

## Gourmet 501

### Chapter 501: The One that Became a Demigod

Duke Yerett, the Sword Master of Lumae Kingdom, was the one leading the 20,000 monster corps and the knights, who were of course the elite knights of Lumae Kingdom, riding on top of the monsters. Duke Yerett might be hailed as just a Sword Master, but his level was far higher than that. His strength and abilities were more than enough to lead the 20,000 strong troops.

He was also one of Lumae Kingdom and King Raldo's loyalists. But this time, he decided to join hands with Prince Votto. It was mainly because he knew that King Raldo's mysterious illness was very difficult to cure. This meant that their kingdom would most likely be targeted and devoured by the other kingdoms. He made the decision because he wanted to protect the kingdom that His Majesty Raldo and the people had established.

With those thoughts in mind, Duke Yerett ordered the advance of the troops toward the Baroque Kingdom. At first, he could not believe what was in front of him, but there was no denying what he saw.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

The being soaring in the skies of the capital of Baroque Kingdom was none other than Black Dragon Vormon.

“This, this... what...?!”

“What the hell?!”

“Kihyeeeeeeee!”

“Kyaaaaaaack!”

“Grrrrrrrrrack!”

The wyverns that dominated the skies, the drakes, and ogres running rampant on the ground and the elite knights of Lumae Kingdom were all forced to trace back their steps.

Duke Yerett thought that this was just a lie, ‘*The Food God killed Black Dragon Vormon in the Continent Cloud.*’

“This is obviously an illusion! Don't be afraid!” Duke Yerett, with full confidence, ordered the advance once again. But then, at that moment, a tremendous force gathered at the mouth of Black Dragon Vormon.

“...?!”

The tremendous force, which was none other than the ‘Dragon's Breath’, shot toward their troops. The dark, pitch-black Dragon's Breath turned more than a thousand of the advancing monsters and knights into ashes. The same was true for the dragons that were with them.

“Bl, Black Dragon Vormon's Breath...?!”

“That force, that power!!! It's real...!”

“How, how could this be...?!”

Then, words spread from one knight to another.

“Is it really true that the guardians that died in the Continent Cloud will be revived?”

“Are you telling me that includes the monsters?”

Murmur, murmur, murmur—

This absurd story began to circulate among the monster corps. Duke Yerett could not deny it since they were truly hit by the Dragon’s Breath.

“Re, retreat!!!”

“Retreat! We have to retreat!!!”

“Retreat! Quickly!”

It did not matter to them as to what reason Black Dragon Vormon helped the Baroque Kingdom. All they knew was that they could not handle any attack sent by Black Dragon Vormon. They needed strategies and tactics based on what the dragons might have said. So, they quickly began to retreat.

Meanwhile, Genie, who was looking at everything, smiled, *‘Phew. I think I lost ten years of my life there.’*

The guardians would not die in the Continent Cloud. Did that include the monsters too? This might be the case if they were Named NPCs. However, based on Genie’s investigations, Vormon had truly fallen into an eternal rest after being killed by Minhyuk.

That was right. The Black Dragon Vormon that was flying in the skies right now was not ‘real’. He was none other than a ‘painting’.

The Painter’s Tower’s Tower Master Elise had an amazing skill called ‘Turning Painting to Reality’. The painting that she drew, just like any other artwork, artifact or dish, would be graded and the higher the grade of the painting, the more realistic and more pronounced the object would be once it materialized. Fortunately, the ‘Black Dragon’ that Elise had painted was a legendary grade painting.

As for Black Dragon Vormon’s Dragon’s Breath, it was created by the ‘Supreme Divine Beast’ Beanie. Supreme Divine Beast Beanie was one of the top contributors that played the biggest part in hunting Black Dragon Vormon. He obtained a skill named ‘Predator’s Authority’, a skill that had reached MAX for a brief moment during their Vormon hunt and had turned back to ‘Level 1’.

However, even though it might be weaker than back then, Beanie’s Predator Authority’s first chapter allowed him to use the skills and power of the being that he predated back in the past.

The Turning Painting to Reality’s creation followed the instructions of their painter and since it was just a painting, Beanie was able to hide within it. Beanie stationed himself in Black Dragon Vormon’s head and watched the situation. He shot out a Dragon’s Breath through his Predator’s Authority once the head moved as if it was going to release a breath.

They also purposely made use of some gossip mongers among the monster corps to spread words about the ‘Continent Cloud’ system and make them believe that it was real.

Seeing everything unfold successfully, Genie could not help but be in awe.

*'Jarrod...'*

The one that devised these tactics and strategies was none other than Jarrod.

"Hoo~ That's amazing..."

"How..."

Even the kings that stayed to watch a play could not help but be amazed at the situation that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had created.

Then, Genie, whose lips were twisting into a smirk, said, "Are you satisfied now, Your Majesty Lloyd?"

Gulp—

King Lloyd could not retort. He belittled the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom for being a small country. In fact, he had even laughed at the production class people that Genie brought with her. But, at this moment, he realized that the only ones that could help them was this small nation, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

"Shall we have a cup of coffee?"

"If Your Majesty agrees with us then I might think about it and have a sip with you," Genie said. Her charm, an arrogance that knew no bounds, was on full display.

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Dragon Elder Velach hoped that the new Lord that would replace the previous Dragon Lord, which had fallen into eternal rest, would not be a disaster, but a dragon that would want the best for the world.

Akhan contacted Velach after the Dragon Lord's egg had been stolen from Dragon Bracard's lair. He said that someone from Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had stolen the egg to raise the dragon and turn it into a Dragon of Destruction.

Hearing that, the dragons were left with no choice. Even if they had to be burdened by a huge 30% decrease in power as a penalty, they decided to cross over to another continent and retrieve the stolen egg.

Akhan, who was standing right next to Elder Velach, said, "The Lord will be arriving safely soon."

"That's a relief."

Akhan was not really that surprised to learn that most of the people that he sent to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had been wiped out. It was still within his expectations. Only those from the Lumae Kingdom had believed too much in themselves. At least there was one thing that they succeeded in doing, they were able to take away the hatchling and were even able to take the Food God's aide as an added bonus.

In this place, 10,000 soldiers and 2,000 elite knights from Lumae Kingdom had gathered under Akhan. He was also leading around 20,000 monsters in his monster corps. Once the hatchling was taken out of the picture, Akhan, together with Elder Velach, would begin unleashing judgment on

the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. The dragons were an arrogant and prideful race, they would surely not leave the ones that stole their Lord alone.

But then, Akhan heard that Black Dragon Vormon had suddenly appeared in the capital of Baroque Kingdom and that his troops had retreated to watch the situation.

“I believe I have to go to Baroque Kingdom for a moment. It seems like something went wrong there.”

Swoosh—

Akhan turned into smoke and disappeared.

*‘He’s a man that you can’t readily believe.’*

Velach might have followed Akhan's words here, but he was no fool. He did not trust the words of Akhan completely.

Then, Renzie, the Warrior’s Disciple, appeared on horseback. He was raised and taught by Lumae Kingdom’s Overlord, Raldo, and was said to be the next generation right after Lumae Kingdom’s King Raldo, the kingdom’s absolute ruler. Renzie finally came to a halt in front of the 10,000 strong troops.

*‘Finally...!’* Dragon Elder Velach’s heart was pounding in excitement. The birth of their Great One would determine if the whole world would be brought into the darkness of despair or the light of hope.

*‘As long as they are not walking the path to destruction yet.’*

Once the Lord was born to the world, its existence and what it would grow to be would depend on the things that it would hear, see and experience. Velach wondered what existence it had become now as he slowly approached them.

“Who’s the woman?”

After hearing Velach’s dignified voice, Renzie replied, “She’s the aide to the King of the Beyond the Heavens kingdom.”

“A person that serves the king of the kingdom that stole the Lord should be killed. I can’t let any dirty blood contaminate the Lord any longer than this.”

In the first place, dragons were arrogant beings that did not take the lives of humans seriously. Renzie immediately dropped the woman from the horse.

“Kyaaaaa!”

Then, Renzie peeled off the cloth that covered Haze’s face. The moment the cover was removed, Haze looked at Renzie with a fierce and spiteful gaze.

“Ho?”

Renzie felt curious. The woman in front of him was just shy of twenty years, yet she was not afraid and was asking them to spare her life. In fact, Haze never intended to beg them for her life. Doing

so would mean that she was tarnishing the honor and interest of her king and friend, Minhyuk. Besides, she had already experienced a new life thanks to Minhyuk. She would not regret losing this life for him. It was just...

“Keep your hands off of Luna!” Haze shouted coldly, completely ignoring the fact that her life would be laid to waste here and unaware that the dragons were here to protect their Lord.

“Weren’t you the ones that touched it first?” Renzie said as he unsheathed his sword.

Haze glared at the blade of the sword that shone brightly under the rays of the sun. However, she could not hide the tremble that shook her core as she murmured, “For His Majesty... Minhyuk...”

Renzie struck down his sword. Soon, Haze’s head would roll on the ground and dye the ground red. But then, at that moment...

Piiiiing—

A spear suddenly flew and struck Renzie's sword.

Claaaaaang!

Piiing—

Renzie, the Warrior’s Disciple, felt his arm shake violently from the impact of the spear on his sword. Then, the red ruby necklace that was hanging on the spear suddenly shone brightly.

[Red Ruby’s Tear’s artifact effect has been triggered.]

[For ten minutes, those that had received the Red Ruby’s Tear’s protection effect would be unconditionally protected.]

[For ten minutes, those that had received the Red Ruby’s Tear’s protection effect would not be able to move.]

Then, a red aura appeared and covered Haze’s body.

*‘What the hell?’*

In the continent, those that could use aura could only be counted in one’s hand. It was said that Warrior’s Disciple Renzie was among the top. Although he was not as good as the Overlord, his strength and power had already reached the point where people said that he could surpass Sword Emperor Ellie in the future.

But his sword was stopped, just like that?

“Who is it?!”

“Who dared to strike at Sir Renzie’s sword...?!”

“Show yourself, bastard!”

All of their eyes turned toward the direction where the spear came from. There, they saw a black-haired veteran sweeping his hair back and tying it tightly before grabbing another spear. His aura

and momentum as he sat on his black horse was so fearsome that the monsters and knights that were standing in front of him stepped back unknowingly.

“Ha...!”

“It’s just one bastard?”

“And it’s even an old man to boot?”

The tension in everyone’s body dispersed as they sighed in relief. The veteran glared sharply as he surveyed the thousands of enemy troops in front of him. Then, he took a bandage and wrapped it around his hands. In fact, he had already wrapped his body in bandages while he was chasing after Haze and Luna. The old man was already prepared to give his life here as he urged the horse with his shins.

“Hiyaaaaa!”

Clop, clop, clop, clop, clop—

The old man raised his spear high up in the sky as he ran with his horse. The knights and monsters immediately flocked to where he was to stop his advance.

Seeing this scene, Renzie could not help but burst out in laughter, *‘He’s just a single old man, what can he even do...?’*

When the thought appeared in Renzie’s head...

“Aaaaaaaaack!”

“Urrrrrrrrrrrk!”

“Uwaaaaaaaack!”

“Keuaaaaaaaaack!”

Screams rang loudly as the soldiers and monsters that blocked the old man’s path got swept away.

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

The old man quickly pierced through the hearts of his enemies as he rushed forward at a fierce momentum. This charging old man was none other than the personal barista of King Minhyuk, the legendary Ghost Spear, Ben.

Chapter 502: The One that Became a Demigod

Ghost Spear Ben rushed toward the 40,000 strong monster corps in front of him. He thrust his spear and reaped the heads of the enemies that tried to block him with their own spears and weapons. Another slash and he was able to cut down four heads.

Thump, thump, thump, thump—

Thud, thud, thud—

Thump, thump—

The enemy troops' heads fell down and rolled on the ground. But Ghost Spear Ben did not pay them any mind and just urged his horse to charge forward, pushing the knights and monsters that blocked their path away.

"Uwaaaaaaaack!"

"Keuaaaaaack!"

"Uggghhhhh!"

The soldiers that were being pushed back screamed loudly until their formation was broken and disrupted, forcing them to lose their balance and fall down. Ben thrust his spear forward and stabbed several soldiers in one go, before pulling his spear out just as quickly.

Spurt—!

Red blood spurted out and covered the skies. Even though he was witnessing it with his own eyes, Renzie still could not believe it, *'How in the world is that an old man...?!'*

The old man's spear was sharp and accurate. His gaze was even far sharper and fiercer than anybody else's. His movements were also as light as a feather and as swift as a ghost. There was nothing that Renzie could say about the old man's expression either. In fact, he was genuinely impressed by how the old man was taking on 40,000 troops all by his lonesome self.

Even though the soldiers of Lumae Kingdom were called soldiers, they were actually as strong as the knights from other kingdoms. Yet they were falling helplessly under the blade of the old man's spear.

In the end, the old man's horse, which was stabbed by several spears, had no choice but to collapse.

"Hihihihing!" The horse screamed loudly as it fell on the ground. Ghost Spear Ben had been lowered on the ground gently. However, he did not stop; he just stood up to rush forward once again. He charged, cutting and stabbing his opponents with his spear, dyeing it red with blood.

Crack—

Eventually, the spear that Ben was swinging broke apart. He did not stop his attacks, he just threw the upper part of his spear with all his might and ended up stabbing through six soldiers.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab!

"Aaaaaaack!"

"Keuaaaaaack!"

Screams rang rampant in the area as Ghost Spear Ben pulled out another spear and continued his slaughter, charging forward all the while.

"U, ughhhhh..."

"Ri, ridiculous..."

The monsters, soldiers and knights were being pushed back by Ben's momentum. Renzie truly could not believe what was happening in front of him.

*'How, how can this be...'*

The old man was obviously an outstanding spearman. He was the type of person that would definitely not be ignored even if he went to Lumae Kingdom. But that was it. He was just that. No matter how strong he was, there was no way that he alone could deal with 40,000 troops. However, the skills that the old man was displaying right now were far stronger than his usual power. This was because Ghost Spear Ben had given up on his life.

*'Your Majesty,'* Ghost Spear Ben thought with a hazy smile on his face as he continued to charge forward.

Ben had lived for a long time. He roamed the continent drunk on his power while his son died a miserable death. Back then, he thought that his life was going to end just like that.

Then, Ben met Minhyuk. He was a very mysterious and interesting boy. The boy gave an old man like him the reason and motivation to live. Ben would always be all smiles whenever he looked at Minhyuk. Even his heart pounded with excitement whenever he did anything with the boy. If the boy was happy, Ben would feel happy too. If the boy was sad, then Ben would be sad too.

*'He's my king, my friend, and sometimes... sometimes...'*

Ben had to swallow back the words that he was about to utter.

*'Your Majesty, I will protect everything that's precious to you.'*

Ghost Spear Ben had already lived a long life. It would not be a waste to lose it here to protect his king and those that are precious to him. It was both Ben's answer and his way to repay the man he held dear to his heart.

