales will also run into its limits."

When they heard her explanation, Deputy Lord Ben tilted his head while Rookie's eyes widened in surprise. Rookie, a person who had climbed pretty high up in ranks, believed that this maid was just talking nonsense. He said, "Don't say anything strange in front of the Deputy Lord. Leave."

"No. I didn't say anything strange. I definitely can raise it by 700%."

Haze was confident with her words. She could see that Ben seemed slightly partial to it, but Rookie could not help but jump up in anger. He shouted, "How dare you! Where do you think you are...!"

"Rookie. Sit down. Let's listen to her words."

"...!"

Rookie sat down huffing, trying to calm down after hearing Deputy Lord Ben's words. In the end, he decided to listen to her words first, and scold her for her strange nonsense after.

"Speak," Ben said graciously.

There was only one reason why Ben was smiling kindly to Haze. It was because she spoke up when she had an opinion. She did not even hide it and put it forward. Having something like that could become her biggest weapon.

"Instead of having limited sales, I think we should introduce it more. Your hair will grow once you enter Valhalla Territory. That's what we should tell them."

"How so?"

"If we do that, then people will naturally come here."

Right now, if Ben decided to follow Rookie's proposal and leak the information that the hair growth was limited, most of their clients would only be nobles.

Rookie also protested against Haze's words. He said, "You don't even know the B in business. Don't you know that it's better to sell a small number of toys worth 10 platinum, than sell a large number of toys worth 500 gold? In addition, hair loss and baldness is something that anyone with money will be willing to buy. If you apply them to the nobles, then it will definitely lead to a dramatic effect."

Haze nodded silently as she calmly accepted Rookie's words. In response, she also said, "You're correct. However, what I'm thinking is a little different. First of all, the people's hair were growing thanks to Sir Corr's *'Athenae's Prayer'* and recorder. The scope of this prayer and recorder can be very wide. It is a power that can be delivered to a wide area with the help of a microphone. Of course, if they heard it through the microphone, the effect would be weak. But still, people will be able to grow their hair once they enter Valhalla Territory. Then, through word of mouth, even those without money, will flock to this place."

“...Continue.”

“Whether we gain money or not, we will still be able to attract a lot of people. And these people who come here, where will they sleep, eat and buy souvenirs? Of course, it's here in Valhalla Territory.”

“Ho? In other words, more money will transact once people come in and out of the territory?”

“That's correct.”

Both Rookie and Ben nodded at Haze's words. When Rookie thought about it, he could not help but smile widely.

“You're a more discerning child than I thought.”

Rookie, too was welcoming of a budding child that could grow well. However, he still thought that his suggestion was better than this.

“However, this will increase labor costs. In my proposal, labor cost will become minimal, while we can create the maximum efficiency. This is a way to make money with no effort at all. As for your suggestion, it is making money using a lot of effort. Making 300% increase in profit effortlessly and making a 300% increase in profit with extreme hard work are two different things.”

This was business. They should also value the labor costs and human rights.

However, Haze just asked him with a soft smile on her face, “So Mister Rookie is saying this because you think your method is better overall, right?”

“Of course.”

Ben also looked like he agreed with Rookie. Haze then decided to give them a critical blow.

“What do you think of this, I say that we introduce a territory specialty, and put an incredibly high price on it?”

“Specialty?”

“With my method, we can still see a lot of benefits from the commoners, and if we tell them that if they eat this specialty, the effect of treating their hair loss will increase by several times. Just like I said earlier, Sir Corr's prayer and recorder will only have a minimal effect through the microphone. Even so, this minimal effect will make both the commoners and nobles come here and increase the number of people visiting our territory. Once they come here, that's when we will announce it. *'There's a food that will help you increase the effect of treating hair loss'*. A prime example will be the Voltonis Merchants.”

The Voltonis Merchants was one of the famous department stores. They sell extremely expensive and valuable items. However...

“The Voltonis Merchants only sell expensive things, but their items are also accessible to commoners. They have a lot of platinum-worthy and rare items that commoners dare not look at. But, does that mean that they’re not able to sell it?”

Rookie could not answer her.

*‘They can sell it. No, to be exact, they can’t sell it because they don’t have enough stock.’*

It was because of ‘scarcity’.

“Nobles want to have ‘rare and scarce’ items. Of course, Mister Rookie’s words meant that we should limit the sales and make them rare. But, if we use my method, then we can still attract tourists.”

Haze grinned at them brightly and continued to say, “We can still do limited sales. That’s why I am confident that we can generate more than 700% increase as an effect.”

Both Ben and Rookie were speechless. She was right. They did not need to emphasize the rareness and scarcity of their items just to appeal to the nobles. All they had to do was make them come here and let them buy their specialty product that were only made by hand and stay for a long period of time in their territory. Since the number of tourists would increase and Rookie’s proposal could also be done, they would really be able to make more than a 700% increase in profits.

Haze once again smiled softly when she saw the two of them pondering over her words. Ben just tilted his teacup and smiled pleasantly.

This was the birth of ‘Wealthy Billionaire Haze’, a person who would grab the entire continent’s riches by her hands in the future.

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Just as mentioned before, the Demon World’s Tower was like a miniature Demon World. The Demon World’s Tower was divided into plenty of sections on the ‘normal’ floors, while this was not the case for the ‘Trial’ floors. On the ‘normal’ floors, there were also territories, cities, kingdoms and even empires.

For example, one could go straight to Vaidenue Territory on the 32nd floor from Aelcrei Territory on the 14th floor if they knew the way. This meant that one could move between the general floors.

Ankheseramun, the owner of the Aelcrei Territory, was a demoness, albeit a firm and resolute master. However, these days, she was in big trouble.

*‘Queen Baphomet doesn’t listen to me...’*

Queen Baphomet was a well-known demonic beast in the Demon World. She was also the reigning queen of the Baphomets. It just so happened that Queen Baphomet was not following the control of the demonic beast tamer, Ankheseramun. This contributed to Ankheseramun’s current biggest problem, the drought.

“My Lady, if things continue on like this, the whole territory will dry up.”

“...”

The only way that they could deal with this terrible drought was through Queen Baphomet. Baphomets were basically demonic beasts that were well-versed in magic. Among them, Queen Baphomet was the one with unimaginable power. In addition, among all of the magic that she used, she mainly controlled water. She could easily make rain from a clear sky.

*‘But in the first place, she’s the one that turned this place into a horrible place without any rain?’*

Ankheseramun summoned Queen Baphomet. The summoned woman was sulking. Ankheseramun asked, “What the hell is wrong with you?!!!”

Queen Baphomet just ignored her words.

“Do you want me to give you something delicious?”

“Meeeeeeeh—” Queen Baphomet just bleated at her.

“Then, do you want me to promise not to take you out to hunt for one year?”

“Meeeeeeeh—” She just bleated again.

“How about 3 years?”

“Meeeeeeeeeeeeeeeh—”

“Just what the hell is wrong with you?!”

Compared to the short lives that humans lived, demons could live up to 300 years. And Ankheseramun, who had lived with Queen Baphomet for about 200 years, was wondering why she was suddenly behaving like this. It was as if they were back to day one when she was still sharp and disobedient.

Ankheseramun’s head could not help but ache. She had built her territory under the ‘Peaceful Race’ so it would be ridiculous if she went ahead and attacked other places to deprive them of water.

Just as she was knee-deep in her troubles, a man knocked on her door and knelt on one knee in front of her. The man greeted her, “Lady Ankheseramun.”

“What’s your business?”

Ankheseramun could not help but feel unhappy when she glanced at Queen Baphomet. She crossed her arms and replied briskly at the man who entered.

“A human has come to find you.”

“Human...?”

Ankheseramun’s face could not help but wrinkle at the word ‘human’.

*‘A human came to find me?’*

Of course, her territory was a land of peace, filled with demons that loved peace, so they would not attack humans just because they came into their territory. In fact, she was rather curious as to the reason why a human came to find her.

Ankheseramun was a proud noble demon, someone that a mere human could not easily meet.

“Tell him to get lost if he doesn’t want to die.”

“We said that to him at first. But right now, the human...”

“Now...?”

Ankheseramun felt that something strange must have happened.

“...says that he can make a lot of water.”

“Is that so?”

Ankheseramun pondered over his words. In the end, all she could do was shake her head.

“I’ll listen then.”

She believed that she could just wring his neck if he did something ridiculous in front of her. She was willing to kill, even if she belonged to the peaceful race.

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After listening to the words of the Predatory Snake, Minhyuk quickly climbed up to the 14th floor. However, a terrible sight appeared in front of him when he stepped foot on Aelcrei Territory.

Everything had been dried up and twisted. It seemed like the 40-degree heat that he felt over the asphalt road had been burning for quite a long time. When Minhyuk asked around, he heard that it was because of ‘Queen Baphomet’.

He had also asked the guards how he could meet with Lady Ankheseramun. However, from what he had heard, it seemed like she was nigh impossible to meet.

“Crazy bastard!”

“How dare a human like you meet with our lord!”

“If we weren’t from the peace tribe, then you would have been long dead by now!”

*‘Maybe this is a natural reaction? After all, someone from another race is asking to meet their lord?’*

In fact, it was already hard enough to meet another lord, even if they were of the same race, so it seemed like it was harder if they were of different races.

Minhyuk thought hard before talking to one of the demons who looked like he had a high position. He said, “I’ve got a lot of water~”

“W...water?”

“H...how much do you have?”

“About 8 meters in height.”

“Really?”

“Of course. Would I even lie if I’m in a place where there are a lot of demons like you?”

The demons shook their heads before disappearing in front of him. They told him that they would go and make a report first. Then, after a while, they came back and led Minhyuk inside the Lord’s castle. In the end, he successfully entered the place. The lord of this territory, Ankheseramun, had one of the fragments of the golden crown so he definitely needed to meet her.

The door to the lord’s audience room opened. He could see a woman sitting on a chair by the end of a long red carpet. She even had her legs crossed as she looked at them imposingly.

“You asked to see me?”

“That’s right, my lady,” Minhyuk greeted her politely.

“What’s your business with me?”

“I need the fragment of the golden crown.”

“...!”

Ankheseramun’s eyes widened when she heard his words. She looked flustered for a while but still spoke calmly, “It’s not an item that I can give to just anyone.”

“I’m not trying to get it out of you without something in return either.”

“...Do you mean the water?”

Ankheseramun knew that he was trying to make a deal with her. However, the golden crown fragment was an item that she could not trade even if water had become precious to them.

*‘If he can appease Queen Baphomet, then I will give him the fragment.’*

Getting water was different from getting her back to the way she used to be. The former was only a stopgap measure, but the latter would help them become drought free for a long time.

“The golden crown cannot be exchanged with water. Instead, if you give me water, I’ll grant you another thing that you want.”

“Then, the most delicious thing here. That’s what I want.”

Ankheseramun tilted her head in confusion.

*‘Just something delicious?’*

However, before she could even ask him that, something unexpected suddenly happened.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Queen Baphomet came out of the summoning room all by herself.

“You, you!!!!” Ankheseramun shouted in agitation. Queen Baphomet could not be controlled at all. Just then...

Something really strange happened. Queen Baphomet was staring at Minhyuk, and her cheeks glowed red.

“...?”

“...?”

Both Minhyuk and Ankheseramun could not understand the situation. However, what Queen Baphomet did next was something that was more shocking. She suddenly pulled her hair, no... her black fleece, behind her ears as she shyly glanced at him. It seemed like she was trying to show off her beauty.

“...”

That was when Ankheseramun realized something. She thought, *‘Are you being like this because you wanted to mate...?!!!’*

Was this weird? No, come to think of it, Queen Baphomet had slightly lower intelligence than the average demon. Such a being had not met a male in her 200 years of life. Perhaps this phenomenon was not that unusual. After all, it was obvious that most living beings would want to pair with a mate.

*‘So the question is... why would you even look at a human-like that?’*

Then, right at that moment...

Flaaaaaash—

Minhyuk’s summoning room also opened by itself, as another Baphomet appeared. Then, Queen Baphomet’s eyes began to glow. The Baphomet that appeared in front of her had an elegant figure. He had glossy black fur, finely raised horns, round eyes, and solid, firm thighs that resembled the thighs of a beautiful horse.

A fine note of music floated over Queen Baphomet’s head.

Destiny~~~

*‘This is fate. That’s what this is!!!’*

And...

Gulp—

Queen Baphomet suddenly gulped. Ankheseramun supported her forehead in helplessness. She thought, *‘Why are you gulping?!!!’*

Chapter 282: A Strange Date Between Him and Her

Baphomet was one of the Demon World’s Seven Great Demonic Beasts that was summoned by Pharaoh’s Envoy. Minhyuk had used his ‘Allurer’s Cooking Skill’ on Baphomet and succeeded in taming him. Minhyuk even gave him the name ‘Rune’.

Just like when he appeared in Athenae: Korean War, Rune had always appeared as his miniature version ever since he became Minhyuk's pet. However, right now, he emerged in his complete form. Rune swept his bangs up. Queen Baphomet looked both shy and ecstatic as she watched him.

Meanwhile, Ankheseramun was just staring at this scene with a bewildered expression on her face. Then, Queen Baphomet approached her. In fact, Queen Baphomet and Ankheseramun could not communicate. However, they were able to achieve some sort of 'empathy' between each other over the years. Right now, she was sending a signal through their empathy to Ankheseramun.

*'I like him.'*

"..."

*'Has she really gone crazy?'*

Minhyuk could not help but chuckle as he watched the scene in front of him.

He had heard a lot of information about Ankheseramun from Aruvel. According to Aruvel, Ankheseramun was a wise and powerful ruler. Originally, this territory was like hell on earth. It was a land where demons and demonic beasts could not live at all, a place where not even a single drop of rain fell, such that many would wonder how one could survive in this place. However, she was a woman that successfully established her home in this place. She even ruled over hundreds of thousands of demons in this land. That was how powerful she was. But what was even more surprising was this one thing that Minhyuk knew about her.

*'She's the daughter of the Demon King.'*

Ankheseramun was the daughter of the current Demon King, Alberdo. However, this was something that only a select few knew about. It seemed that right now was the perfect time to gain the favor of the Demon King's daughter.

Ankheseramun easily schooled her bewildered expression to her usual cold and intelligent look. She thought, *'I should first check if this human punk is lying or not.'*?

This man had spoken about water, something that was essential to their territory, just so he could meet her. If his words were a lie, she would not give him any rewards or agree to any of his requests. Even if it were disgraceful and violated her honor, she would kill him right there and then.

