

## Gourmet 471

### Chapter 471: Naval Warfare (Middle)

The entire Japanese archipelago was in a heated buzz from the video that was being broadcasted through their screens. The video showed the splendor of the sunset that casted over forty ships and one Korean player on the seas! Several broadcast drones were able to film the battle in the seas as they laid witness to the forty ships that got sucked inside the miracle's whirlpool. They were also able to broadcast the scene of the thirty nine ships being sunk by a single attack, as well as the downfall of the Black Pirate's Red Hawk's ship!

All of the headlines of every newspaper in Japan talked about this event. The game broadcasting stations that did not show any interest in the happenings at sea at first, also started to set sail. And...

[Wow. That was really amazing. He just stabbed his sword towards the sea and all of the ships sucked inside the vortex were destroyed...]

[It's a very refreshing sight to see. I can't even do any quests at sea because of those pirates. I even died more than five times because of them.]

The people of Japan cheered as a player from another country eradicated and hunted their own players. This was because the 'pirates' were a great source of headache for the players that wanted to play normally in their own continent. These pirates would often come to land to plunder, and would even PK the players that wanted to go to sea, just so they could monopolize all of the contents prepared at sea.

The worst part? Their numbers and strength were far greater than what the normal players had expected that even the guilds, kingdoms, and empires of the Japanese Server could only let them do as they pleased.

But now, a single man was fighting against these pirates and spilling their blood. How wonderful that was!

The entire country was discussing the events at sea.

[Who in the world is he?]

[I looked closely at the video but I don't know who he is at all.]

[Maybe he's a hidden unofficial ranker in Korea?]

[If we're talking about a Korean player with that much power then the only one I can think of is the 'Food God' but his face is completely different...]

[No matter how strong the Food God is, there's no way that he can destroy forty ships at once. He's clearly a hidden ranker.]

[Ah, if I recall correctly... didn't Lundnu say 'The Food God will be nothing but a loser if I met him at sea' or something along those lines in the past?]

Along with that comment, a new article appeared and replaced the number one real-time search term.

That was right.

In the past, Lundnu had mentioned that the Food God would be nothing but a mere loser if they were to meet at sea. Various media outlets started to publish articles about this. Even if Lundnu did not talk about the Food God, the fact that he mocked Korea and their beloved ranker would not change.

And now, all of the spotlights had turned towards Lundnu and the unidentified player. As the buzz burned hotter, another shocking notification hit them.

[A player that has created a shocking legendary achievement that surpassed all of the legendary achievements made in the past has been born to the world!]

[This message resonates across all continents.]

The Japanese players were all excited after hearing the notifications.

[It's not a notification about a God-rank artifact's acquisition but a world message about a new achievement that broke all of the achievements of the past? This is my first time hearing something like this.]

[Wow. I wonder who it is? Also, what kind of achievement did they make to break all of the legendary achievements made in the past?]

The number one real-time search term had changed once again. This time it was about the 'Legendary Achievement'. It was followed by the 'Re-examination of Lundnu's Past Remarks' at second and the 'Japanese Pirates' at third. None of them could ever imagine that the first, second, and third real-time search terms were all related to one person and one person alone.

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Gorfido watched as the blue energy swirling in the sky got sucked into the sword in Minhyuk's hand. Minhyuk looked extremely delighted. After the sword returned to its original color, Minhyuk stood up and headed somewhere.

The people called the island that they were currently located at, the 'Turtle Boulder Island'. The reason why they call the island as such was because of the huge boulder, with a height that reached four meters. It looked like it was a turtle hiding in its shell resting in the middle of the island.

"What are you trying to do?"

Minhyuk did not answer Gorfido's question and just walked forward until he stood in front of the huge turtle boulder. The character 'Crazy' was engraved on the flat of his sword.

"How do you read that thing written on your sword?"

"Crazy."

Then, Minhyuk hacked his sword at the huge turtle boulder. When Gorfido saw this, he thought that it was a ridiculous action. From what he had heard, those that have reached the supreme level of swordsmanship could break boulders with a slash. However, that was when they were talking about regular stones and boulders. But this rock, the Turtle Boulder, was something that existed from when Gorfido was alive up until this point in time. This was a very tough and sturdy boulder. But then...

Swoooooooooooooosh—

...a powerful force that seemed like it could tear anything and everything in its path flew forward and literally slashed the boulder right down the middle.

Boooooooooom—

“...!”

Gorfido could not believe it even after seeing it with his own eyes. In fact, even Minhyuk could not believe it. These were the notifications that Minhyuk had heard after he used the last God's Ore Vlad in his possession.

[You have achieved 'perfect' reinforcement.]

[You have successfully added a +4 reinforcement to the Continent Destroyer Sword.]

[You have surpassed the achievement of the one that created the best sword using God's Ore Vlad in the past.]

[You have gained 3,000 REP.]

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

[You have gained 50,000 AP.]

God's Ore Vlad was a reinforcement stone that could reinforce the artifact from +1~+5. And in his last and final try, he was able to successfully add a +4 reinforcement! The most shocking part was that it was a reinforcement of a God-rank artifact.

When Minhyuk looked at the 'Continent Destroyer Sword's status window...

?A 41% increase in STR, AGI and STM.

?Passive Skill: Supreme Sword Mastery has reached Level 9

?Cutting Power and Penetrative Power has increased by 60%.

?Critical Hit Rate has increased by 70%.

?Attack will double against the undead. All passive skills' chances of getting triggered will be at 100% against the undead.

The Continent Destroyer Sword was now truly the best weapon in existence. World messages were usually relayed only after the players made achievements, and they had nothing to do with NPCs.

After all, there were quite a few NPCs with God-rank artifacts that were scattered all over the continents, which meant that the strongest among the players were not the strongest in the entirety of Athenae.

However, the birth of this sword proved that it was superior to any sword in existence. The fact that the sword's attack had increased by more than 500, with the 7% increase in STR, AGI, and STM,

the 10% increase in cutting power and penetrative power, and the 20% increase in critical hit rate, was something that should also be taken note of.

There was also the 'Crazy' mode added to the passive skill: Lightning.

#### Artifact Skill

?When using Crazy Mode, there is a 30% chance of triggering a sword wind with 1,100% additional attack power that can rip through anything and everything in its path when attacking with a basic attack.

?When using Crazy Mode, there is a chance of consecutively triggering Crazy Mode.

?There is a 20% chance of triggering the Crazy Mode two times in a row.

?There is a 5% chance of triggering the Crazy Mode three times in a row.

?There is a 1% chance of triggering the Crazy Mode four times in a row.

?In Crazy Mode, there is a 10% chance of bringing the opponent hit by your attack into a three-second stunned state.

?In Crazy Mode, there is a 20% chance of turning the Continent Destroyer Sword's Active Skill: Armor Break into a passive skill and triggering it to destroy the opponent's sword.?

Crazy was an outrageous skill that utilized only the greatest advantages of the Continent Destroyer Sword.

*'Are you telling me that there's a chance that I can trigger the sword wind with an additional 1,100% attack four times in a row?'*

The skill was literally the most outrageous of all outrageous skills. In fact, Minhyuk was able to split the turtle boulder into two because he was able to trigger the Crazy Mode three times in a row. With the addition of this shockingly outrageous skill called Crazy, combined with the dramatic increase in attack, Minhyuk had become much, *much* stronger.

"Shall we test it?" Minhyuk said confidently.

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Ever Seas.

There were a total of 630 ships roaming the seas and searching for one existence.

Tetsuya, the captain of the Black Skull Pirates and Lundnu's de facto right hand man, was hailed as the Ever Seas' Great Mage. When at sea, Tetsuya could exert 1.7x more power with his water attribute magic's attack power. Right now, Tetsuya was staring at the sea in a daze.

*'Crazy bastards. How dare you compare Sir Lundnu to the Food God?!'*

Tetsuya was talking about the 'Re-examination of Lundnu's Past Remarks', the article that appeared as part of the top real-time search terms. Even though they were all Japanese, the people were calling Lundnu arrogant and conceited. But Tetsuya was confident that even if the Food God appeared here, as long as they were at sea, Lundnu would be the one reigning supreme. Lundnu's

ship was unbreakable and as long as it was operated properly, anyone that went against it would immediately face death.

That was right. Tetsuya was Lundnu's bootlicker.

"Sir Tetsuya. This family of three, a mother, a father and a daughter, tried to escape. We caught them trying to board a small boat that they had unloaded."

Tetsuya's brows furrowed upon hearing the words of his subordinates. The three captives that they have caught trying to escape were a family. The middle-aged couple were covered with whip-marks while the young girl was trembling with fear.

"Is that so? Then, let's just kill them."

The three trembled at Tetsuya's words, especially the frightened young girl. She looked more scared than before. Tetsuya was among the people that saw NPCs as mere artificial intelligence. The total number of NPCs that he had killed? Perhaps he had already surpassed a few thousands.

"Kid, do you want to live?"

Nod.

The girl, Riley, nodded in fear.

"Then, let me give you two choices," Tetsuya smiled in delight as he continued to say, "I will spare you if your mother and father jumped in the sea."

"...!"

"...!"

Riley and her parents' faces all turned pale at Tetsuya's words.

"Ah. But if you jump, I will spare your parents. The choice is yours."

"You, you're not human!!!"

"How can you make a child do something like that?!!!"

"We'll jump!!!"

"Shush. Your daughter should be the one to make a choice. You have committed a sin, so you should be punished," Tetsuya cackled as he watched Riley walk towards the edge of the ship with her trembling legs.

"Riley!!! No!!!"

"Riley!!! No!!! Let, let us go instead!!!"

Riley looked at the blue sea and the ships floating above it. As the cool breeze caressed her cheeks, she said, "The Sea God will punish you!"

Riley bit her lips tightly. She had heard about the legend of the sea. According to that old legend, the Sea God descended personally to give judgment to the vicious and heinous pirates and bring

peace to the seas once again. With a shaky inhale, Riley closed her eyes and tried to jump out of the sea. But before she could do so...

“What, what’s that?!”

“What the hell?! Why did the ships suddenly sink? They’re all in good condition right?!”

“Captain!!! I think you should see this!”

Riley, who was about to jump, slowly opened her eyes again only to see the ships sinking under the deep blue sea. And...

Shwaaaaaaa—

A fierce blast of wind rang in her ears.

Vwooooooooooom—

That was when Riley saw a man swinging his sword as he went from one ship to another. And...

Slash, slash, slash, slaaaaaash—

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

...a hole was torn through the bottom of one of the ships. She also watched as water started to flow inside the ship which forced it to sink. After doing so, the man jumped to another ship.

Slaaaaaaash—

Another ship started to sink as the man blasted a hole through the ship’s bottom.

“E, everyone! Prepare for battle!!!”

In a blink, the man arrived at Tetsuya’s ship. The man’s face, which was reflected by the light of the sun, glittered and sparkled as he smiled refreshingly and greeted, “Hello, little lady?”

Riley looked at the man as she clasped her hands together and said, “After the Sea God descended, he declared...”

Before she could finish her sentence...

Shwaaaaaaa—

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

...the ship rocked strongly from the strong impact of the man’s attack. Then, Riley spat the end of her words, “...*Fools. I will bring you judgment!*”

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Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaam—

Tetsuya’s ship tilted to one side and slowly started to sink under the sea after the loud bang rang loudly.

“Pour the water out!!!”

Sea’s Great Mage Tetsuya was someone that could express 1.7x the attack power of any water attributed magic in his arsenal. He immediately cast, “Aqua Storm! Aqua Storm! Aqua Storm! Aqua Storm!”

Rumble!

The spectacle before him made Tetsuya realize that he had to stop this man from reaching Lundnu, even if it cost him his life. The four sea storms that he had cast rushed towards the man. However, Tetsuya was not the only mage in the ship. There were also several high-tiered mages onboard their ship and they were all casting magic towards the man.

“Ice Arrow!”

“Wind Cutter!”

“Aqua Wall!”

Dozens of magic attacks flew towards the man that had jumped once again to the skies.

“Keuhahahaha!” Tetsuya, who believed the man was done for, laughed wildly despite his sinking ship. But then, the man took a book out of his inventory. The pages of the book began to turn rapidly the moment he took it out. And then...

Shwaaaaaaa—

[Cancel.]

[All skills and magic within a five meter radius from the skill user will be canceled and nullified.]

...Gorac’s Mixer and Bowl’s special skill had been triggered. Its usual ‘mixer and bowl’ appearance had changed and turned into a book, thanks to the Great Demon’s Mask effect. In just an instant, all of the magic that was rushing towards Minhyuk disappeared into thin air. After dealing with the magic, Minhyuk finally landed on top of Tetsuya’s slowly sinking ship. The word ‘Crazy’ engraved on the flat of the blade of Minhyuk’s sword stood out.

‘Crazy...?’

Tetsuya felt his breath stagnate from the pressure emitting from the sword.

“Stop hiiiiiiim!”

All of the pirates onboard gathered in the middle of the sinking ship at Tetsuya’s orders. They, a group mostly consisting of Empire Knight-rank NPCs and players, ran towards Minhyuk. However, shockingly enough...

Slaaaaaaash—

...a simple graze of Minhyuk’s sword had torn apart one of the pirates’ bodies. The worst part?

[Armor Break has turned into a passive skill!]

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

Even that pirate's armor, an armor that was made of tough and sturdy steel, was also easily torn apart. In the end, that pirate was forced to log out.

“This is... a nightmare...” Tetsuya mumbled, as he took an involuntary step back in fright. The pirate that was forced to log out just now their strongest close combat fighter. Tetsuya was sure that the HP meter of that pirate was full before he rushed forward, but just a simple graze was enough to kill him. Before he could fully dwell on this thought, Minhyuk had already rushed forward once again.

Minhyuk was like a ghost as he appeared and disappeared swiftly. This was his skill ‘Like the Wind’ under the Great Demon's Mask's effect. He darted in and out of the pirates' gaps while swinging his sword at them.

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

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—

Tetsuya's men kept on trying to counter the man's attack but they failed time and again. The scene in front of him slowly chipped away at Tetsuya's will to fight. For the longest time, Tetsuya had viewed ‘Lundnu’ as the only supreme being. For him, Lundnu was the sky, the sea, and the world itself.

However, as he looked at the man in front of him, he felt like his long standing belief was slowly being crushed and changed.

“Who are you?”

“...”

It was Tetsuya's polite inquiry to someone strong. But Minhyuk did not answer him and only lowered his head to look at him. Then, Minhyuk approached the girl, Riley, and said, “You don't have to be afraid anymore.”

Minhyuk picked Riley up before gently placing her on top of one of the dolphins' heads. He also did not forget to pat the child's head.

“Lord God! Thank you! Thank you for saving me! Thank you for bringing judgment to those fools!”

Throb—

Watching everything, there was one who felt his chest throb in pain as he looked at the child in front of Minhyuk. This was none other than Great Pirate Gorfido, who enjoyed a life of plundering, killing and taking away the freedom of little girls like this child in front of him. But...