Stab—

One of the spears stabbed Ben's flanks.

"I, I did it...! I did it...!" The knight, whose face was glowing in excitement and happiness, shouted. However, he immediately turned speechless after seeing Ghost Spear Ben's face. Ben's expression did not waver at all. He smashed the spear with his hand, and blew the head of the knight that attacked him.

Puhaaaaaaaaa—

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

Then, Ben continued to charge forward once again.

Fwoooooooooosh—

Even when an arrow stabbed at Ben's shoulder, he never screamed or changed his expression; he kept on advancing. When someone stabbed his back with a dagger, he just turned around and cut down his attacker, before moving forward once again. All of it was for His Majesty's precious ones.



Ben's breath gradually became heavier and even his body started to slow down. However, he never stopped. He squeezed the last of his strength and ran as fast as he could.

"Uwooooooh!"

The bandages that covered Ben's body were soon dyed red with blood. He ran faster and stabbed his enemies quicker.

Baaaaaang—

An iron mace flew from the side and slammed into Ghost Spear Ben's body.

Slash—

Ben flew to the side and eventually lost his grip on his spear.

Clang—

Ben was bleeding through his head. The soldiers that rushed at him all believed, 'This time, he'll definitely fall.' But the old man just stood up, grabbed the dagger on his body and stabbed the knight that attacked him on the neck before moving forward once again.

"S, Stop him! Stop him!!!"

"Shit... What in the world is that old man!?"

Despite bleeding all over, the old man still continued to rush forward. As he slowly approached Haze and Luna, Ben hoped.

*'It's just a tiny wish... God, please give me a final burst of strength.'*

Ben did not believe in God yet he was praying to whoever was listening, to give him more strength and let his body endure longer so that he could go further.

Shwaaaaaaa—

Ben gripped the dagger in his hands tightly as he cut down his enemies one after the other. But then, three spears stabbed at his body at the same time which forced him to stop in his tracks. In the end, his body staggered while his vision started to blur. He thought of Haze and Luna but his body was already falling to the ground.

Thuuuuud—

Ghost Spear Ben might have fallen, but his mind was still clear.

*'Not yet. I can't die yet.'*

Ben crawled forward and slashed the legs of the knights that blocked his path.

"Aaaaaack!"

"Euaaaaack!"

Ben slowly got up on his feet. His steps were unsteady but he continued to move forward, grabbing the spear that one of the knights thrust towards him, stabbing the knight with his dagger, and yanking the spear out of his opponent's hands.

*‘Just a bit more...’*

Stab—

An arrow hit Ben’s shoulder, but he continued to cut down his enemies.

*‘Just a bit more...’*

Stab, stab—

Another spear stabbed Ben’s chest, but he just cut down the enemy in front of him.

*‘Just a bit moooooooooore!!!’*

Baaaaang!

Someone sent magic to devour Ben’s body, but he just walked out of the fire pit as though he did not feel it, and ran forward.

Ridiculous as it may sound, Ben eventually reached his target. He was now only a hundred meters away from Luna and Haze. He was able to reach that point after breaking through the 40,000 strong troops.

Still, his body eventually reached its limits. However, he still pushed forward and did not allow himself to fall. From what it looked like, it was getting harder and harder for Ben to hold himself up.

*‘Please, please just give me one last burst of strength...’*

Ben recalled looking at Brod and Elpis and wanting to become stronger. He did not want to be just some named legend, he wanted to become the Beyond the Heavens’ sword and shield and protect his king. Ben wanted to stay with his king for a very long time and protect everyone with his power. Perhaps it was just him being greedy, but it did not matter. Even if he would be called greedy, all he wanted to do was serve his king for a little while longer.

Ghost Spear Ben, despite his wobbling figure, looked like he would be able to kill anyone.

“Don’t, don’t kill him!!! Don’t kill him!” Renzie sputtered unconsciously. He felt like it was a waste to kill such a great veteran. But even though Renzie shouted from behind them, the soldiers and knights still continued to attack Ben. They felt like they should never let this old man in front of them go.

*‘Give the old man a split second of reprieve and it would be our heads that would fly off.’*

One of the knights stabbed Ghost Spear Ben through his neck believing that it was now the end of the old man’s massacre. But then...

[The One that Gained Enlightenment.]

[Demon Kimaris’ power has allowed you to overcome your final limits.]

[The One that Wants to Protect. The One that Wants to Win. The One that has Realized his Own Weakness. You have awakened your final powers!]

[All of your stats have increased by 25%.]

[Your Ghost Spearmanship has surpassed the MAX limit.]

[You have obtained another spearmanship on top of your Ghost Spearmanship!]

[A special privilege will be given to the One that Gained Enlightenment.]

[Your HP and MP has increased to 40%!]

This was one of Kimaris' special abilities that could only be triggered whenever he was nearby. It was a skill that gave him the power to draw out the final growth of his ally that had reached their limits and allow them to overcome that very same limit. The skill activating meant that Kimaris was somewhere around this area. And...

Blink—

...the closed eyes of the dying Ghost Spear Ben suddenly opened, while a few of the injuries that he sustained began to recover. Then, Ben snatched the spear lodged in his throat.

"Hiiiiiiik!" Before the knight could finish screaming, his neck was already bent at an unusual angle as Ben, with his Ghost Spearmanship that went beyond the max level, expressed his skill.

"Ghost's..."

Ben's voice sounded like a death sentence to the ears of the nearby troops, his spear glowing with an unusual reddish hue.

"...Attacking Spear."

The skill originally could only send out dozens of attacks towards the enemies' vital points. But now, it could send out hundreds.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

The hundreds of soldiers that blocked Ben's path all collapsed in that split second. Ghost Spear Ben just stepped over their bodies and continued moving forward, with his stronger spear and fiercer momentum.

"Stop him!!!" Renzie shouted, his entire being overcome with deep terror. He knew that he could stop the old man if he just stepped forward but he was not willing to do so.

*'Impossible.'*

All Renzie could think of was how impossible of a task it was. How could a lone old veteran trample and kill that many people to get to where they were?

"Hurry! Stop him!!!"

At Renzie's command, the knights hurriedly surrounded Ben to stop his advance. But Ghost Spear Ben had already become more powerful than earlier, his spear could now pierce through the knights' thicker and tougher armor and take their lives in one go.

“Grandpa Ben! Please, please stop! You’ll really die at this rate. Please, I beg you...!”  
Haze cried hoarsely.

But Ghost Spear Ben just looked at her with a hazy smile on his face and said, “I have never learned how to back down.”

“...!”

Renzie felt a twinge in his heart. There weren’t that many people that could bring him this much terror and no one that could make his heart feel pain like this. So, he spoke to the old man that was killing through his men with great sincerity, “Stop now, Mister Veteran! I am speaking to you with utmost sincerity. Come to our Lumae Kingdom. I will give you everything! I swear on my name. You are someone that deserves so much better! You! I want you!”

Renzie urged with great reference but Ghost Spear Ben was really a man that had never learned to back down. He continued to stab through the gaps of the knights’ armor and killed them one after another.

But no matter how strong Ben became, there was not much he could do against the number of his enemies. He sustained plenty more cuts and stabs to the point that his blood had already dyed the ground red. But he still continued to move forward, forward and forward and the knights kept on falling, falling, and falling.

*‘N, no... Do, don’t come here! Please. I don’t want to kill you!’*

Renzie felt that it was a waste that a great man like Ben would die. But Ghost Spear Ben had already reached Haze’s side. In the end, Renzie had to move to stop him. He stabbed his sword straight at the rushing old man’s abdomen.

Stab—

“...Damn it!” Renzie cursed. He could tell that his blow was a fatal one, it was so fatal that no one would be able to escape death. Renzie knew that his strike was enough to tear all of Ben’s internal organs apart.

*Drip, drip, drip—*

Ghost Spear Ben, with his torn abdomen, stumbled. The string that tied his hair together also broke apart, his black hair fluttering messily with the wind and covering his disheveled face.

Clang—

The spear in Ben’s hands clanged loudly as it fell on the ground. Seeing this, everyone believed that the old veteran would finally fall down now. But then, at that moment...

“The only one that I will serve...”

Ben’s voice, which was still filled with vitality, rang in everyone’s ears. Renzie looked down only to make eye contact with the old man through the gaps of his messy hair.

“...is His Majesty Minhyuk.”

Baaaaaaang—

Ben's fist slammed into Renzie's face.

"Keoheok!"

The burning pain that flared in Renzie's face forced a violent scream out of his mouth. But at that moment, Renzie felt something unusual.

*'The Beyond the Heavens' King... has won this man's heart completely...? I envy you... I'm so f\*cking jealous of you...!'*

At this very moment, Renzie felt extreme envy towards the king of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. But when he looked at Ben and saw his raised fist once again, Renzie felt a deeper terror, a fear that he had never felt in his entire life.

"Hiiiiiiiiik!"

The Warrior's Disciple, the Overlord's Descendant, one of the absolute existences in the entire continent... Renzie was now utterly terrified, his hands crossed over his face to protect himself. Everyone that witnessed the scene was extremely shocked. Then...

Piiiiiiiiiiiiing—

A spear of light suddenly pierced through Ghost Spear Ben's heart. This was Dragon Elder Velach's magic. Velach had been watching the situation with great interest and only decided to take action at this very moment.

"..."

Although Ghost Spear Ben's heart had been pierced through, his body did not shake or waver at all. Everyone believed that it was so he could protect his king's pride and honor. But slowly, ever so slowly, his body fell down.

Thud—

Blood started to drip down from Ben's chest, his vision starting to blur. But suddenly Ghost Spear Ben thought, *'I want to see His Majesty's smile as he eats something delicious.'*

The thought of his king brought a wide smile to the dying Ben's lips. Despite his haggard look and bloodied appearance, the smile that he showed at this very moment was more beautiful than any of his smiles. Then, Ben muttered the word that he always wanted to say, the word that he always hid in his heart, the word that he never allowed himself to say...

"Son..."

Snow began to fall and cover everything in white.

Chapter 503: The One that Became a Demigod

Akhan had many followers from all over the world that were working actively in the dark. One of them was a Korean player by the name of Lucio, who immediately followed Akhan's movements the moment he entered the Asgan Continent. When the NPC named Renzie appeared with Haze and the hatchling followed by Ghost Spear Ben, Lucio immediately turned on his internet broadcast. The reason?

*'I need to show the world how weak Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is.'*

In the first place, Akhan aimed to bring down the entire Athenian worldview. He also wanted to show the world how weak ordinary players were during the process. That was why Lucio turned on his broadcast. He believed that he would be able to show the Korean players how the old man called Ghost Spear, a person that had overcome several obstacles and adversities, would die in vain. But the result was...

“Ah...” Lucio let out a sigh. His heart was pounding fiercely, his breath was ragged and even his head was spinning. He felt like he was going to burst into tears. In fact, if he had not caught himself in time, he would have already applauded the old man.

The old man, all by his lone self, desperately broke through the 40,000 strong enemy troops.

For a moment, Lucio wondered if the old man in front of him was truly just an artificial intelligence that was created by humans. Looking at the old man invoked empathy from deep within Lucio.

*‘Get yourself together!’*

But he was Akhan’s follower, that was why Lucio did his best to control his emotions. However, he could not stop the people watching his broadcast. Among the hundreds of thousands of viewers that watched his stream, many watched Ben with admiration, marvel, and applause.

[It’s like a movie... Ghost Spear Ben is really cool...]

[How many people can jump into the fray and fight against tens of thousands of enemies to save Haze and the hatchling?]

[Don’t you think the white snow falling at this time is like the skies honoring him?]

[Get up! Get up, Ben! Ghost Spear Ben, stand up!!!]

[Get up, Ben!!!]

[Get up, Ben!!!]

Despite the people’s hopes and expectations, none of them could deny the fact that Ghost Spear Ben was unable to move anymore. Ben’s heart was already torn apart, blood gushing down the ground. The skies rained down white snow on Ben, turning his body colder by the second. The only sign that he was still holding on to his life was the slight twitch in his body.

“Grandpa! Grandpaaaaaa!” Haze screamed. The knights immediately blocked her path while turning to look at Renzie. When Renzie nodded slightly, the knights opened up a path for Haze. Haze immediately ran to Ben, checking his body all over. Ben’s body was riddled with holes, his flesh already torn and falling apart. It was obvious that he would not be able to move anymore with the state of his body. But Ghost Spear Ben still moved.

“Grandpa, don’t die! Please! Don’t die!!!”

Haze did not care about her own death. But she knew the reason why Ghost Spear Ben moved so recklessly and desperately. That was why she was both sad and torn. Renzie trudged in front of Haze, who was holding Ghost Spear Ben close to her, and raised his fist on his left chest. He was paying his respects to the true warrior in front of him.

Thump—

Thump—

Thump—

Thump—

The tens of thousands of soldiers immediately followed right after and paid their tribute to Ben. This was a final courtesy to their enemy that showed great tenacity, will and abilities.

[F\*ck... Ghost Spear Ben is dead. Ah, I'm crying. He's really cool... ??]

[Even though he was their enemy, the troops still admitted Ben's prowess. Chivalry is cool.]

Everyone stood still for a moment in honor of Ghost Spear Ben and the path that he chose. Without saying a word, Renzie turned around. He needed to do what he had to do.

Haze just hugged Ben and sobbed. She whispered hoarsely to Ben's ears, "If you go like this then... If you go like this, then His Majesty will be sad. You know that you can't go like this...!"

Renzie nodded at the knights as the knights immediately rushed to separate Haze from Ben.

"Noo! Noooo! Grandpa! Grandpaaaaaa...!"

Then...

Twitch—

Ben's fingers twitched.

\*\*\*

Ghost Spear Ben felt comfortable. He was now able to put down all the weight that he carried his entire life and fall into eternal rest. As his body slowly cooled down and his consciousness started to blur, the life that he lived started to flash in his eyes. At the end of his life's story, Minhyuk stood with a bright smile on his face.

*'Your Majesty...'*

To his sorrow, Ben collapsed after seeing the bright smile on Minhyuk's face replaced with tears. Minhyuk wept as he looked at him.

*'Why are you crying like that...?'*

Haze's voice pierced through his blurring consciousness, "If you go like this then... If you go like this then His Majesty will be sad. You know that you can't go like this...!"

Ben immediately tried to gather his slipping consciousness as he moved his cooling hands.

Twitch—

Ben was only able to gather enough strength to move his fingers. But that was enough. Ben slowly, ever so slowly, pulled out something from his pockets. It was the thing that Elpis had handed over to him before.

*'Grandpa Ben, you're training very hard every night because you want to become stronger, right? Here, Brod left this gift before he left the territory.'*

The item was none other than the 'Demigod Training Parchment'. Elpis had told him that he could die if he used the parchment recklessly. But Ben did not want to see his king cry sadly because of him.

Riiiiip—

Ben squeezed the last of his strength to grip the parchment and rip it apart. And then...

Thump—

...his arm fell down as his mind turned blank.