"You have to first prove that you can provide us with water. If it's just a very small amount of water that you can only create temporarily, I'll make you regret everything."

Minhyuk nodded his head.

"May I come closer for a moment?"

"Alright."

Then, Minhyuk approached her step by step before handing her a ring. The ring was none other than 'Roves' Ring'. Roves' Ring was a ring that had a special power that allowed Minhyuk to create a huge tidal wave. If Roves' Tidal Wave was used in a place that was large enough to accommodate such a gigantic tidal wave, then their month-long drought would certainly be resolved right now.



Ankheseramun nodded when she saw the information on the ring. She thought, ‘*It’s true.*’?

Then, all that was left was the matter between Queen Baphomet and Rune. She said, “I think that being is your pet. Why don’t you sell it to me?”

When he heard her words, Minyuk just gently shook his head.

*‘The first rule of business! If there’s something that a person really needs, raise its value!’*

“I’m sorry but this Baphomet, Rune, is a comrade that has gone through life-and-death experiences with me. Selling him at a price... is absolutely impossible. If this child dies, then I die with him! I have to follow his wishes!”

Minhyuk’s hustling skills right now were so brilliant that he could even sell the water made from Roves’ Tidal Wave for one platinum per liter. What did Rune really mean to Minhyuk? Other than being a portable refillable lamb skewer, the former was not that special of an existence to him.

“...Is that so?”

Ankheseramun looked a bit embarrassed after hearing his words. That was when the two of them found a point for negotiation.

“Queen Baphomet seems to have a crush on your pet named Rune, but she is a very meticulous being. In fact, I still am not sure if they will really love each other just because they are together. After all, Queen Baphomet is a pure and noble being.”

Indeed, that was the reason why Queen Baphomet did not have a mate despite the plenty of Baphomets present in this place. In fact, if she did not fall in love with them, then she would not even think about staying with them at all. Even though it seemed that she had fallen in love at first sight, her naiveness and purity still remained beautiful and noble. She would only give her body and heart to the Baphomet that she had truly fallen in love with.

“Help these two mate. If you let them mate and raise their satisfaction, then I’ll give you a treasure in this territory. If you manage to achieve the highest satisfaction, I’ll give you the golden crown.”

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

It was a very strange and interesting quest. However, additional notifications followed not long after.

[This is a quest for additional rewards.]

[If Baphomet Rune successfully mates with Queen Baphomet and receives her vitality, Rune will evolve.]

“...!”

*‘Rune will evolve if he receives her vitality?’*

From beginning to end, it was a very strange and unusual quest.

“If I succeed, I ask my lady to give me the most delicious food that you are proud of.”

Minhyuk had heard a lot of information from Aruvel and knew two things about the delicious food that could be found here. The first one was related to Queen Baphomet.

“Delicious food... We do have one specialty. It's none other than Queen Baphomet's milk.”

*‘Queen Baphomet's milk... I wonder how delicious it is?’*

“And, our territory's famous dish is seasoned tripe and chitterlings.”

It was definitely food that he could not help but admire.

A smile would definitely come out if one dipped the seasoned tripe in bean powder. That soft bean flavor that catches the greasiness of the tripe... hmmm! What about the chitterlings? If one bit the chitterlings dipped in the sauce made with red chili paste and mayonnaise, the flavorful and hot seasonings inside would definitely burst and create a harmonious flavor! Finally, after eating both the seasoned tripe and chitterlings?

*‘You have to eat fried rice! Kyaal!’*

Minhyuk could not help but burst out in admiration.

“I promise to give you Queen Baphomet's milk, the seasoned tripe and chitterlings, as well as this territory's treasure, once you achieve 100% satisfaction.”

Those words were enough for him. Minhyuk replied solemnly, “I will do my very best!”

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Minhyuk had to squeeze out everything that he could for Queen Baphomet and Rune's date itinerary! This was his mission, so he had to do his best. However, Minhyuk, Aruvel, Beanie and Rune all faced enormous difficulties.

“Is there anyone here that has ever been in a relationship here...?”

“...”

“...”

“...”

No one answered the question.

“I heard Aruvel has lived for 1,000 years. Have you ever had a relationship?”

Compared to other demons, Aruvel lived a particularly long life.

“I didn’t, because it’s too troublesome.”

When Minhyuk heard those words, he knew that that was just his excuse. Aruvel had been single since birth! Minhyuk could only sigh ruefully in the end. It was truly difficult to plan a date itinerary since the four of them had no dating experience.

Then, Minhyuk suggested something. He said, “Then, I’ll work on a date itinerary first. All of you should look at it later.”

All of them nodded in agreement. 40 minutes later, Minhyuk finished writing his date itinerary plan and handed it over to everyone.

[Minhyuk’s Date Itinerary Proposal!]

Meet up at 7 am to eat.

After the meal, enjoy some drinks and cake as dessert.

Lunch will come after the cake. The lunch must consists some kind of meat.

After lunch, just like some street food, eat grass that’s grown on the ground.

Then, eat some cake and have some drinks.

Eat.

Eat happily ever after.

Enjoy your meal.

Eat deliciously.

“...”

“...”

“...”

All of them were left speechless, while Minhyuk could not understand their silence.

“Why? Isn’t this a really happy date?”

“Oiiink...”

“This is not it. *Hoo...*”

Minhyuk’s head was only filled with thoughts about eating. Then, Minhyuk said, “Why are you dating in the first place? Isn’t it to share food?!”

“I’d rather be the one to do it. Give it here,” Aruvel said as he quickly began to map out a dating itinerary. Sage Aruvel’s dating itinerary! It was something to look forward to.

[Aruvel's Date Itinerary!]

Start the morning with some reading.

Read and discuss books about the philosophy of the demon race.

Read a useful book titled 'What is a race?' together.

Discuss this topic together.?

Go to the garden, lie down together and watch 'The Demon God's Autobiography'.

Discuss.

Have a pleasant discussion.

Read some books.

"..."

"..."

"..."

Everyone else was also left speechless. Minhyuk was sure that Aruvel was someone that learned mating through books and writings! This was the moment when they all realized why he had been single even after living for a thousand years.

*"Meeeeeeeeeeeh—"*

This time, it was Rune that stepped up. Since Rune could not write anything down, he asked Beanie for help and conveyed his thoughts to him. And since Minhyuk could understand Beanie's words, he spoke up what he heard from Beanie.

"1. As soon as you wake up in the morning, give a hug and start a hot morning. 2. Give a deep kiss at lunch and spend more hot moments together. 3. In the evening, in bed... Wait! Everything you said is weird!!!"

Minhyuk realized that Rune was only cute and adorable when he was in a pet state. However, it seemed like he was a 'Pervert Rune' through and through.

In the end, Beanie smiled confidently after watching everything happen. Then, everyone checked what Beanie had written. Looking at what he wrote, the word strange floated in everyone's heads. However, this was the most normal dating course that had been proposed compared to the other three proposals.

"I...I guess this is the best that we can do."

"There's definitely something strange with this, but this has been the most normal proposal..."

*"Meeeeeeeeeeeh—"*

In the end, they decided to follow Beanie's dating itinerary. Then, the thought that popped in Minhyuk's head was...

*'We're doomed...'*

Beanie's proposal was chosen because it was the most normal out of all their proposals. However, in fact, Beanie's proposal was also very strange. At this point, Minhyuk thought that it would be a relief if he even managed to get them to mate. Then, the next day... Rune left early in the morning to go on a date.

Meanwhile, the three of them followed him secretly.

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Rune went to meet Queen Baphomet. When Queen Baphomet met him, she could not help but bow her head shyly. Then, Rune handed her a rose that he had picked up from the side of the road.

*"Meeeeeeeeeh—?(I brought this because I thought of you.)"*

*"Meeeeh??(Oh my god?)"*

Not long after, Rune said something that Beanie had emphasized to him. He definitely told him to say these words.

*"Meeeeeeeeeh—?(However, this beautiful flower looks nothing more than grass when placed in front of you. You... are so beautiful.)"*

Minhyuk balked, *'Uuuuuugh! So cheesy!!! My goosebumps are rising just by thinking about it! I don't think women will like this!'*

Then, something unexpected happened.

*"Meeeeeeeeeh??(Really?)"*

*"Meeeeeeeeeh—?(Of course. Hoho.)"*

Completely contrary to what Minhyuk had expected, it seemed like the response was good.

Then, the two of them moved together.

Queen Baphomet had been very thirsty since she woke up. Because of the long drought, she could not even drink water. They went to the place that Minhyuk filled with water temporarily with Roves' Ring yesterday. Then, the two of them drank some water gently. While they were lapping the water with their fleeting tongues, the two of them made eye contact. Rune swept his bangs up again. He looked at her with his deep and mellow eyes before bleating, *"Meeeeeeeeeh—?(To your beautiful eyes, cheers!)"*

When Minhyuk heard the line, he thought, *'W...we're done for...! That's a poor line from a third-rate drama...!'*

Instead of mating, Minhyuk thought that everything would finally go down the drain. Alas, he was shocked once again.

*"Meeeeeeeeeh—?(You... You're so cool.)"*

Then, he heard a notification.

[Queen Baphomet's satisfaction increased dramatically.]

[She's imagining her mating with Rune.]

"Oink...!" Beanie cried out and smiled proudly.

Chapter 283: A Strange Date Between Him and Her

*'Gasp! This is ridiculous...!'*

It was something that Minhyuk found hard to believe.

*'How can lines like that work?'*

*'No. This is truly ridiculous.'*

It was something that Aruvel agreed upon as well.

"Can you see this? My hair is standing on edge," Aruve said as he showed off the goosebumps that rose on his arms. Meanwhile, Minhyuk thought that they should wait and see.

Rune and Queen Baphomet started the morning with a refreshing drink in the water reservoir before moving forward to eat. They both grazed the grasses on one of the hills in the Demon World. While they were chewing on some grass, Rune turned to her and asked, "Meeeeeeeeeh—?(Do you smell something burning?)"

Minhyuk could not help but get shocked when he heard Beanie's translation.

*'N...no. Th...that line...?'*

"Meeeeeeeeeh??(Something burning?)"

"Meeeeeeeeeh—?(It's because my heart is burning for you.)"

*'Aaaack...!'*

Minhyuk was going crazy. No, perhaps that wasn't it? He knew that Beanie would play music with Minhyuk's 'Music Listening Setting' every once in a while. For the convenience of the player, a 'Beam Project', something that could let you watch TV would often be allowed to be taken to the summoning room. And Beanie had brought it there with him. He wondered what he was using it for but it seemed like Beanie must have brought it there to watch dramas!

However, another unexpected thing happened.

[Queen Baphomet's satisfaction has increased dramatically.]

[She's imagining her mating with Rune.]

Minhyuk was left speechless again and again.

The date between Rune and Queen Baphomet continued. They were walking down the streets together when Rune suddenly spoke up.

"Meeeeeeeeeh—?(Aaaaack!?It's too bright.)"

“Meeeeeeeeeh??(Is it the sun?)”

“Meeeeeeeeeh—?(No, it’s your smile.)”

[Queen Baphomet’s satisfaction has increased dramatically.]

[She’s imagining her mating with Rune.]

He got another notification.

Then, they played tag together.

“Meeeeeeeeeh—?(Come and catch me~!)”

“Meeeeeeeeeh—?(This, this, this~ My lovely and adorable lamb~)”

Just like that, another notification popped up.

[Queen Baphomet’s satisfaction has increased dramatically.]

[She’s imagining her mating with Rune.]

By the end of the date...

[Queen Baphomet’s satisfaction has increased dramatically.]

[She wants to mate with Rune.]

“Th...this can’t be happening... for real...?”

Minhyuk was shocked. No. He was already doubting his thoughts as of the moment. Perhaps Beanie was truly the master of romance?

*‘That’s right. After all, I have never been in a relationship in my entire life...?’*

Then, he had a thought... If he ever got free of his disease and he finally met someone whom he truly loved, he would definitely use the lines: *‘Aaack! It’s too bright. Your smile.’.?*

Beanie slowly approached Minhyuk, before tapping him on the shoulders.

“Oiiink.”

*‘This is the difference between you and me.’*

Beanie then turned to the two beings that were on a date with a faint, yet solemn look. For a moment, it looked as if it was a hidden master. It let out a shrug as Queen Baphomet and Rune disappeared from their sights.

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Truth be told, Queen Baphomet was embarrassed when she heard Rune’s lines for the first time.

*‘To your beautiful eyes, cheers!?’*

For a split second, she wanted to put his head in the water. However, she had no other choice but to put up with it.

*‘I...I also want to feel the touch of a male...!’*

It had been 200 long years, and in all that time, Queen Baphomet had never smelled the scent of a male, let alone date. This was something that was influenced by Ankheseramun. She used to tell Queen Baphomet every day that she was noble and pure, so it got stuck in her head.

However, she was willing to forego everything just to say yes. This was Queen Baphomet's opportunity. Alas, Rune's comments became more and more excessive.

*'No, it's your smile.'*

When she heard that line, Queen Baphomet wanted to summon Hellfire and throw it at Rune's face. Still, she continued to endure it by imagining the very first wonderful night that she would ever have!

That was right. The reason why Minhyuk kept on hearing those favorable notifications whenever Rune's said those cheesy remarks, was because the imagination of the beautiful night that Queen Baphomet wanted was much more powerful than Rune's *'third-rate lines'*.

As for Rune, after coming with her to this place...

*"Meeeeeeeeeh—?(I feel happy just thinking about holding you in my arms.)"*

...had once again spouted his third-rate line. Rune turned to look at Queen Baphomet with a fresh and bright smile, only to be confused.

*"Me, meeeeeeh??(What's that?)"*

It was because Rune saw a whip in Queen Baphomet's hands. She smiled wickedly as she held the whip with her right hand. She even slapped it on her left hand ominously. This whip looked like it was Queen Baphomet's 'Whip of Death'.

*"...!!!"*

Queen Baphomet took the opportunity when she saw Rune's shock. She quickly rushed towards him to start their glorious night together.

And in that place...

*"Meeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeh!"*

...Baphomet Rune's screams rang loudly in the night.

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Minhyuk turned to look at Queen Baphomet and Rune, who was all red and shy, perhaps it was because they spent their night enthusiastically together. Rune was even startled when Queen Baphomet shamelessly pushed her body towards him.

*"Huh?"*

Minhyuk could not help but tilt his head in confusion.

*"Meeeeeeeeeh—?(What's wrong with you?)"*

Queen Baphomet had spoken those words when she saw Minhyuk tilt his head. However, Rune could clearly sense the underlying meaning, behind those words.



