

Gourmet 561

Chapter 561: Battle of the Thrones (Top)

Minhyuk had actually reached the limits of his stamina when he was cooking the Legendary Giant Chicken. In fact, he even went past that limit several times over the course of the cooking process.

“Ben is important, but you are also important.”

Minhyuk stared at the bean sprout rice soup placed in front of him. Since Arlene was the ‘God of Cooking’, she definitely knew about all of the dishes in the world. It seemed like she deliberately prepared a dish like this for him, someone who was from Asgan Continent. But it was not just a simple bean sprout rice soup, it was a dish that contained tremendous power that would unseal Minhyuk’s Absolute God’s Secret.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Minhyuk watched the steam coming out of the earthen pot for a moment. Since the dish was placed in an earthen pot, it was still boiling even after it had left the fire. He looked at the bean sprouts, the sliced Cheongyang chili peppers, and the chopped squid placed on top of the dish.

“...Thank you for the meal.”

It had been quite a while since Minhyuk had eaten a dish made for him by others. The first thing that he reached out for was the steel bowl right next to the earthen pot. He placed one of the two poached eggs served to him inside the bowl and poured a bit of sesame oil on it. Then, he scooped a couple of spoonfuls of the bean sprout rice soup’s soup and sprinkled it on top of the poached egg. He then took his chopsticks and mixed everything together. After that, he lifted the entire bowl and tipped its content in his mouth, as if he was drinking the soup and the poached egg.

“Kghhk...”

The rich flavor of the poached egg and the bean sprout rice soup’s soup mixed together tasted divine in his mouth. The soup wrapped his stomach and his entire being in warmth. This time, he used his chopsticks to stir the remaining poached egg before pouring it over the still steaming bean sprout rice soup. The poached egg was slowly cooked inside the bean sprout rice soup.

Minhyuk picked a piece of the seaweed served to the side. Of course, just like how he usually ate, he tasted the seaweed first.

“Wow...”

“It’s good, right?”

Minhyuk was very impressed with the crispy texture and the slightly salty flavor of the seaweed. From what it looked like, the seaweed was something that Arlene personally obtained. Then, Minhyuk broke the seaweed into pieces before sprinkling it over the bean sprout rice soup. After mixing everything, he scooped a spoonful of the soup and took a sip.

“Hoo. That’s refreshing,” There was no other expression more befitting for this situation.

This time, Minhyuk scooped a bit of everything, some rice, some bean sprouts and some squid, in his spoon before placing it in his mouth. The heat of the dish immediately spread in his mouth which was enough to scald him, but instead of a grimace, a wide smile appeared on his face as the rice, the crunchy bean sprouts, and the chewy squid's flavor and texture blended perfectly well with the hot soup in his mouth.

Of course, Minhyuk could not leave out something very important. He stretched his chopsticks towards the side dishes that Arlene prepared. They were the perfect combination! There were some thinly sliced soy braised beef, some salted squid, some stir-fried fish cake in soy sauce, radish kimchi, and kimchi.

A slightly salty flavor permeated Minhyuk's mouth when he took a bite of the thinly sliced soy braised beef. Of course, to achieve a divine combination, Minhyuk immediately followed it with a spoonful of the bean sprout rice soup. Next, he scooped a spoonful of the bean sprout rice soup, before adding some of the salted squid on top of it. The spicy and salty squid was the perfect match for the bland flavor of the bean sprout soup.

After eating for a while, Minhyuk then lifted the entire earthen pot, blew a bit on it before drinking its content. A 'Ho.' instantly escaped from his mouth, from the refreshing feeling that the warm soup brought him. He ate everything in the earthen pot, down to its very last grain. Perspiration gathered at the tip of Minhyuk's nose once he was done eating. He quickly took out some tissue and blew his nose loudly, a wide and satisfied smile on his face.

Then, the notifications began to ring.

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With only a few hours left before the start of the Battle of the Thrones, the entire world was busy discussing which country's king would sit on the Supreme King's Throne.

At the same time, the kings that would participate in the middle of the event were also confirmed. France, Japan and South Korea. Each of the countries would be able to change it eight hours before the start of the Battle of the Thrones. However, their status eventually got confirmed.

For the kings that would participate in the middle of the event, they would receive a penalty of 5% decrease in all stats and skill damage. A huge decrease compared to the kings that would participate since the beginning.

What if they participated a day after? The kings would receive a penalty of 10% decrease in all stats and skill damage, as well as a 10% increase in skill cooldown.

What about two days after? A penalty of 15% decrease in all stats and skill damage, as well as a 15% increase in skill cooldown.

After three days, there would be an additional 5% increase in all penalties, which would weaken the kings by as much as 20%.

Because of this announcement, plenty of experts and global rankers began to express their opinions.

[The penalties of the kings of the countries that would participate in the middle of the event is not just limited to the skill and stat decrease. From the very beginning, their country and their kingdom would lose their absolute ruler.]

[And the kings selected by those countries are most likely their country's strongest players. The country's strongest player could easily overpower hundreds of rankers. The absence of such an existence, their king, would result in their own destruction.]

[This is especially the case for South Korea. South Korea is the only country that has created a kingdom, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. They are more systematic and organized compared to the other countries, which are only temporarily governing their kingdoms. Because of that, plenty of countries will most definitely form an alliance and attack the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, without its king, will not last long.]

[The Food God is in the middle of a very important quest right now. We don't know for sure but there's a chance that it's related to the main scenario. But even if he gets a stronger power, nothing will change even if he makes an appearance, unless it is at the level of an 'Absolute God's Secret'.]

[To top it off, the weakened Food God has his Absolute God's Secret sealed. Actually, just thinking about the Absolute God's Secret that the Food God used when he killed Akhan and the Demon Worshippers still gives me the chills.]

[I think it's only possible because of Asura's Armor that restores his HP, the massive damage that he dealt with using his passive skill, and the Food God's tremendous defense, right?]

[That's absolutely right. If the Food God's Absolute God's Secret hadn't been sealed then he would have shown incredible power in the Battle of the Thrones. He could recover his HP indefinitely and crush his enemies with the huge damage from his basic attacks. Unfortunately...
Hahahahahahahahahahaha... the Food God's Absolute God's Secret was sealed.]

[Kahahahahahahaha! If the Food God comes in three or four days later then he will be 20% weaker than the other kings, right?]

[The other kings might even gang up on him. Compared to other countries like America, China and Indonesia, South Korea's land is small, which also means that the levels of their rankers are particularly lower than the other players from the other countries. Of course, they also have a lot of top rankers, but the other countries have a lot more than them.]

In just an instant, public opinion had turned around. Especially when Minhyuk expressed his intentions to participate in the middle of the event. Many Koreans, who had high hopes for him, began to criticize him severely. Those that were very jealous and envious of him began to type fiercely on their keyboards.

[What the hell are they on for them to be so crazy about the Food God? Participate in the middle of the Battle of the Thrones? What is he, a moron?]

[No, it's common sense that winning the Battle of the Thrones will give you better rewards but...
Kahahahahahahahahahaha... f*cking bullshit.]

[No, no. Guys, I think he's gone crazy after his Absolute God's Secret was sealed. Hahahaha. And with dozens of countries ganging up on him, he will definitely stand out. Then, later he will say 'It's because I got a penalty' and use it as an excuse for losing.]

[Oh. That's quite a reasonable guess. He's purposely delaying his participation to have an excuse.]

There was also one netizen that openly mocked the Food God.

[What a damn pity, the Food God's Absolute God's Secret has been sealed~~~ You're being bullied by the gods. Yep! You'll never be able to get an Absolute God's Secret in your entire life~~~]

Everyone was wrong. At this moment, Minhyuk had already solved his problem with his Absolute God's Secret.

[You have eaten the Bean Sprout Rice Soup made by the God of Cooking!]

[The Bean Sprout Rice Soup containing an Absolute God's power has awakened the power sealed within you!]

[The seal of the Absolute God's Secret: Lightning will now be released!!!]

[The God of Cooking has used one drop of 'Athenae's Tears'!]

[Athenae's Tears has the power to strengthen any power, including an Absolute God's power!]

[A special power has been added to Lightning!]

What was more, Lightning had become much stronger.

“...”

Minhyuk looked at Arlene.

Of course, the cranky grandma Arlene had made him suffer tremendously by subjecting him through several hardships and troubles. But this very same Arlene was now smiling with embarrassment at Minhyuk as she said, “It's your reward for entertaining me.”

For entertaining her? It was because Arlene felt quite pleased at witnessing a very close relationship between a king and his retainer. It seemed like there were still people like this was what she thought. Minhyuk turned to check his unsealed Lightning.

Absolute God's Secret

Level: None

Mana Required: None

Coldown: None

Effects:?

? You can choose between the three modes: Explosion, Destruction and Crazy.

? A new mode Gather has been added thanks to Athenae's Tears.

? In Explosion mode, you will have a 40% chance of triggering bolts of lightning with 2,500% additional attack and 1,400% additional damage in a ten meter radius for every basic attack you launch.

? There is a 15% chance of your enemy falling into a four second stunned state after getting struck by Explosion.

? In Destruction mode, you will have a 35% chance of triggering sixteen bloody lightning bolts with additional 1,600% damage for every enemy.

? There is a 40% chance of your enemy falling into a three second stunned state after getting struck by Destruction.

? In Crazy mode, you will have a 55% chance of triggering a sword wind with 3,300% additional attack power that can rip through anything and everything in its path when attacking with a basic attack.

? In Crazy Mode, you will have a chance of consecutively triggering Crazy Mode.

? There is a 55% chance of triggering the Crazy Mode two times in a row.

? There is a 35% chance of triggering the Crazy Mode four times in a row.

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

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

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

? There is a 30% chance of your enemy falling into a four second stunned state after getting struck by Crazy.

? 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.

"...???"

Minhyuk looked at the skill window and Arlene alternately.

"...???"

Then, he looked at Arlene again. Everytime he did that, a question mark would pop up in his head.

'I think this is something that really deserves the Absolute God's restriction.'

Minhyuk was very flustered. If he were one of the Absolute Gods, he would definitely stop himself from having this power. That was how amazing it was. But what was more surprising was the fact that Minhyuk had not checked the Gather Mode yet, the mode added through Athenae's Tears. Of course, Minhyuk immediately checked it after realizing his folly.

Absolute God's Secret

? Gather Mode is the mode that brings together all of the advantages of Explosion, Destruction and Crazy.

? Compared to the other modes in Lightning, Gather mode acts as an active skill. Upon usage, all the effects of Lightning will be unavailable for an hour.

? Gather mode has a duration of four minutes.

? Upon successful attack, you will have a 100% chance of having an additional 4,000% attack power.

? There's a 40% chance of triggering around four to eight times of bloody lightning rain with 2,000% attack power that will indiscriminately attack anyone within a 30 meter radius of your target.

? There's a 10% chance of the bloody lightning rain exploding with an additional 2,000% attack power.

"...???"

Minhyuk could not help but look at Arlene and the information alternately once again. Gather mode had a completely different effect from the three other modes. First, it acted as an active skill. Second, with just one literal strike, Minhyuk would be able to wreak havoc with the effects of Explosion and Destruction at the same time.

But there was something far more surprising than that. It was none other than the 100% chance mentioned in the description. Minhyuk had a 100% chance of dealing a 4,000% damage within a thirty meter radius.

Seeing all these, Minhyuk only had two words to describe the skill.

"F*cking OP..."

Chapter 562: Battle of the Thrones (Top)

While Minhyuk was busy admiring his unsealed Absolute God's Secret, the entire world was struck with the same message.

[There will be an update in 30 minutes. Players are advised to log out in a safe place.]

"...!"

Minhyuk felt his heart tremble. Being asked to log out for an update only meant one thing: Athenae was going to usher in their second era with the integration of dozens of servers all over the world. Along with that, the 'Battle of the Thrones' would begin.

'I've already received a penalty for expressing my will to participate in the middle of the event. Fortunately, it's not that big.'

Since Minhyuk had unsealed his Absolute God's Secret on time, it was still possible for him to join everyone in the beginning of the event. But before he was about to return to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom...

"Food God."

“Yes?” Updated chapters on [novelbin\(.\)com](http://novelbin(.)com)

...Arlene called out to him, stopping him in his tracks. Minhyuk could feel Arlene's gaze fixed on his back.

“Aren't you curious about the Abyss?”

If she was asking if Minhyuk was curious about the Abyss, then the answer to that was without a doubt, yes. Ordinary players might not know anything about the Abyss, but Arlene would probably know a lot about it.

“I'm probably the only one that can open the path to the Abyss as of the moment.”

“...!”

What was more, Arlene mentioned that she was the only one who can open the path to the Abyss. This meant that if Minhyuk left now and broke contact with Arlene, he would never be able to get a chance to enter the Abyss again.

“You will face several trials when you enter the Abyss. But each time you clear a trial, you will receive a special reward.”

“What kind of rewards are we talking about here?”

Minhyuk needed to know so he could weigh his options and make an accurate judgment. Would the rewards be good enough for him to delay his participation in the Battle of the Thrones for a few more days, or not?

“The lowest rewards are legendary grade ingredients. And you will also be able to obtain another of the Food God's hidden power.”

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“...?!?”

As expected of a God class, they were truly on another level. To think the Food God had a hidden power stowed away somewhere...

‘Usually, for several trials, it would take at least around one Athenae game day for one to complete and proceed to the next day.’

This was the reason why it was possible for some people to clear all of their trials within a single day in reality, and obtain several legendary grade materials and artifacts. On top of that, Minhyuk also had the chance to gain the Food God's hidden power.

“Every time you clear an Abyss Trial, you will receive astronomical rewards. Ah, right! If you clear one of the trials, you will be allowed to leave once and enter again.”

You will be allowed to leave once and enter again. These words meant that Minhyuk would be able to participate in the Battle of the Thrones while still undergoing the trials.

“So, what would I get if I clear all of the Abyss Trials?”

“Honor.”

“What?”

“That’s it. I can’t tell you any more than this.”

Minhyuk would receive honor? No matter how hard he thought about it, he just could not understand why he would receive honor for clearing the Abyss Trials.

“Are you going?”

The thoughts in Minhyuk’s head quickly churned. Anyway, he had already received a penalty for delaying his participation for the Battle of the Thrones for a day. If he clears one trial then he would be able to participate in the Battle of the Thrones before returning to take the other trials.

“I’ll do it.”

Then, a bright light surrounded Minhyuk’s body. However, this light was not the light that would bring him to the Abyss.

[You have five seconds to log out.]

[4... 3... 2... 1...]

Minhyuk disappeared along with the light.

“A new world is beginning.”

Arlene looked at the path to the Abyss, where Minhyuk would head to once he returned. The gods called the Abyss by a different name: the Tomb of the Gods.

The entire world was in an uproar especially with Athenae’s second era just right around the corner. Many people felt their hearts thump wildly as the countdown of five minutes for the servers’ opening began. Some were thinking of playing inside the new Athenae, while some were thinking of watching the Battle of the Thrones. Those that would participate in the Battle of the Thrones felt nervous about the fierce battlefield.

