

## Gourmet 671

### Chapter 671: Hanwoo

Rumacar, the current king of the Kingdom of Eden, had died. However, the Jade Emperor, who sent him to take over the kingdom, was silent about it. This was because he had forsaken and abandoned Rumacar, in exchange for his royal seal. With Rumacar dying by the Jade Emperor's will, there was a high chance that the Kingdom of Eden would not be found guilty.

No matter how overboard a god could be, each and every kingdom under his jurisdiction had eyes. He was the one that willingly abandoned Rumacar for his own gain, it was unlikely that he would seek a pretext to invade the Kingdom of Eden again. In the end, a god could only exist if he had priests and believers, and the Jade Emperor was fully aware of that fact.

Hanwoo, or the Bull Demon King, was working round the clock in the Kingdom of Eden. As for Minhyuk, he was currently resting in a large room that was prepared for him by the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal. He wanted to consult with Sun Wukong again, and ask him if there was a way to unlock Obren's seal and awaken him.

Minhyuk was not able to check the notifications after hunting Rumacar since he had been busy. Hence, he took this short break to do that.

[You have successfully killed the Jade Emperor's Envoy and the Commander of the Heavenly Army, Rumacar!]

[Many people from the Edea Continent will show hostility towards you.]

[You have gained 43,977,413,135 EXP.]

[You have leveled up!]

[You have leveled up!]

[You have leveled up!]

[...leveled up!]

[You have gained 34,613 platinum.]

[You have acquired 36 sheets of the Jade Emperor's Weapon Reinforcement Enchantment Parchments.]

[You have acquired 53 sheets of the Jade Emperor's Armor Reinforcement Enchantment Parchments.]

[You have acquired the Tempest Sword.]

[You have acquired Ebentor's Hard Armor.]

[You have acquired Runbei's Breath.]

[You have acquired the Heavenly Army's Commander's Ring.]

[...Aven's Necklace.]

[...Korona's Ring.]

[You have acquired the Skill Book: Typhoon Sword.]

[You have acquired the Skill Book: Intangible Sword.]

Minhyuk's level increased seven times in a row, bringing his level to Level 550 with half of the EXP bar filled.

*'From what I heard, something special will happen once you reach Level 600...'*

Joy Co. Ltd. had sent an announcement about this to the players. However, it was something that would not happen anytime soon. High rankers at Level 500 or higher needed at least a month to raise their level even by just one level.

Minhyuk decided to check the title 'The One that Cut Down the Heavenly Army's Commander' first.

Unique Title

?When fighting against those that are related to the Jade Emperor, you will receive a 15% increase in all of your stats and a 50% increase in your sword's attack power.

?All of your stats will increase by 3%, regardless of the special relation requirement listed above.

The title was not bad, especially with the 3% increase in all stats.

The other items that Minhyuk deemed to be useful were the Jade Emperor's Weapon and Armor Reinforcement Enchantment Parchments. These two parchment items could increase the power of the weapon or the armor by 1 to 3 times. However, there was a surprise to these items.

*'The probability of having a successful reinforcement is three times higher than that of ordinary reinforcement blessings and stones.'*

The reinforcement parchments were that good.

Next, Minhyuk looked at the other items that caught his eyes, those that could immediately help him with whatever situation he would face next. Among these items was the Heavenly Army's Commander's Ring.

*'Isn't this one amazing?'*

?A 15% increase in CHA.

?You can summon ten of the Heavenly Army's Warriors.

?You can summon one Heavenly Commander.

*'Wait a minute. This...'*Minhyuk mumbled, finding the description of the ring to be very shocking.

There were some surprises in the description. The first was that there was no time limit to the summoning time. In other words, once they summoned them, they could become Minhyuk's allies for all eternity, which meant he could even use this in another way.

*'Since I can summon them from the ring, this means that it's possible for me to hide them from the others.'*

It was very important to hide one's powers when dealing with enemies. It would become like a trump card of some sort. The next one was the fact that the special effects did not mention what kind of 'Heavenly Commander' or 'Heavenly Army's Knight' would be summoned.

*'The one that I can summon can either be the Heavenly Army's Mage Commander, Knight Commander, or even the Archery Commander.'*

Yes. The same was true for the knights. The most important part here was that the level of the troops of the Heavenly Army that Minhyuk had seen before were at least at Level 550, comparable to that of a high ranker. There was also Heavenly Army Commander Lebanon, who was at Level 600.

*'Even a boss mob will be afraid of him.'*

Basically, they would be crazily strong subordinates. There was also another advantage to this.

*'For summoning rings, I can just wear it and take it off after the summoning.'*

Minhyuk already owned a lot of rings. For summoning rings, they were not subjected to the item limit imposed upon the player. That was why Minhyuk could just wear it and take it off whenever he wanted.

*'It's because of this, huh...'*

Before, Minhyuk had received an attack from Rumacar just by the man taking one step forward. The attack was not really that difficult to evade. However, he learnt something from the description.

#### Active Skill

?Upon activation of the Intangible Sword, you will be able to attack your enemies with an invisible sword for three minutes.

?Upon activation of the Intangible Sword, you will be able to use Sword Manipulation.

?Upon activation of the Intangible Sword, your sword's attack power will increase by 30%.

There was one thing that Minhyuk was very curious about.

*'Intangible Sword...'*

Minhyuk already had a skill with the same name. It was a skill that he had obtained from one of the Eight Pinnacle Strong Men, Imperial Sword Rumad. It was quite rare to find a duplicate skill for skills at a certain rank or higher. There were even fewer cases where legendary skills or higher overlapped and had duplicates.

*'Usually, in this case...'*

Minhyuk remembered a very, very special case. It was not like there was not a precedent where a legendary rank skill had duplicate.

*‘The skill has been divided into two.’*

For the example he remembered, the power had been split into two. If that was truly the case, then it might mean something.

*‘Did Imperial Sword Rumad visit Edea?’*

Since Minhyuk obtained the Intangible Sword, a skill that was divided into two, it was obvious what he would do next.

“Skill combination.”

One did not need to have a special skill or power to make this happen. All they needed to do was find the two parts of the power that were divided.

[You are in possession of another Intangible Sword!]

[The Skill Book: Intangible Sword is reacting and responding to the Intangible Sword skill that you currently possess!]

[Skill Book: Intangible Sword has regained its full power!]

The skill book that he acquired and was lying dormant in Minhyuk’s inventory after he killed Rumacar suddenly flew out and floated in the air. Then, it was sucked into his body.

[The Intangible Sword skill in your possession has regained its full strength!]

[Congratulations! Your Intangible Sword skill will change and obtain a higher level!]

[The Intangible Sword skill’s level will change from Legendary to Envoy rank!]

[Edea’s Envoy-rank Skills are equivalent to your world’s God-rank Skills!]

