

Gourmet 381

Chapter 381: Hunting Black Dragon

The advent of Black Dragon Vormon had brought shock and terror to countless *Athenae* players, viewers, and experts all over the world.

Cold sweat formed in the hands of the viewers watching TV in their houses, while those watching on their mobile phones stopped in their tracks to look at the scene. People began to flock to the screens displayed in front of stores with banners that said ‘*Computers for Sale*’. The people in the subway secretly peeked at the screen of the person sitting next to them, unknowingly feeling nervous and anxious. Then, the buzz finally came.

“What...what the hell?!”

“A single attack killed thousands...”

“How can they hunt something like that? Are the *Athenae* operators crazy?”

Some of the commentators said that both the Cairon and the Asgan Continents would be laid to waste if Black Dragon Vormon was not stopped. This might just be the truth. After all, Black Dragon Vormon was a very powerful existence that could easily suppress and hold down a powerful figure like an emperor. That was why the commentators did not distinguish between Korea or China when they spoke.

“Who the hell can kill a monster like that?”

“If they can’t hunt that, then will the Continent Cloud episode be over?”

“But... who in the world will be able to do that?”

“Who can kill that?”

That was right. Who could kill Black Dragon Vormon? Out of all the content in *Athenae*, plenty were still yet to be released. Vormon’s existence was supposed to appear much later when people that could hunt him down would appear. But, for the players’ current level at this point in time, it was an impossible feat.

Then, the cameras from all over the world focused and zoomed in on one person. It was an impossible feat, but perhaps, they might still have a chance if it was him. And this person was none other than Food God Minhyuk. Right now, all of the global rankers and the viewers from all over the world were looking at the figure of the Food God reflected on their screens.

The commentators from all over the world were brought into a panic. They were so shocked and terrified that they lost their words, not knowing what to say about the situation.

Just a single attack had wiped out 5,000 players and left no traces at all. The magic spells floating around Black Dragon Vormon’s body were only from the Second to Fourth Tier Magic. However, the fact that it was Black Dragon Vormon that used the magic was what made it different. Black Dragon Vormon was an existence that stood at the apex of magic. The damage that stemmed from his magic was beyond anyone’s imagination and was even enough to cripple his opponents’ magical defense and render them useless.

One of the commentators, who watched the scene in a daze, finally came back to his senses and said,

[More than 5,000 players from Cairon Continent have disappeared.]

[There are only 25,000 of their troops left together with the three people from Asgan Continent. These people are the only ones that could do something about this disaster.]

*[If they stop him, they will all be remembered as *Athenae*’s heroes.]*

[But if they can't stop him, then all hell will break loose.]

[In fact, all of the rankers and experts from all over the world see this as a disaster for both the Asgan and Cairon Continents.]

[Everyone said that this is an impossible feat. Of course, they might have a chance if all of the rankers in the world will gather to fight.]

[However, the only people present in the Continent Cloud are the players from Asgan and Cairon Continents.]

[While everyone is curious about what kind of tactic and strategy they will use, Cairon Continent has already lost their Commander-in-Chief Da Zhuang. They are already in a state of confusion, and with Black Dragon Vormon's advent on top of that, they have clearly descended to despair right now.]

[I'm very curious about how they will try to hunt Vormon.]

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

A thick cloud of dust rose up in the sky. All of the surviving players looked up in the sky in panic and terror.

Gulp—

The sound of someone gulping dryly rang loudly in the otherwise silent battlefield. Then, they made their choice. The decision that all of the Chinese high rankers made was simple.

“Food God! Give us your orders!!!”

“Get a hold of yourselves!!! We'll all die if we get distracted for even a second in here!!!”

“Food God, your orders!!!”

“Give us your orders!!!”

“We will follow you!!!”

[Something, something surprising just happened.]

[The Cairon Continent high rankers that were just pointing their swords towards the Food God are now asking the Food God to give them his orders.]

[They unanimously chose the Food God as their Commander-in-Chief.]

[That's a good decision. From this point on, this battle is no longer a war between Asgan Continent and Cairon Continent. If both the Asgan and Cairon Continents succeed in hunting Vormon, their battle will become a legend that will remain in Athenae for a very long time to come.]

[They're afraid. But, they're also trembling right now for another reason.]

[It's up to them to write history. And the hero that will lead them is none other than the Food God. This is something that they have no doubts about.]

That was right. Plenty of the players were scared. But, they were not trembling for that reason. A new existence. A new monster. A being that humans could not hunt. However, the fact that they had a chance to hunt this monster brought a thrill of delight in them.

Sometimes, in a dungeon, when a player discovered an extremely strong monster, and even died during the process, they would still be delighted. After all, their name would be known as the player that met the monster for the first time.

Minhyuk, who had become flustered, came back to his senses after hearing the voices of the 25,000 strong troops. When he looked around, he saw tens of thousands of troops looking at him and waiting for his orders.

Worried about their betrayal? Impossible. None of them would be willing to stab them in their backs when all of them were in danger of dying. Besides, they could just cut each other down after they dealt with Vormon.

Minhyuk finally breathed again, firm determination coloring his eyes, as he raised his sword high up in the sky.

“Uwaaaaaaaah!!!”

A loud roar spread from within the Korean Defense Base. The panicked players slowly gained their determination to hunt, to reach for the skies and hunt a being that transcended beyond their own realm.

“Bread Shuttle! Carr!”

“Yes!”

“Bread Shuttle, release your power!”

“...Yes!”

The reason why Mei Wei was called ‘*Bread Shuttle*’ was partly because she wanted to hide her identity. But perhaps, it was time to reveal her identity. Mei Wei had no regrets, even if all of the Chinese people blamed her. It was alright even if everyone criticized her and spoke ill of her. It would not change the fact that she cared for, and loved the Food God. He was her king, the global number one ranker’s king.

Mei Wei had also eaten the marrow bone broth ahead of their long-term battle against the 50,000 troops. She had used her power and buff abilities only towards herself, Minhyuk, and Carr. These were the notifications that she heard after she ate the marrow bone broth.

[You have eaten the Ox Bone Soup made from the Leftover Marrow Bone Broth.]

[Your MP reserve has increased by 2.5x.]

[Your Buff-related Skill Cooldown has decreased by 70%.]

[Your Buff-related Skill Mana Consumption has decreased by 40%.]

[The radius of your AOE Buff Skill has increased by 40%.]

[Your Buff Duration has increased by 40%.]

[Your Debuff Effect has increased by 30%.]

[Your Magic Defense has increased by 30%.]

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

[Your Evasion Rate has increased by 300%.]

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

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

[The buff will last for three days.]

Mei Wei could also use debuffs, but she was best in terms of buff abilities, so it was more efficient to use her buff abilities to increase their power. And with the buff from the marrow bone broth, her buff abilities would naturally improve.

“Rankers, come forward!”

Most of the rankers were already waiting for Minhyuk’s orders so they immediately stepped forward. That was when Mei Wei’s skills came into play. After a moment, white light shot out of Mei Wei’s hands, before turning into a gigantic woman wearing an armor made of light and helmet while holding a huge spear. Then, the Goddess of War cried loudly.

[Troops, advance!!!]

Then, the Goddess of War burst into specks of lights that seeped through the players’ bodies.

[The Goddess of War’s Cry]

[The Physical and Magical Attack of everyone within a nine meter radius will increase by 30%.]

[Your AGI will increase by 30%.]

[Your Attack Hit Rate will increase by 50%.]

[Your Critical Hit Rate will increase by 200%.]

“Heeeeeek?!”

“Keheooooook?!”

“How... how can this be...?!”

The players that were within the nine meter radius were very shocked. Especially the ones with buff abilities too. They were very astonished after seeing the shocking ability displayed in front of them. Among them, there were some people that had received Mei Wei’s buff at least once.

“Are... are you Mei Wei...?”

So far, Mei Wei had never used her buff towards the Chinese players. She also refrained from using her debuffs. One of the reasons was because Mei Wei was well-known for her buff abilities. Some of the players with buff abilities might recognize her if she did so. However, she used it in consideration of Minhyuk’s orders.

“Did you say Mei Wei?”

“The global number one ranker, Mei Wei?”

“She’s our China’s pride, though...”

“The world’s greatest beauty!!!”

Mei Wei took off her mask amidst their murmurs. The entire world was left in shock the moment she revealed her face. She knew that she could not hide her identity any longer anyway. However, Mei Wei knew that her appearance right now would change the minds of those that were still hesitant to place their trust on the Food God.

“It’s really Mei Wei!”

“Mei Wei is Bread Shuttle...?”

“How could it be her...?”

Then, Mei Wei said, “Although I’m not good enough, I will also lend you my strength. So please, trust me and follow me.”

Then, one of the players asked, “Why, why did you serve the Food God? Why didn’t you fight for us in the Continent Cloud?!”

Mei Wei was very famous for her volunteering and donation activities all over the world. It was to the point that people deified her. And this deified Mei Wei said, “The Food God is my king.”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

The world was shocked and the commentators were in a buzz from the global number one ranker’s declaration. The Chinese players knew that this was not what was important right now. So, what they did was grab their swords tightly.

Clench—

“It’s worth trying if we’re with Mei Wei.”

“Mei Wei!!!”

“Lead our charge!!!”

Mei Wei looked around them and said, “Put your trust in the Food God, follow him, and we will gain victory!”

“Uwaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

Their roars shook the sky.

On the other hand,

“Carr, I’ve been your fan since a long time ago.”

“Olympic Gold Medalist Carr!”

Carr, Korea's official number one ranker and Olympic gold medalist in kendo, had countless fans from all over the world. His finals match in the Olympics was against a Chinese. During their match, Carr completely overwhelmed his Chinese opponent with his skills, which made the Chinese people unable to criticize nor speak ill of him.

Carr raised his sword high up in the sky and told his fans, "Lift your swords and protect the Food God! Follow him and fight for him and he will lead us to the path of victory!!! We will win!!!"

"Uwaaaaaaaaah!"

The three of them moved and commanded the 25,000 strong troops.

[The, the three people that fought against them had now become their strongest and most reliable allies, and even moved to command them!]

[Global number one ranker, Mei Wei! Korea's official number one ranker and Olympic gold medalist Carr! And their king, the Food God!]

[The 25,000 strong troops are now united! Perhaps there is a chance!!!]

Minhyuk took over the entire command and started giving his orders, "Spread out! Mage players, start casting and accumulating your most powerful magic! Send it to the air as soon as Vormon uses his skills!"

"Yes, sir!!!"

"Archer players! Focus your arrows on Vormon's eyes! No matter how hard and tough his scales are, his eyes would still remain vulnerable!"

"Yes, sir!!!"

"Assassins, stick to Vormon's body the moment he descends and continuously send your attacks! As long as you stick close to Vormon's body, his magic will not reach you!"

"Yes, sir!!!"

"Priests, don't spare your heals, use them on those that will stick close to Vormon. Make sure to take care of the allies around you and stick close to the melee players for protection!"

"Yes, sir!!!"

The world was in awe as they watched the Food God skillfully give out his orders, despite the dire situation that they were in. People from all over the world were in admiration at the scene.

Among the jet-black sea of the 25,000 strong army stood the Food God, Minhyuk. He lifted his Devil Judge's Sword high up in the sky, like a shining beacon, as black light shot out from his sword.

"Let Vormon's hunt begin!"

Minhyuk's solemn and dignified voice rang loudly and made the entire world tremble. With his command, the 25,000 strong troops started to move.

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Following Minhyuk's orders, the 25,000-strong troops quickly spread out. If they stayed as they were and remained clustered together, the damage that they would receive would inevitably increase. That was why Vormon's attack took out more than 5,000 of them in one go. So, the players spread out as much as they could.

"Interesting," Vormon said, chuckling lightly as he looked down at them from the sky. The fact that these human beings were trying to fight against him, a supreme and lofty being in this world, was truly laughable. And along with his words...

Shwaaaaaaaa—

Crackle—

Burst—

...gigantic pillars of blazing flames burst out from all over the ground and devoured the players.

“Keuaaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaaack!”

“Urghhhh!”

There were a total of seven pillars of flames! The troops that accidentally made contact with the pillars of flame disappeared without leaving any trace. After that, thousands of magic spells reappeared all around Vormon in the sky.

The moment he saw the magic, Minhyuk cried, “Archers and dealers!!!”

“Yes!!!”

“Focus all your arrows and attacks on me!!!”

“What?!”

“I won’t say it twice! The moment I give you the signal, attack me as hard as you can!!!”

“Yes!”

“Yes!”

All they could do was to put their faith in the Food God.

Meanwhile, the commentators from all over the world were wondering what was happening.

[What did he mean by asking them to focus their attacks on him?]

[I can’t understand it either.]

[However, the archers and the dealers still started to prepare their skills.]

[They’re showing through their actions that they have placed their trust and faith in the Food God.]

[Since the players have spread out, we can expect that the damage that they will receive should significantly decrease.]

[Even so, based on our estimates, there will at least be 3,000 players that will die in this attack.]

Just when the thousands of magic spells that surrounded Vormon’s body were about to fall down, wings made of light spread out from Minhyuk’s shoulder blades, and he flew up in the sky with the help of the ‘Wings of Light’ that Mei Wei had temporarily used on him..

Flap—

Minhyuk immediately swapped his equipment as he flew higher in the sky. The weapon that he took out was none other than Hepas’ Legendary Frying Pan. He had strengthened this frying pan once, which increased its defense to 1,000, while its magical defense increased by +200. Even its chances of reflecting magic had increased to 50%. It had become a weapon that could exert the most powerful force against beings that use magic.

Then, at that moment...

[Frying Pan Gigantification]

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

The frying pan grew larger than Minhyuk’s body. But it did not end there.

[Frying Pan Gigantification]

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

It grew bigger again. The Frying Pan Gigantification was a skill that could allow the frying pan to increase in size, as long as the skill user continued to inject mana into the frying pan.

[Frying Pan Gigantification]

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

[Warning. The frying pan’s size has grown out of control.]

The frying pan had grown so large that its shadow now covered a huge area on the ground. But Minhyuk was still increasing its size.

[Frying Pan Gigantification]

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

[Frying Pan Gigantification]

[You can adjust the size of your frying pan...]

The frying pan grew large enough to cover a 40 meter radius. But there was a problem. As per the warning before, the frying pan had truly grown so large that Minhyuk could not control it anymore. “Kgggggghk...”

Minhyuk was just enduring it at best, but it had already grown to the point that he could barely support its weight. Even the entire world wondered if the frying pan could be swung with that much air resistance. Then, at that moment...

Shwaaaaaa—

Thousands of Vormon’s magic spells descended on the players. Then...

“Now!!!”

...each of the players on the ground triggered their skills with Minhyuk’s signal.

“Running Sword!”

“Great Arrow!”

“Sword Dance!”

“Multishot!”

Thousands of attacks flew up all at once. Towards Minhyuk? No. All of their attacks were directed towards Minhyuk’s frying pan. This was what Minhyuk was aiming for. He wanted to use the force of the thousands of skills and attacks from the players to move the frying pan.

The thousands of skills slammed into the huge frying pan, creating a huge tremor that shook Minhyuk and his hold on the frying pan. At the same time, the frying pan began to move towards the magic spells falling on the ground. Then, when all of the skills had slammed into the frying pan...

“Haaaaa!”

...Minhyuk flew up once again. The power and impact of the skills had been absorbed by the frying pan, which made it rotate. Minhyuk used this power to sweep away the thousands of magic spells that descended upon them.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang, clang, clang, clang, clang—

The thousands of magic spells slammed into the frying pan all at once. However, they only slammed into the frying pan, and failed to pierce through its defenses. This was all thanks to Minhyuk’s magical defense, which had doubled, and the extremely high magical defense of the frying pan itself. It did not end there.

[Magical Reflection]

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

[Magical Reflection]

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

[Magical Reflection]

[You have returned the magical attack...]

Hepas’ Legendary Frying Pan’s magical reflection ability had increased to 50%. This meant that half of Vormon’s magic spells that hit the frying pan were reflected back to him.

“...!”

