

Gourmet 81

Chapter 81: I'm Going to Tell My Noona About This

Minhyuk and the other miners went inside the mining cave and finally saw the dead monsters. Since the bodies of the dead monsters would just disappear over time, the miners did not pay them any heed as they slowly took their places to start mining.

“Ruwan. You and the new recruit are both foreigners, so let him know how we work.”

“Yes. I understand,” Ruwan agreed, standing beside Minhyuk and spitting loudly on both of his hands. Then, he said to Minhyuk, “Well then... You should lift your pickaxe like this!”

Ruwan pulled the pickaxe high and swung it down, towards the rocks with all his might.

Bang!

Ruwan grinned proudly after seeing a pile of stones splatter on the ground. He thought, ‘I haven’t changed my job class yet, but I must’ve gotten the ‘Steel Mining’ skill in the process of getting the Steel Blacksmith class. Hoho!’

Then, Ruwan started to work diligently to mine for iron ores. He was able to get a piece of iron ore only after five minutes of digging around. Seeing that he got an iron ore, the miners spoke out in admiration.

“Oh. Ruwan, you lucky bastard, you already got one?”

“Keuhaha! You’re finally using your strength correctly!”

“Ruwan’s our mining team’s ace!”

Ruwan shrugged as he listened to the praises that they heaped on him. Then, he turned to Minhyuk and said, “Well, if you’re able to mine one within five minutes, that will be great. They will all react like this too. It will be okay even if you can only mine two in an hour, Minhyuk.”

Minhyuk nodded. Ruwan believed that he was truly the fastest among them. After all, his Steel Mining skill had considerable power even though it was not perfect yet! Ruwan even thought that no one could surpass him in terms of mining. In fact, Ruwan was just lucky that the iron ore came out so fast. Originally, he could only mine one ore every fifteen minutes.

Then, Minhyuk transformed Ellie’s Kitchen Knife into a pickaxe. He walked towards the spot in the wall where a bright red spot was glowing. He gripped his pickaxe tightly with both arms and struck on that spot with great strength.

Fwoooooom—

Clink!

A pile of stones tumbled down from the walls the moment Minhyuk’s pickaxe landed. The entire pile was even larger than Ruwan’s pile. Then, a notification rang in his head.

[Please fill the Proficiency Bar to 100% in order to add the Mining Skill to your Blacksmithing.]

Unlike other additional abilities, one needed to mine themselves in order to obtain the mining skill. Thus, Minhyuk struck the wall once again.

Fwoooooom—

Clink!

Rumble, rumble, rumble—

[You have acquired an Iron Ore.]

“Oh, an iron ore...!” Minhyuk shouted in shock. Iron ore appeared after he struck the wall twice. Even Ruwan’s eyes widened when he saw this happen. Leton also discovered what happened after hearing the commotion.

“Gasp?!”

“I, it’s a coincidence, right~!”

“Our new recruits are quite lucky today!”

Then, Minhyuk struck the wall again.

Fwoooooom—

Clink!

Rumble, rumble, rumble—

[You have acquired an Iron Ore.]

“Oh. Another one!”

“...”

“...”

The people that surrounded Minhyuk were now speechless. Meanwhile, Ruwan stood still next to him and murmured, “You... How in the world...”

Ruwan had the hidden class Steel Blacksmith and although he still had not mastered it, his Proficiency Bar was already almost filled!

‘How could someone that had just started to mine do so well?!’

“W, what’s your secret?”

“I eat well and work diligently!”

“...Hmm,” Ruwan hummed in doubt. He wondered if he heard him correctly.

Minhyuk then stood facing the direction where the “Ingredient Tracking” was pointing, and grabbed his pickaxe with determination. He thought, ‘I’m going to eat... brownies!’

Fwoooooom!

Clink!

Rumble, rumble, rumble!

[You have acquired a Chocolate Ore.]

‘I’m going to eat... chocolate!’

Fwoooooom!

Clink!

Rumble, rumble, rumble!

‘I’m going to drink... Mocha coffee!’

Clink!

Rumble, rumble, rumble!

Minhyuk continued to mine for delicious chocolate! He recalled a famous line in the movies that said, ‘Life is like a box of chocolates.’ The box might be filled with chocolate, but the flavors would be different. The box could be filled with sweet or bitter chocolate. When you picked one out of the box without knowing anything, you would not know whether the chocolate was bitter or sweet. It was just like life. No one would know whether the path that they chose was the sweet path that they always wanted or the bitter path that everyone hated.

Minhyuk could never relate to those words before. For him, to compare his life to a box of chocolate... then his box of chocolate would just be an empty box. However, it was different now. Ever since he had accessed Athenae, he was able to fill his chocolate box with sweet chocolates one step at a time. The Chocolate Tree would be one of them. That was why Minhyuk was giving it his all.

Fwoooooom!

Clink!

Rumble, rumble, rumble!

Acrid dust and clouds of smoke would rise that irritated Minhyuk’s eyes and nose making them water every time he struck his pickaxe on the walls. His body began to gradually get drenched with sweat while his arms started to tingle from too much work. However, he was still happy even though the job was hard. In fact, he was even laughing.

Fwoooooom!

Clink!

Rumble, rumble, rumble!

Minhyuk did not know how much time had passed. All he knew was that he had to swing his pickaxe. He seemed to have heard Leton and the other miners’ voices from behind.

“It’s been over an hour!”

“Boy, aren’t you pushing yourself too hard?!”

They soon realized something...

‘He can’t hear our voices...!’

‘My goodness! Such concentration!’

Minhyuk did not seem like he felt anything at all, but two hours had already passed since he started mining. Due to the high intensity, the miners always worked for forty minutes, and rested for twenty minutes. However, Minhyuk had been working non-stop for two hours. He was concentrating really hard that he did not hear the voices of concern from the other miners, but he did hear the notifications that rang in his head.

[You have acquired an Iron Ore.]

[You have triggered the skill: Will.]

[All of your skills and abilities related to DEX will temporarily increase by 28%.]

Then, his movements started to pick up speed.

Fwoooooom!

Clink!

Rumble, rumble, rumble!

It did not end there.

[You have gained 1 DEX.]

Minhyuk heard the notifications ringing in his head but his mind was only focused on chocolate. All he did was to keep on digging and striking the walls, until his hands were riddled with wounds. He even had to use ‘Bandage’ on himself to stop them from bleeding.

[Mining has been added to your Novice Blacksmithing Skill.]

Minhyuk was able to fill his proficiency bar quickly. He also had a huge pile of iron ore sitting quietly beside him. To be honest, the pile of iron ore obtained by Minhyuk was already comparable to the total iron ore that the entire Fifth Mining Team had mined themselves.

Five hours later...

Clink!

Rumble, rumble, rumble!

...Minhyuk finally stopped mining. He wiped his sweat off of his face and body that was completely drenched with sweat. Everyone else stopped when Minhyuk stopped. The miners had worked harder than usual because they saw Minhyuk moving diligently.

‘Our new recruit is working so hard! We can’t sit down and continue to rest like this!’

‘Let’s mine too! We’ll get fired if we go on like this!’

The Fifth Mining Team had the lowest mineral turnover among all the mining teams so they were already in danger of getting fired any day now! However, thanks to Minhyuk repairing their mining

tools and equipment, they were able to mine better. The miners felt that they were mining easier and there were plenty of iron ores too!

Ruwan separated the ores that Minhyuk had dug up and counted them down. He said, “152 pieces...”

“...”

“...”

Everyone was speechless. This was almost equivalent to what the entire Fifth Mining Team could mine for half a day! When Ruwan counted, the mining team was able to mine around 194 pieces. This meant that they had already mined enough to fulfill their quota for the day. In fact, they even had an excess!

“You’re really amazing...” Ruwan said in awe. How could a single person mine for iron ores so hard and diligently? After seeing Minhyuk work hard, Ruwan was once again reminded about a saying about working hard and more diligently to achieve what he wanted to achieve. He thought, “No wonder. This person is extremely skillful because he always tries his hardest on everything!”

In a way, Minhyuk was only working hard because he wanted to eat chocolate. However, the others did not know this. What he did was even difficult for the miners that depended on this work for their living. What more for the foreigners that came here only to have some fun?

Minhyuk picked up one of the chocolate ores that he mined. Looking at it, he could not see anything special about it, it even looked like it was just an iron ore. However, a black chocolate appeared the moment he peeled off the foil. The chocolate from the chocolate ore was a bit bigger compared to an adult male’s fist.

Nonetheless, he was still able to devour the fist-sized chocolate ore with ease. He ate one, two, three, four, five pieces in one go. It was as if he was recharging himself with sugar as he sat down eating chocolates. Ruwan and the rest of the miners gaped at him in shock.

“One piece of chocolate ore... is about one kilogram each, right?”

“Yeah...”

“But, he already ate 14 pieces... that’s about 14 kilograms. No, wait. Wasn’t he also eating chocolate when he was repairing our tools in front of the mining cave earlier? I think he ate about ten pieces earlier, so... he already ate almost thirty kilograms of chocolate today...”

“....!”

“....!”

Ruwan’s murmurs made Leton and the rest of the miners shocked beyond belief. The chocolate ore only has a one out of ten probability of coming out when digging for iron ores. They were also much more expensive compared to regular chocolates with their prices twice that of the regular

ones. Right now, they felt like they were watching a chocolate mukbang hosted by an elephant with how much chocolate Minhyuk had eaten.

The moment Minhyuk finished eating his chocolates, he stood up from his seat and started to mine for iron ores again.

“Boy, would you come with me for a moment?”

“Yes?” Minhyuk asked, tilting his head in confusion when he heard Leton call for him.

Leton led Minhyuk further inside the mines where the rest could not hear them and said, “Do you remember what I told you earlier? About your question about the Chocolate Tree?”

“Ah. Yes!”

“Actually, I lied to you about not knowing anything. The Chocolate Tree actually exists.”

Minhyuk just nodded. He knew that it existed thanks to his Ingredient Tracking skill. Then, Leton continued to say, “I’ve always believed that I shouldn’t tell anyone about the existence of the Chocolate Tree... but now, I can see that you’re not just anyone.”

Notifications rang in Minhyuk’s head the moment Leton finished speaking.

[You have completed the Secret Quest: ‘A True Chocolate Lover.’]

[Every time you dig up a special ore, you will be able to dig up a much more special Chocolate Ore compared to the regular Chocolate Ore.]

“Oh...?!” Minhyuk exclaimed in shock. A secret quest? Then, Minhyuk thought, “Leton said that he can’t just tell the legend to just anyone. That means that I was already doing the secret quest the moment I met with Leton!”

Secret quests were always like this. No one knew when and where it would pop out. In fact, Minhyuk was really excited about the reward that he received from this secret quest. After all, he would be able to get a more special Chocolate Ore whenever he mined a special ore.

Then, he heard Leton sigh heavily. He said, “Boy, I wish you could just easily approach the Chocolate Tree. Unfortunately, the legends said...”

Leton paused for a moment, as if to collect his thoughts before speaking again, “...Only those who have the key would be able to open the path towards the Chocolate Tree.”

“...So does that mean that I will not be able to go no matter what I do?”

“Well, I don’t know about that. But right now, I know for sure that you won’t be able to get there because you still don’t have the key.”

Minhyuk felt a bit sad when he heard the information about the key. However, he was not someone so easily discouraged. What if he mined the key someday? Nothing was impossible in this world! Just then...

Ruuuumble—

“Huh?”

...a pile of stone suddenly collapsed from somewhere near the two of them. They both looked at the space where the pile of stones once was in curiosity.

Brony arrived at the vicinity of the Bretley Mines. He thought, ‘I definitely need to check out the mines before I take over it.’

They needed to kill all of the NPCs before they could take over the mines. So, before they attacked, Brony needed to look at the overall situation. He even drank an extremely expensive potion that would allow him to turn invisible for half an hour. As a result, he would not be able to attack during that duration, otherwise, his invisibility would be canceled.

‘There are a total of 30 soldiers deployed in the troops that supervise the mines. This will be a piece of cake.’

Brony nodded as he went inside another place. This time, it had the sign saying ‘Fifth Mine’. Brony could see all of the miners working diligently the moment he entered.

‘Ho. Aren’t those the foil of those iron-like chocolates? Isn’t that a bit strange?’ Brony thought to himself. This was the Chocolate Ore that he only heard of! However, he could only see the foils. It seemed like the miners ate them to replenish their energy.

Then, Brony went further inside the mine only to hear faint voices. He thought, ‘I can hear people talking over here. Are they still working there?’

Brony had to check carefully if there were more people inside. This was so they could prepare and make an exception if there was a royal knight or someone stronger before taking over the mines.

Just then, he caught sight of the people talking, and his body trembled wildly. He even unknowingly stepped back, his father’s warnings echoing in his ears. ‘You bastard. The tiger cub has grown, the tiger cub is now old enough to be considered a tiger on his own.’ He had also grown up... the protagonist of his nightmare and his darkest history.

‘Ka, Kang Minhyuk...!’

Brony clasped his mouth with both of his hands to make sure that he would not let out any unsightly scream, while quickly trying to back away. However, in his haste, he stepped on the pile of stones that the miners had piled up and made it collapse.

“Huh?”

“...?”

The two people who were talking seriously suddenly turned towards his direction. The eyes of Kang Minhyuk, the person he had identified, glinted as he stared straight at Brony.

Badump, badump, badump, badump, badump!

Brony’s heart beat wildly, as if it wanted to escape from his chest.

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“Sometimes, it will fall down on its own if you stack it wrongly.”

“Ah. I see.”

Brony breathed a sigh of relief when the two people in front of him turned their heads away.

‘Phew...’

Brony’s chest was still beating wildly. Although he called the memories of that time as ‘Anyway, it’s just a part of my dark history...’ he could still vividly remember how terrible it was. Kang Minhyuk was someone that would never let his enemies go once he latched on to them. That bastard was now in Bretley Mines! Just then, Brony paused. He thought, ‘But, this bastard...’

Brony squinted to look at Minhyuk’s equipment. He could see that Minhyuk was holding a pickaxe in his hands. The Bretley Mines was frequented by blacksmiths who were at most at Level 100, which meant that Minhyuk was not yet at Level 100. He even had a production class!

‘However, I’m still cannot be too sure about him.’

There were always exceptions to the rule. Brony looked at the now matured and grown-up Kang Minhyuk. He was about ten centimeters taller than back then, and his face had lost its immaturity.

‘Life’s not fair. He looks really handsome,’ Brony thought sourly. It was one thing that Brony had to admit. Thinking about it, Brony had lost all contact with his classmates when he transferred schools. He did not know how it happened but it just did. He also recalled that his father told him not to cause any trouble with him. But that was...

‘That’s in reality!’

Would the son of the Chairman of Ilhwa Group willingly share that he got PK-ed inside the game and go after them in public? Of course not. Besides, what if he was really just a production class player?

‘When will I ever step on him, if not now!’ Brony thought. This proved that Brony never listened to what his father said!

Not long after, Brony left the Bretley Mines. Then, he drank another invisibility potion and checked the surroundings carefully. He also went into the other mines and listened to the miners’ conversations.

“I also saw that guy. The moment that I saw him, I thought that I should probably work harder. He can do bandaging, blacksmithing and even cooking, you know?”

“What an amazing guy!”

After listening to the miners’ stories and conversations, he summed up everything and analyzed their topic.

‘Even if that person is a production class player, how does he have three skills related to DEX? How did it happen? Ah, maybe he has a hidden class?’

A character that could learn more production skills compared to others. In any case, he was still easy to deal with, albeit with a hybrid class. After all, non-combatant players were considered to be weak. Even if they reached Level 100, their strength would only be comparable to Level 70 warrior class players.

Brony could definitely see it. He thought, “Keuhahahahahaha! The day where I can step on Kang Minhyuk has come!”

