Gourmet 451

Chapter 451: For Elpis

Just like what Minhyuk had told him before, Elpis had decided to become selfish and think of himself. He had lived a life filled with suffering and torment for the longest time. It was to the point where he thought that he would be in this hell forever, and even if he were to take his final breath, it would be in this hell.

However, someone came and gave him happiness. So, Elpis wanted to stay with him and protect him.

'I am Let's Eat Sect's Shield. His shield.'

[Book of Permanence.]

[You have made an eternal pledge to Minhyuk.]

[You have to fulfill all of his orders with your everything.]

Grasp—

Elpis' hands grabbed the hilt of his sword, the 'Devil Judge's Sword', tightly. It was finally the time for this sword to show off its true powers. Elpis had pretended that he was going to become Verus' slave, just for this moment alone. From the very beginning, he intended to take this opportunity to get close to Verus.

[You, you bastard...!]

Great Demon Verus was left in a fluster.

'How dare a measly human like you??! How dare you mock me like this?!'

And Elpis? He soared to the skies.

Flaaaaaaaaash—

With his sharp, piercing glare and fluttering black hair, Elpis leapt to the skies and aimed at Verus. Everyone was shocked to see Elpis' figure leaping in the skies with his sword raised against Great Demon Verus. Then, he said, "Berserk."

[Berserk.]

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

[Thanks to the effects of the cooking buff, you won't receive the Berserk's penalty.]

[You can use Berserk for five minutes.]

The Berserk skill that Minhyuk used was originally Elpis' skill. Which meant that its power was very much aligned with him. On top of that, Elpis had eaten the garlic bread and soup that Minhyuk had made for him less than an hour ago.

The effects of the dishes that Minhyuk made for him were amazing. It increased his sword's basic attack by 300%, and even added a +2 on the level of the four-chaptered Devil Judge's skill. It also increased his STR, AGI, and STM by 20%.

Simply put, the current Elpis was strong enough that he could probably even cut down the Gods.

Elpis also had skills with extreme penalties like Ghost Spear Ben's Absolute Pinnacle Spear and Khan's Giant's Explosion. This skill was the final chapter of his Devil Judge's skill.

"Splitting the Great Demon."

Swoooooooosh—

Elpis' sword grew larger until it reached ten meters in length, as a powerful force wrapped around it. Then, Elpis swung his huge sword down on Verus' head.

Puhaaaaaaaaaaa—

Verus was, unfortunately, able to block his head with his demonic energy shield. When the sword and shield collided, a powerful shockwave erupted, which made the people in the vicinity fly back.

However, even if Verus was able to erect a shield, the current Elpis had a 300% increase in basic attack. On top of that, his Splitting the Great Demon skill, the skill that Elpis prepared to deal with Great Demon Verus, was a skill that added 3,000% attack and raised his attack power to the extreme.

Crack, crack, crack—

Cracks appeared on the shield that protected Verus, and his eyes widened in shock. Finally...

Clatter—

...the shield broke into pieces. Elpis' sword continued its descent until it slammed straight down into Great Demon Verus' forehead.

[Keuaaaaaaaaaaack!]

This was a very shocking and monumental moment. The existence called the Great Demon Verus shrieked in pain the moment Elpis' sword hit him.

Crack—

The sword crushed Verus' skull. However, it did not end there, slashing down until it cut Verus in half, before returning to its original size as Elpis unleashed another skill.

"Vanguishing the Demon."

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—

It was a skill that allowed Elpis to swing his sword dozens of times in an instant. The skill's level had also increased by a total of four levels, +2 levels from the Berserk skill and another +2 levels from Minhyuk's cooking buff. These increased the number of times the sword could be swung. From a dozen, Elpis could now swing a hundred times in an instant. Great Demon Verus' body was torn into shreds the moment the skill hit him.

[Keuhaaaack! Ack! Aaaaaaaack!]

None of the human players could fight against a 'God' yet. No one would deny the fact that there were no successors of the true and genuine gods among all of the God classes in existence. Yet, the current Elpis was strong enough to be considered as a 'Battle God'.

"...Crazy."

Even the members of Let's Eat Sect that were watching the scene were all gaping in shock. With the tremendous display of power that Elpis was showing right now, they were sure that they would not be able to beat him, even if they fought together.

[Crazy! Diablo has split the Great Demon Verus!!!]

[His reason for existing thus far is to cut down the great demon. He's finally realizing his goal!]

[Did you see?! This is the shocking power of the most powerful NPC in existence! A power that none of the players could ever go against. At this moment, I'm sure that the guilds from all over the world are burning with envy. They must definitely be jealous of Player Minhyuk for having Diablo as his vassal.]

[When Diablo said Minhyuk's name in the 'Book of Permanence', I felt the flames in my heart burn brightly. Diablo is proving to us that his choice is correct!!!]

Everyone was filled with anticipation. Would Diablo create a new legend by cutting down Verus? But not long after, Elpis said, "Everyone... run... away... I... will... stop... him..."

He turned to look at the members of Let's Eat Sect. The members of Let's Eat Sect's faces turned ugly when they saw the resignation in Elpis' face. It seemed like he was ready to die in this place.

"I... have no regrets... even... if I... die!!!" Elpis shouted. That was true, he did not have any regrets. After all, even if he died here, he died as Minhyuk's vassal. The thought brought a watery smile on Elpis' face. But then, at that moment...

Baaaaaaaaaaang—

...a powerful sword explosion broke free from the ground and struck Elpis. Elpis was able to block the swords from the sword explosion with his own sword, but he could not do anything against the destructive power that came along with it.

"Ugh!"

The impact knocked Elpis away. At the same time, a being appeared in the place where Verus once stood. The being was about two meters tall with two huge horns on his forehead. His skin was black, and the contours of his face were sharp and angled. Even his eyes were sharp, narrow, and yellow like that of a lizard's. He also had a pair of bat wings on his back and a fluttering cape that showcased his majesty. His fingernails were yellow, long and sharp. Anyone that saw him would flinch and shrivel in fear. His figure reminded everyone of the 'Demon King' but he was greater and stronger than that.

This was because he was Great Demon Verus.

[You!!! I will take everything that is precious to you, trample on them and destroy them completely!!!]

Keuhaaaaaaaaaa—

His fury caused an explosion from the demonic energy that was scattered in the surroundings. Brod swiftly stepped forward and cut off all of the attacks that stretched towards the members of Let's Eat Sect.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—

However, the attacks stretched towards Lauvredo, Aruvel's erofans, the elves, and the seafolk.

"Keuhaaaaaack!"

"Keheooooook!"

"Aaaaaaaaaack!"

Screams rang rife as hundreds died from Verus' wrath.

Then, Genie, along with the members of Let's Eat Sect, slowly stood up from their position. The effect of Great Demon's Wrath, the effect that forced them to kneel on the ground, has finally ended.

All of the members of Let's Eat Sect were waiting for one person's order. This was not a light matter that they could easily gloss over and decide on their own. Genie looked on top of Valhalla's ramparts. To be exact, she was looking at the man, Minhyuk, who was standing on top of them. It seemed like the notification that he had logged in was not a dream. But then...

Swoooooosh-

Fwooooooosh—

Puhaaaaaaaaa—

...black demonic energy wrapped around Verus as demons appeared around him one after another.

[One of Verus' 72 Devils, Zagan, has appeared!]

[One of Verus' 72 Devils, Flauros, has appeared!]

[One of Verus' 72 Devils, Forcas, has appeared!]

[Those that will be able to seal the members of the 72 Devils will receive rewards.]

The demons showed off their majesty in front of everyone. The truth was, it was not only the Great Demon that the players could not fight against, but also the Devil Legion that served Verus.

Flauros was a male demon with a leopard's fur wrapped around his body, a javelin in his hand, and a huge black hawk on his right shoulder. Zagan was a bipedal bull with a pair of gryphon's wings on his back and countless demons behind him. Forcas was an old man riding on a white horse with a long, impressive white beard, and a huge scythe on hand. Behind them stood thousands of monsters, humans, elves, and orcs with chains wrapped around one of their legs.

These demons were not even in the top forty of the demons under his command, in fact, they were the lowest in terms of rankings. This proved that Verus did not have the power to summon his top ranking demons at the moment. However, it still did not take away the fact that he summoned three of his generals at once.

Elpis immediately moved forward and blocked Verus and the three demons that he summoned.

"Everyone... quickly... escape...!" Elpis shouted, hand clasping his sword tightly and eyes filled with the determination to die. However, the eyes of all of the members of Let's Eat Sect were all trained on Minhyuk, who was standing on top of the fortress' ramparts. He made eye contact with each of them.

All of them held their breaths as they waited for his orders. Do they leave Elpis behind or do they fight those mysterious beings in front of them? Either of the two, they would follow his choice.

"Roger!!!"

"Okaaaaaaay!"

"Uwooooooooooh!"

The members of Let's Eat Sect all jumped up as if they had been waiting for this moment.

'The stun just a while ago was definitely the great demon's power. He can't actually bind us.'

The entire world was shocked to see them running forward.

[Player Minhyuk has made a decision!]

[Let's Eat Sect is not backing down!!! Right now, they're rushing towards the demons!!!]

[They look cool as they rush to save Diablo!!!]

[That's a very foolish decision!!! Players against demons is definitely impossible! So, why am I crying right now?!]

Meanwhile, Genie, who was also running forward, asked...

She thought that he would run together with them after he gave his orders. But then, Minhyuk said...

Ardo's Training Grounds was the first place that new Athenae players would step foot on. This was the place where they could learn many basic things, like how to attack through the scarecrow hitting quest, how to use the inventory, how the concept of stats worked and many other things. This was literally a tutorial point.

In this place, there were two people known as the neighborhood's specialty. These two people were none other than Instructor Valen and his wife, Instructor Roina. They always showed the other players a refreshing scene by dealing with the arrogant and cocky new players.

However, the players that had created their characters at this very day had no choice but to look around in confusion.

"What the hell?!"

"Where's the instructor?!"

The new players were bewildered. They were about to lose their cool until the instructor appeared. However, their instructor looked completely different from usual when he was instructing them in this tutorial zone. Today, he was wearing shiny and tough leather armor, with a well-maintained, sharp sword hanging on his waist.

"This guy will help you train today," The instructor said, turning around and walking forward after leaving them with another instructor. There, in the distance, stood a woman waiting for him. This woman was none other than his wife, Roina. She was the person that contributed greatly and made Instructor Valen a local specialty. After all, they usually worked in a pair when they dealt with the arrogant players! Roina was also wearing shiny silver full-plate armor with a spear in her hand.

"Wa... wait! Where are you going?! Is this something that NPCs can do?! What's more important than doing this?!" One of the players asked in disbelief.

Instructor Valen looked back at him with a smile and said, "Saving the world."

Then, the two people disappeared in a flash of light.

Chapter 452: For Elpis

The supreme ruler of the seas, the Dragon King, the king of the elves, Gorn, and Crown Prince Argon, a once in a thousand year genius, all nodded at once as they made eye contact.

"Retreat. Run as far as you can from this place!!!"

"Everyone, run away!!!"

"Yes. We understand!"

"Retreaaaaaat!!!"

"Retreat as far as you can!!!"

The elves and the seafolk retreated quickly. They knew that the great demon and the three demons that he summoned were far beyond what they could handle. But as they retreated, they suddenly realized something.

"D... Dragon King?" Kiari, who was hurriedly ordering the seafolks to retreat, turned back with shaking pupils.

The Dragon King just smiled kindly at her and said, "Hurry and go, Kiari."

"N... no. Let's go together, Dragon King!!! We have to go together! If you stay here then..." Kiari could not bear to finish her words.

The Dragon King just smiled at her and said, "I've already died once."

That was right. He had already died once. The Dragon King looked at the member of Let's Eat Sect running towards Verus. That man that loved food had saved him from the grasps of Great Mage Arfield. Because of that, their Dragon Palace became stronger and produced more talents. It was the Dragon Palace that he made for him. So, this time, it was time for him to fight for his sake.

"Hurry and go. Kiari, this is an order."

"Ah... aaaaaaaaah...!"

Kiari felt frustrated. Jevis, with her teary eyes, hugged Kiari and dragged her back to retreat.

"You have to survive. You must survive and live to protect the Dragon Palace!" The Dragon King said with a watery smile on his face as he looked away from them.

Elf King Gorn, the elves' absolute ruler that had sat on his 'throne' for hundreds of years, approached Prince Argon. Elvenheim might still be reeling from the Demon World's attack on them, but the fact that he was an excellent and outstanding ruler would never change. He placed the crown, which was made from the branches and flowers of the World Tree, on Argon's head.

"My... my king..."

"Argon. From now on, you will be the king of Elvenheim."

"N... no! You have to go with me!"

"You are qualified enough. This is my last order as your king."

Then, Gorn turned to look at the elven warriors that were still standing in front of him, unable to take a step away nor retreat, "Protect and lead Argon to Elveheim! You must all survive!!!"

"...I heed your orders!"

"I heed your orders!!!"

Argon ran with the elven warriors with tears in his eyes. The Dragon King, with his huge trident and Elf King Gorn, with his bow, stood side by side.

"Why didn't you go?"

"I'm already old. The Dragon Palace needs a new king. Gorn, why didn't you leave?"

"So, we're thinking about the same thing."

For hundreds of years, the two of them hated each other. But now, they were standing together with smiles on their faces.

[Where do you think you're going? I won't let a single one of you go!!!]

Then, Great Demon Verus slammed his palms on the ground. The explosion broke the ground and traveled towards Gorn and the Dragon King, intending to drag the retreating elves and seafolk as well. Seeing the approaching explosions, the Dragon King slammed his trident on the ground.

Fwooooooooosh-

A huge tidal wave appeared and tried to stop the incoming explosion. Elf King Gorn also moved and pulled his bow.

Shwaaaaaaaaak—

Flaaaaaaaash—

The moment his arrow hit the ground, a huge shield appeared.

Baaaaaang—

Finally, the explosion and the tidal wave collided.

"Ugh!" The Dragon King, who was controlling the tidal wave groaned as his body got pushed back. It seemed like it was hard to contain the explosion even though he gave it his all. Elf King Gorn's shield stopped the shockwave from the collision of the tidal wave and the explosion.

Craaaaaack—

"Ugh!"

"Keheok!"

But in the end, the shield could not hold out for long. It shattered into pieces and allowed the explosion to hit them.

"Keuhaaaaaaaack!"

"Urk!!!"

The Elf King and the Dragon King could not escape and received tremendous damage. But even though the pain from the explosion seared through their bodies, all they did was look back to watch the elves and the Dragon Palace's seafolks safe escape. The two of them smiled bitterly at each other, before running straight towards Great Demon Verus.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

A huge explosion swept the members of Let's Eat Sect the moment Flauros swung his spear. The explosion caused by his spear was stronger than any skill ever casted.

[He just swung his spear but the power that it packed is ridiculously explosive!]

[It's like I'm seeing a dragon's breath. No, it's far scarier than that.]

The explosive power of the spear alone made everyone watching the scene believe that the members of Let's Eat Sect would die. That was not all, Great Demon Verus was also enraged.

[I will rip apart all of the people that you care about!!!]

Every time Great Demon Verus' fire sword and Elpis' sword collided, a huge explosion would occur.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

To be honest, Great Demon Verus only thought of the humans that were trying to oppose him as insignificant beings. It was only natural of him. After all, it did not matter how weak the demons had become, the fact that they were absolute beings that towered over these humans would not change. These puny humans would never be able to win against them.