At the end of the five minute countdown, a sentence marked in bold dominated the entire Athenae Official Homepage: ‘*Athenae. The Beginning of the Second Era. Experience it, now!*’

But, many people opted not to access the game and just sat in front of their televisions. All of them knew that it would be nice to experience the second era of Athenae, but it was also the start of the Battle of the Thrones; hence they had to gather together like this.

They watched as the stars fell down and created the ‘Stars’ Path’ inside their TV screens, just like what they saw in the trailer in the past. Everywhere the stars passed by, kingdoms and castles began to appear.

America’s Ariot Kingdom.

Japan’s Mt. Fuji Kingdom.

France’s Louvart Kingdom.

China's Verrado Kingdom.

The cameras that lined up the Stars' Path showed the castles that were created on it. These castles appeared one after the other until finally...

South Korea's Beyond the Heavens Kingdom Castle.

The final castle, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's castle, appeared in a grand and imposing manner.

With the appearance of the castles, a bright light suddenly appeared and covered each of their peaks that housed the castle's throne. When the light disappeared, the kings that each country selected were shown sitting on their own thrones.

Alexander, one of the Five Summits.

Xu Jiaqi, one of the members of Black Dragon Order that learned the Pinnacle.

Vietnam's Master Archer Miáo, the God of Archery's descendant.

Greece's Demetrys, the Disaster Qigong Master.

Germany's Anton, the Infighter.

And many more. There were actually a total of 28 countries that participated in the Battle of the Thrones. There were three empty thrones among them. These thrones were none other than Korea's Food God's throne, Japan's Musashi Kentaro's throne, and France's Calauhel's throne. Instead of their kings, there were other people standing right behind their thrones.

South Korea's representative standing behind the throne was none other than Genie. At the same time, more than 50,000 players appeared and gathered in front of each of their country's castles. There were also a thousand NPCs gathered in a neat row right in front of the players.

Each of the countries had prepared their own performance.

First, Alexander, America's Ghost of the Battlefield, stepped forward and raised his sword to the skies. Following his lead, all of the men that gathered below him pulled their swords out and raised them to the skies.

"For victory!"

"Victory!"

Then, a bright light appeared from their swords, illuminating the world. Meanwhile, the commentators began to speak.

[The performance that America is giving us is quite normal.]

[They are showing us their military force. That's about it.]

Next was China, the nation of martial artists. All of them punched their fists in the air. The moment their fists stretched towards the skies, fireworks shot out and decorated the skies beautifully.

Russia, the country of tankers, created a spectacular performance with their square shields and mimicked the shell of a golden turtle. These performances were held solely to please the eyes and

the ears of the viewers from all over the world, with each of the countries showing their performances in turn.

Finally, the final performance, South Korea's performance, had started.

[Since this is the final performance, it should be flashier and grander than any other performances.]

[Many people had expressed their great anticipation and excitement for South Korea's performance as the finale.]

But even after a short, pregnant pause, none of the players and the NPCs moved. Just when the viewers were about to voice out their doubts, a rough and loud cry echoed in the skies.

"Kihyeeeeeeeeek!"

"Kihyaaaaaaaaack!"

All four of the legendary dragons, with a cintamani stone in each of their mouths, appeared in the skies. Flying right in front of them was Supreme Divine Beast Beanie wearing his golden crown, golden armor and glittering golden sword. As Beanie descended, the dragons immediately escorted him down. Then, a bright light burst out to their left, revealing another presence. The being that appeared was none other than a noble and lofty white wolf, Penrus. Penrus was as beautiful as he was cool. Another bright light burst out, revealing the figure of the Cerberus, Love, Hope and Happiness, which was immediately followed by the space above them tearing apart and revealing the presence of the gigantic Predatory Snake. All of them roared loudly.

"Kihyeeeeeeeeek!"

"Groaaaaaaaaar!"

"Kihyaaaaaaaaack!"

"Grrrrrrraaaaaaa!"

"Oiiiiiiiink!!!"

With that, South Korea's performance has ended. It was a very short, yet intense, display. South Korea had shown the world their strength through their divine beasts and named monsters. Everyone that watched the video expressed their envy towards the players that had obtained such powerful divine beasts. At the same time, they could not help but peel their eyes open and admire the shocking scene. Then, the commentary began.

[A fierce battle over thrones.]

[Who among them will take the Supreme King's Throne?]

Immediately after the Battle of the Thrones started, notifications suddenly appeared on the screens of everyone watching, which brought the viewers great shock.

[Louvar Kingdom, Verrado Kingdom, Albedo Kingdom, Rolds Kingdom, Cardin Kingdom... has formed an alliance!]

[By signing a temporary alliance, these fifteen kingdoms will receive a penalty during the duration of their alliance. All troops will receive a 10% decrease in all of their stats and skill attack power as well as a 10% increase in skill cooldown!]

[The system will recognize if a country has received the attacks from this alliance and will give out special privileges to the said country's kingdom.]

Fifteen countries including China, Indonesia, Russia, France, Germany, Greece, Vietnam, Thailand and many more had signed a temporary alliance. With this alliance, they would be able to monitor the movements of their allies' troops on their maps. The fifteen kingdoms' alliance was created to keep America and South Korea in check.

China's Hu Yitian, a member of Black Dragon Order, was the one that massacred the South Korean rankers in the Continent Cloud during the Continental War between the Asgan Continent and the Cairon Continent. And now, he was receiving orders.

[Listen to your King's command!]

[Everyone who has gathered and heard the King's Command must head to the place appointed by the king!]

Hu Yitian led 900 players and 100 NPCs to the appointed gathering place in the Stars' Path. When they arrived there, the troops from the 14 other countries were already lined up there.

The commentators were very quick to describe and announce what they were trying to do.

[The fifteen countries that have signed an alliance at the beginning already divided their troops and have gathered them in different places.]

[Although they have split their troops, there will still be a lot gathered. After all, each of the fifteen countries have sent 1,000 of their troops.]

[Their total number is 15,000.]

“Depart!!!”

“Depaaaaaart!”

The place where more than 10,000 allied troops were headed to was none other than Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. In order to prevent the other countries that did not join their alliance from attacking them, they sent only 1,000 of their own troops. But even if they only sent a few, the total still reached 15,000.

The 15,000 strong army was tasked to attack Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. If they successfully finished this task, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would lose their strength and military force. After this first scouting battle, the allied countries would then each send 5,000 troops which would increase their total by around 70,000.

“South Korea, without the Food God, is nothing more than a bunch of people gathered together.”

“This is our best opportunity.”

“Keuhahahahahahahahaha! What a good opportunity. We will be able to see the downfall of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom the moment we start!”

Everyone in the world believed that South Korea would not amount to anything without the Food God. Of course, they were aware that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom housed several powerful NPCs, but these NPCs would eventually get exhausted. They were confident that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would collapse even before the Food God could participate. Because of this, the people of South Korea were all very disappointed.

[What does it matter if they were active during the Athenae: World War? We will still be the country that's the fastest to collapse during the Battle of the Thrones.]

[Wow... We're really weak.]

[There's nothing weak in winning or losing.]

Just when the troops were advancing through the forest...

Rustle—

“...?”

Hu Yitian and the other rankers immediately turned their heads to the direction where the sound came from.

“Oiiiiiiiiiiiiink!”

What appeared in front of him was a cute baby piggy with a shiny golden crown on his head.

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

That was when the allied troops realized that there was something strange. But it was too late, the members of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had already appeared all from all over the place. Two tall and bulky men, Elpis and Kimaris, appeared from behind the bushes. There were also members standing up on the trees: Penrus, the Envoy of Incarnation Kaistra, and the Sword Saint Conir. Cerberus and Dog Slaughterer Locke also appeared on one side. Vice Guild Master Genie, Khan, and Emperor of the Sword Carr on another side. There was also Best Selling Erotica Author Aruvel, Talmor Leader Corr, Assassin of the Moon Lucia, and the former Artheon Guild Master Alicia on another side. Of course, Black Dragon and the four legendary dragons were hovering in the skies above them too. The allied troops turned vigilant as more members appeared.

‘What can they even do with just this number?’

There were only thirty people at most. But three minutes later, everyone tuned in to the broadcast froze in place after seeing these words on their screens:

[Beyond the Heavens Kingdom has wiped out the 15,000 troops sent by the fifteen allied countries!]

An unbelievable announcement popped up on their screens. Yes. That was right. It only took three minutes for the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom to wipe out the 15,000 strong allied troops. Everyone was both shocked and terrified by the result presented.

1. A type of close-range fighting technique.

Chapter 563: Battle of the Thrones (Top)

Three minutes ago.

Hu Yitian, during the Continental War held at the Continent Cloud in the past, had only learned a half-pinnacle skill. But as time went by, he was able to awaken that skill to full pinnacle, which allowed him to gain a strength to kill even players that had transferred to high class in just a single strike. In other words, he was much stronger.

But then, the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom started to appear one after the other. In fact, there were only less than thirty people that appeared. When the commentators saw the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom appear, they immediately voiced their inability to understand the situation.

[All of the guild members and key personnel of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom have appeared!]

[I don't understand what in the hell the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is thinking.]

[Why are they all here? Aren't they supposed to protect the castle?]

The commentators thought that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was crazy. It was not just them. Even the fifteen countries' allied troops laughed when they saw just around thirty members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom appear in front of them.

"What the hell? Did you all give up already?"

"What? The Food God is not here, so you're all tucking your tail quickly?"

"Pffft...! Are you here to ask to come inside and eat?"

"Bwahahahahaha! Hey, stop that! Don't go overboard. They might get too scared and pee themselves!"

The ones that were feeling the greatest disappointment were the people of Korea.

[They're not really going to kill themselves just because the Food God is not here, right...?]

[They shouldn't give up like this. The members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom are the core members of Korea's Battle of the Thrones team. What are they doing appearing here all at once?]

[This is really disappointing. Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Are they telling us that they will not fight a losing battle?]

Everyone was fully aware that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had to bear the burden of fighting against fifteen or more countries from the very beginning. It was because their kingdom was built first, which became their greatest challenge. One of the commentators pointed this problem out.

[In the first place, I don't know if it would work at all. Joy Co. Ltd.'s side would have already predicted that this would happen. They should have put a limit on the number of countries that can form an alliance that can attack another kingdom.]

[That's right. Things are a bit insufficient since they prepared this Battle of Thrones in a hurry.]

[Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and America will suffer from this.]

"Keuhahahahahahahahaha!"

"Bwahahahahahahahahaha!"

"Fufufufufufufufufufufu!"

"M*th*r*f*ckers! As expected of the chousennjinns!!!"

The fifteen thousand troops mocked them loudly. All of the players selected to participate in the Battle of the Thrones were rankers. It did not matter how strong the members of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were, what could they do with just a small number? Just when their laughter dominated the field and the Koreans began to sigh, Genie, Khan, and Locke all made way for the person behind them.

At that moment, all of the 15,000 enemy troops saw the man with his knees bent, his hand resting on the hilt of his sword and a red aura exploding from the blade of his sword. The man was none other than Emperor of the Swords, Carr.

"Quick Draw."

Carr's sword was quickly drawn from its sheath, creating blades within a forty meter radius and cutting down around a hundred players in one go.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

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

"Keuhaaaaaaack!"

"Keheooooooooook!"

"Graaaaaaaaack!"

"P, prepare for battle!"

But Hu Yitian's orders were already too late.

A man with golden hair fluttering behind him and a golden staff in his hands appeared in front of them from the black ashes. This great being was none other than Golden Mage Ali.

"Compress."

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

The moment Ali's open palm clenched into fists, an unbelievable thing unfolded in front of them. Almost 5,000 people were gathered as if they had been sucked in the middle of the field.

"This, this is ridiculous...!"

“Crazy...! This can’t be happening!!!”

Plenty of the mages all over the world had denied Ali’s strength. Rumor had it that he was a very talented person that even Alex, the number one in the mage’s global rankings, could not match up to. And of course, it was proven in the World War. But at the end of the day, it was just what they had seen on the TV. Since they had not experienced and seen it for themselves, they could still deny the truth.

The mages that had denied Ali’s prowess and existence so far could not help but be flustered by the ridiculous, wide-area Compress magic that he displayed. Even top ranking mages could only compress 300 people at most and that was already impressive. Of course, Ali had consumed a huge amount of his MP, but he’s someone that inherited Black Dragon Vormon’s mana heart. This meant that his MP was on a different scale than what these mages thought.

“Firewall. Firewall. Firewall. Firewall. Firewall. Firewall. Firewall. Firewall.”

Ali released more than ten of the Firewalls that he ‘stored’ on the allied troops. And for the finale...

“Meteor.”

...the sky was torn apart as a huge meteor descended on the ground.

“Mages, Dispel!!!”

“Is there even a mage that can dispel that?!!!”

“Can, can someone even dispel Ali’s magic?!”

“We, we can’t!!!”

“That’s impossible!!!”

“How do we even dispel Ali’s magic?!!”

The strength and power of their characters were completely different from their strength and power in reality. Even if dozens or hundreds of low-leveled players gathered together, they would not be able to deal with one or two high rankers. It was the best example for the gap in strength between them and Ali.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

More than 3,000 players that had been gathered together were hit and left in a critical state the moment Meteor fell on the ground.

“Keuhaaaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaaaaaack!”

Someone was crushed to their death, while another was burned to their death. But since they were all rankers, they were quick to get back on their feet, their attacks immediately aiming for Ali. But then...

“Great Shield.”

[Great Shield.]

[A shield will be created depending on your magic's tier and magical defense.]

A Great Shield, which only the highest tiered mage could express, appeared in front of Ali. And it was even as high and as thick as the walls of a fortress.

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

The magical attacks sent by the mages and the skills used by the close combat players to counter-attack were easily blocked.

“...I can't use any attack magic now.”

That was right. The battle had just started but Ali's MP had already run out. Even the skills that he stored had eventually reached their limit. But just like Ali, all of the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom used everything that they got. While everyone was busy laughing and mocking at them, the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were all preparing their strongest AOE attack skills.

Elpis, the one hailed as the lesser demon, was known as the strongest NPC in the world. Although he was not one of the Supreme NPCs, his power was definitely on par with them. With the figure of the demon appearing above his head and getting sucked into his body, the power that he could express was something that even Sword Emperor Ellie could not contend against.

“Berserk.”

Vwoooooooooooooong—

[Berserk.]

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

[Berserk will last for 5 minutes.]

Elpis used his strongest AOE attack skill, the same skill that split even the head of Great Demon Verus in the past.

“Splitting the Great Demon.”

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Plenty of magical attacks soared towards Elpis. However, Elpis' defense was beyond anyone's imagination. He simply ignored all of the attacks sent his way as the blade of his sword increased in size, reaching around ten meters in length. On top of that the skill Splitting the Great Demon was an amazing skill that added an additional 3,000% attack power on his attacks. If Elpis' attack power, which was far higher than Minhyuk's attack power, had an additional 3,000% added on it, he would be able to cut down plenty of dragons if he wished to. This disaster befell the allied troops.

Fwooooooooooosh—

Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr—

The ground split in half. As for the people on it? They all turned into ashes and disappeared with the wind.