*‘Why?! Why are you making me regret everything this much?! Why?!’*

Gorfido's body trembled. The man in front of him lived a life that was completely different from him. Gorfido plundered, looted and killed. He enjoyed trampling over and standing above people as



they regarded him with fear and terror. But the man in front of him stood above all using a completely different method.

*'Just like what he said. I really went down the wrong path during my life.'*

At this moment, Great Pirate Gorfido was truly and completely enlightened. That was when Gorfido and Minhyuk heard a series of notifications.

[Great Pirate Gorfido is a vicious and heinous man that has killed millions with his own hands.]

[With the few words that you have said to him, Gorfido finally truly realizes the mistakes that he made.]

[Gorfido's more enlightened than when he was cursed with Andrei's existence.]

[You have received Gorfido's favor.]

[You have received Gorfido's favor.]

[You have received Gorfido's favor.]

Even though he was listening to the notifications ringing in his ears, Minhyuk was still looking around and gauging the situation. Right now, there were more than a hundred ships rushing to surround Minhyuk. They all came here after hearing the commotion earlier. But then, a far more shocking set of notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears.

[Pirate Gorfido has started to regard you as someone special.]

[Perhaps there will be a surprising event that will happen with Gorfido.]

And Minhyuk, who was watching the approaching ships, tilted his head in doubt. He thought, *'But I only spoke a few words to him though?'* as he recalled the conversation that they had back in Turtle Boulder Island.

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Turtle Boulder Island, an hour and a half ago.

After creating a new achievement, Minhyuk tried to set sail again. Suddenly, he stopped and grabbed his belly, "I need to go but I'm hungry... Hey! Skullhead!"

*"...Cough. Bastard, calling me skullhead... What? Why are you calling for me?"*

*"Is there a way for me to catch local fish like, Emerald Flatfish, Ruby Rockfish, and Sapphire Salmon?"*

Naturally, Minhyuk had already researched the ingredients that he could find in the seas of the Japanese Server before setting foot in the Ever Seas. The Ever Seas was home to epic-ranked monsters like the Ruby Rockfish and Sapphire Salmon.

*'And they taste leagues better than ordinary rockfish and salmon!'*

Minhyuk's eyes twinkled brightly, a look that was completely different from the usual stink eye that he gave to Gorfido, as he looked at him in anticipation. Gorfido nodded and said, "There's a very easy way to do that."

Gorfido approached the shore, closed his eyes and touched the water of the sea. Then...

Swoooooooooooooooooosh—

...suddenly, something from deep within the sea began to surface. Until...

Shwaaaaaaaaaaa—

A glittering and brilliant blue Sapphire Salmon jumped out of the waters and fell down flapping in front of Gorfido.

Flap, flap, flap, flap—

“...?!”

Minhyuk looked on in shock and surprise. But it was not yet over. Dozens of Sapphire Salmon, Ruby Rockfish, and Emerald Flatfish sprang up and gathered in front of Gorfido.

“Wooooooooooooow!” Minhyuk cheered as he jumped up and down with a bright smile on his face. “Hiyaaa~ look at this color! They look scrumptious!”

Even for the most extraordinary and excellent fishermen, some of the rarest species of fish like Ruby Rockfish and Emerald Flatfish, were very hard to catch. And Gorfido only had this ability because his existence was akin to a god to all of the creatures living under the sea. His existence was in fact, superior and mightier than Kraken King Sukhoe.

“Oh my, Sir Gorfido! I’m sorry for not recognizing your greatness. Thank you! Hehe!” Minhyuk said as he bowed politely to Gorfido.

“Ha! Now you know. Haha!” Gorfido laughed for only for a moment, before he caught himself in doubt, *‘Did I just feel delighted because he praised me?’*

But the man in front of him was just a simple human being, right? For some reason, Gorfido felt a huge sense of shame. How could someone like him, someone that terrorized and brought fear to the seas, be happy just because someone praised him?

When he turned to Minhyuk...

“Hiyaaa. Don’t you all look plump and fresh? Huh? *Gulp.*”

...he saw him smiling brightly, like a child with a new toy. A face that was completely different from when they first met back when he cursed him and spat at him. The eyes that he used back then were so cold and eerie that Gorfido felt as if he was being stared at by a mad beast, like a fierce lion watching its prey. He also looked completely different when he brought in the captives, just like a swindler trying to scam people of their money. But now...

*‘He looks like a kind and pure child.’*

Gorfido believed that Minhyuk was a man of many faces. But for some reason, seeing Minhyuk happy like this also made Gorfido feel calm and relaxed.

*‘He’s even happier than when he got the greatest sword in existence...’*

Gorfido continued to stare at Minhyuk. He watched as Minhyuk smiled brightly at the dishes that he prepared in front of himself. These dishes were none other than ‘rockfish, flatfish and salmon’ sashimi. There were even tsukidashi placed in a neat line in front of him!

“Hiyaaaa~ You guys, you’re so fresh that I can still feel you wriggle in my mouth~” Minhyuk gulped as he stretched his hands forward to clamp a slice with his chopsticks. And the dish that he was aiming for was none other than fresh octopus sashimi, that was seasoned with sesame oil and sesame salt.

“How? I don’t think there’s any live octopus in these seas? I can’t even catch a live octopus anywhere in this area...”

“Ah. It’s because I always carry some with me, you know?”

Gorfido looked at Minhyuk incredulously.

*‘He carries some live octopus with him all the time? Is he like that? The One that’s always prepared...?’*

The savory flavor of the sesame oil that coated the fresh and wriggling octopus spread in Minhyuk’s mouth the moment he placed it in his mouth. The longer the octopus stayed in his mouth, the more it revealed its charms. It was springy, lively and even had a hint of crunchiness in there. A smile automatically appeared on Minhyuk’s mouth.

Then, Minhyuk stretched his hands towards a bowl. He mixed a small amount of soy sauce and wasabi in this small bowl before clamping a piece of the flatfish sashimi. But before dipping it in the sauce, Minhyuk savored it by itself.

Chew, chew, chew—

The flatfish sashimi’s texture was very chewy. The more Minhyuk chewed, the sweeter the flavor of the fish in his mouth became. The smile on his face did not wane, instead, it became even brighter.

Then, he turned his attention to salmon. Compared to the flatfish, the salmon had a softer texture and a richer flavor. After tasting the pure salmon sashimi, he clamped another piece of flatfish before dipping it in the soy sauce and putting it in his mouth.

“Wow... It’s alive, the flavor of the sea is alive in my mouth!” Minhyuk shouted happily, like a child enjoying everything and anything within his reach. He even closed his eyes to savor and enjoy the dish!

Next, he placed some sliced raw onion and some radish sprouts on top of the salmon sashimi. Then, he dipped everything in some white sauce, before putting it in his mouth. The soft and crunchy texture and sweet aftertaste of the onions spread in his mouth.

This time, he picked up a piece of perilla leaf and spread it out. Then, he picked up a piece of flatfish sashimi and dipped it into a sauce made of ssamjang, minced garlic, and sesame oil, before placing it on top of the perilla leaf with some sliced garlic and peppers on top. The moment he placed it in his mouth, the fragrant scent of the perilla leaf on top of the perfect harmony of the garlic, pepper and flatfish spread and covered every part of his taste buds!

“Wahahaha!” Minhyuk laughed happily as he ate the sashimi. Minhyuk’s eyes were filled with anticipation, his smile growing wider at the sight of the fish stew that was already starting to boil.

*‘What a strange man. Even if he does not have everything and even if everyone does not fear him, he’s still happier than anybody else. And with what? Just some measly, insignificant and trivial food?’*

Gorfido had never experienced or felt something like this in his life. He only felt delight when he became the object of everyone’s fear. But this man in front of him was being loved and respected by the people around him.

“Why...? How come you look happier with just a trifling thing like food? Why are you happier than when you acquired the captives? Why are you happier than when you got the best sword? Why are you happier when you’re just eating...?!”

“...”

Minhyuk turned to look at Gorfido after hearing his words. The look in Minhyuk’s eyes were distinctly different from when he cursed him or when he was playing around and calling him ‘skullhead’. Both his eyes and smile were soft as he said, “Yes, those are definitely good things, big things. However, you don’t have to have everything to be happy.”

Then, Minhyuk looked at the sashimi spread in front of him as he continued to say, “The food in front of me right now is more precious to me than anything else in the world, this is my standard. So, tell me. Gorfido, what is your standard of happiness?”

“...”

Gorfido was left speechless after hearing Minhyuk’s question. What was his standard of happiness? Killing, plundering, looting and trampling on everyone. Those were his standards of happiness.

*‘I see. The standards that I have set for myself were wrong...’*

Seeing the speechless Gorfido, Minhyuk opened his mouth again, “Then, let me ask you a different question. What will be your ‘standard of happiness’ from now on?”

“...”

Gorfido felt his heart thump wildly. What would be his standards of happiness from this point on? Truth was, he still did not know. However, one thought flashed in his head, *‘Can I find it if I stay with you?’*

Gorfido could already imagine it. He believed that he would be able to find a new standard of happiness as long as he stayed with this man.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk reached out for a ladle of the now boiling spicy fish stew as he reflected on what happened earlier. He thought, *‘Kgghk~ I think it would be awesome if Gorfido became a fisherman, right? Fisherman King Gorfido! Wow, that sounds great!’*

Minhyuk basked in his revolutionary idea!

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Minhyuk saw that the enemy ships were gradually increasing in number. Despite the pressing situation, there was still something that bugged him.

*‘A special event might happen with Gorfido??’*

He did not understand what that meant. However, from what he saw earlier, he could surmise that Gorfido had heard something as well. Finally, the number of ships that appeared to surround him had reached more than 150.

*‘I’ll just continue with this strategy. Retreat and lure them in and destroy them one by one. And...’*

Minhyuk decided to continue with this plan after seeing the pleasant message a few moments earlier.

*‘Is it about time for me to reveal my identity?’*

Just when the thought flashed in his head, Gorfido suddenly approached him and said, “I’ll help you.”

“Help me?” Minhyuk looked at Gorfido in doubt. Gorfido was the one that asked Minhyuk to fulfill his request, so why was he offering him his help?

“Although it’s only for a very short moment, Great Pirate Gorfido will awaken in this world.”

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaa—

At that moment, Gorfido’s translucent body suddenly got sucked inside Minhyuk’s body.

“Ugh! Wh, what the...?!” Minhyuk was extremely flustered.

[Gorfido has taken control of your body.]

[Gorfido has received a gift from the one that punished him.]

[Gorfido will possess the body of the one that made him realize something new and will awaken to this world for three minutes.]

“...???!!!”

Minhyuk could immediately tell that this was the special event that would happen with Gorfido. The one that cursed Gorfido had made the impossible possible for him after seeing him realize something new.

Finally, Minhyuk’s body completely fell under Gorfido’s control. Minhyuk could only think and observe what was happening around him. It was as if he was the one that possessed the body, and not Gorfido. After Minhyuk accepted Gorfido’s soul and possession, his hair grew until it reached his waist. Then...

Vwoooooooooooooooooooooong—

A tremendous amount black energy started to burst out of his body and swirl around him, before shooting out to the skies.

Rumbleeeeeee—

The sea trembled and shook as...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

...a huge blast of wind blew fiercely in the area. At that moment, Great Pirate Gorfido opened his previously closed eyes...

Blink—

The sky turned black as darkness covered the world. After hundreds of years, Great Pirate Gorfido had once again awakened to the world.

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With the sudden start of a naval war with an unknown Korean player, 'Lundnu's past remarks' were pushed to the forefront and re-examined. And because of that, Lundnu had gathered several reporters that were close to him and conducted an interview.

"You have said in the past that the Food God, the strongest player in Korea, and perhaps even the world, would only be a 'loser' in front of you if you two ever met at sea. Does this statement remain true even now?"

"The reporters are clearly saying something ridiculous when they reported that I said that he would be a 'loser'. I only said that it would not be easy for him to deal with me as long as we're at sea."

Lundnu clearly believed that calling him a 'loser' if they met at sea was correct. However, many of the Japanese were against his words. That was why he was acting pretentiously and denying their claims.

"I will make sure to take a tough response against those that continue to say that I have mentioned the word 'loser' and make 'suggestive comments' and 'articles' about this."

The reporters all nodded as they asked another question.

"You say that... it wouldn't be easy to deal with you. Can you please explain it in detail?"

"The Food God is definitely the best and strongest player in Korea. But the seas are nothing like your ordinary field. It would be hard to move freely, especially if you fall into the sea. Besides, the ship's power is far more important than an individual's power when at sea."

The reporters nodded as Ichiro kept on talking, "Also, everyone here knows that my ship, Gorfido's pirate ship, boasts the strongest attack and defense. No matter how strong the Food God is, as long as we're at sea, it would be difficult for him to deal with me."

Ichiro continued to exchange a few words with the reporters regarding this. After the interview was over, one of the reporters that was close to him approached him and asked, “Brother, will you really win against the Food God if you met him at sea?”

“To be honest? He’s no match for me at sea.”

Although Ichiro said it, he actually had no idea if that was true. However, he still spat the words out and decided to let things run their course. His pride and ego were far more important at this point in time.

*‘Besides, I don’t think I’ll see him even in the future? Right? Fufufufufu!’*

Meeting with the Food God was a story that would only happen after world integration. Even if he talked recklessly, there was no way for them to confirm the authenticity of his words. And...

*‘By the time all of the servers integrate, I would have already collected all of Gorfido’s relics. By then, I can definitely tear him apart.’*

Lundnu was someone that held extreme dislike towards the Food God. As he walked with those thoughts, he was able to confirm through his messages that more than a hundred ships have already surrounded the unknown Korean player.

“I have to hurry.”

Finally, the ‘hunt’ for the unknown bastard was coming to an end. Lundnu hurriedly stepped inside his Athenae access capsule.

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A total of 160 ships have surrounded the unknown Korean player.

[Those that have witnessed it just now could tell that the man had tremendous power that could force a ship to sink in one go.]

[Who in the world is that man?]

[Truth is, I want to say that he looks similar to the ‘Food God’ but his skills and face are completely different.]

[It seems like this long chase is finally coming to an end. It’s impossible for him to deal with Lundnu and 160 ships alone.]

The commentators are speaking passionately. Viewers from all over the world had flocked to watch what was happening in the seas of the Japanese server. This was because the appearance of a new powerhouse was always enough to make anyone excited. In an instant, 160 ships had already surrounded the unknown Korean player.

However, something extraordinary happened.

Vwoooooooooooooooooong—

Tremendous black energy burst out and shot to the skies. Then, a blast of wind blew fiercely as the sea began to churn and the skies turned black.

[What in the world is happening?]

[The seas are angry. Even the skies have turned dark. I have broadcasted a lot of naval warfare but this is the first time I have seen something like this.]

“What?”

“What is going on?”

It was a completely mysterious phenomenon that even those onboard the ships could not understand. However, it looked and felt like a great disaster was going to descend and judge them. The scene made the air feel prickly with tension.

Just when they were about to gulp down to moisten their dry throats, someone slowly rose to the skies. The man’s hair was long enough to reach his waist and thick enough to cover his face. His eyes glinted sharply through the gaps of his hair as he looked around the pirates. Even the sword in his hands was vibrating fiercely as the black energy surrounded it.

