

Gourmet 311

Chapter 311: Juicy Drink

“Yeah!!! Don’t fight! Good people should be close to each other!!!” Conir said with a wide and bright smile on his face, nodding furiously at his own words. Mei Wei smiled softly at the boy when she saw him acting like this.

‘Only once.’

Although Mei Wei told Conir that she would protect his Hyung no matter what, she only intended to help him to the best of her abilities once. Only once, when he needed her help the most. Minhyuk’s words had healed the wounds in Mei Wei’s heart to some extent. Of course, the words came from Conir’s mouth, but his words were still deep and meaningful for her. And, this was a favor that Conir asked of her. It was already surprising enough that the world’s number one player, Mei Wei, was willing to help someone else.

Then, Conir said, “Conir is giving Conir's Princess Syndrome Noona the most delicious ramyeon in the world!”

A small, yet warm, light enveloped the bowl of ramyeon in Conir’s hands, one that he personally made for her. Mei Wei sat down in front of the it and closed her eyes, trying to control her breathing.

‘Will... I... be able... to eat it?’

Mei Wei was a person that vomited just at the sight of food. So, she had quite a lot of concerns. Just then, she recalled the words that Conir had told her, *‘It’s not your fault. It’s not your fault. The part that you’re uncomfortable with will be nothing if I help you.’*

That was right. It was not her fault. The corners of her lips curled lightly. What happened was not her fault. It was simply an unfortunate accident. Then, she slowly opened her eyes and stared at the piping hot ramyeon. She saw the chewy noodles inside the red soup, the chopped green onions on top of it, and the well-boiled whites and yolk of the egg. Mei Wei grabbed her spoon and slowly lifted it to her mouth to taste the soup first. Then, something surprising happened.

‘I don’t feel nauseous...?’

Mei Wei knew that anorexia was some sort of mental illness. The longer this mental illness stayed with her, the more her stomach began to reject the food in front of her. But right now, she was not feeling any repulsion at all.

“Slurp!”

The hot and spicy ramyeon soup entered her mouth as she took a small sip from her spoon.

‘Deli... cious...?’ Mei Wei thought, her heart was overcome with emotions. She felt that this was right. Food was not a bad thing. It was something that could make people happy. The smile lingered in her lips as she picked up her chopsticks and clamped on some noodles.

“Sluuuuuurp!”

Mei Wei picked a piece of kimchi and ate it with the chewy noodles.

Crunch, crunch, crunch—

The sweet and sour taste of the kimchi spread pleasantly in her mouth, as she took a bite of the well-cooked egg. She said, “Delicious. It’s really delicious, Conir.”

“Conir! That’s good!!!”

Mei Wei ate the bowl of ramyeon in front of her in a hurry. However, before she took another bite of the noodles, she said, “Boss, can I have some cold rice over here?”

“Yes~” Conir answered cheerfully, bringing some cold rice over.

Mei Wei had always liked mixing some cold rice in her ramyeon when there were still some noodles left in her bowl. She mixed the rice well before pressing it down with her spoon. Then, she scooped a spoonful, complete with rice, soup and noodles, and lifted it to her mouth.

‘It’s really delicious...’

The combination of ramyeon and cold rice was the best of the best. She lifted the entire bowl and finished everything, down to the very last drop. Then, she heard the notification that her skills’ level had increased by one, but she did not pay it any mind. It did not matter to her.

‘The first... step...?’

Mei Wei was finally able to take the first step in treating her anorexia.

“How was it?”

“This is really the most delicious ramyeon in the world. Thank you, Conir,” she smiled softly as she answered Conir.

Just like that, Conir’s business quest had ended. Mei Wei had only made a bit of progress, but she was still not yet completely cured. She still needed to meet with Minhyuk.

“Shall we go and meet your Hyung?”

“Yeah!”

Conir had grown close to Mei Wei. That was why he believed and trusted her. Besides, Mei Wei had told him that she would become friends with Minhyuk and protect him. So, he took out a parchment.

‘Vassal’s Tracking Parchment.’

The Vassal’s Tracking Parchment was an item that could only be used by a vassal with a master. This parchment would allow the vassal to track and check the location of their master. Then, Conir tore the *Vassal’s Tracking Parchment*.

[You have torn the Vassal’s Tracking Parchment.]

[Checking Minhyuk’s location.]

After exploiting the four legendary figures and over a thousand residents of the territory, Minhyuk heard the trial completion notification in just over a week.

[You have successfully harvested all of the withering fruits.]

[The power of Eden, the Mother of Life, has seeped through all of Atlas territory.]

[The weakened Small World Tree is now being revived.]

Flash—

Soon, the withering leaves on the giant World Tree located in the center of the Atlas territory disappeared, and young green leaves began sprouting in place.

[More than 20~30 vegetables and fruits planted in Atlas territory will grow to S~SS rank in thirty days.]

[The growth rate of all seeds planted in Atlas territory will double.]

[Once all the seeds planted in the Atlas territory bear fruit, the fruits will acquire E~SS rank special power.]

[All of the crops that will grow from the seeds planted in Atlas territory will always taste delicious regardless of seasons.]?

[Beautiful flowering trees will grow in Atlas territory that will boost and revitalize the energy of the residents of the territory.]

[In the future, residents of Atlas territory will experience a +4% recovery effect.]

[Legendary Farmer Bran has permanently become a resident of Atlas territory. He will manage and maintain the farming system in the territory.]

[Minhyuk, the person who holds the ownership of Atlas territory, will receive a gift.]

[You have gained 500 REP.]

[You have gained 300 DEX.]

[You have achieved a high score and awakened Atlas territory's power as the City in the Sky.]

[You have achieved a high score. You can now choose to take another trial.]

[You have completed the Territory Quest: Remove the crops that gnaw on the roots of the World Tree.]

[You have acquired the Small World Tree's mysterious fruit.]

The Small World Tree flashed brightly. The bright light condensed into a sphere and floated in front of Minhyuk before falling down. The light disappeared, replaced by a fruit the moment Minhyuk reached out. The fruit was shining with a variety of colors.

'Is this the mysterious fruit?'

Minhyuk's smile was bright and wide as he washed the fruit clean with water. The fruit had thin skin, similar to an apple and was about twice the size of a regular apple too.

‘I can probably eat it as it is, right?’

Minhyuk took a big bite out of the fruit.

Crunch—

His first bite tasted sweet and refreshing.

‘It tastes like an apple?’

On his second bite...

‘Huh? Now, it tastes like pear?’

Crunch, crunch—

This time, it tasted like those refreshingly cool and sweet pear freshly taken out from the refrigerator. On Minhyuk’s third bite...

‘Oriental melon?’

It tasted like sweet oriental melon. He could even feel the seeds whenever he chewed. There were obviously no seeds in the fruit at all, but he felt the sensations of chewing on the melon and its seeds together.

“Ho— It really is mysterious!!!”

Minhyuk was amazed at the sweet and deep flavor of the fruits that he tasted with every bite. Finally, the flavor of soft peach appeared on his last bite. He said, “Yeah. That’s right. Peaches should be soft, not hard. It tastes sweeter like that.”

Minhyuk found the fruit extremely delicious that he ended up eating everything, even the stem! Then, notifications rang loudly the moment he finished eating the fruit.

[You have eaten the Small World Tree’s mysterious fruit.]

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

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up... omitted]

Eleven consecutive level-up notifications rang in his ears. Minhyuk smiled in satisfaction at the notifications. Then, he turned his attention towards the ‘City in the Sky’.

‘Wow...’

With this power, Atlas territory could literally become a city in the sky. The owner of the territory could choose to let the city fly if he so desired. Of course, there was a time limit. The territory could only fly for six hours the moment it rose in the air. This power made it possible to relocate the territory to any place that they wanted and was also a very useful power in war. After he finished checking his notifications, Minhyuk immediately chose his next trial.

[You have chosen the trial of the Sword and Shield.]

The trial that Minhyuk deemed was necessary for the territory's growth right after Eden's trial was none other than the Sword and Shield's trial. Having a strong military power meant that they would have enough power to protect the territory. But before he could start the trial, something unexpected appeared.

[The Food God's Hidden Trial might appear depending on your next trial's achievement level.]

[If you successfully complete the hidden trial, you will be able to receive additional rewards.]

[The owner of Atlas territory will be able to receive the beef ribeye, chuck flap tail and hanging tender that the Food God had personally acquired from Heaven's God Runia's farm.]

'Gasp...! Wh...what?!' Minhyuk thought, hands and body shaking in excitement.

'Beef from Heaven's God Runia's farm? Even the ingredient list is shocking! Rib eye, chuck flap tail and hanging tender?'

At that moment, Crusoe approached him and said, "Now, the next trial..."

"Place a piece of chuck flap tail on top of a grill. Grill it exactly for seven to ten seconds then flip it. After that, pick it up and dip it in salt..."

Chew, chew, chew!

Minhyuk's mouth moved unknowingly. Crusoe looked at Minhyuk in confusion when he saw him suddenly acting strangely. After all, his lips were moving as if he was chewing, and his entire body was exuding happiness.

Meanwhile, in the Special Players Management Team.

[Player Minhyuk has completed the Hidden Piece: The One who Achieved Eden's Impossible Territory Test.]

[The Food God's Hidden Trial might appear depending on his next trial's achievement level.]

"Team, Team Leader!" Lee Minhwa urgently called for Team Leader Park the moment an unexpected situation appeared in front of her. Hearing the urgency in her voice, Team Leader Park rushed over.

"Wh...what the hell?!" Team Leader Park could not contain the shock in his voice. That was because...

“What the hell is this?!”

...he was completely clueless about the situation. The same was true for Lee Minhwa and the other employees. None of them knew what this was about. So, they hurriedly contacted the Development Team’s Team Leader, Lee Seokhoon. Team Leader Lee Seokhoon rushed over the moment he received the call.

“*Gasp... gasp...!?* C...crazy...! Was what you told me true?!”

“What exactly happened?”

“...A system that shouldn’t be opened yet has been awakened.”

“What...?” Team Leader Park asked Team Leader Lee Seokhoon in doubt, not understanding what he was saying.

“The Maestro of Destruction, who should be around Level 550~630, should have been the one to originally receive Atlas.”

Team Leader Park nodded. This was a fact that everyone was aware of.

“The *Athenae*? Development Team predicted that Player Minhyuk would fight a battle against him at Level 600 to regain ownership of Atlas territory, a land that was originally under the ownership of the Food God. According to our predictions, the server integrations should start around that time too.”

According to the *Athenae* system operators, the Level 700 players would first appear around a year and a half, or even two years later. That was the original time frame that they expected the clash between Calauhel and Food God Minhyuk to happen.

“Only after Player Minhyuk challenged the farming trial and achieved a high score would that trial have a high probability of awakening. *But,*? that system is supposed to be under the? *‘inaccessible’?* stage.”

The system operators might have been the ones to create the settings, but there were still hidden systems that players could not access yet, these were systems in inaccessible stages. However, these systems would be released, one after the other at a later date, once the level of the players increased.

“So, what you’re saying is that this trial shouldn’t have appeared right now and it was supposed to be around one to two years later?”

“Then, what about the rewards...?”

“...The rewards are also things that shouldn’t have appeared and nor received at this point in time.”

‘Rewards that shouldn’t have appeared and nor received at this point in time.’

Team Leader Park rubbed his chin in thought. The value of artifacts that would appear a year later would be completely different from the ones that were already in the market right now. Back

in *Athenae*'s early days, unique artifacts were able to be sold at high prices, but just a year later, the value of these artifacts had already depreciated by thirty times their initial value. Of course, that was only natural. After all, the supplies and items back in the day were rare. But right now, something that should not be released yet was about to be released. That would pose a huge problem.

"Heavenly Beef..."

Heaven was a place that was hidden more deeply than the Demon World. And beef that came from that very place was actually offered as a reward.

Meanwhile, Lee Minhwa gulped as she spoke, "*Heh...* That, that Heavenly Beef... must be delicious, right?"

"That's right. It must be delicious...?*Huh?*" Team Leader Park's words went into a halt as he turned to look at Lee Minhwa. Lee Minhwa hurriedly schooled her expression the moment the two of them made eye contact. This was not the time to think those thoughts.

"I believe Player Minhyuk will do his best to somehow complete this trial and eat that beef."

Then, Team Leader Park asked, "But, what do you think is the probability that Player Minhyuk has in completing this trial?"

Lee Seokhoon looked at the monitor solemnly and replied, "Two percent."

Chapter 312: The Sword and Shield's Trial

"...If it's just 2%, we don't need to worry too much, right?"

"That's right. We analyzed them just now and with Player Minhyuk's level, stats and skills, clearing the trial is nigh impossible. That is, if no other variable appears."

"A variable?" Team Leader Park asked weirdly the moment he heard the word *variable*.

Lee Seokhoon looked at him seriously and said, "If Player Minhyuk takes the risk and chooses to challenge the Food God's trial, he will be allowed to take one 'helper' with him. If that helper somehow has the power to make Player Minhyuk more powerful then..."

"That's impossible."

Lee Seokhoon was talking about an outstanding priest. That was the only person capable of making Minhyuk strong enough to clear the trial! However, despite Legend Guild being a guild of elites, they still did not have a priest, or people with great buff abilities among their members. The vassal Corr? He was a '*paladin*', so his skills were mainly focused on the offensive and would not be able to be of much help.

"Then, we can rest assured."

"..."

Flinch!

Lee Minhwa stopped what she was doing and turned to look at Team Leader Park when she heard him say that. Those were the taboo words that she had specially determined for the Special Players Management Team!!! Whenever she or Team Leader Park Minggyu uttered these words, the situation always unfolded in a completely different direction from what they had expected. So, she made sure to make the words '*We can rest assured.*' the department's taboo words.

'This is ominous...?'

Lee Minhwa's expression turned solemn as she looked back at her monitor.

Minhyuk extricated himself from the thought of eating beef and regained his senses to listen to Sword and Shield Crusoe's explanation about the trial.

"The trial of the Sword and Shield is simple. Sect Leader Minhyuk... No, Minhyuk... and I will be given 100 troops each."

Minhyuk nodded.

"Then, you and I will pass through the same stretch of land with our troops. We might be going through the same stretch of land, but we're technically in different places."

Minhyuk easily understood the gist of it. The place where the trial would take place was the same, however the both of them would still be in different spaces.

"Do you understand?"

"Yes. I understood the gist of it."

Basically, they would both have the same conditions.

"If you reach at least a level that's within 20% or equal to my achievement level, you will be able to proceed to the next trial."

In other words, Minhyuk only needed to achieve around 60%~80% achievement level if Crusoe achieved 80% in the trial to pass.

"What if I reach a higher level than you?"

"...Who knows," Crusoe answered with a wry smile. Even he did not know what would happen. However, he was sure of one thing, that would be a difficult task.

"During the time that I have been together with you, I learned that you are a very smart and clever person. However, I was called 'teacher' by those that used the sword and the shield in the past."

Crusoe was one of the legends in the continent, recognized as the master and teacher of everyone who used swords and shields. There was even a legend praising his outstanding commanding ability

and various tactics that allowed him to make 10,000 soldiers retreat with just 200 men under his banner.

He was a completely different person from the God of War, Eclei and the God of Death, Bach. The two of them might have the abilities of a commander through their ‘*Monarch*’ and ‘*God*’ classes, but they had never lived on the battlefield where one had to walk the tightrope of life and death. On the other hand, Crusoe had lived in the world of *Athenae*?and had actually gone through hundreds and thousands of battlefields. In other words, he was in an entirely different league compared to them.

