

## Gourmet 91

### Chapter 91: Odd Companion

Rovan and Genie played Versal together in the past. He, along with Genie and her two friends, often raided monsters together. Genie and her friends were extremely skilled and talented players. Rovan and Genie exchanged numbers in reality so he was able to contact her when he started playing Athenae. Genie had told Rovan that she was the guild master of Legend Guild and she would gladly accept Rovan as their member. That was the reason why Rovan was trying hard in his leveling frenzy; he wanted to live up to her high expectations.

[Rovan: I'm going hunting right now. Please wait a bit more. I will reach Level 300 in a month. Ah, how about the monsters behind the iron gate? Did you succeed?]

[Guild Master Genie: We failed ?????. We only have a few Blessed Return Stones left...]

The Blessed Return Stone was an item that would allow a player to ignore the penalty of a forced log-out and safely return to the nearest village. It was an extremely valuable item.

[Guild Master Genie: I won't disturb your leveling frenzy anymore. If you don't reach Level 300 in a month, you will be kicked out of the guild ^^!]

'S...so brutal!' Rovan thought. That smiling emoticon really meant that she would do it. So, Rovan had to respond and meet her expectations. Although Rovan had ranked first in Versal, he knew that it was only through luck that he was able to join the best guild in Athenae despite being a novice in the game and only having a low level.

[Rovan: I will turn off the Guild Chat(GC) for a while. It's time to start my leveling frenzy,]

[Guild Master Genie: Yes!]

Rovan had a habit of ignoring messages from the GC or refusing whispers whenever he was hunting. So, he turned off everything and approached the player from earlier. The player was still chatting happily with Kemil.

"There's really plenty of our specialty, duck meat, in here. However, we have too much, to the point that we're eating duck bulgogi for breakfast, smoked duck for lunch, and even steamed duck for dinner, you know?"

"So jealous..."

"..."

Kemil looked at the young man in confusion. He could see the look of envy on the man's face, and he knew it was not fake. He said, "Anyway, that's the reason why your kimchi pancake was all the more delicious for me. Hahaha!"

"Then, can't you give me some duck meat right now?"

"That's not possible. Hahaha. You have to finish your mission successfully first!"

"Hahahahahaha. Then if I fail, does that mean that I won't receive any? Hahahaha!"

As the two men laughed loudly, Rován approached them and tried to talk to the man. He said, "Excuse me."

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Minhyuk felt a bit sorry for himself. He was talking to Kemil earlier and thought that he was almost able to get some duck meat! Then, a man approached them and interrupted their conversation. He was the player earlier that looked like he was going to steal some of his kimchi pancakes. Of course, with that prior experience, Minhyuk was now completely on guard against this man.

"What's wrong?"

"By any chance, are you looking for a party member?"

"Yes."

"Would you like to party with me?"

Minhyuk looked at the man carefully. The man looked like he was a bit older than himself. He was about 180 centimeters tall, equipped with decent artifacts. The man looked like he was someone that was skilled and powerful. However, what caught Minhyuk's attention the most was...

'He looks?like he would ask for a bite of food from me!'

Minhyuk did not know why his impression of this man was like that, but it made him extremely wary. However, he also knew that if he continued to be like this, then he would never be able to find any party members at all. So far, the reactions of the other players had been the same.

"Hey, hey. Look at that player with the frying pan on his back. He looks funny!"

"Is he doing cosplay?"

"Does he want to hit a monster in the head with that frying pan? Is he a chef?"

"I have never seen a chef carry a frying pan on his back. It looks like the party would immediately disband if you take him with you."

Just like that, the people in the surroundings kept their distance from him.

"What's wrong with me?"

The man asked him after he heard the surrounding whispers. He said, "Do you really not know why...?"

"Yes. What's so strange about wearing a frying pan on my back?"

"It's not normal."

When Minhyuk saw that the man did not understand his viewpoint, he decided to explain it to him, saying, "Just think about it."

"Okay," The man said, nodding his head.

"You can use a frying pan to cook, right?"

“Of course.”

“You can also use it to attack, right?”

“Y...yeah?” The man said. He nodded, thinking about how much damage a frying pan could even make. It did not matter to him, Minhyuk could definitely hit every once in a while.

“With this, I can also defend myself.”

“...I, is that so?”

“Yes. There’s no other artifact like this in the world! It can cook, defend and even attack!”

“...Uhm.” The man hummed and nodded anyway. Eager to put the topic of the frying pan behind them, he quickly introduced himself. He said, “My nickname is Rován. Just like what I said earlier, would you like to party with me?”

Minhyuk thought deeply before answering him. He was sure that Rován was most likely going to ask him for food and eat with him, but there seemed to be no one else that was willing to form a party with him. After much consideration, he slowly nodded to accept his proposal. He said, “I understand.”

[Would you like to join Handsome?Rován’s?Party?]

[ Yes / No ]

“Yes.”

[You have joined Handsome?Rován’s?Party.]

Minhyuk could clearly see it. This man was someone that was extremely narcissistic and confident in himself. What kind of party name was “Handsome Rován”? Then, he suddenly thought, ‘This person is strange...’

At the same time, Rován also thought, ‘This person is strange...’

What kind of defense could anyone do with a frying pan? It would already be enough if he could stop flying stones from reaching him. This was what Rován believed. Thus, the party of two oddballs were formed.

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Employee Lee Minhwa was tapping on her keyboard leisurely. She had joined the company for quite some time now and she finally was able to rid herself of the ‘novice employee’ and ‘new recruit’ titles. Right now, she could already switch monitors or watch through several monitors with just a click on her keyboard.

‘Fufu, I’m such a competent and talented woman!’ Lee Minhwa thought as she brought up one of the special players on one of the monitors. The special player that she wanted to look at was Rován. Rován was a ranker in Versal and his leveling speed

was vastly different compared to the other players. In addition to that, he had received the legendary class, Berserker.

‘Come to think of it, that legendary Berserker class...’?Lee Minhwa thought, recalling the fact that Player Minhyuk had the chance to receive it, but forfeited it for one reason alone.

“It was because he wouldn’t be able to sweet red bean jelly, right...?”

A player refused a legendary class for sweet red bean jelly, unbelievable, right? However, that class was extremely strong and powerful. In fact, the Berserker class allowed Rován to have a rapid increase in his level, making him proud of himself and the legendary class. Rován was even able to receive a quest that could increase his already overwhelming skills and abilities. That hidden quest could only be received and completed by a player that was recognized for his overwhelming strength.

‘But the Trial of Sin would not be as easy as he thought...’?Lee Minhwa thought, finally pulling up Rován on the screen. However...

“Gasp!” Lee Minhwa gasped in shock.

“What’s wrong?” Team Leader Park asked, hurriedly standing up and looking at her monitor from his leisurely coffee break.

“Players Rován and Minhyuk are together...”

In other words, the two of them would definitely be heading towards the hidden quest together. As he looked at the monitor, Team Leader Park finished his analysis and spoke to Lee Minhwa beside him. He said, “Rován is a lone hunter. I think that’s why he thought to find a player that did not have as much firepower as his party member.”

“Do they need to create a party before they can enter the Shrieking Hills?”

“Yeah. Look at Player Minhyuk, he looks weak.”

“You’re right,” Lee Minhwa agreed with a nod. After all, Player Minhyuk really did look weak. With all that had happened though, she said, “However, he’s someone that’s extremely strong.”

“Yeah.”

“So, who do you think will be able to complete this hidden quest?”

Since the two of them were companions, she naturally thought that Player Minhyuk would be able to get this hidden quest. But if player?Rován’s?plan went as planned, then he would probably work really hard to complete the quest.

“Honestly? I don’t think Player Rován will be able to clear the hidden quest yet,” Team Leader Park murmured this to himself. He knew that?Rován’s?abilities were still far

from the requirements to complete the hidden quest. Suddenly, his eyes widened. Then, Team Leader Park said, "Come to think of it..."

"...?"

"I think the Trial of Sin might not affect Player Minhyuk...?"

"Ah, that's entirely possible!"

Team Leader Park and Lee Minhwa nodded at the same time and looked at the monitor. The scene that was playing on the monitor was quite harmonious. Players Minhyuk and Rován were walking together while Rován was showing off.

[Hey, by any chance do you know about legendary classes?]

[I know.]

[I received one. It's the Berserker class. Ah. Really. I wanted to become someone normal in Athenae this time. But, do you know that Berserker is such a strong class?]

"...He's bragging about his Berserker class to the person who did not want that class because he wanted to eat sweet red bean jelly? He probably won't be able to lift his face proudly if he knew about that..." Team Leader Park said.

Lee Minhwa also added, "His face will definitely burn in shame...."

Minhyuk knew that his hunch was always right. Just like he thought, this player was really narcissistic! In fact, he already told Minhyuk about how he was a ranker in Versal and how he got his legendary class, Berserker. When he heard about this, Minhyuk suddenly thought, '...If I didn't want to eat sweet red bean jelly then I could easily get that. Tsk.'

However, Minhyuk still had no regrets. After all, the sweet red bean jelly was extremely delicious. Then, Minhyuk looked over the information of the quest that he had received earlier.

[Quest: Hunt 200 monsters in the Shrieking Hills.]

Rank: C

Requirements: Players should be over Level 90, Party Hunting

Rewards: 20,000 EXP, 300,000 gold

Current Number of Hunted Monsters: 0 / 200

Penalty for Failure: You won't be able to receive any quests from Shrieking Hills.

Description: The monsters that reside in the Shrieking Hills sometimes appear to wreak havoc and cause damages and injuries to the residents of Hesvin, a town located in the vicinity. These monsters are very tricky, some of them can even use magic. Hunt 200 of these monsters!

'I may have failed to receive duck meat earlier, but I still have a chance to get duck meat!'

Minhyuk even received an additional 50,000 gold from Kemil, the man that ate duck meat thrice a day, on top of the original gold reward of 250,000 gold.

I will exchange my pancakes with duck meat! So this mission should be successful!

Then, not long after, they arrived in front of the guard who was guarding the bridge that connected the Shrieking Hills from the town. The guard said, "From this point on, you're already in the Shrieking Hills."

The guard looked over Rován and Minhyuk, and asked, "Will you guys be fine with just the two of you? Those guys in there are much stronger than you think."

"We'll be fine," Rován said as he nodded happily before looking back at Minhyuk. Minhyuk also nodded in agreement.

"Let's go."

The two of them stepped forward and crossed the bridge. As soon as they crossed the bridge, the talkative Rován immediately quieted down.

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'His aura suddenly changed.'?Minhyuk thought, a bit impressed with Rován's change. He was like a completely different person from the person before, who had been screaming and saying 'I just received my legendary class recently! I'm the best, you should trust me!'. The person who was so narcissistic and confident about himself earlier, had suddenly quieted down and turned serious.

"We should always be alert whenever we are in any hunting grounds. We don't know when or where a variable will pop out."

"I know."

"I'll start hunting now. Minhyuk, why don't you try to hunt one? In Minhyuk's case, if you find hunting difficult, you can just 'assist' me when I look tired."

Rován's words were implying to Minhyuk that he should step aside if he could not hunt properly, after all, he was just a chef. However, Minhyuk did not feel offended at his words. He thought that it was alright for others to think that he was a chef. He even thought of welcoming?Rován's?offer for him to do nothing. One reason was because he wanted to take the bus and be power-leveled. However, he had yet to test his skills in actual combat, so he was still a bit excited about what was going to happen.

'This guy. He's strong.'

Minhyuk could tell. He had been exercising and working out a lot ever since he was a child, so he knew how to determine the?strong?just by the gait and aura that they exude. He knew that Rován was someone who stood above those who were strong.

[You have entered the Shrieking Hills.]

[If you aren't strong enough, please turn back and go outside.]

Unlike other dungeons, the Shrieking Hills belong to the field category. The advantage of a field dungeon was that the players could easily go back and forth in the dungeon without having to hunt and kill the boss monster. Of course, there were exceptions to these rules.

‘I should first finish hunting 200 monsters before I go for my hidden quest,’?Rovan thought, looking around to decide his course of action. He could see plenty of players hunting monsters. Then...

“Kiiiiieeeeeeeee!”

...Minhyuk and Rovan heard a harsh, ear-piercing shriek.

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Rovan calmly looked at Minhyuk and said, “The Shrieking Hills was named as such because a loud shriek can be heard throughout the whole area. You should know that it has only been a month ever since the Shrieking Hills opened, right?”

“Yes. I know that,” Minhyuk said. He had investigated thoroughly, studying this place seriously, since he wanted to know what he could eat here.

“Athenae?did not announce it, but there are rumors going around that the shriek came from an epic-class named monster.”

“Oho. Is that so?” Minhyuk asked. He did not see that when he checked for the information about the Shrieking Hills.

That was only natural since this information was something that Rovan obtained from Legend Guild. The Legend Guild had a member with the legendary class ‘Informant’ and that player had all the information most players knew, on top of that, information that others were not privy to.

However, the only reason why Rovan was willing to share this information with Minhyuk was because it was just a ‘rumor’. Still, even if the information was just considered to be a rumor, Rovan was confident about it. He was about 95% sure of the contents of the information.

“I came to Shrieking Hills only after a month of opening because there’s a high probability that the boss monster will appear only after the field had opened for a month.”

Rovan’s analysis and judgment were quite precise. Hunting named monsters, especially epic-class monsters, would most likely drop epic artifacts. In fact, epic monsters were monsters that rarely appear among all the monster ranks.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk was thinking about something that was entirely different. He thought,?‘I want to try and eat it...!’?He could think like this since his Eccentric Food God skill allowed him to eat named monsters. Then, he said, “Alright, I can see monsters over there. There are a lot of players too.”

There were quite a lot of players gathered somewhere near them and it seemed like there were also quite a lot of monsters over in that area.

“Don’t be nervous.”

“Yep.”

As the two of them looked around, they could hear whispers coming from the surrounding players.

“Isn’t that the player from before? The one with the frying pan?”

“What? Did the two of them come here? Didn’t they know that the monsters in the Shrieking Hills are much stronger than ordinary mobs?”

The other players whispered and talked about them. After all, Rován was wearing a bright red sword on his waist, while Minhyuk looked like an ordinary chef with a frying pan on his back. Despite Minhyuk also carrying a sword on his waist, their combo looked like a player that could probably fight monsters and a player who was completely useless. In addition, they were the only party with two people. Most of the players that came to the Shrieking Hills would form a four-person party.

“Are the other players really that talkative?” Rován asked with a grin.

A monster, Mini Troll to be exact, was standing right in front of them. The Mini Troll was around 150 centimeters tall and was carrying an ax that was much smaller compared to the ax that Trolls usually carried. Compared to the regular Trolls, the strength of Mini Trolls were much smaller. However, they were considered to be nastier monsters compared to regular monsters. This was because they could use magic.

“I’ll show you how to do it first,” Rován said as he stepped forward to demonstrate.

“Gwoooooo!” The Mini Troll roared loudly. There was only one thing that the Mini Trolls had in common with the regular trolls. It was their extreme regenerative powers. This was the reason why the ordinary players felt like they were much stronger monsters compared to ordinary mobs.

Dash!

Rován stomped on the ground as he used a skill to deal with the monster.

[Rampage.]

[Your HP will drop by 20% while your attack power will increase by 30%.]

Fwoom!