*‘Hey. Smile. Pretend that you had fun.’?*

*“Me, meeeeeeeh...”*

Rune flashed an awkward smile towards his owner, Minhyuk.

Meanwhile, after Rune had mated with Queen Baphomet yesterday, he had achieved a remarkable first class growth. Then, Minhyuk approached Ankheseramun. The notifications rang when he stood in front of her.

[You have completed the Quest: Plan a Date Itinerary for Him and Her with 100% satisfaction.]

[You can now receive Queen Baphomet’s Fresh Milk.]

[You can now receive the Demon World’s Fantastic Seasoned Tripe, Chitterlings and Beef Chitterlings.]

[You can now receive 1 fragment of the Golden Crown.]

[You can now view the video: Birth of the Incarnation of Gluttony (2).]

At the order of Ankheseramun, a few demons handed Minhyuk’s rewards to him. The first item that he received was Queen Baphomet’s fresh milk. Upon consumption of the milk, the user’s Demonic Energy stat would increase by 200, along with a 20 points increase in STR and AGI.

Then, the seasoned tripe and chitterlings hat he was looking forward to came out. However, it did not end there. Ankheseramun received a signal from Queen Baphomet. It seemed like Queen Baphomet was truly satisfied. Then, a thought flashed in Ankheseramun’s head.

*‘She’s the same Queen Baphomet that stayed with me for 200 years, but I was only made aware of her loneliness today. It seemed like I had been too complacent.’*

Considering the fact that other creatures would also experience it, Ankheseramun realized that loneliness was only a matter of course. Therefore, she tried to give additional rewards to the human who had solved this problem of hers.

Unlike the combat race, the peaceful race had similar core values with humans. Although they were reluctant to wage war and fight against other races, they would still fight if necessary. They also knew how to repay those that had helped them, albeit occasionally.

Just like that, Ankheseramun gave Minhyuk a chitterlings hot pot as an additional reward.

[You have acquired Chitterlings Hotpot (Large).]

*“...!”*

Minhyuk was both in awe and admiration, feeling truly grateful to Ankheseramun.

“The fragment of the golden crown is a rare item that has been handed down by our ancestors. According to them, this was entrusted to us by the divine beasts, and it is an item that contains a very strong power. However, I was also told that this power can only be used by its true owner.”

Minhyuk nodded when he heard Ankheseramun’s words. However, before he could use the fragment of the golden crown on Beanie, there was still something that he needed to do.

“Can I go out for a while?”

“...?”

Ankheseramun tilted her head as Minhyuk disappeared in front of her. It seemed like there was something really urgent that he needed to do.

*‘It must have been really urgent. I wonder what it is that he needed to do??’*

Ankheseramun was quite interested in the fragment of the golden crown. Although right now, the man seemed to be more interested in something else.

\*\*\*

Sizzle, sizzle, sizzle—

The sizzling sound from a grill resounded in the area. In front of Minhyuk was a stone grill layered with seasoned tripes, chitterlings and beef chitterlings. The chitterling’s oil made the grill sizzle as the sliced onions, chives and garlic were being cooked together.

Gulp—

It was truly a combination that could make anyone drool.

Minhyuk had also made sure to prepare the most basic combination on the table in front of him. On the table was a sauce made with bean powder, mayonnaise and red chili paste. On top of that sauce, there was also a bright red chili paste, together with some seasonings and vinegar chili paste. He also made sure to place some perilla leaves, lettuce, ssamjang, and raw garlic on the table.

While the tripes and chitterlings were grilling, Minhyuk lifted a piece of heart from the grill. The oil on the surface of the heart was sizzling hot. He quickly blew on it before dipping it in sesame oil and salt. Then, he took the piece to his mouth. He was delighted at the savory scent of the sesame oil, as well as the salty taste of the heart that spread in his mouth.

*‘This is the flavor. This is the taste!’*

Minhyuk laughed happily as he ate a few more pieces of the heart. As he continued to eat the heart, the other things on the grill started to get cooked. Although it was called chitterlings, it was divided into abomasum, offal, and other parts. It would also taste differently depending on what part one was eating. The texture of each part was also different.

The first thing that Minhyuk picked up was the abomasum. Then, he dipped the piece, which was empty in the middle, in the sauce made from mayonnaise and red chili paste, before putting it in his mouth. The light, soft flavor of the mayonnaise combined perfectly with the red chili paste’s spicy flavor. The perfect harmony of the sauce added a great flair to the chewy texture of the abomasum.

Chew, chew—

After eating the abomasum, he extended his chopsticks towards the offal. Compared to abomasum, offal was longer and it was filled with white fat inside. As soon as he bit down on it, the fat spread in his mouth making him feel both the heat and smoothness of the offal.

Minhyuk's mouth was easily filled and coated with oil. Then, he went ahead and clamped some seasoned tripe with his chopsticks. He also picked up some chives to go along with it, before putting it in his mouth.

*"Hooo.?Delicious!"*

Minhyuk clamped another piece of tripe. This time, he dipped the tripe in bean powder before eating it. The savory flavor of the bean powder easily caught and complemented the spicy flavor of the tripe.

After Minhyuk finished eating the tripe parts, he quickly picked up his spoon as he scooped some of the chitterlings hot pot.

Boil, boil, boil—

The boiling soup from the chitterlings hotpot was also filled with perilla leaves, something that Minhyuk truly liked.

A smile spread out in Minhyuk's mouth when he tasted the chitterlings hotpot. He quickly picked some chitterlings before dipping it in the same sauce from earlier.

After tasting and eating most of the chitterlings from the hotpot, he then added some knife-chopped noodles into the soup, quickly cooking them before transferring them to a plate. Just like that, Minhyuk began to eat noodles that were cooked in the soup of the local specialty, chitterlings hotpot.

*"Sluuuuuuuuurp!"*

The chewy and spicy flavor that permeated the noodles was a perfect work of art. After eating all of that, Minhyuk turned towards the final highlight, which was none other than fried rice.

Sometimes, when one visited a chitterlings restaurant, they would see a 'Self-help Egg-frying Corner'. Whenever Minhyuk visited that restaurant in the past, he would always make sure to fry an egg and place it on top of his fried rice.

Sizzle, sizzle, sizzle—

The seaweed that he sprinkled over the flattened fried rice danced from the heat. Minhyuk even added three fried eggs on top of it. Then, he quickly poked the top of the yolk of the egg in the middle. The yolk easily burst out and flowed down the rice.

*"Wow... This is like art itself."*

He quickly cut a portion of the egg as he scooped a spoonful of fried rice, before placing it in his mouth. The combination of the fried rice, egg and chitterlings created an extremely fantastic flavor in his mouth.

Scratch, scratch, scratch—

The sound of someone scratching the bottom of the pan rang out loudly. Minhyuk was scraping the pan, making sure to get every last piece of fried rice in his mouth.

*"So happy~"*

Then, he placed a piece of kimchi on top of the spoonful of fried rice before taking a big bite.

*“Hehehe.”*

Whenever his throat felt thirsty and dry, he would hold up a bowl of cold water radish kimchi soup and take a sip.

Before Minhyuk realized it, he had already finished everything in front of him. He looked at the empty bowls and plates with a huge smile on his face.

[You have eaten the Demon World’s Seasoned Tripe and Chitterlings.]

[Food God’s Greatness.]

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

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

[You have gained +230 Demonic Energy, +25 STR, +24 AGI.]

Smiling at the notifications, Minhyuk finally wrapped up his food party by drinking some cider to cleanse his palette.

Originally, chitterlings should be enjoyed with a shot of soju, but he did not do so since he still had things to confirm and check. One of them happened to be the ‘Birth of the Incarnation of Gluttony (2)’ video .

Minhyuk wanted to check it immediately. Just like before, his soul escaped from his body as the second video started to play.

Chapter 284: A Strange Date Between Him and Her

Just like the last time, explanations rang as the second video began to play.

[The Three Great Divine Beasts that awakened the Supreme Divine Beast went back with him. They locked the Supreme Divine Beast in a ‘control room’ and observed him. The Supreme Divine Beast’s power was limited and restricted when he was inside the control room.]

The Envoy of Incarnation, Baroque, called Penrus before sitting down together with the other divine beasts masters.

“The Supreme Divine Beast is just a baby piggy...”

“That’s not what crossed my mind. Is he at ‘peace’ right now?”

Moldoron shook his head when he heard the Dragon Monarch’s words, and said, “We should not be complacent. He’s still the Supreme Divine Beast. Perhaps, he’s hiding his true self.”

“Let’s go to the control room first.”

All of them stood up and walked in front of the control room. Everything inside the control room was white. It was a place where no power could be used and they had kept the Supreme Divine Beast, a baby piggy, inside it.

“Where did he go...?!”

Moldoron tried to check on the baby piggy through the slits on the iron door, but was left in a fluster when there was no baby piggy in sight. Baroque also tried to look for the baby piggy through a small gap, but he could not see him at all.

“Th...this...!”

Just as they were exclaiming in surprise...

“Oink!!!”

The creature that they were looking for suddenly appeared behind them. He was smiling widely at them with a face that was covered with whipped cream.

*‘I... I did not even feel him...?’*

*‘He... he got out of the control room on his own...?!?’*

*‘Unbelievable!’?*

The baby piggy approached them slowly, as he held out one of the things he was eating towards them.

“Oink!!!”

The baby piggy was smiling at them brightly as if he was greeting his friends. Alas, the three great divine beasts were all afraid. This was a being that could move out of the control room on his own and approach them without even alerting them.

Baroque slapped his hands away and said, “M...Monster...”

“W...what kind of power do you possess?!”

“What are you planning?!”

Even though they were the ones that broke the Supreme Divine Beast out, the three great incarnations remained suspicious of him. It was because of their ‘fear’. Terror gripped their beings when they thought that the Supreme Divine Beast they had awakened could become a ‘disaster’.

The baby piggy tilted his head at their questions. Then...

Flash—

The baby piggy disappeared in a flash of light and appeared in front of Penrus.

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

The baby piggy appeared in front of Penrus and carefully reached out to stroke his head. Then, he laughed happily.

“Oiiiink!!!”

“R...ridiculous...”

“That’s Penrus’ ‘Speed of Light’...!”

The power that the baby piggy had just used was—

It was an ability that only Penrus had, the Speed of Light, a skill that would bring forth a flash of light while allowing the user to narrow the distance all at once.

“Grrrrrrrrrr!”

Penrus felt afraid when he felt the touch of the Supreme Divine Beast on his head. He even tried to slam his body onto him. However, just as they were about to hit, a black barrier appeared in front of the Supreme Divine Beast.

Baaaaaaaang!!!

“...!”

“...!”

“Isn’t this the Dragon of Destruction’s ‘Dragon Protection’?”

That was the moment that they realized that the Supreme Divine Beast had the ability to use the abilities of other beings. He was a very dangerous being, truly deserving to be an object of terror.

“Oiiink?”

The Supreme Divine Beast tilted his head as he looked at Penrus in confusion. Everyone felt afraid when they saw him.

Then, the explanation began to appear again.

[The three Great Divine Beasts and their owners had learned the power of the Supreme Divine Beast. Instead of feeling relief, they all felt a greater sense of fear. As a result, they became more distanced, repulsive, and disgusted with the Supreme Divine Beast. They even locked the Supreme Divine Beast in the ‘Ten-Thousand-Year Cold Iron Room’. They pushed the Supreme Divine Beast inside the Ten-Thousand-Year Cold Iron Room that had borrowed power from the God of Athenae.]

In the end, they decided not to use the power of the Supreme Divine Beast in their battle against the Black Dragon Vormon. If the Black Dragon Vormon and the Supreme Divine Beast were on the same side, the world would really end.

Eventually, the final war broke out.

“Die!!!”

“Give up the entire Asgan Continent!!!”

“Only the people of our Irucan Continent will come out alive of this!!!”

Tens of millions of humans fought a fierce battle during the continental war.

“Keu...keuaaaaaack!”

“Ugh...aaaaaack!”

Screams and shrieks ran rampant all over the world.

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

Hundreds of thousands of magical spells and arrows rained down, washing the world with blood. Then, three white pillars of light suddenly flashed in the sky.

Baaaaaaaang—

All the beings that were fighting intensely stopped and focused on the pillars of light. The Incarnation of Light, Penrus, together with the Envoy of Incarnation, Baroque, appeared.

“Stop all these pointless battles!!! Stop taking each other’s lives!!! The war should end here!!!”

Moldoron swung his huge staff.

“Everyone, wake up!!! Break free from Black Dragon Vormon’s brainwashing!!! This is a war that began with an intention to paint the world in blood!!!”

“From this point on, we, the Three Great Divine Beasts, will deal with any of you that continue to fight!!!”

Everyone paused in their movements. Then, a bright light burst from the Incarnation of Light, Penrus’ mouth.

[Light Serenade]

[Any anger and desire to kill subsides.]

“I...I don’t want to fight...”

“I want to live.”

“I’m so sick and tired of all of these pointless battles.”

They all relaxed their grip on their weapons as they stopped fighting. If someone fought, then the Three Great Divine Beasts would mete out punishment upon them.

Then...

*“Garararararaaack!”*

A terrifying roar rang out, and along it, black tendrils began to engulf the humans once more.

[Vormon’s Roar]

[Black Dragon Vormon’s ‘Destructive Instinct’ had been triggered.]

[Rage, jealousy and envy will dominate.]

Poof—

*“Keuaaaaaack!”*

“Kill!!!!”

“Go die!!!!”

The Three Great Divine Beasts had expected this to happen. They turned to look at a huge mountain peak from far away. From there, a gigantic being that was as large as a mountain started to spread its black wings and fly.

“Three Great Divine Beasts... Spare your efforts. Humans are ultimately greedy, arrogant and conceited beings. Once they all disappear, this world will regain ‘stability’ as powerful beings like us reign over this world.”

“Stop spouting nonsense!”

“Without them, this world will not exist!”

“Then, death is the only thing that waits for you.”

Black Dragon Vormon immediately flew towards them. In his webbed and polymorphed hands was a sword that was glistening with black light.

The Three Great Divine Beasts had already realized that they would not be able to subdue Vormon with force. Hence, they brought a parchment with the power from the ‘Book of Taboos’. It was none other than the ‘Sealing Pledge’. This parchment would allow them to seal him once his HP drops to 50%. However, they had to exchange their lives for it.

“Penrus!!!”

“Four Legendary Dragons!!!”

The Dragon Monarch, Baroque and Moldoron started to struggle against Black Dragon Vormon.

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

Unfortunately, Black Dragon Vormon was extremely powerful. Magic would pour out and rain on them with each swing of his sword.

