

Gourmet 461

Chapter 461: Japanese Server

Luna's birth, as well as Minhyuk becoming Luna's parent, were very meaningful. However, as the king of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, he was busier than anybody else. Then, that would raise the question of who would raise and take care of Luna? When they talked about this, Minhyuk only mentioned one being.

'Beanie.'

Plenty of people were shocked at Minhyuk's choice. They immediately tried to dissuade him but Minhyuk's decision was final. He said, *'Beanie will raise and lead Luna in the right path.'*

Everyone could not understand what he meant. This was because they had seen how the Supreme Divine Beast baby piggy Beanie could become 'despicable Beanie'. That very same Beanie would be able to lead Luna on the right path?

'Just watch. You'll understand.'

As his owner, Minhyuk knew Beanie the best. Hearing this, they did not complain about his choice anymore and just decided to watch. After everything had been settled, Minhyuk went back to the office. Then, he pulled out the Great Demon's All Creation Production Book, a very old parchment, out of his inventory.

"Use the All Creation Production Book."

The Great Demon's All Creation Production Book reacted to Minhyuk's words.

[The Great Demon's All Creation Production Book has been triggered.]

[The Great Demon's All Creation Production Book contains a special power that can allow you to create anything you desire.]

[If you wish for something that's beyond outrageous, the production book will disintegrate.]

[It depends on the item that you want to make but you might need more materials.]

[If there's a specific artifact or dish that you desire, you can explain it or draw a picture of it.]

Minhyuk decided to draw a picture of what he wanted. A bright light appeared at the tip of his fingers and when he put his finger in the air, a line was drawn, just like when someone drew something on paper. Then, Minhyuk began to draw. He drew a carriage with a place to cook rice and prepare side dishes inside. There was also a small place where he could place a small frying pot and a place for washing dishes. Minhyuk continued to draw until he finished drawing a pretty big cooking trailer.

[Please describe what you drew in detail.]

"A kitchen where you can perfectly make rice, side dishes, and meals, even when outdoors. It can shrink until it's small enough to be able to fit inside the inventory window, and can grow big enough when needed."

[The Great Demon's All Creation Production Book is attempting to make the blueprint for the item.]

Then, a hologram appeared in front of Minhyuk and projected a huge cooking trailer. It looked far more sophisticated and intricate than the one that Minhyuk drew with his fingers. There was a chimney on the trailer's roof, while the inside was equipped with counters on both sides. The left side was allotted as the place where he could cook rice, while the right was where he could make side dishes. There was also a place where he could make fire underneath.

As Minhyuk looked at the place where he could ignite a fire, he suddenly thought, *'In real and actual trailers, it takes a long time for the fire to be ignited. Also, there should be a way to keep the fire under control.'*

Minhyuk had studied cooking trailers in reality. The military used cooking trailers in their training too. However, the trailers that they used were very uncomfortable to move in. Also, it usually took four hours for them to cook rice there.

[The blueprint for the Cooking Trailer is finished.]

[You need the 'Eternal Flames' to complete the Cooking Trailer.]

[Applying the Eternal Flames on the Cooking Trailer will remove the need to ignite the fire. The trailer can also trap and contain the Eternal Flames when it's not being used.]

[If you use the Eternal Flames, your cooking time will be reduced by 40%.]

[You can replace the Eternal Flames with an alternative material.]

[You can now check the Cooking Trailer's blueprint.]

?You can keep the trailer in your inventory.

?Your cooking time will be reduced by more than 40%.

?Although you will cook outdoors, the dishes that you make in the trailer will become tastier as long as you use a strong flame like the Eternal Flames.

?Any dish cooked outdoors will have a shorter buff duration. However, the buff effects would be greater.

?It can detect any danger in the vicinity. The higher the level of danger detected, the higher the chances of creating a higher-ranked dish that can help you overcome the imminent crisis.

'This is the best.'

Minhyuk was in awe. The blueprint had everything that he needed. It could shorten his cooking time, make the dishes that he made better, and even significantly increase the chances of him getting a high-rank dish when cooking during a battle.

'The biggest advantage is that it can be useful for a very long time.'

Everyone's needs and requirements for their sword or armor would change over time. That was not the case for this cooking trailer. It would continue to be useful for him in the long run.

'Now, where can I get this Eternal Flame?'

The fastest way to get an answer was to call for Haze.

“The Eternal Flame is another name for Hepas’ Flames. It has tremendous firepower that can melt any mineral and ore in one go. Artifacts created using the Eternal Flames will receive its force and will be able to gain great power. It’s a godly material that has enough power that can blow up a city of decent size in one shot.”

Minhyuk nodded after hearing her explanation. Haze read dozens of books everyday, and she was using the knowledge that she gained from these books to help many guild members.

“Do you know where I can find it?”

“I only know the rough location.”

“Where is it?”

Haze immediately opened the map upon hearing Minhyuk’s question. The map that she opened was not the map of Asgan Continent, but the map of the world.

“It’s here.”

“...Japan?”

Haze tilted her head in confusion when she heard Minhyuk’s words.

“The foreigners call the Abbar Continent ‘Japan’.”

That was right. The place where Haze pointed at was located at Abbar Continent, the Japanese Server.

‘The Gods are involved in all of the continents. Perhaps that’s the reason why the Eternal Flames came up as a material for the cooking trailer?’

Usually, when the required materials for an artifact production was listed, it would only list the available items in the continent where the one creating was located. But it seemed like this was a very special case.

‘Do I have to give up?’

However, the All Creation Production Book was only available once. He could make the trailer by replacing the Eternal Flames with the Flames of Lumina, but replacing it would definitely reduce the effects of the artifact.

‘Then, maybe I should wait for the server integration and consolidation?’

However, it did not make sense for him to wait for the server integration either. After all, he did not know how long it would take for that to happen.

‘I also want to go to Abbar Continent if possible.’

Abbar Continent, in other words, the Japanese Server, was one of Athenae’s powerhouses. But the reason why Minhyuk was very inclined to go there was...

‘The local dishes of Abbar Continent!’

Fresh sushi, ramen, donburi, convenience store food, sukiyaki, karaage, and many more! Just the thought of these dishes was enough to make Minhyuk drool.

'It would be like an overseas trip, right? That's if I can go.'

Alas, the problem was he did not know how he could get there.

"Is there a way for me to go to Abbar Continent?"

"I haven't seen anything about it in all of the books I have read so far."

"...Hmmm."

"But," Haze paused, eyes twinkling brightly which greatly increased Minhyuk's anticipation, before continuing, "I know someone that has traveled across the continents."

Minhyuk's attention was drawn by her words. He quickly asked, "Who?"

As if he had been waiting for these words, a man knocked on the door and said, "That would be me."

The man was none other than Brod. He was just waiting outside of the door to give a report when he heard their conversation. As it happened, Brod was someone that had traveled across several continents.

"I know how to get there."

Minhyuk's face brightened immediately. This was because he could hear the method to cross to Abbar Continent from Brod!

Joy Co. Ltd. Japanese Branch.

Ryota, a new employee of the Special Players Management Team, was now on his second day of work.

"Ryota, is the work alright? Do you think it's worth working here?"

"Yes, sir! The work is alright!!!" Ryota stood up sharply as he answered his team leader.

Team Leader Tadayoshi patted Ryota on the shoulders and said, "Keep doing what you're doing. I worked overtime yesterday so I'm going for a bit of shut-eye over there."

"Yes, sir!" Ryota answered, smiling brightly as he sat again.

'I really love the Special Players Management Team!'

Ryota did not need to rack his brains to create a story like in the Story Team, nor did he need to face the brunt of the players' criticism like in the Customer Center Team. All he needed to do was sit down, watch the monitor, and make a report! That was why he loved this team!

'I wonder why the person before me quit this job?' Ryota thought, expression turning into doubt. Based on his standards, the Special Players Management Team was like heaven compared to all the other teams. Today too, was a very peaceful day for Ryota as he watched the special players on his screen and wrote a report. But then...

[A player from Asgan Continent has reached the passageway to Abbar Continent.]

"...?"

Ryota looked at the screen in both doubt and disbelief as he quickly jogged his memory.

'All of the continents are connected.'

However, the passageways that connected these continents were being blocked and players were not allowed to pass through, unless they used a special method. For someone to enter the passageway that connected the Abbar Continent and Asgan Continent, they needed to enter and get sucked into the 'Death Vortex'.

The name Death Vortex was coined by the pirates that roamed around the seas, this was because anyone that tried to enter and get sucked in the whirlpool would die.

Even if they did somehow survive the Death Vortex and arrived in the passageway, they still would not be able to pass through if they failed to meet the conditions. This was because of the gatekeeper, an NPC goblin modeled after Japan's *oni*, called Red Goblin, a Level 690 NPC and was considered to be one of the bigshots.

'It's not that easy to cross through this continent.'

In fact, attacking Red Goblin would immediately eject the player from the passageway connecting the two continents. On top of that, Red Goblin had a very violent and mean personality, which he uses skillfully to harass and bully the players. The only way for them to pass through this passageway was to complete the 'travel pass' quest, or to already have the travel pass in their hands.

Each continent was given only ten travel pass tickets per year. In other words, even if they were able to get to this passageway by accident, they would still be unable to pass through if they did not have the necessary requirements.

'Hmm, maybe I should take a look? Who in the world broke through the 'Death Vortex' and entered the passageway?'

Ryota wondered as he looked at the screen.

[Konnichiwa~]

"..."

Ryota was left speechless. The reason? It was because the man was dressed as if he was on a trip abroad, and even had sunglasses perched on his nose.

'Is he really someone that entered through the Death Vortex?'

Ryota tapped on his keyboard and tried to identify the man.

[Information about Korean Players can only be viewed by the Korean Branch.]

“Ah...” Ryota exclaimed. Even if they were a part of the management team, as long as it was related to another country, they would not be able to read any of the said information. This was so they could prevent any special information about the players from another country from leaking.

‘What the hell?!’

And the man that greeted the Red Goblin brightly even had something in his hands.

“...Is that flatfish skewer? My goodness! Someone eats flatfish sashimi on a skewer?!”

The unidentified man was munching away on the 30 cm flatfish that was stuck on the skewer in his hands!

[If you don’t have the travel pass then you can’t pass through.]

[Is that so? Ehhh, this is my first trip to Japan... no, the Abbar Continent too. Is there anything I can do to remedy that?]

[If you don’t want to die then leave!]

The Red Goblin’s violent nature exploded. But the man...

[Hiyaaaa. You look cool when you’re angry. I’ve never seen such a cool and amazing goblin like you!]

[Hmm?]

[Kyaaa! Your horns are standing wonderfully! Your nose also looks like a pig’s snout! Your skin is also glaringly red! And those teeth, they look like that of an orc’s~ You’re really cool! Wow, those muscles! They’re bulging with veins! A manly man!!!]

[Ahem, ahem, ahem. Human, it seems like your eyes are not just for decoration for you to praise this goblin! Keuhahahaha!]

“...?!”

Ryota was shocked to see the Red Goblin immediately take a liking to a player in their initial meeting. And what’s more...

[Unfortunately, I have to go back today. It’s such an honor for me to meet a handsome goblin like you. So, before I go, can I treat you to a dish? It’s because Mister Goblin is so cool and handsome~]

[Well, if you want to, then you’re free to do that.]

Then, the man suddenly started cooking.

‘Korea’s stir-fried pork?’

Ryota was a fan of Korean dishes so he immediately knew what the man was about to make. But then, the man suddenly popped open a strange bottle and dropped three thick and clear drops of the liquid into the stir-fried pork.

Ryota tilted his head in confusion when he saw it.

‘What did he add?in the?dish? Some kind of seasoning?’

Meanwhile, Red Goblin gobbled up the meal happily.

[So, human food is this delicious!!!]

[Hehe. I'm grateful that Mister Handsome Goblin finds my dish delicious.]

[It's good! It's really delicious!!!]

Red Goblin ate the stir-fried pork with relish as the man said...

[Can I take a look around here for a bit?]

[If it's you boy, then it's alright. Take it as my return for giving me this wonderful dish.]

Ryota was in shock, '*The goblin allowed him to take a look around the passageway...*'

Then, the man disappeared. Ryota continued to monitor the Red Goblin. And after thirty minutes, cold sweat started to break out on the Red Goblin's face.

[The dish called spicy stir-fried pork... Hoo... I want to eat it again...]

After an hour.

[Ugh. Just once. If I can eat that dish once again then...]

After two hours.

[Heok, heok. Where did he go?! What is taking him long, he's just looking around, right?! Come back quickly so you can cook for me!!!]

After a while, the man came back.

[Sight-seeing is really fun.]

But before the man could turn around to leave, Red Goblin grabbed his wrists.

[You know that... that thing earlier... Can you cook it for me again?]

[Aaaaah~ That would be a bit difficult~ After all, Mister Red Goblin won't even let me pass through here. You're asking too much from me...]

The man looked extremely troubled. But then, Red Goblin said...

[You can! You can pass through here! Just please cook that for me again!]

At the same time, a notification popped up in front of Ryota.

[The mysterious man has acquired a travel pass in an unconventional way.]

"...???"

That was when Ryota saw...

Grin!

...the man smirking viciously! But he was not satisfied with just that and even took his demands a step further.

[But I was already hurt. And I feel so hurt that I don't think I can pass by anymore... Well, if you have some kind of good ingredient or material that you can give me then... I can think about it again~]

That face! That face clearly meant that the man was taking advantage of the Red Goblin and trying to make a deal with him! But the most shocking part was...

[I can do anything for you, just tell me what you want. So, please, I'm begging you...!]

The smirk on the man's mouth widened even further. Then, another notification popped up in front of Ryota.

[The mysterious player has acquired the Title: The One Who Can Even Trick the Continental Gatekeeper.]

“...!”

Ryota, on his second day at work, faced his greatest challenge.

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Minhyuk could not stop the curl of the corners of his lips, even though he was still standing in front of the Red Goblin when he heard the notifications.

He had reached the 'Death Vortex' with Brod. But when they arrived, Brod said that he could not go with him any further, and only told him about how to get through the Death Vortex safely.

Minhyuk expressed his doubt after hearing Brod's words, *'You won't come with me, Brod?'*

'I'm sorry, but I believe it would be difficult if I came with you.'

'How come?'

Brod was someone that had already gone through that passageway, so Minhyuk wondered why he could not go with him.

'The Red Goblin did not let me pass through the gates in the past, so I beat him up a few times. But after I attacked him, some kind of force stopped me from entering and ejected me from the passageway. If I go in with Your Majesty, there's a chance that you might get thrown out of the passageway too.'

'...'

Strangely enough, Minhyuk thought that it was something to be expected from Brod. After all, he was someone that extorted the kingdom troops' summons! There were even tales about the famous line he told the Great Demon Verus: 'Make sure you look at others kindly next time!'.

'Red Goblin is the gatekeeper guarding the passageway connecting the continents so it knows a lot of secret information. From what I gathered, he can also give out decrees that will allow one to cross from Abbar Continent back to Asgan Continent. I believe it would be

better for you to coax him so you can dig for more information and get the decrees from his hands.'

Minhyuk nodded as he recalled the conversation he had with the Dragon King not too long ago. The Dragon King said, *'This is the Sea Honey that has become more addictive.'*?He had received a stronger and more addictive Sea Honey from the Dragon King. This was the liquid that he dropped in the spicy stir-fried pork that he made for Red Goblin.

Also, Minhyuk knew that these things would be troublesome if he got recognized in Japan. After all, he was now one of the world-famous figures. That was why he used 'Demon's Face', a special effect from his recently obtained 'Great Demon Verus' Mask'. The moment he used the Demon's Face, he could change his face to any of the humans that Great Demon Verus had met in the past.