Although his appearance was completely different from before, everyone knew that he was the one that they were chasing after. And with his appearance, shocking notifications hit everyone present.

[The world is witness to Great Pirate Gorfido’s awakening!]

[Great Pirate Gorfido has and will always regret the life that he lived in the past.]

[Right now, he has descended to give judgment to all of the pirates present.]

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Great Pirate Gorfido was hailed as the ‘devil’ of the Japanese Server. The records of all his past deeds during his hundred years of life were more than enough for him to be hailed as the devil. He cut off the neck of a colleague that had betrayed him, hung it on his ship’s sails and let the crows feed on it. He killed the pirates and navy that attacked him and built an island of death from all of the bones that he had harvested.

And this very same Gorfido had awakened.

Black blood started to drip from the sword in the hands of Gorfido, or Minhyuk, down to the sea.

“...!”

“Heok!”

“...!”

Everyone turned to look at the drop of black blood that was falling down. This moment felt too long, it was as if it was stretched to eternity.

Drip—



When the black blood finally fell down at sea, it spread quickly and dyed the waters black. And...

Rumble—

...the sea began to rumble and churn. The waves turned so rough that the weaker ships started to break down and sink.

Crack, crack, crack—

“Ugh. Aaaaaaack!”

“Keuaaaaaaaaack!”

“Sa, save meeeeeeeee!”

Everyone screamed and shrieked.

“Look, Minhyuk,” Gorfido said as a huge rainstorm brewed in the skies, with thunder and lightning striking down from above.

Rumbleee—

Bang, bang, bang!

“This will be my final ‘evil deed’ and ‘judgment’.”

A fifteen-meter-tall tidal wave lifted from the sea as Gorfido slowly raised Minhyuk’s hands. It moved and followed the wave of Minhyuk’s hands and devoured the ships around him.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaa—

Clench—

And when he clenched his fists, the ships that were devoured by the tidal wave crumbled into pieces.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

Bang, bang, bang—

“Heuooooook!”

“Hiiiiiiiiik!”

“Im, impossible! This is ridiculous!!!”

“Sa, save meeeeeeee!!!”

[What, what... what did I just see...]

[More than seventy ships sank in less than a minute!]

[The ships that have survived the first wave are also on the brink of collapse. The huge waves are rocking and keeping them from maintaining their balance.]

[Great Pirate Gorfido. A legend recorded in one of the history books that I’ve read comes to mind. ‘Baal had once descended in the Ever Seas to bring despair. But in these seas, he met with a man.

This man was more of a demon than the great demon at sea, forcing Baal to run away from him. And this man, he trampled on everything, even the demons, at sea. He brought them despair and fear. And his name was...]

The commentator gulped dryly as he continued.

[...Great Pirate Gorfido.']

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

It was as if the sea was the orchestra and Minhyuk, its conductor. Whenever Minhyuk moved his arm, the sea followed and created a hymn of death. The raging waves devoured his enemies as the tears of the sea weighed them down. When Gorfido finished playing his own music, there were only twenty ships left around him.

This time, he used a different method. When he brandished his sword, sea water flew up and swirled and wrapped around his sword. The sword, which grew over ten meters long, split one of the ships in one go. Then, he spun around and danced, his sword making graceful arcs and breaking five ships in a row.

Gorfido was as fearsome as a great demon when at sea. The remaining twenty ships were destroyed and exterminated quickly. He slowly descended on the sea before dashing forward.

Dash, dash, dash, dash, dash, dash—

Gorfido continued to destroy the pirate ships floating in the Ever Seas. The scene of his slaughter brought shivers down the spines of all the viewers. And finally, he stood facing the 300 ships that set sail a bit later than the others. The ship leading the pack, the largest ship among all of the ships present, was none other than Gorfido's Pirate Ship. Lundnu and the rest of his men had finally arrived. But then, at that moment...

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

[Great Pirate Gorfido's possession has ended.]

...Gorfido's soul left Minhyuk's body.

“...”

“...”

Minhyuk was left speechless when he saw the 300 ships in front of him.

“Of all places to take me, you take me here...? Huh, skullhead...?”

“...”

Gorfido could not give any retort.

“I miscalculated the time.”

Gorfido, who made a mistake, looked completely different from when he destroyed a hundred ships in one go. But then, Minhyuk grinned and said, “Then, shall we start playing the second verse now?”

“What the hell are you talking about? Run. They’re not something that you can handle alone.”

Gorfido wanted to cut down as many of the pirates as he could, but three minutes was extremely short. That was why he miscalculated. However, he knew that this number was something that Minhyuk could not deal with alone. Then, Minhyuk turned to look back at him and said, “Who said that I was alone?”

And when Gorfido followed Minhyuk’s gaze, he saw a single ship rushing towards the 300 ships in front of them.

[What’s that ship?!]

[There’s an unknown and mysterious ship rushing straight towards the 300 ships that have gathered!!!]

And Minhyuk? He was smiling softly at the sight of more than ten people with folded arms, standing side by side on the deck of the lone ship going against the tides. A beauty stood in the middle with a two-meter tall man with earphones stuck in his ears. There was also an old man carrying a spear, a boy cooking ramyeon, and right next to them was...

“I, I came to the country where *Friend* originated from! *Sugoi!!!*”

...a mage with golden hair. A lot of them stood side by side with their crossed arms. And the pattern that soared above their sails and fluttered in the skies was a fork and knife crossed together.

[B, Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?!!!!]

[That, that’s Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, right?!!!!]

Then, Minhyuk closed his eyes and...

[You have disabled the Demon’s Face.]

Swoosh—

The face that Minhyuk used as a cover slowly disappeared into thin air. And when he opened his eyes, his true face was revealed to the world.

The Food God had appeared!

Chapter 474: Naval Warfare (Middle)

The entire Japanese archipelago was once again thrown into a heated uproar after knowing that the unknown and mysterious player that chased and hunted down the pirates was none other than Korea’s best and strongest, the Food God! The sudden appearance of one ship that was sailing at full speed towards the 300 pirate ships was also enough to shock them.

The ship was owned by the first kingdom built by a player in Athenae and the number one guild of Korea, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Their ship rushed forward and stood in front of the 300 pirate ships confidently. Minhyuk stood in front of their ship and looked calmly at the 300 pirate ships in front of them.

[That’s, that’s crazy. One ship is keeping 300 pirate ships in check.]

[All I can say is... wow. They're so amazing. They only have one ship, but the aura and momentum that they emit seem to overwhelm the 300 pirate ships in front of them.]

[It feels like the pirates onboard the 300 pirate ships are shaking.]

They were literally shaking. In fact, even the Japanese people were in admiration of Minhyuk. They were siding with him and not the pirates.

[Sugoi-ne!!! Minhyuk-chan! So cool!!!!]

[Wow... Did you see? They did not falter even in front of 300 pirate ships? They're even overwhelming them in terms of momentum! Ah, I can't believe it. Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's king and their guild leader Minhyuk has visited our country!!!]

[Ah! Does this mean that we can finally watch Player Minhyuk's mukbang in our country?!]

[Come to think of it, didn't Lundnu say that it would be hard for the Food God to deal with him when they met at sea? It was just a few minutes ago too.]

[Hahahahahaha. He said that the Food God would be a loser if they met in the past, there's just no video so he can get away with denying it. Although everyone knows it, he threatened that he would file a lawsuit if someone spreads this 'false information'.]

[Can't Lundnu prove it right here and now? That remark?]

Lundnu and the Food God had indeed come face to face, which made all the media outlets heat up. Meanwhile, Lundnu...

*'Th, this... dog-shit luck.'*

...was extremely flustered. He thought that he would only be able to meet the Food God after all of the servers had integrated. That was why he spouted nonsense and made overconfident remarks like that.

To think that the Food God was now standing in front of him.

*'No. I can kill him. This is an opportunity. If I kill the Food God here, then my reputation will soar and the whole world will know of me.'*

Lundnu was able to quickly regain his calm. Looking at the situation that they were in, Beyond the Heavens Kingdom only had one ship, while Lundnu was in command of 300 pirate ships.

Would 300 pirate ships lose against a single ship? It was impossible.

Besides, Gorfido's pirate ship was the strongest and toughest pirate ship in existence. It was a fact that no ship, magic, or skill had ever won against Gorfido's pirate ship.

However, Gorfido was extremely worried. He said, "What can you do with just one ship?"

Gorfido watched as the captives that Minhyuk had saved climbed aboard his ship. However, even with their addition, there were only around 100 of them.

What could he do with these numbers?

Genie approached Minhyuk and shook hands with him the moment he landed on deck. She said, "I didn't expect that we'll be fighting a naval war."

The ship that they were on right now, was a ship that they had built long before the establishment of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Not only did Roadol, the president of Ilhwa Construction, and Olger, the descendant and disciple of Golden Hammer Dwarf Lant, create a fortress, they had also asked for Minhyuk's approval to create a ship.

*'We will definitely have a chance to set sail and go out to sea in the near future. Besides, there are countless things that we can get there.'*

Minhyuk nodded when he heard Olger's words and said, *'Right! We can get a lot of good ingredients at sea! Kyaa! Okay. I approve! Making a fishing boat is a very good suggestion! Approved!'*

*'Eh? N, no... it's not a fishing boat... uhmm...'*

They unexpectedly got the go signal. And just like that, Roadol, Olger, and even Hyemin's Daddy, the Blacksmith God Hepas' Descendant, all participated in the creation of the ship. The ship created by the best architect and blacksmiths in existence might not be as strong as Gorfido's Pirate Ship, but it could still destroy ships with one strike. Even so...

"What can you even do with just this number of people?"

"Huh? Why do I suddenly feel like there's a chill running down my spine?" Locke, who was also on board, immediately turned around. The reason for the chill down his spine was because Gorfido settled on his shoulders.

"Well, we'll see about that. After all, we're all descendants of *chungmugong*," Minhyuk said, lips twisting in a smile.

*Chungmugong?*? Gorfido could not understand what Minhyuk was talking about. Then, he looked around the ship.

"Hey, runts! You want a taste of my spear, huh? Huh?! Kikikiki!" Said an old man, who was combing his long hair.

On the other side...

*"Sluuurp, nyam, nyam! Sluuuurp, nyam, nyam! Tasty ramyeon~"* A boy, who was wearing an eyepatch from who knew where, sang as he ate ramyeon.

But was that all? Of course not.

"Music... is the only drug permitted by His Majesty...!"

Drip, drip, drip—

There was also a tall, handsome, fine young man that was mumbling a strange song about butterflies while smiling at the distant seas with tears dripping down his cheeks.

"Poor, pitiful souls... Tch, tch. How can you not have something like this?"

*'What? There's something missing?'*

“Why are the hair on your head so thin?! I will make sure to save all your pitiful souls! Talmor!!!” The man, who Gorfido believed was a paladin, suddenly cried out with his arms raised high up in the sky.

Pause!

Gorfido touched his shiny and empty head for some reason after hearing the man’s words.

“Haa~ haa~” Then, a strange sound suddenly rang out on the ship. It sounded like a man’s low groan. Gorfido’s head jerked towards the direction of the sound and saw a man shuddering with an ecstatic look on his face.

“Come, come! This is the story of a framed and fallen prince that fell in love with the mermaid princess! After being accused of false charges, the fallen prince fled to the seas of Ever to survive. However, despite running away from his pursuers, a stray arrow got him and forced him to fall into the depths of the seas. The mermaid princess, who saw everything, came to the prince’s rescue. When the prince came to be, he was greeted with the sight of the mermaid princess tending to him. The two fell in love at first sight and enjoyed passionate and blazing love every night, creating waves after waves at sea!”

“Wave, wave after wave?!”

“This is a story of two people going inside only to come out as three people!!!!”

“Three, three people?! Heok?!”

Gorfido was shocked. What kind of magic would allow two people to come out as three?!

“But the people at the royal palace realized this and sent troops out to sea to chase after the prince...!”

“What, what happened! What’s next?!” Gorfido shouted despite himself. At some point, he had fallen in love with the story. After all, he had never heard such a masterpiece in his entire life at sea! This was how charming the hot and blazing story of the mermaid princess and the prince was! And there were even kingdom troops chasing after him!

*‘He, he’s definitely a genius!’*

But not long after, Gorfido came back to his senses. It did not matter if that mysterious author was a genius, their current situation was still dire. How could these strange men go to war against 300 pirate ships?! At this point in time, Gorfido was still unaware that he would also be categorized as weird and strange in the future!

But right now it was not only Gorfido, even the captives and the troops that decided to stay with Minhyuk, were doubtful of their victory. All of them trembled in fear at the sight of these men.

*‘H... how can we trust these people with our lives and fight against 300 pirate ships?’*

*'We've definitely been scammed! Fighting that number with these people is just plain reckless!'*

*'We're all going to die!'*

Fear began to bud in their hearts. The scene made it clear to everyone onboard that their victory in this fight was a long-shot. They did not want to fight in this battle when they would only be 'forced to die'.

"I... I want to live..."

"I want to go back!"

"Hiiiiik! How can we entrust our lives to those fools! We can't fight with them!"

But Minhyuk did not address them and only looked at the guild members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. At that moment, Gorfido felt an unknown pressure weigh down on him.

*'The aura and momentum changed?'*

They all stopped what they were doing the moment Minhyuk's eyes passed by them. The tall man, Elpis, quickly pulled out the earphones in his ear, while the old man, Ghost Spear Ben, tucked away his comb. Even the boy who ate ramyeon, Conir, stood up and looked at Minhyuk with bright and clear eyes.

"Heed my orders."

At Minhyuk's words, everyone's momentum changed. Even the look in their eyes changed. Their eyes glinted sharply, like lions prowling at the peak of the food chain, as Minhyuk finished his orders, "Destroy all of the pirates of Ever Seas."

"We have received your orders!"

"We have received your orders!"

"We have received your orders!"

Ghost Spear Ben banged his spear strongly on the floor, while Elpis, Conir, Corr and Aruvel knelt down on one knee. Then, Genie started to push the ship's lever. Then...

Shwaaaaaaa—

...their ship began to accelerate and rush towards the 300 pirate ships.

Minhyuk walked on the ship's deck as he began to say, "The pirates of the Ever Seas have looted, plundered and taken the lives of many people so far. The souls of the lives that they reaped hover above this very sea, as they wail and cry sadly for their justice."

Minhyuk looked at the captives, now turned soldiers. He could see that they were trembling in fear at the thought of fighting against these pirates once again. However, he also watched as they lay witness to the change in momentum of his men. Then, Minhyuk made eye contact with each and every single one of them.

“Stop letting those that took away your families and your happiness get away. Fight. Even if your sword breaks and your comrades die, fight and rush forward bravely with your weapon. If you collapse, then grab your enemies legs and help your comrades survive. If you lose your weapon then use your teeth and bite your enemies. Never, ever, back down! We will all survive and take the victory!!!” Minhyuk shouted as he lifted his sword high up in the skies. The men onboard recalled their dead family and the countless torture that they suffered when they were still prisoners, and finally regained their courage once again.

