

Gourmet 521

Chapter 521: Inside the Overlord's Dreams

The war between the dragons, the Baroque Kingdom and the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was all done under the instigations of Crazy Tyrant Akhan. Right now, Baroque Kingdom's King Lloyd was unable to raise his head as the whispers of his people rang in his ears.

"The Beyond the Heavens' King honored the souls of the departed first before relishing in his victory."

"Have you seen his vassals and subordinates? Have you seen how desperately they fought for their king? It's because their king is great that's why they're like that."

"From what I heard, Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is a weak nation. But looking at it now, aren't the Beyond the Heavens' King and his men on par with that of an empire? Even if that's not the case, they're still better than our kingdom."

"Actually, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom might be a small nation, but the power that they possess is out of this world."

As the voice of his subjects grew louder in his ears, King Lloyd felt that he was unable to raise his head anymore.

'I...'

He, the king of his own nation, tried his hardest to stop the small kingdom from flourishing and gaining great wealth and prosperity in the future.

But what did the Beyond the Heavens' King do in response? He only fought to protect those that are precious to him, even honoring those who died, regardless of sides. In a way, they could consider the Beyond the Heavens' King as foolish and naive. But his heartfelt emotions and firm belief was enough to sway and shake the hearts of King Lloyd's subjects.

In fact, even King Lloyd himself started to reflect after witnessing the Beyond the Heavens' King and his vassals showcase their power to protect what was precious to them.

Still unable to raise his head, King Lloyd glimpsed a burst of white light. When he looked up, he saw that all of the wounded were already healed. Then, Lloyd looked down at the cup of warm americano in his hands.

'The scent of coffee is really pleasant.'

Lloyd took the warm americano to his mouth and took a sip. The soft and smooth americano brought a gentle warmth along his body, washing away his fatigue and exhaustion. Then, King Lloyd moved toward Minhyuk.

"My, my injuries have recovered!"

"My goodness, such a shocking effect!"

“It doesn’t hurt anymore!”

Everyone admired the surprising effects of the coffee beans made by Barista Ben.

Minhyuk, who finished drinking his cold americano, moved to drink a cup of warm americano. At that moment, King Lloyd and the hundreds of nobles and knights, the core powers of Baroque Kingdom, approached him. Naturally, the key figures and executives of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom took their place behind Minhyuk. Minhyuk just stared at Lloyd and his entourage, he did not need to bow down to him. After all, he was the king of his own kingdom. In fact, he even looked at him haughtily.

Once King Lloyd stood in front of Minhyuk, he said, “We were only able to protect Baroque Kingdom thanks to the help of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.”

A commotion burst out in the scene from his words. Meanwhile, the commentators interpreted his words.

[A very shocking scene is unfolding in front of us.]

[The king of a nation is openly admitting that his own troops are lacking and that they were only able to overcome this situation thanks to the help of another nation. Right now, Lloyd, the King of Baroque Kingdom, has given in to Player Minhyuk and has acknowledged his kingdom, Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and him as a king.]

That was right. The words of a king have the power and influence to change the situation of a kingdom. The words that King Lloyd had uttered had left a huge impact on everyone listening.

“Our Baroque Kingdom will never forget the grace given to us by Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. We hope for a smooth exchange between our kingdom and yours in the future,” It seemed like King Lloyd was not yet done, uttering another very shocking remark.

The kingdoms of Asgan Continent refused to acknowledge Beyond the Heavens Kingdom as a kingdom and a nation. Because of that, no kingdom had entered any diplomatic ties and exchanges with them. No matter how excellent the goods and products the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom offered, none of them made contact with them.

In the end, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom reached the limits and failed to gain much profit. After all, they were not able to export much of their products to the other kingdoms. But the Baroque Kingdom, a kingdom that was around eight times the size of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, actually proposed an exchange.

King Lloyd opened his mouth once again, “However, we won’t be able to take arms and fight for Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. I hope you can understand us with regards to this.”

Once again, the commentators interpreted Lloyd’s words.

[Not being able to take arms and fight for Beyond the Heavens Kingdom meant that they would only engage in diplomatic exchanges and would not move their soldiers and troops for Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

[The moment they move their troops, the Baroque Kingdom will also be prey to the other kingdoms that refuse to recognize Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

Sure enough, a king was a king. King Lloyd was the king of his own nation and he would only move for the benefit of his own kingdom. Any citizen of his country would not have the right to call him a bad ruler even with a decision like this. After all, he was making sure that no risk befell them.

King Lloyd sported a subtle and light smile on his face. An exchange with Beyond the Heavens Kingdom! This was a reward that would help Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, a proposal that would benefit each kingdom. After all, the Baroque Kingdom would be able to wipe away the financial difficulties brought about by the disappearance of the ties that they had with Barras Kingdom with this exchange. It was more than enough. This was what King Lloyd believed.

Everyone wondered what Minhyuk's response would be.

“Baroque Kingdom's King Lloyd... I never said that I would engage in diplomatic discussions and exchanges with Baroque Kingdom though?”

“...!”

King Lloyd was stunned. This scene shocked everyone watching. In fact, if they looked at it from Minhyuk's perspective, King Lloyd, who made it seem like he was being very generous, was just mocking his kingdom. After all, King Lloyd offered a proposal that would benefit his own kingdom with no regards to the benefits that Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would receive.

King's Lloyd's face turned red as he said, “I have no intention of getting support from Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's troops either, this would be purely a trade-based transaction. Both sides would benefit from this.”

Baroque Kingdom did not want to take any risk. Also...

“So, you think that's more than enough reward for the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?”

What King Lloyd was suggesting was a deal, not a reward nor a repayment. Only then did King Lloyd realize, ‘*He's not a pushover...!*’? When he looked at Beyond the Heavens' Kingdom's Genie, he thought that she was a very business-minded individual, good at making transactions. But he realized he underestimated the king of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom as well.

“If that's what you're thinking, then I'm very sorry to disappoint you. I'm sure Baroque Kingdom has to use a lot of money to mend the damages that you have received in this war. Would you really be alright if we decide not to engage in diplomatic discussions and exchanges with you?”

For Minhyuk, more was better, never less. He was the kind of person that would squeeze every last bit of thing that he could take advantage of, and would absolutely not suffer from any losses. Instead of going angry, King Lloyd felt relieved.

‘We might not be providing military support to them for the time being but I'm sure that we can trust Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.’

Even if they were being calculative in this way, Lloyd was sure that he and his kingdom would be guaranteed to survive in the future.

'They're worth considering an alliance with.'

In fact, Lloyd even wanted to applaud Minhyuk on how he was handling this matter.

"What do you want?"

"I want a 2% increase in all transactions and products that our Beyond the Heavens Kingdom will sell in your kingdom. I also want a 2% reduction in the prices of all the products and transactions that we will buy and make in your kingdom. Next, let's talk about the compensations that you have to give us for the damages that we incurred in this war."

A 2% increase in transactions and products sold, as well as a 2% reduction in transactions and products bought by Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would definitely rake in a huge profit for their kingdom. With this, the Baroque Kingdom would lose as much as 4% in every transaction they made with Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

"As compensation for the military support in this war, we will give you 20,000 platinum and 2,000 good warhorses. We will also provide fifty tons of minerals for weapon and armor production."

"How about increasing that to 23,000 platinum?"

Ah, what a true and genuine daylight robbery.?

However, King Lloyd just shook his head helplessly and said, "Fine."

Everyone watched in amazement as the deal was sealed. Minhyuk was already hailed as a king, but in a way, it could be said that this was the first time a player had succeeded in making a deal with a king of another nation.

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Then, the notifications rang.

[As per Baroque Kingdom's deal with Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's Vice Guild Master, they promised to pay 45% of their kingdom's tax this month in exchange for military support.]

[You will be able to receive the payment by the end of the month.]

[As per King Lloyd's orders, you will be able to receive 23,000 platinum, 2,000 warhorses, and 50 tons of minerals and ores.]

[You can now engage in diplomatic discussions and exchanges with Baroque Kingdom.]

[However, Baroque Kingdom does not promise any military support. The two kingdoms may discuss this matter again in the future.]

[All transactions and products sold by Beyond the Heavens Kingdom to the Baroque Kingdom will be 2% more expensive. All transactions and products bought by Beyond the Heavens Kingdom from Baroque Kingdom will be 2% cheaper.]

These notifications signaled the satisfactory results of the deal between the two kingdoms. Also...

[As the king of a nation, you are the only player that has received the recognition of the king of another nation!]

The effects of the title 'Extraordinary King' were tremendous. In fact, the title was even one of the rare growth type titles. It had the power to draw the attention of the other kingdoms' kings and would have a greater effect the more kings acknowledged Minhyuk and his kingdom. With this, Minhyuk would be able to bring various kingdoms to his side one after the other.

However, things were not yet over. Minhyuk still had something important to do. Minhyuk turned around and walked toward Prince Votto of the Warrior's Nation, who was taking off his mask. After the battle ended, only a thousand were left from the Lumae Kingdom troops.

'My own greed has cost the lives of Lumae Kingdom's people and has tarnished the reputation of the Warrior's Nation.'

A lot of people died, and for what? For nothing. They could only blame themselves for allowing themselves to be fooled.

"Beyond the Heavens' King! Quickly bring judgment upon them!" The voice of King Lloyd, the biggest victim of this catastrophe, was both loud and fierce. At that, Prince Votto looked back at his troops that promised to die for him.

"Beyond the Heavens' King, I will take my own life here. However, I hope that your grace and magnanimity can be as broad as the sea and the skies, and allow my troops to live."

"P, Prince!!!"

"N, no!!!"

"We, we should die together!"

"This is an order," Prince Votto spoke firmly to his screaming troops as he pointed the tip of his sword to himself.

Minhyuk frowned at the display as he thought, *'Lumae Kingdom is the Warrior's Nation. Even though Prince Votto is a part of that nation, he must definitely die. But...'*

But right now, Minhyuk thought that he was standing at a crossroad of some sort. He could feel it, he could feel that something big would happen and the choices that he made at this point in time would likely bring huge changes. After quickly coming to a decision, Minhyuk dashed forward, grabbing Prince Votto's hands, who was about to stab his abdomen.

"Enough."

"...?"

Prince Votto looked at Minhyuk in confusion. Minhyuk had chosen not to kill Prince Votto right away.

“Since you’re a prince, you bear the responsibility for your own country. If that’s the case, then apologize to your subjects first before committing suicide.”

“...”

Prince Votto’s arms trembled at Minhyuk’s words. He had already heard the resentment of his people. If he died like this, then he would be considered as a person that ran away by dying.

‘That’s right...’

Prince Votto realized that Minhyuk’s words were true. He had to apologize to his people first before dying. Prince Votto had also come to realize the implications of Minhyuk’s words.

‘He did not tell me to not die.’

The man in front of Votto just told him to not die right away. Perhaps it was because he was giving him time to be accountable to his subjects. Votto felt gratitude toward the man in front of him. That was why he said, “I understand. And... please grant me a favor.”

Minhyuk thought, *‘As expected.’* Simply put, Prince Votto’s life and death were two paths at a crossroads. The path that he chose had led him to this point.

“I believe you know the reason already but Lumae Kingdom is approaching its downfall.”

Of course, Minhyuk knew. The main reason for this was because their king, Overlord Raldo, had fallen into some unexplainable deep sleep.

‘I heard that he’s quite strong. He’s even Ellie-noon’s rival.’

But such a person had fallen into a deep sleep. Then, this would only mean one thing. There was something hidden here by the system.

“King of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, I heard that you are a foreigner. And foreigners have powers that we don’t have. Can you please look at His Majesty’s condition?”

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

Ring!

King Lloyd, who could not understand the situation, immediately flared up, “What is the meaning of this?!”

But Minhyuk only smiled lightly and said, “King Lloyd, you should widen your perspective. We have been at war and have gained victory. What can we even get if we kill Prince Votto right away?”

Then, they would only have a lonely victory. On the other hand? King Lloyd’s thoughts turned swiftly. What would happen once Warrior God Raldo awakened? Then, they could ask King Raldo compensation and rewards for the crimes that they have committed. This was what Prince Votto had done and it would be hard to charge King Raldo with these crimes.

But what if he awakened? Then, it would be possible.

‘Amazing. He can look at things so far ahead...?’ King Lloyd could only clicked his tongue while looking at the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s King, the Food God, with increased admiration.

It was at this moment that they decided the next destination that Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would go to.

Chapter 522: Inside the Overlord’s Dreams

Under the guidance of Prince Votto, Minhyuk, together with Beyond the Heavens’ Kingdom’s executives and troops, would march towards Lumae Kingdom.

Before they did so, they decided to spend one day resting for maintenance and recuperation. After all, it would be extremely exhausting for all of Minhyuk’s executives and troops to go on such a march, right after an exhausting battle.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk entered the royal kitchen of the royal mansion prepared by King Lloyd for the Beyond the Heaven’s Kingdom.

“Hiyaa~ Rascal! Look at you, you’re moving energetically like that, huh?

Keuhahahaha!”

Having obtained the snow crab as a reward for hunting Asura, Minhyuk laughed, impressed at how it was still very much alive and energetic. There was another aspect that was worth his admiration. The snow crab in front of him was not just some regular snow crab.

‘One of the Gods’ Five Delicacies...’

According to the description, the snow crab was definitely one of the Gods’ Five Delicacies. Just to be sure, Minhyuk clicked on the detailed description.

Basically, they were five delicacies that had been chosen by several gods. One of these delicacies was the Deep Sea Snow Crab in front of Minhyuk. Its effects were shocking. Even its size was more than that of a decent-sized snow crab.

“Hm~” Minhyuk hummed as he brushed away the impurities and dirt from the snow crab. Then, he used a small knife to poke at its opening, before dipping it in water and pressing its belly to expel the black impurities within.

‘The most important thing to do before steaming snow crabs... trimming and cleaning the impurities!!!’

If the impurities were not removed from the crab, the fishy taste and scent would be too much for anyone. After finishing up the cleaning and trimming, Minhyuk placed the snow crab in the steamer with its belly up.

“Oh my, oh my. You’re so big that you can’t fit that well in the steamer, huh?”

Just a few hours ago, Minhyuk looked like a great and mighty king. But right now, in front of food, Minhyuk had turned into a child filled with excitement at the prospect of eating! One that truly loved food!

He put the cover on the steamer, set the heat to high, and left it like that for 25 minutes. As the puffs of white clouds gently escaped the seams of the steamer and rose to the skies, Minhyuk’s expectations rose too. After the 25 minutes was done, Minhyuk waited for another five minutes before finally lifting the lid.

Shwaaaaaaa—

White steam escaped the steamer, revealing the glistening red snow crab hidden inside it! Just one look and Minhyuk’s mouth was already overflowing with drool. He hurriedly took out the snow crabs, two of them to be exact, and separated their claws from the bodies. Then, he prepared some side dishes to go with it.

Since snow crabs were quite expensive, restaurants that sold them would usually serve plenty of side dishes to go with them. Following that spirit, Minhyuk prepared some rockfish and flatfish sashimi, fried shrimp, corn cheese, and scallops with cheese, as he set the table.

“Kihyaaaa~”

Eating after working hard was always a delight! Before he started, Minhyuk prepared some soy sauce and wasabi in a small bowl, mixed them gently and placed it on the table. Next, he grabbed his chopsticks and clamped some fresh, mouth-watering flatfish sashimi. He dipped it in the prepared sauce and placed it in his mouth.

Chew, chew—

The more Minhyuk chewed, the more he could taste the savoriness and sweetness of the fish. Even its chewy texture was superb, bringing a smile to his face. After gulping down the first piece and eating another, Minhyuk turned towards the scallops with cheese.