Brony grinned widely as he looked forward to the day when he could trample on Kang Minhyuk.

Minhyuk continued to mine for ores inside the mines for two straight days without much of a break. His only reason was because he wanted to eat a more special chocolate! However, no matter how much he tried, the drop rate for these special ores was just abysmally low. Still, he thought positively and continued to dig. With his unwavering will, he finally saw an ore that was shining with a golden light.

[You have acquired a Gold Ore.]

[You will be able to receive a special Chocolate Ore if you want to.]

“Oh!” Minhyuk shouted happily.

Ruwan approached Minhyuk and said, “Gasp...?! That, isn’t that a gold ore? Wow, this is much more expensive than iron ore!”

“Ah, really?! I...is that really true!”

“Of course. You can even buy an item with it...”

“Then, I can eat something much more delicious?!”

“Yes?” Ruwan asked, a bit taken aback. He wondered what this guy was saying?

Minhyuk quickly made his decision. He said, “I’ll get the special chocolate!”

A small light flashed, as the surface of the gold ore suddenly turned into a foil. Minhyuk hurriedly peeled off the foil. Then he saw...

...Crunch! It was none other than the Crunch?chocolate.?Crunch Chocolate!?It was chocolate with rice krispies inside it.

“Gasp. That...that’s a gold ore! Why did it become a chocolate.....”

“I got it from a quest.”

“N... No, why would you even turn a gold ore into chocolate?!”

“Delicious chocolate is much better than having useless gold!”

“...”

Ruwan could only sigh in defeat as Minhyuk stuffed his face full of Crunch. He did not even look at the details of the chocolate and just munched on it. The moment that he chewed on it, he could feel the crisp and crunchy texture of the chocolate as the sweetness spread in his mouth.

“As expected, chocolate is really better than gold!” Minhyuk said. Then, after eating Crunch...

[You have achieved the?Hidden Piece: True Chocolate Miner.]

[You have acquired 30 million gold.]

[You will be able to acquire gold whenever you eat chocolate from the mines.]

“...?”

Minhyuk looked like he won the jackpot before turning to Ruwan and asked, “What’s the market price for a piece of gold ore?”

“Five million gold.”

“That’s just a drop in a bucket.”

“....?”

Minhyuk did not explain in detail about that part. All he knew was that he could now get money whenever he ate chocolate! What’s sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

Leton grinned as he watched Minhyuk and his antics. He thought, ‘I know that he just wanted to eat chocolate, but I still can’t believe that this guy will work so hard to do so...’

He thought that Minhyuk was really amazing. Why? In the span of two days, he was the person with the least amount of sleep among all of them. Even when the whole mining team left him alone due to his harsh schedule, he still continued to work hard. His total result in those two days was equivalent to all of the harvest of all the five mining teams here. The total, even if one excluded the harvest of the rest of the Fifth Mining Team, was still much more compared to the rest of the four other mining teams. After a long time of feeling down, Leton was finally in high spirits. He thought proudly, ‘This person is from our Fifth Mining Team!’

Their achievements right now were all thanks to Minhyuk. He approached Minhyuk and said, “Boy, I have a proposal for you.”

“Proposal?”

“Yeah.”

Leton nodded his head as he laid down his proposal. He asked, “By any chance, do you have any intention of being a legendary miner?”

[Mining Captain Leton has suggested that you become a Legendary Miner.]

[If you accept and become a Legendary Miner, then your blacksmithing will increase and your output in mining will be ten times more than the others.]

‘...!’

Minhyuk had not been aware of this. He did not expect that Leton was a guardian that could give out a Legendary class! The very same Leton, the leader of the mining team that was on the verge of being disbanded! It turned out that the trigger condition for the 'Legendary Miner' quest was to help the Fifth Mining Team overcome their crisis, helping them obtain an overwhelming mineral turnover that would make them the highest among all of the mining teams. Minhyuk had gone above and beyond in more ways than one.

"As you can see, the Legendary Miner will allow you to have a mining speed that's ten times faster than normal miners, which will give you ten times the output. Also, you will get special abilities for your blacksmithing skills."

"Gasp?!" Ruwan gasped and reacted to the explanation, not Minhyuk. He thought, "Ten times the output compared to normal miners?!"

That was ten times more than what regular miners could get, which meant that it was an opportunity for anyone to become a rich man. Furthermore, what if he also received better skills on top of getting a faster mining output?

'Wow... Receiving this legendary class for a class change is like winning the lotto for someone with a production class!'

It would definitely generate a lot of impact and influence. In addition, the blacksmithing ability would increase tremendously once the class was accepted.

However, at this moment, Minhyuk was agonizing over how he would politely refuse the offer. In the end, he said, "I'm really, really, really grateful for your proposal. Captain Leton. However, I already have a class. It's an extremely great class where I can eat really, really well and... I think that my current class suits me the most."

"Phew. That class is much more suited to you compared to mining? Anyway, it seems like your class is related to eating. Sigh. I get it," Leton said in disappointment, but he still nodded in understanding. Minhyuk knew that he received this proposal because he got very close with Leton over the course of two days.

"Huh?! Minhyuk, you really won't take it? For real?! Then, let me do it! Me! Me! I've been doing my best as the youngest so far! Please let me do it!"

Leton looked at Ruwan from head to toe and said, "Boy... Hmm... It's not like that... you know. Something like that..."

"What? What do I know?"

"Ah, you know, that?" Leton said before turning around.

"No, what was that?!" Ruwan exclaimed. However, Leton just left without saying anything further. Ruwan was so curious about the words that Leton blurted out.

Three days later.

Kald went towards an area that was not too far from the Bretley Mines. It was the place where he could place the key in. He thought, 'The entrance to that place will appear two hours after I insert the key.'

The moment Kald inserted this key, plenty of stronger monsters would rush out of the mines. The people inside the mine would not be able to hold them back but the Horden Guild would definitely be able to hunt them. Kald was certain that there was no other variable. They had prepared for this moment perfectly. After some time, Kald sent a whisper to Brony.

[Kald: Are you ready?]

[Brony: Of course. All of my guild members are now ready to be deployed in front of the mines.]

[Kald: Make your move as soon as I send the signal out.]

[Brony: Yes!]

After confirming the status of Brony and his guild members, Kald decisively inserted the key. Then, notifications rang in his ears.

[You have used the Legendary Key.]

[The Road to the Legend will open in two hours.]

Kald quickly notified Brony when he heard the notification.

[Kald: Now!]

Leton was extremely angry when he entered the mines. He said, "Those damn soldier bastards!"

"In the end, they did not allow it again?"

"With all the output that we have in these three days, they still did not allow it?!"

They grumbled loudly, complaining about the soldiers' stance on the matter. The Fifth Mining Team had amassed a lot of iron ores in the past three days. However, the soldiers had remained tight-lipped, ignoring the miners' pleas when they demanded better distribution and a set of equipment. It was a matter of fact that they should not cut off their supplies right now. Besides, Minhyuk was still working hard to gather minerals and ores inside.

Right at that moment...

"Keuaaaack!"

"Uwaaaaack!"

"Keoheeeeek!"

Screams came from outside the mines.

"W...what was that?!"

"What's that sound?"

The miners were shocked when they heard sudden screams from the outside. It did not end there... All of a sudden, there were monsters coming out from the depths of the mines. They were Iron Wolves!

“...Gasp?!”

“Gasp?!”

The miners trembled in fear. The monsters that usually appeared in the mines were only around Level 80-100. However, Iron Wolves were considered to be quasi-boss mobs and were above Level 150. Right now, a bunch of these monsters had appeared in front of them!

“H...how could this be? Everyone, run...!” Leton shouted. However, before he could finish his words, the Iron Wolf lunged forward.

“Grrr!”

The Iron Wolf opened its maw and went for Leton’s head but then...

Slash!

Ruwan quickly hit the head of the Iron Wolf with his pickaxe.

“Grrr!”

However, Ruwan’s blow did not deal any major damage to the Iron Wolf. After all, Ruwan was still just a Level 100 warrior class player before he came to the mines. This was the only reason why his strength and physical abilities were vastly different compared to the miners. Ruwan knew that he could not defeat these monsters. However, he was a human being, if he saw the miners die in front of him, his heart would also feel empty. Other players would say, ‘What does it matter if the NPCs died?’. He was different. Ruwan quickly calculated his chances as he thought, ‘Will I be able to buy them time to run away?’

After all, Ruwan would not suffer much of a penalty, and he would just be logged out. In fact, all of his artifacts were so shitty that it was just like iron ore even if he dropped them here. However, as he looked around, he realized, ‘Damn it... Minhyuk is just a production class player!’

Ruwan could only trust other players to assist him at this point. Unfortunately, the other player that he could rely on was a Level 90 production class player! It would be difficult for both of them to buy the miners enough time, even if they joined forces. Ruwan quickly made a decision. He said, “Minhyuk, quickly take the miners away! Lion’s Roar!”

[Lion’s Roar.]

[Irritates all of the monsters within a five-meter radius and draws their attention towards the user.]

“Grrr!”

“Grrrrrrr!”

All of the Iron Wolves turned to look at Ruwan. Ruwan was confident that this skill would allow Minhyuk and the rest to evacuate safely. However, when he turned his head around he saw Minhyuk right behind him. He was not running away. Ruwan even saw Leton pulling his arms and trying to persuade him.

“L...let’s go quickly! What else can you do! We won’t be of any help to him even if we stayed here!”

However, Minhyuk still stood there without moving an inch. Ruwan smiled at him and thought, ‘Are you telling me that I shouldn’t be the only one who should be logged out? Do you want to come with me? We knew each other for just a short period of time, but you’re already treating me like a friend!’

Ruwan felt both happy and thrilled. However, Minhyuk, who was standing behind him, had a different line of thought altogether. He thought, ‘That. Isn’t that the mithril ore?!’

Minhyuk’s eyes were glued to where the mithril ore was. It seemed that it had fallen off the walls when the Iron Wolves appeared.

‘I feel like... there will be white chocolate in there,’ Minhyuk thought and licked his lips. At the same time, the Iron Wolves launched their attacks on Ruwan.

“Ru...Ruwaaaaaaan!”

“N...noooooo!”

“You might have looked like a bandit, but you still did a good job!”

Minhyuk murmured softly among the miners’ screams, “Step.”

1. used to say that one person or situation should be treated the same way that another person or situation is treated

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[Step.]

[You can instantly travel a distance of one meter allowing you to quickly narrow or widen your distance from your target.]

Minhyuk left an afterimage as he quickly moved a total distance of one meter in just two steps, placing himself in front of Ruwan.

[The Battlefield's Ruler.]

[You will receive a +10 increase in all 5 of your basic stats and a 10% increase in your critical hit damage.]

The first thing that Minhyuk did was to activate his title, Battlefield’s Ruler. The title effect would help him deal with opponents that were twenty levels or higher than him once activated.

[Ellie’s Swordsmanship.]

[All stats will have a 15% increase for 5 minutes.]

[Your Evasion Rate has increased by +30%.]

[Your Critical Hit Rate has increased by +30%.]

A shining streak of red light flowed through Minhyuk’s body as a strong current filled his every fiber.

[Rampant Sword.]

[A flurry of rampant swords with additional 30% attack power will be created for 5 seconds.]

The pickaxe in Minhyuk's hands turned into Ellie's Sword. Then, a flurry of afterimages appeared in front of him the moment he triggered Rampant Sword while swinging his sword.

Fwoosh!

[You have dealt a critical hit.]

[You have leveled up.]

Fwoosh!

Fwoosh!

[You have dealt a critical hit.]

[You have leveled up.]

A single strike from Minhyuk's sword blew away several Iron Wolves. The monsters shrieked as blood flowed down from their bodies.

“Keureaaaack!”

“Keuaccck!”

An Iron Wolf quickly tried to launch an attack towards Minhyuk...

[Step.]

[You can instantly travel a distance of one meter allowing you to quickly narrow or widen your distance from your target.]

...but he was quick to move back and use his Rampant Sword again to send a strike towards the attacking Iron Wolf.

Fwoosh!

Another wolf was eyeing Ruwan in the midst of the commotion. However, the effects of Rampant Sword had already died down. After all, five seconds had already passed.

[Sword of Fury.]

[There will be an additional 50% for strong lunges and stabs, if a vital strike is successful there the additional attack power will be 80%.]

Minhyuk accurately stabbed the lurking Iron wolf.

Stab!

The Iron Wolf exploded from the powerful stab that pierced through its thick iron fur and landed on a vital point.

Bang!

Ruwan's eyes widened in shock at the death of the Iron Wolf. He turned towards Minhyuk and exclaimed, “H...how...”

“Gasp...!”

Everyone was shocked. From what they heard, Minhyuk was still at Level 90. It was an established fact that Iron Wolves were Level 150 monsters. By all common sense, Minhyuk’s sword would not be able to graze, let alone stab through the Iron Wolves’ hide. However, as they had just witnessed, Minhyuk was able to easily deal with these wolves.

‘It’s all thanks to Food God’s True Worth and my delicious meals!’

Minhyuk had always used Food God’s True Worth as he continuously ate delicious food even after the tournament had ended! In fact, Minhyuk and the minotaurus from before had a 70-level gap but right now, the gap was much larger than that. However, he could still fight easily thanks to the epic-ranked skill, Ellie’s Swordsmanship!

“W...who are you...” Ruwan muttered. However, he flinched when Minhyuk suddenly started walking towards him. His legs shook as he backed off, trying to get away from Minhyuk.

“Hiiiiik!”

Minhyuk just walked past him. That was when Ruwan realized that there was something behind him, and that was none other than the Mithril Ore.

[You have acquired a Mithril Ore.]

[You will be able to receive a special chocolate if you want to.]

‘Receive it!’ Minhyuk thought. The moment he thought of receiving it, the surface of the Mithril Ore turned into a foil. What appeared under the foil was a box.

‘Oh... Oh... Oh...!’

Minhyuk was in awe.

He was a bit surprised by what he saw. This was because what appeared was a ‘Louis Chocolate’! However, he hurriedly stuffed the chocolate into his inventory.

‘I’m going to eat them later!’ Minhyuk thought. He understood their situation. Right now, Minhyuk had to work and take the miners out to safety. He said, “Let’s go.”

“Yeaah. R...right.”

“Okay...”

Ruwan and the miners nodded as they followed behind Minhyuk. That was when they encountered a group of people coming in from outside. The group of people parted, revealing a man with a smug expression, smirking at Minhyuk. This person was none other than Brony.

Stab!

“Keuack!”

Horden Guild quickly dealt with the NPCs stationed outside the mines. Brony even killed the Centurion.

[You are a Chaotic player.]

[Your Chaotic Level has increased.]

[You will now be tracked and pursued by the Barras Kingdom.]

Brony saw that the troops were easily dealt with. He ordered, "Keep the miners from getting out of the mines, the monsters will kill them anyway!"

The Horden's elite was composed of ten people. All of the mages, healers, dealers, and tanks were of excellent caliber. Brony grinned as they walked towards the mines where the Fifth Mining Team was located. He was going to deal with them first because Kang Minhyuk was there. He thought, 'I'll be able to kill that bastard in five minutes anyway. No, maybe he's already dead?'

Well, if that was the case, then his thirst for revenge would not be fulfilled. However, he might be able to get some good artifacts from the drops. After all, he saw some pretty expensive artifacts on Minhyuk's body when he scouted earlier. Brony and the others kept their leisurely pace, only to encounter a group of people rushing out of the mines.

Brony's brows wrinkled as he said, "Th...they're fine?"

"Huh?"

"What?"

According to Kald, there would be a sudden influx of stronger, higher-leveled monsters inside the mines the moment he inserted the key in. There was no way that this mine would be an exception. That meant that someone from this group hunted the monsters. Brony thought, 'What exactly happened?'