Right now, Minhyuk's face had changed to that of a young man of around the same age as him.

Then, Minhyuk took out the stir-fried pork that he had prepared in advance. Of course, this stir-fried pork was also mixed with Sea Honey.

"Hurry, hurry...!" Red Goblin urged Minhyuk as cold sweat dripped down from his forehead.

"My demand is simple, just give me a boat. Even a small sailing boat is fine, as long as it's a boat."

Red Goblin jumped up and down as if he was going crazy from want while he listened to Minhyuk's demand. His vision had started to blur as cold sweat continued to drip down from his forehead. This was the typical withdrawal symptoms from using Sea Honey! All he could do was nod his head as quickly as he could to make Minhyuk give him the dish faster.

"Second. My friends might come pass by here later, so please make sure to let them through."

Nod, nod!

"Third. Give me hints about the Eternal Flame and also give me a Return Order."

"You, you're asking for too much, aren't you?! I'm just protecting this place because I'm tasked to protect it!"

"Of course, of course. I understand you, Mister Goblin. Who else can understand your feelings aside from me. Right?" Minhyuk placed his palm on his chest and nodded, with a benevolent and kind expression on his face. He even went a step further by clasping his hands together and speaking softly at him with watery eyes.

"You think I'll ask about it for nothing, huh? My friends will bring you tasty dishes too when they pass by, you know?"

"Is... is that so?!" Red Goblin exclaimed, his eyes widening and sparkling brightly. It was a truly tempting deal.

Minhyuk, while gently patting Red Goblin's back, said, "A good thing in exchange for another good thing. Let's make a good deal, alright? I'll make sure to tell my friends to bring many dishes."

Minhyuk sounded as if he was talking about putting wads of money in apple boxes!

"Al, alright...!"

The Red Goblin looked conflicted for a while, but in the end, Minhyuk was able to successfully coax him into agreeing. And with that, Minhyuk was able to get a Return Decree to Asgan Continent, a small sailing boat, and information about the Eternal Flames.

All of the seas were connected. However, the Dragon King's Sea and the seas of Abbar Continent, the Japanese Server, were definitely different. There was no concept of 'pirates and piracy' in the seas of Asgan Continent, but in Abbar Continent, pirates ran rampant.

The biggest contributor to this was none other than that one famous Japanese comic. It was Ali's favorite comic that featured the words 'This is our token! Frieeeeeeeeeeend!' and made many of the Japanese players dream about sailing in the seas of Athenae. And because many of the Japanese players chose to become pirates, the Athenae Japanese Branch focused on creating and building various quests, hunting grounds, and rewards around their server's seas.

Currently, a huge warship was leisurely sailing and circling the seas. However, there were only three people aboard this huge ship. These three were pirates of the Ever Sea.

Taichi, one of the men onboard, was wearing a navy uniform. However, his class was originally a 'samurai'. The samurai class was similar to Korea's swordsman class and Taichi was already close to the peak of this class.

There was also a man named Baroch. Among them, he was the only one with the original 'pirate' class. And since he was the one with the most amount of skills related to piracy, he was the most fussy and picky among them.

And finally, there was Nana, a great beauty that no one would believe that she was one of the pirates. Her class was 'Alchemy Slaughterer'. She was good at making a variety of potions and was in fact as strong as some of the top assassins.

The reason why the three of them were taking the huge warship for a spin by themselves was because they were confident in their strength. After all, in the official Japanese rankings, Taichi was ranked 31st, Baroch was ranked 6th, and Nana was ranked 19th. Their high levels had allowed them to become big names in the field of piracy.

The three of them did not discriminate, they would kill everyone whether they were NPCs or players, and would loot all kinds of ships, from warships, pirate ships, fishing boats, to even transport ships. After taking away everything from them, they would then dismantle their things and ships, before reselling them. They were notorious, with their PK count exceeding 5,000 per person. They also often treated NPCs as if they were flies, and acted as if they were real pirates who enjoyed watching those that they kill beg for their lives.

"We won't have any sacrifices if things continue like this..." Baroch, a pirate with an eye patch covering one of his eyes, expressed his disapproval.

Nana nodded and said, "We must find a sacrifice for the Kraken King's hunt by tomorrow."

"If we can't find any sacrifices by tomorrow then the Kraken King will retreat deep down in the abyss again."

The being that they were talking about was none other than the ruler of Ever Seas, the Kraken King, which only appeared for two days every year in game time. The Kraken King had tentacles that were about ten meters long and weighed around several thousands of tons. A few slams from one of its tentacles was enough to destroy a fully-functioning warship. In addition, what made it hard to hunt the Kraken King was the fact that it could also get help from the creatures under the sea.

The three of them might be their country's top rankers standing at Levels 540, 551, and 530, but the Kraken King was at Level 630. They were fully aware that they could not kill the Kraken King so easily. One wrong move and all three of them would be logged out.

But that did not mean that there was no way for them at all to win.

'We can make an offering to the Kraken King.'

'The sacrifice that we have to offer should at least be as strong as us.'

'The Kraken is a gourmand that only eats the strong.'

A legend had been passed down across the seas about how the Kraken King liked the food on land, and that it would not eat anything unless they were strong, like the two-headed sharks that were known for their violent and fierce nature at sea. It was also omnivorous and would eat both meat and greens.

This method was, in fact, proven by the community sites. According to the news, the Kraken, after eating a player that completed their transfer to high class, did not attack the other players despite the players' attacks landing continuously on its body for a full minute.

'A minute is enough, having that leeway means that we have a high chance of triggering a critical hit.'

'One minute is enough for us to kill it.'

They needed a living sacrifice that was why they attacked the warship that they were on now. However, none of the people on board this warship met their requirements. Then...

"What's that?" The pirate and their leader, Baroch, looked suspiciously through his telescope. The other two immediately went behind him to look at what he was looking at.

Baroch saw a man sailing on a sailboat alone through his telescope. From what he could see, the man was throwing what seemed to be a bloody 'harpoon' at sea.

"A player?"

"That's definitely a player, right?"

The three of them looked at the man in doubt. It was extremely rare for someone to come out to sea alone. For players that sail at sea alone, it was either just one of the two: players who were in distress, or players from Asgan Continent that occasionally slipped through the passageway.

“He looks like a Korean.”

“Ho?”

That was when they realized.

“If he can pass through the Death Vortex then that means that he’s as strong as we are, right?”

That was right. That man over there was their perfect ‘sacrifice’. However, they still had to confirm that to some extent. They quickly approached the man. When the man saw them, he smiled brightly and waved his hand at them excitedly while shouting something, “... men... ge... don... tako... konni...!!!”

“...???”

“...???”

“...???”

As they got closer, the man’s words finally started to make sense.

“Konnichiwa~~~ Karaage! Ramen! Takoyaki! Donburi! Sushi! Beef katsu! Oishi!!!”

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

The trio shot the man a weird look. They wondered if this was a new type of crazy. The words that the man uttered were all of the famous dishes in Japan. Translating it, it would be: *Hello! Karaage! Ramyeon! Takoyaki! Donburi! Sushi! Beef Katsu! Delicious!!!*?or something along those lines.

The three of them snickered.

“He’s perfect.”

“The bastard looks a bit wonky in the head.”

“Perhaps this is the God of the Sea helping us?”

Vicious smiles curled up around their mouths. Then, they maneuvered their warship to get close to the sailing boat.

“Were you in distress? We’re from the navy. You might already know this but we’re also players.”

“I’m not in distress. But I think I’m in trouble!”

“What seems to be your problem?”

"I'm so excited to be here!!! Oh my god! I came to the land of donburi, karaage and beef katsu! But now..."

The man suddenly turned sullen.

"...I'm hungry."

The three looked at him and said...

"Let's hang your small sailing boat and get you onboard our warship so we can bring you to land."

"We also have a lot of food on board. You're probably Korean but as someone from Japan, we also want to treat you to something as a greeting."

"You'll really do that?"

"Of course."

This was how the three of them plundered, looted and killed the people in distress. By getting them onboard their own ship. The man climbed on the rope that they threw at him before pulling his sailboat up. Just like that, the man boarded their warship safely.

The man said, "I'm very happy to have met kind people like you! So lucky! Thank goodness. Ramen... n, no... Amen...!"

"You're a very interesting person, huh?"

"Hahahahaha!"

The three of them could only think of the man as someone that was lacking in the brains department. Then, Nana asked, "I saw you throwing a bloody harpoon at sea earlier. Did you hunt some monsters?"

"I made a friend at sea, you see. The harpoon was stuck in their body so I took it out and we became friends!"

"Ah..."

"You're very nice."

"Yeah. You made a friend as soon as you came here."

"Where's that monster friend of yours?"

"They already went home. But we'll see each other next time."

They all believed that the man was as gullible as he was sociable. These kind of people were usually stupid and naive. They naturally maneuvered their ship to go to the 'Kraken's Sacred Land'. They planned to take the man near there, knock him out, and throw him out to sea so that the Kraken would come out to eat him up.

"Wow! Wow! Can I really eat as much food as I want on this ship?"

“Yeah. Please help yourself.”

“Hahahaha! You can eat everything!”

Their plan went smoothly. And just like that, their warship approached the vicinity of the Kraken’s Sacred Land. But then...

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

The warship suddenly began to shake and tremble. The three of them were very shocked to see a gigantic octopus head break from the surface of the sea. And from what it looked like, its tentacles were around ten meters long.

[The Kraken King has appeared!]

[The Kraken King is one of the ten legendary monsters!]

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

The three pirates were very flustered.

‘Why, why did it appear now...?!’

‘What the hell? Why did the Kraken suddenly appear?!’

The three of them could not help but wonder why the Kraken suddenly appeared beyond their expected point. They could not help but flinch when they saw its gigantic size. But then, the Kraken’s huge eyes suddenly turned into crescents as it lifted one of its tentacles that was as long as their warship and waved at someone.

Then, they heard a voice ring loudly beside them, “*Sukhoe?! You brat!!! Is this where you live?! Is the part where I took out the harpoon alright? Is it still painful?*”

‘The monster that he pulled the harpoon from...’

‘The friend that he got close to...?’

“Sukhoe?!” Nana asked, her voice shaking.

“Ah. I gave him a name. Last name Octopus, first name Sukhoe. Octopus Sukhoe! Sukhoe!!! Say hello to your oppa’s friends!!!” Minhyuk said as he waved both of his arms towards Kraken King.

‘The Kraken King was the friend that he made by taking out the harpoon...?’

‘He named the Kraken King, Octopus Sukhoe?’

Something was definitely wrong here.

Chapter 463: Japanese Server

Japanese Branch’s Special Players Management Team.

Ryota was both shocked and appalled at the scene that he was watching, *‘My god... He became friends with the Kraken King... and even named it Octopus Sukhoe?’*

He could not help but wonder about the identity of the damn player being reflected on his screen. Even Team Leader Tadayoshi was flustered.

“Who the hell is that guy?! Is it not enough for him to pass through the passageway without a travel pass?! He even befriended the Kraken King?!”

After his outburst, Tadayoshi was left speechless. Even the new employee, Ryota, was fidgeting on his seat from nervousness.

“Ryota! Contact the Korean Branch!”

“Yes, sir!” The flustered and restless Ryota answered as he hurriedly contacted the Korean Branch.

[Yes, hello. This is Employee Lee Minhwa of the South Korean Branch’s Special Players Management Team.]

“Hello. This is New Employee Ryota of the Japanese Branch’s Special Players Management Team. We’re contacting you regarding the Korean Player that managed to pass through the passageway connecting the two continents this time...” Ryota explained to the woman, Lee Minhwa, who answered the phone.

From what he heard, the Korean employee Lee Minhwa had less than two years of experience in the field. However, she was a woman that was praised for her outstanding work by all of the company’s branches in the world.

“In line with that, we would like to request the players’ information!” Ryota said after deciding that he should know who his enemy was. However, the answer that he received was like a bolt out of the blue.

[I’m sorry. We cannot disclose any information about another server’s player.]

“Wh... what?! But the situation right now is...”

.

[Please take another look at Chapter 4 of Joy Co. Ltd.’s ‘Player Information Protection’ Manual. We strictly abide by these rules.]

Ryota’s eyes turned blank after hearing her answer. In the end, it seemed like they would not be able to learn about the man’s identity.

Ryota completely understood what Lee Minhwa was saying. President Kang Taehoon had strictly banned exchanges of players’ information between different countries in fear of information leakage. After all, they risked leaking the country’s player’s personal information, skills, and artifacts.

[Team Leader Park said that he understands where you’re coming from. However, we can only say one thing to you. The Japanese Branch needs to be prepared.]

Ryota's hand, which was holding the telephone's receiver, shook. Today was his third day on the job, but it felt like he was suddenly presented with a death sentence.

[He is one of our country's top figures. Ah, from what I recall, the Japanese Branch calls those kinds of people 'Disaster Class Players' right? That player is a Disaster Class Player. Please be careful. You'll definitely be shocked every time you see that player. I wish you luck.]

"...!!!"

Ryota hung up the call, his eyes shaking wildly as he turned to look at the man who was waving enthusiastically at the Kraken King.

'A Disaster Class Player...?'

Minhyuk waved enthusiastically at the Kraken King, Sukhoe, as he recalled what happened earlier.

When he was settling down after fishing to eat his hard-earned blue crab ramyeon, a gigantic shadow fell upon him. As he turned around to look, he was met with the vicious and ferocious eyes of the Kraken King. Strangely enough, the Kraken King's eyes were focused solely on the 'blue crab ramyeon' in Minhyuk's hands. It seemed completely hungry.

'If only Sukhoe's a monster that I can eat then...'

The Kraken King would have definitely been hunted and eaten! However, Sukhoe was a monster that did not shine with that 'black light', so it was classified as inedible. That was when he saw the Kraken King acting meekly, completely different from what he imagined. He wondered why it became that hungry. After all, the Kraken King was a ruler of the sea.

That was when he saw a huge harpoon stuck inside its mouth.

'My goodness! It must have been so painful that it can't eat, that's why it's so hungry!'

Minhyuk could understand its pain, and he readily removed the harpoon stuck inside the Kraken King's mouth. On top of that, he got close to the Kraken King after he gave it the name Octopus Sukhoe.

And Sukhoe, who appeared right now, looked completely like what it was described in the legends about the Kraken King. It was around 25 meters in height and its huge tentacles seemed to be able to break a warship into two with just one slam.

But then, Sukhoe suddenly stretched out one of its tentacles and pulled something out. It was as if he was trying to tell Minhyuk something. And Minhyuk understood what it was saying easily.

"A sack?"

Sukhoe nodded furiously. And when Minhyuk took the sack out, it shook its tentacle. Then...

Ting, ting, ting, ting, ting, ting—

...countless platinum coins fell inside the sack.

[The Kraken King has gifted you 941 platinum.]

“...Suk, Sukhoe?” Minhyuk asked in surprise. There was no other choice. After all, the amount of platinum that Sukhoe gave him was worth 94.1 billion gold. If he converted that gold to cash, then he would be able to gain billions of won.

But it did not end there.

Clang, clang!

Sukhoe kept on sending countless artifacts, decrees, and valuable items inside Minhyuk’s sack.

‘Crazy...!’

‘What the hell is going on?! The Kraken King is willingly giving out its treasures?!’

The three pirates looked at the scene in disbelief. This was because the Kraken King was clearly giving out its artifacts, gold, and decree parchments.

Monsters also have the concept of inventories. As for monsters that lived for hundreds of years, the rewards for hunting them were relatively large mainly because of their collection. The Kraken King had lived in these seas for more than 500 years. In fact, the three pirates were after these rewards. But now...

Clink, clink, clink, clink, clink—

[The Kraken King has gifted you the Diamond Mermaid’s Scales.]