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Riiiiiiiiip—

"...?!"

Renzie turned to look back in shock. It was because Ghost Spear Ben squeezed that last of his strength and tore something apart.

*'What the hell...?!'*

The old man had brought them one shock after another. And just when they thought everything was over, the old man shocked them once again. All of them wondered why Ghost Spear Ben was that strong.

Renzie could not figure out what the parchment that Ghost Spear Ben had torn apart. At that moment, Dragon Elder Velach, a dragon that had lived for thousands of years, said, "Isn't that a Demigod Training Parchment?"

"What's that?"

"You should know that many strong people covered the continent a long time ago."

The proud Renzie had no choice but to admit it after hearing Elder Velach's words. The past and the present were completely different. The past might mean tens of thousands of years ago, perhaps even more than that, but the present was just that, the present.

The Continental Empress Ellie was also hailed as a slightly remarkable legend in the past.

"But among them, a small number of talented, strong people transcended the general strength and reached a higher level. They were people that despised the limits created by their human bodies and decided to challenge the harsh trials and tribulations, walking the path of a 'Demigod', a being among the Continental Gods that is half human and half god."

The Continental Gods' prime examples were Sword God Valen and the Food God. The Continental Gods were gods that socialized and interacted with humans on earth.

"I am aware of the existence of the Continental Gods, but I am not aware of the Demigods."



“That’s only natural. Demigods are absolute existences. Less than hundred of them are born in tens of thousands of years. I have no idea on how many demigods have been born in the Asgan Continent. But each of the demigods in their own fields have created a path for their descendants to inherit their skills. That is the Demigod Training Parchment.”

“...?!”

Renzie immediately turned to look back at Ben in shock. But Ben’s body was still in the process of turning cold. In fact, the snow was already piling up on his body.

“That’s a relief. It seems like there’s still a lot of Demigod Parchments scattered around in the continent. However, none of the challengers have ever succeeded in completing these trials. That’s just how painful and difficult these trials are. That human’s disposition and temperament are excellent, I admit that. However, he would not be able to inherit the Demigod’s Path like that. He’s just hastening his death.”

“...Does that mean that old man, who looks to be dead, is undergoing a trial?”

“He must be facing a demigod that fits him. The time inside the trial and the outside world is different. Perhaps ten or a hundred days have already passed inside but to us it’s just a few seconds or minutes.”

“...”

Renzie could tell that the old man was trying to grab at last straws. But listening to Velach, he knew that it was impossible for the man to inherit that path. Ghost Spear Ben was a truly outstanding and respectable figure. However, compared to the geniuses of the present era, his power was not enough.

“It’s snowing a lot,” Renzie noted bitterly as he recalled the man that tried to protect his precious loved ones until the very end while watching the falling snow.

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President Kang Taehoon noticed that the meeting room was in turmoil.

“Ghost, Ghost Spear Ben... he’s for real. He’s an existence that went beyond the limits of artificial intelligence and players and connected them together!”

“Ghost Spear Ben is the prime example of someone breaking down the wall that separated the NPCs from the players. I can feel my heart pounding just by watching this scene.”

“President Kang Taehoon had always hoped that the NPCs and the players would become true friends. It seems like it’s now a reality.”

But President Kang Taehoon could not smile. This was because Ghost Spear Ben, the old man that Food God Minhyuk loved and cherished, was slowly turning into a cold corpse. Even the others felt sorry for Ben.

“We know for sure that there would be people strong enough to challenge the Demigod Training Parchment in two years. But right now? It’s absolutely impossible.”

“In the end, Ghost Spear Ben is just one among the many legendary NPCs, fallen and scattered in the world.”

“It’s a pity, but what he’s trying to do is impossible.”

“This is sad.”

All of them said the same thing. In fact, even President Kang Taehoon thought the same. But just in case, he still asked Athenae, who was linked to his mobile phone.

[Athenae. What’s the probability of Ghost Spear Ben successfully inheriting the power of the Demigod?]

[The highest probability that he can get is 0.2%.]

The probability that Athenae calculated was dependent on Ghost Spear Ben’s power and potential. The fact that the highest probability was 0.2% meant that Ben’s chances of succeeding were lower than that.

Perhaps he only had less than 0.1% of chances if things did not go his way.

President Kang Taehoon had already expected this answer, but he still could not help but rub his face in exasperation. News about the death of a Named NPC, an event that occurred several times a day, would be reported to the NPC Management Team. The NPC Management Team was similar to the Special Players Management Team, but instead of managing players, they were managing NPCs.

“What’s the situation in Baroque Kingdom’s capital?”

No matter how sad the situation was now, Kang Taehoon did not have the leisure to feel sadness. But just when he asked that question...

Clack—

The door slammed open as the NPC Management Team Leader entered.

\*\*\*

The snowstorm was getting worse by the second. Finally, Elder Velach was able to see the dragon, Luna.

“Kihyeeeeeeee! Kihyeeeeeeee!” Luna cried sadly as he looked over to where Ghost Spear Ben was.

“My King, you should not waste your tears for such an insignificant human. Now that I’m here, you don’t have to worry about anything.”

“Kihyeee! Kihyee! Kihyeeeeee!”

But tears kept on falling down Luna’s cheeks. Luna was growing steadily and was able to completely understand the feeling of sadness, as well as Ben’s hope to protect them. She felt deep sadness in her heart. And...

“Kihyeeeeee!!!” Luna cried out as she struggled out of Velach’s hold. She spread her tiny wings and fluttered to where Ghost Spear Ben, who was now completely covered in snow, was.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeee!”

Luna’s tears continued to drip down. The knights and the soldiers that were concerned about Luna’s movements immediately gathered around her.

“I’ll do it,” Renzie said as he walked forward to try and separate Luna from Ghost Spear Ben. But then, at that moment...

Swoooooooooosh—

“...?”

An incomprehensible phenomena suddenly appeared in front of Renzie. The white snow that covered Ghost Spear Ben’s body began to melt. As...

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

...a huge pillar of light fell down from the sky into Ghost Spear Ben’s hands.

“Kghhhhhhk!”

“Keoheok?!”

“Ugh! Heooooook?!”

All of the humans present were forced to kneel down from the absolute power that fell down from the skies. None of them could go against it at all. In fact, it was so powerful that even the Dragon Elder, Velach, was reeling from the aura that surrounded them. The pillar of light was extremely blinding that all of them were forced to close their eyes.

Renzie, who gradually regained his vision, saw an unbelievably ridiculous sight in front of him. The thing that they assumed was a pillar of light was in fact a spear. It was a spear made of light and it was slowly falling down from the skies to where Ghost Spear Ben was.

Ben’s left hand was gently placed on top of the crying Luna’s head while his right hand stretched toward the skies, reaching for the spear of light.

Graaaaaab—

The moment his hand caught the falling spear of light...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

...it burst out in another flash of blinding light. It was so bright that it was comparable to the sun that lit up the entire world. And Ghost Spear Ben, who everyone believed was already dead, opened his mouth and said, "Aerdes' Spearmanship Chapter Four."

Ben's hoarse yet firm voice made Renzie, Dragon Elder Velach, and even the rest of the troops tense up from both nervousness and pressure. Then, the snow that was falling on the ground suddenly stopped mid-air.

"Spear of Destruction."

Chapter 504: The One that Became a Demigod

The snowstorm was blowing so fiercely that none of the people present could see clearly in front of them. But the thick falling of snow suddenly stopped mid-air. Some of the people smiled brightly at this phenomena, knowing that Ghost Spear Ben was once again moving.

*'It's... beautiful...'*

It was as if time had stopped in this space. Finally, Ghost Spear Ben's mouth, which paused after he uttered 'Aerdes' Spearmanship', opened once again, "Spear of Destruction."

The moment Ben's voice fell, the knights, who were looking at the snow, turned back to him only to see the spear of light in Ben's hand shine brightly and release hundreds of spears of light. These beautiful spears of light suddenly flew out and shot through the hearts of Ben's enemies.

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

It stabbed one, two, three, four, five, seven, ten people in one go. The spears of light broke through more than ten thick sheets of metal armor, reaped the lives of those soldiers, before continuing to extend forward.

*Sizzle—*

Even Dragon Elder Velach's face was torn and dripping with blood from the attack, "Ugh!"

Renzie, who tried to stop the spears of light, flew back from the impact and vomited a mouthful of blood, "Urk!" He collapsed on the ground and could not come back to his senses for a while. He tried so hard to clear his muddled head by shaking it hard, but the scene presented in front of him made him feel numb.

"This, this... impossible..."

More than 3,000 knights, soldiers, and monsters disappeared into ashes as the spears of light bloomed beautifully in their midst.

*Shwaaaaaaaaa—*

Ghost Spear Ben slowly rose amidst the thousands of spears that floated in the air. His black hair, which grew long enough to reach his waist, fluttered fiercely in the wind. Along with his spectacular revival, a shocking notification rang for all of the players present.

[Player 'Anonymous' has successfully developed and raised their vassal to overcome the limits of their human body and reached the level of a Demigod.]

[This is the appearance of this era's new transcendent. A Demigod has been born to the world!!!]

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

Everyone present was shocked. Lucio, Akhan's follower, hurriedly tried to end his broadcast. However, it was already too late.

[Ghost Spear Ben became... a god...?]

[A Demigod...? Did I see that correctly?]

[An NPC can become a god on their own?]

[Ghost Spear Ben is alive... Ghost Spear Ben is back!!!]

[Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is crazy... Every time someone has done something that no one in the world has done, you can rest assured that they're from Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

[That's f\*cking awesome... for real. God Ghost Spear right after our Lord Food God?]

[At this rate, won't Beyond the Heavens Kingdom be a balance breaker...?]

[Yepyp. And another yepyp. Beyond the Heavens Kingdom has completely thrown the balance of the world into disarray. But even if I wanted to say something, I can't say anything after seeing how cool Ghost Spear Ben is...]

Lucio chewed his lips. The broadcast that he hoped would bring the downfall of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was now promoting it. In the end...

*'F\*ck it all.'*

Although Lucio followed Akhan, he only dreamt of seeing the collapse of Athenae for fun. In a way, he was just one of the many players that were broadcasting.

*'Should I go for it and do a proper broadcast to increase my number of subscribers?!'*

Lucio decided to just continue his broadcast.

Vwoooooooooong—

Although Ghost Spear Ben was just standing there and holding his spear, there was an unapproachable aura emitting from his body. His sharp eyes immediately turned to where Luna and Haze were. Renzie hurriedly got back on his feet. He knew that the situation right now was very unusual.

"Stop hiiiiiiiiim!!!"

With Renzie's cry, the knights immediately sent out sword lights and arrows of their own toward Ben. But Ghost Spear Ben just swiped his spear in the skies as if he was cutting air. And the moment the enemies' attacks fell down...

Puhaaaaaaaaa—

...a strong wind blew and destroyed all of their attacks.

“...?!”

Renzie’s eyes turned wide as he looked at the scene in disbelief. Meanwhile, Ghost Spear Ben stepped forward and hugged Luna.

“Godly Steps.”

This was a godly footwork. Despite tens of thousands of eyes focusing on Ben, none of them, with the only exception of Elder Velach, could chase after him. In a blink, Ben arrived in front of Haze, with Luna in his hands. He quickly hugged Haze and handed Luna over to her as he put them on a nearby horse.

Thwack—

The horse neighed loudly as it reared its legs and ran swiftly after being smacked strongly on its behind. The knights, soldiers and monsters immediately flocked forward to block Ben’s path and kill him.

.

Slaaaaaash—

Ben’s spear stretched forward, smashing plenty of metal armors and killing another five knights in one go.

Swoooooosh—

Slaaaaaaaaash—

Each swing of Ben’s spear killed several knights.

Swiiiiish—

Sometimes, the knights’ bodies would be cut in half. Ben’s figure was reminiscent of that of the Spear God, as he protected the horse and swept away the troops that blocked their path.

At that moment, Velach thought that he could not let Luna slip away like that. A tremendous force started to gather in front of Velach’s mouth.

“Sh, shit...! Please stop that immediately! There are our allies out there!” Renzie cried out.

However, dragons had never taken any human life seriously. It was just like how humans have sacrificed cattles for generations. It did not matter to them whether it was a cattle or a human, both are the same level of existence to them.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Velach, the dragon elder that had lived for thousands of years, fired a red burst of breath toward Ghost Spear Ben.

“Hihihihihing!” The horse cried loudly as it tried to widen the distance between itself and the dragon. Ghost Spear Ben took this opportunity to turn around and point his spearhead toward the Dragon’s Breath.

*‘He can never stop it.’*

Could a human even stop a dragon’s breath? Impossible. Velach had never met such an existence before in his life. However, that was only ‘before’. Velach had lived for tens of thousands of years, but it was at this moment that he felt extreme shock when he saw Ghost Spear Ben’s spearhead pointing against his breath.

“Aerdes’ Spearmanship, Chapter Six.”

The tip of Ben’s spear slowly turned black.

“Reflect.”

Swooooooosh—

The powerful Dragon’s Breath that loomed over Ghost Spear Ben was absorbed by the tip of his spear. After his spearhead devoured everything, Ben pointed it back toward Velach.

Baaaaaaaaang—

A powerful Dragon’s Breath suddenly shot out of the tip of Ben’s spear, pushing his body back.

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh—

At the same time, Velach immediately created several red shields in front of him.

Baaaaaaaaang—

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—

But the force that flew out of Ben’s spear was not something that Velach could stop so suddenly. In the end, the shield broke apart, as the attack surged forth to devour Velach’s body.

“Keuaaaaaaack!!!” Dragon Elder Velach roared loudly. However, Ben did not stop, immediately executing the Godly Steps.

Spuuuurt—

The entire world watched in shock and disbelief as Ben’s spear of light pierced through Dragon Velach’s body, a dragon that was strong enough to be hailed as a Dragon Elder. Velach tried so hard to shake Ben off, he even stuck to the ground and writhed.

“Keuaaaaaaack! Graaaaaaaaaa!”

Ben, who once again used the Godly Steps, rode the horse and escorted Haze and Luna away. Without anyone realizing it, the number of bodies that Ben had cut down had already reached 15,000, the pile of corpses turning into a mountain.

Although Haze saw everything with her own eyes, she still could not believe it, “Grandpa Ben...! You became a god. That’s so amazing! Truly, utterly amazing!!!”

Haze could tell that Ben's newfound powers would be a great help to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. She could even imagine how happy Minhyuk would be to learn that Ben had grown stronger. So, she turned to look back at Ben with a wide smile on her face.

However, the sight in front of her made her voice shake, "G, grandpa...?"

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

This was because Ghost Spear Ben's body was slowly disintegrating and turning into black ash.

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Phone calls were pouring in Joy Co. Ltd.'s phones.

"We are currently in the middle of confirming this, please wait a moment and we will give you a response. Yes, hello. This is Joy. Co. Ltd. Ah, Ghost Spear Ben has broken the balance? Not at all. Our Joy. Co. Ltd. is a company that aims to have a game with no broken balances as much as possible... Yes, yes."