That was when Brony saw Minhyuk. He saw him walking in front of the group of miners. So, Brony stepped forward with a wicked grin as he said, "Long time no see?"

"..."

However, Minhyuk did not answer him. He just looked at Brony, his companions and their surroundings. Brony said, "Isn't this situation a bit similar to the past? Of course, your numbers might have increased, but they're all just useless luggage for you. Kahahaha!"

Minhyuk's expression turned strange. He seemed like he was trying hard to understand his words. Then, Minhyuk said, "Ah. It seems like you know me..."

"That's right, you damned..."

"I don't remember you though."

"..."

"...?"

"You don't know me?! I'm Lee Sangmin. Lee Sangmin, you know!"

“I don’t know you though...?”

Brony was very frustrated. Minhyuk was the main character of the dark history that was still deeply embedded in his mind! However, the main cause of his nightmare looked completely oblivious.

“You shit! You took my money in the past!”

“I did?” Minhyuk asked, looking extremely puzzled. It seemed like he still did not remember.

Brony was frustrated and agitated, he shouted, “That’s right. I even begged you to stop...”

Brony was shocked at himself. He did not know why he said that. What was worse was the fact that his guild members were here. The members of the Horden Guild started to whisper among themselves as they looked at him skeptically.

“He said that he was robbed of money in the past...”

“Based on his words, he sounds like he wasn’t that popular?”

“Uhhh... Our Guild Master... Uhhh...”

“...”

Brony gritted his teeth and said, “Phew. Anyway, this situation is a lot different from back then, right?”

Brony grinned darkly. This was a game. However, just like in reality, one could not knock down someone that had much superior and excellent physical abilities than them. Besides, Minhyuk was just someone below Level 100, while he and his guild members were much superior to him in terms of level! Brony said, “Get him down on his knees and make him beg for his life in front of me!”

Ras, a Level 160 warrior player, stepped forward at Brony’s words. He said, “Yes!”

To be honest, Ras could not understand why his GM had to dig up old memories when they were already busy enough. All he knew was they had to kill this person quickly so that they would be able to move on smoothly. So, Ras rushed towards Minhyuk. He thought, ‘He won’t be able to avoid this one since he’s below Level 100!’

Ras was sure that Minhyuk would not be able to keep up with his speed. Just like what he expected, Minhyuk was just standing there and not reacting to his attack at all. His ax struck down as if he wanted to hack him in two.

[Chaotic player.]

[No penalty will be incurred when PK-ed.]

[There is a high probability of an item dropping.]

If Ras’ attack was not successful, then the notifications for chaotic players would ring for both parties.

“Step,” Minhyuk said as he appeared in front of Ras. Minhyuk’s movement was so fast that an afterimage was left behind him. The only thing that Ras struck down with his ax was the ground.

Bang!

[Sword of Fury.]

[There will be an additional 50% for strong lunges and stabs, if a vital strike is successful there the additional attack power will be 80%.]

Minhyuk’s sword flashed red as he stabbed Ras’ waist.

‘You may be able to evade his attack with a skill, but the difference in level won’t let you get past Ras’ armor with your attack,’ Brony thought, grinning widely. However, at that very same moment, Minhyuk’s sword pierced Ras’ flank deeply.

Shing!

Minhyuk’s sword penetrated and cut through the full plate armor that Ras was wearing, before a huge explosion came from the sword embedded in his body.

Bang!

“Keuaack!” Ras shrieked. The huge force that exploded made him fly sideways until he crashed into the walls. Ras’ quickly checked his HP and said, “My HP got... cut off by 40%...!”

Brony looked completely shocked. He thought, ‘What?’

Brony looked at Minhyuk and wondered about the monsters that came out of the mines. He thought, ‘Did he hunt all those monsters alone? How in the world can a Level 90 do that...!’

That was impossible. Brony instantly had a bad feeling. He quickly said, “All of you, go and kill him!”

When they heard his words, the guild members behind him quickly moved. Ero, a Fourth Tier Mage, used his Lightning spell.

[Lightning]

[There’s a 10% chance of stunning enemies.]

Ssszzzt, szzzt, sszzzt!

The lightning flashed and slithered towards Minhyuk!

[Absorption]

[You have a 50% probability of successfully absorbing the skill.]

[Lightning has been successfully absorbed.]

[You can only use the absorbed skill once and only within ten minutes of absorption.]

Ssszzzt, szzzt, sszzzt!

The lightning that was crackling menacingly was absorbed by the ring in Minhyuk's hands.

"Gasp?!"

"Gasp?!"

Everyone let out sounds of exclamations! And then, Minhyuk stretched his hand forward.

[Lightning]

[There's a 10% chance of stunning enemies.]

Ssszzzt, szzzzt, sszzzt!

"Ugh!"

"Aaaack!"

The melee classes that were inching forward, trying to kill Minhyuk at close distance, were caught within the spell's radius and electrocuted.

[You have been stunned for one second.]

One of the players was stunned. Without missing the opportunity, Minhyuk approached the player. He said, "Step." before slashing at the stunned player.

[You have dealt a critical hit.]

"Ugh!" The player groaned as he took a step back from the force of the attack. He was very shocked to see how much HP he had lost in that one attack. However, Minhyuk did not let the stunned state go to waste. He continuously hit the player's head until he was forced to log out.

"G...Guild Master... He...he's strong?"

"What the hell is this..." Brony muttered. He could not understand what was happening. However, he still chuckled darkly and proclaimed, "We will still be able to kill him."

Minhyuk might be strong, but Brony believed that they were strong enough to kill him. Then, he heard the footsteps coming right behind him. It seemed like the guild members that he sent off to finish off the other miners from the other mining teams had already arrived. No matter what happened, Minhyuk would still die here. Although his strength was a bit unexpected, Brony was confident that Minhyuk would still die.

That was when Brony saw one of the miners creeping towards the walls. Brony realized that there was something unusual, he shouted, "Stop that bastard!"

Leton moved fast as the guild members of the Horden Guild tried to stop him. But then, Minhyuk jumped in between them and stabbed his sword into the ground.

[Earth Quake!]

[A violent earthquake is triggered within a ten-meter radius.]

“Ack?!”

“Gasp?!”

The guild members who were running after Leton shouted in surprise. One of them said, “Shit! Are you a warrior, a mage or a blacksmith?!”

No. There was no way that a character could be good in swordsmanship, magic and blacksmithing at the same time. What kind of situation was this? In response, Minhyuk pulled out his sword and calmly stepped out of the radius of the skill before saying, “I’m a chef.”

“...”

Brony was left speechless. All of his guild members had been stopped by the violent earthquake that erupted. The miner that they were trying to chase fumbled on the wall and pressed down on something. At that moment...

Rumble!

A huge transparent barrier came crashing down and blocked their way. It was like a wall that separated the guild members of the Horden Guild and the miners.

Thud!

They were completely blocked. Brony, who was quite confident earlier, watched helplessly as Minhyuk hunted and killed off his guild members that were trapped on the other side of the transparent barrier. It looked like he was just cleaning up trash with how fast he disposed of his members.

‘Damn it. I didn’t know that there was a barrier like this!’

Brony did not know that a button would trigger and activate a barrier. The barrier would close off entry to the mines after the troops entered to hunt and kill off the monsters. This was so no monsters could escape and cause harm to the miners that were waiting outside. Agitated, Brony struck the barrier.

[You have dealt 1,701 damage to the barrier.]

Brony’s damage was not enough to deal a huge amount of damage to the barrier. However, it seemed like they would still be able to break it down if they were to attack continuously. Brony smugly called out, “Right now, more monsters will come out from there. You’ll have to deal with them alone. Once this barrier breaks down, you’re going to die. What are you going to do now?”

Minhyuk looked as if he was pondering deeply about the actions that he would take next. Then, as if he got enlightened, he hit his palms with his fist and said, ‘Aha!’ before smiling widely, and said, “I’m going to tell my noona about this!”

“...”

“...”

“...”

Brony and his guild members who heard those words looked strangely at him. Then...

“Puhahahahahahaha! Noona? You’re gonna tell your noona?”

“Kahahahahaa. Are you going to tell your noona because you're scared?”

“Keuhahaha, is your sister the number one in the rankings?”

“She’s an NPC though? Are you disregarding my noona?”

“Keuhahaha. Wow, I’m so scared that I will pee myself just by seeing your noona!”

“...You’ll regret it.”

“Wow. We have been very rude to your extremely scary noona. Sorry. Isn’t it obvious? Your noona must have been a f*cker like you who’s hiding behind his mask and pretending to be nice. So, when is your noona coming? Huh? That f*cking noona of yours!”

Minhyuk looked blankly at Brony after he finished his outburst. Then he muttered to himself, “You’ll definitely be sentenced to 1,000 years in prison. Poor thing...”

“Well, once your noona comes, I will press her down with just a finger!”

Brony was quite confident with himself. Suddenly, one of his guild members asked him, “But what will we do if it’s really some amazing NPC?”

Brony whispered to him, “Amazing NPC? No, which NPC will let someone like that call them noona? Can’t you see his level? And, don’t you know? The client that commissioned this mission said that he was close to Marquis Calenon of the Barras Kingdom. We also have a backing!”

“A...a Marquis...!”

It was great to have ties with a Marquis! The guild members who heard his reassuring words looked like a heavy weight was lifted off of their shoulders. Meanwhile, Minhyuk was seen rubbing the phoenix symbol on the back of his hand.

1. Louis Sherry Chocolates, famous for their chocolates placed in tin cans. Usually filled with truffles.

2. short for Guild Master

Chapter 84: I’m Going to Tell My Noona About This

Ellie was just about to read a report about the Northern Continent, when the phoenix symbol on the back of her hand shone brightly. She frowned in worry. “...This...”

There was only one reason why the symbol would shine so brightly. It meant that the person with ‘Ellie’s Stigma’ was asking for her help. There was only one person who had this stigma. It was Minhyuk, her beloved younger brother and friend. Ellie looked at the light shining out of the symbol closely. Through the light, she could see where he was currently located. Ellie’s Stigma was, in a way, a link that was connecting him to her. Then, she slowly rose from her seat.

‘Barras Kingdom. Coordinate point K-51.’

Ellie nodded and called for Ruth, “Ruth, bring me a map of the Barras Kingdom.”

“Yes,” Ruth answered, immediately placing the reports down and moving quickly due to this sudden event.

The Barras Kingdom wanted to form a favorable connection with Empress Ellie of the Eivelis Empire. They wanted to be on friendly terms with the Empire. This showed how much strength and power the Eivelis Empire possessed. It was so attractive that the Barras Kingdom was like a child in front of the empire. The king of that kingdom, Richard, even had to bow his head whenever he met with Ellie!

She quickly looked through the map of the Barras Kingdom that Ruth handed over and said, “He’s located in the mines. Something must have happened there.”

Minhyuk was a playful and cheerful child. However, Ellie knew that Minhyuk had his calm, cautious and meticulous side. For such a child to request her help meant that he was faced with an incident that he could not deal with on his own. What was more, the child that was requesting her help was her only friend and younger brother. Ellie even promised him that she would run and come to him wherever he was whenever he needed help, right? Besides, there was a special warp gate in the palace that could easily teleport them to the Barras Kingdom.

“Ruth.”

“Yes.”

“It looks like Minhyuk is in danger.”

“...I see,” Ruth replied dumbly. He was not too pleased to recall the person who used the Empire’s Elixir to cook army stew, but he still nodded.

Then, Ellie gave her orders. She said, “Gather the Phoenix Knight Order within ten minutes. We will immediately head for the Barras Kingdom.”

“Yes!”

The knights of the Phoenix Knight Order were all masters that exceeded Level 350~400. They were also called the best knights in the whole continent. Those knights, together with the greatest Empress Ellie, started to move out.

Brony looked at all of his guild members gathered together. He asked, “The other mines were also blocked by a transparent barrier?”

“No.”

“As expected.”

Perhaps there were no miners that were able to reach out and press the button that would trigger the barrier in the other mines. Then, Brony looked over to the other side of the barrier, only to see Minhyuk bringing the miners further inside. He thought, ‘Who is that dumb bastard’s noona? He even led them further inside. Are they going to feed themselves to the monsters? Tsk!’

Brony grinned darkly as his guild members had started to attack the barrier with all kinds of skills and abilities.

[You have dealt 2,100 damage to the barrier.]

[You have dealt 1,813 damage to the barrier.]

[You have dealt 3,513 damage to the barrier.]

The transparent barrier that looked like it would not crumble at first, started to shake little by little. It seemed like it would take at least half an hour based on Brony's calculations.

'Will they die to the monsters first or will the barrier be broken first?' Brony wondered with malice, thinking that the situation would work out well for him and his guild.

Minhyuk deliberately led the miners further inside the mines. He knew that they would be extremely terrified if they continued to watch the barrier get attacked. Of course, this would also be the case if the monsters kept on coming out just like what they said. He thought, 'It seems like some people really don't change.'

Minhyuk finally recalled the memories of his past. Lee Sangmin was someone who liked bullying his friends back when he was young, while Minhyuk was someone that was close to almost all of his classmates. One of his friends burst out in tears and told Minhyuk, 'Lee Sangmin stole the money meant for my tuition fees!'

Back then, the child was in a very bad situation and was living poorly. However, Lee Sangmin still took money from the child. It seemed like the boy from back then had grown up to become more of an ass and a bully.

"W...what should we do now?" Ruwan asked.

Minhyuk just grinned and said, "Don't worry. No one in this place is going to die."

"No, if what those bastards out there said is true, then monsters will really come out from the inside..."

"Then, Ruwan and I will have to do our best," Minhyuk said as he pulled out his utensils and started to cook.

"W...what are you... Is now really the time to cook?!"

"I have to cook because I'm in this situation. My job is a chef, you know."

Minhyuk took out a carrot that was as big as his arm from his inventory. He had received this carrot from one of the sealed fruits when he reached Level 90. This was the Fruit of Carrot! Minhyuk had realized that the Food God's Cooking skill's buff amount was largely dependent on the type and grade of the ingredient that he used. From what he had observed, the number of buffs tended to increase significantly depending on the effects and special abilities attached to the ingredient itself. Of course, the fact still remained that the special abilities and effects of the ingredients would not be obtained permanently.

Minhyuk started to slice the carrot thinly. After preparing his ingredients, he started making fried rice.

Shwaaaaa!

Onion, carrots and ham. Even with just these three ingredients, the fried rice would still have an excellent flavor. The miners and Ruwan could not understand Minhyuk's reasoning, but they continued to watch him cook.

Minhyuk added the highest amount of buff that he could add into two bowls of fried rice while he set the buff normally for the rest of the servings. One bowl of fried rice with the highest amount of buff went to him, while the other went to Ruwan. The rest of the fried rice with normal buffs was distributed to the miners.

"Wow... Really... You're still in the mood to eat while all of us are shaking in fear," Ruwan said, sighing as he looked at the already munching Minhyuk.

"As expected! Fried rice is still delicious even if I just used these simple ingredients! If I put ripe kimchi on top of it then... Ah!"

"..."

'This person is really relaxed and comfortable.' Ruwan thought as he started to eat his portion of the fried rice to fill his fullness stat. Then, he stopped and thought, '...It's really delicious.'

The fried rice was so delicious that Ruwan closed his eyes in bliss. It was just a bowl filled with stir-fried rice, onions, carrots and ham, but he had to admit that it was really excellent. It was impossible to be bored of the taste. Ruwan's spoon did not stop moving.

"De...delicious..."

"It's like the tension in my body is gone."

"It's really delicious!"

The miners started to eat with great vigor. They ate like there was no tomorrow. After all, they were also quite hungry since they did heavy work earlier. After eating, Ruwan suddenly heard a notification in his ears.

[You have eaten Fried Rice.]

