

Gourmet 621

Chapter 621: Defensive War (Part 2)

Ellie and Minhyuk were extremely close. Ellie could risk her life to fight for Minhyuk, while Minhyuk would do the same. However, in the face of a 'war', the two of them had to be careful.

Minhyuk could not just fight for Ellie with everything that he got against Luvien Empire's invasion. This was because...

'If I get too involved, the people will not recognize Noona and Eivelis Empire, even if they win.'

That was right. Minhyuk was sure that words like that would continue to be heard over and over again. It was also for this reason that Minhyuk decided to hide the members of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom under the name of 'Dark Breaker Team', before sending them out as support.

Of course, Minhyuk had thought of a way to help Ellie. He recalled a conversation that he had in the past with her.

'This sword has been passed down for 500 years and is a symbol of the Eivelis Empire's emperor.'

'Wow. Then, that must be a very great and notable sword, right?'

'A notable sword? No. This sword has lost most of its power. The only reason I'm still carrying this sword is to honor the previous emperors and my useless pride, you know?'

Based on the conversation that they had, Minhyuk could tell that Ellie was carrying, and using, a sword that would break at any moment. That was when he figured out a way to help her.

"I will make a wish."

The moment Minhyuk came back to the Abyss with Bichor, he cleared three of the gates as fast as he could, with an attack completion rate of at least 80%. According to their proposals, the Gods of the Abyss would have to grant one of Minhyuk's wishes to the best of their abilities if he could clear three consecutive gates with an 80% attack completion rate or more.

"I want to borrow the powers of the God of Blacksmiths Hepas, to make a weapon."

[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 have inherited the power of the God of Blacksmiths Hepas.]

[You can temporarily use the God of Blacksmiths' skills!]

[You can temporarily use the God of Blacksmiths' repair skills!]

[You can temporarily use the God of Blacksmiths' recreation skills!]

[Hepas has borrowed your body and will now make a weapon for you!]

According to the legends of the God of Blacksmiths Hepas, he was someone that had created more than twenty six God-rank weapons in the past. In fact, it would not be an exaggeration to say that all

of the God-rank weapons that currently existed on all of the continents were born under Hepas' hands. Indeed, the only person that could turn Ruven's Unrepaired Sword into a new one was Hepas, and only Hepas.

Minhyuk was actually looking forward to this. He obviously already owned a ridiculously overpowered God-rank weapon, in the form of the 'Continent Destroyer Sword'. However, there was a high chance that the sword, reborn from 'Ruven's Unrepaired Sword' under the God of Blacksmiths Hepas' hands, could produce more power than his own sword.

'What kind of weapon do you want? What materials do you have with you?' God of Blacksmiths Hepas had asked.

Minhyuk had told Hepas about 'Ruven's Unrepaired Sword' in answer to his questions. Minhyuk had then taken out Ruven's Unrepaired Sword and disassembled it. To be exact, it was Hepas that disassembled the sword.

'So, this is a sword that I had created.'

Minhyuk smiled lightly at Hepas' words.

Indeed, it was a sword that Hepas originally created under fierce pressure and coercion from the Gods. That was why Minhyuk thought that it would be much easier for Hepas to produce a new weapon with this.

'It's impossible.'

"...How come?"

However, the bolt out of the blue had brought a confused and doubtful look on Minhyuk's face.

'This sword was made with the coercion and oppression from the other Gods. That's why I made it impossible to repair this sword. The materials that I used were mainly materials that are very hard to melt again. It's impossible with my current level of recreation.'

It was impossible even with God's level of recreation? No. Nothing was impossible.

"Then, what if your recreation skill level increased?"

'It might be possible. However, it's not like I can increase my recreation skill here...'

"Let's have a meal first."

'...??'

It was only after a while did the God of Blacksmiths realize what Minhyuk's words meant. When Hepas finally thought about it, he realized that the man in front of him was the successor of the Food God.

Hepas was currently inside Minhyuk's body to help him create a weapon. Because of that, Minhyuk only needed to eat a dish to temporarily increase his recreation skill. Simply put, it has become a collaboration between the Food God and the God of Blacksmiths.

Minhyuk made some spicy stir-fried pork and steamed eggs.

‘...I’m getting hungry,’ Hepas said, an unknown feeling of emptiness hitting him after seeing Minhyuk eat.

And after eating everything...

[You have eaten Spicy Stir-Fried Pork.]

[You can increase a chosen skill’s level by +2.]

[The buff will remain for two days.]

Depending on the ingredients used on the dish, one could choose a skill and increase that chosen skill’s level. And the ingredients that Minhyuk used were the ingredients that he got when he cleared Arlene’s Abyss Gate.

“Is it possible now?”

‘It’s possible.’

For a moment, Hepas wondered what kind of guy Minhyuk was. But he shook the thought away and immediately began to take apart Ruven’s Unrepaired Sword. As he took apart and melted the sword, he asked, *‘What weapon should I remake it into?’*

“A sword.”

‘There will be one requirement.’

“What do you mean by requirement?”

Minhyuk could not help but think that Ruven’s Unrepaired Sword was much more complicated than what he initially thought.

‘I made this sword for Ruven against my will. During the production of this sword, my negative feelings and thoughts were embedded deep in this sword. That’s why if I remake this into a sword, the newly created sword will not be able to exert its full power unless the person that will wield it is ‘recognized’ by this sword. And even if that person is completely recognized by the sword, they will not be able to properly use its power.’

“I don’t think you have to worry about that,” Minhyuk said, smiling lightly as he started to make the sword with Hepas.

Minhyuk was currently feeling so excited. In fact, Minhyuk knew that he had not done much for his Ellie noona. Instead, he had been the one that was always receiving a lot of help from her.

Claaaaaaaang— Clang— Claaaaaaaang—

A delighted smile appeared on Minhyuk’s face, as the sound of the bellows continuously being pumped spread in the area as his powerful hammering rang loudly.

‘Manning the bellows requires a very high DEX. Even if you have inherited my skills, you will probably not have an easy...’ Hepas trailed off, amazed with how refined Minhyuk’s movements were when he manned the bellows.

Minhyuk, who was manning the bellows, had an extremely high DEX. It was to the point that it could be described as beyond someone's imagination. Just like that, Minhyuk continued to hammer and work on the weapon that he was making.

'That's quite an impressive concentration,' Hepas mumbled unknowingly.

In fact, the slightest distraction when making a weapon would result in flaws. But Minhyuk was so focused that he did not even hear Hepas' murmurs. When the sword was finally completed, both Minhyuk and Hepas were delighted.

'This sword will either become a Normal-rank sword or a God-rank sword, depending on who uses it.'

Minhyuk agreed with Hepas' words. However, Minhyuk still had one more favor to ask of him.

"Since it's going to be for her, it would be nice to add some cool and chic effect on the sword."

'Effect?'

"Yes. For my noona."

Minhyuk recalled the battle with Marquess Leona. Back then, Ellie demonstrated a very unexpected facet of herself.

"She likes getting everyone's attention."

"...???"

The fact that Ellie, like Gremory and the rest, was an attention seeker was undeniable. Just like that, the effect that Minhyuk wanted to include on the newly born God-rank sword was added.

Shwaaaaaaa—!

Ellie, who was still kneeling, groaned from the powerful force that flowed through her palms the moment she grabbed the sword that flew toward her. It was like the sword was struggling so that it would not belong to anybody. However, not long after, that powerful force began to recognize Ellie, accepting her completely. At that moment, she felt like she was hallucinating and hearing things.

'You deserve my recognition.'

Hoooo—

Ellie breathed out lightly, the power fluctuating in her body slowly getting mixed together and healing all of her injuries completely. Immediately after...

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—

A red energy burst out from Ellie's sword and devoured 200,000 of the enemy troops in an instant, shaking the heavens and earth. At that moment, all 200,000 enemy troops disappeared without a trace.

Meanwhile, Ellie received a new set of notifications.

[You will now be able to walk the path of one of the Continental Gods: Sword God.]

[The previous Sword God Valen has recognized you!]

[If you choose to ascend and become the Sword God, you will be able to obtain divinity!]

[All of your skills and stats will dramatically increase once you ascend and become the Sword God!]

Since a long time ago, only people that transcended the limits of a human being would be able to ascend and become a Continental God. At this very moment, that great title would also belong to Ellie.

As for the sword that Ellie held...

[You have received 100% recognition from the Great Sovereign's Sword!]

[You can wield the power of the Great Sovereign's Sword!]

?STR, AGI and STM will increase by 44%.

?Passive Skill: Sword Expert Level Mastery will increase to Level 9.

?Cutting Power will increase by 70%, Stabbing Power will increase by 60%.

?Critical Attack Hit Rate will increase by 60%.

?All Swordsmanship Skill Level will increase by +3.

?Active Skill: Torrential Sword

?Passive Skill: 1.8x Unconditional Basic Attack.

?Passive Skill: 4x Critical Hit

?Active Skill: Sovereign's Majesty.

?Passive Skill: Cool and Chic Effect for Ellie.

"...?"

Ellie took note of the last effect listed just above the description, '*Cool and Chic Effect for Ellie?*'? It was obvious that it was an effect that Minhyuk had specially prepared for her.

The blade of the sword was smooth and beautiful. There was even the word 'Ellie' engraved on one side of the blade. And with that...

[All of the Continental Gods are looking at you with anticipation.]

[All of the Continental Gods are looking forward to the birth of the new Sword God.]

Many of the Gods were watching Ellie with rapt attention.

Above her were hundreds of dragons. And the one that was leading them? He was the one that stood out to Ellie the most. Ellie looked up at the skies for a moment, a bitter smile hanging on her face as she made eye contact with Minhyuk.

Minhyuk could tell what she wanted, even if he did not hear her say it. So, Minhyuk began to tweak the system for his noona that loved attention(?). He used Elizabeth's power to write a new set of words above Ellie's head.

Ellie, who was forced to her knees, slowly stood up. The entire world watched and followed each and every single one of her moves with bated breaths.

Just now, the unidentified sword that was held tightly in her arms shot out a red energy that swept away and devoured 200,000 enemy troops. Everyone even heard the fact that Ellie was chosen and recognized to become one of the Continental Gods. All of them were very moved and grateful that they were able to witness this historic moment.

Then, a black energy slowly seeped out from Ellie's sword and encroached upon the surrounding area. This was none other than the 'Cool and Chic Effect for Ellie'. This black energy engulfed the entire 1.5 million Luvien Imperial Army.

The moment Ellie took a step forward, the new words that Minhyuk had written began to appear above her head.

[Sword Emperor Ellie has been chosen to become one of the Continental Gods, the Sword God.]

The 1.5 million enemy troops flinched with every step that Ellie took. Then, Ellie looked back.

[She was an empress before she was a sword master.]

[She loved her people.]

[She treasured and cared for her subordinates.]

[And she...]

"I refuse to become the Sword God."

[...has turned down the opportunity to become a Sword God for her people and the Eivelis Empire.]

"I am my people's pillar."

[Of her people.]

"I am my people's shield."

[By her people.]

"I am my people's sword."

[For her people. She was simply their emperor.]

"That's why..." Ellie uttered, her gaze cold and frigid as she looked at the Luvien Imperial Army.

[And the Eivelis Empire's Emperor will write a new chapter today.]

“...kneel.”

[You have triggered the Sovereign’s Majesty!]

Vwoooooooooong—

Vwoooooooooong—

Vwoooooooooong—

Vwoooooooooong—

In front of the entire world, the 1.5 million Luvien Empire troops were forced to kneel down in front of Ellie.

[This day will be recorded in history as the day the Luvien Empire was defeated by Continental Emperor Ellie.]

Chapter 622: Defensive War (Part 2)

The God-rank artifact Great Sovereign’s Sword could exert a much stronger power than Minhyuk’s Continent Destroyer Sword, especially when a great monarch and sovereign was wielding it.

The ‘Sovereign’s Majesty’ was an active skill attached to the Great Sovereign’s Sword. The effects of this skill would be maximized the more enemies stood in front of the great sovereign. It was a skill that was similar to Minhyuk’s ‘Earth King’s Authority: Worship’, with certain differences.

For one, the more enemies there were, the more the Sovereign’s Majesty would be recognized, which would force all of those against the skill user to kneel. It was also a skill that could give the enemies an abnormal state upon witnessing the monarch’s majesty in front of them.

[The Great Sovereign will bring punishment upon you!]

[You will not be able to come back to your senses under the majesty of the Great Sovereign!]

[All of your stats will decrease by 20%. Your physical and magical defenses will decrease by 30%!]

The entire world cheered.

[Ellie refused to take the position of the Sword God and chose to become the emperor of the people, by the people, and for the people!]

[The great Luvien Imperial Army is kneeling in front of her majesty!]

The commentators could not hide their excitement. However, the commanding officers of the Luvien Empire thought that it was just one sword that was in Ellie’s hand. It was merely a sword. Besides, what could she do after refusing the position of the Sword God? All they could tell from this was that Ellie was a fool.

But then, something very unexpected happened. The space in the skies above them was torn apart, as a staircase made of clouds appeared and a man slowly descended. This great man’s name was Nerva Sephiroth.

Nerva Sephiroth could no longer sit and wait to know what was going on with this war. Of course, it had to be known that it was not his main body that appeared on the battlefield. He was actually using the power ‘Remote Monarch’. Nerva Sephiroth would not be able to use any of his powers here. However, his body would still be safe even if he died here.

As he appeared on the battlefield, Nerva Sephiroth could not help but sigh, *‘How did this happen...’*

He could not believe what was in front of him. What kind of existences were dragons? Dragons were the greatest beings on earth. They were arrogant and majestic beings. And these very same dragons were roaring in the skies above, ready to fight for Ellie. However, the fact that Ellie refused to become the Sword God would be the most decisive reason for Eivelis Empire’s downfall today.

Nerva Sephiroth sat on his ‘throne’ in the skies as he pondered over everything. Then, he declared, “Those that would retreat will be met with death. Show them the greatness and majesty of the great Luvien Empire.”

With Nerva Sephiroth’s words, the strong men among the 1.5-million troops began to step forward. They were people that even a child from any nation would stop crying at the mere mention of their names.

There were also many players among them. Players could only receive quest rewards if they were a citizen of Asgan Continent, or a part of the Luvien Empire. However, players from the other parts of the world could obtain ‘EXP’, ‘honor’, and ‘gold’, simply by participating in the war. On top of that, there were many players that wanted to see the downfall of the Asgan Continent.

There were quite a few global top rankers that had stepped forward this time. These rankers were able to break away from the ‘Sovereign’s Majesty’ faster than the rest of the troops. Because of that, they were able to charge towards Ellie. However, the hundreds of dragons, the ordinary soldiers of the Luvien Empire, Minhyuk, and the Eivelis Imperial Army did not move. Just like that, a hundred strong men and rankers charged towards Ellie.

Nerva Sephiroth jeered, *‘A trivial emperor like you will not be able to change anything just by having a different sword.’*

It was similar to everyone’s circumstances during birth. Just like how Ellie and Nerva Sephiroth were both emperors, but Nerva was the one that inherited the powers of the Battle God. That was the difference between them. If Nerva used his real ‘power’ here, then Ellie would be helpless against him. It had to be known that Nerva Sephiroth was a warrior first, before an emperor. However, he was currently under restriction of the world and was not allowed to meddle in this story.

There were some global rankers that were very familiar with taking the lead for the Luvien Empire. Their reason for taking the vanguard?

‘If we show our good side to Nerva Sephiroth, then we might be able to find a new path for ourselves.’

‘Perhaps we can also become a noble in the Luvien Empire.’

Becoming a noble of the Luvien Empire, the empire that would lead Athenae’s second era, would be worth an astronomical amount. In other words, they would be rich. Yes. They were rankers that were blinded by greed.