Then, Crusoe added on, “This trial is different from your regular subjugation quests. In this trial, your troops will be able to grow quickly with every hunt. That’s why it’s very important for you to make sure that your troops stay alive and you incur only minimal damage.”

This meant that they would be able to exert greater power if the troops survived every hunt and continued to minimize their losses and damages. However, if they continued to lose their men, there was a high chance that they would not be able to make it to the end of the trial.

“There are three boss monsters that will appear in this trial. As per common knowledge, the final boss is never an easy opponent. Also, make sure to remember that every boss monster that you hunt will drop useful parchments and potions.”

Minhyuk made sure to remember all of the information that Crusoe had told him.

“It’s going to start now. Be careful,” Crusoe sincerely said to him. After all, if he died during the trial, they would not be able to drink any more of those watermelon juice!

Then, Minhyuk disappeared under the cover of the bright light that surrounded him.

Soldier Park’s eyes were closed tightly as he clasped his hands tightly in prayer.

‘Please... Please...’

Even the 99 other soldiers were all thinking the same thing. They were the 100 soldiers who stayed in Atlas territory over a hundred years ago. All of them had long been dead, but thanks to the territory’s special power, they were able to awaken once again. All of them were given a chance to have their human bodies and wander around Atlas territory for a day, if they participated in this trial and survived.

‘I will make sure to survive throughout this trial so I can visit my mother’s grave...’

Park had awakened for the first time in hundreds of years. If he survived this trial and was able to gain that one free day, he wanted to go and visit his mother’s grave. That was why he prayed hard that Crusoe would be their commander. If Crusoe appeared here, he was sure that he would save a lot of them and complete this trial. But when Park opened his eyes...

“Hello, everyone?”

A man bowed politely at them with a soft smile on his face. The extremely good-looking man also shook hands with each and every soldier present, including Park.

‘This person... will be the one leading us through the trial...?’

That meant that this man was the one competing against Crusoe.

‘Did he make the wrong choice?’

Park was aware that the four trials in Atlas territory were trials that should be chosen based on the owner’s special characteristics and skills. If they had high dexterity, they should choose Eden’s trial. If they had high holy power, they should choose Louis’ trial. If they had high offensive and defensive power, as well as good commanding abilities, they should choose the Sword and Shield’s trial.

He knew this because they were not just ordinary soldiers. They were part of the 200 legendary troops that fought under Crusoe’s leadership and forced 10,000 troops to retreat. These 200 soldiers were equally divided between Minhyuk and Crusoe. Among them, Park was a remarkable and outstanding hidden NPC that acted as a *Centurion*.

“Excuse me. Is it possible for us to know what the commander’s class is?” Park asked, hoping against hope.

Minhyuk answered him, “My class is... a chef.”

“...”

“...”

At that moment, all of the soldiers went speechless.

‘Did, did he say chef??’

‘N...no! What is a chef doing here?!’?

However, they believed that exceptions always existed!

‘That’s right. It doesn’t mean that he’s weak just because he’s a chef. Right??’

So, Park asked him again, “Then, what is your special ability?”

Minhyuk rubbed his chin as he pondered about how he should answer him.

“Hmm...”

Then, he spoke after careful consideration, “I eat really well.”

‘Gasp!?’

‘We...we’re doomed!?’

‘We’re?completely done for!!! We might die the moment we start!!!’

Then, Minhyuk added again, “Ah,?I really, really eat well.”

Park suddenly thought, *‘Mother...’*

Somehow, Park felt like his longing to see his mother's face had deepened. Although the soldiers tried their hardest not to show it, Minhyuk knew that they were disappointed. So, he said, "Ah,? Since... I eat well. My soldiers should also eat well. You know?"

Then, they saw Minhyuk take out several transparent glasses, containing liquids with different colors, but mostly red and green. There was even some sort of sticks stuck inside the glass while dew dripped down the outside of the transparent glass.

"This, what's this?"

Commander Minhyuk smiled and said, "Watermelon juice, melon juice, banana juice, strawberry juice, mixed berry juice."

"...?"

All of the soldiers present looked at Minhyuk strangely.

"Kgghk~"

Park was in awe after he tasted the watermelon juice for the first time under the glaring heat of the sun. Luke, another soldier, sitting next to him was drinking melon juice, he said, "Wow... Are you telling me that there's ice in this small bowl?"

"This is really amazing!!"

The soldiers' mood had soared once again. However, Park was still left depressed.

'I think it will be hard... to see my mother again, right?'

Park smiled wryly. Despite the soldiers admiring the flavor and taste of the drinks in their hands, all of them still believed that they would die in this trial.

Meanwhile, Commander Minhyuk, who declared that he was a chef, was busy cooking. When Minhyuk cooked his first legendary dish, he acquired the title '*The Man Who Created a Legend*' and doubled his buff capacity. That meant that the buff capacity depended on titles and several other factors, just like when his buff capacity increased when he changed to the Food God class, and when he acquired his cooking skills. Right now, it was possible for him to make four times as many buffed dishes than his initial capacity. It was more than enough to feed all 100 soldiers in front of him.

"Let's help the commander."

"Ah,?That's right, let's do that."

The soldiers quickly approached Minhyuk to offer their help the moment they finished their drinks. Park was also among them. He had rolled up his sleeves ready to help. They might be disappointed with Minhyuk and his skills, but they were people who were raised properly. Even if he was weak, he was still their commander. And if their commander took the initiative to cook for them, how could his subordinates sit still?

"Thank you for helping out."

“You don’t need to be polite, Commander.”

“*Hmm.*”

Minhyuk looked at Park and saw his name and level pop up above his head.

‘He’s a soldier but his level is at Level 473...’

Park was much stronger than any of the soldiers in Eivelis or Cordis Empire, so it was surprising.

Minhyuk said, “Then, let’s do that.”

Minhyuk wanted to cook chicken. It was mainly because he wanted to welcome the soldiers that would accompany him to the world of the *‘almighty chicken’*. Of course, he also had his other reasons.

“You’re a chef, right? So, why did you choose to take the trial of the Sword and Shield?” Park carefully asked Minhyuk.

After thinking for a moment, Minhyuk answered, “I might be a chef, but I’m also very strong.”

“What?”

Minhyuk only smiled at Park when he saw him looking at him in confusion. He looked at the soldiers helping him with cooking.

“I should also do my best since these handsome and dashing soldiers are helping me, right? I should at least give Sir Crusoe a good bashing in the head, what do you think?”

“That would be nice,” Park smiled as he answered. Deep inside though, he was feeling bitter. They might never get any chance of winning against Crusoe. He might be called the *Sword and Shield*, but he was also a man hailed as the *‘God of Tactics’*. With the sound of the buff notifications, Minhyuk finally completed cooking all of the chicken. Then, Minhyuk said, “Centurion Park.”

“Yes, Commander.”

“Sir Crusoe’s soldiers and the soldiers here have the same power, right?”

“Yes, that’s right.”

“Since everyone’s at the same level, what would happen if your strength and speed increased by around 14%, and your swordsmanship, spear techniques, and archery skills grew to the next level?”

“...If that happens, then we’ll have the advantage in the early stages. But, that’s impossible, right?”

‘Why did he suddenly ask that after cooking a dish?’

Park looked at Minhyuk in confusion. It seemed like he could not understand his train of thoughts. However, Minhyuk just smiled softly as he said, "I'm asking you this because it's possible."

"Yes?"

"It's possible. And one more thing..."

Minhyuk looked at the wide stretch of land where the trial would take place. Once they went out of this safe zone, the monsters would come out and attack them. He continued to survey the land before saying, "We will move forward, but we will not hunt the boss monsters here."

"...Wh...what in the world are you talking about?"

Minhyuk grinned and said, "We will make them our allies instead."

Park truly could not understand the words coming out of Minhyuk's mouth. However, Minhyuk was already thinking about one of the Food God's secret skills. And this skill was none other than the 'Allurer's Cooking'.

Chapter 313: The Sword and Shield's Trial

Active Skill

?You can create a recipe that the opponent wants to eat. There is a possibility of taming your opponent once they eat your food. The probability of taming will increase or decrease depending on various conditions.

?Current number of available uses: 3/3

The Allurer's Cooking skill was a skill that Minhyuk had received after feeding Riche, Kaistra's younger brother, and completing the Food God's class quest '*To Have a Feast with Other People*'. Minhyuk had only used this skill once before, when he tamed Baphomet Rune. After that one time, he accidentally increased its level by one. Thanks to the increase in level, the number of available uses had refreshed and even the restriction regarding monsters and beings with a 100-level gap with him had also disappeared. Minhyuk only had one reason why he never used this amazing skill.

'Why would I even want to add more mouths to feed?'

That was right. It did not matter how strong the monsters or the troops were, Minhyuk still did not like the idea of having more mouths to feed. So, he never used it. But...

'I may gain more mouths to feed but if the result of taming them will allow me to get that Heavenly Beef, then...'

Minhyuk would willingly take a step back just to take two steps forward! That was exactly what he wanted to do. However, Park just looked at him strangely, not knowing his thoughts. Minhyuk

smiled as he watched the man leave. It did not matter if he did not know right now, they would find out soon enough.

“Since the food is ready, it’s time for us to welcome the almighty chicken.”

Park and the rest of the troops had no other choice but to change their evaluation of Minhyuk in their hearts.

‘Our strength and abilities really increased by 14% just because of the power of the almighty chicken...?’

‘How can this be...?’

‘From what I heard, the almighty chicken is an existence like a god. Maybe that’s the reason why our powers increased?’

All of them were in admiration after tasting the dish that Minhyuk had cooked for them. Minhyuk was even sharpening and polishing their armor and weapons, which increased their defense by 4% and their attack by 3%. But, was that all of it?

‘I feel like my swordsmanship skill has increased by a level...?’

‘My archery skills too...?’

Even a simple level increase in skills would be able to bring about tremendous effects in combat and would be able to help them survive better. After all, the battlefield was a place where survival or death could be determined in just a split second. Then, Park looked at the other team’s progress.

[Crusoe. Hunting the first boss monster. Expired troops: 1. Injured troops: 5. Achievement: 23%]

‘Sir Crusoe is already trying to kill the first boss...?’

On the other hand...

[Minhyuk. Located in the safe zone. Expired troops: 0. Injured troops: 0. Achievement: 0%]

...they had not even started yet. This trial generally would give higher achievement to the team that could hunt the monsters faster. Just then, Minhyuk shouted, “We’re moving out!!!”

The troops under Crusoe were still very energetic, despite finishing the hunt and killing the first boss monster. The soldiers could not help but look at Crusoe in admiration.

‘As expected of Sir Crusoe...!’

‘Hundreds of years might have passed, but to still achieve minimal damage with only one dead and five injured...’

The troops had deep faith in Crusoe. After all, the name *Sword and the Shield*? was not wasted on him. Meanwhile, Crusoe was checking on Minhyuk's progress. The trial had a system that allowed each of the teams to check in and see what the other was doing every thirty minutes.

"*Eh?*" A dull voice somewhat came out of the majestic and dashing Crusoe. He could not understand what he was seeing.

"What's happening here?"

[Minhyuk. Shoveling. Expired troops: 0. Injured troops: 0. Achievement: 0%]

"Shoveling...?" Crusoe asked. He was left confused after reading that Minhyuk was doing his best to shovel.

Park and the other soldiers were a bit excited after hearing that they would move out. They might have been disappointed in Minhyuk the first time they saw him, but after being fed such an amazing dish, their views changed. However, after walking forward quite a bit, they saw Minhyuk suddenly take something out. The item was none other than a shovel.

Dig, dig, dig, dig—

Then, he quickly started shoveling.

"You guys should dig too!"

"*Ah.*?Yes, yessir!"

The soldiers immediately started digging after hearing Minhyuk's orders. This happened while Crusoe was hunting his first boss monster. However, the soldiers were shocked to see how Minhyuk worked.

'Gasp... He just tapped his shovel on the ground, but the ground was easily dug just like that? And it's even deep?!!!'

'Is he the Sh...Shoveling God?!'

Whenever Minhyuk brought his shovel down, the ground would be easily dug up. It seemed like the ground was much softer wherever he struck his shovel. His shoveling skills were so good that the troops were all shocked.

"Shovel over there!"

"Yes, sir!"

The soldiers felt that what they were doing was strange, but they still followed orders well and shoveled hard. Then, Park asked, "Why are we shoveling? If we continue doing this, we will definitely lose to Sir Crusoe."

Park knew that they would be as good as dead if they did not proceed with the trial. They did not need to fight, but Minhyuk would not be able to pass the trial. In the first place, did he even want to pass the trial? Then, Minhyuk said, "We're going to lure them."

“What?” Park asked, still not understanding. Meanwhile, Minhyuk was already moving on to another topic.

“Are there any soldiers who’s worked in reconnaissance here?”

“Me!”

“I did!”

“Me too!”

The soldiers that worked in that position answered one after the other.

“You guys come with me. The rest of the troops continue shoveling here.”

“Yes, sir!”

Ten quick-footed soldiers went forward and approached Minhyuk.

“We will quickly check what monsters are in the vicinity and retreat without being noticed.”

“We understand.”

Minhyuk and the soldiers moved together to scout. The first monster that they saw was...

‘Iron Armored Orc Warrior.’

The Iron Armored Orc Warrior was gigantic, with its entire body made with iron and they looked much scarier than ordinary orc warriors. Catching sight of the monster, Minhyuk immediately used his ‘Create a Recipe’ skill.

[Creating a recipe that the other party desires.]

[You can now check the recipe for raw meat.]

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

Then, he said, “Let’s fall back before that guy notices our presence!”

“Yes!”

Just like that, Minhyuk used his ‘Create a Recipe’ skill whenever they passed by a monster. Minhyuk willingly used it after he found a very familiar plant in the area.

The flower was abundant and common, but it was something that the users had usually neglected. However, it would be useful for his plan. The moment Minhyuk returned with the reconnaissance team, he began cooking according to the recipes that he created. His plan was something simple. After cooking, he threw the food into the deep and wide pit that they dug earlier. Then, he sprinkled a lot of scent flower on top of the food before quickly retreating with his troops. Minhyuk and his troops hid behind the bushes and waited. Then...

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud, thud—

The ground trembled as the sounds of loud thuds of feet running got closer to where they were. More than fifty iron armored orc warriors appeared, alongside Lv450 monsters that looked like eagles which could not fly, only walking on two feet. These monsters jumped into the pit one after the other, enticed by the smell wafting from deep inside.

“*Chwiiik.?I’ll eat those!!!*”

“*Chwiiik!*”

“*Ppiii!?No, I will!!!*”

The monsters pushed each other away trying to get into the pit somehow. However, there were a few exceptions. They were one of the monsters that Minhyuk was watching out for, the Steel Owlbears! Despite smelling the enticing and tantalizing scent, the steel owlbears still did not move.

‘*So, they’re the exception.*’

So, what would happen after most of the iron armored orc warriors and the eagles had already jumped inside the pit? Minhyuk loved cooking and eating and he always kept tons of ingredients in his inventory. He always bought ingredients to the point that the stores would run out of ingredients once he went to shop. And, Minhyuk also always kept a lot of oil in his inventory.

“Charge forward! Throw the oil into the pit and set it on fire!!! Take care of those trying to climb over!!!”

“Yes, sir!” The soldiers answered loudly and moved quickly.