Most of the phone calls were from the broadcast viewers. All of them were protesting about why a vassal, and not a player, achieved godhood. It was a completely ridiculous feat in the history of Athenae.

At the same time, NPC Management Team Leader Han In-Hye and President Kang Taehoon were having a discussion in the conference hall.

"How did Ghost Spear Ben become a Demigod? I'm sure the probability of him achieving such a feat is only around 0.1%. You can't make excuses and say that he experienced divine intervention and got lucky."

It did not matter how Kang Taehoon felt, this obviously spelled a collapse in the game. It was inexcusable.

However, Team Leader Han In-Hye just shook her head and said, "The balance is not broken. It's because..."

She turned to look at the monitor displaying Ghost Spear Ben and his desperate fight to clear a path against tens of thousands of enemies. The old man was still doing his best and giving it his all.

"This is a miracle created from the deep bond between a player and an NPC. And..." Han In-Hye choked up, her eyes turning misty from tears, "...he did not achieve godhood."

Han In-Hye hurriedly wiped the tears that fell down her cheeks with her sleeves. President Kang Taehoon looked at the sobbing Han In-Hye in confusion.

*'What does she mean that Ghost Spear Ben did not achieve godhood?'*

Kang Taehoon, who was asking that question in his head, turned to the monitor and finally understood what she meant after seeing Ghost Spear Ben slowly disintegrate into a mysterious black ash.

*'What the hell happened?'*



Kang Taehoon wondered what happened when Ben met with Demigod Aerdes.

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In the distant past, five thousand years ago, Spear God Aerdes walked the path of the Demigod and took the name of Spear Transcendental. She was an absolute existence that eventually achieved godhood and became the Spear God.

As much of an absolute existence Aerdes was, she was also a very arrogant, picky and ill-tempered person. The Demigod Training trial that she had set was extremely gruesome and horrendous. Ten thousand times. If the one that took the trial could inflict a fatal wound in Aerdes just once during that ten thousand times then they would succeed. They could give up any time out of their ten thousand chances but before they gave up, Aerdes would make sure to kill her opponent in the most horrible and gruesome way.

But right now, Aerdes was forced to take a step back from the old man in front of her. The number of tries that the man had undergone already surpassed 3,000 times. During those 3,000 times, Aerdes had pulled out the man's eyes, cut off his limbs, and sometimes even made his heart explode. The pain that she had inflicted on the man was enough for anyone, even those with the greatest mental strength and will, to fold and go crazy.

But the old man never screamed or backed down, even when he had died countless times. He just continued to attack Aerdes. The creepiest part was...

"Let's do it again."

...the light in the old man's eyes never flickered. Aerdes was the great and arrogant Spear God, but she eventually acknowledged the strength and tenacity of the old man in front of her.

*'None of the legends have endured past a thousand times.'*

Most of the people that took her trial ended up going crazy. However, Aerdes also knew that Ghost Spear Ben would not be able to leave a nick on her body even after the ten thousand chances had been used up.

But, in recognition of the old man's unwavering will and tenacity, Aerdes said, "You need a stronger power?"

The old veteran remained silent but he nodded his head in answer. Aerdes looked at the man as she thought to herself, *'You have not received my recognition and will not be able to walk the path of a Demigod. However, I can lend you my power.'*

That was why Aerdes felt sad. She did not want to present this method but the man in front of her desperately needed and wanted it.

"I can let you inherit my power for a while. However, even though you will only inherit some of my god's power for a while, your body will not be able to endure it. Are you okay with that?"

The question that was raised implied that the old man would die. But the old man just nodded his head. However, Aerdes' words were not yet over.

“After facing death, your soul will fall into hell and be under the direct control of the God of Death. You will have to suffer for thousands of years even in death.”

Aerdes listed the pain and suffering that the old man would have to endure from the moment he inherited her power.

“Once your soul falls into hell, you will be forced to walk into a mountain of knives and feel the everlasting pain of being stabbed by their blades. You will also feel the pain of being cooked in a hot pot, the pain of being stuck in a cold block of ice, the pain of your tongue being pulled out, the pain of vipers wrapping around your body and biting you with their poisonous fangs, the pain of your bones being cut with a jagged saw, the pain of facing the biting wind with your bare body, the pain of being stuck in the dark and feeling despair and solitude with nothing on your body. You will remain in this void and continue to do so for thousands of years. You will even lose your shot at reincarnation. Will that be alright?”

Aerdes’ breath got caught in her throat. This was the first time that she had experienced such a feeling in her entire life. Even she, as the Spear God, felt her teeth clatter at the thought of that everlasting pain. She hoped that the man in front of her would reject her offer and run away. That he would let go of what he was trying to do and think for himself.

But for the first time since they met, the old man smiled and said, “I have never learned to back down.”

#### Chapter 505: Beyond the Heavens Kingdom versus Akhan

Kimaris, the 66th ranked devil, was temporarily staying at Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. He was also witness to everything that was happening and had happened to the kingdom in the meantime.

From the sudden raid in the capital, to the kidnapping of Haze and the hatchling Luna amidst the confusion and chaos, to Ben riding a horse and chasing the kidnapper alone, Kimaris did not have any intention of joining the war since he only wanted to enjoy one final ‘play’ here. In fact, it was also only through his curiosity that Kimaris chased after Ben. He only wanted to see what Ghost Spear Ben would do after chasing the enemy by himself.

Kimaris had a lot of abilities, and among them was ‘Animal Transformation’, an ability that allowed him to change into the figure of various animals. After turning himself into a black crow, Kimaris followed behind Ghost Spear Ben and saw everything that happened. Kimaris already knew that the old man was fighting a reckless battle that he would not survive.

However, the old man still shone brightly despite the recklessness of his actions.

“...”

Kimaris looked at the old man and asked him in his heart, *‘Why are you doing that? What will you gain with that?’*

Anyone could tell that the answer was nothing. But, even though the old man knew that he would gain nothing from this battle, he still faced their enemies and fought desperately. Even when Ben’s

body got torn and ripped apart, even when he vomited blood and collapsed on the ground, he still continued to stand up and fight.

Kimaris, someone that once was a human, felt his heart throb with long forgotten emotions after watching Ben's desperate fight. He was already shocked to see Ben fight like that, even when he stood to gain nothing, but he could not help but be surprised once again after seeing Ben trigger the 'One that Gained Enlightenment'. Ben overcame his limits and grew stronger which prompted him to move forward once again.

But in the end, the old man still died.

Kimaris might be interested in Ben but that was the end of it. He did not have any reason to help him nor did he have any intentions to do so. However, Kimaris was once again given another shock when Ben stood up once more and was named as a god.

"...How?"

Kimaris was both a clever and knowledgeable demon. He already knew the reason why Ghost Spear Ben was able to stand up once again. In fact, he met quite a few people that chose the same path as Ben in the past. However, these people faced terrible consequences. All of them got sentenced to thousands of years in hell, receiving punishment that was more painful than death.

However, it was an undeniable fact that Ghost Spear Ben chose this path.

"All of this for your king...?"

Throb—

Kimaris' heart throbbed once again as the memories of the king that he served, back when he was still a human, came flooding in his mind.

Kimaris was a black soldier who had made several contributions but when he was given an audience with the king, they did not give him the recognition that he deserved and even gave his contributions to someone else.

Back then, the king said, '*What's wrong with your skin color? Disgusting! Tidy yourself quickly!*'? That was right. The king that he served uttered those words the moment he saw him then threw him out of the hall, as if they were throwing out garbage.

But the king that Ghost Spear Ben served was different. There was a baby pig beside him, a Sword Saint, a demon that wrote novels, a foul-mouthed pirate, Cerberus, and many others. Their king embraced them and accepted them without any discrimination.

*'If the king that I served was... you then...'*

At this moment, Kimaris felt like he understood the reason why Elpis served this king, even just for a bit. Even so, Kimaris did not intend to help Ghost Spear Ben.

However, his hands betrayed his stoic face. They were soaked with cold sweat. Even his lips opened as he mumbled unconsciously, "Run. Run as far as you can, to the place where your king is."

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Haze shook her head fiercely.

Flash—

An excerpt from a book that she read a while ago appeared in her head.

*‘Those that desire the power of the gods but fail to reach godhood can sell their souls to the God of Death to gain their god’s power. In return, their souls will suffer for thousands of years in hell, their chances at reincarnation disappearing into dust.’*

Haze already knew the choice that Ben had made just by looking at the black ash that was fluttering from his body. But Ghost Spear Ben was still smiling kindly at her.

“When I first met His Majesty, he made me some Blue Crab Ramyeon. Just thinking about it is making my mouth water. I want to taste it again...”

“...”

Haze could only cry. Meanwhile, the hatchling, Luna, watched everything from beginning to end. She saw Ghost Spear Ben charging forward and fighting against tens of thousands of enemies for herself and Haze. He kept on standing up everytime he fell down, and did it over and over again. She was born with the Lord’s blood so she was also aware of the path that Ghost Spear Ben chose.

“Kiyeeeeeeeeeee! Kiyeeeeeeeeeee! Kiyeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!” Luna cried loudly, eyes bursting into tears.

But Ben’s smile continued to shine radiantly as he looked at Luna, who was perched on the horse, and said, “It’s alright, Luna. People will die one day.”

As Luna grew, she also learnt of fear. And when she learnt of death, she felt like she was about to combust from the fear and sadness at the thought of someone dying. But Ghost Spear Ben, who was on the verge of death, just smiled.

This situation was a first for a young hatchling like her. That was why she could not understand why someone would choose to abandon themselves to protect something. Even so, Luna found Ben’s smile at this moment brighter than anyone’s smile.

That was when Luna realized that living her life for someone else and making sacrifices was something that was worth the pain and effort. She also learned that it was something that one can smile about. Then, a bright light burst out of Luna’s body. Luna had gained plenty of realizations and enlightenment from Beanie.

However, this time, it was different.

[Luna has learnt a lot about the Spirit of ‘Sacrifice’.]

[Sacrificing yourself for someone else is both a happy and painful thing. She realizes a new will and has grown rapidly.]

[All of Luna’s stats have increased by +20.]

.

[Luna’s father, Minhyuk, has acquired a +2 in all of his stats as a reward.]

[Luna has made a decision at this very moment. She dreams of becoming a merciful dragon that can embrace all beings in the world.]

[Luna will now walk the path of a Benevolent Dragon Lord.]

Hearing that, Ghost Spear Ben looked kindly at Luna and said, "That's right. Luna should become a great dragon."

"Kihyeeeeeeeeee!"

And once again, Ghost Spear Ben started to break through the gaps of their enemies.

*'I don't have much time left.'*

Flaaaaash—

Ghost Spear Ben began to accelerate. Not long after, he succeeded in breaking through the waves of enemies that blocked their path. Ghost Spear Ben climbed onto the horse once again.

"Hiyaaaaa! Hiyaaaaaaa!"

Over 20,000 strong troops began to chase after them. And Renzie murmured as he watched Ben rush away from them, "He really... succeeded...?"

The things that Ben had achieved with his sheer will and tenacity alone were extremely amazing.

Ghost Spear Ben kept on riding the horse, heading towards one of the small drainage pipe connected to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. He was able to successfully reach their destination by fending off the enemies that occasionally outran them and sometimes turning around to block them himself. When they arrived in front of a very small passageway, Ghost Spear Ben smiled softly and said, "Miss Haze, please take care of Luna."

"Gr, grandpa..."

But Haze could not step away from him. She knew that Ben would disappear from here alone and in a bitter situation, in front of a smelly and dirty drainage pipe, and not in the arms of the king that he loved and treasured.

"Please do not waste my death."

"...Yes."

Haze had no other choice but to hug Luna tightly. It was already a miracle that they made it all the way here. Ben's sacrifice should not be wasted. Haze immediately entered the small drainage pipe.

"Kihyeeeeeeeeee!" Luna cried desperately for Ghost Spear Ben. She was telling him that she did not want to go.

But Ben just continued to smile kindly at her while waving his hand and saying, "Hurry. You should go now, Luna."

Luna and Haze disappeared into the darkness of the drainage pipe. Seeing this, Ghost Spear Ben turned around to face tens of thousands of enemies once again.

Stab—

Ben stabbed his spear into the ground and declared, “None of you can pass through here.”

Renzie gritted his teeth. They paid homage to the old veteran’s will, but in the end the old man succeeded in what he wanted to do, giving them a very hard time in the process. It was also because of this old man that he lost thousands of his allies.

“Attack!!!”

A fierce battle began once again. Ghost Spear Ben, who inherited the power of the Spear God, was at a level that far surpassed the level of the Absolute Supreme NPC, Ellie.

Craaaaaack—

One swing of Ben’s spear and dozens of his enemies would die.

Slaaaaaash—

One stab of his spear and dozens more would perish. Even after ten, twenty, thirty minutes had passed, Ghost Spear Ben’s momentum did not falter.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—

Dragon Elder Velach, who joined the troops, bombarded Ben with dozens of magical attacks. However, even when explosions bloomed around him, Ghost Spear Ben stood firm and blocked the drainage pipe that Haze and Luna entered. But slowly, ever so slowly...

[You are starting to lose Aerdes’ power.]

The power that Ben inherited from Aerdes was slowly slipping away from him. The unwavering Ghost Spear Ben, an existence that the enemy troops could not win against, started to weaken and it was showing.

“So, you sold your soul to the gods.”

Dragon Elder Velach could not understand why a king, who could command such a sentimental and loyal human, kidnapped Luna and turned her into a dragon of destruction. But that question only flashed in Velach’s head for a moment. It was true that they stole the egg that hatched Luna. That was why they would never stop their attack on them. And finally...

Thuuuuud—

Ghost Spear Ben fell down on one knee.

Shwaaaaaa—

The black ash that fluttered from his body also started to increase. Ben tried his hardest to not let his other knee fall but in the end...

Thud—

He was forced to kneel down on both knees, his hands losing his grip on the spear of light.

Clang—

The spear of light that fell on the floor turned into black ash that disappeared into the wind. Ben’s borrowed time was about to end. None of the people present was interested in making a move on Ben. After all, he was already unable to fight.

But despite all of that, Ghost Spear Ben was smiling lightly. Luna and Haze would have definitely run quite a distance now. Even if the troops in front of him entered the passage and ran after them, they would definitely reach Valencia first.

*‘I have lived a life with no regrets.’*

Ben was already starting to feel everything slip away from him. Darkness was already encroaching on his blurry vision. There was only one person that flashed in his mind just when he was about to enter his eternal suffering.

When they hunted Black Dragon Vormon, Ben used his ‘Pinnacle Spear’ and ended up dying. Back then, a fuming Minhyuk told him, *‘Grandpa. You absolutely cannot do something so reckless next time. Every day, you keep on saying ‘I never learnt to back down.’ I don’t like that line one bit! Grandpa, you should know that the elderly should live a long, happy and healthy life!’*

*‘Hohoho. My son... no, Your Majesty, you’re such a worrywart. Are you telling this old man to live longer?’*

*‘You have to promise me grandpa. You can’t do something this reckless again.’*

*‘Hoho. Alright. I promise. I promise.’*

Minhyuk’s smiling face appeared in front of Ben.