Among these rankers standing in the vanguard was Korea’s number one tanker in the Tanker Rankings, Golden Shield Valdar. Golden Shield Valdar was a strong player with a very scandalous personality. He was originally a member of one of the guilds, but he left his guild to participate in

this war and flatter his way up in the Luvien Empire. It could be said that Golden Shield Valdar's shield could easily block a dragon's breath. And...

"God of Shields."

...he had a skill that could easily multiply his defensive power by several times. On top of that, Valdar was very confident with this skill, especially after he had increased God of Shields' level just recently. As the level of the skill increased, more special effects were attached to it. If he defended against an enemy's attack, the shield's durability would not decrease and even his enemy's weapon would be forced to stick on his shield.

In other words, Valdar would be able to fluster Ellie the moment her sword got stuck on his shield. Of course, Ellie slashed towards Valdar's shield first.

"The moment my shield holds on to Ellie's sword, go in all at once...!"

But the moment the sword struck the middle of Valdar's square shield...

Crack—

Stab—

"Keheooooook?!"

Valdar was horrified. Ellie's sword pierced through the center of Valdar's square shield and stabbed through his chest. However, the most surprising part was...

[Your HP has dropped below 80%.]

"...?"

'What kind of bullshit is this?'

Ellie did not even trigger her skill. She just stabbed Valdar with her sword that had an effect which released black energy in her surroundings. Yet, Korea's number one tanker ranker Valdar's HP was reduced by 20%. Valdar's HP was three times higher than most ordinary warriors, knights, or any other close combat classes. Even his shield was pierced through.

"What kind of..."

Then, at that moment...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Ellie cut through Valdar with her sword, as a pleasant notification rang in her ears.

[Critical Strike x4!]

On the other hand, a notification that made Valdar lose all hope rang in his ears.

[Your HP has reached zero.]

[You have been forced to log out.]

[You, someone that has gone to Luvien's Empire's side, died without much contribution.]

[You are a disgrace to the Luvien Empire!]

[You will receive harsh criticisms from the citizens of the Luvien Empire!]

[Twice the normal penalty for forced logout will be applied!]

That was right. Since these players dared to betray their own continent, the Asgan Continent, they were bound to suffer penalties that were more severe.

Slash—

Ellie used another basic attack to cut down another one of the players.

Among these troops was a young swordswoman that had made a name for herself in the Luvien Empire, Guinness. Guinness did not even have the chance to cross swords with Ellie, dying easily after getting stabbed in her abdomen.

Baaaaaaaang—

Ellie threw a spear master, who was hailed as his own kingdom's 'best', high into the sky. The spear master died high up in the skies, his hands losing its grip on the spear in his hands.

It was a short display of overwhelming strength. But in that time, 100 strong NPCs and players died under Ellie's hands. How long did it take?

One of the players muttered, "Two minutes..."

Neva Sephiroth, who sat on his throne, felt his hands get soaked with cold sweat.

Then, Ellie pointed her sword at him and said, "Hey, Nerva."

"...???"

Neva Sephiroth could not help but feel flustered. No matter how much of an enemy they were, it was too much to say 'Hey, Nerva' to another emperor, right? However, the grace and elegance that was overflowing from her body made even her vulgar tone of speech somehow beautiful.

"Are you ready to get beaten up?"

Fury colored Nerva's face. How dare a mere emperor like her try to fight against someone like him, someone that had inherited the power of the Battle God?!

Ellie took an elegant step forward, her fiery red hair fluttering behind her while her sword shone brightly under the glare of the sun. Ellie's dark eyes glared in front of her, as she started to run towards Nerva.

"Make that impertinent and rude b*tch kneel in front of me!!!"

At Nerva's orders, the 1.5 million Luvien Imperial troops began to charge towards Ellie. Even though Ellie was still running, the dragons and the Eivelis Imperial Army still did not move. Nerva thought that they were all foolish and arrogant.

'How dare this lowly emperor...'

Did she think that she would be able to reach Nerva with the 1.5 million troops that were standing in between them? But she was not alone. The man standing on Dragon Elder Velach's back suddenly tore a parchment.

This parchment was something that Minhyuk had received each time he cleared a God's trial in the Abyss. The power that each of this parchment possessed was equivalent to the one that Minhyuk had shown when he wielded the Swords of the Gods of the Abyss before.

The parchment that Minhyuk just tore was none other than the Parchment of the God of Life. And the moment it got torn apart, a man appeared next to the running Ellie. The man was the very same man that risked his life just a few hours ago for Ellie. He was Luvarc, the son of a poor farmer who became the Knight Commander of the Phoenix Knights, the Eivelis Empire's Imperial Knights.

Then, another knight appeared on Ellie's left side. Not long after, all of the troops of the Eivelis Imperial Army that died a few hours prior appeared, charging towards their enemies once again.

“Uwooooooooooooo!!!”

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

“For Eivelis Empireeeeeee!!!”

“For Her Majesty Ellieeeeeeeee!!!”

The number of Eivelis Empire's troops that have been revived reached around 700,000. Ellie, who was running at the vanguard, looked at Minhyuk with a small smile on her face.

Minhyuk smiled at her and said, “Noona, run.”

Then, he tore another parchment. At the same time...

[You have eaten Spam and Warm Rice.]

[Legendary Grade.]

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

[All of your skills' level will increase by +1.]

[Your physical attack and skill attack will increase by 7%.]

[You can increase one of your skill's level by +4. The chosen skill can only be used once.]

[The buff duration is three days.]

Just like when the Food God's Sword was wielded, Minhyuk was able to make a food even though he did not cook it, and Ellie was able to eat it without really having to eat it.

Ellie knew this dish very well. It was the dish that Minhyuk cooked for her the first time they met. Ellie knew that the child trusted her completely and that the child would come for her sake no matter what.

At the same time, Ellie's sword flew to the skies. The effects of the dish that she consumed had mentioned that she could increase one of her skills' level by +4. The skill that she chose to increase was none other than the Torrential Sword.

What were the original effects of the Great Sovereign's Sword's Torrential Sword?

[More than 10,000 swords would appear and create a torrential downpour, dealing 4,000% damage, while ignoring the enemies' defenses!]

Right now, the skill's level was temporarily increased by +4.

[More than 100,000 swords would appear and create a torrential downpour, dealing 7,000% damage while ignoring the enemies' defenses!]

[Dozens of violent and powerful swords will follow your orders!]

Rumbleeee!!!

The skies above them roared. And the sword that rose high up in the skies fell on the head of the knight that blocked Ellie's path.

Stab—

Then, the knight turned into black ash that disappeared into nothingness.

Shwaaaaaaa—

Then, hundreds of thousands of swords rained down and covered the ground. Amidst this torrential rain of swords, dozens of swords flew forward, following the movements of Ellie's arms.

'Sword Manipulation.'

Sword Manipulation was something that could only be used by those that had reached the highest level of swordsmanship. And the dozens of swords that pierced through Ellie's enemies amidst the torrential rain of blades was a higher level version of that.

In just an instant, almost 80,000 of the Luvien Imperial Army had been swept away. With Ellie creating a gap in their ranks, her comrades were able to charge forward and open a path for her.

Ellie cut down one of the enemy soldiers, using his shoulder as a springboard to leap up to the skies. Her destination? The place where Nerva was sitting proudly and arrogantly on his throne.

Nerva felt cold sweat drip down his back. He was a great emperor, and someone that inherited the power of the Battle God. He was the creme de la creme, and the one that would devour the entire world in the future. But this very same Nerva was...

Gulp—

...gulping dryly from nervousness. At that moment, tens of thousands of soldiers and knights leapt forward and charged towards Ellie. Seeing that, Nerva Sephiroth felt delighted. The reason why his army existed was so they could protect him. These soldiers would not let Ellie reach him easily. But then...

Rumbleeeeeee—

Rumbleeeeeee—

A huge meteor started to fall from the skies. It seemed like the dragons were finally making their move. Ellie flew forward, the meteors decorating the scenery behind her. However, the meteors descended faster than she, or her enemies, could fly.

Baaaaaaang—

The highest tiered magic, Meteor, fell down from the skies and devoured the soldiers that leapt to stop Ellie's advance!

Leaving the Meteors behind her, Ellie once again moved to approach Nerva. This time, tens of thousands of arrows were fired towards her, and her alone.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

Nerva cackled in delight at the sight of tens of thousands of arrows covering the skies, "Keuhahahahahahahahaha! This is a place that an uncivilized mongrel like you can never reach...!"

However, Nerva's voice soon trailed off. A man appeared in front of Ellie. The man's face looked completely different from the face that Ellie was used to, but those eyes and that soft smile caused Ellie to be sure that the man in front of him was her younger brother, Minhyuk.

Minhyuk grabbed a hold of Ellie, flying to the skies with his cape carrying the symbol of the Eivelis Empire fluttering behind him. Immediately after that, he took an artifact out.

'A *frying pan*...?' Nerva thought, confusion evident on his face.

Minhyuk had not used his frying pan for a very long time. This was because using his frying pan with his current level in the game would be less useful than his other artifacts. However, at this moment, his frying pan was the best artifact, and the most suitable weapon to use. Besides, this would be the last time that he would use this frying pan in front of Nerva Sephiroth.

"Frying Pan Gigantification."

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

The frying pan grew, creating a huge shadow that covered the ground beneath them.

"Heuuuuuuup!" Minhyuk groaned as he turned around and rotated Hepas' Legendary Frying Pan, which immediately collided with the tens of thousands of arrows that were aiming for Ellie.

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

The veins on Minhyuk's forearms bulged at the pressure.

"Euaaaaaaaaaack!"

"Keuaaaaaaaaaack!"

The archers on the ground shrieked and screamed from the damage that they received from the frying pan's damage reflection. Ellie smiled softly at Minhyuk, who looked back at her.

Minhyuk was Ellie's beloved younger brother, her friend, a child that sometimes commanded respect from the people around him, and a man that sometimes acted more childish than a child.

The child in front of her reached his hand out to her. It was with his help that allowed her to protect Eivelis Empire.

Grab—

Ellie held the big and warm hand that reached out to her.

“Noona.”

“Yeah.”

“Thanks.”

“That should be my line.”

The two looked at each other with bright smiles on their faces. Then, Minhyuk gathered the strength in his arms as he...

“Go and take him down.”

Boooooom—

...threw Ellie forward with all his might. Ellie shot through the air, toward Nerva Sephiroth like a bullet. For the first time, Nerva Sephiroth got up from his seat in a startle. With fear evident in his gaze, he looked at the ‘measly’ emperor of the empire that was supposed to fall and collapse today.

Staaaaaab—

Ellie stabbed Nerva’s heart with her sword.

Slash—

She looked at this great and aloof being and spat coldly, “Get lost, you f*cking bastard.”

Chapter 623: Defensive War (Part 2)

Ellie’s sword pierced through Nerva Sephiroth’s heart.

The prideful and arrogant emperor, Nerva Sephiroth, the very same figure that was due to lead Athenae’s second era, looked at Ellie with terror, while both of his hands held onto the sword in his chest tightly.

The people watching the broadcast held their breaths.

At Joy Co. Ltd.’s headquarters, President Kang Taehoon clenched his sweaty fists tightly. Even Special Players Management Team Leader Park Minggyu and Lee Minhwa were looking at the monitor with incredulous expressions.

In another corner of the world, Alexander, who was watching the TV broadcast in his penthouse, gulped dryly. “Players and NPCs changed the main episode...?”

It was not only that. This scene caused a huge commotion all over the world. According to the notifications that first appeared on top of Ellie’s head, she was supposed to lay low for a while. They did not know how she would become the Continental Emperor, but this was the ‘framework’

that Joy Co. Ltd. had set for her. Somehow, right at this very moment, that framework was crumbling.

The entire world began to think of the same thing: perhaps *they* could also change Athenae's storylines.

The ones that made this possible were Minhyuk and Ellie.

"Beyond the Heavens is so cool."

"Amazing! Eivelis Empire! Thank you, Ellie!!!"

The entire world cheered for them.

At the same time, in the Athenae world, Nerva Sephiroth's dragon blood dripped down the sword, as he looked at Ellie with disbelief.

Drip— drip, drip— drip—

On top of that, the shock of the words that Ellie told him still lingered in his ears.

*'Get lost, you f*cking bastard!'*

This was the first time that someone dared to say something like that to him, a great emperor. And for the first time, Nerva felt afraid.

"Urk...!"

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Blood spurted out of Nerva's chest the moment Ellie pulled her sword out with a rough motion.

The body created by the Remote Monarch skill was nothing more than a puppet. Because of that, Nerva Sephiroth could not use any kind of force, nor utilize his strong and oppressive power. However, the fact that he could show up in the middle of a fierce battlefield was symbolic in and of itself.

Just like that, blood continued to flow down Nerva's chest.

"Your Majesty...!"

"Your Majesty Nerva...!"

"How, how can this be?"

Nerva was akin to a god for the troops of the Luvien Imperial Army. Seeing him like this made them feel despair and frustration. On the other hand, the Eivelis Imperial Army cheered loudly.

[The Luvien Imperial Army's morale has decreased sharply!]

[All of your stats will decrease by 10%!]

[Your Physical and Magical Defenses will decrease by 5%.]

Ellie pushed the staggering Nerva Sephiroth without any hesitation.

"Aaaaaaaaaack...!"

“Your Majestyyyyyy! Your Majesty!!!!!”

The Luvien Imperial Army immediately rushed forward to receive their falling dragon.

Fall—

In the end, Nerva Sephiroth’s body fell safely in the arms of his troops. Nevertheless, this was a disgrace for him. A stain on his record and something that would remain in history forever.

Gradually, Nerva’s eyes closed.

[Eivelis Empire’s Empress Ellie has killed Nerva Sephiroth’s clone.]

[The rewards for those that fought for Ellie and the Eivelis Empire will be distributed based on their contributions.]

However, although it looked like it was over, the war was still ongoing. In fact, Nerva had not truly died and there were still 1.5 million troops remaining. Now, the Eivelis Imperial Army and those that took arms for them had to force the Luvian Army to retreat.

“For His Majesty Nerva!!!”

“Do not show mercy to the b*tch that dared touch His Majesty!!!”

Although the system had declared that their morale had dropped, the momentum that the Luvien soldiers were showing became more ferocious than before. However, the morale and momentum of the players that sided with the Luvien Imperial Army dropped significantly.

‘No. Are you telling me that the Luvien Empire can be defeated?’

‘If the Luvien Empire loses then... the penalty that we will receive will be...’

‘Those that chose to fight for Eivelis Empire will enjoy greater prosperity and wealth.’

That was right. If the Eivelis Empire won this war against the Luvien Empire, they would serve as a model and an idol for the other nations. With this, Ellie’s story would spread throughout the continent. Various empires and kingdoms would then strive to forge friendship and ties with the Eivelis Empire. Of course, this was based on the assumption that the war ended with their complete victory.

If the Luvien Empire was the dragon, then the Eivelis Empire was a tiger.

“Don’t leave a single one of them behind. Wipe them all out,” Ellie ordered, frost evident in her voice.

With Nerva’s clone’s death, the morale of the Eivelis Imperial Army soared through the skies.

[The Eivelis Imperial Army’s morale has reached an all time high.]

[All of your stats will increase by 10%. Your skill damage will increase by 20%.]

[The troops have forgotten their fear, they have gained the strength of a thousand soldiers.]

“Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

The Eivelis Imperial Army began their final battle against the Luvien Imperial Army.

“Overlord’s Technique.”

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Among them was the strongest uncle, Overlord Raldo. The blazing flames that shot out from his sword devoured thousands of the Luvien Imperial Troops around him. And right next to him were Khan and Ares. The two men, who were wearing capes carrying the symbol of the Eivelis Empire while hiding their faces, beat up all of the enemies in front of them. And that was not all.