Vormon’s eyes widened in surprise. Then...

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

The powerful magic spells that Vormon sent himself were thrown back at him. Then, the mages, who had been preparing their magic spells and waiting for the right time, triggered their skills.

“Fire Field!!!”

Someone casted Fire Field on Vormon’s body.

“Lightning!”

“Wind Cutter!”

“Fire Wall!”

“Great Boom!”

Hundreds of magic spells devoured Vormon’s body.

“Keuhaaaaaack!”

Vormon shrieked involuntarily.

[...]

[...]

[...]

The viewers watching from all over the world were in shock.

[C... crazy...!]

[What an amazing method. My goodness! How did he think of reflecting the thousands of magic spells like that?!]

[And! And! With the help of the thousands of players, he was able to swing his frying pan!]

[How can he think of something like that in such a frantic and urgent situation?!]

“That’s crazy...”

“The Food God... is amazing, huh?”

“I’m surprised he can make a decision like that.”

“The people from Asgan Continent are our enemies, but I have to admit his brilliance.”

“Food God is truly our Lord, Food God...”

“That’s really amazing...”

The tens of thousands of troops that followed Minhyuk were all trembling in excitement. All of the Chinese players were looking at the Food God in fascination and shock. One of the reasons why they were shocked was because they were in a very chaotic situation, and yet, the Food God was still able to quickly analyze everything and make a decision like that. He was completely different from the other players, whose minds had gone blank.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk was still flying in the sky. He swapped his now-shrunken frying pan with his Devil Judge’s Sword again. Then, he quickly casted the Sword of Frenzy as he flew higher in the sky. Once he reached Vormon’s vicinity, Mei Wei, with great timing and accuracy, sent him another buff.

[War Goddess’ Attack]

[All successful attacks within 4.5 seconds will have a 2.5x damage. This can overlap with other skills.]

Minhyuk had received the buff ‘War Goddess’ Attack’ from Mei Wei back when they hunted the Grim Reaper. Back then, he had to carry out all of his attacks within 2.5 seconds. However, after eating the marrow bone broth, Mei Wei’s power and skills had been strengthened, which increased the duration and power of the skill. As long as Minhyuk’s attacks were successful within 4.5 seconds, then the damage that he would inflict would be increased by 2.5x. It can even overlap with other skills.

Minhyuk flew quickly as he triggered the Sword of Frenzy and sent it towards Vormon, who was still shrieking from the onslaught of the thousands of magical spells that had been sent back to him.

[Sword of Frenzy]

Sword of Frenzy was a skill that evolved from the Sword of Fury, and it had reached Half Pinnacle. There was also the marrow bone broth buff that Minhyuk had on top of that. In other words, he could deal an additional 600% damage upon a successful hit on Vormon's vital points, as well as strike another eight consecutive hits with an additional 120% damage with each hit. What would happen in that situation if his damage had increased by 2.5x with Mei Wei's buff?

Clench—

Minhyuk grabbed his sword tightly as he stabbed it upward towards the still-roaring Vormon's chest. And then...

Crack—

Minhyuk's sword pierced through Vormon's tough scales and hard skin before digging deeper into his body. At the very same moment, Vormon felt an intense searing pain. It was like no other, a sensation that he had never experienced in all his life.

"Keuaaaaaaaaaaack!" Vormon screamed wildly. But the attack did not end there. Eight consecutive attacks slammed into him right after.

Flash, flash, flash, flash—

Attacks continued to slam into Vormon's body while hundreds of sword blades formed around Minhyuk's body. This was the Sword of Frenzy that could attack and strike down the enemies in the surrounding area. And right after that...

[Intangible Sword]

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

[Lightning]

[3 strikes!]

Bang, bang, bang!

Huge lightning bolts struck down and engulfed Vormon's body. Then, Minhyuk swapped his weapon once again. Minhyuk enlarged his frying pan and swung it strongly.

Claaaaaaaaaang—

A loud and clear sound rang loudly as Vormon fell down on the ground.

[A very shocking scene is unfolding right in front of our very eyes!]

[Is Food God, Player Minhyuk, going to become a hero just like this?!]

[My God!!! Vormon, who everyone thought was impossible to kill, is now going to fall!]

However, it was not an easy feat.

"How dare...!" Vormon shrieked furiously. His voice sounded strangely like something sharp scratching against an iron bowl, "How dare you... HUMAN!"

And with his roar, the falling Vormon immediately spread out his gigantic wings and...

Puhaaaaaaaaaa—!

Poison magic engulfed the entire area, eroding the lungs and throats of all of the players on the ground. The radius of Vormon's poison magic was beyond anyone's imagination.

"Keheooook!"

"Aaaaack!"

[You have been subjected to a deadly poison.]

[A terrible poison has started to erode and melt your organs.]

[Your skin has started to erode.]

[Your HP has fallen below 50%.]

"Keuaaaaaaack!"

The troops shrieked as they grabbed their necks helplessly from the pain of the poison eroding their organs. At the same time, the injuries they inflicted on Vormon's body began to twitch and regenerate.

"...!"

Minhyuk was very shocked to see it. No, it was more exact to say that he was dispirited. He could not use his Frying Pan Gigantification skill again, which meant that he would not be able to reflect any of the magic spells that Vormon used anymore. Then...

Creak, creak, creak, creak—

Gigantic tree roots sprung up from the ground and stretched towards Minhyuk, binding his entire body tightly.

"Urgh!"

Like an anaconda that found its prey, the tree roots wrapped around Minhyuk's body. Minhyuk tried to force his way out of the tree roots' hold, but he could not get out from the extremely powerful grip. The tree roots then dragged Minhyuk in front of Vormon.

"Did you humans think that you stood a chance against me?"

As Vormon's pupils enlarged in front of Minhyuk, fear and terror engulfed his entire body.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—!

"Keuaaaaaack!"

[Your HP has fallen below 70%.]

The gigantic tree roots tightened their hold on Minhyuk's body, which made his bones crack. If things continued at this rate, Minhyuk's body would be crushed from the pressure.

"N, no!"

"Get the Food God out of there! Quick!"

"Attack!!!"

The poisoned players staggered as they quickly cast their attack skills to protect Minhyuk, while trying to get him out of his predicament. Hundreds of shields were created and formed in front of Vormon's glare.

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

Thankfully, they managed to keep him and his attack at bay. But then, Vormon whispered, "Watch in despair. Destruction."

Vormon knew full well how much terror he could bring to these humans. They would get chills if they so much as thought about his terrifying figure. He would be their worst nightmare. But...

"*Haack! Ptew!!* I want to eat lizard meat!!!" Minhyuk shouted as he grinned at Vormon. Vormon grew furious at Minhyuk's expression. He tightened the grip of the roots that wrapped around Minhyuk's body.

"Keuaaaaaack!"

[Your HP has fallen below 20%.]

[Your HP has fallen below 10%.]

[...fallen below 6%.]

The world fell into despair.

[This is the end.]

[There's no hope.]

[But they gave their all and did a very good job.]

[The only way to kill Vormon is to call for troops from each of the continents and attack him.]

"We... we lost..."

"In the end, it was impossible for us, huh?"

“...Nevertheless, we still gave our all in this fight. Right?”

“Yeah.”

Everyone had already fallen into despair. But suddenly, a voice rang loud and clear among their desperate sighs.

“My son... no, my Lord...”

The voice shook from repressed anger and fury.

“How dare you...!”

Then, the voice spat out, “Absolute Pinnacle Spear”

Minhyuk, who’s mind was already turning blank, shouted weakly, “N...no...!”

Minhyuk knew full well what the skill Absolute Pinnacle Spear was, and who was using it. It was a skill with a terrible penalty wherein both of the body’s HP and MP would instantly reach zero upon casting. However, it was a one-shot kill skill that would raise the skill user’s attack power by 3,500%.

Minhyuk had once said to the person that had this skill, ‘*Grandpa. Even if you don’t want to make coffee anymore, don’t ever use this Absolute Pinnacle Spear. Got it?*’

‘*Hohohoho. Son... No, my Lord, don’t worry. I won’t!*’

Alas, the power of the skill was being used right now.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

At that moment, the entire world began to shake. Both the earth and the sky trembled as something shot through the air as fast as a bullet. It emitted a bright light that shone light in this world that had been filled with despair.

“What... what the hell is that?!”

“Heeeeek!”

And that huge beam of light, which to be exact, was Ghost Spear Ben covered in a bright light, pierced through Vormon’s thick skin and stabbed him straight through his neck.

Craaaaaaack—

The flesh in Vormon’s neck was torn badly from the spear that pierced through him. With that strike, the poison that was eroding the players’ organs, as well as the roots that squeezed Minhyuk, disappeared completely.

Thuuuuud—

Vormon shrieked loudly as he collapsed on the ground with a loud thud.

“Kieeeeeeeeeeeeeeeck!!!”

In front of this gigantic being, an old man immediately turned around and rushed in front of Minhyuk, who had fallen on the ground. He gently lifted Minhyuk’s hands and smiled kindly at him before saying gently, “Please don’t give up, my King.”

Ghost Spear Ben turned around once again. He stabbed his spear deep into the ground and folded his arms before glaring at Vormon without any hesitation. And slowly, his stalwart figure began to turn into ash, disappearing with the wind.

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Joy Co. Ltd.’s conference room.

The entire team of Athenae executives and management personnel felt their hearts thump and burn with hope, as they watched an old man fly brilliantly, like a light in their time of despair. The old man saved Minhyuk, held him until Minhyuk stood up once again, and turned around to glare fiercely at Vormon before dying.

Of course, the old man did not die for real. The NPCs' death in the Continent Cloud was not permanent. They would revive and come back to life in Asgan Continent. However, the power that he showed, his desire to protect, and his unwavering will to never show his back to Vormon, his enemy, until his very last moments were enough to light another flame of hope for them!

"Amazing..." Kang Taehoon exclaimed. He was the one that planned and created this game. But even his heart was pounding wildly right now.

Meanwhile, the entire world clapped as they watched Ghost Spear Ben's sacrifice.

[Crazy. Very crazy. Isn't that the weird old man that never failed to comb his black hair every day?]

[Wow. I got goosebumps right now. I really got goosebumps, for real... I will never forget this scene in my life.]

[Did you hear his words? Don't give up, my King. I cried when I heard it.]

[Ghost Spear Ben. He's hailed as the father of all the Spear Masters in Asgan Continent. In fact, he's also one of the legendary figures of the continent.]

[A legendary figure sacrificed himself to save the Food God...]

[Ah. Guys, you know that they won't completely die inside the Continent Cloud, right?]

The global community sites were discussing heatedly while Team Leader Park Minggyu watched the scene on the monitor with folded hands.

"The support troops have arrived."

That was right. The rest of the support troops have arrived with Ghost Spear Ben.

"Hope is still with us in this desperate situation."

President Kang Taehoon nodded in agreement with Team Leader Park's words. They were not afraid of the 'condemnation' that the public would heap on them if they failed.

What they were afraid of was the frustration that the players would feel once they failed to stop Vormon. But what if the players succeeded? The impact and effect of their successful hunt would be beyond anyone's imagination.

"That woman will arrive soon too."

On one of the countless monitors opened in front of them, a silver-haired woman was seen crossing through the Continent Cloud at the speed of light. And...

"Black Mage Ali is also doing his best to awaken the Supreme Divine Beast."

As long as Ali was able to get the final fragment of the Golden Crown, they would be able to awaken the Supreme Divine Beast.

Yes. Their fight was not yet over.

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

Black Dragon Vormon writhed in pain. Standing in front of him was a glaring old man with folded arms. His expression showed his unwavering spirit and determination despite his body turning gray and disappearing into nothingness. Everyone at the scene looked at Ghost Spear Ben and the Food God.

Minhyuk clenched the fist that held his sword tightly. He was very aware that death in the Continent Cloud was not an actual death. As long as he went back to the Asgan Continent, he would still see Ghost Spear Ben. He was sure that he would even say this to him, 'Hohoho. My son... no, my lord. Are you going to bottoms up 20 cups of coffee right now?'

Still, Ghost Spear Ben was like a grandfather to Minhyuk. Ever since he contracted his eating addiction, he had long distanced himself from his friends. Ben was someone that always joked around with him, gave pieces of advice to him, and silently gave him strength. And right now, he even sacrificed himself to save him.

'I won't give up.'

Swoosh—

Ghost Spear Ben had disappeared completely. The appearance of Ghost Spear Ben meant that reinforcements had arrived.

"Minhyuk!"

"Are you alright?!"

The members of the Let's Eat Sect Guild flocked towards Minhyuk.

[The members of Let's Eat Sect Guild have arrived.]

[A small flame of hope is being ignited in this dark, dreary, and desperate situation.]

[Crazy Priest Locke, Fighter Khan, Red Flame Fighter Ace, Assassin of the Moon Lucia, Informant Abel, Whip Warrioreess Genie, Knight of Agony Alicia, Master of Divine Beast Kaistra, Best Selling Author Aruvel, and Bounty Hunter Crow have arrived.]

[And that's not all.]

"Kiyeeeeeeeeeeee—"

Black bird-like figures appeared in the sky along with the commentators' words. No, to be exact, the warriors of the Dragon Race have appeared and covered the skies. Then, among them, a man quickly landed in front of Minhyuk and said, "Son, are you alright?"

The man wore an armor made out of black scales. This man was none other than Black Dragon.

"Yes, I'm fine."

Black Dragon breathed a sigh of relief. He worried about what would happen if he met his son who was feeling frustrated after facing a strong opponent. However, his son's eyes were still shining brightly.

'Yeah. He's my son, alright!'

There would always be times in life where one would meet strong opponents that they could not deal with. However, Black Dragon believed that even if they collapsed and fell down in front of such an opponent, as long as they stood up time and time again, they would eventually stand strong and gain victory.

Then, Minhyuk's gaze turned back to Vormon.

Twitch, twitch, twitch—

The injuries on his neck twitched as they started to regenerate once again. The surviving troops continued to send their attacks at Vormon's fallen body but...

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang!

Vormon's defense was unimaginably high. Despite their all-out attacks, they could not deal any significant damage. There were even hundreds of translucent shields created around Vormon's body. These shields defended him from the players' attacks.

"Keuaaaaack!"

Vormon once again spread his wings as he flew high up in the sky.

"Spread out!!!"

Everyone moved quickly after receiving Minhyuk's orders once again. And even though the members of the Let's Eat Sect Guild had just arrived, they were all quickly engaged in battle. After all, they were faced with a very desperate situation the moment they arrived.

Then, Vormon opened his mouth and sucked in the mana in the surroundings.

[Vormon has devoured 10% of your MP.]

Blue energy seeped out from the troops' bodies, before getting converted into black energy that entered Vormon's mouth. Everyone present knew what Vormon was preparing to do.

"It's... it's Breath!"

"Stop it! We have to stop it, no matter what!"

The entire army was horrified. That was when Black Dragon threw his Dragon Tear Sword in the air with all his might.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Black Dragon used Sword Manipulation and tried to attack Vormon, but a gigantic shield appeared and blocked his attacks.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang!

The shield was so solid and tough, that it was very hard for any of his attacks to pierce through it.

Thwaaaaaack—

Genie swung her whip. But just when the flames created from her whip were about to hit Vormon, the shield moved and blocked her attack too. And the worst part...

[Shield Reflection]

[The shield reflects your attack and sends it back to you.]

Crackle—

"Keuaaaaaack!" Genie screamed as the fire engulfed her and spread all over her body in an instant. Informant Abel lightly leapt forward, while Penrus, who Kaistra was riding on, let out a breath of light.

"Demonic Dragon Spear Arts Chapter 3. Exploding Spear!!!"

Even the Best Selling Author Aruvel also added his strength into the mix. However, their attacks remained useless. Most of their attacks were blocked by the shield, and even if they pierced through the shield, their attacks still could not pierce through Vormon. In the end, Vormon was still able to spit out his tremendous and horrifying power.

Keuhaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

He let out a black breath that covered the entire army. The only ones that were able to rush out of the radius of the breath were the members of the Let's Eat Sect Guild. The ones that received a direct hit from Vormon's breath were instantly wiped out, and disappeared without leaving any trace. The black breath's energy lingered in the battlefield. 8,000 people. That was the number of troops that died in that instant.

"Hiiiiiiiiik...!"

The troops were terrified after witnessing the sudden disappearance of the person right next to them. With the disappearance of the 8,000 people in the army, their once-overflowing will to fight and charge forward had disappeared completely. On top of that, all of Vormon's injuries had healed completely thanks to his regenerative abilities.

"We're done for..."

"We can't beat something like that."

"Goddamn! Damn it!!!"

[Vormon's Terror]

[Your defensive power will drop by 30% while your attack hit rate and critical hit rate will drop by 20%.]

Vormon's Terror debuff appeared and encroached upon the entire army. With the poison and breath from earlier, they only had at most 9,000 troops left. However, despite the crippling despair and frustration, there were still some people struggling against Vormon.

“Locke!!!”

“Okay!!!”

Khan ran to Locke. When Khan jumped up, Locke grabbed him by the ankle before spinning around.

Vwoooooom—

And since Khan’s ankle had been grabbed by Locke, he also followed and spun along with him. When Locke released his grab on Khan’s ankle, Khan gained unprecedented momentum and power as he sped up through the air towards Vormon.

“Little Giant’s Wild Fist!”

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

Khan’s fast flying speed had allowed him to ignore the shield covering Vormon’s body. That was on top of his skill’s 50% chances of ignoring his opponent’s defenses.

“Keuaaaaack!” Vormon shrieked.

No one let the opportunity pass by. Aruvel already jumped up on Penrus’ back with Kaistra.

Daaaash—

Then, Aruvel lightly leapt up and narrated, “Not too long ago, Dragon Varoi had met up with his first dragon love again. It was a dreamy reunion after 5,000 years of not seeing each other. The two of them *bang, bang, bang* as they mated in the mountains. However, it turned out that the female dragon Ceroi was the female of Dragon Lord Chief Patnia!!!”

Was Aruvel spitting out nonsense in this situation? Not at all. His powerful voice was enough to distract and make the enemy turn his gaze towards him.

“Keuhaaaack?! That dragon Varoi dared to touch the Dragon Chief’s female?!”

Vormon showed interest in the story. Even the great black dragon could not avoid the temptation of rumors and stories! While his attention was dragged somewhere else, Abel, Ascar and Crow, who were preparing to attack, finally made their move.

“Abeeeeeeeel!!!” The running Minhyuk shouted as he threw a dagger towards Abel.

Abel snatched the dagger in the air with a grin and said, “Thanks!”

The dagger was none other than the Bloody Dagger that Da Zhuang dropped on his death.

“Mortal’s Dagger!”

Puhaaaaaaaaa—

Abel casted and triggered his one-shot kill skill ‘*Mortal’s Dagger*’ and stabbed it on Black Dragon Vormon’s back.

“Keuaaaaack!”

Crow also used his Tornado Spear, while Ascar used her Dance of the Twin Swords. They fought and struggled against despair and hopelessness. Seeing them like that made the frustrated Chinese rankers grab their weapons tightly.

“We can’t be left behind by Korea!”

“Let’s go!”

“Uwooooooooooooh!”

They also moved to join the battle once again.

[The Chinese rankers that have lost their morale and fighting spirit have charged forward once again.]

[That’s right. The Cairon Continent should not be left behind and pushed back by Asgan Continent.]

[Player Minhyuk has flown forward and taken the lead.]

Minhyuk faced against Black Dragon Vormon with his sword surging and overflowing with powerful energy. Then this powerful energy stretched and shot out from his sword.

[Heaven Tearing Sword]

[You will be able to send a red sword light with a 350% additional damage and 20% increase in critical hit rate towards your enemies. Upon successful attack on a vital point, an explosion with additional 600% damage will engulf your enemy.]

A gigantic red sword light flew straight towards Vormon's body.

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—

[Intangible Sword.]

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

"Keuaaaaaaaack!" Vormon screamed as his flesh was torn apart by the attack. But the attack did not end there, as the red sword lights sent a series of consecutive attacks towards Vormon's body.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

The attacks would cause explosions with additional 600% damage in every successful strike.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—

Another scream ripped out of Vormon's mouth, "Keuaaaaaaaack!!!"

However, not long after, gigantic flames burst out of Vormon's body.

Puhaaaaaaaaaa—

"Uuuurk!"

"Keuaaack!"

"Ugh, aaaaaah!"

The players scrambled to get out of the fire's vicinity. Unfortunately, Ascar was caught by the flames. The flames devoured her until she disappeared without a trace. Genie had reached out to her, but she still failed to get out of the flames' radius of attack.

"Ascar...!"

"Everyone... finish it..."

This was Ascar's last words. But unlike her confidence in them, Vormon brought them more despair.

[Vormon's Fury]

[Vormon has released his hidden power.]

[Vormon's defense has increased by 1.4x]

[Vormon's speed of regeneration has increased by 1.4x]

[Vormon's magic damage has increased by 30%.]

[Vormon has summoned his Legion of Despair.]

The space in the sky was torn apart as 3,000 lizardmen armed with various weapons appeared in front of the players. They held swords, spears, bows and axes. Some of them were even mages that held staves. All of them were also wearing black full-plated armor. And their levels...

[Warrior of Despair. Level 547.]

"...!"

...were unimaginable. Vormon not only increased his own power, but even brought his own army into the mix. Everyone that watched this scene all looked at Vormon with ugly faces.

Black Mage Ali was able to successfully acquire the final fragment of the Golden Crown. The place that he went to to get the fragment was Moldoron's final resting place. This was a sanctuary filled with countless trials and various quests for Moldoron's successor, Ali.

After acquiring the final fragment of the Golden Crown, Ali did not return to the game immediately. Before he could deliver the fragment, something urgent happened in reality, so he had to log out and check things out. Ali had watched on TV how Vormon turned furious and how he opened up more of his strength and summoned his Legion of Despair. He was sure that his friends would not be able to keep up and fight back against Vormon and his troops by themselves.

Originally, Ali's level was not yet high enough to go and meet Moldoron. It was only possible because another route had been presented to him due to a different reason. Moldoron's successors had a chance to open up and awaken his power once. But as a payment for this opportunity...

[My descendant, why do you wish to obtain such power? If you forcefully awaken and open up that power, when you haven't reached the requirements yet, it would remove your qualifications to become my successor. There's even a chance that your magical power and strength will disappear forever.]

This was what Great Mage Moldoron had told him. But, Ali just smiled slightly at him before saying, "It's alright even if I lose everything to get that power."

Moldoron looked at him as if he could not understand how his head worked. A mage with a power that transcended this world. This was who Moldoron was. What did he want to do for him to be willing to lose the chance to gain that power?

[By any chance, can you tell me the reason why?]

"There's something that I need to protect."

Moldoron chuckled, finding Ali's reason to be interesting. What was he trying to protect that he would willingly take the risk of losing everything just so he could protect it?

[What is it that you want to protect?]

Ali turned to Moldoron. His eyes sparkled as he stared directly at Moldoron's eyes before saying, "My friend."

Then...

Puhaaaaaaaaaa—

...a golden pillar of light fell from the sky.

The reason why Ali was hailed as the Black Mage was because everything, from his staff to his robe, even to his hat, everything was black. But at this very moment, his robe, his staff, his hair, and even his eyes had turned golden.

A new legend was being written. This was the story of how Black Mage Ali became the 'Golden Mage'? and how he reached 'Godhood'.

Chapter 384: Hunting Black Dragon

There were 3,000 lizardmen that appeared so suddenly in front of the players. This was the Legion of Despair that Vormon personally commanded. They were an army that brought despair and hopelessness across the continents and all over the world.

They had been trained and nurtured for a long time, and even wore armor made out of Vormon's own scale, as well as possessing weapons imbued with his power. Their father was none other than Vormon, which meant that their power was also bound to be tremendous. Each one of them had levels around Level 547~570. It was comparable to some of the high rankers.

On the other hand, the players' army only had 9,000 troops remaining. However, surviving and remaining on the battlefield did not mean that they were strong. The truth was there were only a few high rankers left among them.

"Kireeeeeeeeeeeck!"

"Keuryaaaaaaaaaack!"

The remaining troops looked at the Legion of Despair as they gathered together. They screamed strangely as they ran together. Both Carr and Mei Wei still had the role of commanding the troops. And since Vormon was mainly dealt with by the members of the Let's Eat Sect Guild and Minhyuk...

"Let's go!!!" Carr shouted as he took the lead in dashing forward and facing the Legion of Despair. Mei Wei immediately followed behind while summoning a pegasus. Pegasus! This was a noble and amazing horse!

"Neiiiiigh!"

Clip— clip— clip— clip—

Mei Wei sat on top of the pegasus before raising her sword high up in the sky with the remaining 9,000 troops. The remaining 9,000 troops of their large army followed behind her.

"Haa!"

Carr flew forward and attacked the ones taking the lead. He also made sure to link his attacks to increase his attack power.

Ping—

Puhaaaaaa—

As Carr fought with the Legion of Despair, he could tell, *'This is not an army that we can fight against...'*

One, their defense was too high. It was very hard for Carr to cut down even a single one of them despite the fact that Conir had possessed his body. What more if the ordinary troops were the one to fight against them?

Two, they were veterans. On top of being experienced, their enemies were systematically trained, fast, and very strong.

Three, they did not have any fear. Even if Carr cut them down, they would just continue to attack without any hesitation.

Slaaaaash—

Then, the large troops behind them finally clashed against the Legion of Despair. However, all that followed were screams and shrieks.

"Keuaaaaack!"

"My... my sword won't pierce through! It can't get through!"

"It's like I'm fighting against the rankers..."

"Shit...!"

Even if they were being overwhelmed by despair, Carr still continued to swing his sword with all his might. They still had to charge forward. They did not have anywhere to retreat to.

Even those that were trying to stop Vormon were also in despair. Cerberus, with Locke riding on top of them, ran swiftly, while avoiding the magic spells that Vormon had fired.

"Grrrrr!"

"Graaaaaa!"

"Love! Hope! Happiness!!!"

Cerberus was desperately running with all its might to protect Locke. However, one of the magic spells struck Cerberus straight on its side.

"Whine, whine, whine."

"Whineee!"

Cerberus rolled on the ground from the pain. However, it still struggled to get up. Seeing this, Locke hugged it tightly. He said, "Hyung will protect you."

Locke grabbed both of his gigantic axes, as he began to cut down the magic attack spells that were coming down on them like a tidal wave. But he was quickly pushed back. The magic that Vormon sent out became more and more powerful, to the point that he could not stop them anymore.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

Locke rolled on the floor after receiving one of the attacks. Still, he stood up once again. After all, he was a player. On the contrary, Cerberus was a being that lived here. It would definitely feel the intense, burning pain that would bring it misery and despair.

“Uwaaaaaaaaaah!”

Locke triggered his skill as he ran forward with all his might. Even though he ate the marrow bone broth that Minhyuk made for him, it was still hard for him to fight against Vormon.

Fall—

Is this the end?

Locke's strength left him as he sank on both of his knees. He could see his friends still struggling as they rolled on the ground. Genie flew back and vomited a mouthful of blood after being struck by one of the magic spells. Fire Fist Ace leapt high in the air only to fall down after his entire body was frozen by Frost Magic.

“Hoo...” Locke sighed shakily. Was it truly impossible for them to raid Vormon? But then, at that moment...

“How can you younglings sink and collapse like that?”

...a gentle voice rang in his ears. When Locke turned to look at the source of the voice, he saw Black Dragon, Minhyuk's father. Black Dragon stared at the battlefield before striding forward and telling Locke, *“Stand up. This is not the time for us to collapse yet.”*

“Yes, sir...!” Locke answered loudly as he forced himself to stand up.

Black Dragon walked in front of him as he ordered the warriors of the Dragon Race to soar in the skies and attack the Legion of Despair.

“Kihyaaaaack!”

“Kieeeeeeeck!”

The warriors of the Dragon Race's level were also quite high. Together with the player troops in a united front, they fought desperately against the Legion of Despair.

Meanwhile, Black Dragon stared at the four dragons that he had summoned. These dragons trusted and relied on Black Dragon the most. The same was true for Black Dragon, he loved and cared for them the most too. He looked at them and said, *“Kids, there's something that I want to protect.”*

Black Dragon's eyes turned towards Minhyuk, who was fighting against Vormon. As Minhyuk's father, he felt that he had not done anything properly for his son when he complained of hunger after he had contracted and suffered from eating addiction. He felt like he was a very useless and stupid father. Minhyuk had always trembled and shook with pain, but now, he had discovered this new world and finally had the chance to search for a new hope once again.

This world was none other than *‘Athenae’*.

“I want to protect this world.”

Black Dragon's will was conveyed to Britney, Destiny, Breaker and Poison. These four dragons cried in reverence.

“Kieeeeeeeeeee!”

“Kiyaaaaaaaaa!”

“Graaaaaaaaaa!”

Black Dragon also had a power with an extreme penalty like Ghost Spear Ben. Once he triggered this power, Black Dragon's strength, as well as the four dragon's power, would increase by 1.7x.

However, for one entire month, the four legendary dragons would not be able to make an appearance.

“I’m sorry.”

However, the four dragons just affectionately rubbed their heads on Black Dragon’s body when they heard his voice. Then, the four dragons ascended to the sky.

[Black Dragon’s four dragons have flown to the skies!!!]

[Four dragons ascending the heavens!!! This is a once in a lifetime scene!!!]

[What a spectacular sight. Four dragons with the colors red, blue, green and black ascending to the skies together!!!]

[Aaaah! The sky! Look at the sky!!!]

The troops that had been fighting paused for a moment to turn their attention to the soaring dragons. They all looked at the sky where the four dragons had ascended! A blinding light flashed in the skies. The light slowly shifted until a huge cloud was created. This huge cloud sucked the four dragons that were flying in the skies.

Minhyuk and the members of the Let’s Eat Sect Guild were unaware that Black Dragon had used and cast his most powerful skill with an extreme penalty. However, even if they were not aware, the scene in front of them was telling them that there would be a tremendous power that would appear soon.

“Mister Black Dragon! There’s a jewel! A jewel has appeared on the bastard’s forehead!!!”

“A jewel?”

That was right. The members of the Let’s Eat Sect Guild were not there just to get beaten. Even though the guild members were suffering from tremendous damages, they were still constantly seeking the reason for Vormon’s regenerative powers. Even if Vormon was the most vile and evil of monsters, there was no way that he could continue to regenerate on his own. There must be a reason for his regeneration. If they could stop him from regenerating his injuries, then their odds would increase tremendously.

That was when they saw the black jewel that was cleverly hidden in between the black scales on Vormon’s forehead. The signs were so subtle that it was hard to find even for the Master Archer, Root. However, they were now sure. They were sure that the jewel on Vormon’s forehead was a hint.

And finally...

“Kiheeeeeeeeeeeck!”

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Kiryaaaaaaaaaaa!”

“Graaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

The majestic roars of the four dragons resounded in the area and shook the entire world. The huge cloud made of light began to clear away to reveal Black Dragon, who had spread his dragon wings as he jumped down. When the cloud made of light finally disappeared, what appeared in front of everyone were the four dragons, each half the size of Vormon.

Black Dragon climbed on top of Britney and said, “Poison.”

“Kiheeeeeeeeeeeck!”

Poison descended on the ground and attacked the Legion of Despair.

Crunch—

Poison immediately gobbled up one of the enemies. Then, gigantic poison arrows started to form around Poison which he promptly sent out towards the Legion of Despair.

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

“Graaaaaaaaaa!”

“Keuaaaaaaack!”

The soldiers from the Legion of Despair, which was composed of troops over Level 547, began to melt one after the other. Then, Poison roared.

“Kiheeeeeeeeeeeck!”

[The abnormal status that you have been subjected to has been cleared.]

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

The abnormal state that pressed down and wrapped around the entire allied army had been cleared. Carr trembled at the sight.

