

Gourmet 371

Chapter 371: Turning the Tide of War

Minhyuk was faced with Atlas' dire situation the moment he arrived. Without any hesitation, he jumped straight into the fray and began fighting against thousands of enemies.

"What the hell?!!!!"

"It's...it's the Food God!!!"

"Kill!!!!"

The players that were trying to dig into the gaps of Atlas turned toward him and attacked him. But, Minhyuk just opened his mouth calmly and said, "Pinnacle."

"...?"

"...Stop him from using his skills!!!"

"Did, did he just say Pinnacle?"

A red current of energy suddenly appeared and covered Minhyuk's body, as a strong wind blew around him.

"Sword of Tempest."

That was right. A tempest. There was literally a tempest of blades numbering in the hundreds that appeared around Minhyuk.

[Sword of Tempest]

[Hundreds of sword blades with 250% basic attack will indiscriminately slaughter your enemies within six seconds. During the duration of the skill, your movement speed will increase by 200%.]

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

Hundreds of blades with 2.5x the regular attack speed created a violent storm, brutally massacring the players that flocked around Minhyuk. Even Minhyuk's movement speed had increased by 200%, which allowed him to move swiftly across the battlefield, effectively slaughtering his enemies.

"Keuhaaaaaaaack!"

"Ugh... aaaaaaack!"

"Keheooooook!"

It only took an instant. In just a blink of an eye, Minhyuk had already pierced through thousands of players. They tried to approach him and attack him, but the hundreds of blades had tremendous speed that they could not easily break through, which allowed Minhyuk to ignore them. There were occasional magic attack spells that would land on Minhyuk's body, but his magical defense was extremely high that the attacks did not cause great damage to him.

The scene looked quite similar to Moses' miracle as a path was created in the places that he passed through. And finally, Minhyuk arrived behind Arcas, who was trying to punch Ali in the face.

[The duration of Sword of Tempest has ended.]

The skill ended and started its cooldown as Minhyuk attacked Arcas' back to stop him.

[Critical Strike!]

"Keuaaaaaaaaack!" Arcas shrieked from the powerful attack that he received. The attack had instantly shaved 10% off of his HP.

'A single attack skill?'

When Arcas turned to look behind him, he saw Food God Minhyuk and the remaining forces of Atlas gathering around him. And just when Arcas was about to attack him...

"Let's Have a Meal!"

...Minhyuk triggered his skill and a large and translucent barrier appeared around them.

Baaaaaaaang—

Arcas' fist slammed on the barrier but it did not even shake at all.

'What kind of skill was that?' Arcas thought, wondering if he was just tricked by Minhyuk. After all, his HP had decreased by 10% in an instant. However, would a simple attack of the strongest ranker be able to shave off 10% of his HP? He believed that the answer would most definitely be no.

Then, Minhyuk did something shocking inside the barrier.

"Pffft..." Arcas burst out in laughter.

In fact, even the members of the Let's Eat Sect Guild were looking at Minhyuk in doubt.

"You want us to eat this...?"

"So suddenly?"

This was because Minhyuk had served them a bowl of food, which was none other than *'Rice Cake Dumpling Soup'*.

Ali was in disbelief. His friend, Minhyuk, was here!

After not seeing each other for a long time, the first thing that Minhyuk did was to trigger his skill *'Let's Have a Meal'*, before distributing rice cake dumpling soup to them.

"We don't have time. Eat the soup quickly."

"What... what is this..."

“This rice cake dumpling soup is the only way for us to overcome this situation.”

“...”

“...”

“...”

They were just fighting a bloody battle. But, as if trying to match the name of the skill ‘*Let’s Have a Meal*’?they were now being told to eat. It sounded completely ridiculous, but Ali remembered something.

‘Minhyuk’s buff abilities are extremely amazing. He’s definitely trying to help us become a bit stronger.’

‘This is a food that our Minhyuk has made for us. We have to eat it!’

Everyone present believed in Minhyuk.

“Thank you for the food, Minhyuk.”

“Thanks.”

“Minhyuk, I’ll eat it well.”

Compared to them, Arcas and the rest of the Chinese troops were looking at them ridiculously.

“They’re really going to eat...?” Arcas mumbled, his expression becoming the epitome of ‘?0?’, as he stood beyond the barrier and watched them eat. His rugged face and that expression was... truly quite a spectacle. The other players were also sporting the same look.

“They... they’re really eating...?”

“Excuse me? Aren’t you supposed to be fighting against us?”

“I heard that Koreans power up with a meal. It seems like it’s true...?!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Everyone turned to look back at one of the Chinese players when he said those words.

‘Ho. So they always eat when they fight.’

‘It seems like Koreans are quite unique.’

However, despite the buzz from outside the barrier, Minhyuk just continued to tell his guild members, “That’s the rice cake dumpling soup made from marrow bone broth.”

“Ooooooooooh!”

“Thanksss!”

Ali smiled at Minhyuk. In fact, he thought that it would be alright even if the rice cake dumpling soup did not exert that much power. The most important thing was that their friend, Minhyuk, prepared it for them. Of course, there was also the possibility that they would not be able to overcome this situation, even if the food did exert a great power. It did not matter how good the buff was, it was nigh impossible for them to survive.

Regardless, Ali still focused on his dish. Steam rose from the bowl of the rice cake dumpling soup. The soup was topped with egg garnish, green onions, and seaweed flakes. There was even a plate of well-ripened kimchi placed next to it. More steam rose when Ali stirred the contents of the bowl with his spoon.

Ali personally liked eating his rice cake dumpling soup in the morning. Of course, that did not mean that he thought that the rice cake dumpling soup in front of him would taste bad. He just preferred having it in the morning. Then, Ali took a sip of the soup.

“Wow...”

The soup made from the marrow bone was thickened using the wheat flour’s starch, which made the taste light and clean. Then, Ali cut the dumpling in half and scooped it into his mouth.

“*Chew, chew.*”

The inside of his mouth felt warm from the ingredients wrapped inside the dumpling.

“It’s delicious...”

It was so good that for a moment, Ali even forgot that they were in the middle of a bloody battle. This time, Ali scooped up a rice cake and placed it in his mouth.

Chew, chew—

The more he chewed, the more chewy the rice cake became. Ali smiled as he placed a piece of the bright, colorful kimchi in his mouth.

Crunch, crunch—

“Wow. This kimchi is really amazing...”

From the initial disbelief that colored his face when Minhyuk first brought out the dish, Ali was now in a rush to eat everything in his bowl. Finally, Ali picked up his entire bowl and tipped it over his mouth to drink every single last drop.

“Waaaa...” Ali smiled as he burst out in admiration. He had been living alone for five years, so it had been a long time since he had such a delicious meal like this. Then, the notifications began to ring.

[You have eaten the Rice Cake Dumpling Soup made from the Leftover Marrow Bone Broth.]

[Your HP will increase by 1.3x and your MP will double.]

[Your Magic Spell Cooldown will decrease by 50%.]

[During the duration of the buff, you can use the highest Eight Tier Magic spell.]

[You don't need preparation to cast Fifth Tier Magic spells.]

[Your Magical Attack has increased by 40%.]

[Your Physical Defense has increased by 40%.]

[Your Magical Defense has increased by 40%.]

[Your Magical Critical Hit Rate has increased by 300%.]

[Your Evasion Rate has increased by 300%.]

[Your EXP Acquisition Rate has increased by 300%.]

[All of the skills in your repertoire will exert more power than usual.]

[The buff will last for three days.]

“...?!”

Ali was very shocked.

The major executives of *Athenae* South Korea had also gathered at the conference hall today to watch the events on the TV screen.

President Kang Taehoon groaned, “Hummmmm...”

Aside from their large numbers, the other side also had plenty of rankers among them. In the first place, there was already a vast difference between the number of players in South Korea and China. Because of that, Cairon Continent was larger than Asgan Continent.

However, none of them expected that they would be extremely helpless in front of such numbers. Berdk's ramparts were on the verge of collapsing, while the rankers and players in the Korean Defense Base were all screaming and howling. Even the Food God's territory was on the verge of being taken away.

“I'll turn off the TV,” Director Kim Daesik said as he turned off the TV amidst their disastrous and desperate atmosphere. Everyone sighed ruefully. They were not just *Athenae* executives, they were also Koreans. *Athenae* was no longer considered as a simple game in the world. This fact made them feel even sadder, and for some, despair.

Then, Director Kim Daesik turned to look at the community sites abroad.

[In the first place, a shabby country like Korea is not a match for a powerhouse like China.]

[I heard *Athenae* was created by Koreans so there should be a lot of benefits for their people, but look at the way it is. Hahahahaha.]

[They kept on saying ‘Food God, Food God’, but isn't he just a moron? In fact, they said that he's the best in Korea right? What can he even do in *Athenae*: World War?]

[I agree. Food God is a non-combat class. In the end, he's just like a rookie in front of the strongest people in the continent.]

[I'm looking forward to *Athenae: World War*. I wonder how Korea will rank? If there are 45 countries participating, they'll probably rank 44th, right? Hahahahaha.]

Everyone here was aware that a lot of people all over the world were mocking the Korean players.

Meanwhile, President Kang Taehoon was talking with Team Leader Park Minggyu. They had sent Team Leader Park Minggyu to attend the meeting about the *Athenae: World War*, because he was a very straightforward person, with a clear head that went far beyond his position as a '*Team Leader*'. President Kang Taehoon was confident that Park Minggyu would not lose any ground against the *Athenae* branch managers from the other countries, especially in that place where they had to hold their breaths and fight against each other.

Even President Kang Taehoon relied on Park Minggyu, his firm conviction, and beliefs sometimes.

[What do you think about the battle this time? It's hard, right?]

An answer came right away.

[It's hard, but we have to overcome it. The fight is not yet over. We don't have the time to get frustrated yet.]

"..."

Kang Taehoon grinned. He had always liked this confidence and look in Team Leader Park Minggyu.

"The war is not yet over."

"...That's right."

"It's not yet over."

Kang Taehoon was greeted with the small smiles of the executives in the conference hall. Then, at that moment...

"Waaaaaaaaaaaaah!!!"

"Food God!!!"

"As expected of Our Lord, Food God!!!"

"Uwooooooooooooo!!!"

"Huh? Why are they eating when they're in the middle of a fight?"

"That's his skill '*Let's Have a Meal*'."

Cheers suddenly erupted outside the conference hall. That was when Director Kim Daesik sensed that something unusual had happened. He hurriedly turned on the TV to see Arcas lying on the ground.

"Ar... Arcas?!"

But that was not the end of the surprise. Black Mage Ali flew high up, as a magic spell unfolded in the sky above him. Then...

[Grrrrrrrrroaaaar—]

With the loud roar, the sky was torn apart. Then, giant meteorites began to fall from the torn space.

“...!”

“...!”

President Kang Taehoon jumped up in surprise. Even Director Kim Daesik did the same. Then, Development Team Leader Lee Seokhoon shouted in disbelief, “Meteor...”

“Did... did he... he just used the strongest AOE magic spell, Meteor?”

They knew that Ali had already reached his limit earlier. Besides, Meteor was the top skill among all of the Eight Tier Magic spells. It was a skill that they expected Ali to only awaken and master in another year and a half.

So, how was he able to use Meteor right now? Then, at that moment...

Baaaaaaang—

The giant meteorites rained down upon the thousands of enemy troops and tore them apart.

Chapter 372: Turning the Tide of War

Fifteen minutes ago.

After eating the rice cake dumpling soup, Ali's magical attack had increased by 40%, while his MP reserve had doubled. Even his chances of dealing a magical critical strike had increased by 300%. Ali even received buffs that strengthened his magic spells.

That was not the end of it. It was not only Ali that ate Minhyuk's rice cake dumpling soup. Even Cereberus ate the food together with him, and received buffs tailored for them. The leftover marrow bone broth from the God-grade dish had a special ability that could increase the buff needed by those that ate it. And...

Shwaaaaaa—

The moment the ‘Let's Have a Meal’ barrier was released, thousands of Chinese players surrounded them with Arcas, the one leading them, moving straight towards Minhyuk.

‘Food God Minhyuk is Korea's strongest ranker. If I can make him kneel down in front of me, my reputation all over the world will rise significantly.’

The Black Dragon Order had long decided not to live under the rock anymore. And if Arcas killed Minhyuk then he would most likely be hailed as a hero in China. Besides, he had already made his complete analysis of the Food God, and was confident that Minhyuk would never be able to beat himself. Whether it be his STR, AGI or skill, none of them could ever compare to his own.

[Player Arcas is moving towards Player Minhyuk the moment the ‘Let's Have a Meal’ barrier is released.]

[We have to agree that Player Minhyuk is a player that we should be careful around. He showed incredible power during Athenae: Korean War.]

[But that was the Athenae: Korean War. There are still countless hidden and stronger players lurking all over the world.]

[One of them is none other than Arcas. He might have received plenty of harsh criticisms a few days ago over the Ellie hunt episode that they staged, but the fact that Arcas is one of the best and strongest people representing China, is undeniable.]

[This is a very dangerous situation for Food God Minhyuk.]

[From what we can see, the Chinese players and the members of the Let's Eat Sect Guild are just watching and would not get involved in their fight.]

[This is a very interesting situation that even our broadcasting station's ratings are increasing rapidly. However, I wonder if Player Minhyuk can endure Arcas' fiery attacks?]

Meanwhile, the Chinese players that surrounded them...

"He's walking to his own grave. Isn't he a complete moron?"

"Arcas! Isn't it enough for you to use one hand to deal with that little novice?"

"Hahahahahahaha!"

"Guys, how long do you think Arcas needs to deal with the Food God?"

"Around two minutes?"

"I'm for a minute and forty seconds for 1,000 gold."

"Hahahahaha! Oh! Me too, 1,000 gold!"

"Eyyy! I think it will last for two minutes. 1,000 gold for two minutes!!!"

Amidst the Chinese players mocking and cheering stood Arcas and Minhyuk. Arcas took a deep breath. Compared to the other players that completely mocked and ignored Minhyuk, Arcas remained calm. No matter how strong he was and whatever data he had in hand, the fact that the Food God was the strongest in Korea did not change.

"Haa!"

Arcas' entire body expanded, before returning to its original size while turning rough and firm, like a turtle shell.

[Giant Dragon's Armor]

[During the duration of the Giant Dragon's Armor, your Physical Defense will increase by 300% while your Evasion Rate will increase by 150%.]

The Food God's skill was extremely strong and it could even last for quite a while.

'Is it Berserk?'

All Arcas needed to do was to be careful about that skill. No, he just needed to kill Minhyuk before he could use the skill *'Berserk'*. Arcas immediately prepared his Exploding Dragon Fist, the skill that he strengthened by reflecting it with Master Reflector Xu Jiaqi's skill to attack Ellie.

If he hit Minhyuk square on his chest with the Exploding Dragon Fist, then Minhyuk would fall into a temporary stunned state. Once he was stunned, Arcas planned to use his ‘*Pinnacle of Consecutive Attacks*’ that he was proud of. In other words, he intended to kill Minhyuk without even letting him send out a single attack.

Arcas’ right arm began to swell. This was the tell-tale sign of the skill ‘*Exploding Dragon Fist*’ being triggered. Finally, Arcas made his move.

“Ohooooo!”

“So fast!!!”

“Kyaaaaa!!!”

The Chinese players were in awe.

[Light Step]

[Narrow the 15 meter distance between you and your opponent in one go.]

The close combat dealers in *Athenae* had various skills that were similar to Minhyuk’s ‘*Like the Wind*’. Among those skills, Arcas had learned ‘*Light Step*’, a skill that allowed him to traverse a 15 meter distance between him and his opponent in one go. This was a very useful skill for Arcas, who needed to be within a certain range for his fists to have a strong effect. And with the addition of the Exploding Dragon Fist’s explosive power, the power of his fists was already close to becoming fraudulent.

As he used Light Step, the casting time for Exploding Dragon Fist ended and he arrived right in front of Minhyuk.

“It seems like he’ll die with his body exploding.”