Streeeeeeeeetch—

The cheese, covered with chojang, stretched as he brought the scallops to his mouth. The sourness of the vinegar and the rich, savory flavor of the cheese perfectly complemented each other, as they danced in Minhyuk's mouth. Just like that, Minhyuk quickly ate a scoop of corn cheese, adding a bit of sweetness and crunch from the corn to the mix, causing the smile on his face to widen.

Finally, Minhyuk turned to the most-awaited snow crab. Minhyuk had used his scissors to cut and prep the snow crab legs in advance. The moment he put some pressure on the legs, they broke apart with a loud 'crack—'.

Then, Minhyuk gently pulled on one side.

Swoosh—

The crab meat was pulled out from the shell of the legs, without leaving anything behind.

"Haha! The snow crab's meat to water ratio is at 100%! 100%!!!"

Most of the time, snow crabs had the worst meat to water ratio. Generally, snow crabs would only be able to retain around 30% of its weight once steaming was done. But the snow crab chosen by the gods as one of their preferred delicacies had a meat to water ratio of 100%.

In other words, no weight had been lost.

Minhyuk looked at the steaming and snow-white meat in admiration for a moment, before placing it in his mouth. The long strip of crab meat completely filled his mouth; the warm and soft texture and sweet flavor of the meat drawing out immense awe from him.

"Wow..."

Was there ever a time when he placed a piece of snow crab meat in his mouth and it filled his mouth? The answer was no. But this snow crab made it possible for Minhyuk to have that experience.

The most amazing part? There was no fishy taste at all!

Minhyuk, who picked the crab legs clean, turned his attention to the claws. Since he had already prepped the claws and legs earlier, just adding a slight bit of pressure was enough to pull out the meat, which even retained the shape of the claw.

The moment Minhyuk placed it in his mouth, a chewier texture, completely unlike the meat of ordinary crabs, greeted his taste buds. Although crab meat looked no different from each other, each part tasted different. After eating the legs and claws, Minhyuk made snow crab fried rice by mixing rice, sesame oil, seaweed powder, snow crab meat and snow crab guts. He even made some snow crab ramyeon to pair it with, placing a piece of kimchi on top of it.

"Kgghk~ It's like the icing to cake!"

Sighs of contentment and admiration naturally flowed out of his mouth! Whenever Minhyuk felt his throat go dry, he would scoop a spoonful of the snow crab ramyeon soup and moisten his throat. It was the very same snow crab ramyeon with bean sprouts and Cheongyang chilis. Minhyuk scooped a spoonful of the soup.

"Kghhk!"

Refreshing. This word was enough to express what Minhyuk was feeling at the moment. Then, Minhyuk clamped and lifted some noodles along with some beansprouts, placing it in a smaller bowl. He gently blew on it before slurping a mouthful.

“Sluuuuuuuuuurp!”

The chewy noodles and crisp beansprouts resulted in a pleasant taste in Minhyuk’s mouth. With a delighted smile on his face, Minhyuk poured a ladle of soup in his bowl before tipping it into his mouth. The spiciness of the soup created a layer of sweat on his nose and a tingle in his throat. As he savored the flavor, he quickly devoured the snow crab fried rice.

Finally, he picked some fried shrimp, dipped it in soy sauce and placed it in his mouth.

Crunch, crunch, crunch—

The plump shrimp was a pleasure to the mouth. The light and savory flavor of the meat and the batter that coated it created a harmony that could bring a smile to anyone’s face. After eating all of the fried shrimp, Minhyuk poured the cold, icy cider into a glass.

Glug, glug, glug—?

“Kyaaaa!”

The notifications rang the moment Minhyuk let out a burst of exclamation.

[You have eaten the Deep Sea Snow Crab.]

[Your Physical Attack and Defense, as well as your Magical Attack and Defense will increase by 10% permanently.]

[With the Deep Sea Snow Crab’s buff effects, your Attack and Defense will increase by 10% for a week.]

[You can overlap this buff effect with other buffs.]

The Gods’ Delicacies could be described as such...

‘Food that is out of this world...’

Even the taste was superior to the Dragon King’s Snow Crab that he ate in the Dragon King’s Sea in the past. The fact that it could permanently increase his physical and magical attack and defenses by 10% was enough for this kind of delicacy to cost around tens of billions of cash.

Furthermore...

‘It seems like it’s hard to get. Am I the first to get something like this?’

...it was something that was gained only after hunting Demigod Asura. However, that was not the only reward that Minhyuk received from that hunt. He was able to gain another God-rank artifact in the form of the Slaughterer’s Armor.

?All stats will increase by +23%.

?Magical Defense will triple.

?Passive Skill: Slaughterer's Absorption

?Passive Skill: Asura's Shield

?Active Skill: Slaughterer's Blessings

'No matter how you look at it, that defense is ridiculous...'

The Monarch's Armor, an Absolute Demigod artifact, had a defense of 1,789. But the Slaughterer's Armor easily surpassed that by 600. That was not all; the amount of increase in all stats also surpassed it by nearly 7%. And yet, there were even more valuable aspects to the Slaughterer's Armor.

Passive Skill

?Upon successful attack, there is a 3% chance that you will be able to convert 50% of the damage that you have dealt to your opponents, into HP.

?Upon successful attack, there is a 0.7% chance of recovering a small amount of your stamina and mental power.

'This is really out of this world...'

There were no other words that could explain this skill aside from that. Of course, this skill might not have any great effect on incredibly strong existences like Great Demon Verus and Asura. After all, they were strong enough to cut down Minhyuk's HP in one go.

But in a war?

'The effect would exceed anyone's imagination.'

In a war, where Minhyuk had to deal with tens, hundreds, and even thousands of enemies, it was not strength that mattered the most, but stamina and mental power. If he could recover just a slight bit of that as he attacked his enemies, then he would be able to endure longer and fight more.

Then, there was also Asura's Shield.

Passive Skill

?When under siege, there's a 7% chance of triggering a translucent red shield that will protect the area under attack.?

?The defense of the translucent shield will be twice as much as the defense of the armor equipped by the skill user.

It was also a very useful and efficient skill during battle.

'With these out of this world effects, I can put away Monarch's Armor for the time being.'

The Monarch's Armor was an excellent item, but it was no match for the Slaughterer's Armor.

'I think I can swap them and use their effects efficiently, right?'

The merits of the Monarch's Armor where it could recover Minhyuk's HP and MP to 100% right away was something that was out of this world too. And finally...

Active Skill

?Restores 40% of the HP of your allies.

?You can sacrifice 40% of your allies physical and magical defense to increase 20% of their physical and magical attack.

'As expected, it's also a good skill.'

The Slaughterer's Armor was truly worth its weight in gold. It definitely lived up to the expectations of the rewards of killing Demigod Asura.

On top of all that, Minhyuk also received three God's SP, Asura's Successor's Ring, Asura's Bloody Buddhist Beads and Aeopus' Stairs' Parchment. God's SP alone was an extraordinary reward, one that could even level up God-rank skills.

But Asura's Successor's Ring was more amazing than that.

'It's an item that can help someone change their class to Asura Class.'

Meanwhile, Asura's Bloody Buddhist Beads were items with shocking buff effects, while Aeopus' Stairs' Parchment was just marked with '???' . As he looked through his rewards, Minhyuk decided to delay the use of the God's SP that he gained.

As for Asura's Successor's Ring, Minhyuk knew a woman that fitted the item perfectly so he decided to give it to her.

After settling everything, Minhyuk stepped outside and prepared to depart for Lumae Kingdom.

Ares, the guildmaster of Ares Guild and one of the best fighter rankers in the country, stood among the rankers. He was someone that drew everyone's attention a few days ago when he used his skill Dragon and Tiger together with Khan.

Right now, he was in the middle of a crossroads.

'I'm also jealous of them.'

Ares had always been envious of the guild members affiliated with Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. He had always denied this fact but now he did not want to do so anymore. He had already come to terms with himself and had accepted it wholeheartedly. Also...

'The guild members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom are always given the chance to overcome their limits, climb to a higher level and become stronger. And they always live up to that opportunity.'

There was no denying the fact that Khan was now much stronger than Ares.

"I also want to be with them."

Alas, he had the responsibility of taking care of his guild, together with the others that led the guild with him. So, with great caution, Ares tried to make a suggestion. He told them about going under the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. But his guild members naturally protested against his suggestion.

"Certainly not, Ares."

"Come back to your senses. How can a tiger like you go under such a sly fox?!"

His guild members wanted to make Ares the best guild. But Ares already knew that becoming the best with just their power alone was nigh impossible. Ares was aware that they would only have a shot at becoming the best if they went under Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

"Please get your head on straight! Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is just a small nation!"

His guild members shouted loudly until veins popped up in their necks. At that moment, Minhyuk, who was set to depart for Lumae Kingdom, finally went outside. Not long after, a shocking scene unfolded in front of their very eyes.

The dozens of polymorphed dragons that were waiting for Minhyuk, together with Dragon Elder Velach, all slowly bowed in front of him and said, "Foreigner King of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, fighting with you has allowed us to learn and realize a lot of things. We will now return to our lairs and prepare the compensation that we promised you."

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

Ares and his guild members looked at the scene in shock. The dragons bowed in front of a player? Also...

"Also, we hope that you can keep on taking care of the dragon that will become our Lord."

And along with that...

“Please heed our earnest request!”

“We beg you!”

“We hope to entrust our Lord to you!!!”

“We believe that our Lord will thread the right path if she stays with you!”

Thud—

The dragons immediately knelt down.

‘Is, is the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom really the answer?!’

‘Is what Sir Ares thinks really the right choice?!’

‘Even, even the dragons are kneeling in front of him!!!’

Then, the Ares Guild members immediately changed their tunes and said...

“That’s right! Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is still a small nation! Since it’s still a small nation, shouldn’t we work together with them and make it into a prosperous and strong kingdom!?”

“Ares, actually, we’re of the same mind. We’ve been thinking the same thing for a long time. Haha.”

“Hehe. Sir Ares, just like you thought, it seems like Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is the answer.”

“That’s right!!!”

“Let’s go! Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!!!”

The change in their attitude was so fast that it could beat the speed of LTE.

Chapter 523: Inside the Overlord’s Dreams

Minhyuk was about to head out for Lumae Kingdom. He looked at the dragons that begged for him to take care of Luna. It seemed like the dragons knew it well too. Luna would only be able to grow and become a better dragon if she remained in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. It was possible for Luna to truly become the greatest existence in the world if she continued to learn from the people of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

“Of course, I will.”

The truth was, Minhyuk was extremely nervous. What if the dragons had said that they wanted to take Luna away? But it seemed like he got nervous for nothing. Then, the notifications rang.

[You have been given full authority to raise and nurture Luna.]

[The dragons are creatures that never take their words back.]

Not long after, Dragon Elder Velach said, “We will not forget the sins that we have committed. If you call for us one day, we will run to you with everything we have. Please do remember that it will only be a one-time thing.”

[The Dragon’s Oath has been triggered.]

[Dragon Elder Velach and the dragons that he leads will heed your summons if you call for them one day.]

To have the power to call for the dragons once in the future, it was an unbelievable trump card. Right after that, the polymorphed dragons soared to the skies, turned back to their original form and flew far away.

Just when Minhyuk was about to move again...

“Food God.”

“...?”

Minhyuk tilted his head in confusion especially after seeing Ares and his guild members look at him with shining eyes. After the situation had been sorted out and everything had been settled, Minhyuk had greeted and thanked Ares. But now...

“Please take us in! We want to be a part of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!!!”

Ares was an arrogant, yet outstanding, high ranker. Right now, he, one of the strongest players leading one of the top four guilds of the nation, was asking to come under the banner of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. In fact, when Minhyuk and Ares talked not too long ago, his guild members still looked at him with hostility as if they were saying ‘Ares is still the best!’.

But now? For some strange reason, they were looking at Minhyuk with great respect and admiration.

Meanwhile, Ares was a bit anxious. After all, Ares Guild had always kept on making trouble for Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Right now, the ball was in the Food God’s court. The right to choose was in his hands. While Ares was plunging further into the depths of his worries, Minhyuk’s voice rang, “Stand up.”

‘...As expected, it won’t work. Huh?’

Ares’ expression stiffened. What if it was him in that position? If he was the Food God, then he would definitely kick up a fuss and go crazy on them. The enemies that were aiming for their downfall were suddenly asking him to take them in and become allies, after all.

Ares could only sigh as he lifted himself up slowly. He could not help but look curiously at the hand that was generously stretched out in front of him. This was the hand of the Food God and the king of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

“I can’t allow a friend to kneel, right? Welcome, Ares.”

“...!”

A bright smile finally bloomed on Ares’ face as he grabbed Minhyuk’s outstretched hand.

Graaaab—

“I’ll do my best for myself and Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.”

Ares really could not say that he would only be playing for Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. After all, he was not close with any of them yet, and he was still unaware of the true worth of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. However, he would do his best at whatever task was given to him.

So, Ares asked excitedly, “Then, what should I do in Beyond the Heavens Kingdom? A close combat instructor? Or an attack commander?”

Ares dreamt of even sitting at an executive seat! The thought was enough to make his heart flutter. It was not just a job in a guild, but a job in a kingdom!

‘I’ll be satisfied even if I’m just a Legion Commander!’

Ares was filled with great expectations. Then, Minhyuk smiled happily as he took something out of his inventory and held it out towards him. It seemed like it was a parchment with a form where they had to write down their personal information.

‘As expected of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. They’re taking note of each of their guild member’s personal information and classifying them based on their specialties, huh?’

Just as Ares expected, they were a very systematic nation.

However, the questions that greeted them on the form, where they had to write down their personal information, were strange.

[Are there dishes that you’re good at making? For example: You can cook a tastier ramyeon with a secret recipe.]

[You are eating samgyeopsal with Minhyuk but there’s just one last piece left. Are you willing to concede and let him have it?]

“...????”

[What is your hobby? Field work, fishing, or looking for good restaurants? Additional: It would be good if you can tell Minhyuk about all the famous restaurants with good food.]

“...????”

Question marks popped up above the heads of Ares and his guild members.

“Aah. You shouldn’t feel too pressured. You know? Just write about special dishes or a secret to make another dish more yummy. Just write about things like that~”

“My mom’s steamed egg is the best in the world. Can I write that down?”

Clap, clap, clap!

Minhyuk clapped in awe while saying, “Excellent! Very excellent!!! Yes! You have to write that down. Make sure to put an asterisk right next to it!”

Then, Minhyuk approached the guild member who claimed his mother cooked the best steamed egg.

“How about being friends?”

“...”

Ares realized that something had gone wrong. Then, another of Ares' guild members spoke up and said, “My hobby is fishing.”

“Excellent!!! Truly excellent!!!”

“Ah. I'm a chef in reality.”

“I love you!!!”

As people talked about dishes and hobbies related to cooking, a very warm atmosphere surrounded them. As they talked, their gazes suddenly turned towards Ares, who felt a great deal of pressure when he saw the gazes focus on him.

‘Why am I suddenly nervous about this?’

Then, Ares hesitantly said, “My mom has a secret recipe for soybean paste stew. It's really delicious, you can even eat two bowls of rice in one go.”

“...Kghk!!”

Minhyuk immediately hugged Ares tightly.

“Amazing, Ares!!! You're really amazing!!! Hahahahaha!!! Let's be friends from now on!!!! Ah, by any chance, do you have your mother's secret recipe? Can you write that down for me?”

“Ha, haha... Of, of course. Leave it to me!”

Ares realized that something had gone really, *really* wrong here.

This was how Ares and his guild joined Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, making the kingdom even stronger.

Minhyuk, together with some of the Beyond the Heavens' Kingdom's executives and troops, immediately set out for Lumae Kingdom. Of course, Prince Votto also accompanied them on their journey. The fact that Prince Votto returned as a prisoner of war, defeated in the war that he waged alone, stirred the resentment from many of Lumae Kingdom's people, who were crying loudly.