Stab!

The soldiers wielding spears skillfully stabbed the monsters that had not entered yet, while the archers shot their bows from behind.

‘*I’ve definitely become stronger...?*’

‘*My arrow’s hit rate went up by a lot!*’

They clearly knew that this was because of Minhyuk’s cooking. Then, the troops threw oil into the pit...

Drip, drip, drip, drip!

...before setting fire on it.

Crackle—

“*Chwiiik!*”

“*Heuaaack!*”

The soldiers continued to stab and shoot the monsters trying to come out of the pit with their spears and arrows. Meanwhile, Minhyuk took out Diablo’s Sword and changed it into ‘Diablo’s Scythe’, altering the shape of the sword into that of a scythe with chains.

Rattle!?

His scythe moved quickly. At that moment, an iron armored orc was trying to jump out with its ax after one of the soldiers, Lerode, set it on fire.

Rattle!

Stab!

[Intangible Sword.]

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

Then, the scythe moving freely around flew straight towards the neck of the iron armored orc, immediately killing it in one blow. Minhyuk took care of the monsters running around and trying to attack the soldiers. However, it did not end there. He also shot arrows with the bow on his back like a *godly archer*.

"Wow..."

"This...this is shocking..." One of the soldiers said while the rest of the soldiers looked at him in shock.

'We have also gotten stronger but...?'

'The Commander's skills are jaw dropping...?'

'He appeared silently like a ghost and saved me when I was in danger!!!'

Park shuddered when he saw Minhyuk fight. He thought, *'M...mother... Per...perhaps I will be able to see my mother again.'*

Minhyuk was someone who knew how to deal with people. So, he deliberately turned to Park and asked, "Centurion, how about our men? Are there any injuries?"

"Th...there's none so far."

"Yeah. Just as I've expected."

"...!"

His words were filled with confidence. The troops trembled at his words. *Just as expected.*?In other words, he was certain that this would happen.

'Sir Crusoe's troops had one dead and five injured, but...?'

'He has excellent buffed dishes and can make tactics based on the terrain! He also has outstanding individual skills and abilities. Even his ability to handle the troops is surprising!!!?'

'And when he was cooking earlier, he did not even order us to help. He just believed that we would take the initiative and help him!!'

All of the soldiers were in awe as their bodies continued to tremble.

[The soldiers' morale has increased dramatically.]

[The soldiers have put their trust in you and will follow you.]

[You have gained the trust of the unit hailed as the best unit in the continent, the Atlas' 'Death Corps'.]

[You have gained 50 CHA.]

[You have gained 100 REP.]

[You have gained 7,000,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

Minhyuk received unexpected, but welcomed, rewards. It was at this moment that Minhyuk gained the full trust of the soldiers. Then, Minhyuk said, "After hunting the steel owl bears, we will move forward and tame the boss monster!!!"

"Yes, sir!!!"

"Yes, sir!!!"

"Yes, sir!!!"

Minhyuk and his troops finally began to advance.

"Oh?"

Crusoe's interest was piqued when he saw Minhyuk's achievement jump up to a very high level from when he just saw him shoveling earlier.

'26%.'

Despite them being the one to move out first, Minhyuk and his troops were still able to take the lead on them. This was because they did not incur any death or injuries.

'There are no deaths or injuries among them. That's a bit surprising, huh? But they're a little slow.'

Their progress was definitely slow when compared to Crusoe and his troops' progress. After all, they were already in the middle of the second stage while Minhyuk and his troops were still trying to hunt their first boss monster. Crusoe moved carefully and cautiously with his troops. They already had one dead and five injured soldiers, so they needed to move cautiously to make up for that loss! Then, Crusoe thought, *'Hunting the first boss is not easy.'*

It was the monster that made him lose one soldier and caused his men to incur injuries. The first boss monster was none other than a Twin Headed Ogre. The biggest problem in dealing with this monster was the fact that it had completely different abilities compared to the regular twin headed ogres. In fact, there were two things that made it differ from the other twin headed ogres. First, it had the skill 'Summon Ogres' which allowed it to summon other ogres. And, its second skill was 'Cure', which could help the summoned ogres and allies recover and heal their wounds rapidly just by being near the twin headed ogre. Then, at that moment...

“Huh?” Crusoe tilted his head in confusion at the strange words that appeared in front of him.

[Minhyuk. Taming the First Boss Monster. Expired troops: 0. Injured troops: 0. Achievement: 26%]

Crusoe’s eyes widened in shock after understanding the situation of his opponent.

“Gasp!!!” He let out a loud gasp at the unexpected situation that unfolded in front of him.

‘He’s taming it?!!!’

That was impossible.

‘Isn’t he a chef?!! So, why does he have the monster taming ability?’

Crusoe’s pupils shook at the thought that flashed in his head.

‘If... what if... what if he succeeds in taming the twin headed ogre?’

He was sure that something more incredulous would happen by then. The twin headed ogre’s special ability allowed it to heal its allies nearby. What would happen if this very same twin headed ogre was successfully tamed?

‘It will definitely heal the wounds and injuries that Minhyuk and his troops will incur. In other words, they will be able to move forward quickly without sustaining any damages, right?’

Something really ridiculous would definitely happen once he succeeded.

Chapter 314: The Sword and Shield’s Trial

Minhyuk and his soldiers fought very hard in the first boss area.

“Fluttering Sword.”

Minhyuk used ‘Fluttering Sword’ and sent an attack towards the dozens of ogres that flocked to him and his men. The hundreds of leaves that fluttered around flew straight toward the ogres, killing them as they went.

“Charge!!!” Centurion Park ordered loudly as he raised his sword high and charged forward. The Twin Headed Ogre living in the first boss area had a special recovery skill, so they needed to hunt it quickly, or it would recover immediately and the rest of the orges could even recover as well.

Stab! Stab!?

Slash—

Stab!

The soldiers stabbed the ogres until they were bleeding, left with only an inch to their lives. However, the ogres immediately ran towards the Twin Headed Ogre in desperation. Before they could do so, Minhyuk had changed Diablo’s Sword into Diablo’s Scythe and attacked them.

Slash—

Slash—

An additional 180% to the attack speed would be added to Diablo's Sword the moment it transformed into Diablo's Scythe. Its reach would also increase to eight meters, thanks to the chains attached to the end of the scythe. This allowed Minhyuk to slaughter the ogres from behind. In the end, only the Twin Headed Ogre was left. It could summon more ogres with its skill, but it was a skill nonetheless, and would have a cooldown.

"Grrrr!"

The *Twin Headed Ogre* cried loudly as it watched the man while holding a thick chain in its hand and an ax on the other. On the other hand, Minhyuk was using his Create a Recipe skill.

[Creating a recipe that the other party desires.]

[You can now check the recipe for roasted pig.]

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

.

Minhyuk grimaced when he saw the created recipe. He thought, '*Damn bastard. It's just a monster but it wants a whole roasted pig...?*'

Of course, Minhyuk had at least one whole pig in his inventory. If he so decided, he could eat more than this Twin Headed Ogre bas... *no...?* guy. However, this guy wanted an entire pig by itself, not just a small bowl of food.

'*Ugh. I feel like I'm carving my flesh and bones...*'

Minhyuk really hated this, but he had no other choice. He would only be able to eat the Heavenly Beef if he did this.

"Everyone, stop that guy as much as you can, but don't kill him. Rune, Beanie!"

"Oink!"

"Meeeeeeeh!"

"Help the soldiers whenever they are in danger. Rune, be prepared for magic casting and don't forget to use it!"

"Meeeeeeeh!" Rune cried in answer.

Then, Minhyuk began to prepare for the whole roasted pig. He placed appropriate amounts of cuts to the pig's skin and meat and seasoned it. Since it would be barbecued, he did his best and roasted over a fire to give it the best flavor.

'*Ugh. I can't believe I am giving my best efforts when I'm not the one who's going to eat it...*'

After around fifty minutes, the roasted pork was finally completed. Minhyuk reached his hand out towards the roasted pork as he thought to himself, '*Allurer's Cooking.*'

[The effect of ‘Allurer’s Cooking’ has been triggered.]

[You can tame a monster depending on various unpredictable factors in a monster like flavor preference and hunger.]

To complete the *Allurer’s Cooking*, Minhyuk had to apply cooking energy into the dish that he made using the ‘*Create a Recipe*’ skill.

“*Roaaaar!*” The Twin Headed Ogre roared loudly.

Thanks to Beanie and Rune’s timely support, no serious injuries or death had happened yet. Minhyuk would also swing Diablo’s Scythe every once in a while to protect the soldiers from danger.

Thud—

Minhyuk dropped the finished whole roasted pig in front of the Twin Headed Ogre and ordered his men to retreat. The soldiers immediately rushed to the rear at Minhyuk’s order. The roasted pig had just finished cooking, so its skin was still bubbling with hot oil. The sight made Minhyuk drool, wanting to rush up and cut up the pig’s succulent butt and dip it into some spicy dipping sauce. While Minyuk was imagining himself tearing into the whole roasted pig...

Poof~

“...”

The Twin Headed Ogre kicked the roasted pig away.

‘*Gasp!*’ All of the soldiers gasped at the shocking scene, while Beanie and Rune trembled in fear.

“*Oink, oink, oink,?oink. Oink!!!*” Beanie’s words could be directly interpreted as... ‘*Master is going to be angry!!! My goodness. That Twin Headed Ogre must really want to die. Oink!!! How dare it kick food in front?of master...?*’

“*Meeh, meeeh, meeeeeeeh!!!*” Translating Rune’s words... ‘*I... I think the Twin Headed Ogre might only have one head in the future! Master will definitely pull out one of its heads, meeeeeeeh!!!?*’

“...*Grrr?*” The Twin Headed Ogre let out a confused roar after feeling an incredible amount of killing intent burst out from one of the humans in front of it.

“Did you... just... kick... the food...?”

“*Grr, Grrrrr...*”

The Twin Headed Ogre unknowingly took a step back. That was when Minhyuk realized something that he had not thought of before. There was no guarantee that the dishes made with Allurer’s Cooking would be eaten by monsters with relish. However, even if that was the case, it still should not have kicked it. Then, a brilliant idea flashed in Minhyuk’s head. He thought, ‘*If you don’t want to eat it, then I’ll just have to make you eat it.*’

Minhyuk hid Diablo's Scythe in his inventory.

'The Twin Headed Ogre is roughly at Level 532.'

The guy was much more powerful than any other ordinary Twin Headed Ogres. The fact that it could summon ogres and help them recover made it into a difficult opponent. However, when compared to Minhyuk?

'My strength is still enough to overwhelm it.'

Minhyuk dashed forward with just his bare hands. He quickly dodged to the side when the Twin Headed Ogre aimed for his head with its ax.

Bang—

Minhyuk fist smashed into the Twin Headed Ogre's hand that was holding its weapon. The difference in their builds was all too clear. However, if you compare Minhyuk and the Twin Headed Ogre's stats, Minhyuk would be the one on top.

"Keuaaaack!" The Twin Headed Ogre shrieked loudly. However, Minhyuk still continued to attack the monster's right hand.

Punch, punch, punch, punch—

"Keuaaaack!"

Clang!

In the end, the Twin Headed Ogre was forced to drop the weapon in its hands. Minhyuk immediately threw the ax further away from where they were. Players were not allowed to take the monsters' weapons. However, they could still make it so that the monster would not be able to use it in their fight. Though, most players would not think of taking away the monster's weapon during a fight. After all, it was better for them to just kill the monsters, than expend the effort to do that. After Minhyuk threw the ax away, he immediately targeted the Twin Headed Ogre's left hand.

Punch, punch, punch, punch!

Just like what happened with the ax, the Twin Headed Ogre lost its grip on the chain which allowed Minhyuk to take it and throw it away. Now, the Twin Headed Ogre was left with no weapons. What Minhyuk did next was very simple...

Punch, punch, punch, punch—

Minhyuk picked the most painful areas of the body as he began to beat the Twin Headed Ogre to a pulp.

"You!!!!"

"Roaaaaar!"

Punch, punch, punch!!

"Should have eaten the food!!!"

"Keuaaaack!"

Punch, punch, punch!!

“Why did you kick it away?!!!”

“Aaaack!”

The Twin Headed Ogre could not understand why the human was doing this to itself. Both of its heads squirmed and roared, trying to talk and negotiate with the human.

“Keuaaaack! (Let's fight with weapons! Why are you doing this?!)”

Punch, punch, punch!

“Keuaaaaack! (Wait, that's my bone! My bone!!!)”

Punch, punch, punch!

“Keuaaaaack! (Don't hit me where you've already hit!)”

But Minhyuk did not care. He even used his skills whenever he attacked the Twin Headed Ogre.

[Diablo's Eyes.]

[You will be able to see the enemy's vital points for one second.]

[If you successfully hit a vital point that Diablo's eyes found within 30 seconds, an additional 200% damage will be added to your attack.]

The Twin Headed Ogre had a total of three vital points. If Minhyuk successfully punched any one of them, his attacks would gain an additional 200% damage. And since the skill was still being triggered due to the speed of his punches, the additional damage effect continued to overlap. Minhyuk first sent an attack towards the Twin Headed Ogre's stomach.

Punch—

“Keuaaaaack! (Pl...please stop!!!)”

Punch!

Then, he punched it on its neck.

“Keuaaaaack! (Gasp, break! Wait, wait! Hold on, not there!!!)”

And finally, on its most important body part...

Bang!

“Keuheoook! (It exp...explo...)”

A loud bang rang loudly in the area. Minhyuk hesitated for a bit. He was also a man and he knew this pain too well. In fact, even the sound was a bit unusual. It sounded like something exploded. But not long after...

[The Twin Headed Ogre expressed its special skill.]

[It's injuries have started to recover.]

...It just recovered again. And Minhyuk, who had paused in hesitation, once again...

Punch, punch, punch, punch!

“Grrrrrrr!”

And...

Bang!

“Keuuaaack! (Again, it explo...)”

The terrible tragedy unfolded again.

“Ugh...”

Park and the other soldiers averted their eyes. They could not bear to look at the appalling scene in front of them.

“It seems like the Commander is really cold-hearted.”

“H...how can he be so cruel...”

“Oh my god. Did you hear the sound? It went *bang!*...”

Although they knew that it would not happen to them, they still thought that they should listen more carefully to their commander from now on. While they were busy shaking in fear, the Twin Headed Ogre suddenly did something unexpected. It immediately jumped up and ran to where the roasted pig fell after it kicked it off the ground. Then, it kneeled down, picked it up with reverence, and carefully ate it.

“...”

“...”

“...”

The Twin Headed Ogre knelt politely and ate the pork barbecue! It was the strangest sight that they could ever see in their lives. At that moment, the notification rang in Minhyuk’s head.

[The Allurer’s Cooking has been successful.]

[You have successfully tamed the Twin Headed Ogre.]

Meanwhile, the Twin Headed Ogre, who was trying to keep its tears from falling, ate to survive.

‘It hurts, but it’s delicious...’?

That was right. It definitely hurt a lot being pummeled like that, but as it turned out, the roasted pig that it was eating was extremely delicious. Just like that, Minhyuk tamed the first boss and moved quickly once again.

Several teams had once again gathered in the Special Players Management Team. The Team Leaders from the Development Team, Story Team, and even the Customer Center Team had gathered together.

“N...No... Can he really use this method to tame monsters?”

“It’s like in that one classic game where you hit the fox with your bare hands and lower their HP before feeding them meat to tame them...”