Just as these thoughts flashed in his head...

Puhaaaaaaaaa—

Shwaaaaaaa—

...the members of Let's Eat Sect jumped out of the cloud of dust that arose from the explosion one after the other.

[...?!]

Great Demon Verus was a bit shocked to see lesser injuries than he expected on the bodies of the members of Let's Eat Sect. Flauros was a fire demon, the fire that he created had attack power that was comparable to Verus' own.

'How come? How come these people did not incur that much damage?'

"Uwoooooooh!"

Khan, the one leading the group, as well as the guild members and Named NPCs that were following right behind him, were all shrouded in some sort of extraordinary effect.

"Exploding Fire Fist!" Khan shouted as blazing flames appeared and covered his fists. Demon Flauros sneered at the sight as he threw his spear to counter the fists.

Crackle, crackle, crackle—

The moment Flauros' spear collided with Khan's fist...

Boom—

...the scene that Flauros expected did not happen. Khan's fist did not get blown away, it did not even budge despite going against Flauros. In fact, the one that backed down from the encounter was Flauros, who retrieved his spear.

Dash-

Khan immediately dashed forward when he saw Flauros grabbing his spear. He sent his fist flying straight towards the demon's face.

"Do you think your measly human fist can scratch my body?" Flauros sneered. He was a demon that exceeded the power of the strongest being on earth, a dragon. He did

not think that he would receive any damage even if that fist slammed into him. But then...

Punch—

"Keheok?!" Flauros' breath was caught in his throat, his head swinging fiercely to the side after getting hit by Khan's bare fist. He was even left in a bit of a dizzy daze from the impact.

"Giant's Battering!" Khan casted as dozens of his fists pounded all over Flauros' body.

Flauros shrieked as he felt a searing pain, a sensation that he had never felt in his life, every time Khan's fists smashed into his body, "Keuhaaaaaaaaaaaaacak!"

And finally, Khan's final strike landed into Flauros and...

Puuuuuunch—

...made him fly back. Even though Great Demon Verus witnessed it with his own eyes, he still could not bring himself to believe it.

The worst part? There were two women waiting for Flauros to fall.

One of the two was a woman with long silver hair that reached her waist and katanas on both her hands. This woman was Ascar, the Goddess of the Battlefield. The other was wearing a shabby helmet pulled down to her nose, with a good quality sword in her hand. This woman was Minhyuk's Extreme Hardcore Fan, the disguised Sword Emperor Ellie. Of course, Ellie had also eaten Minhyuk's delicious meal.

Ascar swung her sword in the air as she casted, "Ghost's Massacre" and sent hundreds of weapons that stabbed, cut, slashed at the falling Flauros.

"Keuhaaaaaaaack!" Flauros shrieked loudly once again. Of course, Ellie did not let the opportunity pass by and...

[Overlord's Swordsmanship Chapter 2. Lion's Stretch.]

...struck Flauros with her sword.

"Keuhaaaaack?!" This time, Flauros shrieked in disbelief. The pain that he felt from this blow was on an entirely different level from the pain that he felt from the other woman's attack earlier. This attack made him feel like his body was being torn apart whenever the woman swung her sword and struck his body. The most painful part was Ellie flying once again to strike at his vital points one after the other.

Stab-

"Keuaaack! Ack! Ughhhh! S... Stoooooop!"

The whole world watched as the demon begged Ellie to stop. Sweat pooled at the palm of the viewers' hands as they continued to watch the scene. Someone even muttered unconsciously, "Let's Eat Sect is crazy..."

However, the woman's sword did not stop. She continued to strike Flauros' vital points.

[Overlord's Swordsmanship Chapter 12. Lion Stalking its Prey.]

"Keuhaaaaaaack!"

Right now, Ellie had received Minhyuk's cooking buff. So what if they were facing demons? All of them, including the members of Let's Eat Sect, were several times stronger than usual. In other words, Great Demon Verus and the demons had chosen the wrong day to descend.

[Overlord's Swordsmanship Chapter 7. Lion's Forelegs' Strike.]

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

Flauros got sent straight down into the ground, his body twitching helplessly. Great Demon Verus, although a direct witness to the scene, could not believe his own eyes. He thought, '*Did the Gods come down as a group?!*'

Verus' pupils shook widely.

At the same time.

Although the war was at its climax and everyone was fighting for their lives, Minhyuk sat still and focused on the Bizarre Rice Cake Set in front of him. This Bizarre Rice Cake Set was something that he made when he was making the dishes for his guild members. Minhyuk planned to use his 'Overlapping Delight' skill after eating his Bizarre Rice Cake Set. The problem was that he only had one legendary grade dish right now.

- ? STR and AGI will increase by 31%.
- ? Your sword's basic attack will increase by 300%.
- ? Ellie's Swordsmanship's MP consumption and skill cooldown will decrease by 30%.
- ? Ellie's Swordsmanship's attack will increase by 30%.
- ? You can use the Sword of Absolute Death two times in a row.
- ? Upon consumption, you will recover 100% of your HP, MP and release all of your abnormal states.
- ? Upon consumption, the effect that's best suited for your needs will be activated for an hour.

The effects of this single dish alone was ridiculously amazing. Unfortunately, these effects were not enough.

'To cut down the Great Demon Verus...'

Minhyuk needed greater power. The problem was that this was the only dish that Minhyuk had on his hands with such extraordinary effects. This meant that he had to make something right now. So, he pondered for a moment about what he wanted to cook before finally making a decision.

'I'll make some Spicy Braised Chicken. Hang in there and endure, guys.'

Minhyuk was fully aware that even if his guild members were doing well right now, their enemies had yet to show the full extent of their powers. So, he began to cook.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

Elpis threw up a mouthful of black blood after getting hit by Verus' sword, "Urk!"

Verus looked at the members of Let's Eat Sect that drove the demons to a corner. Seeing them run freely among his men made him feel compelled to cut them down as quickly as he could. But just as he was about to take a step...

Step, step, step—

...the eerie sound of footsteps accompanied by a tremendous killing intent rang near Verus, making his ugly face turn even uglier. The encroaching killing intent felt like a lion was stalking its prey.

Great Demon Verus had seen a lot of absolute beings, but he had never felt such an absolute and terrifying energy before. When Verus turned towards the direction of the killing intent, he saw a man walking leisurely towards him.

"What are you looking at?" The man said. Strangely enough, it sounded like 'What the f*ck are you looking at me for?'.

[...?]

Then, the man snapped, "I don't like the way your eyes look. Make sure you look at others kindly next time."

[...?]

Verus was left speechless.

'Doesn't this sound like those chuunibyou humans that curse others for making eye contact with them?! And my eyes are naturally fierce and vicious, how can I make them look at others kindly?!'

Verus felt his anger flare. Then, the man, Brod, turned to look at Elpis' collapsed figure before casting his skill. Brod also had a skill with a tremendous penalty that could allow him to hunt one person. It was mainly because of the huge penalty that he was not able to use it before.

"Wolf's Unquestionable Triumph."

Then, at that moment...

Slaaaaaaaash—

...Brod swung his sword once. It was just once. However, the red energy that flew out of his sword, carrying an additional 4,000% attack, completely ignored Verus' defenses and stabbed through him.

[Keuhaaaaaaaaack?!]

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

That was not all. Explosions burst out of Veru's body immediately after the sword stabbed through him, causing even more damage to him.

However, even though his body exploded strangely, Verus' regeneration was quick and swift. Still, Verus felt both shocked and enraged. What in the world was this human in front of him?! But when he saw Brod take a step forward, Verus unconsciously took a step back while hurriedly stuttering out...

[I, I was born with these eyes!!! I can't make them look nicer!!!]

The viewers that watched the scene realized...

[That... Verus looks scared, right...?]

[Yeah, he looks scared... Ha... ha.]

Chapter 453: For Elpis

The video of the Great Demon Verus and the demons' invasion had garnered the highest ratings in the history of Athenae! Most of the game broadcasting stations had exceeded 50% of their viewership rating, an unbelievable record that caused most people to reevaluate their views about Let's Eat Sect!

[So, the Food God is not really the strongest in Let's Eat Sect, huh...]

[That's crazy! Did you see Khan's fist? Doesn't it look like the demons can't do anything everytime he punches them?]

[How about Diablo and that thug NPC? Did you see him beating the hell out of Verus because his eyes aren't nice? Verus was also scared of him.]

[Let's Eat Sect is the best.]

The talented rankers all over the world were all tongue-tied at the amazing potential that Let's Eat Sect was showing right now. However, not long after, they realized...

[The great demon and the demons have limitless regenerative abilities, right?]

[Ah, come to think of it, why aren't the demonic beasts and the enslaved beings behind the demons not yet moving?]

One of the 72 Devils, Zagan, was leading a legion made up of hundreds of demonic beasts. There were also hundreds of slaves of various races tied with chains behind the old demon, Forcas. All of them have not yet made their move. It was as if they were testing the power of their enemies before they made their move.

The members of Let's Eat Sect were already starting to get tired from pushing and pressuring the demons.

'What the hell is this incredible regenerative power?'

'We don't have any chance of winning...'

There were quite a lot of monsters with tremendous and shocking regenerative abilities. However, they had never seen anyone that could continuously regenerate like the demons in front of them. Even if they incurred just a little injury, their HP seemed to instantly reach 100% again.

And Flauros, who was twitching on the ground by Khan's side, murmured...

[This is definitely shocking. How can a human be as powerful as a God?]

"...?"

Khan looked at Flauros in doubt. When he turned around, he saw Zagan, the demon that Crow, Ace, Conir and Ghost Spear Ben were putting pressure on, smiling.

[I wonder how long you can fight against us? We're only using a fifth of our powers, you know?]

'Wh, what did you say...?'

'A fifth?!'

'What kind of bullshit is that?!'

Listening to their words made the members of Let's Eat Sect tremble. They were putting their lives on the line, having a hard time fighting against enemies that had their powers sealed to that extent? If that was the case, then how strong would they be if the demons were at their full strength?

[Will you allow me to release the seal that restricts my power, O' Great Demon?]

Verus, who had just been beaten by Brod, grinned at Zagan's question.

[I grant you your request.]

At the end of Verus' words, several bottles of potions appeared in Zagan's hands. Demons were beings equipped with their own special attributes. In the field of alchemy, Zagan's characteristics were special enough to rival that of a God's. The purple liquid sloshing in the bottles in his hands suggested that a part of their power would be unsealed and restored.

"Stop hiiiiiiim!!!"

"Break those things!!!"

The members of Let's Eat Sect shouted in agitation. Elf King Gorn's arrows that were made of light sped through the air and aimed for the bottles of potions in Zagan's hands.

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

Crack—

But Forcas approached him in an instant and broke the arrows that he sent out. The members of Let's Eat Sect, the Dragon King, Elf King Gorn, and other Named NPCs immediately rushed forward.

But then, the black hawk on Flauros' shoulder moved.

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

The black hawk moved so fast that none of them could follow it with their own eyes. And with every flap of its wings, a huge explosion would burst out in their ranks and knock them down. And amidst the explosions, they saw...

Pop—

Pop-

Pop-

...Great Demon Verus, Zagan, Flauros and Forcas opening the bottles of potions filled with sloshing purple liquid and gulping them down.

Gulp, gulp, gulp—

Their throats moved as they continued to gulp the potion. Crow, who had collapsed on the ground from the explosions, rushed forward with his spear.

"We have to kill them now!!!" He shouted while running. However, the notifications that rang right after brought him immense shock.

[Great Demon Verus is devouring the demonic energy in the surroundings!]

[Humans will not be able to fight against this powerful force.]

[All of your stats will decrease by 20%. Your attack's success rate will also decrease by 40%.]

[Your Physical and Magical Defenses will decrease by 30%.]

[The tremendous amount of demonic energy in the surrounding area has shackled you. If you get attacked under this state, you will receive double the damage.]

Still, Crow did not stop in his tracks. He continued to dash forward and thrust his spear to pierce through the neck of the old demon, Forcas. Alas, Forcas was one step faster than him, and had already lightly swung his scythe against him.

Slaaaaash-

[Your HP has fallen below 10%!]

[More than 80% of your HP has been shaved off in one go.]

[You have received a strong attack, you will not be able to control your body.]

"Keheok?!"

Crow collapsed on the ground. He could not stand up and could only twitch helplessly. Then, hundreds of potion bottles floated around Zagan, before soaring to the skies and falling on the ground and exploding.

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

[Your HP has fallen below 50%!]

[You have been subjected to Demon Zagan's potions.]

[You will experience tremendous pain, as if you're being burned from the poison in the potion.]

 $[The \ burning \ pain \ will \ make \ it \ harder \ for \ you \ to \ control \ your \ body.]$

"Keuhaaaaack!"

"Euaaaaack!"

The members of Let's Eat Sect that were hit directly by the explosions from the potions screamed loudly. The explosions were so powerful that they shaved off 30% of their HP in one go. The worst part?

Clack—

Clack—

Clack—

Clack—

The slaves shackled by chains standing behind Forcas started to move.

"Chwiiiiiiik!"

Baaaaaaaaang—

One of the enslaved orcs punched Khan.

"Kghhhhhk! Wha, what kind of orc is this...?!"

If Demon Zagan was the master of alchemy, then Forcas was a demon that dragged countless beings down into the Demon World to make them his slaves. Through Forcas' rigorous training, brainwashing, and torture, his slaves had become ten times more powerful than their original power.

Fwooooooosh-

One of the enslaved elves shot an arrow that pierced through Elf King Gorn's shoulder.

"Urk!" Gorn groaned as he collapsed on the ground from the pain. The Dragon King rushed forward to protect him. But not long after, Flauros' black hawk passed by the Dragon King and set off another explosion.

"Keuaaaaaaaack!"

The explosion caused the Dragon King's left arm to bend strangely and left one of his legs broken. All the Dragon King could do was fall down helplessly, his eyes wandering around in despair. He watched as Verus swung his sword and sent out thousands of explosions simultaneously.

"Huff!"

Brod did not let out a groan, despite being engulfed in the explosion. But when the cloud of dust settled, his figure was completely haggard and devastated. Blood was dripping from his head and his body was covered with the debris from the explosion. Elpis was also struggling to stand up to fight against Verus once again.

But it was completely useless. In another area, the NPCs and members of Let's Eat Sect were collapsing one after the other. Their eyes were showing the mounting desperation.

"It's over..." The Dragon King murmured as he looked up at the sky helplessly.

Brod was flustered after seeing the sudden leap in Great Demon Verus' power.

'How...'

He was at a level where Brod could not do anything against him. Great Demon Verus was fear and terror in and of itself. He was completely different from when he told him to open his eyes and make them look nicely earlier.

"Mercenary's Pinnacle Swordsmanship's Final Chapter. Wolf's Death."

Thousands of red wolves dashed towards Verus. But when Verus snapped his fingers...

[Great Demon's Attribute.]

[The nullification attribute has been triggered.]

Swooooooosh-

...Brod's strongest AOE skill was rendered useless in one go.

'The Great Demon's Attribute is equivalent to the God's Authority in power...'

The concept of the God's Authority was similar to the King's Authority. However, the two were most definitely not comparable. Brod swung his sword to try and stop Great Demon Verus' sword.

Baaaaaaaang—

Unfortunately, he could only fly back helplessly while throwing up a mouthful of black blood the moment his sword collided with Great Demon Verus' sword.