“Prince Votto! How can you bring shame to the Warrior's Nation?!!!”

“Your Majesty Raldo!!! How did our Warrior's Nation fall this far?!!!”

“*Sob, sob, sob, sob, sob!*”

The cries of the people roared loudly in the kingdom. The Lumae Kingdom, the Warrior's Nation, under the rule of an absolute strong man was a kingdom that could not be ignored in terms of power, despite it being a small nation. Unfortunately, this absolute leader had fallen into a mysterious and unexpected deep sleep.

But no matter how hard the people cried, they could do nothing to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's King, executives and troops that brought Prince Votto as their prisoner of war.

Prince Votto, who was tied by a rope and walking ahead, turned to look back at Minhyuk and said, "I hope you won't forget the promise that you have made."

The promise between Prince Votto and Minhyuk was something that they had discussed while on the way here and involved the knights and troops that Prince Votto led to war. He had asked Minhyuk to take in his troops. Prince Votto had created his own faction in Lumae Kingdom, who had followed him in this war. Their loyalty to him was of course very high. In return, Prince Votto wanted to repay them by saving them from this predicament.

Unfortunately, as a citizen of the Warrior's Nation, the Lumae Kingdom, coming back defeated meant that their life was already forfeit.

"I know."

Minhyuk nodded. However, a thought flashed in his head, '*The question here is if I can win their hearts and loyalty.*'?Minhyuk did not hope to have as much loyalty as they have for Prince Votto. If they continued to resent and hate him, then they would not be able to work with each other.

'If I win their hearts, then I will be able to raise a strong unit.'

The knights and troops of Lumae Kingdom could be said to be equivalent to the elite troops of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom in power. Minhyuk continued their march, entering the palace with Prince Votto at the lead. The knights of Lumae Kingdom pointed their swords at Minhyuk and the executives and troops of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, but were forced to stand down.

How would they dare to point their swords at them when the other party had Prince Votto in their hands? They dare not attack at all.

Not long after, Minhyuk arrived in front of the door where Raldo was sleeping. In front of the door stood a man, guarding and protecting the place. This man, Evan, was hailed as Lumae Kingdom's Guardian. He was an old man with a long white beard hanging on his chin and a light rapier hanging around his waist.

However, despite the fact that the rapier was a very light weapon, the power of it was something that no one could ignore. Evan was a very skilled swordsman, whose power even exceeded some of the legends. In fact, in Minhyuk's perspective, Evan could rank among the Supreme NPCs.

'The NPCs' skills and abilities are far above ours.'

There was no other choice but for them to acknowledge this fact. It did not matter if Minhyuk was hailed as the strongest person in the way of the sword, these NPCs would still be stronger and mightier. After all, they had held the sword since their birth. And these people wielded their swords to kill and survive. That was the main reason why NPCs, who were at the same level as the players, were far more skilled than the players. There were even many cases where an NPC of the same class could deal with more than three players by themselves.

"Prince Votto, in the end, you have led the Lumae Kingdom to its downfall, huh?"

Evan was a long-time loyalist who devoted his entire life to the Lumae Kingdom and the Warrior God Raldo. After King Raldo fell into his strange deep sleep, many of the loyalists have turned away from him at Prince Votto's behest.

However, only Evan had always stayed and guarded the room where Raldo slept in. That was why he was a complete loyalist.

'He's someone that even I covet,' Minhyuk evaluated.

Not long after, Prince Votto looked at him with a bitter expression, "Sir Evan. I led the Beyond the Heavens' King here not to bring harm to my royal father, so please don't dissuade me and tell me that it's just mere foolishness."

"I do not understand. How can you say that when you have led your enemies to the place where His Majesty is resting?" Evan said, releasing his overwhelming momentum.

Evan was the master of the Overlord. Ellie even warned Minhyuk about him, saying, *'Minhyuk. Evan is a very talented individual. Even I dare not say that I can deal with him easily. You have to be careful around him.'*

Evan was showing them that his weak appearance did not mean that he was not strong.

"I personally asked the Beyond the Heavens' King to look at my royal father's condition."

Evan scoffed when he heard Votto's words, "Obviously, nothing would change even if a foreigner looked..."

Minhyuk believed that a showdown with Evan was something that was simply useless. It would only be useless whether it was them that got hurt or Evan. So, what Minhyuk did was simple...

"Everyone, put down your weapons and show courtesy."

...he hid his weapons in his inventory and ordered his men to put down their own. After removing his weapons, Minhyuk said, "We have received great damage from your kingdom and we have to discuss with Raldo about it. How can we do something like that when he's not awake?"

Evan just shook his head when he heard Minhyuk's words. Raldo had been sleeping for a very long time. It was obvious that there was no way for him to get better.

"There's no method that could awaken him in this land."

"What if it's a method that does not come from this land?"

Evan's eyes shook as Minhyuk pushed one being forward after saying those words.

"How can this be..."

This being was none other than Kimaris, a demon that had a special ability that allowed him to find things and look through memories that have long been forgotten. Evan was also aware of Devil

Kimaris' existence through the records in history. Right now, Kimaris had also put down his weapon and had stayed docile beside Minhyuk. Evan closed his eyes and thought deeply.

'What decision should I make for His Majesty?'

Evan, who closed his eyes, remained silent and lost in his thoughts for quite a while. Then, he heard a soft and gentle voice in his ears, "I know your worries as a loyal subject."

Minhyuk's voice flowed gently, "I also have a vassal that's as loyal as you. A very loyal subject that chatted, laughed and cried with me and always stayed by my side whenever I was having a hard time. I think he's around your age? You don't have to worry."

Minhyuk approached the old man as he gently and slowly placed his hand on Evan's shoulder.

"I'll do my best to wake up His Majesty, the man that you have been waiting for a very long time, from his dreams."

"..."

Evan knew that there was no lie in those words. The fact that the man in front of him had a loyal subject just like him and the fact that he was a king that did not consider his loyal subjects as someone that was trifling and useless.

'The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom must be an excellent kingdom. I feel like I'm seeing His Majesty Raldo in this man in front of me.'

The door slowly creaked open as Evan turned his body away. Then...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

...a tremendous amount of killing intent and intimidation burst out from the now-open door.

[You have seen the Sleeping Overlord!]

[The Sleeping Overlord's killing intent has restricted your breathing.]

[You have an invincible body that can ignore and resist all kinds of abnormal states.]

[You have resisted an abnormal state.]?

'He's asleep but he's releasing this much killing intent...?'

Minhyuk was terribly shocked as the sight behind the doors presented itself to him. Overlord Raldo slept while sitting on his throne and holding his greatsword with both hands. What was shocking here was the fact that the tip of his sword, which was stabbed into the ground, was supporting Raldo's entire body and not letting it fall to the ground, despite his unconscious state. Even his black armor shone a light that stood out inside the dreary room.

Step—

Minhyuk took a step towards the sleeping Overlord and Warrior God.

Chapter 524: Inside the Overlord's Dreams

Ares was well known for leading the Ares Guild, one of the four greatest guilds in Korea. The news of Ares Guild going under the command of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom sent great waves of shock through the entire country. It was not too long ago when Artheon was absorbed by Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and now there was this. The entire country was buzzing, curious at how Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was growing in terms of military power and strength by the day.

As for Ares? He let out a huge breath as he arrived in Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

"Fwaaaaa."

Ares recalled the incident yesterday with Guild Master Minhyuk, who finally found out about his mother's secret soybean paste stew recipe.

'That's right. It's only the Food God's that's unique, not the entire kingdom. There's definitely a lot of stepping stones here in Beyond the Heavens Kingdom that can allow me to grow stronger.'

Beyond the Heavens Kingdom housed plenty of prominent and respectable high rankers. From what he heard, the number of high rankers in Beyond the Heavens Kingdom exceeded the total of the number of high rankers of the four major guilds in the country. Ares was also aware that the players that had entered and migrated to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had experienced tremendous growth in a short period of time. Ares firmly believed that he would also be able to achieve such an effect. That was why...

'I'm very curious about the jobs and positions of the executives and the NPCs of Beyond the Heaven Kingdoms.'

They were the best rankers and NPCs in the country! Ares was sure that their jobs and posts would give an insight to how they became strong. In fact, he was most curious about the NPCs' jobs and positions. The NPCs of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were so strong to the point that one would consider them to be out of this world. Ares believed that they were the reason why Beyond the Heavens Kingdom could maintain and become even more powerful, despite their king, Minhyuk, being a little 'unique'.

.

Right now, Minhyuk's aide, Haze, was standing beside Ares. She had received an order from Minhyuk to inform Ares and his guild members about the affairs of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. While Ares stood beside Haze and listened to her explanations...

"Lalala~"

...a man passed by. Ares' eyes twinkled when he saw the man.

'Locke!!!'

Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and Legend Guild's original member, Locke, who was famous for his class as Jeffrit's Descendant. Despite his undesirable looks, Locke was an indispensable figure in the kingdom.

'I wonder what Locke's position is?!'

Locke was both a great dealer and an extraordinary debuff master. He could even become a healer at times. It was only natural for someone with Locke's power to hold the position of 'Attack Commander' or 'Defense Commander'.

"Can we follow him?"

"Of course."

After receiving Haze's approval, Ares quietly followed behind Locke.

"Ah, it's time to do today's mission."

Ares' expectations soared after hearing Haze's words. He was going to witness the mission that Locke always did everyday!

'It's definitely a mission that makes him stronger!'

As they walked like that, Ares saw Locke stop in front of a large dog house. What Locke did next was simple...

"*Chu, chu, chu~?Our Love, Hope and Happiness! Dear baby, it's time to have a meal with daddy~*"

...he poured food into three large iron bowls while shouting at the dog house with a gentle and cute expression. Then...

Blink—

Ares could only blink. He literally blinked as the three-headed Cerberus jumped out of the huge kennel and pounced on their food.

"My dear cuties, let dad have a touch, just once..."

"Keuhaaaaaaack!"

"Grrrrrrrrrr—!"

"...Alright. Next time then~"

After making sure that there was a next time, Locke crouched down and began to clean up the enormous piles of poop around the kennel.

"Punks. You definitely poop so much and in a very pretty way too~"

"...?"

After Locke cleaned up the shit with a smile on his face, Cerberus jumped up and rushed forward to play with him. Cerberus bit and scratched at Locke.

"...Shouldn't we help him? Locke is being eaten by Cerberus...?"

"Get used to it. It's an everyday occurrence. Also, they're just playing around."

"...Th, that's playing around?! Locke's head is already bleeding after getting hit by Cerberus?! E, even his arm is halfway from being torn off...!"

“It happens every time. Don’t worry, he’ll heal himself.”

“Ah. What’s Locke’s position?”

Ares was not curious about Locke feeding the dogs. He was only curious about Locke’s position in the kingdom. Then, Haze looked at Ares weirdly while saying, “Sir Locke is the Cerberus’ Sitter. He holds a very important position in Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.”

“...?”

For a moment, Ares’ expression was colored with disbelief.

“Unbelievable...” Ares mumbled, realizing that something had gone really, *really*? wrong here.

“Sir Locke is also one of the att...”

But before Haze could even finish her words, intending to inform Area that Locke was also one of the attack captains, Ares had already spotted another guild member. This guild member was none other than Vice Guild Master Genie. Ares immediately ran after her, only to see Genie lift the tail of the cats and look at their anuses.

“Okay, nothing’s wrong today either~ Stay healthy~ The Luwak coffee is really abundant. Hoho!”

“Ah. One of our Vice Guild Master’s jobs is to take care and manufacture Luwak coffee to fill in the empty position that Ghost Spear Ben had left behind.”

“No way...!”

And in another place...

Ares saw the one that he was most curious about, Elpis!

‘That, that’s right! The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s Shield!!!’

Elpis had earphones stuck on his ear as he sat in front of the fountain in the plaza and listened to his music.

Drip, drip, drip, drip—!

He was even shedding hot tears!

“Music... music is the only drug His Majesty has allowed...!”

As if he was not satisfied with that, he took things a step further by taking off his earphones, switching to speaker mode and dancing to children’s songs.

In another place...

“Ah. Conir is in charge of making His Majesty’ ramyeon. This is the most important position in the kingdom.”

“Sage Aruvel is a genius that has produced countless erotic masterpieces. I believe I don’t need to explain about his position any further, right?”

“That guy over there that’s shouting with his hands raised high up is Sir Corr. He’s the one in charge of treating the baldness of the subjects of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. He has a very important position. That person over there is Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s fisher... Ah, Kaistra! That guy over there is an amazing person that has reached the god level in dishwashing...”

Then...

Swooooooooooosh—

A woman swiftly passed by Ares. With tears in his eyes, Ares looked at Mei Wei in shock and admiration.

‘That’s right. If it’s Mei Wei...! If it’s her then...!’

Mei Wei was the woman hailed as the global official number one ranker! That was right, she had to be normal, right? But then...

“Did His Majesty go to Lumae Kingdom already? Ha... I even got some very delicious bread and banana milk from Aerven Village this time but...!”

“...???”

Haze explained kindly after seeing Ares’ face get riddled with question marks, “Lady Mei Wei runs errands for His Majesty. I believe people call her ‘Bread Shuttle’.”

‘Mei, Mei Wei runs errands and claims to be a Bread Shuttle...?’

At this point, Ares realized, *‘No one’s normal in this place!!!’*

Then, Haze smiled bitterly and said, “I believe you’ll experience quite a bit of confusion during your first few days here. His Majesty’s kingdom is a little special, right? But please don’t worry, I’m one of the few normal people here.”

Ares felt like he was about to cry tears of joy when he heard that. That was right. Not all of them should be abnormal, right? At first glance, Haze looked normal. But then, as if remembering something, she said, “Ah. Come to think of it, Ares Guild has the Reos Fruit as your special product, right? You should give all rights and authority over that product to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. At the very least, I can make the profits from it increase by around forty times.”

“Forty times...?”

Reos Fruit was a fruit that could increase the body’s cold attribute resistance and bring a bit of heat in it upon consumption. The heat that the fruit could bring about was pleasant and warm, so plenty of people enjoy this delicacy.

“Since it’s a fruit bestowed by the Sun God, it could create a pleasant warmth in the body. If we say that they will receive the Sun God’s protection the moment they eat this fruit, then this will definitely sell fast with the nobles. Ohohohoho!”

'Th, that's a scam...!'

The Legendary Scammer, Haze, was not normal either.

'I need to stay alert and watch my actions closely!'

Ares promised himself that he would never be an abnormal person! However, what he did not know was that he would soon be 'Minhyuk-ified' too.

Raldo had plenty of shocking achievements, to the point that the people called him the Warrior God Raldo, or even Overlord Raldo. There were even stories being passed down about how Warrior God Raldo led 5,000 troops and forced back the 20,000 strong troops of Collodis Empire in the previous war. Such an absurd thing was only made possible because of his existence. The fact that Warrior God Raldo had used the Warrior God's special powers was also something that was well-known to the continent.

But, despite his countless shocking achievements in the past, he was stricken with this strange, unexplainable deep sleep.

Step—

Minhyuk looked around the place where Overlord Raldo was sleeping and asked, "Has Raldo stayed like this since he fell asleep?"

"That's right," Evan, who had decided to cooperate with them, nodded in answer. "We haven't been able to find any sort of hint so far. Also, a powerful force would stop us whenever we tried to touch His Majesty's body."

After hearing Evan's words, Minhyuk slowly approached Raldo while carefully reaching out his hand to touch Raldo's hand.

[An unknown power is currently residing in Overlord Raldo's body.]

[You cannot get close to Overlord Raldo!]

To accurately find the issue in one's body, it was only right to make contact with it. But even that was made impossible by this unknown power.