[The Kraken King has gifted you the Mermaid Warrior’s Trident.]

[The Kraken King has gifted you 713 aqua stones.]

[The Kraken King has gifted you the Turtle Dragon’s Armor.]

[The Kraken King...]

The rewards kept on pouring in Minhyuk’s sack which made him very, very, very happy!

‘I have four goals to achieve during my visit here in the Japanese Server.’

One. Get the Eternal Flames.

Two. Eat the famous Japanese food.

Three. To develop the kingdom.

Four. To find support troops.

Minhyuk did not come here just for the Eternal Flames and the food. He also came here to discover new talents and valuable items that he could not get his hands on in Korea.

‘Just a glance and one can tell that these aqua stones are amazing.’

The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom currently lacked good ores and minerals to create proper artifacts. But thanks to Sukhoe, he was not only able to get 713 aqua stones that were perfect for artifact reinforcement, but also the scales of the Diamond Mermaid, which were materials that were good for making armor, as well as countless valuable resources, armor, swords, bows, and even spears for soldiers.

Meanwhile, the three pirates...

'...We don't need to kill the Kraken King.'

'We will get more artifacts if we kill him.'

'He's like a walking treasure chest.'

...were all grinning widely. That was right. The man in front of them was now like a walking treasure chest. And they were coveting the artifacts that this man would drop the moment they killed him.

The Pirate's Grave was a famous island where Great Pirate Gorfido's curse was lurking. The Great Pirate Gorfido was said to have been a very greedy pirate. According to the rumors, death did not stop Gorfido's greed. He became a ghost and even invaded pirate ships and other ships so he could take away their treasures and valuables. In the end, he could not escape the grip of death and faced eternal rest in the island called the Pirate's Grave, while his dark and greedy energy covered the entire island.

Since then, the island was considered to be a 'Taboo Zone' and players were recommended to not visit this place. This was mainly because the players' inventory drop rate would rise to more than 50% upon death inside the Pirate's Grave. This meant that they would risk losing their possessions. In other words, they risked losing half of all of the miscellaneous items and valuables in their inventory, except for what they had equipped on their body. The worst part was the fact that they would receive twice the usual amount of penalty upon death.

Even pirates that were used to plundering did not dare to venture there.

'It is said that Gorfido's spirit will descend to judge upon those that wished to plunder.'

That raised the question: When would he descend?

However, only the Red Goblin that guarded the passageway between the two continents knew about Gorfido's existence.

Gorfido would descend once and give judgment upon the pirates. A pirate judging other pirates was extremely strange to say, but Gorfido hated the fact that someone else took things from him. His judgment depended on how many people his opponents had killed and could go on for as long as 90 days. Also, as long as they were within Gorfido's grasp, they would continue to drop artifacts, gold and valuables, even if they did not die yet.

'However, this is something that only a few know, even those people like us that always sailed the seas.'

'There's no way someone from another continent will know about this.'

'Hoho. If we take him to the Pirate's Grave and kill him then we'll be able to take away a lot from him, right?'

The man was definitely their big catch. All three of them were greedy about the things that were in the man's inventory, especially the platinum that he received earlier! They would still be able to gain an enormous amount even if they would only be able to get half of that!

"Sukhoe, byeeeeeee! See you next time!" The man waved his hand as he promised to see the Kraken King next time.

'He's really an idiot, huh?'

That bright smile of his was definitely a sign that he was a pushover! The three snickered as they approached him.

"We want to pass by the 'Pirate's Treasure Island' before going to land. Want to join us?"

"Pirate's Treasure Island?"

"Yes. There's an event that's held once a month in the Pirate's Treasure Island where your EXP acquisition rate and item drop rate increases by five times. On top of that, getting an amazing artifact is a sure win if you can kill the Pirate Leader boss mob. That's today, would you like to come with us?"

"Oooooooh. There's something good like that here?"

The three lied with a straight face.

And Minhyuk, who was nodding fiercely, smirked when they turned away from him.

A huge warship threaded through the rough waters.

Grrrrrrrrrr! Bang! Bang!

Suddenly, the skies darkened as a violent thunderstorm roared and poured down. The skies were so dark that anyone would doubt if someone told them that it was the middle of the day.

"This is how much the climate changes on the way to the Pirate's Treasure Island. But once you overcome this rough patch at sea, you will be able to get amazing treasures. You know?"

"There's this old saying from our country: April showers bring May flowers," Minhyuk said with a smile as their trembling ship finally reached an island. Once they reached the island, the waters turned calm, and only the dark skies and the falling rain remained.

When the warship stopped, Nana said, "Get off."

"I'm going first?" Minhyuk wavered.

'He's... doubting us? Well, that's understandable.'

‘No other choice. We’ll have to get off first. Anyway, we’ll get off to hunt him too.’

They thought that Minhyuk’s class was a ‘tamer’ and believed that they could finish him off quickly as long as they moved fast. Nana first anchored the ship to the island and brought down the bridge so they could go down to the Pirate’s Grave. Then, Taichi and Baroch went down as Minhyuk slowly threaded down the bridge.

The three smiled at Minhyuk and said, “Be careful.”

But, what they were saying outside was different from what they were thinking.

‘Come, you moron.’

‘Will this be the first time someone has PKed a Korean player here? Wow, a global PK.’

‘From what I heard, Korean players would be sent back to their continent once they are forced to log out. How pathetic.’

They were grinning widely just by thinking about what was about to unfold. But at that moment, Minhyuk, who was coming down the bridge, suddenly stopped.

“But you know, there’s something really strange here.”

“Something strange?”

They tilted their heads in confusion when they saw him stop his descent.

“Yes. First, why are there only three people on such a huge warship? It’s as if the ship has been plundered,” Minhyuk said, raising one finger up. Then, he raised another finger.

“Second. Your navy uniforms don’t fit. Especially yours. It looks like you took it away from someone.”

Then, Minhyuk looked back at the warship, before raising the third finger, and said, “Third. According to Red Goblin, the island where the climate changes drastically is not called the Pirate’s Treasure Island, but the ‘Pirate’s Grave’.

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Their faces turned ugly as they watched Minhyuk turn around. Then, Minhyuk used his skill ‘Like the Wind’ and went back to the warship in one go. Along with that...

Bang—

Minhyuk pulled out his sword from his inventory and immediately swung it down on the bridge.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

Minhyuk smiled as the bridge that connected the ship and the island broke down.

“And because of that, you guys, who tried to hit me in the back, will be given the same treatment that you want to do to me.”

“Hi, hiiiiiiik...!”

“Do you think you can run away, huh?!”

“That’s bullshit.”

They thought that the man was foolish enough to think that they would not be able to get on the warship just because he had broken the bridge connecting to it.

To their dismay, Minhyuk just laughed viciously and said, “But you know, today’s the day when the most threatening existence in the Japanese Server, the one comparable to demons, appears. Today’s the day that Great Pirate Gorfido will descend.”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

They immediately turned around after hearing his words and seeing Minhyuk jerk his chin forward as if he was pointing behind them. There, they saw a skeleton with glittering and sparkling bones like that of a Death Knight. On his head was a black hat commonly worn by pirates and a ragged black pirate robe on his body.

[Great Pirate Gorfido has appeared!]

[Gorfido’s Wrath!]

[Gorfido’s Wrath will increase in power against those with a higher kill count.]

[Gorfido’s power has bound you for five straight seconds.]

Before getting their bodies bound, they were able to turn around to see Minhyuk’s smiling face.

“Gorfido will now constantly strip you of your artifacts, gold, and valuables. And those things that were stolen from you, I’ll make sure to take good care of them. Ah, by the way, I’m sure you know this, but Gorfido will definitely lock you up on this island for at least 90 days. Heh,” Minhyuk smiled as he spoke, but his voice was filled with frost.

Then, he uttered the Japanese word that the ten-year-olds back home would often say when they were in a good mood, “Ki~ Mo~ Chi!”

Chapter 464: Great Pirate Gorfido

Nana and the rest of the three pirates immediately flushed red. The three of them were hailed as the ‘Pirates of Despair’ in the seas of the Japanese Server. Baroch, with his special skills, was able to sink pirate ships carrying hundreds of people and warships with powerful NPCs deep into the abyss of the sea. But now...

‘We’re being plundered?’

‘The pirates are being robbed at sea?’

‘What the hell...?’

...they were facing the biggest disgrace in their entire career. In fact, some said that even Japan’s member of the Summit Five, ‘Kentaro’, would not be able to do anything against them if they were at sea.

But a mere Korean player dared to do something like this to them?

“Ah, that’s right. Thanks for this warship. It’s all thanks to you that I will be able to get to land comfortably. And there’s even plenty of food onboard,” Minhyuk said, grinning widely.

Grit, grit, grit—

Baroch gritted his teeth. There were only two seconds left from the five seconds stun. However, looming behind them was Great Pirate Gorfido. Great Pirate Gorfido was the absolute and supreme pirate that once roamed the seas of the entire continent. His level was a testament to this fact!

[Gorfido. Level 779.]

Strangely enough, even though Gorfido was only made of bones, there was still a patch of whitebeard hanging on his skull.

“Did you just... try to plunder someone else... in my sea...”

He had a rusty sword in one hand and a rusty chain in the other. Anyone that got tied up by Gorfido’s chains would be locked up in the island for 90 days and have their possessions and gold drop continuously.

‘If it’s 90 days then... we’ll... definitely lose hope...’

More rankers would come up and replace them if they got locked up for 90 days.

Will the famous Pirates of Despair face their end here?!

No. They had a way to stop that from happening. All they needed to do was to take that warship back. But Gorfido was already running straight towards them just as their stunned state was released.

“I’m... the only one... who can... plunder...!”

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Nana, who had the fastest pair of feet among them, glanced at Gorfido as she kicked the ground.

“Hang in there! I’ll save you!”

“We don’t have much time. We have to take back the warship quickly!”

Pirate Baroch and the number one samurai Taichi quickly turned around to block Gorfido. Meanwhile, Nana, who flew up to the skies...

“You impudent bastard!!!”

What did they assume was the man's class? It was none other than tamer, a very special tamer at that too.

'It's clear that he's just a temporary tamer.'

What did Nana mean when she said temporary tamer? She was talking about a player that could only tame and work with monsters for a single day. Ordinary tamers would tame and work with monsters until their death. However, for temporary tamers, they were giving up this advantage to tame a monster just for a single day. The proof that they needed was the 'Kraken King'.

'No one would be crazy enough to leave behind the Kraken King after taming them. He can do that because he only tamed it for a single day!'

Nana jumped up swiftly! Although she was good at making poisons, no one should forget that she was originally an assassin. One leap and she was already on the deck where Minhyuk was standing. Then, she saw Minhyuk try to move the sword that he used to break the bridge.

'I'm faster! How dare a tamer like you...!'

She wanted to stab his vital points and throw him out to the Pirate's Grave in one go. And after rescuing the others, she would turn this man into Gorfido's prey! Nana flew up and triggered her skill, "Critical Plunder!"

If this attack successfully stabbed a vital point, her attack would become explosive, with an attack speed that would instantly rise by four times and deal an additional 500% damage. Nana moved at the speed of light. But just when she was about to touch the man in front of her, a black force erupted from the man's sword. It was so fast that Nana's chest had already been slashed before her weapon could reach the man's neck. Then...

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—

Five consecutive explosions burst out and engulfed Nana, as a blazing flame shot out from the man's sword.

"Kyaaaaack!" Nana screamed as her body flew back. She was in complete disbelief despite the fact that she was sent flying back from the impact of her enemy's blow.

'What, what the hell...?'

She truly could not believe it. One, each time the explosion slammed into her body, her HP would be reduced by 15%. Although assassins were known to be critical dealers with low defensive power and HP, as a ranker among rankers, Nana could easily surpass this stereotype. However, the damage was so powerful that she could not withstand it. And what was worse...

'How can a tamer...'

What kind of unbelievably ridiculous power was that?! Just five consecutive hits and her HP had dropped by as much as 60%.

[You have received a strong impact!]

[The bones in your body have been broken from the strong impact. Your movements will be severely restricted.]

“What, What the hell...” Nana uttered in disbelief as her body finally landed. How many players in Korea could deal damage like that? There were some people that came to mind, but she shook her head at the thought.

‘I haven’t seen anyone land five consecutive explosions like that though...’

However, unbeknownst to her, there was a secret to this attack. And this secret lay in Verus’ Mask.

‘Crazy... Verus’ Mask is completely out of this world, huh?’ Minhyuk rejoiced. He was already aware of the abilities in Verus’ Mask before he wore it, but now that he was experiencing it first-hand, he could not help but think that this was completely ridiculous.

According to the ‘Demon’s Face’ skill attached to Verus’ Mask, he could change his face to the face of any of the humans that Verus had encountered before. To be exact, this was the details of the skill:

Active Skill

?You can change your face into the face of any of the humans that Great Demon Verus had met in middle earth. However, your height, weight, gender and other bodily features would not change.

?In order to completely hide his identity, Great Demon Verus hid his power by copying the power of the human that he had met. You will be able to hide your power as long as you are wearing the mask.

?The Demon’s Face has a similar effect on your skills. You will be able to use the full extent of your skills but they would appear different to others. As compensation, the amount of mana required to trigger your skills will increase by 1.5x.?

It was literally the best skill to hide one’s identity. The effects of the skills that he used would remain the same, but it would appear completely different to others. As for the power that hit Nana just now, it was Lightning: Destruction. It was the mark engraved on the ‘Continent Destroyer Sword’ that would trigger the passive skill, attacking the enemies with continuous lightning strikes if successfully triggered.

“Keuhaaaaaack!”

Just then, Nana, who fell back on the island, heard an extremely familiar scream. When she turned around, she saw a rusty sword piercing through Pirate Baroch’s chest. The sword was none other than Gorfido’s sword.

‘He couldn’t even last a minute...? That Baroch...?’

When she turned to look at the other side, she saw that Taichi was already on the ground and twitching helplessly. Gorfido’s chains, which moved as if it had a will of its own, wrapped around Taichi’s ankle and dragged him to prison. Baroch fell down the moment Gorfido pulled his sword out. Then...

Clang, clang, clang—

...as if a monster had been killed, various items fell from Baroch.

“Ugh... Uwaaaaaa...”

For him, it must have felt like his own blood and life were pouring out of him. The rare and valuable items that he had looted and plundered started to drop. Tens of platinum even started to drop from Baroch! It would keep on dropping like that.

That was when Nana realized, *‘If we lose everything important here, incur a huge death penalty, and even get trapped here for 90 straight days then...’*

The three Pirates of Despair would definitely face their end. The other pirates would most definitely surpass them. And not only that, they would always aim to slaughter them and in the end, they would be forced to stop playing the game.

“How, how in the world did you know that Gorfido would appear today?” Nana asked in a daze.

Minhyuk, who was standing on the deck of the warship and looking down at them, answered, “Who knows.”

He did not have any reason to answer them. These people had grown stronger by plundering and enjoying the look of despair on the players and NPCs that they killed. In fact, Minhyuk could tell who they were at first glance. After all, he had heard about their notoriety. They were vicious players that toyed around with lives, and killed not only players, but also NPCs alike. For people like them, he would not show any mercy.

Stab—

A rusty sword pierced through Nana’s back. Then, chains wrapped around her ankles and dragged her and the other two along.

[Pirate Gorfido has locked you up in the ‘Pirate’s Prison’.]

[Gorfido used Pirate’s Prison to trap his fellow pirates that coveted his things.]

[Gorfido has started his judgment.]

[You have been given the maximum sentence. You will be in prison for 90 days.]

The three pirates’ bodies were wrapped tightly in the chain as it dragged them into prison. And just like a ghost, their echoing voices slowly disappeared as the prison locked itself up.