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

“Keuaaaaack!”

“Kyaaaaahack!”

They were able to deal damage to Black Dragon Vormon, but try as they did, they could not even bring his HP down to 50%. The Three Great Divine Beasts and their owners all gathered in one place, feeling stunned and overwhelmed by the power of Black Dragon Vormon. Even the humans could not overcome his power as they continued to fight fiercely against each other.

“Keuheuk!”

“Grrrrrrr...”

Penrus, the Four Legendary Dragons, and the Predatory Snake were all bleeding and in danger. Then, a huge explosion suddenly bloomed at the ground where they were all gathered.

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

The power of this explosion was enough to drive the war to its end, and push the Three Great Divine Beasts to the brink of death in one fell swoop.



“...N...no!”

Baroque fell in despair.

“...Sorry.”

The Dragon Monarch smiled faintly at the dragons that fought alongside him.

“This world is going to ‘end’.”

Moldoron felt death encroaching upon them. Then...

Crack—!

The space in the air was torn apart as an unknown hand came out of the space. It was a tiny hand that resembled that of a baby piggy’s hand.

[The Ten-Thousand-Year Cold Iron Room is being destroyed with physical force.]

[The durability of the Ten-Thousand-Year Cold Iron Room has decreased dramatically.]

[The Ten-Thousand-Year Cold Iron Room is being destroyed with physical force.]

Not long after, the baby piggy’s body slowly came out of the torn-apart space.

[The Ten-Thousand-Year Cold Iron Room has been destroyed with physical force.]

The torn space suddenly squeezed as the being emerged out of the opening.

“Oiiiink!”

Flaaaaaash—

A huge golden pillar of light suddenly appeared in the hands of the baby piggy, before it swung strongly.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Vormon’s power was so huge that every explosion in the ground had the same intensity. Each explosion was accompanied by black mists and currents of energy. The only difference between the baby piggy’s power and Vormon’s power was that the tendrils were golden.

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

The huge force from the golden pillar of light clashed with Vormon’s power and caused a huge explosion. The golden pillar of light flew up as the baby piggy appeared in front of Moldoron using the Speed of Light.

“Oink.”

The baby piggy smiled brightly at him. Then, the baby piggy took the ‘Sealing Pledge’ parchment from the Book of Taboos that Moldoron was trying to use in exchange for his life.

“Th...this...!”

“Oink.”

The baby piggy smiled at him as he disappeared in a flash of light. Before they knew it, the baby piggy was already rushing towards Vormon. In his hand was the same sword that Vormon was using.

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

The entire world shook whenever their swords clashed and collided. However, the Supreme Divine Beast never lost an inch against the Black Dragon Vormon. Still, that did not mean that he was overwhelming Vormon with strength either.

Looking at him, the masters of the Three Great Divine Beasts realized one thing...

*‘He could get out of the Ten-Thousand-Year Cold Iron Room any time he wanted so why didn’t he...?’?*

*‘Is it because he knew that we were afraid of him...?’?*

As the fight prolonged, the wounds inflicted on the baby piggy’s body increased, and the same was true for Black Dragon Vormon.

*“Keuaaaaack!?Cocky bastard!”*

*“Oiiink!”*

The baby piggy desperately held on. He did not back down even if the wounds on his body increased. Black Dragon Vormon suddenly changed his target, as he aimed a huge amount of damaging force toward the humans and the Three Great Divine Beasts.

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

The baby piggy used his entire body to block off the huge force that flooded straight toward the humans.

*“Oiiiiink!”*

Then, he rushed back to Vormon. He gave it his all and eventually inflicted a serious injury on Black Dragon Vormon’s body.

*“Keuaaaaaack!”*

The bleeding baby piggy looked like he was about to kneel over, but he continued to cling to Vormon’s body.

“No...!” Moldoron shouted without realizing it. However, the baby piggy just looked back at him with a broad smile on his face. It was just like the smile he had shown them when they first met. His smile made him look like he was really happy. At that moment, Moldoron and the other owners of the Three Great Divine Beasts felt disgusted with themselves.

*“Oink!”*

And...

Rip—

...the parchment that carried the seal was torn apart, and Black Dragon Vormon's body began to split and separate.

*"Kyaahaaaack!"*

Vormon's body split into hundreds. Then, the hundreds became thousands, the thousands became tens of thousands, the tens of thousands became millions, until his body became fragmented that all they could do was float in the air. Then, the seal started to suck the tiny pieces into it.

"This will never be the end of this!!!"

Before he could be sealed, Black Dragon Vormon warped his body as far as he could with the last bit of his strength. The being that was supposed to be sealed had disappeared. However, they were certain that the place that he warped into would be sealed.

Then, the baby piggy began to fall from the air.

Flash—

Penrus hurriedly used Speed of Light. He caught the falling baby piggy with a gentle bite, before carefully putting him on the ground.

"..."

No one spoke. Everyone felt bitter and sorry for keeping the baby piggy away and locking him up because of their fear. They thought that it was ironic. It was them that awakened him because they needed him, but they were too afraid of him, so they kept away from him and locked him up.

However, the baby piggy just slowly reached out his tiny hands and stroked Penrus' chin, just like he did with his head back then.

"Oink...!"

Then, he smiled broadly with his usual bright smile before closing his eyes. They blamed themselves thoroughly as they watched the baby piggy turn cold.

That was the end of the continental war.

[Three years later.]

Time slowly passed by. The Three Great Divine Beasts together with their masters stood together at the site. They all looked at a huge statue that was built and erected in front of them.

"We will never forget your noble sacrifice. From this point on, we will serve you as our 'king'."

"Since you love to eat and your ability is strangely similar to devouring and cloning other's abilities, I will give you the title 'Incarnation of Gluttony'."

"For your sake, I will use the Resurrection Pledge from the Book of Taboos. In the distant future, our descendants will definitely apologize to you."

"You are our 'friend' and our king, and we will call you by the name 'Vernaroche'."

Then, Moldoron moved with a golden crown in his hands.

“I order this in the name of the Three Great Divine Beasts. Using the Book of Taboos, we wish to awaken you once again. His power will remain in this golden crown, and he will awaken in the same form that he had before. When he awakens, he won’t have much of his power, and he will only get his power once he collects all of the fragments of this crown. Every time he collects a piece, he will also receive a ‘Dish Made from Heavenly Cooking Ingredients’ as a gift. To his master, when the day comes that Vernaroche’s seal has been lifted, collect the fragments of the golden crown. And...”

Moldoron turned to look around. The owners of the Divine Beasts smiled and spoke together with him. They said, “...please cherish and treasure him.”

Chapter 285: A Strange Date Between Him and Her

After watching the video until the very end, Minhyuk realized what the Predatory Snake had meant.

*‘Sacrifice, regret, birth.’?*

The name ‘Incarnation of Gluttony’ was a name that was given to Beanie by the Three Great Incarnations after his death. In addition, they hailed him as their king, in honor of his sacrifice for them.

Then, the notifications rang.

[The video of the Birth of the Incarnation of Gluttony (2) has ended.]

[You can now read the Incarnation of Gluttony’s Diary Entry (2): ‘I’m Fine’.]

[A quest will be triggered once you read Diary Entry (2).]

Minhyuk quickly read the contents of Diary Entry (2) as soon as the notifications rang.

[The friends who awakened me locked me up in a white room. They looked like they’re scared of me. However, I’m fine. I understand them. When the wolf with white fur attacked me, I could tell that they locked me in this Ten-Thousand-Year Cold Iron Room because of fear. It seemed like they’re more afraid of me than I first thought.]

Still, I like them a lot. I didn’t want to hurt them. I didn’t want them to be afraid of me. So, all I did was stare at them from inside the room.

I did not know why, but watching them like that made me cry again. I felt so happy just watching them. They were the first people who made me smile.]

*I also heard that they will have their final fight tomorrow as I listened to them in this Ten-Thousand-Year Cold Iron Room.*

I also want to be a source of strength for them.

I want to help them.]

I want to be ‘friends’ with them. ]

The words ended there.

Minhyuk thought that the words and the videos would disappear after he finished watching the video, like what happened earlier, but that was not the case at all. Instead, he received another set of notifications.

[You are the owner of the Incarnation of Gluttony.]

[The supplement to the Incarnation of Gluttony's last Diary Entry would be released.]

Then, the letters in front of Minhyuk were rearranged.

[When I opened my eyes again, they were there. They used the Book of Taboos to save my life. Although they couldn't see me, I could still see them. I felt happy that they were finally my friends. They kept on saying sorry to me, but I was fine.]

Friends, stop saying sorry. I'm happier than ever at this very moment. This is the very first time that I ever had 'friends'.

To the person who's reading this diary, I'm asking for a favor.?

Please be my friend.

I will not betray you, and I will care about you more than anyone else.?

So please.]

Minhyuk read the letter until the very end. He felt heartbroken by the words that were written in the diary.

Beanie was a very energetic and happy pet. There were times when he was 'Serious Beanie', and there were times when he was 'Playful and Mischievous Beanie'. However, by now, Minhyuk was certain that Beanie cared about him; in his heart, he also cherished Beanie.

After watching all these videos, Minhyuk was certain of one thing.

*'This video is a hint of what's going to happen.'*

The event that would happen in the future. The hint that was related to that episode was extremely obvious. There was also the black dragon that warped his body just before the seal was completed. Perhaps, this was a sign that he would reappear once again. That was something that could easily be interpreted from the hints that he had gathered. More importantly...

*'You can make a whole roast with the black dragon!!!'*

There were a lot of recipes that Minhyuk wanted to try in *Athenae*. One of them happened to be a Dragon's Breath Roast!!!

*'It's somewhat possible!'*

Then, Minhyuk returned to the place where he was before. After returning, he immediately checked the fragment of the golden crown.

Minhyuk immediately used the golden crown fragment on Beanie.

[You have used the Fragment of the Golden Crown.]

[The Fragment of the Golden Crown is applied to Beanie, the Incarnation of Gluttony.]

At that exact same moment, the golden crown fragment that Beanie received from Minhyuk started to move. The fragment of the golden crown slowly landed on Beanie's head before being sucked into his body.

[All of the fragments of the Golden Crown must be collected first before the Golden Crown appears.]

Then, the notifications continued to ring.

[The fragment of the Golden Crown will unlock a part of the Sealed Incarnation of Gluttony.]

[At someone's discretion, a part of his power has been randomly freed from the seal.]

[Beanie has acquired the Active Skill: 'Predator's Acquisition'.]

The moment Minhyuk saw that 'a part of his power has been randomly freed' in the notification, he knew it was talking about Penrus, the Incarnation of Light. Then, he immediately looked at Beanie's status window.

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

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

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

?Passive Skill: Instinctual Protection

?Active Skill Predator's Acquisition

?Can now equip three artifacts.

Active Skill

?You can acquire and learn most of your opponent's debuff skills, attacks, and magic through predation.

?You can replicate one skill. The replicated skill can only be used twice.

?Replicated Skill has a cooldown of 72 hours.

?The Replicated Skill can also be used by the owner of the Incarnation of Gluttony.

Predator's Acquisition was quite a remarkable skill. There was only one reason: it had no 'requirements'. According to the Predator's Acquisition skill, Beanie would be able to acquire and even learn the skills of someone above Level 700. An example of a skill that was beyond Level 700 was Black Dragon Vormon's Dragon's Breath.

*'What will happen if you can acquire that skill and use it again?'*

The answer was obvious. This meant that Beanie could even use a power that was beyond his

The quest looked almost identical to the first quest. After collecting the first fragment of Beanie's golden crown, Minhyuk began to list out the information that he had gathered for the first 50 floors of the Demon World's Tower in his head. He quickly formulated a 'plan'.

*'Shall we feed Calauhel some big shit with Beanie's Predator's Acquisition?'*

Then, he went and met Ankheseramun again.

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Calauhel was able to successfully hunt Cerberus on the 34th floor without using any of his skills. After killing Cerberus, he finally received his last clue about his change of class to Maestro of Destruction.

Then, one being suddenly appeared in front of him.

"My descendant. Have you finally reached this place?"

He was King Arthur, a person who had once shaken the entire continent with his own hands. Arthur was widely-known for uniting all of the continents in the past. In other words, the Royal Class 'Maestro of Destruction' was a shortcut to becoming the continent's King.

Calauhel could not help but feel delighted after hearing more information about the Maestro of Destruction. Of course, there was a setback of growing his kingdom step by step. He needed to grow his own kingdom into an empire, before taking over the entire continent. Still, it was a fascinating thought for him. Controlling Athenae, as the world's wealthiest that was.

Calauhel nodded.

“The power that you can use to walk the path that I walked lies on the 40th floor. You have to go there with your most loyal subjects. In addition, your loyal subjects will bring you ‘pieces of the shattered blade’. With the pieces of the shattered blade, you will be able to gain the power to hunt Diablo at the end of the quest. You can’t kill Diablo unless you have the power of the Demon King, or Ankhasads’ Judgment from the daughter of the Demon King. As an exception, collecting the six pieces of the shattered blade will give you the ‘Dagger of Mortality’. Diablo could easily be killed with just a single attack from this blade. Doing this will let you sit on the throne at the end.”

That was it. That was the end.

Calauhel had summarized everything from the clues and points that he had gathered.

- Go to the 40th Floor.
- This has something to do with using my strongest subordinates.
- My loyal subjects should pass the trials and give me the pieces of the shattered blade.
- I need to gather the pieces of the shattered blade to get the Dagger of Mortality. I need to use that dagger to stab Diablo straight in the chest.

Then, he suddenly asked a question, “Why do I need to stab him in one strike?”

“Just like I said, you can never win against Diablo without the power of the Demon King or Ankhasads’ Judgment from his daughter.”

“Who knows? I don’t think it’s right for you to say that you can’t win completely against him.”

King Arthur laughed at his lofty words.

Calauhel was conceited. He had always placed people under his feet ever since he was young. Just as his face was about to crumple, King Arthur spoke once again, “He’s a sly and villainous demon that has been created from the condensed powers of the three great demons. Although a long time had passed and he had already weakened, based on the calculations by you, foreigners, his strength is still comparable to a Level 700 being.”

“...!”

Calauhel’s current level was Level 529.

*‘Perhaps there are still a lot of things that haven’t been cleared up in Athenae??’*

Calauhel had no choice but to swallow his pride.

“The Dagger of Mortality has a hidden, or whatever it was, power that can bring your opponent to a ‘stunned’ state. If you use that power, it wouldn’t be hard for you to press a sword through the stunned Diablo’s chest.”

Calauhel nodded before adding another point to his summaries. The final point, number ‘5’.