"And there were no signs of attack?"

"Yes. Of course."

Overlord Raldo being attacked? That was completely preposterous. As Minhyuk rubbed his chin in thought, Prince Votto and the more than 1,000 surviving knights and troops that came along looked at him with nervous looks on their faces. Raldo was like the sky and the heavens to them. Although they had chosen Prince Votto, they would definitely not make such a foolish choice if Raldo had been awake.

'Please. Please awaken His Majesty Raldo.'

'Please do not leave His Majesty Raldo alone in his sleep anymore...'

They even went so far as to plead and ask their enemy, Minhyuk of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, to help them. Minhyuk knew better than anyone else that he would be able to gain a huge reward if he could wake up Raldo right here and now.

“Kimaris.”

“Yes, Your Majesty,” Kimaris answered politely as he bowed and stood behind Minhyuk. Since he had decided to stay with Minhyuk, he would become his loyal vassal.

“Do you think I will be able to find something in his dreams?”

“We can find a hint as long as there’s something that he wants to find. However, there’s something that you have to keep in mind.”

Minhyuk looked back at Kimaris when he heard him emphasize this point.

“My skill ‘Dreams of Truth’ can allow someone awake to fall into a deep sleep and find the things that they have forgotten in their sleep. I can also allow His Majesty to be the one to dream and get a glimpse of that place in his stead.”

“That’s right,” Minhyuk nodded. He knew about the skill ‘Dreams of Truth’ too.

“I believe we should use the latter method and have Your Majesty be the one to dream instead. However, there’s a risk to this. If Your Majesty fails to find anything in the dream, then you will be trapped inside it until you die. Also, the stronger the person you will dream for and the longer you stay in the dream, the more sin you will bear.”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Evan, Prince Votto and the prisoners of wars, the knights and soldiers of Lumae Kingdom, that accompanied them here were shocked. Actually, everyone present at the scene was shocked by Kimaris’ words.

‘The Beyond the Heavens’ King will die...?’

‘The King himself has to risk his own life and death for this?’

‘How can this be...’

Even if he had the power to come back to life again, Minhyuk was still a king. The burden that a king himself had to carry was too much. Evan had a bitter look on his face as he said, “Beyond the Heavens King, I will not forget the risk that you’re bearing for us.”

However, even though he believed that there was no more hope, Evan still decided to not forget the efforts of Minhyuk to try and wake up Raldo. The same was true for the others. A king risking his

life to save another king was a ridiculous notion. In the end, everyone believed that he would turn around. Before they came here, Minhyuk had told them to leave any important baggage behind.

“Minhyuk...”

Even so, Khan, who came with him, still expressed his concern. First, he did not know how much penalty Minhyuk would receive once it happened. And second, what if Raldo did not have anything that he wanted to find?

‘He doesn’t need to receive a penalty for this.’

After pondering for a moment, Minhyuk turned to Evan with a kind smile on his face.

“It’s alright.”

Evan looked confused when he saw Minhyuk’s kind smile. Minhyuk looked back and said, “Evan and the rest of these people here are waiting for you to wake up.”

Then, Minhyuk looked at the prisoners of war that he brought along, who were standing beyond the door.

“You also have subjects standing beyond that door crying for you. Even though I’m the king of an enemy kingdom, I know all too well how they feel. Even if I die, I’m still an immortal. Hence, I’ll challenge it for you.”

“...!”

Evan, the prisoners of war, and even the subjects that would hear about this story later on, were all in awe and admiration of Minhyuk.

‘You’re the king of another nation but you can understand the hearts of the subjects of another kingdom?!’

‘You can understand what the people feel even though we are from another kingdom.’

‘The Beyond the Heavens’ King is a true and genuine person. He’s... as great and amazing as His Majesty Raldo, isn’t he?’

[Your favor with Evan has reached the highest level.]

[The hearts of the prisoners of war are shaking.]

[The eyes that the prisoners of war are looking at you with is changing. They are now viewing you as a likable person.]

As for Minhyuk? His words were actually only half true. In any case, Minhyuk was bound to challenge this. If he could make use of the situation to win the hearts of the people here during this challenge, then it was just like hitting two birds with one stone. This just went to show how smart of a sovereign Minhyuk was. Besides, even if he died, he would still be able to win the hearts of the prisoners-of-war.

“I will now use Dreams of Truth,” Kimaris said as he extended each of his arms to Raldo and Minhyuk respectively. Then, a huge amount of demonic energy passed through Raldo before getting sucked into Minhyuk’s body. After that...

“Beyond the Heavens’ King, I, Lumae Kingdom’s Guardian Evan, will never forget your efforts!”

Thud—

Evan placed his rapier on the ground as he knelt down on one knee to show courtesy. Even the prisoners of wars knelt down all at once. However, Minhyuk was not able to witness any of this. His eyes looked vacant as his consciousness got sucked into a pitch-black darkness.

[You are now dreaming on behalf of Raldo.]

Then, a voice rang from somewhere.

“I killed my father and even coveted his secret scroll.”

Chapter 525: Inside the Overlord’s Dreams

Notifications swarmed Minhyuk’s head the moment he tried to access Raldo’s dream.

[You are now peeking at Raldo’s dreams. By doing so, you will now follow what he wants to find.]

[You can now view and feel part of Raldo’s life and emotions.]

[With ‘Dreams of Truth’, you will receive a penalty if Raldo does not have anything that he wants to find. The penalty will depend on your opponent’s stats, skills and achievements.]

[Raldo is the one hailed as the Warrior God! He has left countless achievements in his wake!]

[If Raldo does not have anything that he wants to find, you will be fined with death, a 2% deduction in all of your stats, as well as no game access for 3 days.]

“...”

The penalty was so damning that Minhyuk could not help but groan. The worst part here was that he was not able to know what penalty he would get unless he tried to enter the dream.

‘Please...?’ Minhyuk desperately hoped that there was something that Raldo wanted to find. Then, a man’s voice rang from within the pitch-black darkness. The voice was a low baritone and was very alluring.

“I killed my father and coveted his secret scroll.”

“...!”

Minhyuk recognized the owner of the voice to be Raldo, the Overlord. But, he coveted his father’s secret scrolls and even killed him? The words brought great shock to Minhyuk. This was because Raldo was known to be an extremely benevolent king, to the point that he was hailed as a ‘Sacred Monarch’.

One of the main reasons why the Warrior's Nation was able to get strong was because of the people's faith. This was because Raldo graciously embraced his people and ruled with great benevolence.

But that very same Raldo killed his own father? It was something that was not recorded in the annals of history.

'Did he want the throne?'

Minhyuk shook his head. It was too early for him to make a decision. Not long after, the darkness made way to show the first scene. A bulky middle-aged man and a young boy, both wearing shabby clothes, were panting as they stood at the peak of a steep mountain. From what it looked like, the two of them climbed the mountain. The young boy had the word 'Raldo' above his head.

"Father! I'm definitely going to be a great knight, just like you!"

"Hohoho. Raldo, what are you talking about? What do you mean by that? Becoming a great knight? You shouldn't be a knight."

"Eeeeeeeeh?"

Raldo's father smiled kindly as he placed his large hand on the head of the confused boy.

"Raldo, you must be the king of this land. And this father of yours will make sure that it will happen."

Along with that, a notification rang in Minhyuk's ears.

[Ravanberg, the fifteenth king of Lumae Kingdom, was born between a mother of lowly birth and the king. Despite being a part of the royal family, he was pushed out by the other princes from the successor battle and had been living in the outskirts of Lumae Kingdom, while raising his son, Raldo, by himself.]

The notification was explaining the scene that was currently being displayed in front of Minhyuk.

[Ravanberg was a good father to Raldo. Raldo, a person with countless dreams, was a son that respected and looked up to his father.]

The scene changed, showing Ravanberg carrying Raldo on his shoulders, the two smiling happily while descending the mountains. Then...

Swoosh—

The two people turned into smoke and disappeared in the air.

[Ravanberg's father, the king, was a tyrant. He imposed high taxes and unfair policies on his people, just so he could feed the nobles and make sure that they lived an extravagant life. He even went so far as to wage wars against other nations, all the while using and exploiting his impoverished subjects. The other princes greatly resemble their father, both in their looks and the way they handled matters. Many cried as the death toll increased in the kingdom. In the end, rebels appeared and began to move.]

The scene changed and showed a now twelve-year-old Raldo running as fast as he could in a wide field. Finally, he arrived on the battlefield where Ravanberg was desperately fighting. There were

only around 20,000 rebel troops, while the kingdom troops had around 300,000 men. No matter who looked at it, the rebel troops were inferior in terms of numbers. However, Ravanberg just raised his sword high up in the sky and shouted, “Get rid of the rotten king! Save the nation!!!”

“Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

The rebels’ shouts shook the grounds and pierced the skies as a powerful force appeared and surrounded Ravanberg’s sword.

“It’s, it’s the Overlord!”

“It’s Overlord Raldo!!!”

‘Overlord?’

Minhyuk immediately focused. He believed that the power of the Overlord’s secret scroll should have definitely been beyond this world. Ravanberg looked at the rushing enemy troops, his sword covered with blazing black flames. And the moment he brandished his sword...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

...an explosion bloomed, shaking the ground and devouring all of the enemies that rushed to him. Then, something surprising happened. The explosion created by the black flames created a huge wave that devoured 30,000 of the enemy troops, turning them into ashes and extinguishing them in one go.

‘Crazy...?!’

Thirty thousand troops died in an instant. And the emotions of the young boy, Raldo, who was watching everything from a distance...

‘Father...’

...flowed into Minhyuk. Raldo felt both respect and immense love for his father. As a young boy of twelve years, the fact that he ran to the battlefield in case his father was suddenly put in danger proved how much Raldo cared for and loved his father. The scene scattered into thin air, replaced by a new one. This time, Ravanberg was wearing a bright and colorful crown while looking at the people of Lumae Kingdom below him.

“His Majesty Raldo! Long Live!!!”

“May you live for a thousand years, Your Majesty Raldo!!!”

The people heaped praises at Ravanberg, shouting with all their might. Ravanberg just smiled as he placed the crown on his head on his son, Raldo. Raldo rubbed his nose and smiled shyly at his father. The scene stopped as Raldo laughed happily while the people praised them.

[Lumae Kingdom finally regained its peace and stability. Ravanberg was a benevolent monarch who uplifted the lives and healed the wounds of his impoverished subjects. Because of that, the Lumae Kingdom grew stronger by the day. Their territory might be small, but their growth was

nothing short of amazing. Other empires and kingdoms tried to aim for them and knock them down a peg but none of them won the war against Lumae Kingdom. Even Raldo's growth was tremendous.]

Ravanberg, who put the nation back on the right path, and his son Raldo.

[At the young age of sixteen, Raldo was able to surpass and reach the stage that Ravanberg had reached when he was twenty nine. By the age of twenty, no one in the kingdom could defeat Raldo. Just like his father Ravanberg, Raldo served as Lumae Kingdom's pillar and worked as a benevolent ruler. However, when Ravanberg reached his fifties, he began to change.]

The scene that stopped earlier moved once again. This time, Raldo, now a young man, was rushing somewhere. However, a shockingly ridiculous scene greeted him the moment he opened the door. Ravanberg, who was sitting on his throne, looked at his bloodstained hands in disbelief, surrounded by the dead bodies of his loyal subjects that cared for him.

"Your Majesty..."

"...Raldo."

Minhyuk felt Raldo's feelings at this moment. He was very confused and conflicted. The sacred and benevolent monarch, the kind King Ravanberg had killed his loyal subjects with his own hands. Raldo left without looking back at his father. But as time went by, more and more people died in the hands of Ravanberg.

One day...

"This..."

Raldo was both shocked and in disbelief after seeing the knights that his father loved and cared for, dead in the garden under his balcony. Raldo rushed to meet with his father.

"My royal father, in the end, you have also been possessed by the God of Death!!!"

"Raldo..."

Ravanberg was sleeping soundly despite the blood covering his hands. However, he was looking at Raldo sadly. Raldo had heard about the God of Death. Ravanberg's mother knew that he was bound to be abandoned even before he was born. So, his mother sold her soul to give Ravanberg the power of the God of Death. The power of the 'God of Death' was none other than the Overlord's Power. And the God of Death, one of the absolute gods, was known for his viciousness and his penchant for traps.

"Raldo... I... I..."

"Father, I hate you!!!"

Raldo left the Royal Family. As time went by, rumors about Ravanberg going crazy ran rampant in the kingdom. In the end, the vassals loyal to the Royal Family came to Raldo and said, "His Majesty Ravanberg is a tyrant. We need you, Prince Raldo. Please correct the Lumae Kingdom's straying path!"

"Prince Raldo. It's time for you to take the throne."

“I can’t do that. I’m sorry,” Raldo refused.

The ones that came to find Raldo were the ones that were there since Ravanberg's rule came to be. However, even these people were saying that Ravanberg had become tyrannical and crazy. Nevertheless, Raldo still refused. He had sweet and loving memories with his father and Raldo hoped that he would return to how he was in the past. But then, the next day, all of the vassals that came to find him turned into cold corpses. The people’s resentment reached an all time high and Raldo’s thoughts finally changed.

‘How can he kill them...? Did the God of Death make him kill them?! Those are meaningless deaths!!!’

Ravanberg no longer used the Overlord’s Power, but the other empires and kingdoms were still afraid of his power and dared not attack the kingdom. That was how powerful Ravanberg was. However, Raldo already possessed power that far surpassed his father.

The scene changed.

Raldo, who was wearing a mask, walked ever so slowly to Ravenberg’s bedroom. Raldo looked at his slumbering father, holding the sword that Ravenberg held before.

‘Father, the king must die!’

Raldo stabbed the sword in Ravenberg’s abdomen without any hesitation.

Stab—

No sound or scream escaped from Ravanberg’s mouth. All he did was slowly open his eyes, his body trembling as he called softly, “Raldo.”

Ravanberg raised a trembling hand. He held Raldo’s cheeks and rubbed it affectionately while smiling gently at his son.

“Ah...”

Raldo could not understand why his father, Ravanberg, could still show that gentle and fatherly smile at him, despite him stabbing him with his own sword. When Ravanberg’s body slumped down, a powerful force erupted from his body, turning into a bloody current that got sucked into Raldo’s body.

Swooooooosh—

‘The, the Overlord’s Power?’

Only when the Overlord’s Power entered his body did he finally realize that he killed Ravanberg, his own father. Raldo ran, ran as far as he could, as if he was running away from this truth. A few days later, Raldo ascended to the throne.

‘I will protect this nation.’

Despite ascending to the throne, Raldo could not bring a smile to his face. Minhyuk, who was watching everything, felt all of Raldo’s raw emotions. The pain, regret, and despair brought about by the fact that he killed his own beloved father. To forget his father, Raldo strived to become a

benevolent and holy monarch, and turned Lumae Kingdom into a powerful nation. He also never used the Overlord's Power.

However, once he reached his fifties, the same timeframe when his father turned crazy, a strange voice began to ring in his head.

'Am I also going to be a tyrant, just like my father?'

Raldo could only remember his father as a mad tyrant.

'If I can only find that secret scroll that grandma had talked about before...'

If he could, then he would be able to escape the path that would turn him into a mad tyrant. But no matter how hard he tried, Raldo could not remember. After all, he was only around three or four years old when he heard about the location where it was hidden. Raldo spent the next few years searching for the location of the secret scroll madly.

Alas, it was to no avail. It was said that the secret scroll could lift the curse that the 'God of Death' had cursed them with. In the end, all Raldo could do was sit on his throne and stab the ground with his greatsword.

"I will never become like you."

Raldo hated his father down to his very core. He never wanted to become a tyrant like him. He chose to put himself in a deep sleep that no one knew when he would wake up from.

