

Gourmet 601

Chapter 601: First Teacher, First Friend

The notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears after he temporarily inherited the powers of the twelve Gods of the Abyss.

[Wielding the Sword of Life will bring the dead back to life without any scratch or injuries on their bodies.]

[Wielding the Sword of Magic will allow you to use Tier 1~Tier 5 magic. The sword contains the power of Archipelo, bringing its attack power to a ridiculously high level.]

[Wielding the Sword of Animals...]

[Wielding the Sword of the Food God...]

[Wielding the Sword of Blacksmiths...]

All of these powers could only be used once.

Meanwhile, everyone was lamenting the fact that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, the kings of other races, and millions of troops had fallen and collapsed at this place.

[This is a lesson to us all. No matter how strong we think we are, players are still infinitely weaker than other beings living in Athenae.]

[The legends have all died. Even millions of troops were killed.]

[Perhaps this is also Food God Minhyuk's final battle.]

That was right. Minhyuk had lost everyone that he cherished and loved in this battle. There was a chance that his mentality would collapse right there and then. After all, this was definitely something that could inflict great trauma to anyone that experienced it. Perhaps, he might no longer wish to access Athenae any more. However, no one dared to mock or curse him after seeing what happened. Because all of them knew that the trials and difficulties that the Food God had faced were so unbearable that even ordinary people would balk at the thought.

Everyone watched as Minhyuk held his sword and prepared for battle.

[Hold on, you can do it. Food God...]

[Fight until the very end!!!]

[Show us why you're the best in Athenae!!!]

[Don't back down!!!]

They longed to be like the Food God, yet at the same time, they felt both jealousy and envy toward him. This person that they chased after, the person that they dreamt of fighting with, was now going to fight until the very end.

While everyone shouted and cheered for the Food God, a strange phenomenon suddenly occurred. Twelve stars fell down like a meteor and entered Minhyuk's body. Then, Minhyuk, with his cloak bearing the symbol of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, the 'Fork and Knife', stepped forward as his hair turned golden and eyes turned silver.

The divine voice of all the gods rang loudly.

[The tree that was once dead, has found life, growing leaves and bearing fruits again.]

A blinding light spread out from the first sword and engulfed the cooling bodies of everyone present as Minhyuk wielded it.

My beloved noona.

[Sword Emperor Ellie has awakened and received a new life.]

Minhyuk's noona opened her eyes and stood right next to him.

[Overlord Raldo has awakened and received a new life.]

The amiable Raldo, the one Minhyuk called uncle, once again opened his eyes after having lost his left arm and dying.

[Sword Saint Conir has awakened and received a new life.]

[Elpis has awakened and received a new life.]

[Spear God Ben has awakened and received a new life.]

Conir, who was sometimes like a dear younger brother to Minhyuk, who acted like a friend, sometimes like a fool and sometimes like a genius, once again stood up next to him. The sturdy and powerful shield, Elpis, also stood next to him. As always, Spear God Ben slammed his spear down into the ground and glared at Elizabeth while declaring that 'he would never back down'.

[Elf King Argon has awakened and received a new life.]

[Dragon King has awakened and received a new life.]

[Roves' Child Jevis has awakened and received a new life.]

[Roves' Child Kiari has awakened and received a new life.]

Although they were of different races, the people that have been with Minhyuk for a long time smiled and looked at him, they nodded lightly to express their trust and faith in him as they stood next to him.

The viewers and commentators held their breaths as they watched the scene on their screens. The same was true for the executives and operators of Joy Co. Ltd.

In this world created by players... No. In this world created by both players and NPCs, a blinding light shone behind Minhyuk. Then, the troop that came from Eivelis Empire, as well as the seafolk and elves led by the Dragon King and Elf King Argon appeared once again, each of their groups exceeding a million in numbers.

[Saintess Loyna has awakened and received a new life.]

Loyna appeared next to Minhyuk, while almost a million paladins appeared behind her in a flash of light. The army behind Minhyuk was now close to five million.

"Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!"

"Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!!!"

The Food God stood at the vanguard of the millions of troops that howled and screamed. Minhyuk looked back at them and chuckled softly. Ellie, Elpis, Dragon King, Conir, Loyna, Gremory. They were beings from various races, yet they all stood behind him and nodded at him in unison.

At that moment, the Sword of Life slowly disappeared into nothingness.

[I forgot how to breathe for a moment there.]

[It's truly a breath-taking scene. God, my entire body is even covered with goosebumps.]

[The greatest and most beautiful battle in the history of Athenae is now about to unfold!!!]

The Food God was creating another legend in front of all of the viewers and commentators all over the world. And in front of Minhyuk...

"Impudent...!!!" Elizabeth, who unknowingly took a step back from the momentum of the five million-strong troops, came back to her senses. She opened her arms gracefully and declared, "Die!"

[God of Snakes' Wrath.]

[A deadly poison covers a fifty kilometer radius and will kill anything and everything within it.]

[Warning! This is a power that cannot be blocked by ordinary Abnormal Status Resistance Ability!]

[The poison will ruin your entire respiratory system once it enters your system.]

Minhyuk held the second sword with both of his hands tightly as he looked back at the five million strong troops and said, "Let's go."

Dash, dash, dash, dash, dash—

With Minhyuk at the lead, the troops charged at Elizabeth. As for Elizabeth, her arms gracefully swayed as an eighteen-meter-tall wave of deadly poison appeared. At the same time, Minhyuk swung the second sword.

Fwooooooooooosh—

The voices of the Gods of the Abyss echoed once again.

[The One that Connects the Power of the Gods has wielded the Sword of Immortality.]

A red aura exploded from the bodies of the five million charging troops.

"Woooooooooooooooooah!"

"Haaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

"Hiyaaaaaaaa!"

The army yelled to expel the fear from their bodies. They were in that state when the voices of the gods rang.

[Never fear, the world will tremble at the majesty of your immortal body.]

[You will not receive any damage from all kinds of abnormal status or attacks for three minutes!]

[All of your stats will increase by 10% for three minutes!]

The army jumped in the tidal wave made of poison. Minhyuk, who continued to run at the vanguard, brandished the third sword.

[The One that Connects the Power of the Gods has wielded the Food God's Sword.]

[Even if you don't make it, it will be created. Even if you don't eat it, the flavor will still linger in your mouth and it will make you feel full.]

Then, the Ingredients that can Unconditionally Make God-Grade Dishes that Minhyuk purchased flashed brightly and floated in the air. Following Minhyuk's instructions, the ingredients moved and created a dish. And the dish that he was making?

It was none other than hamburger, a dish that an American like Richard could easily eat.

[You have created a God-grade Hamburger.]

['Anonymous' has been announced to the entire continent for your achievement in creating a food closest to God.]

[God's Cooking Skill's EXP has increased dramatically.]

[This is the birth of a Fantastic God Grade Dish!]

And...

Gulp—

“...?!”

Richard was very shocked. The hamburger was sucked into his body. And even though he obviously did not eat it, the amazing flavor of the hamburger still lingered in his mouth.

“De, delicious...”

Richard did not eat it and Minhyuk did not make it personally, but there was a shocking notification that rang in Richard's ears.

[You have consumed a hamburger.]

[You can increase the level of one chosen skill by +5!]

[You can increase whatever skill you want to increase!]

[The buff duration is two days.]

Richard did not hesitate.

[Absolute Monarch's Stigma's level has increased by +5!]

[You can now engrave the Absolute Monarch's Stigma to forty people!]

[Those that will receive the Absolute Monarch's Stigma will receive a 43% increase in all stats!]

[Those that will receive the Absolute Monarch's Stigma will receive a +2 increase in all skill levels!]

[Those that will receive the Absolute Monarch's Stigma will receive a 40% increase in EXP Acquisition Rate!]

“...”

And the first person that Richard pointed to was...

‘It is an honor to fight alongside you, Food God.’

Richard was in complete awe and admiration of Minhyuk. Minhyuk was someone that Richard feared the most as an enemy. However, he also discovered that the man was a very reliable ally.

[Minhyuk has received the Absolute Monarch’s Stigma!]

Black characters fell and got engraved on Minhyuk’s body. Immediately after, a black aura soared from Minhyuk’s body. Minhyuk, who already had golden hair and silver eyes, now had an additional red and black aura swirling around him. The colors showed a stark contrast to his white and fair skin, which made him look both beautiful and cool as he continued to run forward.

Then, immediately after...

[Ellie has received the Absolute Monarch’s Stigma!]

[Ben has received the Absolute Monarch’s Stigma!]

[Conir has received the Absolute Monarch’s Stigma!]

[Raldo has received the Absolute Monarch’s Stigma!]

Black aura swirled around the bodies of the people that ran with Minhyuk. It was a spectacular sight. They looked like they were lanterns guiding the huge army in the thick fog of the green poison. And the man that shone the brightest, the one that acted as a lighthouse in the dark, continued to run at the vanguard.

Elizabeth could not hide how flustered she was by the people that were running toward her. She immediately used another of her powers.

[Elizabeth has borrowed the power of Monster God Beleg.]

[Beleg’s Army has been activated.]

Among the Six Monster Gods, Beleg was considered as the god of all monsters. And the power that has been triggered was the power of the Father Creator. An army of seven million appeared in front of Elizabeth.

“Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Keuhaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Graaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

Each and every single one of the members of the army were gigantic Named Monsters with levels ranging from Level 400~500. Meanwhile, Minhyuk, who was still running toward Elizabeth, held the fourth sword in his right hand and the fifth sword in his left.

[The One that Connects the Power of the Gods has wielded the Sword of Animal.]

[The fierce beasts will bare their fangs and fight for you.]

“Roooooooooooooooooor!”

“Graaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

“Keuhaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

Almost ten million predators appeared in front of Minhyuk. They were not just any ordinary beasts. They were ‘mythological’ beasts and predators that were raised by the God of animals himself, known for biting off thousands of soldiers; they were God of Animals Ideo’s Beasts! Millions of lions, tigers, leopards and bears appeared on the ground, while three-meter long eagles occupied the skies. The almost ten million predators that dominated the land and air made their way toward the millions of monsters, together with the army led by Minhyuk.

Minhyuk jumped and balanced himself on the back of one of the giant lions. When the lion leapt to the skies, Minhyuk also jumped up while brandishing the other sword in his hand.

[The One that Connects the Power of the Gods has wielded the Sword of Alchemy.]

[Witness the Alchemy Carnival.]

Tens of thousands of purple potion bottles popped up in the skies and started to fall down like rain.

Claaaaang—

And once the bottles made contact with the ground....

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

They exploded and engulfed the monsters within a ten meter radius.

Baaaaaang! Baaaaaaang! Baaaaaaaang!

Boooom! Booooooom! Booooooom!

Elizabeth stepped back from the sudden and continuous explosions.

‘Impossible...!’

The powers that were being used in front of her were something that a human could never hope to use. Indeed, the man in front of her was close to an ‘Absolute God’ right now. Elizabeth immediately flew to the skies and turned around. She knew that the man in front of her was obviously using the power of the gods, albeit temporarily. This meant that she had to avoid him for now.

But in the cover of the cloud of dust that rose from the explosion, another sword released a bright light in Minhyuk’s hand. Minhyuk charged toward Elizabeth while the gods said...

[The One that Connects the Power of the Gods has wielded the Sword of Creation.]

Vwoooooooooooooong—

The sword in Minhyuk’s hand disappeared as he swung it down. Then, he immediately pulled out the Continent Destroyer Sword.

[You have combined the skill Overlord Technique and the skill Lightning!]

[Additional damage has been added to all of the skills that you will create!]

[Overlord’s Lightning has been created!!!]

[All active skills will be on cooldown upon usage of Overlord's Lightning!]

[Each strike of the Overlord's Lightning will have 14,000% additional attack power. The skill will inflict 200~300 strikes!]

The skies started to darken as heaven and earth turned upside down.

Rumbleeeee—

The sky roared as Minhyuk flew up and brandished his Continent Destroyer Sword, aiming for the fleeing Elizabeth. Elizabeth's gaze drifted to the skies.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

Hundreds of lightning bolts from the Overlord's Lightning struck down and devoured everything in sight.

“Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

Amidst Elizabeth's ear-piercing shrieks, the voices of the gods rang out...

[He, who has created a new power, will become the god of the new world.]

Chapter 602: First Teacher, First Friend

ATV Broadcasting Station's PD Kim Daeguk, along with the other directors and station operators, were all trembling, their chests thumping wildly, as they looked at the screen of their monitors.

Thump, thump, thump—

A dark and ominous cloud appeared above Elizabeth, as thick bolts of lightning covered with black flames rained down.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

The lightning bolt covered with flames did not stop even after hitting Elizabeth. They continued, hitting the ground and exploding, causing a huge crater behind her. It was as if a meteor had struck, with how deep and wide the crater was. Then, bolts of lightning continued to appear, striking Elizabeth one after the other.

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

The hundreds of lightning bolts that fell down from the skies illuminated the entire Stars' Path.

“...This is the power of a true God.”

Joy Co. Ltd. had repeatedly said that God Classes were not beings that reached the realms of the Gods. They even said that there was a high chance that they would be deprived of their 'God Class' in the process of obtaining their godhood and becoming a true God. Only when one could use the power of a true god would they become a true supreme and absolute being. The operators initially expected this to happen a few years in the future.

“The viewership ratings have... exceeded 21%...” one of the employees murmured, their voice trembling.

ATV Broadcasting Station was not the only station broadcasting this video. If they included the viewership ratings of the other broadcasting stations, then they could confidently say that more than

50% of the South Korean population was tuned in and watching this scene. There were also people from the rest of the world watching this scene, thrilled beyond belief.

The scene where Minhyuk glanced coldly and nonchalantly at the shrieking Elizabeth with his silver eyes and golden hair fluttering behind him while the lightning bolts rained down was so breathtaking that everyone watching the scene from all over the world would be overcome with excitement.

In fact, the entire world was looking at the screens of their TVs with rapt attention.

“It’s like a scene in the movies...”

In America, plenty of people were humming in admiration as they watched the scene from an electronic display on one of the tall buildings in the city. The people of Vietnam could not tear their eyes away from their smartphones as they looked at the spectacular scene. Even tens of thousands of people in China could not help but be speechless as they watched the scene being broadcasted in one of the squares. This scene was playing and was being viewed by millions of people all over the world. And in the streets of Tokyo, Kentaro, who was about to go to a meeting with his guild members, stopped in his tracks, his body shivering at the shocking scene.

Then...

Rumbleeeeeeee—

[God of Snakes’ Nullification.]

The shrieking Elizabeth hurriedly cast her skill toward the skies. She was the one that could control the system. And with her command, the remaining lightning bolts that fell down receded until they went back into the dark cloud.

[Haa... haa...]

Elizabeth gasped as she soared below the dark clouds. Her body was covered in burnt marks. However, the most important thing was the fact that she was still alive.

[Kyahahahahahahahahahaha! I won! This is my victory!!!]

“...”

“...”

“...Please.”

“Food God, you can do it.”

“Show that snake b*tch what hell is like.”

Everyone prayed desperately. And Kentaro? He murmured, “You can do it, Minhyuk.”

Back at ATV Broadcasting Station, PD Kim Daeguk was watching the scene, his heart almost beating right out of his chest. The screen showed Minhyuk holding the seventh sword made of light as he declared with his kingly and majestic voice...

[You’re wrong.]

Vwoooooooooooooong—

As Minhyuk wielded the seventh sword, the divine voices of the Gods rang loudly in the ears of the people watching all over the world.