Shwaaaaaaa—

“Splitting Heaven and Earth.”

Beyond the Heavens’ Vice Guild Master and one of Korea’s top rankers, Genie, swung her whip. Her whip stretched out in a straight line and slammed down strongly like an iron mace falling down from the skies.

Baaaaaaaaaang—

The attack killed around 200 soldiers of the Luvien Empire.

“Keuaaaaaaaaack!”

“Graaaaaaaaaa!”

In the skies above, there were hundreds of roaring and growling dragons.

Dragon Elder Velach had promised Minhyuk that he and his kin would come to the aid of the humans once, should the Beyond the Heavens’ King Minhyuk call for them. And this was the time for them to fulfill that promise. Riding on the backs of these dragons, who were casting their magic, were the executives of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Rumbleeeee—

Rumbleeeeeee—

The sky was torn apart as dozens of meteors covered in flames fell down. *Baaaaaaaaaang—*

Baaaaaaaaaang—

Although the Luvien Empire’s imperial mages hurriedly cast their shields and barriers, the dragons were the creators of magic. Their power was not at a level where humans could stop them.

“Comraaaaaaade!!!”

Ali, who usually cried ‘Frieeend!!!’ changed his words and cried out ‘Comrade!!!’ Today, he was with them. And on the dragon right next to the one Ali was riding stood a man wearing a black robe covering his body and a clown mask on his face.

In the sky above them, a great army slowly appeared. The robed man stood on the dragon’s back and watched the hundreds of thousands of his summoned undead troops fall down.

“Wipe them out.”

Led by the dozens of red-armored Death Knights, the army of undead charged forward and joined the battlefield.

Vwiiiiiiiiing—

Then, another dragon passed by the dragon that Death was riding on. On that dragon stood Root. “99, 103, 106, 109,” Root counted his kills as his arrows pierced through his enemies’ vital points.

However, everyone’s attention was focused on the man standing on the back of Dragon Elder Velach, who towered over all of the dragons present. For the viewers all over the world, Minhyuk was living the best dream that they could only dream of, as he commanded hundreds of dragons while standing above them with his stylish armor and cape.

That was until now...

Chew, chew, chew—

Everyone saw Minhyuk eating something. In fact, Minhyuk had started eating the moment Ellie stabbed Nerva’s chest with her sword. The dishes were something that he had made in advance so he could use two of his most overpowered skills together.

The first skill that he used was none other than ‘Double Food’.

Active Skill

And the next one was Minhyuk’s Absolute God’s Secret.

Absolute God’s Secret

? You can overlap the buff effects of two different dishes.

? Once the buff effects of two different dishes overlap, you will be able to see the effects by eating one dish and then thinking about eating the other one.?

? A ‘cooking die’ will be cast when the two dishes’ buff effects overlap. The number displayed on the die will determine the duration of the buff.?

? The lower the number, the shorter the duration of the buff effect. The duration per number rolled is as follows: thirty seconds for number 1, one minute for number 2, two minutes for number 3, three minutes for number 4, four minutes for number 5, and seven minutes for number 6.?

? The EXP you gain will double as long as Overlapping Delight is in effect.

The information about Overlapping Delight flashed in front of Minhyuk.

Jump—

The moment he finished eating, a golden die rolled in front of Minhyuk, who jumped down from Velach’s back.

[Overlapping Delight.]

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

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

Then, when the die stopped, the number six appeared.

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

[The Overlapping Delight's buff effect will last for seven minutes!]

[You have eaten a Legendary grade Blood Sausage Soup with Rice!]

[All of your stats have increased by 34%!]

[Your physical and magical defenses have increased by 40%!]

[Your sword's basic attack has increased by 200%!]

[Your skill damage has increased by 200%!]

[A double EXP Acquisition Rate has been applied!]

It seemed like Minhyuk's luck was quite good. He was able to roll a six, which allowed him to become 1.7x stronger for a total of seven minutes.

Thud—

One step and Spear God Ben appeared right beside Minhyuk.

Thud—

Another step and the executives and key members of Beyond the Heavens appeared by his side. Sword Saint Conir, God of Snakes Elizabeth, Best Selling Author Aruvel, Beyond the Heavens' Shield Elpis, Great Fisherman Gorfido and the Beyond the Heavens' high rankers. All of them stood together as they looked at the back of Sword Emperor Ellie. With Minhyuk and Ellie at the lead, all of them jumped on the battlefield.

One swing of Spear God Ben's spear and nearly a thousand Luvien Imperial Soldiers were killed. Ellie, who held a new sword in her hand, killed hundreds of her enemies with every swing. She possessed power that seemed to be on par, or perhaps even greater than that, of Spear God Ben. As for Minhyuk, the word 'Gather' was engraved on the blade of his sword as he began to slaughter the enemies that blocked his path.

Rumbleeeeeee—

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

In a matter of minutes, the Luvien Imperial Army had no choice but to take a step back... and then another.

The entire world was witness to the growth of Eivelis Empire.

Blood flowed from Nerva Sephiroth's clenched fists. He was furious to the point that his eyes had turned bloodshot.

“Your Majesty. 400,000 of our Imperial Army have died in less than an hour.”

“Your Majesty, our allies are raising a commotion.”

“The entire world is cheering and calling Ellie’s name.”

“There are rumors that several empires and kingdoms are trying to move to promote peace between their nation and Eivelis Empire.”

“...”

Nerva Sephiroth could hardly contain his anger. His actual power was several times more than the power that he could wield right now. However, the Battle God had reduced his power when he had descended.

‘It’s all because of that bastard, Brod!’

It was all because of Brod—the very same Brod that he had fought against for the position of the emperor. Not long after, another report came in.

“Your Majesty!!! Almost a million of our troops have died!!!”

Nerva Sephiroth immediately quelled the anger in his heart. This was not the time to be angry, it was time for him to be cold-hearted. It might bring shame upon himself, but there was nothing that he could do.

“Retreat... tell them to retreat.”

Nerva Sephiroth’s eyes looked dejected, but his teeth were grinding against each other fiercely. He would remember Ellie and the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. And he would never forget how Ellie brought humiliation upon him.

On the battlefield.

The great and majestic Luvien Imperial Army were forced to retreat, their feet bringing them away from the battlefield.

“Retreat!!!”

“It’s an imperial decree!!! Step back and retreat!!!”

The entire world watched in disbelief as the soldiers of the Luvien Empire began to retreat. The Eivelis Imperial Army did not only defend, but even destroyed many of the Luvien Imperial Army’s troops. The people of Korea also cheered loudly as they watched the Luvien Empire’s troops flee.

At that moment, the notifications rang in Minhyuk’s ears.

[The Eivelis Empire has won the battle against the Luvien Imperial Army.]

[You have become the number one contributor in protecting the Eivelis Empire.]

[The story of your heroic deeds will be sung in Eivelis Empire.]

[You have acquired the Title: Eivelis Empire’s Noble.]

[You have gained 500 CHA.]

[You have gained 300 REP.]

Before the notifications for the rewards that he acquired rang, another set of notifications rang first.

[Plenty of Gods are showing their interest in you.]

[You have met the qualifications for becoming the first true God.]

Chapter 624: Defensive War (Part 2)

Athenae was the greatest God in existence, the one that ruled the world of Athenae, the master of all creations, and the God of Origin.

There were thousands of Gods that helped Athenae and these very same Gods were looking for their successors. Since then, more than 95% of their successors had been players with God classes.

However, there was one thing that everyone was fully aware of. The God class players were currently just half-God classes. In fact, some of the God classes could not even be qualified to inherit the Gods' power.

If that was the case, what could they do in order to become a true God?

Kang Taehoon had said, "It's simple. All one needs to do is to meet the Gods' requirements and satisfy them. Only then will they reach the realms of a true God."

At that time, one of the reporters had asked, "What would change once a player becomes a True God class?"

It was something that everyone was curious about. Everyone was looking forward to the answer. President Kang Taehoon had replied with a smile, "Of course, your skills and abilities will increase and you will also be able to build a temple."

They could build a temple? Although it might just sound like it was symbolic, that was not the case at all. Most of the temples that had been built all over the world required entrance fees. Where would part of the entrance fee go? Of course, it would go straight to the God the temple was built for.

But was that all? Of course not. They could also take in priests, priests that served that God. Simply put, becoming a True God would bring about enormous benefits for that person. But the most important thing was...

"And as a God, they will be able to interact and live with the other Gods."

"...!"

"...!"

The words that Kang Taehoon left them were very shocking and thrilling. The fact that players that became True Gods would be able to interact and live with the other Gods, meant that one could have a cup of tea or have a conversation with the very same Gods that were in charge of the Athenae world. That was a position that was literally above the position of a 'king'. That was the True 'God' class.

[Plenty of Gods are showing their interest in you.]

[You have met the qualifications for becoming the first True God.]

[Something special might happen any time soon.]

Minhyuk had taken a step towards this God class.

‘Something special might happen anytime soon? I can’t wait.’

“Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!!!”

“Long live the Eivelis Empire!!!”

“Long live Her Majesty Ellie!!!”

“We wooooooooooooon!!!”

Minhyuk smiled lightly, while the players that fought for Eivelis Empire and the Asgan Continent cheered loudly. In fact everything felt like a dream to these players.

‘We played a key role in changing an episode!’

‘I helped save Eivelis Empire, the place where I started in the game...’

‘It was an honor to fight with these people today. The image of Ellie and the Food God fighting in front of us is something that I will never forget.’

Just as they expected, those that participated in the war received the ‘charm’ of the battle, which were the rewards. The more enemies they cut down and the stronger they were, the greater their contributions. Which meant that they would have more rewards. With that, the notifications rang for all of the participating players.

[Since the Eivelis Empire has gained victory, the victory rewards would become better.]

.

[The Great and Strong warriors of Asgan Continent, they have dedicated themselves for the continent and have won a battle that everyone had believed was already a lost battle.]

[Those that participated in the war will earn an additional 50% EXP Acquisition Rate and 50% Item Drop Rate for two weeks.]

[Gold will be distributed based on your contributions.]

[The Eivelis Empire will distribute the spoils of wars and the rewards.]

“Wow... Crazy...!”

“The spoils of war are really amazing, you know?!”

“Are they going to give us legendary artifacts? They’re going to give us the legendary artifacts from the spoils of war?!”

High risk, high return. The more dangerous and risky the endeavor was, the better the rewards. Since the Eivelis Empire’s odds for obtaining victory was almost close to nil, the rewards that the players would receive would be astronomical.

It was also the reason why everyone was focused on Minhyuk. Minhyuk's contribution was definitely the highest. After all, he was the one that played the key role in gathering the alliance and the players together.

On top of that, there were many members of Beyond the Heavens, as well as dragons, that participated in this war. The contributions made by the vassals would be credited to their king. Minhyuk's men had accomplished countless things during this war. On top of all that, Minhyuk was also the one that presented the 'Great Sovereign's Sword' to Ellie, the sword that led the direction of the new episode.

Just like that, another set of notifications rang.

[You have led the Eivelis Empire to victory.]

[Calculating your performance and contribution in this war.]

[You have participated in this war with your qualifications as a king and fought with your vassals.]

[Your and your vassals have made a lot of contributions.]

[You have gained 2,000 platinum.]

[You have acquired Lubanon's Guardian's Shield.]

[You have acquired Koroni's Fierce Dual Katanas.]

[...Gendar's...]

[You will be able to use Luvien Empire's Emperor Nerva Sephiroth's Treasure House once.]

'Wow... there's a lot.'

Minhyuk could not help but be amazed. There were at least three legendary artifacts among the items that he acquired. As for the 2,000 platinum, Minhyuk would use it to develop the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. But the most noteworthy reward was the access to Nerva Sephiroth's treasure house.

Nerva Sephiroth was a God Class Battle God NPC. He was someone that inherited the powers of the Battle God, and could easily use it whenever he wanted. Since he was the emperor of a huge empire, his treasure house would definitely be filled with a lot of valuable items. On top of that, Minhyuk also obtained the chance to use the treasure house of Ruven, one of the Sword of the Gods, twice.

'I hope they have a lot of delicious things there. Fufu...'

Minhyuk felt delighted deep inside. However, the war was not yet completely over.

Then, all eyes turned to Ellie as the commentators said...

[Many players are interested in what kind of episodes will appear since the Continental Emperor's episode has changed.]

[The Continental Emperor Ellie's episode will affect a lot of episodes from all around the world. That is why everyone is wondering how Joy Co. Ltd. will respond to these changes.]

That was right. What would happen to Ellie, the Continental Emperor? Many were asking this question. Then, at that moment, a set of notifications rang for all players to hear.

[The system has begun to take control of the players.]

[The players will move and speak according to the AI's direction.]

[A new episode is beginning.]

After hearing the notifications, Minhyuk's body stopped. He tried to move but he could not even lift a single finger. And just like that, everyone began to move according to the situation that the AI had set up for the beginning of the new episode.

All of the viewers that were tuned in to the broadcast were all left in doubt after seeing that everything and everyone in the battlefield were being controlled by the system.

However, this was not necessarily something surprising. After all, there were quite a few RPG games that controlled players like this so that the players could move on to the next quest after finishing an important quest during the game.

Then, Joy Co. Ltd. quickly controlled the hundreds of cameras floating in the air, changing the scene on the screen that was focused on the center of the battlefield. Under the directive of Joy Co. Ltd., these cameras began to spread around and show the entire area.

At the location where the fierce battle had just finished, Ellie stood still while looking around the delighted soldiers of the Eivelis Imperial Army and the allied forces of Asgan Continent.

Amidst their cheers, Ellie took a step towards one of the dead soldiers. He was a boy that looked to be around fifteen, who had died without even being able to close his eyes. Ellie slowly knelt down and hugged the boy to her chest.

"Thank you. I will never forget you."

The cheering crowd turned silent. The joy of victory seeped away as they looked at their comrades that died a horrible death. Ellie looked at the people that fought together with her and said, "Let us make a grave for all of the people that fought with us, with me today."

"I have received your orders, Your Majesty."

Ellie nodded slowly before moving away and standing at the highest point to look at everyone and say, "We might have won today but we have lost a lot. Some of us have lost our elder brothers, while some of us have lost our fathers and mothers."

Sobs started to ring out across the battlefield. They might have been victorious but the families that had been left behind would hug their comrades' bodies and weep.

"There will be more battles ahead of us. The Luvien Empire will try to squeeze us until the very end, until they make us kneel down."

If they allowed the Luvien Empire to get past them and enter the Eivelis Empire, then a lot more lives would be lost. Perhaps they would truly face destruction by then.

“And we will have to live with sorrow for a very long time because of the damage that we suffered from this war.”

Everyone agreed with Ellie’s words.

“This empress is lacking. But even if I’m lacking, would you still believe in me and continue to fight alongside me?”

A moment of silence passed by at those words. This was a moment where they could not really say ‘We will!’ without any hesitation. The Luvien Empire was too strong and some of them would most definitely die and become cold corpses, just like that boy from before.

But then, at that moment, Minhyuk started to move, despite not being in control of his own body. He said, “Your Majesty Ellie.”

Minhyuk strode towards Ellie with a soft smile on his face and said, “You are not a lacking emperor. It was thanks to you that we were able to protect the Eivelis Empire, and even the entire Asgan Continent.”

Ellie did not say anything. Then, above her head, words started to appear once again.

[In this horrible battlefield, a place where the sadness of losing their comrades was greater than the joy of victory, Ellie was being devoured by her conflicting emotions.]

[She was aware that in the future the attacks coming from the Luvien Empire would grow stronger, which means that there would be even more deaths.]

[Ellie won, but she was still frustrated.]

Darkness clouded Ellie’s expression. A drop of tear seemed to have streaked down the cheeks of the strong and stoic Ellie.