‘I’ll stop by again before going back to Asgan Continent.’

Minhyuk had already heard about Gorfido and what he was like from Red Goblin. He was the supreme and most feared existence in the seas. And from what he heard, it would be possible for him to fight against demons in a 1:1 confrontation as long as they were at sea. He did not want to deal with something like that.

But just when he was about to turn the warship around, the hollow area where Gorfido’s eyes were supposed to be suddenly flashed a bright and dangerous red light.

[Gorfido’s eyes have pierced through you.]

[You won't be able to nullify Gorfido's eyes.]

[You won't be able to withstand this power.]

[Gorfido's force is pressing down on you.]

Minhyuk's face turned ugly.

Not long after, Gorfido opened his mouth, "This is strange. I can smell the demons' smell on you but I can also smell the scent of the Athenae Religion. You also have the scent of the Asgan Continent's Ruler of the Sea, the Dragon King, and also the king of this very same sea, the Kraken. You also stink of elf... and humans that are always on their knees..."

Gorfido's red eyes flashed as Minhyuk's breath started to stagnate.

Beanie was given the exclusive task of taking care of Luna. Right now, he was leaning against the wall with his arms folded on his chest as he watched Luna sleeping. His puffed out cheeks and protruding belly were slightly more puffed out than usual! This was because Beanie was displaying an extremely annoyed expression on his face.

"Oiiiiink... oink, oink, oink!" A high ranking person like me... no, a high ranking and top quality pig like me is being tasked to take care of a baby? I hate you, Minhyuk! Oink!

Beanie was annoyed and irritated at Minhyuk. Why did he leave him behind to go out adventuring in another continent? But that was not the worst part. The worst part was that Minhyuk left him here to teach this tiny dragon in front of him. What would he even teach this dragon?

Thud—

While Beanie was brooding on his anger and irritation, Luna, who was rolling around on the bed, finally fell down on the ground and opened her eyes blearily. The extremely tiny, mini dragon Luna crawled back up the bed and stared at Beanie!

"Kihyeeeeee~"

Luna, with her big eyes that covered half of her face, came right in front of the annoyed Beanie, before rolling around and showing her belly to him.

"Oiiiiink!" You're really troublesome and annoying! Oink!

But, even though he said that, Beanie quickly laid out the blanket on the place where Luna was rolling around earlier and patted it to signal for her to come back to bed.

"Oink, oink, oink!" It's because the cold, hard floor will hurt your back. It's definitely not because you're pretty or anything! Oink!

That was what Beanie thought...

Poke—

...as he pressed down on Luna's soft cheeks. Beanie's pink snout fluttered rapidly at the sensation.

“Oiiiiiiiink... oink!” Cu, cu... no! She’s not cute at all! Oink!

Beanie jerked his head again. And just like that, the night passed by and the light of dawn slowly started to break through the skies. In the entirety of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, Luna’s bedroom was the best place to view the rising sun. Which meant that Luna would always have the best view of the rising sun.

“Kihyeeeeeee! Kihyeeeeeeee!” Luna cried in delight when she saw the rising sun. She even gestured with her soft paw at Beanie, as if she wanted to show Beanie this view.

“Oiiiiink!” Hmph. So annoying! Oink!

Beanie thought, his expression lacking in interest.

“Oink. Oink, oink—” The sun goes up like that every morning.?Hmph.

But Luna kept on pointing to the sun, as if she really wanted him to see it.

“Oiiiiiiiiiiiiink?” Do you want to see the sun up close? Oink?

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeee!”

Luna, as a descendant of the Dragon Lord, was very smart. She could already understand what the pig in front of her was saying. Seeing her agreeing to his words, Beanie lazily packed her things in annoyance, acting as if he could not help it and had to follow the dragon’s wishes.

“Oiiiink! Oink!” Take this and that! Oink!

Then, he placed his shiny silver pot on top of Luna’s head, before wrapping her up with a soft and warm blanket. After he was done, Luna, with the silver pot on her head as a helmet for protection, and a body tightly wrapped with a soft blanket, leaving only her head poking out, looked extremely cute and endearing. After that, Beanie carried Luna on his back and began to move.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeee!” Luna giggled. It seemed like she liked this set-up.

“Oiiiink! Oink, oink, oink!” Be quiet! Or I’ll throw you away. Oink!

The grumpy and annoyed Beanie was still as small as ever, in fact he was only as big as a fist, but he still carried the baby Luna on his back to go to the place where they could see the sun the closest.

The place where they were going was the mountain that stood tall behind Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, Mount Ard. In the distant future, what Luna, the greatest dragon in the history of dragonkind, would write in her autobiography was...

[The baby piggy loved me and cherished me more than anybody else. It was thanks to him that I was able to become king and unite all of the dragons in the world. Most of the things that I know were things that I learned from him. He was my second father and the one that enlightened me the most.]

—The Greatest Dragon Luna’s Autobiography (Excerpt)

As they climbed the mountain today, the story of the legendary dragon and her second father began to unfold.

“Keheooooo!” Minhyuk gasped on the deck. He was only able to breathe once again only after Gorfido’s red eyes flashed and disappeared.

‘Crazy...! Even at this distance...?!’

Minhyuk realized that Gorfido was far more fearsome and stronger than what he had initially thought.

Then, Gorfido suddenly said something shocking, “Perhaps... you might be able to... make my wish come true...”

Minhyuk could already tell that Gorfido’s words were the trigger for a very huge quest.

Chapter 465: Great Pirate Gorfido

Mount Ard was a mountain located behind the capital of what was originally Barras Kingdom. But due to its freezing temperatures eternally set to negative 20° C, not many people came to visit the mountains.

However, that was not the only deterrent to visitors. The mountain was also home to extremely strong snow monsters. Thankfully enough, these monsters did not descend and bothered those at the capital, that was why the people had ignored them. And right now...

“Oiiiink. Oink, oink, oink!”

A baby piggy, with the bundled up baby dragon Luna on his back, was climbing this very same Mount Ard.

“Kihyeee! Kihyeee!”

Luna was beyond pleased as they climbed this snowy mountain. The snowflakes that fell down on the trees and the grass were sparkling and bright in her eyes. She also felt delighted when the falling snow touched her cheeks and melted on her skin. Luna was a red dragon so her body was naturally hot. Even her scales were thick enough to resist and withstand the cold. Although she was still a young hatchling with soft scales, the fact that she was a dragon would not change.

“Oiiiiiiiink, oink!” *Is it really that good? So annoying, oink!*

Beanie grumbled as he looked back at Luna. But whenever he saw her blink her large eyes at him, all he could do was turn his head back.

“Oiiiiiiiink!” *What are you giggling at? Oink!*

Even though he was grumbling, Beanie’s mouth was curled up in a wide smile. It was so cold that even the snot that trickled from his fluttering pink snout had turned to ice. Beanie did not have any resistance against the cold, so he could definitely feel the full extent of the environment.

But Beanie still continued to climb the mountain.

Slip—

Clack, clack, clack—

“Oiiiiink!”

There were times when he would slip, but he would stand up and continue to climb again.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeee!”

It was hard but Beanie was able to hear Luna’s joyful and delighted laughter in his ears. So, he thought that it was still worth it. In fact, this was the reason why Minhyuk chose Beanie as Luna’s guardian. Beanie might be a pet that was sometimes grumpy, sometimes playful and teasing, but he was also the pet with the biggest heart out of them all.

Also, he was someone that would do anything and everything to protect the person that he was tasked to protect. Minhyuk was confident that Luna would grow well under his care.

Despite the snowstorm and his little body, Beanie kept on going. All he did was push Luna’s head under the blanket to protect her from the harsh wind and snow. The only thing that the two needed to do was climb up this ice cliff and they would arrive in that place.

‘Oiiiiiiiink—’ It’s a bit hard to climb but you’ll be able to see the most beautiful sunrise in this place. Oink!

Beanie wanted to show Luna that the sun that she was so used to seeing was just a small one.

“Oiiiiiiiink!!!”

“Graaaaaaaaaa!”

“Kiheeeeeeeeeek!”

“Grrrrrrrrrrrrr!”

Suddenly, dozens of snow monsters popped up and surrounded them. Even though Luna was riding on his back and was making it hard for him to fight in this cold weather, Beanie did not put her down. He might be the Supreme Divine Beast, but fighting in such conditions would definitely take a toll on his body.

Still, he continued to fight. Looking at Beanie, Luna felt an unknown emotion gush through her and envelope her entire being.

“Oiiiiiiiink!” *Don’t touch Luna! Oink!*

If Beanie thought that Luna would get hurt by the monsters’ attacks, he would turn his body to receive the attack with his own body.

‘Kiyeeeeeeee!’? Luna tilted her head in thought as notifications rang in Beanie’s ears.

[Luna has become aware of the concept of ‘sacrifice’.]

[It could be both painful and delightful to sacrifice for someone. She realized this new concept and grew further.]

[All of Luna’s stats increase by +10.]

[Luna’s father, Minhyuk, has acquired a +1 in STR and AGI as a reward.]

Beanie was all smiles when he heard this. According to Minhyuk, Luna could become a 'disaster' or a 'hero' depending on who she would meet in the future and what she would learn from them. And Beanie truly wanted to lead this child on the right path.

Just like that, the two of them continued on their way. After breaking through one last snowstorm, they finally arrived at the top of the ice cliff. And when they reached the peak...

"Kihyeeeeeeee..."

...Beanie and Luna were met with the sight of the big sun rising to the skies. The light of the sun shone on both Beanie and Luna's faces.

"Kihyeeeeeee!" Luna cried out, eyes widening in surprise. The sun was so big that she felt like she could reach out to touch it! Beanie was also looking at the sun with his arms crossed over his chest and Luna still on his back!

His body had sustained countless cuts and injuries and he was bleeding all over during their climb. But Beanie was still smiling in satisfaction. Then, Beanie said, "Oink, oink, oink, oink!" *Luna, you have to be a child that's like this rising sun. Just like the view that you're seeing now.*

And with Beanie's words...

[You are leading Luna towards the right path.]

[Luna dreams of becoming a dragon that will be like the sun. The only sun that will shine upon the darkness.]

[All of Luna's stats increase by +5.]

[Luna's father, Minhyuk, has acquired a +1 in STR as a reward.]

Beanie smiled in delight. Then, he suddenly settled down on the summit and took something out. This was none other than ramyeon and cola. Luna's eyes widened even further after tasting the food called ramyeon.

[Luna has become aware of the concept of 'delicious food'.]

[Luna has realized that she feels good after eating something delicious.]

[All of Luna's stats increase by +3.]

[Luna's father, Minhyuk, has acquired a +1 in STR as a reward.]

That morning, Beanie immediately went back to the summoning room after descending the mountains.

"Our dear Luna, are you sleeping well?"

And Genie, who could never imagine what happened during the break of dawn, was shocked when she came into the room and saw Luna, with her tiny hatchling paws poised as if she was picking something up with a pair of chopsticks. Then, she made a gesture as if she was slurping something up.

"Kihyeeeeeeee!" She cried in delight as she made another gesture. This time she looked like she was picking up a bottle and pouring something in a glass. Then...

“*Glug, glug, glug, glug~*” Luna imitated the sound of cola, just like when Beanie poured it down on the glass earlier, before making the gesture of gulping the glass down.

“Kihyaa!”

She almost sounded like she was saying, ‘*Kihyaa! This is the best!*’

“...”

A vein popped up on Genie’s neck as she roared, “Beanieeeeeeeee!!! What kind of strange things are you teaching Lunaaaaaaaaa?!!!”

Great Pirate Gorfido was the one that occupied not only the seas of the Japanese Server, but also the seas located in other servers. In fact, the archives about Gorfido had stated, ‘*Gorfido is the devil of the sea. Death would be inevitable once you meet him at sea.*’ They even described his active years hundreds of years ago.

Gorfido looted, plundered, and killed, until he became the supreme and absolute existence at sea. But he, who was hailed as an eternal and absolute existence, also faced his death. After dying, Gorfido’s soul wandered around. However, he never stopped looting the people at sea.

Seeing this, one of the Absolute Gods meted out a punishment for Gorfido, who unfortunately, did not know that he was being punished and just continued to kill and plunder people as a ghost.

Then, one day, he met an unusual girl. Gorfido killed everyone on their ship, but the girl that survived his slaughter did not even beg for her life.

‘*Get lost! You’re not even the least bit interesting.*’

For some strange reason, Gorfido did not kill the girl. But then, the girl said, ‘*I have nowhere else to go. In the first place, I’m an orphan. It doesn’t matter even if these people died in front of me. I would not care no matter what. But tell me, where should I go?*’

Gorfido looked at the girl in disbelief when he heard her question. But strangely enough he said, ‘*If you want to come with me then come. But let me tell you this, I will cover the entirety of the seas in despair from this point on.*’

‘*Alright.*’

The girl followed Gorfido even though he was a soul in a translucent state. Gorfido regarded the girl as some sort of mystery. According to the girl, she was an orphan that was rescued by the navy after she got caught by the pirates. But then, the pirates attacked the navy that rescued her and she ended up in the hands of the pirates once again. After that, Gorfido slaughtered everyone on the pirate ship that she was on. There was not even an ounce of fear or regret inside her body even after she watched the people around her die. After all, she had been thrown around like some sort of baggage.

Just like that, she went around the world with him.

‘*Gorfido!!! Look at this! We got a lot of treasures this time around!!!*’

‘*Crazy b*tch. Are you happy to see people dying?*’

‘Do you really have the right to say that to me, huh? Pirate bastard, who killed the said people?!’

She was the one and only girl that did not fear Great Pirate Gorfido. She even talked down to him and smiled at him with her teeth showing.

‘Don’t you have some sort of dream that you want to chase in these four years? How long are you going to chase after me?!’ Gorfido asked her one day.

‘What I want to do? I want to be a merchant. I’m going to be a very rich merchant and buy all of the orphans in the world. I will make a world where they can live happily!’

She was a completely unusual girl. She was not afraid of Gorfido and even liked the treasures that he plundered. She even wanted to create a world where orphans could live freely and happily with the treasures that she acquired.

One day, Gorfido realized, *‘...I want to protect her. I want to help her make her dreams come true.’*

For once, the great pirate who only knew how to plunder and loot, realized he had a new dream. He wanted to protect her and make her dreams come true, as long as his soul permitted it. And just like that, he continued to advance forward. They killed, looted and plundered. He advanced without stopping to make this girl’s dream come true. This was because it would take a lot of money for them to gather all of the orphans in the world.

‘If I can come back to life... Can I become a good father?’

Pirate Gorfido even entertained a dream that he never thought he should have. He was just a wandering soul, but whenever he saw the girl, he dreamt of becoming her father. However, the girl never stopped following behind Gorfido.

She stood on top of the ship’s deck and waved at Gorfido, *‘Gorfido!!! You ugly-*ss pirate!’*

*‘Do you want to die, huh? You crazy b*tch? Huh?? Hahahahahaha!’*

The two went around the seas happily.

‘Andrei. From now on, your name is Andrei.’

‘Andrei? That’s so lame!’

‘L, lame?! It’s a very pretty name, you know!?’

‘Then, I’ll take into account your sincerity and be Andrei!’

He even gave her the name Andrei. Gorfido felt happy. He finally knew another form of happiness that did not involve looting. Living the life of a pirate with her every day was bliss. Then, one day...

‘Andrei?’

Andrei disappeared from the ship. Gorfido searched for her all over the ship but she was nowhere to be found. He even searched all over the seas, but he could not find her. The strangest thing was that all traces of her had disappeared.

‘Andrei! Andreiiiiiii!!!’

Gorfido wandered the seas in search of Andrei. But he could not find her even after looking for ten, twenty years. He kept on trying to find her.