“Aaaaaaaah! But it’s boring if you kill him all at once~”

The Chinese players had already predicted what would happen. Even the Chinese commentators were doing the same thing.

[Arcas narrowed the distance between him and the Food God in one go and is now going to send a powerful shot towards him.]

[The problem is that his move is too big!]

[Why is the Food God not reacting?]

Meanwhile, Arcas, whose Exploding Dragon Fist’s casting time had ended, threw out his fist. No, to be exact, he tried to throw it out.

“Exploding...”

“Pinnacle.”

Minhyuk murmured quietly as he watched Arcas approach himself.

“Sword of Absolute Death.”

Stab—

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

A moment of silence passed by the entire clearing. Minhyuk gently raised his sword and with a flash of light, the blade had already pierced through Arcas' body. However, Arcas was the one that was most taken aback by the situation.

'I... I didn't see it coming? No. I didn't even see any sign that he was using his skill...'

Arcas was unaware, but Minhyuk had long been waiting for him. He banked on the fact that Arcas would approach him and made proper use of his skill 'Save', a skill that allowed him to use one of his skills without any casting time.

However, the notification that came after caused Arcas to be both stunned and terrified.

[Your HP has dropped below 60%.]

[You will remain in a stunned state for three seconds.]

“...!”

The drop was very enormous. After all, Arcas' strength and defense were far beyond that of any ordinary ranker. However, despite his overwhelming power, he still received this much damage.

The Sword of Absolute Death was Minhyuk's most powerful skill. It was a sword skill that he had acquired from Aerod, the God of Disasters and Abilities. It was also his sword skill that had reached the complete, and absolute, Pinnacle. Then, the notification rang for Minhyuk, the one that triggered the Sword of Absolute Death.

[Sword of Absolute Death]

[The first sword strike will hit your enemy with a 100% chance and an additional 700% damage as long as they are within four meters of you. The opponent that received the first sword strike will receive seven consecutive attacks with 500% additional damage and will fall into a stunned state for three seconds.]

[Hundreds of blades with 200% additional damage will shoot out and dance around to destroy and devour your enemies. A direct hit will cause a powerful explosion that will deal an additional 500% damage.]

Yes, that was right. The Sword of Absolute Death was the strongest single-attack skill and AOE skill. It was a skill that combined the advantages of the Sword of Frenzy, Heaven Tearing Sword, and Sword of Tempest.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

“Keuaaaaaaaaack!”

The first sword strike was immediately followed by seven consecutive attacks with additional 500% damage, an effect that took full advantage of the stunned state that Arcas was placed in. On top of that, thanks to the buff effects of the '*marrow bone broth*', Minhyuk had received a 30% increase in his skill attack power and a 300% increase in his critical hit rate. Arcas could not do anything at all.

Fall—

“...”

“...”

“...”

The silence continued to pervade the surroundings. Minhyuk only used one move to deal with Arcas. He only took four seconds to make him fall down on his feet. And it did not end there. Minhyuk's sword even sent out hundreds of sword lights that destroyed the enemy troops concentrated behind Arcas.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

The sword lights cut off plenty of enemies and even exploded whenever they landed directly on their bodies.

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

In a blink of an eye, the number of enemy troops that Minhyuk had either forced to log out or incapacitated, was more than 700.

“...”

“...”

“...”

“...”

“...”

The players that had been grinning mockingly just now all fell silent. Even the Chinese commentators had their mouths shut. In fact, Minhyuk was confident that he could kill Arcas even if he did not use his Sword of Absolute Death. However, Minhyuk had used the Sword of Absolute Death to show China, Black Dragon Order, and the rest of the world, that even though he played this game to eat, he was now the master of a guild and he carried a huge responsibility for his members as their guildmaster. That was why he performed such a showy attack.

Then, Minhyuk said, “It's a piece of cake though?”

“...”

“...”

“...”

“What, what?! R...right... I, I guess you're right...”

The Chinese players all collectively took a step back the moment Minhyuk took a step forward. Minhyuk's gaze turned sharp as he looked around.

‘Is he coming back to life? As expected, it’s not happening.’

Minhyuk had watched Ellie’s battle video more than a dozen times. From the video, he had learned that the man named Anox was the one that revived Da Zhuang and the Black Dragon Order. Since Anox was not around, Arcas was not coming back to life, which simply went with Minhyuk’s expectations. Just like how Ellie had found how they came back to life, Minhyuk had also found the reason.

The Chinese players immediately took another step back as Minhyuk took another step closer to them.

“Ugh...ugggghhhh...”

“Mon... monster...”

Some of the players even fell down on their butts in terror, after seeing a power that was far beyond their reach.

Minhyuk turned to look at Ali and said, “I’m going to Berdk. Please take care of the rest.”

Minhyuk firmly believed in Ali and his guild members. Ali nodded his head in answer. Besides, they had all eaten his food, which allowed Ali to temporarily cross that imaginary line to the next stage. Ali immediately summoned a fire arrow the moment Minhyuk disappeared.

“What are you even going to do with that Fire Arrow?!”

The Chinese players snorted and mocked Ali. However, it was not just a simple Fire Arrow.

Baaaaaaang—

One of the players was instantly forced to log out the moment Ali’s Fire Arrow made contact with his body.

“...?”

“...?”

Today, the Chinese players’ faces were all filled with incredulity. Ali’s magical attack power and even his critical hit rate had increased dramatically.

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

Even his MP reserve had doubled, which allowed him to constantly send out magical attacks, slaughtering and massacring thousands of Chinese players. Then, Ali flew high up in the sky and casted his most powerful skill, Meteor.

On the other hand, Crazy Priest Locke had completely received Jeffrit’s power. His power and abilities had received a dramatic increase, after also eating the rice cake dumpling soup earlier. Then, he sent Ali a buff.

[Jeffrit’s Glory]

[Increases Magical Attack by 30%.]

[Decreases MP consumption by 20%.]

Ali's Meteor fell down gobsmack in the middle of the thousands of Chinese players below him.

Baaaaaaaaaang—

In just one move, hundreds of players died. Locke's ax was also showing off a different momentum from earlier. It did not end there. The Incarnation of Light...

Flaaaaaash—

...Kaistra climbed on Penrus' back and flew high up in the sky. The Breath of Light that the Incarnation of Light sent out immediately devoured and devastated the surroundings.

Baaaaaaaaaang—

They were only a little over ten people, but they started slaughtering thousands of Chinese players. This was the moment when the Chinese players finally realized terror. And this was what the Chinese said about this incident, "The Koreans might have just eaten a meal to power up, but it was a really scary power up."

Chapter 373: Turning the Tide of War

Berdk Attack Base.

Genie and the remaining players all turned white in fear after seeing cracks appear on the ramparts.

[Hundreds of Vormon's Subordinates are attacking Berdk Attack Base.]

[Cracks have started appearing on the walls! Even the players are getting frustrated after using all of their skills to stop their attacks but failing to deal heavy damage. They are further helpless due to the advent of their skill cooldown and the exhaustion of their MP.]

[Once the ramparts collapse, there will be more than 30,000 enemy troops and hundreds of Vormon's Subordinates waiting for them.]

[In comparison, there's only 1/10th of the troops remaining in Berdk.]

They were in a very dire situation. The ramparts were collapsing while most of the troops remaining in Berdk could not use their skills. Even the number of enemies that they needed to face were more than ten times their number. In other words, the future ahead of them was dark and bleak.

'However, we can't just give up here.'

Genie immediately ordered, "Get some rest for a moment and prepare for the battle that will unfold once the ramparts collapse."

They did not have any other methods to protect Berdk. The members of Let's Eat Sect Guild and the other rankers all moved to restore the HP and MP that they had consumed earlier. Even if they did so, they were aware that they would only be able to fill a third before the wall collapsed.

Baaaaaaaaaang—

Crack—

Not long after Genie ordered them to take a break, the small cracks that appeared on the walls began to spread uniformly. All of them gathered in front of Berdk's main gate. They were sure that

the enemies would push forward the moment the walls collapsed. Unlike their walls, Berdk Attack Base was not that strong and durable. They knew that it was only a matter of time before it collapsed. So, it was better for them to make their stand in front of the main gate.

“Let’s hold out for as long as we can.”

Genie grabbed her whip tightly as Khan, Ascar, and Ace nodded in agreement. Along with her words, a loud bang rang out.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

The magnificent ramparts that surrounded Berdk collapsed and kicked up a dense cloud of dust that covered the surroundings in a haze. And in that haze, what greeted them was none other than the marching Cairon Continent players and Vormon’s Subordinates.

“Arrows!!!”

The remaining Kharamis soldiers mounted their bows with arrows and shot at the enemies.

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh—

“Keuaaaaaaack!!!”

“Ugh... aaaaaaaaack!!!”

The rushing players shrieked.

“Mages!”

“Yes!”

The mages cast their strongest and highest-tiered magic spells that they had prepared earlier from recovering their MP.

“Fire Field!”

“Fire Storm!”

“Fire Ball!!!!”

“Wind Storm!!!!”

“Ice Rain!!!!”

“Lightning Sword!!!!”

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

“Keuaaaaack!”

“Keheok!”

“Urk!”

Screams and shrieks rang loudly. However, just like the soldiers running out of ammunition, the players of Asgan Continent also ran out of skills to use. In shows or movies, the characters would

usually be pushing on with sheer will, their passion and sense of justice burning brightly. Just like that, Genie clenched her hand, holding her whip tightly as she ran forward. Khan, Ace, and Ascar also followed behind her.

Thwack—

Genie's whip crackled and slapped one of the players that were rushing in front of her.

“Urk!”

Hundreds of players that were rushing behind that player also flew back from the impact. Khan was in a similar situation. Even though he had exhausted his MP, he was a fighter that specialized in fighting close combat. Just a simple jump and a knee to the face of one of the enemy players caused that player, as well as those rushing behind him, to collapse.

Ace also used the last of his strength.

“Fire Fist!”

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

A huge pillar of flame stretched out from Ace's fist which directly drove away the enemies that threatened Genie. The elites that remained in Berdk began to move. Although all they did was to strike their enemies directly without any skills, their attacks still packed a punch. After all, they were Korea's top rankers.

Khan swiftly punched the enemies that flocked in front of him. However, one of the melee fighter's skills slammed into him, which made him fly back.

“Ugh!”

The enemies flocked to where Khan was the moment he collapsed. Ascar's dual swords swung in a beautiful arc, as she covered for Khan and blocked the incoming enemies.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

The enemies fell helplessly under the onslaught of her sword strikes. However, she could not hold out any longer than that.

“Urk!!!”

“Keuk!!!”

Khan, Ace, and Ascar all screamed in pain as they shielded Genie.

“Why, why...!!!”

“Shouldn't we protect our Vice Guild Master?”

Even though their guild master was clearly Minhyuk, their leadership remained unchanged and they still followed the orders of Genie, the former Legend Guild master. At the very least, they did not want to hear from their enemies that they could not even protect their leader. Besides, she was their spiritual pillar of support. She had to survive longer than them.

“Kyaaaaaaack!”

Ascar threw herself directly in front of Genie to block the magic attack aimed towards her. From the looks of it, it seemed like her HP had dropped significantly, which made her movements dull and labored.

“Ugh!”

Khan, who was left alone to block hundreds of enemies, eventually fell down on one of his knees. Then, the enemies’ deadly attacks came!

Baaaaaaaang—

Khan rolled on the floor after receiving a direct kick to his face. In the end, even Ace stood in front of Genie and blocked the enemies in front of her.

“Justice! If this is my justice, then I will willingly give my life to protect this princess!!!” Ace proudly declared a line from some animation that he had watched before, as he blocked the attacks aimed at Genie.

“Urk!”

However, even though his voice sounded domineering and imposing, his body collapsed just a few seconds after. Genie, whose face was covered with dirt and grime, supported herself on one knee as she looked at her surroundings. Everything seemed to be in slow motion. The enemies continued to cut them down as they advanced forward. Only 100 of their own troops were left and they had all gathered around Genie to protect her.

‘I didn’t live my life in vain.’

Genie smiled as she held her whip tightly in preparation. Then, she swung her arm forward with the remaining strength in her body.

This was the end.

Spurt—

The right side of her chest was pierced, as she grabbed the blade of the sword in her enemy’s hand.

“Haa...” Genie sighed lightly. She knew that her fate of being forced to log out was just around the corner.

“It’s Genie!!!”

“Berd’s commander, Genie, has been caught!!!”

“Why, why isn’t this coming out?!” The player that stabbed her in the chest tried to pull away his sword, but he could not do so. However, even if she stopped this player, there were already hundreds of players rushing to where she was.

Genie smiled wryly and said, “Thank you, everyone.”

Today, Genie found out that there were a lot of people around her that cared for her and protected her. This fact was far more valuable than their victory. But at that moment...

“Sword Manipulation.”

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab!

A single sword flew swiftly through the air, as it slashed and swept away the incoming enemies. There, amidst the clouds of dust, was a man flying in the air, while wearing an armor that looked strangely like the scales of a dragon and a pair of dragon wings spread out from his shoulder blades.

PD Hu Wei of TBC Broadcasting Station, one of China's top gaming broadcasting stations, burst out in laughter, "Keuhahahahaha! These f*cking Korean bastards are so pathetic!!!"

The Korean players were fighting a desperate and uphill battle, amidst the thick clouds of dust. However, what could they even do against the throngs of Chinese players and Vormon's Subordinates? They fought desperately and did not want to surrender, but in the end, they fell one after the other. It was a complete landslide victory for the Chinese.

Of course, the situation in Atlas was completely different. Black Mage Ali, Locke and Kaistra were all literally flying around and slaughtering the Chinese players after having a bite of Minhyuk's food. They had already massacred 4,000 Chinese players, all by themselves. This was a disgrace to China.

However, Berdk was on the other end of the spectrum. In Berdk, the Chinese were trampling the Koreans.

'These uncivilized Koreans...'

What were their ratings like? As China's top broadcasting station, they had already reached around 38% in viewer ratings. The ratings especially reached an all-time high during the process where the Korean players were being swept away by the Chinese.

"Now, once Genie gets killed then..."

After fighting until the end, Genie had finally collapsed. Hundreds of players took this opportunity to flock towards her. Hu Wei's hands were covered in sweat. All they needed to do was to cut her neck off and Berdk's recapture would be practically over.

"PD!!!"

"What?! Can't you see that this is a very important scene?!"

Hu Wei had a hot temper that went along with his high prestige. He frowned at the sudden call, but everyone around him began to call his name.

"PD Hu!!!"

"PD Hu! You have to see this!!!"

"...?"

"It's on Camera 4! Camera 4!!!"

Hu Wei turned his gaze accordingly. From camera 4, camera 6, camera 8 and so on. Several cameras were trained on something. The figure was none other than a man swiftly descending down from the sky with black wings on his back.

“What, what the hell?! That man...?!”

The man had a pair of gigantic black wings, a black sword, and a body covered with black scales, which made him look like he was wearing Iron Man’s suit. Strangely, he looked like a beacon of light amidst the pandemonium that was wreaking havoc on the ground.

Hu Wei immediately turned to focus on cameras 9 and 10, the cameras that were showing the current situation in Berdk. The man that had suddenly appeared released his sword.

Sword Manipulation. It was a sword technique that could only be used by those that had reached the highest level in martial arts! The Sword Manipulation skill was triggered, which swept away the hundreds of players that flocked towards Genie. But that was not the end of it.

“PD... PD Hu Wei.”

“There’s... there’s something strange in the sky...”

“There’s something strange in the sky?”

Coincidentally, their viewership ratings reached another peak.

“The ratings have broken through 45%!!!”

“The ratings have broken through 46%!!!”

This meant that almost half of the Chinese TV viewers were currently watching their broadcast. At that moment, Hu Wei turned to look at the camera that was trained on the sky.

“What, what in the world are those?! A murder of crows?”

There seemed to be beings that strangely looked like crows wandering around the sky above Berdk. Then...

.

“The ratings have broken through 50%!!!”

The Chinese viewers were definitely waiting for the final scene where they cut off Genie’s head. However, as their viewership rating reached 50%, what the viewers saw was not that scene, but a scene where a man all clad in black appeared.