[Your stats will be increased for 10 hours: attack power +14%, defensive power +15%, STM +40.]

"Gasp...!" Ruwan gasped loudly in shock.

Meanwhile, the miners felt that their body was filled with strength.

"Oh, ooooooooooh...!"

"I just ate fried rice but my fatigue has disappeared!"

"H...how can this be?!"

Everyone started to exclaim in surprise. Ruwan looked at Minhyuk in awe, unable to see through him. Minhyuk, on the other hand, looked at his almost empty bowl and sighed sadly, "I already ate it all... That's too bad..."

The Fruit of Carrot would give him a permanent +20 boost in his STM. However, it was changed into a buff effect. So, instead of a permanent boost in his STM, it turned into a temporary buff effect with a double increase in STM. It might not be permanent, but for the short term, especially in their current situation, it was a huge boost in their strength.

Thud!

Thud, thud, thud!

Just then, monsters started to appear one by one, like what their enemies said earlier. This time, what appeared were Iron Golems, monsters that were at Level 170. They broke through the walls of the mines and appeared in front of them. Minhyuk quickly finished his meal and attacked the Iron Golems.

[Rampant Sword.]

[A flurry of rampant swords with additional 30% attack power will be created for 5 seconds.]

Rumble!

[You have dealt a critical strike.]

Rumble!

[You have dealt a critical strike.]

Crumble!

One solid and imposing Iron Golem fell with a thud and along with its death...

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

...Minhyuk's level rose. Ruwan also joined the fray and fought against the monsters. Even though his level was much lower compared to the monsters, the buff from Minhyuk's dishes had excellent effects. Of course, it was only to the point where he could protect the miners from the monsters' clutches, and from getting hurt or injured.

'He looks like he's the one at Level 170...?' Ruwan thought. He wondered how Minhyuk's stats could be so high despite his low level. At the same time, he also thought that they would be able to hold out until Minhyuk's mysterious noona arrived and rescued them. But...

'Who the hell is his Noona?'

This was Ruwan's greatest concern. Then, he thought, 'I think the barrier is going to break soon...'

Although he was hunting and killing off the monsters in front of him, Ruwan was still thinking about what would happen to them once the barrier was broken.

Kald was inside the Bretley Mines. Since he was wearing a mask, even the members of the Horden Guild could not recognize him. He had followed the other guild members into the different mining areas. He thought, 'It's not here either.'

The person who used the black key was the only person who would be able to see the entrance. However, there was no passageway or entrance in the first to the fourth mining area. The only area left that he was not able to check was the fifth mining area.

Kald sent a whisper to Brony, who said that he was in a difficult situation due to the players in the fifth mining area. However, he also said that the transparent barrier was going to break soon. So, Kald prepared to exit the fourth mining area. He thought, 'I'm sure that the entrance is in the fifth mining area.'

Then, he started walking towards the fifth mining area. However, the member of the Horden Guild who was walking in front suddenly came to a stop.

"..."

"What's the matter?" Kald asked, tilting his head in confusion.

One of the guild members also tilted his head as he looked towards a certain direction and said, "I... I don't understand the situation right now."

"Yes?" Kald asked in confusion again as he followed him out of the mines. The moment they got out of the mines, he finally saw the situation that they were in.

Troops armed with bright and impressive plate armors bearing the mark of the phoenix were marching from afar. A woman, wearing bright red armor marched at the very front, with her long blonde hair tied tightly with a string, and her sword gleaming brightly on her waist. Anyone, even if it was a one-year-old child connected to Athenae, would be able to recognize who this person was. No one in Athenae would fail to recognize the empress of the Eivelis Empire. The woman hailed as the Sword Emperor. Ellie.

Right now, there were people moving quickly around her. The imperial mages were already moving to prepare to cast their magic while the soldiers aimed their bows towards them and waited for Ellie's orders.

Step, step, step, step—

Ellie slowly looked around the mines until her eyes met with Kald's.

'Gasp...!'

Kald might have connections with the kingdom's Marquis, but Ellie was a different matter altogether. If the Marquis was a cat, Ellie was a tigress that could lead a group of full-grown tigers, despite tigers being known to be solitary creatures. Her sharp gaze made Kald flinch. Then, she opened her mouth and said, "So, you're a blacksmith."

“...!”

Kald knew that his identity was exposed just with Ellie’s words alone but he still kept his mouth shut since he did not know what to say. Ellie continued to say, “And you’re the culprit behind this mayhem.”

Ellie was talking about the corpses of the Barras Kingdom’s soldiers scattered all over the place. Kald gulped, his throat turning extremely dry at Ellie’s words. Then, Ellie waved her hand as she declared, “Let’s see your mug.”

Crack, crack, crack, crack!

Kald’s mask cracked and shattered, revealing his face.

Crumble—

“...!”

“Ka, Kald...?”

“The Blacksmith Kald? The second in the Blacksmith Rankings?!”

The guild members of the Horden Guild quickly realized who he was once his mask was removed. It was then that Kald realized the situation that he was in. He thought, ‘I’m f*cked...’

Chapter 85: I’m Going to Tell My Noona About This

Brony’s smile was so wide that his mouth looked like it was ripped open. It was because the transparent barrier was riddled with cracks! He only needed one final blow to bring the barrier down. He slowly gathered his strength in his hands as he grabbed the hammer tightly.

[Fullswing]

[Adds 22% additional damage to one strike.]

Fwooooooooooom!

Baaaaaang!

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

The cracks littering the transparent barrier started to spread, turning bigger and longer from the attack. Then...

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

The transparent barrier crumbled into pieces and fell apart. Brony smirked proudly at the sight of the broken barrier. However, before he could make his way through and enter the depths of the mines, he suddenly received a whisper from one of his guild members.

[Odin: GM... Minhyuk... No, Mister Minhyuk’s noona is here...]

Brony smacked his lips and grinned darkly. It seemed like he could kill the b*tch that Minhyuk called his Noona together. At that moment, Brony tilted his head in confusion. He thought, ‘Mister Minhyuk?’

What was that? Why was his guild member suddenly acting like this? And why did he send Brony a whisper when he could just talk in the guild chat?

[Brony: You punk, why are you calling? him with a? mister when you should just call that bastard by his name?]

[Odin: Because we're in big trouble. ??]

A tear emoticon? In trouble?

Then, another whisper came from Oden.

[Odin: Minhyuk's noona is the Sword Emperor, Ellie.]

"Hmm?" Brony was caught off-guard, taken aback by the whisper. The name Sword Emperor Ellie sounded really familiar, right? So, Brony tried to think carefully.

Eivelis Empire was known as the greatest empire in the continent. And the empress leading this empire was known as a powerful and mighty warrior, a rich tycoon and the strongest empress in the whole continent. She was Sword Emperor Ellie!

"This crazy punk..." Brony snarled, his brows furrowing.

Sword Emperor Ellie was an empress. Although she was just an NPC, it was still a fact that she was a person of power. Yet right now, Brony's guild members were telling him that Minhyuk called this person his noona? It was unheard of. No player had ever formed such a close bond with a powerful NPC like the Empress.

[Brony: Are you joking around right now?]

[Odin: I'm not joking...]

[Brony: If his noona is the Empress, my noona is the Dragon Lord, this damn bas...]

At that moment, the guild chat (GC) was suddenly flooded with cries of help before Brony could even finish his words.

[Guild Chat | Halem: GM, we're f*cked. Sword Emperor Ellie is here.]

[Guild Chat | Forton: GM ?? I think you should come out...]

[Guild Chat | Karma: GM, we're tied tightly with a rope, I can't move at all.]

[Guild Chat | Odin: I was so nervous that I forgot about the guild chat and sent you a whisper... GM, I'm really not joking around...]

[Guild Chat | Craton: Save us...!]

"..."

It finally occurred to Brony that his guild members would not joke around with him for things like this. Then...

Swoosh!

"Ack!"

“Gasp?!”

One of the guild members standing beside Brony floated up and flew out of the mines. It looked like he was being pulled by some kind of force.

“Keuaaaaaack!”

That was not the end of it. The remaining guild members around him also flew out one after the other. In the end, even Brony was sent flying out of the mines.

“Argh!” Brony shouted, trying hard to struggle out of the force that pulled him out of the mines. However, the force was too strong. In the end, all he could do was be dragged out of the mines together with his guild members.

Thud, thud, thud—

Brony rolled on the ground a few times, only to see the acrid, dark and dusty air of the mines being replaced by the clear, bright air outside. Brony shook his head fiercely and thought, ‘What in the world...’

The first thing that Brony saw when he turned his head was Kald. Kald, the second on the blacksmith rankings, was tied up with a rope and shaking uncontrollably. His face was not even hidden. Next, Brony was met with the sharp, icy glare of Sword Emperor Ellie.

“...Gasp!” Brony gasped in fright. Those eyes were so piercing that he could not stop his voice from coming out. Then...

“Noonaaaaaaaaa!” A cheerful shout came from the depths of the mines. The voice sounded like he just found out that his very close sister from next door came to visit him. Minhyuk ran out of the mines together with the miners and approached Ellie.

Ellie smiled at Minhyuk and asked, “Who bullied our Minhyuk?”

“This one, this one, this one too!”

“Is that so? How dare these bastards bully my brother...!”

The scene looked extremely like a pitiful child reporting to his mother that he was being bullied by bad guys.

‘N...no. You’re the empress, you know!’

They could not believe that a player could build a sibling-like relationship with such a powerful person.

“This one bullied me the most!”

“Ho.”

Shiver!

Brony trembled when he saw Ellie’s brows furrow. The air suddenly turned cold and frightening from Ellie’s frigid gaze. Brony immediately understood the stance that he had to take. He had no

choice but to bend down and flatter them. He quickly stammered, “He, hehe... Th...that’s not true. It was because I was so excited to see Minhyuk after a long time...”

However, before he could even lie through his teeth and try to weasel his way out of the situation...

[Puhahahahahahaha! Noona? You’re gonna tell your noona?]

[Kahahahahaa. Are you going to tell your noona because you're scared?]

[Keuhahaha, is your sister the number one in the rankings?]

[She’s an NPC though? Are you disregarding my noona?]

[Keuhahaha. Wow, I’m so scared that I will pee myself just by seeing your noona!]

[...You’ll regret it.]

[Wow. We have been very rude to your extremely scary noona. Sorry. Isn’t it obvious? Your noona must have been a f*cker like you who’s hiding behind his mask and pretending to be nice. So when is your noona coming? Huh? That f*cking noona of yours!]

...Minhyuk played what he recorded earlier.

“...”

Brony was left speechless. He saw Minhyuk peeking out from behind Ellie and smiling smugly at him. He realized that Minhyuk never mentioned the name of his noona. It also seemed like Minhyuk had expected their reaction once he told them about her. In other words, all of this was part of Minhyuk’s elaborate plan, or rather, trap. Otherwise, how would they dare to harshly curse and spit at his ‘noona’ with great confidence earlier?

“Ha!” Ellie scoffed at Brony. After all, he was the one who called Her Highness Ellie a ‘f*cker’. On top of that, Brony and his guild members were caught red-handed with the corpses of the soldiers of Barras Kingdom while trying to kill the miners. There was enough justification to punish them.

‘Kang Minhyuuuuuuuuuuk!’?Brony roared in his head when he saw the wide smile on Minhyuk’s face. He wanted to rush forward and tear Minhyuk to death. However, when he saw the furious Ellie, he quickly reigned his anger in and hurried over to their GC.

[Guild Master Brony: Everyone, log out now. Quickly!]

[Guild Chat | Bordney: Ab, about that...]

[Guild Chat | Carran: Even if we log out... Nothing will change. GM...]

Brony frowned. However, notifications rang in his ears when he tried to log out.

[You will receive the penalty for a forced log out if you log out right now.]

[Your character will still remain even if you force yourself to log out.]

Whenever a player try to force a log out during a dungeon raid, they would receive a death penalty. In a way, their situation was a bit similar to that. However, the problem was that their character would still be left behind. In other words, they did not have any way of escaping.

“Capture these bastards, don’t kill them. I’ll let these guys rot in prison until they die. This will be their punishment.”

“Yes!” The knights of the Phoenix Knight Order answered loudly and bowed their heads.

Brony’s eyes darkened when he heard Ellie’s words. All of the members of the Horden Guild were currently present here. All 86 of them. And with that sentence, each and every single one of them would be locked up in prison.

The Phoenix Knight Order moved quickly as they took out the ropes hanging on their waists. The rope magically extended and snatched a member of Brony’s guild with every throw. In addition, the imperial mages also used their Electric Magic to attack those who tried to escape. The people who got hit by the Electric Magic were knocked out cold with their bodies still trembling from the shock.

Brony glared at Minhyuk. However, what he saw was Minhyuk pulling out two fishing chairs from his inventory. Minhyuk sat down on one of the chairs while Ellie sat down on the other. Then, Minhyuk pulled something out of his inventory and started munching on it. It was none other than popcorn.

“Caramel popcorn is really the best when you’re watching something! Hiyaaa, this is really fun!”

At this moment, Brony thought that he was detestable! Annoyingly hateful! How could a person like that be so hateful! After all, Minhyuk looked like he was sitting in the cinema and watching an action movie. Someone that would grab a handful of popcorn, throw it in their mouth and say, ‘The popcorn is delicious!’. He even pulled out some cola out of his inventory, plugged in a straw and sipped the cola loudly.

“Kyahaa!”

‘Hey, you f*cking bastard!’ Brony thought. He looked like he was about to cry. He finally realized that nothing had changed. Even if it was him from the past or him right now, he still was not able to defeat Kang Minhyuk. Brony gritted his teeth in frustration and just forced himself to log out of the game.

Lee Sangmin came out of his capsule trembling in fury. He tried so hard to calm himself down and looked at Athenae’s official website as he thought, ‘How the hell did he become so close with Ellie?’

Lee Sangmin wanted to type the word ‘Ellie’ in the search bar but he did not need to do so. The name ‘Ellie’ was already sitting firmly on the real-time search term’s number one spot with ‘Horden Guild’ running at second. Lee Sangmin quickly clicked on the real-time search keyword and was met with several articles and videos. The publishing time was even just a few seconds ago.

Sangmin’s eyes widened in shock as he saw the video. He thought, ‘...Hey, isn’t this me?!’

The video looked like it was taken from a distance. It showed a man walking along as he gave his guild members orders after killing off the NPCs. He even kicked the body of the dead soldier of the kingdom that was blocking his way. Then, Sangmin heard his voice and the voice of his guild member.

[GM. The NPCs are really just like humans, so I'm still a bit uncomfortable about this.]

[So what if you're uncomfortable. These bastards are artificial intelligence anyway. We can kick them once or twice, you know? What's wrong with you?]

Kick, kick!

Just like what Sangmin had said, he kicked the body of the dead soldier twice. Then, there was another video. It was the video where Ellie appeared. The main topic of the article was this...

[The Horden Guild is notorious for its deeds. It seems like Ellie appeared to teach them a lesson.]

Below the topic was an overwhelming number of comments...

[SweetHoney: Wow, I'm a player who's been beaten down by the Horden Guild. Those bastards, they really have no sense of shame. I feel refreshed.

fkjbk313: Look at what this guy is saying... Even if they're NPCs and just artificial intelligence, it still feels like they're real human beings when you're inside the game. Let's just say that it's okay that you killed them, but not everyone thinks like that. What was the point of kicking that dead body? Are you still a person?

Ellie'sCool: Kyaa, Ellie looks like she's a solid and strict teacher! I'm so excited. From now on I'm an Ellie fan!

BronyIsLeeSangmin: That guy who kicked the dead body. He's my classmate from middle school. Even back then, he would bully other kids and beat them to get their money. He's so arrogant just because he has his dad as his backer. This is his personal information. His phone number is 010 1234 XXXX. His name is Lee Sangmin. He's 20 years old. And he lives in 123-45 Bongcheon-dong.]