“I...”

What choice should she make?

[Ellie blamed herself for being helpless. However, her story was just beginning...]

Booom! Boom! Booom! Boom!

Then, at that moment, the loud sound of drums rang from the direction of the sea. The eyes of the Eivelis Imperial Army followed the direction of the drums. Did the Luvien Empire send another powerful army? Terror flashed across everyone’s faces. There were nearly a thousand ships approaching from the sea.

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud—

In the Stars’ Path, the sound of the footsteps of what seemed to be millions of troops resounded and made everyone turn nervous. Not long after, the large army began to show itself to them. However, the army did not attack the Eivelis Empire and the Asgan Allied Forces.

At that moment, a man stepped forward and said, “Your Majesty Ellie! This humble one is Duke Rophy of Icasu Empire from Abbron Continent. I came here on behalf of His Majesty Emkoron of the Icasu Empire to offer our congratulations on the victory of the Eivelis Empire!”

Along with that declaration, the thousands of troops standing behind him began to salute.

“Your Majesty! I am Prince Code of Frod Continent’s Akkro Kingdom...”

“Sword Emperor! This humble...”

“Ellie! This...”

Even the millions of troops that descended from the ship also showed their courtesy.

Right now, more than tens of millions of troops and subjects personally sent by their own kings and emperors bowed their heads and showed their respect and courtesy towards Ellie. It was a remarkable event that would forever be marked in the history of the continent.

Once again, the words appeared above Ellie’s head.

[Even emperors and kings used to listen to Ellie’s stories and feats in shock and awe.]

[And now, all of the continents were made aware that Ellie was the only one that stood against the Luvien Empire.]

[Everyone was now made aware of the fact that it was only Ellie that could unite the entire continent’s troops and rally an army to fight and protect their own, something that has never happened before in history.]

Ellie looked at the people in front of her. The subjects sent by the emperors and kings from several continents shouted loudly in unison.

“Congratulations on your victory, Continental Emperor!!!”

“Congratulations on your victory, Continental Emperor!!!”

“Congratulations on your victory, Continental Emperor!!!”

Ellie stood in the middle of tens of millions of troops, as a flame started to burn brighter in her heart. She looked around them silently and just drew her sword and raised it high up in the skies. Then, another set of words appeared above her head.

[The Greatest Continental Emperor in History’s episode will now begin!]

A new story had begun.

Chapter 625: That Man’s Day

No one had believed that Eivelis Empire would pull through and gain victory against the Luvien in the war between these two empires. That was why many people began talking about it.

[The Eivelis Empire was only able to win this war because of the Food God, right?]

[I agree. We can’t deny that it was all because Food God Minhyuk gave Ellie a God-rank artifact that allowed them to win. After all, it was the main reason why Ellie gained a new power which allowed her to defeat the Luvien Imperial Army.]

[As far as I know, the executives of Beyond the Heavens also played a big role in this war.]

[The Food God is truly an amazing player.]

[Mad respect... haha.]

The people talked about how great and amazing Minhyuk was and how they admired him. Minhyuk's feats and fame were enough for many people to regard him as their model and idol. Perhaps that was also the reason why people also began to discuss other things regarding his life.

[But is the Food God dating Genie or Ascar?]

['Course, it should be Genie, right? Hehehe. Genie is very pretty.]

[No, no, no. Have you seen Crystal's fashion show? Ascar really looked like an angel when she walked that runway.]

[No, dear gentlemen...]

But then, one player fired a very painful shot.

[It doesn't matter who he's dating. Whoever it is, we will still feel jealous so... stop it...]

[...Yeah.]

[...]

[...]

That was right. Everyone believed that Minhyuk was dating one of the world's most famous beauties. However, there was still no scandal about him that has erupted in media sources. There was that hug with Ascar after Crystal's Fashion Show, an event that created issues. However, the issues quickly died down.

Then, another player piped in.

[He could be dating them both...]

[Stop. I'm already jealous enough.]

[Shit. I'm so freaking jealous...]

[The bastard's really a thief...]

As always, Food God Minhyuk's luck was still being hated by everyone.

Amidst all of these discussions, there was one middle-aged man that looked at all of their comments. The man's name was Jung Jong-Seok, an entertainment reporter for Despatch. Jung Jong-Seok had exposed numerous celebrities and rankers and revealed their corruption and scandals to the world.

There was a time when celebrities and public figures were able to successfully cover up their scandals, even when they involved drug-dealing and the likes. However, there was no news that could be hidden, and Jung Jong-Seok exposing those scandals caused a huge stir in Korea. In fact, he was known for being able to dig up even the dirtiest and ugliest corner of a celebrity's life. It was to the point that even political and business figures feared him.

Jung Jong-Seok was known by the nickname: '*Scoop Manufacturer*'. That was because he was someone that looked for famous people's secret scandals; basically everything that was the exact opposite of the life that they were showing to the public. How many celebrities, political and

business figures had he ruined? In any case, he had ripped off a considerable amount of masks that these public figures used to wear on TV.

One of his fellow reporters asked him, "I heard that you and Reporter Kim Ji-Hyeon are going to follow the Food God around today?"

"That's right. This is so I can make Reporter Kim, who is a big fan of the Food God, wake up to reality."

Reporter Kim Ji-Hyeon was the newest rookie that joined the entertainment department a few days ago.

Jong-Seok grinned as he looked back at her and said, "Reporter Kim, you will be witness to the Food God's ugly side, a side that you weren't aware of."

"..."

Reporter Kim opted to remain silent. Food God Minhyuk was someone that many people adored and loved. Was it simply because of Athenae? That was not the case at all. It was also because he did admirable deeds and was living the life of a protagonist in his novel-like story by overcoming his rare disease, eating addiction.

Reporter Kim wanted to firmly believe that. However, just two days of working and she was already being forced to face the reality that celebrities, politicians, and even businessmen that looked nice and kind had their dirty little secrets, secrets that they were uncovering each and every single day.

"Today's the day, the day Food God Minhyuk can go out on his once-a-month outing," Jong-Seok grinned.

That was right. Jong-Seok was able to get information about Minhyuk's outing once a month. And from what he heard, Minhyuk always moved alone without any bodyguards or secretaries on that day. If that was the case, then Jong-Seok believed that he was only doing one thing.

'He's definitely meeting a woman.'

Jong-Seok was 100% sure of this. Perhaps this was the day that he would be able to tear off that mask on Minhyuk's face and show the world his ugly side.

"You should look forward to it, Reporter Kim. Today's the day that we will be able to expose everything to the world."

A black SUV was parked near the place where Food God Minhyuk lived, just as an unidentified bongo car drove out of the mansion. Entertainment Reporter Jung Jong-Seok looked at the driver's seat on instinct. He could see Minhyuk driving the bongo car with the windows down toward the dark of the night, even through the dark tint of the SUV.

"A bongo car? A second generation chaebol is driving a bongo car?" Jong-Seok said, a smile on his face. "Perhaps he wanted to hide himself? If not, then... is he going to make a deal?"

Drug dealing was an issue that always cropped up whenever there were talks about second generation chaebols. However, issues like these were often silenced using the resources of the chaebol's company. Still, just one photo of them dealing on the spot and their company would not even be able to silence it, no matter how much they wanted to.

"Didn't I tell you, Reporter Kim? That's extremely suspicious, no?"

"Yes."

Reporter Kim Ji-Hyeon was a long-time fan of Food God Minhyuk. But just as Jong-Seok said, the current situation that they were witnessing was truly suspicious.

'In the end, even Minhyuk...'

Reporter Kim sighed.

"Look. It's almost dawn. He's probably going to a club or something to make a deal," Jong-Seok laughed gleefully as he watched the scene which was proving to be a scene similar to that in the movies. Jong-Seok began to drive while saying, "See, where do people go with a bongo car, huh? I'm sure he's going to a room or probably a hotel to call girls and play around. I'm a hundred percent sure of this."

But twenty minutes later...

"...???"

"...???"

Jong-Seok and Ji-Hyeon looked blankly at the sign above them. The place where Food God Minhyuk parked his bongo car and ran excitedly inside was a place with a sign that said 'Eat and Play PC Room'.

"...Is the Food God a game addict?"

"He's a ranker so it's safe to say that he's pretty much an addict, right?"

"Even with ordinary PC games?"

"Who knows? That..."

"Ah... As expected!" Jong-Seok exclaimed.

Drug dealing and trafficking were done secretly these days and could be traded using various methods. Jong-Seok thought that perhaps Minhyuk was meeting with the other chaebols here. It had to be that case! However, it was still a ridiculous thing to imagine.

'It doesn't make sense... but it also makes sense.'

Most of the celebrities that he had seen and exposed so far had done many nonsensical things. Just like that, the two of them sneaked into the PC room. The moment they went inside they were greeted with a very ordinary PC room. Still...

“Just in case, but he might have left a message on the counter to get in touch with them.”

‘Is this some sort of intelligence...?’

For a moment, Kim Ji-Hyeon doubted Jong-Seok’s words. She wondered if they were truly on the same page.

“Check the counter and its surroundings carefully, Reporter Kim.”

“Yes, senior.”

Reporter Kim began to snoop around the counter.

The PC room was very free and spacious at dawn, especially because it was a Monday the next day.

‘It’s really quite suspicious,’ this thought flashed in both Reporter Kim and Jong-Seok’s heads. Why would he otherwise come to an almost empty PC Room at this late hour on his once-a-month outing?

When Jong-Seok reached the place near Minhyuk, he saw Reporter Kim panting to catch up with him.

“Se, senior!”

“What’s the matter?” Jong-Seok asked, eyes glowing in anticipation. Was it truly just like he expected? Perhaps he truly was meeting his girlfriend here?

Then, Kim Ji-Hyeon said, “Is this, is this really possible?”

“Reporter Kim, don’t get too excited. Calm down and breathe. What in the world is wrong with you? Did Ascar or Genie come?” Jong-Seok asked, sneaking a glance at the part-timer that was manning the counter. The part-timer’s eyes widened when they made eye contact before shifting away and moving around trying to make himself look busy.

“On Minhyuk’s counter...”

“Right, his counter...!”

“He ordered 250,000 won worth of food...?”

“...?”

“...???”

“...”

“...”

Jong-Seok was left speechless at that moment. A ramyeon sold in the PC room would cost between 3,000~4,000 won. From what he heard, the quality of the food that they serve here was so good that people would come just to eat. Their menu included ramyeon, hot bars, dumplings, homemade

burgers, french fries, chicken, rice bowls and even kimchi fried rice. However, their price range was usually no more than 5,000 won.

“...Is he a person?”

“...”

The two looked blankly at Minhyuk, who was grinning widely at his table. The smile was so innocent and delighted that the two could not bring themselves to say anything.

Minhyuk was allowed to go out once a month. During these outings, he usually refrained from eating. However, after a brief discussion with his doctor, Jinhwan, he learned that restraining himself from eating during those outings might have negative effects on his body. Because of that, Minhyuk was allowed to eat as much as he wanted at least once every three months. However, Minhyuk had to do a higher-intensity work out for a few days after doing that.

Right now, Minhyuk was very excited. He had been curious about the PC rooms these days. He had heard quite a lot about these PC rooms. And from what he had gathered, the food that they served was as good as the food in *Kimbap Heaven*.

Also, when talking about PC rooms, the taste of the ramyeon that he ate whenever he played games with his friends in the past always surfaced in his memories. The ramyeon would cool down while they were focusing on the game and would be at the perfect temperature to slurp once the game was over. The thought alone brought a smile on Minhyuk's face.

Yes. Today was a very meaningful day for Minhyuk. Today was the day that Minhyuk would do his very own mukbang and enjoy the food served in the PC room. After ordering his food, he turned on a movie, put a headset on his ears and waited for the food to be served. The first dishes to be served were some chapagetti, microwaved dumplings, and a cool can of soda together with a cup filled with ice.

“Well then, shall we get started?” Minhyuk said, a serious expression on his face. He looked so grave, as if he was going to war.

The first thing that he did was to pour the cold and refreshing *Sprite* into the cup of ice.

Fwiiiiiiish—

The carbon trapped inside the can burst out and created a loud, yet very pleasant, sound. Then, he gulped down the *Sprite*.

“Kgghhk~” Minhyuk gasped in admiration as he separated the chopsticks in front of him. Then, he looked down at the chapagetti in front of him. There was a fried egg, an add-on which he paid 500 won for, on top of the noodles.

‘*The food they serve in PC rooms is truly well done,*’ Minhyuk thought in awe as he poked the yolk. Just like that, the golden yolk slowly dripped down and covered the noodles beneath it. Then, he clamped a mouthful and put it in his mouth.

“*Sluuuuuuuuuurp!*”

‘Ah, this PC room is awesome.’

This thought flashed in Minhyuk’s head. He could tell that whoever prepared this was able to properly boil the noodles and even lifted it up to maintain its texture. Next, he added a piece of pickled radish in his mouth.

Crunch, crunch, crunch—

The crunch from the well-ripened pickled radish rang out loudly. This time, Minhyuk grabbed a piece of the egg and some chapagetti before placing everything in his mouth.

“Sluuuuuuuurp!”

‘Aaah. This is paradise.’?

Of course, it was practically heaven. There was comedy playing in front of him and a table full of dinner! Next, Minhyuk picked up some dumplings. The dumplings were placed in the microwave as they were and served just like that. The moment he placed them in his mouth, the juices trapped in the skin spread in his mouth. The flavor was indescribable, and all Minhyuk could do was shout in admiration.

“Wow... wow... woaaaaah...”

As he shouted in awe like that, another set of dishes were served in front of him. The new dishes placed in front of him were warm hot bar, ramyeon, stir-fried kimchi, and cold rice.

“Please take these away.”

Minhyuk finished a tray of dishes in no time at all. This time, he started on some ‘Jjin Ramyeon’.

“It’s still firm and bouncy. They truly cooked it well,” Minhyuk praised, as he stabbed his chopsticks in the bowl and loosened the noodles inside before grabbing a huge mouthful.

“Sluuuuuuuuuurp!”

The chewy texture of the noodles instantly brought a smile to his face. Even the tingling sensation left behind by the spiciness was enough to make him happy.

“Fwaaaa...” Minhyuk breathed out, his smile growing wider as he picked up a piece of the ripe and delicious kimchi.

Crunch, crunch—

‘Ah. I’m so happy. I’m very happy!’

For Minhyuk, today was one of the happiest days on earth. Then, he picked up the hot bar.

“Wow...”

Minhyuk was rendered speechless at the sight of the hot bar. One glance and he could tell that it would be delicious. The chewy texture and the rich flavor of the hot bar was deserving of admiration.

After tasting the hot bar, Minhyuk added the leftover dumplings on top of the ramyeon before picking a piece with some noodles and placed everything in his mouth. The dumpling and ramyeon combination was just like Yooksam Naengmyeon.

At a table not too far from Minhyuk, a middle-aged man and a young woman finished ordering some ramyeon, dumplings and some drinks, just as Minhyuk finished his second tray of food. Seeing them, Minhyuk thought, *‘Oh, they know how to eat well too, huh?’*

When Minhyuk made eye contact with them, he gave a thumbs-up and showed them his brightest smile. The smile that he showed them was very beautiful.

“...”

“...”

Both Kim Ji-Hyeon and Jung Jong-Seok were left speechless after they saw Minhyuk giving them a thumbs up while smiling so brightly.

Jong-Seok was someone that had a strong and steadfast spirit as a journalist. However, after seeing Minhyuk eat so happily like that... he could not help but order the same dish. Besides, the smell of ramyeon that wafted throughout the PC room was too tantalizing and appetizing. They just could not resist.

“Ha, haha...”

Jong-Seok and Ji-Hyeon looked back at Minhyuk and gave him a thumbs up of their own. For some reason, they felt like something strange would come out for today’s cover story.