“Drive out the pirates from the Ever Seas!!!”

“May divine judgment fall unto those that have taken my family away from me!!!”

“Fight! Fight! Fight!”

“Uwaaaaaaaaah!”

They only had one ship. But, in an instant, the momentum and voices ringing from their ship suppressed the 300 pirate ships in front of them.

“Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s lone ship sailed at full speed towards the 300 enemy ships.

Gorfido was extremely surprised. He thought, *‘He’s sometimes playful and joking, sometimes like a child and sometimes like a swindler. You’re telling me that this man is a king?’*

Minhyuk smiled softly as he looked at the soldiers. He said, “Never fear. These people that are standing before you...”

He stood at the deck of the ship as he looked at the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom that were preparing to take off. When their lone ship clashed against the first line of enemy ships...

Craaaaack—

Bang!

Boom!

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

Their ship, which was only 2/3 the size of ordinary ships, continued to rush forward while trampling those that blocked their path. And as the ship shook, Minhyuk turned to look at the soldiers to finish his words. He said, “...have the strength of a thousand men.”

As if on cue, the ten key figures of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom flew to the skies and jumped in the middle of the hundreds of enemy ships. When Ghost Spear Ben landed, he caused a huge explosion and destroyed several ships in one go.

Rumble—

Sword Saint Conir swung his sword hundreds of times, accurately stabbing one ship after another with every blow.



Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash!

Hundreds of magic poured out of Golden Mage Ali's hands and rained down on hundreds of pirate ships in a brilliant display of light.

Rumbleee—

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud!

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

Seeing this, confidence in gaining victory started to fill the soldiers' eyes once again. And Gorfido, who watched everything on the sidelines, was also shocked. He was witnessing the display of power of people each with the strength of a thousand troops.

Chapter 475: Naval Warfare (Middle)

It was not only the Japanese, but also the Koreans, who were paying close attention to the battle in the Japanese Server's Ever Seas. Upon seeing the Food God and the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom only bring one ship forward, they doubted what they could do against their enemies. After all, no matter how strong or how high they were in the rankings in Korea, it would still be hard for them to deal with that many pirate ships.

But now, their thoughts changed as they watched the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's lone ship pierce through the 300 pirate ships! The ship kept on advancing forward while crushing every pirate ship that blocked their path. Then, the members of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom leapt to the skies and began their slaughter, breaking one pirate ship after another.

[I think the power that they're displaying right now is still the same as the power that they displayed when they hunted Great Demon Verus, right?]

[That's crazy...! The buff effect still hasn't worn off?]

[Wow. That's amazing. What kind of power do the dishes made by our Lord Food God have?!]

Everyone was shocked when they realized that the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom still had their buffs in effect. After all, everyone was aware that most of the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had eaten Minhyuk's dishes when they hunted Great Demon Verus and received very shocking powers.

But it was more shocking for them to see that the buff of the dishes that they ate were still in effect!

[If we get the power of his dishes, then isn't it possible for us to bomb our level?]

[Will I be able to eat something like that if I go to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?]

[From what I heard, you will be able to hear heavenly and divine harmony in your ears the moment you eat the Food God's dish. I really want to try it once!]

As of this moment, quite a number of people were seriously considering migrating to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

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Crack, crack, crack, crack—

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

Lundnu looked at the ship owned by Beyond the Heavens Kingdom incredulously when he saw it charge recklessly forward.

*'How high is that ship's attack and defense...?!'*

They were breaking through all of the ships that blocked their path and were charging forward? At first Lundnu thought that they were conceited and arrogant. After all, how could they go against their numbers with just a single ship, right?

But just as the thought flashed in Lundnu's head, the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom suddenly leapt to the skies and started to destroy the pirate ships one after the other.

"Heooooook! Wh, what the hell?! How much damage can they deal...?!"

That was right. Lundnu held onto the belief that the duration of the buff that they had received before had already ended. But right now, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were showing that they still had the effects of the buffed dishes with them.

Ghost Spear Ben immediately dashed away after destroying the ship, and jumped onto another. The ship that he landed on was Lundnu Pirates' Second Attack Ship. Lundnu was akin to a king in the seas, and the man that he left aboard the Second Attack Ship was Attor, Japan's number one spearman.

Whenever Attor saw Ghost Spear Ben in the news, he would snicker and say, *'Korea's Ghost Spear Ben? Isn't he just a fangless tiger?'* These were Attor's true and honest thoughts. Attor was also a spearman in real life and was well-known for his skills, that was why he was confident. Then, he gave his orders, "Stop him. There's only one enemy in front of us!!!"

"Uwaaaaaaaaah!"

The pirates aboard the Second Attack Ship were among the best of the best. Even their vice captain was once a kingdom's Knight Commander. Just like that, more than forty pirates rushed forward to stop Ghost Spear Ben.

And Ghost Spear Ben? He just slid on the ship's deck, stabbed one of the pirates running upfront with his spear before pulling it out once again.

Spuuuuurt!

"Hey runts! Did you think that it would be different if you attacked with numbers?"

Ghost Spear Ben moved swiftly from one end to another as he pierced through the knights' armors and stabbed his enemies' stomachs.

"Keuheooooook!"

This time, instead of pulling out his spear, he just took the pirate that he stabbed with him and rushed forward as it was. Ghost Spear Ben, who used the body of his enemy as a shield, flew up in the air and cast his Ghost Spearmanship's Exploding Spear.

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

The forty-odd pirates that rushed to stop Ben all fell down and died in one attack.

“Heook?!” Attor gasped incredulously. He could not believe that more than forty pirates were wiped out in just under twenty seconds. However, he knew that many of the Japanese had their eyes trained on him at this very moment. He had to maintain his composure.

*‘I can’t be scared. I will definitely cut off Ghost Spear Ben’s head.’*

Attor was a master when it came to attacking with the spear. Even his passive skill supplemented his attack by doubling his speed. He firmly believed that no one would be able to beat him in terms of speed. The tip of Attor’s spear directly aimed for Ghost Spear Ben’s neck.

However, Ben only tilted his head to the side and he was able to evade Attor’s attack. Attor did not give Ben any chance to take a breather as he stabbed, swung and struck at him. Ben only lightly pushed the spear with his arm and he was able to evade the attack. He even used his own spear to lightly hit against Attor’s spear and change its course.

“Runts! How dare you try to pressure and push my king with your numbers?!” Frost settled on Ghost Spear Ben’s usually playful face. After evading Attor’s spear, he swung his spear once and dug through Attor’s chest.

Craaaaaaaaack—

“The price for daring to touch His Majesty is death.”

Ghost Spear Ben pulled his spear out before stabbing Attor once again.

“Keheoook!” Attor could not believe what just happened despite the mouthful of blood that he vomited. His HP slowly started to go to zero in just one single attack. And finally, Ghost Spear Ben left him behind.

Thuuuuuud—

As blackness started to encroach upon his vision, Attor mumbled, “Lu... Lundnu... R, run... awa...”

It only took twenty seconds for Attor to be forced to log out.

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Several pirate ships had turned their attention to one man and one man alone. This man was none other than ‘Golden Mage’ Ali. At this point in time, everyone felt that Ali was far more dangerous than Minhyuk. After all, even the official global number one mage Alex could not reach his toes. If he unleashed his AOE magic attack, then the ships that were crowded in this area would definitely be destroyed. And because of that, they sent hundreds of assassin class players to the ship that Ali was currently in. But Ali...

Twitch, twitch—

...had his lips twitching with joy.

“What the hell? Why is he smiling?!”

“...Is he nuts?”

From what they heard, Ali was one of the few normal ones among the people of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. That was why they did not have any idea why Ali was smiling like crazy right now. However, as the hundreds of assassins narrowed the distance between them, Ali suddenly raised his left arm up in the sky and shouted, “Frieeeeeeeeeeeeend!!!”

“F, Frieeeeeeeeeeeeend!”

“Frieeeeeeeeeeeeend!”

Some of the Japanese assassins that were rushing toward him reacted unconsciously to his words. Any comic fan would not be able to stop themselves from reacting to this heart-warming call, right?! At that moment, these few assassins recognized Ali as their ‘friend and comrade’!

“Are you all nuts?! Come back to your senses?!!!”

“Ah. Yes!”

The assassins that stopped in their tracks unconsciously were woken up by their comrades and started to rush forward again. It did not matter if they got delayed, Golden Mage Ali was just a ‘mage’. The fact that he was the weakest when it came to close combat would remain the same. The hundreds of assassins soared to the skies to approach him. At the same time, dozens of magic attacks shot out Ali’s hands.

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh—

All of the magic that he sent out accurately stabbed through the hearts of the approaching assassins. But what was more surprising was the fact that Ali only used first to third tier magic.

“Keoheok?!”

“Keuaaaaaack!”

That was right. Mages might be vulnerable with their low defense and HP, but so were the assassins. The worst part? Whenever the assassins reached Ali, Ali would use Blink and scurry away from them. And whenever they thought that they had finally succeeded in landing an attack, the gigantic predatory snake that was hiding in Ali’s arm would show its face and bite them.

All eyes turned to Ali as he soared to the skies with Fly, his lips still twitching with joy.

“C, crazy shit! Stop smiling!!!”

Then, disaster befell them as magic poured out of Ali’s Staff of Despair.

“Explosion.”

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

Mages could save and accumulate their magic. As a high-tiered mage, Ali always had dozens of fourth to fifth tier magic stored in his staff. Dozens of explosions burst out and engulfed the dozens of ships gathered together.

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

All of the pirates that were watching the scene were left speechless. They could not come back to their senses after receiving the bombardment of Ali's infamous AOE magic spells. Then, as if to drill it even further in their heads that these people were not to be taken lightly, Minhyuk cast his Sword of Absolute Death. His attacks also destroyed dozens of ships in one go. The thing that made the pirates fall into deeper despair was the 'Crazy' that was engraved on the flat of his sword.

Just then...

Rumbleeeeeeee—

Gorfido's Pirate Ship, which was about eight or nine times the size of an ordinary ship, began to tremble as a deep smile hung at the corners of Lundnu's mouth.

“Let me show you the power of Gorfido's Pirate Ship.”

And with his words, the bottom of Gorfido's ship started to open as hundreds of cannons appeared. The worst part was that the attack power of the canons of Gorfido's Pirate Ships was more than seven times that of the normal pirate ships. Even the speed at which they shot out the cannonballs were as fast as a machine gun.

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

Then, Gorfido's Pirate Ship began to rain down cannonballs upon them. Ali looked at the cannonballs in shock after quickly casting a shield in front of him.

*‘The shield can't handle the attack?’*

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

Ali started to fall as a crack appeared on his shield. Minhyuk quickly picked Ali up before running toward their own ship.

“Get back onboard!!!”

“Yes, sir!”

With Minhyuk's order, everyone retreated back to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's ship.

The name given to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's ship was 'Battleship'. It was a ship exclusively built for battle. The ship was now receiving the brunt of heavy firepower. Fortunately, the ship was being protected by a transparent protective shield which prevented the cannonballs from dealing damage to their ship.

“They're holding out under the onslaught of Gorfido's Pirate Ship...”

“What in the world is that ship?!”

The pirates looked at their ship in shock. This was because no ship had ever endured a bombing from Gorfido's Pirate Ship. However, instead of rejoicing, Genie's face had turned ugly. She said, “Minhyuk. The damage that we are receiving from that ship's bombing is beyond our imagination.”

Minhyuk's expression turned serious. He knew that his HP would at least decrease by 15% if he ever received a direct hit from that.

"My pirate ship has won against 500 ships in the past," Gorfido said. However, what came as a bigger shock was his following words. He said, "That's only a small part of what it can do. Gorfido's Pirate Ship is equipped with many excellent functions. You won't be able to deal any damage to it with just a normal cannonball."

That might be true. After all, Gorfido owned that ship.

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

Their ship continued to endure the bombardment of Gorfido's Pirate Ship.

[Battleship's Shield has decreased by more than 50%.]

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[Warning! Warning! There is a chance that the shield will be destroyed. Please be careful!]

Small cracks started to appear in the shield that protected the ship. Seeing this, more than a hundred pirate ships started to narrow the distance between them and the Battleship. And in a blink, Battleship was enduring the bombardment from several, perhaps even hundreds, of pirate ships.

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

The ship rocked fiercely from the bombardment. Then, Genie and Minhyuk made eye contact.

"Let's wait a bit more. Wait until we have filled more."

"How much more?"

"Only 15%. Only 15% until it's full."

"...?"

Gorfido looked at the two of them in doubt as he wondered about what the two of them had been waiting for.

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The commentators looked at the Battleship that was being cornered by the pirates.

[In the end, they are placed in a tight spot.]

[Their momentum was very high in the beginning. However, it's still reckless for them to rush into hundreds of pirate ships.]

[The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's ship's shield will soon be destroyed. If the bombing continued, then even their Named NPCs and guild members would not be able to hold out against it.]

No one could deny their claims. They all believed that it was amazing for this single ship to hold out and still be intact, despite the constant bombing. However, they knew that it was only a matter of time. There was just one thing that they were wondering about.

“Why aren’t they moving?”

Battleship neither fled nor attacked. The members of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom just stood still and accepted all of the attacks sent their way. Because of that, it made it easier for the ships to surround them. And before they knew it...

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

...the blue shield that protected the Battleship began to fall apart.

[It seems like the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s ship will sink under the depths of the sea.]

[If Gorfido’s Pirate Ship continues its bombardment, then their shieldless ship will not be able to withstand the attacks and will definitely sink.]

Just when everyone predicted the end of this battle, Genie, who was standing on the deck, walked toward a mysterious ‘red button’.

“...What the hell?” Lundnu mumbled in puzzlement.

*‘What in the world does that red button do?’*

Genie’s lips twisted into a vicious smile as she stood in front of the red button. Then, she looked up at the pirate ships and shouted, “F\*ck off!!!”

And the moment she pressed the button, a roof akin to a turtle’s shell suddenly appeared and covered the Battleship, as iron shields popped up and covered its body. And along with that...

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

The bottom of the Battleship opened with a loud bang, as hundreds of thick lasers stretched out from it and split more than seventy ships in half.

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

All of the pirates were appalled when they saw the sinking ships in front of them.

#### Chapter 476: Naval Warfare (Middle)

Barras Kingdom was once the home of production class players. It was a kingdom that was frequented by visitors, for its excellent iron ores, sculptures, outstanding dishes, paintings, and many more. Although their military prowess was infinitely weaker than the other kingdoms, their outstanding products made these kingdoms treat them carefully, and with respect.

Barras Kingdom had always been thriving with production class players. But now, the streets were empty. Haze looked miserably at the empty Chef’s Tower, Fisherman’s Tower, Painter’s Tower, Blacksmith’s Tower and many other production towers that stood high around her. These towers were no longer being visited by people.

*‘Who should we put in the seat of the tower master in charge of the Chef’s Tower? This is the most important tower to us.’*

The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's representative and main specialty should be 'cooking'. However, it was impossible for Minhyuk, the king, to take the position of the Chef's Tower's tower master, since he already had a lot on his plate and was busier than anybody else in the kingdom. That was why they needed a chef that was as good and as influential as him to work on his behalf. Someone that could become an idol and a teacher to all of the chefs in the world.