Tremble—

Ben stretched out his trembling fingertips and reached out for him. For some reason, it felt like he was able to touch the figure in his fantasies. It seemed like his death was truly just right around the corner. After all, he could vividly see the illusion in front of him. In fact, even his hearing had already disappeared. Even so, Ben still continued to reach out to caress Minhyuk’s face.

*‘Your Majesty, I don’t think I can keep my promise with you.’*

Ben murmured to himself. But then, something warm touched the pads of his fingers. The warmth then dragged Ben’s hands to what felt like a cheek. For a moment, just a very brief moment, Ben’s hearing and vision cleared up.

The scene that greeted him was the collapse of all the troops present and Dragon Velach writhing in pain. And the one that took Ghost Spear Ben’s hands and cradled it to a warm face was the person that he wanted to see the most.

This very same person was sobbing loudly in front of him.

The man sobbed as he hugged the kneeling Ben, “I’m sorry I’m late, Grandpa.”

“Ho, hohoho... hohoho...”

The strong and firm Ben began to tremble as tears finally flowed down his cheeks. Ghost Spear Ben slowly pulled himself away from the hug. And even though his body was slowly disappearing, he still reached out to wipe the tears on Minhyuk’s face and said, “Don’t cry, my king.”

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CC’s Thoughts

I think my laptop is broken. The screen strangely looks blurry. \*sob\*

## Chapter 506: Beyond the Heavens Kingdom versus Akhan

Since Minhyuk was on a private plane bound to America, he could not receive any messages. In other words, it was only when they landed and he got off the plane that he was able to learn about the situation in Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and Baroque Kingdom. That was also when Minhyuk saw the number one topic in the real-time search words.

A deep sense of ominous foreboding came over Minhyuk's body the moment he saw the topic. He immediately clicked on it and learnt that the 'veteran' was none other than Ghost Spear Ben, a person that Minhyuk loved and cherished.

Minhyuk dropped everything and hurriedly ran toward his Athenae capsule. He headed straight to where Ben was the moment he accessed the game.

"Ah..." Minhyuk uttered in shock as he screeched to a halt.

Ghost Spear Ben might be quite playful and mischievous, but he was a strong and very reliable person in Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Now, his once healthy and lively figure was kneeling on the ground, while his body was slowly crumbling into black ash that scattered in the wind.

Minhyuk felt the strings of his rationality snap when he saw Ben's miserable figure. The first thing that Minhyuk did was break down and close the passage that led to the drainage pipe that Luna and Haze entered in. Then he rampaged and swept through everyone around him.

"Th, that... the Beyond the Heavens King...!" Renzie shouted in shock. He could not believe his eyes. This was because the king in front of him was much stronger than what they had heard. But Minhyuk's strength did not come from his wrath at seeing Ben's situation. It was because he had gained a lot of power in Japan and came back stronger than ever.

By the end of his rampage, he even brought down Dragon Elder Velach to his knees. As Minhyuk stood in the air, his eyes caught the sight of Ghost Spear Ben reaching out.

Minhyuk, who suffered from eating addiction, did not have any proper friends in real life. Ever since he started playing Athenae as some sort of therapy, he was able to build a lot of connections. Among his countless connections, Ghost Spear Ben was the very first person that stayed by his side as a vassal and a retainer. Although Minhyuk claimed that Ben was his personal 'barista', he always felt reassured whenever he saw him standing at the frontlines. The coffee that Ben made was the warmest, sometimes the coldest, and most of the time, the sweetest coffee that Minhyuk had ever tasted.

Minhyuk had always viewed Ben like he viewed his grandfather in reality. And this very same Ben was now slowly sinking into his eternal rest after doing his damndest to protect those that were precious to Minhyuk.

Minhyuk approached Ben slowly. He grabbed Ben's outstretched hands and wrapped it with his own warm ones. Ben's eyes, which had already lost focus, began to shine once again with vitality.



*‘His hands are cold.’*

They were also rough from his endless training, swinging his spear until his hands got torn, and bloody and calluses formed thickly on them. But Ben’s cold and rough hands felt the warmest right now to Minhyuk as he brought it to his cheeks.

“Ho... Hoho... Hohoho...”

Ghost Spear Ben’s stalwart body shook violently as tears fell down his cheeks. Minhyuk fell down on his knees as he hugged Ben tightly. The two of them hugged for a moment until Ben pushed his body away to wipe the tears off of Minhyuk’s face.

“Don’t cry, my king,” Ben said, grinning widely. “This old man is very glad that I get to see you, Your Majesty. Please forgive my recklessness this time...”

Ghost Spear Ben’s body started to turn into black ash and disappear from his feet upwards.

“N, no...” Minhyuk cried, tears falling nonstop. He could not let go of Ghost Spear Ben just like that. Especially not after hearing his story from Locke, who met with Haze at Valencia. He knew that Ghost Spear Ben’s death here would not be a simple death.

From what Minhyuk heard, Ghost Spear Ben would suffer pain and torment for thousands of years in hell. Even his shot at salvation, a ‘reincarnation’, had been taken away from him. Although Athenae was a game, as long as Athenae existed, they would be people that lived in this world and the pain that they would experience would be real.

*‘I need a method. Damn! I need a way to deal with this!’*

Minhyuk felt the top of his head turn cold from the snow as he thought of a way to get Ben out of this dire situation.

*‘Ah...!’*

That was when Minhyuk recalled an item that he had obtained from one of the rewards that the ‘Absolute Gods’ bestowed upon him not too long ago. This item was none other than the ‘Resetting Potion’.

Without further thought, Minhyuk had chosen one person for this very amazing and outstanding potion. And that person was none other than Ghost Spear Ben. This was because Ben was always standing at the frontline. On top of that, he was someone that never backed down.

In a way, the Resetting Potion’s use should be deliberated carefully. After all, it was a miraculous potion that would return one’s body’s state back to its state at the designated time. However, the potion was a double-edged sword. After all, it would be a waste if the chosen person was extremely stronger than when he was in the past. But, it had not been that long since Minhyuk had chosen Ghost Spear Ben.

Besides, Ben was already at the crossroads of death, this was the perfect time to use the potion. His lower half was already gone. In fact, even his upper body was slowly disintegrating.

Pop—

Minhyuk popped the potion bottle quickly and poured it into Ghost Spear Ben's mouth.

*'Please...'*

Minhyuk desperately pleaded and prayed that Ghost Spear Ben would be able to remain by his side, that he would return to a time when he did not need to receive a terrible punishment.

Gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp—

Ben struggled to gulp down the potion that was given to him. By the time the final drop of the potion was gone, his entire body was already glowing in a brilliant light.

[You have used the Resetting Potion.]

[Everything will now go back to your specified time.]

.

“...!”

Minhyuk smiled brightly. He was very glad to know that he did not have to separate ways with Ben.

“Grandpa! You're not going to die!!! You can stay with me...!”

But at that moment, a shocking set of notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears.

[The effects of the Resetting Potion are temporarily suspended.]

[Ben needs to receive punishment from Aerdes. Using the Resetting Potion to undo everything will break the laws of causality.]

“...!”

Minhyuk's smiling face turned stiff. Fortunately, Ben's body stopped disappearing.

[Athenae and the Absolute Gods have begun a discussion with the other gods.]

Minhyuk's heart thumped wildly in nervousness after knowing that the gods were having a discussion. They had been silent and had not given him any answer for a while.

Then, Ghost Spear Ben's body started to disintegrate once again.

“Wh, what...?!”

Minhyuk had definitely used the Resetting Potion but the power that Ghost Spear Ben had temporarily inherited was too much. The burden that Ben's body had to take was too much. Then, the notifications rang again.

[Ghost Spear Ben's Absolute Gods' Trial has begun.]

[Your connection with Ghost Spear Ben will be cut off.]

[If Ghost Spear Ben fails to complete the trial, he will receive punishment from Aerdes.]

[If Ghost Spear Ben clears the trial, he will be exempted from Aerdes' punishment.]

[You cannot see what type of trial Ghost Spear Ben will undergo.]

[The trial's duration cannot be disclosed.]

“What, what in the world...?!”

Minhyuk was extremely flustered. His connection with Ben as a vassal had been forcefully cut off and he could not check Ben’s status window. Minhyuk hurriedly reached out for Ben, who was now slowly starting to disappear.

“D, don’t go! Grandpa! Please stay with me!”

“Your Majesty...” The disappearing Ghost Spear Ben looked at Minhyuk resolutely and said, “This old man will definitely return to Your Majesty’ arms.”

Minhyuk gently touched Ben’s disappearing cheeks as Ben’s figure slowly slipped away and disappeared. The remnants of his body slipped through Minhyuk’s hands and fluttered in the air.

“Surely, definitely...”

Ghost Spear Ben had promised Minhyuk. He said that he would come back someday. Perhaps this separation was no different from Ben’s death. After all, it was a trial given by the Absolute Gods.

However, Minhyuk firmly believed in Ben.

“Come back soon. When that time comes, I will make sure to make you a nice cup of coffee.”

The Ghost Spear Ben that Minhyuk knew was stronger, tougher, and greater than anyone else. He knew that he would come back to his arms. Minhyuk stood still for a moment as he watched the ashes flutter in the skies. Only Ben’s clothes remained on the ground as his body disappeared into the air.

That was when Minhyuk found a small pouch hidden in Ben’s clothes. When he squeezed the pouch, he realized that it was filled with coffee beans. Ghost Spear Ben’s final words rang in Minhyuk’s ears.

[These are the best coffee beans that I have collected. Hoho. My son... no... Your Majesty, please make sure to brew some and drink a cup.]

Minhyuk clutched the pouch tightly. For some reason, he felt like Ben’s warmth was still lingering in the pouch. After hugging the pouch for quite some time, Minhyuk’s face turned ugly.

Grit, grit, grit—

Minhyuk was gnashing his teeth. Anyone that saw him right now would be very shocked. This was because he was radiating undisguised killing intent, something that he had never shown in Athenae, or in reality, ever.

At this very moment, Minhyuk made a promise, ‘*I will do everything I can...*’

Minhyuk vowed to return everything to Akhan, the main culprit behind this. He had no intention of granting someone like him any forgiveness. After all, Akhan took away a precious person from him. That was right. Akhan had provoked the wrong person.

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In front of Baroque Kingdom’s capital.

Up until now, a large army of more than 50,000 troops was spread out, barricading the fortress like the Great Wall of China. These troops were the troops enlisted by the Baroque Kingdom and the conscripts that the other kingdoms had sent as support. They were able to successfully gather their troops with the help of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, who earned them more than half a day of reprieve.

Before the battle, Genie asked King Lloyd, *‘Do you need our help? But if you decide to enlist our help, you will have to pay us 40% of your task.’*

Genie was business-oriented. She would squeeze out everything from her opponent and never lose money. Regardless, 40% of a kingdom’s task was a huge amount. That was why King Lloyd refused.

*‘What difference would it make if Beyond the Heavens Kingdom helped us?’*

It was already a good thing that they bought time for them. However, the number of troops that a small nation like the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had was only 1/20th of the troops that Baroque Kingdom had.

What difference would it make if they lent them their strength?

King Lloyd rejected Genie’s offer and decided to fight the battle on their own. But the result?

*‘How, how can this be...?’*

They had around 80,000 troops in total, but this army was wiped out in just seven hours. The biggest reason for their complete and utter defeat was the appearance of Akhan. Akhan had brought more monsters that were 30% stronger than usual, along with a translucent shield that covered their bodies.

The worst part? They did not have anyone skillful enough to stop the bombardment of magical attacks that were pouring out from the dragons in the skies.

In the end, Lloyd had to run to find Genie.

To his bewilderment, Genie’s expression was extremely ugly when he saw her. And it was not just her. Even the Named NPCs and the foreigners that belonged to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were all sporting the same expression. When Lloyd saw them earlier, they were either cooking ramyeon or reciting some strange words.

But now, all of them looked like wild beasts ready to pounce on their prey.

*‘What, what the hell?’*

Plunged into confusion, King Lloyd had no choice but to look around somewhere. And the place where he looked was where Akhan and the troops that he led were. The dragons, who had been resting for a moment, were suddenly flying once again to launch another attack at them.

“Hiiiiiiiiik!”

Lloyd hurriedly said to Genie, “I’ll, I’ll do whatever you want! So do something about this! I’ll do whatever you say, just do something!”

Actually, Lloyd did not expect much. But, the people from the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were the only ones that he could lean on right now. Meanwhile, Genie, with her distorted expression, heard the notifications in her ears.

[Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's Great Hero, Ghost Spear Ben, has died in battle.]

[Honor him from the depths of your hearts.]

[He is a true hero that fought for Beyond the Heavens Kingdom until the very end. His achievements will remain in the history of the kingdom forever.]

[You can now set up a tombstone or a statue in honor of Ghost Spear Ben, a great hero and warrior.]

For Minhyuk, Ghost Spear Ben disappeared to take the Absolute Gods' Trial, but for the rest of them, his disappearance was relayed as his death. And Ghost Spear Ben was a very precious existence to them.

Then, the dragons flew up above the walls. Then, at that moment, Genie, whose lips were curled up in a gruesome smirk, said, "Don't worry. We'll kill all of those bastards. Don't leave a single one of them alive!!!"

Grit, grit, grit—

The sound of Genie's gritting teeth was horrific to the ears.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

A huge explosion shook the entirety of Baroque Kingdom. Then, King Lloyd was presented with an incredibly unbelievable sight.

Elpis threw one of the dragons to the ground while Gorfido, who arrived at Baroque Kingdom, grabbed one of the dragons by the neck with a huge hand made of water. Even the boy, Conir, flew up to the skies and slammed one of the dragons down.

Akhan had unknowingly incurred the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's blazing wrath. He touched someone that should never be touched.

Chapter 507: Beyond the Heavens Kingdom versus Akhan

A few hours ago.

Akhan's expression displayed interest as he wondered about Black Dragon Vormon.

*'Is he truly back in this world? Also, he fired a Dragon Breath that made the warriors of Lumae Kingdom and the monster corps retreat?'*

Akhan was fully aware that something like that was completely impossible.

Akhan had summoned plenty of Named NPCs, and he found out that only when Black Dragon Vormon was not killed by the players, he fell into a very deep sleep.

But a player had actually dealt the finishing blow to him. In the first place, if Akhan could summon Vormon, then he did not need to bother taking the Dragon Lord away. In the end, he realized that the being in front of them was just a 'painting'.

*'So, you're just employing some petty tricks. Interesting.'*

Akhan found the people of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom to be extremely interesting. If it went just as Akhan planned and predicted, Baroque Kingdom would have already been swept away and his troops would have already reached the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. It did not matter if the dragons were 30% weaker, the fact that they were the greatest existence on earth would not change.

But Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was able to stop their advance with just a mere painting.

*‘Still, that’s all they can do.’*

The fact that Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was a guild and a kingdom that exerted the greatest influence in the world was true. They were people that they should be wary about. However, that was only in terms of a player’s standard. They would eventually hit their limit since the flow of time was different inside the Athenae worldview.

On top of that, the recent battle that they released publicly was the war against Barras Kingdom, which included their battle against Great Demon Verus. Using that time’s standard, Akhan believed that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would be no match against him.

Akhan brought despair to the troops of Baroque Kingdom, who had gathered tens of thousands of troops to fight against him. None of them could utter a scream as the dragons swept them away with the seventh and eighth tier magic spells.

*‘The Korean Server will be thrown into great chaos.’*

As long as Akhan did not stop with the Baroque Kingdom and the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, and continued to wreak havoc against the other kingdoms and empires, the entire Korean Server would collapse. It would not matter how hard Athenae tried to recover the situation, it would be futile. And with the collapse of the Korean Server, the Japanese, Russian, Chinese, and eventually the American Servers would collapse too. If all the servers collapsed, Athenae would be labeled as a shitty game, and would then disappear from the world.

“Let’s take down Baroque Kingdom after a bit of rest,” Akhan suggested to Prince Votto. With Prince Votto’s nod of assent, the commanders could not complain.

With how things were going, not only would Lumae Kingdom get Baroque Kingdom and Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, they would be able to get their hands on many more. It proceeded as Akhan had promised them.

After a bit of rest and maintenance, the knights rode on top of the monsters and prepared to launch an assault once again.

Their plan would start with the bombardment of the dragons’ seventh tier magical attacks. This attack would bring down the walls. Then, they would charge forward and take everything in the capital, killing everyone that stopped them in the process.

The commentators began to describe this horrible scene.

[Baroque Kingdom’s downfall is just right around the corner.]

[Just like what you saw, it only took less than half a day for the elite troops of Baroque Kingdom and the tens of thousands of soldiers sent by the other kingdoms to disappear.]

[With the dragon's magic, the troops disappeared as if their existences meant nothing. Even the masked knights could cut down hundreds of soldiers in one go.]

[This is the end of Baroque Kingdom.]

"Keuaaaaack!"

"Aaaaaaaaack!"

"Uwaaaaaaaack!"

The dragons soared into the skies. The soldiers of Baroque Kingdom that stood on top of the walls of their fortress all shrunk in fear after seeing the huge dragons fly over them. Finally, the dragons manifested several seventh and eighth tier magic attacks.

Grrrrrrrrr—

A larger and stronger Fire Storm than those created by ordinary mages flew straight toward the ramparts.

Grrrrrrrrrr—

The skies were suddenly torn apart as dozens of gigantic meteors, meteors that seemed to be able to extinguish everything, flew swiftly toward Baroque Kingdom.

"Hii, hiiiiiiik!"

"Save, save me! Save me!"

"Uwaaaaa! I don't want to die!"

"God! Please, please help us!"

The morale of the Baroque Kingdom troops was at rock bottom. There were even those that were escaping from the capital as of the moment. The same thought flashed in everyone's head.

*'This is the downfall of Baroque Kingdom.'*

Then, at that moment...

Vwoooooooooong—

A golden aura bursted out from the ramparts. The man that emitted this bright and dazzling aura stabbed his black staff on the ground. Then...

Crack, crack—

...a huge force wiped out the Hell Fires that were about to fall down on them. It did not end there. Even the huge Fire Storms that were about to rampage disappeared into thin air. And the name of the man that created this miracle was called out by all of the players present in Baroque Kingdom...

"Gold, Golden Mage Ali...!"

"It's Ali!"

“It’s Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!!!”

Amidst their cheers, tears fell from Golden Mage Ali’s eyes. He was also a person from Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. This meant that he heard the notification about Ghost Spear Ben dying in action. Ghost Spear Ben usually treated others coldly and only showed tenderness to Minhyuk, being his greatest fan. However, Ben was Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s pillar and their strong ally.

“Frieeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeend!” Ali roared in the battlefield, the sadness in his voice turning into rage and fury. It was completely different from his usual playful cry. It was a desperate cry for Ben, a cry to honor his sacrifice, and life.

“Ridiculous...!”

The dragons were shocked. Even though 30% of their power had been shaved off, it was ridiculous for a human to make their attacks disappear into thin air just like that. That was when they noticed Black Dragon Vormon’s staff in the human’s hand.

*‘Don’t tell me... he’s the one that inherited Black Dragon Vormon’s mana heart?!’*

*‘How, how can this be...?!’*

Even among the dragons, Black Dragon Vormon was the object of their fear. The one that inherited Vormon’s mana heart, a player with a ‘God class’, would have an easier time inheriting the power of a god. It was something that was extremely different for NPCs. Ali had inherited the power of the Magic God. He was now several times stronger compared to when they battled against Great Demon Verus.

At this very moment, Ali decided to go all out.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

He immediately used the magic attacks that he saved, as dozens of gigantic Hell Fire appeared in the air and flew toward the dragons in the skies.

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

[C, crazy...]

One of the commentators forgot about his own duty and accidentally murmured his inner thoughts.

The dragons, which tens of thousands of kingdom troops and Baroque Kingdom troops could not do anything about, were falling down to the ground. But a dragon was a dragon. Even though they fell, it did not seem like they received any fatal wounds. However, everyone was bound to witness another shocking scene.

“...His Majesty must be very sad,” Gorfido mumbled under his breath. He came here immediately to provide support after learning that Haze and Luna had been kidnapped from Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Gorfido was not really familiar with Ghost Spear Ben. After all, the time that they spent together was not that long. However, Gorfido knew that Minhyuk regarded Ben like he was his own grandfather, the same way he thought of Andrei as his own daughter. Because of that, Gorfido



decided to take the lives of the dragons and Akhan, who took such a precious person from his king and presented them to him.

“You f\*cking dragon bastards have made my king sad!!!”

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Gorfido’s power to control and rule over the seas exploded with a wave of his hand, creating several pillars of water from the ground that slowly turned into huge spears of water.

“How dare a measly human like... Keheoook!” Luarc, one of the blue dragons, shouted as he hurriedly created hundreds of overlapping blue shields to stop one of the sharp pillars of water rushing toward him. These shields were absolute shields with high magical and physical defense that no human magic or swordlight could pierce through at all!

However...

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

The sharp pillar of water broke through the shields as it turned into a pair of gigantic hands that grabbed Blue Dragon Luarc’s neck.

“I’ll kill every single one of you, you arrogant lizard bastards.”

“Keheok!”

Dragon Luarc felt terrified when he met the vicious eyes of the ‘measly’ human in front of him.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

After Gorfido used his Ten Thousand Sword to stab Blue Dragon Luarc wildly, he took out his Ten Thousand Chains.

Clatter, clatter, clatter—

The tens of meters of chains wrapped around the dragon’s feet tightly, digging through Luarc’s scales and drawing blood.

At the same time, a man flew to the skies with his eyes closed while recalling the figure of Ghost Spear Ben. Ghost Spear Ben had always kept others at bay and was only close with Minhyuk. However, when he was having a hard time getting along with others with his stuttered words and introverted personality, this cold old man had approached him easily.

*‘Hoho. Boy, would you like to have a cup of cat luwak coffee with me? I assure you, it tastes amazing!’*

Just thinking about the old man was enough to bring a smile to the man’s face usually. But, it was different now.

Crack—

“I will *kill* all of you,” Elpis declared with sorrow. The sealed power of the Lesser Demon was being triggered as his Devil Judge’s Sword’s Berserk began to run wild.

[Berserk.]

[All abilities will increase by 16%. All skill levels will increase by +2.]

Tremendous black demonic energy swirled fiercely in the skies as Elpis sent a slash at one of the dragons flying over the fortress' walls. None of those present believed that Elpis' attack would be able to pierce through the dragon's tough and thick scales. But...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

The dragon that was flying fiercely suddenly dropped to the ground after receiving a sword strike from a human that was hundreds of times smaller than him.

“Grandpa Ben! Grandpa BEEEEEEEEEN...!” The boy, Conir, cried hoarsely as he flew to the skies, his tears flowing non-stop down his cheeks. As someone with an intellectual disability, Conir had always been honest with what he was feeling.

“Conir will kill you...! Conir will kill you all...!!!”

Conir moved swiftly, cutting down one dragon after the other. It was the descent of the Sword Saint.

There was also the Paladin Corr running toward the knights of Lumae Kingdom that were moving to attack him.

“...I hope that wherever you are, you will be free from the curse of baldness.”

The words might sound playful and mischievous, but this was Corr's own way of honoring Ben. Corr's paladin sword burst out with a bright light, a light that could drive out even the darkest darkness, and pierced through the bodies of the knights that rushed at him.

Park, who had risen to the rank of a legion commander, stood in front of 5,000 soldiers on horseback and solemnly said, “Our master, Ghost Spear Ben, has died in action.”

None of the soldiers cried. However, their eyes, which could be seen through the gaps of their helmets, were all shining with unshed tears. They felt afraid up until this moment. However, Ghost Spear Ben was both a great master and a father to them.

Shiiiiiiiiing—

Park drew his sword. He looked at his soldiers as the gates slowly opened. Then, he asked, “Are you still afraid? Are you still afraid even after knowing that your master has died while trying to protect Beyond the Heavens Kingdom alone?”

“No, sir!!!”

“Do you remember everything that our master taught us?”

“We remember, sir!!!”

“Can you pierce through your enemies' hearts?!”

“We can, sir!!!”

“Ghost Spear Ben will forever be with our Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's warriors! Attack!!!”

“For Ben!”

“For Ben!”

“For Ben!”

The fear in their bodies had completely disappeared. Right now, all they could think of was to get revenge on the people that took Ghost Spear Ben away from them.

Thuuuuuuuuud—

The gates of Baroque Kingdom’s capital finally opened.

Clop, clop, clop, clop—

The 5,000 warriors of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom charged forward to fight against the tens of thousands of monster corps and unknown knights.

[Unwavering courage has been instilled in the soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

[Their morale has soared to the point that it’s scary.]

[With their fears gone, they will be more powerful than usual.]

[All of their stats have increased by more than 17%.]

With Park at the lead, the warriors of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom rode their horses and followed! Not long after, a fierce momentum erupted from their bodies. And the masked knights, the troops from Lumae Kingdom, were being pushed back!

“Ridiculous...” Akhan, who watched everything with his own eyes, murmured in disbelief. This was because the scene in front of him was truly beyond any common sense.

At the same time, in Joy Co. Ltd.’s conference hall, President Kang Taehoon said, “Akhan, it seems like you forgot. Athenae is a world that can go beyond our calculations.”

#### Chapter 508: Beyond the Heavens Kingdom versus Akhan

The situation between Crazy Tyrant Akhan, Baroque Kingdom and the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom in front of the capital of Baroque Kingdom was very surprising.

In fact, the people of Korea and the rest of the world believed that Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would not be able to exert much power and would not be able to change the situation, even if they made their appearance. All of them believed that the ordinary soldiers of the kingdom would only tread the path to death the moment they joined the battle.

[Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is a small nation. Not only is their population small, even their troops are small. If they lose their troops in this battle, then they would likely meet their downfall.]

[As you can see, the masked knights that came with Crazy Tyrant Akhan can cut down more than a hundred of Baroque Kingdom’s soldiers, but it seems like only ordinary soldiers are going to deal with them.]

[Beyond the Heavens Kingdom should have never let their soldiers go to war.]

Alas, the scene in front of them was completely different from what they expected. The gates of the capital of Baroque Kingdom opened, as Legion Commander Park led the charge of the soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

*‘Grandpa...!’*

Park sat calmly on his horse as he watched the swarming monster corps carrying their enemies.

*‘Those Lumae Kingdom bastards!’*

This was the thought that everyone was secretly thinking.

Grit, grit, grit—

Park did not feel any fear despite seeing their enemies’ huge advantage in numbers.

Ghost Spear Ben was a man that did not shed tears or blood. He was someone that planned fifteen hours of training for the soldiers per day and did not even show mercy to those that have injured their legs or fainted during the process.

*‘But it’s because you were there...’*

The soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom could stand strong and firm because of Ben’s existence. Park was also witness to Ben’s rare moments of tenderness. He had seen the old man roam around the barracks after his late night training, pulling up the blankets of the soldiers that had kicked them away, and looking at the injured and fainted ones for a long time before turning around.

“I will always remember you.”

It was now the time for them to repay Ben.

“Uwaaaaaaaaah!” Park roared loudly, immediately discouraging the enemies. Then, he pulled the spear on his back and stabbed the knight that tried to cut him down with his sword.

“Hiyaaaaa!”

“Aaaaaaaaah!”

“Graaaaaaa!”

The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was showing their overwhelming momentum. The soldiers had completely forgotten about their fear of death as they attacked their enemies.

Clang— clang, clang— clang—!

They were doing what Ghost Spear Ben had taught them.

“We never learned to back down!!!” Park cried as the soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom pierced through their enemies!

All of the commentators were stunned.

[The, the soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom are that strong?]

[Unbelievable. Their ordinary soldiers are cutting down three to four of the enemy troops, the very same enemy knights that can cut down hundreds of soldiers in one go.]

[The soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom are not losing ground! No, they are even overwhelming their opponents!]

Unlike what everyone thought, it was a given that they would be this strong. Their commander-in-chief was Brod, the one that taught them swordsmanship was Elpis, and the one that taught them spearmanship was Ghost Spear Ben. Even their growth potential was several times higher than any kingdom soldiers. They had fought for their lives and faced the brink of death many times over, which allowed them to grow even further.

However, the truth was that they were not really overwhelming their opponents. It just looked like they were. This was because their momentum had soared through the roofs.

One of the Beyond the Heavens' soldiers flew back after getting hit by an iron mace.

Crack, crack, crack—

The soldier heard his ribs crack but he never stopped. He grabbed a handful of dirt and threw it at the face of his enemy.

*"Ugh!?Coward...!"*

*"Uwaaaaaaaah!"* But the soldier just shouted as he threw himself towards his enemy. The soldier toppled his enemy over and stabbed him in the neck with the dagger hanging on his waist. Some of the Beyond the Heavens' soldiers fell flat on the ground with swords stuck in their abdomens.

*"Kill them all... huh?"*

The knight that stabbed the soldiers on their abdomen moved to cut down the others. However, before he could do so, he lost his balance and fell on the ground. This was because the fallen soldier of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom grabbed his ankles and held onto him with his final strength. The shocking part here was that the soldier had already lost his breath.

*"Hiiiiik!"*

When the knight realized the situation he was in, another soldier of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had already approached him and cut off his head. The soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom followed Ben's teachings down to the T. They were truly people that had never learnt how to back down.

*"Ughhh..."*

*"These, these crazy bastards...!"*

*"M, monsters...!"*

One of the Beyond the Heavens' soldiers, who was stuck with dozens of arrows, threw himself over and protected his comrades from the incoming fireballs. Even when their weapons broke they would just use stones and continue to deal with their enemies.