- Putting all these things together, I estimate that collecting those pieces will not be an easy task.

In fact, Calauhel knew that his final trial would easily be resolved once he had the dagger in his hands. It would not be hard to pierce Diablo's chest with the blade once he was in a stunned state.

Not long after, King Arthur's faint body disappeared and scattered in the air. After seeing that, Calauhel decided to summon his men. He was also a Monarch Class, so he could easily summon his guild members. However, his class was a bit special. It was because Calauhel could summon his guild members, party members or even servants.

The people whom he was trying to summon were all of the world's rankers, including Deru, the 11th ranked warrior class player, and Leverlin, the 12th ranked tamer class player.

*'I'll become the Maestro of Destruction soon...!'*

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Meanwhile, Ankheseramun was telling Minhyuk the locations of one of the remaining fragments of the golden crown. It was on the 50th floor, the top of the Demon World's Tower.

One of the Demon World's Tower's creators and one of the Four Heavenly Kings had informed her that a fragment of the golden crown was located in that place, together with the treasure that could help Minhyuk make a Demigod oven.

It had been Ankheseramun's mission to speak of the location of the fragment of the golden crown to the rightful owner of the Incarnation of Gluttony. However, right now, she was looking at Minhyuk with confusion painted on her face. She asked, "Wh...what?"

"The one and only daughter of the Demon King, Ankheseramun."

"Th...that... How..."

This was a fact that only a few people knew about.

*'How the hell did you know about this?'*

This was something that only the Demon King and the Four Heavenly Kings knew.

*'No, to be exact...'*

It was information that only the Sage Aruvel, that once served the Demon King, knew.

*'But how does Minhyuk know that?'*

Then, he spoke of something even more incomprehensible, "Can you show us Ankhasads' Judgment?"

Minhyuk had just asked her to show and use the Ankhasads' Judgment on Beanie, the owner of the golden crown.

Chapter 286: A Strange Date Between Him and Her

Diablo.

The three great demons of the Demon World were so powerful, that the demonic energy which leaked from their body was strong enough to kill all of the plants and animals in the Demon World, suffocating life. As a result, the three demons decided to create a basin that would suck off their excess demonic energy. Their only requirement for the basin was that it should have a body that was attuned to nature, which could withstand their mana.

However, they were not able to find such a body in the Demon World. They searched high and low, even venturing to the Heavenly and Elven realms, and still could not find a body fit to become the basin for their demonic energy.

Eventually, they went to the human world. And there, finally, they were able to find an existence that would fit their requirements. He was a young boy, whose body was extremely attuned to nature, and he had amazing talent. They immediately brought the boy to the Demon World to become their demonic energy's basin. However, something unexpected happened.

*'He was too powerful.'*

The boy that they brought in to become a vessel for their demonic energy had grown formidable after sucking up their demonic energies. The more demonic energy he absorbed, the more he grew. The great devils had no choice but to stop his body from growing further. Even then, no one in the Demon World could beat him.

The former Demon King had called him the 'Lesser Demon', though he was known by another name, Diablo. And this boy was locked up on the 40th floor of the Demon World's Tower, in the fear that he would go on a rampage someday.

Diablo could only be defeated through three methods. He could be killed with the power of the Demon King, Ankheseramun's ability: Ankhasads' Judgement, or with the Dagger of Mortality, with its fragments hidden all over the 40th floor.

*'He wants me to show him the power of Ankhasads' Judgment?'*

"Your reason?"

"There's a place that I need to use its power on."

Ankheseramun's brows furrowed. Minhyuk immediately said, "Ah!? I can keep secrets well!"

Minhyuk gestured as if he was zipping his mouth shut. That was when Ankheseramun realized...

*'This is a trade, isn't it?'*

There were many reasons why Ankheseramun was hiding here despite being the daughter of the Demon King. It was something that absolutely could not be released to the world as of yet.

Ankheseramun shook her head. She knew that it was not that big of a deal to show him her power. The problem was that Ankhasad's Judgment's single attack was strong enough to match the Demon King's strongest one-shot skill. She believed that this baby piggy would not be able to withstand such strength.

*'But you want me to attack him?'*

“What if he dies?” Ankheseramun asked, unaware that Minhyuk was well-informed about Ankhasad’s Judgment. However, Ankheseramun was sure of one thing, Minhyuk was looking down on her ability. So, even if the baby piggy died, she would consider it as a price that Minhyuk had to pay for daring to make a ‘deal’ with her.

Step, step.

Ankheseramun stood up from her chair. Then, she used Ankhasad’s Judgment.

Ankhasad’s Judgement was a one-shot attack, belonging to Gorac, one of the three great demons. A small black spear suddenly popped out in the empty space in front of her. The black spear immediately flew towards Beanie.

Shwaaaaaak—

The spear was filled with demonic energy to the point that it was vibrating strongly in the air. Just looking at the power contained in this single attack was enough to make anyone shudder. But at that moment...

[Predator’s Acquisition]

[Use any of your opponent’s abilities through predation.]

Beanie’s mouth suddenly widened. Then, he pointed his open mouth towards Ankhasad’s Judgment that was flying straight at him.

Aaaaaaaah—

Then...

Shwaaaaaak—

...Ankhasad’s Judgment started to get sucked into his mouth. As for Beanie?

“Oink?”

He remained peaceful and calm.

“...!”

Ankheseramun could not help but be shocked.

*‘Th...the ability to nullify all the damage...!’?*

No, from what Ankheseramun could see, Beanie did not nullify the skill. Instead, he had eaten it.

Swoooooosh—

Beanie’s mouth slowly closed as Ankhasad’s Judgment faded away. Then, Beanie gulped as a notification rang.

[Beanie has devoured Ankhasad’s Judgment.]

[You can now check the information about Ankhasad’s Judgment.]

## Active Skill

?A powerful force with an additional 1,200% attack will pierce through the enemy at once, ignoring 50% of the enemy's magic defense.

?When facing the Lesser Demon, Diablo, additional attack increases to 2,000%, while the percentage of ignoring the magic defense increases to 80%.

“...!”

Minhyuk was shocked.

‘C...crazy...?’

It was a ridiculously strong attack.

‘How strong are the Demon King and Ankheseramun, really...?’

They had skills like this? Of course it would definitely be their strongest one-shot skill. But, did it even make sense to deal an additional 1,200% damage?

‘If we're able to collect the rest of the golden crown's fragments here...’

It was a little hard for him to imagine how strong Beanie would become once that happened.

“Thank you for everything!”

As usual, Minhyuk gave his thanks to Ankheseramun with politeness and enough courtesy.

Neither of them knew that the meeting of two great beings would happen once again in the future.

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Calauhel's face was currently distorted. He growled, “Useless.”

The world rankers shut their mouths tightly when they heard his words. Deru, the 11th in the world's integrated rankings, could not help but curse Calauhel in his head. He thought, ‘*Damn bastard.*’

If it was not for the money, Deru would not even follow Calauhel. They were not people that could be treated like this. Regardless, they still accepted his rage since Calauhel's offer was extremely ridiculous.

‘*Eight billion for each individual...*’

They could not imagine how much money he had.

All of the rankers currently gathered at this location were the best of the best. Deru himself was ranked second in the Global Warrior Rankings and eleventh in the Global Integrated Rankings. Tamer Leverlin also ranked first in the Global Tamer Rankings, and twelfth in the Global Integrated Rankings. All of the people gathered here were above Level 500.

These rankers were the key members of Blackstone. Their combined strength was enough to wipe out a huge territory by themselves. And that was when there were only six of them in their group.

But even if they were only a scant few numbers, they were confident enough to achieve a feat like that.

However, despite their confidence, they could not solve this stumbling block in front of them.

“I can’t believe not a single one of you knows a chef that can bewitch a monster with their food.”

The trials on the 40th floor could be challenged a total of ten times. Even if they failed the floor, they would not be forced to log out nor receive penalties. As they continued to move, they were able to learn a lot about the trials on the 40th floor.

The first trial was about darkness. During the trial, the mages’ detection magic was completely useless. Even the talented Calauhel was helpless in the face of the traps, magic, and mobs that silently appeared within the darkness. They were only able to pass the trial thanks to one person. That person was none other than the assassin-class player Amber who ranked 27th in the Global Rankings.

Assassins were characters accustomed to the darkness. They also had the passive skill ‘Five Senses’. This Five Senses skill allowed assassins to feel a lot of things in the dark. However, despite reaching Level 9 in her Five Senses, Amber still found it hard to overcome the first trial. This meant that taking on each trial was only possible for beings that reached the top of their professions.

When they reached the second trial, they found out that they needed to tame a demonic beast. Thankfully, they were able to complete the trial with the help of Leverlin, the 12th in the Global Integrated Rankings.

The third trial was meant for the tanker in their group. With each of them using their specialties, they were able to clear the fourth and fifth trials.

Calauhel was a Monarch Class, one that sat on top of the other monarchs. Perhaps, the operators had placed this series of challenges for people like Calauhel. They deliberately did this to ensure that the monarch would have men who could help him once he gained the Royal Class.

Alas, they encountered a problem in the final trial, the sixth trial. The sixth trial required them to get the monster Verogan to drool over food. Verogan was a monster in pursuit of great delicacies and flavors. The monster was well over four meters in height. And they were asked to tempt and bewitch such a monster with food.

When things did not work out, Calauhel launched an all-out assault with the people whom he brought. They tried to kill Verogan, only to be sent back to the place where they started before they challenged the trials. The meaning was simple, if they did not follow what the notification had told them, then they would not be able to complete the trial. The problem was that all of the fragments of the blades that they had acquired would also disappear once they were sent back to the beginning.

Hence, they immediately invited one of the world’s best chefs. He was the Level 416 Chef, Veron. However, they still failed. Chef Veron was well-known for putting ‘poison’ in his food. Because of this, they were not able to meet the requirement of ‘delicacy’.

They tried twice with Veron, but they failed in both attempts. As a result, their ten chances to challenge had diminished considerably. So far, they have already tried eight times. They only had two more chances left, so they had to be careful.

However, there were only two chefs who popped into Calauhel's head.

Twilight Chef Black.?

He was one of the best chefs in Korea, and was also one of the world's top ten chefs. However, Calauhel did not know his in-game code, so he could not send him a whisper. In fact, contacting him was not that easy either. Twilight Chef Black was already one of the wealthiest men in the food and restaurant industry, so he would not be easily moved with money. In addition, his personality would bring them a lot of risks.

So that left Calauhel with the final choice.

*'Food God Minhyuk.'*

Food God Minhyuk was quickly climbing up the tower. Calauhel was certain that the trial could be cleared with his dish. However, there was a problem. Minhyuk had recognized Calauhel as his 'enemy'. Looking back at the steps that Calauhel had taken, it was only natural that Minhyuk considered him as his enemy. After all, Calauhel himself treated Minhyuk as his enemy.

Calauhel sneered. He thought, *'He's something I can use since we're enemies.'*

There was one trick that came to mind.

"Looks like we're going to need Great Thief Elion."

Great Thief Elion was a world-class thief in *Athenae*. No one could exceed him in terms of 'stealing', 'swindling' and 'tricks'. And, he also had a special skill.

*'Among his skills...?'*

He had a skill that could deceive people by disguising as an NPC and creating quests for them.

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"Player Minhyuk has cleared the 15th floor!"

"Player Minhyuk has cleared the 17th floor!"

"Player Minhyuk has cleared the 19th floor! He had leveled up to Level 423!"

President Kang Taehoon listened to Lee Minhwa's reports while thinking, *'What a ridiculous speed.'*?

His pace was truly too fast. Right now...

"Player Minhyuk has reached the 36th floor. He is now Level 434!"

Everyone who heard her words clicked their tongues. Setting new records in the Demon World's Tower would give enormous EXP to the player. In addition, if the player set an impossible score, the player would also receive additional bonus EXP.

Minhyuk was currently bombing through the floors, leveling up tremendously. He needed more EXP than any other classes since his classes were Food God and Eccentric Gourmand. However, with the enormous EXP that he was gaining, it looked like he was ignoring the EXP restrictions with how fast his level was increasing.

“What is that player doing...” Manager Kim Daesik could not help but mumble under his breath after he saw Minhyuk receiving Ankheseramun’s Ankhasad’s Judgment.

Hearing his words, Team Leader Park said, “You know that Calauhel is in there, right? I think he’s trying to get Diablo? No, that’s not right; Calauhel won’t tolerate that.”

After leaving those words, Team Leader Park started to list down the items that he would receive once he cleared the ‘normal’ floor.

‘Vassal Summoning Parchment and Guild Member Summoning Parchment.’

Aruvel was also providing Minhyuk with useful information. He knew the items that he would get.

Then, Lee Minhwa said, “Calauhel has summoned the Great Thief Elion on the 40th floor!”

Team Leader Park and President Kang Taehoon’s eyes met.

“Why Great Thief Elion...?”

Team Leader Park slowly started to match the puzzle pieces in his head. He thought, *‘Right now, Calauhel needs a chef. But, he can’t use just any other chef, since there are a lot of risks involved if he asked others on the spot. The existence of Blackstone might be pushed to the forefront if he did that. Yet, he summoned Great Thief Elion, who has a variety of skills that can trick the person’s eyes. D...don’t tell me he’s trying to pull a fast one over his enemy...?!’*

Bang—

Team Leader Park’s fingers banged on the table as he arrived at the answer came. At the same time, Player Minhyuk had finally reached the 40th floor, and the being that approached him was...

An old man wearing a black robe. It was none other than Great Thief Elion.

*‘It’s not that hard to deceive this punk. Fufufufufu.’*

Great Thief Ellion would trick Minhyuk with his ‘Quest Creation’ and ‘Perfect Makeup’ skills.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk was staring at the old man who was smiling kindly at him. He thought, *‘Oho? I didn’t expect that he would do it this way?’*

Minhyuk had easily grasped Calauhel’s plans.

*‘To catch a tiger, you have to enter the tiger’s den.’*

The corners of his mouth curled up in a smile.

Chapter 287: Dangerous Company

Team Leader Park Minggyu could not help but flick his finger as he stared at Great Thief Elion and Player Minhyuk after they reached the 40th floor.

“C...crazy...!”

“What’s the matter?”

Everyone turned their attention to Team Leader Park.

“Everything is actually going according to Minhyuk’s plans right now.”

“What are you saying?”

“Huh?”

Manager Kim Daesik, President Kang Taehoon and Lee Minhwa focused on his words.

“Player Minhyuk already knows most of the information about the tower up to the 50th floor, not to mention the 40th floor.”

“That’s right.”