‘Very, very strong...!’

Poison’s power might not be as much as Carr’s power after Conir had possessed him, but he could tell that Poison was several times stronger than him without the possession.

Then, Black Dragon, who was riding on top of Britney, finally moved.

“How dare such a wild and puny dragon be so impudent!” Vormon cried in rage.

However, contrary to his words, Vormon was fully aware of the infinite potential that these dragons had. Vormon also knew that this was a different power and they had not yet awakened to their true power. These four great dragons would eventually reach godhood but as of now, they were still not there yet. Once they advanced and reached that point, they would gain a magical defense that could allow them to ignore hundreds of strong magical spells, while having a tremendous amount of magic and powerful magic spells.

At that moment, the black dragon, Breaker, opened his mouth and created a gigantic black barrier.

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

The black barrier that Breaker created stopped all of Vormon’s magic spells.

“...!”

This was the power that hundreds, even thousands, of the players failed to stop. Then, the blue dragon, Destiny, spat out a huge cloud of frost.

Puhaaaaaaaaaa—

Crack, crack crack, crack—

The powerful frost froze parts of Vormon’s body and restricted his movements. That was when Black Dragon leapt up with all his might and soared through the skies. Then, Britney took the opportunity to wrap his body and entangle himself around Vormon’s body.

Clench—

That was when the ‘Fire of Extinction’ was triggered. The Fire of Extinction was a skill that could only be used when their sealed power had been released. Simply put, it was a skill that they could only use once they awakened the power, in return for a tremendous penalty. The Fire of Extinction was more powerful than Hellfire, stronger than Vormon’s magic, and hotter than any existing fire in the world.

Puhaaaaaaaaaa—

A huge and blazing flame engulfed Vormon’s body.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaaack!” Vormon screamed. He could feel his hide melting. His hard, tough, and shiny black scales were melting off!

Black Dragon knew that he only had one minute to use and control this power at will. At the same time, Poison, who had killed more than a thousand of the Legion of Despair, Breaker, who was

protecting Black Dragon, and Destiny, all turned into clouds of their own color, before getting sucked into Black Dragon's Dragon Tear Sword.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Finally, Britney, who was clashing with Vormon and made Vormon scream from pain, was also sucked inside the Dragon Tear Sword.

[Britney's power has been added.]

[An explosion with 2300% additional damage will occur upon successful attack.]

[Destiny's power has been added.]

[The opponent's body will freeze for three seconds upon successful attack.]

[Breaker's power has been added.]

[You will have the power to ignore your opponent's defenses and a power that can completely break down whatever is on your path.]

[Poison's power has been added.]

[A strong and fearsome poison will encroach and devour your opponent.]

Then, Black Dragon flew forward.

'Son, don't protect me.'

A world where his son could laugh freely. A world where his son could eat whatever he wanted. A world where his son could meet people that could become dear and important to him. These things were enough. This was the reason why Black Dragon existed.

Black Dragon's sword tore down more than a dozen of the shield that Vormon had hurriedly casted.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang—

And finally, Black Dragon used all of his strength to stab the black jewel embedded in the middle of Vormon's brows.

Piiiiing—

Britney's power created a huge explosion while Destiny's power froze Vormon's body. Poison's power released a powerful toxin that ate away at Vormon's body while Breaker's power assisted his sword.

'Thank you, kids.'

"Kiheeeeeeeeeeeeeeeek!" Vormon roared wildly.

And finally...

Crack—

The jewel cracked...

Shatter—

...and fell off. Black Dragon's lips curled up in a small smile as Vormon continued to shriek.

However, Black Dragon saw the corners of Vormon's mouth quirk up in a sinister smile of his own.

"...!"

Black Dragon felt immense frustration. He could see the injuries on Vormon's body start to regenerate quickly.

'He... deceived us...?!'

That was right. Everything was just a trick. The black jewel on Vormon's forehead was just a trap!

Vormon opened his huge maw to devour Black Dragon.

"Dad!"

"Mister Black Dragon!!!"

"Stop him!!!"

Black Dragon slowly turned his head. He looked at his son, Minhyuk, with a bitter smile on his face. This was his final blow, but he had fallen for Vormon's deception. Vormon's mouth slowly

started to close. When Black Dragon turned around, he saw Minhyuk try to jump up and save him. However, he was already too late.

But then, something completely unexpected happened. Vormon's jaw completely stopped moving, no, he could not move his jaws anymore. This was because someone was preventing him from doing so.

"Keuaaaaaaaaaaack!"

Vormon shrieked as his jaw got restrained. Black Dragon's attention was caught by something. It was there that he saw a very small thing. A sword that was far, far smaller than Vormon's existence. This sword pierced through Vormon's lower jaw and was being pressed by a hand.

The hand belonged to a woman with silver hair. She pressed Vormon's jaw with one hand as she turned towards Black Dragon, her gaze and movement not even wavering in the slightest. Then, she said, "Nice to meet you. Father. I'm Ellie who wants to become Minhyuk's 'noona'."

The Continental Empress Ellie has appeared. Then, she glared at Vormon.

Flinch—

It was the first time. For the first time in Vormon's life, he felt fear and terror after being stared at by those eyes.

Chapter 385: Hunting Black Dragon

"That trap of yours is so annoying, should I cut it for you?"

Tiiiiing—

Her sword moved at a speed that even Vormon could not follow. The sword moved precisely and swiftly, as it swept through Vormon's jaw and cut the muscles underneath his thick skin.

"Keuaaaaaaaaaaack!" A scream erupted from Vormon's mouth as the bottom part of his jaw hung loosely.

Shock. The whole world fell silent at this very moment. Vormon's hide was extremely tough and so strong, that the rankers could not cut through it, even using their powerful attack skills. They could not even be considered to be cutting, as much as beating his tough hide. And yet, Continental Emperor Ellie just lightly swung her sword and the muscles in Vormon's jaw had been cut off.

Plenty of people thought that Ellie was already dead. This was because Xu Jiaqi had spoken ill of her and had declared that Ellie was likely to have fallen into eternal rest after she had awakened her sealed power. In fact, Ellie had not appeared in front of the public for quite a long time.

But now, she appeared again and with silver hair no less. Just with that alone, everyone all over the world could tell that she was in a state where she had awakened her powers completely.

Blood continued to drip down Vormon's jaw as he struggled from her attack. Ellie continued to glare coldly at him, as she moved her sword once again. She said, "It seems like that's all you have."

Then, her sword stabbed at Vormon's eye.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

Ellie's sword dug deep into Vormon's eye, until it finally reached the black jewel that he had hidden in the depths of his eye. That was right. Vormon pretended to hide the black jewel in the middle of his brows, but in fact, he hid it behind his eye.

Shatter—

The black jewel hidden behind Vormon's eye shattered into pieces. And with that, another ear-piercing scream was ripped out of Vormon's mouth.

"Keuaaaaaaaaaaack!"

Then, a set of notifications rang for the players present in the area.

[Vormon's Vitality Stone has been successfully broken.]

[Vormon will no longer be able to use his regenerative ability.]

A small fire of hope burned for the players once again. However, that small hope was immediately extinguished.

[Vormon has released the last of his powers to protect himself.]

“Graaaaaaaaaaack!”

A powerful mana burst out from Vormon's body. The mana wave was so powerful that the players could not endure it, and their bodies were sent flying.

“Urrrrrk!”

“Kyaaaaaack!”

The same was true for the members of the Let's Eat Sect Guild. They were all lying flat on the floor after failing to maintain their balance. Then, a shocking notification rang in their ears.

[Vormon's Final Awakening!]

[All damage has been recovered!]

[Magic Cooldown has decreased by 50%]

[Magical Attack has increased by 30%.]

[Magical Penetration has increased by 50%.]

[Maximum number of magic that can be used has been doubled.]

[HP and MP has increased by 1.9x]

[Defense has increased by 1.5x]

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

He was just like a final boss. This meant that the surviving troops were in a very hopeless situation. Carr was left in a daze after cutting off another member of the Legion of Despair. He murmured, “Can we even kill that...?”

Vormon's strength was already beyond what they could even imagine. However, he got even stronger. His defense had increased by 1.5x. As if his power was not enough, even his HP had almost doubled. And with the 50% increase in magical penetration, he could ignore his enemy's defenses and inflict additional damage. On top of that, his magical attack had increased by 30%, while his cooldown decreased by 50%. Simply put, Vormon's power had doubled. This was a fact that no one could deny.

“Ha...”

“Your mom.”

“F*ck everything...!”

Curses and voices of resentment directed towards the Athenae management rang one after the other. This was an inevitable outcome. They had broken the jewel that was the source of Vormon's regeneration, only to be presented with more despair and hopelessness.

“Kikikikikikikikikiki!” Vormon laughed maniacally, causing everyone's skin to crawl. The mockery and difficulty of the task at hand were extremely real.

[Vormon has achieved his final awakening.]

[However, I think that it's still a bit too much. In the first place, Vormon is already a monster that can't be hunted by anyone with our current levels.]

[Ellie's splendid appearance is good to see, but it seems like she's also destined to die here.]

Just like what the commentators said, everyone watching this scene was of the same mind.

‘How can you even kill such an existence?’

However, they did not know the fact that Ellie was also that kind of existence.

“What a pest,” Ellie spat.

Then, thousands of magic spells were created around Vormon’s body. All of the magic was aimed at Ellie, who was standing in front of him. At that moment, Ellie grabbed Black Dragon and said,

“Father, please excuse me for a moment.”

Shwaaaaaaaaaa—

Then, Ellie threw Black Dragon towards Minhyuk. Minhyuk hurriedly rushed forward to catch his father. Minhyuk and Ellie made eye contact.

‘Thank you for recovering well, Noona.’

Ellie smiled silently at Minhyuk.

‘Thank you, Minhyuk. I will make sure to repay your kindness.’

To Ellie, Minhyuk was now more than her younger brother. Then, thousands of magic spells poured down on Ellie.

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa—

Ellie’s sword moved so fast that it could not be seen by the naked eye.

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

The magic either exploded or dissipated in the air. Among the loud explosions, Ellie said, “Sword of Annihilation.”

This was a skill that Ellie had learned when her seal was released during her fight with the Black Dragon Order. This was the skill that released hundreds of sword blades that ravaged the enemies.

The very same power that none of the members of the Black Dragon Order could withstand.

But compared to back then, Ellie had now fully released her seal. This Sword of Annihilation was on a different level from the one that she released back then. More than a thousand of eight meter long blades shot out sharply from her sword and poured down on Vormon.

At that moment, a huge black barrier appeared and surrounded Vormon. Barriers were mostly similar in powers. Vormon boasted an absolute defense, and after he had reached the apex of magic, his barrier was different. It allowed him to cast magic despite being inside the confines of the barrier.

So, Vormon cast his magic and created his barrier confidently. But then a long spear-like blade struck the barrier.

Craaaack—

[This is a power that your barrier can’t completely defend against.]

“...!”

Vormon was shocked. He could not understand what just happened. Who was he? Dragons were the greatest existence in the world, and he was a special entity that sat on the peak of these dragons. But the fact that Ellie could land an attack on his barrier? A human?

Craaaaaaack—

The thousands of blades continued to slam into the barrier. Most of the blades could not pierce through the barrier and were deflected, but not long after, a fine line of crack appeared on the barrier

Shatter—

Then, a blade dug in between these cracks and flew straight towards Vormon’s back.

Stab!

“Keuhaaaaaaaaaack!”

This was Vormon whose defense had increased by 1.5x and whose HP had almost doubled. But, the blade that struck on his back brought him so much pain. And then...

Thump, thump, thump, thump, thump, thump—

More blades began to stab Vormon's back one after the other. In an instant, there were as many as 500 blades stuck deeply on Vormon's thick and tough back.

"Keuhaaaaaaaaack!"

Vormon's loud scream brought delight to the faces of the troops.

"This... this is unbelievable..."

"Ellie... is crazy..."

"That woman is Eivelis Empire's Empress Ellie...?"

Everyone was in admiration. They watched as hundreds of blades got stabbed deep into Vormon's back, until he looked like a hedgehog. That attack would definitely cause at least a 30% decrease in Vormon's HP. Vormon's eyes rolled to find the figure of Ellie. She was right underneath him.

Thwaaaaaaack—

Ellie used only one hand to swing her sword strongly. When the sword slammed into Vormon's body, he flew high up in the sky. That was Vormon, who looked to be hundreds of tons in weight, flying up from that one attack.

"Graaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Vormon cast hundreds of magic to keep Ellie, who followed him up in the sky, at bay. However, the magic that he launched did not pierce through the red shield that surrounded her body. She flew to the top of Vormon's back as she swung her sword down.

"Empire Asunder."

This was her newly awakened power. Empire Asunder was a quick draw attack where she had to quickly draw her sword out of its sheath, before swinging it down. However, the skill's radius was around 40 meters and it had an additional 5,000% damage.

Slaaaaaaaaaash—

Vormon fell back down on the ground as blood spurted out from the huge gash on his back.

Thuuuuuuuuud—

A thick cloud of dust rose from the ground as the entire army, as well as the whole world, watched in stunned silence. Ellie, who was standing still in the sky and casually looking down on Vormon's existence, looked peerless and unrivaled.

[...]

[...]

[...]

"..."

"..."

"..."

Everyone watching the scene held their breaths. They did not even realize that they had been holding their breath as they continued to watch the scene in silence. The entire world was both in awe and admiration after witnessing the tremendous power that Ellie, an NPC from the small country of Korea, had displayed.

Just when Ellie was going to swing her sword again...

Keuhaaaaaaaaaaak—

...a tremendous amount of mana radiated out of Vormon's body. And with that, thousands of beams of light flashed and stretched out from the gaps in the thick cloud of dust.

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa—

“Di... Diss...?!”

Minhyuk knew what the skill was. This was a skill called ‘Diss’. Ali, a mage, could only use this in limited numbers. This was his strongest one-shot kill skill. But this very same Diss was being cast by the thousands, which attacked the people in the vicinity indiscriminately.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

“Keuhaaaaack!”

“Aaaaaaaaack!”

The worst part was that Diss did not stop even after it struck one enemy, it continued forward and pierced through the enemies behind them.

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa, shwa—

Ellie also hurriedly used her shield to block the attack, but the spears of light created by the Diss skill were unimaginably fast and strong.

Clang—

The spears of light broke down Ellie’s shield as they locked on and attacked Ellie’s body.

Thankfully, her high defense saved her and stopped the spears of light from piercing through her body. However...

“Urk!”

A mouthful of blood gushed out of her mouth. The damage of the attack itself was beyond anyone could imagine. The spears of light exterminated the rest of the army, leaving only 4,000 of the troops. Even the members of the Let’s Eat Sect Guild were in a similar situation.

Locke stood in front of Cerberus and stopped the spears of light from reaching it, which led to his death.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Graaaaaaaaaaaa!”

Cerberus roared in grief. Meanwhile, Abel continued to fly in the air and send his attacks towards Vormon. However, he was immediately shot down by the attack and forced to log out. The members of the Let’s Eat Sect Guild were all forced to log out.

“Kahahahahahaha!” Vormon laughed maniacally.

That was right. If Ellie’s attack was focused on a single target, Vormon’s attack was an AOE skill. No, perhaps he could even control the range and target of his magic, making it work both ways.

“Urgh.”

The spears of light stabbed on her body and made Ellie fall down on the ground. She watched as Vormon flew in the sky once again. He had now transformed and changed into his human form.

This was so he could avoid being attacked indiscriminately due to his huge size.

In his human form, Vormon was a handsome man with white hair, wearing a white robe and holding a white staff.

Crackle—

The sky was torn apart to reveal a space with thousands of fireballs from hell that started to fall down on the ground. This was none other than Hellfire.

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Hellfire was a high-tiered magic that was only a level lower than Diss. However, it was also an AOE attack skill. These Hellfires would literally turn this place into hell. It did not end there.

Thousands of spears of light also appeared and fell down from the sky.

“Keuhahahahahahaha!”