"Urk!"

[Human, didn't you say that I should look kindly? Huh? Keuhahahahahaha!]

Great Demon Verus guffawed. Just when he was about to step towards Brod...

Clatter, clatter—

...Elpis, who was lying on the ground, threw his scythe and wound its chains around Verus' ankle.

Crack—

Shockingly enough, the chains of his scythe broke the moment Great Demon Verus grabbed it with his hands.

Crack—

[Watch closely, Diablo. Your foolish decision will kill all of those that you love.]

Verus grabbed Elpis by the head and forced him to look at the terrible hell that surrounded them. The scene of Ghost Spear Ben falling on the ground as the enslaved orcs, elves and ogres pushed him back was seared in Elpis' eyes. There was also Best Selling Author Aruvel, who was forced on

his knee with a broken arm, struggling to stand up and fight. The members of Let's Eat Sect were also screaming non-stop.

"…"

Tears welled up in Elpis' eyes as he fell into deep sorrow. But then, he suddenly remembered what Minhyuk told him.

'Elpis, why do you always cry? If you cry again, I will call you Wolfis. Huh? Speaking of Wolfis, I suddenly want to have some Koolpis! Keuhahahaha!'

Recalling Minhyuk's words was enough to bring a smile to his face. So, he smiled. After all, this was what his lord had ordered him.

[Have you gone mad? You're smiling when you're already in this situation?!]

Verus sneered as he threw Elpis to the ground. Verus knew that he did not have enough time to stay in this place, he had to end everything right now. So, he leapt to the skies as a blazing black flame wrapped around his hands.

[Demon's Blazing Flame]

[Your attack will increase by 7,000%. Everything within a 500 meter radius will be extinguished.]

The flames in his hands had far more destructive power than a dragon's breath. The area that it could cover was also huge. When the flames in his hands grew large enough, he released it below him. A simple glance at this flame would tell anyone that it was more than enough to kill everyone, including the members of Let's Eat Sect, and even remove Valhalla Fortress from the map.

'I don't have any regrets...'

Elpis did not have any regrets. He was glad that before he died, he was still a man that served the lord named Minhyuk. He cried with him, laughed with him, and shared stories with him in his territory. He really enjoyed their time together. Even if he died now, he really would not have any regrets. However, there was one thing that he wanted to do, even if it cost him his life. He wanted to protect everyone here.

Elpis' 'Devil Judge' consisted of several chapters. He had a skill that was similar to Devil Judge's Sword's 'Berserk', a skill that strengthened and increased his power, but was a cut above it in terms of power and could be considered as one of his extreme penalty skills.

This skill was none other than 'Judge's Wrath'. It could triple his attack and defense for ten seconds. Once the ten seconds was up, his HP would plummet to 2%. But with the situation right now, having only 2% HP would spell Elpis' death.

"Judge's Wrath."

Shwaaaaaaaaaa—

A tremendous amount of demonic energy burst out of Elpis' body. Then, he flew up to counter the falling Demon's Blazing Flame that had already grown larger than a meteor. While everyone had fallen into the depths of despair, only Elpis stood up to fight.

"Elpis!!!"

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"Elpis!!!"
"N, no!!!"
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"Elpiiiiiiiiis!!!"

Everyone could tell that Elpis was sacrificing himself and they screamed his name.

The entire world shook from the shockwave of the collision between Elpis, who used Judge's Wrath, and Verus' Demon's Blazing Flame. It created a huge cloud of dust that covered everything.

In one of Joy Co. Ltd.'s meeting rooms.

President Kang Taehoon shut his eyes. In the end, Elpis chose to save everyone and go down the path of death. No, in fact, Elpis might have thought that he saved them, but in the end everyone present would still die.

A deep silence draped over the meeting room. None of them could see anything through the thick cloud of dust.

"Hoo," President Kang Taehoon sighed loudly as he stood up from his seat to try and open the window to release his frustration. But at that moment, strange and shocking notifications suddenly rang loudly in the otherwise silent meeting room.

[Player Minhyuk has sealed Demon Forcas.]

.

[Player Minhyuk has acquired Demon Forcas' Treasure.]

[Player Minhyuk has sealed Demon Zagan.]

[Player Minhyuk has acquired Demon Zagan's Treasure.]

[Player Minhyuk has sealed Demon Flauros.]

[Player Minhyuk has acquired Demon Flauros' Treasure.]