“Yeah. It’s thanks to Aruvel and the bet he made with Roven, the tower’s architect.”

“So, Player Minhyuk knows that the 40th floor needed a chef.”

All of them nodded in agreement.

“And he knows that he’s the one that’s most likely to be able to meet the conditions for that floor. He must have guessed Calauhel would be placed in a situation where he had to choose. He would either take his time to find another player, or just cast his net with Player Minhyuk. Both choices are close to impossible.”

Team Leader Park gulped his saliva to moisten his throat before continuing his words. He said, “Player Minhyuk has accelerated his pace in climbing the tower. This was so he could put pressure on Calauhel, *‘If you don’t hurry and clear it then I’ll be there in no time’* or something like that. Of course, teaming up is impossible since the two are hostile toward each other. By then, Calauhel would be forced to make a simple choice.”

“...?”

“Clear the trial with Player Minhyuk’s help, by all means necessary.”

President Kang Taehoon’s eyes widened in shock. He asked, “So Great Thief Elion has to create a quest for that?”

“That’s right.”

Team Leader Park gulped again before continuing once more, “Player Minhyuk will receive a quest from Great Thief Elion. And Calauhel will pretend to be an NPC to lead Minhyuk. And Player Minhyuk is most definitely sharpening his blade, while pretending to be fooled.”

“...”

“...”

“...”



All of them were left speechless. It was a ridiculously impossible plan. First of all, Minhyuk could not have known of the existence of Great Thief Elion. However, he knew that Calauhel would make a move to use him in any way possible. In other words, he was reversing their roles.

“H...he has considered... all of that?” Manager Kim Daesik asked, still in disbelief that Minhyuk would intentionally go along with their plan as he prepared to give them a big ‘surprise’ in return. It was like everything was in the palm of his hands.

Team Leader Park Minggyu’s eyes returned to the monitor. He took in a breath before speaking again.

“I’m sure of one thing now. If Player Minhyuk is not obsessed with food and he plays like a regular player...”

For a moment, goosebumps rose all over Team Leader Park’s body.

“...and he had a regular class... Then, he would have already been in the top ten of the Global Rankings.”

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Minhyuk could easily see through Calauhel’s plans the moment an old man showed up in front of him because he knew a lot about the 40th floor.

The 40th floor was the floor where ‘King Arthur’ appeared. And, he knew that King Arthur would give a quest that would require the strength of a few vassals and players. According to Aruvel, the 40th floor was also unlike other floors, in the way that it could be climbed without clearing the floor.

However, an old man greeted him as soon as he climbed to the 40th floor, and he was obviously not King Arthur. Then, the man said, “You’re really amazing for reaching the 40th floor. My name is Bero. Can you listen to my story?”

The old man continued to talk. He said, “A long time ago, I lost my beloved to the being called ‘Sly Devil Diablo’. So, I chased him with my comrades. But, killing him was not an easy task and that bastard hid at the last trial in this place. One would need the power of an excellent chef to clear the trials. I need a chef’s cooking to lure and tempt the monster in the sixth trial and get a fragment of the broken blade. Can you do it for me?”

Then, a notification rang at that moment.

Ring!

[The quest that will be created will change depending on the player’s class.]

[Chef Class Quest: The man who had lost his family to the Lesser Demon, Old Man Bero’s Request.]

## **Penalty for Failure**

: Drop in Bero's favor.

*'Hoho. Quite surprising.'*

Minhyuk was quite surprised.

*'He can actually create a quest window?'*

Minhyuk thought that the old man had drunk something like the doppelganger's potion. However, he could now tell what the skill of the person in front of him was.

*'So this person has this ability...?'*

It was a mysterious ability. In any case, there was one thing that Minhyuk was sure of. The old man was working for Calauhel. Had Minhyuk not known Aruvel or was unaware of the tower's information beforehand, the chances of him being fooled would definitely be high.

Alas, Calauhel did not know that Minhyuk had the tower's information up to the 50th floor. In fact, the person that was being fooled right now was Calauhel, not him.

"I understand."

When Minhyuk accepted the quest, the old man smiled kindly at him. He said, "Come here. I will introduce you to my friends."

Bero led Minhyuk to where the six people were gathered.

*'One of them is Calauhel.'*

Minhyuk could not see Calauhel's figure anywhere. In fact, Minhyuk had never seen all of the six people in *Athenae*.

*'They all changed their faces and pretended to be NPCs.'*

"Nice to meet you. I'm the Taming Princess, Roney."

"Yes. Hello. I'm Minhyuk."

Minhyuk shook hands with them one by one.

"Can a rookie like this cook the dish that we need?" The man openly mocked Minhyuk. He looked like a warrior class player with bulging muscles and an intimidating appearance.

*'Are you going to play the undesirable NPC?'*

Quite a few of the NPCs, especially those that exert great power in their respective Empires, often ignored players.

*“Hehe.?Even if I look like this, just one of my dishes will end it all.”*

Then, Minhyuk said hello to the last person. Then, at that moment...

[The Royal Class ‘Dragon Monarch’ has been born.]

[May the birth of the first Royal Class be filled with blessings.]

The face of the man in front of him began to distort rapidly at the same time the notifications sounded. Minhyuk could tell just by looking at him.

*‘There’s a good chance that this bastard is challenging the Royal Class too. And clearing the 40th floor is his transferring process.’*

In other words, the man in front of him was Calauhel. However, the man in front of him quickly erased his raging emotions and said, “Black Monarch. Orden.”

“Food God. Minhyuk.”

The two shook hands. This was the first meeting between Calauhel and Minhyuk.

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Ten minutes ago.

Black Dragon was told by the Dragon Knight that the Destruction Dragon Cracana was located on the 16th floor of Demon World’s Tower. After some time, he came face to face with the Destruction Dragon Cracana. Next to the dragon was the Demon Sorcerer that injected him with demonic energy, making him go crazy.

“Because of you, I couldn’t make him mine! If I make you disappear, Cracana will become my dragon!” The Demon Sorcerer shouted loudly at him.

And Cracana also roared with him, “*Kiyeeeeeeek!*”

[Destruction Dragon Cracana has been under the influence of the Demon Sorcerer for quite a long time.]

[Based on his explosive state, Destruction Dragon Cracana’s abilities and skills have increased by 1.6x.]

[You should either cure or make Cracana submit to you.]

[To become the Dragon’s Monarch, you must be able to ‘communicate’ sincerely.]

*[We hope that you can communicate your sincerity to the?Destruction Dragon Cracana.]*

Destruction Dragon Cracana had reddish scales covering his entire body. Then, he flew high up in the sky as he opened his mouth.

*“Kyaaahaaaaaack!”*

*[Destruction Dragon’s Breath.]*

[You will receive an additional 300% damage as soon as the attack hits you.]

Shwaaaaaaaak—

A strange sense of death suddenly appeared in Black Dragon's head when he saw the breath rushing towards him.

Flap—

With a loud sound, black wings spread out from his back. It was none other than Poison Dragon.

[Poison Dragon's Wings.]

[At the moment of danger, he will spread his wings to protect you. He will also shoot 'Dragon Plumes' and randomly target your enemies with poison.]

Fwoosh, fwoosh—

Black Dragon flew as high as he could. Then, a square shield made out of bones appeared in front of him.

Bang—

The square shield collided strongly with the incoming Breath.

"Ugh!" Black Dragon groaned from the powerful impact of the shockwave, as he fell from the sky.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

Cracking sounds suddenly echoed from the bone shield as Cracana of the Destruction slammed against Black Dragon.

Bang—

Smoke engulfed the huge area.

*"Kyahahahahaha!"* The Demon Sorcerer laughed loudly.

But then...

Shwaaaaaaaak—

...as the dust cleared, the man who dared challenge him reappeared. In his hands was a red spear that looked like it was made of bones. It was Britney's 'Dragon's Tear Sword', which had turned into 'Blood's Tear Spear'. A huge pair of wings had also protected Black Dragon from the attack.

Flash—

Black Dragon's wings spread out as he began to fly.

*"Graaaaack!"*

Cracana of the Destruction opened his huge mouth to bite on Black Dragon.

Bang—

Black Dragon successfully escaped letting the fierce dragon bite on empty air. Then, Black Dragon opened his mouth to speak to him. He said, "I'm not going to fight you."

*"Fufufufufufu.?I don't know if you can survive then."*

The Demon Sorcerer laughed wickedly. Black Dragon continued in his attempts to have a 'dialogue' with Cracana. He spoke with words that he believed would heal and cure Cracana, and his words were filled with sincerity!

"You'll be with your siblings. And you, me, and the other dragons will defeat the evil of this world together! We will become the justice of this world!!!"

"..."

At the same time, Ruslein, the sorcerer, got goosebumps from the words that he heard. He thought, *'What a cringy line...!'*?

The Destruction Dragon Cracana was known to be the most brutal and violent among all four of the legendary dragons. No one could tame him at all. This was also the reason why the sorcerer could not tame him, despite injecting him with demonic energy for quite a long time. However, he thought that it would be different if the owner that Cracana had been waiting for suddenly came. But now...

"How can you say that to win Cracana's favor!" Demon Sorcerer Ruslein shouted, laughing at Black Dragon from the bottom of his heart. He could not believe that the man in front of him would use such a cringy line to win the favor of such a brutal dragon.

However...

[Cracana's explosive state has calmed down. He is now beginning to heal.]

"...?"

The Demon Sorcerer could not help but tilt his head in confusion.

Chapter 288: Dangerous Company

*'What did I just hear?!'*?

This thought flashed through the sorcerer's mind. Meanwhile, Cracana suddenly paused mid-attack. His pupils that had been dominated by black suddenly started to shake violently.

"As expected, my sincere words worked!"

The sorcerer denied him vehemently, "It's just a coincidence!!! The Dragon of Destruction, Cracana, cannot be shaken by such a cringy line!"

Black Dragon ignored him, and just continued to address Cracana, saying, "Just imagine it. You, Cracana, flying in the vast and open sky with Ambacca, Destiny and Britney! You will save those that are in danger and we will all speak our lines!"

The sorcerer wanted to cover his ears so badly. He thought, *'What lines do you want to say?!'*?

Then, Black Dragon spoke of the lines that he wanted them to say to the world, “Hero? If you want one, then I’ll become one. I’ll become the hero that will save you.”

“Urghhh!!!”

The chuunibyou and cringy lines seemed to distract the demon sorcerer. Just then...

[Cracana’s chaotic state has calmed down. He is now beginning to heal.]

*‘This, this is ridiculous...!’?*

That was when the sorcerer realized that the Dragon of Destruction had tendencies similar to the black-clad man with the chuunibyou syndrome.

*‘No! What if...?’*

Ruslein was not sure, but perhaps the man knew everything about the dragon in front of him!!!

“Kiheeeeeeeee!”

It became clear to Ruslein after seeing Cracana slowly breaking free from his crazed state. Even Cracana’s eyes that were dyed black earlier had started to return to normal. From what he could see, Cracana was listening intently to Black Dragon’s voice.

“Ah!?I already thought of a name for you!”

Black Dragon knew that anyone would be shaken once they heard his wonderful lines. And, to deal the final blow... he even prepared a name for him!

“Breaker!”

Then, the notification rang.

[You have successfully ‘Communicated’ with Destruction Dragon Cracana in his explosive state.]

[Destruction Dragon Cracana’s explosive state has been lifted.]

[Destruction Dragon Cracana accepts you as his master.]

[You can now change Destruction Dragon Cracana’s name.]

“Breaker.”

[Breaker Level 547]

Black Dragon could tell what was going on in Cracana’s head after seeing the dragon fail to control his curling mouth.

*‘This kid is thrilled with the name that I gave him...!’?*

He could tell by the twitch of his lips. And Cracana, no, he was now named Breaker, began to hunt the Demon Sorcerer, alongside Black Dragon. Since Cracana broke free of his explosive and crazed state, the sorcerer was defeated easily. After all, the sorcerer was not that strong of an opponent.

Suddenly, the notifications rang one after the other.

[You have gathered all four of the Legendary Dragons.]

[You have met all of the conditions to transfer to the Royal Class.]

[You have now transferred to the Royal Class 'Dragon Monarch'.]

[New skills will be added to your repertoire.]

[Your commanding ability has increased by +300.]

[The Class Quest: Monarch's Qualifications has been created.]

[The Class Quest: Monarch Among Monarchs has been created.]

[You can only select one out of these two quests to proceed. There is no time limit for the selection.]

[The birth of the first Royal Class has spread worldwide.]

*'Choose between the two quests?'*

Black Dragon quickly checked the two quests. He first clicked on Monarch's Qualifications.

*'Ho?'*

The Monarch's Qualifications quest was simple. It had to do with the word 'Monarch'. In other words, the quest required him to create a 'kingdom'. There was no other player in *Athenae* that had built a kingdom as of yet. No. To be exact, there was no territory that had enough land and financial power to reach even half of the requirements to be considered a kingdom.

Then, he turned to the second quest, Monarch Among Monarchs.

*'Choose a person and help him ascend the throne??'*

It literally meant king of kings. The Dragon Monarch was also a ruler class. However, this quest wanted him to make a king of kings. It wanted him to choose a player and help him become king.

\*\*\*

A game of deceit. Calauhel could not help but laugh deep inside. He thought, *'It wouldn't make sense if he noticed this.'*

The tricks and deceptions of the Great Thief Elion were truly spectacular. Great Thief Elion was not just a simple thief, he was also a God Class at around Level 480. However, his estimated strength was only at around Level 250. This was because Elion had given up his other abilities to focus solely on deceiving others.

Just like that, the party continued to move forward.

[You have reached the First Trial.]

[A powerful spell has been cast upon you. You have gone blind and cannot see anything in front of you.]

[The spell blinds you and makes the sound surrounding you turn quieter.]

*"It's dark."*

Minhyuk remained vigilant. He also did not act like a fool like usual. In the first place, the people around him knew who he was. It would be counterproductive if he exaggerated his acting.

Darkness surrounded them to the point that they could not see even an inch ahead of them. The sounds ringing in their ears were also small. It felt like someone had lowered the volume of the speaker to the lowest level.

Inside this space, Assassin Amber displayed her Five Senses. Using her five senses, she instructed them to destroy the traps while figuring out where the magic and monsters would attack them.

That was how they passed the first trial.

[You have passed the First Trial.]

[Those who passed the trial will be given a fragment of the broken blade.]

The notification was only heard by the person who had received the fragment of the broken blade. Calauhel, who introduced himself as the Black Monarch Orden, explained to Minhyuk, “As mentioned before, all of the fragments of this blade must be collected for us to hunt the Lesser Demon?Diablo.”