[The One that Connects the Power of the Gods has wielded the Sword of Time.]

[Everything will rewind, just like it does.]

Tick, tock, tick, tock, tick, tock—

Everyone watching the scene felt the hairs on the back of their heads stand as a clock appeared behind Elizabeth, who was standing on the skies above the army, its hands rewinding.

The entire world cheered. And Kentaro, who listened to the cheers of the people around him, silently said to Minhyuk, “Kill her, Minhyuk.”

With every tick of the rewinding clock, the lightning strikes that Minhyuk sent out ‘rewound’. But there were some things that did not return and that included the ‘God of Snakes’ Nullification’. Simply put, Elizabeth was also bound by a skill’s cooldown. This meant that she would not be able to use that power again.

Tick, tock, tick, tock, tick, tock—

The rewinding second hand started to slow down until it finally stopped.

Tick, tock!

“...”

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

Then, another round of Overlord’s Lightning devoured Elizabeth. Amidst the downpour of lightning bolts and the cheers from countless people all over the world, Minhyuk looked down at Elizabeth with a lofty, nonchalant gaze.

Those that had been resurrected were busy fighting a fierce battle against the large army of monsters summoned by the God of Snakes. However, it definitely caused people to wonder why they were not attacking Elizabeth alongside Minhyuk. The reason was simple.

“It’s not a fight that we can join in,” the Dragon King mumbled, a despondent smile on his face.

Indeed, it was a fight that they could not join. They would just be a hindrance to Minhyuk if they tried to join in. Even they were left speechless when they saw another downpour of lightning bolts from the skies after a clock that rewound time appeared.

At the same time, everyone thought, ‘*Did he manage to kill her?*’ However, there were no notifications that rang in their ears. Then...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

[God of Snakes’ Elizabeth’s body has returned to perfection.]

[Her defensive power has increased by more than 40%!]

A gigantic snake soared to the skies. It was so long and huge that no one could even begin to fathom its size.

‘That’s her perfect body?’

Her earlier appearance with the face of a woman and the lower body of the snake was gone and was probably hidden away. Elizabeth was now literally a giant snake. With her size alone, she could easily devour the more than ten million troops on ground.

There was one particular species of snake in Athenae, the ‘Ouroboros’, which was said to have the figure that could surround and curl around the entire world. It seemed like Elizabeth also had the power of the Ouroboros.

Elizabeth laughed maniacally at them and said, “Let’s all go to hell together.”

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

Cracks started to spread on the ground until they covered the entire Stars’ Path.

[The God of Snakes’ Final Act.]

[She will use the last of her powers to extinguish anything and everything within a 100 kilometer radius.]

[There is only one minute left before the Final Act starts! You have to kill her before the timer ends!]

“...!”

“...!”

Everyone was horrified. Now, they did not have a choice but to attack Elizabeth together. But there was no way for them to deal enough damage to her.

[Elizabeth’s Final Struggle.]

[All weapons will be unavailable for use for three minutes!]

“...”

Except for fighter classes, it was now impossible for everybody else to deal damage to Elizabeth. The same was true for Minhyuk. The Continent Destroyer Sword in his hands disappeared into his inventory by itself. At the same time...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Elizabeth charged at Minhyuk with her gigantic body, the timer starting to tick.

[56 seconds. 55 seconds. 54 seconds.]

Baaaaaaaaaang—

Elizabeth’s huge face slammed into Minhyuk’s body and sent him flying into the walls of a cliff.

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

The walls of the cliff began to collapse as consecutive attacks landed on Minhyuk’s body.

[50 seconds. 49 seconds. 48 seconds.]

Then, Minhyuk grabbed the eighth sword and swung it as hard as he could.

[The One that Connects the Power of the Gods has wielded the Sword of Shield.]

[Feast your eyes for nothing can touch those that wield the power of the God of Shields!]

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaam—

It was an astonishing sight. A shield made of light appeared and covered a height of 100 meters and protected Minhyuk.

Thuuuuuuuuuuuuud—

But Elizabeth kept on slamming into the shield. And though it was the power of the God of Shields, cracks still spread on its surface the more Elizabeth slammed her body on it. Everyone turned tense as the cracks continued to spread.

“Minhyuk...” Ellie murmured, her eyes gazing up at Minhyuk. Overlord Raldo, the rest, in fact, everyone present was doing the same thing.

Then, Minhyuk held two swords at the same time and swung it as hard as he could.

[The One that Connects the Power of the Gods has wielded the Sword of Farmers.]

[The One that Connects the Power of the Gods has wielded the Sword of Magic.]

[Nature has awakened and will heed your call.]

[Become the God of Magic, who will rule over the all-encompassing power.]

Large, thick roots and vines rose from the ground and bound Elizabeth’s body tightly. Immediately after, the flames of the God of Magic appeared and covered the roots and began to burn Elizabeth.

“Kihyaaaaaaaaaack!”

[30 seconds. 29 seconds. 28 seconds.]

Not long after, Minhyuk swung another sword.

[The One that Connects the Power of the Gods has wielded the Sword of Archery.]

[Watch. A torrential rain will now cover the ground you walk on.]

Tens of thousands of arrows fell down in a downpour and sunk deeply into the shrieking Elizabeth’s body.

“Kihyaaaaaaaaaack!”

Elizabeth struggled fiercely from the pain, but the roots and vines restricted her movements. And...

[17 seconds. 16 seconds.]

“...”

Minhyuk did not move. Everyone watched him as he stared at the two swords that were floating in front of him, one of the two swords had the words ‘Sword God’ engraved on its blade.

“...”

“...”

Everyone knew that Minhyuk might not be able to see Valen anymore if he wielded that sword. Perhaps it would spell the complete death of the man hailed as the Sword God. Tears flowed down Minhyuk's cheeks, his hands trembling as he tried to wield one of the swords with great difficulty.

[The One that Connects the Power of the Gods has wielded the Sword of Blacksmiths.]

[The sword that you will wield will have a stronger blessing.]

[The sword that you will wield will instantly gain an additional 500% attack power.]

Only the final sword was left.

[Caution!!!]

[Elizabeth will explode in ten seconds!!!]

[Caution!!!]

.

[Elizabeth will explode in nine seconds!!!]

Minhyuk hesitated. But none of the people present blamed him, they just stared at Minhyuk as he cried. Minhyuk bit his lips tightly and tried to raise his hand to grab the last sword, but he could not do so. But then, at that moment, a warm, large and callused hand grabbed his hand. Then...

‘My teacher, my master, the first person that I cooked for, the first person that treated me like a friend, and the first person that treated me like a son within this world.’

That very same person chuckled and smiled softly at Minhyuk as he raised the boy's hand and placed it on the hilt of the final sword. It was then that the memories started to flash in Minhyuk's head. When Minhyuk first started Athenae and met him. When the man gifted him the Sword of Rebellion, Valan. When he met him in a dungeon. When the man visited him to brag about the daughter that he and Loyna birthed.

Then, the man said, “My first and last disciple.”

Valen, who was in his soul form and looked translucent, slowly brought the hilt of the sword near his waist. Following his first teacher Valen, Minhyuk also brought the hilt of the sword in his hands near his waist. The two of them stood side by side and looked at Elizabeth's gigantic form.

As the notifications rang, the twelve Gods also conveyed their feelings and sentiments toward the two people.

[The One that Connects the Power of the Gods has wielded the Sword God's Sword.]

[He was like a father to his disciple.]

[He was like a son to his master.]

[He was the disciple's first teacher.]

[He was the teacher's first student.]

[The two swung their swords, the swords that had reached the level of a True God, against the evil in front of them. They have become the God's Sword that can cut down anything and everything.]

[Caution! Elizabeth will explode in two seconds!]

Valen looked at Minhyuk while Minhyuk turned to look at him. Valen's figure looked more dashing and inspiring than ever as he said, "This is the 'Divine Sword'."

The two of them settled on the same posture as they drew the sword and swung it down. The sword was not visible to the eye but...

Slaaaaaaaaaash—

Heaven and earth was split in two and Elizabeth's gigantic body was cut in two.

[You have successfully killed the God of Snakes Elizabeth.]

The first friend that Minhyuk made in Athenae and the first teacher that taught him swordsmanship. Valen, who was like a father to him, started to disappear.

Chapter 603: First Teacher, First Friend

God of Snakes Elizabeth was completely different from all of the other beings that Minhyuk had faced before. She was several levels higher than Black Dragon Vormon, and unlike Demigod Asura, she was a true, complete Absolute God. She was also unsealed, unlike the case with Great Demon Verus.

Killing Elizabeth was practically impossible and unbelievable. After all, was there an existence in the entire world of Athenae that had killed a God? No. Such an existence did not exist.

[The Beyond the Heavens King, the Food God, has made a new achievement! He has slain a God!]

[Your name will be placed in the Hall of Gods and a statue will be made in your name!]

[You can decide the design of the statue yourself.]

[You can choose the location where the statue will be built yourself.]

[Those that will lay their eyes on the statue will receive buff effects depending on the meaning of the statue itself!]

The entire world was made aware that Food God Minhyuk had slain a God. At the same time, Minhyuk was able to gain a lot of cash for his MVP Shop. Actually, the notifications had been ringing constantly in his ears during his fight against Marquess Leona and God of Snakes Elizabeth.

The cash that he earned during this battle? A whopping 440,000 cash. It was a shocking amount. This was mainly because there were a lot of people present here that had witnessed the breathtaking scene of the hunt. Also, Minhyuk was able to gain additional cash after successfully killing Elizabeth.

[Many are in awe and admiration of your achievement: Cutting Down Even a God.]

[The scene of you wielding the thirteen Swords of Gods will be remembered as a legend!]

[You have earned 330,000 cash!]

[The Gods are very surprised at this moment!]

[You have earned 100,000 cash!]

[Those that are on the level of Absolute Gods are very surprised at this moment!]

[You have earned 300,000 cash!]

[The Unknown Being that Caused Everything is very surprised at this moment.]

[You have earned 100,000 cash!]

The unknown being, the main culprit of this disaster, was taken aback at the sudden turn of events. But Minhyuk still did not have a clue as to who he was. But the notifications did not end there.

[You have gained 126,311 platinum.]

[You have gained 99,000,000,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[...leveled up.]

[You have acquired the Six God Monsters' Authority Chest.]

[You have acquired the God of Snakes' Ring.]

[You have acquired the Absolute God's Treasure Box(13).]

[You have acquired God of Snakes Elizabeth's Egg.]

[You have acquired Aepazzi's Longsword.]

[...acquired Kordo's Winged Boots.]

[...acquired Vormi's Longsword.]

These were Minhyuk's personal notifications. Of course, Elizabeth was someone that everyone here had hunted together. Even though the surviving members of the Maserrati Guild and other players were only a small number, the NPCs were still there. This meant that all of them also received plenty of rewards.

[Sword Emperor Ellie's potential has dramatically increased after successfully hunting God of Snakes Elizabeth.]

[Spear God Ben's potential has dramatically...after...hunting God of Snakes Elizabeth.]

[Elpis'...hunting God of Snakes Elizabeth.]

The notifications rang continuously. But no one was cheering enthusiastically, especially Minhyuk, who had remained silent since the hunt ended. This was because Valen, who wielded the final sword with him, was slowly disappearing.

Minhyuk did not want to lose anyone anymore. He did not want to go through the same sorrow that he felt when he lost Ben back then. But they were always fighting a battle in Athenae and things would not work the way he wanted them to work.

Swoosh—?

Valen started to disappear. He placed a gentle hand on Minhyuk's cheeks and smiled softly at the boy. Minhyuk hurriedly clasped Valen's hand with both of his hands. Valen's hand was rough yet big, warm, and comfortable.

"Thank you."

With those words, Valen's body turned completely into light. Then, he slowly soared into the skies. However, something unexpected happened.

[The God of Origin is very surprised by the achievements that the first master and first disciple had made.]

[God of Origin Athenae is bestowing a gift to the two people.]

At that moment, Sword God Valen, who soared to the skies, suddenly turned into the shape of a sword. The sword was so beautiful and spectacular that everyone could not take their eyes off of it.

[The God that has become a Sword bids his goodbye to you.]

[The God that has become a Sword tells you that you will meet again.]

[The God that has become a Sword tells you to become a True God.]

"...I will, without a doubt, find you again, Instructor."

Vwoooooooooooooooooong—

The sword made of light resonated loudly before flying away swiftly. Not long after, the sword dug deep and buried itself in the ground somewhere, waiting for Minhyuk to come and meet it.

Those who meet must part and those who part shall meet again. In other words, the people that meet must break up at some point and those that left would always return.

Joy Co. Ltd.'s Event Management Team Leader Park Yi-Hyeon could not hide how flustered he was.

'He earned over a million cash...?'

That was ridiculous! Common sense would dictate that it was an impossible feat. But no matter how much he wanted to deny it, Park Yi-Hyeon had witnessed how it happened with his very own eyes. He saw how Minhyuk made the impossible possible, with the power of the thirteen Gods.

'What rewards would he get for earning over a million in cash?!'

Even Management Team Leader Park Yi-Hyeon did not know that. This was because the event management team leader was allowed to set the rewards for only up to 200,000 cash. If the range of cash earned exceeded 500,000, the MVP Shop itself would generate the range of rewards that it could give.

Team Leader Park's hands trembled as he took the cup of coffee from the vending machine and took a sip, *'What kind of rewards will he choose? What statue will he make?'*

Minhyuk had accumulated more than a million cash. On top of that, he also made a new achievement by cutting down a god and was given the chance to build a statue with special effects by himself.

At that moment, Team Leader Park Minggyu, who just got out of the bathroom, approached Yi-Hyeon and placed his hand on his shoulders.

“Team Leader Park.”

“Are you alright?”

“I’m fine. Ah, Team Leader Park Minggyu, what do you think would the Food God choose for the rewards? Also, what kind of statue do you think he would make?” Park Yi-Hyeon asked, his heart shaking from trepidation.

Yi-Hyeon thought that he would already be shaking from excitement to the point that he would have gone crazy if he was the one in Minhyuk’s shoes. After all, the worth of the MVP Shop and the things that he could take from there were astronomical in value. And, if he could make a cool statue, there would obviously be a tremendous impact on him and his guild.

“He’s going to choose something amazing, right?”

But Park Minggyu shook his head when he heard those words.

“...Eh? Are you telling me that he’s not going to choose something like that?”

“You’ll know it when you see it,” Team Leader Park Minggyu said, a meaningful smile on his face as he entered the meeting room.

Park Yi-Hyeon immediately followed and took a seat inside. He thought, *‘What’s with that look? Why does he look like he’s sure that the Food God will not choose something amazing?’*

Park Yi-Hyeon was a realist. For him, it was only natural for players to want good artifacts and higher stats.

Then, President Kang Taehoon said, “As far as I know...” a smile hanging on the corner of his lips. Even the other board members and executives all had small smiles on their faces.

At the same time, Minhyuk, who finally returned to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, chose the first item from the MVP Shop. And the item was none other than...

“...!?”

Park Yi-Hyeon could not understand what was happening.

‘Yes, he was obviously close with the man called Sword God Valen. But wasn’t he just an NPC...?’ Yi-Hyeon thought.

But it did not end there. Minhyuk also set up a gigantic statue in the center of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s plaza. When Park Yi-Hyeon saw the statue, his heart could not help but throb.

The statue was neither gorgeous nor charismatic. However, the meaning of the statue was so deep and beautiful that he could only sigh at the sight.

“So, this... is the world that the Food God wants to create...”