“Oh...” Minhyuk said as he watched Rován fight and swing his large sword without breaking a sweat against the Mini Troll.

Slash!

“Keuack!” The Mini Troll shrieked, its shoulders pierced by Rován’s sword. Then, it tried to hack Rován’s neck with the ax on its left hand but Rován swiftly dodged the incoming ax and pulled his sword out of its shoulders.

Spurt!



“Gwaaaack!” The Mini Troll roared as flames started to engulf its body.

Crackle—

[Fire Armor.]

[Damage will continuously be inflicted depending on your distance.]

This was probably one of the Mini Troll’s special abilities.

Fwoosh!

Stab!

However, Rován easily stepped back and stabbed the Mini Troll in its throat. After cleanly finishing off the Mini Troll, Rován took care of the drops.

[Party: You have acquired 613 gold.]

[Party: Rován has acquired the Mini Troll’s Toenail (1).]

“Well then, that’s how you hunt them. It’s better to kill them before they can regenerate. You can try hunting it once and if you don’t like it, you can just leave it to me. I’ll start hunting for the both of us after that. Well, that’s why it’s called a bus after all. Hoho,” Rován spoke as he grinned at Minhyuk, as if to reassure him.

“If it’s not a bother, I would like to hunt with you.”

“Ah, yes. That’s fine.”

Rován wondered if this player in front of him grew courage after seeing his superb skills. Maybe? To be honest, even a four-person party was having a hard time dealing with two Mini Trolls, but he wanted to try and hunt a Mini Troll alone? In Minhyuk’s case, he felt that he really needed to hunt. He was aware that he could take more EXP when he joined the hunt instead of just standing still and waiting for the EXP from others. After all, Minhyuk needed to level up quickly so he could start with his Food God’s Legacy Quest and eat plenty of duck meat!

Dash!

Minhyuk kicked the ground as he dashed to where the Mini Trolls were.

[Fire Armor.]

[Damage will continuously be inflicted depending on your distance.]

‘That’s too bad,’ Rován thought, preparing to run to rescue Minhyuk at a moment’s notice. It would have been nice if his party member died the moment they entered the hunting grounds but while Rován was narcissistic, he was not someone that lacked loyalty and compassion. So he got ready to jump in and help the moment Minhyuk was in danger.

‘At his level, Player Minhyuk’s magical defense is definitely low. This will be the reason why he will suffer a lot of damage just by running to where the Mini Trolls are.’

On the contrary, Rován's 'Valo's Bloodstained Greatsword' had an attached +50 on his magical defense. Once he added his personal magical defense and REP, Rován could get as much as 84 in his magical defense. Generally, players would not receive any damage from First Tier Magic and a reduced damage from Second Tier Magic if they had 100 points in their magical defense. This was also the reason why the Fire Armor that that Mini Troll had casted did not inflict a large damage on him earlier.

Rován was thinking about when Minhyuk would tap out. When...

'That's fast... Huh...? S...so fast? Oh...? That's really fast? OMG...? He's really fast?!

...His eyes grew the size of the saucers. He watched as Minhyuk pulled the frying pan off of his back.

"Hey! That player is hunting!"

"Oh. Are we going to have a spoon killer after we have a frying pan killer? That frying pan will definitely be broken by the Mini Troll's ax."

The players were laughing loudly as they joked about what they thought would happen to Minhyuk. Just then, Minhyuk, who decided to first test out the Mini Troll with a single hit, received the Mini Troll's fire magic attack.

Shwaaa!

However, Minhyuk did not feel any heat at all. Mahava's Double Ring gave him a +40 on his magical defense. In addition, he received a permanent increase of +30 when he ate the perilla leaf pancake from the Special Pancake Dish Set that he received not too long ago. There was also a +100 magical defense attached to his Hepas' Legendary Frying Pan. And because his reputation was over 400, he also received an additional +20 on his magical defense. In total, he had about 190 in his magical defense. On top of that, since he received a double effect on his magical defense, the total strength that his magical defense could exhibit was actually at 380. Minhyuk lifted his frying pan and slammed it strongly on the Mini Troll's head.

"Oh, look at that..."

The surrounding players could not take their eyes away. The moment the pan slammed on the Mini Troll's head...

Clang!

[You have dealt a critical strike.]

Bang!

With a bang, the Mini Troll was embedded deep in the ground.

"Gasp?!"

"Gasp!"

"...OMG?"

All of the surrounding players were completely shocked with what they witnessed. And the person that was most shocked about this turn of events was none other than Rován. He thought, 'What... what the hell?'

The other players could see that the struggling Mini Troll had almost half of its head smashed in by the blow.

"Keuaaaaah!" The Mini Troll roared furiously as it regenerated its head. Then, magic slowly rose from its body.

"...That Mini Troll looks a lot stronger compared to the others."

There would always be stronger monsters that would appear among the ordinary monsters. In general, if the ordinary monsters had a power at 11, then these stronger variants would have a power of 12. The Mini Troll that Minhyuk was fighting seemed to be the strongest among all the Mini Trolls.

[Triple Magic Missile.]

[A small sphere that has the same damage as an attack made by a Mini Troll.]

The magic was clearly just a sloppy First Tier Magic, but it was already nasty enough for the players to know that this was being used by a monster. What was worse was the fact that the monster could cast three of those magic spells simultaneously without casting.

Fwoom!

Fwoom!

Fwoom!

When Minhyuk saw the magic missile flying at him like baseballs pitched by a super pitcher, he held his frying pan tightly and...

[Frying Pan Gigantification.]

[You can adjust the size of your frying pan depending on the mana that you will input.]

...made it grow larger with his mana! The frying pan suddenly became large enough to hide a human! Minhyuk easily slapped the three flying spheres away with the frying pan on his hand.

Clang!

Clang!

Clang!

[Magical Reflection.]

[You have returned the magical attack back to your enemy.]

[Magical Reflection.]

[You have returned the magical attack back to your enemy.]

Fwoom!

Bang!

“Graaaaack!”

Fwoom!

Bang!

Minhyuk’s frying pan deflected all of the magic missiles, sending them back to the Mini Troll. The attacks brought the Mini Troll to the ground. However, it was still breathing, albeit on its last breaths. So, Minhyuk, who approached the collapsed Mini Troll, lightly slammed it with his frying pan.

Clang!

[You have leveled up.]

[Party: You have acquired 713 gold.]

[Party: Minhyuk has acquired the Mini Troll’s Toenail (1).]

“That was easy.”

“M... Minhyuk. Aren’t you a chef?”

“Yes?”

“...”

Rovan was left speechless. He had never seen such a strong chef. He thought, ‘Is he a combat chef? No, what in the world is that frying pan?!’

The average frying pan had a durability of 200/200 with an attack power of around 20 or so. That was why most of them thought that the frying pan would be easily broken by the Mini Troll’s ax. However, that was not the case at all. What was even more surprising was the fact that the frying pan could deflect the Mini Troll’s magic and even caused a huge damage to the caster when it smashed it back. This could only mean that the frying pan had a high attack power and Minhyuk’s stats were extremely high.

“N...no. Why does your frying pan have such a strong attack power?”

Furthermore, Roan only successfully hunted the Mini Troll after he used his skills, while Minhyuk did not even use any skill at all.

Then, Minhyuk said, “Can I join the hunt now?”

Rovan could never tell him? ‘It’s dangerous, so please stay back.’ anymore. He said, “Ah. Yes...”

“Ah. But, where’s the magic duck?” Minhyuk asked. In fact, the biggest reason why Minhyuk decided to come to the Shrieking Hills was this! He wanted to eat the magic duck! They might be able to get duck meat from Kemil after they successfully hunted 200 monsters but Minhyuk still wanted to try and taste the magic duck. He heard that they have the same appearance as ordinary ducks and the only difference was that

they use magic. This was one of the reasons why magical defense was extremely important whenever someone would go hunting in the Shrieking Hills.

Since Minhyuk had the Eccentric Food God, he also wanted to try and eat the 'named monster' that existed here. After all, it was now time for him to use his special ability. In fact, Minhyuk ate a lot of chicken in the novice tutorial zone. If the magic duck looked like regular ducks, then...

'I can eat smoked ducks! Steamed ducks! And even duck meat bulgogi!'

Minhyuk grinned widely. He could not help but begin imagining different duck dishes.

"Uh. Uhm... You just have to go further inside from here. But the Shrieking Hills is a unique field! And, you need to hunt at least 100 monsters in here before you could go further inside."

"Is that so? Then we should quickly start hunting!"

"Quickly? I would love to do that, but the monsters are dispersed too widely..."

"Then, I'll just gather all the monsters here."

"Yes?"

"We need to kill quite a lot of them right?"

"Ah, well..."

In all honesty, Rován would not even need to break a sweat even if there were five Mini Trolls surrounding him. That was how strong he was. However, he could not understand how Minhyuk, a chef, could gather monsters around them. At that moment...

"Bbiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!"

...a clear and loud sound similar to a bird's cry came out of Minhyuk's mouth and almost shook the ground. Thankfully, the sound was clean and pure so it was not uncomfortable to hear.

[Gryphon's Cry.]

[You have a 70~80% chance of attracting the attention of all the monsters within a 20 meter radius.]

[Party members within a 10 meter radius will have a 12~14% increase in all five of their basic stats.]

Rován suddenly heard a notification ring in his head.

[You have received a 13% increase in all five of your basic stats.]

Rován looked at Minhyuk with a confused and bewildered expression. He thought, 'No, who the hell is he?! What kind of chef can use this buffing ability?!'

Minhyuk even had the aggro ability that was common for tankers. However, Rován was still an expert so he hastily grabbed his sword in preparation.

‘Generally, tankers at his level can only pull the aggro of at least 2 monsters, right?’  
Rovan thought, no?hoped. But when he turned to look at the incoming monsters...

“...What the hell!?!”

...there were at least ten Mini Trolls that were running to where they were.

‘What kind of f\*cking aggro ability is this?!’

Minhyuk ran out with his hands holding on to his frying pan tightly to welcome the incoming Mini Trolls.

“Ah! Why are you running so fast?! You’ll get cornered by those monsters!”

“Yes...?”

Rovan recalled what he wanted Minhyuk to do as he ran after him. To be honest, Rovan just wanted him to do miscellaneous chores. Suddenly, Rovan had a very bad premonition. For some reason, he felt like he would be the one doing those things.

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Minhyuk quickly analyzed their situation as he ran. There were exactly 11 Mini Trolls running towards them. From the fight earlier, Minhyuk already knew that the Mini Troll's magic did not have any effect on him. He thought, ‘Compared to regular trolls, the actual power that a Mini Troll can exert is much lower.’

Originally, the Trolls were at Level 250, but it seemed like the Mini Trolls could only exert power equivalent to someone at Level 100. The only reason why the other players tagged them as troublesome and difficult was because they could use magic. However, Minhyuk already knew that it did not work on him.

[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%.]

Ellie's Swordsmanship, just like Hepas' Legendary Frying Pan, had the ability to increase all of his stats by 15%. Then, Minhyuk thought, ‘It seems like my Ellie's Swordsmanship is also improving. It will probably level up soon.’

That was not all. Minhyuk had leveled up earlier, which brought his level to Level 97. He was able to receive a surprising amount of EXP even after he shared the EXP with Rovan when he killed the Mini Troll earlier. Not long after, Minhyuk leaped forward and slammed his frying pan on one of the Mini Trolls that was roaring loudly.

Clang!

[You have dealt a critical strike.]

He quickly passed by the Mini Troll with its head smashed in before using Rampant Sword.

[Rampant Sword.]

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

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang!

The frying pan in his hand hit the Mini Trolls' heads one by one. It was so fast that it even left afterimages. The frying pan's attack power was at 400 and with the combination of Ellie's Swordsmanship, its attack power had increased exponentially! In addition, every time he hit a Mini Troll on the head, he could hear a clear and loud sound!

"Sounds perfect!" Minhyuk said in awe.

Suddenly, a Mini Troll launched an ice ball magic towards him. If an ice ball successfully hit its target, it could easily freeze the surrounding area. Minhyuk quickly stopped in his tracks and slapped the ice ball away with his frying pan.

[Magical Reflection.]

[You have returned the magical attack back to your enemy.]

Bang!

Crack, crack, crack, crack!

The Mini Troll was hit back with the reflected ice ball, and became rapidly covered in ice. Minhyuk continuously slapped the magic attacks that were flying towards him with his frying pan.

Clang!

Clang!

Clang!

[Magical Reflection.]

[You have returned the magical attack back to your enemy.]

Rovan also quickly joined the fray the moment he caught up with Minhyuk.

Slash!

The feeling of his thick greatsword getting stuck in the Mini Troll did not come, instead, it felt like it slashed through.

Slash!

Fwoom!

Clang, clang!

The two men were able to fight 11 Mini Trolls without being pushed back!

[Berserker's Bloody Frenzy.]

[You have a high chance of returning the damage inflicted on you when your enemy strikes you.]

Rovan's body glowed red as if he was proving that Minhyuk was not the only one that was strong in their party.

Slash!

A Mini Troll tried to break Rován's armor with its ax but its hands quickly broke down.

"Graaaaaaa!"

The Berserker's Bloody Frenzy had returned the damage!

[Greatsword's Linked?Swordsmanship.]

[You will be able to swing your greatsword at four times its normal speed.]

Rovan easily lifted the large and heavy greatsword with one hand. He quickly struck out the Mini Trolls that were surrounding him.

Slash!

Slaaaaash!

Slash!

Slaaaaash!

Meanwhile, Minhyuk was quickly moving around and slapping the HPs of the Mini Trolls down to zero before they could even regenerate.

Clang!

"One shot!"

Clang!

"Two shots!"

Clang!

"Three shots!"

Clang!

"Woooo!"

The two men quickly dealt with the 11 Mini Trolls. They turned to survey the surroundings to make sure that everything has been dealt with. Rován also smiled when he saw Minhyuk smiling. It seemed like they were truly at an equal standing right now.

'Yeah. I admit that you're strong!'

He was a chef but to think he was this skilled? However, Rován believed that the real power of his Berserker class would shine from now on. It was not like Minhyuk was not attacked while he was fighting with the Mini Trolls earlier. The same was true for Rován.

The difference was, Rován had a clear advantage with his Berserker class in fights like this. Red beads suddenly formed and leaked from the bodies of the Mini Trolls. Then, those red beads floated and seeped through Rován's body.

Swish!

As soon as the red beads were absorbed in his body, his minor injuries began to recover at a speed visible to the naked eye. Smoke rose from his body as his wounds began to disappear.



[Your HP has recovered by 2%.]

[HP absorption has failed.]

[Your HP has recovered by 1%.]

[Your HP has recovered by 4%.]

[HP absorption has failed.]

[Your HP has recovered by 6%.]

[Your HP has recovered by 4%.]

[Your HP has recovered by 5%.]

His HP had recovered by 22% in one fell swoop! A Berserker might look like it was just a frenzied warrior, but they were also known as the tireless warrior. This was one of the charms of the Berserker class. Every 20 minutes, the Berserker would automatically activate their regenerative skill to regenerate their HP. Roan even bought a healing skill book for a billion gold.

[Your HP has recovered by 14%.]

A bright light suddenly engulfed Roan's body.

"Hey, isn't that the effect of a healing skillbook?"

"Hey. It looks like it can recover 4% of the user's HP."