Then, immediately after that, Great Pirate Gorfido, the legend of the Japanese Server that did not lag behind Elpis in terms of power, made his move with his ten-thousand-year sword and ten-thousand-year chain in his hands.

“Tidal Knife.”

The moment his ten-thousand-year sword struck the ground, a fourteen meter tidal wave filled with hundreds of blades rose from the ground and swept away their enemies.

“Keuheooooooooook!”

“Keuhaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaaaack! Urkkkk!”

Great Pirate Gorfido’s attack power was also beyond anyone’s imagination. On top of that, the Tidal Knife was his strongest AOE attack skill. The enemies that stood in front of him were all swept away.

And Hu Yitian? He could not believe what was happening in front of his eyes, ‘*N, no. Does this even make sense?!*’

It was completely ridiculous. They came at a time when all of the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were waiting for them with all of their AOE attack skills ready. On top of that, each of them had high defense that could easily withstand several attacks from decent rankers.

Unbeknownst to them, there were also several notifications that rang for the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom the moment the troops sent by the fifteen kingdoms attacked them.

[You are being attacked by fifteen kingdoms.]

[The system has recognized this to be a concentrated attack towards South Korea’s Kingdom, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, and is now giving you special rewards!]

[All of your stats will increase by 5%!]

[Your skill cooldown will decrease by 5%!]

[All of your attack and defense will increase by 10%!]

But that was not all. They also had a walking buff in the form of the great being, Kimaris.

[You have received Unparalleled Bravery’s buff effect!]

[*Unparalleled Bravery will increase more than 15% of the stats of the people that fight alongside Kimaris!*] Updated chapters on [novelbin\(.\)com](http://novelbin(.)com)

[All of your stats have increased by 16%!]

That was right. With their walking buff Kimaris, they would be able to express even more power when fighting in a large-scale battle. But of course, their attacks were not yet over. Black Dragon, who was wearing a black armor on his body and riding on top of his red dragon, descended with all four of his dragons and commanded, “Breath.”

Fwaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Fwaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Fwaaaaaaaaaaa—

Fwaaaaaaaaaaa—

The four legendary dragons used all of their mana and fired their Breath at the allied troops. The troops could only suffer and disappear without being able to do anything. Then, Kaistra and Penrus, who were also flying in the skies, sent a breath of light and destroyed hundreds of people. And...

“Bellowing Child!!!”

“Lightning Sword!!!”

“Giant’s Consecutive Hits!!!”

“Jeffrit’s Wrath!!!”

“God Athenae’s Swordsmanship, Chapter 7. Judge’s Sword!!!”

“Moon’s Explosion!!!”

Dozens of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s executives, the rankers among rankers and those that were considered to be the best in the world, had used their AOE attack skills. Their enemies disappeared in the thousands. At the same time, similar notifications rang in each of their ears.

[You have used up all of your MP!]

[You will not be able to use any of your active skills!]

[Your Stamina is running out!!!]

[...all of your MP!]

[...active skills!]

[Your Stamina...]

Most of the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom used up all of their skills and MP in just under two minutes. The same was true for Elpis and Gorfido, NPCs that were on par with Supreme NPCs. It was impossible for these strong people to use up all of their MP and skills. Existences like them would fight efficiently during hunts and wars and manage their MP usage by choosing the most appropriate skill in battle. That was actually what set them off from ordinary players.

But that was also a loophole that they could take advantage of.

Most of the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom staggered and faltered after hearing their MP being depleted and their stamina reaching their limits.

Hu Yitian and almost a hundred surviving rankers gulped dryly at the sight in front of them.

“...”

“...”

“...”

“...”

All of them were left speechless. Of course, they were only the lowest of the selected rankers and were only sent as the scouting party. However...

‘Their power is at this level...?’

Great Demon Verus was an existence that could slaughter tens of thousands of high rankers all by himself. To the allied troops, the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were like Great Demon Verus. And as if to hammer the nail in the head, a pig’s cry rang loudly in the ears of the survivors that had completely lost their will to fight.

“Oiiiiiiiiiiiiink!!!”

Predator’s Authority was baby piggy Beanie’s most OP skill. And he used this skill to copy Great Pirate Gorfido’s strongest AOE attack skill, the Tidal Knife, in order to sweep away the remaining enemies.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Beanie made a beautiful turn as the Tidal Knife wreaked havoc among the surviving enemy troops behind him.

“Oink!!!”

Beanie’s lips curled up in a cute smile. And...

[...]

[...]

[...]

The commentators and the viewers that watched the scene were all left speechless. The members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were all on the verge of collapse, their bodies overcome with exhaustion. However, their eyes were filled with a sharp glint.

The members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had a message for those that believed that Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was nothing without Food God Minhyuk, and those that believed that South Korea was the weakest country in Athenae without the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom; that it was not the case at all.

And Genie? She looked at the camera and smirked, “Is this all that you got? Allied troops?”

She was from a small country in Asia, a country that only had 1/20th of China’s population. Yet no one could say otherwise. None of them could even accuse her of being arrogant. And although they might not hear it, everyone was clapping for them. And South Korea?

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

“Woaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

“Woooooooooooooow!”

The entire nation cheered loudly.

Chapter 564: Battle of the Thrones (Top)

A wide, deep lake surrounded a huge, majestic castle. There was only one way to enter the castle, and that was through a two hundred meter long bridge. As they returned to their castle, Genie felt her heart thumping wildly, *'The enemies will be coming soon.'*

The battle that would ensue would be different from what happened earlier. The battle earlier was a strategy that Genie, Knowledge Star Jarod, Minhyuk and Haze had devised. They had known that their enemies would come and hit them anyway, so since they could not avoid it, they thought: *'Why not enjoy and have fun during the process, right?'*

Genie immediately took out a top grade mana potion.

[You have recovered 30% of your MP.]

According to the announcement made by Joy Co. Ltd., kingdoms that would be ahead of their competitors would receive special privileges during the Battle of Thrones. Since they destroyed the 15,000 enemy troops, the members had received quite a lot of special items.

[You have acquired a Top Grade Mana Potion.]

[Your HP volume will temporarily increase by 3%.]

[As the King's Agent, you will receive special rewards.]

What is a King's Staff Sergeant?

After checking the information of the power, Genie could not help but be amazed. According to the King's Staff Sergeant's detailed description, she would be able to borrow her King's Power once for a few minutes, depending on whatever circumstances they were in.

'I guess this is a reward for those whose kings are participating in the middle of the event?'

Being able to take out and use one of Minhyuk's powers was not a bad reward. However, there was also a problem.

'Even if we can bring one of Minhyuk's attack skills into the open, there would not be that much impact in this war.'

What if she brought out Minhyuk's cooking skills? Well, even if they brought it out, no one would be able to express that since none of them could express that much cooking ability.

'Then, what should I bring out?'

Left without any solution even after thinking hard, Genie opted to send a whisper to Minhyuk.

A long pause ensued. It seemed like Minhyuk thought long and hard before giving Genie his instructions.

“What...?” Genie mumbled in doubt after hearing Minhyuk’s answer. No matter how hard she thought about it, it was still a very ridiculous solution, right? In fact, what Minhyuk said was completely ridiculous.

‘Why is he suddenly talking about Hanwoo?’

But after hearing the words ‘Trust me.’ from Minhyuk, Genie recalled the past. Although the way he talked about his methods was unreliable at times, they never really lost money whenever they trusted Minhyuk.

[Minhyuk has entered an area where whispers are restricted.]

Genie bit her lips as she looked at the wide Stars’ Path. Hundreds of thousands of enemy troops that would attack Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would soon fill that area.

“Let’s try it.”

Calauhel was one of the kings that had chosen to participate in the middle of the event. He actually participated in the Battle of the Thrones just a few hours after it started.

He had accumulated a huge amount of funds for the Battle of Thrones and equipped all of the participating French rankers with outstanding artifacts. Because of this, he received a made-up title, ‘God of Wealth’, among the French community.

And this very same Calauhel gave orders to the French rankers that believed in him.

“Five thousand of our troops will advance toward Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.”

But that was not all. From the original fifteen countries that formed an alliance, another two countries joined in. And all of these allied countries were sending five thousand of their troops to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud—

The ground shook and trembled from the steps of the huge army. At the vanguard stood America’s Alex, the official number one mage in the global rankings. America did not join the alliance but to appease them, they sent Alex. Even though Alex was the only one sent to battle, he could easily deal with dozens of rankers all by himself. On top of that, Alex was a master tactician.

As 5,000 troops of each country joined in, there were easily more than 70,000 troops gathered. Alex looked at the castle in the distance and said, “Tankers advance on the bridge with their huge square shield. Close combat players will move behind the tankers, followed by the archers and mages. The advancing mages will form a huge shield on top of the tankers’ shields.”

Although it was the easiest strategy, it was a sure-fire one.

“The core members of Beyond the Heavens are morons. They used up all of their power. Which means that our tankers here will be able to withstand their attacks.”

That was right. Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, without the power of their core members, was only a 50,000-strong army. Also...

“The fact that they only have one bridge means that it is impossible for them to retreat. They have already ‘isolated’ themselves and dug their own grave.”

Indeed, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom having only one bridge was a very effective method for having a good defense. However, it could also pose a weakness to them.

“Forward!!!”

“Charge!!!”

“Tankers! Forward!”

The 70,000 strong troops began to advance toward Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

[Over 70,000 troops are gathered in front of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

[The Korean rankers standing on the walls of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom look nervous as they face the 70,000 strong enemy troops.]

[However, I’m sure Beyond the Heavens Kingdom knows this well too. Even if they stop this 70,000 strong troops, the allied countries will immediately send more than 70,000 troops again.]

[We can expect a more systematic attack here. It seems like there will be no more surprises from the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom anymore.]

The 70,000-strong troops, mostly consisting of tankers, began to go into formation. The tankers, with their gigantic square shields, began to line up and form a large mobile wall. It was quite a spectacular view. On top of that, the tankers used their skill ‘Sky Guardian’ and cast a transparent shield over their heads. With tens of thousands of tankers gathered together, the size of the shield was enormous, even on par with the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s walls. Of course, they were also followed by tens of thousands of troops.

“Charge!!!”

At the cry, the tankers took the lead and charged toward the bridge. Magical attacks and arrows immediately rained down from the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s walls.

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

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

Explosions erupted as the shields and the long-range attacks collided. However, something very shocking happened.

[Did you see that? With tens of thousands of tankers gathered together, even if the magic bomb slammed on them, it didn’t leave a scratch on their shields.]

[If Elpis or Gorfido did not use their AOE skills, then they might have been able to deal with those tankers.]

[The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s foolishness is now ending in a catastrophe.]

The tankers were as much a ranker as the others. This meant that they were in perfect coordination and order. Then, a gap opened between the walls created by their gigantic shields. Plenty of rankers sent a tremendous amount of AOE attack skills toward the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

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

“Keuaaaaack!”

“Ack, aaaaaaaack!”

“Keoheooooook!”

“Urkkkk!”

The people stationed on the walls screamed as they fell down under the onslaught of magical bombings. At the same time, the walls began to receive massive damage.

“Attack!!!” Genie, who was standing on top of the wall, shouted loudly. But despite fighting back, the enemy troops just shut the gap that they created and...

Shwa, shwa, shwa, shwaa—

...continued to advance.

[They won’t be able to do anything. They can’t stop the charging shield and the enemy troops.]

[The war will basically be over the moment the allied troops enter the castle.]

The enemy troops had already charged fifty meters of the 200 meter long bridge. Meanwhile, inside the walls of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s castle stood Twilight Chef Black and Iris Guild Master Callian. They hid behind the safety of the walls, gnashing their teeth in anger.

“Genie!!! What the hell?!!! Why are you allowing the enemy troops to charge forward?!!!”

“Order our elite troops to charge forward now!!! If things continue at this rate then the castle will fall!!!”

“Wait.”

“Hiiiiiiik...!”

But, reality was different from what they thought. Genie deliberately placed the lowest level rankers in the vanguard and allowed the tankers to charge forward. That was the main reason why they could not breach through the shield. And now, the enemy troops were just forty meters away from the walls.

At that moment, Callian finally made a decision, “Iris Guild members! Prepare to attack!!!”

“Yes!”

Callian ignored the orders given by Genie, the King’s Agent, and tried to make the troops charge forward. Following him, the tens of thousands of Korean rankers stationed inside also tried to

move. But then, the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom immediately pointed their weapons at Callian.

“What the...?”

“Are you crazy?!”

“Genie, what the hell are you doing?!!!”

The South Korean rankers turned furious. Even Callian’s face turned red in anger, “I am a citizen of South Korea. I can’t just look on and let our country be stepped on so easily. Many of the rankers here will receive harsh criticism from the people that believe in us just because of your foolish and moronic tactics!!!”

Many of the Korean rankers present agreed with Callian the moment he shouted loudly. They just could not understand why they were allowing the enemy troops to advance, especially since they had enough power to stop or slow down their advance.

“No matter how strong the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom are, this just would not work!”

“Genie! Hand over the command to Callian!!!”

“If you don’t put away the weapons you’re using to point at Callian, then we will attack you without any hesitation!”

A rift had been created. An unmendable rift was happening among the participants of South Korea. But then, Ares suddenly stepped forward, “Callian and the rest of the rankers. Please believe us, just this once.”

Ares was a great ranker, albeit a bit arrogant. And although he was the master of Ares Guild, he still willingly came under the command of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. He was someone that could not understand and could not bring himself to believe the actions that Beyond the Heavens Kingdom took once or twice before, but now, they had his complete trust. Everyone also knew that Ares and Callian had a close relationship.

“Ares, why are you siding with these f*ckers...” Callian asked. He truly could not understand. He was fully aware of how stubborn and how distrustful of a player Ares was.

“Please wait just a bit more. Please,” Genie said, bowing to all of the rankers present. The clamoring crowd turned quiet for a moment. Right after Food God Minhyuk, Genie was the next most powerful figure in the Korean Server. And this person was bowing her head to them as she continued to plead, “Within twenty meters. If the enemies enter the twenty meter range, the game will change.”

Although Genie was saying this, even she could not understand what Minhyuk meant. In the end, Callian turned around and yielded.

“If we fall here, then our entire country will blame you for the rest of your lives.”

The members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom immediately withdrew their weapons. At the same time...

“Thirty meters!!! The enemies have entered the thirty meter mark!!!”

Genie immediately ran forward. The Korean rankers immediately followed right behind her.

“Twenty five meters!!!”

And Callian, who turned around and yielded, rushed to the walls once again. Even if their castle was captured, they would fight until the bitter end. And...

“Twenty meters!!!”

Genie immediately used the ‘King’s Staff Sergeant’, the special power that she received before.

[You have cast the King’s Staff Sergeant!]

[You can now use one of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s King Minhyuk’s power!]

Genie looked around for a moment before spitting out the word that Minhyuk told her.

‘Why does the name... have to be...?’ Embarrassed, she mumbled very quietly,
“Hanwoo...”

[You will be able to borrow the power of ‘Hanwoo’, someone under Food God Minhyuk’s command, for five minutes.]

Blink!