The notifications rang in intervals of around two to three seconds.

```
"…?!<mark>"</mark>
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"…?!"

"…?!<mark>"</mark>

Everyone was shocked. Then, President Kang Taehoon murmured in a trembling voice, "What the hell is going on within that cloud of dust...?"

The broadcasting stations' cameras were filming at different angles but it was still hard to see anything since everything was covered by the thick cloud of dust. Then, they suddenly saw the silhouette of someone falling rapidly down the ground.

Baaaaaaaaang—

A loud bang resonated through the screen. All of the people watching their screens assumed that the silhouette was Elpis.

[Right now, it seems like Diablo's figure has fallen down on the ground.]

[Will Diablo really die in the end?]

[We can assume that Diablo, who protected Let's Eat Sect until the very end, has taken his final breath.]

[We can hear the desperate shouts of the members of Let's Eat Sect. Ah, my heart hurts so much.]

Right above the place where the silhouette fell, another silhouette was reflected. The silhouette slowly descended from the sky as it looked down on Elpis' supposed collapsed figure. After a few tense minutes, the dust finally settled down. However, what greeted the entire world was a very shocking scene. The figure that fell down on the ground earlier was...

[Ve, Verus?!!]

[Great Demon Verus is the one that's stuck on the ground!]

[What, what in the world happened?!]

The other figure that was descending from the sky was a man with silver hair and eyes. The man carried Elpis in his hands with a soft smile on his face as he apologized, "Sorry, I'm late."

It was none other than Minhyuk.

Chapter 454: Verus vs. Let's Eat Sect

Twenty minutes ago.

Hell on earth literally unfolded in front of them. Some of the retreating troops fell down bleeding from all of their orifices, while some disappeared without a trace from the AOE attack that Great Demon Verus' sent out.

"Grandpa Ben!"

"We'll protect you!!!" Marquis Brad shouted, as he and the spearmen unit that he led jumped in front of Ben to defend against the power that stretched out from Great Demon Verus' sword. Some of the spearmen that jumped forward turned to gray and disappeared in a flash.

"Morons! Fools! Did I ask you to save me?! Why did you throw yourselves in front of me?! How can you do something so reckless!!!" Ben, who always nagged at them and made them bury their heads in the ground, screamed at them in despair.

"Conir... Conir's having a hard time... Conir feels like he's going to die..." Conir, who was usually sturdy and active, lost the shine in his eyes as he hung on his sword helplessly.

"Genie, are you alright?!"

"I'm, I'm fine! Urk!"

Each and everyone of them fought desperately to protect Valhalla.

Meanwhile, above the walls of Valhalla Fortress, Minhyuk had started cooking to protect and save them.

'You can't die on me, Elpis,'?Minhyuk thought, immense gratitude gushing from deep within his heart when he heard Elpis utter his name when he swore in the 'Book of Permanence'. Elpis believed in him and chose him, so Minhyuk had to answer that trust.

Just like that, he started to cook. He chopped up the chicken and placed them inside the pot of boiling water to remove the impurities. Then, he cut the potatoes beautifully, making sure to slice them in bite-sized pieces. After removing the scum from the pot, Minhyuk added the potatoes and around eight spoonfuls of red pepper powder. He preferred using red pepper powder and oligosaccharide, instead of red pepper paste, when making braised chicken. If he cooked it like this, the flavor that usually would get boring as time went by, would have that spicy and sweet aftertaste.

After letting it boil for quite some time, Minhyuk pulled the lid off the pot. As the steam cleared up, the brilliant and gleaming red color of the spicy braised chicken greeted him. Then, he adjusted the heat from high to low as he thought, 'Elpis, I still want to cook more dishes for you.'

The number of cuisines that Elpis had tasted could be counted in one hand. That was why Minhyuk wanted to cook a lot of tasty dishes for him.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

A loud bang, the sound of Elpis slamming on the ground, rang loudly.

"Elpis!!!" Brod's furious scream as he rushed forward to help Elpis rang in Minhyuk's ears. However, Minhyuk's concentration did not break. He needed to make the tastiest and most extraordinary dish right now. And the dish that he was making was entirely dependent on the intensity of the flames' heat and how many more seconds it needed to boil. Minhyuk focused and worked hard to make the most amazing braised spicy chicken. And finally...

[You have completed a Braised Spicy Chicken.]

[Your dish is the only dish with the buff effect.]

[The Create a Recipe Skill Effect can only be tasted by the same person once per month.]

[Trance. It's a dish that has your 'heart to protect' and 'concentration' poured into it.]

[Due to the effects of Trance, the buff effect has become better.]

[Legendary Grade.]

[You have gained 30 DEX.]

[You have gained 200 REP.]

[You have gained 5,000 AP.]

...he completed the dish. Minhyuk smiled in relief. He now had two dishes ready, the Bizarre Rice Cake Set and the Braised Spicy Chicken. He had to choose only one among these two dishes to be his main dish. And the dish that he chose was the Braised Spicy Chicken.

Steam rose from the hot white rice placed in front of him. The potato, which was gleaming red from the sauce, made him gulp unknowingly. The first thing that Minhyuk picked was the chicken leg.

"Wow..."

The steaming chicken leg covered with the bright red sauce made his mouth water. The heat of the chicken leg passed through his fingers that were holding the piece.

"Hot, hot," Minhyuk mumbled as he hurriedly took a bite of the chicken leg. The soft and juicy chicken leg entered his mouth, as the sweet and spicy sauce wrapped around his taste buds. The chicken leg was like the Braised Spicy Chicken's grand finale! A happy smile curled at the corners of his mouth. Then, he chomped on a spoonful of white rice.

'The sauce turned out really good.'

It was important to braise and boil the chicken perfectly in the Braised Spicy Chicken, but it was also important to make the sauce perfectly balanced.

This time, he poured the red sauce on top of his rice, before mixing it with his spoon. Then, he scooped a spoonful and placed it in his mouth. The thick sauce, together with the white, steaming rice, created a rich and fantastic harmony inside his mouth. Minhyuk then placed a piece of potato on top of his rice before pouring more sauce on top of it and mashing it together with the rice. Then, he scooped a spoonful of the rice, potato, and sauce, and added a piece of meat, before placing it in his mouth.

Chew, chew, chew—

An intense, enjoyable flavor spread in his mouth. This time, he scooped another spoonful of the rice, potato, sauce, and meat before adding his secret weapon, the seasoned and crispy seaweed, and placed the combination in his mouth.

"Wow~ As expected! The combination of sweet and salty is really the best~!"

The crispy seasoned seaweed, together with the spicy and sweet braised spicy chicken, created another burst of flavor in his mouth. Then, Minhyuk picked a piece of chicken wing and devoured the meat, leaving only the bones when he pulled it out of his mouth. After finishing his braised spicy chicken, Minhyuk stood up and looked at Verus in the sky and Elpis on the ground having a staring showdown.

Fall—

The bloodied and bruised Genie collapsed on her knees. Her whip's durability had already been spent and was already on the verge of breaking. All she could do was look around helplessly while

blood dripped down from her head. The demons were extremely strong. Even with Minhyuk's buffed dishes, it was still hard for them to fight against them.

"Aceeeeee!!!"

At that moment, Ace, who was struggling against Zagan's slaves, was forced to log out after receiving a hit from Forcas' scythe. Then, Great Demon Verus leapt into the skies and shot out a gigantic flame towards the ground. Elpis, with a sudden increase in power, jumped towards that tremendous force.

When they collided...

Boooooooooom-

...a powerful shockwave that felt like it was going to devour everything, spread out. It was so powerful that it seemed like it could even shake the skies. Then, at that moment...

Shwaaaaaaaa—

Genie felt her body move as if it was being sucked somewhere. The place where they were gathered was where Golden Mage Ali was. He squeezed the last of his powers to gather the NPCs and the members of Let's Eat Sect together with his 'Compress' magic and...

"Barrier."

...casted a golden barrier to protect the more than fifty people that he had gathered together.

"Keheuuuuk..."

"Aaaaargh..."

Elf King Gorn was left unconscious, while the Dragon King was sitting with a broken leg. Both of Khan's fists were in a bad shape from fighting against the demons, and even Black Dragon's armor was broken in several places.

"Elpis..."

Everyone wondered what happened to Elpis under the thick cover of dust that surrounded them. This was because he was the one that had to survive the most among them. Just then, Demon Zagan approached the golden barrier that protected them.

[Is this the humans' barrier?]

Zagan laughed loudly as Forcas and Flauros appeared next to him.

Baaaaaaaaang—

Forcas swung his scythe but the golden barrier remained firm.

[From what I heard, barriers like this restrict any and all kinds of attacks. It boasts absolute defense.]

Zagan grinned, his interest reaching its peak. Then, a bottle of potion filled with milky-white liquid appeared in his hands.

[But... is it really absolute?]

Sizzle—

The golden barrier began to melt the moment Zagan poured the milky-white liquid over it.

"That's, that's impossible...!" Ali shouted in shock and disbelief. Just how powerful were the demons?!

A small hole formed on the barrier which gradually grew in size. All of them turned to look at the hole in the barrier. What would happen if that hole grew large enough for them to pass by? The demons would most likely bombard them with their AOE attack skills.

If that happened, then everyone would be wiped out. The members of Let's Eat Sect were alright with dying. However, what they could not accept was the death of Ben, Aruvel, Conir, and Corr. After all, they only had one life, and one life alone.

Sizzle—

The small hole started to grow bigger and bigger.

[Keufufufufufufufu.]

[Keuhahahahahahaha!]

Their eerie laughter resonated loudly in the surrounding area. In the end, Forcas' hand was able to reach inside the barrier. Ali could not make a decision. Should he terminate the barrier or should he let it stay as it was?

But no matter what decision he made, the result would still be the same. They would still die. Then, mass teleporting them? From what it looked like, he did not have the time to cast the spell. Besides, his MP had already tanked out a long time ago.

"Damn! Goddamnit!"

"No! These f*ckers!"

"Kyaaaaaaack!"

The light in Genie's eyes lost their luster as screams rang rampant around her.

'Minhyuk...'

All she could do was earnestly and desperately call for the name of one person in her heart. Then, at that moment...

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

A crack rang loudly from behind the demons as a mysterious die that sprinkled a golden light appeared from within the gaps of the dust.

Roll, roll, roll, roll—

After rolling several times, bright markings pierced through the thick cloud of dust as the numbers rose higher and higher.

"A six...?" Genie murmured to herself.

The person that threw the die was none other than Minhyuk. And the ability that he was using was the God of Cooking's Secret.

[Overlapping Delight.]

[You can now receive the effects of two dishes.]

[The duration of the buff effect will depend on the number that the die will cast.]

Minhyuk smiled brightly when he saw the markings on the die rise until it reached six.

[The die has been cast! You have rolled a six!]

[The Overlapping Delight's buff effect will last for seven minutes!]

[You have rolled a six, your EXP Acquisition Rate will double for seven minutes!]

[You have received the effects of the Legendary Grade Bizarre Rice Cake Set and the Legendary Grade Braised Spicy Chicken.]

[Your STR and AGI has increased by 51%!]

[Your sword's basic attack has increased by 500%!]

[Ellie's Swordsmanship's skill level has increased by +4!]

[Ellie's Swordsmanship's MP consumption and Cooldown has decreased by 70%!]

[Ellie's Swordsmanship's Attack Power has increased by 60%!]

[You can ignore the Sword of Absolute Death's cooldown and use it three times in a row!]

[All of your HP and MP has been restored!]

[You have received the effects!]

[With your artifact, stats, and buff effects, you have become a player that has the power that could cut down even the Gods.]

Minhyuk's hair and eyes turned silver, which brought him a different charm and beauty than usual. His looks—wide eyes, sharp jawline, nose like that of a foreigner's—exuded brilliance and elegance.

At that moment, the black demonic energy that swirled out of Forcas' hands moved as if it was trying to make a riot inside the barrier.

"Minhyuuuuuuuuk!" Genie cried loudly when she saw him. Then...

"Sword of Tempest."

Sword of Tempest was a skill that could release hundreds of blades in the surroundings. But with the +4 level increase in Ellie's Swordsmanship, the skill had changed.

[Sword of Tempest.]

[Thousands of blades with 800% additional damage flies at the speed of light and attacks your enemies.]

[While Sword of Tempest is in duration, your movement speed will increase by 300%.]

A blade suddenly pierced through Forcas, who had reached inside the barrier.

Stab—

[Keuaaaaaaaaaack?!]

Forcas' HP was reduced by more than 5% in an instant. Minhyuk's basic attack power had increased by 500%, and there was even an additional 800% damage added on top of it. This was the first damage that Demon Forcas has received.

The next thing he knew, 999 blades shot forward, stabbing through Forcas' back.

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh

"Keooooook...!"

Forcas could not even let out a single scream. His head fell down as one of the hundreds of blades slashed his neck. A demon's regenerative abilities were almost infinite. And the only way to ignore their regenerative abilities was to inflict a huge damage to their HP in one go. Forcas' body, which fell to the ground, turned into black demonic energy and scattered in the air.

[You have successfully sealed Demon Forcas.]

[You have acquired Forcas' Treasure 'Demon Forcas' Scythe'.]

[You have gained 1,862 Platinum.]

[You have acquired a fragment of the Demon's Sacred Relic.]

[You have gained 1,200,000,000 EXP.]

[Due to Overlapping Delight's special effect, the EXP that you have gained has doubled.]

[You have gained 1,200,000,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

"Mi, Minhyuk?!"

"Son... N, no. My Lord?!!"

[Wh, what?!]

The people in the barrier were all shocked after seeing Minhyuk seal the demon named Forcas in one go. And they were not the only ones that were shocked. Even Zagan and Flauros were shocked.

[How, how did this happen...?!]

'How could a human seal a demon in one go?!'

They did not have any time to turn around and escape to prepare. Hundreds of blades flew and pierced through Zagan's body.

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh—

Zagan's body fell down to the ground, turned into black demonic energy, and scattered in the air.

[You have successfully sealed Demon Zagan.]

[You have acquired Zagan's Treasure 'Alchemy...omitted.]

Minhyuk immediately appeared in front of Flauros, who called for his black hawk.

[Scattering Sword.]

Minhyuk's Scattering Sword usually multiplied his basic damage by x8, but now it could multiply it by as high as x17. His sword slammed straight down Flauros' head.

Baaaaaaaaaaang—

Starting with Flauros' head, a powerful force exploded inside him. That was not the end, the explosion even affected the ground below him and crushed it to dust.

[You have successfully sealed Demon Flauros.]

[You have acquired Flauros' Treasure 'Black Hawk'...omitted.]

But the notifications did not end there. After Minhyuk sealed the three demons at once, a shocking set of notifications rang for him.

[You have sealed three demons in a row!]

[It's a very amazing feat! Even the Gods are impressed!]

[The Absolute Gods are watching over you.]

[You are the first one to receive the attention of a lot of Absolute Gods.]

[The fact that you have gained the attention of the Absolute Gods is very unusual.]

[The Absolute Gods will give you a reward if you successfully seal Great Demon Verus.]

They were very unexpected and shocking notifications.

Chapter 455: Verus vs. Let's Eat Sect

Minhyuk looked at the notifications suspiciously. It was just recently that he acquired his ridiculous skill 'Overlapping Delight', from a bet with the God of Cooking, one of the Absolute Gods. But right now, there were several Absolute Gods that were paying attention and watching Minhyuk with interest.

That was when Minhyuk recalled one of the stories that he had heard before, according to which, Great Demon Verus and the demons could not descend on earth at will because the Gods had put a restriction on them to maintain order.

'Are they happy because they would be able to seal Verus through me?'

However, Minhyuk could not afford to dwell and ponder on these thoughts.

"H... how...!"

"Minhyuk...?"

"Crazy...!"

All of the members of Let's Eat Sect sitting inside the barrier looked at Minhyuk in shock after witnessing him seal the demons in a single move. The power that Minhyuk was wielding right now was completely beyond any of their imagination.

'He looks like he will be able to win even if all of the Summit Five appeared right here and now, right?'

In fact, with the condition that Minhyuk was in right now, there was a high chance that the Summit Five would lose even if they attacked him all together. Of course, that was just what they thought.

However, Minhyuk's 'Overlapping Delight' was dependent on the number that the die cast and the grade of the dishes that he had. Minhyuk was able to overlap the buff effects of two legendary grade dishes, and thanks to the die rolling a six, he was able to gain seven minutes of buff duration.

If he had been unlucky and the die only rolled a one, he would have only been able to wield this power for a mere fifteen seconds.

"Sorry, I'm late," Minhyuk said. However, he did not have much time so he did not say anything else. He started to run towards the thick cloud of dust that covered everything, until he saw Elpis and Verus' figures.

'So he used the Judge's Wrath, huh...'

Minhyuk also knew about the Judge's Wrath. It was a top-level berserk skill with ridiculous power. However, its penalty was as high as the power that it could give. This was especially the case for NPCs. The penalty that NPCs would receive was higher, with only 2% of their HP remaining after the skill had been cast.

From the looks of it, Elpis seemed to have decided to sacrifice himself to offset and counter most of the power of the Demon's Blazing Flame.

Then, Minhyuk saw Great Demon Verus reached out for Elpis, who was crashing straight towards the ground, to finish him off.

Daaaaaaash---

Minhyuk kicked the ground and flew towards them. He was so fast that he was already in front of Verus before Verus could even grab Elpis' neck.

"Sword of Frenzy."

The Sword of Frenzy would be able to exert its greatest power if it successfully hit the target's vital point. Originally, the skill would give Minhyuk an additional 400% damage if he successfully hit his opponent's vital point, and it would immediately be followed by six consecutive hits with additional 100% damage.

On top of that, it could also deal eight consecutive attacks with an additional 100% damage to all of his enemies within a five meter radius.

Currently, the Sword of Frenzy had become more powerful than before. The additional damage upon successful hit on the enemy's vital point had increased to 2,000% and the six consecutive hits that followed had increased to twenty one hits, with additional 500% damage.

Stab-

[Keuhaaaaaaack?!]

Verus screamed in shock as the notifications rang in his ears.

[Your HP has dropped by more than 20%.]

[You temporarily cannot move your body at will due to the strong impact that you have received.]

Verus, who could only move his head, turned to look at the man that attacked him. The man had silver hair and eyes, and was completely unrecognizable to him. But before he could think about the identity of this man, the twenty one consecutive hits slammed into him.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

[Keheeeeeok?!]

Great Demon Verus was a god-like existence in the Demon World. The power that he could wield was so strong that even many of the Gods feared him. But now, his eyes were rolling back as a desperate scream was ripped out of his mouth, and his body...

Baaaaaaaaaaang—

...crashed straight down to the ground. Minhyuk quickly hugged the falling Elpis, before slowly descending.

"Sorry, I'm late."

"...My lord."

Elpis' body was completely tattered. Both of his arms that held his sword were broken, his head was bleeding profusely, and his entire body was covered in burns. However, his lips curled into a wide and bright smile, the most beautiful smile that he could muster, the moment he saw Minhyuk.

Minhyuk smiled lightly as he landed on the ground and said, "I have to finish this quickly," before casting 'Sword of Absolute Death' towards Verus, who was still stuck and unmoving on the ground.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

Verus' body bounced high from the ground with every hit of the sword light that flew from Minhyuk's sword.

[Keuaaaaaaack!]

Sword of Absolute Death was Minhyuk's strongest attack skill. Verus was receiving all of the damage from this attack. However, right after the Sword of Absolute Death's duration ended, and when Verus was about to move again...

"Sword of Absolute Death."

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

...another set of powerful and explosive sword lights rained down on him.

[The only thing that I can say about this is... crazy...]

[Isn't Player Minhyuk's appearance a bit glamorous? And he's completely overwhelming Great Demon Verus in terms of power, right?]

[Silver hair and silver eyes. He looks completely different from usual, but he still looks so cool. And towards what seems to be the most powerful monster in Athenae... Ah, Verus seems like he can't even control his body anymore.]

Right now, the entire world was looking at Minhyuk in shock.

Knight Lauvredo once dreamt of becoming Barras Kingdom's knight commander. In fact, he had the ability to become a kingdom's knight commander, a fact that showcased how amazing a man he was and how shocking his abilities were. Truth was, Lauvredo was comparable to Ghost Spear Ben and Paladin Corr in power.

Lauvredo had led 100,000 troops in the war between Ethos Kingdom and Barras Kingdom, fighting for days on end to protect and make sure that his kingdom would survive and prosper. However, after ten, then twenty days of fighting, he realized that their rations and supplies had run out.

'What about the support?! Are the transport troops coming?!'

The kingdom's troops continued to fight hard for their families, hoping to survive and live until the day they could meet with them again. They waited for their kingdom's support to arrive as they fought an endless battle.

Unfortunately, the support never came.

'The supply route must have been blocked! Those Ethos bastards!'

In the end, Lauvredo and more than a thousand of his troops were captured. That was when he realized...

'Ah, King Grain has abandoned us.'

Ethos Kingdom and Barras Kingdom were in the middle of a war and the final battle between the Ethos Kingdom's troops and Lauvredo's troops were only held so they could determine which kingdom would gain more land. Not long after that battle, Barras Kingdom and Ethos Kingdom signed a peace treaty.

As prisoners of war, Lauvredo and his surviving troops did not have the heart to come back to their kingdom. So, they all settled down in a place where prisoners of war and war orphans lived together.

That was when they met a great man in the form of 'Talmor'. Lauvredo took the position of a branch manager and came running to save this great man. Only then did Lauvredo realize, '*This is not the time for me to serve... Talmor...*'

The moment they arrived, he witnessed the descent of Great Demon Verus. He felt extremely afraid and wanted to escape right away. Lauvredo hoped for the man named Elpis to quickly go with the great demon. But, as it turned out, Elpis chose Minhyuk.

'That's stupid!'

Lauvredo thought that the Let's Eat Sect would abandon him. No, they had to abandon him. To his shock, that did not happen. Let's Eat Sect risked their lives and even the kingdom that they were going to build and fought to protect Elpis. All of them fought, and even died for the sake of one person alone.

And now, even their king, the king that they followed and believed in, fought for this person and even went so far as to put a pressure on the being hailed as the great demon.

'Anyone looking at this would say that its stupid. But...'

For some reason, Lauvredo felt his heart burn, not because he thought that the king and his vassals were stupid but...

'I want to serve him,'?Lauvredo thought.

And, just like him, there were plenty of other people who had the same thought.

Twitch—

Minhyuk was speechless. After using the Sword of Frenzy, he used the Sword of Absolute Death twice in a row. Even after all that, Great Demon Verus' fingers had already started to twitch as his body regenerated at a rapid pace.

"That's crazy..."

Minhyuk was left speechless after seeing how powerful Verus was.

'If that's the case then I can only use that method...'

The method that he thought of was crude and only entailed everyone rushing forward and using their strongest attack skill on Verus. Since the members of Let's Eat Sect had received the strongest buff from Minhyuk's buffed dishes, there was a high chance that they could force Verus' HP to reach zero in one go, if they attacked together with the Named NPCs.

In fact, they risked facing a great catastrophe if this attack failed. Everyone nodded at Genie after they heard the situation from her. But then, at that moment...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

...a powerful force appeared and covered Verus, who was still stuck on the ground.

[Great Demon's Attribute.]

[The resurrection attribute has been triggered.]

?Minhyuk's face turned ugly as shocking notifications rang in his ears.

[Great Demon Verus' HP and MP have reached 100%.]

[Great Demon Verus' resurrection attribute can only be triggered once.]

[Great Demon Verus' does not have much time and has to go back to the Demon World soon.]

[Great Demon Verus' has become 1.3x more powerful than before.]

[The strengthened Great Demon Verus will be able to use half of the 72 Devils' attributes.]

"This is f*cking driving me nuts..."

They were now in a situation where they had no choice but to step forward even if they did not want to. The Great Demon Verus had become even more powerful than before.

Even at their best, they could only shave off some of his HP, but that measly damage was immediately refilled by his insane regeneration. The fact that he was 1.3x stronger than before was already a cause for headache.

The worst part was the fact that he could use half of the 72 Devils' attributes. Of course, if Great Demon Verus had all of his power at his disposal, then all of the 72 Devils' attributes would be available to him. Thankfully, he had forced his descent, which resulted in a considerable slash in his power. Even so, each of the attributes of the 72 Devils were extremely powerful. Then...

[Baal's Spear.]

Swoooooooooosh-

A gigantic black spear flew at the speed of light and pierced through Minhyuk's heart, which was immediately followed by another set of shocking notifications.

[Baal's Spear ignores all defenses.]

[Upon successful hit, Baal's Spear will incur an additional 10,000% damage.]

"...???"

A power with additional 10,000% damage was completely, and utterly, ridiculous. Baal's Spear was a pinnacle one-shot kill skill that even Baal, the first among all of the 72 Devils, could only use once. That was just how powerful it was.

"Urk!"

[He Who Overcomes.]

[Your HP has increased to 1. You are now invincible for 3 seconds.]

[All of your abilities will increase by 30% for 3 seconds.]

Minhyuk's HP dropped to zero before going back up to one. He would also be invincible for three seconds. Seeing this, Minhyuk knew that he did not have any time to waste. Verus, who could use half of the 72 Devils' power, was completely different from before.

So, Minhyuk quickly increased the distance between them while Great Demon Verus flew up in the skies.

[Fall in despair.]

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom—

Verus used Demon Zagan's attribute and sent thousands of potion bottles flying in the skies. The potion bottles then fell down on the ground and swept everything that it fell on with explosions.

Kieeeeeeeeee—

Demon Flauros' black hawk also made its reappearance, creating explosions to everywhere it passed by.

Swoooooooooh-

[Focalor's Wave.]

This time, a huge tidal wave made of blood appeared with a swing of Great Demon Verus' sword. And everything that it passed by...

Sizzle—

"Keuhaaaaaaack!"

...melted as if they were touched by lava. Focalor was the 41st demon among the 72 Devils and he was hailed as the Tyrant of the Seas. Great Demon Verus was utilizing all of the demons' power that he could send out.

Although it could not be seen in his expression, Great Demon Verus was appalled when he saw Minhyuk survive the attack that he sent out earlier.

[How... you bastard...!]