One of the Chinese mages used ‘Wind’ to blow the dust covering the scene away. That was when a clear image was shown on the screen. All of the cameras zoomed in on the man for a second.

As the cameras closed up on the man, what they saw was more than 300 players forced to log out by Sword Manipulation, and blazing black flames from the man’s sword.

“...!”

Hu Wei was shocked.

‘Who the hell is that man...?’

Hu Wei and the viewers that contributed to their 50% ratings all watched the man with bated breaths. Then, the man opened his mouth...

[Fufufufufufu...]

It was a gloomy, dark, and ominous laugh! Hu Wei fell in a daze for a moment.

‘Doesn’t, doesn’t he sound cool...?’

Hu Wei knew that the man had great taste. As someone with the same chuunibyou tendencies, he felt like he was enchanted by the man.

[Aaaaaaaaah! My Dragon Tear Sword has brought tears as it killed my enemies.]

‘Did, did he just say Dragon Tear Sword? My goodness. So, there really is an artifact that has such a beautiful and artistic name...?’

Hu Wei became more enchanted.

[And what is this warmth in my chest? Aaaaaah! I’m facing tens of thousands of enemy troops. but my heart is burning in flames!!!]

Then, the man stepped forward. The faces of the Chinese players present looked like they had been forced to eat shit, just by listening to the man’s childish and cringy lines!

However, contrary to their disgust, Hu Wei watched the man in admiration. Then, the man spoke again.

[It’s time to awaken those that slumber in front of these ten thousand strong enemies.]

The man raised his hands high up in the sky and..

[Kiyeeeeeeeeeeck!!!]

[Kyaahaaaaaaaack!!!]

[Kieeeeeeeeeee!!!]

The black crows that covered the skies, no, the beings that they thought were black crows, swiftly descended to the ground. Then, they reached the place where the camera could finally recognize their figure. Upon closer inspection, they saw that the creatures were covered with dragon scales and had a pair of dragon wings on their back. However, they were able to walk on their two feet and carried dazzling weapons like spears and swords. They numbered around 4,000. All of them landed and knelt down on one knee in front of the man as they declared loudly...

[Oh great one! Please give us your orders!!!]

[Oh great one! Please give us your orders!!!]

[Oh great one! Please give us your orders!!!]

The voices of these thousands of unidentified beings rang loudly. Then, the man in front of them lifted his *‘Dragon Tear Sword’*?and shouted...

[My passionate comrades, let’s show the world what our blazing chant is!!!]

[The being in my right hand is going to go berserk!!!]

[The being in my right hand is going to go berserk!!!]

[The being in my right hand is going to go berserk!!!]

Hu Wei shuddered as he thought, ‘*That’s so cool...!*’

The man, with his domineering and cold voice, said...

[Heed my orders.]

The mysterious man glared coldly at the incoming enemies.

[Slaughter them.]

Chapter 374: Turning the Tide of War

Hu Wei shuddered. Although the man’s face was covered in a black mask, Hu Wei was sure that his expression was frigid. Then, at that moment, the thousands of troops stood up from their kneeling position and answered the man loudly, ‘*Yes, sir!*’

“The... the Dragon Race...”

“The Dragon Race? Aren’t they a species that hasn’t been revealed nor released to the world yet?”

Athenae housed countless races. The typical ones were the elves, dwarves and humans, but there were also countless others in the wide worldview of *Athenae*. However, the Dragon Race was an existence that was entirely unfamiliar to everyone. In fact, even ‘*Black Dragon*’, who appeared as their king, was also unfamiliar with the race.

Still, the knights moved under the orders of their king.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—!

Just like a fluttering swallow, the Dragon Race flew in the sky and swooped among their enemies with their spears.

[Keuaaaaaack!]

[Aaaaaaaaack!]

Shrieks rang loudly as their spears pierced through their enemies. Along with them, hundreds of men from the Dragon Race held their bows and flew high up in the sky. The moment they let go of the strings...

Thwack, thwack, thwack, thwack, thwack!

What they released was more like a spear, than an arrow. In fact, when their attacks reached their enemies, it was not so much of sticking to the body, rather, it was the concept of piercing through the body.

[Keheok!]

[Sh...shit...! Their attack power is extremely high!]

The players were helplessly being swept away. Thousands of men from the Dragon Race began to create a path among the tens of thousands of enemy troops. On top of that, the Dragon Race could move freely in the air and wage aerial warfare against them. There were even dozens of men from the Dragon Race that flew swiftly to where Vormon’s Subordinates were, and attacked them until they no longer breathed.

From what they could see, they could estimate that the men from the Dragon Race were around Level 450~500. There were even men from their race that were a cut above the rest. Those that wore a black full-plated armor were faster, stronger, and more experienced in commanding the troops. Then...

“PD Hu!”

...Hu Wei’s attention was once again disrupted by the sudden call of one of the broadcasting station staff. The call immediately brought him back to his senses as he turned to look. That was when he saw the man called ‘*Black Dragon*’ distributing something to the members of the Let’s Eat Sect Guild. It was none other than ‘*rice cake dumpling soup*’.

The Korean commentators were all shouting in excitement.

[Aaaaaaaah! Black Dragon appears in our most desperate hour!!!]

[Black Dragon came back as a king. The mighty warriors of the Dragon Race are overwhelming the players from Cairon Continent and Vormon’s Subordinates.]

At this very moment, the entire nation was trembling. What about his chuuni lines? They seemed genuinely nice to hear at this very moment! After handing something around to the members of the Let’s Eat Sect Guild, Black Dragon turned around. He slowly moved forward as the men from the Dragon Race swept away the enemies blocking his path. He looked like a true and genuine king, whose knights were moving for his sake alone. Then, Black Dragon began the real sortie.

[Kiyeeeeeeeeeeck!!!]

[Kyahaaaaaaaack!!!]

[Graaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!]

[Kiyaaaaaaaaaaaack!!!]

The four legendary dragons appeared! They looked completely different from their figures before. Their original scales were now covered with a bright and splendid armor. The whiskers around their mouths had grown longer, while their horns were higher and tougher.

Black Dragon rode on top of Destiny as they soared high up in the sky. Destiny let out his own breath and devastated more than 200 enemy players at one go. The three other dragons also flew up in the sky and surrounded Destiny and Black Dragon. Then, Black Dragon’s wings spread out behind him as he flew on his own. He held his ‘*Dragon Tear Sword*’?and flew straight towards one of the giant ogres.

.

Spurt—

Thud—

One of the toughest mobs in terms of skin among Vormon's Subordinates, had fallen down and collapsed in one attack! Black Dragon stepped on the ogre's dead body and pulled his bloody sword out, before raising it high up in the sky.

The commentators all over the world began to talk wildly.

[Korea's Black Dragon easily took down the tough and strong ogre and stepped on its body!]

[Thousands of men from the Dragon Race are marching forward!!!]

[Unbelievable!!! Black Dragon appears and turns the tide of war!!!]

[Right at this very moment, the king of a new species has been born!]

[With their appearance, thousands of players from Cairon Continent are being pushed back from fear.]

[Korea still has some hope left!]

The world's spotlight was now trained entirely on Black Dragon.

The tide of war somehow changed with Black Dragon's appearance. A small ray of hope was reignited in the hearts of the remaining players in Berdk, amidst their desperate situation.

Broque had acknowledged Black Dragon in the '*Forgotten Dragons' Land*'. Thanks to the additional quests that he had cleared, Black Dragon was able to increase his power and prestige as the '*Dragon Monarch*' even further. The additional power was none other than the strengthening of the four legendary dragons, and the command of the 4,000-strong Dragon Race troops.

Black Dragon had been in contact with Minhyuk before he came to Berdk, and had received the rice cake dumpling soup from his son. After meeting up, Minhyuk immediately headed to the Korean Defense Base, while Black Dragon came to Berdk.

However, it was not just the players of the Cairon Continent that he needed to keep at bay and push back, even though their numbers were far superior to his side at the moment.

"Harpoons!!!" Xu Jiaqi ordered loudly, as the harpoons fired and pierced through the bodies of the men of the Dragon Race flying in the sky. The moment they got hit by the attack, the players joined forces and pulled them down.

"Kiyeeeeeeeeeeck!!!"

The players struggled as they cooperated to hunt the men of the Dragon Race with their harpoons.

The estimated level of the men of the Dragon Race was around Level 450~500. Dozens of the men of the Dragon Race needed to cooperate together to deal with Vormon's Subordinates, an existence that the Korean rankers could not deal with at all. On top of that, their numbers were already smaller to begin with.

Crack—

Xu Jiaqi reflected one of the arrows back to the Dragon Race that sent it to her, effectively making the flying Dragon Race fall. She ordered, "Attack the men of the Dragon Race wearing full plate

armor. The men of the Dragon Race will also be incapable of dealing you once they started dealing with Vormon's Subordinates, so deal with them by then."

Xu Jiaqi did not lose her calm. Although the men of the Dragon Race were far stronger than ordinary players, they had no numerical advantage. Besides, even if that was not the case, they were not armed to deal with the Chinese rankers in the first place. On top of that, Vormon's Subordinates had high defenses. Although they had slowed down in their march for a moment, the players of Cairon Continent were already starting to push forward once again.

'We're going to win the war anyway. The road to get there just became a bit tougher, that's all.'

Xu Jiaqi grinned maliciously as the Chinese rankers began their slaughter of the men of the Dragon Tribe. Compared to them, the enemies did not have any powerful rankers that they needed to take note of. That was when she suddenly started becoming suspicious.

'...What the hell? Where did Genie and the members of Let's Eat Sect Guild go?'

Just when she started getting suspicious, a man suddenly jumped up high in the sky. The man was none other than Khan. Xu Jiaqi laughed mockingly when she saw Khan flying up in the sky.

'It seems like the dying man is now filled with energy.'

Xu Jiaqi was aware that it was only because of Black Dragon that these people had escaped their deaths, even if for a while. It seemed like they had appeared again after hiding somewhere for a moment to recover.

However, something very surprising happened not long after. Khan's entire body was covered in a dazzling golden light. He headed straight towards the ground, with his legs aimed for his enemies.

[Giant's Consecutive Kicks]

Khan's foot turned gigantic as he let out dozens of kicks in succession. They were so powerful that it looked like bombs have fallen on the places that they landed on.

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

More than 70 players disappeared from his kicks. But Khan did not stop. He kicked his foot on the ground and sent out a powerful blow towards the ogre blocking the path upfront.

Baaaaaaang—

The ogre, whose skin was as tough as steel, fell down and died from the powerful blow that made its chest collapse.

"...!"

Xu Jiaqi looked at the scene incredulously while thinking, *'How, how in the world...?'*

She had clearly seen Khan on the verge of death just a few moments ago, but the attack that he sent just now that killed the ogre was just a...

'Basic attack...?'

Xu Jiaqi could clearly see that it was just a basic attack. It was just a simple swing of Khan's fist.

‘No. That’s definitely not a basic attack. I’m sure that’s a power jab skill.’

However, something more surprising happened.

Craaaack—

Crack—

Baaaaaaang!

The players that received Khan’s kicks and punches all fell down and died. Khan even pierced through the throngs of players with his dazzling kick. A jump and kick to one of the players’ faces, and the player was forced to log out.

Among the players was the ‘Warrior’ Liu Yuan. Liu Yuan had suffered from immense shame during this encounter. For one, he was accompanied by hundreds of players. Of course, this fact remained true. The players of Cairon Continent far surpassed the players of Asgan Continent in numbers. And there was also the fact that Khan was gobsmack in the middle of his enemies.

“What nonsense,” Liu Yuan mocked as he gently crossed his fists in front of him to defend against Khan’s fists. But then...

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud—

“Ah...?”

Khan clearly did not use any skills, but Liu Yuan could hear his bones thumping and cracking from the force of his fists. Then, Khan flew high up in the sky again.

“How dare...”

Liu Yuan thought that Khan would use his skill. Just when he tried to cast his skill to defend and respond to Khan...

Craaack—

...Khan’s foot once again appeared and made contact with his chin.

“Keheok!”

[Your HP has fallen below 50%.]

“What... what kind of bullshit...!” Liu Yuan was completely shocked, wondering what skill Khan used. As he pondered about this question, Khan had already penetrated through his defenses and raised his foot strongly.

[Giant’s Upper Kick]

Baaaaaaaam—

“Keuaaaaaaack!”

Liu Yuan screamed as he flew back from the impact of the attack. He was then met with a black screen the moment he landed on the ground. Liu Yuan, one of China’s top rankers, died helplessly under the onslaught of Khan’s attacks.

As for Khan's secret?

[You have eaten the Rice Cake Dumpling Soup made from the Leftover Marrow Bone Broth.]

[Your HP and MP will increase by 1.5x.]

[Your Skill Cooldown will decrease by 50%.]

[During the duration of the buff, you can use the 'Giant Arts' that you are currently learning.]

[Your Physical Attack has increased by 60%.]

[Your Skill Attack has increased by 30%.]

[Your Critical Hit Rate has increased by 300%.]

[Your Critical Hit Attack has increased by 300%.]

[Your Evasion Rate has increased by 300%.]

[Your EXP Acquisition Rate has increased by 300%.]

[All of the skills in your repertoire will exert more power than usual.]

[The buff will last for three days.]

Unlike Ali, Khan's buffs were focused more on his physical attack. Right now, the Level 520 Khan's physical attack power had increased by 60%. In other words, Khan's basic attack had reached the level of someone at Level 800.

Khan wandered around the battlefield and began slaughtering their enemies.

[Player Khan has started hunting the Chinese players.]

[That tactic is correct. He can minimize the damage to the Dragon Race if he can break and kill off the Chinese rankers.]

[Ace and Ascar have also become stronger. The two of them have begun hunting Vormon's Subordinates! Ah! That's surprising. Ace and Ascar can now hunt Vormon's Subordinates in one move!]

[What in the world happened in that short period of time?]

In fact, that was what Xu Jiaqi wanted to ask.

'If the rankers die, then those that are taking the lead in keeping the men of the Dragon Race in check will be in trouble...'

Xu Jiaqi finally felt the urgency of the matter. But just when she was about to move...

Shwaaaaaaa—

...a huge whip struck her. Xu Jiaqi could tell who the owner of the whip was. It was none other than Genie.

Xu Jiaqi smirked.

'How dare this Genie girl...'

Genie was the former master of Legend Guild. However, the level of her force was in the lower ranks among the members of Legend Guild. She would not dare to do anything to someone like Xu Jiaqi, who had awakened the Pinnacle.

A huge mirror appeared in front of Xu Jiaqi as she used her Pinnacle Reflection skill. Red lava was gushing out and splattering about from Genie's whip. Once this attack got reflected, it would become a weapon that Xu Jiaqi could use. Then, the mirror and the whip collided.

Thwack—

“...?”

Xu Jiaqi tilted her head in confusion for a moment. The sound that rang from her mirror was not the sound of the skill being sucked inside. And not long after...

Crack, crack, crack—

...cracks started to appear on her mirror.

[You have failed to reflect the attack.]

[You cannot reflect this skill.]

Along with the terrifying notification, Genie's whip slammed hard onto Xu Jiaqi's body.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

An explosion rang loudly in the area within a 30 meter radius. Lava spurted out from the cracked ground and burned the surroundings. Once the explosion died down, they were met with the horrible sight of the melting Xu Jiaqi, who's HP was down to 5%. Xu Jiaqi staggered and asked with wide eyes, “How, how...?”

Genie swung her whip once again, until Xu Jiaqi's HP fell down to zero. Then, she answered, “It's a meal power-up. B*tch!”

Chapter 375: Turning the Tide of War

The press and media all over the world were practically exploding. Breaking news and articles were constantly published on the internet in each and every country.

[The desperate Atlas has been resurrected from their despair with the miraculous appearance of Food God Minhyuk and his dish.]

[Black Mage Ali creates a new legend with Minhyuk's dish.]

[Locke has changed classes and became a dog tamer? He has shocked the world with his excellent and tacit cooperation with his pet dog.]