Then, Lee Minhwa said, “Player Minhyuk has moved forward to the second area without sustaining any damage to his troops!!”

In the second area, Crusoe sustained great damage. He and his troops had three injured, with two dead. On the other hand, Minhyuk...

“It would be impossible for them to receive damage!!”

It was inevitable. After all, they had the Twin Headed Ogre’s special ability! Just with its ability to restore and help its allies recover, their damage had already been minimized. And since they were moving carefully, they did not have any deaths among them. On top of that, Minhyuk was also using the Twin Headed Ogre’s special ability to summon ogres cleverly. He used the Twin Headed Ogre and the ogres as tankers, while the rest used their spears and bows from behind. Minhyuk also used Diablo’s Scythe to help them around. In the end, the second boss...

“Pl... Player Minhyuk succeeded in taming the second boss monster, Harpie Queen...”

“...”

Minhyuk succeeded for the second time. The Harpie Queen had the petrification ability like the ordinary harpies, but it was a bit more special. Ordinary petrification ability would not allow the enemies to suffer any damage once they had hardened into stone. However, the Harpie Queen’s petrification ability could also allow the enemies to receive damage, despite being petrified. It also could do large-scale petrification.

After successfully taming two boss monsters, the damage that Minhyuk and his troops incurred were further reduced. In the third area, the Harpie Queen petrified the enemy monsters, while the Twin Headed Ogre and ogres rushed to destroy them. All the soldiers did was to shoot their arrows from behind.

“...Player Minhyuk has already gone beyond Crusoe’s achievement level.”

“...”

“...”

“...N...no way...”

All of the Team Leaders were left frustrated. It seemed that the content, that should only have been released around one to two years later, was more or less confirmed to be released right now. This meant that they would definitely have to work overtime.

Then, Team Leader Park said, “But, even if the trial is triggered, his probability of successfully clearing the Food God’s trial is only at 2%. Right?”

“Ah.?That’s right,” Team Leader Lee Seokhoon smiled as he answered.

That was right! He only has a 2% chance of clearing the trial!

“Well, it doesn’t seem like he has any special helper present right now.”

Player Minhyuk could have one helper during the trial. However, even with the help of such a person, the probability was still at 2%.

“But, I wonder what kind of helper will Player Minhyuk call for?” Team Leader Lee Seokhoon asked.

However, after thinking hard, Team Leader Park just shrugged his shoulders and answered, “Who knows?”

Near the Dragon King’s Sea, a boy and a beautiful woman could be seen moving at a rapid pace.

“Conir!!! Conir and Noona will be able to see Hyung soon!!! Conir is happy, Conir will be seeing Hyung soon!”

The woman stroked the boy’s head. She was none other than Mei Wei, the world’s number one player.

‘*Are we almost there?*’ Mei Wei thought, while smiling slightly at the fact that she would be able to meet with Food God Minhyuk soon.

Chapter 315: The Sword and Shield’s Trial

Crusoe was currently sporting an incredulous expression on his face. He had finished the trial faster than Minhyuk, and was currently resting with his troops. Those who had finished the trial were given the privilege to peek through what their opponent was doing through a crystal ball. This was Crusoe’s result...

[Crusoe. Completed the Trial. Expired troops: 19. Injured troops: 23. Achievement: 71%]

His achievement had reached 71%! This trial might be conducted by Crusoe, but he did not know of its contents until Minhyuk challenged it. In fact, the one who set this trial was the previous territory master, the Food God. For this trial, an achievement of 71% was already considered to be a very high record. However, Crusoe could only stare in shock and disbelief after seeing Minhyuk’s achievement.

[Minhyuk. Hunting the Final Boss Monster. Expired troops: 0. Injured troops: 0. Achievement: 85%]

“...N...no. This doesn’t even make sense, right?” Crusoe asked. He was left speechless after checking the crystal ball. Minhyuk did not have any dead nor injured members in his troops. This was completely nonsensical.

Only after looking through the crystal ball did Crusoe understand how that result came to be. In front of Minhyuk, stood dozens of ogres acting as tankers with the Harpie Queen. In the rear, stood the soldiers shooting their arrows and thrusting their spears to kill the monsters. Minhyuk was also freely attacking his enemies using his chained scythe. His reach was so far that he could even attack monsters seven meters away from him. And his skills were also very powerful! His sword could create hundreds of sword lights to attack the boss monster. Not long after...

Thud—

The boss monsters collapsed without being able to let out a scream. The notification rang right after that.

[Minhyuk. Finished hunting the Final Boss Monster. Expired troops: 0. Injured troops: 0.
Achievement: 93%]

‘...This...this is crazy!’

A 93% achievement was high enough to make Crusoe speechless. Just then, Crusoe and his surviving troops were warped somewhere else.

[You have successfully hunted the final boss monster.]

[The Sword and Shield Trial has ended.]

[Your achievement has reached 93% and has overwhelmingly surpassed Crusoe’s achievement.]

Minhyuk nodded in satisfaction after hearing the notification. He wanted to have a higher achievement than Crusoe so he could proceed with the Food God’s Hidden Trial. After all, he would be able to obtain the Heavenly Beef once he completed this hidden trial.

“We did it!!!”

“None of us died!!!”

“Uwoooooooooooooh!!!”

All of the soldiers cheered loudly the moment the trial ended. It was because they would be able to live in Atlas for a day if they survived the trial. Even Park could not control his joy. Minhyuk tried to tell them that another trial was going to proceed, but before he could do so...

[The Hidden Trial will now begin.]

[Crusoe and all of the soldiers will be warped again.]

[The trial is a ‘Siege Battle’.]?

[Protect Atlas’ Castle Verdo for two hours.]

*‘A siege battle...?’*Minhyuk thought in confusion. But then...

“Waaaaaaah!!!”

“Stop them!!!”

“Stop them from climbing the walls!!!”

The vision in front of him changed. Minhyuk could not understand what was happening. Thankfully, an explanation popped out as a notification.

[Atlas was originally owned by the Food God.]

“...!”

Minhyuk had been wondering why the Food God's trial was hidden here but these words had solved his confusion.

[But one day, the Maestro of Destruction invaded, wanting to take ownership of the legendary territory, Atlas. The Maestro of Destruction successfully took away the ownership of the territory. The situation right now is a part of the battle back then. Please protect Atlas territory from the enemies.]

[You will receive a reward if you successfully protect Atlas from the enemies.]

[The trial's challenger can choose one, and only one, helper.]

[You can recruit a helper even if they're not your guild member or guild ally, as long as they are in Atlas territory.]

[You will be unable to become Atlas's true owner if you fail this hidden trial.]

[To you, who wants to be the true owner of Atlas, prove that you have the greatness of being a king.]

'A helper?' Minhyuk thought. He immediately looked around. The troops that fought alongside him, as well as the troops that fought with Crusoe were all present. But there were also soldiers that he did not know of. The ones he did not know of had their names and levels popping above their heads.

[Hans. Level 474]

Crusoe hurriedly approached him and asked, "How did this hidden trial appear..."

Crusoe looked like he was in despair as he watched the enemy troops appear. The enemies all had black robes covering their bodies as they rode on horses made of bones. Suddenly, deafening explosions rang loudly in the area.

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

[The ramparts' durability has decreased to 132,136.]?

[The ramparts' durability has decreased to 113,478.]?

The enemies attacked the ramparts. Minhyuk was confused at the sudden changes presented in front of him. However, he was able to come back to his senses quickly.

"Sir Crusoe!"

"You're the commander here, please don't speak politely with me!"

"Crusoe! What kind of enemies do we have?!" Minhyuk asked, waiting for a briefing as he walked quickly.

Crusoe realized what he was asking as he followed next to him and gave him a quick briefing, "Our enemies are the Maestro of Destruction's underlings. The Maestro of Destruction was the one who unified the entire continent through force. He has strong troops."

“How much damage did the enemy incur and how much damage was taken whilst protecting the territorial castle?”

“Back then, all of the troops guarding the territorial castle were annihilated while the enemy troops only incurred 20% damage.”

“...!”

Minhyuk turned to Crusoe in shock.

“Back then, I was the only legendary figure in the territory. The Food God has also passed away and the enemy’s military force...”

After walking for quite a while, Minhyuk finally reached the ramparts. And that was when he saw it.

“...What is this? Isn’t this too overwhelming?” Minhyuk asked, frowning. Just like how he could do it with allies, it was also possible for him to check the level of the enemy’s troops. So, Minhyuk checked the enemies dashing forward with black robe covering their heads!

[Dark Knight. Level 513.]

The average level of their enemies was above 500. Then, Minhyuk turned towards the upper left corner of his vision. There, he saw the number of his allies and his enemies.

[Number of Enemies: 2,135]

[Number of Allies: 1,735]

“Keuaaaack!”

“Ugh, aaaaaack!”

“For Atlas territory!!!”

“For Atlas!!!”

.

The soldiers shouted loudly, determined to face death to protect their territory. They were soldiers who would not back down and face a glorious death to protect what they love. The average level of his troops was around 470. There were a few elites who were around 530. On the contrary, their enemies’ average level was around 500, while their elites were at around 550. There was an overwhelming difference. One might say that it was just a difference of 20~30 levels, but that difference had a great influence in large-scale battles. What was worse was the fact that their enemies were already at an advantage in terms of numbers. And...

“Your king is already dead!!! We will spare you if you swear your allegiance to us!!!”

[The ‘Maestro of Destruction’ has appeared!!!]

[The Tyrant that unified the entire continent in the past!]

[The person who successfully hunts the Maestro of Destruction will receive a reward.]

[Maestro of Destruction. Level 664.]

“Stop speaking bullshit!!!”

“Even if I end up getting a blade down my throat, I won’t let you have this territory!!!”

“Attack! Forward!!!”

Despite his words, none of the soldiers surrendered. The Maestro of Destruction was wearing a black, full plate armor, with a pitch-black sword in hand. He also had a black robe covering his horned helmet.

“Then, death is the only thing that awaits you!” The Maestro of Destruction said while brandishing his sword. Then...

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

...a powerful force slammed into the ramparts and devoured the soldiers, killing a lot of them in an instant.

[More than 2% of your troops had died.]

Minhyuk muttered to himself, “Was this created... for me to clear?”

[Was this created... for me to clear?]

Team Leader Lee Seokhoon looked bitter after hearing Minhyuk mutter to himself.

“It was created for you... but it wasn’t meant for you to clear it now...”

That was right. If he had received these quests as scheduled, which would have been around one to two years later, his strength would have been enough to challenge the trial. Minhyuk’s 2% probability of winning would have been at least 50%. But right now, Minhyuk’s level was too low.

“We’ll have to give Player Minhyuk a reward after this.”

“You’re right. In a way, this can be considered to be a balance breaker. The fact that Player Minhyuk can reach and awaken a trial that should not be awakened yet means that Player Minhyuk is good enough to put us in this embarrassing situation. This is totally our fault,” President Kang Taehoon said, shaking his head.

“I think we can give Player Minhyuk the rewards that he had obtained so far from the Sword and Shield trial and the Small World Tree growing in Atlas territory.”

“I believe that’s enough compensation too.”

“That’s right. This is our own fault, but we have to make sure that Player Minhyuk does not get too much damage as possible. Let’s have a separate meeting for this.”

Just like that, they had confirmed that Minhyuk had already failed in his trial, even though it had not started yet.

‘Why are they saying that he’s definitely going to fail?’

Meanwhile, Lee Minhwa was feeling both sad and irritated at all of the people present in the room. Team Leader Lee Seokhoon said that there was a 2% chance of winning. But what if Minhyuk pulled off a miracle and grabbed that 2% winning chance? Then, a notification popped up on the monitor.

[Player Minhyuk has moved to Atlas territory to pick a helper.]

Minhyuk was now trying to choose a helper. Once he tried to choose a helper, time in the trial would be suspended for a while inside the trial and Minhyuk would be able to enter the territory to find a helper. The helper could be an NPC or a player, anyone could be possible.

“Who’s in Atlas territory right now?”

“Are you talking about the players?”

“That’s right.”

Tap, tap, tap, tap, tap, tap—

Lee Minhwa’s fingers tapped on the keyboard quickly. However, her expression turned strange quickly. She said, “I think all the members of Legend Guild are not online right now?”

“Huh? Weren’t they all there just yesterday?”

The Special Players Management Team did not know, but today was the day that Legend Guild gathered together in reality to have a serious meeting. In fact, today was the day for the Legend Guild to discuss delegating the guild master’s authority to Minhyuk.

“Then, are there only NPCs?” President Kang Taehoon mumbled to himself.

Suddenly, Employee Lee Minhwa tilted her head and asked, “Huh? Who’s that?”

“A person?”

“Yes. I think it’s a woman? There’s also a kid next to her! Wait, what? Why do I think that the woman looks familiar...?”

“Huh?” Lee Minhwa asked dumbly as she immediately zoomed in on the view in the monitor.

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

The entire Special Players Management Team was left astonished.

Minhyuk came back to Atlas territory to choose a helper. Seeing that no one was around, Minhyuk hurriedly sent whispers to the Legend Guild members.

[Genie is currently logged out.]

That was when Minhyuk realized that he had made a mistake. He finally recalled that today was the day when all of the guild members were set to have a meeting. They told him that it was a very important meeting. Minhyuk usually did not attend meetings, so it was not strange for him to not be present. But right now, Minhyuk felt that he was facing a very big challenge.

‘There are no guild members around...?’

Even if Minhyuk was able to get in touch with one of them and urgently asked them to come inside the game and leave the meeting, it would still take an incredible amount of time. After all, one hour in reality is equivalent to four hours in *Athenae*. He did not have any time to wait since he only had fifteen minutes to choose a helper. Just then, at that moment...

“Hyung!!!” A boy happily called out to him while running cheerfully. The boy continued to say, *“Conir!!! Conir successfully became a great ramen merchant!!!”*

‘Ah, Conir...! Conir’s here...!’

Minhyuk looked down at Conir. *Sword Saint Conir!*? That was his identity. However, Minhyuk hesitated.

‘If Conir dies in the trial then...?’

Conir would be sent to the summoning room once his HP reached 10%. However, if he received a huge amount of damage that could make that 10% disappear at once, the gap that would allow him to be sent there would also disappear. And there was definitely an existence that could do that inside the trial. Just then...

“Hello?” A woman greeted him nicely. She smiled softly at him and continued to say, *“Let’s be friends?”*

“...?”

Minhyuk thought, *‘So suddenly?’*

Chapter 316: The Territory’s True Owner

Everyone knew Mei Wei. She was the number one player in *Athenae*’s Official Global Rankings. She also had the Valkyrie class, a class known to be the best with regards to buff abilities. Mei Wei’s combat abilities were also known to be top-notch. However, when compared to her buff ability, her combat ability could only be called shabby at best. Anyone who saw Mei Wei would look at her in awe. Even those who received a slight touch from her would shed tears of joy, asking her to be their friend. However, when she asked Minhyuk to be her friend, Minhyuk just looked at her incredulously.

“Ah.?I see,” Minhyuk replied before hurriedly turning towards Conir.

‘Did...did I just get rejected...’

Mei Wei was left in embarrassment for a moment. However, Minhyuk did not pay her any mind and just hurriedly explained the situation to Conir. Mei Wei began to think about her actions.

‘Let’s see...’