Vormon's body was still dripping blood from Ellie's attack, but his laugh was filled with delight. After all, his catastrophic magic was slowly falling down on the remaining forces in the Continent Cloud. The number of magic attacks that he sent out was enough to annihilate everyone present here.

But at that moment, the voice of a mage, the voice that Minhyuk knew all too well, rang loudly in the area.

"Dispel."

Chapter 386: Hunting Black Dragon

The Athenae operators themselves were also left speechless when they saw the thousands of Hellfires and spears of light pour down from the skies.

Vormon's existence was created by the supercomputer *Athenae*, and this very same existence had turned into one that was borderline incomprehensible and undefeatable for the players. No, perhaps they might have a chance if someone had reached the realms of a true and genuine 'God'.

But there was no such person right now. Although there were God classes, they were only successors that had, and would inherit the power of their Gods. And right now, among all of the players in existence, some of these God classes had only reached the Demigod level.

"The entire world will be seeing this," Director Kim Daesik murmured after gulping dryly.

That was right. The whole world would be able to witness how Black Dragon Vormon annihilated the remaining troops with his Hellfires and gigantic spears of lights, before proceeding to turn both the Asgan and Cairon Continents into wastelands.

"Are we going to save both the Asgan and Cairon Continents with updates once they turn into wastelands?" Kim Daesik asked bitterly.

But then, a man murmured, "It's not over until it's over."

Team Leader Park Minggyu had always been stubborn and blunt. However, his words made Director Kim feel emotional. Team Leader Park wanted them to believe in the players. Director Kim also wanted to believe in them, but the situation right now was so desperate that faith in a miracle was something that seemed out of reach.

"But the situation right now is..."

Just when he was about to speak...

Bang—

...the door to the conference room was slammed open by a woman. This woman was their new employee, no, she was already a pretty decent employee. She was none other than Lee Minhwa.

"Employee Lee Minhwa?" Team Leader Park looked at her in confusion. Everyone's gazes also turned to her.

Then, with her voice filled with excitement and agitation, she said, "A God...! A God has appeared!!!"

"...What are you saying?"

Because of the crisis that Vormon had brought to their company, only a few of the employees were left to do their original jobs. Lee Minhwa was among the few that were left in their original posts. She was the only one that witnessed this scene.

"A player that has become a True God has appeared!"

"What?!"

"What did you just say?!"

"What do you mean?!"

Everyone keenly felt something. Meanwhile, President Kang Taehoon jumped up from his seat and asked, “Who is it? No, more importantly where is he right now?!”

This was an event that was as shocking as Vormon’s descent into frenzy. Then, Lee Minhwa shakily raised her finger and pointed at one place. Everyone followed her finger to the screen.

Displayed on it was the scene where thousands of Hellfires and Diss were slowly falling down on the remaining thousands of troops, Minhyuk and Ellie. All of the people below Vormon fell into despair. And just when the attack was about to reach them...

[Dispel.]

A voice rang in their ears. The voice sounded as distinct and beautiful as God’s whisper. And along with that voice...

.

[Keuhaaaaaaaaack!]

...the thousands of Hellfires were sucked back into the torn space while the thousands of gigantic spears of light stopped right above the heads of the remaining troops, before slowly dissipating and disappearing into nothingness. Vormon looked bewildered and in disbelief as he turned his gaze to one place.

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

The place where Vormon’s gaze stopped was shown on the screen of the TV that the Athenae executives were looking at.

Vormon, as mentioned before, had transformed into a handsome white-haired man, wearing a pristine white robe and holding a white staff. In front of him stood an equally handsome man using Fly magic. The man’s figure, with his golden hair, golden eyes, golden robe and golden staff, was a stark contrast to the figure of the transformed black dragon. This man was illuminated with a strong golden light as he stood facing Vormon. This man was none other than Golden Mage Ali.

Dispel could be said to be an exclusive skill for high-leveled mages that could nullify their enemy’s magical attacks. A familiar voice rang loudly in the area as he cast this very magic. Following his words, the Hellfires that were about to rain down on the remaining troops were instantly sucked back into the space torn out of the sky. Even the spears of light that were already looming above the players’ heads and trying to stab them to their deaths slowly dissipated, until they disappeared into nothingness.

“What was that?”

“What the hell just happened?”

“Dispel? Is that really a Dispel? Can Dispel really nullify all of that magic?!”

The power of the skill Dispel depended on the magic user’s level of attainment. To think there was an existence that could cast a Dispel which extinguished more than a thousand Diss and Hellfire created by Vormon in one single go! Everyone was both shocked and in disbelief. And then...

“Over there!!!”

“Heok?!!! Who’s that?!”

The gazes of the thousands of remaining troops all turned towards Vormon, no, to be exact, to the man standing in front of Vormon. For a moment, the remaining troops could not figure out who the man was. Unlike his usual gloomy and dark aura, the man was flying steadily in the sky as he faced off against Vormon, while shining with a bright golden light that could even surpass the sun in brightness.

“Isn’t... isn’t that Ali?”

“The world’s greatest mage, Ali?!”

That was right. There was only one mage that the entire world had recognized, and that was none other than Black Mage Ali.

There was only one reason why the people heaped praises on the Summit Five and that was because they were unrivaled in terms of strength and power. As for the mages, Ali, as an unofficial ranker, was not included in the rankings. Even the mage player hailed as the global number one official ranker was said to be a tier lower than Ali in terms of power. And that was a fact.

This was the reason why Ali was more famous than any other Korean players to the people all over the globe.

Even if that was the case, Ali was still just a player. However, it was clear to everyone present that Vormon was sporting a flustered expression on his face, as Ali stood in front of him with a cold expression. Surprisingly enough, Ali was not pushed back by Vormon’s overwhelming momentum. Ali had also confirmed his power after using that Dispel. As the successor of the Great Mage, Ali met with Great Mage Moldoron and asked him to awaken his powers inside his body in exchange for a penalty. Ali would be able to use Moldoron’s power for half a day, but all of his magical power would be exhausted and he would return to Level 1. However, he willingly accepted this penalty for one reason, and one reason alone. It was so he could protect his friends. And this was the power that he gained:

[Great Mage Moldoron has been moved by your dedication and actions.]

*[You have gained the **Title**: The Man that Moved the Legend.]*

[Great Mage Moldoron has increased the power that he would temporarily grant you.]

[You have temporarily awakened the power of the God of Magic, Archipello.]

[Eight Tier Magic. You have transcended beyond the human realm and have entered God's realm.]

[Your HP has temporarily doubled while your MP reserve has temporarily quadrupled.]

[Your magic attack has tripled while your magical penetration has increased by 100%.]

[You will be able to use Eight Tier Magic without any cooldown restrictions.]

[Dual Class. You have acquired the class ‘His Companion’.]

[His Companion can only allow you to choose one partner.]

Even his dual class had requirements and restrictions. The dual class ‘His Companion’ would only be granted to someone who could sacrifice their everything for the sake of someone else. Also, the achievements that the companion that they should choose must be far greater than any other players. Yes, Ali believed that there was one person who was more than enough to be chosen as his partner. And that was none other than Minhyuk.

[Ali has appointed you as his ‘companion’.]

[Do you agree?]

There was only one companion that Ali, someone that had come close to God, could choose.

Minhyuk did not even hesitate. Then, surprising notifications rang one after the other.

[You have become Ali’s companion.]

[All of your stats will increase by 1.2x when Ali is with you, his companion.]

[Your EXP Acquisition rate will increase by 1.5x when Ali is with you, his companion.]

[You can receive a companion exclusive buff if Ali is with you, his companion.]

[Ali has used ‘Companion’s Support Buff’ on you. The buff can only be used once a month.]

[Companion Support.]

[Your HP and MP has fully recovered.]

[All of your skill cooldown has been reset.]

[Your EXP Acquisition Rate has increased by 200%.]

[All of your stats have increased by 15%.]

[Your basic attack power has increased by 1.4x.]

Ali looked at Minhyuk as he stretched out his finger and pointed at Vormon, who was struggling to hide his embarrassment.

“...?”

Vormon almost burst into a fit of laughter. Who was he? He was a dragon, the one and only king of magic in this world. Could someone really take on a magic attack that he sent himself? Besides, human magic was something that eventually came to be after taking a hint from dragon magic. Their magic casting time was too long and their power was not enough. But at that moment...

“That’s not how you use Diss,” Ali said as he looked at him with a wide grin. Then, he spat out, “Diss.”

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

A tremendous amount of mana swarmed around Ali’s finger.

Flutter—

Ali’s golden hair and robe fluttered as a golden spear of light was shot out from his finger before swiftly piercing through the pit of Vormon’s stomach.

Stab—

[Your Magical Defense has been ignored.]

[Your HP has decreased by 7%.]

“Urk...?!”

Vormon looked down at his chest in disbelief. A huge golden spear was piercing through his chest. ‘How... how can such a weak and puny human do this...?’

Humans were beings that stole magic from the dragons. But he, an existence that stood at the peak of magic, actually suffered from a human’s magic attack?

“How dare you, human?!”

Hundreds of lights appeared as Vormon cast Diss and fired the skill towards Ali. Then...

“Dispel.”

And just like before, they all dissipated and disappeared into nothingness. On the contrary...

“Diss.”

Stab—

...another golden spear shot out of Ali’s finger and stabbed through Vormon’s chest.

“Keuaaaaaaack!”

Vormon could not understand what was happening. The master of the Supreme Divine Beast smacked him with a frying pan earlier! There was also a self-sacrificing old man that stabbed him in the neck. There was also that man that called himself a dragon, and that woman who performed incredible swordsmanship.

Then, there was this mage in front of him. His power was quite astonishing, but Vormon believed that this mage would eventually feel shamed in front of his prowess. Thousands of magic spells appeared in the skies. And once again...

“Dispel.”

Stab—

“Keuaaaaaack!”

Everything disappeared in front of Ali’s power. Then, gigantic spells appeared around Ali one after the other. Hellfire, Diss, and even the gigantic meteor created from the skill Meteor appeared in the sky.

“Spatial Distortion,” Ali muttered.

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

The debris and destruction below Ali flew up and formed a transparent space that locked him and Vormon inside. This was to keep the others from being affected by the Hellfires and Meteors that would fall down at any moment.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

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

Vormon, who was trapped in this huge space, tried to shoot down the Meteor falling down by firing his own magic. However, Ali’s Meteor was already at a level beyond Vormon. The Hellfire and Diss were the first attacks that came down and devoured him.

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud—

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

“Keuhaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

Vormon’s HP had fallen below 50%. The attacks had brought him terrible pain. And by the end of it...

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaam—

A huge meteor shot down and crushed Vormon into the ground.

Thuuuuuud—

A huge shockwave erupted the moment the attack made contact with Vormon. Ali swiftly created a golden shield to protect himself from the shockwave. Then, the transparent wall disappeared by itself.

‘The amount of MP it consumed had been too high.’

Ali broke into a cold sweat. Even if he had temporarily loaned God’s power, he still used up too much of his MP.

‘What a monster...’

Even though Ali went on a rampage with his magic, he still did not receive the notification that he had hunted Vormon. Then, at that moment...

Stab—

A sword pierced through the thick cloud of dust and stabbed Ali’s chest.

“Urk...!”

Ali’s face wrinkled in dismay.

‘I’ve been seen through...’

Ali’s face crumpled as he watched Vormon’s lips twitch in delight. That was right. Ali’s abilities and skills had risen by leaps and bounds. His magical abilities had reached their peak and were able to neutralize and nullify Vormon’s magic.

However, what would happen if his enemy came close and did not engage in magical warfare with him?

‘I won’t be able to stop him.’

Ali’s HP had dropped below 40% in an instant. But then...

Vwoooooom—

...Ellie stormed in and swung her sword to stop Vormon’s attack. Vormon and Ellie’s swords collided. Vormon was a dragon that had lived for thousands of years. It was only natural that he excelled in swordsmanship. In fact, his swordsmanship was even beyond that of the Sword Saint’s skills. The worst part of it was the fact that he could combine it with the most powerful magic.

“Ughhh!”

Ali pretended to fall as he grabbed his chest, but he just pulled back a little, before leaping forward again. Vormon stood in the center while Ellie attacked him from the left and Ali from the right. With every wield of Ali's golden staff, dozens of magic would appear to attack Vormon.

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

With every swing of Ellie's sword, dozens of sword strikes would slam into Vormon's body. But...

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

...Vormon was a boss monster. It was a fact that his HP was hundreds of times that of Ellie's and Ali's HP. His HP had been reduced, yes, but the amount was still too high to begin with.

Meanwhile, Vormon could tell, *'It's my victory...!'*

If this battle continued at this rate, these people attacking him would eventually collapse. But then...

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

...a pillar of light struck down from the skies.

[Camera 5!!! Camera 5!!!]

[Camera 8!]

[Camera 9! Shoot whatever it is over there!]

The cameras from all over the world moved swiftly as they followed the orders of their own PDs.

[What the hell is that pillar?!]

[What kind of existence has appeared this time?!]

[Hope. Is our hope growing once again?!?!]

The cameras finally arrived at a place that was close enough for them to capture a scene that was never witnessed before.

[Zoom in!!! Zoom in!!!]

[What the hell is that?!?! Get a close up!!!]

Something was slowly falling from the pillar of light that pierced through from the skies. When the cameras finally got a close up, they finally saw what it was.

[A crown?]

[A golden crown?!]

[What, what the hell is that?]

The golden crown slowly fell down and the pillar of light slowly dissipated. When the pillar of light completely disappeared, it showed the figure of the being that was enveloped in its light. It was none other than a baby piggy wearing a golden crown, a golden armor, while holding a black and shiny kitchen knife.

"Oiiiiink!"

It was the Supreme Divine Beast, Beanie.

Chapter 387: Hunting Black Dragon

The Supreme Divine Beast was an existence that held absolute power. He was the one that sealed Vormon when he wreaked chaos, havoc, and despair in the past. He had sacrificed himself in the past to bring peace to his friends, and was only able to come back to life with the help of the Dragon Monarch, the Great Mage Moldoron, and the Incarnation of Light.

The fragments of the Golden Crown had been scattered all over the world. These items had the power to awaken the power of the Supreme Divine Beast. Minhyuk had collected almost every fragment except for one. No matter what he did, he could not get a quest that was related to the final fragment of the Golden Crown. Instead of him, it was Ali, the owner of another divine beast, that

received the quest and handed over the fragment to Minhyuk. That was right. Beanie had completed his final awakening.

[You have collected all of the fragments of the Golden Crown.]

[The Supreme Divine Beast Beanie has awakened.]

[Beanie has learned the Predator's Authority.]

[Predator's Authority has temporarily reached the MAX level.]

[Beanie's HP, MP, Basic Attack and Defense have significantly increased.]

[The power of the Supreme Divine Beast will reach MAX level upon awakening. After that, everything will reset and he will have to get stronger.]

Minhyuk immediately understood what the notifications meant the moment he heard it. The Supreme Divine Beast would gain his strength back in the days for a moment of time. But after that, Beanie had to follow the step-by-step process and grow stronger, until he fully regained that power. As for Beanie, no matter what kind of existence he was, he was still the mascot of the *Athenae*: Korean War. He had gained countless fans in the country thanks to his cuteness. And that very same Beanie had shown himself to the world.

[So, so adorable...]

[What a very cute and adorable being. Who's that baby piggy with a golden crown?]

[It doesn't matter. What I'm sure about is that I want to take a chomp out of that cute little piggy.]

[Thick paws, chubby face, a golden armor, and a cool black kitchen knife!]

[I don't care if this kind of comment doesn't fit with the desperate situation that we're in, but he's really cute and adorable. I feel like both my heart and my breath have been taken away.]

And just like that, the global community sites went wild.

[Kawaii-desu ne!!!]

[Wow. This baby piggy is extremely cute~]

[Kyaaaaaack! Mister Baby Piggy, please let me touch your soft and chubby belly, just once! Please!]

That was right. Beanie was now on a rise to global stardom. However, there was one thing that they had completely overlooked. Beanie, who had suddenly awakened, was not just cute. He was also the Supreme Divine Beast.