[Atlas has slaughtered all of their enemies and flew high up in the sky. Perhaps the reason why Atlas has not flown so far is because of the restriction, ‘When there's an enemy in the territory’.]

[The collapse of Berdk Attack Base, and the appearance of Black Dragon, along with the new species ‘Dragon Race’.]

[Korea's Fighter Khan flies swiftly like a butterfly but stings like a bee. A lot of rankers have been forced to log out under the assault of his fists.]

[The former Legend Guild master Genie. Who even remembers her by that name? Genie, the Whip Warriress, that's who she is.]

[Genie's cool words directed to Black Dragon Order's Xu Jiaqi: 'It's a meal power-up. B*tch!']

[The world is left in shock after seeing Korea put up a good fight.]

[Black Dragon's catchphrase: 'The being in my right hand is going to go berserk' spreads like wildfire in the world. My writing skills are going to go berserk!]

[South Korea is still enduring and holding on in the battle against China, the third in the powerhouse rankings in Athenae. How far can they go?]

[The Koreans are cheering. College students spotted in Gwanghwamun Square running around and waving their flag.]

[They only have a brief moment of joy. The Korean Defense Base is on the verge of collapse.]

[Korean Defense Base??]

This is a base created by several Korean rankers and guilds, with around 15,000 troops stationed inside. However, Cairon Continent has staged a siege against them by sending 70,000 strong troops. Most of their bases have been pushed back.

The rankers that represented the Korean Defense Base are Artheon Guild's Master Alicia, Emperor of the Sword Carr, Informant Abel, Ramyeon Boy Conir, Best Selling Author Aruvel, and Terrius-haired Spear Master Ben.]

[The Korean Defense Base has the largest concentration of their troops. If Korea loses this defense base, then Korea's defeat would be a given.]

[Food God Minhyuk has disappeared once again. Where did he go?]

Alicia had changed classes from the Witch of Agony to the Knight of Agony. She raised her sword and said, "Thunder sword!"

Crackle, crackle, crackle, crackle!

The moment she swung her sword down from the walls of the Korean Defense Base, a huge sword made of lightning and thunder stretched out to a length of ten meters, sweeping away the enemies that were rushing in front of them. However, that was the end.

'I don't have any more MP.'

On top of that, Alicia was already exhausted.

[Your Stamina has reached its limits.]

[All of your stats have been reduced by 20%. Your skill cooldown has been extended.]

Then, at that moment...

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaa—

A rain of arrows fell down from the sky and poured towards the walls of the base. Alicia did not have the chance to escape. But then, a woman flew in front of her and blocked the arrows that were aiming for Alicia.

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud, thud!

“Nickel!!!”

Nickel was a mage player and a ranker under Artheon Guild. Alicia bit her lips tightly as she watched her guild member die under the onslaught of arrows.

Alicia had been dreaming a new dream these days. Minhyuk made her realize that games were created for people to have fun. So, she played the game and had fun to her heart's content. While doing so, she found out the reason why she enjoyed the game. It was all thanks to her guild members.

Alicia was an orphan. Ever since she was young, she did anything and everything that could be done to survive. And this virtual reality game had become a small haven, a brief respite, to a girl like her that had been living a life like that. With her life experiences, the name ‘*Alicia the Witch of Agony*’ naturally resonated with her.

The cold and aloof Alicia started to chat and laugh with her guild members, as much as she could inside the game. That was when she knew that she truly liked and cared for her guild members. She felt like they were her family. And that included Nickel, who sacrificed herself and died on her behalf, just a few moments ago.

“Nickel...”

Even though they were inside a virtual reality game, the fact that she sacrificed herself for Alicia remained true. Alicia had the dream of making Artheon the best guild. This was the dream that she had recently dreamt of. But she was aware that this was impossible now. Artheon might be one of the four major guilds in the country, but they were already on a major decline. In fact, she wondered if they could still be considered to be one of the four major guilds with the current state that they were in.

Alicia thought, ‘*To become the best then...*’

To reach her dream, she thought that perhaps it was better if she joined someone else's side. And that someone was none other than the person that she was thinking about now.

‘*I wonder when Minhyuk will come here?*’

The truth was Alicia was still feeling conflicted. She did not know if Artheon should affiliate itself with Let's Eat Sect Guild to become the best or not. At that moment, the desperate chats in the alliance chat group suddenly appeared.

The Korean Defense Base was a hexagonal-shaped base built after combining six bases together. Each of the bases included in the formation played a very important role. Defense, attack, transport, and support. With the collapse of Binark Base, the base playing the defensive role, more enemies

would flock towards them. Their original 13,000-strong troops were already down to just around 4,000. Alicia saw the surviving 400 troops from Binark Base running towards them.

“Fire!!!”

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

They covered their allied troops and squeezed the last of their strength out. Once the survivors had entered the base, they immediately closed the gates.

Thuuuuud—

“Haa, haa.”

Both Alicia and Carr, who finally reached the ramparts, were gasping as they tried to catch their breaths. Lucia even vomited a mouthful of blood the moment she climbed on top of the ramparts.

“Urk!”

Everyone was already exhausted. Their enemies were still around 50,000. Considering the fact that the numbers were more than 70,000 earlier, it could be said that their performance was already good. This was all thanks to one woman, a mysterious woman wearing a mask! And this was what the others called this woman...

“Miss Bread Shuttle! Please give me a buff!”

“MP all-in!!!”

“...”

“...”

“...”

“...That... that girl is Minhyuk’s bread shuttle?”

“Y... yeah. I think so?”

Bread Shuttle. They did not know who she was, but they knew that she was an amazing bread shuttle. She was faster than anybody else, carried buffs well, and healed like a perfect bread shuttle! Of course, she did not defeat the 20,000 troops all by herself.

Meanwhile, a man from the demon race stood on top of the ramparts.

“Attention everyone!!!!” The man’s voice, which was laden with mana, rang loudly in the surrounding area. This man was none other than the best selling author, Aruvel. Not long after he spoke, something very surprising happened.

[The Great Author’s voice has drawn the attention of the masses.]

The thousands of enemies flocking towards them halted for a moment to listen to him. Not too long ago, Aruvel, from being the best selling author, had grown further and became a ‘*legendary*’ existence. NPCs also had the concept of notifications and new class growth. In Aruvel’s case, his combat stats and skills did not disappear upon his growth to a new class. Simply put, his new class gave him additional effects.

“The unfinished story of *Why Did the Prince Go Out Tonight?*. The prince fought and knocked down the knights sent by the emperor. He took her away and fled to a faraway place, a place beyond the seas. The two of them swore their eternal love in front of the sunset by the seashore as they sat on top of a small cloth, until the sands beneath them turned sticky!”

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

“I’m... I’m so freaking curious!!! Sticky?! What do you mean by sticky?! Was it their sweat that became sticky?!”

The curious and raging crowd turned silent as Aruvel lifted one of his hands and said, “But when the prince woke up... The only thing he saw was a letter that Benjamin left him. ‘*You can’t just throw everything away for me.*’ At the same time, in the palace, the emperor began a thorough investigation of Benjamin. He had learned a lot of things about her. She was...!”

“She... she was?”

“She was!!”

“She... she waaaaaaaas?!”

“She was what?”

Even Lucia, who had vomited blood and collapsed on the floor, had mustered the energy to turn her head to look at Aruvel with rapt attention, gulping dryly in anticipation.

“She was the abandoned daughter of the person that he had taken in as a concubine!!!”

The enemy soldiers that came to attack the ramparts were in chaos.

“Ugh!! Aaaaaaack!” Someone screamed while grabbing his head, while another grabbed his chest.

“Keheok! Morning drama stories are very, very fun and interesting!!!”

“The... the next part... What happened next?”

“A... aaaaaaaargh. I’m so damn curious!!!”

On the other side, Aruvel gestured secretly to the soldiers behind him. Right now, these were the notifications that rang for Aruvel:

[Your enemies have been seduced and distracted by the contents of the novel.]

[The confused and distracted enemy troops have turned their focus on you and have fallen into a defenseless state.]

[Their Physical and Magical Defenses will decrease by 40%.]

Thousands of soldiers crouched behind the railings of the ramparts as they prepared their magic spells, arrows and stones. Meanwhile, Aruvel looked at the enemy troops that had turned into his

fans and said, “You will get a 50% discount if you buy ‘*Why Did the Prince Go Out Tonight*’?right now, for a price of 20,000 gold from the original 10,000 gold!!!”

“Why did the price increase?!!!”

“Author!!! Please give us a spoiler!!!”

“Please!!!!”

Then, the arrows, magic spells and stones rained down on the defenseless enemy troops.

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

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh!

Aruvel swung his spear strongly and said, “Shut up! There will be no spoilers!!! Demonic Dragon’s Spear Arts Chapter 3, Exploding Spear!”

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

Aruvel showed his white teeth, smiling widely as hundreds of his enemies died in an instant.

“...”

“...”

‘Bread Shuttle and the Great Author Aruvel... Is there even a normal person around Minhyuk?’

Then, Alicia saw the cold and always stiff-faced Carr tremble. She thought, *‘With Carr’s personality, it seems like he’s getting irritated after hearing the story?’*

Of course, it was thanks to Aruvel that they could bring chaos and confusion to the enemies, which allowed them to hunt plenty among their numbers. But in a way, this method could also be considered to be repulsive.

Then, Carr grabbed his hair. He looked like he had been contemplating something as he said, “Shit... It’s, it’s so interesting...! That author is a genius!”

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

Carr, the ever frigid and arrogant one, had a bright sparkle in his eyes. The gaze that he was using to look at Aruvel was similar to the gaze of someone looking at their idol.

“...”

Alicia was dumbfounded as she looked at this scene. When she thought about it, there was one more special and unique person among them.

The person was none other than Rameyon Boy Conir. Alicia was very worried about Conir. After all, he had been cutting down the enemy soldiers as the vanguard. She was very worried about him,

since he was just a young boy, but the truth was he was the highest contributor among them in terms of enemy kills.

She saw Conir in the base's rear. Conir was crouching by himself and eating something that looked delicious. In front of Conir was a mysterious and unidentified man. The man was currently holding a hoe and digging for the vegetables growing in the base's rear.

“...”

Alicia tilted her head in confusion. Meanwhile, the man smiled broadly as he pulled out what seemed to be *aster scabers*

“Mi... Minhyuk?” Alicia asked in confusion after seeing Minhyuk dig for vegetables in the middle of a war.

An hour has already passed by since Minhyuk began digging for herbs and wild vegetables around the Korean Defense Base! Conir was also eating the rice cake dumpling soup that he brought in front of him.

“Hyung! The rice cake dumpling soup that you made is very delicious!”

Minhyuk smiled softly as he looked at Conir.

‘*Conir, you will temporarily awaken your true strength.*’

Minhyuk had heard the story about his existence from the real Conir, not the young boy Conir in front of him. And the rice cake dumpling soup that the young boy Conir was eating right now would awaken him to his original form, even for a moment.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk continued to dig for herbs and wild vegetables.

[You have acquired an Aster Scaber.]

[You have acquired a Lettuce.]

[You have acquired a Perilla Leaf.]

He felt extremely lucky. He did not expect that there would be such a large garden in the vicinity of the Korean Defense Base. For some, Minhyuk's figure right now might look just like someone crazy for food. Of course that was true, but he was doing this for a reason. Minhyuk concentrated hard as he kept on digging for the herbs. That was when the notifications rang.

[You have triggered the Skill: Will.]

[All of your stats, skills, and abilities, including DEX, will temporarily increase by 28%.]

[You have gained 1 Will.]

He finally heard the notification that he was waiting for. These were the specs that he would show his enemies:

‘*Half Pinnacle Skill.*’

‘*Rice cake dumpling soup's buff.*’

‘Skill: Will’s buff.’

Currently, the players considered to be the best dealers were already on the move. On top of the rice cake dumpling soup buff given to Conir, Minhyuk also broke a black gem in front of him.

Crack—

Then, a black light covered Conir’s entire body.

Meanwhile, on the ramparts.

Aruvel tried to take a rest. He looked extremely exhausted. But at that moment, a ranker that was fairly good with the sword approached him. The ranker’s eyes were filled with deep emotions.

‘His eyes look similar to the eyes of my fans... no... my extreme fans.’

His eyes were filled with longing, love, and anticipation! Then, the man excitedly said, “I’m... I’m your fan! Can I please get an autograph? Over here, on my armor?”

The man turned around and showed his back to Aruvel. His voice was trembling like a young fangirl that just met her idol.

Then, Aruvel asked, “Boy, what’s your name?”

After all, an autograph would become memorable if the other’s name was signed on it too. The man’s voice became more excited as he said, “It’s Carr!”

That was right. He was the Emperor of the Sword. This was the moment that Korea’s number one official ranker, Carr, became Aruvel’s huge fan!

Chapter 376: Turning the Tide of War

The intense war between the Korean Defense Base and the players of the Cairon Continent had reached its climax. Only one base, Apiro Base, remained out of the six bases that made up the hexagonal shape of the Korean Defense Base. The number of troops remaining in the base were at most 2,000. On the other hand, the number of their enemies still numbered around 48,000.

The media and press from all over the world were in a buzz.

America.

[The fact that the players of Asgan Continent have held on this long, is very amazing. They were able to hold out against Cairon Continent, the third and largest powerhouse in the entire Athenae worldview. However, they don’t have any hope left.]

China.

[Just like we expected, victory will be in the hands of our continent. Once we capture the Korean Defense Base, all of the battles will be virtually over. We thank all of the Chinese players for their hard work!]

France.

[We're looking forward to Korea's performance in Athenae: World War. There's a chance that Korea will rise to prominence if they weren't fighting a war, but fighting one-on-one battles, or a small skirmish.]

Russia.

[The Food God player still hasn't made his appearance yet. However, we can be sure of one thing. Even if the Food God player appears, there's not much that he can do to change the situation right now.]

Before long, the attention of the masses shifted from the '*Cairon and Asgan Continent*' to the Food God. This was because they believed that the victory of the Cairon Continent in this war was already a foregone conclusion. Various media outlets and global rankers began to discuss the Food God.

[The Food God is definitely a surprising and amazing player. We can see this much, especially after witnessing how he saved Atlas just a few hours prior.]

[However, if we look at it from a global perspective, the Food God is just one among the countless rankers in the world.]

[Player Minhyuk is definitely strong. However, he's infinitely weaker compared to the globally acknowledged strongest player, 'Fighter God', and perhaps even the Crazy Hunter Ross. If he goes against France's number one ranker now, he will just be like a flickering lamp in front of a fierce wind.]

[That's right. Many of us here in America do not see the 'Food God' as a threat.]

[In the first place, Food God is a non-combat class. His limits are clear to everyone.]

[What's funny is that we're comparing someone with a non-combat class against the world's 'summit rankers'.]

[Right. His existence is definitely incomparable to the summit rankers. In the end, he just might be one player among the many.]

But then, one player from one country gave a completely different judgment on the matter.

[Food God, Player Minhyuk, is a player that is beyond the 'summit rankers'.]

What kind of an existence was a summit ranker? As far as the media outlets all over the world were concerned, summit rankers were players that had the same power as an entire kingdom. There were only five summit rankers acknowledged by the world, and they were called '*The Summit Five*'.

But, to think a single person objected to their words and said that the Food God was an existence that transcended that level? A sky beyond a sky? The media outlets from all over the world turned their attention towards the player. This player stood in front of dozens of media reporters in Japan when he said these words, his image transmitted to various screens all over the world.

This man was none other than Japan's Musashi, Kentaro.

Musashi Kentaro had once declared that he was familiar with Minhyuk. And he had shocked Japan not too long ago by gaining victory against the person that Japan has considered to be closest to the summit rankers, Samurai Ren. By gaining victory, Kentaro has annexed and absorbed Samurai Ren's guild, '*Samurai*'.

Samurai was Japan's best guild. Kentaro's current guild had become stronger after he had annexed Samurai.

That was right, the whole world was paying attention to the person that had the highest chances of becoming the sixth summit ranker, Kentaro. While the entire world was focused on him, one of the reporters asked...