'Raldo chose to fall into this deep sleep on his own...'

Raldo's final emotion that got transmitted to Minhyuk was hatred. The hatred for a crazy tyrant. At that moment, Minhyuk witnessed how a person that someone cherished, respected and loved more than anybody else, had turned into an object of loathing and hatred. Then, the effect of Dreams of Truth, the effect that Minhyuk had been waiting for, was triggered.

[Raldo's childhood memories contain the location of the Secret Scroll.]

Then, the voice of an old lady rang in Minhyuk's ears.

"It's hidden under the boulder that looks like two heads in Mount Emerald.

Ravanberg, when you become the king later, make sure to use that Secret Scroll and free yourself from this curse."

That was the location where the secret scroll was hidden, the place that Raldo had heard about, when he was a child while staying by Ravanberg's side.

'Found you.'

Minhyuk's eyes sparkled brightly at the information. However, he noticed something strange.

'Raldo was young when he heard it so it makes sense that he would have a hard time remembering it. But Ravanberg was not. He should definitely remember where the secret scroll is hidden.'

No, it was not just that. Minhyuk was sure that Ravanberg's mother had told this fact to him several times so there was no way for Ravanberg to forget about this. So, why did Ravanberg not use the secret scroll? Then, another set of notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears.

[The Dreams of Truth's special ability has been triggered.]

[You can view Ravanberg's past to find the truth.]

[Would you like to view it?]

The moment Minhyuk nodded, the scene changed once again. But this time, it was from Ravanberg's point of view.

Lumae Kingdom's Guardian Evan as well as the executives and troops of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom looked at Minhyuk worriedly. He had been asleep for quite a long time and there were no movements at all.

"Why is he still sleeping? A long time has already passed, hasn't it???"

"It's because His Majesty has started to look for another truth."

"Another truth?"

"I actually don't know about it either."

Everyone became frustrated when they heard Kimaris' words. All of a sudden, Minhyuk, who was still sleeping, began to cry.

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

All of them were shocked. They immediately turned their attention to Minhyuk as his mouth started to open slowly, "Ravanberg is not crazy... he did it so... he could save... Raldo..."

Chapter 526: Inside the Overlord's Dreams

Minhyuk, who chose to peek at the truth, was now back to the beginning of the memories that he had witnessed earlier. This time, it was not from Raldo's point of view, but Ravenberg's. There was a high chance that he would also be able to feel what Ravenberg felt before.

The scene immediately changed into that of Ravenberg's point of view. It was during the first time Ravenberg killed his loyal subordinates. One of his loyal subordinates said, "Your Majesty! Prince Raldo's growth is too frightening! At this rate, Prince Raldo will threaten you and your throne!"

"We have to make the first move on Prince Raldo! There are even rumors that Prince Raldo is aiming for Your Majesty's position. Please quickly convict the prince of treason and protect your throne!"

Then, the explanations rang.

[The God of Death whispered about slaughtering his men in Ravanberg's ears. However, Ravanberg's willpower and mental strength was so great that even the God of Death was helpless against it.]

Minhyuk was very surprised to hear the notifications.

'His willpower and mental strength is strong enough to make the God of Death helpless?'

Ravanberg's subordinates kept on urging him.

"Your Majesty! Please quickly condemn and convict Prince Raldo!!!"

"You have to kill him so you can live, Your Majesty!!!"

"Shut up!!! No one can ever dare touch a single hair on my son's body!!!"

When his subordinates pushed him to kill his own son, Ravanberg, who was fighting against the God of Death with his willpower and mental strength, ended up succumbing to the whispers in his ears and slaughtering his subordinates.

Ever since then, he continued to hear the voices of his subordinates urging him to kill Raldo, making his blood boil and forcing him to open the restrictions that he placed upon himself. One day, he even overheard that his knights planned to raid Raldo in his room and kill him without his consent. When he learned of this, Ravanberg immediately ran and fought against them. But that was not all. He killed everyone that plotted and threatened to kill Raldo.

I will kill everyone that threatens my son's life and protect him from them.

It was not too long before people started to call him a tyrant. However, even if that was not the truth, Ravanberg could not bring himself to tell Raldo. He could not tell his son that he killed those people because they were trying to kill him, just because he posed a threat to his own father. Ravanberg knew that this would bring great pains to his son. That was why he decided to carry all of the baggage himself.

Ravanberg was also aware that his vassals had visited Raldo, who left the kingdom, and told his son to kill him. However, when Raldo refused them, it came to Ravanberg's attention that these very same vassals decided to just kill Raldo instead, since they could not convince him otherwise. Ravanberg also killed them with his sword.

The night before Ravanberg died, he had been told that the rebels had gathered under Raldo's command. Knowing that his son would come to him, Ravanberg stood by his window and waited. He watched as his son sneaked into the garden to enter his bedroom.

"Son, remember me as a tyrant. Don't miss me, instead, hate me and my very existence and live as a true and genuine king," then, Ravanberg laid in his bed, pretending to sleep as he whispered the words, "I love you, my son."

Ravanberg did not even budge when he heard his son lift his sword.

'Raldo. I have to die so you can live.'

Then, Raldo's sword stabbed into Ravanberg's abdomen.

Stab—

At that moment, relief washed over Ravanberg. With his death, Raldo's life would not be threatened anymore.

This kingdom will become even stronger and greater after my death.

However, there was one last thing that Ravanberg wanted to tell his son. The secret scroll. Ravanberg knew that the curse of the God of Death would be passed down to his son upon his death. That was why he did not use it. He wanted to leave it for Raldo's use. Ravanberg reached out a trembling hand and rubbed Raldo's cheeks as he tried to convey his words.

"Raldo..."

Alas, he could not finish his words. His breath did not last that long. With that, the entire scene disintegrated and turned into dust.

"..."

Minhyuk was left speechless.

Ravanberg is not a tyrant.

Minhyuk's emotions were agitated.

Ravanberg was the unfortunate king that chose to die at the hands of his own son. The king chose not to use the secret scroll until the very end, so his son could be freed from the curse, which would be passed on to his son, that plagued him all his life. He was a supreme king but he chose to become an ordinary father, choosing a path that would allow his son to live.

At the same time, the pain and emotions that Ravanberg felt swept through Minhyuk's entire being. The emotions made Minhyuk mumble unconsciously, "Ravanberg is not crazy... he did it so... he could save... Raldo..."

Then, the notifications rang.

[You will now awaken from the Dreams of Truth.]

The crying Minhyuk opened his eyes just when Evan and the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's delegation approached him out of worry.

"Hoo," Minhyuk breathed out, wiping the tears in his eyes before looking at the sleeping Raldo. Everything that Ravanberg wished for had already been achieved. Raldo remembered his father, the figure that he respected and loved in the past, as a mad tyrant and loathed him down to his core.

"Are you alright?" Evan asked, his question both an inquiry to Minhyuk's well-being and the answer that they wanted to find.

"Yes, I'm fine. I believe I have found a way," Minhyuk said. Then, he turned to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's troops and gave them his order, "Go to Mount

Emerald and dig under the rock that looks like two heads. There is a book there. Go and fetch it for me.”

“Yes, sir!!!”

The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s executives immediately moved according to his orders. They did not take long since Mount Emerald was in Lumae Kingdom.

Khan, who came to Mount Emerald with the troops, stood in front of Minhyuk and handed him a decrepit box. Minhyuk slowly opened the box to see an equally decrepit secret scroll inside. A notification rang in Minhyuk’s ears the moment he took out the secret scroll.

[You have acquired the Secret Scroll of Liberation.]

He immediately checked the information of the item in his hands.

?You can be liberated from any God’s Curse upon usage.?

?You have to face great risks if the curse that you received is from a contract with a God.

There were two cases where one would receive a God’s Curse. One, the person was cursed because of a God’s Wrath. Or two, the person was cursed because they signed a contract with a God, hence they were shackled with the curse for a very long time to bind them to that God. According to the secret scroll, the latter would be accompanied by great risks. It was only natural.

‘You prayed to get God’s power because you wanted to obtain it but you don’t want to pay the price? It’s ridiculous.’

That was why one had to experience great risks to remove these shackles that bound them.

‘The biggest problem here is that we still don’t know what the risks and dangers are yet.’

Just as the thought flashed in Minhyuk’s head, another notification rang in his ears.

Ring!

“...!”

There was only one reason why Minhyuk was shocked after seeing the linked quest.

‘Did it say Overlord’s Technique?!’

Inside the dream, Minhyuk clearly saw the power of the Overlord’s Technique. It was a completely broken attack skill that could wipe out almost 30,000 troops in one fell swoop. To think the quest said that he could acquire such a skill?

However, it was accompanied by an equally shocking penalty upon failure, the Warrior God going berserk. Of course, there was a high chance that the troops that Minhyuk brought with him could stop the berserk Warrior God. However, that meant that they had to kill him the moment he went on a rampage. If that happened, it was likely that Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and Minhyuk would be subjected to various factors and variables that would be detrimental to them and their growth.

'I also don't know about the Secret Scroll of Liberation's risk.'

Another problem was the fact that he did not know about the risks stated in the description of the Secret Scroll of Liberation. Minhyuk would be able to gain a lot of things once he overcame everything and freed the Warrior God from his God's Curse. Even so, Minhyuk could not hastily make a decision.

Seeing the unusual look on Minhyuk's face, Evan said, "Beyond the Heavens' King, we will not resent you, whatever may happen."

"...I'd appreciate it if you really do think that way," Minhyuk said, smiling softly after hearing Evan's words.

Even the people of Lumae Kingdom that were present here seemed to sympathize with Evan's words. After all, they knew that Minhyuk was not trying to wake Raldo up for his own sake. It was all thanks to Evan and these people that Minhyuk was able to make a decision.

"I will use the Secret Scroll of Liberation. However, there are great risks involved in using this."

"You're unaware of the dangers involved in using the scroll?"

"That's right," Minhyuk nodded. Evan and the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom immediately went on alert as Minhyuk slowly stepped towards Raldo.

[Would you like to use the Secret Scroll of Liberation on Raldo?]

Minhyuk nodded in answer to the Secret Scroll of Liberation's question.

"Use it."

Then, a bright light burst forth from the Secret Scroll of Liberation. The book then fluttered until the bright light engulfed the area before getting sucked into Raldo's body. And Raldo, who had been sleeping with his head bowed down, suddenly lifted his head and looked straight ahead.

Blink—

The white of his eyes were gone, covered by pitch black darkness.

Shwaaaaaaaa—

Then, a black stream surged out of Raldo's body.

"Don't tell me..." Minhyuk uttered, thinking that the worst 'risk' was about to befall them. The worst case scenario was them fighting against Warrior God Raldo.

Then, the notifications rang.

[Cursed Overlord Raldo has awakened!]

[With the use of the Secret Scroll of Liberation, the curse of the God of Death has taken control over Raldo.]

[You will only be able to free him from his curse if you can make Raldo give in by himself.]

[The only one that can make Raldo give in is the one that used the secret scroll.]

Immediately after the notifications, everyone inside the room got sucked away.

“Keuaaaack!”

“Heoook?”

Even Evan, the Overlord’s teacher, failed to resist the power and got sucked away.

“M, Minhyuk!!!”

“Your Majesty!!!”

“Beyond the Heavens’ King!!!”

Everyone desperately called for Minhyuk after being trapped outside of a transparent and sturdy wall. Meanwhile, cold sweat dripped down Minhyuk’s forehead as he looked at the situation he was in.

Then, another notification rang in his ears.

[If you can subdue Raldo, you will be able to get half of the Overlord’s Technique and Raldo will get the other half.]

Team Leader Park Minggyu and Employee Lee Minhwa were both watching the confrontation between Minhyuk and the Warrior God Raldo inside the Special Players Management Team. Both of them had sweat in their hands.

“Team Leader, why will they be able to share the Overlord’s Technique?”

“The logic here is simple. Overlord’s Technique is a power that can only be used if you pray for God’s power. If you divide the power in half, they would be able to use the Overlord’s Technique without the penalty. Of course, the power of the Overlord’s Technique would be weaker but the penalty would be gone, so it’s a win-win.”

“But even just half of the Overlord’s Technique can display a tremendous power, right?”

“That’s right. It is still a stronger power than any other skill in a player’s repertoire.”

Park Minggyu gulped dryly, an awkward smile painted on his lips. He grabbed a bottle of water, drank a sip to moisten his throat and continued, “However, Minhyuk here might gain something far greater than the Overlord’s Technique.”

“Something greater?” Lee Minhwa asked. She could not understand what Minggyu meant. Minhyuk would be able to gain a power that was far greater than the Overlord’s Technique?

Team Leader Park looked at Raldo on the monitor and said, “What do you think will happen with Raldo, who will now be able to use the Overlord’s Technique, even though it only has half of the power?”

“...!”

Lee Minhwa’s eyes widened. When she thought about it, Raldo had inherited the Overlord’s power but he had never ever used it. Then, it only meant one thing.

“Raldo will become an Absolute Supreme NPC?”

“That’s right. And...”

Lee Minhwa perked her ears up and listened intently to Park Minggyu’s next words.

“...he might just become another of Player Minhyuk’s friends.”

Chapter 527: Gaining an Uncle

Among the country’s Athenae rankers, there were three women that could slap any celebrities on their faces with their beauties. One was Genie, Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s Vice Guild Master, a woman that looked like a gentle and lovable puppy, but had a hot personality that could sear anyone with the curses that she could spit out.

Another was the assassin Lucia, a woman that showcased her body with clothes that fit perfectly, shaking the hearts of men with her graceful and lithe movements, akin to that of a cat.

Finally, there was the magic swordsman Alicia, a woman that had a body that was in perfect complement with her innocent face. All three of them happened to be acquaintances of the Food God. Because of this, many men in Korea had turned to calling the Food God a thief that must have saved a country in his previous life or a beauty villain.

Meanwhile, there was a woman that could stand shoulder to shoulder with these three women, but had always gotten less of the spotlight. People did not think of her as a beauty that was on par with the trio, since her face had always been covered by her dark and gloomy hairstyle.

But anyone that had seen her face up close would always say...

‘You’re a beauty that will not lose against Genie, Lucia and Alicia.’

‘I feel like my breath stopped for a moment when I saw you up close.’

This woman was none other than Ascar, the Ghost of the Battlefield. She, a player that used two katanas, was also one of the well-known dealers, in Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. The people of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had always raised their thumbs at her brilliant swordsmanship and relentless assaults. Ascar’s real name was Im Da-Sol.

And right now, she was riding on an elevator on the way to her room. Im Da-Sol had been living in and moving around several hotels in the country. Despite her beauty, her silver hair styled in a bob-cut gave off a gloomy and dreary aura to her body.

Once she reached the top floor, Da-Sol entered her hotel room and tied her hair up in a ponytail, completely revealing her face. Da-Sol’s blue eyes added a layer of light on her beauty. Even her straight nose, sharp jawline and striking western features were very impressive. Anyone who had

seen Da-Sol's face that was hidden beneath her hair would fall in love with her half-Korean, half-American features. In fact, even those from Beyond the Heavens Kingdom have rarely seen her smile.

But now, in her privacy, she was smiling a bit.

"Thank you... for the things back then and for the things now too."

Da-Sol looked at the table where there was a picture showing a bunch of eleven year old kids in a class. In the picture, Da-Sol was standing by herself toward the far right corner with an awkward "V" sign on her hands.

As a mixed-race child, she was often bullied at school. Back then, the children, despite not knowing anything, hated her for her platinum hair and western features. The worst part? She was also an introverted child. But in this photo that involved the darkest memories of her childhood, stood her light. Behind Da-Sol's awkward "V" was a boy with the same "V" sign raised by his side and a bright smile on his face.

And this child's name was... Minhyuk.