Baaaaaaaang—

With her words, a lightning bolt fell down from the sky as a cow appeared on the bridge.

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

The tankers, who were only twenty meters away from the wall, could not hide their confusion as they watched an unidentified cow kick the ground with its hind legs. And above the cow appeared the name ‘Hanwoo’.

“Hanwoo...?”

“What does Hanwoo mean?”

“It’s the name of a cow native to Korea.”

“Sounds delicious...”

Then, Hanwoo immediately dashed across the bridge.

“Minhyuk, what in the world...”

Even until now, Genie still could not understand what Minhyuk intended to do. At that moment, she saw Hanwoo dash forward.

“Moooooooooooooooo!!!”

Hanwoo’s loud cry immediately suppressed the power of the tankers charging on the bridge as his body started to grow from five meters, to seven, then to eight, then to ten, then to fifteen, until it reached twenty meters in size. Hanwoo turned bigger than the walls and immediately covered the entire width of the bridge with his body. The cow, to be exact, the sealed Bull Demon King, had grown to the size of a mountain, as it charged toward the tankers that blocked his path. It had to be known that the Bull Demon King had a ridiculous charging power that could even bring Food God Minhyuk’s HP to zero instantly. And finally...

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

...Hanwoo collided with the tankers’ wall-like shield. Shockingly enough, the huge cow was able to crush the tankers’ shields and even trample on the rankers that were stationed behind them.

“Aaaaaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaarghhhhh!”

“Keuaaaaaaack!”

“S, stop iiiit!!!”

“Urrrrghhhhhh!”

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud—

The rankers that marched on the bridge fell down and disappeared under the depths of the lake. Those that remained on the bridge were trampled to their deaths. It was just an instant. But Hanwoo, who just charged once, took out 40,000 out of the 70,000 troops that were advancing on the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

After running to the end of the bridge, Hanwoo immediately turned around and charged forward once again. This time, another 20,000 of the enemy troops were crushed. No amount of bombing from magical attacks, or arrows, grazed or even nicked Hanwoo’s hide.

Callian, who watched everything unfold, was left speechless.

“....”

Then, he thought, *‘As expected, beef should really be Hanwoo.’*

At that moment, the word ‘Hanwoo’ was plastered all over the portal and community sites all over the world. It was a very unexpected, but welcome, promotion for Hanwoo.

Chapter 565: Battle of the Thrones (Middle)

Breaking news.

[The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom has eliminated the 15,000 allied troops in just three minutes.]

[The 70,000-strong, tanker-focused troops advanced to destroy the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, but were completely destroyed by 'Hanwoo' even before they could do so.]

[The entire world is watching Beyond the Heavens Kingdom in shock.]

[We can expect more countries to join the alliance to keep the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's path to the Supreme King's Throne in check.]

Breaking news of the same caliber began to pour out all over the world. The people from all over the world could only cheer for South Korea after witnessing how they slaughtered 15,000 enemy troops and pushed back the 70,000 troops that tried to capture their castle at the very beginning of the Battle of the Thrones. Even within South Korea, there was no place in the country that was not filled with cheers.

Meanwhile, at the Blue House.

One person trembled, his palms clenched tightly into fists. This person was none other than Kim Yeong-Soo, the current South Korean president.

'Thank you. Thank you.'

Kim Yeong-Soo looked at the screen and watched as Genie raised her sword to the skies while the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom shouted in celebration of their victory. Right now, the entire nation was celebrating. He could see that the rankers of a game were doing what he, the president, could not do.

Of course, Kim Yeong-Soo had also invited several Athenae experts to stay with him and analyze the situation.

"What do you think about the situation that they will experience in the future?"

But unlike the fiery atmosphere that surrounded him and the entire nation, the expressions of the experts were cold.

"The battle that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's members had fought was definitely good propaganda to raise everyone's expectations. But the problem now is that there are more than fifteen countries that have formed an alliance."

"The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is the very first kingdom in the game. And now, the other countries are given a chance to build a kingdom and a castle through this event. And since Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was built first, everyone would try their hardest to break down their systematic kingdom, before proceeding to fight amongst themselves in this Battle of Thrones. On top of that, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had just finished pushing back and eliminating 70,000 enemy rankers in one go. This meant that they are the very first in the contribution rankings and would definitely be the target of all the participating countries."

"If the allied countries deploy 10,000 of their troops, there will be around 200,000 enemy troops that will attack the kingless Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. The worst

part is the fact that this 200,000 strong troops is likely made up of Named NPCs and high-rankers.”

“...”

The report was tragic and disastrous.

“More countries will join the alliance. This time, they will not send a scouting troop but an entire army that will attack them. There is a huge difference between the top 10,000 players and the top 100 rankers. Top 100 rankers could easily face dozens of the top 10,000 players.”

“Although I do not want to admit it, our South Korea will be wiped out in today’s Battle of Thrones, Mr. President.”

Kim Yeong-Soo looked at the experts before shaking his head, “Nothing in this world can be completely predicted and calculated.”

None of the experts spoke even though they wanted to tell Kim Yeong-Soo that his desire and hope would not last long. Kim Yeong-Soo then made a phone call to none other than President Kang Taehoon. The moment the call connected, Kang Taehoon said...

[Mr. President, I sincerely ask for your understanding. I cannot and will not be able to tell you anything about how the Battle of Thrones will proceed.]

Kang Taehoon and Kim Yeong-Soo were quite close, but Kang Taehoon was someone with a firm and stubborn personality. No matter how close they were, he had no intention of informing Kim Yeong-Soo about any of the future trends that would happen in the Battle of Thrones.

“I know, I know. Just... I just want to know why the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom did something so reckless? Why does it seem like they are purposely attracting attention to themselves?”

As the real god of Athenae, Kang Taehoon’s view of the game and the plays inside of it was definitely superior to that of the experts that Kim Yeong-Soo had invited. All he wanted to know was why the members of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom used up all of their powers like that? But Kang Taehoon did not answer his question.

“Do we really have no hope anymore?”

Then, Kang Taehoon spoke quietly over the phone.

[In the Battle of Thrones, the country that acquires the highest contribution will receive special privileges.]

This meant that the more they hunt and kill, the stronger they would get, and maybe the better the rewards.

[Even if tens of thousands of flies swarm together, they will never be able to beat a lion.]

Kim Yeong-Soo’s eyes widened when he realized what Kang Taehoon meant.

‘Don’t tell me...!’

That was right. The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom started the Battle of Thrones by fighting against the other countries' 'bugs'. Right after that, 70,000 troops headed to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and increased their contributions once more. In other words, they were now stronger and there was a chance that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would become 'lions'.

'Are you telling me that they are allowing themselves to be attacked?'

It was a strategy that no one would even dare to think about nor even use it so easily like that.

"Is this what I think it is?"

[Who knows?]

A smile bloomed on Kim Yeong-Soo's face. After he ended the call, what he did next was simple. He looked at the experts solemnly and said, "You guys can go."

"...???"

"...???"

"...???"

"...???"

As of this moment, the only thing that was a sore sight in the eyes of the global top rankers was the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. They were from a small country in Asia and a small continent in Athenae, yet they destroyed their alliance's army twice. Of course, even if they did lose, the number of troops that they have lost only amounted to a few thousands at most. But because of that, the temporary alliance was still required and could not be broken. This meant that they could not attack each other and all they could do was stomp their feet in their own castles.

While they were busy doing that, America was busy attacking the other countries that did not join the alliance and increased their contribution.

[Each country should send 3,000 more troops and one top ranker.]

The kings, who were sitting on their thrones, were spread out through a hologram projection and talked through their 'alliance chat'. The one that made the suggestion was China's King, Xu Jiaqi.

[If a top ranker dies, then it will be a greater loss than losing a thousand troops.]

Greece's King shot back, while Calauhel piped up.

[However, no one from our enemy's troops has the power to kill our top rankers and NPCs. Even their Named NPCs, Elpis and Gorfido, are probably on cooldown. On the other hand, our top rankers have yet to utilize their skills.]

[But the top rankers are also rankers. They will also lose their power little by little, right?]

[Then, how about this?]

Vietnam's King, God of Archery and a lady, to be exact, Miáo spoke up.

[Let's try to take them down with summoners and necromancers and have France's Bastien lead?]

[That's not a bad plan. It can also reduce the damage that our troops will receive.]

[Besides, France also has the 'Lion King' right?]

The Lion King was the master of Bastien, the number one ranker in the official global summoner rankings. Surprisingly enough, he was one of the Absolute Supreme NPCs that could stand toe to toe against Overlord Raldo and Continental Emperor Ellie.

[Then, everything's decided. Each country will send a force with top rankers, summoners and necromancers. If we assess that there's a chance that they will fall, we will send an additional 5,000 more troops.]

Their discussion ended there. It was decided that they would send their country's strongest summoners and necromancers. Of course, a huge number of the troops that they will send out were NPCs. When they gathered, the total number of summoners and necromancers exceeded 60,000. But since they were summoners and necromancers, they could summon hundreds of monsters and increase their numbers even further.

"Keuhaaaaaaaaack!"

"Graaaaaaaaaa!"

Nearly 200,000 monsters and undead roared. Dozens of bone dragons and wyverns took to the skies. There were also rankers riding on top of the wyverns, ready to jump down on the walls.

At the vanguard stood a middle-aged man sporting a long beard. The man also had a lion head as his helmet. This man was Lion King Benrod. Benrod was different from the ordinary summoner. Even those that call themselves Absolute Gods would pale in comparison in front of the God of Beasts under his command. There were even legends about how one of his beasts destroyed several territories.

"The man that humiliated you is over there?"

Standing right next to Lion King Benrod was the global number one summoner Bastien.

"Yes."

"Let's go."

"Keuhaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaack!"

Then, hundreds of thousands of monsters and undead roared, as they charged toward Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

The skies above the walls of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were covered with black. This was because a huge number of monsters were charging toward them and covering the land and the skies.

Many of the Korean rankers that saw this scene on top of the walls choked on their breath as the air around them turned somber. Among them stood a woman by the name of Allein. The power that she could wield was on par with the rankers, but she was actually the lowest ranked among them. Allein was a Spear Knight and a rising star in Korea. However, she was left speechless at the momentum of the monsters. She could feel her legs shake. In fact, she badly wanted to run away. She was

obviously one of the rankers to be envied. But the enemies were also rankers and standing in front of them, her side looked infinitely shabby.

“How...”

Why did the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom have to provoke them? Why were the members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom not shaking and releasing a trembling breath as they looked at the hundreds of thousands of monsters rushing toward them? Then, someone placed their hands on Allein’s shoulder.

“Everything’s going to be alright.”

That someone was none other than Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s vice guild master, Genie. She was a woman that reigned over Korea’s top rankers and received the love of many people.

But even with her comfort, Allein’s body did not stop shaking. Their rankers no longer had their sure-kill skills and they no longer had a gigantic weapon in the form of Hanwoo. Of course, the Korean rankers were also able to gain benefits after sweeping away the 70,000 troops. They had received a 5% increase in all stats, a bottle of top grade mana potion, and top grade HP potion. But still...

“The number of enemies is too...”

“It has always been like this.”

“...!!!”

After hearing Genie’s words, Allein realized that, yes, this has always been the case for the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. This was the case when they fought against Demigod Asura and when they sealed Great Demon Verus. This was also the case when they cinched a very shocking victory against China during the Continental War. The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was always presented with a losing battle, but they always came out on top.

Genie was a ranker that was loved and idolized by many. And she had always endured the weight that accompanied being an idol.

“There are a lot of enemies, right?” Genie asked the Korean rankers.

Cold sweat dripped down from everyone’s foreheads.

“Everyone believes that we’re going to fall and collapse.”

Indeed, even they, the Korean rankers, thought the same. They had the confidence but they were just ordinary rankers. No matter how hard they thought, the number of enemies in front of them was just too much.

“But what if we take them down and claim the Supreme King’s Throne?”

At Genie’s words, one of the male rankers spat out shakily, *‘They will be shocked.’*

Everyone at the scene shuddered.

“We can do it. Right now, we can break that damn alliance down, claim the Supreme King’s Throne and soar even higher.”

All of them spat out trembling breaths, their bodies shaking as goosebumps rose on the skin on their backs.

Then, Genie, who looked at the charging monster corps beyond their walls, the bone dragon corps, the wyvern corps and the gryphon corps flying above them, said, "Prepare for battle."

Shwaa—

Shwaa—

Shwaa—

Shwaa—

The Korean rankers and NPCs, who unsheathed their weapons, looked very cool. And Allein stood by them and said, "It's an honor to fight with you."

At the same time, a huge bone dragon flew toward Genie, its mouth wide open and ready to bite her. Then, Genie's whip wrapped around the Bone Dragon as if she was waiting for it to reach near her. And when she slammed her hand down, the Bone Dragon's body got embedded on the ground.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

As the dust rose behind her, Genie ordered, "All troops, attack!"

Chapter 566: Battle of the Thrones (Middle)

Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's Vice Guild Master Genie showed everyone a spectacular sight, when she slammed a bone dragon that was several tens of times the size of her own body, on the ground with a swish of her whip.

Unfortunately, as if that bone dragon was the signal, ten more bone dragons, as well as the thousands of wyverns and gryphons, dived down and attacked the walls.

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

There were even fifth to sixth tier magic raining down on them from the mages that rode on the gryphons. However, the Korean Mage Unit, a group of golden robed mages led by Golden Mage Ali, was prepared for this kind of attack, immediately casting Dispel together to ward off the magic.

"Dispel! Dispel! Dispel! Dispel! Dispel!"

After dispelling all of the magic aimed at their own troops and not the magic that was going to rain down at their walls, Ali aimed and sent attack magic toward the gryphons and wyverns hovering in the skies. Standing side by side with him was Root, Korea's strongest archer. Root shot down one gryphon and wyvern after another while counting them down one by one, "Ten, thirteen, sixteen, twenty."

"Keuhaaaaaaaaack!"

Meanwhile, on the ground, thousands of giant bone mamboths and turtle dragons started their advance on the bridge. Bone mamboths were monsters made of bones that looked quite similar to elephants. Although gigantic in size, they were quite quick on their feet and had shocking charging power.

"Grraaaaaaaaa!"

“Keuhaaaaaaaaack!”

The turtle dragons, which started to occupy the bridge together with the bone mamboths, were monsters that had large, solid and thick shells on their backs. Their shells were so tough that it made them immune to the arrows and magical attacks sent their way.

The charge did not end there. The other class rankers also joined the summoners and necromancers and sent their own AOE attack skills.

“Keuhaaaaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaaaaaack!”

“Keooooooooook!”

The Korean rankers’ screams rang constantly on the field. With the bone mamboths and the turtle dragons’ continued charge, it only took a moment for them to fill the bridge and reach the gates.

Thuuuuuuud—

The castle walls shook greatly as the giant bone mamboths slammed their bodies on the gates. The Korean archers and mages standing on top of the wall tried to shoot their arrows and magic attacks toward the bone mamboths but failed to do so, only being able to screech and scream.

“Keuaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaaaaaack!”

The reason for their screams was a spear-like arrow that pierced through their bodies the moment they tried to raise their heads to shoot their own arrows and magic.

