

Gourmet 291

Chapter 291: Dangerous Company

Calauhel had never felt such anger in his life. He had revived Diablo and tried to run away. Although running away was the biggest stain that he would ever have in this life, he still did it.

Calauhel planned to kill everyone using the hands of the revived Diablo. But right now, Diablo could not kill them since they were hidden behind a barrier. So instead of targeting them, he targeted Calauhel himself. Not long after, Lesser Demon Diablo began his attacks on Calauhel.

“Damn! Shit! Crap!” Curses constantly spewed out from Calauhel’s mouth as a fierce battle between him and Lesser Demon Diablo broke out.

They thought that Lesser Demon Diablo would trample on Calauhel brutally. However, Calauhel was still Calauhel. He was not someone that could be easily defeated. Lesser Demon Diablo would trample on Calauhel brutally. However, Calauhel was still Calauhel. He was not someone that could be easily defeated.

“*Chew, chew, chew.*”

Minhyuk watched their fight while eating some caramel popcorn.

‘*Diablo’s definitely a cut above the rest. But...*’

Calauhel’s artifacts were helping him to hold out. His artifacts could exert special abilities that were beyond common sense. Some of them could help him completely defend against anything, and there were even artifacts that could help him recover some of his HP whenever an attack was successful. There seemed to be a lot of artifacts that were supporting him, even without the use of potions.

“Minhyuk, we’re in trouble. Given the situation, I don’t think we’ll be safe either once the barrier is released.”

Even with Calauhel’s outstanding artifacts, he was only able to hold out and not come out on top. He was still struggling not to die despite his artifacts’ special abilities. While he desperately held on, Calauhel was most definitely hoping that their ‘Barrier’ would vanish.

“Ali, how long does your barrier have left before it gets released?”

“There’s still five minutes left.”

Minhyuk nodded. He was sure that Calauhel would be able to hold out for five more minutes. He needed a plan to kill Calauhel and hunt Diablo at the same time.

“*Ah...!*”

That was the moment when Minhyuk came up with another plan.

Keuhaaaack—

[Lesser Demon’s Wrath]

[Powerful mana will turn into blades, suppressing his enemies.]

Black tendrils cut through the air and rained down on Calauhel's body. When blood burst out of his body, the *Blood*?engraved on his fan sucked the blood back into Calauhel's body. Thanks to his fan, Calauhel's wounds were slowly recovering. This was a special ability that allowed him to recover 60% of the damage that he had received.

'Crazy...!'

Calauhel felt like he was going crazy. However, he realized that the gap between him and the demon Diablo was not that big. Even so, it was still something that was impossible for him to overcome right now. Then...

"Hell fire!"

"Splitting Sword!"

A huge hellfire appeared and engulfed Diablo while two crescent sword lights flew straight towards his body. And it did not stop there. A huge tempest of light was fired from a huge white wolf that rained down on Diablo's body. Black Dragon even used the new skill that he had gained from transferring to his new class, Dragon Monarch.

[Dragons' War]

[The four dragons will send a strong breath towards a single target.]

The four dragon heads appeared on each side of Diablo as they fired their breath in unison.

Kuhaaaaaaaack—

Four streams of breath engulfed Diablo!

Diablo could not help but stagger after receiving an influx of attacks. Beings that were revived via Calauhel's Monarch's Sacrifice would receive an initial penalty and have all of their skills and abilities decreased by 15%. Even though Diablo had received such a penalty, he was still overwhelming in terms of strength.

However, Minhyuk and his group suddenly began to attack Diablo.

"I'll help you, Calauhel!"

"...Crazy!"

Calauhel's face distorted in anger. Even though he could not understand their actions, they still continued attacking Diablo. After receiving all of their attacks, Diablo's body was now littered with wounds. However, he was still in great shape and could easily attack them. But when Diablo tried to attack them, all of them ran back to the barrier.

"What the hell are you trying to do?!!!" Calauhel shouted as he gritted his teeth in anger.

Then, Minhyuk said, "Come to think of it, you... didn't you say that you're from Rothschild? I shouldn't be hostile to you, right?"

Calauhel's eyes shook after hearing his words.

‘That doesn’t even make sense...?’

Before he could finish his thought, Diablo, who had lost his target, started attacking Calauhel again. But before Calauhel could stage an attack, Minhyuk and his group rushed out of the barrier and began to attack again.

“Rampant Sword.”

“Incarnation’s Dash!”

“Dragons’ Melee!”

Various skills once again engulfed Diablo’s body.

‘They’re afraid of my family??’

Perhaps it was true. The Rothschild Family was one of the world’s most prestigious noble families. They even had more property than an entire country. This was legitimate information. Some people even assumed that the Rothschild Family had more power than a country’s president.

‘His words may be true, but I doubt those are his real thoughts.’

However, there was something that he needed to do before he could ponder on this any further. He needed to take down Diablo first.

‘If I die now...?’

Calauhel could not imagine what kind of artifact he would drop. He also could not bear the thought of the penalty and loss of levels that he would receive, since he was already beyond Level 580. It would not be strange to suffer at least a 10% penalty for EXP. That would deal a huge blow to Calauhel. He had to kill Diablo first before thinking about anything else.

‘Maybe their Barrier’s duration is running out.’?

Perhaps they were also feeling flustered because of that. Calauhel placed them at the back of his head as he continued attacking the wounded Diablo.

‘What the hell is this defense!!!?’ Calauhel thought, wondering how high Diablo’s defense was. Despite their continuous attacks, Diablo’s HP did not seem to fall below 50%. So, to deal with Diablo, Calauhel decided to start using his best one-shot-kill skill. However, he needed someone to drag the time for him.

“If what you’re saying is true, then draw Diablo’s attention for ten seconds!”

During his battle against Minhyuk, he was unable to use his best one-shot-kill skill since they were fighting against each other toe to toe. However, if they were going to drag the time, then it might be possible for him to pull this off.

Then, Minhyuk answered, “Okay!!!”

And with his words, Minhyuk and the rest of his group came out of the barrier and attacked Diablo.

“Flashing Spear!”

The light flashing at the end of Kaistra's spear immediately caught Diablo's attention. He was able to successfully attract Diablo's aggro, making Diablo attack them instead.

Calauhel's fan suddenly started to weigh a dozen times more than its original weight. There were actually five special properties engraved on his fan. Fire, water, thunder, earth, wind. These five special properties were Calauhel's best skills. He could easily swallow and engulf his enemies just by maximizing the use of his fan and its properties.

After ten seconds, Calauhel immediately swung his fan. He did not even give them any warning when he attacked. Ali immediately noticed his actions and quickly used a short-range mass teleport to increase the distance between Diablo and his party.

With Calauhel's swing, light began to emanate from the characters engraved on his fan. Then, each of the properties exerted a great power.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

A powerful fire engulfed Diablo, as strong winds with crackling lightning made him roar in anguish. Roots suddenly sprang up from the ground as they bound Diablo, while the wind tore through his skin.

"Keuaaaaack!"

This was the first scream that Diablo had let out during their fight. By the end of the skill, Diablo looked like he was about to keel over. Then, the aggro went back to Calauhel.

"Let's end this with an all-out attack!"

Minhyuk and Calauhel were almost on par in terms of skills. He assumed that the first Royal Class, the Dragon Monarch, would also be as strong as them. Combining the overwhelming strength of these people might just help them kill Diablo.

"I got it!"

Diablo, who was bleeding all over his body, immediately rushed toward Calauhel. Calauhel tilted his fan to the back. Just as he was about to use his skills...

"Lightning Hell."

...dark clouds hovered in the sky.

"A powerful lightning strike will hit Diablo! It's a single attack, so you don't have to worry!"

Quickly gaining confidence, Calauhel lifted his fan to use his skills. Alas...

Baaaaang!

"Urghh!"

...a lightning bolt struck Calauhel and left him in a stunned state.

[You have been stunned after being hit by a powerful lightning bolt.]

'Wh...what?'

Calauhel could not understand what had just happened.

Crack, crack, crack—

Having fallen into a stunned state, Calauhel could only move his eyes around. Then, he made eye contact with Minhyuk. He could see the corners of his mouth curling up in a smirk.

‘You... you bastard...!’

Calauhel finally realized.

‘They wanted to reduce Diablo’s HP while killing me at the same time...!’

That was right. Calauhel had played as both a tanker and a dealer unknowingly, while Minhyuk and his party cleverly used the barrier to reduce Diablo’s HP. They were able to achieve this thanks to Calauhel being fooled. And that was not all. Calauhel’s HP had also been reduced. What was worse was that all of Calauhel’s skills had been activated to attack Diablo. After he had given his all, they were going to let him die.

Bang—

Another lightning bolt struck Calauhel. His vision turned white.

First, he failed his Maestro of Destruction quest and ate some big shit.

Second, he revived Diablo and was fed some big shit.

Third, he was used by them and ate some big shit.

“Y, you bit#\$%■%#\$%#\$%.”

Unintelligible words came out of his mouth one by one. Then, Diablo approached Calauhel and cut his neck off.

Slash—

Then, Calauhel’s fan, as well as an enormous amount of platinum, dropped on the very same spot where he was killed. Calauhel gritted his teeth and squeezed out of the capsule when his connection ended.

“Minhyuuuuuuuuuuk!”

The owner of the Rothschild Family, Rausch’s furious roar shook the entire mansion.

“Let’s Have a Meal!!!”

Ali’s barrier was released immediately after Calauhel’s death. As soon as it disappeared, Minhyuk used his skill ‘Let’s Have a Meal’. Let’s Have a Meal was a skill that also created an invisible barrier.

Seeing that Diablo was almost keeling over after being hit hard, he thought that the only way to successfully hunt him was to feed buffed dishes to Kaistra, his father Black Dragon, and Black Mage Ali.

Once the barrier was set in place, the probability of cooking a high-grade buffed dish would increase. And the buff would also be higher for the people who ate Minhyuk's dishes.

Minhyuk first used his 'Create a Recipe' skill on his father, Black Dragon. Based on what he had seen, it seemed like his father wanted to eat some soybean stew. He did not have enough time. He had to feed everyone within 30 minutes. Hence, Minhyuk started cooking. Zucchini and tofu were immediately chopped on the chopping board, as he dissolved the soybean paste in water.

While he was busy cooking, Diablo was already slowly trudging to where they were. Diablo stood in front of them and stared in a daze. It seemed like he had already realized that it was impossible to attack them. But then, Diablo suddenly spoke up after watching him cook for quite a while.

"...A... chef...?"

Minhyuk abruptly turned his head. He felt like chills running down his spine as he made eye contact with Diablo. Then, Diablo spoke again, "...A dish... can you cook one for me...?"

"...?!"

Everyone stared in confusion at Diablo's bloody appearance.

Chapter 292: The Devil Judge's Sword

Diablo was once an ordinary boy. He was just a child that liked to play with his friends and bumped wooden swords with them. He even dreamed of becoming the best knight in the entire empire. Whenever Diablo finished rolling around on the ground with his friends, he would come home to his welcoming mother, Helen.

Helen would always ask him with a smile, '*You're home? You must be hungry. Let's eat.*'?

Diablo would smile at her while massaging his empty belly and sitting in front of her. He would then wolf down the food that she made for him in excitement, while his mother Helen would smile and wipe the sauce off his mouth.

That was right. Diablo was no more than a child when he suddenly became the three great demon's vessel for demonic energy. He had lost everything when they took him here.

Diablo quietly told the chef, who was standing on the other side of the transparent barrier, about his sad past.

'It would be nice if I could experience that feeling once more. Maybe it's fine since it will be the last time.'

He wanted to taste and feel that once again, pleading, "I'm... begging... you..."

"I'm... begging... you..."

A quest window popped out in front of Minhyuk.

‘The path to the 41st floor...?’

The path to the 41st floor could easily be interpreted. This meant that if Diablo was satisfied, he would let them go and not attack them. To be honest, they did not want to fight Diablo if there was a way where they could be sent away smoothly.

First of all, the ‘resurrection’ skill was a very rare and precious skill in *Athenae*. However, it was a skill that players could still gain. And these resurrection skills followed the same formula. Once the hunted monsters had been revived, anything that dropped before like EXP, artifacts and gold would not be dropped after killing them again. This was a system that the *Athenae* operators had set up to stop the players from trying to hunt rare boss monsters continuously.

“Minhyuk.”

His father approached him. Kaistra and Black Wizard Ali also turned to look at him.

“A quest came up. The reward is a path to the 41st floor.”

Kaistra shook his head when he heard his words. He said, “But there’s a risk. If you fail...”

Minhyuk wanted to try hunting Diablo by feeding buffed dishes to his party in the barrier caused by his ‘Let’s Have a Meal’ skill. However, if he took that time to cook for Diablo, then he would lose a considerable amount of time.

In other words, he needed to choose. He needed to choose between cooking for Diablo, or rejecting him and cooking for the others in the barrier.

His father, Black Dragon, saw that Minhyuk was hesitating while looking at Diablo. Then, he said, “Just do it.”

“...Can I really do that?”

Feeding Diablo with Minhyuk’s dish was an extremely dangerous task. In fact, no one in this place knew what Diablo liked. However, he was sure of one thing. There was hunger, longing and reminiscing in his eyes.

Everyone was bound to have that one ‘food’ that was filled with memories in their lives. Just like Minhyuk who missed and longed for the spicy braised chicken that his mother used to cook for him. It was quite a strange thing. It was just an ordinary spicy braised chicken, and his mother was never really a good cook in her lifetime, but it was her spicy braised chicken that usually came to Minhyuk’s mind.

When Minhyuk made eye contact with Diablo, all he could do was nod and say, “Alright. What kind of dish?”

“San... dwich... and... so... up...”

Diablo was clearly just speaking plainly, but he looked extremely depressed. Minhyuk looked at him and used his ‘Create a Recipe’ Skill.

[Creating a recipe that the other party desires.]

[You can now check the recipe for Ham and Egg Sandwich and Beef Soup.]

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

Minhyuk bowed his head and scrutinized the ‘Create a Recipe’ skill window. The ham and egg sandwich and beef soup could come out as legendary dishes. However, the rank of the dish was not important. What was important was the taste. This was about Diablo’s satisfaction. However, there was one other point of consideration...