*'The Chef of Delight will be perfect for the position.'*

There were rumors in the Asgan Continent about the Chef of Delight. According to them, he was a chef that roamed the continent to taste different dishes, while making outstanding ones himself and giving them to those in need. He always cooked for hungry children and from what they heard, the way he ate was similar to how 'Food God Minhyuk' ate. It was also said that the dishes made by this mysterious Chef of Delight did not fall behind the dishes made by 'Twilight Chef' Black.

Twilight Chef Black was someone that was always fed shit whenever he went against Minhyuk. In fact, his prowess could not even catch up to Minhyuk at all. However, it was undeniable that he was a great chef. His skills might be behind that of Minhyuk's but in terms of 'commercial value and publicity' he was the best in Asgan Continent. Was there a chef that could compare to him, aside from the Chef of Delight?

At that moment...

"Lady Haze."

"Sir Abel."

...Informant Abel appeared beside Haze.

"How was it?"

"I followed his trail based on the information that I have gathered. But when I reached the area where he was staying, he was already gone."

"He did not leave because he knew that we were looking for him, right?"

If, for some reason, the Chef of Delight was hostile to them, then it would be impossible for them to recruit him.

"I don't know about that. But... the direction where the Chef of Delight was last seen headed to is..." Abel trailed off in doubt for a moment before continuing, "...the direction where our Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is located."

"Here? The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?" Haze asked in surprise. She was very shocked to hear that the Chef of Delight was headed toward their kingdom. What was his purpose for visiting them?

At that moment, one of the guards that were guarding the gates of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's capital rushed toward them and gasped, "Heok, heok! Miss Haze. A man who identified himself as the Chef of Delight is requesting an audience with His Majesty!"

"...?!"



“...?!”

Haze and Abel were both surprised at the report. The Chef of Delight was requesting an audience with their king? The two of them hurried behind the guard. When they arrived, they saw a man wearing a straw hat and some shabby clothes, sitting on the side of the street and eating some ramyeon from Conir's Ramyeon Shop, a store opened by Ramyeon Boy Conir.

“Ho? The noodles are chewy and the soup is spicy and refreshing. As expected of my boy, Minhyuk's kingdom.”

*‘My boy Minhyuk?’*

The man called His Majesty ‘my boy, Minhyuk’? What was more...

*“Sluuuuuuuuuurp!?Kihyaa! Wonderful. Amazing!”*

...the way he ate ramyeon reminded everyone of how Minhyuk ate. He slurped the noodles and lifted the entire bowl to take a sip of the soup. It was a carbon copy of Minhyuk.

“*Phew,*” He spat out a sigh in admiration and placed the bowl down after finishing everything. The amount of ramyeon that he ate alone totaled to around six bowls.

“Excuse me. I am Haze, His Majesty Minhyuk's aide.”

“Hello?” The man greeted with a smile.

Although he was a middle-aged man with a kind smile on his face, Haze thought that she should still be on guard. Although the man sounded friendly and close when he addressed their king, it might still be a part of some sort of conspiracy.

“With all due respect sir, we heard from the report that you requested an audience with His Majesty Minhyuk. May we please have the honor of knowing who you are? And if possible, what relationship do you have with His Majesty?”

The man stood up from his seat and said, “I am His Majesty Minhyuk's cooking master.”

“...?!”

Haze was very shocked. The man that created amazing dishes and rocked the entire world with his cooking was the same master that taught Minhyuk how to cook?!

“I once worked in Eivelis Empire's imperial kitchen. I taught him a few things. Ah, when we met, I did not have a sense of taste. My boy Minhyuk was the one who gave me a sense of taste,” the man said. Then, he looked up at the Chef's Tower and continued to say, “I came here to repay him. My name is Len.”

This man was none other than the man that once served as an Imperial Chef in the Eivelis Empire, and the captain of the military kitchen back in the novice village that taught Minhyuk how to cook. He was also the man that fell in love with Ellie, the Empress of Eivelis Empire. Now, he was the Chef of Delight, a chef that was respected by all. He had taken a step forward and offered himself in

service for Minhyuk. This was all thanks to the virtue and good deed that Minhyuk had accumulated.

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The entire Japanese archipelago was left reeling in shock after seeing dozens of thick lasers stretching out from Battleship and splitting seventy ships in half. Even the pirates in the vicinity were also struck dumb at the sight of the sinking ships.

The lasers that they released just now were the thing that Minhyuk and Genie were waiting for. The laser was a system that they created after observing and studying Minhyuk's Earth King's Authority, Worship.

Earth King's Authority, Worship was based on the amount of Authority Mana that the skill user accumulated. The more it accumulated, the stronger and more powerful the authority would become. Battleship's laser system worked the same way. The more attacks they received from ships with stronger attack power, the more their 'laser gauge' would be filled.

However, for Battleship's laser gauge to increase, the ship needed to have a high defense and durability. And Battleship met these conditions perfectly. Originally, they could use the lasers the moment they filled 30% of the energy gauge, but they waited until they reached 100%. After all, reaching 100% meant that they would be able to unleash the full force of the power that they had accumulated from their enemies in one go.

Just like that, the notifications kept on ringing in Minhyuk's ears.

[You have wiped out 60% of the pirates!]

[You have accumulated +24 STR and AGI, +15 STM, +17 WIS and +20 INT in your Wagyu.]

[You have accumulated 80,000,000 EXP in your Wagyu.]

Surprisingly enough, the fourth reward, which was the wagyu, kept on accumulating EXP and stats, the more pirates they wiped out. The rewards listed were already extremely ridiculous, but there was something that was even more ridiculous in store for Minhyuk.

*'If I get 80%, then Gorfido will be given a new lease in life.'*

It was another reward that he would get if he reached the required percentage. However, Minhyuk was not sure if it was talking about Gorfido becoming his 'vassal' or not. Then, Battleship began to speed up again.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

And the place where Battleship, which was now covered with an iron shield and looked completely like a turtle ship, was going for...

Baaaaaaaaaang—

...was none other than Gorfido's Pirate Ship, and soon, the two powerhouses collided. Alas, Gorfido's Pirate Ship did not budge at all.

However, Minhyuk did not intend to break it. The reason why he stuck Battleship directly to Gorfido's Pirate Ship was all because of Gorfido's advice.

*'Gorfido's Pirate Ship is closely related to its owner. As long as you get the captain, it will be nothing more than a powerful pirate ship.'*

That was right. Only one person could control Gorfido's Pirate Ship. And right now, that was Lundnu.

*'Besides, once you board the ship, they will be forced to stop their bombardment. After all, no ally would dare to bomb their own ship.'*

As expected of Great Pirate Gorfido. When Battleship collided with Gorfido's Pirate Ship, a part of the iron shield opened up as Minhyuk and the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom flew up and boarded Gorfido's Pirate Ship. That was when an unexpected notification rang in their ears.

[Gorfido's Pirate Ship's curse has fallen upon you.]

[While you're on Gorfido's Pirate Ship all stats, including physical and magical defense, will drop by 30%.]

[Successful Attack Rate will decrease by 40%.]

[You will feel heavy as if shackles have been tied to your feet.]

[Your movement speed will decrease by 20%.]

"...?"

"...?"

"...?"

Minhyuk's body trembled. This was something that he had not heard from Gorfido earlier. He shouted, "Isn't this something that you should tell me in advance?!"

Gorfido awkwardly scratched his head and said, "It has been hundreds of years. I forgot. Sorry."

"..."

*'That bastard... is very sloppy.'*

The members of Beyond the Heaven Kingdoms did not expect those notifications so they were a bit flustered.

"Minhyuk, why are you shouting in the air like that...?"

"Y, you... is there a ghost...?"

"Your, Your Majesty...?"

"...?"

They looked at Minhyuk weirdly. It was only natural since Gorfido was completely invisible to others. But Minhyuk did not have the time to explain it to them, they were in a very pressing situation.

“Keuhahahahahahaha! Caught you! You have been caught in my trap!!!” Lundnu cackled. Truth was, he did not even think about that at all. He just said whatever was on his mind. “You won’t even be able to deal with the pirates of this ship. Even if your legendary NPCs have considerable power, do you really believe that you can deal with this ship?! This is Gorfido’s Pirate Ship!”

At that moment, a black whirlwind surrounded Lundnu. When it disappeared, several figures appeared around him.

[Pirate Gorfido and the pirates that have made legendary achievements have appeared!]

[Legendary Navigator Artney has appeared!]

[Sea Slaughterer Bellod has appeared!]

[Vicious Sorcerer Aelvero has appeared!]

“...”

More than ten legendary figures surrounded by black streams of air appeared. Gorfido did not even look at them. He just blinked and looked at Minhyuk before saying, “...Why the hell are those punks here? They all died with me before. Brats, go back to hell!”

“...”

Minhyuk looked blankly at Gorfido. For a brief moment, he wanted to smash his skull head and break it to pieces. However, he did not have the time to do so, his mind spun fast as he thought about something. Just when Lundnu was about to order his summons to attack...

“Wait.”

“...?”

Lundnu and the pirates paused in their tracks as Minhyuk continued to speak calmly, “I have a proposal.”

“What kind of bullshit...?!” Lundnu muttered, his face horribly distorted. What kind of proposal did he want to suggest?!

“How about doing a 1:1 PVP competition? I think our numbers match up too, including your summons and mine.”

“...What?”

Lundnu looked at Minhyuk incredulously. Why did he suddenly suggest doing a 1:1 PVP showdown?

Minhyuk said, “Just think about it. This kind of war will only increase the damage that both sides will incur if it continues. Besides, don’t we both have something that we have to deal with?”

That was right. The viewers from all over the world had high expectations for the confrontation between Minhyuk and Lundnu.

*‘The damage that we have incurred is already too much.’*

Even if the situation was favorable to Lundnu, the moment the members of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom went all out, the damage would continue to accumulate and would only stop until they got killed, or they killed their enemies. Besides, they already received a big blow after a huge number of their allies had been killed by only a small number of elites.

*'They're also 30% weaker now.'*

Lundnu would not deny the fact that they were strong. But a 30% decrease in power, especially for a ranker or a Named NPC, was bound to be a huge decrease in power.

“But don't you have NPCs like Diablo and that guy who uses the Mercenary Swordsmanship?”

There were still plenty of risky factors even though their power has decreased by 30%. These risky factors were none other than Diablo and Brod.

“Ah. Brod did not come here because of some personal circumstances,” Minhyuk completely left out the fact that Brod beat up the Red Goblin that was why he could not come here. He continued, “Elpis will not compete if you so wanted to. But as compensation, me, the King, and you can summon as much as we can. How about that?”

“...”

Lundnu's thoughts spun fast. The proposal was good. If Brod and Diablo did not step forward, then it would not matter how strong Minhyuk's summons were. As long as their power was decreased by 30%, Lundnu's side would be able to trample on them. This was a great opportunity for the Japanese.

“Okay, good,” Lundnu said. His grin was so wide that his face almost seemed distorted. Even if Minhyuk could summon someone to fight, could they do something against these legendary figures? Of course not, only Brod and Diablo could do so.

The first person that Lundnu sent forward was Bellod, the Sea Slaughterer. He was one of the strongest Named NPCs in Japan and was Gorfido's right hand man. He could deal a tremendous amount of damage, had high defenses, fast speed, and excellent skills. Even his level was high.

But before they could start, Minhyuk and Lundnu both signed the 'Foreigner's Pledge'. If the player that signed the Foreigner's Pledge violated their oath, then they would be forced to log out.

“I pledge...”

“I pledge...”

Minhyuk's grin was wide as he declared, “Then, I will summon the first one.”

Lundnu snorted. No matter who he summoned, the summon would not be a match against Bellod. But then, at that moment...

“Demon Summoning.”

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Tremendous black energy swirled from the depths of the sea before gathering in front of Minhyuk and forming a figure. And along with that, a shocking notification rang in the pirates' ears.

[Demon Kimaris has appeared!]

[Those that will seal Demon Kimaris will receive rewards!]

A gigantic black horse carrying a devil in the form of a black soldier appeared and descended at sea.

“...”

“...”

“...”

“...”

“...”

Everyone was speechless at the sudden appearance of a huge demon. And Bellod, the Named NPC that Lundnu commanded, unknowingly took a step back from fright.

Chapter 477: Naval Warfare (Bottom)

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Demon Kimaris, in the form of a black soldier, had only just made an appearance, but his very presence already made the sea churn violently. When he glared frostily at his surroundings...

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Kghhhhhhhhk!”

“Arghh...!”

...the weaker and ordinary pirates that accidentally made eye contact with him ended up collapsing on the ground from the pressure of his gaze. This scene was immediately broadcasted and described by the Japanese broadcasting stations and their commentators.

[Something unbelievable just happened right in front of our very eyes. Player Minhyuk has summoned a demon.]

[A player has summoned a demon. How in the world...]

Everything was because of the 'Demon Summoning Ring'.

- You can randomly summon one of the 72 Devils.
- The first randomly summoned demon will be fixed. This will be the only demon that you can summon.
- You can only summon this demon a total of four times.
- The Demon Summoning Ring will disintegrate after using up all of the allowed number of summons.

- The demon's summoning time will only be for thirty minutes.
- The first demon that you summoned must follow the orders of their summoners completely during the first summons.
- If the summoned demon pledges their eternal 'obedience' to the ring user, then the demon would become the user's vassal.

This is the Demon Summoning Ring carried by Great Demon Verus. During the first summoning, the demon that you summoned will have no other choice but to obey your orders. However, in the next summoning, the demon can kill you or bring the world into the depths of despair. Be careful.

Minhyuk easily saw through Lundnu's careful thoughts. So he used them skillfully to his advantage. The rewards that they received after hunting Great Demon Verus have not been publicized. There was no way for others to know what Minhyuk had gained back then. In Lundnu's point of view, aside from Elpis and Brod, none of the summons that Minhyuk could summon on the fly would be a match against his Named NPCs. Also, if he accepted Minhyuk's offer, he would be able to reduce whatever damage that they would incur and also get the opportunity to trample on Minhyuk easily.

Then, an unexpected set of notifications rang for Minhyuk and his men.

[Demon Kimaris has the special attribute of instilling 'courage' to humans.]

[Your morale has increased dramatically.]

[A power that allows you to never back down has been applied.]

[You have received an increase of 20% in stats and attack hit rate and a 15% increase in attack.]

Just because they were demons did not mean that they would only bring harm to humans. Especially with Kimaris, a demon with a special attribute that 'could instill courage to humans'.

"This, this is ridiculous...!" Lundnu exclaimed, no other words could come out of his mouth and he could only gawk at the sight. It was clear that this was the reason why Minhyuk had proposed a 1:1 PVP match. However...

*'I don't know how he summoned that demon but that demon must definitely be weakened...!'*

There was no way that summoning a demon would not garner any penalty. Besides...

*'There's no way a human like him can control a demon!'*

Unfortunately, Lundnu's beliefs were wrong this time. The special ability attached to the ring would force the summoned demon to obey all of the orders of the summoner unconditionally during the first summon.