Kang Taehoon, who heard Yi-Hyeon’s murmur, said, “That’s the reason why everyone loves him.”

Minhyuk thanked everyone that came and fought with him. He also shook hands with Richard before parting ways with the Maserrati Guild.

‘It was a glorious and honorable battle.’

With those words, everyone dispersed, waiting excitedly for the day that they would all meet again. Before Minhyuk returned, Gremory told him, *‘Always remember. Sword God Valen has always thought of you. He never stopped worrying about you.’*

Minhyuk actually did not see Roina anywhere. At some point in time, she went missing. However, no matter what happened, Minhyuk would always remember Valen. And he vowed that he would definitely meet him again, even when he was in the form of a sword.

Gremory also told him quite a few more things, *‘You know, I always wondered what in the world did you cook for him? He always kept on yapping about wanting to eat that dish that you cooked for him again.’*

Grin—

A small smile curled at the corners of Minhyuk’s lips. The dish that he made for him when they first met was also the first dish that Minhyuk cooked for someone.

Minhyuk looked through the MVP Shop, which was filled with rare and special rewards. There was one thing that Minhyuk wanted from among these spectacular rewards.

Minhyuk bought it without any hesitation. After all, this item would allow whatever dish he cooked to reach Valen.

He recalled the memories that he spent with the man as he cooked. Minhyuk grilled and baked the garlic bread that he enjoyed with him. He also cooked the instant soup that he had with him while they sat together in front of a small table. Minhyuk had always wanted to make this meal again for him if they met again, since he was not able to make the complete meal before.

This time, he made sure to include the carbonara.

After he finished cooking everything, Minhyuk triggered the ‘Joy of Eating Together’ to create the same dishes in front of him. Then, he used the *A Dish that will Reach My Precious Person*, the dishes disappearing on their own.

“Please enjoy your meal, Instructor,” Minhyuk said, a soft smile on his face. Then, he took a spoonful of the hot instant soup and took a sip. The savory flavor and smooth texture of the soup lingered in his mouth. After sipping a few spoonfuls of the soup, Minhyuk turned his attention to the garlic bread and took a bite.

Crunch—

The garlic bread was freshly made, so it was still crispy on the outside yet soft and warm on the inside. Even the savory and sweet flavor created a shocking harmony in his mouth. Next, he dipped the garlic bread in the soup before placing it in his mouth. A smile slowly curled at the corner of his lips the moment the smooth texture of the soup met with the soft, yet crispy, garlic bread.

Then, Minhyuk held the fork with his right hand as he gently rolled a mouthful of carbonara on top of a spoon. The soft and creamy flavor of the well-cooked carbonara danced freely in his mouth. After eating a few mouthfuls of the pasta, Minhyuk grabbed some crunchy pickled cucumbers.

Crunch, crunch, crunch—

The sourness mingled with a hint of sweetness from the pickled cucumbers immediately washed away the greasiness that lingered in his mouth. Minhyuk's smile widened at the taste.

Minhyuk smiled happily as he looked at the horizon and asked, "Is it delicious, Instructor?"

He asked as if he was going to get an answer. After eating the last mouthful of carbonara, Minhyuk stared into the empty horizon for a very long time. Then, he smiled softly and said, "Thank you."

At the same time, a sword engulfed in light that was embedded somewhere unknown, resonated and emitted a more dazzling and brilliant light. It was as if the sword was answering: "Yes, that was very amazing."

Instructor Roina was one of the novice village's hunting instructors. She was also the wife of Sword God Valen. Right now, she was walking slowly toward the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Roina immediately left after the hunt for Elizabeth ended. Of course, she had cried with anguish. Her beloved died after all. That was also the reason why she left as fast as she could. She could not guarantee that she would not lash out at Minhyuk and release her anger toward the boy.

However, Roina, with her hands tightly holding her four-year-old daughter's hand, still walked slowly toward the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

'He did what he wanted to do...'

But as his wife, she still could not bring herself to understand. She was not convinced by the choice that he made. And she was still very sad. Roina tried so hard to suppress her sorrow and anger but she felt like they were about to burst again the moment she arrived. Roina stood motionless and cried her heart out.

'My husband is a complete fool. What am I supposed to do? Why did you leave me alone with our child?'

As she continued to cry with those thoughts flashing in her head...

"Woaaaaaaaah! It's daddy!!!"

...her daughter's voice rang in her ears. Roina raised her head and looked at the direction where her child was pointing at. Roina collapsed on her feet the moment she saw the statue.

“Fools...”

At the same time, a wide smile appeared on her face. There, in front of her were two gigantic and imposing statues. One of the statues looked like Minhyuk when he first started Athenae, holding a wooden sword and slashing at a scarecrow. Behind him stood Instructor Valen with his arms crossed, watching him closely with a happy smile on his face. It was their first meeting.

Minhyuk was allowed to create a statue to his own liking as a reward for the achievement of cutting down a God. And the statue that he chose to create was of his and Valen’s first meeting.

And the words written in front of the statue were...

[My Precious Friend and Honorable Teacher.]

[You Are Always By My Side Forever.]

Chapter 604: First Teacher, First Friend

The players were interested in a lot of things regarding the aftermath of Elizabeth’s hunt. The first was the statue erected in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. The players, who saw Valen’s sacrifice through the broadcasted video, rushed to see the said statue.

“Wow... the statue looks plain and average, but it’s still cool and wonderful.”

“I’m actually crying right now...”

“Have you read the words written on the stone table in front of the statue? Isn’t the Beyond the Heavens’ King so cool?”

The people were in awe and admiration. It was just a simple statue depicting the first meeting between the two, but the meaning was so beautiful that they could not help but appreciate the emotions behind it. Then, the notifications rang in the ears of the throngs of people that saw the statue.

[When playing with a party, you will be able to receive a 15% increase in item drop rate and EXP acquisition rate and a 9% increase in all stats.]

[The buff duration is two hours.]

“Woaaaaah!!!”

“Did you see that?!”

“It’s freaking amazing!”

Countless people from all over the world crowded in the plaza to get a glimpse of the statue that would give anyone that saw it a buff effect.

As for the second thing that the players were paying attention to, it was none other than...

[Abyss, the tomb of the twelve Gods. What kind of place is this and what is it for?]

[Is there someone who knows who exactly the twelve Gods that appeared before are?]

The people could not help but be curious about the identity of the twelve Gods that suddenly appeared to help Minhyuk defeat Elizabeth. Because of that, plenty of people began to dig and delve deeper into information regarding the Abyss.

The global number one dungeon explorer, Ian, announced the results of his research.

[Abyss. The Tomb of the Gods. All of the Gods that laid to rest there are known as Continental Gods. Continental Gods were beings that were once human and had ascended and reached godhood.]

The Gods that laid to rest in the Abyss were beings that tried so hard to protect the world by trying to rise to the realm of the Absolute Gods. But they eventually failed and breathed their last, taking their eternal rest in the Abyss.]

According to the records in the ancient books, the Abyss is riddled with trials. For each trial that you clear, you will be able to get a special reward.]

[The twelve Gods did their best to protect the world? Did they lend their powers before to protect the world?]

[They're really cool and wonderful Gods.]

With that information at hand, the people began to guess at the Abyss' true purpose. The twelve Gods that laid to rest in the Abyss struggled to reach the realm of the Absolute Gods. But in the end, they failed and laid in eternal rest.

[Is the Abyss the path to become an Absolute God...?]

Indeed. Based on all of the facts and information at hand, the Abyss might be the only path and clue that they had to reaching the realm of the Absolute Gods.

With that, the world's leading God Class players began on a global chase to search for the whereabouts of the Abyss.

Minhyuk felt a heavy weight settle down on his chest.

"It's the uncle that was with Daddy!" Valen's daughter chirped after recalling the statue that Minhyuk created.

Roina, who held the girl tightly, said, "Don't blame yourself. He did what he wanted to do."

But no matter what they said, Minhyuk still felt a heavy weight pressing down on him. He felt guilty toward Valen's wife and daughter. After all, Roina had to live without her husband and their daughter had to live without their father.

"What's your name?"

"Ronnie!"

Minhyuk could only smile bitterly as he patted the girl on her head. Then, Roina said, “He was always thinking about you. Whenever he turned silent while pondering by himself, he would always look at the direction that you left in.”

“Is that so?”

“That’s right. He doesn’t want you to be sad.”

Minhyuk nodded at Roina. It seemed like those that needed to be comforted were the ones comforting him instead. It was something that Minhyuk was very grateful for.

“Instead of wallowing in my sadness, I’ll just put my energy into trying to find him.”

“That’s right.”

Only then did Roina smile at him. Roina and her daughter, Ronnie, decided to stay in Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Minhyuk had decided to let the two live freely and without any inconvenience. He would also try to become a father-figure to Ronnie.

After the two stepped out of the room, Minhyuk looked somewhere, ‘*Perhaps, you’re in...*’

There was a chance that he was there, in the ‘Abyss’.

The twelve Gods of the Abyss were all Continental Gods that challenged the realms of the Absolute Gods to gain power at a higher level and to protect the world from outer threats. They eventually laid to rest there. Perhaps, Valen, who had turned into a sword, was also sleeping in the ‘Abyss’.

‘Just wait for me, Instructor.’

Minhyuk had already planned on going to the Abyss. However, there were a lot of things that he needed to do before he could go. He finally started to look through and check the rewards that he received from Elizabeth.

‘I’ve gained almost 130,000 platinum...’

Considering that one platinum is equivalent to a hundred million gold, the sum of money that he gained could only be described as one hell of an amount.

‘It will definitely help with the kingdom’s expansion.’

There was also a remarkable selection of rewards. The Six Monster Gods’ Power Chest, the God of Snakes’ Ring, the Absolute Gods’ Treasure Chest, God of Snakes Elizabeth’s Egg and many more. The first thing that Minhyuk checked was the Absolute Gods’ Treasure Chest.

?One of the items in the hands of the Absolute Gods will randomly appear every time you open the treasure chest.

?There’s a high chance of getting gold.

‘It’s remarkably unique.’

There was bound to be something special if he could take one of the things in the Absolute Gods' possessions. The amount of this item he gained as a reward was a whopping thirteen treasure chests, a very generous amount if he would say so.

Next was the Six Monster Gods' Power Chest.

?Each of the Six Monster Gods has one special, shocking power.?

?You can randomly acquire one of the Six Monster Gods' powers.?

Minhyuk could tell that this was also a remarkable item. He had been a witness to the shocking power and innate ability of the other Monster Gods through Elizabeth.

Wolf King Loraudi's 'Wolf Fangs' was able to inflict and leave behind bite marks on the bodies of each and every single one of the thousands of troops that they had without even directly attacking them.

Monster God Beleg's power allowed Elizabeth to command around seven million monster corps. These were just examples, but one could tell how special and powerful the Six Monster Gods' powers were.

The God of Snakes' Ring also had a special effect. Elizabeth had the power to control the system. It was possible for her to give penalties like the inability to use skills by controlling the system. This ring was able to allow the user to control the system like Elizabeth once per day. The item user could choose to disable the use of skills for a few minutes, turn their opponents to stone, or even disable the use of return scrolls and potions.

In short, it was a very, very useful item.

As for Elizabeth's Egg... Minhyuk gulped nervously.

'It's going to hatch soon.'

According to the description, once Elizabeth's Egg hatched, she would be given the form of a young girl. The problem was that she would awaken with the memories of 'Elizabeth'. In other words, there was a high chance that having this in their possession was going to bring them a disaster.

If that was the case, then did Minhyuk have to bury the egg somewhere deep and unknown?

'Then, Elizabeth will just regain her powers and come looking for me later.'

That was right. Elizabeth had her memories. This meant that even if Minhyuk decided to abandon her somewhere, she would still seek him out for revenge, after she had sharpened her blade.

In other words...

"I have to kill her here."

It was said that Elizabeth was much weaker than before with her in the form of a young girl. Of course, she would still be able to exert a tremendous force even if she was weakened. So if he let the egg to hatch in Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, then he could ask everyone to help out and lynch her.

But then...

[You really know only one thing but not the other. Hey, are you a f*cking m*r*n?]

“...?”

It was the first time in a long time that Minhyuk had heard this voice. The owner of this voice was someone that Minhyuk still remembered. He was none other than the ego of the ‘Grumpy Gochujang’, who fell asleep inside the ‘Puzzling Seasoning Jar’. Based on the Puzzling Seasoning Jar’s description, it would not be strange for him to hear the ego’s voice since it would awaken randomly. However, there was one thing that Minhyuk was sure of.

‘He’s not an ordinary guy...’

[Of course, of course. I’m a great and noble being. So, you better kneel down and worship me.]

It was also clear that the ego was a very narcissistic and self-absorbed being.

“What did you mean when you said that I only know one thing and not the other?”

At Minhyuk’s question, the Seasoning Jar’s lid opened and...

[Tch, tch.]

This was unbelievable! A mere seasoning jar was clicking its tongue at Minhyuk, the Beyond the Heavens’ King!!!

‘I should definitely disinfect it in some boiling water later.’

After Minhyuk vowed to retaliate, the Seasoning Jar’s voice turned solemn.

[Elizabeth is a very pitiful woman. Of the Six Monster Gods and the noble Gods that Athenae gave birth to, Elizabeth was the one that loved Athenae the most.]

It was a very shocking story. From what Minhyuk had seen, Elizabeth was just a violent woman that loved slaughter. But she was the one that loved Athenae the most?

[She did anything and everything to win Athenae’s heart. But the Gods said that Elizabeth and the rest of the Six Monster Gods should be banished. And the one that Athenae banished first was ‘Elizabeth’.]

“...?!”

There was no way for Minhyuk to guess what went on in Athenae’s mind for her to banish the woman that loved her the most.

[Elizabeth was not born as the God of Snakes. In fact, she was born perfect for the role of the God of ‘Love and Faith’. But after being abandoned, her tears flowed in the Stars’ Path for a day, then two days, then a hundred days. In the end, she changed. That’s why she’s a woman of misfortune. A very pitiful woman.]

The Puzzling Seasoning Jar’s tone as he narrated the events back then was very bitter. And...

“How the hell do you know that?”

[Didn’t I tell you? I’m a great and noble being. Kyahahahahahahahahahaha!]

“You’re full of hot air...”

[What does full of hot air mean?]

“It’s you, or something like that.”

[Huh? Why do I feel like it means something bad?]

It was clear that the Puzzling Seasoning Jar was greater than what Minhyuk initially thought. Furthermore...

“I knew one thing but I don’t know the other. What did you mean by that?”

[You still don’t get it? Elizabeth is a pitiful woman.]

“That’s why I’m asking you, what does that have... huh?”

That was when Minhyuk realized it. That was right. Elizabeth was said to be a God that suited the God of Love and Faith.

[Why are you trying to kill her?]

The Puzzling Seasoning Jar continued to drive in his point.

[You can bring her to your side, right?]

“...!”

Yes, Elizabeth could truly be on his side. But how?

‘Let me think.’

As of the moment, Minhyuk was her enemy. Elizabeth might try to slit his throat the moment he appeared in front of her. She could also be considered as the one to have caused Valen’s death. How would he coax her to come over to his side? Also, what if she did not join?

‘I have the special items in the MVP Shop.’

Indeed, there were many special and unique items inside the MVP Shop. Perhaps there was something in there that could appease her anger. Besides, Minhyuk still had some time before she hatched and awakened.

‘Before everything else, I have to open and look at the Absolute Gods’ Treasure Chests.’

Throwing all thoughts aside, Minhyuk decided to open the treasure chests first, since he wanted to know what he could get out of them.