Along with his words, Assassin Amber handed the fragment of the broken blade to Calauhel. Then, they kept on advancing just like that.

For the second trial, they were tasked to tame a beast that was known for its power in the Demon World. For the third trial, the archer had to shoot an arrow through a small, needle hole-like space to turn off all the hidden mechanisms and magic that would come their way. For the fourth trial, the tanker and the Great Iron Golem, which boast a tremendous defense, had to compete against each other.

The fragments of the broken blade kept on piling up just like that. Finally, only the last trial was left. The problem that Calauhel and his party could not solve no matter what they did. The Chef’s Trial.

[You have reached the Sixth Trial.]

[Verogan, the giant monster, is hungry. However, he has an extremely picky taste.]

[Please prepare a dish for Verogan.]

[The cooking ingredients for Verogan are prepared in front of you.]

[The dish that he wants is a Gigantic Samgyetang.]

Then, Verogan, a gigantic monster that was four meters tall appeared, chained to the wall. He was literally a giant monster. In terms of strength, Verogan easily overwhelmed the other giant monsters. He was at Level 500 and had the power to rip apart a twin-headed ogre with his bare hands. That was how frightening Verogan’s existence was.

“Grrrrrooooooooooar!” Verogan.

“Can you satisfy him with your dish?”

“Leave it to me,” Minhyuk said, nodding at everyone.

The ingredient that lay before him was none other than chicken. The difference was that it was a bizarre and mysterious chicken, that looked about 30 kilograms in weight.

Minhyuk was already aware of this trial.



*‘Chefs’ dishes would taste different even if they used the same ingredients.’?*

Minhyuk’s challenge was already sent out. All he needed to do was to cook a gigantic samgyetang. However, he did not try it right away. After all, the ‘Create a Recipe’ skill would help him check things more clearly.

[Creating a recipe that the other party desires.]

[You can now check the recipe for gigantic samgyetang.]

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

?Verogan’s recovery.

?Verogan’s attack, as well as defense, magical attack and defense, will all increase.

“Can you do it?”

This was quite the tricky trial. Minhyuk needed to cook a lot. In all common sense, he would need more chefs on hand. However, the problem was that the cooking would usually become harder as the number of people increased. As the saying goes, too many cooks spoil the broth. Of course, he could think of a way to cook things separately, but there was a crucial and decisive factor why something like that was impossible.

[If the dish is not completed within two hours, then the trial will fail.]

Minhyuk needed to cook the dish within two hours.

In principle, samgyetang should be cooked only after the intestines, the head, the dirt, as well as the feet had been removed from the chicken. He had to follow the rules. However, if he did that, it was nigh impossible to cook a chicken that weighed nearly 30 kilograms.

*‘Make cuts as deep as possible while maintaining the shape as much as I can.’*

That would help cook the insides well. Thus, Minhyuk began to cook.

\*\*\*

Calauhel and his group looked at Minhyuk with interest.

He was making deep cuts on the chicken after transforming his weapon into a giant kitchen knife. Then, in an instant, the giant kitchen knife had already transformed into a huge cauldron. Minhyuk placed the huge chicken inside the cauldron together with the garlic, salt, and other ingredients, before starting to cook over the firewood. Then, he covered the cauldron and controlled the fire to make sure that the dish would be cooked thoroughly. If perspiration dripped down from his forehead, he would dab it with his towel.

*‘A gourmand...’*

Calauhel found it funny. This was a game where strength was the dominant factor. For unknown reasons, the Frying Pan Killer was able to gain strength despite being a chef.

Regardless, Calahuel believed that Minhyuk was walking down the wrong path. If he had sought power from the very beginning, then he might have already surpassed Mei Wei, the number one player in the Global Integrated Rankings.

Cooking was basically just a part of a human's routine. It was on par with clothes and daily necessities. Hence, Calauhel was not interested in cooking. What about the buff ability?

*‘Buff ability is useless in the face of great power.’*

Calauhel had also tried an excellent buffed dish. It was a dish that Twilight Chef Black had cooked. All of his stats had increased by 8% after he ate it. But, that was it. He would rather gain strength than learn cooking which would only increase his stats by 8% temporarily.

This was his theory. Calauhel would spend all of his items, and money, doing anything necessary just to become strong. That was how one got to the top. Cooking was only an ‘insignificant thing’ for him, so, the man in front of him seemed to be acting strangely.

*‘He’s having fun?’*

Was cooking in the game fun? Minhyuk was smiling broadly as he toiled in front of the fire. Although he was sweating, the smile that graced his lips was still bright.

Then, he said, “Hungry?? Just wait. I’m making you a really good meal.”

Then, he opened the lid of the cauldron that the samgyetang was cooking in. With a ladle, he carefully skimmed off the scum that was floating on top of the soup.

*“Grrrrrr...”*

Verogan was an extremely vicious creature. However, the brutality and violence that brooded in his eyes died down when he looked at Minhyuk.

Minhyuk continued to cook the enormous chicken with all his might. He looked like a blacksmith that was working hard to produce a huge artifact. Eventually, the dish was completed. Minhyuk transformed his weapon into a spoon. He even placed 20 kilograms of kimchi that he made with the Aging Jar in front.

*“Just a moment. Can you taste it first?”*

Calauhel could not understand why Minhyuk was working so hard. He was as diligent as a blacksmith working on a powerful artifact. However, a blacksmith's artifact would remain permanently, whereas a chef's dish would not.

*‘Why are you putting so much effort into it? Is it even worth it?’*

With those thoughts floating in his mind, he tasted the dish.

*‘...!’*

He could not say anything.

Then, at that moment, Minhyuk said to Verogan, “Try it.”

Verogan's body trembled as soon as he tasted a spoonful of the soup. Then, he began to eat with relish.

“*Keuheeeeeeeee!*” Verogan roared.

His roar transmitted his joy. Crazed by hunger, he quickly ripped off a chicken leg and ate it. He even wolfed down the soup, along with some kimchi.

Minhyuk just stood in front of him with his arms folded across his chest. Calauhel’s body was still trembling as he watched Minhyuk and Verogan.

Finally, Verogan grabbed the cauldron with both hands and gulped down the last dregs of the soup left inside.

Gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp—

Verogan drank it all. After finishing everything, he let out a rough puff of breath from his mouth.

“*Guwoo...*”

Then...

Baaaaaaaang—

...slowly, very, very, slowly, he bent his knees. He lowered his head on the ground and thanked Minhyuk. Everyone who witnessed the scene was left speechless.

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Verogan had always been vicious and ferocious every time they came here. When the other chef cooked for him, he just took a small bite before throwing the food away. However, right now, he was bowing deeply to the man in front of him to show his deep gratitude.

## Chapter 289: Dangerous Company

President Kang Taehoon did not leave the office of the Special Players Management Team. He just sat there and continued to monitor the situation on the screen.

It was not just him. Even the team leaders of various other teams, including the Episode Production team, as well as the Customer Center, were present. They were all here to witness Calauhel’s transfer to the Maestro of Destruction class. After all, once that happened, something earthshaking would happen in *Athenae*.

“What will happen if Player Minhyuk kills Diablo?” Lee Minhwa asked as he continued to look closely at the monitor.

Team Leader Lee Seokhoon, the one in charge of the development team, answered, “The rewards that Calauhel would get if he transfers successfully to the Maestro of Destruction class is something specific and in alignment with his class characteristics. On the other hand...”

Development team’s Team Leader Lee Seokhoon looked solemn as he continued to say, “If Player Minhyuk succeeds in killing Diablo first... then he will receive a reward that has nothing to do with his class. Instead, he might just be the fastest person with a territory to own a kingdom. He will be the owner of Atlas.”

\*\*\*

Calauhel believed that having different artifacts, superior control, and overwhelming strength were the most important things in playing the game *Athenae*. Due to this belief, he had dismissed Minhyuk's excellent cooking abilities as something insignificant. However, his thoughts were bound to change after witnessing Verogan bow deeply to Minhyuk.

*'How can a dish like that appear...?'*

This was something that shook him deeply, far more than any artifact or skill that he had. The others approached the dazed Calauhel.

"Calauhel, what's the matter?"

"Calauhel...?"

Calauhel recalled the information of the samgyetang that he had just checked earlier.

?Giant Verogan's attack power and defensive power will increase by 26% and 25% respectively.

?Giant Verogan's magical attack and magical defense will increase by 40% and 31% respectively.

?With Giant Verogan's recovery, all of his stats will increase by 3%.

He could not help but murmur unknowingly, "...That...Want..."

"Yes?"

"What did you say?"

The others looked at him in puzzlement but Calauhel seemed not to hear any of them at all.

"I want to have him... that man..."

"...!"

"...!"

Everyone was caught by surprise. They knew Calauhel as a man that had always kept a straight face. However, right now, his face was showing a great 'longing' for something. Calauhel came back to his senses not long after. He continued to look at Minhyuk and Verogan.

\*\*\*

Black Mage Ali started to speed up. The fact that Black Dragon had become the 'First Royal Class' when they began climbing the tower put pressure on him.

The condition that he had to meet to transfer to his Royal Class 'Moldoron's Descendant' was to receive recognition from the giant snake called Predatory Snake.

While he was climbing...

He received a whisper from Minhyuk. Ali grinned as he sent a reply to Minhyuk.

.

Ali proceeded to listen to Minhyuk's story. Then, after their long talk, Minhyuk said...

Ali nodded in agreement while thinking, '*Blackstone.*'?

\*\*\*

Calauhel naturally approached Minhyuk after he finished clearing the Sixth Trial. Minhyuk was looking at the fragment of the broken blade.

"Now, please give me that blade. Will you?"

Everyone turned to look at Minhyuk.

*'Eight billion...!'*?

*'I can live my whole life without worrying about money...!'*?

Of course, it was not only the fragment of the blade that was worth eight billion, it was also Diablo. In a way, once Minhyuk handed over that blade fragment to Calauhel, their situation was already no different from having achieved the best ending. Everyone was now looking at Minhyuk nervously.

*'What if this punk knows??'*

*'Did we make any mistakes??'*

Perhaps they had accidentally acted like they were still players and talked about stories in their reality. When everyone was focusing their attention on him, Minhyuk stood facing Calauhel.

"If you give me that, I will fuse the pieces and destroy the Sly Devil Diablo."

Minhyuk nodded as he handed the piece of the broken blade to Calauhel.

[You have collected all six fragments of the broken blade.]

[You can now fuse it to form the Dagger of Mortality.]

Calauhel felt delighted. He finally got closer to the throne that he had desired for so long. He quietly mumbled and let the pieces fuse together.

[The fragments of the broken blade have now fused.]

The six fragments of the broken blade emitted a dazzling light as they floated and hovered in the air while merging one by one. Then, the 'Dagger of Mortality', a curved red blade, appeared in front of him.

[You have acquired the Dagger of Mortality.]

“Thank you,” Calauhel said, smiling lightly. At first, he wanted to kill Minhyuk after making use of him. But now, he did not have to.

*‘I can just hunt Diablo before doing that.’?*

This trial required and needed considerable faith from the monarch’s subordinates. If someone else broke the trial and did not hand over the fragment of the blade, the trial would not be cleared. That was why he was not sure whether they would go back to square one if one person died. If that happened, then everything that they had done would be all for nothing.

Then, they began to advance. After a bit of a walk, they arrived in front of a huge iron gate. Just standing in front of the iron gate was giving them a great sense of pressure.

Creaaaaaak—

Calauhel pushed the iron door and was met with a huge altar. A man was currently standing on top of the huge altar. The man looked pure and innocent, with skin that was as white as snow. The handsome man looked like a human, except for the horn stretching out from his forehead and the bat-like wings folded behind his back.

[You have met with the Lesser Demon?Diablo.]

[You have gained 200 REP.]

[Those who successfully hunt Diablo will receive rewards.]

Then, Assassin Amber accidentally made eye contact with Diablo.

[Diablo’s Momentum.]

[Diablo’s momentum has placed a huge pressure on you.]

“Urgh!” Amber groaned as she fell down on one knee and gasped for her breath.

*‘W, what the hell. This is a game...!’?*

Diablo’s eyes looked wretched and creepy. Amber did not fall on her knee just because she was simply frightened. It was clearly because of Diablo’s skill.

*‘Amazing,’* Calauhel thought, smiling as Diablo gazed at them from above the altar. The existence in front of him was so superb that his body shivered from the chills that ran down his spine.

Then, Diablo took one step forward.

Step—

And another.

Step—

He tried to step down from the altar but Calauhel did not let the opportunity go. He quickly took out the Dagger of Mortality as he used the ‘Mortality’s Stun’ that the dagger possessed.

[Mortality’s Stun]

[Stun any target for three seconds.]

The majestic Diablo suddenly stopped. He paused in his movements just as he was about to go down the altar.

“Finally...!”

Calauhel felt delighted. He quickly grasped the Dagger of Mortality as he pulled out a fan from his inventory. He unfolded the fan before throwing the dagger with all his might.

Shweeeeeeeeeek—

The Dagger of Mortality flew straight towards Diablo’s heart. Everyone felt happy at the sight.

*‘This is eight billion!!!’*

*‘Calauhel is finally going to become the king!!!’*

A smile was also painted on Calauhel’s lips. He would become the first King in *Athenae*, he could even become the Emperor!

Then...

Claaaaaaaang—

...a kitchen knife suddenly dropped down and intercepted the Dagger of Mortality. And along with that, a huge spear stabbed Diablo’s heart from behind.

Someone suddenly poked their head out and said, “Oops? It’s about time I stop pretending that I don’t know, right?”

“...!”

“...!”

It was Minhyuk. Then, Diablo leaned forward and fell down to the ground. Everyone could tell with just one glance that Diablo was killed. All of the people present in the room fell into shock.

The first thing that they felt was confusion. The question ‘How?’ floated in their heads.

*‘What the hell??’*

*‘How did Diablo...??’*

From what Calauhel had learned, the power of the Demon King or the power of Ankhassad’s Judgment was needed to kill Diablo.

*‘Does this mean that this bastard has Ankhassad’s Judgment?’*

The second feeling was being taken advantage of. They were wondering how they got fooled.

*‘How did he know??’*

All of their meticulous plans with the help of Great Thief Elion had fallen apart. It was even them that got hit on the head.

Then came the anger and rage. They had been preparing for a long time. It was not only Calauhel, but all of them that had sacrificed their blood, sweat, and tears, just to reach this point. In the end, everything was ruined by this guy.

What was worse was...

“Yayy! This is a crazy level up!!!”