He wondered how the measly human in front of him survived the direct hit of Baal's Spear and how he was running towards him, despite the countless attacks that he sent out. And then...

Baaaaaaaaaang—

Minhyuk jumped up with all his might and rushed towards Great Demon Verus. This was so he could prevent Verus, albeit temporarily, from casting the demons' attributes and making it easier for everyone to attack him with all their might.

[Bastaaaaaaaard!!!]

Great Demon Verus, who stood in the sky, looked down at all the beings standing below him.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Black flames suddenly exploded around him. This was Amon's attribute. He was the seventh ranked demon, and had attributes that were specific to AOE attacks. Those attacks were capable of destroying a kingdom's castle in one shot. Verus, who was about to send the attack below, turned to look at the humans with shock in his eyes. This was because more than ten people had already jumped up and surrounded him.

Sword Emperor Ellie's eyes glinted sharply from underneath her helmet.

Sword Saint Conir pointed his sword towards Great Demon Verus.

Vice Guild Master Genie swung her temporary whip, one that she always carried with her in case her normal whip broke, in a beautiful arc.

Mercenary King Brod raised his sword, as thousands of wolves fluttered into existence around him.

Dragon King, with his catfish-like face and golden king's robe, pointed his trident at him.

Elf King Gorn nocked a golden arrow on his bow and pulled its strings tightly.

There were also Best Selling Author Aruvel, Ghost Spear Ben, and many others.

Dozens of people surrounded Verus, as they prepared to send him their strongest one-shot kill skill.

And finally Minhyuk, who fell down, leapt to the skies once again.

All of them unleashed their attacks at Great Demon Verus together.

Chapter 456: Verus vs. Let's Eat Sect

President Kang Taehoon looked at all of the people that were trying to stop Verus. The Absolute Supreme NPC Ellie, who he discovered was the Extreme Hardcore Fan. The father of the continent's spearmen, Ghost Spear Ben. Let's Eat Sect's Sword and Shield, Brod and Elpis, Paladin Corr, Sword Saint Conir, and of course, Minhyuk. Their line-up brought a shudder down Taehoon's spine.

However, he could not think as a viewer here, he had to think as one of Joy Co. Ltd.'s executives.

"I don't think it will be possible to hunt Verus but..."

In the first place, all of them here had expected that all of the episodes that included Great Demon Verus would be unattainable and endless. There was also the fact that he should not have descended at this point in time, and that he was almost twice as powerful as he was before. All of them believed that it would be very hard to cut him down regardless of time.

However, on the off chance that they succeeded in sealing Verus in this situation, what would happen?

The rewards that a player could obtain was entirely dependent on the strength of the monster that they fought against. Hunting a chicken in the novice hunting grounds would give them one gold, while hunting a monster in a higher-leveled hunting ground would give at least a million gold in one go.

If that was the case, what rewards would drop if the one they hunted was Great Demon Verus?

The answer to that would obviously be ridiculous rewards. In fact, the demon's treasures that Minhyuk had acquired earlier from sealing the three demons were already ridiculous enough. Verus' rewards would be on an entirely different level from that.

There were two key rewards that would drop if they successfully hunted Verus. One was the 'Great Demon's All Creation Production Book', and the other was 'God's Ore Vlad'.

The Great Demon's All Creation Production Book was an item that could create anything that its user desired. It did not matter if it was an artifact, a cooking ingredient, a potion or even a skill, as

long as it was what the user desired, then it would be made. Of course, anything outrageous was out of the question.

For example, if the user wanted a sword that could cut down all of the players present in one swing, then the All Creation Production Book could either reject the desire, or remove the user's right to use the book. Still, even if they faced restrictions like that, the Great Demon's All Creation Production Book had a wide range of the items that it could accept. In fact, the items that it could produce could even reach up to the 'God' rank. In other words, the person that would get this item would be able to get their hands on amazing items.

The executives of Athenae could accept it if a player other than Minhyuk received this All Creation Production Book. This was because Minhyuk was the only player to have a 'God' rank artifact with him. If this book landed in his hands, he would most definitely have two God-rank artifacts with him. And once that happened, then...

'This will most probably be the cause for the balance to break...'

Athenae was famous for being a well-balanced game. They had God classes and secret classes, but even players with ordinary classes could exert far stronger power than these classes, as long as they had excellent gamer skills. But, judging from how things were going, it seemed like they would now experience their very first balance break.

And it was all thanks to Player Minhyuk's power.

There was also the other reward, the God's Ore Vlad. It was an ore that was supposed to be obtained only after hunting all of the gods. However, was this a feat that someone could truly achieve? Of course not. That was completely ridiculous.

But now, it would most likely make its appearance. This ore had the power of strengthening. And among all types of strengthening stones, God's Ore Vlad had reached the peak. A successful +1 strengthening with this ore would be able to give an artifact a tremendous boost in power. The more shocking part was the fact that God's Ore Vlad could strengthen an artifact from $+1\sim+5$.

'If he succeeds in strengthening the Continent Destroyer Sword by +3 or more then...'

The Continent Destroyer Sword would become even more powerful, and it might even become the best, and the strongest, sword in the history of Athenae.

On the screen, Great Demon Verus once again started his bombing spree.

At this moment, all of the viewers had turned their attention to the people, including Minhyuk, that flew up to stop Verus. This was because this attack would determine what the future would hold for them. Let's Eat Sect was facing two paths, either destruction or the sealing of Great Demon Verus.

Meanwhile, the Absolute Supreme NPC Ellie, who was looking at everything sharply through her helmet, used the Overlord's Swordsmanship's Final Chapter, Dragon and Lion's Roar.

[Dragon and Lion's Roar.]

[The Dragon's Roar will allow you to pinpoint one target and force them to go under a stunned state and drop their defensive power by 50% for three seconds, regardless if they are stronger than you or not.]

[The Lion's Roar will allow you to instantly hit your target enemy with 5,000% additional damage.]

Shiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiimg—

Ellie's sword rang loudly and clearly as if it was roaring. And with that roar, Great Demon Verus fell into a stunned state.

[This... impossible...!]

Great Demon Verus looked at the people that leapt in the sky with their AOE attack skills. The seventh ranked demon Amon's special attribute had the power to destroy and devastate everything around the attribute user.

However before he could even use it, Ellie had already dealt her hand first. This meant that she saw through him. Even with his 'Submission Attribute', which allowed him to subdue any abnormal state or condition, he could not release himself from the stun. Then...

Roaaaaaaaaaaaa!

...as if a lion was roaring loudly, her sword flew towards Verus.

Slaaaaaash!

[Keuhaaaaaaaaaack!]

Verus was appalled when he saw his HP drop significantly. But it did not end there.

"Goddamnit!"

Ghost Spear Ben, with his white hair and eyes, flew out once again. His hair fluttered wildly behind him after the strings that tied it broke loose.

[Ghost Spearmanship Chapter 5. Exploding Spear.]

The tip of his spear that was covered with a black energy rotated fiercely as it pierced through Great Demon Verus' abdomen.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

Finally, his spear that stuck deeply in Verus' abdomen exploded.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—

[Keuaaaaaaaack!]

Paladin Corr was a holy knight, a class that came to be to save the world from the great demons, the Demon World, and the undead. He was showing the world that he was a true and genuine holy knight worthy of being the leader of Talmor Religion.

[Sacred Sword.]

[The sword blessed by God Athenae. It sends hundreds of swords to attack the enemy.]

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—

And right next to him, Conir cast his skill, Wailing Child.

Baaaaaaaaaang—

A strong force was released from Conir's sword.

"This is the story of the heroes that hunted the Great Demon Verus! It was a battle for life! After the battle ended, among the heroes, the woman Angel and the knight Corin spent the night together, drinking until they were dizzy and baring their hearts out for each other. They even spent a hot night together and... it was not just the bed that creaked loudly! Even the ground trembled and shook, *thump*, *thump*!!!"

[...!!!]

Amidst the fierce attacks, a fierce and hot story suddenly rang in Great Demon Verus' ears! When Verus turned his head to look at the direction of the sound, Aruvel's 'Exploding Spear' was already right at his nose.

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

The attack devoured Verus. Let's Eat Sect's Sword, Brod, stepped forward and leapt in the air and cast an AOE skill. His skill, Continent Destroyer, immediately appeared in front of Great Demon Verus.

Slaaaaaaaaaash—

Because of Verus' high defense, he was able to prevent the sword from piercing through his body. However, he could not do anything against the fierce shockwave that set off inside him.

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

Immediately after, the man called the Lesser Demon cut down the Great Demon. Elpis drew his sword out, and used the Devil Judge's 'Quick Draw', the skill that added 2,500% attack to his sword.

Shwiiiiiiiiiiik—

Cuts appeared all over Verus' body.

Verus, who saw the sliver of HP left in him, never dreamt that humans would be able to push him to this extent. However, he knew that he would be able to kill everyone and go back safely to the Demon World as long as this bout of attacks failed.

Alas, before he could rejoice, he saw Elpis turn around, only to reveal Minhyuk with his Sword of Absolute Death that he had stored with his 'Save' skill, ready to pounce on him.

Minhyuk was able to use his Sword of Absolute Death twice in a row earlier, thanks to his buffed dishes' effects that overlapped with his 'Overlapping Delight' skill.

But this time, the Sword of Absolute Death that he used was the one that he had 'saved' and was completely unrelated to the buff effects. And with the additional 500% attack power added on Minhyuk's basic attack power, his attack was able to strike down and pierce through Verus' body.

Thud—

[Keuhaaaaaaaaack?!]

Verus suddenly felt a sense of urgency, but his damned body could not move. All he could do was watch the hundreds of swords rushing towards him.

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—

Right now, Minhyuk's power was so strong that he could even log out a fairly decent ranker with a single blow. It did not matter if Verus boasted strong regenerative abilities, this attack was still too much for him especially after his defense had been halved by Ellie's Dragon's Roar.

[Keuaaaaaaack! Aaaaaaaaack!]

The entire world watched as the great demon screamed from the attacks of a single player and several Named NPCs.

Verus, who was driven to the verge of death after Minhyuk's Sword of Absolute Death ended, felt that he was very fortunate to survive. Since the attack had ended, his body would now be able to breathe and regenerate quickly. He only needed 0.1 second to refill his HP and pressure them once again. However, his dreams had been shattered when he saw Minhyuk appearing in front of him again.

The word Explosion engraved on Minhyuk's Continent Destroyer Sword disappeared and was replaced with the word Destruction. This word gave him a 15% chance of triggering eight bloody lightning strikes with 800% damage upon usage. With Minhyuk's additional 500% attack power, the damage that it would deal would be tremendous.

Of course, this was depending on if he got lucky and triggered that 15% chance.

Verus' pupils dilated when he saw Minhyuk raise his arm up.

[N... noooooooo!!!]

Minhyuk's silver eyes glinted sharply as he said, "Go back to your revolting Demon World!"

Slaaaaaaaaash!

Fortunately, Lightning's 'Destruction' was triggered along with his sword strike.

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

Eight bloody lightning strikes struck down from the skies and fell down on Verus. Not long after, the body of Great Demon Verus turned into black demonic energy and scattered in the area.

[Kiheeeeeeeeeck!]

A monstrous cry rang loudly in the area as black demonic energy spread all over the entire Asgan Continent. Then, the black demonic energy soared into the skies before disappearing into nothingness, as if the demonic energy did not exist at all.

[You have successfully sealed Great Demon Verus!]

[Verus, who forced his descent to earth using the Letters of Disaster, will be sealed for eight months.]

[The Absolute Gods are very surprised to see your success!]

[The Absolute Gods are giving you a huge reward.]

[All of your stats have increased by 3%.]

[You have acquired a 'map' pointing to the place where an Absolute God's Secret is being hidden.]

After those notifications, the notifications regarding Great Demon Verus' hunt immediately rang.

[The guild's gold and artifact will be distributed by Guild Master 'Minhyuk'.]

[You have acquired the reward for successfully sealing Great Demon Verus.]

[You have acquired 6,000,000,000 EXP!]

[Due to Overlapping Delight's special effect, the EXP that you have gained has doubled.]

[You have acquired an additional 6,000,000,000 EXP!]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled...omitted.]

Minhyuk received as many as seven level ups. Then, another set of notifications rang again.

[You have gained 10,766 Platinum.]

[You have acquired Great Demon Verus' Demon Summoning Ring.]

[You have acquired Great Demon Verus' Mask.]

[You have acquired three God's Ore Vlad.]

[You have acquired the Great Demon's All Creation Production Book.]

[You have acquired fifty three Demon World's Hidden Identity Decrees.]

[You have acquired the map of the Demon World's Artifact Treasure.]

[You have acquired the map of the Demon World's Trainers Island, 'Slaughterer'.]

[...Great Demon Verus' worn and tattered dual blades.]

[...Demon's Bow.]

[...Demon's Sword of Carnage.]

After Great Demon Verus was sealed, the people who had jumped up to attack Verus earlier, all fell down on the ground, one after another. They all laid down on the ground, gasping for their breaths. It seemed like they had lost all of their strength and could not move a muscle at all.

'I never thought that I'd be able to participate in the sealing of the Great Demon,'?The Dragon King and Gorn had faint smiles on their faces as they thought about the same thing.

Meanwhile, the members of Let's Eat Sect were all smiling brightly. This was because they knew that they had taken a step forward in seizing even greater power. All of them, even the cameras, were looking at only one person and one person alone. They zoomed in on Elpis, who was smiling brightly as he looked at them gratefully.

At the same time.

Sword God Valen and his wife, Roina, who were both working as instructors and were considered as Isbin Village's specialties, had already arrived near Valhalla Fortress. In case they died, they had already left their wills to the villagers back home.

'It's time for us to reveal the true extent of our powers. We're very grateful to you all this time.'

'Me and my husband might not be able to come back alive. If something happens to us, please take care of our child.'

'I believe it's time for us to step forward and help save the world.'

'The great demon... We want to quickly seal him up and save everyone. Please don't try to hold us back.'

Valen and Roina both ran as fast as they could, but were left speechless when they saw Great Demon Verus getting sealed.

Perhaps, the villagers see them as a pair of fools that dreamt of sealing the demon king. After all, how could an ordinary couple like them suddenly say that they would deal with the Great Demon and save the world, right?! But now, they did not even manage to do anything?!

Wouldn't that make them like those couples that were commonly seen in fantasy novels?!

Valen stared blankly at Minhyuk while scratching the back of his head and saying, "Wh... what's our dinner for today, Roina?"

"W... well..."

The two of them looked at a figure in the distance. They were obviously glad that Minhyuk was able to seal Verus. But...

"Sigh..."

"Sigh... When should we go back home..."

...a huge sigh still came out involuntarily.

Chapter 457: The Birth of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom

The Let's Eat Sect was able to gain two huge achievements over the course of the day.

One, they stopped more than 150,000 troops from Barras Kingdom and forced them to retreat. This was a clear victory for Let's Eat Sect. Two, they sealed Great Demon Verus and three other demons. They had now become legends in the history of Athenae and no one would deny this fact. Because of that, the entire world, whether it was the broadcasting stations, companies, Athenae global rankers, and even world-renowned actors, they were all paying attention to Minhyuk and Let's Eat Sect.

The director of BBTV, America's top broadcasting station, ordered his employees, "Make sure to recruit Player Minhyuk! Have him sign an exclusive contract with our broadcasting station! Ah, wait. What should we do about the contract terms and rates?! How about 8:2? No 10:0!!! Give him a three million dollar down payment!"

For broadcasting stations, just having Minhyuk sign with them was more than enough. After all, they would gain astronomical returns with just the advertising effect alone. It was not just the broadcasting stations from America that were discussing various conditions to rope Minhyuk in. Even China, Japan, Russia and many other countries were scrambling to get Minhyuk. Even the top global company Apel, a company famous for their APhones, was trying to vye for Minhyuk.

"How about giving Player Minhyuk a ten million dollar down payment if he signs our contract?"

"He's Ilhwa Group's successor. So, ten million dollars would not be enough. On top of that, the other companies are definitely thinking about their own terms for the contract that they would offer. Even fifty million dollars might not be enough to catch his attention."

"But... we have to recruit him by hook or by crook. If we can also get the guild members of Let's Eat Sect with him, the advertising effect that they could bring will definitely be astronomical!"

One of the world-renowned Hollywood actors, the one that boasted the greatest value, opened his mouth and said, "Isn't that buddy, Minhyuk, so cool? He was actually able to overcome his eating addiction like that. I want to be friends with him. I'm going to Korea now!"

"Aren't you supposed to film Stone Man today?"

"Even so, I still want to go now!"

And that was not the end of it. Various broadcasting stations and media outlets evaluated...

"Player Minhyuk will definitely be one of the one hundred most influential people in the world this year."

"We can safely say that he will be in the top ten."

"He's already standing in the world's spotlight."

Everyone heaped their praises onto Minhyuk. Amidst all of that, they still could not take their eyes from the screens. This was because Minhyuk, who had won the battle against Barras Kingdom and had protected his vassal Elpis from the Great Demon Verus, was now marching towards the capital of Barras Kingdom.

The game broadcasting stations in Korea were all overjoyed! This was because Player Minhyuk was their fellow citizen and that they could film him in Athenae. Hundreds of their drones flew up and filmed Let's Eat Sect and Player Minhyuk, who was leading them.

[Let's Eat Sect has started their march towards Barras Kingdom.]

[They're marching with Elf King Gorn, Dragon King, the unknown spearmen and the unknown troops that arrived late.]

The unknown troops that they were talking about were of course Lauvredo and the Talmor believers. All of the troops combined reached more than 10,000. This was because Dragon King and Elf King Gorn immediately summoned the retreating troops that came with them the moment they sealed Great Demon Verus. Elf King Gorn had also suggested Minhyuk to ride on his superb and favorite mount. Nutis.

Nutis was a white horse with both a beautiful name and mane. Anyone that saw Minhyuk riding this beautiful mount as he rode in front of the troops heading towards Barras Kingdom felt jealous. More than half of the country were watching this scene. As they advanced, Genie and the members of Let's Eat Sect began talking.

"Today is really the most suitable day."

Right now, the entire world was watching Minhyuk and Let's Eat Sect. The total number of viewers that watched them might even exceed a billion. Yes, that was right. Today was really the most suitable day for Let's Eat Sect to stage a rebirth and become a kingdom. Minhyuk, Let's Eat Sect and the more than 10,000 troops that he led, all arrived at the capital of Barras Kingdom.

"We will not touch a single hair of the elderly, the children and the women. We will kill the soldiers that will resist and we will not persecute those who surrender for their sins," Genie declared as she stepped forward in Minhyuk's place.

However, not many surrendered from the 5,000-6,000 troops left inside Barras Kingdom, even though rumors about Let's Eat Sect defeating the more than 150,000 troops that they sent before had already started to circulate.

Even though King Grain was a foolish king, he knew that further sacrifices were inevitable. King Grain was still the king and ruler of Barras Kingdom. He stood in front of the castle with hundreds of knights behind him and stepped forward without ordering his men to move. Minhyuk just watched Grain silently as he remained seated on his white horse. The scene clearly showed that Minhyuk was the winner of the war.

"Let's Eat Sect's Leader, I, Barras Kingdom's King, King Grain will not back down and lower my head until the very end. Kill me," King Grain declared. It seemed like he was trying to save the last of his pride with this.

'Minhyuk....' Genie thought as she looked at the scene in front of her in concern.

Would Minhyuk take King Grain's neck right away? If he did take King Grain's neck, then they had to destroy the entire royal family. But doing so meant that they risked gaining the ire of all the viewers watching the scene. Even though this was only natural, most of the people that played Athenae were clueless about the laws during the Middle Ages. Watching the destruction of the kings and royals that lost the war would definitely be unpleasant for the people that lived in the modern era and would definitely put a frown on their faces if they went down that path.

Minhyuk, with his voice filled with dignity, said, "I did not ask you to kneel. I did not ask you to surrender your supplies. Nor did I ask you for the blood of those related to you."

Minhyuk's eyes turned cold as he continued to say, "But..."

He looked at Barras Kingdom behind King Grain.

"...as a king that lost the war, you should not bow in front of your enemy kingdom's king, but in front of your people. Your people are crying because they lost their fathers and their children and could not even mourn their lost bodies. More than a hundred thousand of your people have died while the rest are grieving, because of your greed. Whether you are the king or the subject, the value of a life holds the same weight for everyone."

"…"

King Grain was extremely shocked to hear Minhyuk's words.

'How... how can he be so clever with his words...!'

If Minhyuk took their kingdom's supplies and killed the royal family, all of the people that were huddled up here would definitely stage an attack against him and Let's Eat Sect later. In addition, when King Grain declared that he would not back down and lower his head, he meant that the troops hiding right now would stage a rebellion and cut them down someday in the future.

He had already expected that he, the royal family and even the young princess would die here and now. However, just a few words from Minhyuk was making him doubt himself once again. If he could, he did not want his beloved child, his lovely princess, to die! And...

"Sob, sob, sob, sob!"

"Your majeeeeeeeeesty!!!"

"Sob, sob, sob, sob!"

...his people were crying.

Despite being prepared for the destruction of Barras Kingdom, the sorrow that they had kept in for so long burst out like water breaking out of a dam. King Grain looked at the people of Barras Kingdom crying loudly, the sly and clever Minhyuk, and even the crying young princess. It seemed like this was his enemy's mercy and firm will.

King Grain bowed to his people and could not get up for a long time.

When he finally gained the courage to stand up once again, he ordered, "I will surrender everything that the Barras Kingdom has to Let's Eat Sect. In addition, I order you to aid in the revival of Let's Eat Sect and to not rebel against them! As for the leader of Let's Eat Sect, I implore you. Promise me that you will spare my young princess and the rest of the royal family."

The words that Minhyuk said had a lot of different meanings. But after King Grain's declaration, none of the people of Barras Kingdom would go against Minhyuk. And to answer King Grain's plea, Minhyuk nodded his head silently.

[Barras Kingdom's King Grain has left his final will.]

[The King's Final Will exerts absolute power.]

[The nobles and the royal family that have and will rebel against you have accepted their king's final will.]

King Grain unsheathed his sword and stabbed himself in his chest.

Stab—

"Father!" The princess shouted as she ran towards King Grain, who had just committed suicide.

"All of the royal family and nobles of Barras Kingdom are hereby banished from the kingdom. As for the victims of the war, we will honor them by erecting memorials and gravestones in a place not too far from Barras Kingdom."

"Thank you!!!"

"Thank you!!!"

"Long live Let's Eat Sect!!!"

"Long live Let's Eat Sect!"

The people of Barras Kingdom began to cheer for Minhyuk and Let's Eat Sect. They were already in a situation where their hatred for King Grain had reached the depths of their hearts and were already trying to do their best to understand them. The commentators could not help but admire Minhyuk.

[There's no doubt that Player Minhyuk is a very clever ruler. With just a few words, he was able to take King Grain's life and win the hearts of the people of Barras Kingdom.]

[A ruler who can't win the hearts of his people is not a true ruler.]

[Even those that thought of rebelling against him were prevented from doing so because of King Grain's Final Will.]

[Even if they can rebel, they will not do so. After all, doing so will renounce King Grain's final will and make light of his death.]

Everyone was in awe and admiration of him.

Minhyuk walked towards Barras Kingdom's castle. The knights that stood in front of the castle stood down and created a path for him. He did not kill the king of Barras Kingdom personally, which protected their king's honor, causing them to respect him and increase his reputation among them. Just like that, Minhyuk and the members of Let's Eat Sect entered the castle. And the people that followed behind them included hundreds of journalists that accessed Athenae for this moment.

Minhyuk continued to walk forward alone until he was in front of the throne. Finally, upon taking a seat, the notifications rang.

[You have gained victory in the war against Barras Kingdom.]

[In line with King Grain's final will, the authority over everything in Barras Kingdom has been surrendered to you.]

[You will be able to hear about the hidden things in Barras Kingdom from King Grain's aide, Lucio.]

[You will be able to acquire the 91,131 people of Barras Kingdom.]

[You will be able to acquire the 13,111 troops of Barras Kingdom.]

[Barras Kingdom is the kingdom of production classes.]

[You are the sole player that has met all of the conditions to become a king.]

The notifications that rang in Minhyuk's ears were very satisfactory. And with that, all of the members, troops and Named NPCs of Let's Eat Sect knelt down on one knee. The sight of thousands of people kneeling in front of the throne was truly a sight to behold. It was enough to bring a thrill down one's spine. And...

"I beg for Let's Eat Sect's leader's forgiveness. I, Knight Lauvredo, was once the deputy commander of Barras Kingdom's knight order. Me and around 2,000 people that were staying with me in the Arda Territory would like to request that you allow us to pledge our eternal loyalty to you, lord of the Let's Eat Sect."

Minhyuk was familiar with Arda Territory and he had also heard about the man in front of him, Lauvredo, from Paladin Corr. He said, "I grant you your request."

New people had started to express their loyalty towards Minhyuk.

[Lauvredo together with 1,941 vagabonds has sworn their eternal allegiance to you.]

They knelt down one one knee in front of Minhyuk once again. Minhyuk looked softly at the people lined up in front of him. Now, the entire world was waiting with baited breath and waiting for what Minhyuk had to say.

After looking around them, Minhyuk said, "From now on, Let's Eat Sect will be free from the rule of any country or empire."