Shockingly, among the allied troops was Master Archer Miáo, Vietnam’s king. There were many players called Master Archer; a prime example of this was South Korea’s Root.

But! Master Archer Miáo was different. She was a God Class player that had inherited the power of the ‘God of Archery’. The more surprising thing here was the fact that Miáo was sitting on her throne. This was the effect of one of her skills, ‘Arrow Clone’, an effect that would only be expressed if she was with her allies. The Arrow Clone was a skill that could create a clone that was very similar to her but with a 30% reduction in attack and skill damage.

But even that was devastating enough. After all, her hit rate and accuracy did not decrease at all. The arrows that her clone sent out pierced through and kept the rankers that tried to deal with the bone mamboths in check. Root also tried to keep Miáo in check, but the moment he shot his arrow, Miáo’s arrows split it in half.

‘Crazy...!’

The Korean rankers were left dumbfounded by the scene.

“We, we can’t defend the walls!”

“Master Archer Miáo is too strong!”

“Twenty of our own rankers have already received fatal wounds from her arrows!!!”

There was a large number of troops aiming for them from the skies, while an army of bone mamboths and turtle dragons rushed to break their walls and threaten their safety.

Inside, Spear Knight Allein was gnawing on her lips and thinking, *‘What do I do? What am I supposed to do in this situation?!’*

Allein was a ranker. She was ranked third in the rookie players’ Spear Knight rankings and was loved by many. However, she was completely at a loss with the situation that was presented to her right now.

At that moment, Emperor of the Sword Carr’s voice rang loudly and calmly, “Who wants to go hunt some elephants and turtles with me outside the walls?”

“Me.”

“Me too. Me too.”

“Conir! Conir goes too.”

Khan and Locke raised their hands and answered nonchalantly. But what shocked Allein was when she heard the young boy, Conir, volunteer himself.

“Wh, what... only the four of you will go out there?!”

All hell had broken loose outside of the gates. Even if they were among the top rankers and were the strongest in the country, they would not last long out there.

Carr looked at Allein, his calm expression turning fierce as he said, “What the f*ck? Are we supposed to hide here and wait to be crushed? Why did you even participate in the Battle of Thrones if that’s all that you’re going to do?”

“...”

Allein trembled at Carr’s harsh rebuttal. However, his words made sense. Why did she really participate in the Battle of Thrones?

‘Because I want to fight alongside them...’

That was the reason why Allein participated. She should not be afraid to fight.

“Are you just going to hide in here or are you going out with us?” Carr asked, testing her guts.

Allein gripped her spear tightly and said, “I, I will go out too. Don’t look down on me.”

“So, you weren’t completely stupid. I see.”

With Carr’s words, the gates began to open. Only five people went outside, Conir, Khan, Locke, Carr and Allein, accompanied by the voices of the Korean rankers that were left inside.

“Only five of them will go out there...?”

“Are they crazy?”

“The shells of the turtle dragons and the bones of the bone mamboths cannot be cut down by mere swords.”

Creaaaaaaaaaak—

As he looked at the opening gates, Carr said, “Listen.”

“Yes?”

“Follow us closely and don’t get lost.”

There was a strange sense of kindness laced in his voice that was teeming with ego and pride. The moment the Emperor of the Sword and Korea’s official number one ranker, Carr, stepped forward...

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

The bone mamboth, that was blocking their path, collapsed and turned into fragments. Next...

“Wailing Child!”

The boy, Sword Saint Conir, slashed and broke the shells of three turtle dragons. But that was not all...

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

Locke slammed his ax on the roaring turtle dragon’s face and blew it five meters away from them.

Crack! Crack! Crack! Crack!

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash!

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

Only four people made their move. But these four people were destroying the bone mamboths and turtle dragons flocking on the bridge.

Thuuuuuuuuuuud—

Thump, thump, thump—

Allein was shocked as she witnessed the bone mamboths and turtle dragons exploding in front of her eyes.

‘So these are the Rankers Above Rankers...’

‘Rankers Above Rankers’ was the title given to the rankers in the top ten of each country.

“Sword Explosion.”

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

Carr’s sword pushed dozens of bone mamboths back in one go. But the monsters immediately flocked and covered the gap as soon as a path opened. Seeing this, Allein clenched her fists tightly.

‘Me too... Me too...’

Allein also wanted to be a ranker like that. She also wanted to shock the other Korean rankers with her display of power like how the Korean rankers behind them were reacting to the four people that went out with her. So, Allein, the Spear Knight, finally plucked up the courage.

A bright light burst out of Allein's spear the moment she swung it in the air. Then, a white horse with a beautiful mane appeared in front of her. Allein climbed on top of the horse as she placed a white helmet decorated with golden horns on her head.

Even if the four members of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom cut down the monsters in front of them, the monsters still continued to fill in the path that they opened up. At that moment, Allein, who rode on her white horse, shouted, "Everyone, out of the way!!!"

The four people turned their bodies away in reflex at Allein's shout. Then...

[Flashing Spear.]

[You will charge for forty meters. Everyone that crashes into you, who's riding on top of your white horse, will suffer from an additional 4,000% damage.]

[After traveling for forty meters, you will return to your original position in a blink.]

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

A golden light engulfed Allein's body. And just like a flash, she charged through the bridge filled with bone mamboths and turtle dragons. It only took three seconds. But in those three seconds, all the bone mamboths and turtle dragons that she passed by collapsed on the ground. Once the skill ended, Allein returned to her original position.

"..."

"..."

"..."

Khan, Locke and Carr were all left speechless. Allein's skill's disadvantage was that it could only move in a forty-meter straight line. But other than that, it was a tremendous AOE attack skill that could leave anyone speechless.

Striking while the iron was hot, Locke asked, "Would you like to join the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?"

"Okay."

This was the birth of another talented and skilled person that would lead the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

But then, the undead began to push their way in.

The Lion King looked at the situation of the entire battlefield before giving his orders, "Let's go for an all-out attack."

Hundreds of Death Knights and dozens of Liches that were stationed at the rear together with thousands of undead began to charge forward. The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom looked infinitely smaller after as the undead began to flock unto them.

[The Undead Corps has begun an all-out attack.]

[We can expect the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom to receive considerable damage from the Undead Corps' all-out attack.]

[The allied forces have around 80,000 troops in the skies and around 100,000 troops on the ground.]

[The undead are swimming through the lake and clinging to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's walls.]

[It seems like the downfall of the castle is not that far away now.]

Defending against hundreds of thousands of undead was an extremely daunting task. No matter how strong or how many the members of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and the rankers were, they would still face limits.

“Retreat. Retreat!”

Carr and the other people guarding the gates immediately rushed to escape.

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

The walls continued to shake and tremble.

[There is only 77% left in the castle wall's durability.]

[There is only 64% left in the castle wall's durability.]

[It's quite a pity but the combined forces of the allied forces' summoners and necromancers is making Beyond the Heavens Kingdom lose control.]

[No matter how strong one is, there's nothing scarier than fighting against an army of undead.]

[On top of that, those Death Knights, all three hundred of them, were previous legends.]

The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was obviously in a crisis. The gates' lights had faded as the Death Knights broke them apart.

Meanwhile, Lion King, who was watching everything unfold, evaluated the situation, ‘*Boring.*’

The Lion King had not even summoned his monsters nor the God of Beasts. The battle was blander than what he expected, ‘*Ah. As expected of foreigners.*’

As an Absolute Supreme NPC, the foreigners looked similar to bugs in the Lion King's eyes. They were nothing but mere insects. But then, Bastien, his student who was standing next to him, said, “This is strange.”

“What is it?”

“Death, the king of the Kingdom of the Dead, the one I mentioned to you before... I can't see him.”

“...Do you think the tides of this war will turn just because of the appearance of one insignificant being?”

“That...” Bastien mumbled cautiously. Death, despite only being one single person, could summon an undead army of ten thousand and dozens of Death Knights. And

according to rumors, Death's Death Knights and troops of the Undead Legion had become stronger.

So, one question arose in Bastien's head, '*Why isn't he showing up?*'

"This shoddy kingdom is already over. Even if he comes..."

But before the Lion King's words ended, the skies above him and Bastien darkened. The Lion King felt an unusual energy in the air. Perhaps it was magic that caused the skies to darken? However, his eyes turned wide from shock when he looked up. What greeted him in the skies was not a cloud nor some sort of magic. It was the gigantic bottom of a territory. This was none other than Atlas, Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's 'City in the Skies'.

"Wh, what..."

And inside Atlas the City of the Skies stood a man wearing a black robe. The man was looking at the land below him while standing in front of an unknown button. The moment the man pressed on the button...

Whiiiiiiiiir—

Whiiiiiiiiir—

Whiiiiiiiiir—

Whiiiiiiiiir—

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

Thousands of cannons as well as tens of thousands of unidentified openings appeared all over the City in the Skies. And then...

"Kihyeeeeeeeeek!"

"Kihyeeeeeeeeek!"

"Keuaaaaaaaaaack!"

The undead summoned by Death, the king of the Kingdom of the Dead, began to fall down from Atlas. Among them were dozens of Death Knights wearing red armor. At the same time...

Vwoong, vwoong, vwoong—

Vwoong, vwoong, vwoong—

The tens of thousands of unidentified openings and the thousands of cannons that covered Atlas began to glow with an eerie white light and...

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

Baaaaaaaaaang—

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

...the cannons fired shots that devoured the tens of thousands of enemy monster corps on the ground.

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

At the same time, the tens of thousands of unidentified openings were filled with ‘arrows’. Just like a machine gun, these arrows fired simultaneously and devoured the undead trying to climb the castle walls. The arrows also destroyed the bone dragons, wyverns and gryphons controlling the skies.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

“Kiyeeeeeeck!”

“Keuhaaaaaaaack!”

Out of the 200,000 strong monster corps that filled the skies and the ground, 150,000 turned gray.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Everyone was presented with the jaw-dropping scene of 150,000 monsters turning into ashes and disappearing into the wind, in an instant.

The eyes of the Lion King, who was looking at the scene in front of him in disbelief, wandered and made eye contact with Death.

“What’cha looking at, you f*cking bastard?”

“...”

The Lion King was left speechless after being served a dish of strong and unreserved Korean curses.

Chapter 567: Battle of the Thrones (Middle)

Atlas, the City in the Skies, was a territory written in legends and passed down to others. It was a famous architecture that represented Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, a city that flew in the skies! Anyone would feel the desire to own such a place once in their lives.

However, everyone was very suspicious. Why did Atlas, a territory under Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, appear in this place? That was right. The Battle of Thrones was not a competition where they had to battle using their own territories. It was one where they were required to create and build a castle solely for the Battle of Thrones and wage war against each other.

So, how was the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom able to use their own territory?

The secret to this was none other than creating the ‘best castle’. Joy Co. Ltd. had declared that they would give a special privilege to the ones that could create the best castle. Up until this point, nothing had been revealed about which country had created the best castle and won the special privilege.

It turned out to be Korea.

[Everything is clear now. The reason why Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is able to use Atlas Territory is because they have created the best castle out of all the 28 participating countries.]

[The weapons attached to Atlas must be one of the rewards that they have received.]

[What amazing firepower. It's like we're looking at the modern machine gun and K9 Thunder.]

[The undead and monster corps that showed great momentum earlier only have 50,000 left in their troops.]

Meanwhile, Lion King, who received verbal abuse from Death, was now witness to how the Death Knights wearing red armor attacked and laid the enemy Death Knights to waste, the moment they landed on the ground.

Craaaaaack—

Slash, slash, slash, slash—

Surprisingly, the Death Knights in red armor were dealing with the other Death Knights easily, as if they were fighting against toddlers. Just one of the Death Knights wearing red armor was enough to deal with dozens of ordinary Death Knights. In fact, they were not being pushed back at all.

‘Is this the Death King mentioned in the legends?’

The Lion King had ignored the people that they were fighting against just a few moments ago. But now, he realized that he should not have done that. The space around the Lion King then tore apart, as dozens of lions appeared prowling behind him, while he took a step forward.

The lions that appeared were enormous, around fifteen meters in height alone. And standing right next to the Lion King was the 25-meter-tall God of Beasts, that was releasing an enormous momentum. The God of Beasts also looked like a lion. The only difference was that he was wearing a full plate of golden armor.

“Roaaaaaaaaaar!”

The ground and the skies surrounding the Beyond the Heavens shook from the violent roar of the God of Beasts. Then, the effects of this roar struck everyone inside the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

[You have heard the Fearless Beast's Roar.]

[Your physical and magical defenses have decreased by 20%.]

[Your AGI has decreased by 15%.]

“...!”

It was a huge debuff! Everyone that the God of Beasts perceived as the enemy suffered from this debuff. There was no limit to the number, as long as they heard the Fearless Beast's Roar, they would receive the debuff.

‘They had cast a debuff on 50,000 people in one go...?’

Then, dozens of lions charged forward.

Thump, thump, thump, thump—

The lions' speed was completely different from that of the bone mamboths and the turtle dragons.

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

Hundreds of arrows flew towards the lions but none of them pierced through. They just snapped and cracked without even being able to leave a scratch on the lions' bodies. One of the lions leapt up, its leaping power so high that it was able to reach the top of the walls in one go.

“...!”

The startled Genie took a few steps back from the sudden change in events as the lion opened its giant maw and bit one of the Korean rankers, and the unfortunate ranker collapsed into a heap.

Crunch—

“Keuhaaaaaaaaack!”

One single bite from the lion and the ranker was forced to log out. Then, another lion leapt onto the walls.

“Keuhaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Stop them!”

“Attack!”

The lion jumped in the middle of the troops and went on a rampage, biting one ranker after another and forcing them to log out. But it was very hard to stop them. The spearmen rankers were only able to graze the lion's hide lightly despite stabbing strongly with their spears. In fact, their bodies were still completely intact even though they received the baptism of magic bombs and magical attacks.

What would happen if all of the lions prowling beneath them jumped on the walls?

‘We'll probably suffer and fall under the enemies' hands.’

Everyone thought of the same thing.

Slash—

Elpis was only barely able to knock one of the lions down and he was already gasping loudly.

“They, they're coming again!”

“Hiiiiik!”

The South Korean rankers were all struck dumb.

Meanwhile, the Lion King was having a conversation with the allied kings through a hologram, “Bring in the three top-rankers that I have told you to stay on standby immediately.”

[They'll arrive there in a minute.]

[I understand.]

[Yes.]

[May the tides of war be in your favor.]

The allied troops were expecting the arrival of the top-leveled rankers any minute now. If things continued at this rate, then the collapse of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would just be right around the corner. In fact, the lions were even able to push away the undead corps that Death had summoned.

“Genie!!! Give your orders!!!”

“Noona?!!!”

But Genie’s expression was blank as she stared at the space in front of her.

“Genie?!!!!”

Despite the loud shouts around her, her expression remained blank as she continued to look at the window floating in front of her.

Earlier, when the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom pushed back the 150,000 undead troops and killed thousands of summoners and necromancers they were able to reach the top of the contributions list. This meant that they were able to receive rewards once again.