He was mocking them. Just like that, Minhyuk had received surprisingly shocking notifications.

[You have acquired 1,113 platinum.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have learned the passive skill: ‘Momentum’ after successfully hunting Diablo.]

[You have acquired Diablo’s Blade Fragments.]

[You can now become the owner of Atlas after successfully hunting Diablo.]

A notification about the territory Atlas rang in Minhyuk’s ears, but he did not have the time to check about it. Then, the notifications rang for Calauhel too.

[You have failed to meet the transfer conditions for the Royal Class ‘Maestro of Destruction’.]

Meanwhile, Minhyuk spoke as brightly and as cheekily as he could, “Wooooooooow!? Look at all these level up notifications! This is a big catch! A big catch!!! And these rewards! Wow! Wow! Wooooow!!!”

It was the final straw for Calauhel, whose temper and reasoning snapped after hearing his mocking words. This was the first time in his life that he felt this furious.

Calauhel was someone who had everything. And this was a man who had stolen his things. What was worse was that he was even mocking him.

“Die!!!!!!” Calauhel snarled loudly.

The worst that could happen was them being forced to log out of here, so everyone took their position and launched an attack on Minhyuk.

Calauhel’s fan was engraved with the skill ‘Hurricane Wind’ so when he fanned it, huge blades of wind immediately assaulted Minhyuk.

[Wind Blade]

[A wind blade that can cut anything. Has additional 220% attack power.]

And that was not the end of it. Even Assassin Amber had her speed boosted by three times as she launched her attack.

[Vital Strike]



[The speed of your movement has increased by x3. You will be able to attack a vital point. Successful hits will give you an additional 180% attack power.]

Just like that, their attacks poured down on Minhyuk.

However, at that moment, Minhyuk took out and tore a parchment in his hands.

[You have used the Guild Member Summoning Parchment.]

[Only the Guild Master and the Lord of the Guild Territory will be able to use the Guild Member Summoning Parchment.]

[The Guild Summoning Parchment is a special parchment that can also summon members of your allied guild if you were given their explicit approval.]

Several rays of light appeared in front of Minhyuk.

The man who appeared in front of him quickly moved as his left arm changed into a dragon's head momentarily. The dragon's head immediately nullified all of the attacks that were pouring down on Minhyuk. It looked like the dragon devoured their attacks.

“...!”

Calauhel was shocked. Dispel or attack nullifications would only be possible if the levels of the enemies were lower than the caster. The man that stood in front of them nullified all of their attacks. And...

“I'll give them back to you.”

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa—

Calauhel stared at the wind blade that had been returned to him.

*‘This is ridiculous...!’?*

But their shock and dismay did not end there. The other members of Blackstone were also hit by the skills that they had used on Minhyuk.

Clash—

Stab!

Bang!

“Urkkk!”

“Kggghk!”

“Ugh!!!”

Shrieks rang loudly in the area. By now, Calauhel could tell that the man in front of them was the first Royal Class in existence, the Dragon Monarch.

Chapter 290: Dangerous Company

Calauhel had always stood on top of others. He had never experienced being robbed of anything ever since he was young. He became known for his extraordinary brain and genius, and his superb

body meant that he was fitter than most. Even his enormous wealth left no one that could possibly dare to mess with him.

But right now, the man named Minhyuk had taken away from him something that he was craving for. Then, the existence of the Dragon Monarch also appeared. He had taken the title of being the first Royal Class, something that he had been coveting. This was the man who had taken that title away from him and he was looking indifferently at Calauhel.

Then, people began to show up from the ray of lights that surrounded Minhyuk.

Keuaaaaaaaaaa!

Kaistra, the Envoy of Incarnation, and Penrus, the Incarnation of Light appeared. Then, another man who had his left arm raised also appeared.

“Frieeeeeeend!!!”

It was Black Mage Ali. But it did not end there.

“Hyuuuung!”

Even the Sword Saint Conir appeared and hugged Minhyuk with a bright smile on his face. There were a total of four people who appeared and stood next to Minhyuk.

“B...Black Mage Ali?”

“Envoy of Incarnation Kaistra?”

The number one in the Global Tamer Rankings, Leverlin, immediately recognized the unofficial ranker, the African boy who was well known as the Envoy of Incarnation, Kaistra. She also recognized the existence called the divine beast right beside him.

Bardol, a mage on Calauhel’s side, also recognized Black Mage Ali. Bardol was ranked first in the Global Mage rankings. However, he knew that the difference between him and Black Mage Ali was like a deep, dark abyss.

*‘What kind of party members are these? Isn’t this too fraudulent...?!’*

*‘Crazy...!’*

All of them were shocked. The people whom Minhyuk had invited were people who would not be easily pushed back by Calauhel’s forces.

Slap—

Kaistra, who was summoned while doing the dishes, took off his rubber gloves. He carefully placed his rubber gloves in his inventory, before taking out his spear.

Black Mage Ali was also casting his magic casting, while huge black wings unfurled behind the Dragon Monarch, Black Dragon.

Silence pervaded the area. A drop of cold sweat dripped down Leverlin’s forehead. The moment her perspiration dropped on the ground...

Drip—

...a fierce battle began, starting with the energy bolts from Black Mage Ali. Ali's energy bolts made the wand on Black Mage Bardol's hand tremble.

[Dispel]

[Nullifies and voids magical attacks.]

As soon as he cast the dispel, Bardol shot forward to Ali. Leverlin waved her hands and arrows appeared from the sky.

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh—

Dozens of arrows flew down from the sky and caused explosions.

*"Kiyeeeeeeek!"*

*"Kyaaaaaaaack!"*

Dozens of wyverns emerged from the explosion site. Leverlin quickly climbed on top of a wyvern and flew up into the sky.

Kaistra followed suit and climbed on top of Penrus.

Flash—

*"Keuaaack!"* Penrus roared as he leaped high up in the sky.

Then, Assassin Amber and Tanker Cardo rushed towards Black Dragon. On the other side, Calauhel and Minhyuk made eye contact.

Dash—

Calauhel moved quickly while he opened his fan.

[Blood Wind]

[Upon impact, blood and wind created from the fan will tear your enemy apart.]

Calauhel folded his fan with a simple hit on his fan, while Minhyuk swung his sword.

Sword of Fury.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Creak, creak, creak—

Calauhel's fan moved fast, as if he was an assassin class wielding daggers. He easily pushed away the tips of the sword lights created by Sword of Fury with his fan.

Pipipipipipipi—

Calauhel dispersed the Sword of Fury as his attacks rained down on Minhyuk.

*"Urgh!"*

At that exact same moment, the Armor of Immortality's special effect was suddenly triggered.

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

Peep!

Shwaaaaaaa!

Blood spurted out from Calauhel's body, but he did not stop moving. He even continued to jump up and dash forward.

[Soaring Hawk]

[The soaring hawk will fly down and land a powerful strike on your enemies.]

Wind flew from under Calauhel's feet. They formed into a gleaming blade that strangely resembled the feathers of a hawk. It was a single strike that would stab straight through and kill an enemy at once.

Bang!

In response, Minhyuk used 'Like the Wind' and narrowed the distance between them by a meter. Calauhel had no choice but to pull back the blade that he was going to stab into the ground, while Minhyuk launched a fierce assault on him.

Dozens of afterimages from Minhyuk's sword rained down on Calauhel, who quickly spread out his fan and swung it to create shields that protected him from the raging swords.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang—

By the time Rampant Sword had ended, Calauhel had already calculated his next move. He immediately wielded his fan as the wind blades stabbed the ground and attacked Minhyuk.

Spurt—

*"Kghk!"*

But, Minhyuk was not the only one who received an attack. Minhyuk had already stabbed his sword on the ground as soon as he landed from his assault.

Blooming Sword.

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh!

Hundreds of sword blades appeared on the ground. Some even stabbed Calauhel at his ankles.

Stab!

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

Explosions rang out loudly all over the place. When the dust finally settled down on the ground, Calauhel could be seen standing with a black cape wound around him and protecting his body.

*'We're on equal grounds...?'*

Calauhel could not believe it. He had seen Food God Minhyuk's combat videos, but *Athenae* was a game after all, so there was bound to be a difference between their strength because of their level gap. Furthermore, he knew that Minhyuk had a much lower level than him. Therefore, he was taken aback that Minhyuk could stand toe to toe with Calauhel right now.

Calauhel was unaware, but the reason Minhyuk could match his strength, despite being of a lower level, was because he had raised his stats by eating countless food during his journey in *Athenae*.

Basically, it all went to Minhyuk's bonus points. He had increased his bonus points to the point that he could stand his ground against Calauhel, a player around Level 500.

Calauhel found it strange. He thought, *'He said that he only eats.'*?

There were rumors floating about Food God Minhyuk, saying that he was a weirdo who only loved to eat.

*'If he's only eating, how can he fight toe to toe with me? It's strange.'*

Calauhel took a few steps back.

However, he could not help but burst out in laughter, *"Keuhahahahahahaha!"*

He was Calauhel. He was the owner of Rothschild, a noble family. He had not shown everything yet. He was also someone who had the qualifications to challenge the Royal Class, so he had acquired some of the skills of the Maestro of Destruction.

One of them was Tyrant's Mask. A white mask emerged from his hands. And as soon as Calauhel placed the mask on his face...

[Tyrant's Mask]

[All stats will dramatically increase when used. There will also be a +3 increase in skill level.]

Calauhel dashed forward. His speed dramatically increased as he targeted Minhyuk's arms.

*"Scattering..."*

Calauhel's fan immediately pierced Minhyuk's arms even before he could finish his words.

Baaaang—

[Your HP has dropped below 60%.]

A huge chunk of Minhyuk's HP disappeared with just one attack. He was surprised and quickly prepared for a counterattack against the incoming Calauhel. Alas, Calauhel used his ghostly skills and attacked him all over his body with his fan.

Slap, slap, slap, slap, slap—

[Your HP has dropped below 40%.]

[Your HP has dropped below 30%.]

Minhyuk was being attacked indiscriminately. Despite that, Minhyuk just continued to prepare his own attack.

Slap, slap, slap, slap, slap—

Calauhel attacked Minhyuk continuously. He even attacked Minhyuk straight in the middle of his forehead.

Bang!

Minhyuk received a powerful shock to his head. Still, he continued to wait for the right moment. Then, Calauhel's fan sharpened like a sword as it penetrated through Minhyuk's abdomen.

Spurt—

Minhyuk suddenly grabbed Calauhel's wrist as he threw the kitchen knife into the air.

"Rain of Kitchen Knives."

"...!"

Calauhel hurriedly tried to escape, but he could not. Minhyuk's grip was too tight. Then, a knife fell down and stabbed him in the shoulder.

Bang!

"Wh...what...! Are you going to die with me?!"

"No?"

Minhyuk laughed as he hugged Calauhel to prevent him from escaping. Then, Rain of Kitchen Knives engulfed the two of them.

Pipipipipipipipi—

[Your HP has dropped below 80%.]

[Your HP has dropped below 70%.]

Calauhel's black cape moved and wrapped around him once again when he started receiving damage. The damage that he had received had been reduced from the Rain of Kitchen Knives that had just finished its duration. Meanwhile, Minhyuk's body started to lie limply on him.

[Your HP has dropped below 30%.]

Calauhel had survived, while Minhyuk drooped and sagged on his body.

*'I won.'*

Calauhel felt like his anger had been relieved after he had successfully killed him. At that moment...

[You have used the Armor of Immortality's Special Ability.]

[Your HP and MP are being rapidly restored and recovered.]

...the wounds on Minhyuk's body immediately recovered.

Calauhel fell back. He felt flustered when he saw Minhyuk recovering quickly. However, the smile on his face did not disappear. The state of Tyrant's Mask was still not over yet. He would be able to pressure and defeat Minhyuk much more easily compared to before. In the end, Minhyuk would still lose. The members of Blackstone that were here with him were also top rankers, so he believed the conclusion was set in stone.

"Those top rankers on my side will finish your colleagues and come here to rejoin me. This will be your end."

Minhyuk tilted his head as a voice rang behind him.

"That's right. It's the end."

"Yep. The end."

Calauhel immediately turned around, only to see Leverlin being forced to log out. Assassin Amber's body had also started to go cold, while Black Mage Ali just had his arms crossed across his chest.

"...!"

It had only been a few minutes since their battles had started.

*'Instead of them, it was my colleagues that had been wiped out? And in just a few minutes too?'*

What was worse was that the Dragon Monarch, Black Mage Ali, Kaistra and even the mysterious boy Conir all looked fine.

"Y...you bastard! You dragged the time...?!"

Calauhel just realized the reason why Minhyuk was desperately blocking him. Right now, this would be a tough fight to win for Calauhel.

*'If that's the case...'*

Calauhel moved lightly as he stretched his hand out.

[Monarch's Sacrifice.]

[Sacrifice your own life to revive a targeted individual.]

[All the abilities of the revived individual will be reduced by 15%.]

Monarch's sacrifice would make use of one's own life to revive another being. The reason why this skill was so brilliant was because he would not receive any penalty aside from the sacrifice of his HP. At the very least, doing this would be better than being forced to log out. The screen in front of Calauhel began to turn black.

*'Goddamnit!!!'*

In the end, he was forced to run away. Calauhel was furious. However, he soon laughed. Everyone left in that place would definitely be killed by Diablo. The target that he had chosen was Diablo. He had actually resurrected Diablo.

Just as he was about to completely leave the game...

[An unknown force has revived you.]

[Return scroll and teleporting will not be available for 30 minutes.]

"...?"

Calauhel tilted his head in confusion. When he opened his eyes, he could see his character being revived in front of Diablo.

"What the hell?"

Black Mage Ali was standing in front of him. He said, "I also have the ability to revive someone."

Ali smiled wickedly. Then, he immediately rushed to Minhyuk, his friend, as he cast a barrier that covered them all. The only people left outside the barrier now were Calauhel and Diablo.

Diablo slowly trudged toward Calauhel. The only thing that Calauhel could do was to gulp dryly. If he died like this, he would definitely be forced to log out. What was even more irritating was the fact that Minhyuk was mocking him from inside the barrier. He kept on shouting at him as he waved his hands vigorously.

“Play! Play! Play! Diablo! Play, play Diablo! Come on, hit Diablo!!!”

Then, he pulled out a fishing chair, sat down and began to eat popcorn. He said, “*Hiyaaa!*?Caramel popcorn is the best popcorn!!!”

Minhyuk was really good at teasing and aggravating his opponents.

“Th...that b\*tch!!!”

In the end, Calauhel screamed a string of profanities after being fooled and tricked by his opponents.