[Hurry and open it. It’s been a long time since I last opened an Absolute Gods’ Treasure Chest.]

Was there anything that this guy did not know? Anyway, Minhyuk looked at the treasure chests with great anticipation. Then, a golden treasure chest popped up and rattled fiercely in front of Minhyuk.

[You are opening the first Absolute Gods’ Treasure Chest.]

Then, a notification immediately followed.

[You have acquired 513 gold.]

“...”

[...]

The two of them were speechless. But Minhyuk was undeterred. He opened another one.

[...the second Absolute God's...]

[You have acquired 420 gold.]

[...the third Absolute God's...]

[You have acquired 333 gold.]

[...the sixth Absolute God's...]

[You have acquired 100 gold.]

[Hey, why does the amount keep on decreasing?]

“...”

Then...

[You are opening the seventh Absolute God's Treasure Chest.]

[Congratulations. You have acquired one of the Absolute God's most cherished books, the 'Book Owned by God'.]

“...!”

Minhyuk could not help but tremble. He had acquired one of the most cherished books owned by God! Perhaps...

'Maybe there's a clue about another Absolute God's Secret. Or maybe it will create a foothold for another growth. Maybe it's a method for creating an artifact? If not that, then maybe it's a record of the location where I can get great and awesome ingredients?'

The thought alone made Minhyuk's mouth water. Then, the book appeared in Minhyuk's eyes. He immediately checked the 'title' of the book.

[Why Did the Prince Go Out Tonight?]

[Author: Aruvel]

“...???”

Minhyuk's body shook. Then, at that moment, the Puzzling Seasoning Jar spoke in a voice that sounded more serious than ever...

[Can I rent it from you?]

“...”

Chapter 605: God and Knight

When the Luvien Empire appeared in the Stars' Path, several kingdoms and empires in the American Server formed an alliance to keep them in check. The alliance gathered a total of a million troops and immediately advanced toward the Luvien Empire.

‘The Luvien Empire must be nipped in the bud. We must destroy them before they can lay down a solid foothold and expand.’

However, the one million strong troops collapsed in just four days. This was mainly because the God’s Swords that were standing at the forefront of the Luvien Empire were extremely powerful beings. Each and every single one of them were so strong that they could, in fact, be considered on the same level as the Absolute Supreme NPCs.

Not long after that, Luvien Empire’s Nerva Sephiroth sent the God’s Swords out to suppress the kingdoms and empires that dared to attack them. The first to fall was the Rofian Kingdom, which was the ‘ruler and commander’ of the ‘alliance’. Next was the Asphero Kingdom. Third was the Nevar Kingdom. The Luvien Empire rapidly took control of the American Server.

And Nerva Sephiroth? He was accomplishing all the things that he hoped and wished for. Except for one thing.

‘I didn’t expect that they would be able to hunt Elizabeth. And those bastards, the Gods of the Abyss, crawling their way out of their graves...’

Elizabeth’s fall in the Stars’ Path was not within Nerva Sephiroth’s expectations. Because of that, the Food God, King of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, had left a deep impression in his mind.

‘What an interesting fellow,’ Nerva Sephiroth thought, a smirk on his lips. Then, he stood up and went somewhere. It was none other than the place where the statue of one of the three strongest and most powerful Absolute Gods was.

Nerva Sephiroth stood in front of the statue of the Battle God. He might be an NPC, but just like the players, he also received his ‘missions’ from the Battle God in the form of a quest. And every time he completed those ‘missions’, the Battle God would give him more power. Also...

‘I can get the Battle God’s Origin Authority.’

The Origin Authority was the power that God of Origin Athenae bestowed to the three most powerful Absolute Gods. The Origin Authority of these three Absolute Gods was said to sometimes exceed and surpass the power of the Absolute God’s Secret.

From what Nerva Sephiroth heard, the Origin Authority that the Battle God possessed was the power that he needed to take over and govern the entire world. And the condition for gaining this power was for the Luvien Empire and Nerva Sephiroth to sign an alliance with several kingdoms and empires. In other words, it was a mission that was giving Nerva Sephiroth the power to take over the entire world at a faster rate.

Then, a black air current surged out and covered the entire area.

Swoooooooooosh—

Nerva Sephiroth, with his golden hair fluttering behind him, smiled through the gaps of the surging black air currents.

“Hahahahahahahahahahaha! Hahahahahahahahahahaha!”

He was looking forward to the Origin Authority’s great power surging in his veins.

‘Hurry and give me the Origin Authority!’

However...

“...?”

The Battle God did not bestow him anything. After a very, very short pause, another surge of black air current covered the entire area. And again...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

The power black air current soared as if it was going to overflow and explode. And just like earlier, Nerva Sephiroth laughed madly again.

“Hahahahahahahahaha!”

But the black air current disappeared once again.

“Why?”

[One of the Absolute Gods, the Battle God, could not hide his embarrassment.]

[One of the Absolute Gods, the Battle God, said, ‘Ah, I definitely left it here...’, the end of his sentence turning into an unrecognizable murmur.]

“...?”

Nerva Sephiroth was confused. And finally...

[One of the Absolute Gods, the Battle God, is very embarrassed. He had ‘lost’ the book containing the Origin Authority.]

“...?”

This had never happened before with the Battle God. But one thing was for sure.

*‘What is this m***erf**cker saying right now?’*

The Origin Authority had disappeared.

[You are opening the ninth Absolute God’s Treasure Chest.]

[You have acquired 75 gold.]

[You are opening the tenth Absolute God’s Treasure Chest.]

[Congratulations. You have acquired the ‘facial tissue’ that one of the Absolute Gods’ has in their possession.]

“...”

Minhyuk was left speechless. For some reason he could tell that this tissue was owned by the same God that owned the ‘Why Did the Prince Go Out Tonight?’ written by Author Aruvel.

“It’s making me feel sick.”

[Why?]

“I just feel sick,” Minhyuk said as he threw the tissue away. He had already opened ten of the Absolute Gods’ Treasure Chests. But aside from the 2,000 gold, a volume of Aruvel’s erotic novel, and some facial tissue, Minhyuk failed to get anything substantial. To make things worse...

[Wow... How did he come up with this...?! This author is a genius!!!]

The Puzzling Seasoning Jar had become Aruvel’s fan. It was surprising, but even if he was a seasoning jar, he could still move. And right now, the Puzzling Seasoning Jar was parked right in front of the book, ‘Why Did the Prince Go Out Tonight?’, his breath suspiciously ragged as he turned the pages of the book.

For some reason, sadness suddenly washed over Minhyuk’s entire body. Then, he opened the eleventh treasure chest.

[You are opening the eleventh Absolute God’s Treasure Chest.]

[You have acquired 1 gold.]

“This is really f*cking... *beeeeeep— beeeeeeeeeep—*”

Curses constantly flowed out of Minhyuk’s mouth. He only had two chances left.

“Something delicious! Please give me something delicious!!!” Minhyuk prayed desperately. In fact, he was not wishing for anything good anymore. All he was hoping was to get something that he could pad his stomach with. There had to be something like that!

“Hoo...” Minhyuk took a deep breath. This time, he was going to open two treasure chests at the same time.

[You are opening the twelfth Absolute God’s Treasure Chest.]

[You are opening the thirteenth Absolute God’s Treasure Chest.]

The two golden treasure chests rattled in front of Minhyuk before opening at the same time.

[Congratulations. You have acquired the ‘Ancient Gods’ Recipe Book’ that one of the Absolute Gods have in their possession!]

[Congratulations. You have acquired the ‘Origin Authority. God and Knight’ that one of the Absolute Gods have in their possession!]

[An astonishing event has happened!]

[You became the first player to acquire an Origin Authority!]

[You have acquired a 1% increase in all of your stats.]

[You have gained 500 CHA.]

[You have gained 500 REP.]

[As the first person to acquire the Origin Authority in the world, you can choose to publish your nickname or remain ‘anonymous’!]

Ring!

[World Messages regarding items obtained from the Absolute Gods' Treasure Chests are restricted!]

Ring!

[Most of the power of the Origin Authority has been sealed!]

[You can only use the Origin Authority once every three months.]

[The Origin Authority will be triggered randomly.]

“...?”

[Keok...!]

A voice filled with shock and astonishment rang from the Puzzling Seasoning Jar while Minhyuk was tilting his head in confusion. The Puzzling Seasoning Jar started to explain while Minhyuk's lips twitched in joy.

[Only the three strongest Gods among all of the Absolute Gods can have the Origin Authority...]

[The three Origin Authorities are so powerful that they can have a huge influence and impact on the entire world.]

In fact, the Seasoning Jar was shivering when he explained it. And Minhyuk was also shaking.

[Right, that's really great. My goodness! I can't believe you got the Origin Authority. If I were you, I would have already taken off my underwear and...]

“...Amazing. This is really dope! Wow! The Ancient Gods' Recipe Book! Wow, wow, wow, wow!”

[N, no. You crazy bastard. Having the Origin Authority means that you have the power to rule the world and bring them under your control...]

“Kyahaha! President Kang Taehoon, thank you very much! May you receive all the good blessings! May you live a long and healthy life! I can't believe you gave me the Ancient Gods' Recipe Book!!!”

[Look over here, the Origin Authority...]

“Wahahahahahaha!”

[...]

Is he crazy? For a moment, this thought flashed in the Puzzling Seasoning Jar's ego's mind.

[Do you really like the Ancient Gods' Recipe better?]

“You can't eat the Origin Authority, right?”

[Y, yes?]

“Don't we all have to eat to survive?”

[That, that's also true?]

“Then, will the Origin Authority feed me to survive?”

[That’s right. The Ancient Gods’ Recipe is much bet... You, crazy bastard! That’s not it!!!]

The Seasoning Jar thought that Minhyuk was dangerous. After all, he almost got influenced by his words.

Minhyuk checked the Ancient Gods’ Recipe Book and saw how amazing it was. The Ancient Gods’ Recipe Book contained a variety of recipes. It also had a complete list of ingredients. On top of that, the book described that there was a chance that he could acquire better flavor, additional stats, and even new skills, as long as he found the ingredients and cooked them.

Just like what Minhyuk expected, the Ancient Gods’ Recipe Book was a cheat-like item.

[Then, how about checking it for a bit...]

“Ah! For real! You’re really annoying! It’s something that I can’t eat!!!”

[...Sorry.]

Minhyuk checked the Origin Authority. God and Knight, something he could not eat, with an annoyed look on his face.

Origin Authority

?Sealed.

?Sealed.

?Sealed.

?If you are placed in ‘that situation’, this power will be triggered randomly and without your knowledge. This can only happen once in three months.

?There’s a chance that you will be able to control God and Knight once the seal has been lifted.

?You can have more than five God level NPCs once the seal has been lifted.

?You can have more than twenty Legendary level NPCs once the seal has been lifted.

[What’s the name of the authority?]

“God and Knight,” Minhyuk nonchalantly said after looking over the information once.

But the Seasoning Jar was shocked. At the same time, Minhyuk’s body began to tremble once again.

[F*ck?!!! God and Knight is the name of the greatest and the strongest Origin Authority in existence...!]

“It’s trash.”

[It's trash?!!!!]

The reason why Minhyuk's body was trembling was because the power was worse than what he expected. Why? Because everything has been sealed and there was no effect that he could use immediately. Considering Minhyuk's current situation, it was truly worse than the Ancient Gods' Recipe Book.

The Seasoning Jar was left speechless as he watched Minhyuk hug the Ancient Gods' Recipe Book while laughing and mumbling, '*Hehe, something delicious. Get~*'

Now, Minhyuk had to prepare for 'Elizabeth'.

[Hey. You did not believe what I told you earlier, right?]

"What do you mean?"

[Although I said it myself, it's impossible to bring one of the Six Monster Gods to your side. Did you really believe that?]

The Seasoning Jar's original name was 'Grumpy Gochujang that Does What it Pleases'. It just went to show how mischievous he was.

"But I still think that I should give it a try."

[That's reckless. The people around you will get hurt.]

"That's right," Minhyuk said bitterly. At this point, he realized that the Puzzling Seasoning Jar was not simply asleep. Although his ego seemed to be asleep, it seemed like he could still see the world through Minhyuk's eyes.

However, the reason why Minhyuk was going to give it a try was, '*We really need a strong and powerful ally.*'? This fact hit Minhyuk hard during the fight with Elizabeth. He needed more strong allies. Only by having more powerful people by his side would be able to protect those that are precious to him.

To do that, Minhyuk would brainstorm all the possible methods that he could use until before Elizabeth hatched.

[You shouldn't do that though? That's absolutely impossible... Zzzzz...]

Just like that, the Seasoning Jar fell into another slumber.

The Seasoning Jar fell asleep. In fact, he was not really asleep. He just went into a space that only he could enter. In this space, the Seasoning Jar could view the world through Minhyuk's eyes. However, he could only do it once. Most of the time, he was trapped alone in this space.

"It's impossible," he mumbled worriedly. He was just trying to joke around with the boy, but his mischief might now bring the fire toward the people surrounding the boy.

"I have to get out of here quickly and stop him."

But his freedom was not up to his own will. The time that he would awaken was set at random and even seeing the world through the boy's eyes was not something that he could control. Time continued to pass by.

"It's absolutely impossible. So, please think about it again! Don't do it!!!"

The Seasoning Jar was now on the verge of dying from frustration. He did not expect that his mischievous attitude and behavior would bring this kind of danger upon others.

'That crazy guy that loves to eat food is the first person that I'm fond of in a long while...'

But the boy would be in danger if things continued at this rate. However, there was one thing that he was sure of. It was impossible to bring Elizabeth, an absolute being that dominated an entire era, to their side. Common sense said that it should be absolutely impossible.

Then, for a very short moment, a crack opened and the Seasoning Jar was able to see through Minhyuk's eyes. And through that small crack, he was able to see some unknown phrases.

[The God and Knight has been triggered randomly!]

[The God and Knight has exerted its power over Minhyuk and Elizabeth!]

The Origin Authority had been randomly triggered? At this point in time? It had to be known that both Minhyuk and the Seasoning Jar did not know the extent of the power of the God and Knight. But the Seasoning Jar could tell one thing.

'He must be trying to appease Elizabeth and bring her to his side...!'

This was a big problem! If things continued at this rate, then they would be met with a huge disaster. The Seasoning Jar tried to correct the mistake that he made by trying to muster what little of his power was left to stop the boy at this moment.

"Open, you damn eyes...!"

Slowly, ever so slowly, the world began to unfold in front of the Seasoning Jar. It was as if his eyelids had been opened for the first time. And the scene that unfolded in front of him left him speechless.

The Seasoning Jar could see dozens of the Beyond the Heavens' Named NPCs in the area. All of them looked like they were ready for battle just a few moments prior, but now they were just sporting dumbfounded expressions on their faces.

In front of Minhyuk knelt Elizabeth, in the form of a young girl.

"...I will live for you, Your Majesty," Elizabeth declared, her eyes brimming with tears.

Then, the notifications rang in the ears of the Seasoning Jar.

[The God and Knight has succeeded!]

[You have acquired God's First Knight.]

[God's First Knight 'Elizabeth' is one of the Six Monster Gods that has the power to control the system!]

[God's First Knight would not hesitate to sacrifice their life for their 'God'.]

‘...How did this happen?’

The Seasoning Jar could not hide the shock that he was feeling right at this very moment.