Roan chuckled when he heard the other players. This was an item that was worth a billion gold and could never be traded on the trading site, even if the bid was 50 million won in cash!

"Wow. Is that the healing skill book that I've heard of?" Minhyuk asked after he finished dealing with the item drops.

"Yes. I have recovered 36% of my HP right now. Hoho. This is one of the strengths of a Berserker. We can continue hunting for quite some time even if we don't have a healer."

"Oh. Is that so?" Minhyuk asked as he grinned at him.

Roan suddenly felt the chills when he looked at his smile. ?He thought,?What's this? Why is he smiling like that?

Then, he heard Minhyuk say, "Ah. I'm hungry."

Roan watched as Minhyuk pulled out a steamed bun from his inventory.

"Huh? Why is the steamed bun still steaming hot?" Roan asked, unaware of Minhyuk's Food Storage Inventory. Normally, food that was stored in the normal inventory would cool down like it was left out at room temperature. This was why he was looking at the steamed bun curiously.

Minhyuk slowly bit on the steamed bun. Steam slowly rose as he bit on it. Then, as he gently chewed the steamed bun, the smooth and sweet flavor of the red bean paste slowly spread in his mouth. After swallowing his first bite, he opened his mouth and blew on the steam that was rising out of the steamed bun before taking another bite.

"M...me too. Please give me a bite..."

"No way!"

"...Tsk!"

Rovan looked at him sullenly. Just then, he noticed something...

Shiiiiing—

...the small wounds littering Minhyuk's body were slowly disappearing. His body seemed like it was recovering rapidly.

"...Huh?"

The wounds were closing and recovering at a remarkable speed. The other players around them might not notice any difference but Rovan was different. Rovan could see how fast Minhyuk's wound had been recovering.

"...This is impossible," Rovan said. He could not think of anything to say. Just a moment earlier, he was bragging about his healing being something that was entirely special to Berserkers. But now...

'How in the world did that happen? Is that steamed bun something special? Is it made by an alchemist?'

Minhyuk smiled after recovering all of his HP and finishing his steamed buns. He said, "You said that you can continue to hunt for a long time, right?"

"Yes."

"Well. Do you think I can do the same?"

"Yes. If you can keep eating that mysterious steamed bun..."

For a moment, Rovan was quite confused. He did not understand why Minhyuk was asking him these questions. ?Then... It suddenly clicked. He finally realized why he felt that his smile was quite ominous. He quickly said, "Ah. No. Wait. Let's do it after an hour..."

"Bbiiiiiiiiiii!"

"Ack!"

Since Minhyuk knew that his party member was strong and could continue hunting for a long time, which meant that he could keep up with him. It was the best chance to rush to Level 150! Thus, Minhyuk wanted to take advantage of this opportunity.

Monsters began to flock to where they were. Their numbers were more than the numbers from earlier. That was not the end of it all. From a little distance away from them, Minhyuk suddenly stretched his frying pan.

'This crazy punk... what is he going to do again...!'

At that moment, fire spread out from his frying pan.

[Fire]

[Damage will be continuously inflicted once they touch the fire.]

'Ah?! What the hell?! Are you a mage, a chef or a warrior?! This 3?#\$A@%@@%,'?Rovan thought. He was completely confused. He saw Minhyuk quickly injuring the mob nearby as he used

his aggro skill on more than twenty monsters. Initially, he thought that he would be the one using Minhyuk as an attachment during his leveling frenzy, but it turned out that he was the one who became an attachment.

'He'll definitely get tired of this. He'll stop in two hours,'?Rovan thought, caught in his wishful thinking.

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Four hours later.

"Pl...please... Can we stop hunting for a moment?! There's no one in the world who would continuously hunt for four hours and not even take a break!" Rovan said, pleading desperately. He felt like someone who had stayed ten hours inside the public bathhouse, his exhaustion at its peak.

"Didn't you tell me earlier that a Berserker is like an energizer, and you will never get tired? You even have the recovery ability. What's wrong with you?"

Rovan was very famous in?Versal?for his persistence and endurance when hunting. He could even clear dungeons at a speed that was insanely faster than the rest of the players. However, the only reason he could do that was because he kept on going when the others were taking a rest.

However, no matter how determined or persistent he was, he really could not keep up with this madman. Rovan thought,?'Is this the reason for this guy's strength and power? He might have dabbled in this and that... But, he always seems to push on without any rest at all.'

Rovan was aware that Minhyuk's level was lower than his level right now. Unable to take it, Rovan asked him, "Why are you going so far? Why don't you take a break? Do you really want to become that strong?"

Minhyuk turned to look at him seriously, before laying out his reason without holding anything back, "I want to eat ducks."

"...What?"

"It's because I want to eat ducks."

"N, no. You've already killed a lot of ducks!"

"Ah! Hey!" Minhyuk shouted. He looked solemnly at Rovan and continued to say, ?"We've only killed 40 Magic Ducks. It's just 40, it could easily slip away from our grasp. You don't know this, but if it's only a few, then it would be gone easily. It will definitely break the momentum when I'm eating."

"You've killed 40 already, and you're still thinking of your momentum...?!"

Rovan wondered if that really made sense. Then, he paused, thinking about it long and hard, before nodding. He thought,?'Ah, maybe it really will...?'

Rovan had seen Minhyuk take out six liters of gatorade out of his inventory and drink it in one go only to hear him say,?'Oh, I've finally moistened my throat.'

"Phew. If that's the case, then we can take a break while I'm cooking."

"Wow, finally.....!" Rovan said, deeply moved. He even bowed at a 90 degree angle to show his gratitude. Then, he continued to say, "Thank you. Thank you. I'm saved. Thank you."

Rovan could finally take a rest! My goodness! He had been hunting for four hours straight! Of course, it did not escape him that he really did level up like crazy, In fact, during that four hours of pure torture, Rovan was able to increase his level by ten. However, he did not want to experience such a crazy thing again.

To be honest, he was not complaining about the duration. Rovan's main concern was the amount of monsters. He could still recall the bone-chilling dread that he felt when dozens of monsters appeared and attacked them from all sides. That feeling was something that he felt for four hours straight. At that time, Rovan clearly witnessed Minhyuk's strength.

At that moment, Minhyuk was preparing to cook while Rovan rested.

"What are you going to make?" Rovan asked him with a look of anticipation. Minhyuk might be a crazy and strange person in Rovan's eyes, but he still acknowledged one thing. The food that Minhyuk made was really delicious! When he was out of breath and tired earlier, Minhyuk had shouted at him?"This pains my heart!", before tearing the bread from his hot dog buns and gave it to him.

'No. If this person is truly generous, then he should have given me the hotdog too!'

However, Rovan was extremely hungry at that time, so he quickly gobbled up the bread. Strangely enough, it was extremely delicious. From what Minhyuk had said, he was the one who made it. That was why Rovan was sure about his cooking skills. That was why he was looking at him excitedly.

Minhyuk smiled meaningfully at him and told him what he was going to cook. He said, "Duck bulgogi."

#### Chapter 94: Odd Companion

"Wow!" Rovan could not help but let out a sound of admiration.

Duck bulgogi was a dish that glistened with a bright red color. Some would even go as far as to call it 'rubbed duck'. What would happen if they placed that sizzling, spicy and sweet duck bulgogi in their mouths?

'Very nice!?'Rovan thought, saliva already dripping down his chin at the thought of duck bulgogi.

Then, Minhyuk told him, ?"Hey, if you're bored and have nothing to do, please go and pick some lettuce. I saw that there were some lettuce heads over there when we passed by earlier."

"...Yes," Rovan answered. His shoulders dropped down in sadness. He felt like he had become Minhyuk's subordinate. He slowly stood up to go and pick some lettuce. However, to his dismay, he could not pick them. He had a scuffle with them for about five minutes before he ran back to Minhyuk and said, "That... I can't pick the lettuce..."

"Wow. Hey, you can't even pick some lettuce? You're a grown man!"

"..."

Rovan slowly felt like he was becoming smaller and smaller in front of this person. He thought,?'I'm the number one ranker in Versal... I also have the legendary class, Berserker... But I'm being scolded for not being able to pick lettuce... sob, sob!'

Minhyuk quickly hurried to where the lettuce was.

'No, he probably wouldn't be able to pick it without the digging skill... Eh?!' Rován thought, but Minhyuk easily picked the lettuce. After picking enough, he quickly returned to their temporary camping site.

"Wash these and prepare the place where we will eat!"

"...Yes," Rován answered meekly. He had now turned into a well-behaved kitchen assistant.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk started to cook in earnest. His ingredients were duck meat, onions, carrots, potatoes, cheongyang pepper, perilla leaf, minced garlic, gochujang, red pepper powder, plum juice extract, soy sauce and pepper.

He decided to cook one duck first. He started off with stir-frying the duck meat as he sprinkled some pepper over it. Then, he immediately added the carrots and potatoes to cook it well. The reason why he needed to cook the carrots and potatoes earlier was because it would take quite a lot of time for these vegetables to cook.

After he stir-fried the meat, potatoes and carrots for quite some time, he added a spoonful of red chili paste, five spoonfuls of red pepper powder, two spoonfuls of plum juice extract, a bit of soy sauce and the minced garlic to the pan.

Shwaaaaaa—

Adding the seasonings to the stir-fried meat gave off an enticing and fragrant aroma. Minhyuk continued to stir-fry the meat well to make sure that the meat and vegetables were coated with the seasonings well. When the dish was almost done, he added the onions and cheongyang peppers. Onions tend to get cooked easily, so it was usually added towards the end to make sure that they would not become soft, and that they would retain some of their crunchy and crispy texture.

Finally, the perilla leaves. Minhyuk might have mentioned it before, but he really liked dishes with perilla leaves. Adding a few perilla leaves to some dishes could result in a vast difference in flavor. He strongly believed that perilla leaves could magically change the taste and flavor of the food. He placed the chopped perilla leaves on top of the stir-fried meat and vegetables.

Sizzle, bubble, sizzle—

Minhyuk continued to stir-fry the dish in the pan to fully incorporate the flavor of the ingredients that were added towards the end. This was the recipe for a regular serving, the standard size to be exact.

Minhyuk took advantage of the frying pan's gigantification to stir fry and cook all 40 of the ducks that they had killed earlier. In fact, cooking this much would usually be a hard feat since 40 ducks could serve at least 100 servings of duck bulgogi. However, Minhyuk's frying pan could easily allow him to cook such a large serving without worrying about its state. His frying pan had the option to boil, stew, and cook the dishes well, regardless of the serving size. Even if someone was stunned and scared thinking about the golden ratio, the magic would automatically stop by itself once the dish was cooked.

"Kyaa!"

"Kgghk!"

The two people were overcome with awe. Rován was now sitting excitedly in front of their set-up, he was prepared to eat the moment Minhyuk gave him the orders. Their set-up was similar to the set-up when people were going to eat grilled pork belly. They have sliced garlic, spicy dipping sauce, pickled spring onions, seasoned leeks, lettuce, perilla leaves and even thinly sliced radish.

“Well then. Shall we eat?”

Nod, nod, nod!

The moment he heard Minhyuk’s words, Rován immediately nodded in excitement. Minhyuk first picked a big piece of the still hot duck bulgogi. Then, he blew on it gently to lessen the heat a bit before placing it in his mouth. The big piece of meat was immediately eaten in one big bite! As soon as he chewed the meat in his mouth, he could immediately taste the sweet and spicy flavor of the sauce slowly spreading in his mouth which was immediately followed by the soft texture of the meat. The oils of the duck meat would come out in every bite! Duck oil was an extremely healthy oil and was definitely good for your body!

“Keuhahaha!”

“Ugh. Ahahaha!”

The two companions laughed loudly as they tasted the delicious flavor of the duck bulgogi.

“Ah, you should try putting some duck bulgogi on top of some thinly sliced radish,” Minhyuk said, spreading the fresh, green, thinly-sliced radish on top of his own plate and placing a heap of duck bulgogi on top of it. Then, he rolled the thinly sliced radish, picked it with his chopsticks and placed it in his mouth.

Crunch, crunch.

The crunchy texture of the thinly sliced radish along with the sweet and spicy flavor of the duck bulgogi blended to create this feast of a dish in his mouth. Minhyuk quickly pulled two cups and some ice out of his inventory and poured the cider into them.

Glug, glug, glug, glug—

The bubbly sound of liquid pouring down in a cup filled with ice resounded. Minhyuk emptied the cans of cider in a quick and efficient manner.

Fwish!

Glug, glug, glug, glug, glug—

“Wow, wow!” Rován could not stop himself from exclaiming in admiration. Just when he was savoring the greasy taste of the meat, an iced cider suddenly appeared in front of him!

“It’s not refreshing at all if you ordered cola or cider in a restaurant, and they give it to you lukewarm! Only iced soda is refreshing!”

“Hoho. I loved iced drinks so I always ordered iced drinks at restaurants!”

“Cheers!”

“Cheers!”

Clink!

The two of them clinked their glasses filled with iced cider together in a toast. Minhyuk quickly gulped down his cider. ?Cider and cola were known as the two big shots in the world of iced drinks. In the case of cider, it had a more clean and refreshing taste when compared to cola.

“Kyaa! This tingling in my throat!”

After Minhyuk drank cider to the point where he could feel a tingling in his throat, he started to eat duck bulgogi again. This time, he placed the duck bulgogi on top of a perilla leaf and added some sliced garlic, seasoned leeks and ssamjang, before wrapping it well and placing it in his mouth. Then...?Chew!

“Uhmhm. Delicious!”

“It’s really delicious!”

Rovan might have experienced a lot of difficulties during the duration of his party with this man, but he truly could not deny that this was the best part of forming a party with him. To be honest, he had never felt anything like this ever since he played virtual reality games. He thought,?‘I thought that food eaten in games like this is just made to fill the fullness stat.’

This was also the reason why he only carried dried jerky, hard bread and nuts whenever he went on a hunting spree. It was because he thought that food was just made to fill his stat.

‘This isn’t bad either.’

It was like he had opened a new door to something fun. As he thought like that, Rovan finally felt full and stopped moving his chopsticks. Then, he looked up and saw Minhyuk, only to stare blankly at him.

‘Wow...’

The second one.

‘My god...’

The third one.

‘Crazy...’

The fourth one.

‘Is he a wild boar?’

Rovan watched Minhyuk in amazement. He watched as Minhyuk took a pair of scissors and cut the duck bulgogi before throwing the rice in the pan along with the lettuce and perilla leaves that he also cut with his scissors. He also showered the food with a heaping amount of sesame oil. Just like that, he started to stir fry the duck bulgogi, rice, lettuce and perilla leaves. This was another charm of duck bulgogi, fried rice.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

After Minhyuk spread the fried rice on the bottom of the pan to make it scorched and cooked well, the fire made by magic disappeared on its own. Then, Minhyuk sprinkled a lot of seaweed on top of it. The seaweed seemed like it was some toasty and crispy seaweed that was roasted before. The seaweed danced and fluttered on top of the hot rice. At that moment, Rován still held his spoon up even though he clearly felt that he was full.

“Didn’t you finish eating already?” Minhyuk asked, looking at Rován sharply.

Rován had no choice but to cough awkwardly when he saw the dagger-like stare. He tried his luck anyway, “We have separate stomachs for the main course and the fried rice.”