```
"...!"
"...!"
"...!"
"...!"
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The journalists present in the hall opened their eyes wide, like shocked rabbits. Those words were something that everyone had expected. Nevertheless, they were still shocked when they heard it.

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"I will become a king."
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"Uwaaaaaaaaaaah!"

"Shoot this!!!"

"This is a historic moment!!!"

His words shocked the world and brought cheers from the people of Korea. After all, the first king to ever appear in the history of Athenae was someone from their country.

1. A reference to Apple and Iphones.

Chapter 458: The Birth of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom

The Korean reporters present in the audience hall of Barras Kingdom's Rouvre Castle all shuddered in excitement.

'A king has been born...!'

'That person is a citizen of South Korea!'

'This will be the springboard for Korea's progress!'

Minhyuk's declaration, which was broadcasted with the highest viewership rating in their stations' history, caused a huge stir in the world. And Reporter Go Eun-ah, who was standing on the other side of the reporters, thought, 'What will he name his kingdom?'

Go Eun-ah had been writing articles and interviewing Minhyuk and his guild members, from their time as Legend Guild up until now, when they got reborn as Let's Eat Sect. As such, she came to learn that 'Personal Flavor', 'Round Belly Religion' and 'Supreme Chicken' were in the list of the potential names for their guild.

In other words, she knew that Minhyuk had the worst naming sense. And it seemed like some of the members of Let's Eat Sect were not that different from him.

Golden Mage Ali thought, 'I still think that Friend Kingdom is the best candidate for our guild name.'? As someone that chanted 'Frieeeend!' most of the time, he believed that there was no other name like the one that he thought of.

Then, there was Black Dragon. He thought, 'Minhyuk and Friends. That sounds like a great name. Well, either way, I'm looking forward to how great my son's naming sense is,'?as he smiled in anticipation, while recalling the name Black Dragon and the Boys, a name that his party had in the past.

As for Genie, she thought 'Minhyuk, please. I beg you. Anything but Let's Eat Well Kingdom...!'. She once had a conversation with Minhyuk about the name that they would give the kingdom. Back then, Minhyuk strongly advocated for one name and one name alone, and that was Let's Eat Well Kingdom.

Of course, it was understandable that Minhyuk would push for this. After all, for him, eating was everything. However, the outsiders that did not know of this would definitely find it strange. They would definitely ridicule them if the name of the first kingdom was 'Round Belly Kingdom!' or 'Have a Meal Kingdom!'.

The members of Let's Eat Sect, the hundreds of journalists, and even the entire world watched Minhyuk closely.

And Minhyuk? He turned to look at the sky above them. However, his vision was being blocked by the castle's ceiling. Yes, that was right. He could only see the ceiling now. However, Minhyuk wanted to go beyond that ceiling someday and reach a higher place, with his friends and guild members. That was when he muttered, "Beyond the Heavens."

Minhyuk gazed at the people in the audience. His clear, intelligent eyes that shined with dignity and majesty shook the hearts of many, and even caused some envy in the hearts of the men in the crowd.

"My kingdom will be called... 'Beyond the Heavens Kingdom'!"
"...!"
"...!"
"...!"

A nation beyond the skies. This meant that they would become a kingdom that would make everyone kneel at their feet.

"A kingdom beyond the skies..."

"It's a really cool name," Genie said, smiling softly as immense relief washed over her body.

'I still think Friend Kingdom is a better name, but that's also a good name,' Golden Mage Ali thought. It seemed like he thought that Friend Kingdom was infinitely better, but since the name that Minhyuk declared was also cool, he nodded his head, convinced.

Then, at that moment...

Shwaaaaaaaa—

...a huge pillar of light fell down from the sky as a set of notifications rang for everyone in Rouvre.

[The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's establishment ceremony has begun.]

[Please join us in celebrating the birth of a new king.]

A golden aura, the effect that could only be seen during the birth of a king, surged and swirled around Minhyuk's body. As he stood up, he said, "The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom will continue to advance and develop, even after the global servers have consolidated. We will do our best to rise above and beyond everyone's expectations."

Then, the notifications rang for all of the people present in the hall.

[Please show courtesy and maintain etiquette.]

[Showing courtesy in front of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's King upon the kingdom's establishment would be of great help to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's diplomatic discussions in the future.]

Immediately after, King Argon, who Gorn had entrusted the throne with, stepped forward and showed courtesy as he said, "I give my congratulations to the king of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom."

He was not the only one. The Dragon King also showed courtesy as he declared, "I give my congratulations to the king of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!"

Ghost Spear Ben also showed courtesy as he said, "I give my congratulations to the king of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom."

Aruvel, Corr, and Conir also showed courtesy, as the commentators started to explain.

[The greetings of Argon, the new king of the elves, and the Dragon King, the ruler of the Dragon Palace, seem to be the only congratulations that we will see.]

[With this, the kingdom might come off as just a 'small kingdom' that could not pose a threat to other kingdoms.]

[As far as I know, there were more people than this when a small kingdom was born in the American Server's continent. I think the number of troops alone exceeded 50,000.]

[Since the Elf King and the Dragon King are from a different race and do not have much influence in regards to human diplomacy and relationships, we can safely say that there are significantly fewer attendees in this ceremony.]

[Congratulating and showing courtesy to the new king when a new kingdom is born is very important. Beyond the Heavens Kingdom will definitely be the main topic of all media outlets today. The other countries will definitely evaluate and scrutinize them especially in the case of the people that would congratulate their kingdom's establishment. In fact, this establishment ceremony and celebration is really a bit too shabby.]