Chapter 626: That Man’s Day

After Minhyuk finished the dishes on the second tray, a third tray was immediately set down in front of him. This time, the food served consisted of a homemade bulgogi burger set, with a toothpick poking out from deep within the buns, complete with french fries and another cup filled with ice.

After pouring the refreshing cola in the cup of ice, Minhyuk grabbed the burger with both of his hands. The moment he gripped the burger, dollops of the dark and sweet sauce started to drip down. Minhyuk quickly chomped on the burger, his one bite almost taking off half the burger.

The crunchy lettuce, coupled with the sweet and sour pickles, spread right after the soft texture of the bread. The patty also had a light and clean flavor that harmonized all of the flavor in the burger. Then, just like that, Minhyuk sipped some of his cola through a straw. The refreshing and tickling feeling in his throat brought a smile to his face.

This time, Minhyuk grabbed three thick fries, dipped them in the ketchup and mayonnaise sauce, and placed everything in his mouth.

Munch, munch—

The smile of delight on Minhyuk’s face became even wider.

Meanwhile, Reporter Kim Ji-Hyeon and PD Jong-Seok, who were watching him closely, were both speechless. Placed right in front of them was a fantastic combination of ramyeon and cold rice. This was actually the best combination in PC rooms.

‘But why do I suddenly have the urge to eat burgers?’

‘Wait, can you really eat half a burger in just two bites?’

The two felt like they were watching a mukbang live. In fact, seeing Minhyuk chuckle in delight made them forget their duty, opting to watch him with fond smiles on their faces. However, Jong-Seok and Ji-Hyeon quickly snapped out of it, shaking their heads so they could fully come back to their senses.

Just like that, Minhyuk cleared his third tray, before digging immediately into the fourth tray. He rubbed his palms together in excitement at the sight of the fourth tray. The set meal that was being served was loved by everyone. It was none other than tteokbokki, sundae, fried fritters, kimbap, and fish cake soup.

“Ah. I really like PC rooms...”

For Minhyuk, this situation was a special and happy one. Those that lived normally would often come to PC rooms, with only their wallets with them on their day offs to play some games and enjoy the food that they served here. However, Minhyuk usually could not do that. That was why he felt blessed to be able to do it even once.

The first thing that Minhyuk grabbed was the tuna kimbap. The scent of the fragrant perilla leaf and the taste of the sour pickled radish tickled his mouth the moment he took a bit out of it. Minhyuk personally liked the fragrant scent of the perilla leaf on this tuna kimbap; the scent perfectly complemented the texture of the tuna and the mayonnaise.

After chewing and savoring the plain tuna kimbap, Minhyuk grabbed another piece and dipped it in the tteokbokki’s sauce. The flavor that spread in his mouth the moment he ate the piece was admirable.

“Wow...”

Then, when his throat felt dry, he grabbed the fish cake soup that was served in a disposable paper container and took a sip of the still warm soup. The warm, light fish cake soup seemed to wrap everything and wash it down his throat seamlessly.

This time, Minhyuk picked a piece of sundae. It was a little unfortunate that there was no liver or lungs present in the dish due to the nature of PC rooms, but there was nothing he could do about the fact. Even if it was not complete, the easy-to-eat sundae and its chewy texture was still enough to make Minhyuk’s mouth water.

Minhyuk first dipped a piece of sundae in salt and placed it in his mouth. The salt went well with the clean taste of the sundae, bringing a smile of delight on Minhyuk’s face. His chopsticks stretched out towards the fried fritters, the first he picked being fried squid.

Crunch— crunch, crunch—

With every bite, a crunch that was characteristic to well-fried dishes rang loudly in his ears. After the crunchy layer, the chewy squid greeted Minhyuk’s mouth.

This time, he turned his attention towards the gimmari. As always, the gimmari, which was glass noodles wrapped in seaweed and deep fried, should always be dipped in the tteokbokki's sauce.

Crunch— crunch, crunch—

After eating the entire gimmari in one bite, Minhyuk began to munch on the fried vegetables. The fried vegetables were covered in oil, yet Minhyuk was still able to taste the underlying flavor of the various vegetables. However, the one that tasted the strongest among the vegetables was the sweet potato.

Then, it was time for the long-awaited tteokbokki. The tteokbokki that was served to him was topped with a piece of boiled egg. This fact alone proved to Minhyuk that the owner of this place was someone that knew how to eat.

Minhyuk used his spoon as he divided the egg in half. He crushed one half of the egg and mixed it with the tteokbokki's spicy sauce. Then, he scooped a mouthful and placed it in his mouth. The egg yolk, which should feel dry to the mouth, tasted sweet and soft. Next, Minhyuk picked up a piece of rice cake and placed it in his mouth, savoring its chewy texture. After that, he picked some fish cake. Minhyuk personally liked the fish cake more than the rice cake in tteokbokki.

Just like that, Minhyuk's mukbang continued as he wiped off the contents of his fourth tray. The fourth tray was then followed by the fifth tray, and it continued all the way until the eight tray.

"..."

"..."

Jong-Seok and Ji-Hyeon were both rendered dumbstruck at the sight of Minhyuk eating continuously like that.

After a few hours of non-stop eating, Minhyuk finally moved with his van again.

"Right, the Food God has an eating addiction, that's why he could not stop eating earlier. But Reporter Kim, I'm sure that this time it's the real deal."

'He definitely had to have secrets, just like those celebrities! If not that, then the ugly and bare face that was hidden beneath his mask!'

Jung Jong-Seok was certain that he would be able to rip off Minhyuk's mask and show the world his true, ugly self!

Their car continued to follow behind Minhyuk, until they reached a dark and hidden alleyway. The sun was already setting by the time they arrived there. What they saw was Minhyuk moving a box from his bongo car and leaving it in front of the house along with a sack of rice.

"A sack of rice and a box...? What in the world?"

Han Jeong-Seok and Kim Ji-Hyeon looked at each other in doubt. What? Was he doing some kind of voluntary service or something? No, that did not make sense at all.

'Why does the son of the chairman have to do something like that personally?'

They found it hard to believe. It just did not make sense. Also, many who donated usually found some way to publish articles like *'Donating 100 million won to someone',* or *'Donating 100*

million won to earthquake victims’ to the world, whenever they gave something out. There were even pictures of the victims standing next to the people that received their donations with awkward smiles on their faces. These people usually made it into a show and tell, a business. They were spending 100 million won to buy a good image.

So, why was Minhyuk doing something like that over there? He was even doing it secretly when the sun was about to set.

Minhyuk’s bongo car continued to move. Some places that he went to were so underdeveloped that he even groaned as he carried the sack of rice on his shoulders. Despite the perspiration soaking his body, Minhyuk continued to carry the sacks of rice and boxes without stopping.

“What in the world is he doing?”

“Did he hide something there and he’s selling them like that?”

Han Jeong-Seok looked at Minhyuk, plenty of doubt flashing in his head. Perhaps, it was because he had been witnessing the dirty side of the entertainment industry for a very long time, that his thinking and personality had become cynical.

The two continued to watch Minhyuk carry the boxes dozens of times. In the end, they could not contain their curiosity and ended up approaching one of the boxes that was placed in front of a rusty gate. Then, the gate suddenly opened as a girl, who seemed to be still in middle school, appeared.

Shocked by the sudden appearance of the girl, the two stopped in their tracks. They watched as the girl looked at the box and the note left on it and smiled. Jong-Seok hurriedly stepped forward when he saw the girl turn around and called out, “Student!”

“Yes?” The middle school girl asked, looking at the two of them curiously.

“We’re observing the person that left that box behind. Can we see what’s inside?”

“You’re observing oppa? This box? Aaaaah...”

The girl, Chae-Min, was a quick-witted person. She opened the box and showed its contents to Kim Ji-Hyeon alone.

‘...Aren’t those sanitary pads?’

The box was filled with daily necessities, along with a few sanitary pads. Ji-Hyeon shook her head, the contents of the box was not what her senior, Jong-Seok, thought it to be.

“Why did he leave this in front of your door? And why did he do it by himself?”

As mentioned before, Chae-Min was a quick-witted girl. Because of that, she could tell that this was her chance to help that person the moment she heard Jong-Seok’s question. She said, “Actually, I know who oppa is. However, I’m pretending not to know. It’s because this is what he wants.”

“He does not want anyone to know?”

“Yes.”

“When did he start doing this?”

“Around four months ago?”

When Jong-Seok heard Chae-Min’s words, a piece of information flashed in his head. He knew that Minhyuk started going on his once-a-month outing four months ago.

“The first time I met oppa was during the ‘Sponsor’s Party Day’.”

That was when Chae-Min’s story began.

Click, click, click, click—

Sponsor’s Party Day was an event where the sponsors of orphanages, nursing homes, and disaster victims gathered to receive a plaque of appreciation. CEOs and representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises, and even famous and public figures, often attended this event.

However, it was not just these public figures that came to this event. The middle-school, high-school, and college students that they sponsored also came to this event. Why were they asked to participate in this event?

Simple. The sponsors wanted to take pictures with them to show how they were helping them live in this beautiful world. Of course, they also wanted to show off their ‘good deeds’ during the plaque-awarding ceremony.

However, for the sponsored students, it was hard to endure.

‘What if my friends at school see this picture?’

‘What if someone knows that I’m an abandoned child?’

‘I feel so uncomfortable. I want to run away.’

Of course, there were many people that did ‘good deeds’ in this world. However, the children were afraid that someone would find out about their unfortunate situation once their pictures were taken. But what would happen if they refused? Their sponsorship would be cut off. This was the cold and ruthless reality for them.

On this day, Chae-Min came, albeit uncomfortable, to take pictures with her sponsors. After taking pictures, they were brought for a meal. They came to a restaurant that served grilled meat. The restaurant was so large that all of the people that came to attend the Sponsor’s Party Day were able to mingle inside. Chae-Min had just sat at her table to eat meat when she heard the CEO of Green and Healthy Co. Ltd., the company that was actively sponsoring her, call for her.

At that table, only Green and Healthy Co. Ltd.’s CEO Yang In-Sik and Chae-Min were present. Yang In-Sik was a man in his mid-50s whose small and mid-sized enterprises started to develop recently. Because of that, he became arrogant and snobbish. He was also very greedy, and his bulging belly was testament to that fact.

“Chae-Min, you don’t have to worry. This uncle will solve everything for you until you study in university. You know that, right?”

“Yes, I know,” Chae-Min nodded, a bit uncomfortable with the man.

The loaded question meant that she would have to take pictures with him, even until she entered university and take the lead in promoting their company. Simply put, once Chae-Min entered university, an article with the title ‘A Respectable Lady, Chae-Min, Grew Up with the Support of Green and Healthy Co. Ltd.’ would be published.

Was this actually considered a good deed? Chae-Min was no fool. This was not a good deed; it was a deal, a transaction. They were taking advantage of the fact that the children could not work and that the poor could not go hungry.

“Chae-Min, this old man likes you. You are like a daughter to me~”

It started again. *Again*. At the same time, Yang In-Sik placed his hand on Chae-Min’s shoulder and applied a bit of pressure. Chae-Min gently lowered the hand on her shoulder and stood up with an awkward smile on her face, “I will always keep that in mind.”

Then, she hurriedly left the seat. All Chae-Min could do was sigh. She did not even have the money to buy her daily necessities and sanitary pads right away. She also could not afford to lose the support, since she needed the money for her grandmother’s hospital expenses. Poor teenagers like her were made aware of the harsh reality at a tender age and were forced to grow up quickly.

Sporting a blank look, she sat alone on a chair in the hallway of the restaurant, somewhere near the restroom while thinking, ‘*There really are no good adults.*’

The adults only wanted to take advantage of them. That was when she heard the sound of footsteps coming from within the restroom. Chae-Min quickly crouched down as much as she could to shield her body. That was when she heard the voice of Yang In-Sik.

“Our children will definitely grow up to be cool and lovely, right? Haha!”

“You are absolutely right, Sir. Haha!”

“Right. Among them, our Chae-Min is the prettiest. She’ll definitely grow up to become a beauty.”

Those were the words that were spoken. However, the implications of their words and the thought of Yang In-Sik’s disgusting expression as he imagined those horrible thoughts was completely revolting and disgusting.

“Ah, I feel like Chae-Min’s growing to look more and more like my daughter every time I see her.”

.

The words were so disgusting that Chae-Min felt nauseous. But then, a completely different voice, the voice of a young man rang from within the men’s restroom.

“I’m telling you this because you look to be my dad’s age.”

“...?”

Question marks began to float in Chae-Min’s head. Even if she did not see them, she could tell that Yang In-Sik and his secretary were flustered. Then, the voice of the young man said, “You’re quite the big asshole for your age, you f*cking bastard.”

“...”

The restroom turned silent at the sudden curse that rang loudly inside.

Chapter 627: That Man's Day

Yang In-Sik was a man that had done anything and everything when he was young. In fact, he had committed many dirty offences that were often only talked about in the secrecy of one's home.

He had started a business with the money that he saved up. At first, business was sluggish. However, because of his efforts to make connections and the countless expedient means that he resorted to, his business finally began to grow at a rapid pace.

As time went by, Yang In-Sik became arrogant. After all, people would become insignificant in front of 'money'. But now...

“I'm telling you this because you look to be my dad's age.”

A young man, who seemed to have just turned twenty, washed his hands under the sink before pulling out some disposable tissues and wiping them dry.

“You're quite the big asshole for your age, you f*cking bastard.”

“...!”

Yang In-Sik's expression turned red from anger. It could be attributed to the fact that he had drank a bit today but his temper flared easily. However, it was also true that he could not take the insult lying down, especially since he was someone that had done things on the other side of the law before.

To be exact, Yang In-Sik was someone that was involved with the mafia. Just like that, he revealed the true nature that he hid behind the title of a representative.

“Hey, you rascal. Do you think a kid like you can just say anything that you want, huh?”

“What are you going to do to me, you grown up bastard?”

“...”

‘What kind of bastard is this?’

Yang In-Sik wondered how a brat like that could talk like that in front of his towering figure that stood at 190 centimeters.

“This bastard...!” Yang In-Sik shouted as he charged at the young man.

However, In-Sik's secretary's eyes were shaking, *‘That person... Don't tell me...!’*

Yang In-Sik thought that he would be able to grab the young man by the collar. However, contrary to his thoughts, a wall greeted his face. The young man easily evaded Yang In-Sik's charge and even pushed him to the wall. Yang In-Sik turned around from the wall and tried to swing his fist at the young man. But the young man was faster, sending a chop at Yang In-Sik's neck with the side of his hand.

“Keheoooo!” Yang In-Sik, who was known for his huge build, grabbed his neck and collapsed on the ground. An ugly grin settled around on Yang In-Sik’s face as he hacked on the ground and struggled to say, “Crazy bastard. You dare to assault someone in broad daylight like this? You’re going to be f*cked. Secretary Lee, call the police.”

“...That.”

But Secretary Lee hesitated.

Meanwhile, Yang In-Sik’s anger flared up again, “Whose son are you, huh?! How dare you beat people up!”

“Do you really treat those children like your daughter? You’re really going to act like that?”

Yang In-Sik was very agitated, “I give them money to make our corporation’s image better. Rascal, you should know that there’s nothing free in this world. And in this dark and scary world, the rich are the kings and gods. You’ll regret doing that to me once the police come.”

“Ah... so the rich are the kings and gods?”

“That’s right, you moth*rf*cker.”

“That... Sir.”

“Secretary Lee! What are you doing?! Why haven’t you called them yet?!” Yang In-Sik roared. He was very confident as he continued, “Do you know how many police officers are acquainted with me? And do you know how many doctors I have as friends? Those doctors will willingly give me a longer medical certificate, while those cops will make sure to put you behind bars. F*cker! The scariest thing in this world is money. Ha! Bastard! Secretary Lee! Hurry up and call them!”