“...?!”

A skill that was equivalent to a God-rank skill was an unexpected harvest for Minhyuk.

That was when a thought flashed in Minhyuk’s head, *‘The only one they worship as a True God here is the Jade Emperor, huh?’*

Right below the Jade Emperor were his envoys. In other words, the Jade Emperor’s existence was like Athenae, while his envoys were like the Absolute Gods.

Putting that thought aside, Minhyuk moved to check the description of Intangible Sword once again, his body trembling with anticipation.

Active Skill

?Upon activation of the Intangible Sword, you will be able to attack your enemies with an invisible sword for five minutes. Your attack will reach your enemy as long as they are within a ten meter radius from you just by simply brandishing your sword.

?Upon activation of the Intangible Sword, you will be able to send hundreds of invisible swords and manipulate them with Sword Manipulation.

?Upon activation of the Intangible Sword, your sword's attack power will increase by 900%. The movement speed of your Sword Manipulation will also be ten times faster than your speed of wielding your sword.

?Upon activation of the Intangible Sword, you will be able to ignore all of your enemy's defenses.

*'Isn't this freaking amazing...?'*

The biggest takeaway here was that he could use Sword Manipulation to manipulate hundreds of invisible swords. This was an overpowered skill, especially since the movement speed of the Sword Manipulation would be ten times higher than his own speed and would even have 900% more attack power.

*'It's safe to say that the sword will move at the speed of light, no?'*Minhyuk thought. However, something happened right after, taking him by surprise.

[The priest that serves and worships you is praying to you!]

[Your priest is informing you of a danger!]

[Please listen and grant your priest's heartfelt prayers!]

"...?"

Minhyuk looked at the notifications in doubt. This meant that Ambron, the priest that was originally supposed to walk the path of the Death's Priest, was praying to him.

*'Did something happen to the temple?'*

Then, at that moment, something else cropped up.

"The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal has sent me to inform you that everything has been prepared."

Minhyuk had asked the Bull Demon King and Sun Wukong if they had a way of sending his believers to his own kingdom. Fortunately, Sun Wukong was able to create a portal that could send plenty of people to another world. However, once they were sent to that world, it would be very hard for them to return to this world.

*'I can't go right now.'*

After all, he had yet to find out if there was a way to awaken Obren from Sun Wukong.

*‘Should I try this one, then?’*Minhyuk thought, taking out a parchment that he had received as a gift from Sun Wukong. This parchment was none other than the ‘Cloning Technique Parchment’.

“Then, is it possible to open the portal now? I have to send my believers and my clone right away.”

The best part about the Cloning Technique Parchment was that he could switch positions or combine with the clone that he sent, if it was truly an emergency. Once he found out that the situation was something that his clone could not handle, he would go himself.

[Cloning Technique. Chapter 3.]

[A clone that resembles you has been made!]

[The clone will have 60% of your power!]

[You can control your clone!]

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At the same time.

Boooooooooooooom—

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

“Ugh, aaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Keuhaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

“For, For Minhyuk Religiooooooooooon!!!”

Priest Ambron gulped back the terror that gripped him, as he charged forward with the priests and believers.

He had gathered close to 200 believers with the help of Beanie. Most of them were just apprentices. However, the fact that they could gather this many priests and followers was already a miracle. There should have been no priest willing to join a small religion like Minhyuk Church, but here they were.

However, they were suddenly attacked. The main culprits behind this surprise attack were none other than the believers of Ardees, the Incarnation of Fire. God of Fire Ardees’ priests and believers grew enraged after learning of the death of their god and went on to search for the temple of the Food God.

After finding the whereabouts of the temple, Dean Illen, the head priest that served God of Fire Ardees, scouted and gathered information. He was fully aware that the Food God’s temple was just newly built and should still be unorganized. To his surprise, he found out that they had already gathered around 200 priests and believers in just a short amount of time.

On the other hand, the religion that worshiped Ardees had existed for a very long time. The number of their priests and believers was around 20,000 members all over the world. They might not be strong, but at the very least, they had numbers.

*‘We’re stronger than those apprentices,’* Illen thought, a sneer on his mouth.

Illen was also aware that the Food God’s temple was being protected by the Supreme Divine Beast, Beanie. That was why he used the ‘Prayer of Restraint’ on Beanie. Even though it was just five minutes, he would still be able to restrain the baby piggy. That was more than enough time to get rid of a praying priest and a mere 200 believers.

*‘Today is the day that the Food God’s temple will be destroyed!’*

Ambron felt his heart sink into despair.

*‘...Have you gathered plenty of priests and believers?’* Ambron asked his god.

He had asked the Food God, Minhyuk, to gather thirty priests and believers. If Minhyuk was able to do that, Ambron felt like he would be able to trust and follow him. They had gathered this many priests and believers thanks to Beanie’s ‘method acting’, but it would have definitely been a very hard task for the Food God.

*‘In the end, will everything fall apart and get destroyed?’*

Ambron had already decided to risk his life and die today. Anyway, he was already dead set on dying before. However, before leaving this world, he wanted to at least pray one last prayer to his god.

“Euaaaaaaaaack!”

“Keuwaaaaaaaaack!”

The screams of the people, who had joined the Minhyuk Church and had gathered to worship him, rang rampant inside the temple.

“Keuhahahahahahahah! You will all die! Everything inside the Minhyuk Church will be destroyed!”

This temple would collapse today and the Minhyuk Church would disappear. But then, God’s Voice rang in the ears of Ambron, who was praying earnestly to his god.

[God has answered the prayers of the earnest and gentle one!]

[God will send his priests and believers for your sake!]

[God will send his clone that can use 60% of his own powers for your sake!]

“...?”

Ambron was left in disbelief. In fact, he truly did not expect anything much after he prayed. However, God was sending him believers? How many believers did he have? Ten? Twenty? Perhaps, fifty? How much help could they be to them?

At that moment, Ambron felt disappointment in his god, Minhyuk. Unbeknownst to him, the believers that Minhyuk sent were in fact, strong.

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Ambron sighed softly. He expected Minhyuk to send only around 30 believers, but the number of enemies that appeared in front of them was around 20,000. On top of that, God had only sent a clone with 60% of his own power and did not even come in person.

*‘In the end, he’s the same...? Why can’t he come in person? Just like that time when he first captivated me and won me over? Isn’t he going to save me and those poor people?’* Ambron gritted his teeth.

[God is grateful to you for gathering believers for him!]

[God has received your sincere heart and thoughts!]

Flaaaaaaaash—

At that moment, white light began to burst out of the Minhyuk Church’s temple, which was hidden behind the dark thickets of the gloomy and dark forest.

Flaaaaaaash—

Flaaaaaaash—

Flaaaaaaaash—

White warhorses appeared one after the other from within the forest, carrying men covered with the hood of their white uniform similar to a priest’s robes as they charged forward and cried loudly to announce their presence.