Blink—

He suddenly woke up from his dream. In front of him was the ship that he looted from a very long time ago. And there was only one living being on the ship.

‘Why am I here?’

Gorfido could not understand. Why was he here? But the strangest thing was his appearance. This was what he looked like before he died! This was what he looked like when he was the Great Pirate Gorfido! Gorfido’s eyes shook as he approached a girl from all of the people that he slaughtered in the ship. The girl’s face was extremely familiar.

‘Sp, spare me... I, I have a dream...’

‘A dream? Let’s hear it.’

‘I’m, I’m going to save all of the money that I can get my hands on to buy orphans. I want to create a world where all these orphans will be able to live freely and happily. That’s why, please...’

‘Keuhahahahahaha!’ Gorfido laughed at the surviving passenger before swinging his sword down.

Slash—

Roll—

Her head fell on the ground in a flash. Her eyes, which did not even have the time to close, were filled with resentment.

‘Your dream’s wasted! Keuhahahahahaha!’

Slowly, Andrei collapsed. That was right.

As it turned out, the life he led with Andrei was an illusion that the Absolute God created. The reality was, Andrei was a girl that lost her life to Gorfido a long time ago. The very same Andrei that Gorfido cherished as his daughter and promised to do everything for.

And the one that killed her and laughed at her dreams was ‘Gorfido’ himself.

‘Keuaaaaaaaaaaack! Sob, sob, sob, sob, sob! Keuaaaaaaaa! Andrei... Andreiiii! Uwaaaaaaa!’

Gorfido, who realized the truth that fateful day, was left in complete despair, frustration, and hopelessness.

Chapter 466: Great Pirate Gorfido

Minhyuk was still able to hear Gorfido’s story despite standing on the deck of a ship that had already sailed far away from the island. It was a story about Andrei, the only girl that the great

pirate loved and cherished, and Gorfido, the great pirate that killed that very same girl with his own hands.

“Now, I know. I have realized what kind of existence I was,” If he could shed tears, Gorfido’s hollow eyes would definitely shed tears. Then, Gorfido looked down at his hands as he continued to speak, “There are only two more years left before I disappear from this world... I’m asking you for a favor, please drive out all of the pirates from the seas.”

Then, a quest window popped up in front of Minhyuk.

After seeing the quest window, Minhyuk turned to look at Gorfido. He had four choices for a reward and these rewards had popped in front of him.

The Japanese Branch’s Special Players Management Team’s new employee Ryota suddenly shouted, “Team, Team Leader!!! The quest to eradicate all pirates has started!”

“What?!”

The quest to eradicate the pirates, in other words, Gorfido’s Wish, was a quest that a player with the position of a ‘Navy Captain’ should originally receive. It was an episode quest that would play a huge role in the Japanese server and its future. If the pirates could kill the one that received the quest, then they would be able to take away the treasures in the ‘Pirate’s Grave’. And the same was true for the one that received the quest, if he could kill the pirates then he would be able to take away those treasures.

However, the person that received this quest was a Korean. But the bigger problem was...

“We don’t even know who he is?!” Team Leader Tadayoshi shouted as he grabbed his hair in frustration.

Ryota, who did not know what to do, could only panic. This quest was something that should have taken place a year and a half later. But that was not their biggest problem. Their biggest problem was...

‘The rewards.’

It was the biggest and greatest reward in the entirety of the Japanese Server! There were a total of four rewards listed in the quest.

The first was Gorfido’s Gold Coins. Gorfido was someone that traveled the world to plunder and loot everyone that he had met. The value of the gold coins in his hands was beyond anyone’s imagination.

The second was Gorfido’s Artifact. Great Pirate Gorfido was someone that was comparable to a Supreme NPC. What about the artifact of someone at that caliber? Of course it would be outstanding.

The third was Gorfido’s Slumbering Subordinate Pirates. Gorfido was an existence that had many outstanding subordinates that perfectly matched his name and title as the ‘great pirate’.

And the fourth was the food that Gorfido had enjoyed in his lifetime. It was none other than wagyu. It was the best beef to grill and put wasabi on. This fourth reward was the most important out of them all.

‘The fourth reward is a bit special.’

The fourth reward being a dish was one of the reasons why it was special. This was because the more pirates the man hunted, the more power the cooking ingredient reward would accumulate. And there were a total of two things that it could accumulate, ‘stats’ and ‘EXP’. In other words, the more pirates he hunted, the more stats and EXP the wagyu could accumulate. This reward was like a double-edged sword.

‘If the one that accepted the quest could wipe out the pirates then his rewards will be better. On the contrary, if he failed to wipe them out then there would be no rewards.’

Ryota and Tadayoshi recalled the words that the members of the Korean Branch told them.

‘He’s a Disaster Class Player.’

Disaster. It was the highest rating for the special players that they were monitoring. The two of them believed that it was very dangerous for the man to choose the fourth reward since they did not have an inkling as to how many he could kill and how much he could accumulate. Of course, there was also a chance that he would not be able to reach their expectations and not accumulate anything.

“Team Leader, he won’t choose the dish, right?”

“Ye, yeah. Gorfido’s artifacts and gold are far more valuable than that. Why would he even choose the dish, right? That wouldn’t make sense.”

Despite his words, Tadayoshi was still feeling anxious. Well, it was for another reason entirely, regardless, he was feeling anxious and fidgety. He thought, *‘If he chooses the dish and he eradicates more than 50% of the pirates then...’*

From that point on, even the first, second and third rewards would also start to accumulate.

‘No, that won’t happen. Why would he choose a dish over artifacts and gold, right?’

With those thoughts in mind, the two of them looked at the monitor. They looked at the artifact rewards window and the gold rewards window that were floating in front of the man. But something shocking happened.

“He did not even look at them...?” Ryota mumbled. The man did not even look at the quest rewards window that popped up in front of him. ‘*Gorfido’s Blood-stained Sword*’ was a legendary sword, no, it was even beyond that.

‘But the man did not even take a look at it?’

Then, at that moment, the man’s lips twisted in a vicious smile as he looked at Gorfido before speaking in a cold voice...

[You’re a complete f*cking bastard, aren’t you?]

“...?!”

“...?!”

Ryota and Tadayoshi looked at the monitor in shock. Gorfido was literally a Named NPC. On top of that, he was offering an amazing quest with amazing rewards! This meant that his favor was completely important.

So, what did he mean by ‘complete f*cking bastard’?

“...What the hell?”

“I can’t make heads or tails of what he’s saying.”

They had no choice but to wonder what the hell was going on in that player’s mind.

“You’re a complete f*cking bastard, aren’t you?”

“Wh... what...?”

Great Pirate Gorfido was flustered when he saw Minhyuk looking down at him from the deck with eyes that looked like he was looking down at ‘trash’.

‘How dare...!’

Many people would beg for mercy at the mere mention of his name. Even crying newborns would turn silent at the sight of him.

But this man dared to say that to him?

Minhyuk gathered a mouthful of saliva before spitting it out on the sea and going on a rant, “You’re sickening. You’ve killed hundreds of thousands of people but now you’re like ‘*Ah, I finally know my wrongs. I have to correct it immediately.*’ just like that? You want to do it because you want to put your heart to rest? But you want to do it through someone else’s hands? Disgusting.”

Gorfido felt his heart clench after hearing the man’s words. It was because the man’s words had hit every nail on the head.

“What a hypocrite! You thought I would go and tell you, ‘*Oh my, thank you very much Mister Gorfido!*’?or something like that? Bullshit. Do it with your own hands! What? Do you have something to say against that? You don't, right? Heh!”

“...”

Gorfido was silent. He could not say anything because what the man said was true. That was right. Gorfido was hit by the modern man’s most effective weapon, ‘fact bomb’, and he was left in a daze.

“You damn pirate head!”

‘*What, what pirate head...?*’

However, Gorfido could only tremble as he looked at Minhyuk from afar. He looked like some five-year old child that was being scolded by his parents.

“Do what you need to do, I don’t care. This hyung will go away,” Minhyuk said as he turned his warship away without any hesitation.

Gorfido felt his heart clench tighter as he watched the man leave without turning back. He murmured, “I also want to do it with my own hands if I can, but I don’t have much time left...”

Besides, Gorfido could not leave the Pirate’s Grave. But at that moment, he realized, ‘*I’m being punished by the heavens, but to think I was going to use someone else’s hands to wipe out pirates?*’

The man’s words earlier made him laugh. He did not hate the man’s words at all. Rather than hating...

‘*Thank you. Thank you for helping me achieve enlightenment before I truly disappear. It’s a bit shocking to be called a pirate head though...*’

Just when he was watching the departing warship...

[The Absolute God is going to give you one final chance.]

‘...*A final chance?*’?Gorfido wondered as he continued to look at the departing ship. But then, more shocking notifications rang in Gorfido’s ears.

[You gained enlightenment from the man’s words after he turned down your offer.]

[The system hidden by the Absolute God that punished you will offer a secret quest to the man that rejected your offer.]

[If the man accepts and clears the quest, you will have a chance to get reborn.]

[You might be able to repent with this opportunity.]

‘*Repent... and be reborn...?*’?Gorfido looked at the notifications in a daze as this thought flashed in his head.

After turning his ship around, Minhyuk started sailing once again. He did not forget his main purpose in coming here.

‘I have to get my hands on the Eternal Flames.’

His main purpose in coming to the Japanese Server was to produce his cooking trailer. Besides, if he accepted Gorfido’s quest then he would deviate from his own ‘moral compass’ and go beyond the moral line that he had set.

Among these pirates and PK criminals were players and people that lived here. How could he slaughter them with no rhyme or reason, just so he could get some rewards that he might not even be interested in? He did not feel like doing so.

‘Besides, if you really regret it then you have to do something about it by yourself.’

That was right. Of course but...

‘Why did I even do that?!’

Minhyuk, who turned around, could not help but regret his own choice, even if it was right. After all, there was that fourth and last reward there. Wagyu. He would place that glistening red beef on top of the grill for ten seconds and...

Sizzle—

...quickly flipping it over before grilling it for another seven seconds. Then, what would happen if he placed a dollop of wasabi on top of this juicy beef and placed it inside the mouth?

‘Kghhk!’

There would definitely be a burst of exclamation!

‘Should I turn back?’ Minhyuk quickly shook his head when the thought of turning the ship around once again flashed in his head.

‘No. He should do it himself.’

Gorfido had to realize what he had done, come to terms with his regret, and suffer from its consequences. That was the price that he had to bear.

‘It seems like I’ve also changed a lot.’

Minhyuk still liked to eat more than anyone else, but he had started to distinguish between public and private matters. However, it would still not take the fact that he was having a lot of regrets in regards to these decisions. Then, at that moment...

[There will be rewards added to the list of rewards in Gorfido’s Wish.]

“...?”

Minhyuk immediately opened the quest window to check and immediately saw the additional rewards.

[If you eradicate 80% of the pirates, you will be able to bring Gorfido back to life.]

[The reborn Great Pirate Gorfido will be much weaker than in the past.]

“...!”

Minhyuk was shocked.

‘Gorfido can become my vassal?’

That was the one and only Great Pirate Gorfido. According to the notifications he would not be as strong as he was now. But he had ‘experience’ and ‘skill’. Even if his power was reduced, he would still be as strong as Minhyuk’s vassals.

‘And I just talked about my own moral compass and moral line.’

He was in a situation where he had to decide by himself. However, he did not want to be the one to make a move against the pirates and wipe them out. In the end, he still decided to reject the request.

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

But before he could do so, explosions suddenly burst out around his warship. Minhyuk quickly turned around, only to see two ships firing cannon balls at him from across the sea.

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

Minhyuk’s expression turned ugly when he saw the cannon balls flying straight towards his ship. Finally, the huge impact from the attack broke a part of the ship and forced it to tilt strongly to one side.

“...Hey, now. Why are you presenting yourself to me? Are you really asking me to kill you?” Minhyuk said, a bitter smile gracing his lips. The ones that crossed his bottom line, they were the ones that made a move first. The warship started to sink. And along with that, the notifications rang.

[You have accepted the Quest: Gorfido’s Wish.]

[You have chosen the fourth reward: Wagyū.]

Pirate Lundnu cackled at the sight of the sinking warship! Lundnu was akin to the Ever Seas’ King. At the very least, in the seas of Ever, he was the absolute ruler. Whether it was the pirates, the players, or the NPCs, all of them followed his orders. And the reason why he made a warship explode with his cannon balls was...

‘How dare you trap my little brother in the Pirate’s Grave?!’

Lundnu’s younger brother was none other than Pirate Baroch. And just now, the man on that warship had trapped Baroch inside the Pirate’s Grave. As soon as he heard what happened to Baroch, he immediately summoned all of the pirates available and led them out to sea and coolly made the warship explode into nothingness!

“Impudent Korean bastard!!!”

How dare you do that to the tyrant of the Ever Seas?

“You’re completely clueless about the dangers of the seas. It does not matter how strong you are, everything will be different in the sea. Also, you will need an artifact or potion to breathe underwater. And even if you have those artifacts or potions in question, maritime warfare is completely different from what you are used to.”

With the man’s ship sunk deep under the sea, he would not have any chance, even if he survived the waters. The same was true for Japan’s Summit Five, Kentaro. That was how cruel and treacherous the sea was. If a player fell into the sea, their combat power would immediately be halved.

“Keep on firing! Don’t stop! Don’t let his body resurface!!!”

Under Lundnu’s command, they continued to fire at the sinking warship. And finally, the warship sank in the seas. Lundnu smiled and turned around.

“Let’s go.”

Even if he survived that bombing, the man would definitely swim up to the surface. However, no body surfaced. Just when Lundnu, who was convinced of the man’s death, turned around...

“Ca, captain...! Over there...!”

“Heok?! What the hell is that?!”

“...?!”

Lundnu immediately turned around and was shocked to see hundreds of dolphins breaking through to the surface. And on top of the dolphin leading the pod, a man was riding on top of it. His presence among the hundreds of dolphins was completely spectacular.

This man was none other than Minhyuk.

Chapter 467: Naval Warfare (Top)

If Korea had Know-it-all Dictionary as their best BJ, then Japan had ‘Mankai’, well-known and loved by the Japanese for his varied content, funny way of speaking, excellent hosting skills, and his depth of knowledge. Right now, the place where Mankai was located was none other than the ship of Ever Seas Pirate King and Captain, Pirate Lundnu.

Lundnu’s class was ‘Great Pirate’s Descendant’. That was why everything was already prepared for Lundnu when he became a pirate. Because of his special abilities and high level, Lundnu was recognized for his strength in the entirety of Japan. In fact, if one looked at the rankings, there was not much difference between him and Kentaro. This meant that he would be as powerful as Kentaro when at sea. Of course, this was only true if they were ‘at sea’, and it was also the main reason why he could not participate in Athenae: World War.

Inside the Ever Seas, all pirates were under Lundnu’s command. The reason for that was because they would receive a significant increase in the effect of their training if they trained under Lundnu. They can even learn various skills from him. But the most important part was the fact that they would become far more superior in a ‘battle at sea’. That was why all of the pirate guilds wanted to

forge a relationship with Lundnu and gain the help of the number one pirate guild in Japan, to the point that they would claim that they were under his command.

Mankai came on board Lundnu's pirate ship after receiving a call from him. He recalled the words that Lundnu told him, *'Mankai. We have the opportunity to strike at and kill a Korean. From what I heard, he locked up the Three Pirates of Despair inside the Pirate's Grave.'*

'The Three Pirates of Despair?!'

The trio that made up the Pirates of Despair were notorious around the Ever Seas. They were so vicious that no one could ignore their existence at all.

'But the three of them had been locked up in the Pirate's Grave?!'

Hearing this, Mankai immediately boarded Lundnu's ship. However, he was very disappointed to see the warship sinking easily under the bombardment of cannonballs from Lundnu's ship.