Step—

The sound of the soldiers of Lumae Kingdom backing down rang loudly in the clearing.

Step, step, step—

From dozens to hundreds, the soldiers of Lumae Kingdom staggered back when they saw the charging soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. They had assessed Beyond the Heavens Kingdom as a small and weak nation, one that they could destroy and erase its existence from the map at any moment. They truly believed that. But the performance of the Beyond the Heavens soldiers struck fear and terror into their hearts.

“Ughhh...”

“Do... don’t come here! I told you not to come here!!!”

The sight of the Lumae Kingdom troops fleeing, an army that had undergone harsh training of their own, was very spectacular. Also...

[Legion Commander Park has leveled up.]

[Centurion Erlov has leveled up.]

[Soldier Randalf has leveled up.]

[Soldier Kiruo has leveled up.]

...the Beyond the Heavens’ troops were getting stronger the longer they fought. Their levels were actually lower than the level of the soldiers and knights of Lumae Kingdom, but the more they cut their enemies down, the faster their level and power increased.

Prince Votto was perplexed at the soldiers and knights of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s continuous increase in power, “This is ridiculous...!”

Votto was fully aware of what kind of men the knights and soldiers of Lumae Kingdom were. They were troops that were far superior to the knights and soldiers of Eivelis Empire.

Yet, they were being pushed back?

In truth, Prince Votto was someone that was ignorant of the ways of the battlefield. Some of the people that followed him in this war were just forced by the circumstances. So, it was only natural for the momentum of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s soldiers to be higher than theirs.

“Attack.”

“Kihyeeee!”

“Graaaaaa!”

“Kiyaaaaaack!”

The monsters charged forward. Currently, Akhan’s monsters had lost their inhibitions and forgotten their fears. On top of that, their attack power had increased by 30%. There were even many among them that were Named Monsters.

“Keuhaaaack! Bastard...! You won’t go there...!” One of the dying soldiers, with their chest pierced by a giant mantis’ sickle, slammed into the shield that protected the monster until his dying breath.

“Kghhhk!”

One of the soldiers had one of his arms cut off by an ogre’s ax, held his spear up with his remaining hand and glared at his enemies.

“Keuaaaack!”

“Aaaack! I won’t let you go! Bastards!!!”

“For Grandpa Ben!!!”

“For Ben!!!”

The tide of war had definitely turned. But with the soldiers’ fearless attitudes, the monster corps could not push them back further. Then, a very welcome set of notifications rang in the soldiers ears.

[You have received the Unparalleled Bravery’s buff effects!]

[Unparalleled Bravery increases all stats of those that fight on Kimaris’ side by 15%!]

[The soldiers with Unparalleled Bravery are fighting a battle with their lives on the line.]

[The buff effect has increased.]

[All of your stats will increase by 22%.]

[The attack of the weapon that you are using and the defense of the armor you are wearing will increase by 20%.]

The power running through the veins of the soldiers suddenly surged. It seemed like they were done being pushed back, and finally began to charge forward once again, breaking through the transparent shields that protected the monsters.

“Uwooooooooooo!”

“Dieeeeeee!”

They all started to charge forth again.

Unparalleled Bravery was a skill that Kimaris possessed.

Passive Skill

### **Effects:**

?Those that fight alongside Kimaris will receive a 15% increase in all of their stats.

?Those that rush fiercely and courageously in the battlefield and have forgotten the fatigue of their bodies and their fears, as if they were never there to begin with, will gain better effects.

According to the description, it was possible for Kimaris' allies to receive a 15% or higher increase in all of their stats if their morale had shot through the roofs and they had forgotten their fears. The soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's growth increased at an explosive rate, reaching a stage that was far higher than the stage that they were in before.

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Kimaris had witnessed Ghost Spear Ben dying in action. He also witnessed how the old man eventually protected what he wanted to protect. After that, he went to the battlefield and watched the soldiers of the kingdom fight desperately.

*'All this, for what?'* Kimaris asked himself. He was once a soldier and soldiers usually fought either for honor or money. He had never seen anyone fight for someone with their lives on the line, ever. But the soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were charging forward and putting their lives on the line, just to fight for someone.

*'Is it because of Ben?'*

Kimaris wanted to ask the soldiers and Ben this question, *'What kind of a king is Minhyuk, for you all to go this far?'*

What kind of a king were they serving for these soldiers to willingly risk their lives to protect their kingdom and treasure it dearly?

Throb—

Kimaris felt an ache in his heart. If he served this king, would he have a happy life? Would he choose not to embrace Verus and become a demon? Then, at that moment...

Baaaaaaaang—

"Ugh! You arrogant lizard bastards!!!"

The dragons slowly began to push back the rankers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. This was because the humans did not have regenerative powers. There was little they could do against the dragons' immense regenerative powers.

"So, they're also fighting to protect something."

Everyone in this kingdom was different. Everyone of them was strong. And everyone served only one king. And the king that these people served, the king that they wanted to protect...

Kimaris moved as he thought of their king.

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"Damn bastards!!!"

Shwaaaaaaa—

Genie's whip swung violently and slammed into the dragons. However, no matter what she did, she could not break through the dragons' shields. All her attacks were reflected.



The fight between the strong was often one of balance. Although they were in a close fight, a slight tilt in the balance and everything would collapse. Their formation would be destroyed and they would be exterminated.

That was exactly their situation right now. The dragons gradually pushed back the key figures of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. On top of that, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's Named NPCs and rankers were all reaching the limits of their bodies and MPs. But the dragons were different. Their MPs were close to infinite.

Baaaaaaaang—

“Conir!!!”

A huge flame slammed straight into Conir, forcing him to fly back. Another dragon also used Diss and sent it towards the running Paladin Corr. Corr shrieked the moment the Diss shot through his thighs.

If some of the support troops arrived to protect this place then the balance might be restored to some extent. But...

*‘We’re about to collapse...’*

The number of dragons was too high. Then, Genie saw Gorfido swing his Ten Thousand Sword and Ten Thousand Chains, but there was a dragon that was waiting to pounce on him.

*‘No...!’*

There was this thing called intuition. Genie had a hunch that Gorfido's body would be torn to shreds the moment that mouth snapped shut. But then...

Vwooooooooooong—

Slaaaaaaaaash—

A gigantic ax flew and struck the head of the dragon that was trying to devour Gorfido.

“Graaaaaaaaaaack!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

While everyone was shocked, the ax flew back to an outstretched hand.

Grab—

The one that grabbed the ax suddenly started running. The man was tall, as tall as Elpis, and had dark skin. This man was none other than Demon Kimaris, who leapt into the skies and split another dragon's head with his ax.

Slaaaaaaaaaash—!

Kimaris stood in front of the incoming monster corps and dragons. His time to shine was about to begin. Then, the notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears, who was far away from them.

[Kimaris has sworn his eternal allegiance to you.]

Chapter 509: Beyond the Heavens Kingdom versus Akhan

The dragons flying in the skies could not understand what kind of place the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was. They were dragons, widely recognized as the greatest existence on earth. Even if their powers had decreased by 30% by crossing through continents, their powers were still something that no human could ever dare to fight against.

But, the humans of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom worked together to fight against them. Furthermore...

Vwoooooooooooooong—

Kimaris, who was holding a gigantic ax and was clearly a demon in the eyes of these dragons, was fighting alongside the humans.

*'How can a demon fight for humans?'*

*'What kind of kingdom is this god damned kingdom?!'*

Why was one of the Devils living in this kingdom? Even dragons like them that lived for thousands of years had never heard of such a precedent. However, even with the appearance of one of the Devils, the number of dragons was still above ten.

Two of the dragons immediately rushed at Kimaris. Both of them were Dragon Knights, dragons that were stronger than ordinary dragons. Red Dragon Arfel immediately bombarded Kimaris with spells.

Grrrrrrrrrr—

Crack, crack, crack—

More than a dozen powerful and shocking magical attacks cut through the air and rained down on Kimaris. At that moment, a tremendous amount of demonic energy fluttered into existence around Kimaris' ax.

[Demonic Axe Art.]

[A Veteran Soldier's Protection.]

[The moment your ax swings a powerful wave will be created that will extinguish all magical attacks in your surroundings.]

Slaaaaaaaaaash—

A powerful wave stretched out of Kimaris' ax the moment he slashed it. The wave destroyed all of the magical attacks that were aimed at him. However, Dragon Ford was waiting with his mouth wide open the moment Arfel sent his magic attacks.

Unfortunately, things did not go as they planned, instead, a very shocking scene unfolded in front of them.

Slaaaaaaaaaash—

Kimaris, who looked like he was about to be devoured by the dragon's huge maw, suddenly grabbed the dragon's fangs, bringing the dragon to a halt in mid-air. Then, using the dragon's teeth as a leverage, he stomped his feet while holding the fangs and smashed the dragon into the ground.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

Red blood dripped down the Dragon Ford's mouth as the ground underneath him sank in by five meters. Then, Kimaris moved his ax once again.

[Demonic Axe Art.]

[Soldier's Slash.]

[You can swing your ax, with an additional 2,800% attack, dozens of times in one go and rip your enemies' body to shreds.]

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

Kimaris' first swing dug deep into the dragon's scales, which was then followed by dozens of strikes.

"Kihyaaaaaaaack! Graaaaaaa!" Dragon Ford shrieked loudly, unable to withstand the pain. Kimaris did not stop there. He approached the struggling Ford and punched him several times in a row.

Punch, punch, punch, punch, punch—

Thud—

Red blood continued to drip down Ford's nose as he lost consciousness. Then, Kimaris, with his ax pointing at Ford's neck, looked at the dragons around him and said, "Come."

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

The dragons all turned furious at Kimaris' provocations. Kimaris was a very clever demon, so he knew that dragons were considered the greatest existence on earth. That was why it was hard for them to endure and remain calm when they were forced to watch their colleague face such humiliation and death.

"Kihyeeeeeeee!"

“Kihyeeeeeeee!”

Several dragons flocked to Kimaris. Because of that, Gorfido and Elpis were given enough room to breathe.

At this point, Genie noticed, *‘He provoked them on purpose.’*?She could tell that Kimaris deliberately provoked the dragons to pull them away from his allies and give them some reprieve, even if for a while. This short reprieve could then allow them to maintain their condition and breathe for a bit. Also, Kimaris was so strong that he was not losing out against the two or three dragons that flocked to him. He was able to hold the dragons back with his experience and excellent Axe Arts, as well as the demon’s unique and special skills.

“If it’s like this then...”

They could drag things on for much longer.

*Shwaaaaaaaaa—*

Genie slammed her whip and kept one of the dragons in check while looking at her surroundings. The war brought about by their rage and fury over Ghost Spear Ben’s death would continue further. She already expected this much. But...

*‘How long can we last?’*

She could not tell. The dragons’ regenerative powers were ridiculous. Even if the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were doing their best, the dragons’ high HP and outrageous regenerative abilities were giving them a hard time. In fact, they were struggling to fight, let alone kill one dragon.

*‘Minhyuk, where are you?’*

Genie knew that Minhyuk was able to be with Ghost Spear Ben before his death. She guessed that Minhyuk was seething with rage and overflowing with sadness right now. However, she was also someone that knew Minhyuk very well. That was why she knew that Minhyuk was doing his hardest to find the best way for them to get out of this very frustrating situation right now.

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After Ghost Spear Ben disappeared, Minhyuk fought against the remaining enemy troops. As he swung his sword, his thoughts whirled rapidly. Why did the dragons cross over to the Asgan Continent and attack them? Also, it was impossible for Akhan to have the power to command these arrogant and great beings. The conclusion came quickly to him.

*‘He must be using Luna to control the dragons.’*

Luna was the child of the previous Dragon Lord and was someone that was going to be their Lord. It was only natural that her existence would be precious to these dragons. One glance and Minhyuk could tell that Velach was the true key figure in this place. As he exchanged several moves in battle with Velach, Minhyuk, who had already thought about it and came to a conclusion on his own, shouted out.

“Why are the dragons invading the human’s territory?! You have all moved separately for thousands of years yet you moved together to invade our territory?!!”

However, his words caused Dragon Elder Velach's anger to soar, "Arrogant and impudent human! Do you think I don't know that you're trying to take over the world with the power of the Dragon Lord?! You're the one that hatched the Dragon Lord's egg and is making the new Lord walk the path of destruction!!!"

Slaaaaaash—

Minhyuk immediately stepped back to avoid one of the knights' swords that was aimed at him as he answered, "What bullshit! Trying to take over the world with the Dragon Lord? Which part of Luna resembles a dragon that has taken the path to destruction?!"

"Shut up!!!"

Even with Minhyuk's words, Velach still continued to bombard him with magic. However, it was also true that Dragon Elder Velach was riddled with questions. His greatest question was Luna. Just like what Minhyuk had said, Luna did not seem to be walking the path of destruction and was not on the way to becoming a violent and vicious lord. In fact, Velach did not feel any evil energy in Luna's body and could only feel pure and kind energy.

These points had made Velach suspicious already. However, it was still difficult for him to make a judgment since the battle had already taken place.

Still, Minhyuk made the effort to talk to him, "We're only humans, do you think we're crazy enough to use the Dragon Lord?!"

.

"I know that the one that stole the Dragon Lord's egg is one of you, bastards!!! It's that bastard in your territory that uses mercenary swordsmanship!!!"

At Velach's shout, Minhyuk stopped suddenly and tilted his head at him. He even blinked blankly, as if he was showing him that he truly did not know what Velach was talking about.

"...???"

"...?"

"...???"

"...?"

Velach stopped in his tracks and doubted himself for a moment. It was because the man was blinking at him innocently. The man's expression was so on point that Velach almost believed him for a moment.

"What are you talking about? We stole the eggs? But we never did that?"

"Nonsense!" Velach shouted and stopped his attacks, making Minhyuk think that his words were finally working.

"We never stole any egg. Luna was left behind, right in front of our territory, by someone."

“What crazy nonsense!!!!” Velach shouted incredulously.

*‘Who would dare leave the Dragon Lord’s precious egg in someone else’s territory?’*

“If you don’t believe me then you should meet with Luna and check it yourself.”

Truth was, Luna was really stolen by the Livestock King Brod, one of Minhyuk’s vassals. However, all he needed to do was to deny it. Besides, if Dragon Elder Velach truly gave his words a chance, then the situation might change once he met with Luna. After all, Luna was not walking the path of destruction, but the path of a benevolent dragon. It was also true that placing Luna in front of Velach was a very risky and dangerous move. But at the rate things were going, the war would end only if the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was destroyed or all of the dragons were killed.

“Stop. Everyone, stop for a moment.”

Dragon Elder Velach had also noticed that the people of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were very formidable people. If they continued to do things recklessly like this, the damage that they would incur would be far greater than they expected. It would be good if they could reduce that damage, so the better choice was to check it for themselves. Besides, Velach had already judged that he could steal Luna back easily. It might be mean and would leave a bad aftertaste but he wanted to take Luna away no matter what.