‘Maybe Diablo is much smarter than we think and he’s dragging the time.’

Quests were mostly promises made with NPCs. Most of the players would proceed with the quest and receive the rewards that they were promised. However, although it was rare, there were cases where that promise could be ignored. That was especially the case for named NPCs.

Perhaps Diablo was like that too. If he was such a being, then every one of them would be wiped out here.

Then, Diablo said, “When I came back... after playing... my mother would make... this for me... from time to time... ham and egg sandwich... soup... but my mother... starved... I didn’t know...”

Diablo’s voice was colored with sorrow. He continued to say, “I didn’t know because I was young... she was hungry because she was feeding me...”

Minhyuk turned around and nodded. If Diablo was a child from a poor family, then the ingredients for making the ham and egg sandwich would be expensive for them.

The *Athenae* worldview was entangled with modern culture, but there were still poor people among the ordinary NPCs. Such people often lived a life below that of commoners.

Diablo’s mother had to starve just to give him an expensive ham and egg sandwich. There was nothing impossible. Since she was a mother, she would do anything for her child.

Those feelings touched Minhyuk deeply as he started cooking. He shook off all of the misconceptions and wariness that he had. All of the thoughts about whether he should believe Diablo or not disappeared from his head.

“I’ll do my best.”

Ham and egg sandwiches were simple to make. This was the reason why many people used them as a simple meal. This was also a common dish that people that worked or studied in cafes would usually eat with their coffee.

Minhyuk began to cook. First, he placed a pot on the burner and boiled water to boil some eggs. While the eggs were boiling, he washed some lettuce and tomatoes before chopping them into bite-

sized pieces. Then, he took the fully-boiled eggs out of the pot and dumped them in cold water before peeling off the shells. After peeling off the shells, he crushed the eggs. Then, he placed lettuce on the soft sandwich bread, before placing a slice of cheese.

The 'egg' in a ham and egg sandwich varied depending on the person's preference. In some cases, the mashed eggs would be mixed with mayonnaise and minced pickles, while some others would add other spices to make it fancier. However, right now, Minhyuk was just preparing a simple ham and egg sandwich.

Then, Minhyuk spread the egg on top of the sliced tomato and ham, before finally covering it with a piece of bread. His sandwich did not have any other special sauce. It was just a plain and simple ham and egg sandwich. This completed the ham and egg sandwich.

Then, Minhyuk began to cook the soup. Unfortunately, the only soup that he could cook in such a short time was just some instant beef soup. After he ripped open the package, he dumped the powder of the soup in the water and stirred it to cook. Minhyuk unconsciously concentrated deeply.

'A dish in one's memory...' Minhyuk thought as he fell into a trance. If he could only bring back some of the person's memories through his dish...

'Isn't that such a wonderful and beautiful thought? And if he is satisfied with my dish... isn't that also enjoyable for me?'

Of course, Minhyuk still thought that eating was the best.

'But it's not bad to do this every once in a while.'

Just as Minhyuk wanted to eat his mom's spicy braised chicken, something that he could not do anymore since she was no longer in this world, he hoped to at least bring back the memories of Diablo's mother back to him. With that, the soup was completed.

[You have completed a Ham and Egg Sandwich and Soup.]

[This is a dish that only Diablo can eat.]

[The Create a Recipe Skill Effect can only be tasted by the same person once per month.]

[Trance. It's a dish that has your 'reminiscence', 'passion' and 'desire to make food for others' poured into it.]

[Due to the effects of Trance, the buff effect has become better and the rank has gone up.]

[Legendary Grade.]

[You have gained 30 DEX.]

[You have gained 200 REP.]

[You have gained 5,000 AP.]

[You have gained +2 on all five basic stats.]

However, Minhyuk could not hear the notifications. He was still focused on stirring the soup. The memories of his mother came to mind as he made the dish for Diablo. Without realizing it, tears started to flow down his cheeks.

“Minhyuk? Why are you crying?”

His father approached him with concern. All Minhyuk could do was smile bitterly at him, and said, “I thought about Mom for a moment.”

“...I see.”

Black Dragon, his father, nodded in understanding. There were also times when he thought of her. It was sad, but they were able to lessen the pain of their longing for her, as Minhyuk and Black Dragon hugged each other.

Then, Minhyuk came out of the barrier and handed the finished dish to Diablo. He said, “I wish this dish could show you the memories that you’ve been longing for. I truly mean it.”

Diablo looked at the ham and egg sandwich and soup that the chef had given him. He saw it earlier.

‘Water came out of his eyes...?’

Diablo was wondering what they were at first. After all, he had been trapped in the Demon World’s Tower for such a long time, that he had long forgotten about some of the emotions that a person could experience. But, he recalled that they were tears. Just like the tears that he shed endlessly when he missed his mother. Perhaps Diablo and Minhyuk shared the same pain and longing. Although they did not know each other’s pain, they could somehow feel it.

Diablo’s emotions had grown dull over the years, but it seemed like they were slowly coming back to life. He stared at the ham and egg sandwich. It was obviously different from the ham and egg sandwich that his mother had made, but he still chewed the sandwich slowly.

The bread was soft, followed by the crunchy lettuce and the sour tomatoes. Then, the chewy ham and the soft mashed eggs.

‘Delic... ious...’

It was clearly different from that time, but it was still delicious. Then, Diablo grabbed a spoon. It’s been a while since he had held one, so he was still a bit awkward. Slowly, he tasted the soup. It was warm, salty and savory. The taste was almost the same as that in his memory.

“Delic... ious...”

Diablo began to gobble up the ham and egg sandwiches and soup.

At that moment, the barrier of ‘Let’s Have a Meal’ was released. All of them were staring at Diablo, who was only focused on eating food and was currently defenseless. After he finished eating everything up, tears glistened in his eyes.

‘I remember... Ah... that time... happiness...’

It had been a mundane life, but as he looked back on it now, he realized he had been very happy. Then, Diablo slowly lifted himself up.

Shiiiiing—

Diablo swung his sword up, causing a space to appear. The party realized that the space was the path to the next floor.

“Thanks.”

Minhyuk had made him remember the memories of his own mother, so he thanked him for reminding him of those precious times.

Just as they were about to enter the space...

“Wai... t...”

...a voice called out to Minhyuk. When he turned to look back, Diablo was standing there with his hands raised in the air.

Crackle, crackle—

Sparks flashed in front of him as a sword appeared in his hands.

[Diablo has presented you with the Devil Judge's Sword.]

In the Special Players Management Team's office.

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Everyone staring at the monitor was left in shock. Then, Team Leader Park Minggyu mumbled to himself, “He gave him the Devil Judge's Sword, one of the Demigod artifacts...?”

It was extremely unbelievable. The *Athenae* operators had a term for the best and most powerful Demigod artifacts among all of the Demigod artifacts, which was the ‘Absolute Demigod Artifacts’.

There were, in fact, ten of these items. However, the time was still not ripe. They were weapons that should not be revealed in their original forms. And one of them was the sword that Diablo was holding out to Minhyuk. That sword was one of the Absolute Demigod artifacts.

Chapter 293: The Devil Judge's Sword

Minhyuk turned to look at the sword in Diablo's hands. The blade of the sword was black, and the hilt looked rough. However, even if this artifact turned out to be useless or insignificant, he still felt that it would be alright. He gracefully received the sword that was in Diablo's stretched-out hands. Then, the notifications rang.

[You have acquired the Devil Judge's Sword.]

[Absolute Demigod Artifact.]

[A weapon that's infinitely close to the God Level. There are only ten artifacts of this caliber in the world.]

[There are only ten Absolute Demigod Artifacts to ever exist on earth. The lower its number, the better the artifact is.]

[The Devil Judge's Sword is ranked third.]

The notifications were completely different from what he had expected when he first saw the form of the Devil Judge's Sword.

'Absolute Demigod Artifact? Third?'

These were pieces of information that were still undisclosed to the world. In addition, the third most powerful among the ten artifacts in this world was the Devil Judge's Sword in his hands.

Then, a quest notification appeared.

Minhyuk looked at the quest and found out that it was meant for players over Level 500. Even the quest name was a bit unusual.

'Hunt Demon Verus?'

There were three great demons in total. They were Gorac, Gremory and Verus. The demon that directly influenced others and instigated them to invade the human world was none other than 'Verus'. In fact, for most cases, quests were often equipped with a choice for players. And the same was true for this quest.

Minhyuk nodded for now. He said, "I understand."

"Thank... you."

The corners of Diablo's mouth awkwardly curled up. His visage was quite grotesque. He tried to smile, but it seemed like he could not do so. When Minhyuk saw this, he smiled broadly. He smiled in Diablo's stead. Then, he walked straight towards the opened space.

Diablo stared into the space that he opened for a long time, even after they had long left. At this time, Minhyuk was still unaware that the Sly Devil Diablo would become his loyal servant.

Minhyuk's father, Black Dragon, returned back to the ground floor since he had already achieved what he wanted to achieve.

In Black Mage Ali's case, he also had to go down a few more levels, since he was still not yet recognized by the Predatory Snake.

The summoning parchment that Minhyuk used was a parchment that would return the summoned people after two hours if they were not climbing the Demon World's Tower, or if they were at a lower floor than where they were summoned.

Then, Kaistra said. "Genie-Noona and the other guild members keep on looking for you, Minhyuk. They said that the hunt for the Demon World Army is almost over."

Minhyuk nodded. It seemed like the episodes that were related to the Demon World Army were gradually being settled.

"I'll go and help the guild first."

"Alright. Thanks for your hard work, Kaistra."

Kaistra then disappeared in a flash of light. Minhyuk only checked the Devil Judge's Sword in his hand after everyone, except Aruvel, had disappeared.

?A 22% increase in STR, AGI and STM.

?Passive Skill: Swordsmanship Level Mastery increased to Level 9.

?Active Skill: Diablo's Eyes

?Active Skill: Diablo's Scythe

?Active Skill: Berserk

?Diablo's eyes will help you see through your enemies all at once. It will show you all of your enemy's vital points for one second.

?Once Diablo's Eyes have been triggered and you successfully stabbed a vital point within 30 seconds, an additional 200% will be added to your damage.

?If you succeed in stabbing the vital point with your own skill, it will stack with the additional attack.

Active Skill

?Diablo's sword will turn into a scythe with chains attached to its end so you can swing it freely.

?Your attack speed will increase by 180% if you swing the scythe.

?There is an 8% chance of triggering judgment when facing off against an opponent with demonic energy. If the judgment is successfully triggered, additional 400% damage will be added to your attack.

?A stronger awakening would be experienced during the first berserk state. The second state onwards would continue to show the regular effects of the skill Berserk.

?While using the skill Berserk, all stats and skills will increase significantly.

?Your HP will continue to fall by 3% per second during the duration of your Berserk state.

‘Once you’re done using the skill, your HP will fall below 10%, and your defense will fall below 20%.

‘Wow...’

Even Minhyuk, someone who was usually only impressed with food, could not help but be awed by the information in front of him.

Everything that he had seen about this weapon was superior to the Ancient Water Dragon, Barraca’s Sword. And that was when Barraca’s Sword had been strengthened with a +4 already. After the strengthening, Barraca’s Sword’s attack did not exceed 950. However, the Devil Judge’s Sword easily exceeded the 1,000-point threshold in the attack. Even the skills attached to the artifact were amazing.

A thought flashed in his head as soon as he saw the information, ‘*Aren’t these all combat skills?’*?

Whether it was Diablo’s Eyes, Scythe, or Berserk, all of them were combat skills. Among them, the most surprising was the ‘Berserk’ skill. When in use, the player’s HP would fall by as much as 3% every second. However, as compensation, all of the player’s skills and stats would become stronger.

Finally, he checked the last thing that he did not have the time to check earlier.

Minhyuk was unclear about what Atlas was like as a territory. However, he knew that it would definitely be helpful to Legend Guild.

‘*Well then, let’s climb quickly.*’?

To the 50th floor. There were two things that Minhyuk needed to get on the 50th floor of the Demon World’s Tower. One was none other than Beanie’s second golden crown fragment for his awakening, and the second, was the treasure from the Four Great Heavenly Kings that would help him create an ‘Oven’ using the Demigod artifact production method.

So, Minhyuk quickly resumed climbing the Demon World’s Tower once again with Aruvel.

Joythenae was a site that all of the players used to talk about Athenae. And Joythenae was currently discussing a very hot topic at this moment.

This was the beginning of the controversy that became a hot topic.

[Who is the strongest player in Athenae?]

Countless comments began to flood to answer the question.

[It’s definitely Kenra, right?]

[Agreed. Kenra is a hidden player, but he has shown what kind of player he is through the Hall of Kings.]

[I don’t think he’s the strongest player just because he entered the Hall of Kings. If we based it on that, we can also say that South Korea’s Food God, who achieved a triple crown in the Hall of Kings in the shortest time, would be the strongest. Right?]

People all over the world acknowledged that Food God Minhyuk was strong. But, if they were to compare him with the global rankers, the experts of *Athenae* evaluated that there were a lot of people who were far stronger than him. And most of their evaluations were true.

[Then, who is it?]

[It's hard to say. There are also unofficial rankers, right? So, who is the strongest in the world of the adventure game *Athenae*?]

Each of the players began to mention the best players of their countries before they remembered the words of one player. That was when they realized that it was impossible to be certain, since there were also a lot of unofficial rankings.

Then, the topic changed.

[Then, who's the strongest player that the people know of well?]

There were a lot of people who hesitated over this question. Kenra was still unknown, and the Food God was still not the best among the best.

'So, who are the remaining candidates?'

[Mei Wei.]

Joythenae was a global community site that had the function 'like', as well as other functions in the comments.

This single comment reached more than ten million likes in just a day. It rose as the best comment surprisingly fast. And the comments following it did not deny it.

Mei Wei was China's official number one ranker, as well as the player ranked first in the Global Official Rankings. She was hailed as a master among masters.

Those who had watched her videos at least once would be fascinated by her battles. From what they heard, Mei Wei also had the same name in reality. She was even called 'Goddess Mei Wei' in *Athenae* after people saw her beautiful countenance that no one could compare with. She was not only the number one in the official rankings, she was also the number one in the beauty rankings in the *Athenae* worldview.