"A human dared to call for me..."

Just like Lundnu had thought, Kimaris did not look favorably upon Minhyuk. But...

"Shut up. Follow my orders."

[His words have the same power as Great Demon Verus' commands.]

[If you don't follow his orders, the punishment that Great Demon Verus had placed in the Demon Summoning Ring will tighten its noose upon your neck.]

"How dare..." Kimaris growled, face turning ugly from the notifications. However, the Demon Summoning Ring was an item that contained the power of Great Demon Verus, he had no choice but to follow Minhyuk's orders unconditionally, "What do you want?"

Minhyuk briefly explained to Kimaris the situation that they were in.

"Damn it...!" Lundnu cursed his failed predictions. However, he still had a little spark of hope in him. He immediately winked at Bellod. Sea Slaughterer Bellod, with his body turned into bones, was wearing a black robe and holding two katanas in his hands. This very same Bellod flew swiftly to take Kimaris by surprise as he aimed his katana at Kimaris' neck.

Clang, clang, clang, clang, clang—

Shockingly enough, Bellod's katana failed to cut through Kimaris' neck. But Bellod did not stop there, he took that opportunity to spin and attack Kimaris from atop his head.

Baaaaaaaang—

"...!" Bellod, despite only having a skull as his head, looked at his opponent in confusion. He was known for his tremendous damage, speed, and his fine techniques. But none of his attacks had gone through at all. True, he might have created legendary achievements with Great Pirate Gorfido in the past, but he was only a human legend at best. In the face of a demon, a human was nothing but an ant. Bellod soared to the skies once again.

This time, Demon Kimaris swung the huge ax in his hands.

Slash—

The first swing smashed Bellod's skull.

Crack, crack, crack, crack!

The second swing slammed into his ribs.

Crack, crack, crack—

And the final swing caused Bellod's bones to collapse, forcing him to fall down helplessly on the ground.

Rumbleeeee—

[The Sea Slaughterer Bellod has been put to rest.]

[You will not be able to summon Sea Slaughterer Bellod a second time.]

"...!"



Ludnu turned pale. Gorfido's subordinates were his pride. Of course, he rarely summoned them because he wanted to keep them as his trump card. He had kept a firm belief that Gorfido's subordinates would be able to keep their ground and would not be pushed back by the Food God's Named NPCs.

Alas, this firm belief now brought great pain to Lundnu. The sight in front of him made his chest feel constricted.

*'N, No...'*

Even though it pained him, he was now in a situation where he could not stop at will. This was because he signed the 'Foreigner's Pledge' on a live broadcast. He had no choice but to send another one forward. The next one that Lundnu sent out was Vicious Sorcerer Aelvero.

*'If it's his one shot kill attack explodes then...'*

Vicious Sorcerer Aelvero could use the power of the sea to bombard his enemies with powerful magic. Just like that, Aelvero, with his shabby robes, cast his magic.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Sea water rose and surrounded his body, but just as he was about to send them toward Kimaris... no, even before that...

Clack, clack—

Just one step from Kimaris' black horse and he was already in front of Aelvero.

"..."

Aelvero's hollow socket looked at the demon in front of him blankly. If he could sweat, he would definitely be covered in it by now. And then...

Slaaaaaaash—

...Kimaris' axe broke Aelvero's skull.

[The Vicious Sorcerer Aelvero has been put to rest.]

[You will not be able to summon Vicious Sorcerer?Aelvero?a second time.]

Lundnu felt his heart rip in two. Not only because he lost another summon, but also because this scene was being broadcasted live all over the world. It was as if he was showing how inferior he was to the Food God, to the entire world.

[The Storm Knight Caria has been put to rest.]

[You will not be able to summon Storm Knight Caria a second time.]

[The Navy Butcher Rudeina has been put to rest.]

[You will not be able to summon Navy Butcher Rudeina a second time.]

Great Pirate Gorfido's Pirate Knight and Rudeina, his Sea Master Archer, both fell down after a few hits from Kimaris' axe. Lundnu felt like his heart was clenching in pain. He finally knew that he had been completely caught in Minhyuk's trap.

*'If only I hadn't been greedy...'*

If only Lundnu did not become too conceited, believing that he would be able to trample on the Food God and kill him easily, then this would not have happened. But then, at that moment, Minhyuk suddenly extended a helping hand. He said, "Shall I offer you another proposal?"

Grit, grit—

Lundnu gritted his teeth. He wondered what Minhyuk was up to this time. But Minhyuk just smiled softly and said, "Even I know that it's hard for ordinary Named NPCs to win against the demon."

"So?"

"This time, I will allow you to pick your opponent in this PVP match. I won't let the demon come out to fight anymore."

"...!"

It was like a sweet whisper to the desperate Lundnu. His eyes glinted in the dark as he thought, '*Are you trying to stop the people from criticizing you for killing my pirates with a demon?*'

Of course, everything happened because Lundnu accepted Minhyuk's proposal. However, Minhyuk would not escape from the people's criticism if things continued at this rate. After all, it was not Minhyuk's vassal that participated in the match.

*'Moron. Your men are 30% weaker.'*

That was right. Lundnu was going to grab onto this last straw of hope. Besides, it was Minhyuk himself that said that he would not let the demon come out to fight in the PVP anymore. He even graciously offered a way out for him, so how could he back out? Just like that, Lundnu began to scrutinize each of Minhyuk's vassals.

*'Let's just choose the one that looks the weakest. I'll choose the weakest first and kill his Named NPCs one after the other.'*

Lundnu's head was suddenly filled with anger. He wanted to let Minhyuk feel the helplessness and pain of losing his NPCs too! As he looked at Minhyuk's NPC, his gaze finally stopped on one person.

"Conir's hungry. Conir wants to eat ramyeon! *Sluurp, nyam nyam! Sluurp, nyam nyam!?* Tasty ramyeon!"

That boy!?

After careful consideration, Lundnu realized that he never saw any amazing performance from the boy in any of the videos that he had seen. Of course, he knew that the boy was strong. But compared to others, he did not gain much attention in the broadcasts so far. And from what he could see, the boy was lacking in the brain department.

*'I don't know how that boy got this strong but he's definitely lacking in skills and technique.'*

Lundnu was certain that the boy was lacking in control and techniques. He confidently said, “Then, I choose the ramyeon boy first.”

Lundnu believed that he would be able to kill them one after the other. But when Minhyuk heard his words, his lips slightly curled up.

The boy, Conir, was the Sword Saint and a genius of the sword that taught the Knight’s Tower’s Tower Master his swordsmanship. Conir was also the progenitor of the ‘Faramil’s Swordsmanship’, the swordsmanship taught and used by the Knight’s Tower to all of the strongest knights that have gathered in their tower.

By a stroke of luck, Kimaris’ special attribute had slightly offset the 30% loss in power the moment they stepped foot on Gorfido’s Pirate Ship. Of course, Lundnu was unaware of all of this.

This time, Lundnu sent out ‘Sea Assassin Adron’. Adron was a very outstanding assassin that could assassinate ordinary captains of pirate ships within seconds. Lundnu was confident that Adron’s quick feet and delicate techniques would be able to kill the boy in one go.

“Conir! Conir’s hungry! Conir will finish this quickly!”

Adron dashed forward. But instead of killing the boy, Adron’s two katanas, the katanas that he pulled out from behind him, were blocked easily. No, he was being pressured. The talented Sword Saint, Conir, was pressuring Adron, like a beast caging its prey. Then, Conir stabbed Adron in his empty chest before slashing his sword upwards and breaking his skull with a crack.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

[The Sea Assassin Adron has been put to rest.]

[You will not be able to summon Sea Assassin Adron a second time.]

“...”

Lundnu was left speechless.

And the boy Conir... as a child, he had always learned well and copied the adults in front of him! He immediately recalled the wise words that Genie had imparted to the world before as he declared, “I am Conir! Why is an annoying and cheeky f\*cker jumping in front of me?!”

“...”

The legendary Sea Assassin Adron was nothing more than an annoying and cheeky f\*cker in front of Conir.

Chapter 478: Naval Warfare (Bottom)

[The Sea Hunter Korro has been put to rest.]

[You will not be able to summon Sea Hunter Korro a second time.]

[The Lunatic Ebetto has been put to rest.]

[You will not be able to summon Lunatic Ebetto a second time.]

Gorfido’s Subordinates, the Named NPCs that were the source of Lundnu’s pride, fell down one after another under Conir’s sword. Everything went according to Minhyuk’s expectations.

Minhyuk knew that the whole of Japan would not recognize Minhyuk's victory if he used the demon to kill all of Lundnu's Named NPCs. So, to prevent something like that, he proposed another round with a different opponent.

Minhyuk predicted that Lundnu would choose Conir. Of course, the results would not change even if Lundnu chose Ghost Spear Ben, Talmor's Corr, Best Selling Author Aruvel, or the others. Paladin Corr might be the weakest among Minhyuk's Named NPCs, but the fact that they were fighting the undead would give him higher additional damage as a benefit of his high holy power.

As for Ghost Spear Ben and Best Selling Author Aruvel, they had overcome plenty of battles with Minhyuk and had grown stronger over the course of their stay with him.

*'The fact that I was clueless about Lundnu being able to summon Gorfido's Subordinates meant that he did not summon them often.'*

Of course, there would definitely be penalties for summoning those Named NPCs. However, no matter how fine and outstanding a sword was, it would turn dull if left unattended for a long time. On the other hand, swords that were constantly being used, repaired and sharpened by cutting down countless enemies would always be superior.

This was the case with Minhyuk's vassals. All of them had been sharpened by countless ordeals and trials. They were the men that had not lost their ground and had pushed back 150,000 enemy troops. They had even hunted a black dragon and fought against demons. Going through these tough battles meant that they grew stronger. After all, NPCs were just like players in the sense that they could grow infinitely.

Clack—

Minhyuk raised his Continent Destroyer Sword and pointed it at Lundnu.

This sight, especially after losing all of his men, made Lundnu furious. Under their current circumstances, Lundnu was undeniably the loser.

However, he still held on to one belief, *'I won't go down that easily.'*

Lundnu's arrogant remark, *'The Food God? would be nothing but a loser if we met at sea?'* was something that he blurted out because he believed that they would never meet under such circumstances. Even now, he still believed it. After all, the Food God was definitely exhausted. He had fought and destroyed countless ships by himself, which meant that he had also used up his skills. Hence, Lundnu believed that he still had a chance.

[Gorfido's Authority.]

[You have awakened part of Great Pirate Gorfido's power!]

[You will be unrivaled as long as you're at sea thanks to the power that you inherited from Great Pirate Gorfido.]

[All of your stats will dramatically increase by 34%.]

[You can use a portion of the skills that Gorfido harnessed in his life.]

Lundnu threw away his black pirate hat, and when he waved his hand, the sea water followed his movements and attacked Minhyuk.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Lundnu immediately jumped up the moment the seawater made contact with Minhyuk. Then, hundreds of weapons made from seawater suddenly appeared and rushed forward to trap Minhyuk. However, even though Minhyuk's feet were firmly standing on Gorfido's Pirate Ship, his abnormally high stats granted him ease of movement. Minhyuk slashed his sword toward the first attack that was about to reach him.

Baaaaaaaaaang—

Along with the loud explosion, dozens of water weapons disappeared. This was the power of the Lightning 'Explosion' attached to Minhyuk's Continent Destroyer Sword.

Swoosh—

'Explosion' slowly disappeared and was replaced with 'Crazy'. At the same time, Lundnu's sword slashed at Minhyuk's chest. However...

Slaaaaaaash—

"Ugh?!"

...it was Lundnu that received the damage, not Minhyuk. The strong impact from the reflected attack made Lundnu shake and tremble. But he immediately shifted to his left and sent an attack again.

Clang, clang, clang! Crack—

Minhyuk easily deflected all of Lundnu's attacks.

*'What kind of outrageous stats does he have...?!'*

That was not all; the way Minhyuk blocked Lundnu's attack was so clean and precise that it seemed as if he was one with the sword.

Shwaaaaaaaa—

Baaaaaaaaaang—

The effect of Crazy was activated and Lundnu was blown back by the force of the attack.

"Urk!" Lundnu vomited a mouthful of blood, but he still jumped up to attack Minhyuk.

[Arfey's Swordsmanship Chapter Four.]

[Plundering Pirate.]

The moment his skill got triggered, Lundnu's AGI doubled, while his sword attack increased by 1.3x. Feeling confident with his speed and damage, Lundnu attacked Minhyuk once again. However, with every attack that he sent out, there came the mounting realization that the Food God was not a loser at all.

The Food God was no match against him? No, the Food God had complete dominance over him.

*'I was definitely the one who attacked first. So why...'*

Shwaaaaaaaaaaa!

Baaaaaaaaaang—

Lundnu vomited another mouthful of blood, his body flying back from the impact.

“How?!” Lundnu roared, still in denial about the glaring gap between him and Minhyuk. He badly wanted to reject the existence of the gap between him and the man hailed as the strongest player in the world.

At that moment, a new word, ‘Destruction’, was branded on Minhyuk’s sword. When the furious Lundnu tried to cut Minhyuk’s neck, Minhyuk countered by slashing at him. Then...

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

...eight bloody lightning bolts struck Lundnu.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

The damage was crazy. Only a few attacks landed square on Lundnu, but his HP dropped sharply.

*‘This... Is this the true power of top ranking players...?’*

Lundnu felt extremely frustrated when he realized that without Gorfido’s Pirate Ship, he was just one among the many ordinary players.

[You have fallen into a two-second stunned state.]

Lundnu’s head fell the moment he was put into a stunned state. In just a blink, he was met with the notifications of his forced log out.

[You have been forced to log out.]

[You are Great Pirate Gorfido’s Descendant.]

[Great Pirate Gorfido’s Descendant will have a different penalty. The penalty will be dependent on the atrocious deeds that you have committed.]

[Your access has been limited. You can only access the game four times.]

[Your gold drop rate has increased by eight times.]

[Your artifact drop rate has tripled.]

[Your inventory has increased by five times.]

At the same time, Minhyuk received a set of notifications.

[You have forced Great Pirate Gorfido’s Descendant Lundnu to log out.]

[Lundnu is the player hailed as the Ever Seas’ Great Pirate. You will receive EXP as a special reward.]

[You have gained 500,000,000 EXP.]

[You have wiped out 82% of the pirates!]

[You have accumulated +27 STR and AGI, +21 WIS and +25 INT in the Wagyu.]

[You have accumulated 100,000,000 EXP in the Wagyu.]

The notifications did not stop there.

[Lundnu is considered an atrocious and vicious pirate. His penalties after being forced to log out are more severe than ordinary pirates.]

[You can pick up the items that he dropped!]

[You have gained 1,133 platinum.]

[You have acquired Gorfido's Earrings.]

[You have acquired the Hunter's Harpoon.]

[You have acquired 441 Sea Ore Pradnium.]

[...Handsome Pirate's Boots.]

[...the Undead's Feather Armor.]