'It only took one round of bombing...'

It only took a few hits from the cannonballs that they launched and the warship immediately sank. However, Mankai was a professional. Despite the disappointing display, he still shouted to the point that his veins popped up on his neck at his viewers, *"Sugoi~!?The firepower of Lundnu's 'Gorfido's Pirate Ship' is truly superior to any other pirate ship in existence! The ship carrying a Korean man could not withstand its might and sank after only receiving a few hits!"*

Perhaps the man could not avoid being forced to log out after this bombing.

'Sigh. I should have gone to shoot Kentaro's Fitness Report.'

Kentaro's Fitness Report was a broadcast that encouraged and showed people how to become strong. It was not in Athenae but in reality! And Kentaro's famous tagline was... *'As long as you eat well, exercise diligently and sleep early, you will become strong!'*?

It was a very unique tagline! And this tagline had a deep meaning behind it! After all, most Athenae players had irregular lifestyles. But by resetting their lifestyle and living a healthy and regular life, they could hone their bodies and sharpen their minds, and in turn, become stronger in Athenae too. Because of that, Kentaro's Fitness Report had amassed a massive and steady following and rating.

Just when Mankai was about to wallow in self-pity, hundreds of dolphins began to surface around the sunken ship. The sight of hundreds of dolphins twinkling under the glare of the sun was spectacular. And the shocking part?

'Aren't they the Diamond Dolphins?'

Diamond Dolphins were a rare species of monster with skin that glittered like diamonds. They were known for their speed that far surpassed ordinary dolphins. And on the dolphin leading the pod...

Shwaaaaaaa—

...stood a man.

"...Wow! Can you see this shocking and spectacular view in front of us?! The Korean player is riding on top of a dolphin!!!"

Diamond Dolphins were also known for their high intelligence and intense dislike for humans. So, how come?! How come the man stood among them?! The pod of dolphins swam swiftly across the waters as Lundnu pulled his sword out and pointed in front while shouting, “Fire! Fire at them!!!”

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

Dozens of cannons open fired at the Diamond Dolphins. However, shockingly enough, the Diamond Dolphins had already gone back underneath the water before the cannonballs could touch them. Even if the ships were lucky enough to hit them, the Diamond Dolphins’ defenses, which were higher than a turtle dragon, could easily offset the damage.

“How did the Diamond Dolphins...” Lundnu mumbled in disbelief. Then, he saw...

“What, what the hell...”

...hundreds of underwater creatures breaking through the surface of the waters. There were mermaids and a mermaid warrior surrounding a gigantic Savage Halibut the size of a sailing boat. There were also thousands of monsters, like the swordfish with its sharp snout. All of these monsters floated and stared eerily at Lundnu’s pirate ship.

“...?!”

Lundnu felt his breath stagnate at the sight. In a blink, the pod of dolphins that rushed fiercely earlier had already disappeared, leaving behind an unknown player hanging by a rope in Gorfido’s Pirate Ship.

“Fireeeeeeeeeeeee!!!”

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

Hundreds of arrows fired at the player but...

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

“Keuhaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaaaaaack?!”

...instead of the man screaming, the ones that sent the arrows were the ones that screamed. This was because of Minhyuk's passive skill ‘Physical Damage Reflection’ that was attached to his ‘Monarch’s Armor’. On top of that, the Monarch’s Armor was had an extremely high defense and a 300% evasion rate. In other words, most players would have a hard time dealing damage to Minhyuk with just their basic attacks alone.

“What the hell is that bastard going to do with this ship?!”

When this question rang, Minhyuk, who had been dangling on the rope, suddenly hacked at Gorfido’s Pirate Ship with his sword.

Baaaaang! Baaaaaaang!

Lundnu looked at Minhyuk incredulously when he saw him hacking away at the ship. Gorfido's Pirate Ship was a ship that boasted high defenses! There would be no mark or scratch on Gorfido's Pirate Ship, even if it was fighting against hundreds of pirate ships. In fact, Lundnu considered Gorfido's Pirate Ship as his strongest and greatest force.

'Does he actually think he can do something to this ship?'

An ordinary ship's cannonball could not even leave a scratch on this ship. But suddenly...

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

...a shocking, huge explosion burst out the moment the man's sword made contact with Gorfido's Pirate Ship. The ship even shook fiercely.

"...?!"

[Gorfido's Pirate Ship's durability has slightly decreased.]

Gorfido's Pirate Ship could not even be scratched by a cannonball, but a basic attack from the man's sword had damaged the ship and decreased its durability by a bit?! Lundnu immediately noticed their unusual situation.

Alas, the man jumped again before settling down on top of one of the dolphins. Then, the pod of dolphins swam away as swiftly as they appeared.

"Chase, chase after him...!"

Gorfido's Pirate Ship was three times faster than a regular ship. But...

"Heok?! The sea monsters are blocking the ship's route! We can't advance!"

"I can't take control of the ship!!!"

"Advance!"

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

The sea monsters and underwater creatures sacrificed themselves to stop the ship! They stuck to the ship to push it backwards. However, as the pirate ship sped up, they ended up being swept away and allowing the ship to give chase. Thankfully, the monsters were able to slow down the ship which helped Minhyuk and the pod of dolphins to swim far away. Despite the ship's fast speed, they still missed their chance and let Minhyuk get away.

'Unbelievable. How can he damage this ship with just a basic attack...'

Lundnu had completely realized that the situation was unusual.

Minhyuk, who was riding on top of the rushing dolphin pod, also knew about Lundnu. He was the Japanese Server's Seas' Great Pirate! He also knew that he was on par with Kentaro in terms of power when at sea. And Gorfido's Pirate Ship, the ship that he assumed Lundnu was riding on, was the strongest pirate ship in existence. It has never been scratched let alone destroyed.

‘It will be dangerous if I go head to head against that.’

No matter how strong Minhyuk was, it would still be hard for him to handle more than a thousand people on Gorfido’s Pirate Ship or whatever ship it was.

‘I don’t know if it’s another ship but...’

At first, Minhyuk was not sure if it was really Gorfido’s Pirate Ship, but now, he was certain. After all, he approached them to swing his sword and test its defense. After learning that he only dealt some minor damage against it, he immediately retreated with the pod of dolphins.

“Kiiiiiiiiiiiiik!”

“Kieeeeeeeeeek!”

Minhyuk smiled bitterly as he looked at the dolphins that jumped around the blue sea.

‘Thank you.’

The only reason why the Diamond Dolphins helped him was because of Sukhoe. Sukhoe, the ruler of the sea, governed over all of life at sea. And since Minhyuk was friends with Sukhoe, the smart and clever creatures of the sea immediately recognized him and came to his help.

‘I’ll just have to lure them in one by one before destroying them.’

But the truth was, it was something that was almost impossible to accomplish alone.

‘I need the help of my guild members and the Named NPCs.’

Even if he was strong, Minhyuk knew that it was foolish to fight alone against a group of pirates at sea. After making this decision, Minhyuk immediately turned his guild chat on.

Minhyuk had already finished the deal with the Red Goblin about his friends and colleagues passing through the passageway.

‘We need a strategy.’

Minhyuk pondered for a moment until...

‘There’s that, right?’ Minhyuk thought as a small smile curled at the corners of his mouth.

The Japanese game broadcasting stations’ commentators have started their spiel.

[Right now, a lot of pirate ships have set sail.]

[An estimate of the number of ships that have left the port numbered at 300. From what we can tell, we can expect more than 6,000 pirates.]

[The Great Pirate's Descendant, Lundnu, has issued an order to gather all of the pirates around thirty minutes ago.]

[As you can see, even the Red Skull Pirates have started to set sail.]

[The Black Skull Pirates have also started to make their move.]

[The pirates of the Black Skull Pirates and Red Skull Pirates are all rankers. From what I heard, each and every one of them are as powerful as a kingdom's NPC knight.]

[They're a cut above the ordinary pirates. The Black Skull Pirates and Red Skull Pirates are famous for destroying an entire kingdom in an isolated battle.]

The pirates were all setting sail to kill one player alone! There were only two reasons why the effect would be this tremendous. One, Lundnu had used the 'Summoning Order'. And two, it was because the pirates were having a party today. Unfortunately, their opponent had picked the wrong date to provoke them.

Three hundred pirate ships set sail until they finally arrived and faced Lundnu, who was aboard Gorfido's Pirate Ship. Gorfido's Pirate Ship stood face to face against the 300 pirate ships, a scene that showed Lundnu's majesty and dignity.

"The bastard is still lurking around the Ever Seas. Kill him as soon as you find him! The one that is able to kill the bastard will receive great rewards!"

"Yes, sir!"

"Yes, sir!"

"Yes, sir!"

The pirates answered vigorously. Especially the captains of the Red and Black Skull Pirates, who were Lundnu's left and right hands. These two were players that had completed their transfer to high class. On top of that, their ability to operate and manage their ships were top notch.

Everyone aboard these ships were among the best of the best. All 300 ships that appeared immediately started to roam the seas to search. There were only 300 ships right now, but they expected another 300 to come later.

After giving his orders, Lundnu logged out for a while to have some lunch and wash up. Unbeknownst to all, was a huge follower of Kentaro's Fitness Report! That was why he logged out in time for lunch! He was also someone that ate well, exercised diligently, and slept on time. He constantly received reports from the pirates in his mobile phone as he ate and washed up.

The messages were sent around fifteen minutes ago. Lundnu, or Ichiro in reality, chuckled at the message, '*He's probably dead by now, right?*'?Fifteen minutes had already passed since the

message had been sent. On top of that, Black Skull Pirates' third attack ship had also joined the chase. Although the third attack ship was only one of the nine ships owned by the Black Skull Pirates, it was their third strongest ship. They were also rankers that were comparable to decent NPC knights.

Ichiro kept on scrolling through his phone. From what he read, there were around forty ships chasing after the man. But just when he was about to type a reply to their location reports, a message suddenly popped out that made his eyes widen in shock.

And the final message left by Red Hawk was...

"What, what the hell? How...?" Ichiro mumbled in shock.

Chapter 468: Naval Warfare (Top)

Let's Eat Sect's main territory was originally 'Atlas'. However, after absorbing the Barras Kingdom, the territory under them had expanded dramatically. They had also changed the name of the kingdom's capital from Lumasia to Valencia.

And now, the Royal Court of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom that was located in Valencia was having a meeting. Haze, Minhyuk's appointed aide and the one in charge of managing the nation's finances, spoke coldly and seriously, "If we continue at this rate, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would not be able to last for long. Even if we do our best, we can probably last for half a year at most."

Genie spread out the tables and charts that Haze had given her. According to her data, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's assets were being exhausted at a rapid pace. They might even face a severe food shortage if they continue at this rate.

"Several kingdoms have refused to have diplomatic ties with us. Barras Kingdom was originally a kingdom of production classes. But with His Majesty Minhyuk ascending the throne as the kingdom's new king, it's only right that we abandon the name Kingdom of Production Classes."

That was right. When their kingdom was established, those that wanted to leave had left and those that wanted to stay had remained. It was inevitable. They could not wipe out those that rebelled but they also could not stop them from leaving.

The tower masters of the Chef's Tower, the Fisherman's Tower, the Painter's Tower and all the other towers located in the Barras Kingdom had left immediately after the change of kingdoms. It could be said that only the skeleton of these towers were left.

"The core personnel of each tower, as well as plenty of their employees, have left. We also can't sell anything on hand since we're not interacting with other kingdoms."

Genie nodded. She could tell from Haze's words that Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had significantly fewer 'people' than their vast title of 'kingdom'.

"We need both foreigners and new immigrants to come to our land. Also, enough money to allow us to hold out longer."

After hearing Haze's words, Genie said, "The most urgent task is to get more people to immigrate... As we are now, our Beyond the Heavens Kingdom has no advantages to offer..."

Players would choose a 'nation' or an 'empire' that was advantageous for them and their play style before they would migrate. That was only natural. Even with Minhyuk and Chairman Kang Minhoo's fame for their good deeds and virtues, no player would choose to stay in a kingdom in a precarious state, that had no benefits or advantages that would actually work for them.

"We should probably start focusing on some sort of specialty. I think we also need to issue some quests. But, what we need the most are the tower masters, right?"

"Yes. There are too many empty tower master seats. Without someone sitting on those seats, the remaining people in the tower are also more inclined to leave. In fact, more are leaving right now as we speak."

"Which tower master should we get as quickly as possible?"

"The first tower that we should fill is of course the Chef's Tower. His Majesty Minhyuk has the Food God class, so it's only right for the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom to become a 'cooking kingdom'," Haze said, pausing for a moment to moisten her throat with some tea, before continuing, "The second tower should be the 'Fisherman's Tower'."

"The Fisherman's Tower?" Genie asked, looking up at Haze in surprise. She wanted the Fisherman's Tower to be filled first and not the Blacksmith's Tower?

"Yes. It also came as a surprise to me, but the tower that collected the most taxes and brought the most immigrants to Barras Kingdom was the Fisherman's Tower."

"What's the reason?"

"Blacksmithing is very famous in Allode Nation. Although a Blacksmith's Tower exists in the kingdom, the people prefer learning in Allode Nation since they can learn a lot from them compared to the tower here where they are only given limited quests and guidance."

Haze's words were true. Allode Nation was truly overflowing with excellent NPC blacksmiths and player blacksmiths. Some even called the nation a blacksmithing kingdom.

"On the contrary, the only choice for fishermen to learn fishing is to go to the 'Fisherman's Tower'. The Fisherman's Tower's tower master was said to be a legendary fisherman with a free and wild spirit. From what I heard, he only needed to set sail with plenty of people to teach them his know-hows and he would be able to cash in a lot of money. Of course, such a nature allowed him to be loved and cherished by many. And because of that, many fishermen flocked to Barras Kingdom, which in turn allowed the kingdom to rake in a lot of profits. But when the tower master left, all of them left as they wanted to follow him immediately."

Genie tapped her finger on the table slowly.

"If that's the case, then we have to find a fisherman that can replace the Fisherman's Tower's Tower Master and... he has to know about the seas more than anyone else and have more influence than that legendary fisherman... They also have to be a bit more greedy so they can help increase our forces, an existence like that..." Then, Genie laughed bitterly after laying out their requirements, "There's no one like that, right?"

He was, in fact, right here.

"Hello?"

"Heok! What the hell?! That shocked me!!!" Minhyuk shouted in surprise when the translucent ghost of Gorfido suddenly appeared beside him, who was standing on top of the dolphin. Gorfido was literally floating in the air right next to him.

"Why did you suddenly appear, you skullhead!"

"..."

Even though he already heard it before, Gorfido could still not adapt to Minhyuk's words.

'A human who keeps on calling me skullhead...'

How dare this human call him, the great pirate that could make a baby stop crying with his face, a skullhead?!!

"What are you looking at? Do you have any complaints, you skullhead?!"

"..."

Gorfido shut his mouth. He could tell that nothing would change even if he got angry at this point.

'This person is not interested in gold or silver. He's a very unusual man. He saw only the price I had to pay for my sin, instead of coveting my gold and silver,' this thought kept

Gorfido's mouth from opening. He knew that he would not be happy even if he tore apart the man in front of him.

"So, how and why did you come here?"

Minhyuk had heard from the Red Goblin that Gorfido was trapped in the Pirate's Grave and that he could not escape from there, no matter what he did and no matter how translucent and more ghostly he became.

"I also don't know. I think it's you who knows about this and not me though?"

Gorfido's words made Minhyuk recall the fact that the quest had been changed into a secret quest.

'Was Gorfido able to move around now because the quest has been changed into a Secret Quest?' Minhyuk thought, believing that this was a possibility. Besides, Minhyuk had already accepted that 'quest'. After all, the pirates came to him asking for death. Would he still be a person if he let this opportunity pass by?