Some of the viewers that heard the commentators began to comment.

[That's shabby? Even when the kings of two other races have bowed their heads in front of him?]

[It's true that it's a bit too shabby... yep, yep. In fact, other kingdoms would send their dukes or marquises and some troops to congratulate and celebrate a kingdom's establishment.]

[But the establishment ceremony is being held right after they won the war, so it's possible that they're not coming because they do not know, right?]

[That's not true at all. In fact, everyone knew that Let's Eat Sect would establish their kingdom today, right? The other kingdoms should already have been informed about it the moment they heard that Let's Eat Sect defeated the more than 100,000 troops that marched against them. They should have already sent their greetings since their communication network is very fast.]

[To be frank, it's really quite shabby when compared to the enthronement of an NPC king. Even though the number still looks amazing to us, he is now the king of 'Beyond the Heavens Kingdom'. It's a completely different concept from being a single player.]

The fact that their establishment and founding ceremony was shabby compared to others was a true and resounding fact. After all, they did not receive any greetings and congratulations from other kingdoms.

The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was suddenly born to the world. However, the existing kingdoms had already very much predicted that the establishment and founding ceremony would be held today after they heard about Let's Eat Sect's victory.

However, even if they knew, they did not send any greetings or congratulations. Simply put, they were signaling that they did not recognize Minhyuk as a king, and were showing him that they

would make it hard for him to have diplomatic discussions with them. It was only natural. After all, they were the ones that intended to split Barras Kingdom for themselves after Let's Eat Sect's collapse.

But that did not mean that they did not send their envoy. Marquis Arna of Orodith Empire had received the orders of the kings of various kingdoms to watch the situation. He was sitting quietly in an inconspicuous corner of the hall.

'The Elf King and the Dragon King congratulating him will not have much influence on us. After all, they live far from us and our world. There are also no troops or greetings sent by anybody else. This is so shabby. Heh!'?Marquis Arna snickered.

This relatively quiet founding ceremony established Beyond the Heavens Kingdom as one of the small kingdoms. In fact, they could already be considered as a smaller kingdom than Barras Kingdom, the weakest among all of the existing kingdoms.

Even if they absorbed the troops of the defeated Barras Kingdom, the war had shaved off plenty of their troops and would not do much for them in terms of military prowess and manpower. However, with this, the other kingdoms could conclude that Beyond the Heavens Kingdom did not have power.

In other words, any kingdom that staged an invasion at this point would be able to conquer them in a day. It did not matter if they had a few exceptional people with strong powers, they would not stand a chance against hundreds of thousands of troops.

To prevent such an invasion, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom needed the 'greetings and congratulations' of other kingdoms in celebration of their founding. Visiting and attending the kingdom's founding ceremony was like a warning to everyone watching. It was like they were telling them that they should not dare to touch this newly established kingdom. However, no other kingdom or nation had appeared to give their greetings and congratulations to this kingdom.

'I have to tell this to the kings right away. Beyond the Heavens Kingdom will disappear from the maps in just a few days!'

Marquis Arna had determined that they could easily trample on this kingdom. Besides, they had to step on this kingdom before it could grow further. They were already prepared to tear down Barras Kingdom, it was only a matter of changing their targets to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. He snickered and ridiculed them in his heart as he tried to leave the castle. But then, he was forced to stop in his tracks.

'Heoooook...?!'

This was because a woman suddenly walked in front of him. The woman was the epitome of beauty to the point that she could make the air taste sweet by just standing and breathing alone. And this beautiful woman knelt down on one knee and said, "Your Majesty, from the depths of my heart, I congratulate you on the founding of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. I hope you can come out of the castle for a moment and bless those that came to congratulate you with your words."

Marquis Arna's eyes widened in shock when he saw the woman appear in front of him. This woman was an absolute existence that denied any and all greetings of courtesy to any founding ceremonies!

She was even a woman that was comparable to Eivelis Empire's Empress Ellie in terms of influence and power!

Minhyuk smiled kindly and softly at her and said, "Saintess Loyna, I'm very grateful that you came to visit and greet us."

That was right. This woman was none other than Athenae Religion's Saintess Loyna. She was the most beautiful woman in the world, the proud saintess of Athenae Religion, and God's regent. Minhyuk stood up and went outside the castle. What greeted him outside was more than 10,000 Athenae priests wearing their pristine white priest robes, with swords in their hands all ready to congratulate him! This was something that was completely unusual, in and of itself. And when Saintess Loyna appeared and lifted the holy sword in her hand...

Shiing!			
Shiing!			
	 1.1	 1	

...all of the priests lifted their swords high up in the sky as they shouted in unison...

"Congratulations on the founding of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!!!"

"Congratulations on the founding of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!!!"

The scene of more than 10,000 priests wearing pristine white robes and raising their swords, which sprinkled with a bright and white light as if they were fireworks, high up in the sky was magnificent and breath-taking.

'This is crazy...?! More than 10,000 of those arrogant and prideful Athenae Religion priests actually came here?!'

Marquis Arna felt his breath get caught in his throat at the sight. But that was not the end.

A gloomy and dark man, Death, the King of the Dead, followed by thousands of undead passed through the capital of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and settled right next to the priests of Athenae Religion. The priests and the undead hated each other, but they could not express their dissatisfaction because they were celebrating the founding of Minhyuk's Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. And Death, who led this thousands of undead, said, "Forgive me, I'm a bit late. Congratulations on the founding of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!!!"

"Kieeeeeeeee!!!"

"Kyahaaaaaa!!!"

"Kkiiiiiiiiiiii!!!"

The thousands of undead kneeling in unison was a spectacular sight to behold, as Marquis Arna's pupils shook..

Thump, thump, thump, thump—

The thundering of horses' hooves rang loudly in the area, as an army, akin to a sea of black, appeared. A generous estimate of the army that arrived was around 200,000.

Who in the world could bring such a large troop? There were only two people capable of such a feat. And both of them were riding on horseback and leading their troops.

One of them was a beautiful woman with silver hair fluttering behind her. She was Ellie, and she was looking at Minhyuk with a wide smile on her face. The other was Emperor Asvon, the absolute and supreme ruler of Collodis Empire.

"I'm sorry I'm a bit late, Minhyuk. I had to finish up some work before I can come," Ellie said. The work that she was talking about was referring to her work as 'Extreme Hardcore Fan'.

Marquis Arna's eyes trembled even more. Empress Ellie and Emperor Asvon usually only sent their servants during the other kingdoms' founding ceremonies. But now, they personally arrived here, and even led their soldiers to congratulate Minhyuk.

For Ellie, Minhyuk was her younger brother, a younger brother that she cared about more than anybody else. As for Asvon, he treated Minhyuk as his benefactor, the benefactor that freed him from his curse of eternal baldness.

"Congratulations."

"Congratulations."

The moment these two people congratulated him, the 200,000 strong troops behind them all knelt down on one knee and shouted, "Congratulations on the founding of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!!!". Their voices resounded in the capital of Barras Kingdom, which was now the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Marquis Arna felt that he was about to pee in his pants at this shocking scene. He even began to sprint forward to escape.

'I have to tell everyone about this!'

As he was running, Marquis Arna suddenly stopped in his tracks when he saw a couple among the crowd. He was a member of the Orodith Empire and their empire served several gods. Among these gods, the one with the most believers was the god named 'Sword God'. The reason why they serve the Sword God was because their kingdom, which was once ravaged by the Demon World, had been saved by the Sword God and his sword. He had only ever seen the Sword God in statues, but now he was right in front of him!

"I... I have seen the Sword God!!!" Marquis Arna shouted. He had no choice but to bow down and lay prostrate on the ground.

The Sword God only glanced at him for a moment before moving forward. All of the people's eyes were turned towards them because of the small disturbance that they have caused. Then, the players present in the area all heard a notification.

[The Sword God has visited to give his congratulations in the founding of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!]

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"...!"
"...!"
"...!"
"...!"
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Everyone present was shocked. A god had visited to celebrate the founding of a kingdom? This was completely unprecedented in the history of Athenae. Meanwhile, Marquis Arna, who was lying prostrate on the ground, could not stand up at all.

"Hey mister. Are you alright?" One of the men around him sneaked up and shook him in worry. However, Marquis Arna did not get up from his seat.

"He, he fainted?!"

"Heok?!"

"Ah! He peed on himself?!"

"Isn't this Marquis Arna?!"

Marquis Arna, who met with so many big shots in one day, fainted from shock. And from this day forward, the story about Marquis Arna peeing on himself spread far and wide.

Chapter 459: Luna

The sudden appearance of a 'God' during the birth of a new kingdom, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, brought tremendous shock to everyone present. But what surprised them the most was...

"In... Instructor Valen?!"

"Aren't, aren't you the instructor in the scarecrow training grounds in Ardo?!"

Many players were caught in shock. After all, anyone that started in Ardo when they started playing in Athenae would know who Instructor Valen was. Valen even became Ardo's famous local specialty after repeatedly giving the cheeky and arrogant new players their just desserts.

But was that all? No. His wife, Roina, exuded a cool and frosty aura about her, which garnered them the nickname 'Cold Couple' and 'People that Shouldn't be Touched'.

That very same Instructor Valen was the Sword God? It would definitely be shocking, right?

'Valen was famous for not being close to any players, right?'

'There have been many people that tried to get in his good graces, but everything was for naught!'

Many players had deliberately approached him to try and befriend him because they had thought that Valen was some kind of former hidden or secret class NPC. Yet no matter who tried, none of

them could get close to him. From the situation right now, it seemed like Valen had quite a close relationship with Minhyuk.

'What the hell? What kind of charm and appeal does that man have...?'

'He's the person that caught the eye and attention of Instructor Valen.'

'Even a god came here to congratulate him.'

Everyone would be more shocked if they knew that everything that happened here was a result of Minhyuk happily eating tasty meals.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, boy."

"Thank you," Minhyuk said as he shook hands with Valen.

Hundreds of thousands of troops all kneeling down on one knee, the king of two different races, the emperors of two empires, the Saintess of Athenae Religion, and the King of the one-man legion, Kingdom of the Dead, all came to congratulate Minhyuk.

Even so, that was not the end yet.

"What?! Our young master became king?! As expected of our chairman's son, he really is a dragon's child!"

"My eyes are still red from the grace that I received from Chairman Kang Minhoo, and now this!"

Ilhwa Group was a legendary company with tens of millions of employees, perhaps even more, globally. The company provided generous benefits for their employees, especially the breadwinners of their families. They also funded and operated a home for the elderly, as well as a scholarship foundation. This made many people in the world respect Ilhwa Group as a whole. The employees were also proud of their company, viewing it as something far more than a workplace.

Usually, employees would be dissatisfied with their companies, especially if their chairmen always said, 'Our company is everyone's company. I think of you as my family.'?

This was because companies that claimed that they treated them like family would always turn out to curse at them and work them to the bone, heaping countless overtime hours on their heads! This was the sad reality.

However, Chairman Kang Minhoo was different. He was a principled man that abided by his words and even made sure that everyone in his company also did the same. In fact, he even knew the names of all the employees that worked for him in his headquarters, a number that reached the thousands.

'Ho? Seonwook, it felt like it was just yesterday when you joined us as a new employee but you're already a team leader, huh? Hoho!'

'Miss Kim Inha, I heard that you got married recently? When will we celebrate your baby's first birthday party? I will definitely go!'

'What did you say? Section Chief Kim's father passed away? I'll be there.'

This was also what he said to his employees, 'I think of everyone as the owner of this company and as my family. We will make sure to implement better welfare and policies for everyone, better than any company in existence. In return, I would like to see you work diligently in your given position.'

Some of the new employees might talk a bit about Chairman Kang Minhoo during office hours, but they would never slack off. In fact, even the section chiefs, department heads, and directors worked hard in their roles, every day. As a result, overtime work disappeared and every single employee spent their weekdays happily, as if they were in a dream.

These tens of thousands of Ilhwa Group's employees that enjoyed such a good work-life balance all appeared in Barras Kingdom's capital. They came here for one reason and one reason alone, to give their congratulations and blessings to Minhyuk and Chairman Kang Minhoo. There were also countless people that Minhyuk knew and had helped in the past that appeared alongside them.

"Long live Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!!!"

"Long live Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!!!"

The chant of more than hundreds of thousands of people echoed loudly in the capital. And the global media outlets said...

[This is unbelievable. The Korean citizens are willingly coming to the capital to congratulate Minhyuk!]

[I can understand why there are many employees from Ilhwa Group. Most of the time, company employees think of work related to their companies as an extension of their own work. But when looking at their faces, anyone can tell that these employees are truly happy and are sincerely giving their congratulations and blessings.]

[This just goes to show how Black Dragon and Player Minhyuk live their lives.]

[They have already cultivated a kingdom. I can't wait to see what the future holds for the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

On this day, the number of people that flocked to the capital of Minhyuk's kingdom was recorded to have exceeded a million. It was a day filled with many blessings and congratulations for Minhyuk and Beyond the Heavens Kingdom from all of the people that appeared.

Meanwhile, in Instructor Valen and Roina's home.

Valen heaved a huge sigh as he said, "*Phew*~?I almost came back to the village without doing anything at all."

"Hohoho! It's a relief that it did not happen, right?"

Instructor Valen and Roina smiled widely at each other, a fact that proved how tough their mentality was. This was the cuteness that was hidden under the cold exteriors of Sword God Valen and his wife, Roina.

With the establishment of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, Minhyuk would naturally become as busy as a bee. But before that, Minhyuk first sat on his throne again after seeing everyone out to check the things that he had gained.

First, he checked the notifications that rang when his kingdom was established.

[You have established the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

[You are the first ever player to have ever established a kingdom.]

: Brightest Sun.]

Unique Title

?All stats will increase by 10%.

?CHA will increase by 100%.

?Passive Skill: King's Voice

The 10% increase in all stats and the 100% increase in CHA were tremendous. The increase in CHA in particular, seemed like it was showing Minhyuk the importance of a king's dignity and influence.

There was also the passive skill 'King's Voice', a skill that had the effect of making every word that he uttered become more powerful, and sometimes filled with great sincerity. In addition to the unique title Brightest Sun, Minyuk also received plenty of rewards when he sealed Great Demon Verus.

First, he received the map where one of the Absolute God's Secret was hidden. Second, he received a map to the Demon World's Trainers Island, Slaughter. Third, Great Demon Verus' Demon Summoning Ring. Fourth, God's Ore Vlad. Fifth, the Great Demon's All Creation Production Book. And sixth, Great Demon Verus' Mask.

Back when they were fighting Great Demon Verus, Genie had returned the rights to distribute the items that the guild would receive during a hunt to the guild master, the moment Minhyuk accessed the game.

This meant that not only the items that they gained when they hunted and sealed Great Demon Verus were acquired by Minhyuk, but also the items that the three demons dropped. Everything would be distributed fairly and anyone that would receive insufficient artifacts would be paid in gold.

Among all of the items that he acquired, Minhyuk decided to keep Verus' Mask, the Great Demon's All Creation Production Book, and God's Ore Vlad.

?If the strengthening is successful, the artifact will receive +1~+5 strengthening.

?If the strengthening fails, there will be no negative consequences, whether it is a minus effect or the artifact's destruction.?

?Upon successful strengthening, the artifact will experience better strengthening effects than normal artifact reinforcement.

?A production book that can create anything that the user desires.