Mei Wei had black hair and big eyes that glistened brightly like a lake being shined on by the sunlight. She looked pure and naive, but would turn into a peerless and cool warrior on the battlefield. This attractive contrast made her to be the object of fantasies and dreams for a lot of people.

Currently, a Chinese doctor garbed in a doctor's coat was sitting in front of a skinny woman that was almost all bones. The woman weighed 31 kilograms at a height of 167 centimeters. The phrase 'all bones' completely matched her appearance. Her cheekbones were protruding, her eyes were sunken, and her entire body was as thin as a dried branch.

Then, the doctor said, "Miss Mei Wei, at this rate, things will become dangerous."

The doctor's words would be extremely shocking to anyone who heard it. The woman who was praised to be the world's number one beauty, and the woman who was most likely the strongest in *Athenae*, Mei Wei, was the woman who was all bones.

“We need to find a way to treat your *anorexia*. If this continues, your life will be in danger.”

Anorexia. This was the illness that Mei Wei had. She had been fighting against it for a long time, but there was no progress at all. It was not that she did not want to be cured, Mei Wei also desired it. She longed for the day when her anorexia got treated.

Then, the doctor continued to say, “Perhaps... I don’t know if it will work, but I have a method that we can try as a treatment.”

“Yes?”

The doctor’s words were akin to a miracle. He started explaining, “You heard that there are more and more people dieting because of *Athenae* recently, right?”

Mei Wei nodded. She was the world’s best ranker, so she would definitely not be slower than others in terms of information gathering.

“We will be doing the opposite. We’ll be looking for delicious foods in *Athenae* to gain weight. After all, anorexia is also a type of mental illness. Your body might be rejecting food, but you are in fact, mentally rejecting it even more. So, you should go and find food in there that would treat your anorexia. Perhaps, you will be able to eat food in real life once you taste it there.”

The doctor’s words made her expression turn solemn. She asked, “Is there a dish in there that will satisfy my appetite and taste?”

“*Athenae* is a virtual world. It’s a place where anything is possible.”

The doctor clapped his hands together and continued to speak to say, “Miss Mei Wei. Once you log in to *Athenae*, you should hurry and find this person.”

“Find someone? Not cook something?”

The doctor nodded. Seeing that she was listening intently to his words, he once again opened his mouth and said, “Food God Minhyuk.”

[You are the first player to reach the Demon World’s Tower’s 50th floor.]

[You have gained 30,000,000 EXP.]

[You have acquired 1,000 platinum.]

[One of the Four Heavenly Kings, Heavenly King Damon, acknowledges you.]

[Heavenly King Damon has given you his treasure, the Bronze Sword.]

[Heavenly King Damon has given you a fragment of the golden crown.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

Minhyuk leveled up multiple times at once after gaining a lot of EXP. In just an instant, his level had surpassed Level 440.

He realized that just reaching the 50th floor would allow him to receive Heavenly King Damon's treasures, as well as the fragment of the golden crown.

The king gently handed Minhyuk the items as he told him, *'The qualifications that you have are more than enough.'*

Heavenly King Damon had told him that he did not expect anyone to actually ever challenge the 50th floor, so him reaching this place was more than enough for him to receive the rewards.

Then, Minhyuk tried to further unseal Beanie by equipping the fragment of the golden crown on him again. At that moment...

"In the end, you really climbed to the 50th floor."

It was Aruvel. In the first place, the Demon World's Tower was a place that could never be overcome, even if the person had all the information up to the 50th floor.

Minhyuk suddenly felt something strange.

"If it's you, I think you're strong enough to take me with you."

That was what he said, but Minhyuk could tell what his intentions were. He had been enamored by his cooking skills and was trying to sneakily come with him!

Then, the notifications rang.

[Great Sage Aruvel has pledged his loyalty to you.]

"Ha, hahahahahaha...!"

"Are you laughing because you're happy?"

Minhyuk almost fell into despair, resisting the urge to punch Aruvel straight in the guts.

1. *Anorexia nervosa* - potentially life-threatening disorder. Characterized by self-starvation and extreme weight loss. You will be diagnosed with this disorder once your weight drops by 15% of a normal person's weight. People who have this disorder have intense fears of becoming fat and see themselves as fat even when they are already extremely thin. People with this disorder tend to eat less while exercising excessively

Chapter 294: Splendid Return

The content 'Reclaiming the Elven Forest' was still being undertaken by the domestic players. They were still struggling to recapture the Elven Forest from the grasps of the demons. This time, the human and elven coalition worked together to reach their final destination.

There, in the center of the Elven Forest, was ‘Lapur’, the capital of the Elven Kingdom. Recapturing this area would be the biggest key to solving the war against the demons.

While they fiercely struggled to recapture the area with Legend Guild at the forefront, notifications began to ring in their ears.

[Legend Guild has become the first guild to enter the city of Lapur.]

[You have gained 5,000,000 Guild EXP.]

[There’s not much time left to recapture Lapur.]

[If you tear down the Demon God’s Rock and defend the area for two hours, you will be able to recapture the city.]

The Demon God’s Rock was something that Commander-in-chief Rufel had applied in the city of Lapur. This Demon God’s Rock had also turned the city of Lapur into an aggressive city suitable for the demons. Extreme pressure and demonic energy were running rampant in the city as the summoned demons glared at the players.

“The end is just around the corner,” Genie said.

The commentators clamored as they watched the event unfold through their screens.

[Ah! Legend Guild is the first guild to enter Lapur City!!!]

[There were a lot of people saying that Legend Guild will not do well without their splendid allies, Black Dragon and the Boys, and Black Mage Ali. And of course, their guild member, Minhyuk! But, look at them now! They’re showing us that they’re truly the best guild in Korea!]

[The Sun Guild Alliance is trying to speed up and dig inside so they won’t lose against them!!!]?

[Ah, they’re going to try and break the Demon God’s Rock and snatch a lot of contribution points.]

[They can’t dig into Legend Guild! So, the Sun Guild Alliance immediately went inside to dig in using their numbers!!!]

Perhaps this was truly an unavoidable situation. The members of the Sun Guild Alliance had tried to take advantage of the gaps of the Legend Guild, but they found that the situation was extremely exhausting. So, instead of targeting Legend, they tried to take advantage of the city and sweep the mobs inside.

The comments from the viewers began to appear.

[Ah. Such a shame. Legend Guild entered first, but they’re not doing well.]

[But there’s nothing they can do. The Black Dragon and the Boys are missing, and even Black Mage Ali is not there.]

[Kgghk! In fact, Our Lord the Food God will be able to take care of everything if he’s here. Agree?]

[No, I disagree.]

[No, no. I don’t think so. If Minhyuk came with Black Mage Ali, then the situation may change. But with him alone? I don’t think so.]

[It’s not like he can handle what dozens of other guilds can do, by himself.]

Everyone nodded in agreement. No matter how strong Minhyuk was, they deemed it impossible for a single person to change the situation by himself. He had tremendous AOE attack skills, powerful one-shot kill skills, and high stats, but everyone was of the same opinion that he would not be able to turn the situation that Legend Guild was in now. This was what the viewers thought to be appropriate.

However, there was one fact that the viewers and the commenters had overlooked. It was the fact that Minhyuk had awakened Beanie and had undergone explosive level-ups during his stay in the Demon World's Tower. He even gained plenty of excellent artifacts during his climb.

Then, at that moment. A magic circle suddenly appeared surrounding Lapur, the capital of the Elven Kingdom. Lava suddenly blasted out. It was as if an active volcano had just erupted in the area as it swept those who were trying to enter the city.

Puhaaaaaa—

Puhaaaa—

Puhaaa—

“Ugh, aaaaaaack!”

“Keheok!”

“Keuaaaaaack!”

The number one tanker, Golden Shield Valdar, felt flustered after being hit directly by the lava.

[You suffered from Barach's Roar.]

[Demon World's Lava will corrode your armors and weapons and melt your flesh away.]

[Your HP has fallen below 20%.]

“Wh...what...?!”

Valdar's HP was clearly full earlier. This was possible because he currently had the best HP recovery artifact, Rufad's Stamina Ring, equipped. However, his HP fell below 20% in just one single attack.

‘Then, this means...’

“Eve...everyone's already dead?”

It was just a moment earlier that the vicinity was teeming with people but now, almost everyone was forced to log out after being directly hit by the pillars of lava.

There was a name included in the skill that hit them.

‘Barach's Roar? Barach?’

Along with that thought, a huge whip made out of flames swept around him.

Shwaaaaaa!

“Keuaaaaaack!”

“Uwaaaaaaaack!”

“Keok!”

As soon as the whip of flames touched the players, their bodies disintegrated and disappeared while being forced to log out.

The one in the center of it all was a six-meter-tall, red-skinned, muscular being with the head of a cow and two protruding horns on its head. The beast had a whip in one of its hands and a steel bar on the other. Thousands of demonic beasts surrounded and guarded the Demon God’s Rock with this monster at the center.

Then, notifications rang for the players in the vicinity.

[The Demon God’s Knight, Barach, has appeared!]

[Abnormal State. You have been subjected to extreme heat.]

[The heat has reduced your physical defense by 30% and your magical defense by 40%.]

[The heat has reduced all of your stats by 10%.]

[The one who successfully hunts the Demon God’s Knight, Barach, will receive rewards.]

The commentators immediately searched for information as they shouted loudly on their microphones.

[Aaaaaaaaaaah!!! The Demon God’s Knight Barach has appeared!!!]

[Commander-in-chief Rufel must have squeezed the last of Verus’ strength in him to summon him!!!]

[The Demon God’s Knight Barach is known to be an existence beyond Level 600!!!]

Then, Barach suddenly roared.

[Knight’s Momentum]

[A powerful explosion kills off all of the enemies in the vicinity.]

“Graaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

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

Loud and violent explosions bloomed under the feet of the elves and the players, swallowing them down and killing them at the same time.

Genie, who saw all of that happen, thought, ‘C...Crazy...! How can we kill that?!’?

Kaistra quickly avoided the explosions and approached Genie. After he had finished the work with Calauhel, Kaistra had immediately joined the guild to recapture the Elven Forest. He said, “Noona, I think it’s better if we avoid it and stay at the back.”

“Alright.”

Genie stared at the Sun Guild Alliance and the other guilds that were targeted by the skill. They were trying to push forward with their numbers at the thought of killing Barach. Looking at them,

she thought that Legend, a guild that was no match for them in terms of numbers, was better off retreating while seeking other opportunities.

Then, Genie asked, “When will Minhyuk arrive?”

Kaistra thought about Minhyuk’s words before saying, “Pretty soon.”

[Aruvel has become your subordinate and vassal.]

Minhyuk struggled to swallow back his tears as he accepted Aruvel as his vassal. There was a reason why he accepted him as a vassal.

He had received a lot of help from his guild members. They had always brought high-quality ingredients as payment for his buffed dishes. If Minhyuk received a powerful vassal, the vassal would become a great source of strength for him and for his guild members. Also, accepting Aruvel would also allow him to move forward and find more ways to eat delicious food. But...

‘Even though my head knows all of this, my heart still hurts... Sob!’

After sighing deeply, Minhyuk quickly used the second fragment of the golden crown 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.]

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

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

[Beanie has acquired the Three Great Divine Beast’s Armor.]

[Beanie has acquired the Passive Skill: ‘Using Master’s Weapon’.]

?Penrus’ Active Skill: Speed of Light

?Dragon of Destruction’s Active Skill: Dragon’s Shield

?Predatory Snake’s Active Skill: Eye of Domination

Minhyuk was speechless.

Beanie’s Three Great Divine Beast’s Armor had a higher defense than Minhyuk’s Armor of Immortality. Its rank was even at ‘Demigod’. And there were also the skills that he had seen in the video from before.

The Speed of Light had a cooldown that was only half of the mage’s movement skill, Blink. The distance that it could cover was even farther, and the speed was much faster. Dragon’s Shield was

also tougher than the shields that ordinary mages could use. And lastly, the Eye of Domination was a unique skill that would brainwash the opponent, as long as their mental strength was weaker than Beanie's own.

There was also the passive skill 'Using Master's Weapon', where Beanie could use one of his master's weapons. However, there was something that he should be cautious about. From the skill's description, as soon as the weapon was handed over for Beanie's use, the weapon's attribute would completely change to a pet's weapon, and would not be able to be used by the owner anymore.

Minhyuk thought of the efficiency of his weapons, but the answer came quickly.

'Food God's Kitchen Knife.'

The Food God's Kitchen Knife was an auxiliary weapon that belonged to Minhyuk. It was not his main weapon. There was also the extremely lethal AOE attack skill, Rain of Kitchen Knives. Once Beanie owned it, he would still be able to use it through him. If Minhyuk cast another skill while Beanie used the Rain of Kitchen Knives, the effect would double. Besides, the Food God's Kitchen Knife was small and appropriate for Beanie's size.

[You have handed over the 'Food God's Kitchen Knife' for Beanie to use.]

[The Food God's Kitchen Knife now belongs to Beanie.]

It was clear that Using Master's Weapon was a unique skill. After all, most of the pet's weapons were artifacts that had much lower power than ordinary players' weapons. But thanks to this skill, this weakness was easily covered and supplemented.

Then, he looked at the Three Great Divine Beasts' Armor. It was an armor that was made entirely of gold. It was floating in the air just a bit earlier, but it had now moved by itself and approached Beanie. Then, the armor suddenly turned fluid as it covered Beanie's entire body. After covering Beanie's body, the armor solidified and protected Beanie's upper and lower body. The armor looked quite impressive as it covered Beanie from his neck down to his toes. There were even a pair of golden boots that softly glittered and flashed on Beanie's feet.

"I can tell that this armor is really made for Beanie."

The reason was simple. The armor, as if aware of Beanie's slightly protruding belly, also had its belly part protruding. Honestly, it looked a little comical.

.

"Oiiiiink!"

Beanie stared at him confidently. Minhyuk could imagine how cool Beanie would look once the golden crown was placed on his head.

'Come to think of it...'