*“Hihihihihihing!”*

*“Hihihihihihihing!”*

[The envoys sent by God have now reached the temple and have come to save you!]

Ambron could not hide the shock in his eyes when he saw the men wearing pure white priestly robes appear in front of him. Fifty people? A hundred? Perhaps, two hundred? No, not at all. There were as many as 500 people that appeared in front of him, and they immediately started to sweep away the 20,000 enemy army that were attacking the temple.

“Euaaaaaaaack!”

“Keuhaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaack!!!”

The average level of the soldiers of the Kingdom of Eden was at Level 450. Among them were also the ten Heavenly Army knights and one Heavenly Commander that Minhyuk had summoned through the ‘Heavenly Army’s Commander’s Ring’.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

The scene where a mere unit of 500 strong men in pure white priestly robes swept away the believers of the Incarnation of Fire, was very awe-inspiring.



“Ah, aaaaaaah... aaaaaaaaaah...!” Ambron sank to his knees, his hands clasped together in prayer.

*‘To think I doubted my god! I was suspicious of him!’*

Tears streamed down Ambron’s cheeks as he repented. Hundreds of Ardees’ believers charged towards him, intent on killing him. Was this going to be his end? Perhaps, but it was fine, because today, Ambron had seen how great and amazing his god, the Food God, was.

“Die!!!”

“Kill that priest no matter what!!!”

Ambron, despite the countless swords and spears aimed at him, smiled. But then, at that moment, the hood covering the face of one of the men, who in white priestly robes riding the warhorses, fell off and exposed his face. Ambron was deeply moved at the sight.

*‘My God! The Great God of the Minhyuk Church!!!’*

Then, the man swung his sword while saying, “Intangible Sword.”

[God has sent his clone to save and protect you!]

[He is swinging his sword for you!]

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

Then, at that moment, hundreds of Ardees’ believers that were dead set on killing Ambron collapsed on the ground, blood spurting from their body at the same time.

Thud— Thud— Thud— Thud—

Even though Ambron had seen it with his own eyes, he could not believe it. It was just too surreal.

*‘What...?’*

Ambron’s face was painted with confusion. The clone that God had sent had only swung his sword once. However, the hundreds of people that had approached him all died in an instant. That was not even the end of it.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaaaaaaack!”

“Urrrrrrrrrk!”

Ambron immediately turned around and looked at the direction where the screams came from. There, he saw more believers of the Incarnation of Fire Ardees die one after the other, their bodies spurting blood all over. Some were not even able to scream before they died, their heart and vital points pierced through by some sort of power.

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

Ten seconds. It only took ten seconds for 1,000 of Ardees’ believers to die.

*‘Are they that weak?’*

Well, that was one of the reasons. Many of the believers of Ardees were ordinary people that had never held a blade in their hands. They were only a threat to Minhyuk Church because the religion's believers were mostly apprentices and their large numbers.

Then, was it because the clone was very strong? No, that was not it either.

Right now, they could not see it, but God's clone had activated the Intangible Sword and sent hundreds of invisible swords to sweep away the enemies. Although the clone only had 60% of Minhyuk's power, the hundreds of swords that could completely ignore his opponent's defenses could exert a strength that was far beyond anyone's imagination.

Dean Illen, the head priest that served God of Fire Ardees, could not hide how flustered he was. He screamed, "What can you even do with just less than 700 people?!!!"

His anger flared. However, he soon calmed down. Most of Ardees' believers were just ordinary people. However, there were also quite a few paladins that served his god. These paladins were around Level 450 and would definitely be able to turn the situation around.

One of the paladins swung his sword down on one of the Food God's envoys.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

A gleeful smile appeared on Illen's face, as he expected a fountain of blood that would soon dye this temple red. They had around 500 paladins on their side. He believed that this number was more than enough to kill those envoys.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

One of the Food God's envoys charged forward alone, slashing and cutting down Ardees' paladins. As the fight continued, the spear of one paladin caught the hem of the priestly robes that covered the envoy and tore it apart.

What appeared beneath the white robe was a golden full plate armor and a white cape. Written on the white cape fluttering behind the man were the words 'Heavenly Army's Heavenly Commander Nelson'.

*'Heavenly Army...? What the hell is a Heavenly Army?!'*

Dean Illen might not know it but Heavenly Commander Nelson's level was at Level 610. No matter how many of them flocked towards him, there was no way that they could kill him.

Unbeknownst to him, Minhyuk had also summoned ten warriors of the Heavenly Army with the same 'Heavenly Army's Commander's Ring'. Some of them were knights, some were mages, and some were archers.

The mages brought confusion to the enemies by bombarding them with magical attacks while the archers shot their arrows and targeted their vital points. As for the knights? They helped those that were in grave danger by stabbing the enemies in their vital points.

"This, this is impossible..."

Dean Illen's family had served the Incarnation of Fire Ardees for hundreds of years. As the head priest, he had always hoped that the god that he served would be worshiped by many people and the religion that he had created would be stronger. That was the reason why Illen, using various

methods and giving it his all, gathered strong priests and believers. He had devoted his entire life to this cause!

But what about Minhyuk Church? It was a religion that had just been established and was only in operation for a week. However, there were already more than 500 powerful believers that had gathered together to worship and serve the religion.

However, it was not just Illen that was surprised about this. Even Ambron was shocked by this scene.

*‘What in the world is the Food God’s power...’*

Ambron could not measure it. His clone only had 60% of his power, yet he was like the god of the battlefield as he slaughtered the enemies in front of him.

“He, he’s the God that we serve and worship...?!”

“Minhyuk Church’s Lord and God!!!”

“Lord Minhyuk!!!”

“Ah, aaaaaaaah...!!! Our great and mighty Lord Minhyuk!!!”

The apprentices were given two surprises today. The first one was the fact that they were able to see their god’s visage, and the second one was the might of their god.

As for Ambron, he finally decided to acknowledge Minhyuk. He had certainly asked him to gather thirty believers. But Minhyuk had gone far and beyond.

*‘He accomplished something very amazing.’*

Minhyuk had gathered around 500 believers by himself. It was a complete and undeniable success.

“Look!!! This is the great and mighty lord and god of our Minhyuk Church!!! Lord Minhyuk’s power right now is only at 60%!!!”

“Wow...”

“Did, did he just say 60%...?”

Those words alone were enough to bring shock to the believers and priests of both Minhyuk and Ardees religions.

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

Then, as if to drive that fact in further, Minhyuk’s Intangible Sword cut down more than 5,000 of the enemies that blocked his path.

“...”

“...”

“...”

“...”