When she thought about it, Mei Wei realized that she would also look at the person strangely if they just came up to her for the first time and told her, *‘Let’s be friends?’*. That was when she realized that perhaps her first greeting was not that smooth. After all, Mei Wei had been alone for a long time now. She had not talked to anyone in so long, except for her personal doctor and NPCs. While she was thinking about her actions, Mei Wei overheard Minhyuk’s conversation with Conir.

‘Maestro of Destruction?’

Minhyuk was talking quickly since he did not have much time. However, he only talked about it with a bitter smile on his face.

“No, Conir. You should do your best making ramen here today.”

Although it was a very urgent situation, Minhyuk did not want to bring Conir along. He did not want to know what it would feel like should Conir die inside the trial.

‘Then, who should I bring along?’

He wondered if he should bring Priest Louis? Or perhaps Mother of Life Eden? Maybe Dwarf Lant? However, his best shot was Priest Louis. It was because he knew that Eden and Lant’s power would be useless in the situation right now. Then, suddenly...

“I’ll go with you.”

“...?”

Minhyuk looked at her strangely once again.

‘No, come to think of it, I don’t recognize her because I’m in a hurry, why did she come here with Conir? And why is she here in Atlas territory?’

Just then, Conir said, “Conir!!! Conir hopes Mei Wei Noona and Minhyuk Hyung will get along well!!!”

“Huh?” Minhyuk said, looking between Conir and Mei Wei alternately.

“You should be closer from now on!!! Conir heard that kids grow through fights, but don’t fight!!!” Conir said, bringing Minhyuk into confusion. But then, he suddenly paused.

‘Mei Wei? The Global Rankings number one, Mei Wei?’

Minhyuk turned to look at the woman in front of him more carefully. Looking at her, he could see that she was definitely Mei Wei. Minhyuk had studied and learnt a lot of things about *Athenae*?in

his quest to find more delicious food. During the process, he came to know who was ranked number one in the Global Rankings. No, it would be even more strange if he was an *Athenae* player and he did not know who she was.

‘Why does she want to help me? No, why does she want to be friends with me?’

However, he did not have any more time to ask her. So, even though Minhyuk was conflicted, he still made his decision.

“Keuaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaack!”

“Ugh!”

Screams rang loudly in the ramparts. The soldiers could not endure the relentless attacks of the *Dark Knights* and the ‘Maestro of Destruction’. However, the brave and valiant Atlas soldiers still continued to rush out of the gates. Cornell, the Commander-in-chief turned to look back at Crusoe as he asked, “What bullshit are you saying? You’re telling me to follow the orders of a foreigner?”

“Yes, that’s right,” Crusoe said. This was a war that Crusoe had already experienced once before in his life. However, for the soldiers here, it was like they were fighting this war for the first time. And right now, Crusoe was telling them to hand over the position of *Commander* to the foreigner named Minhyuk that suddenly appeared in front of them.

“That’s bullshit. I will never hand over command to a foreigner.”

It did not matter what kind of territory this was. This would remain as the Food God’s territory. That was absolute. However, after the death of the Food God, the Continent’s Emperor dared to target this place and make it his own. And it did not end there. Even a foreigner that did not know of the existence of the Food God’s territory dared to take command of this place? Crusoe shut his mouth.

‘It wouldn’t make any difference even if Minhyuk took command...’

Crusoe knew how this war would end. That was also the reason why the soldiers that participated in the trial with him and Minhyuk, including Park, were all flustered with shock. After getting over the shock, they were then left in frustration.

‘Sob, sob, sob... I came back here again... to the place where my mother died...’

Park tried to hold back his tears. Then, a thought flashed in his head. He thought that perhaps his mother was still alive right now. Perhaps he might still be able to see her face one last time, or maybe even talk with her again. Park quickly rushed out of the castle. He saw their troops blocking their enemies, while the enemies were pushing forward to try and capture the castle!

“Keuaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaack!”

Fwoosh!

Bang!

The mages' explosion magic, that had a similar effect to nuclear bombs, dropped one after the other. However, Park still ran forward amidst the ensuing pandemonium. Crusoe felt his heart break at the sight. That was when Commander-in-chief Cornell realized, '*We will... face defeat.*'? However, even if he knew the outcome of the battle, he still pulled his sword out and shouted loudly.

"To victory!!!"

"Uwooooooooooh!"

The troops ran out while screaming loudly. However...

[Death's Messenger. The Grim Reaper has appeared.]

Shwaaa!

A black vortex appeared in the middle of the battlefield, opening up to let a gigantic being over six meters tall out. The being was wearing a ragged black robe while sitting on top of a gigantic black horse, with a huge black scythe in its hand. Crusoe had already experienced fighting against it before. This bastard was a Level 645 being that was literally an envoy from hell. Hell was a place that existed above the Demon World. However, no one had ever been to that place. And this guy's power and strength was beyond anyone's imagination.

Shwaaa—

A crescent blade light flew out of its gigantic scythe, slaughtering the soldiers blocking its path. And when it stretched its right hand...

Stab!

"Ha...Hans... What are you..."

...the mind of its target would fall under its control.

[More than 23% of your troops have died.]

[More than 25% of your troops have died.]

[The soldiers' morale is dropping.]

[The soldiers are starting to tremble in fear.]

[All of their skills have fallen by 5%.]

They began to kill each other.

"Priests!!! Do we not have any priests?!!!" Commander-in-chief Cornell urgently shouted but Crusoe just shook his head.

'Ordinary priests don't have the ability to release them from this...'

It was a fact that they would be completely defeated, while only being able to inflict a 20% damage to their enemies. Then, the enemies began to push through the gates.

“Archers!!!”

Fwoosh! Fwoosh! Fwoosh!?

Their archers tried to hold out by shooting their enemies with their arrows, but their enemy archers were faster and stronger.

Stab! Stab! Stab!

“Aaaaack!”

“Ugh!”

The archers died and fell down the ramparts one after the other. Then, Crusoe’s eyes began to shake.

‘N, No...’

A gruesome and horrible scene appeared in front of Crusoe. Centurion Park stood in front of an old lady after running desperately through the chaos. However, the problem was that his sword was unsheathed. He was now under the control of the enemy.

“So...son...”

Park’s mother trembled as she looked at her son. Seeing this, Park was left in despair.

‘N, no... No... Stop... No...!’

This goddamn curse!!! Park’s mind went blank. However, he still continued to pray and wish.

‘Someone, anybody, please! Please save me and my mother! Goddamnit!!!’

Then, at that moment...

“Wings of Light.”

...gigantic wings, reminiscent of an angel’s wings, appeared in the sky. When the wings flapped, thousands of feathers made of light scattered and got absorbed inside the soldiers’ bodies.

Swish, swish, swish, swish—

[You have been released from the abnormal state: Mind Control.]

Thanks to those feathers of light, Park was able to control his body again. That was not the end.

“Goddess’ Shield.”

A gigantic and radiant shield of light appeared in the sky. The shield scattered into lights that fluttered down into the soldiers’ bodies.

[Your defensive power has increased by 35%.]

Then...

“Goddess’ Sword.”

“Goddess’ Like the Wind.”

[Your attack power has increased by 24%.]

[Your moving speed has increased by 20%. Your attacking speed has increased by 10%.]

A gigantic image of a sword and boots appeared in the sky, disappearing not long after. The troops immediately felt their bodies turning lighter as their vitality and energy increased. Cornell and Crusoe immediately headed over to the castle's ramparts. There, they saw a woman with long black hair fluttering in the wind, wearing silver armor while standing beside a man wearing bone armor and a helmet. They were watching the situation of the entire battlefield. Notifications rang loudly in the ears of these two people.

[The ramparts' durability has decreased to 132,136.]

[The ramparts' durability has decreased to 113,478.]

Then, the woman stretched her hand out.

“Wrathful Goddess.”

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

A power that was as enormous and as powerful as the Maestro of Destruction's attack appeared. Then, light appeared under the feet of their enemies as a huge explosion swallowed them up, effectively protecting the ramparts.

Dash—

Dash—

The woman and the man wearing bone armor dashed down.

Neigh!

The two of them jumped on the two horses made of light that suddenly appeared before dashing straight towards the Dark Knights in front of them.

“Rampant Sword.”

The man's sword shot out hundreds of sword lights as the woman next to him stretched her hand out.

[Goddess' Reinforcement]

[Instantly reinforces the skill being triggered.]

The hundreds of sword lights turned into thousands as the blades lengthened and became more powerful.

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash!

The sword lights attacked the enemies that blocked their path.

“Keuaaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaack!”

Screams rang loudly in the area as the man grabbed the reins of his horse and dashed forward once again. Most of the enemies that received the attacks of the Rampant Sword did not die. Then, three small books floated behind the woman.

[Judge's Antique Book]

[The Judge's Antique Book assists the Valkyrie. Lightning strikes with 300% additional attack power strikes the enemies in the surrounding.]

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

The severely injured that could not be knocked down earlier, eventually died under the onslaught of lightning strikes that came from the three books behind the woman.

[More than 4% of the enemy troops have died.]

Then, the man and woman appeared in front of the Grim Reaper. Commander-in-chief Cornell's hands were covered with sweat as he issued an order, "Men!!! Stop the enemies from approaching those two people!!!"

The soldiers pierced through the enemies' battle line and opened a path, much like Moses parting the Red Sea. Thanks to the mysterious woman's strong abilities, their force and skills increased, making them more powerful! However, the man and woman were both struggling just ten minutes into the fight against the Grim Reaper. The woman was urgently shouting, while the man's sword moved quickly. Then, a light appeared from the woman's hand which extended towards the man's sword. After receiving the light, the man dashed up.

Dash—

With a swing of his sword, the man slashed the Grim Reaper's neck.

Slash!

As the man fell from his jump, he quickly stepped on the horse that the Grim Reaper was riding on and attacked its lower half.

"Roaaaaar!"

The Grim Reaper stopped moving for a moment as a shriek burst out of its mouth. The man took advantage of the gap as he attacked the Grim Reaper's body strongly. Just then, wind began to surround the man's sword.

Shwaaaaaaa—

A powerful light covered the man's sword as he stabbed it in the Grim Reaper's heart.

Stab!

Shwaaaaaaa—

The wind that blew around the sword swept away and tore down the enemies that tried to get close to the man.

"Roar!" The Grim Reaper roared loudly as it began to turn into ash and disappear. The man could be seen heaving through the gap in the attack.

Then, the man shouted, "I, Commander Minhyuk, have hunted the Grim Reaper!!!"

He raised his hand high up in the sky before clenching it into a fist and shouted again, "Men!!! Forward!!!"

"Uwoooooo!" The troops shouted loudly in answer.

At that moment...

"...the *Food God's Kitchen Knife*?" Cornell mumbled to himself after he caught sight of the kitchen knife with a baby pig who was fighting with the man. Cornell's eyes began to shake wildly. That was when the man's armor caught his eyes.

'That armor...'

That was the Armor of Immortality, the Food God's armor. When he saw the armor, he recalled the words that the *Food God* had told him.

'I'm going to pass this on to my descendant later. So, don't try to look for it for no reason.'

Cornell let out a shaky breath. He couldn't stop himself from shuddering as he said, "The Food God... has returned..."

"What?"

"The Food God has returned!!! Follow the Commander's orders!!! Those who don't, I will make sure to slit your throats myself!!!"

"The Food God?"

"*The Food God?*"

"Did he say the Food God?"

That was when the soldiers noticed the existence of the Food God's Kitchen Knife.

Then, they shouted loudly.

"Uwaaaaaaaaah!!!"

"The Food God is with us!!!!"

"He came back to protect our territory!!!"

The flow of the battlefield started to change as the true owner and king of the land had returned.

Chapter 317: The Territory's True Owner

In the end, Minhyuk chose to bring Mei Wei in as his helper. The moment they arrived, Mei Wei immediately looked over the situation of the entire battlefield. Then, she used the Wings of Light, a wide range abnormal state dispel magic.

'What a ridiculous AOE skill...?'

Minhyuk looked at Mei Wei in shock. He knew that the number of soldiers afflicted with an abnormal state were more than 300. However, all of the soldiers had been released from their abnormal state after Mei Wei used the skill 'Wings of Light'. And she did not stop there. A gigantic sword and pair of boots appeared in the sky after, increasing the soldiers' attack power by 24%, movement speed by 20%, and attack speed by 10%. Then, Mei Wei turned to him and said, "My skills can be used without any casting time. However, my MP consumption will double if I choose to do so."

That was the reason why she could cast her skills immediately. Minhyuk asked, "How much is left in your MP reserves?"

"Around 30%."

"...What the hell? How high are your MP reserves?" Minhyuk asked in shock. Despite using a wide-area buff ability to strengthen a large-scale army, she still had 30% of MP left. It was truly shocking.

But Mei Wei said, "This can only be possible because I used my Valkyrie Awakening skill. It's a skill that can only be used once every three months. To be honest, this is my first time using this. After all, there's a 1% reduction in all stats. However, in exchange for the reduction in stats, it will double my MP reserves and give me a stronger buff ability."

Minhyuk looked at her dubiously again after hearing her words. He thought, '*Why is she doing this much for me?*'

Perhaps it was because Mei Wei had already noticed the moment she arrived on the battlefield that it was hard for them to win the battle. So, she decided to reduce all of her stats by 1% and raise their odds of winning. For someone standing at the number one position in the Global Rankings, a decrease of 1% in all stats was a huge penalty. Assuming that her STR stat was at 500, it meant that her STR stat would decrease by five. This was enough to lower the entire strength of a person. The two of them looked down at the enemies from above the ramparts before rushing down. Mei Wei rode on top of the horse made of light that she had summoned, as they pierced through the enemy lines. Meanwhile, Minhyuk triggered Rampant Sword.

[Rampant Sword.]

[A flurry of rampant swords with additional 35% attack power will be created for 14 seconds.]

Hundreds of sword lights appeared in the air. Then...

[Goddess' Reinforcement.]

[Rampant Sword's level increases by +2 while still being triggered.]

[A flurry of rampant swords with additional 45% attack power will be created for 14 seconds.]

"..."

Minhyuk was shocked beyond belief. He even saw Mei Wei easily pierce through the Dark Knights. Once they arrived near the vicinity of the Grim Reaper, Mei Wei and Minhyuk began to attack it. Unfortunately, the Grim Reaper was strong. Just a simple swing of its scythe had a 50% chance of ignoring their defensive power and landing a hit on them.

[Goddess' Breath.]

[HP recovery per second increases by five times.]

In response, whenever the Grim Reaper swung its scythe, Mei Wei would send support with her ridiculous buff ability. The fierce battle between the two of them and the Grim Reaper lasted for about ten minutes. That was when the Atlas soldiers appeared and blocked the other enemies from interfering in the battle.

Then, Mei Wei said, "I have a skill that can amplify the damage twice in 2.4 seconds. It can also amplify the damage of other skills being used twice in that 2.4 seconds."

"...2.4 seconds?"

The 2.4 seconds that she was saying was a very short time frame. However, once the attack succeeded, they would be able to inflict twice the damage.

"I've actually never used it on someone else," Mei Wei said, having never used the skill before. This was a fact. After all, this skill required both the person using the buff ability and the target of the buff to have amazing control skills.

Minhyuk asked, "How much MP do you have left in your reserves?"

"5%," Mei Wei answered.

They were both left exhausted during the ten-minute fierce battle against the Grim Reaper. Around 35% of their allies had also perished. Of course, the damage to the enemies was also quite formidable. Thanks to Mei Wei's buffs, the soldiers became stronger and faster, allowing them to kill around 10% of the enemy troops. Minhyuk thought about their situation for a moment before nodding and saying, "I have a skill that can target the enemy's vital points. Within that 2.4 seconds, I can successfully land around two or three attacks."