Simply put, Yang In-Sik was sure that the bastard in front of him would be f*cked. However...

“The person that overpowered and hit the CEO just now is...”

“That person? What person? That’s a f*cking rascal!!!”

“The person that you’re calling a f*cking rascal is Ilhwa Group’s Young Master Minhyuk.”

“Ilhwa Group’s young master... huh?”

Yang In-Sik was someone with a very brash and stubborn personality and always opted to deal with matters using his fist. That was why he did not watch TV nor surf the internet. As for Joy Co. Ltd.’s Athenae? He did not play that either.

However, he knew that Ilhwa Group’s chairman was named Kang Minhoo. Not too long ago, his company was having talks with Ilhwa Group, where they were going to be commissioned to deliver

parts for the bigger company. If this deal fell through, then his company would definitely be hit hard.

“Then, I should also make a call. Should I call the president?”

“...”

The class and level of the person in front of him was completely different. After all, Yang In-Sik could only call for a few cops and some people from the underworld.

“The rich are the kings and gods, huh?”

“...”

Yang In-Sik was rendered mute. Ilhwa Group was the company that stood at the peak of South Korea’s business industry. If they followed Yang In-Sik’s logic, then Minhyuk was not only the king, but also the god, and the progenitor. With just one of his phone calls...

“Uncle Munsoo. Do you know Green and Healthy Co. Ltd.’s CEO Yang In-Sik?” Minhyuk asked. After listening to the other end of the line, he continued, “Please reconsider that contract and put it under evaluation again. After personally checking out his personality, there’s a high chance that this CEO will cause a commotion and create a social stir.”

“...”

That was right. One phone call from Minhyuk and he could easily knock down everything that a person had built. He was a god in this world.

And Yang In-Sik? He was very angry.

“H, how... You bastard! Everything’s different because it’s you? Why?! Is Ilhwa Group different from us, huh?!”

“Yes. We’re different.”

Indeed. Ilhwa Group was very different from them. Ilhwa Group never called for the ones that they sponsored during Sponsor’s Party Day. Even most of the donations that they made were done silently. They did not intend to make a lot of splash on TV. This was Chairman Kang Minhoo’s principle, a principle that his son, Kang Minhyuk, had learnt and continued to uphold. That was why he could say those words.

“I’ll say this again for you.”

“...”

“Grow up. Do things that are appropriate for your age.”

“...”

Yang In-Sik could not say anything.

And Chae-Min, who listened to everything, had one thought flashing through her head, ‘*What if they stop my sponsorship...?*’

That was when she heard the voice of the young man as he left the restroom, “You don’t have to feel uncomfortable anymore.” and finally disappeared from her sight.

Kim Ji-Hyeon, who listened to Chae-Min’s story, could not help but wipe away a stray tear that dripped down her cheek. On the other hand, Jung Jong-Seok was left in a daze, his mouth hanging open.

“After that, I received a call from them. Ilhwa Group will sponsor me until I finish university. However, there were some conditions.”

“Conditions?”

“Yes. They required me to study hard, go to a good university, and apply to work for Ilhwa Group later.”

“Is there anything else aside from that?”

“There’s nothing else. On top of that, oppa always comes personally to give that box once a month.”

“...”

“...”

Jung Jong-Seok was once again taken aback. Who could have imagined this? A reporter stalked a celebrity to uncover corruption and scandals, only to witness them doing a good deed? After ending the talk with Chae-Min, Jong-Seok turned to look at Ji-Hyeon.

“Senior, where should we go next?”

“Let’s go back.”

After returning back to their company, Jung Jong-Seok began to write his article.

[Minhyuk, the Food God and the heir to Ilhwa Group, and his silent and invisible good deeds.]

This was the title of the article that he was writing. Once this article got published and got shared by those that they had sponsored, the Food God’s image would receive a huge boost. However, after Jung Jong-Seok finished writing the article, all he did was save it. He did not publish it.

Jong-Seok smiled bitterly as he entered an internet cafe. After a while, these words popped up on the monitor in front of him.

[Reporter Passion has joined the Food God’s fan cafe ‘Eat ‘till you Die’.]

Only then did a small, yet genuine, smile appear on his face.

On this day, the number of Minhyuk’s fans had increased once again.

Valen was the instructor at a novice village, the Isbin Village, and had lived as the Sword God in the past. He was the very first person that Minhyuk had met when he opened his eyes in Athenae. Valen

had lived as a loner back then. However, Minhyuk broke through his walls and made a meal for him. In return, he gave his sword to Minhyuk. Valen was one of the many people that truly cared for and loved Minhyuk.

Because of that, Minhyuk immediately went back to the Abyss and continued challenging it right after getting back from his day off in reality.

“I will challenge the twelfth gate.”

“Fufufufufu. Your Majesty, I know how you’re feeling. But, shouldn’t you take a bit of rest before you continue the challenge?” Bichor asked, worry evident on his face.

Why was Bichor worried? Because Minhyuk did not stop after challenging three gates in a row and was still continuing his challenge. Even if Athenae was a game, there was still a chance that Minhyuk would suffer mental exhaustion. A normal person would have already collapsed from exhaustion at the rate that Minhyuk was going through these gates. Even so...

“He must be waiting for me.”

‘Fufu. Is that so? Your Majesty, I really like the way you carry yourself. Fufu,’ Bichor thought, a bitter smile flashing on his bichon’s face.

Bichor had heard about what kind of person Valen was. And he was aware that Minhyuk was the kind of king that cherished his people dearly. He was someone that cared a lot about the people that had shown him kindness and grace, and those that stayed with him.

“Cough...”

[You have cleared the Twelfth Gate. Your rewards for successful completion will now be distributed.]

[You have gained 1,000 platinum.]

[You have acquired the God of Beast’s ‘Outstanding Beasts’ Parchment.]

[You have acquired the God of Beast’s ‘Tiger Helmet’.]

Minhyuk had to challenge fifty of God of Beasts’ Ideo’s beasts all by himself to clear the Twelfth Gate. All of God of Beasts’ Ideo’s beasts were at least at Level 450. Taking on one was already very difficult for Minhyuk. Also, ever since he made the sword for Ellie, the attack completion rate of the gates that he challenged had never gone beyond 80% anymore.

‘It’s getting harder and harder.’

That was right. The gates were getting harder and harder. However, Minhyuk believed that there would be better and more special rewards once he broke through them. Even if there were not any special rewards, Minhyuk was also fine with it. After all, there was a chance that Instructor Valen, his teacher, his friend and a father-figure to him, would be waiting for him at the end.

“Fufufufu. Your Highness, this will be the final gate. Would you like to challenge it right away?”

Once the Abyss Gate had been cleared, all of the challenger's HP and MP would be recovered. That was why Minhyuk could continuously challenge the gates. But this time...

"I'll take a break."

Minhyuk was quite sensible. So far, he had never seen even a glimpse of Instructor Valen in any of the trials that he had taken. Perhaps, the gate that would lead Minhyuk to where he Valen was was the most difficult gate.

Even if Minhyuk met with Instructor Valen, he believed that it would not be the end. Perhaps he would only reunite with Valen once he finished all of the trials in the Abyss. However, the worst case scenario was...

'What if the Instructor is not in the Abyss' final gate?'

Minhyuk sincerely hoped that it was not the case. Still, all he could do was wait and rest. When Minhyuk closed his eyes to rest, he felt like he could hear Valen's voice again.

'Hoho~ Are you going to strike the scarecrows and eat bread again today?'

'Of course, Instructor!'

Those were fun times. Minhyuk recalled the bread that he tasted for the very first time and the first friend that he made, and got close to, Instructor Valen. Then, a drop of tear rolled down Minhyuk's cheek.

'Please, I hope that I can meet him.'

[You are challenging the final gate!]

Minhyuk wished as he held his sword tightly, before walking toward the end of the Abyss. A huge iron gate appeared in front of him as he continued on his way. Then, the iron gate creaked loudly, opening to reveal a beautiful sword that was shining brightly at the end of the road where the gate was leading to.

"Ah...! Aaaaaah...!" Minhyuk cried out.

That was the sword, the very same sword that shot up to the skies and disappeared to who knew where back then. The same sword that he thought would spell his parting with his instructor. And now, this sword appeared in front of him. Then, at that moment, the sword vibrated fiercely as if it was resonating with his cry.

[The slumbering Sword God is resonating with you.]

[You have triggered a reaction from the slumbering Sword God.]

[The slumbering Sword God is...]

The notifications kept on repeating. It was like the sword was saying hello to Minhyuk. As for the sword in front of Minhyuk...

Shwaaaaa—

A beautiful light flashed as the figure that he admired, loved and missed so much appeared in front of him. Slowly, very slowly, Minhyuk approached the man with a very familiar face.

‘The Instructor that I’ve missed so much.’

“Instructooooooooor!” Minhyuk called out as he dashed with his open arms.

At the same time, in the Special Players Management Team.

Team Leader Park Minggyu and Lee Minhwa were watching Minhyuk on the monitor with a dark expression on their faces.

“The most beautiful gate...”

Lee Minhwa began to gnaw at her lips at Team Leader Park’s murmurs.

“...and the saddest gate.”

Minhyuk cried for Valen, his arms open wide in preparation for a hug. He thought that he would feel Valen’s reliable and warm chest in response. However, what greeted Minhyuk was the sharp blade of Valen’s sword. Blood spurted out from Minhyuk’s body as Valen’s sword slashed at him.

Spuuuuuuurt!

“Ins... tructor?”

Then, the notifications rang.

[The Thirteenth Gate’s Trial is now beginning!]

[You have to win against Valen, the one hailed as the Sword God, to clear the Thirteenth Gate’s Trial!]

[If you clear the Thirteenth Gate’s Trial, you might be able to acquire the ‘Sword that Contains the Sword God’s Will’.]

The most beautiful and the saddest gate’s trial had finally begun.

Chapter 628: The Sword God’s Inheritance

Minhyuk choked on a mouthful of blood after Valen slashed his chest with his sword.

[Your HP has dropped below 92%.]

With just one attack, Valen shaved off 8% of Minhyuk’s HP. That was shocking, considering that Minhyuk was one of the top rankers of Athenae. What if Valen had used an attack skill? Or a linked attack? That much power meant that he could easily kill Minhyuk in just a few short seconds.

However, Minhyuk’s confusion was far stronger than his fear of the damage inflicted upon him.

“Why...” Minhyuk mumbled, staggering back as he looked at Valen in disbelief.

Upon looking closely at Valen, Minhyuk realized that Valen looked different. He seemed much younger, his eyes were extremely fierce, and the gentleness that Minhyuk was so used to seeing was nowhere to be found.

“You’re Great Demon Gorac’s subordinate.”

The words that the younger version of Valen uttered helped Minhyuk infer as to what kind of situation he was currently in.

‘He’s Instructor but much younger...’

That was right. The person standing in front of Minhyuk was obviously Instructor Valen, when he was younger. From what Minhyuk had heard, Sword God Valen inherited Gremory’s power, took over it and became a Continental God. Furthermore, he was at his strongest during that time.

‘That time was when I was at my strongest. My divine powers have been gradually decreasing since that time. However, I can safely say that I have not brought shame upon the name Sword God.’

Minhyuk mulled over the words that Valen had told him before.

.

Then, Valen said, “How dare you descend to this world to harm humans?!”

Fwoosh—

Valen pointed his sword at Minhyuk’s neck. It was another clue that helped Minhyuk guess what was currently happening.

‘It seems like the current Instructor Valen only has memories of the past now. On top of that, Instructor only sees me as the Great Demon Gorac’s subordinate.’

Then, Minhyuk turned to look at the sword that was behind the young Valen. If everything that he guessed was right, the ‘real’ Valen should still be sleeping in that sword. However, even after figuring that out, there was still a deep pain in his chest.

‘What should I do at this gate?’

The moment he entered the gate, Minhyuk heard the notification about the possibility of acquiring the ‘Sword that Contains the Sword God’s Will’. This meant that there was also a chance that the Sword God that was slumbering in that sword would disappear completely once Minhyuk defeated the young version of Instructor Valen in front of him.

‘We are able to meet somehow, yet we can’t even greet each other properly.’

For the first time, Minhyuk felt how cruel Athenae and Joy Co. Ltd. was. After all, the game had turned Minhyuk into Great Demon Gorac’s subordinate in Sword God Valen’s eyes.

“Go to hell,” Valen spat out, frost evident in his voice. He was only holding a sword in his hand, but the momentum and energy that was flowing out of his body was enough to make Minhyuk breathless.

Bang, bang!

“...!”

Valen just swung his sword lightly, but the impact that Minhyuk received was very powerful.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack!”

[Your HP has dropped below 69%!]

Minhyuk immediately suffered a huge drop in his HP. Sword God Valen in his prime was definitely a man that never wasted his time with words.

“Ho. You’re quite tough, huh?” Valen murmured, interest flashing in his eyes as he sent consecutive attacks toward Minhyuk. Every move of Valen’s sword was fierce, relentless, swift, and packed with heavy power.

Booooooom—

Valen followed Minhyuk’s every movement, and swung his sword to attack his flank. The attack was so fast that Minhyuk was barely able to twist away from the blade. In the midst of spinning away, Minhyuk tried to use the recoil to cast his skill ‘Sword of Frenzy’. However, he came to a halt. He hated the idea of thrusting a sword through Valen’s chest.

At the same time, it was also scary. If Minhyuk killed him here, there was the possibility that the lingering will slumbering in the sword would disappear completely. In other words, Valen would die a true death.

Stab—

Seeing Minhyuk hesitate, Valen easily stabbed through the right side of his chest.

“In, Instructor.”

“...I don’t know who or what you’re talking about,” Valen frowned, doubt flashing in his eyes. Minhyuk’s expression turned desolate and sad. His tears were about to burst out at any moment.

Spurt—

Valen pulled the sword out of Minhyuk’s chest roughly, causing him to stagger back. In response, Minhyuk hurriedly took out a bar of chocolate and placed everything in his mouth.

Sizzle—

His HP recovered by 36% in an instant, his wounds recovering completely.

“As expected of Gorac’s subordinate, you’re using quite an eccentric technique,” Valen said, his expression cold. He looked like he never had much sympathy nor mercy for others.

“Instructor? Are you trying to mislead me by calling me with those weird words? I’ll definitely kill you before you even notice it.”

At that moment, Minhyuk felt the air around him begin to vibrate.

‘Is this true divine power?’

Spear God Ben was not yet a complete God. On top of that, the Instructor Valen that Minhyuk knew was someone that had lost most of his divine power already. The Valen that he was facing now was

in his prime. He had enough power to make the air around him vibrate fiercely just with his momentum alone.

Then, Valen said, “Divine Sword.”

“...!”

Minhyuk felt a huge sense of crisis. He had already personally seen and experienced Valen’s Divine Sword. In fact, he was only able to cut down the gigantic figure of God of Snakes Elizabeth with that sword.

Then, Valen spat out, “Hundred Swords.”

At that moment, a wave of hundred sword blades appeared right in front of Minhyuk.

[Hundreds of swords stretch out and form an overwhelmingly large wave.]

[If you get caught up in the wave, you will receive 7,000% attack damage per second.]

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

The wave created from sword blades devoured everything that it passed through. At the same time, Minhyuk’s ‘Overlord’s Mana’ continued to increase rapidly after recognizing the powerful enemy in front of him. Amidst the wave of swords, a flame appeared and covered Minhyuk’s sword.

“Overlord’s Technique.”

Shwaaaaaaaaaaa—

Although Minhyuk used the skill when the Overlord’s Mana was still increasing, the power that it exerted was still enormous.

Booooooooooom!

‘Crazy...!’