There were a lot of comments under the post where his personal information was leaked. Then...

Ring, ring, ring, ring!

Lee Sangmin's phone suddenly rang loudly. He flinched in surprise. What was more surprising was the fact that the number that called him was not registered. When he answered the call...

[Don't live like a lawless bastard, you university student.]

Beep!

Lee Sangmin's heart beat wildly in shock. He could not calm down at all. However, as soon as the caller hung up, another call came in from a different number.

[Do you know who I am? I'm Jiang Chen...]

Beep!

"..."

Lee Sangmin burst in tears as another call came in.

[I came to pay respects. Please let me get amazing SAT results. Also, please let my parents live long and healthy.]

“Hey, you asshole...”

Beep!

This time, the other person was the first one to hang up the call. Then, another call came through.

[I’m your ear candy.]

Beep!

Lee Sangming hurriedly pulled the battery out of his phone. Then, he thought, ‘Who the hell took that video of me killing those players and soldiers?’

Lee Sangmin kept on watching that video clip until his brows furrowed deeply. The video started with Ellie breaking down Kald’s mask and the Phoenix Knight Order and imperial mages moving quickly to subdue and capture the guild members of the Horden Guild. Then, he heard a voice questioning the person who took the video.

[Who are you, are you one of them?!]

The video showed one of the imperial mages as he interrogated the person taking the video. Then, the person who was taking the video spoke...

[If I continue to stay here, I will be caught in a sticky situation. This is unfortunate, but I don’t think I will be able to show you the end of their punishment. This is Go Eun-Ah, reporting for TTBC.]

1. It’s a line from the movie, Criminal City or The Outlaws

Chapter 86: The Very First Legendary Artifact Is?

Ruwan received a whisper from Go Eun-Ah.

[VeryPrettyEunAh: Hyeonsok! It’s all thanks to you that I got an exclusive scoop!]

[Ruwan: Did you post it already? Where?]

[VeryPrettyEunAh: yepyp. It’s number one on the real-time search on the official website. But why did Ellie come here? Did she really just see it while she was on her way somewhere? Or did she really come here to catch the Horden Guild? Anyway, I ran back to the town just in case they tried to catch me. The comments under the post about Horden Guild’s GM is going crazy. They’re also talking shit about Kald.]

Ruwan shook his head. He was real friends with the reporter VeryPrettyEunAh and her timing was really perfect. She just arrived in the Barras Kingdom to get some scoop and said that she would stop by the Bretley Mines to visit him. She always said that she would get a scoop but she never knew where to get one, although she believed that one would come up once she was out on the road.

Once Eun-Ah arrived near the mines, she witnessed the horrible scene. Hence, she quietly hid in the distance and continuously messaged Ruwan to know more about the situation. As she corresponded with him, Eun-Ah finally pieced the events together and learned that the current situation was a sudden NPC slaughter. Once she knew of the reason, she immediately started to shoot the scene.

‘I guess she wasn’t able to take a video of Ellie calling Minhyuk ‘younger brother’?’? Ruwan thought. Perhaps it was because Eun-Ah quickly ran away in fear of getting caught by the knights that she missed that part. The members of the Horden Guild were already under control and could not log out peacefully, so he guessed that she probably was out of the range of the knights’ control. Ruwan was going to tell her the truth about Ellie and Minhyuk’s sibling relationship but he stopped. Why? It was because Ellie looked awfully scary sitting beside the fresh and happy Minhyuk.

‘He calls Ellie his noona, he has extremely high stats, and he can fight well...’

As Minhyuk stood next to her, he looked at the blacksmith named Kald. Kald was currently looking at his GC which was close to exploding.

[Guild Master Ares: Kald. Would you like to explain the situation right now?]

[Corona: This crazy shit. You have the guts to tarnish the guild’s name, huh? You even hired the Horden Guild to slaughter the NPCs! You must have found something good and you’re trying to monopolize it all to yourself, huh?!]

[Raman: How are you gonna fix this? It would be a big deal if Ellie becomes hostile to our guild]

Ares Guild was one of the country’s top four guilds. However, Kald did something behind the guild’s back. It was something unforgivable. Even though he was an executive in the guild and an outstanding blacksmith, he would not be able to escape eviction. However, Kald could not bring himself to worry about those issues yet. He had other problems to deal with, as he thought, ‘I could be like the player from before and get sentenced to prison for 100 years.’

If that happened, then he would have to delete this ID. That meant that he would have to discard his place: the second place: in the Blacksmith Rankings. So, he thought that he had to try and trick them to save his character from getting deleted.

“Why did you do this?” Ellie asked.

Kald confessed the truth. He told Ellie about what was inside the fifth mining area. Everything. From beginning to end.

“...An artifact material that has all of the properties?”

“Yes. That’s right. Also, there are only three people who can use this artifact. I can make an artifact out of this material. That’s why...”

Kald looked at Minhyuk with sad eyes and tried to evoke his pity. He said, “Please let it slide just this once. I will also make the best artifact for you!”

Kald gloated inwardly. He was sure that this was an offer that no one could refuse. No one would choose to refuse with how expensive artifacts were. Artifacts made with such a material were bound to be extremely valuable. Kald was sure that Minhyuk would accept the offer. And once he did that, he could coax Minhyuk to exempt him from the sentence.

Ellie looked at Minhyuk and said, “If you want to have the artifact, we could do as he says. However, he can’t get away with it and he still has to be locked up for a month.”

She wanted to follow Minhyuk's choice as much as possible. That was also what Ellie's stigma signified.

Minhyuk grinned and said, "You inserted the key."

"Yes. Sooner or later, the door to that place will open."

Minhyuk had heard from Leton that only one person could have the key. That key was the only way to enter that place. In other words, Kald was the reason why Minhyuk would be able to enter that place! To be honest, this was the first time that he had heard about such an artifact material. It seemed like the wood from the chocolate tree was an excellent artifact material. But in all honesty, the chocolate that the chocolate tree produced was what was calling to him the most. He said, "Thanks for opening the door."

"...?"

Kald could not understand what he was talking about.

"I'll go in and come right out. Thank you for personally opening the door for me~!"

Minhyuk said as he grabbed Kald's hands and shook it up and down before throwing it away and saying, "Noona. We can't just let this bad guy get away with it."

"That's right. As expected of my younger brother. For a moment, I thought you would disappoint me, you gluttony," Ellie said with a grin.

Then, Kald said, "N...no. Didn't you hear what I just said? I'm the only one who can make an artifact out of that material. It won't work unless you find a blacksmith that's greater than me...!"

At that moment...

"Minhyuk!?Gasp, gasp, gasp!" A man dressed like a shabby novice player shouted as he ran towards Minhyuk. The man huffed and puffed, trying to catch his breath the moment he arrived.

After he finally caught his breath, he looked around his surroundings and said, "I heard from my daughter that you came here. Are you alright?"

"Yes. As you can see, I'm alright."

Kald's eyebrows creased in annoyance. Who the hell was this novice bastard to interrupt? Did he think that he was much more important than what he wanted to say? Then, he saw the pattern of a hammer engraved on the back of the man's hands.

Kald's eyes widened in shock. He had seen the man who made the Dragon Sword once. They were in a Dragon's Lair back then. The man had gotten the materials that he needed before quickly rushing away. All he remembered from the man was the patter of a hammer engraved on the back of his hand. Not long after, Kald saw the Dragon Sword being auctioned off. It was the strongest artifact that was ever sold in the auction house. What was more, it was the highest priced item to be ever sold on the auction trading?site.

At that time, he felt that the mysterious person was the best blacksmith to have lived! However, the man disappeared suddenly. Who knew that the very same person with that pattern engraved on his hands would be standing in front of Minhyuk worriedly?

“My, my, my...” Kald stuttered, trying to get the words out of his mouth. The Sword Emperor Ellie and the greatest blacksmith alive were both standing in front of him.

“This damn bastard. How dare you bully my benefactor, Minhyuk!” The man shouted as he glared sharply at Kald.

Kald zeroed in on the ‘benefactor’ that came out of his mouth. The greatest blacksmith’s benefactor? At that moment, he finally realized. That blacksmith would definitely make something for Minhyuk with that artifact material! Kald finally realized that he would lose everything because of his greed.

I’m going to die a dog’s death... No, it’s like I practically came here to give it to Minhyuk on a platter.

Kald stood up and approached a soldier. He said, “Please, just take me out of here...”

“I know. You bastard!”

Kald was extremely happy that he would not see this monster-like Minhyuk when they took him away.

Leton who was standing nearby murmured to himself, “In the end, the Chocolate Tree still found its way to its real owner.”

Minhyuk smiled widely after listening to Leton. He could feel his heart pounding wildly with excitement. There was a Chocolate Tree inside that place! Minhyuk told Hyemin'sDaddy everything about the artifact material inside the dungeon that he learnt from Kald.

“Are you saying that there really is an artifact material with all of the properties?! It would be nice if I could use it to make the frying pan.”

“I see. Ah, did you add the function where it can help me make stir-fried pork perfectly? And the function that can help me make Korean pancakes better?”

“...Yes.”

Minhyuk looked like he was very happy and satisfied with the answer that he got. Hyemin'sDaddy looked back at Ellie and Leton. They all nodded their heads at each other without exchanging any words. They could understand each other’s woes as kindred spirits.

However, it was time for Ellie to go, but before that...

“I should clean them up.”

...Ellie kicked the ground with her feet and dashed forward inside the Fifth Mining Area. She came out not long after and said, “There were about 50 monsters in there, I’ve taken care of all of them.”

“Fi...fifty monsters... in just a minute...”

Leton and Hyemin'sDaddy looked at her in awe. They could not even form their words in their shock.

“Yes. Thank you so much for coming, Noona!” Minhyuk said, thanking Ellie with a bright smile on his face. Then, he went inside the mines with his pounding heart. He was so excited at the thought of eating brownies and meeting the Legendary Chocolate Tree! Then, something vibrated.

Shake!

[The Entrance to the Legend has opened.]

[Only one person is allowed to enter.]

Minhyuk quickly ran towards the bright light. The light surrounding Minhyuk was so bright that he couldn't even open his eyes. Then, he heard a series of notifications.

[You have entered the legendary 'Chocolate Paradise'.]

[You are the 32nd player to have entered a legendary place.]

[You are allowed to stay for one hour inside this area.]

[Number of Legendary Dungeons Found: 1]

[You have gained 50 REP.]

[Everything in the Chocolate Paradise is more delicious compared to their regular counterparts.]

Minhyuk slowly opened his eyes when he felt that the glaring light was gone. Once he opened his eyes, he could not help but exclaim in surprise, “Waaaaaaa, woowoo!”

The first thing that he saw were the blades of grass made out of Pepero.

Shwaaaaa—

A gentle breeze blew in the area and the Pepero grass swayed gently. Minhyuk could see that the blades of grass were like 'Nude Chocolate Pepero', 'Almond Pepero' and the 'Regular Pepero'. He bent down and picked up an almond Pepero.

[You have acquired an Almond Pepero.]

The gently swaying Pepero grass suddenly stiffened and turned into a normal Pepero stick when Minhyuk grabbed it. Minhyuk quickly grabbed a handful of Almond Pepero and munched on them.

“Aaaaaah!”

The crunchy texture of the almond and the crispy and sweet flavor of the chocolate and the cookies spread in Minhyuk's mouth. He said, “Ah! As expected, almond-flavored Pepero is the best!”

Then, a notification rang.

[You have leveled up.]

“Huh...?”

Minhyuk only ate one Almond Pepero but he leveled up? What a strange and amazing thing. Minhyuk looked at the handful of Pepero sticks in his hands. He thought,?‘Don’t tell me?’

Legendary Dungeons were said to have a quadruple increase in EXP acquisition and item drop rate. It was a much more special dungeon compared to hidden dungeons. It was also for this reason that they were extremely hard to find. However, Minhyuk did not understand why he heard such a notification. He was also sure that there were no monsters around him. Did that mean that he would be able to gain EXP whenever he ate something here?

‘Wow. I get to eat delicious food and get EXP at the same time...?’

Minhyuk was definitely killing two birds with one stone! Minhyuk ate all of the Pepero in his hands. His level increased by five just by eating a handful. Then, Minhyuk focused his attention on the things that were growing in between the trees. Those were things that looked like mushrooms. Upon closer inspection, those mushrooms looked exactly like the Choco Mushroom snack.

“Waaah!” Minhyuk shouted as he quickly picked the mushrooms and stuffed them in his mouth.

[Your STR has increased by 1.]

[Your AGI has increased by 1.]

[Your WIS has increased by 1.]

Minhyuk realized that eating the Choco Mushrooms would increase his five basic stats. When he finished eating all of the Choco Mushroom that he picked, he was able to increase his stats. His STR has increased by 18, AGI by 15, WIS by 17, STM by 20 and his INT by 10.

When Minhyuk turned around, he saw something that looked like a rock. To be exact, the rock was a Ferrero Rocher chocolate. Minhyuk lifted the Ferrero Rocher chocolate rock that was as big as his head and ate it all.

[You have gained 1 SP.]

Minhyuk gained one SP for every Ferrero Rocher chocolate he ate. In total, he was able to eat five Ferrero Rocher chocolates, which meant that he was able to gain five skill points.

“Hehehehehehe! This is heaven!! Wait, is that...?!?” Minhyuk was shouting for joy when he caught sight of the river flowing nearby. The river was clearly flowing with milk chocolate. Minhyuk quickly ran towards the river bank and dropped face down to gulp the milk chocolate.

“Gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp!”

Minhyuk continued to gulp the milk chocolate river. To be honest, it seemed like the chocolate level had lowered by a bit with how much he drank. If anyone saw this, they would think that a family of elephants came by and drank from the river.

“Keuhahaha!”

[You have gained 4 Special Points.]

[You can also invest your Special Points on stats that can't be raised with bonus points.]

The chocolate river gave him Special Points! After he finished drinking, Minhyuk looked around. He was trying to find new things that he had not tried yet. However, it seemed like there was not anything that he could eat anymore. Minhyuk then remembered, 'I'm only allowed to stay here for one hour, right? I'll be in trouble if I'm not able to get the most important thing!'

Minhyuk quickly gathered his attention and seriously moved on to what he came here to do. He needed to find the Legendary Chocolate Tree that existed here in Chocolate Paradise! He quickly went around the place, searching for it. Not long after, he came across the legendary tree. The Chocolate Tree that looked like it had grown for almost 300 years stood tall and majestic, right in the center of the Chocolate Paradise!

Chapter 87: The Very First Legendary Artifact Is?

Minhyuk's eyes sparkled in excitement, his drool dripping from his chin as he ran towards the Chocolate Tree. He looked so small right next to the gigantic Chocolate Tree, as he looked up at the sweet chocolates hanging from every branch of the tree and slowly reached his hand out to touch it.

[You have found the Legendary Chocolate Tree.]

[You have gained 30 REP.]

[The first two chocolates that you will harvest will be very special.]

[You can acquire the Chocolate Tree after harvesting the first two chocolates.]

[You can also acquire the Spirit King's Sacred Branch while harvesting the chocolates.]

"Oh!" Minhyuk said after reading the last notification. He realized that the Spirit King's Sacred Branch was the artifact material that Kald was talking about earlier. Minhyuk gathered his strength in his legs and jumped up to quickly snatch the two chocolates hanging on one of the branches of the Chocolate Tree. Then, one of the two chocolates started to turn white.

[You have acquired the Legendary White Chocolate.]

[You have acquired the Legendary Dark Chocolate.]

[You have acquired the Legendary Chocolate Tree. You will be able to harvest plenty of chocolates from the Chocolate Tree every day. The chocolate that you obtained from the Chocolate Tree will be much more delicious than normal chocolates.]