Ali once again fired out a skill from his fingertips as he faced Vormon.

"Diss."

A golden spear flew towards Vormon. However, Vormon just twisted his body and moved out of the way of the golden spear's trajectory. His fluid movement when avoiding the spear of light was beyond astonishing. Then, Vormon countered by shooting out dozens of magic spells towards Ali.

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

Ali started feeling flustered and nervous as he watched Vormon's attacks slam into the golden shield that he had created.

'I only have 10% of my MP left.'

Although he had temporarily reached the level closest to God, he was not a God after all. On top of that, Black Dragon Vormon was the strongest existence in this world, his HP was just too high. In comparison, just one Diss from Ali could easily kill any other boss-ranked mobs in one shot. That was how awful and terrifying their opponent was.

Continental Emperor Ellie's sword began to close up and tighten the noose around Vormon.

Thump, thump, thump, thump, thump—

"Ugh!"

Ping—

Ellie did not evade the dozens of magic spells that came pouring down on her to cut down Vormon's body. In the first place, the attack was almost impossible to get away from. Besides, even if she successfully avoided the magic attack, Vormon's sword would be able to deal a much stronger damage.

Baaaaaaang—

With the imminent exhaustion of his MP, Ali was forced to reduce the amount and duration of the magic that he used over time. This was to stop himself from using it indiscriminately and instead, use his magic in a more efficient way.

However, Ali's HP had already fallen below 20%. Then, Vormon's magic suddenly slammed into Ali, who did not have enough MP to cast a shield anymore.

Seeing this, Vormon smirked viciously. He said, "It's over, weak humans."

Once Ali was killed, the results of this battle would eventually tilt towards Vormon's victory.

Vormon, however, admitted and acknowledged Ali's strength. Although it was only for a moment, Ali still reached God's level and pushed himself, the greatest dragon in this world, to the limits.

Vormon sent a strong and powerful magic spell to finally end Ali's life. At that moment, Ali felt something warm. This warmth spread slowly on his back. Ali was currently at his most desperate moment so he could not understand what just happened.

The source of warmth on Ali's back was none other than Beanie, the Supreme Divine Beast. There was a gold current of energy seeping out of his tiny paws. This was the Predator's Authority.

That was right, the Supreme Divine Beast was a predator, one that would eat anything and everything, creating miracles with his own power. At that moment, several colossal golden shields overlapped in front of Ali.

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

These overlapping shields protected Ali from Vormon's attacks.

"...!"

Ali was extremely shocked. The shields that appeared just now were not something that he created but strangely enough, they looked very similar to his own shield. Simply put, someone else created the shields and made it look like his own. Another shocking fact was that it had enough power to defend against Vormon's magic and keep it at bay.

But then, something more surprising happened.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

More than five golden spears flew straight towards Vormon.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

"Keuaaaaaaaack!" Vormon was forced to scream in pain once again.

Ellie did not miss this opportunity. She quickly approached Vormon and struck him down with all her might.

Baaaaang—

Vormon started to fall on the ground. Seeing this, Ali finally had the leeway to turn his head and look at the source of warmth behind him. And there, standing behind him was a baby piggy just a tiny bit bigger than a fist, wearing a golden armor and holding a black kitchen knife.

"Bea... Beanie?"

Then...

Shwaaaaaa—

Beanie disappeared in a flash of black. What he used was Blink, a mage's teleportation magic.

Another flash of black and Beanie appeared once again, this time under the rapidly falling Vormon.

Just when both Ellie and Ali felt the warm and comforting energy wrapped around them disappear, Beanie looked up at the falling Vormon as he brandished his kitchen knife.

Ellie looked at the scene in disbelief as she murmured, “Sword of Annihilation...?”

That was right. It was the Sword of Annihilation, Ellie’s most powerful skill. The skill that could easily slaughter thousands, or even tens of thousands, of enemies in a single go. The very same skill that she had learned and acquired after awakening to her powers as a Continental Emperor. This power had shown itself in front of them as thousands of long blades flew up, like raindrops falling in reverse, towards Vormon. Then, the blades stuck deeply in Vormon’s body.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

“Keuaaaaaaaack!”

[Your HP has fallen below 20%.]

A loud and miserable shriek was ripped out of Vormon’s mouth the moment the blades stuck deeply in his body. At the same time, the viewers and players from all over the world watched in shock as Beanie successfully landed an attack on Vormon, a figure that was several times more bigger and ferocious than the cute baby piggy.

“Supreme Divine Beast... you f*cking bastaaaaaaard...!” Vormon shouted, his eyes turning red in anger. This was the same being that had stopped him in the past when he tried to devour and let the entire continent be engulfed with chaos.

The very same Supreme Divine Beast stood in front of him to block his path once again.

If it was just the Supreme Divine Beast, Vormon was confident that he could clinch the victory. But right now, Continental Emperor Ellie and Golden Mage Ali were both present. Fear suddenly engulfed Vormon. He would die in the hands of these humans and a little pig? No, never. That should not happen. His own death could not be so humiliating. Then...

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—

As Vormon was falling through the sky, his body suddenly shone brightly, like a diamond shining under the bright sun, as a solid black gemstone started to appear and cover his entire body. To be exact, the black gemstone contained Vormon. As his body turned to that state, Vormon transformed once again into his dragon form. Then, the black dragon that was covered in gemstone came to a stop in the skies.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang, clang—

Ellie sent a sword strike up, but it did not even leave a single scratch on the black gemstone.

[No way, did he seal himself?]

[Are you telling me that he sealed himself again?]

[I don’t think so.]

[Then, it’s not some sort of suicide bomb kind of thing, right?]

[No way...]

Sadly, one of the predictions was right. Vormon chose to explode himself. And this was the notifications that rang for all of the players present.

[Vormon will explode in two minutes.]

[Upon the explosion, all of the mana that has been stored in Vormon’s body will spread out and cause heavy damages.]

[Please restrain and stop Vormon within two minutes.]

Black Dragon Vormon chose to explode himself! It was clear to everyone present that this explosion would definitely blow up everyone here, perhaps even the entire Continent Cloud would disappear from this explosion.

[Vormon chose to explode himself? This is really ridiculous and absurd.]

[Then, what about their rewards for the hunt?! It wouldn't be the case where they wouldn't receive anything, right?!]

[We have never encountered a situation like this before. And it seems like Sword Emperor Ellie will die here too.]

[Of course, with the help of the Continent Cloud's power, it wouldn't be an absolute death.]

Each and every single one of the players and soldiers from the 4,000 remaining troops were of the same mind.

"How can we drive that bastard to a corner and restrain him by ourselves...?!"

"N... no... this can't be happening...!"

"This game scenario is really f*cking trash. F*ck!"

The players immediately squeezed the last of their remaining strength to attack the colossal gemstone covered Vormon.

Thump, thump, thump, thump, thump—

However, the gemstone remained in a pristine condition. This meant that the defense of the gemstone that surrounded Vormon's body was beyond anyone's imagination. The results were the same, even for both Ali and Ellie.

"Diss."

Piiiiiiing—

Ali's Diss flew swiftly to attack the gemstone, but instead of dealing damage, the skill was reflected away.

"Ugh!"

Ali had escaped the reflected skill by a small margin. He turned to watch Ellie swing her sword. However, the gemstone was so tough that it did not do anything at all. She even used her skills, but to no avail. Even though she stabbed the gemstone with all her might, only her sword trembled and shook from the impact.

[Will everything end like this?]

[Ha... Vormon's Hunt this time was extremely spectacular but everything still ended up being in vain.]

Yes. The people would never remember the great battle that took place here. They would only remember the 'results'.

The same desperate and gloomy air hung over the heads of the entire Athenae executives as they sat in Athenae's conference room.

"God f*cking damnit!" President Kang Taehoon spat out as he stood up from his seat and bit a cigarette in his mouth. Not long after, he took the cigarette out of his mouth and sighed deeply. This time, they were able to tell the entire world that the players of South Korea were not weak. They were far stronger than what everyone had thought. And the world should have gone wild over this. Everyone that participated should also receive proper rewards for hunting Vormon. It had to be done. They had to be compensated and rewarded well for their efforts and sacrifices. Now, it seemed like it was going to be impossible.

But then, at that moment...

"Minhyuk...?"

Team Leader Park's voice floated in Kang Taehoon's ears as he turned to look at where he was looking. That was when he saw the scene on the TV screen.

Minhyuk was standing on Vormon's right side, while Beanie stood on the left. The two of them cast the same power at the same time. And this power was none other than Sword of Absolute Death.

Two of the same sword lights were fired at the same time. The sword lights successfully passed through the strong and tough gemstone and pierced through Vormon encased inside the gem.

[Kueaaaaaaaaaack!]

“...?!”

President Kang Taehoon looked at the screen in laser focus. The information about the Sword of Absolute Death was displayed on the screen. The first attack would always have a 100% chance of success. This meant that the two sword lights successfully cut through Vormon at the same time! Then, hundreds of huge sword lights appeared and flew towards the gemstone.

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

“As expected...” President Kang Taehoon said, his face crumpling in dismay. Just like he expected, there was no sword that could pierce through the black gemstone. But then...

[Ping, ping— Baaaaaaang!]

One of the sword lights passed through the gemstone and struck Vormon once again!

“Intangible Sword... It’s the absurd skill that can ignore the opponent’s defense...!” Team Leader Park Minggyu said, his hands tightly clenching into a fist.

‘Yes! Didn’t Minhyuk have that passive skill Intangible Sword? The skill that gives him a chance of ignoring his enemy’s defense?’

Hundreds of sword lights struck down on Vormon, whose gemstone encased body was being struck down by rampaging sword lights on both sides. And then... an explosion!

Baaaaaaaaang—

[Keuaaaaaaack!]

There was only 13% left of Vormon’s HP.

“Just a bit more... just a bit more...”

President Kang Taehoon and the rest of the Athenae executives present watched, tense with cold sweat dripping down their backs.

Bang, bang, bang!

Minhyuk’s passive has been triggered as lightning fell down from the skies and struck down on Vormon.

9%! There was only 9% left of Vormon’s HP. The sword strikes kept on coming! And then, it became 7%. But that was the end. The two of them were no longer able to send any more sword strikes. There were only 50 seconds left before Vormon exploded.

[Keuhahahahahahaha!]

Vormon’s malicious laughter rang loudly and dug into the ears of all of the people watching from all over the world. Despair crashed down on all of the people present in the conference room. They could see that Vormon was mocking them, despite his imminent death.

Just then, Minhyuk and Beanie cast another skill at the same time.

[Sword of Absolute Death.]

Chapter 388: Hunting Black Dragon

Minhyuk had received a buff from Ali’s subclass ‘*His Companion*’. There was a ‘*Cooldown Reset*’ among the buffs that he had received, which meant that all of Minhyuk’s skills could be used again, immediately. After seeing him use his Sword of Absolute Death once, Vormon burst out in laughter.

“N... no...”

“This goddamn f*cker!!!”

“What the hell! This XXX game!!!”

“Aaaah! I’ll make sure to shelve *Athenae*!!!”

Vormon smiled gleefully at the voices of the people that were filled with despair. However, the corners of Minhyuk’s lips were curled up with a twinkle in his eyes. The sight made Vormon’s eyes widen in shock. But it was already too late.

Minhyuk’s Sword of Absolute Death, which could immediately be used thanks to his ‘Save’ skill, had already been triggered. And the same was true for Beanie, who had already used his Predator’s Authority, a skill that he had just recently learned!

(Predator’s Authority)

Active Skill

Level: Temporary MAX

Penalty for Use: None

Effects:

? Beanie can acquire and use most of your opponent’s debuff, attack, and magic skills through predation immediately.?

? The replicated skills would have no requirements nor limitations, and the replicated skills would continue to be available for use.?

? Upon the predation and acquisition of the opponent’s skills and powers, Beanie’s attack would be equivalent to his opponent’s attack.

? The replicated skills will have a 24 hour cooldown time.

In a way, the Predator’s Authority was quite similar to Predator’s Acquisition, but it was also quite different. First off, Beanie’s attack would match his opponent’s. It was a very surprising power. There was also the fact that the limit on the number of the amount of skills and powers that he could replicate had disappeared. Of course this was probably because of the temporary MAX in the skill’s level.

“Sword of Absolute Death.”

Minhyuk and Beanie triggered the same skill at the same time on both sides of Vormon, once again. *Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—*

A huge sword light with 100% chance of successful hit rate struck Vormon’s body from both sides.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack!” Vormon screamed once again.

All they needed to do was to devour Vormon’s remaining 7% HP and they would be able to kill him. The problem was that the 7% of his HP was several times larger than a regular high ranker. Then, continuous strikes slammed into Vormon’s body following that first attack!

[The attack has failed!]

[The attack has failed!]

[...has failed!]

Unfortunately, only the first attack had a 100% of having a successful hit rate, although there were times when the Intangible Sword was triggered.

[Intangible Sword.]

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

[Critical Strike!]

Beanie and Minhyuk both brandished their swords as hard as they could and sent hundreds of sword strikes strongly towards Vormon.

[Will they be able to do it?]

[Right now, there are only 30 seconds left.]

[Food God Minhyuk is the only one that can stop Vormon and his self destruction.]

[Our ITV Broadcasting Station, America's current best broadcasting station, has recorded a record breaking 54% in viewership ratings for the first time in history. More than half of our population is watching this!]

[My hands are sweating. He will receive the highest honor if he succeeds and he will receive the greatest frustration if he fails.]

Their swords struck the gemstone that surrounded Vormon's body.

Clank, clank, clank, clank, clank, clank!

[The attack has failed.]

[The attack has failed.]

[The attack has failed.]

[Intangible Sword.]

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

[The attack has failed.]

[The attack has failed.]

[The attack has failed.]

[Intangible Sword.]

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

[The attack has failed.]

[The attack has failed.]

[Intangible Sword.]

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

With every strike of the sword light, an explosion would occur on the gemstone following the effects of the skill.

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

"Keuaaaaaaaaack!"

There was only 1% of Vormon's HP left now. They were also in the last few seconds of a very desperate situation.

[There are only three seconds left before Vormon self-destructs.]

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang—

They continuously sent sword strikes on the gemstone, but the problem was that the attacks still continued to fail. The Intangible Sword skill only had a 7~12% chance of ignoring the opponent's defense. In other words, only one out of ten attacks could have the possibility of triggering the Intangible Sword. And then...

[There are only two seconds left before Vormon self-destructs.]

[There's only one second left before Vormon self-destructs.]

[Vormon is self-destructing...]

All of the viewers watching the scene had distorted expressions on their faces. The same was true for the players present in the Continent Cloud.

At that very same moment, a miraculous notification rang faster than the end of the notification announcing Vormon's self-destruction.

[Lightning]

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

[4 strikes.]

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

The lightning struck down swiftly which resulted in the complete exhaustion of Vormon's HP!

[You have successfully stopped Vormon's self-destruction.]

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—

Clang!

Fine cracks, akin to that of a spider-web, spread out in the gemstone that surrounded Vormon's body. It spread widely until the gemstone was covered entirely in cracks, before it broke into pieces. Then, Vormon crashed down on the ground.

Finally, Vormon had died.

Then, the notifications rang one after the other.

[You have successfully hunted Black Dragon Vormon.]

[Black Dragon Vormon's hunt will be shared and divided among all of the participating players depending on their contributions.]

[You have gained 333,306,314 EXP.]

[Due to the Marrow Bone's Power, a 3x EXP buff has been applied.]

[You have gained an additional 999,918,942 EXP.]

[The one that Ali chose as his companion will receive a 1.5x EXP buff.]

[You have gained an additional 166,653,157 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[...leveled up.]

Minhyuk, who was still around the late Level 400s, jumped 30 levels with this level up alone. His level had surpassed the 500 threshold, finally reaching Level 511 in a single go.

The notifications still kept on coming.

*[You have acquired the **Title:** Dragon Slayer.]*

[You have acquired 9,411 Platinum.]

[You have acquired 8kg of Black Dragon Vormon's scales.]