There were no hints about the third fragment of the golden crown whatsoever.

'Will a hint appear when the time is right? Or not?'

Minhyuk did not know if it would appear when the time was right, but he was still somewhat disappointed that he could not see Beanie's awakening immediately.

Then, finally, Minhyuk turned to look at the Four Great Heavenly King's treasures. There was a mandolin, a pipa, a bronze sword, and an orb. By collecting the the Four Great Heavenly Kings' treasures, the player would be able to obtain the artifact with a form that they desired. However, the problem was the part that said, 'Instead, the performance of the artifact cannot be expected'. Of course, this was a fact that all of the players knew.

The operators already knew that the players were bound to find out this fact one day. Still, it seemed like it was a little hidden. Once the Four Great Heavenly Kings' treasures were all collected, the artifact that it would produce would be similar to a disaster-level artifact. That would fall under those called 'Authority Artifacts'.

In addition, Minhyuk was also doing more with his 'Demigod Artifact Production Method'. He might not know it yet, but this was an unimaginable moment where he would create an artifact that was comparable to the Devil Judge's Sword that he had received from Diablo. Of course, the form of this amazing artifact was already decided.

"I will make an oven using the treasures of the Four Great Heavenly Kings and the Demigod Artifact Production Method."

Then...

Shwaaaaaaaaaak—

...strong winds suddenly blew. The wind was so strong that it looked like it was swallowing all of the demonic energy in the Demon World. The strong wind sucked up all the black demonic energy in the surroundings as it devoured the four artifacts and the Demigod Artifact Production Method. Then, a huge tornado was formed from the chaos.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Minhyuk's cape and hair were blown by the wind. However, he could see that the four artifacts and the production method met in the middle of the tornado. Inside, the production of the artifact began on its own.

Crack, crack, crack—

The strong wind became stronger and stronger as if it was going to devour everything in its path. Then...

Crackle—

...a huge black bolt of lightning fell down from the sky and struck the artifacts.

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

Notifications rang loudly not long after.

[You have acquired the Authority Artifact: Oven of Disaster]

[The Oven of Disaster has reached the Demigod rank.]

[The rank of the artifact has changed to Absolute Demigod.]

[Oven of Disaster, an Absolute Demigod Artifact that ranked second among all the other Absolute Demigod artifacts.]

At the same time, in the Special Players Management Team...

“This...this is impossible...!”

President Kang Taehoon, Team Leader Park Minggyu, and all of the people present in the room were all dumbfounded. No, they were more shocked that God *Athenae*, with more authority than them in the game, had intervened like that. This was a situation that they did not expect to happen.

“Demigod artifacts could change to Absolute Demigod artifacts...?! No, it wasn’t even a Demigod artifact at first. It was an Authority Artifact...”

However, when they thought about it more, the Absolute Demigod artifacts were the ten most outstanding to exist in that world. They could assume that it should not be unilaterally and unconditionally ranked as ‘Demigod’.

While Kang Taehoon was immersed in his astonishment, Team Leader Park said, “The second among the Absolute Demigod artifacts is an... an oven...”

Everyone present felt dumbfounded, and at the same time horrified, after hearing those words.

Chapter 295: Splendid Return

Park Taehoon hurriedly gave an order as he continued to watch the monitor with his widened eyes, “Bring up the information about the artifact.”

“Yes, President,” Lee Minhwa said, as she quickly pulled out the information about the ‘Oven of Disaster’, the new second Absolute Demigod artifact.

?All special abilities and skills can be used just by having the artifact in possession.

?HP and MP volume will increase by 50%

?Active Skill: Skill Destruction

?Passive Skill: Fantastic Oven

?Active Skill: Oven of Disaster

“The skills too,” Kang Taehoon urged. Hearing the urgency in his voice, Lee Minhwa hurriedly opened the skill windows on the monitor.

Active Skill

?Seals the enemy's highest ranked skill for five minutes.

?Targets one of the enemy's skills and seal it for five minutes.

Passive Skill

?Create the best food that you want efficiently with the oven.

Active Skill

“Wow...”

“It's really awesome...”

The people in the room were looking at the skills in awe.

Meanwhile, Production Team Leader Lee Seokhoon said, “Isn't this more like the first Absolute Demigod Artifact???”

The Oven of Disaster was so powerful, to the point that it could be compared to the first Absolute Demigod artifact.

Then, Lee Minhwa said, “Player Minhyuk can use all special abilities and skills just by having the item. The artifact can ignore the limits of the skills that one can use. Yes, it's excellent. But when you look at the other Absolute Demigod artifacts, most of them are weapons. And this oven is not a weapon.”

President Kang Taehoon shook his head and said, “Skill Destruction is an amazing skill that can restrict the strongest power of your enemy for five minutes. If he does that, he can easily tie up the core players or mob bosses.”

Players had yet to encounter high-leveled monsters on the same level as those from the Demon Tower. However, the most taxing and demanding aspect of fighting against such monsters was dealing with their abilities. If one could seal just one of the monster's strongest abilities, they would probably be at an advantage during their raid.

Then, Team Leader Park piped up too. He said, “There's a skill that Player Minhyuk would really like.”

And just as Team Leader Park Minggyu had said, Minhyuk was really jumping around with joy in the screen.

[Yeah!!! I can apply the flavor of charcoal in the oven?! Does that mean that I can add the flavor of Cheongyang chili peppers as long as I add it in the oven? Kgghk! As expected of the second Absolute Demigod artifact!!!]

Indeed, Minhyuk was gushing over the ‘Fantastic Oven’ skill, and not the other two skills. Then, Minhyuk continued to speak to himself.

[Shall we go back now?]

The name Sun Guild Alliance was given after several guilds had combined together. Lee Hosung, the guild master of 'Absolute Best Zone', one of the Sun Guilds, was flustered and in a mess.

"Im...Impossible...!"

After the Legend Guild had first stepped into Lapur, the capital of the Elven Kingdom, the Sun Guild Alliance began to move quickly and follow their momentum.

More than 40 rankers stepped forward to pave the road and break the Demon God's Rock. If they were able to destroy the Demon God's Rock, they would be able to clear this event.

However, Barach suddenly appeared. With his appearance, Legend Guild decided to take a step back, while their Sun Guild Alliance stepped forward and prepared for an all-out attack. But right now...

[Aaaaaaaahhh!!! Most of the players that stepped forward were wiped out by Barach's summoned beasts!!!]

[This is an unexpected gruesome spectacle!!!]

[The Demon God's Knight Barach... is he really someone that can be hunted?!]

Lee Hosung looked around. All of the outstanding rankers of the Sun Guild that fought alongside him were forced to log out. The biggest problem that they had encountered was the sweltering heat that Barach's body emitted, as well as the 'Lava Corrosion' skill.

The sweltering heat reduced their magical defense by 40%, while the Lava Corrosion skill was like a passive skill that would spout lava whenever Barach swung his weapon. The skill rapidly reduced the durability of their weapons and armor.

"This is our chance!"

"Attack!!!" Valdar, the Golden Shield, who surprisingly survived the attack earlier, shouted. He squeezed the last of his strength as he moved forward with the remaining players that were still alive.

"Golden Shield's Brilliance!"

A golden light appeared in front of Valdar's golden shield. When it was fully formed, it fired directly at Barach. The tankers stood in front and did their best to trigger their best skills.

"Beast's Dash!!!"

"Fire Dragon's Circle!!!"

"Gallopig Sword!!!"

Then, Barach suddenly swung a flaming whip.

Shwaaaaaaa—

The whip easily smashed apart the tankers' best one-shot kill skills, before continuing on and devouring the players behind them.

Shwaaa—

“Ugh, Uaaaaaaack!!”

“Keuaaaaaaack!”

“Keoheok!”

By the end of it all, Valdar was the only one left. However, he was also forced to log out after another attack. The number of players on the frontline that survived Barach’s attacks decreased sharply.

Unfortunately, this was a fight that desperately needed rankers. There was no way that players with lower levels could hunt a being that could not be taken down even by rankers.

“This is the end...!” Lee Hosung could not help but mumble to himself. Then, Barach turned to look at him as he reached out his colossal hand. Then, when he clenched his fist...

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

...Huge explosions bloomed on the ground until they reached where Lee Hosung was. At that moment...

“Gather.”

Shwaaaaaaaa—

All of the surviving players were sucked and concentrated in one place, Lee Hosung being among them.

“Gather...?”

‘Gather’ was a tremendously high-leveled magic skill. There was a player that knew this magic?

‘Was it Black Mage Ali?’

No, Black Mage Ali was a man. The voice that Lee Hosung had just heard belonged to a woman. Just as that thought flashed through Lee Hosung’s head, he saw the figure of the person that gathered them together.

[Aaaaaaaah! Just before the explosion happened, Alicia arrived!!!]

[The Witch of Agony, Alicia!!! The guild master of one of the Four Great Guilds, Artheon!!! She has made a spectacular appearance!!!]

[The rankers who almost got attacked were saved thanks to the Gather skill!!!]

But then, the huge force that bloomed from Barach stretched out and spread out in the surrounding area.

Kuhaaaaaak!

Kuhaaaaaaaaaaak!

Kuhaaaaaaaaaaaaaaak!

However, the space in front of Alicia was torn apart as a black shaft with lightning patterns appeared.

[Wh...what's that...?!]

[The, the Witch of Agony, Alicia!!!! She's grabbing the hilt of a sword!!!!]

Alicia was smiling deeply. She thought, *'I really found my way thanks to Minhyuk.'*

Alicia was the top-ranked player in the game *Versal*, a game that was created before *Athenae*. Back then, she was a knight. A class that used swords. However, when Alicia came to *Athenae*, she changed into the mage class.

Even though she became a powerful mage, Alicia still came across her limits. That was when she met a player. His name was Minhyuk and he told her, *'I don't need to join a guild to chase and seek high-level players. I think that's not necessary for me to have fun.'*

At that time, Alicia realized something.

'That's right. Games are meant to be enjoyed.'

Alicia looked back at her position as the best mage.

'I did not play games because I wanted to be famous. I also did not play games because I wanted to be strong. I came to play games so I can have fun.'

She finally returned to the basics. Alicia realized that she had fun when she was swinging swords. So, she began to use swords again. And one day, she heard a notification.

'You can now challenge the Royal Class Knight of Agony.'

Alicia awakened new skills and became a candidate for the Royal Class. She became even more powerful than before.

And right now, Alicia slashed her sword mid-air. Then...

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

...dozens of lightning strikes fell down from the sky and neutralized Barach's lava explosions.

The commentators shouted in excitement.

[Th...the Witch of Agony, Alicia!!! She's showing us a lot more power than what we thought she had!!!]

[It's incredible!!! The rankers had been struggling to deal with Barach's skill, but she easily neutralized it!!!]

Then, Alicia jumped up and ran into the sky.

Dash, dash, dash!

She also sent a whisper.

At that moment, the guild members of Legend Guild that had been holding their breaths and watching the situation appeared from all sides.

“If we die, this episode ends in our defeat!!!” Genie shouted as the members of Legend Guild nodded in agreement.

For episode events, the direction of *Athenae*’s future depended on whether the players could make it or not. They must recapture the Elven Forest and drive out the demons for their future.

The members of Legend Guild started to put pressure on Barach.

[Jefreet’s Dash!]

[The crazy priest takes over Jefreet’s power as he dashes forward!]

Locke rushed forward towards Barach as a huge power surged in his body. Khan also jumped and aimed at Barach’s face as he used the skill ‘Giant’s Back Attack’.

Baaaaaang!

Khan’s body spun and twisted before landing a punch on Barach’s face. As soon as Barach stumbled, Locke rushed forward and slammed his stomach using Jefreet’s Dash.

Baaaaaang—

Barach stumbled once again, suffering from one attack after another. Then, a man suddenly appeared in the air. It was none other than Abel the informant.

[Sudden Death]

[There’s a 50% chance that the opponent will be destroyed if you succeed in attacking the top of your opponent’s head.]

“Heeeeeeeup!”

The Legend Guild’s members held hope. Abel’s Sudden Death was a skill that gave him a 50% chance of destroying his enemy upon a successful attack.

Khan, Locke, Ascar and Genie rushed to Barach to restrict his movements.

“Let’s goooooo!”

“Let’s end this!!!”

Alicia, the Witch of Agony, also threw a whip to wrap around Barach.

Crack, crack, crack—

Just when Abel’s dagger was about to hit Barach’s head...

Baaaaaang—

[Knight’s Revolt]

[A strong flame erupts around his body and kills the enemies around him.]

“Keuhack!”

“Keoheok!”

“Ugh!”

The members of Legend Guild that clung to Barach flew away after being pushed back by Barach. The hot lava that his body emitted corroded their artifacts and dwindled their HP at a rapid pace.

[Strong burns put you in a state that is unable to fight.]

[You will die if you don't get treated.]

Even Abel, who was trying to stab him in the head, was sent flying away from the sudden explosion of flames on Barach's body.

“Goddamnit!”

Abel hurriedly checked the surroundings when he fell to the ground. Most of the members of Legend Guild were seriously injured after getting hit by the explosion head-on. Then, Barach took a step forward to finish them off.

‘Damn it. There are so many mobs around me that I can't go to them to help.’

Alicia was surrounded by the demonic beasts that protected Barach. There was nothing she could do except to watch Barach step forward, preparing to cut off the Legend Guild's final breath.

[Lightning Sword's Tempest]

[A huge lightning and thunderbolt follows the movement of your sword as it strikes the enemies.]

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

Dozens of lightning bolts fell and struck down the demonic beasts that surrounded her. It even made Barach falter in his steps for a moment.

Alicia tried to take a step forward as she shouted at the members of Artheon who protected her from behind.

“Attack the monsters with magic while I try to rescue them to safety!”

Then, she quickly dropped to where Genie was. But, just as she was about to use Mass Teleport with Genie at the center, Barach suddenly appeared in front of her.

“Quick...!”

Alicia was speechless when he looked back at her guild members.

“...!”

She did not know when it happened, but Barach had already forced her guild members to log out. She could not help but tremble as she watched Barach approach her slowly.

“...Thank you for coming to save me,” Genie said, slowly raising her body.