[To harvest chocolate from the Chocolate Tree, you only need to think or say 'Harvest chocolate'.]

The gigantic Chocolate Tree began to shrink until it could fit in the palm of Minhyuk's hand, before immediately slipping inside his inventory. Once everything was set, Minhyuk quickly checked the information of the legendary chocolates.

(Legendary White Chocolate)

Material Grade: Medicine

Special Abilities: Heals the diseases and injuries of a person on the brink of death.

Description: A white chocolate with amazing powers that can only be harvested from the Legendary Chocolate Tree. The taste is, of course, extremely delicious.

(Legendary Dark Chocolate)

Material Grade: Medicine

Special Abilities:

?STM +100

?WIS +100

Description: A dark chocolate with amazing powers that can only be harvested from the Legendary Chocolate Tree. The taste is, of course, extremely delicious.

Minhyuk nodded happily before harvesting normal chocolates from the Chocolate Tree. He said, "Harvest Chocolate."

[You can only harvest 20 pieces of chocolate per day.]

[Amount that can be harvested: 20/20]

Minhyuk harvested only one piece. He planned to harvest the rest once he got out of the dungeon. Then, a chocolate fruit appeared in front of him. It looked like an apple with the color of a chocolate. Minhyuk checked the information of the regular chocolate from the Chocolate Tree.

(Chocolate Tree's Chocolate)

Material Grade: D

Special Abilities: A chocolate that is much more delicious than any other chocolate in all of Athenae. It is so delicious that you will never stop nibbling on it.

The chocolate from the Chocolate Tree that could be harvested daily did not have any special abilities, if it had, then that would just be absurd. However, what stood out the most from these chocolates were...

'A chocolate that is much more delicious than any other chocolate in all of Athenae..!?'Minhyuk thought with a smile as he bit on the chocolate.

Chew!

The thick and sweet flavor of the chocolate spread in his mouth. He continued to nibble and bite on it, tasting the pleasing sweetness and thickness of the chocolate. However, the sweetness could sometimes be too overwhelming, but as per the description, Minhyuk also could not stop biting the chocolate. It was like Minhyuk was finally charging his sugar battery with this chocolate after a long time? Or the feeling of selling his soul to the army just to eat a piece of choco pie, just like what Changwook told him!

"Wow!" Minhyuk shouted, his mouth smeared with chocolate. After eating one, he thought to himself, 'The Legendary Chocolates probably taste the same as the normal chocolate from the Chocolate Tree. I'll use the dark chocolate for the brownies, and I'll keep the white chocolate in my inventory.'

Minhyuk loved to eat. However, he believed that there would come a time when he would need the Legendary White Chocolate's special ability, so he kept it in his inventory.

[You only have 5 seconds left until the entrance closes. The countdown will now begin.]

[5 seconds, 4 seconds, 3 seconds, 2 seconds, 1 second.]

Minhyuk was immediately warped out of the dungeon once the countdown ended. When he came out, Lee Sangmin and the rest of the Horden Guild were already gone and taken away.

"Ellie left earlier."

"I see."

Hyemin'sDaddy had been waiting for Minhyuk. He had heard from Hyeminnie that Minhyuk had promised to give her the best tasting chocolate in the world. He felt extremely grateful when he heard that.

"Ah, wait! I received the artifact material!" Minhyuk said. He had checked everything while he was walking out of the mines. He took the Spirit King's Sacred Branch out and handed it over to Hyemin'sDaddy, who immediately checked the unusually colored Sacred Branch, only to be left speechless as he turned to look at Minhyuk.

Hyemin'sDaddy had a look of disbelief on his face. He thought, 'Did Kald know about the material grade of this material?'

Kald ranked second on the Blacksmith Rankings. So, Hyemin'sDaddy wondered if he knew about the material's grade. If he did, then it made sense. At first, Hyemin'sDaddy wondered why an influential and popular figure like Kald would do something like that just because of greed. However, seeing the material's description made him understand to some extent. Of course, he would never do such a horrible and cruel thing if he was the one who knew about it.

The grading of artifact materials were similar to the grading of cooking ingredients. Their gradings start from D until SSS. As a matter of fact, there was no SS or SSS-grade material that had been released or found in the country. The Dragon Sword that Hyemin'sDaddy made before was made from the bones of the ancient dragon and was only graded S. The only reason Hyemin'sDaddy was able to make such an amazing artifact that shocked the world was because of his own strength.

At that time, he thought that the effects and options of the material were the best, but right now, he considered S-grade materials to be the bare minimum when choosing materials for an artifact. Just like the Gryphon's Spirit that he acquired not long ago, it was also an S-grade material, but it had much better effects and options compared to the material he got for the Dragon Sword, so he thought that he could make something even more amazing.

Then, the Sacred Branch appeared in front of him. From what he could see, this SS-grade material was considered to be the lowest among all of the SS-grade materials. He had heard that several SS-grade materials had been released abroad, but since the servers had not yet merged, excluding the other servers, this could be considered to be the best artifact material to appear in Athenae's Korean server. While it might be considered the lowest among the SS-grade materials, its effects were more than enough to fit that grade.

(Sacred Branch)

Material Grade: SS

Special Abilities:

?A +10~12% increase in all stats.

?A +60% increase in Magical Defense.

?You can include all five attributes and properties in the artifact.

?There will be a sharp increase in your spirit affinity.

Description: A sacred branch that was obtained from the Legendary Chocolate Tree in Chocolate Paradise. This branch contains the power of Elaim, the King of Spirits.

‘This is really unbelievable.’

Artifacts were not made with just a single material. It could only be made through the smelting of various materials. All those materials had various abilities and effects. In addition, the effects that would be written in the description would depend on the person who made the artifact. The figures listed on the material’s description might not necessarily appear in the artifact, but the likelihood for such numbers to appear was quite high.

“I believe I can make you a satisfactory frying pan with this. I can finish it by the end of today,” Hyemin’sDaddy said. He would be able to finish the artifact quickly since the only thing that he needed to do was add the Sacred Branch to the almost finished frying pan.

“Yes. I understand.”

“Are you going back to Ron’s smithy?”

“Yes. I’m going to make brownies there,” Minhyuk said, face filled with excitement. He looked like a child that finally got the toy that he wanted for a very long time.

Minhyuk quickly said goodbye to Ruwan, Leton and the other miners, before quickly going back to Ron’s Smithy. He quickly started preparing for the brownies the moment he arrived. Making brownies was not that difficult. He only needed to prepare the chocolate, butter, sugar, vanilla extract, eggs, all-purpose flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, salt and powdered sugar.

“Finally, the chocolate...!”

Hyeminnie arrived just at that moment. Ron also looked seriously at Minhyuk and said, “You’re going to give me some this time, right...?” Minhyuk had already thought of giving Ron some this time, only because he looked like he would cry if he did not get any!

.

Minhyuk then turned his attention back to the brownies. First, he melted the butter in a hot water bath. Then, he mixed the melted butter, sugar, vanilla extract and beaten eggs together. After

mixing, Minhyuk sprinkled the mixture of all-purpose flour, cocoa powder and baking powder in the same bowl using a sieve. Then he mixed it again. Once he mixed everything well, he would place the brownie mixture in a pan and bake it in the oven preheated to 180°C for twenty minutes.

Before Minhyuk came to the smithy, he first went to the bakery nearby and borrowed an oven from Helo, the baker. Then, Minhyuk placed the baking pan with the brownie mixture inside the oven and set the timer. He said, “I can’t wait to taste these guys.”

“Me too!” Hyeminnie shouted and smiled excitedly.

Minhyuk rubbed Hyeminnie’s head before standing in front of the oven and looking at the brownies. He had made many batches of brownies. One of the batches was made with the Legendary Dark Chocolate. He did not forget that cooking the medicine-grade ingredient would give him additional effects with the help of Food God’s Greatness. Then, after twenty minutes, a ‘ding!’ rang loudly in the smithy.

“Yay!” Minhyuk cheered, grinning widely as he pulled the brownies out of the oven. Fresh from the oven, the brownies might scald their tongues so Minhyuk had to let them cool down for a bit. Besides, cutting the brownies before they cooled down would probably make the brownies crumble!

Once the brownies had cooled down, Minhyuk carefully cut them into bite-sized pieces. Then he sprinkled some powdered sugar on top of them. The powdered sugar fell lightly on the brownies, which looked like falling snow.

“Then, let’s eat!”

“Yeah!”

“Right!”

Ron followed Hyeminnie and nodded along. Minhyuk picked the one made out of Legendary Dark Chocolate. In fact, everything tasted the same so he did not cheat Hyeminnie out of anything. Before he started eating, Minhyuk pulled something out of his inventory and placed it on the table with a thud. It was none other than a barrel that was filled with ten liters of iced americano.

“...Is this filled with americano?”

“Yes!”

Ron was left speechless. That was a huge amount of iced americano! Of course, Minhyuk did not forget to prepare a glass of cold milk for Hyeminnie. Minhyuk poured americano in a cup then put the slightly warm brownie in his mouth.

“Aaaaah.” Chew! Minhyuk chomped on the brownie. A soft, sweet flavor slowly spread in his mouth. The more Minhyuk chewed, the stickier and chewier the chocolate brownie became. Minhyuk also did not forget to take a sip of his iced americano. The bitter americano magnified the sweetness of the brownie, making it stand out.

“Delicious!”

“Hyeminnie also thinks it’s delicious!”

Hyeminnie could eat very well now. As he watched her eat well, especially after being scared of eating due to the side effects of her treatment, it made Minhyuk feel extremely happy. He also hoped that she would continue to cherish these delicious things like this brownie. Once he finished eating all of the brownies made with the Legendary Dark Chocolate, a series of notifications rang in his head.

[You have eaten a Brownie made with the Legendary Dark Chocolate.]

[Food God’s Greatness.]

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

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

[You have gained +113 STM and +110 WIS.]

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Minhyuk smiled in satisfaction. An increase of 113 in STM meant that his HP would increase by 1,130, while an increase of 110 in his WIS meant that his MP would increase by 1,100. He felt it keenly earlier when he was fighting the monsters in the mines, that using Ellie’s Swordsmanship had consumed a lot more MP than he initially thought. Minhyuk was lucky that he had the Minotaurus’ Necklace which prevented his MP from reaching zero quickly. Just as he finished all of the brownies...

“Poopy Daaaaaaaaddy!” Hyeminnie shouted as she ran to where Hyemin’sDaddy was. Hyemin’sDaddy hugged Hyeminnie tightly before wiping the chocolate that was smeared on her mouth gently with a tissue. After taking care of his daughter, he approached Minhyuk while thinking, ‘My life’s masterpiece has been born...’

Never in Hyemin’sDaddy dreams would he have thought that an artifact like this could be his life’s masterpiece. He slowly came in front of Minhyuk and stretched his hand out to give it to him. The artifact was literally a frying pan. It looked like any ordinary frying pan that one could find in every household.

“Please check it,” Hyemin’sDaddy spoke solemnly, as Minhyuk inspected the frying pan with mounting excitement.

Team Leader Park and Lee Minhwa were both staring at the monitor blankly.

“The country’s first ever legendary artifact...” Team Leader Park murmured.

Lee Minhwa was the one to finish his words, “...is a frying pan.”

Suddenly, the door of the Special Players Management Team opened with a loud bang, as the members of the Development Team poured inside the room.

“Had the first ever legendary artifact appeared? I heard that it has the Gryphon’s Spirit and the Sacred Branch?”

What was more, it was produced by the best blacksmith, Hepas’ Descendant! Team Leader Park and Lee Minhwa nodded in unison. For the operators, the appearance of the first legendary artifact was something unusual and special. When they looked at the monitor, they saw Player Minhyuk checking out the frying pan. Then, Team Leader Lee Seokhoon said, “Employee Lee Minhwa, show me the artifact’s information.”

“Yes. Right away,” Lee Minhwa answered as she pulled up the frying pan’s information window.

(Hepas’ Legendary Frying Pan)

Class: Legend

Requirements: 300 STR, 300 AGI, 300 DEX

Durability:

Attack Power: 411

Defensive Power: 864

Special Abilities:

?A +15% in all stats.

?A +100 in Magical Defense

?The effectiveness of the Magical Defense will double.

?There will be a +50% increase in the probability of Magical Reflection.

?+50% increase in Spirit Affinity.

?You can use Second Tier Magic of all five attributes without casting to cook with the frying pan.

?Skill: Gryphon’s Cry

?Skill: Frying Pan Gigantification

Description: A legendary artifact produced by Hepas’ Descendant with all his attention and care. He especially placed his all on the cooking aspect of the artifact. The user may use Second Tier Magic while cooking with the frying pan.

“Wow... That’s crazy...”

“...I want to steal it from Player Minhyuk.”

Everyone was staring at the artifact with awe. Just the first effect, the 15% increase in all stats, not just the five basic stats, was enough to make them drool. This meant that even the player’s special stats would have a 15% increase. For example, with Minhyuk’s 1,000 DEX, a 15% increase meant that he effectively had 1,150 DEX. There was also the doubling of magical defense. This literally meant that Minhyuk could display a 100-point magical defense if he only had 50.

Then, there was a 50% increase in Spirit Affinity. In fact, it was extremely difficult to increase favor and build a friendly relationship with the unsociable spirits. However, if one had a 50% increase in affinity, then it meant that they would have a much easier time befriending the spirits. It was something that would benefit the player extremely. There was also a +50% increase in Magical Reflection's probability.

"A good magical defense plus a 50% probability of Magical Reflection..."

It was not just a simple reflection of magical attacks. Magical Reflection basically meant that the reflected magic would be returned to the person who cast the spell. In other words, it was the deflection of the magical attack back at the attacker.

In addition, the artifact would also allow the player to easily cast Second Tier Magic of the five basic attributes. Generally, players would need to reach Level 100 before they could learn to cast Second Tier Magic. However, Player Minhyuk would be able to use Second Tier Magic of all five attributes before he even reached Level 100.

.

"What's more, that player is not even a mage..."

Then, Team Leader Lee Seokhoon said, "Can you show us the skill's information?"

"Yes," Lee Minhwa answered as she opened the information about the attached skills in the frying pan.

(Gryphon's Cry)

Artifact Skill

Level: None

Mana Required: 500

Cooldown: 15 minutes

Effects:

?Monsters within a 20-meter radius can be dragged in an aggro. There is also the probability of holding the aggro of monsters with a higher level than you.

?You have a 70~80% chance of holding aggro.

?Guild Members and Party Members within a ten-meter radius will have a 13~18% increase in their five basic stats as a buff effect.

Description: This was a skill added to Hepas' Legendary Frying Pan when the Gryphon's Spirit was added as a material for the artifact.

"...So damn crazy," Team Leader Lee Seokhoon said. He was left speechless after seeing the artifact skill. It was because there was an aggro and buff effect in one single skill.

In the first place, the buff effect was a special ability that healers and chefs possessed. However, both the aggro and buff effects were present. The buff effect was even more ridiculous. Everyone

present found it hard to believe that the buff effect was a 13~18% increase. Having such a high increase in all of the five basic stats would mean that a group of Level 100 players would display an additional 113~118 power each. It was something that no one could ignore especially when they were hunting monsters. It would even be considered a great boost to a guild or group whenever there were guild warfares, sieges and subjugations. And the most important aspect was...

“There’s no limit...”

Aggro and buff effects usually had a limit. However, Gryphon’s Cry did not have any limit, whether it was on the aggro effect or on the buff effect.

“Plus, if you feed them buffed dishes...”

“....”

Team Leader Park was at a loss for words. It was entirely possible for all of Minhyuk’s allies to receive a 30% increase in their overall power. Then, they checked on the second attached skill -- Frying Pan Gigantification.