However, Da-Sol knew that Minhyuk did not remember her since the boy transferred schools after just a year, barely completing their third year in school. Even though Minhyuk was still young back then, he had talked and helped Da-Sol a lot. There was one time when Minhyuk came inside the science room where Da-Sol was hiding and saw her crying her heart out after being bullied by her own 'friends'.

'Why do my friends hate me?'

'I don't think they hate you, I think it's more of jealousy?'

'Jealousy...?'

'I think the other kids are jealous of you because you're very tall and you have a pretty face. Yeah. They're jealous because you're pretty.'

'Me?'

Da-Sol had always been called an ugly girl by her friends. But the truth was, ever since her childhood, she had boasted a doll-like appearance.

'That's right. So you should be confident. I think you're going to be very famous, Da-Sol.'

A smile always curled at the corners of Da-Sol's lips whenever that memory flashed in her mind. Just like other children, Da-Sol had written 'model', 'Miss Korea', 'celebrity' and even 'announcer' as her childhood dreams.

The young Da-Sol had asked Minhyuk back then, *'Did you know that I wanted to be a model?'*

'Nope~? I totally did not have an idea, you know? I just thought that you would be famous when I saw you. It's because you're pretty. I can already imagine it. Ten years from now, you will be surrounded with friends and will be a subject of everyone's envy as a very beautiful woman. You can definitely be a world-famous model. Once the time comes, I will

go and see your fashion show. So, don't pretend that you don't know me and make sure to give me an autograph. Okay? It's a promise!

'Y... yeah.'

One might think that being a model was just one of many girls' dreams but right there on Da-Sol's table was a contract with Designer Crystal's Fashion Show, a contract for her participation. While she was taking her modeling classes, she took the time to send a video of her walk to one of the world-class designers, Crystal, and won the right to participate in said designer's fashion show.

'You might not remember but...'

Da-Sol remembered Minhyuk, but it seemed like the man did not remember her at all. Even if that were the case, Da-Sol just hoped that she could still protect Minhyuk silently. So, she accessed the game under the name Ascar. Once she entered the game, Ascar looked down at the red ring in her hands.

Asura's Successor's Ring, an item that contained a shocking, amazing power, that would allow the item user to inherit Asura's powers.

'Ascar, I believe you're the best fit to become the owner of this ring.'

Minhyuk had received all of their guild members' consent prior to giving her this ring. Then, he said, *'If, by any chance, Asura's Successor's Ring imposes a ridiculous penalty, you can choose to disregard it. Make sure to not push yourself too hard.'*

Minhyuk expressed his worries as he handed the ring to her. The price to pay to inherit such a strong power could definitely be ridiculous. However...

'I want to stay silently by your side, Minhyuk.'

Ascar liked him, but she did not have the courage to be bold and appeal to him, in the ways Genie, Alicia and Lucia did and were still doing. So, she decided to just do it her own way and silently protect him.

[You will now inherit Asura's power.]

[You have to undergo a trial to inherit Asura's power.]

[If you fail the trial, your level will reset to Level 1.]

[Even if you succeed in the trial, your level will go down by half.]

[However, you will be able to completely get the Slaughterer God's powers.]

It would be disadvantageous for Ascar in the short term, but would definitely bring her great benefits in the long run. Ascar did not hesitate.

"Start the trial."

Today was the day when someone struggled and desperately fought to gain more power, in order to protect Minhyuk.

The Overlord. The Absolute Monarch. The One that surpassed the Sword Saint. However, no matter the words and expressions they used to describe Raldo, it was never enough. Raldo was such a king. Right now, this very same Raldo, whose eyes had turned pitch black, was staring at Minhyuk.

Minhyuk gulped dryly as he looked at Raldo warily.

Then, Raldo murmured, "I hate you. I hate you for succumbing to your lunacy, killing your retainers and putting the people of the kingdom in danger."

Raldo was currently not in the right state of mind. It seemed like he was not looking at Minhyuk but at his father, Ravanberg.

"That's why you should die."

Vwoooooooooong—

Raldo dashed toward Minhyuk. They were currently stuck inside this small and narrow space which made it more unfavorable for Minhyuk.

'What the hell is this speed?! How can he be so fast?'

Minhyuk was beyond shocked when he saw Raldo's speed. It was a speed that he could not avoid at all. Minhyuk quickly held his sword with both hands to block the incoming attack. Then...

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

A huge shock traveled from Minhyuk's arms and made him fly back and slam into the transparent barrier.

"Keuhaaaaaack!"

The immense power that traveled in Minhyuk's body was astonishing. However, that was not the only shocking thing.

[You have received an attack from the Warrior God's Sword.]

[Even if you did not receive the attack directly, the Warrior God's Sword will still be able to inflict damage on you.]

"This is too ridiculous!!!"

He had already stopped the sword attack but he still received damage? As if to prove the truth of the matter, Minhyuk suddenly felt the pain from the damage caused by his sword colliding with Raldo's sword, on his chest. However, Raldo did not give him any time to breathe. He immediately attacked Minhyuk once again.

'Let's try to avoid it this time.'

Minhyuk needed to test the waters with Raldo first. He immediately escaped Raldo's greatsword with a slight twist of his body but...

[You have received an attack from the Warrior God's Sword.]

[Even if you did not receive the attack directly, the Warrior God's Sword will still be able to inflict damage on you.]

“...”

Minhyuk was speechless. He was able to avoid Warrior God's Raldo's sword attack by ten centimeters, but still received damage? On top of that, Raldo's sword was swift and concise. Minhyuk could not even read the flow of his sword at all.

'What the hell?!'

Minhyuk was obviously a figure that was on par with an Olympic Gold Medalist in terms of swordsmanship and kendo. But even though he was hailed as a genius in swordsmanship, he could not keep up with Raldo's amazing sword skills and techniques.

'This is the Warrior God...!'

Minhyuk immediately used 'Like the Wind' to escape the approaching Raldo. After widening the distance between them by a meter, Minhyuk immediately twisted his body to avoid the trajectory of the attack. But just like before...

[You have received an attack from the Warrior God's Sword.]

[Even if you did not receive the attack directly, the Warrior God's Sword will still be able to inflict damage on you.]

His body still received damage even though he avoided the attack.

'I have to ignore the damage.'

If Minhyuk ignored the damage, then he would probably have a chance of winning. Of course, the amount of damage that Raldo could deal was so large that Minhyuk could not actually ignore it, but there was no other choice. After deciding to ignore the damage, Minhyuk looked at Raldo with a wide smile on his face as he stabbed his sword on the ground and sent an attack. But Raldo grabbed his sword.

“You, you'll stop it?”

Based on Minhyuk's calculation the attack that he sent just now was something that could not be prevented but Raldo just grabbed the sword in his hand and twisted his body away. Then, Raldo immediately cut his body horizontally with his great sword!

Slash!

[You have received an attack from the Warrior God's Sword.]

[You have received a direct attack from the Warrior God's Sword. You will receive 300% more damage!]

“Keuhaaaaaaaaack!”

Even if the attack failed, the receiver would receive 50% of the damage but if the attack succeeded then the attack would deal six times more damage than that. Minhyuk's HP had fallen by 8% despite wearing a God-rank artifact, the Slaughterer's Armor. Minhyuk immediately cast his Sword of Absolute Death, a skill that he saved with his 'Save' skill, to stop Raldo from approaching.

[Sword of Absolute Death]

[The first sword strike will hit your enemy with a 100% chance and an additional 700% damage as long as they are within four meters of you. The opponent that received the first sword strike will receive seven consecutive attacks with 500% additional damage and will fall into a stunned state for three seconds.]

[Hundreds of blades with 200% additional damage will shoot out and dance around to destroy and devour your enemies. A direct hit will cause a powerful explosion that will deal an additional 500% damage.]

The most ridiculous effect of the Sword of Absolute Death was that its first strike has a 100% chance of hitting the target.

Slash!

Raldo stumbled after receiving the attack directly. He was also put into a stunned state after seven consecutive hits with additional 500% damage struck him.

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

Raldo flinched from the damages caused by the seven consecutive hits. It was even accompanied by a three-second stunned state. Seeing this, Minhyuk immediately fired sword lights toward Raldo, bombarding the king with hundreds, if not thousands, of sword attacks. The problem was...

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

Except for the first strike, none of the sword lights pierced through Raldo's defense.

'What the hell?! Is he a monster?'

Just when Minhyuk was about to send another attack, the stunned state was lifted and Raldo drew an arc with the tip of his sword as he pulled it out of the ground.

"Wave's Rage."

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Then, at that moment, a gigantic wave made of swordlights appeared in the narrow space and devoured Minhyuk.

[Your HP has decreased by 7%.]

[Your HP has decreased by 6%.]

[Your HP has decreased by 8%.]

[Your HP has...]

[He Who Overcomes.]

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

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

Minhyuk was forced to utilize the special effect and the most ridiculous skill of Ellie's Kitchen Knife. It only took three minutes to happen. Then, Minhyuk thought, *'I can't beat him like this. What can I do against that tremendous attack damage as well as the damage that comes in even if I evade or block the attack?'*

Then, Minhyuk saw Raldo approaching him once again.

'He's too fast...!'

No matter what he tried to do, the attack would be inevitable. He originally wanted to take the trailer out but he had to stop his body from incurring any more damage so he immediately cast a skill that would help him do so.

“Let’s Have a Meal!”

Then, a huge barrier appeared and protected his body. Meanwhile, Evan, who saw everything unfold, could not help but frown, “Let’s, let’s have a meal?”

“It’s one of His Majesty’s ultimate skills. He becomes stronger after eating something there.”

“...”

Kimaris gave such a brief explanation that Evan, who heard it, wondered what nonsense he was spouting.

'How could someone grow stronger after just eating something? And even if he got a bit stronger, would it make any difference?'

“I’m helpless against His Majesty Raldo. He’s so strong that even if Sword Emperor Ellie and I worked together, we would still remain helpless against him.”

Raldo might not be an Absolute Supreme NPC, his skills and efforts were so fraudulent that his power could rival one. So what could Minhyuk do against His Majesty Raldo?

'It would already be amazing if he could block His Majesty's attacks.'

Evan was very thankful that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s King was fighting for them but to say that he would get stronger after eating something? Did they think that he was a child that could be fooled like that? In fact, the Beyond the Heavens’ King, who looked like he was about to die a bit earlier, was now eating happily with a bright smile on his face.

When the Let’s Have a Meal’s barrier was released, Evan said, “This may be rude to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s King but gaining strength after eating... uhm... even if he gains more strength, he would still be helpless against His Majesty Raldo...”

Just when Evan finished his words...

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—

“...?!”

A strong blast of wind slammed into Raldo making him crash into the transparent wall, his body sliding down on the floor.

“Urk!”

Raldo even vomitted a mouthful of blood.

'He, he really got stronger after having one meal?!'

It was not just a bit too. He became much stronger!

Chapter 528: Gaining an Uncle

The Cooking God, one of the Absolute Gods, had bestowed his secret upon Minhyuk. This secret was none other than Overlapping Delight. A skill that was helpful, but also had plenty of disadvantages, like its short duration in a large-scale battle, and the fact that it needed two dishes for it to take effect.

Of course, Minhyuk had to make up for these shortcomings and find a way to make full use of the Overlapping Delight.

'I have no choice but to immediately eat the dish I made for Overlapping Delight.'

Minhyuk could use the trailer's special ability, Double Food, and replicate the dish he made inside the trailer within ten minutes. But...

'The -1 on all stats penalty is too huge for me.'

...it was better for him to not use it unless he was in a very special situation. Minhyuk stats, excluding the five basic stats, amounted to ten. These stats included his DEX, CHA, Will and so on. All of these stats decreasing by one would impose a huge penalty on Minhyuk. So, to avoid that, Minhyuk thought of a trick. And this trick was very simple.

'Let's stock buffed dishes in my inventory and take them out when necessary.'

The buff effects would be different every time. The main reason why buffed dishes had different effects was because of the ingredients used in the dishes. Depending on the ingredients used, the dish could greatly increase one's STR or STM. A dish could even increase one's skill level. That was how each buffed dish varied in effects based on the ingredients used on them. And Minhyuk stored those kinds of dishes accordingly.

In fact, considering Minhyuk's eating addiction, the word 'store' was not the correct word to use, perhaps it was not even in his dictionary. But since most of the buffed dishes and ordinary dishes tasted similar, Minhyuk was able to endure by eating other dishes and wait for the day when he would be able to use them.

'It's also fun to wait for a while before eating. Fufu.'

Minhyuk summoned his trailer the moment he shouted 'Let's Have a Meal!'. Actually, using the trailer when he was in an absolute defense was a loss. But if Minhyuk allowed Raldo to rush toward him just now, then his life right then and there would already have been forfeit. Then...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Flames erupted from the trailer's vents as white smoke rushed up from its chimney, its body slowly turning red.

[The trailer has detected danger. The probability of creating higher-grade dishes has increased!]

[The trailer has detected danger. The probability of creating higher-grade dishes has increased!]

The notifications rang twice. Compared to when he was facing Asura, the dangers detected by the trailer were significantly lower. However, the fact that he could make a higher grade dish would not change. Now, Minhyuk only had to choose which of the dishes that he stored would he use for this moment.

'The reason why I'm having a hard time against Raldo is because of his tremendous damage, his tremendous experience and amazing skills.'

Actually, the reason why Minhyuk still received the damage despite avoiding Raldo's attack was all thanks to Raldo's passive skill, 'Warrior God's Sword'. This meant that he was stuck between two difficult choices. Should Minhyuk increase his defense and HP Volume? Or should he try to increase his average damage too?

However, it did not take too long for Minhyuk to decide between the two.

'I'm going for the latter.'

If Minhyuk chose to increase his defense, then he would still be helpless if Raldo decided to attack him consecutively. On the other hand, what would happen if his average attack and damage had increased?

'Raldo would also receive severe damage and would lessen the attacks that he sent out.'

Since Minhyuk had chosen, then that meant that he could now take one of the dishes that he stored. There was this dish that Minhyuk made just a few days ago that made him drool. The dish was none other than 'bachelor kimchi'. Bachelor kimchi or Altari Kimchi could be eaten by mixing it with rice or just as a plain side dish.

Minhyuk, who used a 'side dish' to take advantage of Overlapping Delight, could be said to be a true genius when it came to eating. The bachelor kimchi could increase Minhyuk's chosen skill by +3 upon consumption. This was the only effect the bachelor kimchi had. And the skill that Minhyuk decided to buff up with this effect was none other than his ridiculous passive skill, 'Lightning'. A passive that could randomly trigger lightning strikes upon each attack.

'If Raldo's passive skill is a literal scam, then I'll make this ridiculous skill into something that is far more than that.'

Minhyuk quickly climbed inside the trailer while thinking about the dish that could go well with Bachelor Kimchi. He thought about mixing the kimchi with the rice, but if he did that then he would not be able to see the other dish's effects. Then, that only brought him to one other thing. The combo that could make him drool just by the thought alone.

'It's making me crazy.'

Minhyuk felt good and happy just thinking about it. The dish was none other than 'chapagetti'. What would it taste like if he ate chapagetti with Bachelor Kimchi?

'It's over...'

Minhyuk's mouth was already filled with saliva just by imagining it. Due to chapagetti's nature, the probability of getting low buff effects was high. However, Minhyuk would be able to offset such disadvantages by using the ingredients from Rocard Kingdom which were jam packed with great

and amazing effects. Rocard Kingdom was a kingdom of farmers and Queen Iris, their queen, often sent gifts to Minhyuk.

And among these gifts were ingredients with amazing attributes,

The first thing that Minhyuk did was to put water in a pot.