[Why did you say that he's 'beyond' the summit rankers?]

Kentaro looked at the reporters around him and said,

[The people all over the world are looking down on the Food God for being a 'non-combat class'. That's hilarious. Are there any other non-combat class players from among the people all over the world that can beat the Food God in a fight?]

Yes. Kentaro came prepared, his words sharp. The five summit rankers widely acknowledged by the entire world were all combat class players. The Food God, on the other hand, was a non-combat class. However, despite being a non-combat class, his prowess was both surprising and amazing.

[Also, it's extremely unbelievable that the people all over the world are analyzing and criticizing him. Each and every expert in the world will keep on blabbering as they please, without even checking things. And whenever their predictions miss they will say 'It's an unforeseen propaganda!'. Bull. You should be embarrassed.]

[...]

[...]

[...]

At that very moment, the faces of the reporters from media outlets all over the world and the global rankers that saw the article turned red with shame, which soon transformed into fury.

[Food God? He won't last an hour if he showed up here.]

[The Food God will collapse in the face of Black Dragon Order and Da Zhuang. Just like Ellie.]

[I don't even understand why we're arguing for something that does not matter at all.]

[At this very moment, Apiro Base is on the verge of collapse. But where's the Food God? Kentaro, tell us where your Food God is.]

[He probably ran away. Just thinking of his figure running away is making me laugh.]

[That might be the better alternative. After all, his limits will be made clear in the eyes of everyone in the world if he appeared.]

They believed that the Food God's chances of gaining victory in a fight against almost 50,000 troops was absolutely zero. That was why they kept on talking down on the Food God.

Apiro Base had collapsed. The remaining troops from the Asgan Continent formed a circle and created a defensive line. The priests were in the center, followed by the mages, then the archers, and finally the melee classes. This was the best, and at the same time the worst, defensive line that they could form at the moment.

Slash—

Carr stood at the vanguard as he cut off one of the enemies. Being in a circle meant that they were completely surrounded by the 50,000-strong enemy troops.

“Damn, goddamnit!”

Spurt—

The brilliance in Carr’s eyes had already started to dim from the continuous onslaught of the enemies. His sword was completely covered in blood, and even its durability has fallen sharply after cutting off his enemies nonstop.

‘I can’t see any chance of us winning this battle!’

They were in a hopeless situation. Even if they cut down the enemies in front of them, more would fill in the gap that the fallen had left. This was the vicious cycle that they were being tormented in. The worst part was that the Chinese high rankers, the Black Dragon Order, and Da Zhuang were all waiting in the rear.

‘Are you telling us that you will devour us easily if we so much as relax our defenses?’

This was a petty and shameful method.

“Keuaaaaack!” Lucia, who was right next to him, shrieked in pain.

Carr immediately stabbed the player that was trying to attack Lucia’s neck.

Stab—

“Ugh!”

That was when a sword suddenly stabbed Carr on the shoulder.

“Carr!” Lucia shouted as she threw the dagger to push back the enemies. Lucia looked at Carr as if she could not understand why he saved her life.

“Isn’t it better if there’s at least one more strong ranker that won’t die so fast under their hands?” Carr said, smiling. His smile might be covered in blood, but it could clearly convey the camaraderie and friendship that he felt at that moment.

Carr had slowly started to change ever since *Athenae*: Korean War ended. No, it was more accurate to say that he had looked back and reflected on himself. Everything was related to Minhyuk. And that was when he realized that the hand that Minhyuk had reached out to him and the smile that he showed Carr when he defeated him was not a sneer, but the courteous etiquette of a rival. At that time, Carr had laughed at his own stupidity.

During the *Athenae*: Korean War, Minhyuk had given him a good beating, while the entire nation spat and cursed at him. That was when he realized that everything was because of his inferiority complex and he was the XXX bastard.

Carr felt both bitterness and regret. He felt sorry for what he did, but he had always hesitated. He wanted to send a whisper to Minhyuk right away and apologize. He wanted to pay for his actions. But, it was a very difficult thing for him to do. How could he be so shameless? Even his remaining

pride and ego was stopping him from doing so, which left him conflicted and indecisive. However, the fact that he was changing for the better was true.

Graaaaab—

“Keuaaaaaaaaack!!!”

The scream of Spear Master Ben rang loudly from beside him.

‘Minhyuk’s people.’

Carr immediately threw his entire body in front of Ben as seven sword strikes flew in their direction. He was able to deflect three while the remaining four stabbed deep into his body.

“Ugh!”

Carr staggered from the impact of the strikes, but his glare remained sharp as he looked at their enemies with a hawk-like gaze. He did not have any remaining skills or MP left. However, he was still the Olympic gold medalist, Carr. He could still use his own personal skills and brilliant techniques to cut down his enemies. But that was all.

Thud—

He fell down on one knee.

“B... boy...” Ghost Spear Ben mumbled as he looked at Carr in doubt.

Carr just looked back at him and said, “Please tell Minhyuk that I’m really sor...”

But before he could finish his words...

“...”

...Carr received a whisper from Minhyuk. Carr, who had fallen on one knee, blinked blankly as an enemy rushed towards him.

‘Why so suddenly?’

When Carr thought about it, he realized that Minhyuk had always been like this. Even if he shook off his hands harshly, Minhyuk still contacted him several times. Back then, he had acted terribly by badmouthing him. This time, he answered without any hesitation.

Grin—

.

A smile appeared on his lips. That was right. Minhyuk had always called him a *'friend'*. Carr pondered for a while before starting to send a whisper again.

'I will definitely say what I want to say.'

But, before he could do so, Minhyuk had already sent him another whisper.

Carr did not need to hesitate for a long time.

Then, the enemy troops began to flock to where Carr, the main pillar of the defense, was.

“Die!!!”

“All we need to do is cut his head off!!!”

“Kyaaa~ We'll be able to get rid of the number one ranker in Korea!!!”

The Chinese players rushed excitedly to where Carr was. But at that moment...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

An unidentified force appeared in the sky and got sucked inside Carr's body.

[What, what was that?!!!]

[Something mysterious got sucked inside Carr's body!!!]

[What was it?]

Just when the commentators were bewildered from what happened, a notification rang for Carr.

[Conir is trying to 'possess' you. Will you accept?]

Carr nodded silently as he watched the enemies rush to where he was.

At the same time, boundless energy and power began to surge from within his body. Then, darkness descended upon him. He felt tired but it was accompanied by delight. The smile that bloomed on his face expressed both surprise and joy.

Hundreds of enemies came to him after seeing him collapse on one knee. Carr slowly stood up. His eyes had turned completely black, the iris and the white indistinguishable from each other. Carr stretched his knee, before bending down again and looking forward. His figure was overflowing with pride and dignity. This was the Olympic gold medalist. Carr looked ahead as he held the hilt of his sword in his hand.

Slash—

He held his breath for a moment before quickly drawing his sword.

“Quick Draw.”

Then...

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

...a powerful force flew from his sword and cut down all of the enemies rushing towards him within a 30 meter radius.

[You have been forced to log out.]

[You have been forced to log out.]

[You have been forced to log out.]

[You have been forced...]

It did not end there. Explosions rang loudly in the direction where he slashed his sword at.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

[You have been forced to log out.]

[You have been forced to log out.]

Boooooooooom—

The sight was horrifying. The places where the slash from Carr’s Quick Draw passed by had been devastated in just a moment. More than 300 players died and disappeared from sight.

[...!!!]

[...!!!]

[...!!!]

This was the same Carr that had shocked the world with his sword in the Olympics. This time, he brought astonishment and shock to the world once again, through *Athenae*.

That was when the people watching him saw him open his mouth and spit the words that he had wanted to say for a very long time, “Minhyuk, I’m sorry!!!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Carr cried loudly in front of the viewers from all over the world. His speech was not that long. After getting the apology off his chest, he declared in front of everyone in the world, “I will help you become the first king in *Athenae*! I will become your subordinate and open up the path for you to become king. I... I will be your friend and comrade!!!”

Carr, Korea’s number one player in the official ranking, had openly requested to join the Let’s Eat Sect Guild, causing the entire world to erupt into chaos.

Chapter 377: Turning the Tide of War

The entire world was in an uproar after the unexpected declaration of Korea’s number one official ranker, Carr. He expressed his firm will and determination to help forge a path for the Food God’s kingship.

[Ah. Carr has declared that he would make him *Athenae*’s ‘King’, an existence that has not appeared yet.]

[Unbelievable!!! This is very surprising. Korea’s number one ranker, Carr, has declared that he will go under someone else’s command!]

[Who in the world is Food God Minhyuk? How can he make a person like Carr, the number one ranker in their country, declare that he would become his subordinate!!!]

There were plenty of people from all over the world that did not hold any interest towards the Food God. No, it was more accurate to say that there were plenty of people from all over the world that did not even know of the Food God. That was only natural. After all, most people would not pay attention to others, unless they were people that came from their own country.

However, there were plenty of people that knew Carr, since he won the Olympics a few years ago. Hence, they were very shocked by his declaration.

Then, Carr dashed forward. These were the notifications that rang for him when the young boy, Conir, had possessed his body.

[You can use the complete power of Conir during the duration of the possession.]

[Conir, who had possessed your body, is currently at Level 751.]

[Your Skill Level has increased by +5.]

[Your Sword Mastery has gone beyond the limitations and has entered the Transcendental Realm.]

[You have recovered all of your HP and MP.]

[Your Physical and Magical Defenses have increased by 250%.]

[The more sword strikes you link successfully, the higher the damage.]

That was right. There was only one reason why Minhyuk chose Carr. This was because he was the perfect choice for the person that can use and control Conir’s powers. In particular, the more ‘*Sword Link*’?he used, the more damage he would deal, as long as he could land another attack within three seconds. There were only a few players that could use the Sword Link in quick succession.

Carr was a sword genius, and if such a sword genius temporarily absorbed Conir’s power, then he would become the best.

Stab—

[You have linked your sword strikes.]

[You will receive 2% additional attack power for three seconds.]

[You have linked your sword strikes.]

[You will receive 1.5% additional attack power for three seconds.]

[...linked your sword strikes.]

[...linked your sword strikes.]

[Ten consecutive links!]

[You will receive 5% additional attack power for three seconds. Your Skill Level will increase by +1.]

[Fifteen consecutive links!]

[You will receive 6% additional attack power for four seconds. Your Skill Cooldown has been reduced by 30%.]

Minhyuk's choice of Carr was the perfect candidate, especially after he achieved an incredible feat of 15 consecutive linked sword strikes. The enemies that appeared before him fell helplessly under his sword. Seeing this, the enemies panicked.

"N...no! We can't attack!"

"What, what the hell?! He's alone, so why can't I successfully land an attack?!!!"

Ping—

"Keuaaaack! How can I only have 2% HP left when I only received a basic strike from him?!"

"How high is his damage?!!!"

The players from Cairon Continent failed to attack Carr, despite him standing in the middle of their ranks. There were tens of thousands of enemy troops, but thanks to his sword skills and Conir's power and speed, he remained invincible. Just when Carr cut down one of the enemies...

"Frieeeeeeeeend!!!"

"Frieeeeeeeeend!!!"

"Frieeeeeeeeend!!!"

...voices came from behind him. Carr turned his head for a moment to look. That was when he saw the members of the Let's Eat Sect Guild. The members of the Let's Eat

Sect Guild were very surprised when they heard that Carr was willing to join their guild. Recruiting Carr into their ranks meant that they would gain a huge boost to their strength. They welcomed him together with a passionate call.

“Frieeeeeeend!!!” Carr, amidst their enemies, also raised his left hand and shouted back at them, his cheeks flushing pink.

‘To be honest, I really wanted to try this too!!!’

Carr had long wanted to try this, ever since he watched the video of them doing this before! And at some point, the surviving Korean players also shouted loudly among the roars of their enemies.

“Friend!!!”

“Frieeeeeeend!!!”

“Let’s be friends!!!”

“Frieeeeeeend!!!”

Their voices rose above the roars of their enemies and entered through Carr’s ears. He finally belonged to the Let’s Eat Sect Guild, and had also become their friend. Carr felt his thumping heart. There was a strange sense of elation and excitement thrumming through his veins. There was also faith and trust.

‘That’s right. I’m not alone anymore. I can also fight alongside everyone...!’ Carr thought as he turned around only to see the retreating backs of the players from Asgan Continent.

“...???”

“Hey, aren’t your friends retreating?”

“...???”

[...??]

Carr suddenly felt flustered when he saw them retreat.

‘What is this situation? Why did they suddenly retreat after shouting ‘friends’?’

A curse unknowingly drifted past his mouth.

“Hey, you f*cking bastards!!! Come back here!!!”

Even the players from the Cairon Continent felt sorry for Carr.

“You’ve been abandoned? My god...”

“...Go to hell!”

“Waaah!”

Carr's head went blank after he cut down the player that tried to sympathize with him, albeit mockingly. He also could not figure out why they suddenly retreated. Then, among the figures of the retreating players from Asgan Continent, appeared a man that went against the flow and dug through the enemy gaps.

[It's, it's the Food God!!!]

[Food God Minhyuk has unleashed a fierce offensive to get through where Player Carr is!!!]

[Hundreds of blades dancing around his body are ravaging and devouring the enemies. He's swiftly breaking through tens of thousands of troops!!!]

[What a spectacular sight!!! A lone man silently pierces through and kills his ways against tens of thousands of troops!!!]

[He's responding to Carr after hearing his request to join the Let's Eat Sect Guild!!!]

[Just like what Carr said, he just might be the very first king in Athenae! He's running towards Carr!!!]

[The Food God that both Korea and the rest of the world are waiting for has appeared!!!]

[According to the global rankers and Athenae experts, they expect the Food God to only last for less than half an hour!]

[Carr suddenly wakes up from his trance! Perhaps Carr will show us something more and move more actively!]

Then, Minhyuk reached Carr. The two men leaned on each other's back and faced off against their enemies. Both of them started to cut down their enemies without any hesitation.

[What a splendid sight. Carr, the world-class Olympic gold medalist, and the player that defeated him! These two people are fighting together, back to back!!!]

[I think this video right here will become the best video of the year.]

[Can you see the movements of the swords of these two people? It looks like their swords are dancing.]

[Their swords are extremely sharp and infinitely delicate in their movements! There will be no other player in Athenae that can show such fantastic skills!!!]

[The people watching from all over the world are going crazy after witnessing these two people fighting together!]

[Their swords are fluttering around like a butterfly, but strike sharply like the sting of bees!!!]

The two shook off their enemies at almost the same time.

“Blooming Sword.”

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

The tens of thousands of troops might hold a huge advantage in numbers, but they also had their own weakness. Since their numbers were huge, they were very concentrated in one area. This meant that it would be quite easy to deal with a huge number of people using AOE attack skills.

“The Emperor’s Blade.”

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

Sword blades appeared around Carr, before swiftly flying around and cutting down his enemies. Then, the two of them looked back at each other and smiled. The first one to reach his hand out was Minhyuk. Carr immediately grabbed his hand. The scene made the hearts of the viewers from all over the world grow warm.

[Aaaaaaaaah! Yesterday’s enemy is today’s friend!!!]

[What a wonderful scene!!!]

[Passionate friendship! Burning skills! And these two people’s hot looks!!!]

[The scene in which two people with sculpturesque figure’s standing at 180 centimeters tall fighting together hand in hand! Surrounded by tens of thousands of troops! It’s like a scene straight out of a movie!!!]

[If Food God Minhyuk looks similar to our country’s actor, Kang Dongwonbin, then Player Carr looks like So Ganzil!]

[This is an amazing scene that you can’t help but go ‘Kyaa~!’!!!]

.

[It seems like the two of them are talking about something.]

[I can’t hear them well.]

Everyone focused and turned their attention to their conversation. Even the Cairon Continent troops stepped back and listened in on them. Just like that, they heard their voices.

“Just the two of us?”

Nod.

“We’re going to stop these 50,000 strong troops? Just the two of us?”

Nod, nod.

[...???!!!]