Chapter 606: God and Knight

After the Seasoning Jar fell asleep once more, Minhyuk went to meet the Beyond the Heavens’ Named NPCs and executives. He told them that he wanted to try and coax Elizabeth to join them and be their ally. However, their reactions were mixed.

“I know what Your Majesty wants. You want to take this risk so that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom will be stronger.”

“I’m Conir!!! Conir will help hyung!!!”

“If a strong person like Elizabeth chooses to become our ally, then Beyond the Heavens will become more stable and stronger.”

This opinion was mostly made by the NPCs and plenty of the guild members agreed with them. After all, the God of Snakes Elizabeth had control over the system. She could become a strong pillar of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

However, there were also plenty of opposing opinions and objections.

“What nonsense are you talking about? What if you fail? You’re going to put the NPCs in danger!”

“That’s too reckless.”

“Minhyuk, I don’t think this is the right decision.”

“That’s right. I think so too.”

Minhyuk looked at all of the people gathered in the room together. He was fully aware of that fact. After all, Elizabeth was the one that killed Valen. Still, he pressed on.

“However, based on the information that I received, she has the capacity to change. We need to have a strong ally to prevent another situation like the one that happened with Instructor Valen.”

Minhyuk’s will was firm. After that, he purchased a ‘Weak God’s Parchment’ from the MVP Shop. From what he saw, the Weak God’s Parchment could unconditionally cast a debuff on any kind of target. Minhyuk had to use 100,000 cash to purchase it, an extremely expensive price for one item, but its effects were shocking. It could bring down all of the target’s stats by 40% and decrease their skill level by -3 for around three minutes.

Aside from that, Minhyuk also prepared two other things; ‘The Mournful One’s Tearful Story’, and ‘The Sovereign’s Voice’.

The Mournful One’s Tearful Story could allow Minhyuk to catch a glimpse of the target’s saddest past. If there was a lie in the other person’s story, it would reveal the truth. As for the Sovereign’s Voice, it would make it possible for him to convey his sincerity better to the other person. It was

also an item that would give a motherly feel to his voice, which could allow him to stir the other person's heart and make them waver.

All of these items were purchased in the MVP Shop.

'The things that I prepared to win Elizabeth's heart are much less than what I initially thought.'

Minhyuk thought that he would be able to find something in the MVP Shop that could greatly shake Elizabeth's heart. However, that was not the case at all.

[Elizabeth's Egg will hatch in an hour!]

Minhyuk immediately used 'The Mournful One's Tearful Story' while everyone stood vigilantly to the sides. If he knew her exact story, then he would be able to find a way to coax and appease her.

[The Mournful One's Tearful Story has been triggered!]

[Elizabeth's story has started.]

When Elizabeth first awakened to the world, the first thing that she saw was the kindest and most beautiful woman in the world. She was simply sitting there, but she was shrouded by a beautiful haze.

"You will be the God of Snakes."

"Yes, Mother."

"How dare you call the God of Origin as mother!"

"That impudent...!"

Several gods were outraged after hearing her call Athenae 'Mother' the moment she woke up. Even though she could not see Athenae's face, Elizabeth was guessing the expression that she was sporting. She should have a look of interest on her face.

To Elizabeth, Athenae was a woman. She was the God of Origin and the being that created Elizabeth's existence. The moment Elizabeth was born to the world, she had already made up her mind.

'I will live for my mother. I will live to gain mother's recognition and love,' Elizabeth vowed as she looked at Athenae with joy, looking forward to the future with her mother.

Unfortunately, her path was not smooth. The God of Origin was always surrounded by various gods in this world.

"Elizabeth. Get rid of that ugly hair of yours."

"Disgusting hybrid. Get out of my way!"

"How can a God have those snake-like eyes of yours?"

That was right. Despite the God of Origin giving birth to them all, there was blatant discrimination between the Six Monster Gods and the Absolute Gods. While many of the Absolute Gods were given the absolute power to rule the other gods and help the God of Origin Athenae, the Six Monster Gods were shunned. The same was true for Elizabeth.

One day, Elizabeth picked some flowers from the side of the road and ran to give them to Athenae. She thought, *‘A beautiful flower, just like my mother! I will give this to my mother as a present!’*

But then, several Gods stopped her.

“Hey, are you thinking of giving flowers to the God of Origin with your grubby little hands, huh? Ugly hybrid.”

“You should know your place well.”

“The God of Origin despises you.”

The other Gods had always bullied Elizabeth. After all, she was the kindest among all of the Six Monster Gods and was the easiest to harass. What was worse was the fact that they were just ordinary Gods and not the Absolute Gods. the very same Gods that could not compare against the Six Monster Gods and the Absolute Gods in terms of power.

These Gods grabbed the flowers from Elizabeth’s hands and trampled on them.

“The God of Origin despises you. She regrets giving birth to someone like you.”

Elizabeth looked at the flowers that were being trampled on.

“You’re the worst among all of the beings that our mother has given birth to. You’re trash. Mother absolutely loathes and despises your existence. Don’t you know this?”

“...That’s not true.”

It happened on that day.

“That’s not true!”

Elizabeth was one of the Six Monster Gods. She had a power that transcended even the power of the Absolute Gods. And just like that, the four Gods that blocked her path turned into stones. Then, the Trial of Gods was opened. The other Gods hoped to punish Elizabeth, thinking that this was the best opportunity to get rid of her.

‘Mother, that’s not true. It happened only because I was trying to tell them that I knew that their words about my mother hating me were not true.’

Elizabeth looked down to where Athenae was. But Athenae just gave her sentence coldly, “Elizabeth, you shall be locked up in the Fires of Hell for fifty years. Your punishment will start tomorrow.”

“M, Mother...?”

“Do not call me mother, Elizabeth.”

“...”

Elizabeth felt her heart break. The next day, she was thrown into the Fires of Hell, a place where she was subjected to a burning pain in every single waking hour. It was very, very painful but Elizabeth did not resent Athenae.

‘Mother, I promise I will become a better version of myself!’

Despite being locked up in this hellhole, Elizabeth still expressed her love for Athenae.

Just like that, fifty years, a hundred years had passed. Elizabeth had bloomed into a complete woman and a complete God of Snakes. Of course, she always picked beautiful flowers and presented them to Athenae.

“God of Origin, the flowers are beautiful today too.”

Athenae had told her not to bring her any flowers. But Elizabeth still picked flowers and gave it to Athenae each and every single day. She loved Athenae with her entire being, but Athenae always turned away from her.

In the end, the Absolute Gods and the other gods protested.

“The Six Monster Gods should be banished.”

“Their existence is a threat to all of the Gods.”

“There will come a time when they will threaten even the God of Origin’s existence.”

Elizabeth, who was picking flowers, heard their words but she denied it.

‘There’s no way the God of Origin will abandon us.’

But the very next day, she suddenly fell into a deep slumber. Although her body was asleep, her mind was still very much active. Elizabeth realized that she was in a strange place, dark and silent, where no echo or sound could be heard. Elizabeth felt terrified. That was when she saw Athenae looking at her before turning completely away.

‘Don’t abandon me, God of Origin!’

But Elizabeth had been left and abandoned in that place for hundreds of years. The solitude and darkness began to change her. She started to hate and despise Athenae. She completely regretted the fact that she placed her love, trust and faith in the God of Origin. Elizabeth vowed that she would drag Athenae down herself. At some point in time, Nerva Sephiroth came and awakened her.

And Minhyuk...

[Revealing the lies in the story that Elizabeth knows!]

...he witnessed the time when Elizabeth was sentenced to fifty years in the Fires of Hell during her childhood and saw how Athenae watched Elizabeth’s disappearing back with a sad look on her face as she got dragged away.

He witnessed how Athenae turned around and murmured softly while smelling the scent of the flowers every time Elizabeth gave them to her, “Thank you, Elizabeth.”

He saw how Athenae looked at Elizabeth's sleeping form and murmured before she got banished to the Stars' Path, "If I don't let you go, the other Gods will try to kill you. My most beloved child, Elizabeth."

Athenae murmured the truth, the truth that she could never tell Elizabeth when she was awake, "I hope that you can meet a true and genuine mother that will care for you with all her heart, smiling and crying with you. It would be nice if you could live happily like that."

That was when the Mournful One's Tearful Story ended for Minhyuk.

[Elizabeth is hatching!]

Now, it was time for Elizabeth to hatch. The gigantic egg started to crack, a girl's arm covered in mucus popping out of it. Then...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

A blast of red air surged out.

[Elizabeth is going into a frenzy!]

"...!"

"...!"

She was going into a frenzy the moment she hatched?! Minhyuk immediately used Weak God's Parchment on her.

[Weak God's Parchment.]

[All of Elizabeth's stats will decrease by 40%. All of her skill levels will decrease by -3. The duration of the debuff will be three minutes.]

Nevertheless, the air still got charged with overwhelming heat.

"Kihyaaaaaaaaack!"

Minhyuk hurriedly used the Sovereign's Voice after hearing Elizabeth's roar that was filled with her wrath.

[You have activated the Sovereign's Voice.]

"We have no intention of hurting you, Elizabeth. I know that you're suffering from the memories of your past but..."

"Shut up," Elizabeth snapped, her voice gravelly and gloomy, just like that of a demon.

[Elizabeth's Wrath has suppressed the effects of the Sovereign's Voice.]

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Elizabeth's power started to go out of control, a tremendous amount of poison slowly encroaching upon the surroundings. Even if 40% of her powers had been sealed, she was still Elizabeth, the God of Snakes.

“...Your Majesty, it won't be easy.”

All of the Named NPCs shook their heads. Appeasing and coaxing Elizabeth to their side was obviously a failure.

While they were busy shaking their heads, Elizabeth finally broke free from the egg, walking out with the body of a small girl, and yet, the tiny body was filled with hatred.

Clench—

Minhyuk's hold on the hilt of his sword tightened. However, Minhyuk had seen Elizabeth's past and it made him hesitate. Still, his priority was his people. He had to cut her down so that they would not suffer any damage. He slowly walked in front of her.

“I, I will kill all of you!!!” Elizabeth roared, her power on the verge of going into a frenzy once again. But just when Minhyuk was about to unsheathe his sword and kill her...

[A great being has randomly triggered the activation of Origin Authority: ‘God and Knight’!]

[Origin Authority: God and Knight will help you to win the loyalty of God's chosen Knight using whatever method is possible.]

[You and your subjects' story is being relayed to the hateful and vicious Elizabeth right now.]

Elizabeth had been abandoned. She did not have a mother-figure in this world and was left to believe that she was an ugly and hideous existence.

The story of an old man was relayed to such a being. The story of Ghost Spear Ben, who wandered around lifelessly after losing his child, and how he met a young man. Elizabeth watched as both the old and young cried and laughed together while overcoming their trials and tribulations. She was also witness to how the young man wept and despaired upon the death of the Ghost Spear.

Next was the story of the Lesser Demon. The story of a little boy that was taken away by Great Demon Verus until he became a demon himself. Elizabeth saw how the boy learnt that his mother had already died after finally coming back to the human world. But the young man that stood by his side made a tomb for his mother and showed him what happiness was like.

This time, she was told of the story of a pirate, the pirate who found joy and pleasure in ‘killing’. Elizabeth saw how the pirate met a young man and saw the world through a different light, learning about new things through the boy. She watched as the pirate vowed to stay with the young man forever.

There was also the story of the intellectually disabled boy, Conir. Even the story of Demon Kimaris was relayed to her. By the time the story approached its end, Elizabeth saw the figure of the young man smiling as he ate and laughed with everyone.

“...”

Elizabeth felt extremely jealous of them. She could see that the young man cared for and loved them, while in turn, his subordinates trusted and followed him wholeheartedly.

“Mother...”

How nice would it be, if her mother loved her like that too. What if she also had that king as her mother-figure?

[The activated power, God and Knight, has started to erase Elizabeth's memories of Athenae.]

Elizabeth's mind turned hazy as the memories started to fade away. That was when she saw the young man standing in front of her and asking, "Elizabeth, I'm someone insignificant and have no power to control you. But even so, will you join me? Join us?"

"...I will live for you, Your Majesty," Elizabeth answered, delight blooming in her chest.

My mother. No! His Majesty, who will love and treasure me!?

With that, all of Elizabeth's memories of Athenae were wiped out from her head. And Minhyuk? He knew.

'Athenae, you...'

He knew that it was Athenae that triggered the activation of his power. It seemed like she wanted Elizabeth to join Minhyuk and remain by his side. And...

[A great being is bestowing a gift upon the child that is as beautiful as a flower.]

Elizabeth had picked flowers for Athenae for hundreds of years. This time, it was Athenae's turn. Tens of thousands of beautiful flowers began to fall down from the skies gracefully. A smile bloomed on Elizabeth's face as she looked up at the skies and said, "They're very beautiful, Your Majesty."

In fact, Minhyuk thought that it was her and her words that were 'beautiful' as he said, "Right. They're beautiful."

Elizabeth smiled innocently, just like a child, as she watched the tens of thousands of falling flowers. Then...

"Ah, since you're going to be with us, you have to take this position."

"Please let me know, I will do anything."

[The great being is looking at both you and Elizabeth with great anticipation.]

At this moment, the God of Origin, the awakened Seasoning Jar, and the NPCs present in the area all looked at him in excitement and anticipation. Especially Elizabeth, her eyes were sparkling the most.

While everyone was watching in anticipation, Minhyuk asked, "The ones that you can summon are not only snakes, right? You can also summon many other animals?"

"That's right."

"By any chance, have you heard about duck farming?"

"Duck farming?"

Duck farming was a method of farming where they release ducks in paddy fields to let them eat pests and remove ‘weedy rice’, a type of weed that looked similar to rice.

“Well, you can learn about it from now on! Your task is to become a ‘farming method researcher’ and develop duck farming and the likes! How about it? It sounds cool, right?!”

“Wow, wow, wow! I’m so happy, Your Majesty!!!” Elizabeth clapped happily, rejoicing like a little girl that was given a candy.

Today, Elizabeth, one of the Six Monster Gods, became a ‘farming methods researcher’. And...

[A great being is glaring at you. They look like they want to kill you.]

‘Huh? Why is she suddenly glaring at me?’

Minhyuk looked confused. He wondered why Athenae was glaring at him, as cold sweat dripped down his back.

Chapter 607: Is it Bichor or is it Bichon?

Abyss, the Tomb of the Gods, caused a huge wave when the Gods that rested in this place made a sudden appearance during the showdown between Minhyuk and Elizabeth.

Since then, Ian, the global number one dungeon explorer, had shared plenty of information about the Abyss. There was also this key information that Ian had mentioned to the public, something that he had found in an ancient book:

[If you want to become a God, challenge it.]

[If you want to become a True God, challenge it.]

The entire world went wild. However, the craze over the Abyss soon died down in just a few days.

Why?

Firstly, the Abyss was not an easy place to find for most players. More than tens of millions of players from all over the world set out to find the Abyss, but only around 400~500 of them were able to reach it.

Secondly, of the 400~500 people that found the Abyss, only thirty were able to pass through the first gate. And out of those thirty, only one person was able to pass through the second gate. On top of that, no information about the person that passed the gates of the Abyss had been shared.

Currently, God’s Child Ross was the only one that was going through the Gates of the Gods inside the Abyss. God’s Children were not Absolute Gods, they were only a special minority that had inherited the power of the said Gods. Ross smirked as he crossed the fourth gate while mumbling to himself, “In the end, no one can cross through the second gate.”

From what he heard, even Alexander could not pass through the second gate. This fact alone made Ross feel arrogant, his nose pointing high up in the skies.

At the same time...