Piiiiiiiiing—

Then, as if sensing the pot, the Eternal Flames immediately increased in intensity. Minhyuk left the water on the hot fire for less than a minute before adding the noodles and the chapagetti flakes. Then, he lifted the noodles quickly to let air flow through the noodles and make them chewy.

“...???”

Raldo, who lost his prey, turned to look at Minhyuk with a blank expression on his face. He looked like he was asking Minhyuk, ‘*What are you doing there instead of fighting me here?*’? But Minhyuk completely ignored him and just continued what he was doing, throwing the water out of the pot.

Usually, the chapagetti instructions written at the back of the packet would say to ‘leave eight spoons of water in the pot and mix it with some olive oil and the soup powder’ but Minhyuk was already a master at this. He left thirteen spoons of water in the pot.

So, what did Minhyuk do next?

Without removing the noodles from the pot, he poured the soup powder inside and added truffle oil instead of olive oil. Truffle oil was the oil made from the best truffle grown on the ground and was the best oil to bring out the chapagetti’s aroma and taste. This truffle oil was also one of the gifts that Rocard Kingdom’s Queen Iris had sent to Minhyuk. It was a rare product, with only one bottle produced per year, with very amazing abilities too.

Just like that, Minhyuk turned on the fire once again.

Sizzle—

Thirteen spoons of water might sound like it was a bit too much, but in fact it was just a small amount. That was why Minhyuk had to quickly mix everything, as if he was stir-frying the noodles. Besides, mixing the noodles as if he was stir-frying it would make the soup powder stick better to the noodles, coating them and giving them a stronger flavor.

Once all of the water had boiled away, Minhyuk quickly plated the noodles while bringing out another pan and pouring a layer of oil on it and adding two eggs on it.

Sizzle—

After cooking the bottom of the eggs perfectly, Minhyuk placed the eggs on top of his chapagetti before frying three dumplings on the same pan. After finishing everything, Minhyuk set the table and finally received satisfactory notifications about the buff effects.

Minhyuk looked at his chapagetti with a satisfied smile on his face. Steam gently rose from the still warm chapagetti, while the two half-cooked fried eggs accented its colors and showed off their golden luster. Minhyuk immediately grabbed his chopsticks as he poked down on one of the yolks.

Dribble, dribble— went the yolk, flowing a beautiful yellow down the noodles, coating it with its colors. Minhyuk then tore a piece of the egg white before clamping on the noodles and...

“Sluuuuuuuuuurp!”

The noodles, the yolk and the egg whites created a perfect harmony of flavors in Minhyuk’s mouth. The familiar taste in his mouth was very pleasant and the same goes for the deep flavor and aroma of the truffle oil. Then, he used his now clean left hand to pick up a piece of the bachelor kimchi.

“Eating kimchi with your hands is really the best.”

Minhyuk took a bite of the bachelor kimchi straight from his hands and...

Crunch, crunch, crunch—

...an insane crunching sound rang in his ears. Bachelor kimchi was a dish that was known for its crunchy texture and insane sounds when eaten. The spicy and pungent bachelor kimchi easily washed away the greasy aftertaste of the chapagetti. This time, Minhyuk picked a piece of the fried dumpling.

Crisp—

The hot and crispy fried dumplings were the best choice of partner for chapagetti. With only half of the dumpling left from what he picked, he placed it on top of the chapagetti before clamping a mouthful and placing everything in his mouth. The slightly greasy fried dumplings and the savory noodles met together and created a fantastic harmony. Of course, Minhyuk did not forget to pick some bachelor kimchi with his bare hands, making sure to suck his fingers clean of any sauce. After that, Minhyuk turned his attention to the remaining fried egg on his noodles. Without poking anything, Minhyuk scooped out the entire yolk and placed it in his mouth.

“Kghhk~”

The rich taste of the yolk spread and lingered in Minhyuk’s mouth as he placed the egg whites in his mouth. Then, he immediately slurped on some chapagetti noodles again.

“Kghhh.”

After eating his fried eggs, fried dumplings, chapagetti and bachelor kimchi, he opened a cold and icy bottle of water and washed away the greasiness from his mouth.

“Fwaaaaa!”

The moment he finished eating, the cooking die appeared in front of Minhyuk.

[Overlapping Delight.]

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

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

Minhyuk desperately wished to get a higher number. The higher the number, the more he could maximize his passive skill and the better the effects. But the die did not adhere to Minhyuk’s wishes.

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

[The Overlapping Delight’s buff effect will last for three minutes!]

[You have received the effects of the Epic Grade Bachelor Kimchi and the Epic Grade Truffle Oil.]

[Your STR and AGI has increased by 14%!]

[Your Physical and Magical Defense have increased by 22%!]

[Your Sword's Basic Attack has increased by 100%!]

[You can increase the level of your artifact passive skill or any passive skill in your possession by +3!]

'Lightning.'

[The Continent Destroyer Sword's Passive Skill 'Lightning' has increased in level by +3.]

Swoooooosh—

The word 'Crazy' appeared on the blade of the Continent Destroyer Sword. In a 1:1 battle, the skill 'Crazy' was the skill that could exert a ridiculous strength. This was Crazy's basic information.

Artifact Skill

Level: None

Mana Required: None

Cooldown: None

Effects:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The most ridiculous part of the skill was the fact that there was a high chance of triggering Crazy Mode continuously. There was even a 1% chance of triggering it four times in a row.

'I don't have much time.'

Minhyuk was wondering how strong Lightning would become if the passive skill had a +3 level increase, but he knew full well that he did not have the time to contemplate on this matter.

'I'll just have to check it while confronting Raldo.'

The moment Minhyuk stepped out of his trailer and left the barrier, the barrier melted and flowed down like cascading water, before disappearing from sight. Raldo immediately jumped at Minhyuk. Raldo thought that Minhyuk cooked for himself and could not help but ridicule him.

[King's Rage]

[With the triggering of King's Rage, the Warrior God's Sword's 50% damage will be increased to 100%!]

“For real...?!”

Minhyuk could only think of Raldo's existence as something similar to a scam! All he could do right now was stop Raldo's sword as the man jumped at him.

Slaaaaaash—

Even though Minhyuk blocked the sword, 100% of the damage still struck him.

“Urgh!”

Raldo's damage was so ridiculous that Minhyuk's 22% increase in defense did nothing. The moment the groan escaped Minhyuk's mouth, he used Like the Wind and widened the distance between them. But Raldo immediately chased after him and slashed his sword at him.

‘My passive got stronger too!!!’

When Minhyuk swung his sword at the incoming sword attack...

Baaaaaaaaaang—

The two swords collided, bringing in 100% damage to Minhyuk.

“Urk!”

But then, a shocking notification rang just when Minhyuk was forced to take a step back.

[You have triggered Crazy eight times in a row!]

[You have dealt an attack with 2,000% additional damage on your enemy.]

The force of the wind slammed into Raldo, tearing his body apart and forcing him to fly backwards and hit the transparent barrier. In the end, he could only slump down and slide down the barrier while vomiting a mouthful of blood.

“Urk!”

Minhyuk looked at the Continent Destroyer Sword in a daze.

‘Eight times in a row...? And 2,000% additional damage...?’

The skill Lightning, after increasing its level by +3, could only be described as the most ridiculous skill among all of the ridiculous skills.

Chapter 529: Gaining an Uncle

Evan, the Warrior God's master and the Guardian of Lumae Kingdom, was left in a state of shock, *'He really only ate a dish and was able to one-shot His Majesty Raldo...'*

The strength of Raldo, the Overlord or the Warrior God, was beyond anyone's imagination. But Minhyuk was able to take Raldo down with a single shot after eating a meal. It was nothing short of a miracle. Then, a red bead of blood floated from the body of the collapsed Raldo and got absorbed into Minhyuk's body.

[Slaughterer's Absorption]

[There is a 3% chance that you will be able to convert 50% of the damage that you have dealt to your opponents into HP.]

Around 4% of Minhyuk's HP was recovered immediately. Minhyuk looked down at his hands as he hurriedly checked the Crazy that had increased by +3 levels.

Artifact Skill

Level: +3

Mana Required: None

Cooldown: None

Effects:

?When using Crazy Mode, there is a 50% chance of triggering a sword wind with 1,100% additional attack that can rip through anything and everything in its path when attacking with a basic attack.

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

?There is a 40% chance of triggering the Crazy Mode two times in a row.

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

?There is a 10% chance of triggering the Crazy Mode four times in a row.

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

?There is a 2% chance of triggering the Crazy Mode eight times in a row.

?In Crazy Mode, there is a 20% chance of bringing the opponent hit by your attack into a five-second stunned state.

?In Crazy Mode, there is a 35% chance of turning the Continent Destroyer Sword's Active Skill: Armor Break into a passive skill and triggering it to destroy the opponent's sword.

'This is really insane...!'

There was no other word that Minhyuk could use to express what he felt. In the first place, Crazy was a skill that was beyond ridiculous. It had a 30% chance of triggering a sword wind just by using

a basic attack. In other words, even if Minhyuk only attacked his enemy three times, he could guarantee that one of those three attacks would deal an additional 1,100% damage. But now...

'Did you say 50%?'

...the power of Crazy could be triggered once every two strikes. Even the probability of triggering Crazy Mode continuously had increased significantly. Minhyuk had a 40% chance of triggering it twice in a row, a 20% chance of triggering it thrice in a row, a 5% chance of triggering it six times in a row, and a 2% chance of triggering it eight times in a row. Minhyuk had been very lucky to trigger the 2% probability and hit Raldo eight times in a row, which caused huge damage to the Overlord.

'I really want to have it as my own.'

Because it was only due to the buffed dish's effect, Minhyuk could only use the power for three minutes. Considering the fact that it was miles stronger than the artifact skill Lightning's Explosion and Destruction, it would be a lie if Minhyuk said that he did not want this in his arsenal.

Then, a voice suddenly rang from where Raldo was, "That's right. You should attack me like that too. That way, I can think of you as someone that should be killed, and not my father."

Badump, badump, badump—

Minhyuk's heart thumped violently. He was fully aware that Raldo hated his father. But Raldo, who stood up while saying those words, looked sad despite the blackness that covered his eyes. Minhyuk, who knew about the matter...

"Your father was not crazy."

...decided to tell Raldo the truth.

The entire Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was suddenly thrown into an uproar after a huge tower made of blood suddenly rose in the Louvre Forest, near the vicinity of the kingdom and did not disappear, despite the days passing by.

"We need to make sure that we have control on the information. If what I think is right, then the person currently inside the blood tower is Ascar."

When the blood tower appeared, Haze already knew that it was because someone was pioneering a new path. This tower did not pose any harm to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Besides, the tower only appeared after Ascar received Asura's Successor's Ring from Minhyuk. Also, she had not been seen in the kingdom or anywhere in Athenae from when she came back from the world of the foreigners for the past few days.

'Ascar.'

Haze looked up at the blood tower. She knew that Ascar entered the trial to inherit the powers of Asura. For Haze, Ascar was a strong woman. Ascar might be someone that silently performed her duty and had always been a shadow amidst the people of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, but Haze

knew that her heart was warmer than anybody else and that she cared for Minhyuk deeply. Haze couldn't help but worry since days had gone by with no signs from her.

Nevertheless, Haze knew that she could not tell her to just give up out of exhaustion. All Haze could do was mutter to herself, "Climb higher, Ascar. I know you can do it."

Blood Tower.

In order to inherit Demigod Asura's powers, one had to clear the trial that he had set and obtain the qualifications that would allow them to be recognized by Asura himself. Ascar had been trapped inside this Blood Tower for days on end, trying to climb her way up to the tenth floor.

"Urk...!" Ascar threw up a mouthful of blood as she came up to the ninth floor. As the blood dripped down her chin, Ascar recalled the words that President Kang Taehoon once said in the past.

'Athenae is a new world. And the character in this new world is another you.'

A sudden burst of laughter escaped from her mouth as she thought, *'I'm in a new world, that's why this trial feels so real.'*

Athenae was a virtual reality game so the players did not feel that much pain when compared to NPCS. However, when faced with things that the player could not endure or hold out against, they would consume a huge amount of their mental strength and physical abilities until they reached their limits. That was what was happening to Ascar right now. Her mental strength had been completely drained.

However, Slaughter God Asura still stood in front of her with his arms crossed while asking Ascar a question, "Is that all you've got?"

Asura was very disappointed initially, when he saw the girl as the first challenger that would challenge his trial in his successor's ring. That was mainly because this woman named Ascar, the woman trying to inherit his power, was much weaker than he expected. Asura believed that the woman would not even be able to cross the wall of his second floor.

And yet, Ascar proved him wrong. She was able to reach the end of the seventh floor with her amazing mental strength alone. Asura acknowledged her mental strength, because while all of the trials in this tower could be challenged infinitely, there were penalties accompanying each challenge if the challenger chose to undergo the trial over and over again.

Even though Ascar kept on falling and collapsing, the woman would always continue to stand up and challenge the trial in front of her.

Click—

Ascar staggered, standing up with the support of her katanas. Then, she dashed forward to continue fighting the desperate battle against Asura's clone in front of her. Asura's clone might be weaker than the real Asura, but the power that he possessed was still too much for any of the players to deal with on their own. It was the reason why Ascar had died countless times over under his hands. But through those countless deaths, Ascar was able to find a method to attack and defeat the man in front of her.

Slaaaaaaash—

Asura's clone was split in half.

Swoosh—

Ascar could only take in ragged breaths as she watched Asura's clone disappear into thin air. Just like that, she reached the tenth floor once again. It was the worst level. On the tenth floor, Ascar had to fight against nearly 60,000 monsters and get Asura's bloody greatsword stuck on the ground not too far away from her. Ascar had already died more than fifty times at this stage.

“Haa... haa...”

Ascar was breathing roughly. Her voice sounded like iron grating against each other. And just like before, Asura asked the staggering woman, “Is that all you've got?”

Ascar had heard these mocking words from Asura hundreds, if not thousands, of times. Truth was, Ascar wanted to quit. She wanted to log out, lie down and sleep in her bed. But every time the thought flashed in her head, she would recall the words that *he* told her before he transferred.

‘I know that you'll be a model. Because you're someone that won't fall and even if you do, I know that you will get back up. So, I'm sure that we'll meet each other later.’

Ascar was such a person. Others called her a genius. What a funny thing. She was not a genius. It was just that she was a person that did not give up and chose to work more than the others. So, Ascar stood up and pointed her two katanas at Asura.

“Hey.”

“...”

Asura was an evil god that stained the continent with blood, while Ascar, with her eyes glinting sharply and viciously through the gaps of her silver hair, said to him, “You f*cker. Shut your trap and just keep on watching.”

Then, Ascar rushed towards the 60,000 monsters.

“Your father was not crazy.”

Raldo not only needed to be freed from his curse, but to also know the truth about the object of his hatred, Ravanberg. Raldo needed to know that his father literally gave everything up for him.

“Are you even resorting to lies now?”

Raldo's face was distorted with anger. Minhyuk only had two minutes and twenty seconds at most with his buff effect.

“I'm not lying. Your father...”

“Shut up!!!” Raldo shouted fiercely as he sent another attack.

Minhyuk immediately received damage the moment he blocked Raldo's ‘Warrior God's Sword’.

[You have triggered Crazy two times in a row!]

[You have dealt an attack with 2,000% additional damage on your enemy.]

Baaang!

Minhyuk ignored the damage he received as he countered Raldo's attack, forcing the man to falter in his steps from the two consecutive damages dealt to him.

"You have killed your trusted subordinates and betrayed my trust and respect in you. You're crazy! The name Ravanberg the Great is dead! Only Ravanberg the Tyrant remains!!!"

The staggering Raldo immediately corrected his balance, moving forward to pressure Minhyuk. But Minhyuk was able to use 'Slaughterer's Absorption' and 'Asura's Shield' appropriately, which allowed him to withstand the onslaught of Raldo's attacks. On the other hand, Raldo, who did not have the same power as Minhyuk...