[...???!!!]

The people all over the world once again received shocking information. They felt flustered after listening in on their conversation.

[What, what did they say?]

[The, the two of them are going to stop the 50,000 enemy troops?]

[...]

[...]

Carr was the one to voice out what everyone was feeling. He said, “Have you gone crazy...?”

While the whole world was left reeling in shock, Carr had difficulty hiding his embarrassment. No, in fact, he could not hide his shock and outburst.

The reason for the sudden retreat of the players of Asgan Continent was finally revealed. It was because Minhyuk made them withdraw from the battlefield. He even said that the two of them would be the one to face the 50,000 strong enemy troops.

“Have you gone crazy...?”

To be honest, it was not strange for Carr to blurt out these words. Minhyuk’s words were so preposterous that all he could do was choke on his spit from the shock.

That was when Minhyuk started sending him a whisper.

Carr looked at Minhyuk with an absurd expression, but Minhyuk just nodded cheerfully at him and said, “Yeah!”

“...”

Carr suddenly felt like he wanted to cancel his membership request to the Let’s Eat Sect Guild. The bastard in front of him was unnecessarily optimistic. Then, Minhyuk suddenly looked at the encroaching enemies and sent him another whisper.

This time too, Minhyuk...

“Yeah!”

...was extremely optimistic and bright.

‘*Maybe I should just kill him...*’? This thought flashed in Carr’s head for a moment. Then, Minhyuk started casting his skill.

“Stop him!!!”

“The Food God is casting something!!!”

“Attack!!!”

The players from Cairon Continent began to flock to where they were again. The skill that Minhyuk was casting was none other than ‘*Sword of Absolute Death*’. However, it was not just a simple Sword of Absolute Death. Minhyuk’s Sword of Absolute Death was now being activated with his ‘Will’ skill buff, his ox bone soup buff, and he would even add his Berserk skill on top of that. This would be the best version of his Sword of Absolute Death. It would take Minhyuk 40 seconds before he could use the skill. So, Carr began his attack.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

Carr danced around splendidly with his sword to prevent the enemies from flocking towards Minhyuk. However, there were too many players from Cairon Continent. Some of their attacks reached the defenseless Minhyuk, whose body was now covered with a dark red current of energy. However...

Clang!!!

The enemy's attacks would either barely cause damage on Minhyuk's body or...

[Your attack has failed.]

...the attack would miss. The mages created a wall of flames between Minhyuk and Carr.

Swoooooosh—

However, even after being subjected to that situation, Minhyuk's skill casting remained unimpeded. Even the damage that he received was negligible.

Slash!

Carr finally felt that something was weird after he cut down another enemy.

'This... this momentum and pressure...'

Carr felt like the entire area was engulfed in killing intent, which was so prominent that it could even choke the enemies rushing forward. When the skill casting time was finally over, Minhyuk murmured, "Berserk."

[Berserk]

[All abilities will be increased by 16% and all stats would have a +2 increase.]

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

The figure of a gigantic demon rose above his head before getting sucked inside his body.

"Kiyeeeeeeee!"

Then, a black current appeared and merged with the red current that was flowing around Minhyuk's body, until they merged into a single color. Minhyuk then triggered his skill and sent it to Carr's other side.

"Sword of Absolute Death."

[Sword of Absolute Death]

[The skill has been strengthened and enhanced after being subjected to various buffs.]

[The first sword strike will hit your enemy with a 100% chance and an additional 1600% damage as long as they are within eight meters of you. The opponent that received the first sword strike will receive 13 consecutive attacks with 800% additional damage and will fall into a stunned state for three seconds.]

[Hundreds of blades with 800% additional damage will shoot out and dance around to destroy and devour your enemies. A direct hit will cause a powerful explosion that will deal an additional 1000% damage.]

The first sword strike could literally kill any enemy that it landed on.

So, Minhyuk sent his attack towards the player that looked the most powerful among the enemies. His name is Oz, the sun in China's tanker world, a well-known player that could handle dozens of rankers all by himself. But at that moment...

Stab—

[You have been forced to log out.]

“...?”

The crowd was plunged into a momentary silence, as hundreds of sword blades extended from Minhyuk's sword. Minhyuk was currently in a state where his skills and abilities had risen dramatically, thanks to his Berserk skill, Will skill, and other buffs. The Cairon players died helplessly under the onslaught of his sword blades. Even the players that were only in the vicinity of the dancing sword blades died.

In a blink of an eye, the players that rushed in front of him were swept cleanly away. And it did not stop there.

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

Huge explosions bloomed all over the place. In just an instant, literally an instant, more than 1,800 players collapsed on the ground.

“...Hiiiiik!”

“Cr... crazy shit...!”

“That's something beyond a human's capability!!!”

The players from Cairon Continent shouted in fright. Carr also looked back at Minhyuk in shock.

‘Crazy...!’

He had never seen such a ridiculously frightening skill in his life. No, just half of that skill's power was enough to frighten most people.

[...]

[...]

The commentators and experts from all over the world had declared earlier that Minhyuk would not even last an hour, when they compared him to the Summit Five. But now, they were rendered speechless by the current situation. All they could do was keep their mouths shut, not knowing what to say. Then, at that moment...

Collapse—

Minhyuk fell down. The faces of the embarrassed and flustered commentators finally jumped back to life. They felt that this was their opportunity. Many quickly gave their interpretations and assumptions.

[Aaaaaaaah! What, what an amazing skill.]

[Perhaps this skill far surpasses the skills of all the other users from all over the world!]

[However, it seems like there's a penalty. It seems like there's a penalty where the skill user's HP will get exhausted after using the skill! It wouldn't make sense if a skill like that did not have any penalties.]

[Just like what we expected. He did not last an hour. Right? What do you think? Our guesses were right, am I right?]

The commentators tried very hard to tie it back to their one hour guess.

Then, at that moment, Carr finally carried out the operation that Minhyuk had told him about earlier. He quickly dashed to where Minhyuk was, hugged him, and began to show his bad acting skills.

"No, my dear friend! Why did you use that skill? Didn't you tell me that your HP will go down to one, and your defenses will be zero if you use that skill? If someone hit you once right now, then you'll die, right? Don't. Die. My. Dear. Friend!"

This was Carr's great acting ability, which sounded like he was reading from a Korean textbook!

'Carr's not good at acting...' Minhyuk thought.

However, Carr was brimming with confidence. He thought, *'This year's Best Actor award is mine!!!'*

He even did some ad-lib...

"Sob. Sob. Sob. Sob. Sob.? Quickly get up, let's fight together my dear friend! Let's show them what a bloody battle truly is! Come on! Get up! My friend!!!"

Thankfully, no one noticed his bad acting skills in the chaos of the battle. That was when Minhyuk heard some of the voices around him.

"He only has one HP left? Even his defense is zero?!"

"Isn't, isn't this our chance to kill the Food God?"

"Oh, ooooooooooh!!!"

Then, the enemies started to flock once again. Carr immediately stood up and blocked them from getting to Minhyuk.

"My friend, Minhyuk. I will protect you. Take this! My sword of justice!!!"

"What's that bastard saying over there?!"

"I don't know! Let's get to the Food God first!!!"

Carr moved as if he was trying to block them with all his might. The enemy players kept on pushing forward until they were concentrated around them. The moment they crowded around to kill them, Carr had already fallen into a trance, absorbed in his own performance.

“Don’t touch my friend!!! Die!!!”

[In the end, Player Minhyuk has given us one surprise and one disappointment. This is the end.]

[Didn’t they say that they will stop their enemies with just the two of them?]

[Just like we thought, it was just their ridiculous bluffs.]

[I feel a bit sorry for Player Carr.]

The commentators’ words were harsh and scathing.

That was when the collapsed Minhyuk that they had cursed hard at, and criticized severely, suddenly stood up. And...

“Sword of Absolute Death.”

Stab!

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

...Minhyuk triggered the skill that he had stored using his ‘Save’ skill. And with that, more than 3,000 of the players that gathered around them died in an instant. In other words, they had completely fallen for the trap that the two of them had set up.

‘Kyaa...! Isn’t my acting crazy good? Haha! What will I do if people from the movie industry start to contact me?’

Carr firmly believed that this result was thanks to his wonderful acting skills! The two of them had killed 5,000 enemy troops in an instant. The players of Cairon Continent looked at the two of them and screamed...

“You... you baited us!!!”

“You lied?!!”

“I didn’t notice!!! That man over there is so good at acting!!!”

Minhyuk looked at Carr. The two of them nodded fiercely as they brightly and innocently said...

“Yep!!!”

“Yeah!!!”

“...”

The Cairon Continent players’ hands itched, wanting to beat the two of them up, after seeing their annoying reactions.

Chapter 378: Turning the Tide of War

[Your troops have lost 5,000 men.]

[The morale of your soldiers has decreased sharply.]

“5,000...”

Da Zhuang, one of the legendary figures, had a hard time believing the notifications that rang just now.

They had 50,000 troops marching forward and advancing to the point that they looked like a sea of black. However, a powerful force suddenly appeared among their troops. Da Zhuang could tell that this power had reached the Pinnacle.

‘What the hell is that Pinnacle?’ Da Zhuang thought as he became interested. That was when he suddenly remembered the words of the man named Black Mage Ali who had declared not too long ago.

‘My friend will come soon to kill you.’

“...!”

As Da Zhuang recalled those words, he immediately changed locations and moved to a higher vantage point to survey the battlefield. The sight presented to him was that of two men slaughtering the soldiers from the Cairen Continent.

‘Interesting...!’

Da Zhuang was sure that it was one of them. In other words, the person that used the Pinnacle was the person that Ali was talking about. Da Zhuang smiled and gave his orders, “March forward!!! Advance! Don’t back down!!! Cut off the heads of your enemies!!! I will personally cut your neck off if you dilly-dally here!!!”

Da Zhuang felt the interest surging in him for a moment. However, he was sure that they would not be able to reach him. Besides, the power that had reached the complete Pinnacle had already disappeared, and only the power of Half Pinnacle remained lingering in the air. Could someone with just that much power reach him? Definitely not. He would die without even reaching his toes. Then, at that moment...

“Huh?”

A woman wearing a mysterious mask appeared in Da Zhuang’s sight. The woman was as swift as lightning as she held out something in front of Minhyuk. The thing that she held out to Minhyuk was none other than *‘bread and milk’*.?

“...???”

‘Handing out milk and bread in the middle of a war?’

Some of the players that saw the scene shouted loudly...

“The... the Bread Shuttle!!!”

“The Bread Shuttle appeared!!!”

“Bread Shuttle...?”

Da Zhuang looked back at the players in doubt after hearing a new name. Their current commander-in-chief, Da Zhuang, asked, “What’s a Bread Shuttle?”

“Ah. Bread Shuttle is a slang used by the people in Asgan Continent.”

The player thought a while on how he should explain it, then opened his mouth again, “Some of the strong people make the weakest among them run errands and buy bread for them.”

“Hooo?”

The law of the jungle! In every world, there would be people sitting at the top and people crawling at the bottom. And the Bread Shuttle was someone that stood at the bottom of the food chain!

‘So, the woman is not worth caring about, huh?’

Da Zhuang clicked his tongue and shook his head. At the same time, the Bread Shuttle turned transparent and disappeared from their sights.

‘She’s just a Bread Shuttle that has mastered plenty of useless skills.’

Da Zhuang did not pay much attention to her anymore. That was right. He did not care about her at all. And that was precisely where the problem began.

Valkyrie Mei Wei, the official global number one ranker! She was the only one that did not retreat with the others to take advantage of their enemies’ unawareness. This was because she had a very important mission to do here. Her mission was none other than bread delivery!

The bread and milk that she delivered were made from precious ingredients that she had painstakingly gathered a long time ago. That was the reason why she swiftly and quickly sent the bread and milk to Minhyuk the moment they met. Minhyuk had the ‘*Absorption Conversion*’?skill, so giving him the bread and milk was tantamount to giving him a ‘*potion*’. Besides, Mei Wei was very happy to do this too.

‘Hehe. I just gave Minhyuk bread and milk, and he said that he would make me something delicious again!’

Yes. Mei Wei had reached the peak of being a bread shuttle, to the point that she even rejoiced at the fact that she was bringing food and ingredients around. And now, it was time to finish her heavy responsibility. Mei Wei was tasked to get rid of the high rankers and the commanding officers of the enemy troops.

Using her stealth skills, Mei Wei quickly moved to where the commanding officers of the enemy troops were. There were still 45,000 enemy troops left. Out of this huge number, most of the commanding officers were made up of NPCs. Simply put, the command of the troops was largely

relegated to the NPCs. As long as they took out the commanding officers, the troops would be thrown into confusion and chaos, and their enemies' morale would drop sharply.

She saw Marquis Rundal of Cairon Continent's Avast Empire riding on top of a horse and commanding his troops from afar.

"Keuhahahahahahaha! There are two rats jumping around!!!" Marquis Rundal, instead of being frightened after witnessing the strength of the two people, laughed loudly. After all, even though the two of them had strength far beyond anyone's imagination, Cairon's victory was still a foregone conclusion.

For one, they were only two people. On the other hand, their own camp still had a 45,000-strong army. On top of that, the rest of their troops had already fled far away. It was safe to say that the fall of the Korean Defense Base was just right around the corner. Besides, Marquis Rundal was a mage of considerable power, he was not afraid of anything.

At that moment, the space in front of Marquis Rundal distorted and revealed the figure of a woman.

"Bread Shuttle?"

Marquis Rundal had also heard stories and conversations about this Bread Shuttle. She was different from the rest, she was a woman that delivered bread faster than anybody else! But right now, she was standing in front of Marquis Rundal.

"I can't believe you came here on your own, Bread Shuttle!"

Marquis Rundal was a mage that could use Sixth Tier Magic. Mana immediately appeared and surrounded his body. But just when he was about to create and send out a powerful spear of ice towards the Bread Shuttle...

Stab—

Fall—

"...?!"

"...?!"

"...?!"

Marquis Rundal fell on the ground after receiving a single stab from her sword.

"What... what the hell?!"

"Mar... Marquis!!!"

"Die!!!"

[Goddess' Lethargy]

[AGI decreases by 40%.]

[Physical Defense decreases by 30%.]

The knights and soldiers immediately gathered around Marquis Rundal. However, as the notifications fell, they felt their legs turn heavy, as if a ten kilogram weight had been strapped on them. They seemed to be nothing but slow and sluggish existences in front of the woman called Bread Shuttle.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

She lightly swung her sword and dealt with them, before disappearing from their sights once again. Just like that, Bread Shuttle Mei Wei had begun her hunt for the enemy commanding officers.

In the fierce battlefield.

Carr and Minhyuk were fighting their own battles fiercely at a distance from each other. The reason why they both went further away from each other, was to avoid dragging the other into their own fights, and accidentally sending a heavy blow to one another.

Plenty of disastrous and huge magical attacks would fall down on them from time to time. These magical attacks could affect the surrounding area, even if they were just single attack skills. That was why they had to separate from each other.

The Chinese players constantly sent attacks at Minhyuk.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang—

However, something surprising unfolded in front of their eyes...

“Keuaaaaaaack!”

...the troops that sent their attacks to Minhyuk were the ones that screamed in pain and collapsed. Just to show how hard Minhyuk’s *‘Monarch’s Armor’* was, these notifications rang loudly in the ears of the attacking players the moment they successfully landed an attack on him.

[Your sword’s durability has dropped.]

And, what about the rain of arrows that were being sent towards Minhyuk?

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang—

All of them uselessly fell on the ground. Not a single one was able to pierce through Minhyuk’s tough armor. However, that did not mean that he was totally unaffected from the damages that he received.

“F*ck! How freaking high is your defense?!!! Hey, how much HP do you have left?!!!”

Minhyuk cut down the player that asked him and answered his question, “98%. Bye, bye!!!”

Stab!

“Keuaaaaaack! Aren’t you too broken?!!!”

The player reeled in shock as he was forced to log out. Even the entire world was surprised by this scene.

[Players Minhyuk and Carr's defense are shockingly out of this world.]