[You have acquired the Staff of Despair.]

[You have acquired 3kg of Black Dragon's Heaven's Boneless Chicken that he enjoyed eating the most.]

[You have acquired 32 pieces of Vormon's Weapon Reinforcement Stone.]

[You have acquired 45 pieces of Vormon's Defense Reinforcement Stone.]

[You have acquired Black Dragon Vormon's Magic Book.]

[You have acquired the map to Black Dragon Vormon's 'Lair'.]

Minhyuk could not help but feel thrilled. The amount of EXP that he had gained during this hunt had exceeded one billion. There was also 9,411 platinum. The platinum that he acquired was already worth around 50 billion in cash.

And there were also the valuable artifacts!

But what made Minhyuk feel most excited was acquiring the Heaven's Boneless Chicken that Black Dragon Vormon enjoyed eating the most.

'Kghhkh, spicy stir-fried chicken...! Kyaaa!'

Minhyuk was elated. He knew the rewards did not end there. The reason was because he had acquired the *'Map to Black Dragon?Vormon's?Lair'*.

Then, additional notifications rang once again.

[The Continent Cloud Event has ended.]

[The player's score that will be reflected will be measured based on the player's contribution, the number of bases acquired, and the total population.]

[The players from Asgan Continent have claimed victory.]

[All players from Asgan Continent will receive a 40% EXP buff and a 10% increase in all stats for two weeks.]

[The gold that the players will receive will be based on the contributions of the players inside the Continent Cloud. The players of Asgan Continent will receive thrice the amount of gold that the players of Cairon Continent will receive.]

[The Continent Cloud will now allow the Cairon and Asgan Continents to engage freely in diplomatic discussions.]

[The Continent Cloud is now reformed and turned into a new continent named 'Apocalypto'.]

[Both continents have to resolve their misunderstandings through diplomatic discussions.]

Fall—

"It's over..."

"We did it!!!"

"Waaaaaaaaah!!!"

Cheers erupted loudly in the area. The players of Asgan Continent were particularly delighted, as they raised their swords up high in the sky. They had worked hard for this victory and had finally won against one of *Athenae's* powerhouses, China.

[That's very surprising. Asgan Continent has triumphed over Cairon Continent.]

[We can confidently say that some of their players had played a big role during the process.]

[The cheers of the players from Asgan Continent, right now, are loud enough to cause the people watching to quiver in excitement.]

[The steps that they decided to take have also made my heart tremble and shudder in thrill.]

[To all the players of Asgan and Cairon Continents, thank you for all of your hard work.]

The Continent Cloud Episode had finally been completed. However, it was still not completely over. Alicia looked at Minhyuk from afar with her hands clenched tightly into a fist.

'If it's you, then...'

Then, she began to move.

Crazy Tyrant Akhan was the powerful man that brought Black Dragon Vormon into a frenzied state. There were rumors publicized about him, that no NPC or player could touch him. The reason why he was called a 'Tyrant' was because of his summoning techniques. He was an unofficial ranker with a significant number of named monsters under his rule.

Akhan was currently leaning on his sofa and watching the cheering players of Asgan Continents through his TV Screen.

"That's a bit unexpected, huh?"

What Akhan wanted was for Vormon to go on a rampage and bring both the Asgan and Cairon Continents to ruins. He had deemed this to be feasible with Black Dragon Vormon's power. This was because he was confident that there were no Korean or Chinese players that could exert more power than the Summit Five. However, Player Minhyuk, who was now being shown in a close-up view on his screen, had accomplished the impossible.

"Ha~ But, I'm sure I've made the *Athenae* operators eat some shit for a bit."

Crazy Tyrant Akhan only wanted to do one thing, and that was to watch the collapse of *Athenae*. He had a deeply rooted resentment against Joy Co. Ltd.

Akhan looked at the screen coldly as he waited. Right now, the players of the Cairon Continent had suffered greatly from their defeat. This was all because of the sudden appearance of ‘*Black Dragon Vormon*’, so they would most likely protest. After all, that was how human beings usually were. They would always try to catch their opponent’s weakness and somehow try to gain some benefits of their own. Looking at the grim expressions of the players from Cairon Continent made the smile on Akhan’s face deepen. But then...

[Clap, clap, clap, clap, clap.]

The sound of clapping was weak, but it still rang loudly through the TV screen. The screen was showing the figures of the remaining players from Cairon Continent. And with the high rankers’ example, the others also started to applaud until it gradually spread in the entire Continent Cloud.

[Clap, clap, clap, clap, clap, clap!]

[That was a good fight! Asgan Continent! You have really strong people among you!]

[You guys are amazing!!!]

To be honest, anyone could tell that this battle was an uphill battle for the players of Asgan Continent. With their applause, the players of Asgan Continent also clapped their hands as they cheered and greeted each other.

[You’ve worked hard.]

[Isn’t that person over there really strong?]

[Hahahahaha. Eyy. That person over there is stronger, you know!]

[If I go to Cairon Continent later, will you treat me to something delicious?!]

[Oooh! Of course!!!]

[Hahahahaha!]

Akhan’s face turned horribly ugly when he realized that the scene that he wanted to happen did not happen. And in their conversations, there was also a name that kept popping up.

‘*Food God.*’

He was an existence that might have possibly surpassed the Summit Five. However, he found it laughable when he heard the words that they had referred to him as.

‘*King?*’

It was absolutely ridiculous that he was about to laugh. But before he could do so, something unexpected happened. A silver-haired woman walked slowly until she reached Minhyuk. The woman then knelt down on one knee and showed her respect.

[Wh... what’s this?!]

[This is very shocking! Ellie, the empress of Eivelis Empire knelt down and showed courtesy to a player!!!]

Then, Ellie smiled gently as she looked up at Minhyuk and said,

[To the man that will become my king, I, Ellie of the Eivelis Empire, feel great honor and glory from fighting alongside you.]

“...!”

Akhan jumped up from his seat in shock. Ellie had acknowledged the fact that Minhyuk would become a king. In other words, Ellie would help him become a king!

“Ha, haha!” Akhan burst out in laughter. However, that alone did not mean that he would become king. Besides, the number of the members of the Let’s Eat Sect Guild that he had seen earlier were very small. Their help did not necessarily mean that he would become king that easily.

But then, as if to make him feel more horrible, another surprising thing happened. A beauty that was comparable to Ellie walked forward, her sword engraved with a lightning bolt. This woman was

Alicia, and she walked forward before kneeling down on one knee just a step behind Ellie. Then, the survivors of the Artheon Guild followed right behind her.

[To the one who will become our King, Artheon Guild's master, Alicia, requests to join you and work under your banner.]

It did not end there. Masked assassins lined up next to them and knelt on one knee at the same time.

[To the one who will become our King, Light Assassin Guild's master, Lucia requests to join you and work under your banner.]

There were even Chinese high rankers that lined up next to them and knelt on one knee.

[Although we came from different continents, we have seen how qualified you are to become King. Please accept us in your Let's Eat Sect Guild!!!]

There were around a hundred Cairon Continent players that made this request. The Empress, the masters of a guild, and even their enemies had declared their heartfelt words and sincerity. Akhan's pupils shook at the scene.

Chapter 389: Dragon's Lair

Minhyuk looked at the people that lined up and knelt down in front of him. The first thing that he did was to urgently assist Ellie up. Ellie was expressing her gratitude to Minhyuk for giving her a new lease in life with his ox bone soup. She had shown the world how close she was to Minhyuk, and was demonstrating that she would not let a single one of them go, if they ever dared to touch Minhyuk.

Then, Minhyuk looked around at the people that knelt in front of him. He thought, *'The mouths that I have to feed are going to increase in groups now...?!'*

His line of thought and concern were the same, as usual. However, it finally occurred to Minhyuk that he was now truly the leader of a guild. Not only did he have to pursue and make his personal ambition come true, he also had to take into account and bring benefits to his own guild as well. The Let's Eat Sect Guild would no longer be a small guild of elites. Even though they were elites, the fact that they were still a small guild would sooner or later restrict them and their ambitions. So, Minhyuk nodded to their requests.

Alicia and Lucia were women that Minhyuk had known for quite some time now. Alicia's Artheon Guild was mainly composed of mages, and was considered as one of the four great guilds in their country. They also had significantly fewer members compared to the other three major guilds in the country. The fact that a guild with such small numbers compared to the other major guilds, and yet could climb up to become one of the four great guilds, was a very surprising achievement. This meant that Artheon Guild was a guild teeming with highly talented mages.

On the other hand, Lucia's Light Assassin Guild was a newly established guild. Ever since its establishment, it had already caused a huge fuss. Although they were an assassin guild made up of only 100 people, every single one of them were poised to become elites.

Simply put, Minhyuk had gained a tremendous boost to the magical side and the hidden shadow side of his guild. There was only one more group left. This group was none other than the group of Chinese players. There were around 200 Chinese players kneeling down on one knee and waiting for his approval.

Among these players was Huang Xuan. This person had brought a huge surprise to the players of Cairon Continent.

Who was Huang Xuan? Huang Xuan was hailed as the *'Roaring Beast'* and was ranked fourth in the official Chinese rankings. The reason why he was called the Roaring Beast was because he could change into various animal forms while fighting. He was clearly a man that stood at a high

place in China, but he wanted to work under Minhyuk's banner. Huang Xuan was confident in himself and his ability to read others. He had an eye for outstanding people, and he knew, *'This player will stand at the apex.'*

Huang Xuan had witnessed a battle involving one of the Summit Five. The scene back then caused his blood to boil with passion. Every member of the Summit Five each had power that was comparable to an entire kingdom. However, this thrill had grown exponentially after he met Minhyuk. And he had always believed and sided with his instinct and senses.

Minhyuk finally stood in front of them after talking with both Genie and Mei Wei. He said, "You already know this, but we are from different continents."

"It doesn't matter to us!"

"It may not matter to you, but it does for us."

"...!"

"...!"

Minhyuk's voice was very firm and dignified. Huang Xuan looked at him with a bit of surprise. He thought, *'He's quite different from what I heard.'*

According to what Huang Xuan has heard, Minhyuk was a very bright, pure and naive man.

However, his solemn and dignified voice was firm enough to make him, the person that ranked fourth in the Chinese rankings, shudder and flinch.

"With Mister Huang Xuan as the representative, I hope that you can meet our conditions to join the Let's Eat Sect Guild."

"What do you mean by conditions?"

"Yes, you don't like it?"

Huang Xuan and the rest of the Chinese players shook their heads when they heard Minhyuk's words. Conditions to enter a guild? Of course these things existed in each and every guild. And since they were from different countries, these conditions were bound to be even greater.

Huang Xuan thought, *'What conditions does the Let's Eat Sect Guild, a guild that dreams of becoming a kingdom, want? Do they want us to give them outstanding artifacts? Or proof of hunting a legendary monster? Maybe they want us to hand over the ownership of an undiscovered dungeon?'*

As the thought passed his head, Minhyuk said, "Doesn't China have some of the best cooking ingredients in the world? Bring me S~SS grade ingredients."

Huang Xuan was stunned as he looked at Minhyuk and asked, "Cooking ingredients?"

"Yes."

"...???"

Huang Xuan turned suspicious for a moment. Then, Minhyuk said, "That... Don't bring in those that taste healthy, but make sure to bring those that taste unhealthy. Understand? Also, bringing the ingredients doesn't mean that you will be accepted easily. Your entry to our guild will also depend on our guild's own assessment of you."

"...Yes. Alright. We understand."

No matter what, it was strange. A healthy taste basically meant that it was not tasty, while an unhealthy taste obviously meant that it was supposed to taste good.

"Mister Representative, Huang Xuan, we will appreciate it if you can write down the names of those that will participate and take the opportunity to lead them."

"I understand," Huang Xuan obediently answered, which came as a bigger shock to all of the Chinese players. This just showed how much he wanted to join the Let's Eat Sect Guild.

And with this, the Continent Cloud Episode had ended.

Countless rumors began to circulate all over the world. The rumors were all related to ‘Mage Ali’.
[Is it true that Mage Ali has returned to Level 1? There are rumors saying that all of the magic that he had learned had disappeared, you know?]

[It’s true. Mr. Rupert, the Legend Seeker, had discovered Moldoron’s archives quite some time ago. According to the records that he found, Moldoron’s successor could temporarily awaken Moldoron’s incredible and tremendous power. However, whoever awakened this power would receive punishment. It is said that God will take away all of their powers. And according to a player eye witness, they have recently spotted Ali in a novice hunting ground.]

Legend Seekers were people that chased after legends by digging up old documents and ancient records. The rumors about Ali were spreading like wildfire locally and even internationally, because Rupert’s claims were 90% correct.

[South Korea has lost one gold medal in Athenae: World War. Mage Ali had truly become a ‘legend’. He became a legend with nothing else left to his name.]

[In the Athenae: World War a month later, I wonder how many medals Korea will win?]

[Four bronze medals? Hehehehehe.]

[I think four bronze medals are a bit too much, I think one bronze medal, hehehe?]

[The truth is, with Ali back at a low level, Korea doesn’t seem to have any chances of winning.]

[What is he doing right now?]

[He’s probably killing some rabbits in the novice village.]

At that time, Mage Ali was actually located in the Ogre Mountains. Him being found in a novice hunting ground was just some baseless rumors. According to Rupert, someone had spread false rumors. However, it was true that his level back then was at Level 1, although his level was currently at Level 45. An ogre, which could easily cross Level 100, was running in front of him.
“Keuaaaaaaaack!”

Ali stretched his fingers out.

[Wind Cutter]

[The Dragon’s Mana Heart is expressing its power.]

[Your Magic Damage has increased by 50%.]

[You have ignored your opponent’s Magical Defense.]

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—

Ali’s Wind Cutter produced wind saws that were six times larger than those that ordinary mages produced. This skill of his easily tore the ogre into pieces in just one go.

Thuuuud—

The ogre collapsed into a heap.

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

Just one magic shot and it took the ogre down. Ali felt pleased. His level might have fallen all the way back to 1, but these were the notifications that he heard, after they had successfully hunted Black Dragon Vormon not too long ago.

[Black Dragon Vormon’s Mana Heart has resonated with you, the one that used the most powerful magic.]

[Black Dragon Vormon’s Mana Heart has chosen you and has seeped into your body and your body’s power.]

[The more you level up, your WIS and INT will increase by 500 and the more you will be able to open up Black Dragon Vormon's magic Book.]

Ali smiled a bit. He had to work a bit harder until the *Athenae: World War*.

Athenae: World War was just a month away. However, the problem was that everyone believed that Ali, who they had expected to win at least one gold medal in magic, had returned back to Level 1. And right now, all of the branch managers from all over the world had gathered.

"We will be holding our very first *Athenae: World War* and it will become the world's hottest issue."

"That's right. We can expect that the finalists will be 'America, Russia and Japan'."

"What will Korea's ranking be?"

"Hmmm..."

"Uhhh..."

Even though the branch managers from all over the world had gathered together like this, they had to be cautious of their words. They could not speak with any ill will.

"To be honest, I'm not sure if they'll be able to win any gold medal."

"It's a pity, but I think so too."

"Why do you think so?"

"Currently, the Food God still hasn't made clear if he intends to participate, so it's still undecided. Of course, he can choose to join later. I expect him to do a great job as a non-combat player."

The person that spoke did not seem to care much about the Food God.

"Meanwhile, Mage Ali has returned back to Level 1, while the Emperor of the Sword, Carr, has only temporarily awakened that strange power of his. They're not enough when it comes to a fight against the world's rankers. To be blunt, South Korea lacks players that are on par with Carr."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

"*Athenae: World War* might have individual battles but there are many events where a lot of people need to join forces. Even if one person can be equivalent to ten people, they would still be no match against their opponents who are in a group of around six to seven members. I don't think a single person can do much about it."

The person that uttered these words was none other than America's branch manager, Robert Duval. All of the other branch managers agreed with his statement.

"Hoo," A man let out a sigh.