[You will be able to summon one of the NPCs under the command of the participating guilds in the Battle of Thrones. This reward ignores the 1,000 participating NPC restriction.]

Based on the notification, Genie would be able to summon one of the NPCs that failed to participate in the Battle of Thrones because of the restriction on the number of participants. But among the list of the names of NPCs that she could summon, there was a very, very familiar name.

“...How?”

Ben had died, he turned to ashes and disappeared in front of Minhyuk. But all of the NPCs listed here were marked as ‘living’. And another surprising thing was...

‘It’s not Ghost Spear Ben... but Spear God Ben?’

Genie felt her heart thump wildly. The voices and the sounds ringing around her turned into white noise. In this harrowing and bloody battlefield, a bright smile appeared on her face.

At that moment, the ‘Rankers Above Rankers’ that each country chose arrived. Each country sent three of their strongest rankers. Each one of them could face a thousand of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s troops. At the same time, the God of Beasts made a move. A deep trench was dug on the ground as the 25-meter-tall God of Beasts stomped on the ground before dashing forward on the 200 meter long bridge.

Dash, dash, dash, dash, dash—

The monsters and the undead all collapsed just by accidentally making contact with the God of Beasts’ body. Even the Korean rankers were all left flustered and stunned at the majestic and imposing momentum of the wall-like God of Beasts.

“We, we’re done for...!”

“Just one hit from his body and the walls of the castle will collapse!!!”

In fact, under the command of the Lion King, the God of Beasts truly had a history of destroying a territory in under two hours, all on his own. The God of Beasts destroyed everything and turned that territory into a sea of blood.

“Roaaaaaaaaaar!”

As the God of Beasts roared, Genie said, “Summon Spear God Ben.”

At that moment...

Shwaaaaaaaa—

A bolt of lightning fell down from the skies.

Rumble, rumble—

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

At the place where the lightning struck, an old man stepped forward and faced the charging God of Beasts.

“I...” the old man mumbled silently, “have never learnt how to back down.”

Ghost Spear Ben was undergoing the trials set by the Absolute Gods. However, one of those trials had been changed because of the changing whims of the Absolute Gods. They even said nonsense here and there to justify their actions.

‘If you overcome this trial, you will gain more strength and power,’ the gods said as they gave Ben a trial that they were sure he was not able to clear.

Humans were helpless under the gods’ tricks. In the end, Ghost Spear Ben’s trial was changed. He was now required to win against one of the gods. And the god that he was supposed to face was Spear God Aerdes, the god that he had met in the past.

Ghost Spear Ben fought with Spear God Aerdes for days on end. No, to be exact, Ben attacked Aerdes continuously for days but he was never able to nick, let alone graze, Aerdes’ body. But even so, Ben still continued to stand up.

“His Majesty is still waiting for me.”

“This crazy gramps...”

The great and arrogant Spear God Aerdes could not kill Ben. This was because Ben’s strong mentality and reason for fighting broke her heart.

Then, one day, the God of Cooking appeared. The God of Cooking declared that she would give Ghost Spear Ben a special privilege, since the Absolute Gods dared to change the contents of the trial on their whims. She brought a dish called braised spicy chicken. The God of Cooking also placed a crystal ball in front of Ben as she handed over the dish. Minhyuk’s figure as he cooked was displayed on the crystal ball.

“He risked his life to cook for you. What a wonderful combination you two are; both the king and his retainer are quite cool, huh?”

“Your Majesty...”

Old Man Ben’s tears fell down his cheeks as he stared at the crystal ball. He deeply missed Minhyuk. That was why he wanted to go back to his arms once again. Ben sat down in front of the braised spicy chicken that Minhyuk made for him at the risk of his own life.

“...A dish? So suddenly?” Spear God Aerdes cried in shock, shaking her head as she looked at Ghost Spear Ben, who smiled brightly in front of the dish.

‘The power of the God of Cooking’s dishes is very outstanding. But do you think a mere dish can give you the power to defeat me?’

Aerdes could not understand but Ghost Spear Ben knew what he had to do. All he needed to do at this very moment was to savor the dish that His Majesty made for him.

“I will eat well, Your Majesty.”

With the power of the God of Cooking, the dish did not cool down, even though a lot of time had already passed. Ghost Spear Ben looked at the cheese placed in the middle of the huge pan and the braised spicy chicken on both sides. The first thing that he did was to clamp a piece of the chicken and eat it as it was. The spicy flavor and the soft texture of the chicken immediately brought a smile on Ben’s face. This time, Ghost Spear Ben placed a piece of the braised spicy chicken on top of a lettuce, added some garlic and ssamjang, before placing everything in his mouth. Next, he tasted some udon. Ben really, really liked udon.

‘The seasoned udon is really delicious.’

Ben savored the spicy and salty flavor that wrapped around the noodles in his mouth. He would also dip some of the chicken in the cheese for the rich and creamy flavor. He ate everything in a rush, as if someone would take it away from him. Although they were apart, Ben completely felt Minhyuk’s heart and sincerity through the food.

Aerdes suddenly felt the air around Ben vibrate after he finished eating his meal.

‘What?’

Aerdes felt flustered. Ben had only eaten one dish but the air surrounding him started vibrating. At the same time, the notifications rang in Ben’s ears.

[You have eaten an Absolute God Grade Dish.]

[You have received the buff effects.]

[You have transcended the limits of a human!]

[You have transcended the limits of a human for a second time!]

[...human!]

[All of your stats will increase by 71% and all of your skill levels will increase by +4 for one whole week!!!]

An hour later, Spear God Aerdes was seen lying in a heap in front of Ghost Spear Ben.

The sparks that covered the old man, who appeared after the lightning struck, slowly disappeared.

Crackle, crackle, crackle—

The 25-meter-tall God of Beasts continued to charge at the old man. The Lion King, who watched everything happen, believed that the old man would be torn to pieces under the sharp teeth of the God of Beasts, disappearing without a trace.

Meanwhile, the old man raised his spear and...

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

...the charging God of Beasts suddenly stopped. Everyone could not understand the situation. The old man just raised his spear and this happened? But then...

Step, step, step, step—

When the old man walked past the God of Beasts...

Swiiiiish—

Starting with the head, the God of Beasts slowly split in two. The God of Beasts died with his body split in half.

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Ghost Spear Ben had finally returned, as the Spear God.

Chapter 568: Battle of the Thrones (Middle)

Lion King Benrod was left speechless after witnessing the ridiculous scene in front of him. He could not even return to his senses after receiving such a huge shock. With the notification that rang in his ears, he finally realized that the scene that he witnessed was true.

[The God of Beasts has died.]

[You can summon the God of Beasts again only after the Battle of Thrones has ended.]

It was not only Lion King Benrod who reacted this way. For a moment, everyone was speechless. They all silently watched the old man walk on the bridge and pass through the God of Beasts. The viewers from all over the world watched the scene through the hundreds of cameras filming the scene. The summoners, the necromancers and the Rankers Above Rankers that just arrived. Even the Korean rankers that saw this on the walls of the castles.

All of them remained silent as another question popped in their heads: ‘*Who is he?*’

While everyone was busy trying to see the old man's face, Genie, who was being shown at a close-up on one of the screens, mumbled, "Grandpa Ben..."

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

Ben was the closest retainer to Beyond the Heavens' King Minhyuk. Despite his strength, he worked as a barista in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Ghost Spear Ben had become famous after he created the legend of breaking through hundreds of thousands of troops during the war between the Lumae Kingdom and the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. There was even that one video that shook the hearts of many people all over the world, the video where he died and turned into black ashes that disappeared in the wind.

So, why was Ben here? And how did the God of Beasts die?

[Isn't the God of Beasts too weak? He did not seem as mighty as how he looked.]

One of the viewers tried to deny the truth. But someone else quickly made a rebuttal.

[You won't be able to say that at all if you have watched the video of the fight between the God of Beasts and an American PK guild.]

Player-Kill guilds existed in each and every country. And the PK guild in America had a huge influence in their country. In fact, they even have several unofficial Rankers Above Rankers in their ranks.

[If you watched that video, you will be able to see how the God of Beasts devoured and killed five Rankers Above Rankers and hundreds of rankers.]

[Then, how in the world are you going to explain the situation right now?]

Only a few of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's executives, including Minhyuk, knew that Ghost Spear Ben was undergoing the Absolute Gods' trial. That was why everyone found the situation to be incomprehensible. Especially because this happened long before the Battle of Thrones started.

The Rankers Above Rankers that arrived at the scene saw how everyone was left speechless.

"Miáo, what in the world happened here?" One of the Greek players asked Miáo, who witnessed everything. But Miáo could not say anything.

"Miáo! Miáo!!!"

"Ah. Yes..."

Miáo was the only one that sat on the throne in this place. However, even she was left speechless at Spear God Ben's overwhelming aura and momentum. Still, they held some hope.

"That attack was a lethal skill, right?"

"Y, yes. That might be the case."

“That’s a possibility.”

Of course, that rhetoric was truly possible. It was probably a lethal skill, a trick by the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. He was most likely trying to make the enemies confused and forced them to retreat by showing his power with a light swing of his spear.

“That’s most likely the case.”

“Yes, that’s true.”

The rankers nodded in agreement. After all, this was the most credible explanation. But then, Miáo, with a somber look on her face, said, “But, if that’s not the case, then...” Her face turned pale as she continued, “The winds will change in the Battle of Thrones.”

Gulp—

Someone gulped loudly. A single NPC would be able to change the flow of the Battle of Thrones? It would be something that was practically impossible. No one would believe that to be a possibility.

In just an instant, they began to flock to the bridge again. The monsters, the undead, and the rankers that flocked to the bridge were almost at 30,000. But Spear God Ben just walked forward silently.

‘Your Majesty.’

Spear God Ben continued to walk forward, a small smile on his lips. He could only come back because of *him*. He was able to endure everything because of *him*. And now that he was here, he would make a stronger kingdom for *him*. That was right. That was what Ben intended to do.

“Kill him!!!”

Meanwhile, the Absolute Supreme NPC, the strongest NPC in the world, the Lion King was furious. As his anger rose, dozens of named monsters appeared. The Death Knights that blocked Ghost Spear Ben’s path all flew out.

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh—

The Death Knights’ bodies were split in half, turning into ashes and disappearing into the wind. This was the first shot of the fierce battle ahead of them. To be exact, this was the beginning of a slaughter.

Shwaaaaaa—

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!

With every step that Ben took, the enemies would turn to ash. Dozens of Death Knights and monsters threw themselves in his path but none of them was able to even reach his vicinity. All of them disappeared into ash with the swing of Ben’s spear.

The spear arts that Ben used was none other than ‘Shadowless Spear’. In the past, Spear God Ben had borrowed the power of Aerdes. But it was just that, borrowing. Now, Spear God Ben had defeated Aerdes. This meant that all of Ben’s powers and skills had reached the level of the gods. Hundreds of monsters and undead disappeared with every step that Spear God Ben took. One of the gigantic bone dragons tried to take advantage of a gap and dived down to bite off Spear God Ben.

“Kihyaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

But Spear God Ben ignored the attack as he continued to knock down the enemies in front of him silently. All he did was raise one of his hands and grab the maw of the gigantic bone dragon, stopping it easily.

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

The scene where Ben blocked a bone dragon, which was several tens of times larger than himself, with just one of his hands was already shocking. But then, he suddenly put some strength in that hand and...

Crack, crack, crack—

The bone dragon, starting with its maw, cracked. Its hard and thick bones started to crack, until its entire body collapsed into pieces. Spear God Ben looked at it for a while before finally moving in earnest. He put some strength in his legs and started running.

“Uwooooooooooh!”

More monsters and undead turned to ashes that scattered in the wind as Ben swung his spear fiercely.

Flaaaaaaash—

With his spear shrouded in a black light, Spear God Ben jumped to the skies and cast a skill. There was a skill named ‘Exploding Spear’ in the chapters of the Ghost Spearmanship. This skill was an AOE attack skill that could pierce through and make tens and hundreds of enemies explode with a single stab. And now, this strengthened skill, the Spear God’s Exploding Spear, descended upon thousands of the enemy troops.

Slaaaaaash—

When Ben’s spear pierced through one of the monsters’ heads, the black light that covered it began to flow to the ground. Then...

Rumble, rumble, rumble—

...an explosion so loud, as if a nuclear bomb had exploded, occurred on the bridge, devouring the monsters on the bridge and turning them to ashes. With just this Exploding Spear, the 10,000 monsters that filled the bridge disappeared without a trace. Everyone felt their breath stop, their bodies trembling. All would be equal in the face of the descending Spear God. It was like he was telling them: *I am the lion, you are the ants.*

“Kill him!!!”

The Rankers Above Rankers, whose combined numbers reached around fifty after all eighteen countries sent them, were looking for an opportunity. Although smaller in number compared to the entirety of their troops, their numbers could already support an entire kingdom.

First was America's Spear Saint, Arendor. He was second in the official global spearmen rankings. He was also the one that could invoke 'The One like Light', a power that could instantly double his movement speed and attack speed. Arendor used that power and charged at Ben with fierce momentum. Ben took a step back, easily blocking Arendor's spear with one hand.

'We can do it...!'

'He's not necessarily the strongest yet...!'

With Arendor at the lead, the Rankers Above Rankers began to attack Ben.

"Sword's Cry!!!"

Baaaaaaaaaaaang!

A sword fell from the skies and exploded on Ben.

"Death Dagger!!!"

This was a one-shot kill skill that added 6,000% additional attack to the world's top assassin's dagger, which was aimed towards Ben's abdomen.

"Magic Explosion!!!"

The 'Theoretical Mage', a mage that specialized in 'stored' magic, sent his magic explosion in one place and let it explode.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang!

One of the tanker rankers slammed his square shield on Ben's body. All fifty rankers gave it their all, as if they were raiding a monster that was above their power and strength. They went one step, two steps closer to where Ben was.

Even the Lion King jumped in and joined the fray with his dozens of named monsters, believing that this was their opportunity. The thin cloth that covered the Lion King's body was torn to shreds as his body grew bigger. The reason why the Lion King was given his namesake was because he could turn into a lion. Upon transformation, all of the Lion King's stats would increase by 50%, while his attack would increase by 2,000%.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

The Lion King transformed and turned into a lion and slammed into Ben with all his might.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

Ben's feet dug fifty centimeters deeper into the ground the moment he raised his spear and blocked the Lion King's attack.

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

The Lion King kept on slamming into Ben, just like a hammer pounding on a nail. When Ben's feet dug deeper by another twenty centimeters, another round of attacks rained down on him. The

enemies surrounded him but they really could not see him clearly because of the dust that flew up from the onslaught of their attacks.

“Haaa... Haaa...”

“Heok... Heok...”

Their ragged breaths rang loudly in the area. But just when all of them thought, ‘*Is it finally over?*’ while squinting at the place in front of them, something moved from the right side behind them.

“Foolish. You can’t even see me when I’m already in front of you.”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

This was Spear God Ben’s new power. The Ghost Steps, a skill that he had in the past, was a skill that allowed him to do instantaneous movements. But now, this skill has been divided into two parts. One was ‘Ghostly Movements’ and the other was ‘Ghostly Apparition’. And what he used just now was ‘Ghostly Apparition’.