The constant notifications that rang in Minhyuk's ears informed him of the huge rewards that he had reaped. Then, Minhyuk ordered, "Wipe them out."

"As you command!"

"As you command!"

"As you command!"

There was no task easier than wiping out an army that has lost its commander. The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom began to clean up the remaining pirates.

\*\*\*

Japanese Branch's Special Players Management Team's new employee Ryota was in both shock and disbelief. He thought, *'For real. He has wiped out more than 90% of the pirates...'*

The monitor was displaying the scene of Minhyuk and the members of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom wiping out the remaining pirates and reaching more than a 90% wipeout rate. In fact, they had completely overruled the predictions of the Japanese Branch's Story Team, who predicted that it would already be amazing if they could reach 40%.

*'Crazy... the Food God is... very cool.'*

Ryota was even fascinated by the Food God. However, there was one problem.

"Gorfido will become the Food God's vassal... oh no..."

Gorfido was considered as both the best and the worst NPC in Japan. He was also famous for being more evil than the demons at sea! Such an existence would actually become a player's vassal?

*'Of course, he will become weaker if he becomes a vassal, but...'*

It was the price that Gorfido had to pay for the chance at a new life that the Absolute God had presented to him.

Then, Team Leader Tadayoshi said, "Gorfido? He's evil, you know? It does not mean that a player would have complete control over him just because he became their vassal. You have to understand that, Ryota."

"...Huh? What do you mean?"

"In Athenae, a world where NPCs have a high degree of freedom, having Gorfido as Player Minhyuk's vassal might very well spell doom for him. Gorfido is a vicious killer, and having a crazy killer by his side would make the Food God suffer instead of reaping benefits."

"..."

Ryota nodded after hearing Tadayoshi's explanation. He thought, *'Unless he could win Gorfido's heart and loyalty, Gorfido will only bring disaster to him.'*

A vassal also had their own freedom. What would happen if Gorfido went crazy and went back to his old ways? It would bring a catastrophe for the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Just like what Team Leader Tadayoshi had said, Gorfido would only bring disaster if Minhyuk did not have his heart and loyalty. At that moment, a white pillar of light fell down into the empty space in front of Minhyuk. And in that empty space, a ragged and worn skeleton suddenly appeared. Flesh and skin started to appear and cover these bones. Long black hair that reached the waist appeared on the skeleton's head. It was immediately followed by a long and majestic black cloak, as well as a black pirate hat with a skull pattern on it. After the transformation, the figure that appeared in front of them had sharp and glinting eyes, an elegant nose, and a soft, yet defined, jawline. He was a very handsome man.

[Player Minhyuk has exceeded 80% clearance rate in the quest: Gorfido's Wish. Great Pirate Gorfido has been granted a new life.]

[Granted a new life, Gorfido has lost 20% of his original power.]

And just like Tadayoshi had predicted, Gorfido's expression did not look good.

*'A great pirate like him going under the command of a human? There's no way he would not be reluctant,'* Ryota thought, fully convinced that this was the case. Then, Minhyuk approached Gorfido with a soft smile on his face.

However, the words that he said were extremely shocking...

[I will not make you my vassal.]

[Player Minhyuk has refused Gorfido's pledge of vassalship!]

"...?!"

"...?!"



Ryota was extremely shocked.

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Gorfido, who was given a new life, had the same thought process as what the many people thought of him, *'Do I really have to live under someone's wing and atone for my sins? Do I have to live with someone who's just a human?'*

He wanted to atone for his sins after recalling the incident with Andrei. However, for someone like him to serve Minhyuk... was that even possible? Perhaps his reluctance was because of his remaining pride as the Great Pirate. Then, Minhyuk approached him and said, "I will not make you my vassal."

"...?!"

Gorfido looked at Minhyuk in doubt. It was not just him. Even the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and the viewers from all over the world watching the broadcast right now were also looking at Minhyuk in doubt.

*'You don't want Japan's greatest NPC as your vassal?! Are you crazy?!'*

"Do you remember what I told you before?"

Gorfido did remember.

*'Yes, those are definitely good things, big things. However, you don't have to have everything to be happy.'*

These were Minhyuk's words, the words that had greatly moved Gorfido's heart.

"I hope that you can find happiness even in the smallest of things and that you will live a good life, a better life than when you were a great pirate. Also, you have to atone for all of the sins and atrocities that you have committed. And..." Minhyuk smiled softly as he continued, "...find a pretty woman, get married, have a child, and care for them just like you cared for Andrei."

Great Pirate Gorfido did not know anything besides killing, looting and plundering.

"Get that kind of happiness by yourself."

"...!"

Gorfido's heart shook wildly at that. Looking back, he already knew that Minhyuk was strange the first time they met.

*'You're a complete f\*cking bastard, aren't you?'*

Gorfido was an orphan. He had to do everything and anything to survive and had been the subject of everyone's fear from a young age. Everyone tried their hardest to please him, in fear. But strangely enough, when he had heard Minhyuk curse him back then, he had not felt bad. It had just made him look back on his life.

A strange man. A special man. A funny man. And a kind man.?

At this moment, Gorfido truly realized that the man in front of him had taught him a lot of different things in the brief time they had spent together.

Minhyuk smiled softly at him before turning around to leave. And Gorfido...

Thud—

...suddenly knelt down on one knee as streaks of hot tears fell down his cheeks.

*'I can't and won't ask anyone to forgive me for my past, but I want to live the rest of my life atoning for them. I want to live by his side.'*

Gorfido slammed his fist on his right chest, his body trembling fiercely as he declared, "I, Gorfido, will devote my life to Your Majesty's service!!!"

Gorfido's loud declaration echoed loudly in the vast seas. Minhyuk looked back at Gorfido with a smile.

This was the moment when the King of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, the Food God, had truly won the heart of Great Pirate Gorfido.

Chapter 479: Naval Warfare (Bottom)

The entire world was in shock after witnessing Gorfido shed tears!

Gorfido was a Named NPC that was notorious not only in Japan, but throughout the world. Everyone was of the same mind when it came to Gorfido. They all believed that Gorfido would only bring disaster to the one that decided to take him in. After all, it was impossible to tame a beast that already had a taste of the thrills of hunting.

And that was exactly what Gorfido was, a beast that had a bloody history.

But now, in front of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's King Minhyuk, he was bawling his eyes out while swearing eternal loyalty. Minhyuk just smiled quietly. The words that he told Gorfido? He completely meant them. He truly wanted Gorfido to become an ordinary man, an ordinary husband, an ordinary daughter-con or son-con, and live an ordinary life while atoning for the evil deeds that he had done in the world.

*'I did not expect that Gorfido would swear his allegiance to me.'*

It was true. Deep down, he also felt that Gorfido would pose a threat to him if he did not change. But Great Pirate Gorfido was now kneeling and making a pledge of allegiance to him. With this, Minhyuk was sure that Gorfido would live in his kingdom for the better.

So, he said, "Gorfido. From this point on, you will live as a citizen of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. I want you to atone for the atrocious deeds that you have done in the past. And... if you ever commit a single evil deed, you will meet my sword."

"As you command!!!" Gorfido answered loudly and energetically while Minhyuk grinned at him. Meanwhile, the viewers watching the broadcast felt a huge tremor shake their hearts. Then, something unexpected happened again.

[The Absolute God was greatly impressed with you, who have given Gorfido a true 'awakening and enlightenment'.]

[The mysterious Absolute God has bestowed a present upon you.]

[The quest: Gorfido's Wish has achieved a 100% pirate wipe-out rate.]

[You have accumulated +30 STR and AGI, +21 STM, +20 WIS, and +15 INT in your Wagyu.]

[You have accumulated 150,000,000 EXP in your Wagyu.]

[You have wiped out 100% of the pirates. You have created a surprising achievement!]

[You have gained 1000 REP.]

[You have gained 100 CHA.]

[With the 100% completion rate of Gorfido's Wish, you will be able to obtain the countless trophies, like artifacts, golds and treasures, that Gorfido has obtained in the 'Pirate's Grave'.]

[Gorfido will be able to recover the 10% of the 20% power deduction that was imposed upon him.]

*'Amazing...'*

Minhyuk shuddered at the thought of gaining all of the artifacts and gold that Gorfido has obtained so far in the Pirate's Grave. This was a reward that was completely out of this world.

Meanwhile, Mankai, the best BJ in Japan, watched everything on the sidelines. He felt a warmth spread in his heart at the sight of Gorfido swearing his allegiance to Minhyuk. After all, everyone would feel the same if they watched such a sight. Then, Korea's representative BJ, Know-it-all Dictionary, approached him and said, "You could probably tell why I signed an exclusive contract with the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom now, right?"

Know-it-all Dictionary was also aboard the Battleship, hiding on the sidelines to broadcast the battle between Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and Japan's King of the Sea Lundnu. However, to others, it did not make sense for a man like Know-it-all Dictionary to be tied up somewhere, even if it was the very first kingdom established by a player, right? Mankai had just laughed at Know-it-all Dictionary thinking that he had finally gone crazy.

But now...

"Hey, Dictionary. Can't you give me a free pass to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?"

"You're in the Japanese Server so... No."

"..."

Mankai still held a bit of hope. The regret that filled his face disappeared as he watched the kneeling Gorfido and Minhyuk with a slight smile on his face.

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First things first. Minhyuk boarded Battleship and headed straight toward the Pirate's Grave. Once they reached the place, he was able to gain huge rewards.

[You have gained 3,719 platinum.]

[You have acquired Gorfido's Cowboy Boots.]

[You have acquired Bellod's Longsword.]

[You have acquired 1,041 Aqua Stones.]

[You have acquired 301 Mermaid Princess' Tears.]

[You have acquired 51 Iron Sea Lion's Teeth.]

The notifications rang non-stop. There were also the artifacts, gold, and miscellaneous items that Minhyuk had received after killing the three Pirates of Despair earlier, as well as the pirates under Lundnu from before. Minhyuk simply calculated everything in gold.

"Around 18,000 platinum...?"

"..."

"..."

"..."

"..."

"..."

Everyone present was left speechless. That was right. Minhyuk earned 18,000 platinum when he came out at sea.

"How in the world...?" Genie asked in shock. As far as she knew, Minhyuk had called for them to the Japanese Server to help with his current situation. To think that they were able to earn 18,000 platinum, a money that was worth around nine billion if converted to cash, in that short amount of time.

"This much money is enough for the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's development funds, right?"

"It's more than enough. I think there will be a bit of a surplus too," Genie said with a smile on her face. She wondered how far Minhyuk's opportunities could reach and thought, *'Ah. It would be nice if we can fill in a bit of our citizens.'*

Just like the saying: there was no end to a man's greed, Genie felt greed flash in her head. But suddenly, something huge approached the shoreline of the Pirate's Grave. Above that unknown thing, there were roughly 1,300 people. And when the unknown thing rose up, what greeted them was Sukhoe, with its eyes curved in a happy crescent.

"Oh~ Sukhoe, you're here? Thanks for helping oppa with this request!"

"K, keok?!!"

"Suk, Sukhoe?!"

"O, oppa...?!"

While everyone was shocked, the people riding on top of Sukhoe landed on the Pirate's Grave and immediately knelt down in front of Minhyuk and declared...

"Please take us with you!!!"

“We swear our eternal allegiance to you, King of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!!!”

That was right. These people were none other than the captives. The dolphins were hard at work rescuing the captives that fell at sea and bringing them to a nearby island, while Minhyuk fought against Gorfido’s Pirate Ship and the other pirates. These rescued captives were mostly people that had been abandoned by their kingdoms and empires. And all of them wanted to be with the one that saved them, the King of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

However, some of them were still on the fence. That was when Minhyuk hit the nail on the head and gave them a good proposal, “My subordinates will assist you and your family in migrating to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.”

“Th... thank you!!!”

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

Most of the ones that were worried about the families that they left behind were the ones that were part of the navy before. Their addition to their kingdom would definitely reinforce their troops.

But what if their families were also added to the count?

*‘There would be over 3,000 people coming...’*

Genie glanced at Gorfido with a smile before approaching Minhyuk for a talk. Then, Minhyuk said, “Oh my. Of course~ That’s only natural~”

“Really? As expected. Hohohoho! That’s our Minhyuk!”

“...???”

Gorfido knew that they were definitely talking about him, but he could not hear the exact details of their conversation. Then, Minhyuk quickly dragged Gorfido away from the noise of the Pirate Grave’s shore to a quieter side. Minhyuk looked at the sunset and said, “The past few days have been tough.”

For Minhyuk, these past few days were really tough. After all, he could not have a proper meal at all! Now was the time to reward himself, who worked very hard. Just like the people that chose to reward themselves with food after a hard day at work, Minhyuk also began his preparations to eat his wagyu reward. After he finished all of his preparations, he quickly handed a bowl of bibimbap to Gorfido.

“This is a Korean dish. Try it.”

The truth was, this act had a different meaning.

*‘Fufu. This will definitely stop you from asking me for a bite of wagyu!’*

And Gorfido, who did not know anything, ate the bibimbap with relish. Then, as they watched the sunset, Minhyuk took out a bottle of cold beer and poured it in a glass.

Glug, glug, glug, glug~

Then, with the glass filled with the sparkling and golden beer, he watched the sunset and gulped it in one go.

Gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp—

It was a bottoms-up! After drinking everything, Minhyuk unknowingly exclaimed, “Kghhk~ That was refreshing!”

The fatigue from the past few days finally disappeared along with his exclamation. And before he knew it, the grill in front of him was already heated. Then, Minhyuk placed a bite-size piece of glistening red wagyu on the grill.

Sizzle—

The sizzle of the beef touching the grill rang loudly. Minhyuk only grilled it for around eight to ten seconds before flipping it.

Sizzle—

As the smoke rose, Minhyuk quickly used his tongs to flip the meat and cook it well before placing the juicy piece of beef in his mouth. Juice filled his mouth with each bite. The piece followed the perfect and fantastic formula: golden brown on the outside, soft and juicy on the inside.

“Wow. This is crazy,” Minhyuk exclaimed as he grilled two pieces at the same time. Before picking up a piece, he first washed the grease from his mouth with some beer.

Gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp—

.

“Kghhhk!”

After a shout of admiration, he took a pinch of salt, sprinkled it on a piece of beef before placing it in his mouth.

“Wow. It’s melting! It’s melting...!”

Then, he placed a dollop of wasabi on top of another piece of beef. Each bite brought about the sweet taste of meat and spicy aftertaste of wasabi together in perfect harmony. After that, he brought out the green onion salad mixed with red pepper powder and sesame oil, before pairing them together with the beef. The crunchy texture of the salad and the savory flavor of the sesame oil went perfectly together with the beef. Sometimes, Minhyuk would eat some pickled onions and beef together.

Chew, chew, chew—

After eating everything, the notifications rang for Minhyuk.

[You have completed the quest: Gorfido’s Wish. You will now be able to acquire the accumulated stats and EXP in the Wagyu.]

[You have acquired +81 STR, +73 AGI, +69 STM, +70 WIS and +71 INT.]

[You have acquired 2,800,000,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[...leveled up.]