Everyone turned speechless when they saw how Ardees' priests and believers fell down like leaves in autumn. Some even completely lost their will to fight. In fact, Ardees' believers were aware that nothing would change even if they destroyed the Minhyuk Church. They just did this because they wanted to find a place where they could vent their anger after they learned about the death of the god that they had served and worshiped for a very long time.

"Ardees was a violent and fierce god. Everyone knew of his viciousness even in the world of the gods," At that moment, Priest Ambron declared as he stepped forward.

There were now only around a thousand survivors from Ardees' believers at most. This was because the envoys that Minhyuk had brought forward were far too strong. For some strange reason, the surviving believers of God Ardees began to listen intently to Ambron. This was all because of Ambron's passive, 'Priest that Shares Faith'.

The Priest that Shares Faith was an incredible skill that could attract those that did not have any god to follow, those that had been abandoned by their god, or those that no longer had any god to worship and serve.

"On the other hand, the Food God is very gracious and merciful towards his believers."

"..."

"..."

Everyone looked at Ambron when they heard his words. It was true. After all, Minhyuk had sent his clone and envoys to protect his temple, priests and believers. This fact alone made the believers of God Ardees feel envy towards the believers of the Food God's religion.

"Our Lord, the Food God, will welcome you with open arms."

Minhyuk's clone stopped attacking the moment he heard those words.

*'Eh? I didn't plan on doing that though?'*

Minhyuk had been controlling his clone. In fact, he did not intend to spare a single soul here. However, he stopped to watch this interesting situation that Ambron, his priest, was creating.

"If you stay with Minhyuk Church, you will definitely become happy!!! Everyone, can't you see the happy smile on my face?!!!" Ambron said, tears streaming down his cheeks.

"Ah, aaaaaaaah...!!!"

"Such heartfelt tears!!! Just because you're serving and worshiping your own god!!!"

"Aaaaaaah! Minhyuk Church! What a great name!!!"

Among those that shouted in admiration was Illen, the dean and head priest of Ardees' religion. In fact, he had already grown skeptical of his god and was already on the fence as to whether he should continue to serve his god or not. He was also the one that was first to shout to make sure that he could win the heart of his new god and the believers of Minhyuk Church.

“Minhyuk...”

“...”

“...”

“...”

Everyone focused on Ilzen when they saw him mumble Minhyuk’s name while shedding tears.

“...Church, long live!!!”

“Long liveeeeeeeeeee!!!”

“Aaaaaaaaaaaah! The great and mighty Minhyuk Church!!!”

Many of them decided to abandon their religion and choose to serve Minhyuk and Minhyuk Church right at this very moment. However, there were others that did not want to do so.

At that moment, a very quick-witted being began to make his move. This being was none other than Priest Beanie, wearing his own version of a priestly robe.

Beanie grabbed the priests and believers that started to move to return to their homes, his expression reminiscent of an old master in seclusion. Then, he smiled at them kindly and said, “Oink, oink oink, oink. (*Have a meal before you go.*)”

The eyes of everyone that tasted the food served in the Minhyuk Church grew wide after realizing the greatness of the Food God.

“Aaaaaaaaaaaah! Lord Minhyuuuuuuk!”

“Aaaaaaaaaaaah. Long live Minhyuk Religiooooooon!”

At the same time, notifications rang in the ears of Minhyuk, who was controlling his clone from afar.

[You have gained 557 new priests and 485 new believers in Minhyuk Church.]

[Minhyuk Church’s level has increased further!]

“...?”

Simply put, Minhyuk was able to eat rice cake while lying down thanks to Ambron. Just when the thought flashed in his head...

*‘I want to eat some rice cakes.’*

Today too, Minhyuk Church’s god was thinking like as he typically did.

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Minhyuk and the Bull Demon King stood facing each other. For Minhyuk, the Bull Demon King was a very reliable comrade. And for the Bull Demon King, although he did not have the complete memories of this man in front of him, he could still tell that this man had treated him dearly and fought for him.

“I’ll get going now,” Minhyuk said, smiling softly.

The Bull Demon King was aware that there was nothing much he could do for Minhyuk right now. He had heard Minhyuk say to the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, that he would leave after learning how to awaken Obren.

"Please stop by if you ever come to Edea again."

"Alright."

"Also, this. I prepared a gift for you."

The Bull Demon King had ordered his subordinates to bring something to him. He had wrapped it in gold cloth and wanted to give it to Minhyuk as a gift.

Minhyuk had a hunch about what it was. One small peek at the gap between the gold cloth and he could see the glimmer of a perfectly delicious-looking 'beef gift set'.

"..."

Minhyuk could tell that the beef gift set that the Bull Demon King had gifted to him was not ordinary. However, for some reason, he felt reluctant to consume it.

"I'll eat it well!" Minhyuk said, a bright smile plastered on his face.

The Bull Demon King could not understand the man even more after seeing the pure smile like a child on his face, *'He's the king of a nation and a god, someone that stood up to Rumacar and killed him, yet he smiles brightly in front of food.'*

Actually, even if the Bull Demon King was in the form of a cow, he knew that it would not be easy to pretend and act in front of him.

*'Did I take a fancy to this man's purity and innocence?'*

Perhaps the reason why he, the Bull Demon King, followed this man for so long was because of that.

"Hahahahahahaha. Do you like it that much?" The Bull Demon King said, smiling as he watched the boy clutch the gift tightly to his chest.

"Of course I like it! It's the Hanwoo Gift Set that my dear Hanwoo gave me!" Gét latest  
"...Hmm?"

"It's nothing! Anyway, I really, *really* like it!"

The two looked at each other for a long time. In the end, Minhyuk left. As for the Bull Demon King, he continued to watch him until his back disappeared from the horizon.

And once again, the Bull Demon King resumed his duties as a king. He had been working hard and commanding his people to aid those that had been affected and was walking around the Kingdom of Eden to greet his people and even comforting the families of the bereaved for a few days now.

As he continued with his work, one of the knights called out to him. The knight was none other than the Sword's Saint Aaron. The Bull Demon King looked at him as he continued to speak, "Why do you keep on looking in the direction where he left?"

"I do not," the Bull Demon King denied, only realizing that he had been looking back unconsciously.

He thought that he was just trying to recall the time that he spent with the man, who he could not remember well, laughing and crying. In fact, he could even hear the man's voice in his ears.

*'Mooooooooooooooooo!'*

How many times had he laughed so happily with him?

*'Let's go, Hanwoo!!!'*

Had he ever lived for someone like that before? No. But he knew that it would not happen again.

"Your Majesty," Aaron called out to the Bull Demon King. Then, he said, "I hate to say this, but you are no longer our king."

"...What?" The Bull Demon King looked at Aaron, a stern look on his face.

Aaron looked around the Kingdom of Eden and said, "Your Majesty, you have already been labeled as a tyrant, a fact that has greatly shaken the public's view upon you. And even though Rumacar was the one that persecuted the people, they all blamed Your Majesty, the Bull Demon King, before blaming Envoy Rumacar."