“What?”

“Unfortunately, this recapture will end in failure.”

Genie and Alicia smiled bitterly. This event was already over.

The comments started to run.

[In the end, it seems like they’re going to fail...]

[Still, Alicia and the Legend Guild did their best...!]

[That Barach is too strong! Isn’t this a balance breaker?]

Alicia watched as Barach swung his whip violently.

‘Is it a level down?’

Then, at that moment...

“Diablo’s Scythe.”

—*Creaaaaaak!*

A huge black scythe appeared in the air. The scythe was connected to an equally large chain. This mysterious scythe immediately rushed towards Barach’s chest. Then...

Spuuuuurt!

Barach’s defense was so tremendous that no one could break through his thick skin. However, the black scythe was cleanly lodged in his chest.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack!”

The bastard’s grating and horrendous shriek rang loudly in the entire area. Then, the commentator shouted...

[Our, Our Lord, Food God... Pl...Player Minhyuk has appeared!!!]

Then, the man holding the end of the chain pulled his arm back amidst the gaze of all the people present.

Puhaaaaaaak!

Creaaaaaak—

Blood spurted out of Barach’s chest as Minhyuk pulled out the scythe by tugging on the chains.

This was the splendid return of Minhyuk after his trip to the Demon World’s Tower.

Chapter 296: Create a Recipe for Me

All of ATV broadcasting station’s cameras rushed to film Minhyuk the moment he appeared. The contract between Legend Guild and ATV broadcasting station was still in effect, so they still needed to fulfill their contract. After all, they had received plenty of money for this. That was why the station would not receive any restrictions or sanctions even if they filmed Minhyuk.

[Player Minhyuk has made a splendid entrance!!!]

[Our Lord Food God has finally made his appearance! The moment he appeared, a scream came out of Barach's mouth! This is the first time that has happened, no one has been able to make him shriek and scream in pain!!!]

The commentators shouted excitedly. However, they only cheered at his splendid appearance.

[But, will Player Minhyuk be able to defeat Barach that the Legend Guild and the Sun Guild has failed to overcome?]

[I think it will be hard. There might be a chance if Player Minhyuk is 100 levels stronger than he was before, but that's a fact that's theoretically impossible.]

[What's even worse is that the number of demons are increasing while the number of rankers are dropping sharply!]

Along with comments that praised the return of their Lord Food God Minhyuk, comments that raised various concerns also began to appear one by one.

[God Minhyuk has appeared. It's nice that he appeared splendidly, but he looks like he will be left out with his level. Smh.]

[Minhyuk seems to like to appear in flashy situations. Does he want to be the hero that appears towards the end?]

[He's done quite some huge damage, but the situation will not change.]

[To be honest, Minhyuk really can't carry...]

Barach was still not dead, and the commenters' reaction seemed to only be natural. Meanwhile, Minhyuk, who had approached Alicia and Genie earlier, looked back at them before rushing towards Barach.

Bathump, bathump—

Alicia liked Minhyuk. He was a cheerful, bright and wonderful person that taught her how to have fun. However, Alicia had always thought that it was just a 'fleeting' feeling.

Alicia had been the envy of the public for a long time and had a matured mindset much earlier than the others. She knew that there was liking someone was an emotion that could cool down and disappear quickly. Of course, it was true that Alicia was grateful to Minhyuk. And, it was also true that she liked him as a person. Every time she met him, her heart would pound slightly, but it was not enough to call it something serious.

However, Alicia's thoughts changed the moment she saw Minhyuk appear here before stabbing a huge scythe into Barach's chest and retrieving it casually. The thumping of her heart increased in intensity and she could not take her eyes off of Minhyuk.

That was when Alicia realized, *'I think I'm really in love... with this man...'*?

"Are you alright?" Minhyuk asked them as he smiled brightly.

Alicia just nodded. Minhyuk nodded at them and said, "I will give it my all, so stay away and go to the rear for now."

“...Yes.”

The moment Minhyuk turned his head away, the sunlight fell on his face. It illuminated his high nose bridge, soft eyes and pretty smile. He looked incredibly attractive under the bright ray of the sun. While Alicia was busy with that thought...

‘Do I have more competitors now? Tch!’ Genie thought with a sigh.

Alicia finally came back to her senses when Minhyuk ran out. She said, “Wait...! You can’t take on that guy alone!!!”

Barach’s skin was extremely thick and his defense was beyond one’s imagination. Even if one got lucky and landed a strike, their physical defense and magical defense would be greatly reduced with Barach’s flame, which in turn would cause a lot of damage to the player.

However, Minhyuk did not look like he heard her words as he continued to run.

Then, Genie said, “It’s fine.”

“Pardon?”

Alicia turned to look at Genie.

“Minhyuk never fights recklessly.”

Alicia could not understand what she meant.

“He’s not a fool that’s just burning for justice.”

Alicia really could not understand her. To her, Minhyuk was an innocent man that liked food and smiled brighter than anybody else. In fact, Alicia did not really know what kind of man Minhyuk truly was. On the other hand, Genie knew him well.

‘Victory.’?

Genie knew that Minhyuk would only run to Barach like that if he were sure of it.

Barach gripped his chest.

[Demon God’s Blessing]

[Rapidly regenerates the injured area.]

The commentators were horrified.

[Th...They’re in big trouble! They might have dealt huge damage to Barach earlier, but Barach has his own recovery skill!!!]

[This is really a losing fight!]

And Minhyuk, who was approaching Barach, thought, *‘Was Barach stabbed on his chest earlier because the judgment was triggered?’*

This question flashed in Minhyuk’s head. Based on what was stated in the special abilities of Diablo’s Scythe, there was only an 8% chance of triggering a judgment upon a successful attack. When the judgment was triggered, Minhyuk would be able to inflict an additional 400% damage.

A while ago, it seemed like judgment was triggered when the scythe stabbed through Barach's chest, which resulted in powerful damage. Even Minhyuk's attack speed had increased by 180% since he summoned Diablo's Scythe.

Then, Barach's whip flew towards Minhyuk.

Shwaaaaaaak—

Minhyuk quickly used 'Like the Wind'. He narrowly avoided the attack and closed the distance between them at the same time. He also swung Diablo's Scythe that was connected to the chain on his hands.

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwaaa—

Diablo's Scythe moved freely and fluidly as it stabbed all over Barach's Body. However, just like what Minhyuk had expected, he was unable to break through Barach's defenses.

'Just how good is his defense...?'

Minhyuk had Diablo's sword with him. Thanks to this Devil Judge's Sword, there was at least a 1,000 increase in his output since its attack power was added on top of his overwhelming stats. Despite that, Minhyuk was still unable to pierce through Barach's thick skin.

Claaaaang—

Minhyuk quickly raised his arms up after digging down with his scythe. The scythe started from Barach's lower body and went upwards but only sparks came out from the attack. And as if to further annoy Minhyuk, a change happened in Barach.

[Demon God's Blessing]

[Receiving the Demon God's blessings, Barach's attack and defense will be increased by 20% while his skill level will be increased by +1]

Minhyuk was shocked. Even the rest of the people that heard the notification were shocked.

'He's getting stronger even at this point...?'

The commentators shouted in agitation.

[A boost is added to the enemy when it's already a losing game!!!]

[Player Minhyuk's attacks don't work at all. His initial attack seemed to be one with a critical hit effect.]

[Big trouble! After Our Lord Food God's appearance, Barach has grown even stronger.]

Then, at that moment...

Shwaaaaaa—

...Barach's whip flew even faster.

Swish!

Bang—

Minhyuk evaded the attack. However, a huge ball of flame exploded at the place where the whip fell down. It was as if a bomb had fallen at the exact same spot. Minhyuk quickly used 'Like the Wind' to escape even further. That was when the iron mace in Barach's other hand suddenly moved.

Baaaaaaaang—

Minhyuk narrowly avoided the gigantic iron mace, but...

[Earth Quake!]

[An intense earthquake!]

Crack, crack, crack!

The ground shook and cracked, which broke Minhyuk's balance. Barach used the opportunity to smash his iron mace towards Minhyuk's face.

Then...

Shwaaaaaaaak!

...three black kitchen knives flew in and collided with the iron mace.

Crack!

A baby piggy appeared right in front of Minhyuk after the space had been torn apart.

[Player Minhyuk's pet, Beanie, has appeared!]

[Huh? But, doesn't Beanie look a bit different from before? He's now wearing golden armor and using the black kitchen knife.]

[Wow. The baby piggy is wearing golden armor. So cute.]

[It's not the time to think that he's cute. But, I do agree that he's cute.]

"Oiiink!" Beanie cried loudly as he kicked off the ground with his tiny feet.

Beanie had now undergone two awakenings. Using Speed of Light, he rushed towards Barach and placed pressure on him with the black kitchen knife in his hands.

"Oiiiiink!"

[Beanie's body is as light as a feather.]

[Just like doing acrobatics, he runs around Barach's body with his small body as he attacks. Unfortunately, his attacks don't work.]

A thought flashed in Minhyuk's head as he watched Beanie fight.

'It's too early to use the Oven of Disaster's skill.'

The Oven of Disaster's skill could allow Minhyuk to tie up his opponent's strongest skill or whatever skill he targeted for five minutes. However, Minhyuk thought that this should only be used when he was sure that he could kill Barach. In a situation where their attacks did not work, they needed to do something that could give them a chance of winning.

'Berserk?'

The Devil Judge's Sword had the power to increase his attack power dramatically. However, Minhyuk had never used Berserk. So, he wondered if this power was enough to kill the monster in front of him.

'If not, is there anything else?'

Then... a thought passed in Minhyuk's head.

'Come to think of it I...'

Minhyuk had been using his 'Create a Recipe' Skill to feed other people excellent buffed dishes. However, he had never used the Create a Recipe Skill on himself. Not even once.

'Why didn't I think of that?'

Minhyuk's thoughts turned calm. Looking around, he could see that it was nigh impossible to kill Barach with their current strength.

'Then...'

Minhyuk hurriedly shouted, "Everyone, gather around me!"

The surviving members of the Legend Guild, Alicia, and some other rankers were busy fighting against the other demons and demonic beasts. They knew that a rabbit would only intervene in a fight between beasts, so they tried to use their strength and help in a direction that they could maximize their power.

Hearing Minhyuk's shout, everyone moved quickly. As soon as everyone had started to move towards Minhyuk, he quickly activated the Oven of Disaster's skill '*Oven of Disaster*'. At that moment, a timer suddenly appeared in the air as the sound rang loudly in the surrounding area.

Tick, tick, tick, tick.

Countless rankers ran towards Minhyuk.

"Ruuuuun!"

"There's no other way except with Minhyuk!"

Many of the surviving rankers were from the Sun Guild Alliance. But right now, they knew that they did not have the power to focus on who would hunt Barach. Their problem right now was to find a way to survive and then think of a way to hunt Barach.

[Their only hope right now is Player Minhyuk!!! All of the rankers are running and following what he says!]

[But we can expect that more than half of the rankers would die while they're running!]?

[There's suddenly an unknown sound that rang in the air.]

[This sound... Doesn't it sound a bit familiar?]

The commentators looked at each other as if they were trying to remember where they heard this sound before. Then, one of the commentators shouted...

[This is the sound of a ticking clock...! I'm sure! This is the sound of the ticking of a second hand when you put food in the oven and turn the knob!!!!]

Even the comments section was filled with doubt about this.

[The sound of an oven timer? What kind of bullshit is this?]

[Sound of an oven... Is God Minhyuk really that obsessed about food...]

Meanwhile, one of the viewers posted a key comment.

[But the oven timer is ticking. Doesn't it make a sound when it's cooking? What happens when the cooking's done?]

Then, at that moment...

Ding!

...a cheerful *ding!*?resounded as if to tell that the cooking was finally over. At that moment, the demons and demonic beasts that chased the Legend Guild and the others, even Barach who was standing in the middle, were engulfed in a tremendous explosion.

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

The scene looked like there were countless missiles being fired in the area. It seemed like the explosion was equipped with a spell that recognized enemies, since all of their opponents that got hit disappeared without a form. The small explosions generated a tremendous power that had 450% additional attack power. This was the power of the second place of the Absolute Demigod artifacts, the Oven of Disaster.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

The surrounding blew the dust created by the explosion and revealed the area. More than 70% of the demons and demonic beasts had disappeared without a trace, while 20% fell into a state that made them unable to fight. Even Barach was staggering from the shock of the explosion.

The commentators were speechless at the sight while the comments section became quiet. They were all at a loss for words from the tremendous power that was shown. Then, one of the commentators slowly opened his mouth and said...

[F...frightening...]

With his words as the catalyst, the comments section suddenly started to flood and explode with activity.

Chapter 297: Create a Recipe for Me

PD Kim Dae-Guk of ATV still had not forgotten about the highest rating in ATV's history. The viewer rating reached as much as 61.4%. The other broadcasting stations had laughed at ATV when they chose to broadcast Legend Guild back then. In the end, Legend Guild and Black Dragon and the Boys were the ones that overturned the results. And the player who gave them the highest rating was none other than Food God Minhyuk. Currently, Minhyuk had shown another great power in front of them.

PD Kim Dae-Guk quickly checked the real-time comments.

[Wow...! Shit...! What skill is that?! I have never seen such a strong AOE attack skill in my life...!]

[There were around 400~500 demonic beasts and demons, but almost all of them are dead, right? Even those that survived are unable to fight.]

[Barach was heavily wounded in various areas, but it's still trying to regenerate quickly?]

[No, what in the world did Food God Minhyuk do in the past few days that we haven't seen him?]

Just like the comments, PD Kim Dae-Guk was also curious.

'Where has he been, and what had he done in the last few days?'

From his huge scythe, to his oven explosion skill, down to Beanie's appearance, it seemed that many things had changed. However, a helpless smile still spread on PD Kim's face. He said, "But still..."

'It will still be hard for him to hunt that, right?'

Perhaps *Athenae* had set the next update in the direction of failure and not success in the recapture of the Elven Forest. Of course, they would not bet their everything in that direction. However, looking at the current situation, *Athenae* must have definitely only calculated a 5% winning chance on the side of the players.

"The ratings went up by more than 5%!"