[Even Player Minhyuk's evasion rate is extremely high, to the point that he could evade half of the attacks sent to him.]

[Hooo. Isn't that extremely amazing?]

[There's also the fact that most of the attacks that the two of them sent out were basic attacks.]

[They're dealing with tens of thousands of enemies with only their brilliant sword techniques.]

[However, they will eventually reach their limits and become exhausted.]

[That's right. Even if they cut down as much as they could, they would just be able to cut down hundreds by themselves. However, their enemies are tens of thousands.]

[No matter what it looks like, it's completely impossible to win against tens of thousands of enemies.]

Even the people at the global community site were of the same opinion.

[No matter how strong and high the defense of those players are, it's impossible for them to win against tens of thousands of soldiers.]

[I agree. Their stamina will reach the limit. Their stats will fall, their MP will run out, and they will be taken down once their skill cooldown starts.]

In the eyes of everybody else, this was an undeniable fact. Their odds of winning were extremely small. Hundreds of cameras moved along the battlefield, but they remained unaware that the enemy commanding officers were being swept away.

Minhyuk had not used any of his skills yet. So far, he only used basic attacks to fight against the enemies. His armor and sword were already beyond anyone's imagination. They could never imagine what these items would do to them later.

In order to stop Minhyuk in his tracks and prevent him from attacking, several rankers joined forces and sent their attacks towards him.

"Boom Spear."

"Dragon Sword."

"Fire Field."

Baaaaaaaaang—

Craaaaaack—

Crackle!

A long spear lanced straight at Minhyuk's chest, while a sword in the shape of a dragon slammed into him. Blazing flames also bloomed on the ground. However, something shocking happened not long after.

Minhyuk used his toes as a fulcrum and twisted his body to evade the incoming spear. Then, he lifted his sword and deflected the incoming dragon sword. And just like what Ellie did before, Minhyuk used '*Like the Wind*' and stepped into the sky.

Dash—

Minhyuk, who stood high up in the sky, held a millstone and began turning its handle.

Turn, turn, turn, turn, turn—

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

“This bastard. He’s doing something weird!”

“Now!!! Rankers, attack!!!”

The enemy players did not know what Minhyuk’s millstone was and thought that he made a wrong judgment by swapping his equipment. There were dozens of rankers hiding among countless troops below Minhyuk waiting for the perfect moment to attack. Just when they had prepared their skills and waited for Minhyuk to fall...

[Lightning Hell]

[Powerful lightning strikes will strike down indiscriminately within a 20 meter radius and deal 120% damage for one minute.]

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

“Keuaaaaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaaaargh!”

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

Lightning Hell was a skill where lightning struck within a 20 meter radius and dealt 120% damage. In fact, 120% damage was nothing to the rankers. However, when placed on top of Minhyuk’s extremely high attack power, the damage would be huge.

There was also the 20 meter radius, assuming that there were three people in every meter that the entire radius covered, there would be more than 100 players that would be hit by the skill.

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack, crack!

The worst part was them falling into a stunned state the moment the lightning struck their bodies. Minhyuk landed on the ground and swiftly dashed around, slashing the dozens of rankers that tried to attack him, in one fell swoop.

[My, my goodness!!!]

[The Chinese rankers have been swept away in an instant!]

[The power that Player Minhyuk is showing us is enough for him to be considered as the world’s best and strongest!]

[He hasn’t shown this much power until much recently!]

[What the hell happened in that short amount of time of his absence?!]

The world was in awe and admiration of Minhyuk's brilliant use of his skills and his excellent combat ability. Meanwhile, the other operation and tactic that Minhyuk had prepared...

With this whisper, Mei Wei, who had already found Da Zhuang long ago according to Minhyuk's instructions, used her skills.

Thwaaaaaaaaaaaang!

Light Pistol!? This was a skill that could be used, even if there was a 100 meter distance between Mei Wei and her enemy. This was her most powerful one-shot kill attack skill that she could use to deal 1,000% damage against her enemy. This skill was very useful, especially when her enemies were concentrated in an area.

A path in the middle of the troops had been created in an instant. Minhyuk's line of sight was clear as he looked at the middle of this path. There, he saw Da Zhuang standing loftily and looking at him.

Dash, dash, dash, dash, dash, dash!

Minhyuk dashed forward, as Carr shook off the enemies and dashed forward with him. Just when the enemies tried to fill in the gap that was cleared...

Thwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

...another Light Pistol was linked and fired again. The Light Pistol was a ridiculously strong skill that could be linked and fired three times in a row. Carr and Minhyuk continued to dash forward as the Light Pistol extended once again.

[Carr has taken the lead and has started to beat the enemies that tried to block Player Minhyuk's path!!!]

[Player Minhyuk was swiftly following behind him!]

[This is crazy!!! That's the only thing that I can say!!! Where is the woman hiding?!!!]

[Who in the world is that woman?!!]

[Bread Shuttle! The people call her Bread Shuttle!]

[...What a unique name.]

[We can easily predict Players Minhyuk and Carr's position. We can clearly tell from their actions that Player Carr and Player Minhyuk are going to attack Da Zhuang!!!]

Then, Minhyuk flew high up in the sky.

Shwaaaaaaa—

At the same time, a whip of light extended out of Mei Wei's hand and wrapped around Minhyuk's body.

“You, you b*tch...!!!”

Da Zhuang was very shocked. He did not think to care about this woman at all!

Mei Wei continued to hold Minhyuk's waist with her whip.

Graaaab—

Tiiiiing—

Mei Wei grabbed her whip tightly and pulled Minhyuk down. Minhyuk's body descended rapidly, like a bird of prey descending down to bite its prey. As he descended, Minhyuk triggered his skills. The moment Da Zhuang's dagger was about to strike down on Mei Wei.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang—

A shield of light blocked Mei Wei's body. When the dagger slammed into the shield...

[You have attacked the Shield of Arrest.]

[You have fallen into a stunned state for 2 seconds.]

“...!”

Da Zhuang, regardless of who he was, was still a legendary figure, even though it was in the past. That fact would remain true. He was also the person that pushed Ellie to her limit and had assassinated more than 20,000 enemies.

But this very same Da Zhuang had now fallen into a stunned state. And currently, Minhyuk, who had never cursed much in his life, was boiling in anger.

Meanwhile, Da Zhuang was left in surprise. He thought, ‘*Half...Half Pinnacle...*’

Truth be told, the power emanating from the skill was far beyond that of a Half Pinnacle. In the first place, skills were also greatly affected by the skill user's attack power and artifacts. And right now, the skill that Minhyuk used was none other than Sword of Frenzy.

[You will have additional 400% damage to your attack upon a successful strike to your enemy's vital point. The six consecutive attacks that would follow the attack will have additional 100% damage. Upon a successful vital point attack, enemies within a five meter radius will receive six consecutive attacks with additional 100% damage.]

Stab—

Minhyuk's sword pierced through the stunned Da Zhuang's ribs and through his chest. The first thing that hit him was the 400% damage, followed by the six consecutive attacks with additional 100% damage!

“Keuhaaaaaaack!”

Da Zhuang shrieked as his body was ripped apart by the sword strike. The enemy troops tried to rush forward to save Da Zhuang. However, the Sword of Frenzy had an additional effect. The effect would strike the enemies within a five meter radius, six times in a row, with 100% additional damage.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

Blood spurted out from the bodies of the enemies all around Minhyuk. It did not end there.

[Intangible Sword.]

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

[Lightning]

[You have a 5% chance of triggering 2~4 consecutive lightning strikes.]

[4 strikes.]

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack!” Da Zhuang shrieked loudly, as blood spurted out from the wounds littering his body. He looked at Minhyuk incredulously, wondering where this fury was coming from.

However, Minhyuk just gripped his sword tightly with both of his hands as he swung his sword sideways. He declared, “Ellie’s my noona! You f*cking bastard!!!”

Slash—

Chapter 379: Hunting Black Dragon

“...”

“...”

“...”

“...”

[...]

[...]

[...]

[...]

The shouts of the raging troops from Cairon Continent died down, as silence enveloped the area. The same was true for the commentators and viewers watching from all over the world.

Every single TV program in the world had already introduced who Da Zhuang was. He was a ‘*legend*’ of the past. In fact, it was rare to see any ‘*god*’ or ‘*legend*’ of the past generation that was still active in the present. Most of the active ones were either their successors, or players that had inherited their powers.

Everyone was aware that the reason for the rare appearance of the characters hailed as gods and legends was balance control. The people all over the world saw the appearance of Da Zhuang as the Cairon Continent’s trump card in this Continental War.

Of course, Asgan Continent also had a trump card of their own, which might just be Black Dragon and his 4,000-strong army.

The people had estimated Da Zhuang to be at a level where the current players would be helpless against him. In fact, the *Athenae* design team had already prepared a storyline where he would end his career in the Continent Cloud and hide himself again.

But right now...

Puhaaaaaaaaa!

“Keuaaaaaack!”

Da Zhuang’s body was spurting blood like a fountain, after being slashed sideways by a player. They had estimated his level to be at around Level 700. He was an extremely strong Named NPC! But, this strong NPC was now screaming in pain.

So, what did the world say earlier?

Things like *‘The Food God will not last an hour and will be forced to log out as soon as he arrives on the battlefield!’*, or *‘The Food God is nothing more than a ‘small fry’ in front of the real strong players in the world!’* Some even went as far as to say, *‘A non-combat Food God? How dare he try to jump up and act in front of the Summit Five combat players, right?’*

But right now, all of them were speechless. To be precise, most of them felt that there was a blazing flame burning in their chests. The appearance of a strong player in a country other than their own was a major threat. The rest were looking forward to what changes and development this new powerhouse would show in the near future.

Because of that, none of the commentators dared to say that there was no more *‘hope’* for the players of Asgan Continent. They just shifted their angle, and began to show their *‘enthusiasm’* for Minhyuk’s power.

[This is crazy!!! The Food God is insanely strong! I am confident that his power far surpasses the Summit Five that are widely acknowledged by the whole world!!!]

[Did you see that?! The sword that pierced through Da Zhuang’s armor, the horizontal sword strike, as well as the four lightning strikes that followed right after. Player Minhyuk’s skills and abilities are very surprising!!!]

[The scream that was ripped out of Da Zhuang’s mouth has opened our eyes to a new world!]

[Food God Minhyuk will be writing history once the world is united!!!]

[Korea’s Food God player is making waves in our world!!!]

[I’m sure the portal sites all over the world are being used to search for the name ‘Food God’!]

[I’m very proud! I’m very, very proud! That player, Food God Minhyuk, is one of our country’s citizens!!!]

Although Minhyuk was unaware of it, countless Korean viewers watching from all over the country were all cheering loudly.

At the same time.

The remaining troops from the Korean Defense Base that had retreated earlier divided themselves into five groups, and circled around to take advantage of their enemies, wanting to catch them unaware. Most of the survivors among their troops were those with a high level, while the bases that the Chinese had left behind only had the minimal troops for protection.

Lucia, the Assassin of the Moon, entered the base first, struck down the key figures and commanding officers inside the base, before opening the gates. Their troops flocked inside the base the moment the gates opened. Meanwhile, Lucia used her skills repeatedly.

[Shadow Teleport]

Shadow Teleport was a unique skill of Lucia's class, Assassin of the Moon. It had a GPS-like tracking function, which allowed her to teleport and move to her opponent's shadow. In fact, piercing through a base's defense was quite a difficult task since they needed to break down their walls. However with Lucia breaking inside first, killing the enemy key figures and opening the gates, their enemies became helpless under their assault.

[You have successfully captured Ednik Defense Base.]

[You can now acquire the special potions and artifacts left behind in Ednik Defense Base.]

[You have successfully captured Caidron Attack Base.]

[You can now acquire the special potions and artifacts left behind in Caidron Attack Base.]

[...Eidren Defense Base.]

The five teams recaptured five bases in one go, while maintaining their momentum and recapturing the other bases with minimal troops within.

On the Continent Cloud Map, the bases occupied by Asgan Continent were marked with red dots, while the bases occupied by Cairon Continent were marked with blue dots. Initially, 70% of the bases had been marked with blue dots and turned into Cairon Continent's bases.

When they took advantage of the Chinese's absence and began their counter, the red dots gradually covered the Continent Cloud map. They were only able to do this because Minhyuk and Carr were doing a good job in blocking the 50,000 enemy troops.

After Lucia and Alicia had taken over another base, the two made eye contact.

"We have to go back."

"Yes."

Minhyuk and Carr were both fighting by themselves, so they had to hurry back and help them. Besides, they only needed to leave a minimal number of troops behind for protection, since they had already completely captured the attack and defense bases.

"Rankers, rush back to the Korean Defense Base!!!"

"Yes!!!"

Meanwhile, Alicia and Lucia's hearts were both burning for one person, and one person alone.

'Wait for us, Minhyuk.'

'We're coming.'

At the same time.

"Ha... ha... ha... ha..."

“Ughhhh.”

Tens of thousands of enemies laid down on the ground, while the man in black armor stood in line with the countless Dragon Race warriors that he led. Genie and the other key members of Let's Eat Sect Guild had also survived. The fierce battle in Berdk Attack Base had taken a different turn. Black Dragon's arrival gave them the chance and made it possible for them to turn the tides.

However, there was still something that they needed to do.

“My son, Minhyuk, is fighting against tens of thousands of troops by himself?!”

“Yes, father...”

“Ho...”

A dark shadow briefly flickered in Black Dragon's eyes. However, he soon felt pride swelling up deep in his bones after hearing what his son was doing.

“Rascal.”

Black Dragon had also learned that his son had ordered all of the remaining troops to ‘*rob the empty houses*’. Minhyuk might have a hard time holding out against the tens of thousands of troops, and might possibly suffer from defeat, but there was one thing that they were sure of. He had already paved their path to ‘*victory*’. He knew how to sacrifice himself.

There was always a saying: There would always be a ruler sitting in the position of power, but it might not always be a good ruler.

Black Dragon knew this well, and ran his empire in as much a different manner as he could, and could be considered a ‘good ruler’. It seemed like Minhyuk was also someone worthy of those words.

‘*As expected of my son.*’

Black Dragon decided to stop wasting time, and said, “Let's go.”

“Yes.”

The 1,200 remaining warriors from the Dragon Race, along with the surviving troops from Berdk Attack Base, set off towards the Korean Defense Base.

Atlas, the City in the Skies!

Atlas was also currently heading to the Korean Defense Base.

“Our Love, Happiness and Hope, did you get injured? Oh my, my~ Did it hurt?” Locke said as he borrowed some medicine from Kaistra to treat Cerberus' injuries.

Meanwhile, Ali had his hands folded as he looked down at the ground below them. Then...

Ring!

Rewards

: Final Fragment of the Golden Crown

“...?!”

Ali was very shocked. There was no doubt that this was a very huge, and important, quest. In the rewards, the ‘*final Fragment of the Golden Crown*’ was written.

‘*This Fragment of the Golden Crown...*’

Ali had heard from Minhyuk in passing before that these fragments had the ability to awaken Beanie. However, that was not the problem right now.

‘*Why did this suddenly appear?*’

Sudden quests would appear depending on what was currently happening, or what would happen in the near future. Ali was still unaware of what would happen, but he was certain that he needed to get his hands on this power, in preparation for what would happen in the future.

Ali hurriedly talked about his situation with the remaining people in Atlas, before opening up a space through the Predatory Snake and entering the World of Snakes. Ali stepped foot in the space and promptly disappeared from everyone’s sight.

Joy Co. Ltd.

This was the company that produced the extraordinary game, *Athenae*! The company had started becoming busy again. There were quite a lot of people rushing around the corridors and the elevators.

Among these busy people was none other than Team Leader Park Minggyu. He was also bustling, despite just coming back from Washington early this morning. Team Leader Park saw Team Leader Lee Seokhoon appear and run beside him as they both rushed to the same place.

Clack—

When they opened the door to the conference room, they were met with the sight of the other executives breathing heavily, while President Kang Taehoon sat in front of the monitor, sporting a very heavy and solemn look on his face.