"...What?" Mei Wei asked dumbfoundedly. She knew that landing a single attack in that 2.4 seconds time frame was a very difficult feat. Not to mention landing a hit on a monster that was as powerful as the Grim Reaper. However, there was no time to talk and ask about his confidence. The Grim Reaper was already moving its scythe to trigger its skill.

"Let's do it right away."

"Alright!!"

Minhyuk immediately jumped up at the sight of the Grim Reaper's scythe covered with some sort of black energy. Then, light suddenly bloomed on Mei Wei's hand. The light quickly stretched forward and seeped through Minhyuk's sword.

[War Goddess' Attack]

[All successful attacks within 2.4 seconds will have twice the damage. The damage will overlap with damage from other skills.]

The Grim Reaper immediately dragged its scythe to stop Minhyuk's descent. However, Minhyuk was grinning.

Vwooong!

The Grim Reaper saw a gap in Minhyuk's defense and tried to swing its scythe to dig into his gaps. In doing so, it also caused its own defense to be lax. Minhyuk quickly turned his body and landed an attack on its neck.

Clink!

[War Goddess' Attack is successful.]

[Enemy receives double the damage.]

That was not the end of the attack. Minhyuk did not waste 0.1 second to marvel at the Grim Reaper's shriek. He immediately triggered Diablo's Eyes.

[Diablo's Eyes.]

[Allows you to see more than one vital point in your enemy for one second]

[If you successfully stab a vital point within 30 seconds of triggering Diablo's Eyes, additional 200% damage will be added to your attack.]

Minhyuk was able to see two of the Grim Reaper's vital points.

'I already spent 1.5 seconds.'

Minhyuk immediately attacked the vital point that appeared in the Grim Reaper's legs.

Stab!!!

[War Goddess' Attack is successful.]

[Diablo's Eyes' effect adds additional 200% damage to the attack.]

[War Goddess' Attack overlapped with another skill.]

[Attack will receive x2 additional damage.]

Minhyuk jumped up once again and got a clear view of the shrieking Grim Reaper's chest. This was another vital point that Diablo's Eyes had shown him! Minhyuk immediately activated the Sword of Fury that he had 'saved' in advance. His save skill could allow him to store one skill in advance, but the most surprising effect of the skill was the fact that he would not need any casting time to trigger his saved skill. A powerful force immediately gathered at the tip of Minhyuk's sword as the light from Mei Wei's War Goddess' Attack covered his sword once again. And then...

Stab!

...Minhyuk stabbed the Grim Reaper's chest with all his might. The Sword of Fury was a skill focused on stabbing. If the player successfully stabbed the opponent, the skill would have an additional 140% attack power. On top of that, Diablo's Eyes gave an additional 200% damage, and then, it was further amplified by War Goddess' Attack,

which added another 200% damage. In other words, a force with at least 1,300 additional damage had stabbed straight through the Grim Reaper's chest.

Shwaaaaaaa!

A strong wind blew, sweeping and tearing away the enemies in the vicinity trying to rush forward and attack.

"Keuaaaaack!"

The Grim Reaper disappeared into ash with a scream. Then, the notifications began to ring one after the other.

[You have gained 32,314,555 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up... omitted.]

[You have gained 315 platinum.]

.

[You have acquired a fragment of the Grim Reaper's Scythe.]

[You have acquired the Grim Reaper's Dark Robe.]

[You have acquired a map of Hell's Area 31.]

'Cra...crazy...!'

Mei Wei was left in shock. She watched as Minhyuk moved within 2.4 seconds. During that short time, he was able to successfully land three attacks on the Grim Reaper. Doing it twice might be called a '*coincidence*', and one might even say that he just got lucky and successfully landed those attacks. However, doing it three times could not be called a '*coincidence*' anymore.

'It's his skill...'

Mei Wei was known to have ridiculously strong control skills. After all, she was the number one ranker in the Global Rankings. Someone like her could only click her tongue in awe at Minhyuk's skills. Then, Minhyuk yelled, "Men!!! Forward!!!"

The one they had hunted might not be the enemy general, but they still were able to hunt something that was equivalent to it.

"Follow Minhyuk!!!"

"Follow the *Food God*!!!"

[The allied troops' morale has increased by 5%.]

[The allied troops' attack power and defensive power has increased by 2%.]

Their allies began to push forward. The Maestro of Destruction clearly looked flustered at the sudden turn of events.

[50 minutes 31 seconds]

The trial would be completed once they succeeded in defending the territory for two hours. So, Minhyuk and Mei Wei continued to slaughter their enemies. They would also occasionally use their wide-area of attack skills.

[Oven of Disaster]

[The oven will recognize all hostile parties within a 12-meter radius and cause an explosion with 450% additional attack power.]

Mei Wei, with her scant few MP left, casted 'Goddess' Reinforcement' once again to amplify the effects of Oven of Disaster.

[Oven of Disaster]

[The oven will recognize all hostile parties within a 15-meter radius and cause an explosion with 600% additional attack power.]

The buff increased the damage by 150%.

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

The hostile Dark Knights in the surrounding area were swept away like dry autumn leaves on a windy day. The surviving enemies were slaughtered by the charging soldiers.

[More than 50% of the enemy troops have perished.]

Victory was now obviously leaning on their side. Finally, the battle came to an end.

"Retreat!!!"

[The enemy has started to retreat.]

The Maestro of Destruction chose to retreat.

"Waaaaaaaaah!"

"We won!!!"

"Food God! Food God! Food God!"

"Food God!!!"

The damage incurred by the allied troops was around 40%, while the damage incurred by the enemy troops was around 50%. Just with the damage alone, it could be said that they had achieved complete victory. And Crusoe, watching from a distance, thought, '*Un...unbelievable...*'

Crusoe had already experienced this war once. Back then, most of their troops had been wiped out, while the enemies only suffered 20% damage. What happened right now made him feel like they had taken revenge for what happened in the past. The victory that they gained had washed away the

sorrows that they kept deeply in their hearts. And it was all because of those two. The two people who fought together with them. Crusoe smiled broadly.

'Atlas has found its true and original owner.'

"...I thought you said it was just 2%?" President Kang Taehoon asked. He looked at Team Leader Lee Seokhoon, waiting for him to explain to him what had just happened.

"Uh..."

In fact, Team Leader Lee Seokhoon was also growing crazy. Who knew that Mei Wei would suddenly appear and offer herself to become Minhyuk's helper? It was a completely unexpected situation. And they had even watched it happen through the monitor in real time.

"Mei Wei said that she wanted to be friends with him...?"

Mei Wei, the number one user in the Global Rankings, wanted to become Minhyuk's friend. They even showed fantastic teamwork during the battle earlier.

"There are two rewards, right?" President Kang Taehoon asked with a deep sigh.

"Player Minhyuk will now receive the greatest army in existence."

Minhyuk looked around his surroundings. He could see the enemies retreating while their own soldiers cheered loudly. They were even expressing their gratitude and awe to him by shouting *'Food God!'* loudly.

In the midst of everything, the only thought running through Minhyuk's head was, *'I can eat it now!!! Heaven's Rib Eye!!! Heaven's Chuck Flap Tail!!!'*

It was already making Minhyuk happy just thinking about the beef. After all, grilled beef was delicious after a hard day's work, right? While he was waiting for the notifications to come, something unexpected happened.

[Among the expired soldiers, the soldiers belonging to the 'Death Corps' will be revived.]

"*Huh?*" Minhyuk asked in confusion. Then, Minhyuk saw 200 soldiers walking towards him, with Park at the forefront. 100 of those people were those who fought alongside Minhyuk in Crusoe's trial, while the remaining 100 were the ones that fought alongside Crusoe in the same trial. They were the legendary soldiers that pushed back and made 10,000 enemies retreat with just their measly 200-strong number. Park stepped forward from his peers.

"I, Centurion Park! Swear my eternal allegiance and loyalty to the Food God!!!" Park shouted loudly as he knelt down on one knee and placed his fist on his chest. Behind him, the rest of the 199 soldiers all knelt down and shouted too.

“We swear our eternal allegiance and loyalty to the Food God!!!”

“We swear our eternal allegiance and loyalty to the Food God!!!”

“We swear our eternal allegiance and loyalty to the Food God!!!”

[Park vows his eternal loyalty to you.]

[Rucard vows his eternal loyalty to you.]

[Courtney vows his eternal loyalty to you.]

[Broto vows his eternal loyalty...omitted]

Minhyuk’s expression distorted when he saw them do that.

‘The...the mouths that I have to feed have grown ...? They even joined as a group...? Why are you doing this to me?!!!’

He looked like he was going to cry at any moment.

Chapter 318: The Territory’s True Owner

Black Dragon smiled slightly at the notification window that popped up in front of him. He thought, *‘My son will become the king of a kingdom.’*? This was something that Black Dragon had personally heard from Minhyuk himself. Besides, didn’t he receive two quests before? The quests *‘Monarch’s Qualifications’*? and *‘Monarch among Monarchs’*?. The Monarch’s Qualifications quest was literally a quest that asked him to prove his qualifications as a monarch by building a kingdom. The quest would give him the reward *‘Dragon Monarch’s Armor Set’*?. On the other hand, the Monarch among Monarchs quest was a quest where he needed to designate someone else as the monarch and help them build a kingdom. The quest would give him the same reward as the other quest. No matter what path he chose, he would still receive the same rewards.

Chairman Kang Minhoo, or Dragon Monarch Black Dragon, was a man with enough fame and reputation to his name that would allow him to climb the throne and become a king. However, this very same man was faltering between these two choices. He pondered over the two choices for a long time before finally making a decision.

[Of the two quests, you have chosen the Monarch among Monarchs quest.]

Black Dragon chose to undergo the Monarch among Monarchs quest. The quest that tasked him to help others, not himself, become king! He thought, *‘My?son becoming?king...’*

Black Dragon wanted to see his son become king, a position that no one had achieved yet in *Athenae*?. Besides, Minhyuk had only hidden himself from people’s view because of his *eating addiction*, but he was still the person that would lead Ilhwa Group in the future. Black Dragon wanted to see his son become king, and show the world that Minhyuk was capable of this. And as his father, he wanted to provide endless support for his son. After Black Dragon made his choice, additional quest windows popped up in front of him.

[The Class Quest: Dragon Descendants has been created.]

‘Dragon Warriors?’

According to the quest description, Black Dragon would be able to receive the Dragon Warriors once he successfully cleared the quest. According to the description, it was a power that could give strength to the person that he chose as king. So, Black Dragon stood up and began to move.

‘I have to go to Parden Village.’

Since Black Dragon wanted to see his son, Minhyuk, sit on the king’s throne, he had to work hard in *Athenae*.

All 200 soldiers vowed their ‘pledge of eternal loyalty’! This fact made Minhyuk completely heartbroken. However, he felt relieved after a moment. Thankfully, no one noticed his bout of embarrassment. Minhyuk realized that the soldiers were not under the vassal category, rather, they were under the soldier category that belonged to the territory. If that was the case, then, he did not need to share any food with them, even if he took them under his wing. According to the notifications, the soldiers should disappear after the trial, but they did not disappear and became an additional reward. Then, the additional notifications rang.

[The Death Corps’ 200 soldiers now belong to Atlas territory.]

[The Death Corps’ 200 soldiers have learned the Skill: ‘The One who Returned from Hell’.]

‘The One who Returned from Hell?’

Each and every soldier of the Death Corps had learned the said skill. Minhyuk immediately checked the skill’s information.

Passive Skill

?In the event of death, they will be revived with 40% HP.

?All of the abilities will increase by 20% in the revived state.

?The physical defense and magical defense will both increase by 40% in the revived state.

?A mirror of the revived person's body would be created upon revival. Death during the revived state would mean permanent death.

?If the revived person did not die after revival, the body will return to their human form within an hour.

'Ho...'

Minhyuk rubbed his chin in thought after reading the information. Simply put, even if the soldiers' HP became zero, they would still be revived. If they did not die in that state, their body would return to their original human form in an hour. Just when he finished checking the skill, another wave of notifications rang in his ears.

[You have completed the Food God's Trial. You can now receive the rewards of the other trials without undergoing them.]?

[Atlas territory will now be filled with the power and strength of the Four Legendary Figures.]

[Sword and Shield Crusoe will become a member of Atlas Territory for one month. He will disappear after helping the soldiers train.]

.

[During Crusoe's stay in the territory, all the soldiers' EXP acquisition rate will double.]

[Except for the players, all troops will have a 5% increase in their defensive power and attack power.]

[Golden Hammer Dwarf Lant will become a member of Atlas Territory for one month. He will help train and nurture outstanding blacksmiths. In addition, Lant's descendant, Dwarf Olger will now belong to the territory.]

[During Dwarf Lant's stay in the territory, the probability of increasing the artifact rank will double.]

[Dwarf Lant will nurture and produce at least three master-rank blacksmiths within his one month of stay.]

[Priest Louis will become a member of Atlas Territory for one month. He will train outstanding priests,]

[With Priest Louis' 'God's Decree', three Athenian Priests from the Athenae Temple will migrate to the territory.]

[Strong holy power covers the entire Atlas Territory thereby doubling the territory's residents' natural recovery abilities.]

The notifications were all about the changes in Atlas territory. Then, the notifications for Minhyuk's personal reward began to ring one after the other.

[You have acquired the Monarch's Armor.]

[Absolute Demigod Artifact.]

[Only ten of this artifact type exists in the world. This artifact is the closest to the God-rank.]

[Among the ten artifacts, the lower the number of the Absolute Demigod artifact, the better the artifact will be.]

[The Monarch's Armor is the first among the ten.]

[You can now receive the beef rib eye, chuck flap tail, and hanging tender from cows that were raised in Heaven's God Runia's farm.]

[The Heavenly Cows raised in Runia's farm grew up eating only clean grass that can purify the body. The beef ribeye, chuck flap tail and hanging tender have effects similar to medicine.]

[Artifact closest to God. You have received the first Demigod Artifact.]

[The notification about you, the person who received the artifact closest to God, will spread to the entire world.]

Mei Wei standing next to Minhyuk was shocked to hear about the notification. She thought, '*Artifact closest to God...?*'

The notification that rang for her went like this..

[The player who received the artifact closest to God has been born.]

Mei Wei was certain that the player that the notification was pertaining to was Minhyuk based on their current situation.

'The artifact closest to God... it will be nice if he can check it out soon.'

Although the artifact was not theirs, anyone would be filled with excitement and anticipation to see the player who received the artifact with the strongest attack or strongest defense.

'It seems like what Conir said is true. He really is an extraordinary person,' Mei Wei thought. But instead of checking the artifact immediately, Minhyuk pulled out a stone grill.

"Eh?" Mei Wei cried strangely. She had only seen and interacted with Minhyuk for a short few hours, so she just looked at him in confusion.

Minhyuk definitely received the notifications about the first absolute Demigod artifact, the Monarch's Armor. However, the notifications did not register in his mind at all. He was already thinking about grilling and eating beef, together with the dishes and ingredients that he had stored in his inventory and food storage inventory in advance.

Boil, boil—

The dish, soybean stew with chopped Cheongyang chili peppers, was boiling inside a pot while pickled garlic leaves, scallions in red pepper powder and sesame oil, kimchi, and lettuce and chives were all placed in bowls next to it. There were also ordinary fine salt, salt in sesame oil and spicy dipping sauce in front of Minhyuk.