"Wow...! I've never seen such a skill in my life!! It's really amazing. Looking at the explosion, he could take out the demonic beasts and demons, but probably also be able to take out a decent noble demon too."

PD Kim Dae-Guk nodded, but a bitter smile hung around his lips. Fortunately, the rankers safely arrived behind Minhyuk after he triggered the skill. Still, PD Kim Dae-Guk expected something more from Minhyuk despite the bitter smile on his face.

'Well then, Player Minhyuk... What kind of power are you going to show us?'

Minhyuk obviously had something if he called for the players to gather together. Then, Minhyuk raised his hands up in the sky.

The eyes of PD Kim Dae-Guk and the people in the broadcasting station shone in anticipation.

Minhyuk shouted...

[Let's Have a Meal!!!]

"Ack?!!!"

"Wh...what? Have a what?!"

The people at the broadcasting station were flustered when they heard him shout *Let's Have a Meal!*. This was because this was the first time that Minhyuk had used the 'Let's Have a Meal' skill in public. Just like them, the viewers also found the situation to be ridiculously absurd.

[What a f*cking ridiculous skill name...]

At that moment, a lot of people's expectations were suddenly dampened.

Thanks to Alicia, Lee Hosung was barely spared from a forced log out. He was also one of the players who had been desperately running toward Minhyuk after hearing the latter's cry. When he heard the name of Minhyuk's skill, he could not believe his ears for a moment.

"Let's... Let's have a meal, what?"

He was not the only one. Even the other rankers started to make a fuss.

"Ah...?Did...did we gather here to have a meal?"

"No matter how desperate we are, eating is a bit..."

Then, a huge barrier was created.

[An absolute invincible barrier has been created.]

[You can only attack your enemies once you leave the barrier.]

Amidst the fuss of the rankers, Minhyuk was eagerly praying and hoping.

'Please, please, please, please, please!!'

Minhyuk was actually not certain about this. He was only hoping that it would work. Then...

[Create a recipe that you want.]

Ring!

[You have found a class skill.]

[You have learned your class' active skill 'Food God's Recipe'.]

[You can now check the recipe for Harmonious Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles.]

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

Active Skill

?Create a recipe for the Food God according to the current situation.

?The grade of the food varies depending on the harmony of food, the quality of the ingredients, the choice of food according to the circumstances and the satisfaction of your cravings.

?It's a bit different compared to the normal Create a Recipe skill. And everything would most likely have an increase in power as compensation for drastically reducing the buff duration.

?There is a higher chance of the food having a higher rank than the food created using the normal Create a Recipe skill.

'Oh...'

It was the perfect skill for their current situation. Minhyuk immediately checked the recipe that was created from his new skill.

Ellie's Swordsmanship evolves significantly.

?All stats will increase sharply.

The Food God's Recipe broke out of the loop of the traditional way of producing excellent buffed dishes. Once he completed an excellent dish and achieved great harmony, the ranking of the dish would increase.

Minhyuk was amazed. He thought, *'That's right! I'm feeling so stressed right now, so I definitely need a spicy hot flavor to get rid of it!'*

The best in terms of spiciness in the ramyeon world. Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles. Although Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles was spicy enough to make one's tongue tingle, its spiciness was at a strangely delicious level. Because of that, it was a food that was loved by many.

As soon as Minhyuk used his 'Let's Have a Meal' skill, he also hurriedly began to cook the Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles, while taking care to create harmony in the dish.

Meanwhile, Lee Hosung looked at him with expectations when he saw him taking something out.

'That's right. Player Minhyuk is a Food God. He's the one who beat the Crown Prince of Swords Carr and swept the Demon Army alone... He must have some sort of secret potion... Keoheok?!!'

The faces of Lee Hosung and the other rankers crumpled as if they wanted to cry.

"Fi...fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles...?"

"We're doomed... this is our end..."

"Sob!"

'It was our fault! Why did we place our trust in him!'

They immediately gathered together to discuss how they would hunt Barach once the barrier was gone.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk opened the lid of a cup of Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles. He could see the flakes powder and the liquid soup pack resting on top of the on the Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles.

Before he started cooking, Minhyuk thought, *'Should I add a variety of things inside, or should I add the things that I usually eat together with the Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles?'*

He thought about it for a second. There were tons of recipes circulating on the internet on how to enjoy the Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles. Minhyuk nodded after choosing one among many recipes available.

‘Let’s put the most basic ingredients that should be eaten with the Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles, then add other things that I can eat with it.’

Minhyuk poured hot water into the Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles. Then, he put oil on his frying pan, heated it and added two eggs.

Sizzleeeeeee—

An exciting, entrancing sound came out of his pan as he cooked the egg, making sure not to cook the yolk fully. Then, Minhyuk reached his hand out towards the microwave. He quickly opened the door of the microwave as he placed the bulgogi-flavored sausage that was stuck on a wooden stick and had its plastic wrapper slightly opened.

After doing all of that, his Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles was finally done cooking. He quickly poked the lid with his chopsticks as he discarded the hot water. Then, he peeled the lid off completely as he sprinkled the flakes, seaweed powder, sesame seeds, and various other things, before adding the liquid soup.

“Hmm~?Smell~”

The unique spicy scent wafted to his nose. The scent was so spicy that it immediately stimulated Minhyuk’s mouth, making him drool. After squeezing the liquid soup pack, he quickly mixed it together with his chopsticks, causing the yellow noodles to turn red. Once he was done mixing, Minhyuk placed a long string of cheese on top of it. And just in time...

Ding!

...the ham bar that was heated in the microwave was quickly taken out and added to his Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles.

Then, Minhyuk placed the entire cup in the microwave. Minhyuk looked at the microwave in anticipation. Then...

Ding!

Minhyuk hurriedly pulled the cup out of the microwave once he heard the *ding!*.

“Hot! Hot! Hot!”

The heat of the cup transferred to the tips of his fingers. It was because he was in a hurry to take the cup out of the microwave.

Minhyuk felt as if he was looking at art as he stared at the Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles. The white cheese looked like melted snow piled up on top of the fiery red noodles which made him gasp in awe. Just a slight touch of Minhyuk’s chopsticks was enough to stretch the cheese out.

Minhyuk quickly started to arrange the setting. Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles, microwave heated ham bar, tuna mayo triangular kimbap, and peach-flavored Julpis.

“Kyaah!?It’s done, it’s done!”

Minhyuk quickly stirred with his chopsticks. He even purposely left out the fried egg. He held the noodle cup in one hand as he used his other hand to lift the noodles and the cheese with his chopsticks. The spicy flavor of the noodles in Minhyuk’s hands wafted towards his nose. Then...

Sluuuuuurp!

...the deliciously spicy taste that was mellowed out by the soft cheese greeted him in his first bite. After taking one big bite, Minhyuk held out his chopsticks again and took another big one.

Sluuuuuurp~

The charm of the Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles was its spiciness that gradually increased in intensity the more you ate.

“Fwwwwip! Hooo!”

Minhyuk breathed out roughly as he tried to soothe his burning tongue with some fried egg. The light and soft flavor of the fried egg evened out the spiciness for a bit. Then, he took another mouthful of the spicy noodles, before taking a bite out of the ham bar.

Chew, chew, chew—

The juicy ham bar and its soft texture brought a smile to his face.

As for the commentators...

[Wow... That's, that's crazy...]

[Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles are the best!! That's right!! Everything is good when combined with the Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles, but don't you think that the combination of a ham bar and the triangular kimbap next to it is the best in the world?!]

[No. I don't know why Athenae becomes a mukbang whenever Player Minhyuk appears, but what I'm sure of is that the sales of Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles would be the best today!!]

[Aaaaaaaaah!!! Player Minhyuk took off the plastic from the triangular kimbap!!! What amazing hand movements!!! Usually, a large chunk of the seaweed gets torn off whenever we open the wrapper, but the wrapper that he took off is surprisingly clean!!!]

[Crunch! That's the sound of Player Minhyuk biting on the triangular kimbap!!! I can't believe that the tuna mayo triangular kimbap can go easily in someone's mouth like that! Is there a more fascinating meal like this?!]

[That's right! Player Minhyuk takes another bite out of the ham bar...! That's right! Yeah! Yes!! Bite that! Our Lord, Food God, bites the ham bar once again!]

[Aaaaaaaaah! I'm going crazy! Just like the viewers wanted, Player Minhyuk gulps down that julpis! It looks cold and refreshing! Gulp! It went in!]

[His 'Haaa!' exclamation towards the end made me scream in awe without realizing it!!!]

The rankers, with Lee Hosung among them, looked at Minhyuk strangely just a while ago...

Gulp—

...were gulping loudly without realizing it.

“Looks, looks delicious...”

This time, Minhyuk already won against Barach in this strange battle of nerves with his mukbang.

Chapter 298: Create a Recipe for Me

Gulp—

PD Kim Dae-Guk gulped as he watched Minhyuk's mukbang.

Then, the barrier faded away. The rankers that gathered together pulled back in unison. PD Kim Dae-Guk thought that it was only a natural move in their current circumstances.

'Player Minhyuk clearly did not do anything except eat there...!'

The increase in rating from his mukbang was clear. However, only Player Minhyuk ate. As soon as the barrier got released, all of the rankers fell back as if they were going to try and deal with the situation in their own way.

On the contrary, Minhyuk just stood there staring at Barach's majestic figure and his bat-like wings spread wide behind his back.

Crackle—

Blazing flames fell down with every step that Barach took, causing everything to burn in flames. That was when Barach fired his flames toward the retreating rankers.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Minhyuk just stood there without flinching. When he took a step forward...

Flash—

...he appeared in front of the flustered rankers. The distance between them was as far as ten meters, but Minhyuk had appeared in front of them in a flash.

'How can he travel that distance in just one go...?!'

Then...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

...a strong wind began to blow. This was a skill that Player Minhyuk had always used so far.

'Fluttering Sword...?'

It was both an AoE attack skill, and a one-shot kill skill.

'But, can he even pierce through Barach's skin with that skill?'

Something unexpected happened.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

The wind began to pick up in intensity. It became as strong as a typhoon that threatened to blow everything away. And the rankers around him all fell into chaos.

[Kyaaaaaak!]

[What the hell is this wind?! It's blowing like a typhoon!]

[Crazy...! I think it would be hard to remain steady, right?]

This time, the leaves that fluttered in the wind were glowing gold, not silver. Hundreds of falling leaves fluttered strongly amidst the strong typhoon-like wind. The movements of the golden leaves were enough to dig into the ground and piles of stone flying around.

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

Barach pushed his iron mace towards this strong force, as a huge flame exploded out and rushed towards Minhyuk, colliding with the golden leaves.

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa, shwaaak!

Alas, the clumps of flames that rushed forward were easily torn apart by the fluttering leaves. The leaves did not even stop as they rushed straight towards Barach.

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—

A strange and mysterious sound rang out. However, it was not the sound of cutting through something. Instead, it sounded strangely similar to something passing through or tearing through something.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack!”

Blood spurted out of Barach's body.

“What, what the hell...!” PD Kim Dae-Guk shouted as he jumped up in surprise. This was not the Fluttering Sword that he knew. It was far stronger than the skill that they knew before!

‘He just ate... So how...?!’

They could not believe it since Minhyuk only ate inside the barrier.

The notifications rang one after the other in Minhyuk's ears.

[You have eaten a dish made with the recipe for yourself.]

[You won't be able to eat a recipe made by yourself for two weeks.]

[You can't receive any duplicate buffs during the duration of the buff retention period.]

[Harmonious Fire Chicken Stir-Fried Noodles]

[All stats will have an increase of 19% and Ellie's Swordsmanship will have a +4 increase in mastery for five minutes.]

In the case of this dish, the ranking would change depending on the harmony that was created. The notifications that Minhyuk had heard were completely different from the notifications in the past after he completed a dish.

‘Wow... Ellie's Swordsmanship increased by +4...?’

Ellie's Swordsmanship was the best swordsmanship skill from Empress Ellie. It was something that could not be accessed just by anyone. The swordsmanship had grown even stronger after receiving the evolution from a king of a kingdom, and had recently become even more powerful after combining with Sword God Valen's swordsmanship.

Currently, it had become a *Demigod Skill*.?And such a Demigod skill had actually increased by +4 too. The reason why Create a Recipe Skill was amazing was because it could overcome the limits of skills, and make the skills become even stronger. The skill level would usually remain stagnant at 9 and stop at MAX. It could grow stronger with evolution, which would make the skill go back to 1, or just completely stop at that point. However, the power of Minhyuk's cooking could let those skills go beyond that point.

Based on the notifications, the power of the dish that Minhyuk ate could only give him five minutes of overwhelming power. So, Minhyuk quickly released the barrier created by his 'Let's Have a Meal' skill.

Meanwhile, the rankers behind him were saying...

"I trusted you and you just ate..."

"Why did you release the barrier?"

"That's enough. We've already prepared inside the barrier, so let's move back for now."

The other rankers continued to grumble while Lee Hosung calmed them down and asked them to fall back. Then, the flames that were burning on Barach's iron mace rushed toward them.

"God... Goddamnit!"

"If we get hit directly, we'll die!"

The players screamed.

Most of the players knew that they would not be able to avoid it on the spot.

For a moment, Minhyuk wondered if he could traverse that distance in an instant, since his 'Like the Wind', a technique under Ellie's Swordsmanship, had increased by +4.

"Like the Wind."

Flash!

And just like he thought, Minhyuk was able to traverse a distance of ten meters. After appearing in front of the other players, he immediately used his Fluttering Sword.

'The power... has increased...'

Although Minhyuk could not confirm the exact extent of power that he received, he could still feel the changes in his skills, from the power that erupted when he triggered it. The huge amount of power was enough to make him feel horrified.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

The wind around Minhyuk began to blow violently. The strength and intensity of the wind were something that he had never seen before.

"Kyaaaaaaack!"

"What the hell is this wind?! It's blowing like a typhoon!"

"Crazy...! I think it would be hard to remain steady, right?"

The players on site could not help but scream in shock.

[Wow...! This looks like a huge tornado with Player Minhyuk at the center!]

[Such a strong wind!!!]

Minhyuk fired the powerful force toward Barach.