“Hmm,” Minhyuk hummed, shaking his head as he spread the fried rice with his spoon. Then, he scooped a spoonful of the fried rice and blew on it gently before placing it in his mouth. The savory taste of the sesame oil along with the seaweeds, chopped duck meat, vegetables and rice combined to produce a harmonious flavor that was extremely delicious. Once the two of them finished their meals, a string of notifications rang in their heads.

[You have eaten Duck Bulgogi.]

[Your attack power and defensive power will increase by 4% for 6 hours.]

“...Gasp. Your cooking buff is much better than what I thought!”

An increase of 4% in both the attack and defensive power was something that could not easily be encountered by anyone. Minhyuk smiled when he looked at the amazed Rován. He thought that he should at least do this while they were in a party together.

“Wow. With this kind of buffing ability, you will be treated well wherever you go, right?”

This was where Rován was mistaken. Minhyuk could give the highest amount of buff but for this dish, he set the buff to the lowest amount that he could give. This was because he knew that the more he shone brightly and the more he showed his abilities, then there was a high chance that the people around him would become greedy and twisted. He did not play this game to become famous, he just wanted to enjoy his food and eat something delicious. He also knew that he would become tired and would not enjoy playing once he became famous. After the two of them finished their meals and arranged everything, they prepared themselves to resume their hunt.

“Once we kill 20 more of these monsters, our quest will be completed.”

“Yep.” Minhyuk answered with a nod.

Meanwhile, Rován thought, ‘I underestimated this man before, but not anymore.’

Rován thought that he should tell Minhyuk about the details of his hidden quest. After all, he still had to go with him no matter what. At that moment...

[The Boss Monster has appeared!]

[All monsters residing in the Shrieking Hills will have a 10% increase in their abilities.]



“...”

Minhyuk and Rovan's eyes met. There were times when boss monsters would appear in the dungeon. However, there were also times when the boss monster would not appear. The semi-boss monster appeared quite often in the Shrieking Hills. However, this was the first time that the boss monster had ever appeared in this field.

“Earlier, I told you that there's a chance that an epic monster will appear. Right?”

“Yes.”

“Actually, I'm very certain that it's an epic monster. So, let's go kill it and grab that epic item!”

“Yep!”

Well, Minhyuk thought that he could eat the epic named monster, so he nodded and decided to follow through with Rovan's plans.

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Ares was a player with the Fighter class. He was the guild master of the Ares Guild and was currently ranked number one in the Official Local Rankings. Right now, he was looking at the whisper that Kald had sent him.

[Kald: I'm in hell... They said that I'm a pretty little thing and are acting like bandits...]

[Kald: Please, I'm begging you. Please save me... ?? Yesterday, a troll-like bastard asked me if I can make an Aoi Sora doll since I'm a blacksmith... and if I can't make one then he'll think of me as Aoi Sora...?? ]

Ares clicked his tongue then opened the guild window. Then he clicked on Kald's name.

“Forced expulsion.”

[Do you want to expel Kald from the Ares Guild?]

He answered with a nod.

[You have expelled Kald from the Ares Guild.]

“Stupid bastard. Tsk!” Ares spat. He could not help but curse Kald after he had tarnished the guild's reputation. Then, he went and checked his GC.

[Guild Chat | Lava: So in the end, Kald was kicked out.]

[Guild Chat | BadgerHat: Tsk, tsk. He deserves to be kicked out.]

[Guild Chat | Code: But, we don't have a blacksmith anymore, what do we do...??]

The guild chat seemed quite reasonable and quiet with what had happened. In fact, there was no one in the Ares Guild who had not done such a dishonest act like that before. Even the guild master, Ares, had engaged in shady business. What was important was whether their actions had been made public or not.

'I should make an official announcement. I have to tell them that Kald was working independently and was kicked out due to his rash actions. It'll definitely blow over soon,' Ares thought, before turning back to the information that the Secret Guild had sent him. The Secret Guild was an organization that would buy and sell any information. One would be able to get any information from them as long as they were given enough money.

'The Legend Guild is preparing to acquire a territory... Do they want to appear in front of the public eye now?'

Legend Guild was a guild that had an unusual number of unofficial rankers. Ares was even able to get enough information from the Secret Guild. It even included the key executives of the Legend Guild. Genie, Khan and Locke.

'These guys were also active unofficial rankers in Versal.'

Ares recalled a memory from that time. He was also one of the rankers in Versal. He tried to fight and wage a war against these three people but he always ended up in defeat. Even though his guild had an advantage in numbers, they would still always end up in defeat. He thought, 'The shame from that time... In addition, if our guild takes care of them and kills off the Legend Guild, then, we will definitely gain fame.'

Guild wars were clearly different from slaughtering NPCs. Guild wars were something that was accepted by all players as a type of entertainment. No one would blame Ares for trying to target Legend Guild. He turned the page again. The problem was...

'We're unable to pinpoint their exact location.'

The Secret Guild was the best guild to contact for information. However, even if they were the foremost authority regarding information, they were still grasping at straws regarding the location of the Legend Guild.

'This just goes to show how good the rankers are in the Legend Guild, they have enough strategies to deflect and avoid the ambush and siege of the Secret Guild.' Ares thought, shaking his head in disappointment. They needed to kill them off before they could find the time to increase their numbers. Then...

[Guild Chat] Ruby: This person... isn't this Versal's crazy hunter? Rovani? (photo)]

...One of his guild members posted a picture in their guild chat. The picture was showing a man with a bright red greatsword, and another man with a frying pan on his back.

"What's this? Who's this guy wearing a frying pan behind him?"

## Chapter 95: The Seven Deadly Sins

Ares was taken aback after hearing about a player with a frying pan on his back. However, this matter completely left his mind after he found something interesting from the Secret Guild's information. Ares quickly flipped through the pages to find the information that he needed.

[Rovan, a ranker in Versal, has created an account in Athenae and is leveling up at a rapid pace. He has a legendary class and is presumed to be a part of the Legend Guild.]

Ares nodded after reading the information again. It was something that was entirely possible. As he continued to look at Rovan's information, he thought, 'We can try to lure Rovan away from Legend Guild and turn him into a spy... If that's impossible, then it's also worthwhile to just hunt and kill him.'

If that happened, then that would start a full-fledged Guild War with Legend Guild but it did not matter to Ares. No matter how elite the members of their guild were, Ares Guild was still a large guild that could not be easily touched and provoked by Legend Guild.

[Guild Master Ares: Where are you?]

[Guild Chat | Ruby: I'm at Shrieking Hills.]

'Perfect.'

Ares' mouth widened in a ruthless grin. He had just created a dummy account not too long ago and its level is still low. Of course, this did not mean that he was looking down or underestimating Rovan. Then, he saw Ruby saying something more in the guild chat.

[Guild Chat | Ruby: Rovan was a very famous player in Versal so I have been watching his movements ever since he received the quest from Kemil, the kingdom's representative. He even took the chef that no one wanted to his party.]

Ares shook his head in disagreement. It might have been true that he picked up a useless player, but he was acting in the exact same way like back in Versal. He always took someone that would not hinder him while continuing to hunt in places with limitations in the number of people that could enter.

'We don't have to worry about that chef player,' Ares thought. After all, that player was just some weird-looking, strange player.

[Guild Master Ares: Is the Ninth Attack Team online?]

[Guild Chat | Hilton: Yes, GM. I'm online.]

[Guild Master Ares: Go to the Shrieking Hills right now and offer Rovan the best possible treatment we can offer him.]

[Guild Chat | Hilton: The best possible treatment we can offer...?]

[Guild Master Ares: Gold, Ares' hunting grounds and artifacts that could support a player in the game. The best of the best. In addition, offer him a billion as a salary per year.]

[Guild Chat | Hilton: Gasp... a billion gold?]

Hilton did not seem to be aware about the value of the player named Rovan.

[Guild Master Ares: A billion in cash.]

[Guild Chat | Hilton: ...]

Right now, rankers were treated much better than celebrities. In fact, Ares alone had hundreds of millions as his monthly profit. Currently, Rovan was just a budding player in Athenae.

[Guild Chat | Hilton: What if he refuses?]

[Guild Master Ares: Slaughter him. ^^]

Ares sent a smiling emoticon, but anyone who saw it would definitely feel a chill coming down their spines. Hilton, along with 25 other members of the guild, made up the Ninth Attack Team. They were low-leveled players, but they had been receiving unlimited support from Ares Guild. In the future, once they developed, they would definitely be among the top 1,000 players in the country.

[Guild Chat | Hilton: I have seven people online right now. Should I go with this number for now?]

[Guild Master Ares: Yeah. Seven should be enough for now. Just in case, tell the others to log in and proceed to Shrieking Hills. Rován is a player who should never be underestimated.]

[Guild Chat | Hilton: Yes, I understand.]

Ares leisurely leaned back on his chair after closing the guild chat.

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“Quaaaaaack!”

“Run...! It’s extremely strong!”

“Crazy...!”

The players inside Shrieking Hills were all scrambling to run away. They had quickly moved to find where the boss mob was when they heard the notifications, trying to raid it, but it was to no avail. In fact, countless players were in the vicinity of the boss mob when it appeared, but it was still too much for them. All of them were slaughtered. In the middle of these scrambling players was a giant monster the size of a horse. It was none other than a giant Magic Duck with golden feathers down its neck.

Flap, flap, flap!

The moment the duck flapped its wings...

[Fire Rain]

[A direct hit will cause damage.]

Crackle, fwoosh!

Huge fireballs fell down from the sky and targeted the fleeing players!

Fwoosh!

Fwoosh!

“Kwaaaa!”

“Aaaaack!”

“Ugh!”

Fire Rain was a third tier magic spell, and for the players that had just entered Level 100, something of this caliber was something that they could not handle.

“This is a motherf\*cking balance breaker!”

“But, it’s an epic monster, you know. And, I heard that epic mobs are really hard to kill.”

Another wave of magic attacks followed and attacked the fleeing players.

“Quaaaaack!”

[Fire Breath]

[A direct hit will cause severe damage.]

Puhaaaaaaaaa!

Blazing and raging flames shot out from the Golden Duck’s mouth. The players that received the attack directly had their health instantly grayed out and were forced to log out.

“What epic items?! Just run away!”

“Wow... It’s really strong...”

Among the fleeing players, Elroe turned around only to see two men rushing. However, instead of fleeing from the Golden Duck, the two of them were rushing straight towards where the monster was. Elroe thought, ‘Earlier... Those guys...!’

The player with a frying pan on his back and the player with the sword on his back.

“Frying Pan Killer!”

“Frying Pan Killer!”

The two of them had become famous in Shrieking Hills with their crazy mob hunting style. Elroe watched the Frying Pan Killer suddenly stop in front of the Golden Duck and say, “Wow... It’s an extremely big duck... It looks yummy.”

“Mi...Minhyuk-ah. Th...this is not the time for you to drool...”

Elroe saw the player with the greatsword beside the Frying Pan Killer looking a bit panicked. Meanwhile, Minhyuk was still busy drooling over how big and delicious the Golden Duck looked, as he took the frying pan off of his back.

Minhyuk needed to get the delicious ingredients from this giant duck! After eating the Sweet Potato Warrior and the Minotaurus, Minhyuk was already sure of the capabilities of his Eccentric Food God. The monsters that he could eat with the Eccentric Food God would be much more delicious than regular ingredients! So, Minhyuk quickly dashed to where the duck was.

“This crazy ba...” The man with the greatsword said helplessly. All Rovon could do was a facepalm. Then, he thought, ‘That monster is using third tier magic freely...’

Rovan knew that they should not take the boss monster lightly. It was not similar to the Magic Ducks or Mini Trolls at all. The Golden Duck was a monster that was on an entirely different level

in terms of magic abilities, compared to normal Magic Ducks. The Golden Duck saw Minhyuk rushing forward and used its Fire Breath to attack.

“Quaaaaaack!”

[Fire Breath]

[A direct hit will cause severe damage.]

Puhaaaaaaa!

A fierce and raging flame spewed out of the Golden Duck’s mouth.

[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.]

This title effect had been useful to Minhyuk whenever he fought against monsters that were stronger than him. At the same time...

[Frying Pan Gigantification.]

[You can adjust the size of your frying pan depending on the mana that you will input.]

Minhyuk enlarged his frying pan until it was big enough to cover his entire body. The moment the Fire Breath met with the frying pan...

Fwoooooosh!

...the Fire Breath was easily deflected, scattering it in all directions. It was unable to overcome the enormous magical defense of the frying pan. Minhyuk slowly took one step forward, then another.

Puhaaaaaaa!

Minhyuk slowly inched forward with his frying pan blocking the raging flames from the Golden Duck’s Fire Breath.

“Am...amazing...”

“I also want to have a frying pan like that.”

The fleeing players suddenly stopped to watch this scene. Roan also took advantage of the gap to quickly narrow down the distance between him and the Golden Duck.

“Quaack!”

As soon as the Golden Duck realized that its Fire Breath was not working, it quickly switched to a different magic and used Fire Field.

[Fire Field]

[The ground will be covered in fire, it will cause severe damage.]

Crackle! Vwoooooom!

The ground was covered in raging flames with Minhyuk at the center of it all.

“That player is going to be grayed out now,” one of the players said. However, contrary to that player’s prediction, Minhyuk was not really receiving much damage. His magical defense was at 380, so he could ignore even a fourth tier magic spell and strut wherever he wanted.

Rovan, on the other hand, saw his HP plummet the moment he arrived in the vicinity of the Golden Duck and the Fire Field. So, he quickly launched an attack and ran away.

[Rampage]

[Your HP will drop by 20% while your attack power will increase by 30%.]

Rovan wanted to use all of his MP in this single attack to show off the Berserker class’ ultimate skill!

[Greatsword’s Lethal Strike]

[You will be able to swing your greatsword at an extremely high speed eight times in a row.]

Rovan swung his sword eight times in a row. He looked like he was swinging a rapier instead of a greatsword with the speed at which he swung his weapon.

Slaaaash!

Clang!

Clang!

Slash!

Clang!

Slash!

Clang!

Slash!

However, whenever Rovan’s attack reached the Golden Duck, a black shield would be created, protecting it from harm. The shield blocked Rovan’s greatsword, only allowing two out of the eight strikes to reach its body. Thankfully, the two strikes were strong enough to cut through the solid shield and deal damage on the Golden Duck’s body.

“Quaaaaaack!”

Bang!

The duck quickly flapped its wings and kicked the ground with its foot. Rovan immediately pulled back when he saw the duck move. He thought, ‘How can this duck bastard be so broken?! Why are its attack and defense so high?!’

Rovan could see that his HP had already fallen down to less than 30%. Before he could even register what was happening, he saw Minhyuk arrive right in front of the Golden Duck. Minhyuk knew that epic monsters that had appeared in the country’s server could be counted on one hand. Most of these types of monsters were clearly difficult to hunt for the current players. To hunt these monsters, plenty of high-leveled players needed to team up.

Hwaaaack!

Once the Golden Duck saw that Minhyuk had narrowed the distance between them, it quickly fired a fireball towards Minhyuk. Several fireballs flew at him at a furious speed. Just before the fireball reached him...

[Step.]

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

...Minhyuk dodged in the nick of time. Thankfully, the fireballs only exploded after they reached the ground.

Bang!

Some of the debris flew towards him, but Minhyuk did not receive much damage from it.

[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%.]