“Are...are you not going to check the artifact that you received?” Mei Wei asked carefully. But Minhyuk just turned to look at her to shush her.

“Shhh! We have to be reverent during this time.”

“...”

Mei Wei was left in a fluster! However, Minhyuk did not pay her any mind. He just went to check his chuck flap tail.

‘Look at this color, this marbling...’?

The color of the meat, a red that was much deeper and stronger than any regular meat, contrasted brightly against the red and white branch-like stems spreading on top of the meat. Minhyuk carefully lifted a piece of the meat with his tongs and slowly placed it on top of the well-heated stone grill.

Sizzle—

The thrilling sizzle of the meat rang loudly in the area. Minhyuk immediately counted up to ten in his head before flipping the piece of chuck flap tail.

Sizzle—

The part that was first in contact with the grill was cooked perfectly and deliciously. The meat’s juices were also dripping tantalizingly down the meat while being grilled. The key to preserving these juices was turning the meat over properly and quickly.

‘Beef does not taste good if it’s cooked too much.’?

Minhyuk lifted the chuck flap tail that was cooked according to his standards. The charm and beauty of beef could be tasted by eating it purely without any salt or sauce. Minhyuk rolled the piping hot piece of meat inside his mouth to cool it down a bit before chewing it. The phrase *‘the meat melts in your mouth’*?fitted perfectly for this situation. The taste brought a smile to Minhyuk’s face.

“This is the taste,” Minhyuk said happily as he placed a few more pieces of chuck flap tail on the grill.

Sizzle—

Once the meat was cooked perfectly again, Minhyuk picked a piece and dipped it in salt. The salt perfectly balanced the bland and greasy flavor of the beef. Then, he dipped the next piece in oil before taking a bite.

“Hahahaha! This taste alone can rival a gold medal!”

Then, Minhyuk grabbed a lettuce leaf, placed a piece of beef on top, some garlic with dipping sauce, some scallions seasoned with red pepper powder and sesame oil, before wrapping it all together and placing the entire thing into his mouth. The wrap was so big that his cheeks became plump from chewing on it. The crunchy lettuce brought the flavors wrapped inside it into perfect harmony. To balance everything, he quickly scooped up a big bite of rice and a spoonful of soybean stew. The spoonful of soybean stew was filled with zucchini and tofu, which added another great

harmony to the flavors rampaging in his mouth. The taste of soybean stew in barbeque restaurants was much deeper and spicier. It made one want more.

"Kgghk~"

So, Minyuk tried another spoonful. Then, he lifted another piece of beef, placing it on top of a spread of chives, before adding a bit of wasabi and wrapping it together to take it in his mouth.

"Kgghk~ This is wagyu, wagyu!"

His next bite of beef was topped with seasoned scallions.

"Hahahaha!"

Minhyuk's following bite was beef wrapped in lettuce and kimchi.

"Delicious... Ha... Thank you very much, Food God!"

The Heavenly Beef that he was eating right now was considered to be the best among the best when compared to all of the beef that he had eaten. After finishing the chuck flap tail and hanging tender, Minhyuk turned his sights to the large beef ribeye. The ribeye's marbling was blooming perfectly like a flower.

Sizzle—

Steam rose from the ribeye the moment it made contact with the grill! Then, Minhyuk skillfully turned it over to prevent the juices from escaping, before cutting it into bite sized pieces with his scissors. Minhyuk clamped a piece and took it into his mouth. The juicy ribeye felt softer than any meat that Minhyuk had ever tasted. Its flavor was fantastic by itself. When he finished eating the ribeye, Minhyuk took out a bowl of banquet noodles from his inventory.

'The dessert is noodles!'

In a meat restaurant, there were times when people would crave banquet noodles, not cold noodles or lunch boxes, as dessert in barbeque restaurants. This was also the case for Minhyuk. He even prepared it in advance just for this situation. The thinly chopped kimchi, zucchini and carrots were floating perfectly in the soup. Minhyuk quickly stirred the noodles with his chopsticks before taking a big bite. Minhyuk's one big bite was enough to take half of the noodles in the bowl into his mouth.

"Sluuuuuuuurp!"

Minhyuk did not forget to place a piece of kimchi in his mouth together with his big bite of noodles.

Crunch, crunch—

The spicy and sour flavor of the crispy kimchi added a burst of flavor to the banquet noodles. He could not stop himself from slurping the noodles! After finishing off the noodles in his mouth, Minhyuk lifted the entire bowl, blew on it to cool it down, before drinking the remaining soup.

Sluuuuurp—

"Oh! This is very refreshing!" He shouted before inhaling the noodles once again.

Sluuuuurp!

Just when Minhyuk licked his smiling lips after drinking the last drop of soup of his noodles dessert...

Gulp—

Someone beside him gulped. The person was none other than Mei Wei.

‘...*Did I just gulp?*’ She thought. As a person suffering from severe anorexia, she felt shocked by her own subconscious deed.

Chapter 319: The Territory’s True Owner

Minhyuk chose to eat beef, instead of checking the artifact closest to God that he had received. Mei Wei continued to watch him, only to realize, ‘*If it was the usual, I would have vomited at the sight already...*’

Mei Wei was suffering from the most severe case of anorexia, to the point that she would vomit just at the sight of food alone. However, with Minhyuk eating so happily and with gusto in front of her, her nausea and vomiting did not rear their ugly heads, surprisingly. It even made her drool and want to eat. Watching this scene, Mei Wei finally made her decision. She said, “As expected, I really should stick close to you.”

“What, why?” Minhyuk asked, flustered. Although Mei Wei was unaware, Minhyuk was already having an ominous premonition that the number of mouths that he needed to feed was going to increase once again. Nevertheless, she began to tell her own story.

The employees of the Special Players Management Team were also watching Minhyuk do his beef mukbang.

“*Slurp!*” President Kang Taehoon wiped the drool dripping from his mouth. He then turned to Lee Minhwa and said, “Show us the artifact information.”

“Yes.”

?All stats+18%

?Magical Defense x2

?A 300% increase in evasion rate.

?100% HP and MP recovery once every day.

?Passive Skill: Physical Damage Reflection

?Active Skill: Monarch’s Shield

That was right. The blueprint and framework of the Monarch's Armor was the Armor of Immortality. And it was the masterpiece that Golden Hammer Dwarf Lant had created, something that should have been released a year later!

"Isn't the defense of the artifact too ridiculous?"

"...That's right. It would still be considered to be an extraordinary amount of defense even a year later."

"And there's even a 300% increase in the evasion rate..."

Evasion rate was something that all players tend to have. However, the effects of the evasion rate would only be triggered depending on the level gap between the opponents. In a fight between players with a 50-level difference, the probability of the higher-leveled player evading the attack of the lower-leveled player would increase. In other words, various factors, like the enemy's attack, and level could affect the enemy's attack, and make them miss.

So, what would happen if there was a 300% increase in this evasion rate? This meant that Minhyuk could avoid the attacks of other players at the same level with a 20-40% probability. Besides, even if the opponent successfully sent an attack, he was still wearing the armor with the highest defense in existence. On top of that, the armor was equipped with the passive skill 'Physical Damage Reflection'. The skill originally had a 20-30% chance of returning twice the damage that it received from the enemy. However, it now had a 25-35% chance of returning thrice the damage.

"A ranker can use a single skill in an attack, but if there's physical damage reflection, then..."

"Will the opponent die instead?"

Then, Kang Taehoon opened his mouth again and said, "Open the active skill window."

"Yes, President."

Artifact Skill

Even the Monarch's Shield had an additional skill that could give a wide-area buff. In other words, anyone within a ten meter radius could receive the wide-area buff from Minhyuk. This was a truly surprising, and powerful addition to his strength, and by extension, his comrades.

"The gap between Player Minhyuk and the other players would continue to widen over time," Team Leader Park said.

President Kang Taehoon just rubbed his chin as he recalled something. Then, he said, “But that’s still a relief.”

Then, Team Leader Park turned to look at him and said, “It’s about time for the High Class to appear.”

“Ah...” President Kang Taehoon said. Team Leader Park turned to look at him and nodded.

What was a High Class? It could easily be described as an additional awakening for general players. Currently, there were only around twelve people that had achieved the Royal Class. These Royal Classes already had power similar to, or even surpassing Minhyuk’s strength, and were all considered to be balance breakers already. These Royal Classes were none other than Dragon Monarch Black Dragon, Great Mage’s Descendant Ali, Hunter Veiron, and the recently changed Crown Prince of Sword, Emperor of Sword Carr. They became agents of *Athenae* and would sometimes broadcast together with famous BJs.

All of the players that have seen the videos and images of their battles were shocked by their abilities. Talks about balance collapse and game breakers started to spread widely. In fact, a group of four general players had the probability of defeating a Royal Class before, as long as they were on the same level as them. Of course, the Royal Classes received benefits and privileges since they were players that walked their own arduous path, so the chances of that happening were pretty slim. Therefore, the company more or less knew that they would receive backlash from the general players if that happened.

That was the reason why they prepared the High Class. High Class could allow anyone who reached Level 500 to have the chance to change their class. They could change and receive a High Class if they cleared a trial at Level 500. They could also change into a High Class if they cleared a trial in a place with the High Class trial, even after they reached a level higher than 500. Once they changed into a High Class, new skills would open up to them and stats tailored to their class would also appear, giving the player a significant increase in strength. Some High Classes were even comparable to Royal Classes. Of course, this was only a privilege for those who had reached Level 500. Team Leader Park and President Kang Taehoon turned to look at another monitor after watching Minhyuk’s monitor. There, they saw Black Dragon Vormon.

“It’s going to start soon.”

The Development Team and the Story Team had been working overtime the past couple of days after the Dragon King, Mei Wei and Conir had annihilated the Chinese players silently. The result of their hard work was a new episode. This new episode was almost at completion. They were confident that this episode would proceed without a hitch and start a continental war.

“From this point on, until the continental war begins, the biggest and most important factor is whether some of the Korean players would be able to change into High Class.”

If that happened, then there was a sliver of chance for South Korea to win the continental war. Of course, that was only a small glimmer of hope.

Then, Lee Minhwa said, “But... There’s an NPC among the Legend Guild that knows quite a lot of these trials. Right?”

“Huh?”

“Are you talking about the High Class?”

“Yes,” Lee Minhwa answered with a nod as she tapped on her keyboard swiftly. The moment she finished typing, the figure of the Great Sage Aruvel reading a book, despite the huge commotion around him, appeared on the screen.

Minhyuk listened to Mei Wei’s story. As someone who was suffering from another illness, he could understand and relate to Mei Wei’s feelings better than anybody else.

‘It must have been hard.’

Minhyuk knew that she was suffering more than anybody else. There were illnesses where one would eat and eat, and illnesses where one could not eat at all. It did not matter which was more painful. Minhyuk was fully aware about the difficulties and pain that accompanied the person during the process. However, even if he knew it was hard, he never gave Mei Wei a look of ‘pity’, he looked at her with eyes shining with hope.

“You’ll definitely get better! I will help you!”

“...”

Hearing his words, Mei Wei realized that he was different from others. Mei Wei was considered to be the world’s most beautiful woman. However, her friends all left her side the moment they learnt about her anorexia. Their eyes were filled with ‘sympathy’ and ‘contempt’. In the end, their eyes would be colored with superiority over her. It was something inevitable. After all, Mei Wei was more beautiful than anyone else, and just staying by her side would make anyone feel that they had lost their shine. So, they would all feel superior to her once they knew this fact. However, Minhyuk was different. He understood her difficulties and looked at her with hope.

‘Conir, I think I know the reason why you love and care for this person so much.’?

“What kind of food do you want to eat the most?” Minhyuk asked her. He was going to do this to help her, but also to ‘return’ the favor that she had given him. After all, if it had not been for Mei Wei’s help, Minhyuk would have failed in clearing the Food God’s trial, and he would not have been able to taste the fantastic, mouth-watering beef that he ate earlier.

“Kimchi stew.”

“Alright. I’ll make it for you.”

Foreigners often wanted to eat Korean food. And kimchi stew was a common choice. So, Minhyuk began to cook, giving it his all. While he was cooking, he said, “Your brother will definitely want his Noona to be happy.”

“...”

Minhyuk struggled the most when his mother passed away. However, he eventually understood that his mother would want him to be happy, even if she was not around anymore. Hearing his words made Mei Wei's heart shake. Then, Minhyuk finally finished the kimchi stew. When Mei Wei saw the finished dish, she thought, *‘Minhyuk might be the Food God, but can he help me treat my illness?’*

Mei Wei's doctor had suggested that she make contact with the Food God, because this was their last resort. They did not have any more choices to choose from. So, they did not know whether this treatment would work or not. When she was able to eat Conir's ramen before, she thought that she was already showing signs of improvement. However, Mei Wei still refused to eat food in reality. Her doctor had told her that it would take a long, slow process in *Athenae* for her to shake off her mental rejection towards food. Mei Wei looked at the kimchi stew with some warm and well-fried eggs to the side.

“Kimchi stew is best eaten with fried eggs.”

Mei Wei nodded thinking, *‘I'm still fine at this point.’*

Mei Wei thought that perhaps it was because her heart was starting to be at peace, that she could stomach the sight of the food, just like what happened with Conir before. Then, she stretched her hand and grabbed the spoon.

‘Can food really taste differently from each other? That doesn't even make sense.’

Mei Wei had found Conir's ramen to be very delicious. However, she thought that it was because of many complex reasons. She thought that it was because she had not tasted ramen in a long time, or perhaps it was because she ate it after a hard day's work, or plenty of other reasons like that. However, would it be different and special, just because the Food God made it? That was what she thought as she scooped up a spoonful of soup to sip.

“Gasp...” Mei Wei let out a gasp of surprise. She immediately scooped another spoonful and sipped it again. When she looked up, she saw light glowing from behind Minhyuk.

‘What the hell? Why do I feel like I have become an extra in Cooking Master Bay?’

What was happening to her right now felt exactly like that. It seemed like Mei Wei saw a dragon ascending to heaven from the halo that was glowing behind Minhyuk. When she saw this, Mei Wei...

“Wait, this flavor...!”...unknowingly uttered these words.

Minhyuk just watched her with a big smile on his face, as Mei Wei ate spoonful after spoonful of rice. Each spoonful of rice that Mei Wei put in her mouth tasted soft and savory, with a hint of sweetness. Mei Wei was just about to get another spoonful of soup when Minhyuk said, “Try the soup with some pork.”

Mei Wei quickly followed his advice and scooped up some pork with the soup.

‘The pork... has the perfect ratio...’

The pork was half fat and half lean meat, the perfect ratio of meat and fat. And the moment she put it in her mouth...

“Wow...” A burst of admiration came out of her mouth, and she could not help but eat her food with renewed haste.

Then, Mei Wei placed a fried egg on top of her rice bowl, scooped a spoonful of rice and egg, then placed it in her mouth. The soft taste of the fried egg mellowed down the spicy flavor of the kimchi stew. This time, she tried the tofu. She cut a small piece and placed it in her mouth.

‘It’s light...’

It was the best. Mei Wei was eating so fast that it was hard to tell if she was suffering from anorexia or bulimia. It seemed like her rejection towards food was disappearing.

‘That’s right. Food should make us happy.’