The two forces collided, but the wave of swords was still stronger. It completely overpowered Minhyuk’s flames and struck his body.

“Ughhh!”

Minhyuk hurriedly gulped some potions to recover his HP. The Divine Sword: Hundred Swords was an unstoppable and unavoidable power. The skill ripped Minhyuk’s body to the point that it looked like some ragged cloth.

Valen unleashed an onslaught of attacks toward Minhyuk. However, Minhyuk was still able to hold out, barely enduring by using all kinds of skills, or evading Valen’s attack as much as he could. Still, as time went by, Minhyuk began to feel desperate.

“Ugh!” Minhyuk groaned as he flew back after being kicked in the abdomen. He then stood up quickly. Despite sustaining a stab on his flank, Minhyuk withdrew and did not even think about staging a counterattack.

Using Like the Wind, a skill that could allow him to narrow or widen the distance between him and his opponent, he tried to get as far away as possible from Valen.

“...What a baffling rascal.”

Then...

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Valen hit Minhyuk’s hand, which forced the boy to lose his grip on his sword. In the end, he was unable to stand up. Even his head had started to grow heavy. At the same time, sadness and despair began to overcome his body. His mind raced, thinking about how he should go about dealing with this gate.

‘Maybe I should not awaken Instructor Valen?’

Then, in Minhyuk’s blurred vision, the sword where the real Valen was slumbering began to tremble and shake. Well, to be exact, it was not shaking. It just looked like it was vibrating in Minhyuk’s eyes. Perhaps it was because of the severe pain that he was suffering from, Minhyuk began to hallucinate about having the normal Valen beside him.

[The Slumbering Sword God is telling you to fight to the best of your abilities.]

[The Slumbering Sword God is telling you to hold your sword.]

[The Slumbering Sword God is telling you to do your best.]

“...I know.”

From the words that he heard in his hallucination, Minhyuk slowly started to get up. He wiped the blood that was dripping down his head as he grabbed his sword tightly.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

At the same time, Valen leapt up and tried to deliver the final blow to Minhyuk. But before he could even do so, a transparent barrier appeared around Minhyuk.

“Let’s Have a Meal.”

Minhyuk began to speak softly and gently, “Instructor, do you remember?”

When he met Valen for the first time and had a meal with him, Valen said to him, who was about to step out of the shabby house, *‘Grow stronger. Later, when you have grown strong enough to cross swords with me, let’s have a spar.’*

Minhyuk intended to keep that promise, “I will show you how strong I have become now.”

What Minhyuk did inside the Let’s Have a Meal barrier was to create a high grade dish. Once he created a dish, he used ‘Overlapping Delight’ and received its effects which allowed him to grow several times stronger than usual.

“I will definitely defeat you, Instructor.”

At that moment, fierce determination flashed in Minhyuk’s eyes.

The most beautiful and saddest gate was a cause of concern even for the operators of Joy Co. Ltd. Various teams and departments began to gather in the Special Players Management Team to witness this moment.

Then, someone asked, “Who would win between Valen, who is in his prime, and the current Food God if they fought with all their might?”

“It should be Valen,” a man’s voice rang from behind the person that asked. The voice belonged to none other than President Kang Taehoon.

Food God Minhyuk might have made plenty of achievements, but was enough for them to be convinced that he would be able to win against Valen in his prime?

“Valen was a God. The most outstanding and the strongest out of all the Continental Gods. Back in his heyday, he was considered as the continent’s guardian, the guardian that even demons could not win against.”

“Ah...”

What was Valen’s level back when he was still living? It was estimated to be at around Level 640. How about in his prime? It was estimated to be at around Level 800, perhaps even higher.

Even President Kang Taehoon actually could not measure the exact level of Valen’s powers. It was because Valen’s powers were not dependent on his level alone. After all, he was in possession of the best swordsmanship, a swordsmanship that was befitting his title of Sword God.

“As expected of a God...” One of the Customer Center Team’s staff muttered.

But then, Team Leader Park Minggyu said, “However, Food God Minhyuk is not a combat class player.”

The Sword God was a combat class while the Food God was a non-combat class.

“We won’t know who has the advantage between the two once he uses the Food God’s power.”

The Customer Center staff asked after thinking about something, “But what kind of reward will he receive if he wins against Instructor Valen?”

President Kang Taehoon remained silent, opting not to answer that question. Of course, he knew a bit about what kind of rewards Minhyuk would get if he wins.

‘The Divine Sword.’

As Valen grew older, it became almost impossible for him to wield the ‘Divine Sword’. That was also one of the reasons why he chose to live the rest of his life as an instructor. But after borrowing Minhyuk’s power, he was able to use the Divine Sword’s First Chapter. Therefore, Minhyuk might just possibly become the owner of the greatest swordsmanship, the Divine Sword.

Meanwhile, the busy Story Team Leader finally arrived.

“Team Leader, this story is just too sad.”

“Yes, it’s sad. But if it was not Player Minhyuk that arrived there then it wouldn’t be sad, you know?”

That was right. For other players, cutting down Valen would just be something rewarding.

Then, Employee Lee Minhwa said, “But it’s very heartbreaking for Player Minhyuk. After all, the current Instructor Valen does not have any of the memories that they spent together.”

“Huh? What do you mean by that?” The Story Team Leader frowned, “Valen might have returned to his younger body, the body that is at its prime, but he has retained his complete memory.”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Everyone present was not stupid, and they immediately understood the words of the Story Team Leader. Valen was acting for Minhyuk’s sake.

Chapter 629: The Sword God’s Inheritance

Valen, in his prime, might just be a Continental God. However, he was so powerful that even those that were born as Gods would not be able to do anything against him.

There were originally only twelve Gods that were slumbering in the Abyss, the Tomb of the Gods. When Valen fell into his slumber, the total increased to thirteen, with Valen taking root in the thirteenth gate.

Why was Valen slumbering in the thirteenth gate? Was it because he was the last one to fall into eternal rest? No. It was because the Sword God Valen was a God of a higher rank than the God of Creation, God of Immortality, God of Animals, or even the Food God. The sword was a well-loved and favored weapon. The power of Valen, the God of Swords, was of course beyond imagination.

‘Minhyuk, cut me down,’ Valen thought, joy hidden deep in his heart as he watched Minhyuk use ‘Let’s Have a Meal’ and stay behind the barrier. He wanted to pat the boy on his head after seeing life come to his eyes once again.

It was pride. Valen was so proud of Minhyuk. The Gates of the Abyss were so difficult that ordinary people could not even dream of clearing one, let alone two of them. This only meant one thing. The child that smiled broadly as he slashed at the scarecrow back when they first met had finally grown strong enough to become a ‘True God’.

‘Once you cut me down, you will be able to walk and follow the path of a True God.’

Valen knew that the two of them had no other choice. Either Minhyuk or he had to die here. It was a cruel and unfortunate fate. However, Valen was happy since he could die at the hands of his disciple.

‘You won’t be able to beat me.’

Although it sounded arrogant, that was what Valen truly thought. Minhyuk's growth was definitely shocking. However, in his prime, even Spear God Ben would not be able to win against Valen.

"Do you think your situation will change by playing tricks on me?" Valen continued his performance. Most enemies would not do something like this, but Valen was different, "Even if you play tricks, you will not be able to deal with me. Measly subordinate..."

"Shit. Shut up for a bit, 'Past' Instructor."

"...?"

"You're very loud. *Yada-yada*. Were you really this chatty in the past?"

Right now, the current Valen was just like a stranger to Minhyuk. His figure was that of the past and he even put on the concept to match the figure, one wherein he did not have his complete memories. Because of that, Valen could not say anything. Still, those words stung a little and made him sad.

'It, it hurts a bit. Mi, Minhyuk...'

Minhyuk had exchanged whispers with Genie before he started cooking. He explained the situation to Genie and asked her to relay it to God of Snakes Elizabeth, who was standing right next to her.

God of Snakes Elizabeth's powers and abilities had declined significantly. However, among the NPCs of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, her powers were still on par with Spear God Ben. Fortunately, God of Snakes Elizabeth could use the full extent of her ability to control the system once.

Genie did not answer after a long time. It seemed like she was talking with Elizabeth. Then, an answer finally came.

Minhyuk understood. After all, God of Snakes Elizabeth was not Athenae. Although she had the power to control the system, the fact that she was far away and had to control the system through a set of coordinates would make it even harder.

They needed to be able to control the system so that Minhyuk and Valen would not need to kill each other. To do that, Minhyuk needed buffed dishes.

'The Food God belongs to the lower ranked Gods among the thirteen Gods,' Minhyuk judged. However, that was only the story if he used the Food God's power by itself. Minhyuk was a very strong player. He was someone that could exert far more power than other classes, whether they were combat or non-combat classes. If Minhyuk

combined the Food God's power and his own strength, the Food God would become the strongest God among the thirteen. But...

'It's not just about being strong.'

Minhyuk had already reached the point where he could freely control the effects of the buffed dishes that he would make through the cooking ingredients that he was using.

Should Minhyuk increase his skills to the max? Or should he go with a more efficient method and raise all of his stats and create a balance? While Minhyuk was pondering about what he should do, the voice of the guy that had been sleeping for a while suddenly rang in his ears.

[Are you an idiot? Your opponent is the Sword God. He's not just your ordinary genius.]

'What?'

Minhyuk was actually glad to hear his voice. This was because although his words sounded crooked, he was always saying the appropriate things at the right time.

[But you're also not just an ordinary genius of the sword.]

That was right. Minhyuk could be considered to be the strongest when it came to swordsmanship. After all, he was someone that was on par, perhaps even stronger, than Olympic Gold Medalist Carr in terms of kendo. Also...

[You have the Slaughterer's Armor.]

That was a fact. Right now, Minhyuk not only needed to think of a way to beat Valen, but also a way to drag out the time in a battle against him. As it turned out, Minhyuk was the owner of the Slaughterer's Armor.

Of course, the power that the Slaughterer's Armor could exert would differ depending on the opponent. For existences like Valen, who had a high resistance toward the 'reflection skill', the armor could not exert the full extent of its power. That was why.

'If I increase my basic damage, then I can give an additional boost to one more ability.'

Indeed, it was not that difficult for Minhyuk to increase his basic damage. If he could just increase his ability to ignore the opponent's resistance against damage, then he might be able to do this.

'I'll start.'

Minhyuk started cooking. The dish that he was going to cook was bizarre tteokbokki. But was he going to eat just that? Of course not. This time, he was going to add a special dish. The special dish was none other than the 'Myungrang Sweet Potato Hotdog'.

This was a combination that Minhyuk had wanted to try for the longest time. In fact, the craving always appeared whenever he saw contents with the title 'Freaking Amazing Combi' while surfing his SNS. The sweet potato hot dog, with its sweet and sugary taste, and the spicy tteokbokki that could make one tingle, seemed like the perfect combination. And this was the combination that Minhyuk started cooking.

"We can't go our separate ways like this."

How could they go their separate ways like this when they have only just met again? Of course, his Instructor Valen, who had ‘lost his memories’, would not understand this pain.

“That’s why I won’t lose to you, Instructor.”

‘I see. Of course,’ Valen thought, bitterness surging within him after hearing Minhyuk’s words. At the same time...

‘Although his voice is solemn, excitement is evident on his face.’

Valen could not help but laugh. He was sure that the rascal was excited at the prospect of eating something delicious. As he watched Minhyuk cook, Valen did not stop his act and kept on mumbling, “This lousy subordinate. Quickly stop this cowardly...”

“Shut up, Past Instructor.”

“How dare you call me, a great being, Past Instructor...”

“No, why can’t you just shut up?”

“...”

Basically, what was happening right now was similar to someone cursing their boss. Valen was already about to turn red from holding in his tears. But, he still did his best to endure it.

Minhyuk finished cooking his bizarre tteokbokki. Then, he immediately began frying his sweet potato hotdog.

Sizzle—

The hotdog slowly turned a beautiful gold as it floated inside the golden oil. After around three to four minutes, Minhyuk pulled the hotdog out, the oil still sizzling on its surface. Then, with a *tak! tak!*, Minhyuk shook off the excess oil.

What did Minhyuk do next? Of course, he sprinkled some sugar on the hotdog, the sugar falling down like snow and covering its surface.

“Hehe...” Minhyuk chuckled. He was smiling so broadly that one would wonder if he was the same person that had said *‘We can’t go our separate ways like this’* earlier.

Even so, Valen did not hate this side of him.

‘Keep living like that, even without me by your side,’ Valen thought, sincerely hoping that this would be the case once he was gone.

As for Minhyuk, he was looking at the dishes in front of him with awe. This was because the buff effect of the bizarre tteokbokki and sweet potato hotdog was considerable.

The first thing that Minhyuk did was to lift the lid of the bizarre tteokbokki. Why did he open the lid of the container when he was the one that made the dish himself? Well, it was so he could feel like he was eating from the real store.

The moment he opened the lid, the white melted cheese, just like snow on a winter day, greeted him. Right below it was the spicy red tteokbokki sauce, that looked just like boiling lava. When he picked up a piece of rice cake, the white cheese stretched out all the way to his mouth.

The sweet and spicy flavor burst out, as the chewy texture of the still hot rice cake lingered in Minhyuk's mouth. After chewing on a single piece, Minhyuk picked another piece of rice cake. This time, he ate it together with a piece of Vienna sausage. Minhyuk personally liked the Vienna sausage added in the bizarre tteokbokki.

How would one put it? It could be considered less spicy? However, as Minhyuk continued to chew, the spiciness slowly started to fill his mouth. A 'Ho~' automatically came out of his mouth when he placed another piece of rice cake in his mouth, as beads of sweat started to dot his forehead. Minhyuk quickly took out a handkerchief and wiped off his perspiration, before picking up a piece of red fish cake and placed it in his mouth.

Chew, chew, chew—

"Haaa. Spicy," Minhyuk said as he unknowingly fanned his tongue from the spiciness that lingered.

This time, he picked up the sweet potato hotdog that was sprinkled with sugar. The sweet potato hotdog was actually filled with an entire stick of mozzarella cheese inside.

Crunch, crunch, crunch—

As he took a bite, the crunch of the outer skin rang loudly in Minhyuk's ears. When he reached the cheesy inner layer, the mozzarella stretched out and followed the movement of his mouth. Minhyuk slurped the white cheese in his mouth. This time, Minhyuk dipped the mozzarella sweet potato hotdog in the tteokbokki sauce and placed it in his mouth.

Crunch, crunch, crunch—

'Aaaaaaah! The combination of the sweet and salty flavors is the best! Delicious!'

A smile of delight appeared at the corners of Minhyuk's mouth. He quickly ate the tteokbokki and the hotdog. Then, he chugged down the cool and refreshing peach-flavored Julpis. The cold Julpis washed away the greasiness in his throat and made his smile grow wider.

Then, the notifications came in. Minhyuk wiped his chin, a small smile on his face as he watched the barrier slowly disappear.

Valen felt a bit nervous after watching Minhyuk finish his food. However, it was just a little anxiety on his part. Although he cherished and loved Minhyuk more than anybody else, he still had a firm grasp on reality. He was fully aware that Minhyuk was still not strong enough to fight against him, who was at his prime.

[Sword God's Blessing.]

[Your Physical and Magical Defenses have increased by 45%.]

[Your HP volume has increased by 1.5x.]

[You can calculate the damage that your opponent will incur upon you.]

The Sword God's Blessing is Sword God Valen's inherent skill. The best part of this skill was the fact that he could calculate the damage that he would incur. The calculation was simple. It would compare the damage to that of opponents that Sword God Valen had fought before, whether they be monsters, people, demons, or the like. To put it into perspective, this is what would happen if an ordinary child hit Valen.

[A normal blow has inflicted 313 damage upon you.]