Shwaaaaaaaak—

The unusual golden leaves collided with Barach's powerful flames that shot out of his iron mace. After destroying Barach's flames like it was nothing, the leaves continued to push forward until they tore Barach's body apart.

"Keuaaaaaaaaack!" Barach screamed loudly.

[Something unbelievable is happening right now.]

[Wow... I actually thought that he won't be able to pierce through Barach's skin. But, didn't he just eat something a few minutes ago in the barrier?]

The commentators were astonished.

'We're sure that Player Minhyuk ate something before!'

They were not the only ones that were surprised. Even Minhyuk himself was surprised.

'This is the power of Ellie's Swordsmanship once it reaches Level 4...?'

Perhaps this was the power that he could receive once he strengthened Ellie's Swordsmanship further.

Then, Barach roared, *"Graaaaaaaaaaaaaaar!"*

[Demon God's Blessing]

[The Demon God's strength recovers your injured body.]

Then, Barach's injured body began to recover quickly.

'I have seen another of this guy's skills.?'

Minhyuk was not only eating inside the barrier of the 'Let's Have a Meal!' skill. He was also analyzing the skills that Barach had used.

The Skill Destruction was divided into two. It could restrict either the opponent's strongest skill or the chosen skill of the opponent for five minutes. However, it was not because the skill was too strong that he was reluctant to use it right away. Minhyuk wanted to analyze Barach's skills and

ability further before choosing what to do. And so, he had taken the time to analyze all of the skills that the outraged Barach used to hit his barrier.

Whenever his lava erupted, the rankers' artifacts would be corroded and their movements would turn dull.

‘But now, all the other rankers are useless.’?

They were the best of the best, but they just lacked the strength to deal with Barach. So, Minhyuk had to do his best. He finally made a decision after thinking about which skill of Barach’s he would restrict.

‘I should prevent him from using that recovery skill that he had just used.’?

Minhyuk could not afford to let him recover again. His buffed dish effect would only last for five minutes. It could be said that he was betting his all on this. Whether he win or lose, it was all in.

[Skill Destruction]

[Sealing one of the target’s designated skills.]

[Demon God’s Blessing will be sealed for five minutes.]

Barach seemed to feel the restriction from Minhyuk’s Skill Destruction. Lava burst from his body, as if an active volcano had erupted.

[Knight’s Berserker.]

[Barach’s offense and defense will become 30% stronger.]

[After the Berserk period, all of Barach’s stats will fall by 30%.]

Barach had realized that Minhyuk was unusual. Minhyuk immediately turned the Devil Judge’s Sword into Diablo’s Scythe, before jumping up and swinging the weapon down.

Creak, creak, creak, creak, creak—

Blood flowed down all over Barach’s body as a line was drawn across his tough and thick skin. Just like Barach had turned stronger, Minhyuk had also become stronger. However, he only had three minutes left now.

‘Well, he can be my experimental subject for Berserk.’

Berserk was a special skill attached to the Devil Judge’s Sword, and his experimental time was only a few tens of seconds.

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwak!

Barach’s whip became faster and stronger as he began to pressure Minhyuk. Even his movement speed increased to the point that he could easily hit Minhyuk’s body.

“Urgh!”

However, it was still too early. Minhyuk would only use that skill once he had approached it closely.

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa—

Barach swung his whip and wrapped it around Minhyuk’s body.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Crack, crack, crack!

The whip tightened around Minhyuk's body immediately and caused his HP to drop sharply.

Crackleeee!

The powerful flame traveled along the whip and stretched towards Minhyuk.

Hwaaaaaaaaa—

Minhyuk had a tremendously high magical defense compared to the regular rankers. Despite his high magical defense and the increase in stats through the buff, his HP still fell by 20%. And it did not end there. Barach quickly pulled the whip strongly, tugging Minhyuk towards him.

[Aaaaaaah!!! It ends like this!]

[But Player Minhyuk fought very well!!! The thing that he did just now, I believe he will be able to get the upper hand in front of the other world rankers.]

The commentators had predicted the end.

Just as Minhyuk had reached Barach... A black flame blazed all over Barach's body.

[Fire Devil's Explosion]

[A 700% increase in attack power will be manifested as soon as a direct hit lands on the opponent.]

Keuhaaaaaaaack!

The huge ball of fire that came from Barach's body flew towards Minhyuk. It was an extremely powerful attack that boasted an additional 700% attack. It was clear that this was Barach's strongest one-shot kill skill. Everyone had predicted that Minhyuk would die. But...

Crack!

...the whip wrapped around Minhyuk's body broke down, as a black fog appeared and wrapped around Minhyuk's body before being absorbed inside.

Then, the notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears.

[Berserk.]

[This is the first time that you have used the Berserk skill.]

[For your first awakening, all of your skills and stats would become much higher than the normal Berserk skill.]

[All abilities will be increased by 19% and all stats would have a +2 increase.]

[Your HP will decrease by 3% per second. By the end of the skill, your HP will fall below 10% while your defense will fall below 20%.]

Minhyuk's skill level had increased tremendously due to his buffed dish. The same was true for his stats. And now, his Berserk skill has dramatically increased Minhyuk's skills once again. Then, another notification came.

[Ellie's Swordsmanship's cooldown temporarily decreases by 70%.]

To his surprise, there was another set of notifications...

[Ellie's Swordsmanship has temporarily reached the Pinnacle.]

[You can temporarily use the evolved Ellie's Swordsmanship technique.]

[Chapter 8. Berserk Sword]

'Pinnacle...?'

This was Minhyuk's first time hearing about such a level. However, he did not have much time to ponder over it. The Fire Devil's Explosion was rushing towards him. It was a skill that has given Barach an additional 700% attack power, on top of his basic damage.

Minhyuk immediately activated the technique, "Berserk Sword."

The eighth chapter of the skill, the Berserk Sword, was temporarily activated, resulting in a shocking event.

As soon as Minhyuk wielded his sword, hundreds of four-meter-long black sword lights appeared in the air. It looked like a flock of hundreds of black migratory birds flapping their wings and shooting up into the sky!

[An additional 700% attack power is added to your sword.]

[If the sword succeeds in attacking a vital point, it will gain an additional 1,300% attack power.]

Minhyuk immediately realized that this was a combination of his Splitting Sword and Sword of Fury.

'A strike will have an additional 700% attack power and an additional 1,300% attack power if I succeed in hitting a vital point...? And with each and every single one of those hundreds of swords...?'

Minhyuk was shocked at how powerful this sword technique was. Then, the hundreds of swords collided against Barach's Fire Devil's Explosion, a magnificent fire that seemed to be able to burn everything down to the ground.

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!

The hundreds of black swords broke through the Fire Devil's Explosion and turned it into nothing. Then...

Shwaaaaaaaaaak—

...the hundreds of swords continued forward to stab into Barach's body.

[You have successfully dealt a critical strike.]

[Additional 1,300% attack power.]

[You have successfully dealt a critical strike.]

[Additional 1,300% attack power.]

[You have successfully dealt a critical strike.]

[Additional 1,300% attack power.]

[You have successfully dealt... omitted.]

Notifications constantly rang in Minhyuk's head. Barach was torn to shreds until his figure could not be distinguished anymore. The sword lights even continued to fly forward, destroying all of the remaining buildings and towers. They finally became spent after reaching the magnificent elf mountain.

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!

Although the mountain did not disappear, its shape was still completely altered forever.

Crumble—!

“...!”

“...!”

[...!]

[...!]

[...!]

The skill finally disappeared and everything in its wake had turned still and silent.

Then, notifications were heard through the silence.

[You have successfully hunted the Demon God's Knight Barach.]

[You have acquired the Demon God's Knight's Training Room Stone.]

[You have acquired the Demon God's Special Parchment.]

[You have gained 3,135 platinum.]

[You have acquired 61,315,479 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

...

[You have gained 11,190,441 contribution points.]

[The Class Quest: Kingdom Warriors has been created.]

[The Class Quest: Food God's Kingdom has been created.]

Chapter 299: Siblings Selling Ramyeon

Ellie, the Sword Emperor, was pacing about while listening to the report from her aide, Ruth.

“Count Gedir has collected more taxes than usual and has reigned like a king in the land. If there was anyone that bothered him, he would slit their throat. If he fancied a woman, he would hug her and bed her, even if she hasn't come of age yet.”

“Call him in and put him in jail right away. If he refuses, then go ahead and cast judgment on the spot.”

“Yes.”

Ellie, just like usual, was living her life as the cold empress. Then, she suddenly stopped walking as she trembled on the spot.

“Im... Impossible...”

The direction where she was looking was in the direction where Minhyuk just used the Berserk Sword. She could feel a vast amount of power from her swordsmanship in that direction.

‘Minhyuk... has reached the pinnacle level...??’

Ellie’s Swordsmanship was not always called Ellie’s Swordsmanship before. It was only named ‘Ellie’s Swordsmanship’ after she named it after herself. This was a skill that had always been the framework of the swordsmanship of her ancestors. However, the former emperors had been blocked by their physical limitations.

‘A godly state that is just slightly out of reach, but can never be attained.’

Ellie and her ancestors had called it like that, but the players and the operators had called it ‘Demigod’. However, this swordsmanship was originally a swordsmanship that God had personally left in this world.

According to the sayings, plenty of skills and abilities in *Athenae* have been born from a God. Aerod, the God of abilities and disasters, created eight Pinnacle Attack Skills and left them on earth. One of these skills was the original form of Ellie’s Swordsmanship. However, no one had ever reached the pinnacle yet. That was the reason why Ellie stopped in her tracks upon feeling the power from earlier.

‘According to the legends...’

Those who had reached the Pinnacle of Ellie’s Swordsmanship were supposed to save the continent. However, the power appeared only for a moment and disappeared quickly. Ellie thought, *‘Was the power unlocked temporarily because of something?’*

She took a breath and calmed herself down.

‘It’s still a bit early but perhaps, Minhyuk will be able to reach the pinnacle. Something that even I can’t reach.’

Then, Ellie began to pace again.

ATV broadcasting station’s commentator, Lee Dae-Jin, blinked blankly at the monitor before rubbing his eyes. He thought, *‘What, what did I just see...?’*

He could not even be certain of what he had just seen. Then...

Badump, badump, badump, badump—

...his heart beat intensely as the hairs all over his body stood up. It was a thrilling sensation. And...

‘The Athenae: World War... I think our country can win...!’

The global experts had said that South Korea was very likely to remain in the 40th place out of the 49 participating countries. There were not even a lot of people who would deny this claim. However, for the first time in a long while, they saw hope in Minhyuk.

Lee Dae-Jin could not help but mutter loudly, “Our country is 40th place? Are there any other players in your country who are as powerful as that?!!!!”

And his voice was transmitted just like that.

[Our country is 40th place? Are there any other players in your country who are as powerful as that?!!!!]

Even if Lee Dae-Jin sounded arrogant, no one could say that he was not qualified as a commentator despite his conceited and arrogant comment.

The comments that had fallen silent began flooding in once more.

[Crazy... shit... that’s completely crazy... so crazy...! This is the best out of all the videos that I have ever watched...!]

[Wow... I think I have to change my underwear. It’s so awesome that I might have peed my pants a bit!]

[I didn’t like Player Minhyuk because he’s a Food God, but I decided to become his fan today!]

[No player in their countries could ever show their best and strongest skill that could rival his.]

[Where are all the members who said that Our Lord, Food God can’t carry others?]

[Everyone, what we need to do right now is certain and has been decided.]

[What’s that?]

[Korea, make some noiiiiiiiiiseeeee!]

[Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!]

[Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!]

And on that day, shouts and screams resounded all over Korea. It was as if they had scored during the World Cup. Korea’s stellar performance in *Athenae: World War* was not that impossible after all.

[The duration of Berserk has ended, your HP has now dropped below 10%.]

[You can’t increase your HP with any sort of potion or heal for three minutes.]

[Your defense level drops below 20%.]

The power that Minhyuk felt earlier drained out of him the moment Berserk’s duration ended. What came after was none other than a huge decline in HP, including enormous muscle pain. What was

worse was the fact that he could not recover his HP through any potion or heal, so it was safe to say that the Berserk skill was a double-edged sword.

While feeling the strength leaving his body, Minhyuk recalled the countless notifications that he heard earlier.

‘Demon God’s Knight’s Training Room Stone, Demon God’s special parchment, more than 3,000 platinum and 61 million EXP...?’

Minhyuk leveled up a whopping eleven times in a row. There were even two class quests created.

‘Was it created because I reached Level 450??’

Minhyuk immediately checked out the quests.

‘A kingdom?’

How intriguing. No one has ever created a kingdom in *Athenae*. No, there was no guild that had even declared about owning a great land that could house a kingdom.

‘But you’re telling me to create my own kingdom?’

Still, there was only one reason why Minhyuk was interested in the quest.

‘A kingdom filled with delicious food! Should I create a kingdom like that?!’

Aaaaaah! Just imagining it was making Minhyuk happy. The kingdom that he wanted to build would be filled to the brim with food and no one would be hungry!

As for the Food God's Warriors, Minhyuk already had warriors.

Kaistra, the Envoy of Incarnation.

Legendary Spear Ben.

Great Sage Aruvel.

Someone who could become a Legend, Haze.

The leader of Talmor Religion, Corr.

Sword Saint Conir.

'Uhm...'

Minhyuk felt a bit overwhelmed when he thought of it.

'How come...'

Each and every single one of them were special beings. They were all decent when compared to others.

'They have distinct personalities too.'

Minhyuk suddenly looked around to check the area.

"..."

"..."

"..."

"..."

All of the people present were looking at Minhyuk and his easy-going expression. One of them, Lee Hosung, fell on his bum in shock.

Minhyuk asked, "...What's wrong with you?"

"No, nothing. *Ho, hohohohoho!*" Genie laughed awkwardly.

"Just, just because!!! *Ha, hahahahaha!*"

"You, you succeeded in hunting Ba, Barach!!!"

"Hahahahahahaha!"

"Hohohohohoho! You've gotten a lot stronger since the last time I saw you!" Alicia also laughed.