There were almost a hundred players gathered in the vicinity of the Abyss. These players were those that failed to pass through the gates, but were unable to return because of regret.

Just then, another man arrived while munching on some mouth-watering chicken skewers. The man was even holding a can of cola in one hand, while his other hand tightly held several skewers of chicken.

“...?”

“...??”

“...???”

It was only natural that the players present in the area could not recognize the man. After all, Minhyuk had changed his face through the help of Great Demon Verus' Mask. However, the smile painted on Minhyuk's face was infectious as he tasted the sauce that covered the chicken skewers. And when he took a bite...

Crunch, crunch, crunch—

A pleasant sound rang in his ears. The combination of the sweet and spicy sauce and the crunchy fried chicken was a dream in and of itself. Not long after...

Gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp, gulp—

...Minhyuk gulped down the contents of the cold, icy can of cola in his hands. He could not help but burst out in admiration at the refreshing and sweet flavor that passed through his mouth and made his throat tingle.

“Kyaha!”

“...???”

“...???”

“...???”

The players gathered in the area looked at Minhyuk in confusion. All of them wondered if there truly was a player like that. On top of that...

“Ah. I only made 400 chicken skewers. What a shame... *Huhu...*? My 367th fried chicken skewer, goodbye...”

“...???”

“...???”

“...???”

Then, Minhyuk slipped through them, entered the Abyss and promptly disappeared from their sights. The people gathered outside were left staring blankly at the direction where he disappeared.

[You have re-entered the Abyss.]

[You are the player that passed through the first gate, the ‘Food God’s’ Gate.]

[You can now move on to the second trial.]

‘Some of the ingredients from the Ancient Gods’ Recipe Book are here.’

The Ancient Gods’ Recipe Book was one of the items that Minhyuk had obtained by opening the Absolute Gods’ Treasure Chest.

?If you make a dish from the Ancient Gods’ Recipe Book with the ‘ingredients’ listed in the recipe, it will give you a permanent increase in stats, skills or other powers. The power that will be increased will depend on the ingredients used.

?If you make a dish from the Ancient Gods’ Recipe Book with the ‘ingredients’ listed in the recipe and transcend what the Ancient Gods have made, something special might happen.

?Vietnamese Rice Noodles and Bánh xèo.

?Pizza and Carbonara.

?Niú Ròu Miàn.

?Kimchi Jjigae Meal Set.

?Nagasaki Jjampong and Sushi.

?Etc...

“It’s global. That’s good, very good.”

One of the reasons why Minhyuk was in awe and admiration of the Ancient Gods’ Recipe Book was because of the diversity of the dishes. Most of the dishes were representative dishes of each country.

In other words, Minhyuk would be able to enjoy a variety of dishes from different countries all over the world. Just the thought alone was enough to make Minhyuk’s mouth water.

“Sluuuurp!”

Also, God of Cooking Arlene had said it herself, *‘You will receive astronomical rewards every time you clear a trial. You can also obtain at least legendary-grade ingredients.’*

Of course, the main reason why Minhyuk came here was because of Valen. This was because there was a chance that Valen, who had become a ‘sword’, was sleeping in the Abyss.

‘Just wait a bit more, Instructor.’

Finally, Minhyuk headed to the second gate.

[Abyss.]

[The Second Trial will now begin.]

[Starting from the Second Trial, the rewards that you will receive will depend on your attack completion rate!]

[The attack completion rate will be decided by the combination of the attack completion time, attack score, creativity and ingenuity score, and many more!]

[There's currently one more person that has passed the challenge of the second trial!]

[The person that has passed the challenge of the second trial completed the trial in 8 minutes and 45 seconds with an attack completion rate of 58%!]

[The Second Gate is the trial of the 'God of Shield'.]

[The 'Tomb Administrator' will make their appearance starting from the Second Trial!]

'Tomb Administrator??'

This was something that Minhyuk had never heard of from Arlene. In the darkness of the Second Gate, a gloomy and dark voice rang, "Fufufufufufu. Weak one, you have come to a forbidden place."

"...???"

Minhyuk's face was filled with doubt as he munched on one of his fried chicken skewers, "*Chomp?*"

"I am Bichor, the Abyss' Administrator, and I will show your foolish self what despair is."

Minhyuk looked at the being that was covered in darkness, who was spewing things that Minhyuk's own father, Black Dragon, would definitely say. The being slowly walked out of the curtain of darkness, his entire being covered with a robe. However, the being was so small that he could not even reach the height of 140 centimeters. And despite the robe covering the being's entire body, the white fur, black shiny nose, and big eyes could not be hidden at all.

"Bichon?"

"Foolish one, I am not Bichon, I am Bichor..."

"I know. But you're definitely a bichon."

"N, no... I'm Bichor..."

"Puppy bichon, your fur is done prettily. Which pet shop did you go to? *Chomp!*"

"..."

That was right. 'Bichon', the tomb's administrator, literally appeared in the form of a bichon. He had thick white fur, big bright eyes, and a tiny yet shiny nose. He was basically a bichon. However, there was one thing that set this bichon apart from the others, he had a severe case of trying to 'be cool'.

"Foolish one. You can't even recognize greatness when he's right in front of you," Bichor said, an air of arrogance and viciousness wrapping around his body, a mean smile curling at the corner of his 'bichon' face.

"I, I will bring despair upon you with the trials that I have made!!!"

“Fetch, Bichon!” Minhyuk said while pulling something out of his chest. This something was none other than a dog toy for Love, Hope and Happiness, the Cerberus.

Bichor was very shocked to see a duck-shaped toy appear on the floor in front of him. He shouted, “Impudent! How dare you mock...!”

“Here, I’ll give you snacks.”

Thump—

At the word ‘snack’, Bichor bit the toy without a second of hesitation.

“...?”

“So, you’re really a bichon.”

“...”

The moment Minhyuk threw a dog snack in the air, Bichor let go of the toy and jumped in the air to snatch it. Bichor chewed on the snack while grumbling, “I will never forget this humiliation. Damn it. All of this is because of that damn curse!”

As Bichor continued to chew on the snack, he suddenly thought of something, “But... why do you have dog snacks with you?”

“Because I was curious about its taste?”

“...”

“...”

He was carrying dog snacks with him because he was curious about its taste? Bichor could not begin to fathom the man in front of him.

Tomb Administrator Bichor was the one in charge of managing and creating the trials in the Abyss. He produced all of the trials in this place, using the unique power of each of the Gods that laid in eternal rest within this place. This fact alone showed how great Bichor was.

The one that created and managed the Tomb of the Gods! Yes! That was Bichor. He was also the being closest to becoming the ‘God of Traps’. This very same Bichor could not hide his embarrassment and anger when he saw a human carry a ‘dog snack’ with him.

‘Impudent human! How dare you look down on me!!!’ Bichor thought as he stroked his voluminous hair angrily.

Every stroke of his paw made the white hair sway and gently fall down into place.

‘I’ll definitely make sure that you will regret this!!!’

The second trial was the God of Shield’s trial. Currently, there was already a very powerful human that had passed through the third gate and was challenging the fourth gate. That human truly had an

amazing strength. However, that power was only possible because that human was a part of the special minority.

So, Bichor believed that there was no way that the man in front of him, who was munching on fried chicken skewers, would be able to break through the walls created by the God of Shields.

That great human from before only took eight minutes and forty five seconds to break through the walls created by the God of Shields, with an attack completion rate of 56%. The human in front him now? Bichor was absolutely sure that he would be met with failure.

“Fufufufu. Foolish human. You will never be able to clear this trial. Can you see that? That is the God of Shield’s wall maze. It is a maze lined up with tens of thousands of traps. On top of that, the God of Shield’s walls, which are ten meters in height, are extremely sturdy and durable! You can never break them!!!” Bichor shouted furiously.

However, the man in front of him seemed to not feel any tension at all. Minhyuk, who was still munching on his fried chicken skewers, looked at the hundreds of tall and sturdy walls in front of him. The wall was literally the ‘maze’.

Then, Minhyuk said, “You’re thinking that I’ll fail, right? Bichon? Then, if I succeed, can you do what I ask you to do for thirty seconds?”

“Kwahahahahahahaha! Succeed? You? An uncivilized human like you? That’s absolutely impossible. Alright. Then, if you fail, I will apply twice the penalty for failure. Are you still willing to bet, human?”

“Alright. Bet.”

Then, the notifications rang.

[The Tomb Administrator has activated his power.]

[You will receive twice the penalty if you fail.]

[Bichor will follow your commands for thirty seconds if you succeed.]

“Keuhahahahahahaha! Foolish human bastard!!!”

After that, Minhyuk walked in front of one of the walls. The wall was so high that Minhyuk had to raise his head to see the top.

And Bichor? He was going wild.

‘Foolish and arrogant human bastard!!! You will experience far greater despair and frustration because of that useless pride and arrogance of yours!’

But then...

“Summon Hanwoo.”

Thud!!!

“Moooooooooooo!” A cow suddenly appeared, mooing loudly as Minhyuk rode on its back. Then, the cow started to grow in size until it reached forty meters.

“...???”

Minhyuk said, “Hanwoo, charge.”

[Charge.]

[Hanwoo’s speed will double the moment he charges forward. Everything that collided with him in his charge would receive double the damage.]

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

The God of Shield’s walls began to crumble and break apart the moment Hanwoo, the forty meter tall cow, charged at them. Minhyuk got off Hanwoo’s back once he arrived at the end, his hands still full with his fried chicken skewers.

[Abyss.]

[You have successfully cleared the Second Trial of the God of Shields with shocking results!]

[You have acquired a +5 increase in all five of your basic stats!]

[You have achieved a 95% attack completion rate!]

At the same time, a notification rang in Bichor’s head.

[As per the contract that you made as the tomb administrator, you will be forced to obey his commands for thirty seconds.]

Then, Minhyuk said, “Bichon, sit.”

Swoosh—

Bichor sat.

“Bichon, paw.”

Tap—

“Bichon, bang!”

Collapse—

Minhyuk then proceeded to rub ‘Bichon’, no, Bichor’s tummy, “Oh my, you did a good job! My baby. *Achuchuchu*~ My dear Bichon is a very obedient and good listener~”

“...”

Bichor unknowingly gasped, ‘*Haa... haa...*’, a happy smile on his face.

“You’re obviously a bichon but you keep on saying no.”

“...”

That was when Bichor realized what he had done, an overwhelming sense of shame washed over him. At the same time, he was shocked, ‘*Crazy... his attack time... is just 12 seconds...?*’

Suddenly, Bichor unknowingly let out a whine, “*Hiiiiing...*”

“...”

Yes. He was definitely a dog.

1. Refers to the Bichon Frisé, a type of toy dog and companion pet that is considered to be a great all-around pet.

Chapter 608: Is it Bichor or is it Bichon?

The entire world was left reeling in shock. The players were left speechless as they watched the Argaon Continent, the Taiwanese Server, turn into tens of thousands of kilometers of wasteland. Life for most people came to a halt, as countless kingdoms and empires collapsed. Everything then fell under the control of the Luvien Empire, and it was all done under the name of ‘alliance’ and ‘protection’.

Of course, this was mostly the case for NPCs. As for players, they did not suffer any damage even after the other kingdoms and empires allied with the Luvien Empire. In fact, it might have been for the better for them since the players could freely enter the ‘Luvien Empire’ under the banner of an alliance.

In any case, Nerva Sephiroth had sent diplomats to each of the kings and emperors in the Argaon Continent. However, the Argaon Continent’s emperors and kings denied Nerva Sephiroth’s diplomats and their call for an alliance.

The current situation was the result of that.

[Eventually, the two empires and five kingdoms of Argaon Continent ended up being allied with the Luvien Empire.]

[The NPC casualties alone are said to have reached around 25 million.]

[Nerva Sephiroth is an unstoppable tyrant.]

[This is like the tale of the 2nd Athenae. Will the players be able to fight against Nerva Sephiroth?]

Many trembled at the might that Nerva Sephiroth had shown. At the same time, their interest and attention were pointed to one specific topic.

[Which continent will Nerva Sephiroth invade next?]

[I think it will be China’s Cairon Continent, right? Cairon Continent is much larger than the combined servers of America, Japan and Taiwan.]

[It should definitely be Cairon Continent. It’s the continent with the largest population of NPCs and would pose a great threat to Nerva. If he invades Cairon, he will be able to gain a lot.]

A lot of them mentioned the Cairon Continent. However, they were wrong. Right now, several diplomats had been sent to the two emperors and several kings of Asgan Continent.

The diplomats of the Luvien Empire came bearing gifts containing a tremendous amount of jewelry, gold and silver. However, the letter from Nerva Sephiroth that the diplomats brought was close to an ‘Imperial Edict’. In other words, while Nerva Sephiroth was promoting friendship on the surface, he was practically admonishing Empress Ellie and Emperor Asvon.

Ellie read the bullshit that was sent to her while Marquis Rand, the diplomat sent by the Luvien Empire, was prostrating on the ground. Marquis Rand thought, *‘His Majesty sees Ellie as the biggest obstacle to his quest of unifying the continents.’*

She was the person considered to be the closest in becoming the 'Continental Emperor'. In fact, even the operators of Joy Co. Ltd. consider her to be the one that would become the Continental Emperor. That was why she was the Absolute Supreme NPC, Continental Emperor Ellie.

'However. Ellie will eventually be forced to kneel in front of His Majesty. Her army is no match for His Majesty's army.'

"Listen here, diplomat."

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

Ellie squinted at the letter in her hands, as if she had not read what was written inside properly, "I can't tell if I'm getting old or your emperor just has a bad handwriting."

"...?!"

Marquis Rand felt fury and anger wash over him when he heard Ellie's words. How dare the woman in front of her speak ill of his emperor, right?

"How impertinent! How dare you say that to the one bestowed by the blessings of the Battle God, His Majesty Nerva Sephiroth...!"

"Hey."

"..."

"Do you want to get a beating, huh?"

"...?!"

Marquis Rand could not hide how flustered he was when he heard those words. There was a noble and majestic aura flowing around her. Her figure, as she sat there with a sword in her embrace and looked down at Rand, was emitting a beautiful yet mysterious air. The words that she said were vulgar and coarse. However...

"..."

...sweat had already started to drip down from Marquis Rand's forehead.

"Do you think anyone will say anything if I kill you now?"

"..."

"Hey. Kill that bastard."

"..."

Marquis Rand was fully aware of the greatness and majesty of Nerva Sephiroth, who descended to this place under the command of the Battle God, but now...

"I deserve to die! Your Majesty, I made a mistake..."

"You deserve to die?"

"...Spare me! Your Majesty, spare me! I have made a mistake!!!"

Right now, Luvien's diplomat, a person that no other king or emperor dared to treat carelessly, was at a complete loss.

Ellie rose from her seat. She looked at him coldly and said, "Tell this to your emperor."

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

"The Eivelis Empire has no intention of listening to your bullshit. From what I could barely decipher from his worm-like handwriting, it seems that there's a part that said, 'If you don't fulfill this then'... Ah, whatever. Tell him to send his dogs to bark this bullshit in someone else's house."

"...!"

"That's all I have to say. Go now."

"..."

Marquis Rand fled the Eivelis Empire like a fugitive. After Rand ran out, Ellie went out to the ramparts and looked down at the entirety of Eivelis Empire. She knew that many people would suffer if she accepted the things written in that letter. Her people would be forced into slavery while their young would be shamed and disgraced, pointed at by the children of the Luvien Empire.

Nerva Sephiroth was not yet completely done with his preparations.

"Ruth."