[The damage incurred is similar to a goblin's damage.]

These data would appear in his head. Would this information matter? Yes it would. With this data, Sword God Valen could take proper countermeasures. If he could understand his enemy and himself, then he would be able to win every battle.

The strongest opponent that Valen had faced was Gorac. Of course, it had been just his clone. However, Gorac's clone could be said to have the same power as Great Demon Verus when he descended on earth.

Minhyuk immediately triggered his skill, "Sword of Tempest."

Hundreds of sword blades appeared in the air and shot toward Valen. Valen's sword glided smoothly in front of him as it deflected the hundreds of sword blades that were rushing toward him. None of the attacks reached him.

At the same time, Minhyuk took the opportunity to charge at him. As Valen saw it, he did not intend to avoid this attack. But he also did not intend to die without putting on a fight. Of course, he would still create a situation where he would end up losing, but as Minhyuk's teacher, he wanted to see if Minhyuk already had the qualifications and the power for the next step. At that moment, Minhyuk's sword slashed toward Valen.

Spurt—

Baaaaaaaaang—

However, a strange sound rang in Valen's ears despite the attack just being a simple slash. It was the sound of something getting slashed and then exploding. When Valen looked down, he saw that his armor had a dent.

"Urk...?"

Then, Valen was forced to fly back from the impact of the attack.

'What's this...?'

Then, the notifications rang in Valen's ears.

[A normal blow has inflicted 19,676 damage upon you.]

[The damage incurred upon you is similar to Gorac's Clone's damage.]

[Warning!]

[Your opponent is exerting the same amount of power as the strongest opponent you have faced.]

Minhyuk used Like the Wind and chased after Valen.

Baaaaaaaam—

Valen immediately raised his sword and deflected Minhyuk's downward slash.

Booooooooooom—

[A normal blow has inflicted 19,376 damage upon you.]

[The damage incurred...Gorac's Clone's damage.]

The notifications did not stop.

[A normal blow has inflicted 19,676 damage upon you.]

[The damage incurred upon you is similar to Gorac's Clone's damage.]

Minhyuk's basic attack was similar to Gorac's basic attack.

"Kghk! Ugh! Argh! Ack!"

Currently, Minhyuk's teacher, Valen, was unilaterally being beaten up.

"W, wait!"

"I'll just knock you out."

Valen was flustered, '*No, Minhyuk...*'

Where did the Minhyuk who was crying so much earlier go? All that remained in front of Valen was Minhyuk beating up his teacher. Didn't he just say that he missed him?!

"Kghk! Urk! Aack! Keok!!!"

For some reason, Valen suddenly felt at a loss.

Chapter 630: The Sword God's Inheritance

Great Demon Gorac was an eccentric demon that had been sealed a very long time ago. Although he was dead, he still had plenty of remnants and relics scattered all over the world.

Right now, Valen was suffering damage that was similar to that of Gorac's clone. Even if it was Gorac's clone, the basic damage was beyond an ordinary person's imagination. Now...

"Kghhhhhk!" Valen groaned as he flew back after deflecting Minhyuk's basic attack.

[Critical Strike!]

[A critical strike has inflicted 34,156 damage upon you.]

[The damage incurred upon you is similar to Gorac's Clone's critical damage.]

"..."

Valen was rendered speechless. He had lived as the Sword God for a very long time. His calculations had always been fairly accurate. So, what was with this sudden unpredictable and unbelievable basic damage?

At the same time, these notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears the moment he charged forward.

[Your basic damage has transcended the human realm.]

[This is very shocking. You will receive a reward for achieving a record of having a phenomenal basic damage.]

[Your basic damage will increase by 20%.]

Unique Title

?You will receive a 1% increase in all five of your basic stats.

?Your enemies will receive a 10% reduction in their basic attack damage.

?Your basic attack damage will increase by 10%.

Unexpectedly, Minhyuk received a title with huge effects.

‘Basic damage is ultimately related to skill damage,’ Minhyuk thought as he glared sharply at Valen. Then, he recalled the notifications that he heard after he finished eating the bizarre tteokbokki and the mozzarella sweet potato hotdog.

[You have eaten Bizarre Tteokbokki and Mozzarella Sweet Potato Hotdog.]

[It is a mysterious and fresh combination.]

[You have received additional buff effects.]

[Your basic damage will increase by 1,100%. Your chances of ignoring your opponent’s resistance will increase by 40%.]

[The buff duration is 24 hours.]

Minhyuk did not bother using Overlapping Delight and Double Food together. It was because there was a high chance that Minhyuk would get a shorter buff duration if he used Overlapping Delight. There was also the risk of not being able to control the buff to obtain more damage. Because of that choice, Minhyuk was able to increase his damage beyond his expectations.

Slaaaaaash—

Valen was once again sent reeling after receiving Minhyuk’s basic attack damage.

[A normal blow has inflicted 31,476 damage upon you.]

[The damage incurred upon you is similar to Gorac’s Clone’s damage.]

[Warning!]

[Your opponent is exerting the same amount of power as the strongest opponent you have faced.]

Twitch, twitch—

Valen’s arm that was holding his sword twitched and trembled. Even his HP had decreased by a lot. Sword God Valen was supposed to be the ‘boss’ mob inside the Abyss. In most RPG games, the difference in HP between an ordinary mob and a boss mob could be several tens of times. However,

even though Sword God Valen's HP had doubled as an effect of being in his prime, it was still hard for him to endure the onslaught of Minhyuk's attacks.

Baaaaaaaang—

Valen, who was forced to take another step back, groaned. For a moment, he felt his vision turn white as his body slowly started to fall.

Minhyuk continued to attack with a bitter smile on his face. He had no choice but to knock Instructor Valen out right now. Only through this way, he would have a proper reunion with his beloved instructor.

Collapse—

At that moment, Valen fell to the ground.

Genie and God of Snakes Elizabeth moved in a hurry. The two were fully aware of how important Valen was to Minhyuk. Because of that, the two of them tried their best to reach the vicinity of the Abyss as fast as they could. However, they were not allowed to enter the Abyss together.

"The Gods of the Abyss will not allow me, one of the Six Monster Gods, to enter the Abyss."

"Then, what are we supposed to do?"

"I'll have to do it here."

"Is it possible?"

"I will do my best."

God of Snakes Elizabeth, one of the Six Monster Gods, was still someone that could exert the power of an Absolute God, despite the significant drop in her powers.

[God of Snakes' System Tracking.]

[Beginning to check and understand the system for control!]

A bloody red energy burst out from Elizabeth's body. The energy crawled and seeped through the depths of the Abyss. As her power continued to navigate the system, cold sweat began to drip down her forehead as a light groan flowed out of her mouth, "Ugh..."

Utilizing her skill was very difficult because of the power of the slumbering Gods inside the Abyss. However, Elizabeth persevered. She closed her eyes and began feeling the system. Like a beacon in the dark, she was able to find the system that Minhyuk was talking about. The moment she found it, the notifications rang.

[You have successfully tracked the system.]

[According to the thirteenth system, the gate will only be cleared if one of the two, the gate challenger or the Sword God, dies in battle.]

“Found it,” Elizabeth cheered. However, the question of whether she could change the system from this distance still remained. On top of that, Elizabeth had to take on a lot of penalties to be able to do this.

“Heok... heok...” Elizabeth gasped, using her entire power to try and control the system. She fell on one knee from the overwhelming pressure, until she eventually fell on both knees.

“Elizabeth, are you alright?”

“Just a bit... just a bit more.”

The power of the Abyss was too strong for her to control. It was not that easy for her to control that system with her power alone. Not long after, Elizabeth’s eyes began to turn yellow as she started to chase after the being that governed the system.

As it turned out, the one that governed the system turned to look back at Elizabeth.

‘God of Origin...?’

That was right. The being that created the system in the Abyss was none other than the God of Origin. However, even though the one that created it was the God of Origin, it did not mean that everything was excellent. Elizabeth was able to find a gap to intervene and change the system.

[You have changed the system!]

[Even if you kill Sword God Valen in his prime, the will of the Sword God slumbering in the sword will not disappear.]

Elizabeth was delighted. However, a scream was ripped out of her throat as she looked at the world around her through her yellow eyes. This was because God of Origin Athenae was staring at her.

“...”

Elizabeth was rendered speechless. Although she used to love Athenae more than anybody else, she had already lost her memories. It was all because of Athenae’s mercy.

Athenae stared at Elizabeth for a while. Then, she shook her head as a soft smile curled at the corners of her lips, “So, it’s the snake child.”

Elizabeth heard Athenae’s voice ringing in her ears.

“It’s alright since your power allows you to get involved with my system and change it at your will. However...” Athenae smiled sadly, “The Sword God does not wish for it to be changed.”

Immediately after leaving those words, Athenae disappeared from her sight. At the same time, an unexpected notification rang in Genie and Elizabeth’s ears.

[The system has been changed once again!]

[The Abyss is being controlled by the God of Origin!]

[The Whisper function will be unavailable to all of those inside the Abyss for an hour.]

“...!”

Genie was aghast, “Did, did we fail?”

Elizabeth, with a stunned look on her face, shook her head and slowly said, “No. We succeeded. We definitely did.”

Genie listened intently to Elizabeth’s voice, “We succeeded. But the God of Origin intervened. The God of Origin said that there was nothing she could do.”

That was right. Even if Athenae was the God of Origin, she could not just do anything that she wanted. The only reason why this was possible was because...

“Valen, who is in the system, rejected the changes.”

“What?!”

“The bigger problem here is the fact that His Highness Minhyuk will not be made aware of this at all.”

“How come Minhyuk cannot know about it?! Ah... No way...!”

That was right. Minhyuk must have been notified immediately that the system has changed. And shortly thereafter, he must have heard the notification about the whisper being restricted and unavailable. There was a high chance that Minhyuk believed that this anomaly had been caused by the changes that ‘Elizabeth’ had made to the system.

Genie looked at the Abyss and murmured, “Instructor Valen, why...”

She just could not understand why.

Minhyuk looked at the unconscious Valen. Then...

[The system has been changed by a great force.]

[The Sword containing the will of the Sword God will be changed to the ‘Sword God and the Sword’.]

“...!”

Minhyuk was delighted. He was actually not worried about killing Valen in his prime. What he was afraid of was the disappearance of the Instructor that he knew, the instructor that was sleeping in the sword behind him, forever. But that was not the case now. He would be able to meet with the instructor that was sleeping in the sword. Then, immediately after...

[The Whisper function will be unavailable for an hour.]

Minhyuk judged that Elizabeth’s control on the system was unstable.

‘Well, she said that she did not know if she could even change the system.’

But for now, Minhyuk was satisfied that they were able to make an important change in the system like this.

Now that Minhyuk did not know the changes that had been made, he would be able to take Valen out, who was in his prime. Of course, it would not be easy. After all, Valen was still Valen. However, his longing for Minhyuk was too great. Perhaps, Minhyuk was not even aware of how much he missed him and also about the fact that he was not happy to slumber in the sword at all.

Valen smiled softly and thought, *‘Now, you can do your best.’*

Valen was able to hold a short conversation with Athenae in the short moment that he passed out. His first disciple, Minhyuk, was much stronger than he thought. It was something that he was very proud of. That was why he was now going to fight with him as a real god.

[The Sword God’s power has been completely released!]

[Your attack and defense will increase dramatically.]

[All of your stats will increase sharply.]

[You will be able to use the Divine Sword until its last chapter.]

As the notification rang, Valen recalled the conversation that he had with Athenae.

When Valen lost consciousness for a moment, he was very shocked to see Athenae appear in front of him.

[The God of Snakes is starting to change the system.]

“...!”

Valen was shocked when he heard those words. Then, he listened to the entire story from Athenae. From what he could gather, Minhyuk had sent a whisper to ask the God of Snakes to control the system when he used his skill ‘Let’s Have a Meal’.

‘You want to meet me again this much?’

Of course, Valen was delighted. However, he still shook his head. He was a God that had lived for too long. He sometimes lived as the Sword God, and sometimes lived as an instructor. He had already long welcomed his death.

Did he want to live longer? Yes, of course, he wanted to live longer. He still wanted to see his child grow into a decent lady while walking hand in hand with Roina. There were still many things that Valen wanted to do.

However, Sword God Valen knew that he had already fulfilled his destiny. He did not want to drag his life any longer and live in that sword.

‘I completely understand.’

Minhyuk was already an adult and a king. However, at this very moment, the only thought that was going through his head was to find a way to reunite with Valen. It was not a bad thing. However, Valen did not agree with Minhyuk’s choice.

“Athenae. If my will continues to live in that sword, he will not be able to inherit my powers.”

That was right. If the system truly changed to how Minhyuk wanted it to be, where the Sword God would continue to live within the sword, he would not be able to inherit Valen's powers. Also, Valen has already fulfilled his destiny, and he was already exhausted.

On the other hand, his first disciple still had a long time to live.

[If you want, I can let you live and stay next to him as a human.]

Athenae truly cared for and cherished Sword God Valen. Besides, for her, this was just a trivial thing to do.

'I can continue to live next to Minhyuk?'

It was tempting. But he still shook his head, "If I become a human being once again and live next to him until I grow old, I would just become an obstacle to that child, you know? That child needs to develop and grow. Hoho."

Valen chuckled. Athenae felt that it was a pity. She knew that the reason why Valen made this choice was all because of Minhyuk.

[Sword's Child, are you going to choose eternal and permanent death for that child?]

The system had obviously changed now. But Valen was rejecting the changes himself.

"That child will continue to face plenty of setbacks and trials in the future. It would be more beneficial for him to inherit my powers, than to acquire the sword that contains my consciousness, a sword that has already lost most of its power."

[You will not be able to hug your daughter to sleep anymore.]

[You will not be able to see your beloved Roina anymore.]

Athenae asked him a final question.

[You will not be able to watch Minhyuk from afar anymore. Will you be alright with that?]

It was a very sad story, and a truly heartbreaking situation. Athenae's questions brought frustration to Valen. Even more so because he believed it to be the right decision. He had to forget about living and surviving himself because that child had to become a true 'god'. He would continue to stand by this decision.

"I want to die at the hands of that child today."

Stab—

And now, at the present time, Minhyuk, who believed that Valen in his prime did not have the memories of the time they spent together, stabbed him in the heart. A mouthful of blood gurgled out of Valen's mouth.

"Urk...!"

Meanwhile, Minhyuk was left dumbfounded. He could not understand why Valen deliberately left his chest wide open after they fought tooth and nail against each other.

As for Valen, he did not think that this was a tragic fate. It was simply just a story of those that had to leave and those that had to remain. Also, this would be his last teaching, the final lesson that he would teach his disciple.

‘You are still young, Minhyuk.’

It was because he was young that was why he never thought of Valen and the things that he would suffer. The pain of remaining in the sword forever, the pain of living for too long, and the pain of not being able to see those that he wanted to see as he continued to slumber in the sword.

Minhyuk had not considered these sufferings and pain.

“Why...” Minhyuk asked. Why did the younger Valen allow Minhyuk to hit him in the chest?

Valen wanted to go quietly. He wanted to leave without saying anything to Minhyuk and leaving behind the power of a God for him. However, there was no way that everything would go the way they wanted it to. That was the case for Valen.

Valen gently grabbed Minhyuk’s hand that was holding the sword. He smiled at him with the gentle and beautiful smile that he always showed the boy and said, “Thank you, Minhyuk. I can rest easy now.”

As the entire truth of the matter dawned upon Minhyuk, he instantly lost the strength in his legs. He collapsed to the ground and began to cry as the notifications rang in his ears.

[The One who cut down the Sword God.]

[You will be able to inherit some of the powers of the Sword God!]

[You will now be able to challenge the realms of the True God!]

The teacher had left his final gift to his disciple, as tears flowed down the disciple’s cheeks.