"..."

"Everyone remembered how Your Majesty had fled and abandoned us. Our king? You can continue to stay on the throne. However..."

"..."

The Bull Demon King could not understand. If the people hated him, then that meant that the same was true for the knights. However, the look in the eyes of the people, the knights and the troops when they looked at him did not contain any of that. In fact, their eyes were showing their undying loyalty, and faith in the Bull Demon King.

"There is no way that we will treat someone, who holds someone else dear in their heart, as our king. Don't you think so too?"

Shiiiiiiiiing—

The Sword's Saint Aaron drew his sword and pointed it at the Bull Demon King.

"Please leave and do what you want to do, what you intended to do."

"..."

Shiiiiing—

Shiiiiiiiiing—

Shiiiiiiiiing—

Hundreds of knights drew their swords and pointed it at the Bull Demon King. In the first place, the Bull Demon King should not have returned here. However, he came back here to save them. They

did not deserve to serve him and live under his rule, especially after they had turned their backs on him despite knowing full well that he was not a tyrant, all because they were afraid of the Jade Emperor and Rumacar. This was the only thing that they could do for him.

“Please remember what you truly wanted to do,” Aaron said, his expression turning cold. “Please leave the Kingdom of Eden.”

“Heuk.?Huhuhuheuk...”

“Huhuhu!”

They might be pointing their swords at the Bull Demon King but someone was crying among them. The Bull Demon King looked up at the sky, filled with emotions, as the people of the Kingdom of Eden stuck their heads to the ground and bowed to him.

“Someday...” The Bull Demon King said as he looked down at Aaron, “...If I come here someday, then don’t kick me out so easily, no?”

Aaron looked at his king, the two men smiling brightly at each other.

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An unknown notification rang in the Bull Demon King’s head just when he was about to leave the kingdom. It was the same notification that he heard when he moved to another world.

[The Jade Emperor is furious to see you try to give up your throne!]

[If you give up your position as the king of the Kingdom of Eden, you will have no other choice but to return to the figure of a cow.]

The Bull Demon King was a very important figure in the Edea Continent. Even though he might not know it, this was the system’s way to put restrictions upon him and prevent a powerful person like him from leaving the continent.

The Bull Demon King stood on his spot and looked back at the Kingdom of Eden.

Flaaaaaaash—

Then, he was enveloped in a flash of light. When the light faded, the Bull Demon King had returned to being Hanwoo, the gigantic cow. Then, his memories as the Bull Demon King started to get blurred once again. On top of that, he could no longer think as deeply as he could before. He became nothing more than a slightly smarter cow than the rest. However, he began to run.

“Moouooooooooo!!!!” He cried out, a spring in his steps as he ran swiftly at the thought of seeing *him* again.

Hanwoo no longer had the powerful force and charisma that he displayed before when he swept away his enemies with his woldo. However, he now had his four thick and powerful legs. He continued to run, his tail swishing gently behind him.

Monsters began to attack him when he ran past a rugged plain. After all, he looked like a tasty, edible cow. But even if Hanwoo lost most of his strength, he was still the Bull Demon King. These monsters were nothing to him as he charged through thousands of them.



“Moouoooooooooooo!!!”

There was also a time when he encountered a very, very wide river, which he struggled to cross. On top of that, the blazing heat of the sun beat his back and made him thirsty. However, he continued to run, and soon, he came across Sun Wukong.

Sun Wukong looked at Hanwoo in surprise. However, he chuckled lightly and said, “He went to the Papal Wall.”

“Moouoooooooooooo!!!” Hanwoo cried loudly as he started yet another long journey.

The Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal, Sun Wukong looked at Hanwoo’s disappearing figure with a small smile on his face and said, “So, you’re going to create a splendid legend, huh?”

Hanwoo kept on running despite knowing the fact that the road to the Papal Wall was far more difficult and dangerous than the roads that he traversed before. There was even a time where his feet turned black after charging through a river of lava.

Sizzleeee—

“Moouooo! Moouoo!”

He had to hide in a cave, curling in and on himself to stop his body from shivering, trying to withstand the cold that the harsh and cold typhoon brought forward. He also had to climb precarious cliffs, trudging carefully with his heavy body.

Crack, crack, crack—

Thuuuuuuuuud—

“Moouoooooooooooo!!!” Hanwoo screamed wildly as he fell from the cliffs.

That was not all. There were also strong monsters that blocked the path towards the Papal Wall. If he was still the Bull Demon King, then these monsters would not even step forward to fight against him. However, he was Hanwoo now, and thousands of these monsters charged at him and prevented his advance.

“Moouoooooooooooo!!!” Hanwoo cried loudly as he fought against them until his body was covered with cuts and tears.

Stagger—

Hanwoo’s steps faltered but he still continued to charge through the horde of monsters.

“Moouoooooooooooo!!!”

Finally, the silhouette of the Papal Wall appeared in the distance. As his destination appeared in his eyes, Hanwoo’s steps turned light and cheerful.

\*\*\*

At the same time.

Minhyuk had been standing in front of the Papal Wall for several days now, his expression completely flustered.

The Papal Wall boasted an extremely outstanding durability. However, the biggest problem for Minhyuk was the fact that there was not even a chip off of the wall no matter how hard or powerful Minhyuk's attack was.

*'The wall regenerates...'*

To top it off, the Papal Wall's durability would restore five minutes after receiving an attack. Because of that, Minhyuk had to deal an extremely huge amount of damage all at once to reduce the durability. But even after using Overlapping Delight, Double Food, and several other skills together, Minhyuk still could not make the Papal Wall budge.

Minhyuk smiled bitterly as he looked at the towering walls in front of him, *'If that guy's here then he would probably be able to do it.'*

A soft smile graced Minhyuk's lips at that thought. The necklace that he had always hung around Hanwoo's neck was still kept properly in his inventory. Minhyuk quickly cast aside the thought as he began swinging his sword once again.

He swung his sword for around thirty minutes but no matter what he did, the Papal Wall truly did not budge.

"Haaa... Haaa..."

[You are running out of stamina!]

[You will experience dizziness for a moment!]

Minhyuk felt giddy and dizzy for a brief moment.

"Moooooooooo!!!"

At that same instance, a loud cry rang in his ears.

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Hanwoo continued to run. There he was, the master that he wanted to see so much, right in front of him. That was when he saw that his master was exhausted, blocked by a towering wall.

So, Hanwoo made his body grow bigger. From 20 meters, to 30 meters, to 40 meters, to 50 meters. Although his master did not order it, Hanwoo could tell what his master wanted.