"Yes, Your Majesty."

"I believe we should meet with the Collodis Empire's Asvon and the kings of each kingdom right now."

"I understand."

Now, the Absolute Supreme NPC, Continental Emperor Ellie was about to make her full and complete appearance.

At the same time, in Joy Co. Ltd.

Everyone was watching the scene while President Kang Taehoon felt a blazing heat light up in his heart.

"The only person that can borrow and utilize the power of all of the kings and emperors of Asgan Continent."

She was also the person that would unite all of the continents in the world in the future. 'Absolute Monarch' Richard was just a player. So, the only one that could possibly stop Nerva Sephiroth was Continental Emperor Ellie.

However, according to the scenario that Joy Co. Ltd. and Supercomputer Athenae had expected...

"Eivelis Empire will be destroyed in two weeks."

That was right. Ellie would unite the world only after the fall of Eivelis Empire.

Minhyuk summoned Hanwoo and cleared the God of Shield's Gate in just twelve seconds.

[Rewards will be given based on your phenomenal attack completion rate.]

[You have acquired 1,000 platinum.]

[Because of your phenomenal attack completion rate, you will be able to acquire an additional 1,000 platinum.]

[You have acquired the God of Shield's 'God of Shield's Wall' parchment.]

[You can acquire the God of Shield's 'Sealed God of Shields'.]

'*Can acquire?*'?Minhyuk thought, tilting his head in confusion. 'Can acquire' and 'have acquired' were two completely different concepts. Then, immediately after that...

[You will receive special benefits if you achieve another phenomenal attack completion rate in your next Gate's Trial.]

[If you achieve an attack completion rate of 80% or higher for three consecutive Gates, your 'wish' will be granted by the three Gods wholeheartedly.]

[However, if you succeed in challenging the three Gates, you will not receive any other rewards.]

"...Hmm."

This was a gamble. Fortunately, the detailed information of the Sealed God of Shields was available for Minhyuk to peruse. After checking the details, Minhyuk rubbed his chin in thought. As expected, the shield was amazing. Although it was sealed, the moment that seal got lifted, the shield would be able to produce God-class power, perhaps even more.

However, there was just one thing. None of the executives of Beyond the Heavens used the shield as their main weapon.

At that moment, Bichor, who was sniffing his dog paws, said, "You can either choose to get the reward, or choose to challenge yourself and gain even better rewards." Then, he licked his paws and continued, "Fufufufufufu. What choice will you make, you uncivilized human?"

Bichor kept on licking his paws, not feeling any kind of pressure at all. Minhyuk just looked at Bichor softly and thought, '*Perhaps the best reward in the Abyss is...*'

Perhaps it was something that was close by. Also...

[According to the quest given by Arlene, you have acquired the 'foreleg' and the 'hindleg' of the pig that Arlene carefully raised herself.]

Arlene had decided that she would give Minhyuk cooking ingredients whenever he cleared a gate in the Abyss. After receiving the ingredients, Minhyuk smiled happily and thought, '*Let's see, the dish for this will be...*'

Minhyuk decided to make a Jokbal Set.

Forty minutes later, Minhyuk finished making his spicy and fiery jokbal and ordinary jokbal set, the dishes perfectly arranged on a table. The setup was complete with some ssamjang, garlic,

Cheongyang peppers, lettuce, perilla leaves, white kimchi and dried radish leaves and many more side dishes.

“Fufufufu. Savage and weak human,” Bichor, who was gasping at the food that was set in front of Minhyuk, called out gloomily to Minhyuk, “give me a bit of the bones...”

“Alright. I will give you the bones, Bichor. However, in exchange, you have to tell me your story.”

Anyway, Minhyuk would eat all of the meat off the bone anyway.

“Fufufufu. You want to hear this great one’s story in exchange for the bones? Good. Let’s do it like that.”

“...?”

Bichor started talking while Minhyuk ate his jokbal, “So, I’m telling you... *woof woof, arf arf, whine, whine.*”

Minhyuk smiled happily as he listened to the story. Then, he started mixing the tray noodles. The red sauce of the tray noodles perfectly covered the finely chopped cabbage and lettuce, creating a delicious cacophony of flavors.

Only after mixing did he place a piece of the thinly sliced jokbal in his mouth. The chewy texture and the slightly bland flavor of the jokbal lingered in Minhyuk’s mouth. The more he chewed, the wider his smile became. Then, Minhyuk dipped a piece in ssamjang before placing it in his mouth. The saltiness of the ssamjang meshed perfectly with the jokbal and danced around in his mouth.

This time, he gently placed a perilla leaf on the palm of his hand before placing two pieces of jokbal on top of it. Then, he added some dried radish, white kimchi, some garlic dipped in ssamjang, and some spicy pepper.

“Fufufufufufu, human. You really know how to eat... *gulp...*”

Minhyuk wrapped everything and pushed everything into his mouth. The scent of the perilla leaves tickled his nose as the various flavors of the ingredients danced around in his mouth. After that, he took a sip of the dongchimi that was covered with a thin layer of ice, allowing the clean and refreshing flavor to wash his taste buds.

“Kgghhk...”

A sigh of admiration immediately flowed out from Minhyuk’s mouth. This time, Minhyuk’s attention turned towards the tray noodles that was right beside the jokbal. Holding his chopstick, Minhyuk clamped a piece of jokbal meat together with a mouthful of tray noodles, and placed them in his mouth.

‘Aaaaaah. This tastes just like the combination of bibimmyeon and samgyeopsal.’

The chewy texture of jokbal added a splendid charm to the spicy and sour flavor of the tray noodles. Then, Minhyuk turned to the spicy jokbal. He clamped a piece and immediately placed it in his mouth.

“Ho~”

Minhyuk hurriedly huffed and puffed as he tried to breathe the heat out of his mouth. Then, he grabbed a can of cold cider and gulped it down.

“Kghhk... Amazing.”

“...Hiiing, hiiiiing...”

“Continue with your story...”

“A, anyway...”

Next, Minhyuk made a lettuce wrap. He placed two pieces of jokbal, some garlic dipped in ssamjang, some Cheongyang peppers, white kimchi and dried radish on top of the lettuce, wrapped everything together and placed it in his mouth. The crunchy and fresh texture of the lettuce greeted his mouth which was immediately followed by a festival of flavors. After eating his jokbal set just like that, Minhyuk grabbed the jokbal bones and cleaned the meat off of it, leaving no trace of it behind.

“*Chew, chew, chew.*”

“Haa... haa... haa...” Bichor panted, his round and well-groomed tail shaking vigorously.

To cap off his meal, Minhyuk gulped a can of cool, refreshing cider once again.

“*Gulp, gulp, gulp.*?Kyahaaa!!!”

After that, Minhyuk threw the big jokbal bone to Bichor. As for Bichor? He immediately jumped on the bone and chomped on it, his rounded tail shaking left and right from delight.

Minhyuk, who had listened to Bichor’s story while eating his jokbal set, thought, ‘*Yeah. That’s what I thought.*’, his mind was completely made up.

[You have chosen to give up the Sealed God of Shields and try to achieve an attack completion rate of more than 80% on three consecutive Gates!]

Another set of notifications rang with that.

[You have eaten Jokbal.]

[You have acquired a 0.5% permanent increase in all of your stats.]

As expected of an ingredient from Arlene, Minhyuk had received a shocking permanent increase in his stats just by eating it.

Minhyuk looked at Bichor, who looked crazy as he chomped on the large pig’s feet bones, and thought, ‘*If I’m going to choose, I think the best reward in the Abyss is you, Bichon. It’s you.*’

Bichor tilted his head when he saw Minhyuk looking at him. He said, “Fufu, weak human. Is this your first time seeing someone eat a pig’s foot?”

Minhyuk did not answer him and chose to ask the question that he was most curious about, “I have a question. Who’s grooming your hair?”

“Fufufufufufufu. It’s because I’m a great being,” Bichor said, jumping to his feet and taking something out. And the thing that he took out? It was none other than a dog brush. Then, using the brush, Bichor brushed his thick and tangled fur. He even brushed his round white tail carefully.

“Amazing... I have never seen a dog groom himself...”

“...”

Minhyuk looked at Bichor and thought that he was truly a very amazing bichon.

Chapter 609: Is it Bichor or is it Bichon?

Bichor was a trap specialist that all of the kingdoms and empires coveted in the past. Countless legends about him had spread all over the world. There was a story about how a mere 500 soldiers were able to defeat 20,000 soldiers, with the help of his traps. There was also a story about how Bichor was able to sink 500 enemy ships at sea.

All of these stories were true. Bichor was truly one of the greatest geniuses in trap production.

‘But it’s already been hundreds of years.’

Bichor recalled his past as he watched Minhyuk move to clear another trial.

‘I don’t even remember them now.’

Bichor could not even remember when he made a name for himself in the continent. His arrogance, which banked on his genius, knew no bounds. It was to the point that he even challenged the ‘God of Creation’ to make the strongest and greatest trap in existence.

But that was a mistake. Bichor’s trap had not been pushed back even when placed against the God of Creation’s trap. Instead, the trap that the God of Creation had made had something that was distinctly different from his trap.

The reason why Bichor challenged the God of Creation was so he could become a ‘Continental God’. He wanted to gain the name of ‘God of Traps’. So, the question was, why did Bichor lose, even though he produced results that were similar to the God of Creation? After the bet was over, the Gods bitterly imparted these words to him...

‘Foolish human, your trap is a tool made only for killing.’

‘From what we have heard, your traps have killed millions. You do not deserve to be a God.’

‘We cannot recognize someone that talks proudly about a tool that kills others.’

That was right. Bichor had overlooked one thing. A trap was a ‘weapon’.

The trap that the God of Creation made was not for killing, but for ‘protecting’. That was not the case for Bichor’s trap; his traps were made only to kill. If someone fell into his traps, they would either die from being stabbed with spears all over their body, or their lungs rotting.

On the other hand, the traps created by the God of Creation would only neutralize the opponents and send them back. Yes. Even though Bichor was considered as a legendary figure, he was also seen as the devil that took away the lives of countless people, and broke apart many families.

After losing the bet, Bichor received his punishment from the God of Creation. He turned Bichor into a puppy and made him the administrator of the Abyss. It was a punishment that Bichor could not escape from. To be exact...

'I have to cut my own life to get out of this punishment.'

.

Bichor brushed his fur as he watched Minhyuk start the next trial, *'I deserve this punishment.'*

In this place, Bichor created trials, traps and various things that were related to the Gods of the Abyss. He only realized after a hundred or two hundred years had passed that his arrogance had cost the lives of many. He regretted this fact. But no matter what he did, there was no way for the dead to come back to life.

After realizing that fact, Bichor was left in so much pain to the point that he wished that he could die. He cried for days on end, wallowing in regret as he recalled everything that he did in the past. And yet...

'I have been too foolish...'

...he could not bring himself to end his own life. He lived this hideous life as a 'bichon' that walked on two legs. Just like that hundreds of years passed and here he was now.

'I have to repent for my sins here forever,' Bichor thought, smiling bitterly. At the very least, today had been a very fun day. It had been hundreds of years since Bichor last talked to an interesting human.

"Fufufufufufu. Human, that jokbal was really delicious. It felt like I had a meal that was prepared by the God of Cooking herself. Every time my beautiful tongue and the jokbal touched, it felt like I was being kissed by the Goddess of Beauty. It gives an ecstatic feeling."

"..."

Minhyuk sighed loudly as he looked at Bichor, who was sporting a 'disgusting' look on his face, "Phew..."

The sigh was very telling. One could definitely feel all of the thoughts that were running through his head from that sigh. Bichor looked at Minhyuk in doubt.

Minhyuk, who had heard Bichor's entire story, thought, *'Maybe the reason why they made him into a bichon was because of the way he talks?'*

It was plausible.

Finally, the Third Gate's challenge began. Minhyuk had to achieve an 80% or higher attack completion rate in this trial.

[Abyss.]

[You have challenged the Third Gate.]

[You need to achieve 80% or higher attack completion rate in the Third Gate.]

“Fufufufufufu. Weak human. The Third Gate's trial is to destroy the God of Farming's ingredients.”

At the same time, a grand spectacle unfolded in front of Minhyuk and Bichor's eyes. The place was magnificently filled with countless unique crops. There was a radish that was around two meters in height, shining like a diamond. The green onions were so long and thick that they looked like rebars. There were even countless ingredients that dug deep into the earth.

“Many humans have challenged the God of Farming Arma's ingredients. However, most of them failed to acquire even one of Arma's ingredients. Do you know the reason? It's because they did not qualify in the first place. Fufufufufu...” Bichor laughed deeply. He felt that Minhyuk should not have challenged the 80% or more attack completion rate.

‘God of Farming Arma could only collect those rare and unique ingredients because of high DEX.’

Bichor was aware of how ridiculously high God of Farming Arma's DEX was. In fact, there was a high chance that Arma had an even higher DEX than the God of Blacksmiths.

“Because of that, your task is to destroy them and not harvest them. But even so, it is still hard to break those ingredients.”

These ingredients were original and unique, and it would be almost impossible for ordinary beings to break them. But the Third Gate could only be completed if those ingredients were destroyed.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk's body started trembling, “...What? Destroy the ingredients? What kind of blasphemy is that?”

Of course, it was a feat that did not exist in Minhyuk's reality. But Bichor did not know that and could only shake his head at Minhyuk.

“These are ingredients that even the other Gods could not harvest. The only way for you to complete this Gate is to destroy five ingredients,” Bichor said, chuckling deeply. Then, a timer appeared in the air as he pushed the button to start the time, “You only have three minutes at most. Fufufufufu. But in those three minutes, you will only be able to get one...?”

Bichor suddenly stopped talking, his head tilting to the side in confusion. This was because Minhyuk just walked up to the green onion, grabbed it and pulled it out easily.

[You have acquired the God of Farming's Sword-like Green Onions.]

[You have gained 2 DEX.]

“...?”

Bichor was very astonished. To be honest, Minhyuk looked like he had just pulled out the Excalibur, and was the rightful owner of the green onion.

‘What? Is it a coincidence? No. It’s not a coincidence...’

With that as the catalyst, Minhyuk began to harvest one ingredient after the other.

“Hiiiiing...?”

And the ingredients that he harvested?

[You have acquired the God of Farming’s Diamond Radish.]

[You have gained 1 DEX.]

[You have acquired the God of Farming’s Steel-like Lotus Roots.]

[You have gained 2 DEX.]

“Instead of destroying them, we should just go and harvest these ingredients. Let’s go!!! Oh...! My STR stat will increase by +2 just by eating this lotus roots? Ah! Eating this carrot will permanently increase my STM by +2!!!”

Bichor felt his tail shrink as he watched Minhyuk pull the ingredients one after the other. The moment Minhyuk harvested the final ingredient, the notifications rang in his ears.

[Abyss.]

[You have successfully cleared the Third Trial of the God of Farming with shocking results!]

[You have acquired a +5 increase in all five of your basic stats!]

[You have achieved a 95% attack completion rate!]

[Rewards will be given based on your phenomenal attack completion rate.]

[You have acquired 1,000 platinum.]

[Because of your phenomenal attack completion rate, you will be able to acquire an additional 1,000 platinum.]

[You have acquired the God of Farming’s ‘Power of a Benevolent Farmer’ Parchment.]

“Wahahahahahaha!” Minhyuk laughed loudly, just like a pure and naive child.

Bichor, who was still reeling from shock, looked at Minhyuk and thought differently, *‘I had fun creating traps that would kill others. But this man feels happiness with just food and ingredients.’*

On top of that, the man in front of Bichor was also someone with considerable power.