Minhyuk thought that he needed to finish this all at once. He placed the frying pan behind his back and drew Ellie's Sword out of his waist. This was the first time Rovin had seen him pull the sword out of his waist, and he could see that there was vast difference when Minhyuk used the frying pan compared to when he was using Ellie's Sword. He could tell that the Rampant Sword worked much better compared to when he used the skill with his frying pan.

[Rampant Sword.]

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

Shwaaa!

Shwaaaaa!

Shwaaaaaa!

The flurry of swords harshly attacked the Golden Duck.

Rustle!

The duck tried to create a shield to block the attacks. However, the moment the rampant swords hit the shield...

Slash!

Crack—

...The shield was destroyed in a single hit and his attacks directly landed all over the body of the Golden Duck.

Spurt!



Slash!

Slaaaaash!

The sword attacks continued to strike the Golden Duck indiscriminately for five straight seconds. It was even moving at a speed that was much faster compared to normal attacks. The Golden Duck could not do anything during those five seconds.

“Quaaaack!”

In the end, the Golden Duck fell down with a shriek. A series of notifications suddenly rang in Minhyuk and Rován’s heads.

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[...leveled up.]

Minhyuk listened to a total of eight leveling up notifications while he used Ingredient Acquisition to gather the ingredients and materials that he could use. The meat of the Golden Duck was immediately sucked into his inventory. This was acquired by his own skill, so it was not shared with Rován. As he was acquiring the ingredients and looking at the materials that dropped, Minhyuk found an old-looking ‘radish’. An idea flashed through Minhyuk’s mind and he immediately picked the material up.

[Party: Rován has acquired a Thousand-Year-Old Tuber Fleeceflower.]

1. ???: scientifically known as *Fallopia multiflora* and is more commonly known as tuber fleeceflower or Chinese knotweed, an ingredient mainly used for traditional Chinese medicine

Chapter 96: The Seven Deadly Sins

[Party: You have acquired 5.02 million gold.]

“Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower...” Rován wondered aloud. Although Minhyuk was the one interested in it, Rován was the one that received the item. Rován had already heard about the Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower and thought, ‘I heard that it’s a great medicinal item with an abysmal drop rate.’

For items like medicines or medicinal ingredients, monsters would sometimes drop them, but it was a very rare occurrence. Rován immediately checked the information of the Tuber Fleeceflower.

(Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower)

Material Grade: Medicine

Special Abilities:

?WIS +100

?Magical Defense +50

Description: This is a Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower that tastes a lot like radish. You will immediately feel the great effects from this tuber fleeceflower that has sucked up mana for a thousand years the moment you eat it. This tuber fleeceflower is much more delicious than ordinary radishes.

‘Ho, a +100 on WIS? And there’s also a +50 on magical defense?’

The +50 on magical defense was by no means a small addition to the player’s power. Magical defense was a stat that was extremely valuable. In fact, for the sake of increasing their magical defense, low-leveled players would spend a large amount of gold to purchase a unique artifact called the Anti-Magic Ring. The Anti-Magic Ring was a valuable artifact that could increase the magical defense by 50. However, this medicine was something that was more amazing and more valuable compared to that ring.

‘All players are not allowed to wear two armors.’

That was literally what it meant. Just like in the case of armor, players could also only wear one artifact of each kind on their body. Of course, rings and accessories were exceptions to this rule, and medicine was something that could not be worn but ‘used’ and applied to the player. Whether you eat 10 or 100 of this medicine, you would not be restricted by the rules of the game. This was also one of the reasons why many players were overly enthusiastic about these famous medicines. In all honesty, this Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower would be ten times more valuable than the Anti-Magic Ring if it was known and released to the public.

At that moment, Minhyuk quickly approached Rován. He asked, “How is it? Did it say that it’s delicious? What does a Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower taste like?”

Rován looked between the excited Minhyuk and the Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower. After thinking for a moment, he handed the Tuber Fleeceflower over to Minhyuk and said, “Here.”

“...Eh?”

“Please have it. Hehe,” Rován grinned as he handed it to Minhyuk.

In fact, Minhyuk was already prepared to pay half of the price if he managed to convince Rován to split it in half. However, Rován gave it to him willingly, so Minhyuk misunderstood him. He asked, “How much do I owe you?”

“You don’t have to pay me. Hey, you can just eat it if you want.”

“OMG? Really?”

“Yes,” Rován said. To be honest, Rován did not do much when they were hunting the Golden Duck. At first, he thought that it would be alright for him to join the fight as long as he did not get in Minhyuk’s way, but in the end, it turned out that he did not even help that much. This could count as an apology for that.

Minhyuk received the Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower with a bright smile on his face. He looked at Rován and said, “Wow! Thank you so much! I’ll eat it well!”

“That 100 WIS is really a lot. There’s no artifact in the world that could increase your WIS by 100. And there’s also the magical defense... Hey! what are you doing?” Rován stopped his explanation and burst out when he saw Minhyuk suddenly pull out radishes from his inventory and started slicing them up. Minhyuk and Rován’s gazes met as both of them paused. Rován scratched his head in embarrassment as he kept quiet and watched Minhyuk. In that awkward atmosphere, Minhyuk continued to do what he was doing.

Swoooooooooosh!

Minhyuk peeled the Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower and washed it with water.

“Arghhh!” Rován grabbed his hair in frustration. How could this madman just peel and cut a precious Thousand-Year-Old Tuber Fleeceflower like a normal radish?! He exclaimed, “N...no! Hey, you shouldn’t do that to a medicine! Aaaaack! We’re in big trouble. Big trouble! That’s hundreds of millions of won in cash!”

“I have a special skill so I can cook medicine in a dish and make it work.”

“R...really?” Rován stopped in his tracks, turning to stare at Minhyuk in surprise.

“But what are you going to do with it?”

“Crunchy radish kimchi! It sounds delicious, right?”

The moment he heard his words, Rován stared at him blankly. He said, “This radish kimchi crazy bas...”

“Yes? What did you say?”

“N...nothing.?Cough. Hmm,” Rován quickly covered his words with a cough. Since he already gave the Tuber Fleeceflower to Minhyuk, he had no say on what Minhyuk wanted to do with it. However, he still felt that Minhyuk was crazy and not in his right mind.

Then, Minhyuk said, “I think this radish kimchi would taste delicious with some blood sausage soup.”

‘Huh?’

‘Did I just hear that the Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower radish kimchi would be delicious with blood sausage soup?’

Nod, nod—

When Rován thought about it, he felt that perhaps it was really not a bad thing to eat the Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower radish kimchi with blood sausage soup? It seemed that Rován had now completely adjusted himself and grasped Minhyuk’s attitude and beliefs.

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Hilton and the guild members of Ares Guild roamed around Shrieking Hills. They believed that they could easily find the people they were looking for.

‘Do you know where the player with the frying pan on his back is?’

Once they found that player, it was already the same as finding their target. The players that Hilton asked would always tell him, ‘Ah, the Frying Pan Killer? He went that way.’

Frying Pan Killer? Hilton did not care whether it was an inside joke among the players in Shrieking Hills or not, all he needed to do was to follow their instructions and he would be able to find them. Right now, they found their target and the Frying Pan Killer sitting around an earthenware pot. When Hilton looked closely, he could see blood sausage rice soup boiling in it. He could even see the pork intestines, the pork head meat, the blood sausage and the rice in the pot. The two of them were eating the steaming blood sausage rice soup with some crunchy and crispy radish kimchi. Then, he saw that the player with the frying pan on his back exclaimed with a “Kyaa!” as he sipped some soup and bit on the radish kimchi.

“The radish kimchi made out of the Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower is really delicious!”

Hilton laughed at the ridiculousness of what he heard. He said, “He made radish kimchi out of the Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower? Who’s crazy enough to do something like that?”

“You’re right. Maybe they’re just joking around?”

Nevertheless, they still watched them eat for a while. They watched the man scoop a spoonful of rice from the soup and place it in his mouth. They could easily imagine the warm and rich flavor of the broth. For some reason, they felt a bit sullen. Somehow, they felt like they wanted to join the two over there. Then, the player with the frying pan grabbed some radish kimchi at the perfect timing. It was just like he knew what everyone wanted to do and was fulfilling their wishes.

“I think I can hear the sound of the crunchy and crispy radish kimchi all the way over here.”

“Wow, they look like they’re really enjoying that delicious blood sausage rice soup...”

They have completely forgotten about why they came here and just immersed themselves in watching the mukbang. They were now watching the frying pan player tilt the pot up as he slurped the rest of the blood sausage rice soup. The man had eaten so much rice soup, but he still finished the leftover radish kimchi. It seemed like the pots and plates did not need to be washed with how clean they were. Then, other guild members appeared right beside Hilton.

“I think we’re enough to deal with them. You naughty kids!”

“He’s the number one ranker in Versal. This is a great opportunity to feel a sense of satisfaction in beating up Rován, right?”

At first, only seven people had set off. However, after hearing the news that they would be able to beat up and kill Rován, more guild members flocked towards Shrieking Hills, increasing their total to 25.

“Shit. You look like a gangster. Only five people should go over, the rest of you go block their path of retreats.”

“We understand.”

All of them nodded their heads once they heard Hilton’s orders. At that moment, a whisper from Ares popped out.

[Ares: Hilton, is Rován there?]

[Hilton: Ah, yes, guild master. We just found him.]

[Ares: What is he doing right now? He was called the ‘Crazy Hunter’ in Versal because he could hunt non-stop. Is he doing the same right now?]

Hilton casted a sidelong glance to where the two of them were located as he tried to answer this overly eager question.

[Hilton: They are eating blood sausage rice soup.]

[Ares: ...Huh?]

[Hilton: They are eating blood sausage rice soup together with a self-proclaimed radish kimchi made with the Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower. We think that the Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower is just a joke and they were just saying it for fun.]

[Ares: A Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower radish kimchi? That’s some strange joke. You should talk to him as much as possible and get him to our side. You know this, right?]

[Ares: Of course. Ah, the Ninth Attack Team and most of the Eighth Team are here.]

[Ares: Yes. Just in case, I also told them to log in. Are they all logged in because they wanted to kill Rován?]

[Hilton: Yes. Their hands are all itching.]

[Ares: First of all, focus on persuading him.]

[Hilton: Please rest assured!]

[Ares: Let me know if it does not work, alright?]

Hilton knew the meaning of ‘Let me know if it did not work, alright?’. Once Rován refused them, they would immediately PK him right there and then. An infinite PK for Rován will start from there. They slowly moved. It was time to approach the player with the frying pan and Rován, who had just finished eating their blood sausage rice soup and radish kimchi.

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Minhyuk had already met all the requirements and conditions for the quest that he received from Kemil. Then, together with Rován, he cooked and ate some blood sausage rice soup and made radish kimchi with the Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower.

[You have eaten a Radish Kimchi made with the Thousand-Year-Old Tuber Fleeceflower.]

[Food God’s Greatness.]

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

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

[You have gained +111 WIS and +60 Magical Defense.]

Minhyuk smiled in satisfaction. The radish kimchi made with the Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower was truly delicious. Usually, radish kimchi made with common radishes would not be delicious if it was eaten right away, but the radish kimchi made with the Thousand-year-old Tuber Fleeceflower was different. It was eaten right away, and yet, it tasted like radish kimchi that was made and stored for quite a long time. It was spicy, sour, savory and definitely ripe. ????????Just as they finished eating, Minhyuk saw some players heading towards where they were. He could see that Rován was wary of them.

‘Ares Guild...!’

Rován recently saw in the guild chat that Ares Guild was trying to chase and hunt Legend Guild. So, he said, “Minhyuk. If you ever find yourself in a dangerous situation, quickly run away. I’ll take care of it, so don’t worry.”

“Eh?”

Not long after, the seven players stood right in front of them. At the forefront was Hilton. He was carrying quite a pretty set of dual swords. He said, “Hello, I’m Hilton.”

He politely bowed his head towards them. Rován nodded his head in acknowledgment as he looked at the surroundings. He thought, ‘There’s more than 20 people... damn it.’

Rován’s eyes narrowed sharply. He was wondering if they gathered to kill him? Or?

“Should I tell it to you bluntly or do you want to talk over some drinks?”

“It’s good to be straight-forward and blunt.”

“Our Ares Guild wants to recruit you, Rován. You were a legend in Versal. The tireless hunter. Rován, the Crazy Hunter.”

“Hiyaa. There’s someone who still remembers me from that screwed-up game? As you can see, right now I am...” Rován said. He shrugged his shoulders lightly as if to indicate that he was just an insignificant player. Before they even came, he had already canceled and took off all his artifacts and he was only wearing a sloppy sword and armor. Then, he continued to say, “I’m just playing games to have fun.”

However, Rován quickly turned on his guild chat that he had previously turned off.

[Guild Chat | Rován: The Ares Guild has come for me. It’s something like a declaration of war.]

[Guild Master Genie: Hmm...]

Genie was silent for a moment.

“Aha. Is that so? You look like you were wearing some fancy armor and a bright red sword earlier. It looks like it’s a bit too fancy and valuable for someone who’s just

playing for fun. If you come to our guild, we will equip you with the unique Brilliant Armor set and Baroque's Sword. We will also support you and allow you to hunt in the Undead's Forest hunting ground. We will also give you hundreds of millions as your salary per month. This was something that the Ares' GM has told me to relay to you," Hilton said, smiling darkly as he put forth their proposal.

Meanwhile, Rován was looking at his reactivated guild chat window.

[Guild Master Genie: Do whatever you want, Rován.]

[Guild Chat | Rován: Really? For real? You won't regret it?]

[Guild Master Genie: The fact that they approached you meant that they're already declaring war against us. We're going to start occupying a territory and marking our place here in Athenae. But, are you sure that you can walk out of there safely? Do you want me to send you some backup? Ah, you're in Shrieking Hills...]

They would not be able to send him enough backup since their level would not be appropriate, nor will they be able to enter the field. Not long after, Genie said...

[Guild Master Genie: What kind of player are you with?]

Chapter 97: The Seven Deadly Sins

Just when Rován was about to answer Genie's question...

"Are you talking to Legend's GM?"

"Did you say errand?"

"I said Legend," Hilton said, smiling grimly as he sent a message in their guild chat.

[Guild Chat | Hilton: Rován doesn't seem like he's too willing to join us. He didn't even blink at my generous proposal. Let's start with?Rován's?death.]

[Guild Chat | Minmin: Then, how about the player beside him?]

[Guild Chat | Hilton: Rován is not easy to deal with. Wait for my signal. Once I send it, the mages should start with an intense attack with the magic that they casted in advance.]

[Guild Master Ares: I knew this would happen in the end.]

Hilton looked around. He nodded to the guild members around him. Then...

[Ice Arrow!]

[Ice missiles are launched to attack the opponent.]

[Prison]

[A fog of ice will freeze and trap the opponents.]

[Black Touch]

[An additional 25% damage will occur once a critical strike is dealt.]

[Back Attack!]

[A strong attack! Additional 36% damage to your attack.]

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!

The attacks came so suddenly that they looked like lightning out of the blue. Rován immediately re-equipped his artifacts. However, he could not help but frown when he saw the magic attacks that came raining down on them. He thought, "This... I won't be able to stop this..."

Rován thought that it would be better if he just forced himself to log out. At the very least, he would not be able to see their dirty mugs. Then, the silent Minhyuk suddenly dashed in front of him.