The battle stopped for a moment as the soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom hurriedly brought Luna over. Then, Elder Velach looked at Luna for a very long time.

“Kiyeeeeeeee! Kiyeeeeeeee!”

The moment Luna saw Dragon Elder Velach, she spewed a breath of rage.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaa—

The huge breath was enough to slaughter a few humans, but it was nothing to Elder Velach. He just continued to look at Luna’s status window.

?Passive Skill: King’s Descendant

?Passive Skill: Limitless Potential

?Passive Skill: King’s Mana Heart

?The One that will become a Benevolent Dragon Lord

“...?!”

Velach doubted his eyes for a moment after seeing the words ‘The One that will become a Benevolent Dragon Lord’ written in Luna’s status window. He immediately checked the detailed description of the words.

“...!”

Contrary to Dragon Velach's expectations, Luna was walking the right path. Luna had already completely deviated from the path of destruction. Furthermore, she was going to become the greatest and most benevolent dragon in history, thanks to the care of the people of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Even Velach had to admit that no dragon could shape and teach Luna these wonderful values.

*'Rather than get angry, aren't we supposed to be thanking the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?'*

Velach and the other dragons were also worried about how they could instill and teach good values to the hatchling that would be born from the Dragon Lord's egg. Since the dragon that would be born would be the greatest existence among them, it would definitely become more arrogant and nonchalant among all of the dragons in existence. Even the boredom that the dragon would experience would be greater than anybody else. And this boredom would only be resolved by killing.

Velach felt his head throb. Then, as if to cement things firmly, Minhyuk suddenly exclaimed, 'Ah!' before saying, "Akhan, that bastard! He clearly orchestrated everything. Did he say that we stole the egg?"

"That's right. He said that a man using the mercenary swordsmanship has stolen the egg."

"But that doesn't make sense? How can a human steal something from a dragon's lair?"

Of course, it was possible for one person, and one person alone.

"Also, a man that uses mercenary swordsmanship? Our Beyond the Heavens Kingdom does not have such a great man at all."

Well, he was there not too long ago, but he was not here right now.

Then, Minhyuk continued to say, "It's obvious that it was Akhan that stole the egg and placed it in front of our Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Then, he immediately went to you to start this nonsensical war."

Dragon Elder Velach was now confused. Akhan had declared that Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would use the Dragon Lord as their weapon. In other words, they would raise the egg in the path of evil.

But the situation in front of Velach was completely different. Also, what Minhyuk said was half true. After all, he was a man that would never let an opportunity slip by.

"It's about time that we stop this nonsensical war."

Velach could not deny Minhyuk's words. It was just as he said. With Luna growing in the right path, everything was their fault. Not only attacking the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, but also breaking through and entering Asgan Continent and breaking the balance that they had maintained for thousands of years.

But Minhyuk did not stop there. He even took things a step further, “Ah. Since everything was all because of your misunderstanding, I’m sure you will give us enough compensation, right? Don’t tell me that the greatest and noblest existence on earth would just keep their mouths shut about this, after attacking us with no rhyme or reason at all, right?”

“...”

Minhyuk even thought about peeling off a layer of skin from the dragons by shaving off a portion of the treasures that they hid in their lairs. He was the epitome of a scammer that could sell fine dust for five million gold by saying that it was good for the skin.

#### Chapter 510: Beyond the Heavens Kingdom versus Akhan

With Kimaris’ participation in the battle, Genie immediately ordered Park, the knights, and the rest of the soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom to retreat. Park and the rest of the troops were stimulated with rage and could not be contained.

However, Genie was a wise commander.

“Know that my orders are the same as His Majesty’s orders, going against my orders means that you’re showing insubordination to our king!”

Her words left the soldiers with no choice. The only reason why she threatened the soldiers like that was to reduce the damage that they would incur. The number of the soldiers that have died during this battle had already exceeded a thousand. Of course, the remaining soldiers had also made remarkable achievements, bombing their levels up and increasing it by around 20~30.

Besides, there was room for them to retreat since the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s reinforcement had arrived. In other words, they could still maintain the balance that the soldiers were giving their lives for, albeit just barely. One of the best rankers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, Khan, snatched the tail of one of the dragons that were charging at Kimaris.

“What...?!” Dragon Ford shouted in shock. Could a human bear his weight and actually drag him away?

Then, at that moment, the muscles in Khan’s arms began to bulge.

[Giant’s Herculean Strength.]

[Your STR will triple in a moment.]

“Haaaaaaa!” Khan shouted, putting strength into his arms. Surprisingly enough, Ford was dragged to where he was. Then, Khan threw Ford into the skies and immediately flew after him.

“Keuaaaaaaaaack!”

Khan’s fists were covered with tremendous power. Giant’s Explosion was a skill that allowed Khan to strike at his enemy indiscriminately with fists that have an additional 1,800% attack. The skill’s effect was excellent for one-on-one battles. However, when against a huge being like a dragon, its effect would more than double.

Baaaaang!



The first attack that slammed into Ford's body, made a dent in the shape of Khan's fist. Then, it was followed by several punches in quick successions.

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

Khan's fists literally felt like bombs going off on Ford's body, forcing him to scream, "Graaaaaaa! S, stop!!!"

The attacks made Ford fall on the ground. However, Kaistra, the Envoy of Incarnation, was already waiting for him with his spear and wolf headgear while riding on Penrus, its pristine white fur fluttering gently with the wind, all ready to pounce at Ford.

"Light's Natural State," Kaistra murmured softly.

Flaaaaaash—

Penrus turned into light as he leapt up to the skies. This was the skill that Penrus and the Envoy of Incarnation, Kaistra, had acquired just recently.

[Light's Natural State.]

[The incarnation and the Envoy of Incarnations will become one and show a tremendous display of power.]

[You will receive an additional 2,400% attack for a moment, a power that would allow you to pierce through your enemy.]

Staaaaaab—

Penrus and Kaistra flew higher in the skies after digging through the thick scales of the dragon. The dragon's HP after being pierced through by Penrus and Kaistra's attack had already fallen down to the point that their regenerative power could not keep up anymore.

Then, as if to put the final touch, Golden Mage Ali shouted, "Diss."

Fwoooooooooosh—

Five golden spears of light accurately pierced through the dragon's vital points. The dragon fell helplessly, crashing into the ground. Even if it was a dragon, it could not survive an onslaught of attack like that, especially after fighting against Kimaris. Of course, it was also because three great dealers had focused their attacks on him. That was how the dragon died under their hands.

The battle had been going on for four hours now. But now, they had finally succeeded in hunting one dragon. All of the guild members received notifications.

[You have hunted Dragon Ford.]

[Everyone that has participated in the dragon hunt will receive rewards based on their contributions.]

[Dragon Ford's abilities had been reduced by 30% after traveling through continents.]

[In accordance with this, the EXP acquisition and artifact and item drop rate will also be reduced by 30%.]

[You have acquired 233,306,314 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have acquired 1,811 platinum.]

[You have acquired 6 kg of Dragon Ford's scales.]

[You have acquired Dragon Ford's magical dictionary.]

[You have acquired 16 Fantastic Weapon Reinforcement Stones.]

[You have acquired 26 Fantastic Armor Reinforcement Stones.]

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

Indeed, a dragon was a dragon. Hunting such a beast would always be accompanied by enormous risks and damages, but they would always give tremendous rewards. And people always tend to look for monsters of this caliber, even if it was dangerous, for their rewards.

However, right now, the fact was that they were facing more than ten of such beings.

*'The problem is that there are more than ten of them. We will definitely die.'*

Khan smiled bitterly as he watched the other dragons get stirred up by Dragon Ford's death. Meanwhile, the Koreans and the people from all over the world were impressed.

[The power of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is truly shocking. How many guilds from all over the world can hunt a dragon by themselves?]

[From what I heard, the dragons' abilities have been reduced by 30% when they crossed through the continents. Still, the fact that players from a distant and small country can hunt the greatest beings on earth is just like a far-fetched story. That's amazing.]

[But perhaps this is an opportunity for Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. If they can hunt a lot of dragons then they can gather plenty of EXP and artifacts.]

[You might say that it's a chance but I have to disagree with you. The word 'opportunity' is somewhat unreasonable, especially when Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is in a precarious situation right now.]

The commentators' opinions were divided. However, the viewers all had the same reaction.

[Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is so dope...]

This was the monster and dragon corps that did not use too much time to push back the four great guilds of Korea and the kingdom troops. And for the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom to stop them from advancing forward, it was only natural that their name would be elevated to a higher level and gain more popularity.

Right now, the monster corps were being dealt with by the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's guild members, as they let their soldiers retreat and take a rest. There were also the knights and soldiers of Lumae Kingdom mixed in with the monster corps. They snorted at the people of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom that blocked their path.

The ones that were blocking the monster corps path consisted of Ascar, with her silver hair and dual blades on her back, Locke, the Crazy Priest who was now being hailed as the Dog Cultivator, riding on top of Cerberus, and Bread Shuttle Mei Wei.

Beyond the Heavens Kingdom only sent three people to stop the enemy troops' advance.

“Kill them!!!”

The monster corps that consisted mostly of boss mobs and the high-ranking knights of Lumae Kingdom charged forward. They intended to show the people of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom what fear and terror was. But then, Love, Hope and Happiness rushed forward first while carrying Locke, who was holding two axes in his hands. The first to send out an attack was the rightmost head, sending out a burst of flame toward the enemy troops.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Several monsters screamed as the translucent barrier that protected them melted from the heat of the flames. Without stopping, the leftmost head shot out a strong breath of cold energy, freezing the monsters' bodies until they were solid and turning the field into an icy glacier. Once the monsters' body turned solid, Locke would then hack at them with his axes.

Slash— slash, slash— slash—

After smashing the frozen monsters into smithereens, Locke flew up to the skies, swinging his axes down and slamming it to the ground. There were dozens of monsters, knights and soldiers around him.

[Jeffrit's Fury.]

[A huge explosion with 1,900% additional damage will bloom within a twelve meter radius the moment you hit the ground.]

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

A huge explosion swept away the enemies that surrounded him the moment he hit the ground. Then, Locke looked at the knights and soldiers that were approaching him and spat out, “Come, come! You f\*ckers! Were you the ones that forced our old man like that?!!!”

Locke might not be a handsome one and his head might be bigger than others, but he was someone that was very kind. He was unable to contain his anger at the death of Ghost Spear Ben as he charged forward. Then, a knight from Lumae Kingdom rushed at him fiercely. But before the knight could even reach Locke, Locke's axes had already reached his chest, breaking his armor and sending him away.

Crack—! Crack—! Crack, crack—!

Locke continued to charge forward. At that moment, the knights of Lumae Kingdom thought...

*‘He must be one of the attack commanders of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.’*

*‘Yeah. It wouldn't make sense for someone to have that kind of damage if he's not an attack commander.’*

But just as those thoughts flashed in their heads...

[Jeffrit's Indolence.]

[You have fallen into an extremely lethargic and lazy state.]

[All stats decrease by 25%, AGI will decrease by 10%.]

“...???”

“...???”

“...???”

Question marks popped up in the enemies' heads. It was only natural. After all, they thought that the person that they were dealing with was a melee-class individual, but that person suddenly casted a debuff on them. And the most surprising part was...

*‘A debuff user is that strong?’*

*‘How can this be...?’*

On top of that, Cerberus and Locke's combo was the best of the best, with Cerberus moving to protect the rushing Locke.

*‘Grrrrrr. I have no choice but to protect this ignorant and defenseless owner bastard.’*

*‘Grrrrr. I'm helping the owner bastard because he looks pitiful.’*

*‘Grrr. The bastards that killed the Ghost Spear Grandpa, I won't let you go!!!!’*

In another place, dozens of knights surrounded Ascar. The knights thought that the person in front of them was one of the prominent swordsmen in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. As a warrior, it was only natural for them to want to compete with her. Then, one of the knights rushed toward Ascar. But at that moment...

Shwaaaaaaa—

“...?!”

“...?!”

“...?!”

The knights that surrounded Ascar were shocked and astounded. The knight that rushed forward died with blood spurting out of his neck without even exchanging a blow with Ascar. Ascar looked at them with gloomy and dark eyes. She was the ghost and the goddess of the battlefield. And right now, her instincts have been awakened.

Flash—

The moment she took a step...

“Keuhaaaack!”

...one of the knights was cut down.

Slash—

And with a swing of her sword...

Thud—

...another knight's head fell down and rolled on the ground. And when Ascar increased her speed...

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh—

...five more knights fell down with blood spurting out of their chests. Ascar dashed from one place to another and showed the world the greatness of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom as she, the one that was hailed as one of the most skilled members of their kingdom, cut down the knights of Lumae Kingdom.

Then, a light in the shape of a sword suddenly flashed above Ascar and Locke's heads.

[Sword Goddess' Blessings.]

[All stats increase by 18%. Weapon attack power increases by 140%.]

The moment the strongest dealer and the best buff specialist, Bread Shuttle Mei Wei, joined the fray, more knights fell down and collapsed.

[This is really crazy...]

[Are they really from the Behind the Heavens Kingdom?]

[Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is teeming with monsters...]

The people from all over the world were all shocked by their performance.

Meanwhile, Akhan, who was watching the situation unfold, finally made a judgment, *'If the king of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, the Food God, and Ellie appears here, then things will be difficult for our side.'*

Thus, he made a quick decision. He would sacrifice himself to bring a greater power down to this plane of existence. Besides, the requirements for this summons had already been met.

"Hell's Gate."

He was going to awaken that person that was locked up in hell, a place that was under the rule of the God of Death, and let everyone here suffer the pain and terror of the past. Then, darkness began to cover the skies as a wide smile formed at Akhan's lips.

[Hell's Gate has been opened.]

[Demigod Asura has awakened to the world.]

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The kings left Baroque Kingdom swiftly as if they were fleeing. They were chatting happily as they continued on their long procession back to their kingdoms.

"Beyond the Heavens and Baroque Kingdoms will soon meet their downfall, right?"

"Of course. Those are dragons. Can anyone hold out against them?"

Instead of worrying, they thought that it was a very good opportunity for them. After all, they believed that the dragons would return once they finished what they were set out to do. When that time came, they would definitely devour the two fallen kingdoms. But then, at that moment...

“Hiiiiik...!”

“Heoook!”

“Wh, what’s that?!”

“Huh?”

“What’s happening?!”

The kings all rushed out of their carriages in confusion. However, they were met with a very shocking sight. A man was riding on the back of a gigantic red dragon and rushing to where Baroque Kingdom was.

“...!”

“...!”

This was something unprecedented. No event like this has been written in history books. A knight riding on top of a dragon? It was a tremendous feat but the figure on top of the dragon was not a knight.

“The, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s king?!”

“Isn’t, isn’t that the Food God?!”

The sight was so amazing that the kings could not help but shake.

Minhyuk, who was riding on top of Dragon Elder Velach, was rushing straight toward the Baroque Kingdom.