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

...flew back once again as Crazy was triggered four times in a row.

"Your father was not crazy!!! He fought alone to protect you. His trusted subordinates urged him to kill you, his son, who was getting stronger by the day! But Ravanberg did not do so! He chose to kill his loyal subjects in order to protect you!!!" Minhyuk shouted hurriedly at the still reeling Raldo.

Tears started to flow from Raldo's pitch-black eyes. He did not shed these tears because he believed in what Minhyuk said, but because...

'I miss my father...?'

Raldo had always declared that he hated his father. But at this moment, he realized that he just kept the longing and love that he had for Ravanberg locked deep away inside his heart. For a moment, the white returned to his eyes.

"My father killed his subordinates to... protect... me...?"

But Raldo's eyes immediately returned to black.

"Liar!!!"

Crackle—

"...!"

Minhyuk felt his breath stop at the sight. Raldo, who was devoured by his curse, once again expressed his power, the same power that came from the God of Death, and the reason why Raldo had been cursed. The very same power that Minhyuk saw in Raldo's dreams!

'The Overlord's Technique...!'

Along with that, the air in the small and narrow space turned heavy. The Overlord's Technique was a very powerful force that wiped out nearly 30,000 troops in one go.

"Damn...!"

If the Overlord's Technique was triggered in this small and narrow space, then forget about Minhyuk, even Raldo himself would die. Minhyuk rushed to Raldo while swapping the Slaughterer's Armor with the Monarch's Armor. Then...

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

A huge explosion engulfed the surroundings as the sword with black flames struck out.

"Your, Your Majesty Raldo...! Your Majestyyy...!" Evan called out to Raldo anxiously as he peered through the barrier and the black flames that devoured the space inside.

Crack, crack, crack—

The Overlord's Technique was so strong that it even left hairline cracks on the transparent barrier that separated Minhyuk and Raldo from the rest of them.

"Evan!!!"

"Run away!!!"

"Your Majesty!!!!"

The guild members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom rushed to evacuate the crying Evan.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Enormous flames licked the walls as a huge explosion broke the transparent barrier and devoured the inside of the castle. After escaping the fire, Evan could only look tearily at the place where the fire was breaking out.

"Your, Your Majesty..."

.

Evan felt his knees weaken as he collapsed on the ground. The king that made this kingdom stronger, the king hailed as the Sacred Monarch and was loved by his people, and the king that chose to fall into a deep sleep to protect his people and his kingdom until the very end. This king had initiated his own destruction.

"N, nooo...! Nooooo...!"

Evan, who was on his knees, tried to crawl back into the fire.

"No!"

"You can't!"

The guild members of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom hurriedly stopped Evan from rushing to his own destruction.

"Your Highneeeeeeeesss!!!" Tears trickled down Evan's face as he wailed loudly in despair.

But then, a warm voice suddenly rang from inside the fire, soft like the gentle and loving touch of a loved one, “Your father watched you enter the garden. Until the very end, he was still worried about you. He tried to tell you about the location of the secret scroll but his life ended before he could do so.”

Crackle—

With the smoke clearing up, the figures of two people in front of the throne, surrounded by blazing flames appeared in the eyes of everyone present. Minhyuk had collapsed, his entire body embracing and protecting Raldo from the flames. And Raldo, who was supporting his body to stop him from falling, could not take his eyes away from his face, tears falling down on his cheeks.

“Your father, who died at the hands of his own son while lying in bed, said...”

Minhyuk smiled bitterly as he squeezed out the last of his energy.

“I love you, son.”

In the end, Minhyuk’s body turned gray and slowly disappeared from Raldo’s arms. Raldo cried, hugging Minhyuk’s disappearing body. Then, he smiled widely and said, “Thank you...”

Chapter 530: Gaining an Uncle

Raldo was hailed as the owner of the throne of the Warrior’s Nation, the Overlord, and the successor of the Overlord’s Technique.

“Thank you...”

The words that slipped from his mouth meant a lot of things.

Minhyuk had hurriedly swapped his current armor with the Monarch’s Armor and dashed toward Raldo without any hesitation the moment the Overlord’s Technique was activated.

Why did Minhyuk do such a thing?

It was not because he wanted to stop the Overlord’s Technique from activating. It was so that he could cover Raldo with his entire body and take the damage that would befall the man. Minhyuk’s HP, which had fallen to 1%, along with his MP, had immediately recovered to 100% thanks to the recovery effect and the special ability attached to the Monarch’s Armor.

However, the fire and explosion created by the Overlord’s Technique was still so intense and overwhelming that it had depleted his HP in an instant.

Raldo slowly came back to his senses amidst the burning flames. When he saw this, Minhyuk, with sincerity tinting his voice, desperately voiced the stories of the past. Raldo finally believed him, since these stories included secrets that he had only shared with Ravanberg before.

“I love you, son.”

Minhyuk’s voice was so soft and warm that Raldo saw Ravanberg’s image flash on the man’s face before disappearing completely. Raldo watched the disappearing Minhyuk, while recalling his father, Ravanberg.

‘*My father.*’

Lumae Kingdom's hero and king had chosen to go down in history as a crazy tyrant himself because he wanted to protect his son, Raldo. Not knowing the truth, Raldo had always blamed his father and hated him for becoming so, not even building a humble grave that could honor his father and his life.

"Sob, sob, sob, sob, sob!"

No one said anything as Raldo sat there crying his heart out for a very long time.

The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's prisoners of war that saw this scene were all dumbfounded. None of them had expected Raldo to awaken. And even though their king *had* awakened, they did not have any thoughts of being freed as genuine respect filled their hearts.

'The Beyond the Heavens' King sacrificed himself... for the sake of the Warrior God...'

'How can he sacrifice his life just so he can tell the truth?'

'The Beyond the Heavens' King deserves due respect.'

The hearts of the prisoners of war shook violently.

Meanwhile, the guild members of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were all left speechless after seeing what Minhyuk had dropped.

"The only things that Minhyuk dropped are food ingredients..."

"But I think Minhyuk must be crying right about now...?"

That was right. By some strange luck, Minhyuk had not dropped any of his artifacts. However, he had dropped his most cherished ingredients before disappearing.

Raldo stood up and wiped his tears. Then, confusion took over his expression when he saw the place where Minhyuk had disappeared earlier.

"Why are there ingredients here...?"

He had no choice but to wonder, since everything on the floor was food ingredients.

Ending the connection and exiting his capsule, Minhyuk screamed, "Noooooooooooo!"

Minhyuk had dropped some of the ingredients that he wanted to cook after successfully waking up Raldo. The biggest problem here was that he had also dropped his most anticipated and most cherished chicken legs.

"Damn it...!"

Minhyuk's eyes welled up with tears.

'My guild members will take care of it, right?'

Minhyuk comforted himself with such thoughts as he stood up and appreciated his first forced logout.

'Is this what a forced logout feels like? I felt like I was really dying back there.'

Because Minhyuk was one of the top rankers, the penalty that he would receive would be huge.

'I wonder what will happen to my and Raldo's relationship in the future?'

There was also no guarantee on that part either. After all, the only thing that Minhyuk had heard was the soft 'thank you' before everything had gone black. But in the end, Minhyuk had been able to clear the quest. He immediately checked his character's notification window through his phone that was connected to Athenae.

[You have acquired the incomplete Overlord's Technique.]

[As a special privilege of acquiring the Overlord's Technique, you can use 150% of the technique's power without any of the required Overlord's Mana for a total of one time.]

Minhyuk had already experienced the full power of the Overlord's Technique, and just a few minutes ago too.

'The amount of damage it can deal is truly ridiculous.'

The complete Overlord's Technique had not only cut down the HP of Minhyuk, one of Athenae's top rankers, forcing out his lifesaving skill, but it had also immediately brought him to his death even after his HP had recovered to 100%. The first hit had dealt tremendous damage, while the continuous damage dealt by the fire generated after the strike was also beyond anybody's imagination.

'Maybe I shouldn't expect too much?'

Now, the Overlord's Technique's power had been halved, which meant that it would definitely not have the same power as what Minhyuk had experienced earlier. If Minhyuk had great expectations, then he would also suffer from great disappointment. That was why he discarded his expectations and opened the Overlord's Technique's information window with a clear heart.

King's Authority

?The Overlord's Fire with an additional 3,000~4,000% attack will attack everyone within a 40~60 meter radius.

?The Overlord's Fire is a fire that cannot be easily extinguished. Once it attaches to the target, it will deal continuous damage.

?You are an Overlord's Technique's user that already has another King Authority. You can just choose one of the two types of mana and set it to use to build up the mana required for the authority.

“OMG...?”

Minhyuk choked from surprise from the information that he saw. The Overlord's Technique was classified under the same category as the 'Worship' skill that he received from Iris. It was a skill that could not be triggered using one's ordinary MP, but instead used 'Overlord's Mana' the same way Worship used 'Authority Mana'.

However, this skill was far more astonishing than Worship. It was like the difference between a knight and a soldier. Minhyuk could deal 3,000% damage with a minimum of 30 Overlord's Mana, and even reach 4,000% damage at the highest. The radius of effect also started at 40 meters.

'If I can fill up the required Overlord's Mana and reach the radius of effect of 60 meters then...?'

Minhyuk gulped dryly. The Overlord's Technique was a skill that could also cause continuous damage once its fire had latched onto the enemies. There was also something else that had to be taken into consideration with regards to the Overlord's Technique.

'It can grow.'

Simply put, even though Minhyuk only had half of the Overlord's Technique, he could grow and develop it into its complete version.

'Then, maybe I can do that too...'

Minhyuk still could not forget the battlefield that he had seen in Raldo's dreams. Ravanberg slashed with his sword engulfed with black flames, covering his 30,000 enemies with a huge tidal wave of flames and turning them into ashes.

'It's not impossible.'

Minhyuk smiled pleasantly. Then, he tried to access the game, only to wake up from his daydreaming when his access was denied.

'Ah. I can't access the game right now.'

Minhyuk usually did things unconsciously—he was not used to being denied access, since this was his very first forced logout. So, instead of playing, Minhyuk moved to his room to get enough rest.

The various kings of Asgan Continent heard a very pleasing 'report'.

“What did you say?! The Beyond the Heavens' King has died under the sword of Raldo?!”

“Raldo did not show any mercy and killed the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s King?!”

“Raldo is also trying to push for the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s ostracization?!”

It was truly happy news! They heard that Raldo had killed Minhyuk, the king of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. They even exaggerated the news and ended up saying that Lumae Kingdom was pushing for the ostracization of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. They did not know how Minhyuk had died; they just took this opportunity to spread wild rumors about how he died in Raldo’s hands.

“This is our chance.”

“Summon our troops now!!!”

“We’re heading straight for Beyond the Heavens Kingdom now!”

That was right. It was an opportunity. Due to the battle with Akhan a few days ago, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had lost a lot of troops and were currently still in their recovery period. In such a state, their king died under the hands of Raldo. The Beyond the Heavens’ king was a foreigner, an immortal that would die and come back to life.

However, they believed that since Minhyuk had been cut down by Raldo without even a fight, then the kingdom’s morale must have definitely plummeted.

Anyone could tell that the kings of Asgan continent were marching there to devour the kingdom when they summoned their troops. They did not spread any rumors among the troops and only moved silently to avoid Ellie’s eyes and ears. The number of the troops that they have gathered reached 120,000. That was when they heard another piece of breaking news.

“Raldo is immediately making his way to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom with 1,000 elite knights?!”

“Hooo~! Raldo must be very angry. After all, he immediately went to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom the moment he woke up from his deep sleep!”

“We should also make haste!”

The kings giggled and chuckled as they hurriedly moved along.

How angry was Overlord Raldo at the Food God, for him to rush to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and their king with 1,000 elite knights?

However, having only 1,000 elite knights accompanying him did not mean that they could just ignore Raldo. These knights were of a different quality from the knights that accompanied Prince Votto. They were the finest knights that lived solely for Raldo and would only move at his name and command. Thanks to Raldo’s passive skills, these knights had already surpassed their limits several times. The kingdoms combined were afraid of Raldo and his 1,000 elite knights.

Although this was supposed to be a silent attack, there were several players that joined among the troops. They began posting in the community sites that Raldo was in a hurry to attack the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and that the other kingdoms were also moving to join. As the discussion

began to flood the community sites, the players that migrated to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom felt fear, despite not knowing the truth of the matter.

“In the end, will Beyond the Heavens Kingdom collapse?”

“How can that be...?”

“Shouldn’t we hurry up and escape?!”

“Everyone, calm down. Our Beyond the Heavens Kingdom will not collapse. Besides, if you choose to run away now, then you will never have another chance of stepping foot inside Beyond the Heavens Kingdom again.”

“...!”

Because of that, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s soldiers were able to control the panicking players. Of course, the players could just log out at that point in time. But the harsh words that Beyond the Heavens Kingdom uttered made them stop.

Not long after, an unexpected situation unfolded inside the kingdom. Despite many of the players trembling in fear, none of them logged out. They just started to gear up and prepared to greet the enemies to protect the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Then, loud trumpet sounds rang in the open air.

Vwooooooooooong—

Vwooooooooooong—

Vwooooooooooong—

The allied forces carrying the flags of four kingdoms appeared in their vicinity. Both the players and the citizens of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were terrified at the scene. There was even someone saying that this was the end of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

At the same time, Raldo and his 1,000 elite knights stepped foot in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s territory on horseback, a step ahead of the four allied kingdoms.

“Crazy... Why aren’t you stopping them?!”

“Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s soldiers?!?! Have you lost your will to fight even before the fight started?!?!”

Players could not also rashly make their move. After all, Overlord Raldo, an NPC that was only second to Ellie, was standing at the vanguard. At the same time, the players were also watching Raldo and the dignity that was emanating from his body in awe.

Raldo and his knights were all clad in black armor, black horned helmets, and black capes with the pattern of a sword on them. Even the horses that they were riding on were black. Both the players and the citizens of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom could only hold their breath at the awe-inspiring appearance of Overlord Raldo and his men.

Minhyuk, whose access restriction had finally been lifted, appeared. Wearing a bloody red armor and a silver cape on his back, Minhyuk appeared with the dignity of a king himself, as he walked in a majestic manner, with his entourage of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's executives.

The kings, who were hiding together with their escorts, also watched the scene intently.

'That's right, Raldo. Quickly cut off the Food God's head!!!'

'Cut the bastard's neck off and signal the start of the war!!!'

The kings desperately hoped and prayed for Raldo to finally make his move. Meanwhile, Raldo, who was looking at Minhyuk through the gaps of his black horned helmet, slowly got off his horse.

What did he do next?

Shiiiiiiiiing—

Raldo drew his sword. Someone showed a deep smile on his face while another showed frustration. Then...

Stab—

...Raldo drove his sword into the ground with all his might. The players could not understand the situation for a moment. But the NPCs and the kings understood.

'The meaning of the king stabbing his sword on the ground...'

'Means that he does not have any intention to fight...?'

Everyone's eyes shook.

'Why did Raldo reveal that he does not have any intention to fight?'

But then, something more shocking happened. Raldo and the 1,000 elite knights that came with him all took off their black horned helmets. Then, Raldo slowly knelt down on one knee.

Overlord Raldo, the king of the Warrior's Nation, someone that even Sword Emperor Ellie was helpless against, knelt down on one knee and said, "You have my gratitude. I hope you can grant us your forgiveness, my benefactor."

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

Swoosh—

At the same time, the knights unmounted and knelt down on one knee in front of Minhyuk and paid their courtesies. Then, Raldo placed both of his hands on his legs and declared, "You can take my head."

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

“...!”

Everyone was shocked speechless.