‘How can I feel this happy and good just by looking at him?’

Only then did Bichor realize that he was wagging his white and round tail vigorously! He immediately stopped his tail from moving.

Minhyuk immediately moved to the next trial.

“Fufufu. The Fourth Gate’s Trial is to reach the door and pass through God of Animals Ideo’s beasts.”

Minhyuk was truly a shocking person to those who did not know him. He had already reached the Fourth Gate in such a short amount of time. In front of him, hundreds of Ideo’s predators appeared.

Minhyuk was fully aware of how strong Ideo’s beasts were. After all, he witnessed how they fought against God of Snakes Elizabeth’s army. What did he do? He started cooking for these beasts.

“You might have been able to seduce humans with food but you’re doing the same with beasts?” Bichor mocked Minhyuk but he could not even take his eyes off of him.

A happy smile would always appear on Minhyuk’s face whenever he started cooking. Even as the veins on his thick forearms would bulge from exertion, and sweat would drip down his body, a delighted smile would always appear on his face whenever he cooked.

‘If I was someone like him then...’

Bichor found himself thinking. Would he become a person that would truly be recorded in history? If he had made traps for the sake of others, instead of traps made to kill, then would a statue of him have been already made somewhere?

Tears suddenly started to well up in Bichor’s eyes as the memories of the past flashed in his head.

‘Perhaps he’s that strong because he’s on a completely different path from mine?’

The tears started to drip down his cheeks. Bichor truly wanted to get out of this god-awful place. As long as he could get a chance. No, if the Gods just give him one more chance, then he would live his life with different values and beliefs.

However, that was impossible. That was why Bichor was crying. He cried because he met a very ‘cool’ human that made him feel happy and delighted just by looking at him.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk began to haphazardly throw the dishes that he made among the beasts.

“Grrrrrrrrr!”

“Roaaaaaaar!”

The scent of the meat enticed the beasts, their feet bringing them to the source. And Minhyuk? He continued to throw the meat as he walked among them.

Minhyuk’s voice rang in the ears of the crying Bichor, “Bichon. I heard your story earlier.”

Bichor turned to look at Minhyuk’s back. In Bichor’s eyes, Minhyuk looked very cool as he walked through the gaps of the beasts, his mouth opening slightly as tears continued to drip down his face.

“You told me just now that you wanted to become a trap specialist that makes traps to protect others and not make traps to kill, right?”

“...”

Bichor did not answer Minhyuk. Why did he ask that?

Minhyuk continued to say, “Why do you think I took the challenge of getting more than 80% attack completion rate for three consecutive gates?”

Of course, Bichor did not know. Why did the human take on such a challenge?

Minhyuk reached the vicinity of the door in no time at all. As he took one step after another, gentleness and warmth in his voice as he said, “Bichon, I will be able to make a wish to the Gods once I achieve more than 80% attack completion rate in three gates.”

Finally, Minhyuk's feet reached the door. Once he arrived, he turned to look at Bichor with a gentle smile on his face and said, “My wish is for Bichor, who has fully repented for the sins that he committed, to be able to escape from the Abyss.”

At that moment...

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

A bright and blinding light fell on Bichor's body.

[The Gods of the Abyss has fulfilled Minhyuk's wish after he achieved at least 80% of the attack completion rate in three consecutive gates!]

[You will now be able to leave the Abyss and go anywhere that you want to go to.]

Minhyuk called out, “Bichor.”

Meanwhile, Bichor just looked at Minhyuk in complete disbelief as tears continued to gush out of his eyes. In the end, the strength in Bichor's legs left him and his entire body collapsed to the ground.

“Will you come with me?”

Bichor looked at Minhyuk for a long time before answering, “For you and for the people that are precious to you...”

Bichor grinned, revealing his white canines. However, tears were still dripping down his face.

“I vow to make traps that will protect you.”

[Bichor swears his eternal loyalty to you!]

It was at this moment that the greatest trap specialist vowed to follow Minhyuk.

Chapter 610: Is it Bichor or is it Bichon?

?Passive Skill: The God-like Trap Specialist

?Active Skill: Trap Creation

?Active Skill: Trap Explosion

Minhyuk stared at Bichor, who was covered in a bright light. He thought that perhaps Bichor would return to his true self once the light faded away. It seemed like Bichor also believed that he would return to his human form after swearing his eternal loyalty to Minhyuk. So, Bichor closed his teary eyes and accepted the light wholeheartedly.

“Fufufu. Even the Gods will fear the greatness and majesty that I will show to the world after this chaotic time...”

“...”

Minhyuk thought that his father, Bichor, Ali, and Death would have a grand time together if they all went on a party hunt. Of course, Minhyuk did not forget to closely examine Bichor’s stats window.

‘His attack and defense are on the lower side.’

However, it had to be known that Bichor did not have a combat class. He was someone that created various things like traps and the like.

‘The reason I chose Bichor was...’

After Minhyuk had put the puzzle pieces of Bichor’s stories together, he realized that the possibilities were endless. Also...

‘When it comes to fighting to protect those that are dear to us, no one will have a more shocking power than Bichor.’

Then, Minhyuk moved to check the detailed descriptions of Bichor’s skills.

Passive Skill

?Any trap that he produces will be at least at the Epic rank.

?Any trap that he produces will exert three to six times stronger power than traps created by ordinary trap specialists.

?There will be no major restrictions on the number of traps that he can create, no matter the kind.

?His speed at creating any kind of trap will be several times faster than the speed of ordinary trap specialists.

?Bichor has created a total of 1,574 Legendary rank traps so far.

?Bichor has created a total of 54 God rank traps so far.

‘Keok?!!!’

Minhyuk was shocked. Why? It was because Bichor’s passive skill ‘The God-like Trap Specialist’ was just ridiculous. Traps created by trap specialists followed the same ranking as the equipment and dishes created by blacksmiths and chefs.

‘From what I heard, the highest ranking trap that Alborr, the most famous trap specialist among all of the trap specialists, was only at the Legendary rank.’

Aside from that, the traps that Minhyuk was aware of were only at the Epic or Unique ranks. But what about Bichor?

‘All of the traps that he will create would at least have the Epic rank?’

However, what was more surprising was...

‘There’s no restrictions on the number of traps that he can make?!’

This was a truly overpowered advantage. In fact, the trap specialist Alborr could only make around 100 traps per day. But Bichor could make tens of thousands each day if he so wanted to. On top of that, his speed was said to be several times faster than ordinary trap specialists and even the power of his traps were several times stronger than their traps.

“Fufufufu! Look! Witness my greatness!”

“...”

Minhyuk stared at Bichor, wondering when the bright light would fade out. However, regardless of his looks and personality, there was no denying the fact that Bichor was an amazing existence. While waiting for the light to fade, Minhyuk decided to check Bichor’s other skills.

Active Skill

?Bichor can instantly make traps that he had created in the past.

?Number of possible Normal rank traps that can be recreated: 1,000

?Number of possible Unique rank traps that can be recreated: 500

?Number of possible Epic rank traps that can be recreated: 50

?Number of possible Legendary rank traps that can be recreated: 2

?Number of possible God rank traps that can be recreated: 1

“...???”

‘Wait a minute.’

Minhyuk doubted his eyes for a moment. Bichor could instantly make the traps that he created in the past? It was like saying that any of the dishes that Minhyuk had eaten in the past could appear immediately in front of him at the flick of a finger. What was more surprising was the fact that those traps also included Legendary-grade and God-grade ones.

“Hoo... Hoo...”

Minhyuk had to take deep breaths to calm himself down. The skill was just too overpowered. There was one thing that he had confirmed from this. Making two Legendary ranked traps would render Bichor’s skills to instantly create traps useless for three entire months. As for the God ranked trap, once it was installed, he would not be able to use the skill for an entire year.

‘But if we install 500 Unique rank traps and 50 Epic rank traps right this instant then...’

The combination of these traps displayed would likely be already close to the God-rank level. Minhyuk checked the remaining skill right away.

Active Skill

?All of the traps that are currently installed will simultaneously explode.

?When all traps were set to explode at the same time, the damage from the explosive power of the explosion is expected to be doubled.

Trap Explosion was a skill that seemed somewhat disappointing. After all, it was a waste of the traps that Bichor had installed to explode all at once. On top of that, it was not just one trap, but all of them. However, if the enemies were all within the range of the traps, then it would bring about an unimaginable destructive power upon them.

After checking everything, Minhyuk turned to look back at Bichor. Gradually, the bright and blinding light started to fade. Bichor, who was overcome with emotion and still had his eyes closed, said, "Finally, I have found my true self once again. My beautiful, elegant and cool figure... Fufu. Fufufufufu!"

"...???"

Bichor slowly opened his eyes and looked down at his hands, "That's right. My hands look like this. Fluffy and pink and covered with white fur... huh?"

Bichor's figure did not change.

That was right. Minhyuk could only make one wish, which was to help 'Bichor' escape from the Abyss, the Tomb of the Gods. The wish for him to return from a 'dog' to a 'person' could not be fulfilled.

As for Bichor? All he could do was howl, "*Woof, woof! Arf, arf! Grrrrrrr!*"

This was the story of how Minhyuk got a bichon.

The entire South Korea was left in shock after a notification rang for all of the players that were playing Athenae.

Ellie had decided to tear the edict apart. This action will result in the successive raids and invasions on the Asgan Continent, by the Luvien Empire. Once they breach the Asgan Continent's defensive lines, they would immediately head to Eivelis Empire and depose Ellie.?

Save Ellie and become the heroes of Asgan Continent, the continent that is on the verge of collapse!

All of the players were already expecting something like this to happen.

[Based on the second era's trailer, Ellie would be deposed from Eivelis Empire by the Luvien Empire's forces. This is the beginning of her true journey to becoming the Continental Emperor. Now, Ellie would be deposed and start to wander aimlessly all over the continent.]

[I know that this is just a story but as a player of Asgan Continent it hurts my heart just by knowing that I will witness how Ellie will fall ??. Can a player change the story?]

[Hey, person above me, aren't you being too immature with your words? Haha. Didn't you see how the Luvien Empire trampled on Argon Continent? This is not a situation that you can change just because the players will gather together.]

[It would already be a relief if the players of Asgan Continent helped defend the continent.]

It was only natural for Asgan Continent players to fight for the continent. So, why did someone say that it would be a relief if they did something like that? The reason was simple. It was because another set of notification rang in their ears the moment the Unlucky Sword Emperor quest appeared.

That was right. Two quests had been launched at the same time. And now...

[Poor Ellie...]

[...what will Ellie do?]

[...]

Some of the BJs were filming Ellie and they broadcasted how Ellie asked for troops from all of the empires and kingdoms in the continent.

However, as she stood on top of the ramparts, Ellie saw that no one had come. No kingdom, no empire and no foreigner guilds came at her call. Her face was completely expressionless as she looked around.

“Your Majesty...”

Ellie did not answer Ruth. She was fully aware that the Luvien Empire had intervened. Just like how they issued a quest, the Luvien Empire also issued one, promising various rewards, compensations and troops if they remained silent in their own kingdoms and empires.

Did she resent them? No. Because this was what she had expected from humans and their greed. All she did was stare blankly at the empty grounds beyond the ramparts.

“Aide Ruth.”

“Yes, Your Majesty.”

“I miss Minhyuk.”

Because unlike these people that turned their back on her, this boy would come running for her no matter what. And that thought alone made Ellie smile.

At the same time, in Iris Guild.

Marquis Khan, an executive of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, secretly arrived at Iris Guild’s territory. Iris Guild’s Callian had already decided to side with the ‘Luvien Empire’.

“Go back, Khan. We will not fight for Eivelis Empire. They will ultimately face their defeat.”

They would not fight for Asgan Continent, instead, they would side with Luvien Empire and lay the entire continent to waste. However, Khan still came and delivered Minhyuk’s words to him. After hearing him out, Iris Guild Master Callian pondered for a moment.

“The story is something that we change... Interesting.”

Callian looked back at the guild members that he had chosen to send to the Luvien Empire and said, “The plans have changed. We’re going to war to help the Eivelis Empire!!!”

In another place. Beyond the Heavens’ Vice Guild Master Genie delivered Minhyuk’s words to Orodith Kingdom’s King Eren. Eren smiled in amusement after hearing the words, “A new history will be written in the Asgan Continent...” King Eren finally made his decision, “Send support troops to Eivelis Empire!!!”

The Beyond the Heavens’ executives started to arrive in each and every nation in the continent.

In another place, Chairman Kang Minhoo, who attended the meeting with the directors, looked sad for no reason at all.

“...Is there something wrong, Chairman?”

“No. It’s nothing.”

“But you look very sad?”

“...The truth is,” Chairman Kang Minhoo began to spill the beans, “Not too long ago, I went to another continent. However, the Luvien Empire’s army treated me horribly, suppressing me, mocking me and trampling on me.”

This was an outright lie. Chairman Kang Minhoo was lying. However, there were tears in his eyes!!! Everyone felt like tears would start to drip down his cheeks at any moment! And the moment everyone heard his words...

“...”

“...”

“...!”

Crash!

“How dare they do that to the Chairman...!”

“Who are those bastards?!”

“Those bastards!!!”

...the board members jumped up in fury. But Kang Minhoo shook his head and said, “No, this is my business. All of you should stay out of it. It’s alright, I just feel a bit sad over this matter. Everyone experiences something like this, right? Of course, the thought of quitting this game because of that crossed my mind... But you guys should never get involved!!! Ah. But from what I heard Luvien Empire is going to war with Eivelis Empire. Which side are you going to choose?”

The ones that were quick-witted immediately understood. They quickly whipped their mobile phones out the moment they left the conference room and...

“Tell the members of the legal team that the chairman has been attacked by the Luvien Empire’s Army! What? Why am I calling about that?! Of course it’s because I’m going to the Eivelis Empire!”

“Let’s gather in Eivelis Empire!!!”

“All members of Uncle Legend Guild, gather at Eivelis Empire!!!”

Ilhwa Group was a global company and rumors spread fast.

China.

Russia.

Japan.

Vietnam.

Thailand.

There were people that respected and loved Chairman Kang Minhoo in all of these places.

Ellie remained standing on the same spot. Before she knew it, the sun had begun to set.

“We should stop now and go back inside.”

Ellie remained silent despite Ruth’s words. But then, at that moment...

Vwoooooooooooooong—

The loud blare of a horn resounded in the area. Ellie’s eyes immediately turned to the direction where the sound came from. There, she saw dozens of allied guilds from Asgan Continent marching toward Eivelis Empire. Their numbers almost reached 500,000, a truly shocking number. Standing in front of them was Iris Guild Master Callian, wearing an unknown black mask on his face.

Then, all over the place...

Vwoooooooooooooong—

Vwoooooooooooooong—

The horns’ loud blares rang loudly and engulfed the entire Eivelis Empire. Large troops began to pour out from the east, the west, the north, the south, everywhere. Sword Emperor Ellie looked at them and estimated that there were roughly 3.5 million troops that were marching toward where they were.

At the same time.

President Kang Taehoon was currently standing beside Supercomputer Athenae.

Just the other day, Kang Taehoon asked Athenae what Ellie’s chances were in overcoming this story. And she answered...

[0%. There’s absolutely no chance of that happening.]

Athenae answered coldly. But now...

[4%. The chances have increased to 4%.]

“...”

Kang Taehoon felt the flames of passion start to burn deep in his heart.

“The world that the players have created...”

That world was Athenae.