?If the book user demands something ridiculous to the point that even the gods can't make them, the production book will be destroyed.

?The production book can create most of the items in existence, including artifacts, cooking ingredients, materials, and many more.

?There's a chance that you will be required to bring some materials for the item that you desire.

?All stats will increase by 13%.

?Magical Defense will increase by +400.

?Active Skill: Demon's Face

?Active Skill: Demon's Pupils

'I'll take these things first since they are useful to me.'

They had gained a lot of items and rewards during this battle. Among these, there were plenty of things that would be able to help him. Great Demon Verus' Mask would be able to hide Minhyuk's face, while the Great Demon's All Creation Production Book was very useful to him and could give him a great boost in power.

'Maybe I can get a God-rank artifact from it too.'

However, if Minhyuk asked for something more than that, then the production book would disappear. In other words, he had to think carefully about what he wanted to make before using it.

Then, there was also God's Ore Vlad.

'If I can successfully reinforce the Continent Destroyer Sword, then...'

From what Minhyuk could gather, the Continent Destroyer Sword would gain even more power than it had now. As for the maps for the Absolute God's Secret and the Demon World's Trainers Island, Slaughter, those things could be pursued and dealt with at a later date.

'What should I make with the All Creation Production Book?' Minhyuk thought as he pondered about what he wanted to make. Of course, the first thing that came to mind was 'dishes and cooking'.

'But once I finish the dish, then that will be the end of it...'

Minhyuk might be making great progress in his eating addiction treatment, but he was still very crazy about food and eating. He thought about whether he should eat something tasty once, or eat them continuously.

'Just as I thought, it's better if it's the latter.'

Minhyuk believed that it was better to eat something delicious continuously and consistently. After all, he should milk this opportunity and not let it be just a one-time dish.

'What should be the best way for me to eat and make more yummy dishes?'

All of Minhyuk's artifacts, whether it was his sword, armor, or accessories, were all excellent. There was nothing more that he could wish for in this area. That was why he believed that he should no longer be greedy for something like that.

Instead, he thought long and hard about how to make more delicious dishes.

'What can be useful in battle like my sword and accessories, but also good enough to be out of ordinary, so I don't have to worry about the restriction of equipping only one kind of that item?'

It would be great if he could come up with something. After all, he did not need to have two of the same thing. If that was the case, then...?

'Something that will be useful for me when I cook during battles and when I'm gathering regular ingredients and materials...'

What could possibly fit this criteria? Minhyuk pondered deeply as he recalled everything that he had been through in this game. That was when he recalled the time when he joined the Goblin Subjugation Troops for the Sun's Wheat in Isbin Village. Minhyuk had joined the troops and became a military chef, which allowed him to meet Len, the chef with no sense of taste. And in there, there was...

*'A cooking trailer...!'?*Minhyuk jumped up from his seat as the thought flashed in his head.

It was something that could help him make more dishes and did not overlap with any of the items that he had now! A cooking trailer was a truck-type cooking ware that could help him cook outdoors.

'Of course, the dishes that I make inside that trailer will definitely be tastier than the dishes that I make out in the open!'

What more if it became a God-rank cooking trailer? And...

'I can also make it so that it can shrink to a very small size that I can carry in my pocket and only push a button for it to transform into the cooking trailer!'

...he would also take care of the portability of the item.

At that very moment, Minhyuk had finally decided on what item he would make with the Great Demon's All Creation Production Book.

At the same time.

Brod, just like usual, was spending his time leisurely with the cows, the pigs, and the chickens. But then, at that moment...

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

A sudden, unknown sound rang in the area. Brod immediately turned his head to the direction where the sound came from. That was when he saw the red dragon egg that he, and His Majesty Minhyuk, could not break, no matter how hard they tried!

Shwaaaaaaaaaaa—

Along with that sound, something extraordinary happened. A red stream of air gushed out and swirled around the egg, as a notification rang in Brod's ears.

[A new legend is trying to break free from the egg and hatch into the world.]

Plop!

The hay in Brod's mouth fell down on the ground.

'It's only hatching but it's already a legend?'

It was clear to Brod, that whatever it was that was hatching from that egg, it was an existence that would shake the entire world.

Chapter 460: Luna

After hearing the report of the soldier that Brod had sent, Minhyuk hurried after the soldier. It was not just him; Genie and Locke also followed right behind them after hearing the news.

When they arrived, they were left reeling in shock, "A legend upon hatching...?"

They already knew that the egg was the egg of a dragon, but what they did not expect was the fact that it would be a legend the moment it hatched. That was very shocking.

"It must have been a very unusual egg," Brod, who 'picked' up the egg, remarked. It was as if he also did not expect this to happen. The egg was still surrounded and covered by the red stream of air. Then...

Shwaaaaaaaa—

The egg split in two as the red stream of air shot up to the skies. This was immediately followed by a set of notifications.

[A red dragon that has inherited the blood of the king has been born to the world.]

[The current Dragon Lord has declared that the child born from this egg would become the most powerful and greatest lord in the history of dragon kind.]

[The red dragon that inherited the blood of the king has infinite potential.]

[The newly hatched red dragon will recognize you as her 'parent' the moment she opens her eyes.]

"The, the blood of a king?!"

"Did, did it just say Dragon Lord?!!!"

All of them were flabbergasted.

'The newly hatched egg can become a Dragon Lord?! And, according to the notifications,? it will?even become the most powerful and greatest lord in history?!'

While everyone was still reeling from their shock, the newly hatched dragon wriggled and twitched inside the egg shell.

"The newly hatched dragon will recognize her parent the moment she opens her eyes..."

"Who should be the dragon's parent?"

There were a total of five people present here, Brod, Genie, Locke, Elpis, and Minhyuk. As they discussed the dragon's parent, Brod was shocked when he looked at the little dragon.

'Unbelievable...'

It was because the little dragon was looking at one person, and one person alone, from the moment she opened her eyes. This person was none other than Minhyuk.

'Did she recognize His Majesty because she knew that he would become the greatest...?'

It seemed as though the dragon knew whose child she was supposed to be the moment she was born. The red dragon's eyes, which were still soft around the edges and were surrounded by some soft red scales and a bit of mucus, shone brightly and intelligently.

[She has started to recognize Player Minhyuk as her parent.]

[Please give the child a name.]

Minhyuk, who suddenly became a parent, was flustered. The situation was like someone appearing in front of him and saying, 'Hey, you. You be my dad!'? The people present all edged slowly towards the egg which allowed them to look closely at the little dragon's appearance.

Unlike an ordinary human child, the little dragon already had a full set of teeth and a pair of tiny wings. The little dragon's eyes were also very round and big, big enough to cover half of her face. Whenever she blinked, she reminded them of that cat in the film Shriek.

The person that was extremely thrilled to meet this cute creature was none other than Locke.

He exclaimed, "Ka, Kawaii...!"

Contrary to his looks, Locke was very fond of cute animals like cats and dogs. It was evident by how much he cherished and cared for Love, Hope and Happiness. However, the moment Locke stretched his hand out to touch the little dragon's head...

"Kkiiiiiiiik!" The hatchling screeched, her body shuddering from dislike.

"...?"

Locke tilted his head in confusion as he watched Genie poke the cute little dragon in the cheeks.

"So soft!"

"Hiyeeee~" The hatchling cried happily at Genie's touch.

"Pre... tty..." Elpis murmured, smiling softly as he caressed the hatchling's head. The hatchling twisted her body in delight as she cried, "Hiyeee~"

"Ahem. It's cute," Brod said, smiling happily when the little dragon turned to look at him.

When the hatchling looked at Minhyuk, her eyes sparkled more brightly than when she looked at them. When Locke tried to reach his hand out again...

"Kkiiiiiiiiik!" The hatchling screeched once again, before twisting her trembling body away from Locke's reach.

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"..."
"..."
"..."
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At that moment, everyone realized that the little dragon was doing that because of Locke's face! This was lookism at its finest!

Locke's face, which was already large to begin with, was a face that even a newly hatched dragon recognized as something scary. It was only natural that the little dragon felt shocked when he looked down on her. Realizing this, Locke took a few steps back away.

"What name should I give her?" Minhyuk asked worriedly as he hugged the hatchling to his chest. He looked down at the child wriggling in his hold and felt as if there was something familiar about her.

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"Volcano...?"

"..."

"Or maybe, Red Combo?"

"..."

"..."

"If it's not Volcano or Red Combo, then what?"
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Genie sighed when she heard Brod's words.

"Then, Seasoned Chicken as a name?"

"…"

Brod was very shocked when he realized the true extent of Minhyuk's bad naming sense. Not too long ago, he sounded as if he was the master of naming when he declared the name of their kingdom as 'Beyond the Heavens', but it seemed like his disease suddenly came back!

"Seasoned Chicken, or maybe Capsaicin? These two seem to be okay...?"

'My goodness!!! He's going to name the red dragon that might become the greatest dragon of all time 'Volcano', 'Red Combo', 'Seasoned Chicken' or even 'Capsaicin'?!'

Genie felt nervous. Was Minhyuk really going to name the dragon Volcano?

First name Volcano, last name Chicken... What's my name? Yeah. My Name's Chicken Volcano~

Then, Minhyuk suddenly looked down at the hatchling again. He saw the little dragon's big round eyes that covered almost half of her face, as she touched Minhyuk's fingers with her small paws. Her eyes that were filled with faith and trust in him reflected his figure.

'Looks a bit stupid.'

Minhyuk, because of his eating addiction, could not control his desire for food. There were plenty of times when he tried to slap himself awake and break out from this quagmire. But no matter what he did, he could not break free. And right now, the figure that was reflected in the eyes of the child in his arms was making him feel self-conscious. Her yellow eyes should have looked scary and strange to them, but it did not look like that at all. Rather than scary, her eyes seemed to shine beautifully as they illuminated his figure.

"Luna."

It was a Latin word that meant 'moon'.

"Be the moonlight that illuminates the dark road ahead."

The hatchling was clearly a female judging by her appearance. And the name that Minhyuk gave her, along with its meaning, matched the child's beautiful and wonderful eyes perfectly.

"Hiyeeeeee~" The child cried softly as she wriggled in his arms happily. It seemed like she was in a very good mood. Then, Minhyuk heard the notifications.

[The hatchling really likes the name 'Luna'.]

[Would you like to name her 'Luna'?]

"Yeah."

[You have named the hatchling, 'Luna'.]

Minhyuk immediately checked Luna's stats window.

?Passive Skill: King's Descendant

?Passive Skill: Limitless Potential

?Passive Skill: King's Mana Heart

Passive Skill

?Born as a descendant of a Dragon Lord and fated to become one. With the blood of the king running through her veins, she will be able to dedicate superb concentration and amazing efforts in any field that she's interested in.

?With the blood of the king running through her veins, she would be able to exude unparalleled dignity and majesty as she grows older.

?With the blood of the king running through her veins, she would be able to awaken the powers of the Dragon Lords of the past the older she gets and the more she learns about something new.

Passive Skill

?She can do anything with her unlimited and infinite potential.

?She may be able to surpass her teacher as long as she becomes enlightened on the subject.

?She will not be restricted by numbers and will show talent as she learns anything and everything, whether it is swordsmanship, magic, intelligence and resourcefulness, governance and many more.

?However, if she displays an unusual tardiness in studying, she will lose her limitless potential and lose the effectiveness of the blood of the king flowing in her veins.

Passive Skill

?With the King's Mana Heart, she will have 400% more INT and WIS than regular dragons.

?She can use Fourth Tier Magic right away.

?She might be able to reach a new class that transcends the level of all the dragons in existence.

'... That's amazing, '? Minhyuk thought as he blinked blankly at the laughing Luna in his arms. She might be crying 'Hiyeeeee~' cutely but the power that she was wielding was completely beyond anyone's common sense. However, it seemed like he still had

to teach Luna a lot of things, including manners and etiquette. Still, he looked at Luna happily.

Meanwhile, Locke, who was standing fifteen meters away from Luna, looked at her with sparkling eyes and thought, 'So, so cute...' but when he realized that he could only peek at her from a distance, he could not help but cry as he looked up at the sky.

"Mom and dad said that I was the most handsome person in the world though..."

Today, Locke realized that his mom and dad lied to him.

Bracard's Lair in the American Server.

Not too long ago, the Lord's egg had been stolen right under Bracard's nose. The current Dragon Lord had ordered them to find the previous Dragon Lord's egg and everyone was working hard to follow this order. However, there was also another man that was looking for the Dragon Lord's egg, the cause of the shocking scene right now.

Bracard had lost both of his wings and his body was filled with cuts. The pain of losing his wings was enough to make him writhe on the ground. Then, the man, who was also looking for the Lord's egg, stood in front of Bracard and gripped his face tightly. The man was wearing a skeleton mask and a black robe.

"The Lord's egg... has been stolen..."

The man brooded over the words that Bracard uttered. This man was none other than Akhan, the Crazy Tyrant who dreamt of bringing Athenae down. He was a relatively unknown player that was famous for his shocking and powerful summons. He was also the same person that tried to make a mess out of Asgan Continent by forcing Black Dragon Vormon into a frenzied state. But right now, he was able to easily overpower Bracard.

Among the dragons, Bracard was hailed as a 'knight' because he was the most powerful among all of the dragons in existence. If it was based on the humans' rankings, then he would be comparable to the 'Sword Saint' in terms of power. However, he could not leave a single scratch on Crazy Tyrant Akhan's body at all.

'The Dragon Lord's egg is something that I need,'? Akhan thought, his face that was hidden behind his mask turning ugly.

The Lord's egg was like a double-edged sword. The life that the dragon that hatched from this egg would lead would differ depending on who raised it. Akhan had learned about the Lord's egg through one of his 'quests' and immediately came here to take it away. He intended to cultivate the egg with wickedness and evil and plant only murderous intent and destructive thoughts so it would only live to kill.

Akhan thought that raising the dragon like that would contribute greatly to Athenae's collapse. That was right. Akhan might be a player but he could create new episodes in Athenae and bring them 'despair'.

"Who was it?"

"Die!!! I won't say anything to you!"

At the very least, Bracard thought that Akhan should not get his hands on the egg. Bracard believed that the egg would become the most vicious and evil existence in history if the egg was born under the care of this man in front of him. Akhan smirked, the skeleton mask covering his face also twisting into an eerie smile.

Then, streams of energy stretched out from the tips of Akhan's fingers as he touched Bracard's head. The energy dug through Bracard's thick scales and went through his memories which appeared as a list in front of Akhan.

[The one that stole the Dragon Lord's egg.]

[He uses the Mercenary Swordsmanship.]

[Red wolves were released from his sword.]

[A tall man.]

"...A mercenary?" Akhan could not believe it. Were they telling him that the one that stole the Dragon Lord's egg from Bracard's Lair was just a human mercenary?

But not long after, someone crossed his mind. This someone was the man that Akhan saw in the video of the battle between Barras Kingdom and Let's Eat Sect. The man was tall, used the Mercenary Swordsmanship and released red wolves from his sword.

"...It's that bastard again?" A deep smile curled at the corners of Akhan's mouth.

"Hurry up and kill meeee!!!" Bracard shouted. But before he could even pull Akhan's fingers deeper into his head, his yellow eyes suddenly turned black.

"I swear... my... eternal... loyalty... to... Crazy Tyrant... Akhan..."

"It seems like I have to go to the Korean Server."

Just like that, Athenae's greatest 'disaster' was now slowly making his way towards Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.