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom—

With a huge leap that made the ground shake, Hanwoo finally collided with the towering wall.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

Then, the huge walls began to fall apart and crumble to pieces, kicking up a thick cloud of dust. Although he could not see it, Minhyuk could tell that it was his dear Hanwoo.

Even though Minhyuk was still dizzy, he still jumped up from the ground, not daring to believe his eyes. When the dust finally settled, Minhyuk was able to see Hanwoo, whose body was covered with blood and torn all over.

But Hanwoo still continued to walk, stepping ever so closer to where Minhyuk was. And when he was in front of his master, he slowly stuck his head out.

“...”

Minhyuk looked at Hanwoo silently. After a while, he took out the necklace with the word ‘Hanwoo?’ written on it, the very same necklace that he kept dearly and properly, and hung it on Hanwoo’s neck.

“Mooooooooooooooooo!!!”

Minhyuk did not say anything. He just looked at Hanwoo, who was crying loudly, with a bright smile on his face. Then, he climbed on Hanwoo’s back as they started to cross onto the land beyond the Papal Wall.

“Hanwoo, let’s go!!!”

“Mooooooooooooooooo!!!”

Today, the king and his pressure vassal experienced a warm and loving reunion.

#### Chapter 674: Papal Wall

Even the Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal was unaware of what laid beyond the Papal Wall. However, there was one thing that Sun Wukong knew about it. It was that the Papal Wall was the tomb of Athenae Religion’s first Pope, Kronad.

According to Sun Wukong, Kronad’s Tomb was already there even before he came to this land. No one had ever gone beyond the towering Papal Wall. However, right at this very moment, Minhyuk had crossed the Papal Wall.

[You have crossed over the Papal Wall!]

[You are the first player to have ever crossed the Papal Wall!]

[Anyone that has crossed over the Papal Wall will not be able to leave this land unless they have received permission from this land’s owner.]

[However, you will be able to escape if you were forced to log out!]

[Whispers, guild chats, and any other form of communication have been restricted!]

[You have gained 500 REP.]

[You have gained +5 in all of your stats.]

The land that stretched out in front of Minhyuk was like a new world, one that was surrounded by the towering Papal Walls, and was completely different from Edea.

Minhyuk was only able to relax on Hanwoo’s back after he had crossed over the Papal Wall. The Papal Wall was so thick and sturdy that it did not budge even after he had struck his sword against it for several days.

Gulp—

Minhyuk gulped dryly, his stomach protesting from hunger. Actually, even though Hanwoo had given him a gift set, he could not bear to eat it.

*‘I just can’t bring myself to eat the final parting gift that he had given me.’*

But now, Hanwoo came back to him and would stay by his side forever.

Gulp—

Minhyuk gulped once again as he sent Hanwoo, who looked as exhausted as he was, to the summoning room. Then, he slowly untied the golden cloth that wrapped the gift set. Inside the box were various cuts of beef in bite-sized pieces gleaming brightly and appealing to him, prompting Minhyuk to quickly check the details of the gift set.

?STR increases by +3%

?STM increases by +3%

?Basic Hit Attack Damage increases by 5%

?Increases favor and affinity with the Kingdom of Eden.

“...”

Minhyuk could not help but admire the gift set in front of him, not because of its special abilities, but because it was said to be the highest grade beef in the Kingdom of Eden.

The beautiful, gleaming beef looked alive, as if it would move with the slightest touch of one's fingers.

Twitch—

However, the most surprising part was its freshness. Parts like the rump were still twitching and wriggling, as if the cow where it was taken from had just been slaughtered.

The first thing that Minhyuk did was to slice the thick rump into thin slices and spread it on a plate. The rump was the part of the cow that was mainly used for *yukhoe* or beef sashimi. Then, Minhyuk looked at the ribeye that seemed to be blossoming, and chuck flap tail, happily.

Minhyuk had been through a lot since he came to Edea. From meeting God of Money Henry, to cooking for Queen Ari, to jumping into the battlefield to save Hanwoo.

“You did a good job.”

A meal always tasted delicious especially after a tough and tedious job.

Tick, tick, tick, tick—

Minhyuk placed his grilling pan on top of his stove. Then, with his chopsticks, he grabbed two pieces of the beef sashimi that he laid out on the white plate like a blooming flower, dipped them into the sauce that he prepared, and placed everything in his mouth.

Munch—

The distinct savory flavor of the sesame oil spread all over his mouth, lingering and harmonizing with the freshness of the rump.

Minhyuk carefully placed a piece of the well-marbled chuck flap tail on top of the now red-hot grilling pan.

Sizzleeee—

The moment the meat made contact with the pan, a cheerful and loud sizzle echoed in the area. This was the explosive sound of beef that could make anyone clamor to eat just one piece. Exactly ten seconds later, Minhyuk flipped the beef. After another eight seconds, he scooped the piece of beef from the pan and placed it directly into his mouth.

The delicious juices of the meat exploded in Minhyuk's mouth the moment he bit down on it. A happy smile bloomed on his face at the softness of the beef. This was the moment that he realized that the description 'will melt in one's mouth' was truly appropriate. After having a taste, Minhyuk immediately placed four pieces of the chuck flap tail on the grill.

Sizzleeeee—

He watched the blooming smoke that floated from the grill for a moment before placing some victory onion on his plate. Then, he added the perfectly cooked beef with some wasabi on top, wrapped everything together and gobbled it up.

The combination of sweetness and savoriness of the victory onion, along with the nose-tickling spiciness of the wasabi instantly washed away the greasiness of the meat.

Next, he grabbed some green onion salad with the beef before placing everything in his mouth.

"Kgghhk!" Minhyuk shouted in admiration as he placed the ribeye, with its perfect red color and marbling, on the grill.

Minhyuk flipped the piece of meat back and forth to cook it well, cutting it into bite-sized pieces once it was cooked perfectly. Then, he grabbed a piece of the cut rib-eye, placed it on top of a lettuce leaf together with some garlic, green onion salad, and ssamjang. Minhyuk then wrapped everything before putting it in his mouth.

The very first thing that greeted his mouth was the fresh and crispy texture of the lettuce, which was immediately followed by the cacophony of flavors that the various ingredients contributed in the wrap.

With only a bit of the beef left, Minhyuk took out a bowl of cold noodle soup, a staple that he always had, from his food inventory. He stared at the refreshing and cool thin sheet of ice that floated on the soup before scooping the noodles up. Then, he added some vinegar and mustard in his bowl and mixed everything properly.

Next, he cut the noodles in his bowl both horizontally and vertically and shook it with his chopsticks to loosen it up. After doing all of that, he lifted the entire bowl and drank the cool and refreshing broth. One sip and his mouth was filled with the sour and refreshing broth of the soup.

"Ugh. Brain freeze."

A sharp yet refreshing feeling shot up to Minhyuk's head, as he scooped up a huge mouthful of noodles and ate it up.