[Frying Pan Gigantification.]

[You can adjust the size of your frying pan depending on the mana that you will input.]

Minhyuk increased the size of his frying pan until it was about four meters wide, large enough to block all of the incoming attacks.

"Gasp?!" Hilton gasped audibly at the sudden turn of events.

At the same time, notifications rang in Minhyuk's head.

[Your Frying Pan has been excessively enlarged.]

[The amount of mana consumed has been doubled.]

Despite the doubling of mana consumption, it was still bearable. Minhyuk had enough MP after eating the Thousand-Year-Old Tuber Fleeceflower that Rován had willingly given him earlier. Then, Minhyuk swung his gigantic frying pan, slapping away the attacks and skills that were flying towards them.

Fwoooooosh!

The people present heard the air ripping apart from Minhyuk's swing. Then, the magic attacks and skills slammed in the frying pan one after the other.

Claaang!

Clang, Clang!

Bang!

Ding!

Clang!

[Player Bedo have committed an act of poor etiquette.]

[Player Bedo is in a temporary chaotic state.]

[If the receiving party initiate an attack, they will not receive any penalty.]

[Magical Reflection]

[You have returned the magical attack back to your enemy.]

[Player Hororong have committed an act of poor etiquette.]

[Player Hororong is in a temporary chaotic state.]



[If the receiving party initiates an attack, they will not receive any penalty.]

[Magical Reflection]

[You have returned the magical attack back to your enemy.]

[...act of poor etiquette.]

Hilton watched as five magic spells were deflected and sent back to the players that casted them.

"Keuaaaack!"

"Keuaaaack!"

Hilton looked around at the shrieks of his guild members. At some point in time, Rován had already drawn his red sword and narrowed the distance between them.

"...What the hell is that frying pan?!" Hilton screamed.

Rován appeared in front of Hilton and shouted, "It's the Frying Pan Killer!"

[Golden Double Swords.]

[Additional 20% damage to a single hit.]

Hilton quickly pulled out his two double swords and blocked the greatsword that was attacking his side.

Crash!

'H, he's extremely strong...!?' Hilton thought, shocked. Among all of the Ares Guild members present here, Hilton was considered to be the strongest and most talented. However, he could not withstand the power that coursed through his sword from the collision with Rován's greatsword, and ended up flying away.

Roll, roll—

Hilton rolled on the ground twice before stabilizing his body. However, Rován was already swinging his sword at him even before he could stand up.

Slash!

"Aaack!"

Rován's greatsword struck down on Hilton's leg. Hilton could see that a huge chunk of his HP had disappeared from that strike alone. Then, Rován saw three more players running towards him. They were trying to rain down skills and attacks on him as they rushed forward.

[Beast's Dash]

[Attacks will be launched indiscriminately.]

[Power Strike!]

[Additional 26% damage will be added to one blow.]

[Brilliant Spear]

[Explodes upon successful attack.]

However, Rován did not retreat. His eyes glinted sharply as he looked at all the incoming attacks.

[Greatsword's Linked?Swordsmanship]

[You will be able to swing your greatsword at four times its normal speed.]

Vwoooooom!

Slash!

Rován's first swing was light as he narrowed the distance between him and another player. His second swing however, pierced through the chest of the player.

Stab!

Rován swiftly leaned back and avoided the attack of the other player as he slammed the player with his greatsword.

Bang!

"Argh!"

Rován dodged another attack that was fired at him from behind, before stabbing the player that launched the attack.

Stab!

The player flew back from the strong attack that he received. All of these happened in just a short, fleeting moment. Rován breathed heavily as he watched another wave of players rushing towards him. Their numbers were now more than ten. Even the mages that received the reflected attacks from Minhyuk's frying pan had caught their bearings and were already preparing to cast new magic.

[Sword of Fury.]

[Additional 50% for strong lunges and stabs. If a vital strike is successful, the additional attack power is 80%.]

Minyuk ran towards Rován, stabbing a player that tried to attack him on the way. His attack was accurate and precise.

Crack!

Ellie's Sword swiftly penetrated through the red armor. Then...

Boom!

...The man's armor exploded loudly, making him fly back from the direct hit.

"Ugh! T...that's impossible...! How can my HP drop by 60% with just one hit...!"

Hilton was very shocked when he saw that. He thought, 'Is he a member of the Legend Guild too?'

Minhyuk was already standing beside Rován. Rován thought, 'We don't have any chance of winning right now. No matter how strong the two of us are, we won't be able to beat all of these players.'

They needed to find another way! Then, Rován thought? ‘Ah!’ . It seemed like he finally thought of something. He muttered, “The Power of Sin...!”

“Yes?”

“Minhyuk, please follow me from now on.”

“...I understand,” Minhyuk said, nodding obediently.

This was what Rován thought,? ‘Once we reach the place where the Power of Sin resides, everyone would be in an abnormal state. Fortunately, Minhyuk and I have high magical defense. Especially Minhyuk, he has an absurd amount of magical defense. So, this might work. I hope it works...’

Rován was hoping that Minhyuk’s high magical defense would be enough to protect him once they entered that place. In his case, he brought a consumable artifact called Angel’s Wings, an artifact that would increase his immunity by +100. Now, all they needed to do was lure the people that were after them, to where the Power of Sin was. They needed to get there!

Dash!

Rován and Minhyuk started to run. Meanwhile, Minhyuk looked behind at the enemies that were chasing after them.

[Rampant Sword.]

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

The group that was chasing after the unlikely duo suddenly saw a flurry of sword attacks with dozens of afterimages coming straight at them!

‘Most of these attacks are definitely far less effective than the real attacks!’?The player named Ken thought, as he tried to run through the flurry of swords. To his dismay...

[You have received a critical strike.]

Slash!

The sword attacks slashed all over his body and forced Ken to log out.

“...Gasp!”

Slash!

Slash!

Slash!

The players behind Ken stood still. If they recklessly passed through that flurry of swords that lingered there for five seconds then they would also be forced to log out! So, they tried to carefully pass through the attack. However, they could not help but groan from the effects of the Rampant Sword. They could not even stand straight nor keep their balance after taking the attacks.

“Healers. Quick, cast heal!” Hilton shouted as Minhyuk and Rován ran away from them.

[Guild Chat | Hilton: Quickly chase those escaping bastards!]

[Guild Master Ares: What's the situation right now?]

[Guild Chat | Hilton: GM! The chef caught us by surprise. In my opinion, that player with the frying pan is just pretending to be a chef!]

[Guild Master Ares: What do you mean by pretending?]

[Guild Chat | Hilton: The chef's estimated level is at Level 200. I'm sure that Legend Guild is trying to raise that chef with great care!]

[Guild Master Ares: ...That's unexpected. So what's the situation right now?]

[Guild Chat | Hilton: They're on the run and we're chasing after them.]

[Guild Master Ares: Five people have already been forced to log out, are you sure you can do it? I don't want to experience such shame and disgrace if you let those two go.]

[Guild Chat | Hilton: They're just trapped rats.]

Hilton stood up and chased Minhyuk and Rován with the remaining guild members. Why did they run away? Perhaps it was because they realized that they had no chance of winning against them. So, Hilton thought, 'I'll kill the two of you, then I'll take that frying pan for myself!'

Hilton did not know the exact abilities and functions of the frying pan, but he was sure that it was something that should not be underestimated. He was confident that it had great value. Just like that, the Ares Guild began to chase after the two of them quickly.

\*\*\*

Gasp, gasp.

Gasp, Gasp, Gasp.

Minhyuk and Rován were running at their fastest speed. Rován took the lead and guided him along the way, while Minhyuk covered for the both of them.

Fwoooooom!

Claaaang!

Slash!

The person that struck with his dagger was sent flying back. He got embedded in one of the trees. Meanwhile, Minhyuk looked behind them and saw that the bandit-like players were running in between the trees.

"Are we there yet?"

"We're almost there."

The road that Rován was leading him to was getting rougher and harder to traverse.

"Hurry, catch those bastards!"

The two of them ran faster when they heard someone shouting right behind them. Then, Rován saw the changes in front of them. The ground, the air, the grass, the trees and even the vapor rising from

the ground were all black. He thought, 'It's here... The hidden place where the Great Mage's Power of the Seven Deadly Sins is hidden...!'

Rovan's hidden quest would only be cleared once he overcame the trials of all Seven Deadly Sins. Then, he turned towards Minhyuk and said, "Let's stop here. We have to go inside together with them. Once we go inside, the curse of the Power of Sin will fall upon us, Minhyuk. The same will also happen to them."

After stating his piece, Rovan took out the Angel's Wings and ate it.

[Your Immunity against Abnormal States has increased by +100 for 30 minutes.]

"Ack! It tastes disgusting... I'm sorry. I don't have one for you, Minhyuk."

"You don't have to give me one if it tastes bad."

The two men finally saw Hilton and his group once again. They thought, 'Did their numbers rise again?'

It seemed that the number of people had increased while they were chasing after them. Perhaps it was because Ares Guild had sent for more backups during the chase. Currently, the number of people surrounding them were at thirty. This was quite a large number of people dispatched just to deal with two people.

"Phew. Have you gone tired after running away like rats?"

Rovan raised his middle finger and grinned.

"Why don't you just leave Legend Guild and come to Ares Guild?"

"You want me to work under Ares? Why would I want to work for that weakling of a bastard?" Rovan said. He was a very prideful person, not just anyone could order him around.

Hilton's forehead creased in irritation, however, he could not refute what Rovan said. Once Rovan developed well, he would probably be able to surpass Ares. This was how great his potential growth was. Hilton said, "So that's what you think. How about you, Frying Pan? We will offer you a billion in cash. It may not be much, but we intend to pay you that much in a year."

Once he heard that, Minhyuk answered him calmly, "It's really not that much."

Chapter 98: The Seven Deadly Sins

"Is that so?"

"Yes," Minhyuk and Rovan answered, both nodding in unison.

Meanwhile, Hilton thought, '...One billion cash is not much?!'

In fact, they were already aware that Rovan had gained huge amounts of cash while playing? Versal. However, the chef standing right next to him was calmer and more casual than Rovan when he heard the amount of money that was offered.

‘Such enviable punks!’ Hilton thought as he shot a glance at his guild members. Seeing his signal, the members of Ares Guild quickly took one to two steps forward and narrowed the distance between them. Then, Rován made eye contact with Minhyuk...

‘Now!’

Rován immediately sent Minhyuk a signal of his own, and they rushed to the area where the ground had turned black.

“Those enviable bastards... No, no! Run after those shitty bastards!”

“...?!”

“Yes!” The Ares Guild members shouted loudly as they ran after them.

The curse was not immediately triggered despite Rován and Minhyuk already stepping on the dark and ominous ground. They both went further inside and made sure that each and every member of Ares Guild had stepped on the black ground. Rován thought, “There you go...!”

At that moment, a cold and dreary voice resounded all over the area. The voice seemed to have come from the black ground that they were stepping on.

[Subara basoora asdora.]

‘What the hell. This voice sounds like Voldemort!’

The Ares Guild members looked around restlessly, realizing that something was wrong. Then, a black fog suddenly seeped up from the ground.

Puhaaaaaaaaa!

The black fog gathered and spun together, slowly forming the image of a skull.

“Graaaaaaaa!” The black skull shrieked and passed through one of the players’ bodies. The player shuddered strongly like a leaf blown by a strong wind. The black skull moved so fast that they couldn’t even follow it with their eyes.

Puhaaaaa!

Puhaaaaaaaaa!

[You have stepped into the Great Mage Arfield’s domain.]

[You have triggered the Seven Deadly Sins.]

[All immunity against abnormal status has been ignored.]

[All magical defenses have been ignored.]

[Seven Deadly Sins: Gluttony]

“Glut... tony?” Rován said, reading the sin that he had triggered. He knew that the Seven Deadly Sins included pride, greed, lust, envy, wrath, sloth, and gluttony. He thought, “I heard that the most powerful sin is gluttony...”

Rovan was shocked when he saw that all of the immunity and magical defense would be ignored. This meant that every one of them would die here. So, he said, "Let's all die together, you crazy punks!"

"Damn it!"

"It...it's a trap!"

Then, at that moment...

Thud!

...Rovan slammed his head on a tree. He could hear someone continuously shouting in his head, saying, "Eat, eat, eat, eat, I want to eat everything!"

"Arghhh!" Rovan groaned as he took out all of the food he had in his inventory. Rovan devoured everything in sight, hands even shaking wildly. He even went so far as to eat raw meat. The same was true for the members of Ares Guild. However, even if Rovan was busy trying to gorge on the food in front of him, he could still see that the man standing beside him was completely fine. This man was none other than Minhyuk. Minhyuk looked at everyone in confusion. He watched them frantically devour the things that they had pulled out from their inventory.

"The Seven Deadly Sins, Gluttony? But, I still feel the same though?" Minhyuk said, scratching his head in confusion.

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Team Leader Park watched as Ares Guild chased Rovan and Minhyuk on the monitor. His hands were sweating at the thrilling chase. Then, he said, "I don't want to believe it... but maybe Player Minhyuk's appetite is as great as the Sin of Gluttony?"

Team Leader Park's eyes were firmly trained on the monitor, watching what he predicted became true. Minhyuk just stood there in confusion as he watched Rovan and the Ares Guild members frantically devour everything they could, even raw meat as well as unripe vegetables and fruits.

"What in the world... How strong is that player's appetite..." Team Leader Park said before gasping and continuing to say, "Do you know what's more surprising?"

"What is it?"

"Look at the rest of the players."

Employee Lee Minhwa looked at the rest of the players. She could see them frantically trying to devour everything that they could get their hands on to satisfy their hunger. They were completely out of control. This meant that they had already lost their minds and were already completely obsessed with food.

Team Leader Park said, "Can you believe that a glutton like him can stand there carefree and not affected at all?"

“Wow...” Lee Minhwa gasped in awe. She understood what Team Leader Park was saying. She said, “Are you saying...”

“I believe Player Minhyuk had been training his mental fortitude, otherwise his strong mental power would not make sense, right? We don’t know the reason why Player Minhyuk has such a huge appetite, but what we can be certain about, is the fact that he has been living under such a terrible curse for a very long time.”

“...”

Lee Minhwa looked at Player Minhyuk on the monitor. She was once again in awe and admiration. However, she also felt sad for him. She thought, ‘He’s a man who has been living with such a huge burden of an appetite that’s scary enough to make someone go crazy.’

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“Hmm...” Minhyuk hummed as he watched everyone frantically devour the items from their inventory the moment the notifications rang. To be honest, he was also afflicted with the same curse right now but he did not feel anything wrong.

For some reason, Minhyuk felt like they were somehow similar to when he first contracted his eating addiction back then as he watched them devour everything in sight. Back then, he also ate everything in the refrigerator. It did not even end there. He also ate tissues and things that he could munch on. His condition was just that serious. But thankfully, Minhyuk was able to gradually overcome and win against his disease. This was all thanks to his will to live and the strong determination to not eat everything that he laid his hands on. He even frantically exercised just so he could curb and suppress his appetite, surviving to live another day.

Perhaps it was because of that? Maybe that was the reason why Minhyuk was not in a precarious situation. Then, he heard Rován cry out, “Chomp...how are you...chomp...okay in this situation...chomp..., Minhyuk?”