The executives had just been enthusiastically jumping around and cheering after watching Minhyuk cut down Da Zhuang. All of a sudden, an emergency fell upon them.

Team Leader Park Minggyu asked, "Is it true? Black Dragon Vormon is heading straight towards and breaking into the Continent Cloud right now?!"

President Kang Taehoon nodded slowly at Team Leader Park's hurried question. He said, "That seems to be the case, yes."

"...!"

Black Dragon Vormon was originally just an existence that would serve to open the passage called Continent Cloud and ignite the spark of war between the two continents. He was not supposed to directly intrude inside the Continent Cloud.

This meant that someone took personal liberty in dabbling with Black Dragon Vormon's affairs.

"Who, who in the world...?!"

"Crazy Tyrant Akhan."

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

Everyone present in the conference room were all in horror.

He was the person that the player management team shunned the most. In fact, he was someone that everyone shunned. Besides, he was a player that originally did not come from Asgan Continent.

"Akhan deliberately acquired the right to go to another continent and made Vormon go into a frenzy. They're now flying towards the Korean Defense Base."

Team Leader Park slumped down in his chair after hearing those words. Vormon's level was at a level that no player could fight against at this juncture of the game.

Vormon was supposed to be an existence that would only be used in another episode, in the next few years. Only then would they be able to hunt him. However, his existence had now been revealed.

The worst part was that he was going to appear in the middle of the Continent Cloud. There were tens of thousands of players concentrated in that area. Black Dragon Vormon would not care about who was who, he would just slaughter the players from both Cairon and Asgan Continents.

In other words, the Continent Cloud episode was likely to be completely destroyed.

And that was not the end of their problems. Whether it was the Asgan Continent or the Cairon Continent, Vormon remained an existence that they could not currently kill. They would just be helpless in front of him.

Once this untouchable existence broke into the Continent Cloud and killed everyone, the players would definitely blame the company. Since they had set *Athenae* as a game with a high degree of freedom for both NPCs and players, the *Athenae* executives would have nothing to say to defend

themselves, even if they grew ten mouths on their bodies. Their biggest problem was the amount of criticism and rebuke that they would receive after that. It would definitely surpass any other criticisms that they had received before. After all, the entire world was currently tuned in to what was happening right now in the Continent Cloud.

Then, as if he recalled something, Team Leader Park jumped up and said, “What would happen... if someone kills Vormon...?”

“It will be a blessing in disguise.”

Simply put, they would turn their misfortune into their own fortune. Instead of turning on them and criticizing them, the entire world would turn their attention to the man that killed the disaster and shower him with ‘praises’. This would automatically remove the dark cloud hanging over all the heads of *Athenae*’s executives. The problem was...

“Who the hell would be able to do that? Tell me who. Huh?” President Kang Taehoon mocked, as Team Leader Park Minggyu closed his eyes after a deep and heavy sigh.

At the same time.

Gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp—

A woman was moving her spoon hurriedly as she ate. She was in such a hurry that she ended up lifting the entire bowl and gulping down its contents. The moment the woman finished drinking the contents of the bowl, the darkness that bloomed on her face and skin slowly receded, until it returned to its original color. Even her dry, rough, and tangled silver hair returned to its original smoothness, beauty, and luster.

This woman was none other than Sword Emperor Ellie.

“Puhaaa!” Ellie exhaled in contentment after eating the sumptuous meal. Then, she slowly stood up and reached for the sword that was hanging at one side. The sword immediately flew to her hands.

“Aide Ruth.”

“Yes, Your Majesty!!!”

“Let’s give our thanks to Minhyuk,” Ellie said, grinning widely.

Ellie, the Continental Emperor, the Absolute Supreme NPC, was on her way to the Korean Defense Base!

Chapter 380: Hunting Black Dragon

While the world was burning with excitement and enthusiasm after witnessing Minhyuk cut down Da Zhuang, the person that was cut himself was in awe.

‘How can there be a genius like him in this day and age...?!’ Da Zhuang thought as blood spurted out of his body.

Da Zhuang was a legendary assassin that had even killed an emperor before. The reason why he was still able to keep his cool was simply because of Anox, who had learned the Pinnacle. He even shocked the world with his incredible power during the final battle with Ellie. Back then, they would have all died already, if it were not for Anox. And this time, once again...

[Pinnacle Puppetry]

[Your body is trying to swap with another intact body.]

With their hidden trump card, Da Zhuang's body started to melt in preparation for its recovery. But then...

"Fluttering Sword."

Wind blew strongly around Minhyuk's body. The wind picked up the fallen leaves and made them flutter. Then, as if on cue, Carr also sheathed his sword as he slowly gripped the sheath before drawing his sword again.

"Continuous Quick Draw!!!"

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

The hundreds of troops that rushed to save Da Zhuang all fell down in a useless heap. Then, the golden leaves from Minhyuk's 'Fluttering Sword' turned as sharp as sword blades as they began to cut down the enemies.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping!

This attack also cut down hundreds of their enemies. Meanwhile, Da Zhuang, whose body was starting to form, thought, *'Did you think that I'm dead?'*

For a moment, Da Zhuang wondered if they were worried about him at all. Did they not see how resilient and persistent his people were during their fight with Ellie? Da Zhuang smirked as he watched his body's regeneration reach his neck.

'He's strong, but he's a moron.'

Da Zhuang could see that the eyes of the man in front of him were dull. His eyes could only see the enemies in front of him. At this moment, Da Zhuang's body had already regenerated up to his eyes. He immediately grabbed his dagger and thought, *'I'm coming now.'*

Carr and Minhyuk were still showing off their powerful force and momentum as they cut down the surrounding enemies. They did not spare any of their skills. The same was true for 'Bread Shuttle'. Then, at that moment...

"Found you."

"...?"

Da Zhuang looked at Minhyuk in doubt.

'Found you? What do you mean by 'found you'?''

Da Zhuang could not understand who Minhyuk found. Then, he slowly turned his head to look at the direction that he was looking at.

“...!”

Da Zhuang saw a living existence standing blankly in the distance. He knew full well who that was. That was his ‘*own self*’ created by ‘Anox’ using his skill Pinnacle Puppetry. Da Zhuang would be able to revive the moment he died, by swapping his body with that puppet. In fact, after any of their deaths, they would be able to survive again, as long as Anox made another puppet like that.

However, the story would be different if that puppet got destroyed. Da Zhuang’s pupils shrank in disbelief.

‘*H... how...?*’

Da Zhuang had been revived by the Pinnacle Puppetry during their battle with Ellie. He thought, ‘*Ellie had seen through this power back then. Did Ellie tell him? No, she’s not in a state where she can tell him that at all.*’

If that was the case, then what did this mean?

‘*He saw through it by himself?!*’

In fact, Minhyuk had watched the battle video between Ellie and the Black Dragon Order more than a dozen times, playing it on repeat. When Ellie said that she ‘*found it*’, he realized that there was a reason why they came back to life. That was when he realized it as well. So, he turned his attention towards the enemies that surrounded Ellie.

For skills like this, there was a high chance that the puppet was close to the skill user. So, what would happen if he used his skills to sweep away the surrounding enemies? Then, there would only be one person left.

The reason?

The puppet would be designed to be resilient and tough. This meant that its defense or HP would be much higher than anybody else. There was also a high probability that the puppet was wearing a mask or a helmet, while hiding amongst the enemies.

Da Zhuang was already almost complete. But, Minhyuk was already peeling off the helmet from the puppet.

“N...no!!!”

Da Zhuang’s face, with his unfocused eyes, appeared. Then, Minhyuk swung his sword down fiercely.

Slash—

At that moment, Da Zhuang’s figure that was almost regenerated, melted once again. Then, the notifications rang for Minhyuk.

[You have successfully hunted Da Zhuang, who had stepped on the Pinnacle realm.]

[You have gained 500 REP.]

[You have gained 500,000,000 EXP.]

[Due to the Marrow Bone's Power, a 3x EXP buff has been applied.]

[You have gained an additional 1,000,000,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have acquired Da Zhuang's Bloody Dagger.]

[You have acquired Da Zhuang's records of Assassin's Dagger Technique: 'What is the Pinnacle Dagger Skill?'.]

[You have gained 845 platinum.]

Unique Title

Title Effects:

? You will receive an additional 12% increase in both Attack and Defense in a battle against those that have mastered the Pinnacle.

? You will receive an additional 15% increase in both Attack and Defense in a battle against opponents that are 200 levels stronger than yourself.?

? Your body has developed into a body that can truly climb to the Pinnacle realm.

? Has a 60% chance of ignoring the opponent's defense.

? The damage will double upon successful hit to a vital point.

? Movement Speed increases by 1.5x

? Active Skill: Deadly Strike

It was truly a drop worthy of a legendary figure like Da Zhuang. The best part of this was the fact that the dagger could increase the wearer's movement speed by 1.5x.

'Fufu. I'll give this to Abel so I can get something delicious.'

Minhyuk's thoughts were the same as ever. Of course, this thought did not linger in his head for longer than necessary. This was because he still had plenty of enemies that he did not have the luxury to dawdle around.

Then, these notifications rang for his enemies:

[Da Zhuang, your Commander-in-Chief, has been killed by the enemy.]

[Your morale has decreased sharply.]

[All of your stats have decreased by 15%.]

[Your skill cooldown has increased by 15%.]

[Your attack hit rate has decreased by 10%.]

The enemies fell into chaos. They had just witnessed Da Zhuang's absolute death! Minhyuk even found Anox, who was hiding nearby, and used his sword to cut him lightly. Simply put, the '*Black Dragon Order*' had completely collapsed under the hands of the Food God.

That might be the case, but things still were not looking optimistic for the Asgan players.

[It's completely shocking and unbelievable that three people alone can deal this much damage against their enemies.]

[Those players are the best players in Korea. Ah, pardon. Let me rephrase that. We can safely say that they are the best players in the entire world right now.]

One of the commentators corrected himself.

Carr was originally Korea's number one ranker in the official rankings. On top of that, he temporarily acquired Conir's power when Conir possessed his body. Then, there was Bread Shuttle Mei Wei, she was the woman hailed as the official global number one ranker. And then, there was Minhyuk, he was the commander that these two people served willingly.

However, there were literally too many enemies.

[There are still 30,000 enemies left.]

[No matter how many times they cut their enemies down, they would eventually get tired and exhausted.]

[If each of the 30,000 enemy troops dealt 100 damage, the accumulated damage that they would receive would be huge.]

Even the ordinary viewers were of the same opinion.

[The three of them did their part well. They hunted Da Zhuang, the Black Dragon Order, and 20,000 troops, all on their own.]

[No person would dare to deny that the Food God is on par, perhaps even stronger, with the Summit Five.]

[I want to join the Let's Eat Sect Guild...]

[I want to join the Let's Eat Sect too.]

With Minhyuk at the center of the world's spotlight, it was only natural that the interest of the public towards the Let's Eat Sect would increase. But then, at that moment...

[Huh? I think there's a strange black being flying over there?]

[Oh? What's that over there? Wow, your eyes are really sharp, huh? How can you see that?]

It was just a tiny speck that appeared in the distance, like a small dot from a ballpoint pen placed on a clean sheet of paper. However, this speck of dot was growing in size. That was when the cameras

broadcasting all over the world turned to look at it. Even the broadcasters from all over the world began to buzz.

[Camera 5!!! The sky! Get a shot of the sky!!!]

[Camera 8!!! Is it still impossible for you to identify the mysterious flying being?!!!]

[What the hell is that?! It's getting bigger and bigger!!!]

The truth was the broadcasting stations were about to lose their ratings. After all, it seemed like it would take days before the three against 30,000 battle happening over here would finish. But just when they have decided to just look at the 'results' later, a mysterious, unidentified flying being appeared in front of their cameras.

With the appearance of the mysterious flying being, they expected their ratings to shoot up once again. The broadcasters from all over the world were hoping that this mysterious flying being would revive their dying ratings. And they did get their wish, as the mysterious flying being truly revived their ratings.

However, it was through despair. Despair had caused their ratings to skyrocket.

Before they knew it, the speck of dot had grown so big, to the point where they could see its outline. The mysterious flying being was as huge as a mountain and had two gigantic wings.

Then, the terrifying roar came.

"Graaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

The roar made all of the players present in the Korean Defense Base cover their ears in pain.

"Keuaaaaack!"

"Aaaaaaargh!"

"Aaaaack! My ears! I can't hear!!!"

Blood flowed down from their ears, as their eardrums erupted from the loud roar. Some of the troops could not bear it and collapsed on the ground while shrieking in pain.

[...!]

[...!]

[...!]

[...!]

The ground shook from a single roar of this being. Then, the notifications rang for the players from both the Cairon and Asgan Continents.

[Black Dragon Vormon's Descent!]

[Black Dragon Vormon is in a frenzied state.]

[If you fail to stop Black Dragon Vormon's frenzy, both continents will be razed to the ground and turned into wastelands.]

[The ones that are able to hunt Black Dragon Vormon will receive rewards that have never been seen before.]

[The path to Black Dragon Vormon's 'Lair' will be shown to the ones that will be able to successfully hunt him.]

With Black Dragon Vormon's imminent arrival, fear and terror engulfed the entire area.

"D... Dragon...!!!"

"Are you crazy?!!!"

"There was no dragon invasion scheduled in the episode?!!!"

"Hey! Get a grip!!!"

Plenty of the troops were rolling on the ground in pain, while those that were still standing were already cowering from fear. This was a being that reigned supreme in the *Middle-Earth* worldview. On top of that, Black Dragon Vormon was said to be an existence that far surpassed the Dragon Lord in strength.

That was right. *Athenae* had earlier announced that Black Dragon Vormon would not directly invade the Continent Cloud. That was why they could not understand the situation right now. That was when they discovered an existence standing on top of Black Dragon Vormon's back.

"Crazy... Crazy Tyrant Akhan!!!"

"It's, it's, it's the Crazy Tyrant!!!"

He was an existence that brought terror to the American *Athenae* server. This person wore a skull mask, a black robe, and held a scythe. This person was known as the Crazy Tyrant, Akhan. However, the information about him was not complete and precise. All they knew was that he was an existence that brought 'terror' wherever he went. This man, as though possessed by ghosts, mumbled viciously and hoarsely, "This is a disaster." Then, he disappeared after those words, leaving a frenzied Black Dragon Vormon behind.

[Shit. How can they kill something like that?!]

[No. They have to do the best they can. But, how can any player hunt a dragon right now?!!!
Goodness, our Minhyuk could have wiped out those 30,000 troops!]

[*Athenae* operators, make sure to make an announcement and compensate everyone for this!!!]

Meanwhile, the commentators...

[A disaster has appeared in front of us...!]

[Black Dragon Vormon is an existence that can easily travel between both Cairon Continent and Asgan Continent. If no one can stop him, then both the Chinese and Korean servers might just disappear from existence.]

[In the first place, there's no way that a player can hunt a dragon right now.]

[This is clearly Crazy Tyrant Akhan's doing.]

[Crazy Tyrant Akhan has been constantly disrupting the plans of the *Athenae* Management.]

[Perhaps this is the biggest disaster ever. Especially with the fate of two servers at stake.]

[Can they stop him? Will this episode end in vain?]

At that moment, Korea's ATV Broadcasting Station reached its all time high in viewership rating at 60%. And in front of 60% of the nation's population...

“Despair.”

The being hailed as the king of magic, Black Dragon Vormon, created thousands of magic spells around his body. This was a spectacular and terrifying sight that no one could ever replicate. And then...

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

The notifications rang for the players as the spells rained down on their 30,000-strong troops.

[Your Magical Defense has been deemed useless.]

[Your HP has turned zero. You have been forced to log out.]

[Your Magical Defense has been deemed useless.]

[Your HP has turned zero. You have been forced to log out.]

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[Your Magical Defense has been deemed useless.]

[Your HP has turned zero. You have been forced to log out.]

It was just an instant. However, in that short time, more than 6,000 players had been wiped out. The entire world was thrown into panic and chaos from the horrifying display of force that Black Dragon Vormon showed.