As he looked at the terrified rankers, Ben coldly spat, “Absolute Pinnacle Spear.”

The Absolute Pinnacle Spear was Ben’s strongest lethal skill. It was a skill that he could only use at the expense of his life. But after becoming the Spear God, his Absolute Pinnacle Spear had completely changed. In the skies above them, a spear of light, one that could deal the damage of the Absolute Pinnacle Spear, fell down like a lightning bolt and pierced through the head of the Lion King before stabbing deep into the ground.

Stab—

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

Then, it exploded.

Spear Master Arendor cried out in shock as he watched the Lion King explode, “It’s, it’s a trap...!”

That was right. It was a trap. They all thought that Ben was not as strong as they thought him to be. Well, to be exact, Ben deliberately showed them gaps in his movements and allowed them to attack him. Like moths to a flame, all of them flocked to him. And it had to be known that the Absolute Pinnacle Spear was a skill that showed greater power when the distance between Ben and his opponents was shortened. A perfect example was the situation that they were in now.

Before Arendor could finish his words, a spear of light had already pierced through his head. Immediately after, dozens of spears of lights fell down from the skies.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab!

The Rankers Above Rankers exploded one after the other and disappeared into ashes! There were only dozens of spears but the damage that it could deal against Ben’s enemies was far higher than the Absolute Pinnacle Spear of the past.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Around fifty rankers disappeared without a trace. And while he was there, Spear God Ben also made sure to cut down the monsters and enemies that were near him.

“...”

“...”

The entire world held its breath. Even the commentators felt like they would be killed if they so much as dared to breathe.

Then, Spear God Ben walked towards the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's castle, dozens of drones trailing after him. Countless cameras zoomed in on Ben's face and broadcasted each and every single one of his movements.

The one that became a Spear God. The very same one that killed his enemies with just a single spear. He had created a legend. What would he do after such a feat?

Creaaaaaaaaak—

The gates of the castles opened and welcomed the arrival of Spear God Ben. Ben continued to walk forward, stopping only in front of the statue of his king.

In the Battle of Thrones, once the king's statue was destroyed or the king had died, all contributions would be disregarded and they would be marked as the defeated.

As he stood in front of the king's statue, Spear God Ben stabbed his spear on the ground and looked up. The one that became the Spear God had tears trickling down his cheeks as he said, “Your Majesty, this lowly servant of yours has returned.”

Ben lowered his head, tears still trickling down his cheeks.

‘I'm finally back. I missed you. I missed you so much, my king.’

At that moment, the notifications rang in his ears.

[The Absolute Gods are in awe after hearing the story of the king and his retainer!]

[The Absolute Gods are very ashamed of themselves after tricking and playing around with Ben.]

[The Absolute Gods are giving you their blessings now.]

Then, a bright light burst out and showed the translucent figure of a man. The man looked like he could not understand what was happening for a moment. But when he saw the crying Ben, the man stepped back and slowly knelt down in front of Ben. He reached his hand out and wiped the tears on Ben's face, saying, “Thank you for coming back, Grandpa.”

“Ah... Ah... Ah...!!!”

The man that appeared was none other than Minhyuk. The Absolute Gods' blessings lasted for a short while, and Minhyuk's figure once again turned into light, disappearing as quickly as it appeared.

Chapter 569: Battle of the Thrones (Middle)

Minhyuk stared blankly at the water that condensed at the tip of his thumb. This was his long-awaited reunion with Ben and he was delighted that the old man finally returned to his side.

‘My guild members are holding up well.’

During his reunion with Ben, Minhyuk was also able to take a glimpse at the current situation in the Battle of Thrones.

‘They’re not going to win without me, right?’

In fact, the guild members were doing so well that it even caused Minhyuk to be nervous. But then, Minhyuk recalled the additional announcement that Athenae had made a day before the servers had integrated. Based on the announcement, a defense-type event was prepared and would be implemented in the middle of the Battle of Thrones. Although Minhyuk was not clear on what kind of defense-type event it was, he knew that it would have a huge influence on the overall flow of the Battle of Thrones.

After he reunited with Ben, Minhyuk was finally preparing to enter the Abyss in earnest. He had not entered the Abyss at all since he had to deal with countless traps and hunt plenty of monsters that blocked his path from the true entrance.

‘I did not expect that it would take me this long just to enter the Abyss.’

Arlene had told him that he would be able to travel freely between the Abyss and the outside world as long as he cleared the first trial. Minhyuk stood in front of the black hole and stared at the space in front of him. When he logged back inside the game, Arlene had given him the ‘Abyss Stone’.

Craaaack—

Minhyuk tightened his grip on the stone in his hand, the stone turning into dust. The dust escaped from the gaps in his fist and flew toward the black hole. Not long after, a black light appeared and swallowed Minhyuk.

[You have entered the Abyss.]

[The Abyss contains thirteen trials.]

[Every time you break the Abyss’ trial, you will receive an amazing reward.]

[The power of thirteen gods resides in the Abyss.]

[The first trial will now commence.]

Minhyuk was greeted with a shocking view the moment he opened his eyes. Right in front of him was a line of tombs, thirteen huge tombs with various items emitting a bright light hovering above them. There was a book, a hoe, a frying pan, a sword, a bow, an axe, a hammer, and many more. These items were emitting a bright light and illuminating the surrounding area. That was when Minhyuk saw the words engraved on the tombstone, which were also shining a faint light.

God of Farming Arma.

God of Archery Follua.

God of Blacksmiths Hepas.

God of Magic Archipelo.

God of Animals Ideo.

God of Alchemy Karma.

God of Shield Aurod.

God of Life Arjya.

God of Time Card.

God of Immortality Roikan.

God of Creation Gerken.

Each tomb was marked like this to show which god was laid to rest underneath. When he reached the final tomb, Minhyuk could not help but look at it in doubt. Because the object floating above it was a fork. And the name written on the tomb of the final god was...

Food God Allen.

“...!”

Minhyuk took a step back in shock. In fact, he already knew that the Food God was dead. However, he did not know the reason why he died. At the same time, he understood the meaning of the tombs and the items floating above them.

“Tomb of the Gods...” Minhyuk mumbled as he found one more thing that these tombs had in common.

He realized that most of the gods entombed in this place were those that had bequeathed their powers. For example, the God of Blacksmith Hepas had given his power to Hyemin’sDaddy, the God of Magic Archipelo had given his power to Golden Mage Al, and the God of Archery Follua had given his powers to Vietnam’s Miáo.

There was also one more thing that he found in common among these gods.

“They’re all Continental Gods?”

That was right. The tombs here were the tombs of the ‘Continental Gods’, the gods that were active in the continent. However, it was still unknown why their tombs were gathered here, in this place.

Then, the notifications rang in Minhyuk’s ears.

[Food God Allen failed to go past this stage.]

[Food God Allen challenged this ‘trial’. However he failed and ended up dying here.]

[Descendant of the great Allen, honor him by accomplishing what he failed to accomplish.]

[The first trial has been decided.]

The world in front of Minhyuk immediately changed. What unfolded in front of his eyes were hundreds of thousands of people with their stomachs caving in from hunger. They were all skin and bones, and looked like they were about to keel over. The weaker ones, especially the children, had already started to collapse and die.

“...”

Minhyuk was left speechless. The scene that unfolded in front of him was hell on earth. One of the most painful ways a person could die was to die of starvation. From what Minhyuk had heard, the pain of someone starving as they slowly lost the energy in their bodies while still remaining conscious was indescribable. Knowing that they were already in the process of dying as their stomachs continued to cramp was completely terrible.

[You can borrow the power of three gods.]

[The first trial requires you to free all 500,000 people here from hunger.]

[You only have one chance.]

[The Food God had challenged this trial, failed and died here. If you fail here, you will be forced to log out.]

Immediately afterwards, a book opened in front of Minhyuk. The book contained information about the Food God.

[The Food God was overcome with guilt and remorse toward those that he could not save. So, he created a new secret that would be passed down and born to the world.]

[The new secret that he created at the cost of his life was said to be at the level of an ‘Absolute God’s Secret’. However, the truth of the matter was yet to be revealed since he had already left the world.]

[Upon completion of the trial, you will be able to acquire the Food God’s Absolute God’s Secret: ‘Everyone’s Happiness’.]

“...!”

Just like Minhyuk, the previous Food God was able to create an Absolute God’s Secret. And that was the reward that Minhyuk would obtain once he cleared the trial.

The entire world was astonished after witnessing Spear God Ben annihilate the summoner and necromancer army that the allied countries had sent! Meanwhile, the desire of the allied countries to keep the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom in check became stronger. However, even if they wanted to do that so badly, they could not send any more troops right away. This was all because of the defense event that Joy Co. Ltd. had announced before, which was about to begin.

The Battle of Thrones was held in the Stars’ Path. A huge video suddenly appeared in the middle of the path. It was in that place that the Gods’ Empire was created and established. In other words, Nerva Sephiroth, the emperor of the Luvien Empire, was there.

Nerva Sephiroth gazed at the world outside the walls of the Luvien Empire and said, “The kings from all over the world are fighting for power? And in the Stars’ Path to boot?”

“That’s right, Your Majesty.”

Nerva Sephiroth, with his long silver hair cascading on his back, looked so ethereal that the only word that was perfect to describe him was ‘beautiful’. He smirked, finding the situation funny, and said, “Stars that have lost their light will eventually fall on the Stars’ Path. By then, they will feel great frustration at their lack of support.”

At Nerva Sephiroth's words, the video ended and scattered. At the same time, notifications rang for everyone that participated in the Battle of Thrones.

[Defense Against the God's Swords have started!]

[A God's Sword of the past will appear in front of each of the participating 28 countries!]

[The God's Sword will descend in thirty minutes.]

[The God's Sword will descend in order!]

According to the trailer released before, the viewers have confirmed that the God's Swords were the ones that have inherited the power of the gods, or were gods themselves. In other words, the God's Swords, beings that boasted enormous powers, would appear to attack each kingdom.

Meanwhile, in the Japanese Server, Kentaro had finally finished his important quest and joined the Battle of Thrones just less than a few hours ago. Japan's castle was very solid and sturdy and was able to maintain its current ranking. Updated chapters on [novelbin\(.\)com](http://novelbin(.)com)

Following a huge splash of sparks, a man carrying a sword made of lightning appeared and walked toward Japan's castle. The man looked like Zeus of Roman mythology.

[Lightning Sword.]

[He is the 28th God's Sword out of all the 28 Swords!]

[His lightning is known to split the ground and make the world shake!]

The moment he swung his sword, a huge lightning bolt fell down and struck the castle.

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

Then, dozens of lightning bolts rained down, like a huge thunderstorm had arrived, destroying the castle walls and devouring hundreds of troops stationed inside.

"...!"

"...!"

[...!]

[,,,!]

The aftermath of one single strike was so great that Kentaro could only jump up from his throne in shock, "Crazy...!" The notifications had informed him that the man in front of them was ranked the lowest out of all the 28 God's Swords. Kentaro hurriedly gave out his orders, "Stop him!!!"

America was chosen as the next country for this defense event. Among them stood Alexander, a person that was hailed as the best of the best in the world, and was one of the Summit Five. However, he was speechless when he saw the being in front of them.

"This... this is the power of the man under Nerva Sephiroth's command...?"

Thousands of gigantic magical attacks and missiles rained down on America's castle.

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

The castle trembled and shook greatly. Nerva Sephiroth was the central figure of Athenae's second era, the era that was about to arrive. There was a high chance that the rankers would have to fight against him in the near future. Simply put, this was like a preview.

As the castle shook greatly, Alexander drew his sword and leapt on the walls, the other American rankers following right behind him. Then, the notifications rang.

[Magic Sword.]

[He is the 15th God's Sword out of all the 28 Swords!]

[His magic is known to burn even the dragons.]

In Vietnam.

[Archery Sword.]

[She is the 9th... out of all the 28 Swords!]

[Her arrows are known to scare even the God of Archery.]

God of Archery Miáo pulled her bow and shot an arrow at the woman walking from afar. But at that moment...

Fwoooosh—

An arrow flew and stabbed straight through God of Archery Miáo's shoulders.

“...I got hit by an arrow?”

For Miáo, the God of Archery, this was something that was completely impossible.

The same thing happened all over the place where the Battle of Thrones was being held, throwing the entire world into confusion. They finally realized that these beings called the God's Swords were extremely strong.

On the other hand, the viewers were very curious. They could see that the power and force of each of the God's Swords varied greatly depending on their ranking. The highest God's Sword that appeared was the God's Sword that appeared in China, the fifth Sword.

[Immortality Sword.]

[He is the 5th God's Sword out of all the 28 Swords!]

[Blessed with an immortal body, he is someone that does not die.]

The Sword that appeared in China was just as the notifications said. He simply could not die despite the thousands of magic attacks and arrows sent his way. The same was true even if they bombarded him all over with physical attacks.

China's King, Xu Jiaqi could not understand the situation at all, *'How come... why isn't he doing anything...'*

But not long after, she was able to realize the answer to her own question. The Immortality Sword strode forward and blasted through their castle walls, receiving all of the attacks that they had sent without retaliating with an attack of his own. But then, his body suddenly turned red and...

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

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh—

The Immortal Sword, who received all of their attacks, fired back the same attacks that he had received earlier. Only then did they realize that the Immortal Sword had the skill that could ‘absorb any abilities’. In a split second, more than 3,000 rankers died.

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

That was when they realized that the God’s Sword from the first to the fifth rank all had tremendous powers.

The people from all over the world cheered and enjoyed this defense-type event. But for the participants of the Battle of Thrones, all they could do was bite their lips tightly. The countries where the weaker Swords appeared heaved a sigh of relief, while the countries where the Swords in the top ten rankings appeared pulled their hair in despair. Although this defense type event would only last for thirty minutes, their casualties would differ depending on the rank of the Sword that appeared in front of them.

Meanwhile, Genie was shaking in nervousness since the Sword that they would defend against had not yet appeared, ‘*Shit, what do I do? Ah. Why are we in the finale?*’

The remaining Swords were ranked 1st, 2nd, 14th, 17th, and 21st. Genie did not know which one would appear in front of them. The only thing that she knew was that Grandpa Ben, who only just returned, was the strongest among them.

“Grandpa Ben, by any chance, can you still continue to fight?”

“Hoho. Lady Genie, unfortunately... I don’t think I can fight for too long. My body has transcended the limits of the human body several times and I even ate His Majesty’s buffed dish in that state. Since I gained power that’s beyond what my body can contain, I already lack the strength to move. And with my vision starting to blur, I feel like I’m going to lose consciousness soon.”

“...”

Genie understood what Ben said. Although Spear God Ben had a ‘God’ in his title, he did not really become a ‘god’; he was only a ‘demigod’. However, he was able to wield a power comparable to gods because he consumed Minhyuk’s buffed dish. Just how ants could not fight against an elephant, Spear God Ben’s stamina was rapidly draining from his body.

‘*We’re in trouble...*’ Genie thought, her stomach churning from her nerves.