“Maybe because I have been living with this curse for quite a long time,” Minhyuk said. It was true. He had been living with the curse of gluttony for a long time now.

Rován could not quite understand what Minhyuk meant, but he still hurriedly told him, “Minhyuk, tie me with a rope!”

“...Ah. Yes!” Minhyuk said, quickly pressing Rován on a tree and tying him tightly with a rope. As for Hilton and the Ares Guild members, they had finished eating all of the things that they could eat from their inventory. They all moaned.

“I’m hungry!”

“I want to eat, I really want to eat. I’m so hungry that I could die!”

“I’m huuuuuuungry!”

A player who could not curb his hunger reached his hands towards the ground. Then, he dug some soil and placed it in his mouth. “Chew, chew, chew, chew! I’m hungry!”



The other Ares Guild members also began to dig through the ground and eat dirt.

Minhyuk was left speechless with their actions. He said, "I can't believe that they are eating dirt! What strange people!"

"Chew, chew!"

"I don't want to eat dirt either!" The player shouted back.

Then, Minhyuk gripped his frying pan and slowly walked forward. These people had tried to PK him and Rován after all. However, Minhyuk still remembered that some of them had not yet become chaotic players. So, he only walked towards the players who became chaotic.

"Gulp, gulp, chomp, chew, chew!"

Minhyuk aimed his frying pan at the players that were scooping up and eating dirt.

Bang!

One of the players was forced to log out. He even dropped some artifacts and some gold. Minhyuk slowly began his journey of logging out the members of the Ares Guild, one by one.

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Ares tilted his head in confusion when he saw their guild chat suddenly turn quiet.

[Guild Master Ares: What's the situation right now?]

No one answered him even though he asked in the guild chat. About three minutes later...

[Guild Chat | Hilton: ##%\$@%\$!3!]

[Guild Chat | Bless: %?@\$!\$ I'm hungry!]

[Guild Chat | Carlo: Huh%##% I want to eat! Damn it!]

[Guild Chat | Lux: What's wrong with them?]

Ares knew that something unusual had happened. Obviously, Hilton had just messaged him a bit earlier that they had already caught up to Rován and the chef, and had them surrounded. So, what did this mean? However, just as he was going to ask this...

[Guild Chat: Bless has been forced to log out.]

[Guild Chat: Carlo has been forced to log out.]

[Guild Chat: Haman has been forced to log out.]

"...!" Ares jumped in shock. Only 3~5 seconds have passed since their last message, but his guild members were already dying one after the other.

[Guild Chat: Hororong has been forced to log out.]

[Guild Chat: Giggie has been forced to log out.]

[Guild Chat: ....]

The notifications did not end. There were at least 10 people who had been forced to log out. Not long after, the guild members who had been forced to log out of the game sent messages in their guild chat through their mobile phones in real life.

[Guild Chat | Hororong: GM. All of the members who came to the Shrieking Hills fell under the curse of Gluttony, one of the Seven Deadly Sins.]

“Seven Deadly Sins?” Ares asked. This was something that he was aware of. There were trials that were hidden all over the continent in Athenae and when a player got past these trials, they would be able to reap great rewards.

‘They were facing the Seven Deadly Sins? So does that mean that all of the guild members died without overcoming the sin?’

[Guild Master Ares: Then, did you die because of extreme hunger?]

[Guild Chat | Hororong: No. The Frying Pan Man player killed us with his frying pan.]

[Guild Master Ares: That player, wasn’t he under the curse?]

[Guild Chat | Hororong: He was also clearly in the area within the scope of the curse. But we’re not sure why he can move rationally...]

Ares’ expression turned solemn. His guild members were dying one by one under the hands of an unknown player. Why on earth was that player not affected by the curse? Don’t tell me...?

[Guild Master Ares: He definitely has the Curse’s Torch!]

[Guild Chat | Hororong: Ah...! The torch that can protect you from any and all curses?!]

The Curse’s Torch was an artifact that Ares had once read about from the Athenae’s official website. It only said that someone had that artifact in their hands but they did not reveal who that person was or how much the artifact was worth. However, it was traded at 40 billion gold. And that player was right in front of them! Meanwhile, the notifications about his members being forced to log out had suddenly become less frequent.

\*\*\*

Minhyuk had already killed all of the chaotic players. The artifacts and gold that they had dropped were truly too much to count. He quickly tried to think of a way to get rid of the players who had yet to become chaotic. That was when he pulled out a steamed bun from his inventory. The moment he took out the steamed bun...

Turn!

Turn!

Turn!

Turn!

...All of the players turned to Minhyuk, their expressions like zombies discovering a fresh source of food. They even drooled at the same time.

“Waaaaaaa!”

“Give it to meeeee!”

“Aaaaaaah, I want to eat!”

The people that had lost all reason were easy to deal with. All of them flocked to where Minhyuk was. He zig-zagged among them with the steamed bun in his hands. Then, one of the players suddenly tapped Minhyuk.

[Player Ken has committed an act of poor etiquette.]

[Player Ken is in a temporary chaotic state.]

[If the receiving party initiates an attack, they will not receive any penalty.]

Bang!

Minhyuk smashed the face of the player who tried to grab the steamed bun in his hands. Just like that, whenever the players came to him and made contact, Minhyuk would go ahead and deal with them. After all of the members of the Ares Guild came under the temporary chaotic state, albeit involuntarily, Minhyuk climbed up a tree to avoid them. Then, he tore the steamed bun in half. He was eating the ‘Vegetable Steamed Bun’. This was considered to be the crown prince of all of the steamed buns.

“Pl, please... Please give me just a piece of that little green onion in there. Just a bit...”

“Please give me a piece of meat over here. I will give you all of my gold and artifacts.”

“I’ll give you my One Piece Nami toy figure! Please just give me one bite!”

All of the players present offered everything that they could offer just so they could get one bite. Instead, Minhyuk immediately finished off half of the steamed bun.

“Aaaack!”

“Huhuhuhu... It looks delicious...”

“A...are you crying?” Minhyuk asked, clearing feeling awkward from their expressions. This was quite a sight for sore eyes. Over ten people were crying over a piece of steamed bun. Then, a small piece of meat, about half a fingernail in size, fell off the steamed bun in Minhyuk’s hands.

“Aaaaaaack! That’s mine!”

“Hey!!! I’m your boss! Are you saying that one piece of meat is much more important than your boss?!”

“Isn’t that obvious?!”

The players fought amongst themselves for that one piece of meat that fell off of Minhyuk’s steamed bun. Then, one of the players successfully placed the piece of meat in his mouth. But then...

Stab!

Another player hacked him to death with his ax.

“...Wow. I can’t believe you killed your teammate just because he ate that small piece of meat,” Minhyuk said, shaking his head in disappointment. He wondered if he would turn like that too.

“I won’t become like that,” Minhyuk said, quickly shaking his head. Once the players went back to digging and eating dirt, Minhyuk stepped down and dealt with the chaotic players again.

Clang!

Clang!

Clang!

Huge amount of gold and artifacts came pouring out.

#### Chapter 99: The Seven Deadly Sins

After forcing the hungry players to log out one after the other, only one person was left. Hilton, the person that had led the members of Ares Guild to chase Rován and Minhyuk. He was still digging around the soil and eating dirt.

Chomp, chew, gulp!

Hilton had truly lost control of his character. He thought, ‘Waaaaaa. I want to move my body but I can’t control it!’

Hilton watched in despair as Minhyuk slowly approached him. The thought of the artifacts and gold that would drop from him once he was forced to log out was causing him further anguish. He prayed hard, ‘Please, just don’t drop that...!’

Then...

“I’m hungryyyyyyyyyy! Ugh! Mi...Minhyuk... Please tie me up and take me in front of him...!” Rován said quickly. He was just barely able to hold on to some semblance of reason. Minhyuk quickly untied Rován from the tree before tying his body again and lifting him up to bring him in front of Hilton.

Rován was quite furious with Hilton and the Ares Guild. They tried to PK him and declared war against his guild. That was why Rován wanted to humiliate Hilton as much as possible. He slowly crawled forward and said, “Ugh! I’m hu...hungryyyyyy...”

Then, Rován bowed and whispered in Hilton’s ear, “Legend Guild, number one!”

‘Th...this f\*cking bastard!’ Hilton thought. He knew that Rován was definitely mocking him! Saying that Legend Guild was number one meant that they were above Ares Guild.

Then, Rován panted roughly in his ears. It sounded like he could barely contain his hunger anymore as he called out hoarsely, “Pant, pant, pant, pant... I’m hungry. I’m going to eat you.”

‘Th...this crazy bastard. Stop blowing in my ears!’?Hilton thought. However, Rován’s following words made him tremble.

“Your ears look like... dumplings.”

Lick!

Rovan licked Hilton’s ears. Hilton’s body trembled more violently as if he had reached some sort of untimely peak! Then, Rovan, unable to bear his hunger anymore, opened his mouth and bit down on Hilton’s ear.

Chomp!

“Keuaaaack!”

“Yikes! That’s not something you should eat, Rovan!”

“Chew, chew. Dumplings are delicious!”

“Hmm...”

Minhyuk immediately grabbed his frying pan and slammed it on Hilton’s head after noticing that Rovan had gone crazy with hunger.

Clang!

Minhyuk looked around after he rescued the poor Hilton from Rovan’s grasp. The gold and artifacts that dropped from the players that he forced to log out were scattered everywhere.

“I’m hungryyyyy! My dumplingggg!” Rovan roared, rolling around on the ground and making a fuss. Minhyuk was left with no choice but to tie him back to a tree so he could collect all of the dropped gold and artifacts.

[You have acquired 1.372 million gold.]

[You have acquired Akas’ Gloves.]

[You have acquired 2.131 million gold.]

[You have acquired Ifrit’s Tear Armor.]

[You have acquired 9.451 million gold.]

[...acquired Baromil’s Sword.]

Items obtained from PK were not distributed by the automatic party distribution system. The notifications poured in non-stop. Even though they were low-leveled players, their items were quite expensive and valuable. All of them were equipped with rare artifacts, at times, Minhyuk even saw some unique items among the pile. They even gave him plenty of gold. Eventually, Minhyuk stood in front of Hilton.

[You have acquired 9.261 million gold.]

[You have acquired Oz’s Helmet.]

After he finished collecting all of the dropped gold and items, Minhyuk checked the total amount of gold that he collected. He was able to collect 930 million gold from all of the players that he forced to log out. Furthermore, once he sold off all of the artifacts he got from here, he would be able to get at least three billion gold in total. He thought, 'Wow. I can probably sell these and be able to buy delicious food and medicine!'

Minhyuk chuckled at the thought of buying more delicious food. Then, he began checking for useful artifacts. The first thing that he excluded were weapons, none of these weapons were comparable to Ellie's Sword, nor his frying pan. As he looked around, the helmet that was dropped by Hilton caught his attention.

(Oz's Helmet)

Class: Unique

Requirements: 240 STR, 120 AGI

Durability: 4,000 / 4,000

Defensive Power: 311

Special Abilities:

?STR +3, AGI +5

?Magical Defense +50

Description: This was the helmet worn by Oz, a warrior who guarded a king's tomb in the past.

It was a pretty good-looking helmet but Hilton was not wearing the helmet. Perhaps it was because Hilton failed to meet the 'requirements' set by the helmet. The helmet provided additional magical defense. In addition, it even had high defensive power. Its defensive power was comparable to Sylph's Leather Armor, the armor that Minhyuk had equipped right now. Normally, armors had the highest defensive capabilities, while things like helmet, boots and gloves could only exert about half of the defensive capabilities of an armor. However, this Oz's Helmet had an extremely high defensive power.

Minhyuk quickly equipped the helmet. Oz's helmet covered most of his face. Of course, with the exception of his eyes, nose and mouth. It also had two horns on it. He thought that it would have felt uncomfortable once he wore it, but it turned out that he still had good visibility and there was no trouble breathing. It even seemed like it would not affect eating. After he finished acquiring the items, Minhyuk once again untied Rován from the tree, leaving only his hands and upper body bound.

"Sniff, sniff, sniff, sniff.?I saw you hide all of the food from here earlier!" Rován said as he approached Minhyuk and sniffed him all over. Minhyuk quickly slapped the back of his head as a sort of reproach.

Slap!

"No. Why are you burying your nose under someone's armpits and smelling them?!"

"Ack! Something smells delicious..."

“My armpits?” Minhyuk asked, looking at Rován strangely. He was wondering if he liked dishes that were cooked with vinegar.

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Minhyuk pulled the fussy and hungry Rován and moved forward. After walking for quite some time...

[You have overcome one of the trials of the Seven Deadly Sins.]

[You have gained 30 REP.]

[You have gained 500 million EXP.]

[You have entered the Hidden Field.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[...leveled up.]

Minhyuk heard a string of notifications as his level increased by thirteen. He thought, ‘Ellie’s Knife will probably be unsealed soon, right?’

Minhyuk needed to level up two more times before he could unseal the Secondary Level that was sealed in Ellie’s Kitchen Knife. It seemed like Rován also gained some REP, even leveled up a lot, but most importantly, he had finally regained his senses. He said, “My nose is filled with the scent of vinegar...”

Minhyuk was left speechless as he untied Rován. The now freed Rován looked around curiously. He asked, “Why didn’t we get the notification about the double drop rate and EXP acquisition rate when we entered the Hidden Field?”

“Ah. You’re right.”

After overcoming the Trial of Sin, they immediately entered the Hidden Field, but there were no notifications about the double rate special privilege.

“What are the conditions for clearing the Hidden Quest?”

“Overcoming the curse and hunting all of the monsters in the field.”

Minhyuk nodded. This meant that the monsters that they would encounter soon would be stronger than the monsters earlier. Minhyuk and Rován quietly held their breaths and walked further in the hidden field.

Thump!

Thump!

Both of them could hear the sound of something thumping heavily.

“It’s a toad!” Rován said as he looked closely at the monster that leapt high in the sky. It was a giant toad. It was definitely a gigantic toad. Then, it spewed a bluish-green liquid out of its mouth.

“Puhaaaaaa!”

Minhyuk and Rován instinctively dodged. The liquid directly splashed on the ground and the stone where the both of them were just standing...

Melt!

...started to melt! The two of them looked at each other and quickly rushed to launch an attack at the giant poisonous toad.

[Step.]

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

The toad landed on the ground. Before it could open its mouth to spew out poison again, Minhyuk narrowed the distance between them and stabbed it with his sword.

[Sword of Fury.]

[Additional 50% attack power for strong lunges and stabs. If a vital strike is successful, the additional attack power is 80%.]

Stab!

Baaaaang!

The stabbed toad rolled backwards. Without missing a beat, Rován approached quickly and hacked at it with his sword.

Slash!

A notification popped out in front of Minhyuk.

[You have leveled up.]

“...?!”

Minhyuk had a strange look on his face when he saw the notification. Rován turned his head to him when he saw Minhyuk stopped moving.

“What’s wrong?”

“I just leveled up.”

“Oh. Again? Was your EXP about to level up?”

“No. I had about 78% in my EXP bar before I leveled up...”

“...?”



Rovan turned to look at his EXP, and soon had an expression of disbelief. A moment ago, his EXP was at 66% at Level 125, but right now, his EXP was at 95%. He said, "W...what the hell...!"

They just hunted one monster, but his EXP rose to 95% in an instant? Rovan was confused. However, he still did not forget to pick up the items that the poisonous toad had dropped.