"Ah. You got hit by bird poop."

"..."

Minhyuk rubbed his chin as he watched Gorfido tremble after one of the flying seagulls' poop dropped on him.

'The bastard's not even hit.'

That was right. Gorfido was a ghost so the poop did not really hit him and just went through him. Still, Gorfido looked offended as he stared up at the sky while scratching his head, as if he was shooing away the poop.

Then, Gorfido asked a question, "I know that I've asked you this favor and that it's an outrageously ridiculous favor, but will you be accepting my request now?"

Gorfido knew that it was very difficult to grant his wish. That was why the rewards were ridiculous too. In fact, for this quest...

'I'll clap enthusiastically for you if you can even kill 5% of the pirates.'

...they were using % to calculate the progress. The quest would recognize and add 1% for hunting many pirates and would add more % the stronger the pirates that he hunted. Even if Minhyuk only hunted 5%, his results would already be enormous. No, perhaps...

'I think getting 1% will still be a bit hard.'

When Gorfido appeared beside Minhyuk, he knew that he was connected to the man now. Gorfido told him where he was exactly and followed behind him. On their way, he saw countless pirates floating lifelessly at sea. The reason why Gorfido thought getting 1% was hard was because of the appearance of 'Gorfido's Pirate Ship'.

'All of the pirates are now after you.'

What would he do in this situation? Just when that question floated in Gorfido's head. Minhyuk, who stood on the dolphin's back, continued to move.

"Do you know where you're going right now?" Gorfido said, his face turning ugly after seeing the sea boundary that they were fast approaching.

"Who knows," Minhyuk said with a grin.

Seeing this, Gorfido decided to opt out from giving any advice to where Minhyuk was headed. He thought, *'I don't know if he's going there unknowingly or not.'*

It was something that Gorfido truly could not figure out. This was because the place where Minhyuk was headed to was the 'Sunset Sea'. And in that place, the seas' shocking power, which had been handed down a long time ago, was hidden.

Minhyuk bowed his head to check the time before using Gryphon's cry.

"Bbiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!"

Gryphon's Cry was Minhyuk's skill that was used to draw the aggro of the monsters in his vicinity. However, with his increase in strength, the radius that it could cover had already extended even further. And with that cry...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

...several pirate ships arrived swiftly. The ship at the forefront was the Ruby Pirates' pirate ships. Then, the pirate ships began to open fire.

"Let's go, dolphins!!!"

Flaaaaaash—

The dolphins swam swiftly away from the incoming cannonballs.

After hearing a burst of sound from somewhere, Ruby, the leader of the Ruby Pirates, immediately made her ship advance at full speed. As they moved swiftly forward, she finally caught sight of the Korean player riding on top of a dolphin and its pod.

"After them!!! Fire!!!"

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

Dozens of cannonballs and hundreds of arrows were fired towards the man.

Boooooooooom—

Pillars of seawater bloomed from the sea as the mage pirates on board used Explosion.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

But the man just stood on top of the dolphin in a relaxed manner, as man and beast maneuvered skillfully and swiftly away from the pirates. And when they heard the explosions, the other pirate ships also began to gather where the Ruby Pirates were.

Ruby quickly sent in a report.

Around thirty three ships gave chase to a pod of dolphins at full speed! But no matter how they tried, Minhyuk remained a distance away in front of them.

“Fire! Why can’t you hit one man?!”

“Go around him!!! Block his path!!!”

“It’s the Black Skull Pirates’ Third Attack Ship!!! The Third Attack Ship has arrived!!!!”

The appearance of the Black Skull Pirates’ Third Attack Ship meant that their captain ‘Red Hawk’ had also arrived. Red Hawk was a murderer at sea that wielded a red sword and controlled blood.

“The Third Attack Ship led by me, Red Hawk, will take a detour and block the path. The other ships should flank the left and right sides while the Ruby Pirates charge forward!”

“Yes, sir!”

“Yes, sir!”

“Yes, sir!”

Everyone responded to Red Hawk’s order as they went into position.

‘How dare you think of running away from us, the hunters of the sea?’ Red Hawk thought, as he grinned with a vicious expression. Then, he saw where the man was headed to.

“...Sunset Sea?”

Red Hawk looked at the man in doubt. Did he know about the Sunset Sea? The only ones that knew about the Sunset Sea were Pirate Lundnu, him, and the captains of the First and Second Attack Ships.

‘No. There’s now way that a Korean player would know.’

“Chase after him!!!!” Red Hawk cried loudly after thinking about it for a moment.

The scene with Minhyuk riding with a pod of dolphins and several ships running after him at full speed was quite spectacular. Before they knew it, the sun above them had already started to set.

‘The miracle of the sea will now make its appearance. If the miracle successfully makes its appearance, then we will have him in our hands without a doubt. In fact, our ship won’t even break even if the miracle appeared.’

Red Hawk’s lips twisted into a gruesome smile. The naive Korean player was rushing towards hell all by himself. And finally...

Puhaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Red Hawk and his ship finally succeeded in bypassing the man and his pod of dolphins. He stood on the deck facing his enemy. Even the pirate ships that he directed to block the man's flanks were all in position! The Ruby Pirates had also blocked the rear! Red Hawk raised his arm as everyone prepared to open fire at the man. And Gorfido...

"What the hell were you thinking?!"

...seemed to be invisible to the eyes of others. Minhyuk turned to look at the sea where the red sunset was slowly disappearing from. Perhaps he looked in that direction because he was listening to Gorfido.

Over the horizon, the shocking view of what seemed to be the sea swallowing the sunset appeared. And when the setting sun looked like it was just a boat floating in the sea, Minhyuk suddenly jumped up from the dolphins and launched to the skies. Red Hawk, who was about to lower his arm...

Grrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr—

...suddenly felt a tremor rock their ship.

[The Sunset Sea's Miracle has made its appearance.]

[A huge whirlpool will be created around you. This whirlpool will suck in everything around you.]

Vwoooooooooooooong—

"Damn! Why did the miracle suddenly start at this time?!"

The waters suddenly started to turn and spin violently, as the sea created a whirlpool that sucked in all of the ships in the vicinity. Set against the sunset in front of them, it created a spectacular view. However, the pirate ships were ships that could not be easily broken by the whirlpool. All it did was make them spin around and around.

"Fire at that bastard above!!!"

"But if we open fire, then the other ships will also get damaged!"

"Let's go after the bastard once he falls down to sea!"

.

At some point, all of the pirate ships had been gathered in the middle of the whirlpool. Minhyuk, who started to fall back towards the sea, had already gathered a strong force at the tip of his sword. It was none other than his strongest AOE attack skill, the Continent Destroyer. And when his sword struck down, the tremendous force gathered at the tip was fired at sea.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

This great disaster headed straight towards the pirate ships that were crowded in the middle of the whirlpool. In an instant, the ships crumbled into pieces, like fragile glass shattering upon being hit by a strong impact.

Chapter 469: Naval Warfare (Top)

The Continent Destroyer was the strongest AOE attack skill attached to the Continent Destroyer Sword.

Artifact Skill

?A powerful force would spread out in a wave within a 35 meter radius that would incur an additional 500% damage upon the sword being stabbed straight down.

?The ground within the 35 meter radius would break and fluctuate, reaching five meters in height, with red lava erupting and causing 1,600% damage to everyone receiving a direct hit from the lava.

?Those directly hit by the lava would receive additional 100% damage every three seconds.

The effects of most passive and active skills in Athenae were dependent on the users' attack power. Naturally, the stronger the ranker was, the higher their attack, the higher the % effect that would be added to the skill's effect.

Minhyuk, as Korea's top ranker, had incredible stats. On top of that, he had the Continent Destroyer Sword with an attack of 1,900, one that far surpassed the weapons of most high rankers, which were usually set at 1,100~1,300. This meant that the Continent Destroyer that Minhyuk had unleashed with his Continent Destroyer Sword dealt a ridiculous amount of damage to his enemies.

The worst part for his opponents? The Continent Destroyer Sword had a 50% increase in cutting and penetrative power and a 40% increase in critical hit rate. Therefore, almost forty ships that had been sucked and stuck together in the middle of the whirlpool were now facing the full brunt of the God-Rank Artifact Continent Destroyer Sword's strongest AOE attack skill, Continent Destroyer.

Puhaaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

And thanks to the Demon's Face, this skill, whilst being presented differently to the others, was still able to maintain its full force. The moment Minhyuk's sword stabbed straight down in the middle of the whirlpool, huge waves erupted and slammed hard into the ships that were stuck together. This was the first wave of attack that hit them but...

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—

[Ruby Pirates' Sixth Defensive Ship has received a tremendous impact!]

[The ship's durability has decreased by 28%!]

[If you don't hurry and fix the damage to your ship, then it might break apart!]

[Storm Pirates' Third Attack Ship has received a tremendous impact!]

[The ship's durability has decreased by 54%!]

[If you don't hurry and fix the damage to your ship, then it might break apart!]

[Red Skull Pirates' Third Attack Ship has received a tremendous impact!]

[The ship's durability has decreased by 17%!]

[The ship needs repair.]

[Merry-Merry Pirates' Fifth Defensive Ship...]

[Yamete Pirates' Sixth Defensive Ship...]

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Main, maintain the ship's balance!!!”

“Keuhaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

...all the pirate ships were already shaking and trembling from the impact of the attack. As for the pirate ships with lower durability, their ships were already broken through and water was starting to gush in.

“H... how?! With just one attack...?!”

Ruby Pirates' Ruby and Red Hawk were already in a state of panic. How could one attack deal so much damage at once? But it was not yet over.

Keuhaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

A five-meter-high tidal wave suddenly rose up from the sea. This was originally the ground fluctuation effect that could reach five meters in height, but the appearance of the skill completely changed in the eyes of the others.

Keuhaaaaaaaaaaaa—

The tidal wave moved to devour the ships. The blacksmiths were rushing to repair the ships, while the captains and deputy captains were working hard to center their ships once again. Even the other pirates that were preparing for battle were all trying so hard to not fall off of their ships.

But even as they tried their best, the attacks were never ending. This time, a strong force immediately followed the tidal wave. This strong force was none other than the lava that could deal an additional 1,600% damage upon a direct hit. It erupted from the seafloor. Originally, it could be avoided, after all, the damage would only be dealt with if it directly hit the opponent, but with the ships all stuck together...

Shwaaaaaaaa—

Craaaaaaaaaack—

And finally...

[You have sunk Merry-Merry's Pirate Ship.]

[You have hunted Merry-Merry's Pirate Lucard.]

[You have acquired Pirate Lucard's two platinum!]

[You have acquired the Nimble Pirates' Twin Swords.]

[You have hunted Merry-Merry's Deputy Captain Aven.]

[You have acquired Deputy Captain Aven's one platinum.]

[You have hunted Verad, a player with a high Chaos level.]

[You have acquired Verad's Pirate's Cool Hat.]

[You have hunted Aveto, a player with a high Chaos level.]

[You have acquired Aveto's Aqua Stone.]

...the notifications rang non-stop! When a fight broke out at sea, the items that would drop would not automatically fall into the sea. These items would just automatically enter the inventory of the player with the highest contribution. After all, if the items worked the same way as on land, then the items and gold that dropped would be submerged deep in the sea and be useless.

And with all the pirates, whether they were NPCs or players, aboard these pirate ships being people with a high Chaotic level, they all dropped a huge amount of gold, silver, and artifacts.

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

The ships began to sink one after the other, as the lava that erupted from deep within the sea devoured them. Only Red Hawk's Third Attack Ship, the ship with the highest defense and durability, was hanging by a thread and maintaining its balance, albeit precariously.

"What the hell is this?! What kind of dealer is he!?" Red Hawk shouted, his face turning pale.

'How can he sink 39 ships in one go?!'

"Sa, save meeeeeee!!!"

"Aaaaaaaaack! Captain Red Hawk!!! Please save us!!!"

"Grrrrrrrrrk!"

The moment the pirate players and NPCs fell into the sea, they were all sucked by the whirlpool and sent to their deaths. It did not matter if they were good swimmers, as long as they were facing the sea's miracle, there was nothing they could do.

"Blacksmiths! Quickly fix the ship! Hurry!"

Slowly, the miracle whirlpool started to subside. However, the Black Pirates' Third Attack Ship only had 30% of its durability left. Of course, their ship always had skilled blacksmiths on board. These skilled blacksmiths were now rushing back and forth to repair the ship.

Usually, they would only need around three minutes to repair around 5~20% of the ship and its durability. 'Do you want to repair the ship?' This question would pop out in front of these blacksmiths, which would then trigger and activate their skills, that would allow the ship to repair itself the moment they agree to it.

But before they could even do so, Minhyuk, who was riding on top of a dolphin, shot towards the Third Attack Ship.

"What, what the hell?! Do you think you can destroy a pirate ship with your basic attacks?!"

In fact, Minhyuk needed someone to experiment on.

‘I only caused a bit of damage to Gorfido’s Pirate Ship despite ‘Explosion’ triggering. What about when using it on other pirate ships?’

Minhyuk’s sword immediately stabbed the Black Pirates’ pirate ship.

Crack!

Shockingly enough, a dent suddenly appeared in the otherwise tough and sturdy-looking part of the ship, while pieces of the already broken parts crumbled and flew away.

[The Black Pirates’ Third Attack Ship has received a tremendous impact!]

[The ship’s durability has decreased by 5%!]

“...?!”

For a moment, Red Hawk thought that his ears were not working properly. A basic attack was enough to reduce 5% of his ship’s durability?

‘I’m sure that’s his one-shot kill skill against high rankers, right?’ Red Hawk thought in a fluster. But then, Minhyuk’s sword moved swiftly as he hacked at the ship continuously.

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

[The ship’s durability has decreased by 5%!]

[The ship’s durability has decreased by 4%!]

In the end...

Bam, bam, bam, bam, bam, bam!

...‘Extinction’ was triggered, and a shocking notification rang in Red Hawk’s ears.

[The ship’s durability has decreased by 14%!]

[The ship’s durability has decreased by 16%!]

[The ship’s durability...!]

[The ship is sinking!]

“...”

Red Hawk was left speechless as the ship that they were on started to sink. All he could do was relay the information as fast as he could to Great Pirate Lundnu. Not long after, they sank below the surface. The pirates either sank or floundered about in the sea. That was when Minhyuk saw people, who were wearing sleeveless shirts and were completely unlike the regular pirates, shouting for help.

‘Captives?’

They were definitely captives. After all, pirates were known to attack warships, fishing boats, and sailing boats, capturing the people aboard them and selling the parts that were useful. Then, the notifications immediately rang.

[Saving these people might bring you, someone with the power of a king, huge profits.]

“Dolphins!”

“Kieeeeeeeee!” The dolphins cried out as they rescued the captives, while leaving the pirates scrambling for their own lives.

“We, we’re saved...!”

“Thank you!!!”

“Th, thank you! Thank you very much!!!”

[You have gained 5 CHA.]

[You have saved a total of 321 captives.]

‘Wow. Isn’t this really epic...?’

Except for his greed for food, Minhyuk did not really desire anything else. But now, he had to think as the king of ‘Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’.

Just a few hours earlier, Minhyuk had received a report and briefing in the guild chat. They had told him that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s finances were already reaching the bottom of the pan. Thankfully, he was able to earn 82 platinum when he wiped out the pirates. That was not all. A rough estimate of the prices of the various artifacts, treasures, and miscellaneous items that he had acquired would give him 300 platinum if sold. This was all because...

‘All of these pirate NPCs and players are people with a high Chaos level and a bounty on their heads.’

In fact, even his EXP had risen significantly to the point that his level even increased by one. It was ten times more efficient than the rewards that he received during a hunt.