*"Sluuuuuuuuuuuurp!!!"*

The cold, sour and refreshing taste of the cold noodle soup washed away the remaining greasiness in his mouth. Then, he added the remaining pieces of beef in his bowl and...

*"Sluuuuuuuuuuuurp!!!"*

The soft ribeye and the chewy noodles created a fantastic harmony inside his mouth. After emptying everything, the notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears.

[You have eaten the A Beef Gift Set Given to the Benefactor of the Kingdom of Eden!]

[Your STR and STM has increased by 3%!]

[Your Basic Hit Attack Damage has increased by 5%!]

[Your favor and affinity with the people of the Kingdom of Eden has increased.]

Minhyuk patted his stomach, a satisfied smile plastered on his face.

*'Now that I've had a meal...'*

It was now time for him to slowly explore the world surrounded by the Papal Wall. He began to move once again.

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Special Players Management Team.

Team Leader Park Minggyu had left to attend a meeting while Employee Lee Minhwa was left to roll around in their department.

*'Meanwhile, he's eating that truly delicious beef...'* Lee Minhwa thought, the longing to eat beef at the company dinner today evident on her face.

Just in time, Team Leader Park, who was held up by the meeting that took longer than expected, opened the door.

"Team, Team Leader! There's trouble!"

"Trouble? What's the trouble? More importantly, your saliva..." Park Minggyu looked at Lee Minhwa strangely when he saw the drool dripping down her chin.

*"Sluuuuuurp!"* Lee Minhwa hurriedly wiped the drool on her face and said, "That's not the problem right now. Player Minhyuk has entered the Pope's Tomb."

"The Pope's Tomb?" Minggyu repeated, his expression turning ugly.

The Pope's Tomb was a place that was blocked by the Papal Wall. As for the Papal Wall, for the longest time, it was considered as an unknown land that no one had ever entered before. It was actually a place that housed priests and believers that continued to live immortal lives.

"Do you think Pope Kronad and Minhyuk will meet?"

There were things and existences that even they could not touch or approach in Athenae. The operators and management called them by the name ‘Athenae’s Eight Pillars’.

Who was the main representative of the Eight Pillars? It was none other than Athenae herself. The second would be Great Demon Verus, while the third was the Evil God, Obren. They were powerful beings that could rule the world with their power alone.

However, among them stood Pope Kronad. In a way, it could be said that Pope Kronad was merely a pope that served one religion, a being that was completely different from those mentioned above. So, why was Pope Kronad considered to be on par with those beings?

Lee Minhwa turned to look at Team Leader Park before asking solemnly, “For some reason, I really can’t understand it.”

At her question, Team Leader Park Minggyu tapped on the computer. The Special Players Management Team could search about a variety of things regarding the game on their computers. Team Leader Park clicked on the information regarding Athenae’s Main Story, an appendix that was attached to an old and ancient book that was discovered a long time ago.

[People used to believe that Pope Kronad was a pope that served and worshiped Athenae.]

[That was true. He was truly the pope of Athenae Religion.]

[However, the truth regarding his existence had been warped and distorted. Pope Kronad was...]

[...He was the pope of all religions.]

“...?!”

Lee Minhwa stared at the screen in shock and astonishment.

Even Athenae was a god that only ruled the Athenae Religion. But Kronad? It could be said that he was the king of all the popes.

“What in the world is this...” Lee Minhwa voiced her doubts. How could a single pope rule over all of the popes of all religions?

“I don’t know the exact details about that.”

Surprisingly enough, it was a ‘story’ that even Team Leader Park Minggyu could not access at the moment. All Lee Minhwa could do was release a shaky breath and calm herself down as she tried to recall the things that she knew about the world within the Papal Wall.

“Isn’t there a temple called Evangel that Pope Kronad was trying to build in that place?”

There were hundreds and thousands of temples and shrines scattered all over the world. Of course, the one with the most magnificent and breathtaking temples, as well as the one with the most number, was none other than Athenae Religion. However, Evangel was considered to be a cut above that. It was a temple that was only mentioned in myths and legends.

“If, by any chance, Player Minhyuk is given the opportunity to obtain Evangel, then...”

Team Leader Park fixed his glasses and answered, “The lowest-ranking god will become the master and owner of the greatest temple in existence.”

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Minhyuk vigilantly and carefully explored the world inside the Papal Wall. Then, he caught sight of farmers tending to their field in the distance. Only after seeing that did Minhyuk realize that this world was a place where people lived too. In fact, there were also soldiers wearing shabby armor and carrying rusty spears passing by the farmers.

*‘Is it a kingdom? Should I consider it as such?’*

To be able to get information about this place, Minhyuk believed that he had to go and talk to the farmers. He planned to make delicious dishes with the crops that they grew, eat together, and increase their favor.

Thinking like that, Minhyuk approached them. The first person that he encountered was a lady that was harvesting cucumbers. However...

[You have met Bellman Religion’s Pope, Airen!]

[Pope Airen. Level 528.]

“...?”

When he looked at the men, who were wearing straw hats on their heads, that surrounded the lady...

[You have met Karr Religion’s First Pope, Kaenin!]

[Pope Kaenin. Level 513.]

[You have met Vendios Religion’s Pope, Anjaru...!]

[...Level 501.]

[...Cannath Religion’s Saintess...]

[...Level 531.]

“???”

Minhyuk could not help but be flustered by the sudden turn of events. To top it off, when he looked at the soldiers with their old and shabby spears that approached him, a stranger to these lands, he was greeted with even more surprises.

[You have met Favron Religion’s Strongest Paladin, Kerr...]

[...Level 589.]

[...Aekero Religion’s Strongest Paladin...]

[...Level 603.]

“???”

Then, at that moment, the hundreds of farmers that were busy tending to their field stopped in their work and turned to look at them.



[Those with high holy power have sensed the evil energy that is leaking from the Puzzling Seasoning Jar!!!]

[They will show hostility towards you!!!]

“...”

As he watched the hundreds of high ranking paladins, saints and popes approach him, Minhyuk thought, ‘*I’m f\*cked...*’

#### Chapter 675: Papal Wall

Cold sweat started to drip down Minhyuk’s forehead. It was a very shocking sight after all. The woman that was toiling on the field was a religion’s pope. If she was the only one, then Minhyuk would not be so shocked. It was because almost all of the people here were popes. On top of that, there were the soldiers that were patrolling the grounds.

*‘The strongest paladins...?’*

For each religion, only one person could be hailed as the strongest paladin. Yet, beings of such a level were all living here as if they were ordinary soldiers. The problem was that all of them were reacting to the evil energy that was flowing out of Minhyuk’s body.

*‘There’s no way that I can defeat them...’*

Minhyuk knew that there was no chance of winning against the huge number of strongest paladins and popes present in this place. There were even some people whose level had gone beyond Level 600. The bigger problem was the fact that he could not afford to clash against them. After all, he came here to find out more about Obren and how to awaken him.