(Frying Pan Gigantification)

Artifact Skill

Level: None

Mana Required: Depends on the size

Cooldown: 15 minutes

Effects: The frying pan can be used to cook or to defend. You can freely adjust the size of the pan depending on your needs.

Description: This was a skill added to Hepas’ Legendary Frying Pan when the Gryphon’s Spirit was added as a material for the artifact.

The Frying Pan Gigantification seemed like it was a skill that was extremely befitting of Player Minhyuk.

“That player will definitely be happy,” Lee Seokhoon muttered under his breath.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk looked extremely sullen as he pouted on the monitor.

[What’s this... Why are there no effects where I can easily make stir-fried pork or make crispy pancakes... Sob!]

“Gasp...!”

Lee Seokhoon gasped in shock. He said, “Is he saying that those effects are much more important than the effects of the artifact?”

Then, Team Leader Park said, “At this point, you’re still getting surprised...?”

Hyemin'sDaddy was a bit embarrassed when he heard Minhyuk’s words. He said, “H...have you also checked the other effects?”

"I've checked, but why is there no function where I can make stir fried food easily?? Sob!" Minhyuk said. He looked like he was about to cry a river of tears. After all, it was the effect that he was looking forward to the most!

Hyemin'sDaddy saw his despair and thought, 'That option was much more important to him compared to the effects of the legendary artifact...' For a moment, Hyemin'sDaddy thought about taking it back and doing it again, but he quickly scratched that thought out of his mind. He said, "There is... It's just not written explicitly."

"There is?"

"Yes. It says that you can use Second Tier Magic for cooking, right? Do you have any marinated meat or something like that?"

"Of course I have!" Minhyuk said. He had already prepared marinated pork in advance. In fact, he had already prepared all of the ingredients so he could eat any time as soon as Hyemin'sDaddy said that he would start making the frying pan.

"Put it on the frying pan."

"Yes," Minhyuk said, placing the red chili paste, onions, carrots, sesame seeds and the well-marinated pork on top of the frying pan. As soon as he finished placing the ingredients on the frying pan, notifications instantly popped out.

[The Frying Pan has recognized the ingredients.]

[Second tier magic, Fireball is recommended.]

[Would you like to use it?]

"Yes."

Fwoosh!

A tiny sphere of flames was created on top of the frying pan. It was the fireball that was commonly used by mage-class players. However, the size of the fireball was much smaller compared to the regular fireball.

"The size of the magic will change according to the size of the frying pan when you're cooking."

"Oh!"

Then, the fireball covered the spicy stir-fried pork.

Shwaaaaa!

The fire quickly cooked the spicy stir-fried pork at the right temperature. The sauce was boiling while the outside was cooked at moderate heat to prevent it from getting burnt. In just a matter of time, the spicy stir-fried pork was completed.

“Wow... Wow...!” Minhyuk could not stop himself from exclaiming loudly. Then, he quickly took some stir-fried pork and placed it in his mouth. The spicy stir-fried pork was surprisingly cooked well.

“I want a bite too!” Hyeminnie said. Minhyuk quickly placed some stir-fried pork in Hyeminnie’s mouth.

The spicy and sweet stir-fried pork was extremely popular among men and women of all ages. Minhyuk thought that it would be perfect if he had some rice with him right now. After they almost finished the stir-fried pork, he added a bowl of rice to the frying pan.

[The Frying Pan has recognized the ingredients.]

[First tier magic,?Fire?is recommended.]

[Would you like to use it?]

“Yes.”

Shwaaa!

A small fire was created this time. It covered the rice on top of the frying pan and started to fry it. Then, Minhyuk spread the fried rice all over the frying pan. The fire covered the fried rice once again to cook the rice properly.

“Wow, it really has great functions.”?Chew, chew, Minhyuk said as he munched on the fried rice while raising his thumb in approval. That was not the end of it. After he finished eating, he heard another notification.

[First tier magic,?Aqua?can be used to clean the Frying Pan.]

“Clean.”

A sphere of water was immediately formed on top of the frying pan. Then, the sphere started to spin in the frying pan at a tremendous speed.

Fwaaaaa!

The sphere of water evaporated into the air after it finished cleaning the frying pan. When Minhyuk looked at the frying pan, it was already shining brightly as if it had never been used. He said, “I’m really very, very,?very?satisfied with it. Thank you very much!”

“Yes. Well,” Hyemin'sDaddy shrugged. After all, Minhyuk was already satisfied with the cooking options and did not care at all about the special options. However, it was good as long as he was satisfied.

“I don’t think Hyeminnie will be able to log in for a while. She has to go to kindergarten and eat delicious food in reality. I probably won't be able to access the game in the meantime too.”

Minhyuk smiled at them when he heard those words, and at the same time, he felt a bit jealous of Hyeminnie since she could eat delicious food in real life. However, Minhyuk had high expectations.

He firmly believed that the day when he would eat delicious food in real life would also come. It might not be in the near future, but he was already gradually losing some of his weight.

“It’s almost time for me to log out too. I still need to exercise.”

“I see. Ah, wait. Minhyuk, can I add you as a friend?”

“Of course.”

Minhyuk could see that Hyemin'sDaddy was a good man. He even made him a good frying pan. He also wanted to see Hyemin'sDaddy more if he had the chance. After they completed the friend request, Minhyuk placed the frying pan on his back. Hyemin'sDaddy could not help but murmur at the sight.

“He looks like he’s going to a battlefield...”

“...?”

“It’s the game. It reminds me of the chicken game.”

“Aha. I see. I can’t believe you thought of chickens. It must be a great game.”

Minhyuk smiled widely, his eyes were sparkling with interest. Not long after, Minhyuk said goodbye and ended the connection first.

Before Hyemin'sDaddy logged out, a whisper came to him.

[Genie: Hyemin'sDaddy. Did it go well? The gift?]

The Legend Guild. It was rumored to be the best guild in the country and Genie, the woman who messaged him, was its guild master. Everyone was speculating on the identity of the Legend Guild’s guild master, thinking that it was a middle-aged man. However, the guild master was a young woman who had just turned twenty. But, she was not to be underestimated just because of her age. She was a genius gamer who thoroughly analyzed Athenae before playing it.

[Hyemin'sDaddy: Yes. I gave him a good gift and he was extremely satisfied. Hehe. Thank you for your understanding. GM.]

Originally, the Gryphon’s Spirit was something that was supposed to be used for Genie’s item. However, it had been a verbal promise. When she heard about Hyemin'sDaddy’s story, Genie gladly gave it away. Besides her strength, she was also a kind person.

[Genie: It's okay. He met and played well with Hyemin, right?]

When he saw the whisper, Hyemin'sDaddy suddenly thought of something.

[Hyemin'sDaddy: Come to think of it, he’s about the same age as you.]

[Genie: Oh, really?]

[Hyemin'sDaddy: Yes. Actually I always thought that he was like someone, it turns out that he’s quite similar to you.]

When Hyemin'sDaddy thought about it, he could tell that the aura and presence coming out from the both of them were quite similar. Now that he clearly thought about it, he was finally certain. He

thought,?‘Before, I felt that Genie was the best, but when I met Minhyuk, I felt the same way about him. I could feel the same aura coming out from them.’

How should he say this? A warm-hearted feeling? Hyemin'sDaddy was quite curious. It was a bit strange for him to feel that way towards someone that was considered to be the top ranker in the country. Rankers were typically known for their cold and frigid attitude. There were even a lot of them who had eyes above their heads and could only see themselves as the best.

[Genie: I'd like to meet him too. I'm curious.]

Hyemin'sDaddy chuckled softly when he saw that. Then, he saw another whisper from Genie.

[Genie: Ah, wait. You know about the group that attacked the Bretley Mines, right? Horden Guild and Kald?]

[Hyemin'sDaddy: Yes. It's quite hot on the internet right now. What vicious people... Why did they do that? Sigh...]

The next whisper that Genie sent to him was something completely surprising.

[Genie: You see, Horden Guild's GM went to the same middle school with me.]

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Hyemin'sDaddy?was stunned when he saw her whisper. He thought,?‘They were schoolmates? Friends?’.?So, he tried to ask Genie about it carefully.

[Hyemin'sDaddy: Ah... Is that so? Were you friends with him?]

[Genie: Nope. It's too much to call him a friend ^^;; You know that two of our guild members were my classmates before, right?]

Legend Guild was a guild where the elites gathered, their number was even only around fifteen. Among them, three knew each other personally. These three, including Genie, went to the same middle school and high school, and had been working together ever since?Versal, a game that launched before?Athenae.?In fact, those three could be considered Legend Guild's main pillars.

[Hyemin'sDaddy: Ah, yes.]

[Genie: The two of them hate that person too...]

[Hyemin'sDaddy: Aha. Was the player named Brony not a good person back then?]

[Genie: Yes. Well... ^^]

“Poopy Daddy~ Hyeminnie's hungry.”

Hyemin'sDaddy patted Hyeminnie on the head and finished sending his whisper.

[Hyemin'sDaddy: Hyemin said that she's hungry so I'll log out for now. GM! I'll see you next time!]

[Genie: Ah, okay!]

A woman was resting at the side, with dozens of bone dragons lying scattered on the ground. The woman's long and wavy hair was tied tightly behind her, framing her beauty that was comparable to

Alicia and Lucia. Even her figure was alluring and glamorous that no man would be able to take their eyes off of her.

“It seems like everything went well. That’s a relief,” Genie said, smiling softly. She took a small breath of relief after Hyemin’s Daddy had logged out. Genie was currently in Azaka, the Land of the Dead. Players did not usually set foot in Azaka since it was a place teeming with Level 400 monsters. That was the reason why Genie and Legend Guild used this place as their main hunting grounds. This was the only way that they could avoid causing any friction with the other guilds.

‘Right now, we’re still in hiding, but slowly we will...appear in the world.’

It was already difficult for them to hide their identities right now. Just recently, Ares Guild tried to step on their tails and were even slowly gaining momentum for a siege. Perhaps it was because they wanted to kill them and gain fame and reputation from that.

Then, Genie looked at the huge iron gate in front of her. If they went inside that place, they would face a monster that was much more powerful than those bone dragons. She had tried to challenge it again and again, but she was almost forced to log out every time. As a player, she felt that it was frustrating and unfortunate to not clear a dungeon right in front of her. Just then...

Fwoosh—

Wind blew strongly, making Genie’s hair flutter.

“You’re here?” Genie asked, without turning back.

The handsome man that appeared on her right nodded. This man was none other than Khan, a player holding the legendary class King of Fists, a fighter that fought with his fists, and was considered to be stronger than the current number one in the Official Local Rankings. Contrary to Khan, the man that appeared on the left was not that handsome. In fact, one could even go as far as calling him ugly, with his shaggy beard and bandit-like appearance. This man was none other than Crazy Priest Locke. Locke had a legendary class among the Priest class, a class related to healing, but his class was in fact the farthest away from a healer.

“None of them could catch my eyes...” Genie said, making Khan and Locke shake their heads.

“You’re talking about an excellent chef with good buff abilities, right?”

A chef with excellent buff ability. This was what they believed they needed. Legend Guild would also hunt and raid boss mobs from time to time. But compared to other guilds, they would only do it in small numbers. They also had a healer in their guild but the healing skills were far from what a buff could give.

“Sigh. You’re a healer, so why did you max your points in STR?”

“Ah. I already told you that I’m not cut out for giving out buffs and?heals, won’t you give it a rest already?”

“You always tell me to ‘give it a rest’ but what kind of healer is a Crazy Priest, huh?”

Crazy Priest was a class that was much more capable at attacking, than giving out buffs and healing. Would anyone believe it if Locke told them that the monsters were being tormented when he cast heal on them?

“In all honesty, it will be hard for a regular healer to get to where we are now,” Genie said, smiling bitterly.

It was the truth. Ordinary healers would not be able to go to where they were right now. Generally, healers’ powers were usually on a lower level compared to other classes. In their current hunting grounds, where a powerful aura would constantly be pressing down on players, together with powerful and tricky magic lying around, healers would definitely have a hard time surviving. Besides, due to the nature of Legend Guild, most of their players were focused on solo plays. Because of that, it was necessary for them to get an excellent chef. An excellent chef would definitely be able to make dishes with a long shelf life and good buffs.

“It would be nice to have the Twilight Chef with us.”

“Ah, that’s right!” Locke shouted after remembering something, “How about the player who recently became famous for his buffed tonkatsu?”

Khan supported his forehead in distress while Genie continued to smile bitterly.

“That famous player is a fake, Locke,” Khan said, clicking his tongue.

“Didn’t you see it when our guild members said that it was fake? Which player at Level 15~20 would be able to make a buffed dish that could increase your attack and defense by 4%? It would be good if you used your brains to live.”

“Hey!!!” Locke shouted, making Khan shudder, “I’m also thinking of ideas!”

“Wow... You’re actually thinking... You’re really amazing...” Clap... clap...?Khan said, even accompanying his words with applause.

Genie sighed, stood up and said, “Let’s get going.”

The three of them were going to enter that iron gate and challenge it again. If they had an excellent chef with them, then they would definitely be able to clear it. However, they did not have one right now, so they could only try and challenge it with their own abilities.

Then, Genie suddenly stopped walking and mumbled, “Will that guy attend the reunion this time?”

Khan and Locke did not say anything. They only smiled bitterly at her sentiments.

“That damn bastard. How could he do that to us? He suddenly transferred to another school back in middle school and now, we can’t even contact him. He should have at least told us if he was dead or alive!” Locke yelled out his frustrations as Khan nodded in agreement.

“I’ll slap his cheek like a drum when I meet him!” Locke said. His words might sound nasty, but his expression was that of longing for a precious friend.

“I’ll try to contact him again after we finish this raid,” Genie said, pulling out her spear.

Creaaaaaaaaaak—

Bang!

The iron gate banged open as the three of them entered inside.

Minhyuk had just finished exercising and was now sitting on his chair eating cherry tomatoes. Meanwhile, Changwook sat beside him admiring Hepas’ Legendary Frying Pan on his phone. Changwook said, “Hiyaa... I want to hit you on the back of your head and take it away from you. Won’t this be able to deflect almost all of the magic away? Even its defense is over 800. My armor is only at 700.”

Changwook was in awe because most of the time, only high-leveled players could wear artifacts with stats like this. Of course, these types of artifacts would naturally have a much higher defense than the artifacts that novice players wore. However, Minhyuk already had an artifact with the same defense as the artifacts that Level 400 rankers equipped, while he was only at Level 80. No. It even had more options and effects compared to what those rankers had. However, when Changwook saw the requirements of the artifact, he thought, ‘D...DEX at 500...? That’s a high requirement.’

Then, Changwook recalled something. He asked, “You’ll be Level 100 soon, right?”

“Yes.”

Chomp, chomp—

Minhyuk nodded as he continued to eat his tasteless cherry tomatoes. Meanwhile, Changwook rubbed his chin in contemplation, “Once you reach Level 100, quests related to your class will pop out. Of course, regular classes would get their quests from their respective class towers.”

“I know this too!” Minhyuk said. He also studied?Athenae. After all, it was only through research that he would be able to find delicious food. However, Minhyuk wondered how he would receive his quests.

‘I think I have to reach Level 150 before I start the legacy?’

It was mainly because of this that Minhyuk decided to increase his level once he logged back inside the game. ?Of course, before he could do quests for leveling up, he had to check if delicious food was included in the rewards.

“There’s also the episode quest once you reach Level 100.”

“I know about this too. Hyung.”

“Really? How about this? A large quest like the episode quest will not be given to you if you don’t have any REP.”

“I know that too. And I think I’ll be able to receive it.”

Changwook chuckled and smiled meaningfully when he heard his words. In fact, large quests like episode quests and imperial quests were really possible for Level 100 players. However most of the time, it was unfortunately all talk. The only reason was that most Level 100 players could not participate with the reputation that they have. Reputation, or REP, could be gained whenever players get close and build a friendly relationship with NPCs, otherwise they could gain reputation by doing something special through quests or other various things. However, it was not an easy task.