Mei Wei recalled how Minhyuk ate his beef earlier. He looked happier than anyone else as he ate. That was right. Food was not a bad thing. It was something that should make people happy. She happily emptied the food in her bowl. Just then, the members of Legend Guild arrived in the territory.

Genie, Locke, Khan and the rest of the members of Legend Guild hurried to the territory after they finished their meeting. When they returned, they saw...

‘Is... isn’t that Mei Wei?’

‘Why is Mei Wei eating kimchi stew here?’

All of them were dumbfounded and confused. After all, why would Mei Wei, a Chinese player, be eating kimchi stew here? But before they could voice out their thoughts, Minhyuk sent a whisper to them.

So, Legend Guild continued to watch Mei Wei eat as if she was possessed. Today was the day that they were finally convinced...

‘Minhyuk will be the guild leader of our guild.’

They continued to watch Mei Wei from afar after she finished eating. Anyway, they were still waiting for the explanation for what happened.

“Oh, it was really so delicious. My goodness. How can that be possible?”

“I’m glad that you’re satisfied with the meal.”

Then, Mei Wei said, “I heard that you’re going to build a kingdom?”

This was something that Mei Wei had heard from Conir.

“I want to be a part of your guild.”

“Do...do you really have to?”

‘Why are you rejecting her, you punk!’

The guild members were all shocked when they heard Mei Wei say that. They could hardly believe that Mei Wei wanted to join the Legend Guild. She was the number one player in the Global Rankings. However, to their horror, Minhyuk actually looked reluctant. Even if he was reluctant, Genie and the rest of the guild would still welcome Mei Wei. It was simply because Mei Wei had been known for doing good deeds, even though she only played alone without showing herself to people. Not long ago, they heard that Mei Wei even donated half of her entire fortune to a volunteer organization. The amount was at least around 80 billion. So, they believed that Mei Wei would not be a bad person. But, right now...

“Please accept me!!!”

“Ah. No. Do you really have to join and become a guild member?”

“Yes! I’ll be a huge help around here too. I’ll do everything you ask that is within my means!”

...the members of Legend Guild were all puzzled at the sight of the number one player, Mei Wei begging, while Minhyuk was vehemently rejecting her.

“Why do you hate my proposal?”

“Just because.”

Then, Conir appeared right next to them and said, “Conir knows why.”

“Really? Why?”

“Because there’s another mouth to feed!”

“Gasp!”

“Heok!”

“Keoheok!”

The Global Ranking’s number one player Mei Wei was willing to help with anything, but Minhyuk was rejecting her because he would have another mouth to feed? Still, it seemed that Minhyuk finally took a step back as he said, “Are you really willing to do anything for me?”

“That’s right! As long as you let me eat your food.”

“Phew... Alright. But you have to get approval from my guild members if you want to join the guild. But, if you become a member of the guild, your mission is...”

“Yes,” Mei Wei said, eyes shining brightly as she focused on Minhyuk’s words.

“...getting the ingredients that I want. I will cook you a meal for every excellent ingredient that you bring.”

“...”

After hearing Minhyuk's words, Locke said, "...Hey! Aren't you talking about a bread shuttle? Let's assume that Minhyuk's dishes cost 100 won, then that punk will definitely ask for 1,000 won worth of ingredients. Doesn't this sound like *'I'll give you 100 won, buy me some banana milk and bread.'* or something like that?"

"H...huh? That sounds quite true..."

"Rather than bread shuttle, isn't she more of an ingredient shuttle...?"

“...”

“...”

“...”

The guild members all went silent at that. They once again felt admiration for Minhyuk.

'My goodness... I can't believe he's making the Global Ranking's number one player into his bread shuttle...'

'Minhyuk is really incredible.'

'I suddenly want to eat bread.'

Anyway, Mei Wei entered Legend Guild, by way of backdoor, as a bread shuttle.

Chapter 320: Strengthening the Territory

Minhyuk and the members of Legend Guild all sat together to discuss with him what they talked about during their meeting. The words that Genie uttered brought complete shock to Minhyuk.

"Me.. the guild master...?" Minhyuk asked, looking at Genie and the rest of the guild members. He could see that all of them had already made their decision. However, Minhyuk still found it to be a bit concerning.

"Am I even fit for the job?"

This was his concern. Besides, Minhyuk also felt sorry for Genie, since she was the one who built Legend Guild. However, Genie said, "You'll do well. I trust you."

Genie had seen Minhyuk's leadership before, back when they were still in middle school. Of course, he was suffering from eating addiction so he tended to be greatly biased towards food. Still, Genie was confident that he would be able to catch up on that part somehow.

In fact, during the meeting when they voted for Minhyuk becoming a guild master, there were nine votes in favor and eight votes against it. It was just a slight difference. However, all eight of those who voted against changed their minds the moment the Legend Guild members returned to Atlas. Crow and Ace, two of those that voted no, had no choice but to admit and recognize Minhyuk's abilities.

‘He was able to apply the strength and power of all of the four legendary figures to the territory by himself...’

‘So, we get the best territory just like that?’

With those thoughts in mind, they lowered their heads and decided to trust and believe in Minhyuk. Seeing Minhyuk still hesitating, Genie finally said, “I believe Legend Guild would be given wings if you become our guild master.”

“Wings?” Minhyuk asked. However, Genie, Locke and Khan just smiled at him.

Genie opened her mouth again after looking at him silently to say, “We need to expand our guild now.”

Legend Guild could not be an elite guild with just a few members anymore. Currently, Legend Guild was ranked twelfth among all the other guilds in the country. It was only natural since they were an elite guild with only a few members. Since they were just a small group, it was natural that the guild EXP that they accumulated would be less than any other guilds. No, it was already a miracle that they could stand tall and maintain their rank with just their small numbers alone. After saying that they needed to expand, Genie looked at Minhyuk and thought, *‘Your power to attract people... I know it better than anybody else.’*

Haze had once told Genie that Minhyuk needed to be the guild master for them to become a kingdom. In truth, Genie completely agreed with her words. She knew full well that Minhyuk had the power to attract people to his side, even if he just stayed still. Mei Wei’s case just now was a prime example of that.

“Also, I think it would be better to start a new guild. We need to let everyone know that you have become the new master of the guild.”

Minhyuk nodded. Many people wanted to grab Legend Guild’s hand and join them. However, there were not a lot of strong players among them. This was because the moment these strong players joined Legend Guild, they would exert little influence in the guild. Many strong players believed that they should just stand tall and show the world their strength somewhere else, rather than stay trapped in Legend Guild without any influence. However, the players that usually enjoyed playing alone, as well as the people that built friendship with Minhyuk over the course of his stay in the game, would want to join him and come to his guild, even if they were strong players. That was why they wanted to remove the name *‘Legend’* and create a new name for themselves.

“Do you have any guild name in mind?”

After being asked about his opinion, Minhyuk went silent and pondered over the name. The guild members waited calmly as he thought about it for around three minutes. Then, he said, “Personal Flavor...?”

“...”

“...”

“...”

Everyone went silent. Goodness! What kind of naming sense was that?

‘Ah, that’s right. Minhyuk’s naming sense is shit...’

In the past, Minhyuk used the nickname Red Shot King in an FPS game. He also used the nickname Dungeon King Minhyuk in a character raising dungeon game. That was right. If there was something that Minhyuk could not do, it was naming!

“Then, Eat Kill Guild?”

“...”

“...”

Silence once again enveloped the area.

“Why don’t we discuss it together for a bit...?”

Then, a boy said, “Why? It’s good though.”

The boy was none other than Ace. All of the guild members turned to look at him. They just stared silently at the boy.

“It...it’s not good?”

Just like that, they spent the entire day trying to decide a name for their guild.

The South Korean *Athenae* community was suddenly in a buzz.

[Legend Guild suddenly disappeared in the guild rankings. Does anyone know why?]

[Huh? You’re right. Why did Legend Guild suddenly disappear? Did something happen in their guild so they disbanded? But, they’re all strong people so they will still be able to thrive somewhere else even if they did break up.]

[Haaa. Is our country’s elite guild going to disappear under the tides of history?]

The players suddenly saw a public statement posted by Genie the moment questions about Legend Guild appeared on the internet.

[Huh? Genie has given the guild master’s authority to the Food God?]

[Gasp! For real? Will the Food God lead Legend Guild now?]

[Based on what I read, it seems like they won’t remain as Legend Guild anymore. They’re going to register a new guild and name at 5:00 p.m. today. We should check it out by then.]

Plenty of the players were curious as to what name Legend Guild would take now. And since they were changing their guild name, it meant that they were aiming for a new beginning. After all, they willingly abandoned and left behind their current guild rankings, just to create a new guild. All of the players waited patiently for the clock to strike five. Finally, a system notification appeared in the guild channel of *Athenae*’s official website.

[Minhyuk has created a new guild.]

[Ohhhhhh! Finally!]

[What's the guild name?!!]

[Kyaaa! Since it's the Food God's guild, it should be named with a name that's as cool as 'Legend', right?]

The players immediately searched for 'Minhyuk' in the guild master's section. Then, they saw the guild name.

[Guild Name: Let's Eat Sect. Guild Master: Minhyuk. Sub-Guild Master: Genie. Number of Guild Members: 19.]

"...?"

"...?"

"...?"

"...?"

That day was the day when plenty of the people of *Athenae* were left in confusion. That was right. No one in Legend Guild had a good naming sense. The only reason why Legend Guild was named as such was because the public shouted '*Legend, legend!*' before. In fact, in the past, Genie used to have the in-game nickname 'Blazing Shot Genie', Locke used to have the name 'Steel Gun Locke', and Khan was 'HandsomeSeoktae'. After seeing the name, one of the players' comments became the best comment of the post.

[The guild name definitely leaves a mark...]

It was a guild name that no one would forget once they heard it.

Crusoe was the one currently in charge of training the soldiers in Atlas. He went to the master and owner of Atlas, Minhyuk, and said, "Could you call for people that can train the troops that you currently have in the territory? How about the current instructors of Valhalla territory?"

He requested this simply because there were a total of 200 soldiers in the territory's troops. Even though he was the Sword and Shield, it would still be a bit too much for him to handle it alone. Besides, there would also be troops that would migrate to Atlas from Valhalla territory. Minhyuk also gained an additional 700-strong troop as an extra reward the moment he gained ownership of the territory. These 700 soldiers were different from the 200 'Death Corps' soldiers. Although the 700 soldiers were weaker than the Death Corps, they were still stronger than any ordinary soldier from other territories. So, Crusoe had to train them. However, he only had a month. It would be a difficult feat for him to completely train them until they reached mastery over the course of a single month. The fact that the troops would gain twice the EXP in that month meant that he would have to speed up the process to take advantage of the benefit.

Then, Minhyuk asked, "What are you going to teach the soldiers?"

"Swordsmanship, spearmanship, horsemanship, archery, tactics and strategy and a lot more."

"Ho. I have very suitable people in Valhalla territory for that."

After hearing his answer, Crusoe was filled with great expectations. Then, after that, more than half of the residents of Valhalla territory migrated to Atlas, along with a considerable number of soldiers. That was when Crusoe saw a strange old man.

“Grow up hair! Grow!”

The old man had long and shiny hair like Terrius which he combed carefully. The old man quickly made coffee and handed it over to Minhyuk.

“My Lord, please have some coffee.”

“Ah. Thank you, Grandpa Ben. *Kyaa!*?Your iced americano is the best!”

“Hohohoho.”

“But, your hair..”

“Isn’t it cool?”

Actually, it did not look cool at all. Imagine an old man in his sixties growing soft and shiny black hair just like Terrius. The old man continued to give Minhyuk coffee. Minhyuk drank thirty cups in a single go. Then, an African boy suddenly appeared and stretched his hands towards the dirty dishes.

“Godly Dishwashing!”

[Godly Dishwashing]

[A dishwashing technique given by god! You can wash dishes without using water and remove foreign substances from plates, cups and other dishes!]

“Fufufufu!”

After doing the dishes, the African boy removed his rubber gloves and took out a piece of sweet red bean bread. His expression looked overwhelmed as he took a bite and said, “Delicious...” The boy’s eyes even turned red.

“...”

Crusoe was left speechless at the sight. Then, another man appeared.

“Please give me a cup of coffee too.”

“Ah. Talmor came too?”

The man was holding a recorder and looking at something.

“Ho. So you’re practicing a new song on your recorder. What song is it?”

“It’s Butterfly. *Butterfly, butterfly, come fly over here. Yellow butterfly, white butterfly come dance over here~*”

“Oh. That sounds very cool.”

Then, Conir's eyes reddened with tears. He stood among them and said, "Co...Conir!!! Conir feels like Conir's going to cry at the beautiful song!!! Conir is touched!!!"

'N...no. How can you be moved only after hearing Butterfly?'

Crusoe could not infer who they were and what roles they played.

"..."

'The God of Dishwashing, the Coffee Master, the Recorder Player, and the boy that cried after being moved by the song Butterfly?'

Then, Crusoe turned to Minhyuk and asked, "My Lord, where are the instructors that would teach spearmanship, swordsmanship, archery and horsemanship?"

"What? Aren't they here? I'll introduce them to you. Granda Ben will be teaching spearmanship. Conir and Sir Corr will be teaching swordsmanship, and Kaistra will teach horsemanship."

"..."

Crusoe was once again left speechless.

'These people??'

Crusoe knew that he should not say this, but he felt like he could not expect anything from them. The old man looked weak as if he would faint if he so much as pushed him. He was even told that the recorder man and the young boy would be the ones to teach swordsmanship.

'What in the world will happen to the territory??'

It was so ridiculous that Crusoe even wondered how Valhalla territory was managed and operated. However, even if he found it ridiculous, Crusoe could not openly show his dissatisfaction.

'I'll give them a week. I need to go on special training with the Death Corps in a week anyway...?'

The Death Corps was Atlas' core unit. So, he decided to give these people a quota and a goal for that week that he would train the core unit. Finally getting into a decision, Crusoe said, "Can you raise the level of the soldiers by four levels in a week?"

"It's not a difficult task," the old man answered while combing his hair.

Conir and Corr also answered his question.

"Conir!! Conir will train soldiers!! Wow!!"

"Well, I won't have time to practice with my recorder, but I will do my best. Ah, wait. Did you say you were Sir Crusoe? You don't look like you have enough hair on your head. If you pay me, I will pray for you."

"I will train the soldiers hard so they can become a cavalry! Ah, wait. All of the dishes that are used during meals will also be done by me. Fufufufu!"

If they failed to raise the level of the soldiers and reach Crusoe's requirements, he intended to stop them. No, actually he did not expect them to meet his requirements at all. Then...

"Minhyuk, what are you going to cook this time?"

"It's Royal Court Rice Cakes."

"Wow. What ingredients do I need to bring?"

"Hmmm. Bring me an eagle egg from the nest of a Giant Eagle."

The eagle egg! It was a well-known S-rank ingredient with an outstanding flavor! However, the giant eagles were extremely strong monsters, known to give people hell once they came in a flock. Their nest was a place that even rankers did not dare go.

"I'll come back as quickly as possible! I'll do my best!" The beautiful woman said, running away like the wind. The woman that looked like she was sent running to buy bread was none other than the number one player in the Global Rankings, Mei Wei.

Minhyuk could not help but chuckle as he watched her disappear. Then, he said, "Hehehe. I took one step in retreat, only to take two steps forward."

After watching all of these happen, Crusoe suddenly felt like he missed the previous Food God. However, Crusoe was completely unaware of the miracle that would unfold in Atlas after a month.