[Party: Rovan has acquired 123,000 gold.]

For gold drops, it would be automatically divided between Rovan and Minhyuk. In other words, one poisonous toad dropped 246,000 gold. They estimated that the poisonous toad was around Level 120. Generally, monsters at this level would only drop 2,000 gold or so. However, the drop rate right now was almost ten times that of the normal drop. This meant that the EXP and drop rate were extremely enormous!

"...Do you think we can bomb our way and level up like crazy?" Rovan asked as he trembled in excitement. They might not know about the exact increase in their EXP and drop rate, but what they were sure of, was that it was a much more lucrative reward compared to the regular hidden dungeons. He continued to say, "Ah. Come to think of it, I think we're the first ones to have ever entered the Trial of Sins. There's no information available about it at all."

Minhyuk nodded in agreement.

"Ah. But I fought against those bastards earlier..." Rovan said sullenly, brows creasing in worry as he looked at his greatsword. The durability of his sword was almost gone. If the durability of his sword fell below 20%, the attack power and special abilities of his greatsword would be reduced as well.

"I'll fix it for you."

"...D...don't tell me that you also learned blacksmithing?"

"Yep."

"When did you learn it?"

"Less than a week ago."

Rovan shook his head when he heard his words. He said, "It's fine. My greatsword is an epic artifact. I can't leave it to a novice blacksmith."

"I'm an intermediate blacksmith."

Rovan silently looked straight at Minhyuk. He was not surprised anymore. He just wordlessly handed his greatsword, Valo's Bloodstained Greatsword. Minhyuk took out the anvil that he bought from Ron before he left the smithy. He invested the five skill points that he got from the Legendary Chocolate Paradise to his bandaging and blacksmithing skills. He allocated three on his bandaging skill and the remaining two to his blacksmithing skill. Currently, his bandaging skill was at intermediate Level 6 while his blacksmithing skill passed the threshold and became intermediate Level 2.

“Repair!” Minhyuk said as the places where he needed to hammer appeared once again in his vision. Then, Minhyuk began to beat the sword.

Clang, clang!

‘He said that he had learned it less than a week ago, but his posture looks so good?’

There were plenty of intermediate level blacksmiths. In fact, the blacksmith was the most famous job class among all of the non-combat classes. That was the reason why Rován willingly handed over his sword. He thought that he could use Minhyuk’s help as an intermediate level blacksmith to raise the durability of his sword, even if it was for a bit. Rován thought that it was enough for him to be able to endure through this field and get out of here safely before finding a better blacksmith to repair his greatsword. Not long after, Minhyuk finished repairing his greatsword.

[You have perfectly repaired Valo's Bloodstained Greatsword.]

[The artifact’s durability has greatly increased.]

[The artifact won’t rust easily.]

[The artifact’s attack power has increased.]

[You have gained 1 DEX.]

Chapter 100: Poisonous Toad King

“I’ve finished repairing it.”

“Hey. Did it go well?” Rován asked. He was not able to hear the notifications about the repair so he was not aware that Minhyuk achieved the ‘perfect’ repair for his greatsword, so he could only judge it based on its appearance. Then, Minhyuk asked, “Do you want me to sharpen the edge too?”

“Yep. That would be good.”

“Sharpen!”

[You have perfectly sharpened Valo’s Bloodstained Greatsword.]

[The artifact’s durability has greatly increased.]

[The artifact’s attack power has increased.]

Minhyuk smiled in satisfaction after he finished the repair and sharpening. He handed the sword back to Rován, who accepted it and thought, ‘The outer appearance looks good...’

The only reason why Ruwan recognized the ‘perfect’ in the mines was that he had studied hard in preparation for his class change from a warrior to a blacksmith. On the other hand, Rován’s character was a strong warrior and he had only just started playing the game, so he was not quite knowledgeable in this area yet. In a way, one could say that Ruwan had a good set of eyes on him to be able to recognize Minhyuk and his ‘perfect’ repairs. Rován was in shock when he checked the greatsword’s information after Minhyuk had repaired and sharpened it.

‘Huh...?’

Rovan checked the information again just to make sure that he read it right.

‘Huh...?!’

Rovan was so shocked when he saw that the attack power of his sword had increased by +30. There was even a +1 on STR and +1 on AGI added to the special abilities section. His weapons were usually repaired and sharpened by advanced level blacksmiths, and there were no such effects before. So what did this mean? Rovan hesitantly asked, “B...by any chance... did the repair turn out to be perfect?”

“Yes. I did it very well so it turned out perfect.”

“...I see,” Rovan answered dumbly in shock. To be honest, Minhyuk’s blacksmithing skill was much better than most advanced blacksmiths. It was very rare for them to achieve a perfect repair. Also, Minhyuk had a high DEX, and thanks to his special DEX privilege, all of his skills related to DEX would have double efficiency and effectiveness. A thought had been constantly brewing at the back of Rovan’s mind since earlier.

‘Minhyuk...’

He really wanted to pull this person to Legend Guild. Minhyuk was a very excellent damage dealer and was also a good tank. He even had a high HP and MP volume as well as magical defense. Besides, Minhyuk was also a very talented chef.

‘GM has been looking for a chef these days, should I recommend Minhyuk?’

Rovan believed that Minhyuk would easily be one of the top rankers once he fully developed. However, before he could even finish that thought, Minhyuk said, “It’s time to start our leveling spree again.”

Rovan could imagine another wild, crazy hunting session that would begin soon.

“Sigh.”

Rovan unconsciously let out a sigh of defeat.

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Puhaaaaa!

Minhyuk and Rovan’s hunt went on smoothly. Minhyuk slashed the final poisonous toad in their vicinity.

[You have leveled up.]

[You have released the seal on the Secondary Level of Ellie’s Kitchen Knife.]

Minhyuk smiled widely as he hurriedly checked the information about Ellie’s Sword.

(Ellie's Sword)

Class: Epic

Requirements: Primary Level has no requirements. Secondary Level requires the player to be at Level 120

Durability:?

Attack Power: 311 + 50

Special Abilities

?STR +4, AGI +3

?Skill: Dauntless Strike

Primary Level's Special Abilities:

?DEX acquisition rate x4

?DEX +40

?Can be equipped with a sword.

?Can automatically clean itself.

?Can change to any type of cooking tool.

Secondary Level's Special Abilities:

?Skill: Retrieval

?Skill: He Who Overcomes

?Buff Volume doubles.

Description: This was an artifact that the Empress bestowed upon Len, the best chef in Eivelis Empire.

‘Oh...’

The attack power of the current Ellie’s Sword had increased by 100. There were even two new skills that were added to the artifact. Minhyuk quickly clicked on the skills.

(Retrieval)

Artifact Skill

Level: None

Mana Required: 5

Cooldown: None

Effects: Retrieve Ellie’s Sword within a 30-meter radius.

Description: A useful skill that can be used when you threw the sword and missed your target.

(He Who Overcomes)

Artifact Skill

Level: None

Mana Required: 300

Cooldown: 30 minutes

Effects: This skill can be used once your HP reaches zero. Your HP will increase by one and it will trigger three seconds of invincibility. All of your skills and abilities will increase by 30% during that time frame.

Retrieval might look like it was just an ordinary skill, but it would be useful especially when one was in the midst of battle. He Who Overcomes was a last resort skill. Once Minhyuk's HP reached zero, he would be forced to log out of the game. However, this skill would increase his HP by one and even let his skills and abilities exert a stronger power during the three seconds invincibility granted by the skill. The upgrade was not bad. There was also the doubling of the buff volume. This would mean that Minhyuk would be able to make even more buffed dishes in one day. Minhyuk smiled contentedly as he finished looking through the information.

“Bbiiiiiiii!”

[Gryphon's Cry]

[You have a 70~80% chance of attracting the attention of all the monsters within a 20-meter radius.]

[Party members within a 10-meter radius will have a 12~14% increase in all five of their basic stats.]

Jump, jump, jump!

Poisonous toads started to swarm towards their location. Now that Minhyuk and Rován had fought together for quite some time, they could easily hunt more than ten monsters all at once.

[Rampant Sword.]

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

Puhaaaa!

Puhaaaa!

Puhaaaa!

Minhyuk's sword rapidly and indiscriminately stabbed through the bodies of the poisonous toads that swarmed in their direction. Then, Rován jumped in and joined the fray.

[Greatsword's Linked Swordsmanship]

[You will be able to swing your greatsword at four times its normal speed.]

Stab!

“...Croak!”

Staab!

“Croak!”

[You have leveled up.]

Stab!

[You have leveled up.]

Minhyuk and Rován were chuckling brightly at the constant ringing of notifications in their heads. The two literally went on a crazy hunting frenzy, resulting in an insane leveling spree. At some point in time, Minhyuk's level had reached Level 148. He was already close to his target level. At the same time, pleasant notifications kept on popping up and ringing in his head.

[Ellie's Swordsmanship has leveled up.]

[Chapter 1: Sword of Fury's attack power has increased by +3%.]

[Chapter 2: Rampant Sword's duration has increased from 5 seconds to 6 seconds.]

[Chapter 3: Ellie's Swordsmanship's duration has increased from 5 minutes to 6 minutes. The stat increase rate has also increased by +2%.]

[Chapter 4: Step can now allow you to take two steps instead of the original one step.]

The first level up of a skill would allow one to see how the skill would develop in the future. The Sword of Fury gained a +3% increase in attack power for every level. Both Rampant Sword and Ellie's Swordsmanship gained an increase in duration. In the case of Ellie's Swordsmanship, there was even an additional 2% increase in his stat increase rate. In the case of Step, Minhyuk would now be able to take two quick steps instead of just one. Minhyuk was quite satisfied with the increase in his skill.

"It seems like we're almost done?" Rován asked. In fact, it was already getting harder for them to find monsters now. Then...

Crackle! Bang!

...A thunderbolt suddenly appeared out of the blue and struck the ground near them. After the smoke and light disappeared, they could see a monster standing where the thunderbolt struck. It was a monster that was much bigger than all of the monsters that had ever appeared in the hidden field, its size as large as a two-ton truck.

[The Great Mage Arfield's Poisonous Toad King has appeared.]

The Poisonous Toad King looked extremely menacing. Rován was completely tense as he looked at it. The ground shook whenever the Poisonous Toad King took a step, and it looked like an ogre walking with its heavy steps. When Rován looked at the person beside him, he could see Minhyuk trembling all over. He asked, "Mi...Minhyuk...?"

This was the first time that Rován had ever seen Minhyuk in this state. He had never seen Minhyuk shake like that before. Then, he thought, 'Well, there were a lot of rumors circulating around about the Great Mage Arfield who once terrorized the whole continent. And now, even its Poisonous Toad King has appeared!'

However, it was actually the opposite of what Rován was thinking. Minhyuk called out, "Ro... Rován..."

"Yes?"

.

"The poison that's dripping out of that toad's mouth... It's soy sauce!"

“...What are you saying?”

“The poison that’s dripping from the mouth of that monster is a delicious soy sauce!”

“...?”

Rovan looked at Minhyuk strangely. His expression looked like he did not know what the hell was going on.

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[The Great Mage Arfield’s Poisonous Toad King has appeared.]

The moment he heard the notification, Minhyuk quickly casted his gaze at the monster that was called Poisonous Toad King. His Eccentric Food God skill would immediately inform him whether a named monster was edible or not. He could only eat monsters that were shining with a black light. Monsters that had no light were not edible. When Minhyuk looked at the Poisonous Toad King, he was able to see a black light glowing from the body of the monster. That was not all. He also saw that there were only a pitiful amount of ingredients that he could get from it. It was just this...

[Ingredients that could be obtained from the Poisonous Toad King.]

[Poisonous Soy Sauce.]

[The poisonous soy sauce can be obtained even if you did not successfully hunt the Poisonous Toad King. The poison from the mouth of the Poisonous Toad is the poisonous soy sauce.]

[The first dose of the poisonous soy sauce has a special effect.]

In fact, while he had eaten monsters as food through his Eccentric Food God skill before, this was the first time that he saw that he could receive the ingredients even without hunting the monster. And what was more surprising was...

‘There’s a special effect when I get it for the first time?’

Then, Minhyuk thought, ‘The poisonous soy sauce would definitely taste better than the normal soy sauce, right? I can add this poisonous soy sauce to the soy sauce egg rice with kimchi and radish kimchi on top, right?’

Minhyuk was filled with anticipation. Soy sauce had magical powers. Once you add soy sauce to seaweed soup, beef radish soup, and other various soup and stew dishes, it would make the flavor deeper, and tastier.

Once Minhyuk reached Level 200, he would go out to sea. There was a dish that he wanted to try if he ever caught a crab in there. It was the spicy marinated crabs. He could definitely make the spicy marinated crabs with the poisonous soy sauce.

Minhyuk could already imagine the soy sauce that will permeate every nook and cranny of the well-marinated crab. Then, once he pulled the shell apart, he would be able to see the creamy flesh and golden eggs that were packed together in it.

Gulp—

Minhyuk gulped at the thought. Then, he would pull one of the legs off of the crab and suck up the meat in it. He would pair it with big spoonfuls of rice. Minhyuk would also make sure to add some

rice on the shells of the crabs and mix it well. And once he placed it in his mouth, he would be able to taste the harmonious flavor of the savory soy sauce-marinated crab and the rice. Minhyuk's body trembled in excitement as he imagined the dishes that he would eat with the poisonous soy sauce.

"Mi, Minhyuk...?" Rován asked, looking at the shaking Minhyuk worriedly.

"The poison that's dripping out of that toad's mouth... It's soy sauce!"

"...What are you saying?"

"The poison that's dripping from the mouth of that monster is a delicious soy sauce!"

"...?"

Rován looked at him strangely. Then...

Croaaak—

The giant Poisonous Toad King's body swelled up. Minhyuk prepared himself for the battle that would occur. He triggered his title 'The Battlefield's Ruler'. The poisonous toad king was a monster that was at Level 168 and the title would surely help him in the imminent fight.

[Ellie's Swordsmanship.]

[All stats will have a 17% increase for 6 minutes.]

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

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

"I want to eat... that poisonous soy sauce marinated crab...!" Minhyuk said, his strong determination fueling his desire to battle.

"Minhyuk, please... talk to me when you're going to make your move! That guy's poison most likely has a large range! And it's totally different from the poisonous toads that we have fought before!"

The common poisonous toad's poison attack melted Rován's armor when he got hit by the attack. What was scarier was the fact that he suffered from a pain that felt like his whole body was melting. Had it not been for Minhyuk's bandaging, he would have lost at least 20% of his HP with just one hit. If so, what about the poison of the Poisonous Toad King?! When Rován saw Minhyuk running to where it was, he looked at him as if he was crazy. Then, at that moment, the Poisonous Toad King with its bulging chin suddenly spewed out poison.

"Puhaaaaaaaaa!"

It spewed out an enormous amount of poison. Furthermore, the projectile had been released with such strength, that it was rotating as it flew towards them at an extreme speed! Minhyuk quickly enlarged his frying pan.

[Frying Pan Gigantification.]

[You can adjust the size of your frying pan depending on the mana that you will input.]



Minhyuk hurriedly stretched his frying pan forward to catch the incoming poison. Once the poison made contact with the frying pan...

Sizzle!

...white smoke rose from the frying pan.