“You must have 100 REP before you can participate. Level 100 players generally have what, at most 50 REP? Do you still think that you can participate...?” Changwook commented in an offhand manner, while checking Minhyuk’s REP on Minhyuk’s phone.

“...”

However, what greeted him made him speechless. He thought, ‘What kind of reputation is this?! It’s even higher than mine!’

Minhyuk’s REP was at 452 while Changwook’s was only at 250. Before Minhyuk could tell him, ‘Wow, Hyung. You’re really bad at games.’ like last time, Changwook immediately shut his mouth. However, Minhyuk tilted his head at him when he suddenly turned silent. Changwook immediately stood up and said, “Ah, that’s right. I have to go and meet some of my friends outside!”

“Wow. Your brother is eating cherry tomatoes here all alone, without any friends at all!”

“...Should I stay?”

“Nope, I’m just kidding,” Minhyuk said with a grin. Changwook only gave him a dumbfounded expression before leaving, only to be replaced by Minhyuk’s dietitian, Im Hyejin.

‘I’m jealous.’ Minhyuk thought as he watched Changwook leave to meet with friends.

Minhyuk’s eating addiction was something that he contracted so suddenly back in middle school. He just suddenly ate everything they had in the refrigerator one day. He had not been to school ever since then. Minhyuk quietly and quickly transferred schools and went to the United States to try and find a cure, but the only thing that he got was the term ‘Eating Addiction’ and another 40 kilograms to his name. He only stayed there for two months.

At that time, Minhyuk suffered from severe manic depression and even had an impulse to commit suicide. Whenever he contacted his friends, he always felt that he was missing his past colorful and splendid life so he decided to change his phone number and quietly hid away from his friends and society. He did not want his friends to see him like this. He was also scared that they might point their fingers at him, or worse, hate him for what he had become.

Minhyuk had always smiled at other people, and even if they called him a pig, he would just say ‘I’m a pig. Kwwiiiiik!’ However, even if he was going along with those words, he never liked

being called a pig. Minhyuk just felt that if he did not act that way, or if he did not smile, then he would look like he was desperate.

‘Friends...’?Minhyuk thought about this word deeply. He also had them too. The guys that he went to the PC Room with whenever school ended, they were his friends. Back then, he was really bad at those games so his friends would say...

‘As expected. The world is fair to us all.’

‘Wow, Minhyuk-ah... You’re really bad at this game..’

‘GG!’

Minhyuk tried everything that was trendy and had fun with his friends. Then, he suddenly thought of Facebook. He also had an account on Facebook when he was in middle school. So, he reinstalled the app that he deleted before and logged back in.

Once he logged back in, he saw a +999 on the bell-shaped icon that meant notification. It was news and updates. Updates about his friends, acquaintances or even his friends’ acquaintances. Minhyuk did not look through the pile of news and updates about his friends. He looked at his message window. There was also a +999 on his messages. Minhyuk smiled as he checked through his messages. There was only one reason why he smiled. A few days ago, a friend of his sent a message to him.

‘Im Jihye.’

Whenever they played RPGs or shooting games, she always set her nickname as ‘Genie’. She was a girl who always insisted that she was as good as the magical fairy genie, and was very good at playing games. Minhyuk remembered her as someone that was 160-centimeters tall and weighed 100kg. Just like the Minhyuk of today.

‘I’ll kill you if you eat my ramen!’

Jihye would say, shaking her fists at them. She looked very, very scary back then. Just when Minhyuk was about to click on her message...

Riiiiing—

...his mobile phone rang loudly.

1. Maplestory users I guess xD

Chapter 90: Odd Companion

An unknown number was calling him. To be honest, Minhyuk’s phone did not usually ring, so he was curious about who it was and answered the phone.

[I love you. Gullible customer, you can now replace your mobile phone for free...]

Click—

Minhyuk hung the phone up, his mouth twitching in shock. Then, he opened the messages left by Jihye on his message window.

‘H...her mouth is this rough and unbridled...?’Minhyuk thought when he saw the string of curses that greeted him the moment he clicked in.

[Im Jihye: #%"&! ?#%\$! You pig!! %#@% @%% you, shitty pig!!! @\$@#\$ you, wild boar!!! #\$\$% you, honey pig!]

Even amidst all those curses and words of abuse, the word ‘pig’ was the consistent insult that appeared one after the other. Back then, Minhyuk already had a large appetite. Jihye was also chubby, so they naturally used to call each other ‘pig’. The two of them were even famous as the Two Great Pigs. Of course, Minhyuk was only called that as a joke because he exercised hard even back then. As he read through the messages among the curses, he saw things like, ‘I’m sad,’ ‘How can you do that, you bastard,’ ‘I miss you’?and so on. Minhyuk laughed at her messages. He continued to scroll through the messages.

[Im Jihye: Jisoo was quite old-fashioned when we were young right? That’s why we always tell him ‘Did Jisoo’s father come here?’. Do you remember? But now...]

Jihye sent him a message filled with suspense. They said that ugly kids would grow up handsome! So, Minhyuk clicked the next message with great anticipation.

[Im Jihye: He now looks like the head of the bandits! Hehehehe. He has a rough beard now, which he has been growing ever since he was a kid. Now, he likes bananas, just like a monkey. When I threw a banana at him he clapped and said that he liked it. Hehehe.]

“Pfft!” Minhyuk burst out in laughter. It had been such a long time since Minhyuk laughed like this. Recalling his memories with his friends was such a joy for him.

[Im Jihye: And, Seoktae has grown to become a handsome man. Yepyp. But, I don’t have any feelings for him. He still has that shocking taste of his as always.]

Seoktae was his handsome friend. It seemed like he was still working hard to maintain his appearance. And then...

[Im Jihye: And I have become a beautiful woman who’s 163 centimeters tall and weighs 49 kilograms. Once you see me, you’ll probably get excited and say ‘Hekhek, please give me your number!’. Just so you know, I won’t give you my number, you pig.]

“Oh. For real?” Minhyuk asked aloud. He could not tell if what she was saying was real or not. Then, as he read through her messages, he saw...

[Im Jihye: All three of us are playing Athenae now. If you’re playing Athenae too, you must send me a whisper right away. You know my nickname right? My?nickname code is?41462.]

“Oh...”

Minhyuk’s lips curled in a smile. These guys were playing *Athenae*? It was only natural, after all, they have always played games well. The thought of them being quite influential in the game crossed his mind.

‘Should I contact her?’Minhyuk thought. However, he quickly shook his head. Minhyuk still wanted to reach his goal and lose weight.

‘Once I get back to my original weight...’

Once he reached his goal, he would go and meet his friends proudly. Minhyuk felt sorry, and at the same time, thankful that they were waiting for him like this. When he weighed himself yesterday, he could see that his weight had reduced to 165 kilograms. This meant that he was already changing.

Then, he went in front of the mirror, he looked at himself and talked to Im Hyejin, his diet manager. He said, “Oh. Noona. Don’t you think that I’m not fat anymore? I’m just chubby now, right?”

“...Y, yeah. I, I guess so. Hohoho!”

“Hahahahahaha!”

To be honest, whether it was 165kg or 170kg, Minhyuk still looked the same to Hyejin. However, her words brought a smile to Minhyuk’s face. Then, he recalled what he was going to do next in? Athenae. He thought,?‘The Shrieking Hills.’

There were some monster quests available there. When Minhyuk checked it out, he saw that only powerful players around his level would go and hunt there mainly because the monsters in that area were quite strong for their level. Minhyuk also knew that the Shrieking Hills would give out a lot of EXP. However, the reason that attracted Minhyuk the most to Shrieking Hills was the duck meat reward.

In fact, the Shrieking Hills quest was usually given out by the Barras Kingdom army, and they gave duck meat as a reward. Duck meat was considered to be one of the specialties of the Barrass Kingdom. Of course, the rewards also included plenty of gold and EXP. Minhyuk quickly entered his capsule and logged back in to?Athenae?so he could meet with his friends sooner.

Rovan saw a few players hanging around the Kingdom’s Army. They all seemed like they were forming a party to go to the Shrieking Hills. The monsters in the Shrieking Hills were usually around Level 100~130. However, if the monster’s level was at 100, it was as strong as Level 110 monsters from other areas. The same went for a monster at Level 120, it would be strong enough to face Level 130 players. This ten levels gap in power was something that was much more troublesome than what players normally thought.

In Rovan’s case, he had received a ‘Hidden Quest’ in the Shrieking Hills. He needed to enter a path that no one knew about, to proceed with the hidden quest. He thought,?‘That’s where the Great Mage’s Power of Sin is lying in wait.’

So far, he had no clue about what the Power of Sin was, but Rovan was quite confident in himself. This was because he used to be ranked as the number one player in?Versal. Everyone knew who? Versal’s?Rovan was. He was famously known as the Crazy Hunter. Unfortunately, he played? Athenae?at a much later date compared to others because he went to the army.

Even so, he was definitely someone that stood above the rest. His speed in leveling up was overwhelmingly fast, and he even received the legendary class ‘Berserker’. The Berserker was a class that could be obtained in Isbin Village by chance.

Rovan shook his head when he heard the words of Kemil, the representative of the Barras Kingdom's Army. Kemil said, "I won't allow you in, unless you have one, no, two or three people in your party."

"I understand."

Information was power. Since Rovan was gathering information, he could tell at a glance that the army was weeding out people who were alone. As he looked through the players that were still alone, he tried to find people that would fit his criteria. Rovan needed to find someone who would not interfere with his hunt. He was someone who did not want to get disturbed when he was hunting. To put it simply, he needed a simple, naive player that would listen to him. The reason why he needed to find a simple player was, 'In the first place, he doesn't need to come forward. This way I can eat more EXP.'

This was one of the weaknesses of the buff characters like healers. They needed to rely on parties whenever they were hunting. Whenever one hunted in a party, the EXP distribution would not necessarily be 5:5. Usually, healers would only take around 3~4 in EXP distribution. This was because their direct contribution to the hunting would always be low.

Right now, Rovan wished that he could find a useless figure, someone who was much more useless than a healer. In any case, Rovan would be the one who would do most of the hunting, so this was like him taking such a player on a bus. Their situation would be like hitting two birds with one stone. Of course, if this was his ideal scenario, then Rovan would be taking up more of the EXP, and also not be bothered by other strangers. There was no way that a player like that would be able to take aggro from him, besides he was quite confident with his skills. Rovan looked around with that thought in mind.

'....Huh?'

Rovan tilted his head in confusion when he saw a player squatting down in a corner. Looking closely, he could see that the player was making kimchi pancakes.

'Is he a chef?'

Rovan thought, as the man laughed weirdly.

"The ends of the pancakes taste so delicious...!"

'Ho. It tastes the best, right?'

Rovan also knew about it. The best part of a pancake was its crunchy and crispy sides! He could not help but smack his lips at the thought. Then, a small fireball appeared on top of the man's frying pan.

'T, that...?'

Rovan saw it clearly. That was a fireball. However, as far as he knew, only mages were able to use that magic. He thought, 'What the hell, how is that possible?'

Then, the fireball wrapped around the pancakes.

"Oh. It's cooking well. It's cooking well. Good. Good!" The man exclaimed as he flipped the pancakes perfectly.

Sizzle!

“Kyaha!”

“Wow. You flipped it well...”

“....?”

Rovan unconsciously praised the man. However, as soon as the man saw him, the man quickly hid the kimchi pancakes behind him. He looked like a pirate hiding his treasures from his adversaries.

‘I’m not going to take it from you, though?!’ That was what Rovan wanted to say. Not long after, the man quickly finished cooking and picked a pancake up.

“Oh. It’s golden brown!”

‘Wow. It’s really fried to perfection, it’s golden brown!’ Rovan thought in awe. The sides of the kimchi pancake were crispy and toasted to a golden brown. Rovan watched the man quickly tear a piece out of the kimchi pancake before placing it in his mouth.

Crunch, crunch!

“Ah, so delicious!”

Rovan could hear the crunchy sound as the man chewed on the kimchi pancake. Rovan gulped down his saliva that threatened to drool from his mouth. He thought, ‘Wow. That pancake... It would definitely be crunchy in every bite, right? How about I make something crispy with flour later?’

Rovan was already imagining himself once he got home. He would definitely make some pancakes for himself later. Just as the man finished eating a pancake, Kemil, the representative from the Kingdom’s army suddenly spoke to that man. He said, “Excuse me...”

“Yes?” The man said.

“I’ll take you in as my partner, so please, just give me one piece of pancake! Boy, you haven’t been able to find any companions for an hour now!”

When he heard those words, Rovan suddenly understood. He thought, ‘Ah. That player is a chef so no one wanted to take him to their party!’

It was the truth. No one wanted such a useless member as that man. Then the man responded, “But, Kemil, you need to protect and guard this place.”

“Ah. You’re right,” Kemil said, slapping his fist on his open palm as if he had just realized this.

Rovan looked at him as if he was looking at an idiot, and thought, ‘Is he a moron?’

However, after hearing what Kemil had to say, Rovan started to get an idea in his head.

“Boy, I wanted to give something to you in exchange for some pancakes, but that’s too bad. Hmm, hmm.”

In all honesty, Rován also wanted to taste the pancakes that the man made.

“Then, shall I give you a piece of pancake?”

“Oh. Are you really giving me a piece?”

.

“Yes. You know, I love duck meat.?Whisper, whisper...”

“Ah. I’ll definitely pack some more for you.”

“Oh. Thank you!”

‘What’s this? I don’t know if that player is dumb or clever?’

Rován could not quite understand the man as he looked at him. The man gave out some pancakes, but in return, he got more rewards. However, players would generally ask for more gold, or a way to increase their attack power, whenever they ask for higher quest rewards. The player just wanted to have more duck meat?

The strange man made another piece of pancake and handed it over to Kemil. Kemil quickly tore the pancake and placed a piece in his mouth. Then, he quickly looked at Minhyuk and the pancake in his hands with admiration on his face. He said, “Wow... Waaaaaa...”

Kemil was left speechless in admiration as he looked back and forth between the pancake and Minhyuk. He continued to say, “Delicious. It’s really delicious... Wow...”

Rován wanted to hear what it tasted like, but Kemil was left speechless. He found himself getting irritated at Kemil for no reason at all. He thought,?‘Damn. Talk! Why won’t you talk?!’

Then, as if waking up from some sort of dream, he paused and thought,?‘Why am I getting so worked up over a piece of pancake...?’

Then Kemil said, “It’s really, really delicious...”

Kemil looked like he was about to cry from the taste of the pancake.

“I’ll also give you a bit more gold for the rewards.”

“Oooh! Thank you!”

‘Gasp...!’

Rován was quite shocked when he heard their conversation. He thought,?‘Im, impossible....!’

Was this the man’s plan all along? Did he expect an increase in the gold rewards if he asked for duck meat rewards instead?!

‘So cunning! Clever!’

This only meant that the player was very confident with his cooking. After finishing his pancakes, the man washed his frying pan with magic and placed it behind his back. Strangely enough, his figure was quite familiar.

‘If he hits a monster with that frying pan, I think it would ring loudly or something like that.’

It would be more perfect if he was riding a motorcycle with a helmet on his head. Rován finally decided... He would take that player with him. That player was a chef, but he could use some special magic, so he thought that maybe he was someone who had a hidden class.

‘Something like... The Frying Pan Mage?’

However, Rován was sure of one thing. If he took that player with him, he would definitely be able to eat delicious food while he helped to power-level that player. Rován could also tell that player to just sit still while he could take most of the EXP away.

Just then, his GC suddenly popped up.

[Guild Master Genie: Rován, are you leveling well? I can't wait ^^]