On this day, Alicia, the Legend Guild, and all the other rankers present were given a huge surprise by Minhyuk. On the other hand, they also experienced jealousy, envy, and yearning to be the one to turn around the situation like that.

‘We want to be stronger too...’

‘Move forward. We have to move forward.’

Minhyuk’s overwhelming power stimulated everyone’s growth vigor.

ATV broadcasting station had sent out threats about filing a complaint if the BJs present published the video of Minhyuk killing Barach. This way, they could control the video release. They also briefly stopped the airing of the scheduled reruns. ATV was creating a board right now. They also made sure to give most of their proceeds to Legend Guild and Minhyuk as they obtained another approval from them. It was for the ‘Hall of Fame’.

Right now, ATV’s PD Kim Dae-Guk was standing behind a female employee with his hands in his pockets.

“Upload it.”

“Yes, PD.”

The video that will challenge the Hall of Fame. ATV had also distributed the opening to players in advance.

“It hit 300,000 views as soon as it opened! 350,000! 400,000! 450,000! This is crazy!!!
The number of clicks is so unbelievable!!!”

People from all over the world were watching. The players and rankers from Korea, and even in other countries tried to check out this hot scene.

PD Kim Dae-Guk looked out of the window and thought, *‘Player Minhyuk’s video is spreading quickly all over the screens of the viewers.’*

Then...

“We’re over 1 million views!!!”

“We’re over 5 million views!!!”

The number of players playing *Athenae* exceeded hundreds of millions. The number of views continued to soar thanks to these people. And this was just the first day, just one day. The momentum did not stop at all.

“We entered 6th place!!!”

“We reached the 4th place!!!”

And...

“3rd place...!!! Player Minhyuk’s video has stayed in 3rd place in cumulative views!!! *Oh?!!!* Th... that!!!”

When they clicked on the upper right corner of the video, they saw a small crown shape...

“...Player Minhyuk’s video has been confirmed for the Hall of Fame!!!”

The world had turned upside down. The video had entered the top 10 in cumulative views in just a few days. And, it did not stop there. They originally estimated that it would take a month to reach the Hall of Fame. However, in just a few days, the video had already ranked third in the Hall of Fame.

[Shocking!!! There's a ranker like that in Korea?]

[That's a skill that I've never heard of!!!]

[Our country's top ranker Mushashi Kentaro talked about his relationship with Player Minhyuk. He said that he's the one who enlightened him!!!]

[The number one in the Global Mage Rankings, Alex, stood up and gave a round of applause after watching Minhyuk's video!]

Meanwhile, PD Kim Dae-Guk took out his cellphone and commented on the Hall of Fame video.

"What did you write?"

"Secret."

PD Kim Dae-Guk smiled as he placed his hands in his pockets and went outside. Although he did not mean for it to happen, one comment quickly came up as the best comment. And the comment with the most likes and replies was...

'World, wait for it. Our South Korea is coming.'

Chapter 300: Siblings Selling Ramyeon

A man wearing a black robe was walking towards the end of the dark cave.

'I didn't know this opportunity would come to me...!'

The man's face was filled with delight.

The man walking towards the end of the dark cave was named Zhang Chen, widely known as Death Tamer Zhang Chen on *Athenae's* Chinese server. He was one of the most brilliant rankers, ranking second in China, and was well known for mainly taming and handling the undead. However, he was still only second in the tamer rankings.

Whether one was in the top 30 in the class rankings, or in the top 30 of the overall rankings, as long as there was someone else standing in number one, one would always lag behind. Somehow, an opportunity came to him after a series of notifications.

[You have met the conditions to challenge the Royal Class.]

[You have met the conditions to become the Royal Class: Black Dragon Tamer.]

[Class Change Quest: Collect the artifacts of the Black Dragon, Vormon.]

Not too long ago, the very first Royal Class, the Dragon Monarch, was born and the world was abuzz. Even the second Royal Class, the Descendant of the Great Mage Moldoron, was also born. The Descendant of the Great Mage Moldoron, Black Mage Ali, posted a video showing off his significant increase in strength and posted it on the internet. The effects and aftermath were beyond

imagination. He had proved that he and Alex, the current number one in the mage rankings, had a big gap and he was truly the best mage in name, and in reality.

Zhang Chen also believed that he would be able to defeat those world rankers with his opportunity.

Black Dragon Vormon!

Information about the black dragon was not difficult to gather, since Zhang Chen was going to change into a Royal Class.

Black Dragon Vormon was a dragon that showed enormous strength during the continental war and had a tremendous influence on the entire continent. Black Dragon Vormon was also known for being far stronger than any other dragon to ever exist. For Zhang Chen to rule and tame such a black dragon... it was something that made him shiver with thrill.

Finally, Zhang Chen was able to reach the end of the cave. And there...

‘The Wand of Destruction made from Black Dragon Vormon’s teeth!?’

The Wand of Destruction was floating on top of an altar. Zhang Chen slowly approached and reached his hands out to it.

Shwaaaaaaa—

A black vortex suddenly appeared in front of it, as the soul of a being appeared.

“Finally... Arrived...”

The voice sounded as if it was delighted at Zhang Chen’s arrival.

Vormon was only in the shape of a dragon’s head when he appeared in front of Zhang Chen. Hence, Zhang Chen spoke to him arrogantly. He said, “From now on, I am your master. Vormon. You have to give your life to me.”

Zhang Chen was speaking cringy lines, but the thought of reaching number one in the world rankings was no longer impossible with Black Dragon Vormon under him. It made him forget himself and hence, his words. Besides, the name of the Royal Class that he would transfer to was ‘Black Dragon Tamer’. Then...

“My... Master... you... say...”

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

Blood spurted out of Zhang Chen’s body as small explosions broke out deep inside him. Zhang Chen was forced to kneel from the sudden blow. He looked at Vormon incredulously.

‘Wh, what...?!’

Was there a monster that would attack its owner?

“You bastard. You should only do what I tell you to do.”

“...”

At that moment, Zhang Chen realized that his Royal Class name was not ‘Black Dragon Tamer’ but ‘Black Dragon Pawn’. It was definitely something that one would be furious about. However, Black

Dragon Vormon said, "If you follow me, you will be able to gain many things. I'll have to go to my hidden lair too."

'I'll be able to gain many things... Well, Black Dragon Vormon's task was to dye the entire continent with chaos. It wouldn't be impossible for him to grant his pawn at least a kingdom or an empire in the process, right?'

"I understand!!! Fine!!! I'll give you my life!!!"

Zhang Chen's arrogant and cocky expression from earlier was nowhere to be seen. Vormon gritted his teeth as he said, "Where... is he..."

Zhang Chen was quite curious. Who was the 'he' that he was referring to?

"The Supreme Divine Beast. It's a baby pig."

'Supreme Divine Beast? A baby pig?'

Zhang Chen had obtained a lot of information about the continental war, and he had also heard some things about the Supreme Divine Beast.

However, the words 'baby pig' was something Zhang Chen was familiar with. Zhang Chen recalled Beanie, Player Minhyuk's pet, the Food God from the small country called Korea.

"He's in the Asgan Continent."

"As expected, he has awakened too."

Vormon's eyes turned chilly. Then, a black jewel popped out of his spirit. Notifications rang in Zhang Chen's ears after he had politely received it with both of his hands.

[You have acquired a Warp Gate Gem.]

[Vormon is not strong enough. You can only use it three times.]

"Once you go to my lair, you will be able to awaken most of my powers. But first, go to Asgan Continent through this gem. I want you to collect information on the power and status of the Supreme Divine Beast."

"...!"

Zhang Chen was shocked.

'Am...amazing...!'?

From all the information that he had gathered, there was no item or path that could allow him to traverse continents. But at that moment, the power to move to other continents emerged. Of course, it was only limited to Chinese players.

Zhang Chen's brain immediately worked non-stop, *'I should post it on the black market.'*?

After listening to Vormon, it seemed like Zhang Chen would be able to move a lot of players once his power had awakened. No, perhaps there would be a path created to connect one continent after

the other. But before that happened, this limited warp gem could have an astronomical value if presented to the players that did not know of this fact.

What Vormon wanted from this gem was information about the baby pig. So, it was enough if there were more than one or two people going together with him. If he sold the slots on the black market, people would definitely seek him for their own gain.

‘I need to ask about three billion in cash.’?

The rich were spread far and wide in China. After all, it was a country that had the extremes when it came to the rich and poor. Three billion for a continental warp was a just price, especially for the top rankers.

Zhang Chen logged out of the game and posted it quickly on the black market. The players that joined the market consisted of informal rankers, top rankers, or rich players that had undergone strict screening before they could join in.

Not long after he posted, a player had sent him a note.

[I’ll offer you four billion for it.]

“...!”

Zhang Chen was shocked.

‘You want to offer four billion?’

This meant that they wanted to block other competitions. Zhang Chen found it unusual but...

[I understand. Instead, I would like to see something that can prove your identity. May I ask for your in-game name?]

‘A player who can pay four billion won. I wonder who it is?’

Not long after, he received a reply.

[Mei Wei]

“...!”

Valkyrie. This was what the maidens of war were called in Nordic mythology. Mei Wei’s class was exactly this, Valkyrie.

Mei Wei had finally logged in to *Athenae* after a week. Although she had bought the warp gem from the black market for four billion and had gone to Asgan Continent, she was only able to log in now since she fainted for a whole week.

Surprisingly enough, despite not being able to log in for that long period of time, Mei Wei’s ranking remained unchanged, and that was under the scenario that the top rankers’ rankings could change a lot in just a single day. The fact that her ranking remained unchanged meant that she was overwhelmingly strong.

‘I have to hurry up and find him...?’

Mei Wei had to go see Food God Minhyuk. So far, Mei Wei was only able to contact the player named Zhang Chen.

“I was a little worried since your whisper was off and your note box was closed.”

Zhang Chen had continued to send whispers to Mei Wei, but she could not be reached since she usually refused to receive whispers from *Athenae*. However, Zhang Chen was urgently asking her to deposit the four billion in his bank.

Zhang Chen held a black jewel in his hand as he began to mutter something. Then, the space was torn as a warp gate was created. When they were about to enter the warp gate...

“Be careful.”

“...?”

Mei Wei tilted her head just as she was about to take a step.

“Actually, I’m your fan,” Zhang Chen said.

Zhang Chen had a gloomy appearance. Even though he was inside the game, his face still remained thin and his eyes protruding. Even his hair was unkempt and messy. Despite looking like that, he was also one of the leading players in China. However, he was also Mei Wei’s fan. This just showed that her power in *Athenae* was extremely overwhelming.

“What do you mean by that?” Mei Wei asked with her cold and enchanting voice.

Then, Zhang Chen said, “I actually told you to be careful, but I don’t know what you should be careful about.”

“...Pardon?”

“To be honest, I signed a contract with a ranker recently and sent him to Asgan Continent yesterday. However, I can’t get in touch with him. I think he’s in a whisper-restricted area. But thankfully, I was able to get in touch with him by accident. He only said two words.”

“Two words?”

“Yes.”

Zhang Chen shook his head and said, “Demon.”

And...

“Boy.”

“...?”

Mei Wei’s brows furrowed. She could not understand what he was saying. Then, Zhang Chen continued to say, “But you’re Valkyrie Mei Wei, so you probably have nothing to worry about.”

Mei Wei nodded. They seemed to be in danger as if they were being targeted, but that did not mean that she should delay.

‘I don’t have much time left.’?

The doctor had told Mei Wei that her physical condition would start to deteriorate in a few months to the point that she would no longer be able to play games. No, in fact, her physical condition was so bad that it would not be strange if she died silently right now. Even her *Athenae* capsule would always flash a ‘Warning!!! You can’t access the game.’ and recommend her to log out and take a break before logging in again. However, Mei Wei deliberately tinkered with her capsule with the help of competent mechanical experts and hackers, just so she could continue playing *Athenae*.

And beyond that portal existed...

‘A dish that might be able to cure my sickness.’?

A bright light engulfed Mei Wei as she walked towards the portal. Then, the notifications rang in her ears.

[You are a player from Cairon Continent.]

[You are warping to Asgan Continent.]

[You have entered the entrance passage.]

[If you fail to pass through the entrance passage, you will not be able to go to the Asgan Continent.]

[The use of return and teleport scrolls are restricted in the entrance passage.]

[You can’t send a whisper in the entrance passage.]

[Please note that if you are forced to log out, you will be connected at Cairon Continent again.]

‘So, there’s a system like this.’?

Zhang Chen did not tell her, but it was likely because he did not know about it either.

‘Is that why he said something about a demon?’?

Perhaps the boss monster at the end of this passageway was a demon. Then, Mei Wei began to walk. She encountered monsters above Level 540. The monsters that appeared included, but were not limited to, basilisks, giant snakes that could turn a person into stone, giant soldier ants and many more high-leveled monsters. However, Valkyrie Mei Wei just hunted them and moved forward.

After a long walk, it seemed like she had finally reached her destination. There, she saw a small cave. No... perhaps... it was an entrance to a mine. Just when Mei Wei was about to step forward, an unidentified voice suddenly rang out, “S...stop...! Please. It’s my fault!!! So, stop now! Please send me back!!!”

‘This voice?’

It was a voice that Mei Wei had heard at least once before. She quickly concealed her presence.

[Goddess’ Secret.]

[The Goddess of Secrets is helping you.]

It was an amazing skill that could conceal any sound or even the mana flowing in one’s body. Mei Wei slowly moved. And there, she saw...

[Conir's Namyeon To-Go.]

‘...?’

It was a small handcart with a clumsy name. It seemed like the spelling was also wrong. The man sitting in front of the handcart was Ma Tianyu, the number one in China's assassin rankings and number three in China's overall rankings. He was sitting in front of a ramyeon shop and screaming, “S...Stop...! Let me go back! Just kill me!”

Then...

Dash—

Then, someone appeared in front of Mei Wei.

‘He...he saw through the Goddess’ Secret Skill...?!’?

The Goddess’ Secret Skill had only been seen through once in her entire career.

A boy appeared in front of her after he had seen through her skills. He bowed and said, “A second customer! Welcome! I’m Conir!!!”

Then, he asked her with a big smile on his face, “Which do you put first in a ramyeon, the noodles or the soup?”