Then, it was France’s turn.

“Ow. France has the 21st ranked Sword.”

“No... then, we will likely face the lower numbered Swords...!”

The defense proceeded in order until only two countries remained. Only Greece and South Korea remained, while the 1st and the 17th ranked Swords were left.

‘Please, God, Father, Buddha...’

Genie and the Korean rankers had endured until this point. However, there was a high chance that they would collapse here. Then, they heard another notification.

[The God’s Sword has descended in Greece.]

[The Sun Sword, ranked 17th out of all the 28 God’s Swords, has descended upon Greece.]

“...”

“...”

“...”

The Korean rankers were all left speechless. Now, all that was left was the 1st ranked God’s Sword.

“We’re f*cked...” Genie freely cursed their damn luck in this damn game.

Meanwhile, President Kang Taehoon hurriedly rushed inside Joy Co. Ltd.’s Event Hosting Team, “Wh, why...?! Are you telling me that they’ll collapse during the defense and way before the Battle of Thrones truly begins?!”

“I’m sorry. But everything has been set by the system. We also did not expect that they would get the 1st ranked and the existence hailed as the Absolute God’s Sword... Everything in the defense was set at random.”

“...!”

President Kang Taehoon’s face turned ugly at those words. As for Team Leader Park Minggyu? He looked at the monitor and saw a man wearing black armor and a sword hanging on his waist along with a ‘wolf’. He had a cape that was fluttering beautifully behind him, and on it, the symbol of a ‘fork and knife’ crossed together.

Chapter 570: Battle of the Thrones (Middle)

Food God Minhyuk believed that he had a lot in common with the former Food God, Allen. Well, except for their reason for eating. However, just like him, Food God Allen also dreamt of creating a world where there were no hungry people. Food God Allen also had a lot of friends and comrades in the continent. Just like how Minhyuk forged a strong sibling bond with Continental Emperor Ellie, Food God Allen had also created a strong friendship with the continental emperor of his time. Just as Allen had the Dragon Lord as his subordinate, Minhyuk also had Luna, someone that would become the next Dragon Lord. The two of them truly shared a lot of things in common.

And regarding the Secret that the Food God had made that was comparable to an ‘Absolute God’s Secret’, ‘Everyone’s Happiness’, Minhyuk already predicted what it was about.

‘It’s definitely an AOE buff skill.’

Minhyuk could tell with absolute certainty. ‘Everyone’s Happiness’ was most definitely an AOE buff skill, which would be very useful in wars. Before the trial had started, a notification popped up in front of Minhyuk...

[You can view how the Food God failed the trial once.]

Minhyuk was given only one chance for this trial and could also request the assistance of three gods. However, he believed that he could find the answer if he took a peek at how the Food God failed the trial.

“I would like to watch how the Food God failed.”

Then, the space in front of Minhyuk changed, showing the figure of the Food God and the 500,000 starving people. Food God Allen’s expression was covered with worry and concern as he looked around him, “How can this be? Why are so many people starving here? And I will become an Absolute God once I free them from hunger?”

Then, the notifications rang.

[Food God Allen has saved many hungry people in the continent. However, he has received several interference and restrictions from the Absolute Gods.]

Minhyuk could not understand what the notification meant. What did Food God Allen feeding the hungry had to do with the Absolute Gods and their restrictions?

[That was why Allen, a Continental God, wanted to raise his status, prove his power and become an Absolute God himself. The Abyss was his final hurdle in becoming one.]

‘The Abyss is the final hurdle in becoming an Absolute God.’

Minhyuk pondered over the words for quite a long time. The Absolute Gods had placed several restrictions on the Food God. In the end, the Food God chose to climb to the position and become an Absolute God to free himself from them. Minhyuk continued to watch the video in front of him.

To feed the half a million starving people, Food God Allen cooked hundreds of meals for days on end, foregoing sleep and rest. Allen was delighted to see the people enjoying the meals that he made and gaining more energy. However, the trial seemed almost impossible to clear alone. There were people that were able to eat the Food God’s dishes, while there were those that died while waiting for the food.

However, another problem, and a huge one at that, presented itself. Those that had eaten Food God Allen’s dishes came back for more.

“Food God, I wish to taste your dishes again.”

“Show mercy, give us another of your dishes!”

But the Food God shook his head firmly, “The dish I fed you is a buffed dish that will give you the strength to endure for thirty days with an empty stomach. So, I cannot. I’m going to cook for those that haven’t eaten yet.”

“Aaaaaaah! How can you abandon us!!!”

“You’re too much!!!”

“I hate you!!!”

This was the case for most of the men. Those that had first tasted food and regained their energy turned their backs away from the dying children and elderly. But even when that happened, Allen did not give in to their wishes. He remained silent and cooked for the hungry.

And one day, without realizing it, Allen had fallen asleep. It was just for a brief moment, but when he opened his eyes again, the view in front of him brought terror to Allen.

[It was hell on earth. Those who had eaten the food killed the ones that had lost their energy and strength and collapsed to eat food once again. Tens of thousands of people had died while he was asleep.]

Allen was shocked. The people came up to him, with blood splattered on their bodies and said, “Hehe, Allen. Since the number that you have to feed has decreased, then my turn to eat again will come faster, right?”

“...”

Allen was left speechless at the shocking scene in front of him.

[Allen felt a stinging pain in his chest upon witnessing the ugly side of humans. As time went on, they resorted to killing their kin, the same people that lived alongside them. The owners of the twelve tombs that witnessed this scene had told him to ask help from three of the gods. However, this help, something that they had offered from the beginning of the trial, was firmly refused by the Food God.]

“Food God, us gods will lend you our strength.”

“Choose from the three of us and borrow our strength.”

But Allen refused once again, “I do not trust the gods.”

[Allen had been deprived and restricted by the Absolute Gods one too many times. And even though he was also the same Continental God as them, he could not bring himself to trust them at all.]

It was clear that the gods that owned the tombs felt sorry for Allen. He was a man that dared to challenge the realm of the Absolute Gods so that no one would be hungry. However, he was already exhausted and his mentality had already been broken. And from what it looked like, he had failed in making the right decision.

“Only my cooking can save them.”

Food God Allen believed so and cooked for these people as best as he could. During the process, the people continued to kill each other, causing Allen’s mind to collapse. Allen might have forgotten but his challenge for the trial had already failed when the people started to kill each other. He was already approaching his death. But he still said the same thing over and over again.

“Only, only my cooking can save the world.”

Allen continued to cook, his exhaustion piling. Now, all that was left was a madman of a shell. But even though he continued to cook like that, the amount of people that he fed only reached around 100,000. Allen’s frustrations and exhaustion reached his limits. In the end, he fainted. When he opened his eyes again, the people had once again killed each other, leaving only a few of them

behind. Only then did the Food God realize that it was his own folly that brought death to these people.

‘If only I had borrowed the power of the gods.’

If Allen had chosen to borrow the power of the gods from the very beginning, then he might have a chance of clearing the trial. If he had abandoned his pride and arrogance, then those people might not have died. So, for the last time, Allen asked them, “God of Life, lend me your power and let me live for ten more days. God of Creation, lend me your strength and allow me to create a special power. God of Immortality, lend me the strength that will allow me to use all of my power for the remaining ten days of my life. God of Time, turn back the time once I make this special power and allow them to live their lives again.”

But the gods shook their heads.

“The trial is already over. On top of that, you can only borrow the power of three gods.”

“I’m asking you because I already know that I’m going to die. I know that I have already collapsed and failed this Abyss Trial.”

The gods felt pity for Food God Allen and allowed the four gods to lend him their powers. The trial had already failed anyway, so it would not matter what they did here. The flame of life burned inside Allen’s body as he used all of his stats, skills and strength to create a skill.

“Urk!”

Allen ignored the blood that dripped out of his mouth as he continued to put the last of his strength into the creation of this skill. Even though he was dying, he still continued to burn the rest of his power and strength using the power of the God of Immortality. Once the ten days had ended, a flash of blinding light appeared and surrounded the dish that Allen was making. The light was so dazzling and beautiful that even the gods swore that they have not seen something as beautiful as that in their lives. With the appearance of this dish, the God of Time turned back time to when Allen first came here.

The 500,000 starving people once again appeared in front of Allen. Seeing this, he finally closed his eyes and laid in eternal rest. Then, the dish that he made for the hungry, which was floating in the skies, slowly descended. It was just a bowl of gruel, but when the light faded and it stopped descending, the same bowl of gruel appeared in front of all 500,000 hungry people.

‘Crazy...!’

Minhyuk was shocked. After all, seeing one dish become 500,000 dishes was astonishing.

‘Cloning dishes?’

The power was truly spectacular. Then, the notifications rang in Minhyuk’s ears once again.

[On that day, the Food God used the last of his powers to save the 500,000 hungry people. And when he took his final breath inside the Abyss, he became one of the gods that protected it.]

[On that day, the Food God, as a Continental God, became the first ever in history to create an Absolute God's Secret.]

[The Secret's name... 'Everyone's Happiness']

The 500,000 people that regained some of their energy from the gruel that the Food God made, surrounded his cold body and honored him. When these people, whose hunger had abated for a moment, honored him, it looked like the world that the Food God had dreamt of. A world where no one was hungry.

With the end of the video, Minhyuk returned to the Abyss where the 500,000 hungry people were waiting for him. Rejecting the help of the three gods and believing that his own cooking was the only thing that could save these people, just like what the previous Food God did, was something that Minhyuk believed to be foolish. However, the previous Food God was still able to look back at his true self and eventually feed all 500,000 of these hungry people. But Minhyuk knew that he could not do something like that. He had to feed all 500,000 of them in a completely different way than what Food God Allen did.

'I don't have the power of Everyone's Happiness.'

But even if he had that, was it possible? Minhyuk witnessed how the people that Allen fed turned vicious and killed each other just to eat another of his dishes. If he fed them one by one, then the results would be no different from what Allen did.

Not long after, Minhyuk shook his head, a smile hanging on his face, *'I know how I can clear this trial easily.'*

Among the viewers watching the Defense Against the God's Swords that took place in the middle of the Battle of Thrones, the Koreans lamented. This was because South Korea, who was leading in terms of contributions and showed a spectacular performance so far, got the short end of the stick. They actually had to face the strongest God's Sword in the defense-type event of the Battle of Thrones.

The God's Sword that appeared ranked from 1~28 and the difference in the power of the 1st to 5th ranked God's Swords was said to be the difference between heaven and earth. But now, the strongest God's Sword was going to attack South Korea?

[No, what's the point of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and the Korean rankers working hard if they'll just become a sacrifice in this shitty luck game?]

[Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's luck is so shitty. Hahahahahahaha. Among the 28 God's Swords, they actually have to face the strongest. Bwahahahahahahaha!]

The other kings, who were busy defending against their own God's Sword opponent, gave orders that would bring Beyond the Heavens Kingdom deeper into the mire.

"Send 5,000 troops straight to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom now."

"Send all of the troops that we can spare to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom now!"

The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, which would be under the siege of the first God's Sword, would be nothing more than a piece of delicious cake that they could feast on. Under the attack of the strongest God's Sword, an enemy that was equivalent to tens of thousands of troops in terms of power, and the addition of almost a hundred thousand troops sent by the allied forces, the fall of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom seemed to be set in stone.

Because of their constant battles, Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had already lost 7,000 of their troops. They were now faced with a situation where they had to stop the God's Sword, along with double the number of troops that they faced before.

"Our fight in the Battle of Thrones is over."

"F*ck. What kind of shitty luck game is this?!"

"Ge, Genie. What do we do?"

The South Korean rankers were a mess. They had done their best but now, they had to face around 100,000 enemy troops, and fight against the number one God's Sword.

[The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is facing yet another crisis.]

[The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's luck is unbelievably horrible in the middle of the Battle of Thrones.]

[We can now expect the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom to fall even before Food God Minhyuk participates in the 'middle of the event'.]

[What a pity.]

Meanwhile, the 100,000 troops had already gathered around the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and stationed themselves there as if they were watching the situation.

"Why is the First God's Sword taking so long?"

"I know, right?"

"Maybe it's because he's the strongest God's Sword that's why he's coming out late, for a better effect, you know?"

The troops laughed and mocked the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Standing at the vanguard was France's King Calauhel, who surprisingly took part in this attack.

Calauhel had suffered greatly under the hands of the Beyond the Heavens King, the Food God. In other words, his resentment and hatred toward Food God Minhyuk could already reach the skies. That was why he wanted to take the lead in destroying the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Thanks to the 'King's' special privilege, Calauhel was now 1.5x stronger than usual.

On top of that, he had confidence that France would be able to endure the fight against their God's Sword, since a relatively weaker one appeared in front of them. So, even if he was here, nothing would happen.

'When will he come out?'

Calauhel's body was itching to fight. He wanted to sweep away the people that Food God Minhyuk cherished and loved as fast as he could. Then, the notifications rang.

[The final God's Sword is about to make his appearance to the world.]

The notification about the first Sword was completely different from the other God's Sword.

[The Absolute God's Sword, as the strongest sword, once crossed blades with Nerva Sephiroth to vie for the position of the 'Battle God'.]

[Even Emperor Nerva Sephiroth is afraid of the Absolute God's Sword!]

[Absolute God's...]

[Absolute God's...]

"...!"

"...!"

The entire world was shocked by the notifications. Nerva Sephiroth was the central figure and the leading force that would lead Athenae's second era, and the being that would appear in front of everyone now, the Absolute God's Sword, was someone comparable to him.

"Waaaaaaaaah! Shit...!"

"We're done for...!"

The South Korean rankers fell into a deeper state of despair while the 100,000 troops cheered in delight. And along with that...

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

Something akin to a meteor fell down on the ground and created a thick cloud of dust. Only the silhouette of the man could be seen through the dust. Calauhel felt delighted.

'Quick! Destroy Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!'

The South Korean rankers groaned in despair while the allied troops cheered loudly. Then, at that moment, a voice pierced through the thick layer of dust, "Mercenary's Pinnacle Swordsmanship."

The 100,000-strong troops were confident that the strong walls that protected Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would collapse now. But then, the Absolute God's Sword said, "Final Chapter."

Then, hundreds of long and sharp blades appeared and rained down from the skies.

"...???"

"...???"

"...???"

To everyone's shock, the attack did not rain down on Beyond the Heavens Kingdom; instead, it rained down on the 100,000 allied troops. The blades cut down the armor, whether it was epic-ranked or legendary ranked, of the troops that stood at the vanguard and killed them. In just a single swing, more than 7,000 rankers disappeared. Then, the notifications rang.

[The Absolute God's Sword.]

[He's the one that challenged the position of the Battle God's Sword and is someone that stands toe to toe with Nerva Sephiroth.]

[His name is... Brod!!!]

And Genie, who was looking at the figure from above the walls, saw a man wearing a cape with the symbol of a fork and knife crossed together. If one removed the dirt covering it, one would clearly see that it was the symbol of 'Beyond the Heavens Kingdom'.

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The person that appeared in front of them was the one in charge of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's livestock: the Mercenary King, also known as the Beyond the Heavens' Sword.