Minhyuk had leveled up five times in a row. His level had now reached 522. He watched the sunset disappear beneath the horizon, while gulping down the last of his beer.

“Kgghk~”

*‘A fantastic dish and wonderful scenery.’*

As he smiled at the perfect setting, Gorfido approached him.

\*\*\*

Japanese Branch’s Special Players Management Team.

All of them had heard about the scary ‘legend’ spreading in the Korean branch. This legend referred to the members of not only their Special Management Team, but also the members of other teams gaining a lot of weight while watching Player Minhyuk.

This was mainly because they monitored Player Minhyuk and his famous mukbang real-time. Rumor had it that the employees of several branches that dreamt of dieting all failed and were left in frustration after watching him eat. The employees of the Japanese Branch did not believe this at all.

But now, more than twenty employees of their Special Management Players Team were drooling as they watched the screen.

“How, how can that...”

“Oh my God... Such a big slice of beef in one bite...? Ah, look at his Adam's apple bobbing as he drinks that beer...”

“There’s also the scenery! A glass of beer and some wagyu in front of the setting sun...”

“Kghhkhk!”

All of them were drooling.

“How about having some wagyu for dinner tonight?”

“Hooray!!!”

“Waaaaaaaah!”

The entire Japanese Branch realized at this moment that the outrageous legend was true! Then, they watched Gorfido approach Minhyuk.

[Your Majesty, what position should I take next to you?]

Gorfido’s voice drew everyone’s attention to them once again. Great Pirate Gorfido, the devil of the sea! What kind of position would he hold in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?

“As the greatest slaughterer of his time, maybe he’ll be an assassin?”

“Perhaps he’ll be the Commander-in-chief of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?”

“No. His vassal, Brod, already has that position. N, no way... Don't tell me he'll become the Food God's escort knight?!!”

The Japanese Branch guessed the position that he would give to Gorfido. But to them, they felt like the position would be too low for someone like Gorfido. That was when they saw Minhyuk's lips twitch in joy as he said...

[Listen, Gorfido.]

[Yes, Your Majesty!!!]

Gorfido immediately knelt down on one knee as Minhyuk continued to speak in a jolly tone...

[Your job is to become a fisherman. Become the Fisherman King, Gorfido!]

“...?”

“...?”

“Fi, Fisherman...?”

“Fisherman King?”

“Keheok?!”

The entire Japanese Branch was left reeling in shock from the sudden and unexpected move by the Disaster-class player! Then, as if he was representing the feelings of everyone in the Japanese Branch, Gorfido's face twisted in doubt and confusion.

[Did, did you mean for me to become a fisherman?]

[That's right. But not just an ordinary fisherman. You have to be a Fisherman King! How's that? It's an amazing job, right? Keuhahahahaha! Hiyaa~ I think it's a really fantastic job.

Hahahahahahahaha!]

[...]

This was the fate of Gorfido, the man once hailed as the Great Pirate and the Devil of the Sea.

Chapter 480: Three Visits to the Thatched Cottage Quest

Eto Kingdom, located in the Japanese Server, was a kingdom that resembled Barras Kingdom in a way that they were both kingdoms of production classes. However, there were slight differences between them. Unlike in the Korean Server, the Eto Kingdom did not have the concept of 'towers'. Instead, there were existences hailed as the Five Stars.

The First Star was a sculptor that created sculptures in honor of kings and emperors of the past. The gods, who saw his creation, admired him greatly and even commissioned his service.

The Second Star was a tailor that catered to both kings and emperors. In fact, the rulers of all the empires and kingdoms in the continent only wanted to wear the clothes that the Second Star created. Rumor had it that even emperors from other continents coveted her work.

The Third Star was a chef that treated King Valex, the king of Eto Kingdom, curing him from his chronic illness by feeding him an incredible meal that he made himself.



The Fourth Star was a painter that saved the kingdom from the demons' invasion by painting the image of an archangel.

Finally, the Fifth Star was known to be the greatest star. He was the one that suggested to the Fourth Star to draw the archangel to chase the demons away. He was not a sculptor, a blacksmith, a chef, nor a painter. He was a tactician and strategist, the hero that saved the Eto Kingdom from countless crises.

However, the Fifth Star, along with the four other stars were all retired. They had established their home in Arsa Village and gave their positions to their successors. Still, their prowess were infinitely superior to that of their successors. In fact, it could be said that they far surpassed the Asgan Continent's tower masters.

*'Hmm? Who'll come to find me today?'*

Tactician Jarrod was well-known for being an eccentric and picky NPC. After the death of King Valex, he came to Arsa Village with the other stars, and spent his time harassing and bullying the foreigners with short riddles. Nevertheless, they still kept on approaching him. After all, he was the only one that knew the location of the 'Eternal Flames'.

Enticed by the fact that the Eternal Flames could help them create a God Artifact, people kept on approaching Jarrod. However, all of them failed to answer his eccentric riddles and were all sent back. This was because his riddles were all nonsense quizzes.

"What do you call a strawberry that was fired from the kingdom troops?"

"I know, I know! It's strawberry syrup!"

"How can a strawberry lose its job?! It's a fruit!!!"

"That, that's too much! This is unfair!"

"But I'm in the mood for something like this now. Hehehehe!"

Only a few had completed the quest to acquire the Eternal Flames. This was because they had to pass through this first gate, Jarrod's quizzes. Many could not answer the quiz. The truth was, all they needed to do was give Jarrod an entertaining and fresh, new answer.

However, it was extremely difficult to please Jarrod, especially since the questions remained largely the same.

"I wonder which player I should send to the hellish hunting grounds today? Haha!"

The act of receiving quests from the eccentric and cranky Jarrod was called 'Three Visits to the Thatched Cottage'. Jarrod was basically modeled after the cranky and eccentric Zhuge Liang, only telling the location of the Eternal Flames if they successfully cleared three missions from him. And right now...

Chew, chew, chew, chew, chew—

...a man approached Jarrod, who was looking for his next prey in the village, with a huge backpack hanging in front of him. The backpack contained several boxes of

Japan's specialty, Loyce Chocolate, as well as a huge plastic container with a straw connected to the man's mouth.

"Hiyaa... Loyce Chocolate is really delicious."

"...?"

Jarrold looked at the approaching man that was eating Loyce Chocolate.

"It melts the moment you put it in your mouth. There's also the sweet taste that spreads! There's even this chewy texture! Kghkk!" The man exclaimed, touching his cheeks in happiness until he stood in front of Jarrod.

"Hello! Are you mister Jarrod?"

"You're right?"

The man continued to munch on Loyce Chocolate. Seeing the man eat the chocolate happily, Jarrod, who personally disliked sweets, felt his mouth suddenly start to water.

"The cold chocolate melts in your mouth the moment you put it in your mouth. And when you feel like your mouth is dry from all the chocolate..." The man said as he sipped the black liquid in his huge plastic bag through the straw, "Fwaaaa! Chocolate and iced americano are really the best combi!"

"...H... hey. Why are you carrying your backpack like that?"

"I got too lazy trying to get the chocolate from behind me so I placed it in front of me. This is so I can take a box out easily to eat. I eat one box of chocolate per minute, you see? It's easier for me if I carry it this way."

*'A, a box per minute...? No, what is this? Is this guy nuts?'*

This was what Jarrod thought but strangely enough, the guy was very polite. So, Jarrod coughed and said, "I also want some chocolate and that iced ame..."

"No way!"

A straight refusal! Jarrod looked at the man in doubt. Plenty of foreigners had tried to bribe him to make themselves look better in front of him. However, the man in front of him was so stingy that he did not even give Jarrod some of his food.

"So, you're a cheapskate? Fine. You must have come here to get the Eternal Flames, right?"

"That's right. Wow! You're really smart, just like the rumors said!"

"Then, let me ask you a question."

Jarrold thought, *'You did not give me any chocolate, huh? Annoying. I will banish you from this village if you don't give me a satisfactory answer.'*

Jarrold was someone that could adjust the quest that he sent out at will. If the foreigners failed to give him a satisfactory answer, they usually ended up having to pay a steep price. That was why there were significantly fewer people that came to challenge the Eternal Flames these days.

As for the man, Minhyuk, in front of him, the penalty for failure was a -10 in all stats, as well as banishment from the village. Jarrod had this authority since he was also the head of the village. People began to flock to the two of them the moment they saw them talk.

“I feel a bit sorry for that guy.”

“Jarrod looks extra grumpy today.”

“He’ll definitely get the worst penalty.”

They all clicked their tongues as Jarrod raised his question, “What do people say the most in their lives?”

The usual answer to this question was ‘breathing’. But Minhyuk said, “That’s easy.”

“...Easy?”

Then, Minhyuk said, “The answer is ‘I’m hungry.’”

“...???”

That was right. Based on Minhyuk’s standard, the most common words that came out of a person’s mouth was, ‘I’m hungry.’

“What is the soy sauce that no one can eat?”

The original answer should be ‘anxiety’.

“...But I can eat all the soy sauce in the world? I even ate the Poisonous Toad’s soy sauce before?”

“...???”

“What would you do if you found food on the street?”

“Hiyaaa?! Picking up food on the street? Ah, isn’t that a good thing? That will definitely be my lucky day! I will definitely pick it up and run as fast as I can to go back home and eat it alone.”

“...???”

“What’s the bridge that no one saw?”

The answer was, *misunderstanding*.

Of course, Minhyuk knew the answer. He said, “A misunderstanding? Ah. Speaking of misunderstanding, I want some squid tentacles. Munching on some squid while playing games in a PC room is the best!”

“...???”

*'No. Isn't this guy strange?! How come all of his answers are related to eating?!'*

Then, Minhyuk said, "What's the color of hamburger?"

"...a variety of colors," Jarrod answered the sudden question with a little uncertainty.

.

"Wrong! It's a tasty color! Keuhahahaha!"

"Keheok?!"

"Why is a cannibal complaining about his meal?"

"I don't have the will to live! Right! This is the answer!"

"Anyone that complains about their meals should be hit in the back of the head!

What's the fastest chicken in the world?"

"It's, it's swift! That's the answer! I'm sure of it!"

"Wrong! Minhyuk already ate the chicken! Hahahahaha!"

"Ugh, aaaaargh! Why did I not think of 'Minhyuk already ate the chicken'?"

Jarrod fell. He completely and utterly fell in Minhyuk's rhythm and was slowly becoming Minhyuk-ified. Jarrod grabbed his head in frustration wondering why he could not get anything right!

"Someone dealt with Jarrod and even gave him a reverse quiz...?"

"Oh my god..."

The players in the area that saw this scene were all shocked. This was because the player completely had Jarrod in the palm of his hands.

"Q, quick! Give me the next question! Huh?! I think I'll be able to get the next question right! Wahaha!" Jarrod shouted in excitement. He had never felt this exhilarated and amused during his long and boring stay in this village.

At that moment, Minhyuk heard a notification.

[You have gained +3 in all five of your basic stats.]

It was immediately followed by another notification.

Minhyuk immediately checked the quest.

## **Penalty for Failure**

: -20 to all stats. Banishment from the town.

“All the Stars were once connected. But with the death of the previous king, our connection has been lost and we no longer work together. Of course, the same is true for me. Build your favor with them and the villagers, and help us reconcile.”

Most of the people that lived in this village settled here after the death of the previous king of Eto Kingdom. According to rumors, it was not only the Stars, even the villagers were meticulous and strict. Minhyuk nodded. This was something that he already knew.

Jarrold looked away. He thought, *‘It’s impossible to win their hearts.’*

After that event, they no longer worked together. Jarrod smiled sneakily as he thought, *‘I might have fallen into that rascal’s hands without noticing it, but he will definitely fail this mission.’*

Jarrold was confident about the outcome of this quest.

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One week later.

Every six months, the villagers would set aside a day and gather to discuss their village’s development in the future. And today happened to be that day. The village’s population was very small, their total only a thousand people. The villagers all stood behind the Five Stars, who had not seen each other in a long time, sitting in front of a circular table.

Everyone, except Jarrod, looked unhappy.

“Why the hell do we have to do this?”

“Jarrod. In the end, everything is up to you, right?”

“Do I really have to sit with these people? It’s making my mood turn sour.”

There was a time when the Stars treated each other warmly, but now the mood around them had turned for the worse. Even the villagers looked reluctant to be here. Jarrod hoped that they would return to what they were before, and become as close as they were back then.

“You probably know this already but the members of the Vigilante Corps have suffered great injuries after being attacked by monsters not too long ago. As such, I would like to recruit more members for the Vigilante Corps. Do we have any applicants here?” Jarrod said plainly as he started the meeting.

Although everyone here was very reluctant, they still participated on grounds that they were all citizens living in this village.

“Ah. The clothes of Evelyn’s daughter are already worn out.”

As soon as he heard the words, Berk, the Star Sculptor, snorted and said, “Didn’t Evelyn lose her husband not too long ago? Oh my. Hey, tailor! What are you doing? Why didn’t you make some new clothes for the child?!”

“What?! Do you not know how busy I am?! If you’re so kind then why don’t you pay me for my services and I’ll make it?!”

“Money?! Why is it always about money?!”

“What?! What the hell is wrong with you, you sleazy cook?!”

These people that were once called Stars were now arguing and quarreling with each other. Jarrod felt his temples throb at the sight as he barked, “Stop, stop!”

Things settled down slightly after his intervention. Then, Chef Star Cord said, “I have a customer coming in today. I think we should end this early.”

“Me too.”

“Same.”

“Fufufufu.”

“...?”

The Stars all smiled as a person’s figure flashed in their minds. They all looked strange. That was when Jarrod remembered the man, Minhyuk, that he met not too long ago. So, he opened his mouth to change the mood and said, “Not too long ago, a man that loves to eat came to find me. It was quite funny. The rascal dared to challenge me, a Star, to a reverse quiz. He’s a strange guy. No, perhaps it’s more apt to call him crazy?”

Jarrod chuckled. He was confident that the man would never be able to win the hearts of these Stars. He believed that they would curse the man along with him. Alas...

“What? What do you mean by strange man? Someone that likes to eat? No way, are you talking about my boy, Minhyuk?”

“You dare call my boy Minhyuk a crazy guy?!”

“You called my boy Minhyuk a strange guy?! Jarrod, do you want to die?!”

“...?”

Confused, Jarrod looked at the Four Stars, who suddenly went crazy as they defended Minhyuk. These people, who had not worked together and agreed for a long time, shouted and cursed at Jarrod with veins popping in their necks. What was more...

*'What, what do you mean by 'my boy Minhyuk?!'*

"Jarrod, how dare you curse my boy Minhyuk?! You! How can you do that?!"

"That's right! That's my boy Minhyuk!"

It did not end there; even the villagers standing behind them...

"How dare you call Minhyuk a strange guy?! He's a very good person!"

"Stop calling Minhyuk like that!!!"

"Long live Minhyuk!"

"Long live Minhyuk Religion!"

"That's right! Long live Minhyuk!"

"Jarrod, you have disappointed us!!!"

"You are a disappointment!"

Then, they all rushed out and left Jarrod behind. He was left speechless and confused. He thought, *'What, what just happened...?'*