Everyone turned their attention to this black-haired Asian man. The man took off his horn-rimmed glasses for a moment, before sweeping his bangs up. His eyes were very impressive and intimidating. They glinted sharply like that of a hawk looking at its prey. This man was the only 'Team Manager' among all of the 'Branch Managers' here.

Then, the man wore his horn-rimmed glasses once again, before looking at each and every single person present with his hands folded to his chest.

"Since you are very generous with your praise of South Korea, we'll just have to meet your great expectations and take home four gold medals."

These were sarcastic words. Each of the branch manager's faces were filled with laughter as they looked at him. Even Robert Duval looked at him in amusement.

Team Leader Park Minggyu was a graduate of America's Harvard University. He was a man that refused the olive branch that Apple+, America's top company, had reached out to him to become their branch manager. Plenty of people had waited for him to accept the offer, but he came back home to work at a game company where he could only be a team leader at best.

These were the words that he said in an interview, 'It's because that's what I want to do.'

That was right. Team Leader Park Minggyu was the only person in this room that had a low rank, but he was not inferior to any of them. Also, knowing his brilliant and flexible mind, there were rumors about him being a man with tens of billions of assets in stocks and investments.

Robert Duval smiled in amusement at his words. Then, he said, "Do you have any evidence to support that claim?"

The mouths of all of the people present were stained with a mocking sneer. However, Team Leader Park Minggyu just smirked at them as he crossed his legs and folded his hands together. He said, "Because I believe in them."

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

All of the branch managers sneered at his ridiculous statement. Even a few of them ridiculed him. But then, Team Leader Park Minggyu countered, "Does everyone here not believe in their own country? That's quite a shame."

A blush of shame spread widely on the faces of all of the branch managers present in this meeting.

Chapter 390: Dragon's Lair

All of the people were red with shame and left speechless. Very few of them had actually spoken about their own country and that they would do well. They only opted to talk about the three Athenae powerhouses. Robert Duval even loosened his tie.

Then, Team Leader Park Minggyu stood up and said, "The meeting is over, right? Well then, please excuse me, I have to go back to make preparations for the competition."

Team Leader Park Minggyu opened the door and left.

"*Cough, cough, cough.* Korea might not even win a gold medal after losing Black Mage Ali. He's very arrogant."

"He's very absurd. How dare a team leader like him..."

Almost all of the people in the room began to speak ill of Park Minggyu to hide their shame the moment the man left. However, one person among them stared at the empty seat with a smile and said, "I have to admit it."

"What?"

"What are you talking about?"

"Korea is also one of the favorites to win this competition. We're all very bitter about it, but everyone knows that this is a fact."

The branch managers were all left speechless. It was man's nature to always try to deny and belittle anyone that was better. In fact, the branch managers were fully aware that it was them that had stepped out of line as well.

“The Food God. Once his participation is confirmed, he would prove to be the biggest variable in this competition. All of you should stop flattering me and start making preparations against South Korea...” Robert Duval said with a smile.

Robert Duval might just be the branch manager of the American branch, but he had more power than any of the people present here. To be honest, the discussions and words from the others were nothing more than flattery to curry favor with Duval. After all, America was one of the strongest candidates to win in the Athenae: World War. He had also tried to deny the fact that Korea could create a big splash in the World War because he was very much afraid about the steps that they planned and were going to take. On the other hand, he also could not wait for it.

‘Will Team Leader Park Minggyu’s words prove to be true?’

Minhyuk had once again turned Atlas into a City in the Skies and moved his territory from the Continent Cloud, now named Apocalypto, back to its original location somewhere near Eivelis Empire. For the first time in a long time, Minhyuk was preparing to cook for himself.

There was a pleasant smile on his face. The dish that Minhyuk was preparing to cook right now was none other than ‘Spicy Stir-Fried Chicken.’. He had cooked this dish for God Juis in the past. However, this ‘Spicy Stir-Fried Chicken’ was slightly special.

? You might be able to receive a ‘hint’ about something once you eat it.

Unlike other ingredients, there was nothing written in the ingredient description about what kind of ingredient it truly was. He would only know once he cooked it and tried it for himself. Minhyuk quickly brought out the grill pan that was usually seen in spicy stir-fried chicken restaurants and placed it in front of him.

“Oink!”

Beanie sat in front of him, like a customer waiting for his meal. Beanie, sans his golden armor and black kitchen knife, waited with the golden crown still on his head. After his ‘*Predator’s Authority*’?had temporarily reached MAX, the skill had returned to Level 1. Now, what Beanie needed to do was to follow the step-by-step process and grow up slowly.

Minhyuk poured the ingredients that he had prepared earlier onto the large grill. The ingredients were the boneless chicken, rice cakes, sliced sweet potatoes, chopped perilla leaves, and gochujang. There was also pre-boiled ‘*udon*’ placed on the table that could be added at any time.

Sizzle—

The ingredients started to cook on the well-heated grill. Beanie stretched his paws out with a solemn expression, wanting to try something. And with some flashy movements...

Tak, tak, tak, tak, tak, tak, tak—

...he started cooking the spicy stir-fried chicken. His hand movements looked exactly like the seasoned hands of a spicy stir-fried chicken restaurant’s part-timer!

“Oooh...” Minhyuk exclaimed in amazement. Then, Beanie threw the udon noodles and mixed it in with the glossy and red spicy stir-fried chicken. The udon noodles were gradually colored red as it got mixed well with the stir fried chicken.

Shwaaaaaaa—

“Oooh...!”

Beanie’s hand movements became even more flamboyant and flashy, as he split the spicy stir-fried chicken in the middle, just like Moses’ miracle in the red sea. Then, Beanie sprinkled white cheese right in the empty space. And the cheese...

Tak, tak, tak, tak, tak, tak—

...had been struck swiftly as it melted on the grill. Minhyuk smiled happily as the cheese spread out nicely in the middle of the grill.

“Oiiiink!”

Beanie’s plump belly jiggled, as he shrugged to show off his confidence. Then, the skill ‘Joy of Eating Together’ was triggered and the same spicy stir-fried chicken appeared in front of Beanie. Minhyuk smiled in satisfaction.

‘How long has it been since I last cooked for myself?’

Minhyuk was now in the territory lord’s office. He had not been eating as much as he used to since the Continent Cloud episode started. Would anyone believe that Minhyuk had eaten only 100 bowls per day instead of his usual 250 bowls?

“Hiyaa...”

Minhyuk looked at the spicy stir-fried chicken sizzling on the grill pan in front of him, as well as the table laid out next to it. There were sliced garlic, ssamjang, thinly sliced radish, corn cobs, refreshing bean sprout soup, as well as vegetables for wraps like lettuce and perilla leaves.

The first thing that Minhyuk tasted was a sip of bean sprout soup. The refreshing bean sprout soup tasted clean, fresh, and natural, since there were no other ingredients added. After whetting his appetite with the bean sprout soup, he skillfully clamped a piece of spicy stir-fried chicken, along with a piece of well-cooked cabbage leaf. Then, he placed everything in his mouth and ate it as it was.

Munch, munch, munch—

“Wow... it melts in the mouth. It melts!”

Minhyuk smiled happily as he placed a thin slice of round radish on his plate. Then, he placed a piece of spicy stir-fried chicken on top of it, before placing the combination in his mouth. The harmony of the sweet and sour thinly sliced radish with the spicy stir-fried chicken would not lose out to any icing on top of a cake.

He drank another spoonful of bean sprout soup, before taking a piece of perilla leaf and spreading it on his palm. Then, he added two pieces of spicy stir-fried chicken, half of the thinly sliced radish,

and a garlic dipped in ssamjang on top of it. The first thing that greeted his senses when he ate the wrap was the scent of the perilla leaf.

It was a truly amazing scent. Of course, chewing the wrap was a delightful experience. The flavor of the perilla leaf blended perfectly with the other ingredients in his mouth. If his mouth was not full of the wrap, he would want to shout to the world that he had never tasted food like this in the world.

This time, he dipped a piece of spicy stir-fried chicken in the melted cheese in the middle before lifting it up.

The cheese stretched out as Minhyuk took the piece into his mouth.

“Kggghk.”

The savory and tasty flavor of the cheese met with the spicy flavor of the spicy stir-fried chicken inside his mouth. This time, he clamped some udon noodles. The udon noodles were completely covered by the red sauce of the spicy stir-fried chicken. He then placed the clamped noodles on his plate before slurping it up.

Chew, chew, chew—

“As expected, udon noodles are the perfect fit for spicy stir-fried chicken.”

When he looked at Beanie, he saw the latter slurping the udon noodles and staining his mouth with the red sauce.

“Oiiink!”

“Here. Beans, you can’t eat like that. Your mouth is all dirty.”

Minhyuk wiped off Beanie’s mouth with a wet wipe. Then, when he saw that there was only a bit of meat left in the grilling pan, Minhyuk took out the buckwheat noodles that he had prepared earlier. There was a thin layer of ice floating on top of the broth with sliced pears, cucumbers, a dollop of seasoning, soft boiled eggs, and thick slices of meat placed on top of the buckwheat noodles.

Minhyuk took his scissors and skillfully cut the noodles before separating them perfectly. Then, he seasoned the broth with a dash of vinegar and mustard.

Sluuuurp!?The unique flavor of the buckwheat noodles captivated his taste buds.

Buckwheat noodles was a dish that was very similar to cold noodles. The only difference was the texture of the noodles itself. Minhyuk personally preferred buckwheat noodles. They were less tough and more chewy than cold noodles. As he ate the noodles, Minhyuk made a spicy stir-fried chicken wrap and ate them together.

“Woo, haha!” Minhyuk exclaimed, as he took a sip of the cold broth covered in a thin layer of ice from his bowl. After cleaning the bowl of buckwheat noodles up, Minhyuk took his spicy stir-fried chicken spatula and cut up the remaining spicy stir-fried chicken meat and vegetables. Then, finally, he added some rice and made fried rice. He spread the fried rice evenly, before sprinkling seaweed flakes on top of it. Once the bottom of the rice was burnt perfectly, Minhyuk scooped up a spoonful of the

fried rice and placed it in his mouth. A little burnt fried rice was the perfect finale for spicy stir-fried chicken.

“Hooo. That was very satisfying,” Minhyuk patted his stomach happily, while Beanie leaned down until his back was completely glued to the ground, making his round and plump belly bulge like a mountain. But not long after...

“Oiink...”

...Beanie passed out! Only two seconds had gone by after he laid down and he had already passed out! He literally fell asleep like that.

“...”

Minhyuk was left speechless after seeing Beanie’s amazing and surprising talent! Then, the notifications rang one after the other.

[You have eaten Spicy Stir-fried Chicken made from Heaven’s Boneless Chicken.]

[You have acquired the key to the ‘Farmer’s Kingdom’, a place where you can acquire the Five Legendary Ingredients.]

[You can now check the path to Black Dragon Vormon’s Lair, as well as the path to the Ingredient Heaven.]

“...!”

Minhyuk was very surprised because ‘Ingredient Heaven’ was the place where one of the Five Legendary Ingredients could be obtained. When Minhyuk had won the Gourmet Dragon Banquet, he found a book titled ‘What are the Five Legendary Ingredients?’. Among its contents was the ‘Ingredient Heaven’. This was what was written in the book:

[In the Ingredient Heaven, you can continuously acquire ingredients like onion, green onions, chives, rice and other legendary crops and produce.]

[Those who have eaten the crops and produce from the Ingredient Heaven will become stronger and tougher. It was said that those who have eaten the ingredients from the Ingredient Heaven since ancient times have achieved ‘Immortality’.]

There was only one reason why Minhyuk’s attention was piqued: There was no limit to the amount of ingredients one could acquire in Ingredient Heaven, and those who entered could acquire plenty of materials. He was also aware that the Five Legendary Ingredients were all shrouded in a thin veil of mystery.

Minhyuk had already witnessed the power of these legendary ingredients, such as the Legendary Sun’s Wheat, as well as the Legendary Giant Cow’s Marrow Bone. The fact that Minhyuk could make a ‘God’s Dish’, a dish that has transcended the human realm, by using these ingredients made him realize how powerful they were.

There was also the fact that it was located in ‘Black Dragon Vormon’s Lair’. In fact, the Five Legendary Ingredients could be acquired after taking Black Dragon Vormon’s quest. However, hunting Vormon had created an anomaly which allowed him to proceed. It was actually just in time

for the members of the Let's Eat Sect Guild to gather together and raid Black Dragon Vormon's lair. Then, Genie and Haze entered the office.

"Minhyuk. We've finished all of the preparations for the raid. Also, Ali has returned and it seems like he wants to talk to you about something."

"Is that so? I understand. Ah, wait. I found something about the Ingredient Heaven."

Minhyuk discussed and explained everything in a calm and orderly manner. Both Haze and Genie looked at Minhyuk in surprise, especially Haze. She looked like she had thought about something. She said, "Perhaps the crops and produce from the Ingredient Heaven don't have a permanent effect."

"Permanent effect?"

"Yes, that's right. I believe there are two main reasons why it's called Ingredient Heaven. First, you can get plenty of ingredients. Second, Ingredient Heaven probably referred to the land itself. If we can research and study the Ingredient Heaven, then we might be able to continue growing crops like theirs. It will definitely become a huge stepping stone for the Let's Eat Sect."

Minhyuk's mouth broke into a smile when he heard these words. Then, Haze continued, "Ah, please don't forget about building our kingdom and participating in diplomatic discussions."

"Of course," Minhyuk nodded in agreement. Diplomatic discussions between Cairon Continent and Asgan Continent were very important. It was especially so after the empire's emperors said that they would elect foreigners to participate and engage in diplomatic discussions with them. Simply put, this was the perfect opportunity for the guilds to build relationships with the other continent's empires. It was definitely nice to get acquainted with them.

"In that case, Genie, Sir Corr and Abel will go to Cairon Continent for the diplomatic discussions."

Minhyuk nodded in agreement. Genie and Abel were very smart and quick-witted. They would definitely find a solution to any problem that would arise.

'But, why Corr? What about him?'

"There must definitely be a lot of people suffering from hair loss in Cairon Continent. *Fufufufu*. We're currently short on funds to build our kingdom by 2,000 platinum. We need to do business there too," Haze chuckled.

"...Uhhh."

Minhyuk had always been in awe of Haze's merchant's disposition. However, there was still another problem.

“We also have to step up in our efforts in building our kingdom. However, the numbers of our citizens are far too lacking. We should have at least 3,000 people and a larger territory.”

Minhyuk nodded again. However, they could not receive just anyone in the Let’s Eat Sect.

Not too long ago, he had received updates about Huang Xuan and the rest of the Chinese players. The Chinese players still had not collected the ingredients. However, even if they did collect the ingredients, the guild would not accept them wholeheartedly. The guild still had to let the Chinese players undergo meticulous and rigorous screening, and take into consideration if they would betray the guild or not.

“We’re also expecting to spend huge amounts of money for the development of Atlas and Valhalla territories.”

Simply put, it was also another funding problem. Of course, Minhyuk was the son of a chairman, but he did not want to borrow his father’s wealth and financial abilities to become king.

“So, how much do we need to develop and build our kingdom?”

“Around 1,000 platinum.”

“That’s quite a large sum.”

A thousand platinum was around 100 billion gold and it was truly quite a large sum.

“Do we have another way to secure our funds?”

Haze, Genie and Minhyuk racked their brains for a solution. And then...

Knock, knock—

A knock broke them out of their reverie. The door opened and in came Great Sage Aruvel, or to be exact Best-Selling Author Aruvel. After coming in, he suddenly placed several large bags in front of Minhyuk and said, “A writer should always be hungry.”

He turned around after leaving this famous saying as a notification rang for Minhyuk.

[Aruvel has gifted you 612 platinum.]

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

The three people were all shocked and speechless. Calculating it in ordinary gold and not platinum, Aruvel had left behind 61.2 billion gold. How the hell did he get so much money? There was only one conclusion that they could make...

“‘*Why Did the Prince Go Out Tonight?*’ was such a blockbuster...?”

“Keok!”

“OMG...?”

It was at this moment that they realized just how popular the Great Author Aruvel was.