‘If I receive these captives as my own people then...?’

Then, the value that he would get from this quest would increase and reach astronomical levels.

“Who are you?”

“No way, are you a pirate too?”

“I don’t want to wander around the seas anymore! I’d rather you kill us!”

“Even our own kingdom has abandoned us! They all knew that we had been taken captive by the pirates but none of them came to rescue us! *Sob, sob, sob!*? Kill us! I’d rather you kill us!”

All of them trembled in fear and anxiety which showed how much they had been tortured so far. Minhyuk moistened his throat as he spoke to them with a voice filled with dignity, “I came from a distant continent after hearing about your sufferings. Your kingdoms and empires have abandoned you, forcing you to cry out in helplessness, despite your families waiting for you.”

Minhyuk looked at them one after another atop his dolphin as he continued to speak, “After hearing your stories, I could not help but run to your rescue. Although I am by myself, I fought a bloody battle and persevered just so I could save you! Aaaaaaaah!”

He grabbed his left chest as if he was feeling extreme pain. And when the captives saw his face and voice filled with sincere emotions, they thought...

‘Someone from a distant continent came here to save us, the abandoned ones...?’

‘Isn’t he all by himself? Besides, he has no reason to fight against these pirates, right?’

‘Did he really come for us?’

‘He came for us? Those that have been abandoned by our own kingdoms and empires?!’

‘Aaaaaaaaah! What a kind man! Is the distant continent filled with people like him?!’

‘No, perhaps there’s something that he wants from us?’

‘No one will express any good will if there’s no reward for them.’

Then, the notifications rang.

[The passive skill ‘King’s Voice’ attached to your title: Brightest Sun has been triggered.]

The King’s Voice was a passive skill that would make Minhyuk, a king, sound more dignified and even more sincere to others.

“I don’t want anything from you. It’s just... I want you to forget all of the pain and suffering that you have experienced as a captive... You can now go back to your families. Just... let me just help you do that!”

“...Waaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

The captives all shed tears while some of them swung their arms strongly as they cheered for him. Then, Minhyuk said, “But, there are still a lot of people that I need to save. After all, there are still many people that have suffered the same painful fate as you!!!”

“Sob! Our pain... is something that’s worse than death!”

“That’s right. The sea is filled and overflowing with those suffering like us.”

Minhyuk nodded as he said, “I will drop you off on a nearby island. For those who are willing to fight with me, please join me! Let’s fight for those who want to return to their families, just like you!!!”

Minhyuk raised his arm high up in the sky as...

Drip, drip, drip—

...streaks of hot tears dripped down his cheeks! His tears made everyone feel immense admiration and gratitude to him as their hearts burned hot.

“We will fiiiiiiiiight! We will fight for the other captives and return them to the arms of their own families!!!”

“Let’s drive out all of the pirates from these seas!!!”

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

This was only natural. After all, around 70% of these captives were part of the navy. Then, another set of notifications rang in Minhyuk’s ears.

Gorfido shook his head when he saw Minhyuk crying while raising his arms high up in the skies, and thought, *‘He’s probably sick in the head...’*

Chapter 470: Naval Warfare (Top)

After rescuing the captives, Minhyuk asked the dolphins to carry them and bring them to a nearby island.

“I will get the ship that we will need for battle. As for the equipment, you can wear these.”

However, even after equipping them with the items that he picked up from the pirates, it seemed like it was still difficult for the captives to go into battle all at once. From what Minhyuk could see, it was better for them to get some grub and a bit of rest before joining the fight.

So, he let them be for a while.

After distributing the equipment that he acquired from the pirates earlier, Minhyuk turned to look at Gorfido and asked, “Is there a way to make a ship sink with one strike?”

As a great pirate, Gorfido’s knowledge about ships was unrivaled. He explained, “There is. It’s simple. All you have to do is create a hole at the bottom of the ship. If there’s a hole there, then the water will pour inside and fill it up. If that happens, you can easily topple it over. However, most of the ships right now are designed and created with mages so that no one could blast through the bottom and create a hole. You need to at least have a magic power that’s far stronger than the mage that created the ship, or enough attack power to deal a huge amount of damage in one go.”

A ship was completely different from a wall. If a part of the wall collapsed, the soldiers could easily settle in that gap and defend against the enemy attacks. On the other hand, if a hole was created in a ship, water would flow inside and force it to sink. That was why most pirate ships were created with the help of the mages.

“The problem here is... are you even capable of blasting through that part of the ship? That’s a very difficult feat. I say your damage output is not even close enough to put a tiny dent on it.”

Minhyuk nodded at Gorfido's words. It was true. Although Minhyuk had dealt tremendous damage and caused a huge impact on the Black Skull Pirate's ship earlier, he still failed to blast through and create a hole in the ship. Of course, he could probably drill a hole large enough to force that ship to sink if he slammed into it another twenty more times, but that method would take too long, especially if they were in a large-scale war.

"Will it be possible if I increase my damage?"

At Minhyuk's question, Gorfido recalled the man's attack, *'It was truly a shocking attack. One of the strongest attacks that I have ever seen in my life.'*

With Gorfido's long life and experiences at sea, he knew that it was nigh impossible to sink a ship with just one attack. However, after seeing Minhyuk's attack earlier and the power that caused a series of explosions...?

"Perhaps it's possible."

Gorfido did not know how much more Minhyuk could increase his damage, nor how much stronger he could become. But, it seemed possible for him to sink a ship with the attack that he did earlier.

"Alright. That answer is good enough," Minhyuk nodded while taking out the aqua stones from his inventory. The Kraken King, or Sukhoe, had gifted Minhyuk with more than 700 aqua stones before. After wiping out the pirates that chased after him earlier, he had also acquired around 800 aqua stones. Aqua stones worked like 'Reinforcement Stones'.

Typical reinforcement stones, there would be penalties like a minus reinforcement or artifact disintegration upon failure. The probability of getting a minus reinforcement that would need a higher maintenance was also higher.

As for aqua stones, they belonged to a higher level of reinforcement stones. Upon failure of reinforcement, as long as one was using an aqua stone, they would not suffer from any minus reinforcement or artifact destruction. This was the main reason why aqua stones were traded at high prices. It was also a very popular reinforcement stone since there was no need to use an anvil during reinforcement.

After taking out the aqua stones in his inventory, Minhyuk took out the 'Continent Destroyer Sword', the very same sword that Brod had passed onto him. It was the sword that cut down more than a million enemies.

What would happen if this sword got reinforced?

'To be honest, I know that it's extremely hard to add even a +1 reinforcement to a legendary rank artifact.'

Indeed, legendary rank artifacts with a +10 reinforcement were extremely rare, to the point that they were non-existent. That was how hard it was to reinforce. As for legendary rank artifacts with reinforcement beyond +11?

There was none.

'That reinforced artifact would be equivalent to God-rank artifacts in power, right?'

Reinforcing artifacts at the legendary level was extremely difficult. It was so difficult that everyone deemed it impossible at this point in time. Generally, the + effect of the reinforcement was dependent on the rank of the artifact. The higher the rank, the higher the + effect.

At the end of the day though, reinforcement was mainly due to luck.

‘And I...’

Minhyuk quickly checked his DEX. He had been constantly increasing his DEX to the point that it had already exceeded the 4,500 mark. And that was not all, he also had Ellie’s Kitchen Knife’s special effect, the effect that allowed him to ‘double his DEX’. In other words, the effect of his DEX was at around 9,000 now, a DEX that no other player could ever hope to achieve. It was to be noted that DEX could also play a role, albeit only slightly, on ‘luck’, a factor that was needed during reinforcements.

What would happen if a 9,000 DEX’s slight effect affected the reinforcement?

‘Well, it’s worth a try.’

Gorfido, who watched Minhyuk pull out the aqua stones from his inventory, could tell that the sword in his hands wielded an extraordinary power. He thought, *‘I can hear the cries of those that died under the blade of that sword. Just how many enemies has that sword cut down?’*

The sword was definitely extraordinary. And to reinforce a sword like that? Gorfido believed that it was impossible. But just as that thought flashed in Gorfido’s head, Minhyuk began the reinforcement process.

“Reinforce!”

[You have achieved ‘perfect’ reinforcement.]

[Despite achieving a ‘perfect’ reinforcement, the aqua stone’s power is not enough to reach the sword.]

[Reinforcement has failed.]

“Reinforce!”

[You have achieved ‘perfect’ reinforcement.]

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[Reinforcement has failed.]

“Reinforce!!!”

[You have achieved ‘perfect’ reinforcement.]

[Despite achieving a ‘perfect’ reinforcement, the aqua stone’s power is not enough to reach the sword.]

[Reinforcement has failed.]

“Reinforce! Reinforce! Reinforce! Reinforce! Reinforce!”

The aqua stones in Minhyuk's hands began to deplete at a rapid pace. What was the point of achieving a perfect reinforcement if the reinforcement kept on failing? This just showed how hard it was to reinforce an outstanding sword like the Continent Destroyer Sword.

"Reinforce! Reinforce! Reinforce! Reinforce! Reinforce! Reinforce! Reinforce!"

In a blink, more than 300 aqua stones, an ultra-expensive reinforcement stone that priced at around one platinum per two stones, disappeared. They disappeared like snow melting under the hot and glaring sun.

"Reinforce! Reinforce! Reinforce!!!"

Quickly, Minhyuk used up another 100 aqua stones. Deep inside, he felt his stomach twist in regret, *'Sob... how many chickens can I buy with this many aqua stones! What a waste!!!'*

Minhyuk felt like someone took millions of chickens away from him. Still, he did not stop.

"Reinforce! Reinforce! Reinforce! Reinforce!!!"

He consumed another 100 in an instant.

"Tch, tch. With that sword's power, you won't be able to reinforce it with such a trivial and weak reinforcement stone," Gorfido clicked his tongue, judging that the reinforcement would never be successful.

Although Minhyuk felt his heart throb in pain with how wasteful he was being, he knew something, *'It might be impossible to reinforce a God Rank Artifact using the normal method but...'*

Minhyuk held God's Ore Vlad, the ore that he obtained after sealing Great Demon Verus. It was superior to any reinforcement stone in existence. Even Minhyuk, who had gathered a lot of information about Athenae, did not know much about it. He was the only one that acquired these superior reinforcement stones and he only had three in his hands at most. So, should he just use these three reinforcement stones just like that?

Of course not.

'There's always the law of reinforcing, a law that has been passed down since the old RPG era! And that is to make offerings before doing the actual reinforcement!'

Before these virtual reality games came out, countless old RPG games also had the concept of 'reinforcement'. And in those games, it was natural to make a lot of sacrifices before doing the actual reinforcement of an outstanding artifact. As an example, after reinforcing a novice's 'rusty dagger' to +9, they would use it as a sacrifice and let it evaporate to dust before reinforcing the artifact that they wanted. After letting everything evaporate, they would have that one burst of 'luck'.

This was the way of the old!

However, this was mostly some sort of myth and superstition. But at this point in time, even if there was only a slight possibility of it becoming successful, Minhyuk believed that it was still worth a try. In a blink, there were only forty aqua stones left in his hands.

"Reinforce! Reinforce! Reinforce! Reinforce!"

Minhyuk, who was continuously trying to reinforce his sword, suddenly stopped his hands.

“...?!”

[You have achieved ‘perfect’ reinforcement.]

[You have successfully applied a +1 reinforcement to the Continent Destroyer Sword.]

[Congratulations! This is an unprecedented event! You are the first one to successfully reinforce a God-rank Artifact!]

[You have gained 100 REP.]

[You have received a +1% increase in all five of your basic stats.]

“...”

Minhyuk was speechless. He did not know if he should be happy or sad. He tried to increase his luck by sacrificing all of the aqua stones in his hands before using God’s Ore Vlad for his final reinforcement. However, he actually succeeded before his intended goal.

‘What’s this? This is probably a one in ten thousand kind of chance, but I was able to successfully reinforce it?’

It was a complete and total mess. But after checking, Minhyuk was very much surprised.

“My sword’s basic attack power has increased by +60?”

A sixty point increase in a sword’s attack power could have a tremendous effect on the player. For rankers, an addition of this much to their force would be able to allow them to reduce their opponent’s HP by 0.5%, a significant amount that could determine whether they would win or lose in a fight.

The power from that single reinforcement was truly amazing. Nothing else had changed but it was still a tremendous addition to his power.

As those thoughts flew in Minhyuk’s head, he quickly exhausted all of the remaining aqua stones in his hands. After using up all the aqua stones, he took a deep breath while taking out God’s Ore Vlad. God’s Ore Vlad was a precious ore that he was not sure if he could obtain again in the future. That was why he was both nervous and careful about it.

?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.

That was right. Just like in the description, someone created the greatest sword in existence using God’s Ore Vlad. And now, it was time to change the ranking of that sword.

“Reinforceeeeeeeeeee!!!”

[You have achieved ‘perfect’ reinforcement.]

[Despite achieving a ‘perfect’ reinforcement and using God’s Ore Vlad, it is still very difficult to reinforce this sword.]

[Reinforcement has failed.]

“...!”

One God’s Ore Vlad had disappeared into dust. Minhyuk believed that the value of one God’s Ore Vlad was equivalent to around 10,000 platinum, perhaps even more than that. However...

“Reinforceeeeeeeeeee!!!” Minhyuk shouted loudly, veins popping on his neck with how loud he was. And with his shout, the Continent Destroyer Sword was covered in a blue light. If that blue light persisted for quite a while, it would mean that the reinforcement was a success.

‘It’s, it’s blue...!’

But just as the thought flashed in Minhyuk’s head, a disappointing set of notifications rang in his ears.

[You have achieved ‘perfect’ reinforcement.]

[Despite achieving a ‘perfect’ reinforcement and using God’s Ore Vlad, it is still very difficult to reinforce this sword.]

[Reinforcement has failed.]

“...”

Minhyuk was speechless as he looked up at the skies and said, “I suddenly miss my dad...”

If Kang Minhoo saw him right now, he would just chuckle at him with a kind and soft smile on his face while saying, *‘Hoho~ My dear son, gambling is bad~’*. In fact, even though he was not here, Minhyuk felt that his father’s words were ringing in his ears, and very clearly at that too.

Now, Minhyuk only had one reinforcement stone left. And Gorfido, who watched Minhyuk through all of that, shook his head and turned around while thinking, *‘That man is really bonkers. Why did he suddenly look up at the sky and look for his dad?’*

Truth was, Gorfido firmly believed that what Minhyuk was doing was useless. After all, he could clearly feel the ‘God of Death’'s power emanating from that sword. With a god’s power enveloping such a sword, how could a mere human dare to reinforce it, right? So, he turned his back to him to just appreciate the scenery, a scenery that he had not seen for a long time since he was trapped in the Pirate’s Grave. But then...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

.

...a fierce wind suddenly blew from behind him.

“Wha, what the hell?!”

“Ugh, aaaaack! What the hell?! Is there a mage or something?!!!”

Rumble—

Crack! Bang! Bang! Bang!

The waves of the sea suddenly turned violent as the strong wind continued to blow around them. The waves that slammed into the shores were so violent that they even broke the island’s rocks.

A thunderstorm even brewed above them!

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Then, the fierce wind, which was a striking blue in color, swirled into a vortex before rising to the skies as if it was a dragon ascending. Gorfido quickly turned his head to look at the sky that suddenly turned dark. That was when he saw the blue wind, which was soaring to the skies just a bit earlier, fiercely rushing towards the sword in Minhyuk’s hands.

Fwoooooooooooooosh—

Gorfido saw the delighted expression on Minhyuk’s face as he held the sword in his hands while it absorbed the blue wind.

‘The reinforcement... succeeded...?’

Minhyuk’s smile definitely signaled a success.