“Hmm?”

Then, the man, who was the Favron Religion’s Strongest Paladin Kerr, stopped in front of Minhyuk with his old spear in hand. He said, “What a bizarre phenomenon. I can sense a strong holy power alongside the evil energy in his body.”

“I see, I see. His holy power is also very strong.”

The paladins and the popes stopped in front of Minhyuk, their expressions filled with curiosity and doubt. However, they did not show any signs of dropping their vigilance. With their spears and swords pointed at Minhyuk, one of them asked, “How did you get here? What are you? If you don’t tell us what you are, I will tear a being like you with strong holy power and evil energy apart.”

Minhyuk was unsure about what to say to them. He felt like he would be attacked at once if he said, ‘*I came here to awaken the Evil God?*’.

But then, a woman, Illua the saintess of the Cannath Religion, stepped forward and said, “I can sense that the evil energy is coming from something in your possession, can you show it to us?”

Minhyuk hesitated when he heard Illua’s question. However, he realized that this was bound to happen sooner or later.

*‘Hiding this won’t make any difference,’*Minhyuk thought, finally making a decision as he took out the Puzzling Seasoning Jar from his inventory. The moment he pulled it out, the eyes of everyone around him grew wide.

“Obren...”

“It’s the container where Obren is sleeping.”

“How...”

All of them looked surprised. It seemed like they all knew about the seasoning jar where Obren was slumbering in.

*‘It seems like I can really find an answer here,’*Minhyuk thought, fully convinced about the matter.

Meanwhile, everyone looked at him with their eyes asking him about his identity. So, Minhyuk slowly opened his mouth and began to speak, “I...”

Everyone focused on Minhyuk’s mouth.

“...am Obren’s friend.”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

They immediately turned to look at each other, shock evident in their gazes. At that moment, a man, who seemed to be the oldest among them, stepped forward. The man looked emaciated, his body all skin and bones.

*‘Why do the popes, saints and strongest paladins of each religion look like this?’*

It was quite a strange sight to see. Minhyuk realized most of them looked emaciated. Even their clothes were poor and shabby. He turned to look back at the old man.

[Pope Echeron. Level 623.]

“...”

Minhyuk was once again left speechless after seeing the old man’s level. Not only that, the old man was also the pope of a religion called Eres.

*‘Eres...? Will I be able to use the Detailed Information function on it?’*

The Detailed Information function was not something that would be activated and used just because someone was curious about an artifact or a quest. It could also be activated once one had questions about someone that they have met and only if they were facing each other.

[Eres Religion. A religion that served and worshiped Eres, the first Spear God. According to records, no other Spear God has surpassed Eres.]

“...”

Minhyuk was puzzled. A human could only live up to 70 to 100 years. But in this place, there were many bigshots here with the title of ‘first’ added to their names.

*‘They are immortals.’*

If that was not the case, then they were probably dead and this place was their grave.

Old Man Echeron asked, “Can you see that?”

Echeron was referring to the wide field in front of them. Of course, Minhyuk could see the state of the field. There were even some people that did not pay them any heed and continued to toil in it. However, he realized something.

*‘Huh? There’s something strange here.’*

That was right. There was something strange.

Doing fieldwork inside the game Athenae was different from reality. One could not dig simply because they wanted to dig. They had to have enough DEX or farming skill to be able to dig properly and well. The higher their stat or skill was, the better they could dig. For people that did not have the skill or enough DEX, it would at least take them one to two hours of work to do a job that would otherwise only take five minutes. That was exactly what this scene looked like to Minhyuk.

*‘Four Pope-ranked people can’t harvest a single green onion?’*

Indeed, there were four Pope-ranked people that were working together to pull a green onion out of the ground. Of course, just like what was mentioned, one would not be able to farm if they did not have DEX or farming skills. Perhaps, the green onion was something special?

*‘No. A pope can’t even pull out a green onion...?’*

Fortunately, an explanation immediately rang in his ears.

[The land that exists beyond the Papal Wall has been cursed by an Evil God!]

[Those that have received the Evil God’s Curse will have restrictions in their food, clothing and shelter!]

[No matter what they do, they will not be able to improve their DEX. They will also experience greater difficulty when solving their needs for food, shelter and clothing!]

[They are cursed by the Evil God to live the life of an immortal!]

*‘...Evil God’s Curse?’*

What truly happened between Obren and First Pope Kronad?

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

*‘They have restrictions on their living necessities?’*

There were three major things that a person needed to live and survive, which were food, clothing and shelter. Yet, the people here had received restrictions regarding this. Well, it was not really a complete restriction.

*‘Were they really subjected to restrictions in their way of living?’*

Then, the old man said, “We are all cursed. That’s why, every time we enter our house, we have to fight and endure the freezing cold. We can make fire but we can’t even burn our firewood. As for the food? It’s already a relief if we can eat a meal in a day. And even if we make clothes, our clothes will disintegrate on their own within a week.”

It was a truly terrible curse.

*‘They have to experience it forever?’*

Of course, people would want to sleep somewhere warm, feel full and wear good clothes. However, in this land, everything regarding those things was the ‘worst’ and they have to continue living like that for all eternity. For Minhyuk, someone who loved to eat, this was a terrible thing.

“However, there’s a way to release this curse. If you split a certain amount of firewood and harvest a certain amount of crops, you will be able to break the ‘Evil God’s Cursed Stone’.”

Minhyuk was quick to notice about what this was, *‘Is it a repetitive hard labor quest?’*

Indeed, it was a quest regarding hard labor where one had to achieve 100% firewood collection rate or crop harvest rate to complete.

“If the Evil God’s Cursed Stone is broken, we will be able to be more comfortable when harvesting crops and spend our time in the cold warmly by burning firewood and creating fire.”

The old man looked sad. It would be a lie if they said that the punishment they were receiving for the crime that they have committed was not hard.

“But if you try and decide to do us this favor then the Evil God’s Curse will also fall upon you the moment you try to split the firewood and harvest the crops.”

Minhyuk was not given any other choice. He could only accept this quest.

Meanwhile, the Level 623 Pope Echeron said sadly, “Ah, it seems I have spoken too much. I’m feeling hungry.”

Then...

Ping—

“Huuuuuh? Hanel has collapsed!”

“He must have collapsed because of hunger!”

Hanel, the man that was working on the field, collapsed. The strongest paladin of the Carn Religion, a man that has reached Level 570, had collapsed on the field because of hunger!

For now, Minhyuk decided to accept the quest. Then, the notifications rang in his ears again.

[The Evil God’s Curse will fall upon you the moment you start splitting firewood and harvesting crops!]

“You have to go to that field over there, not in this field,” Echeron said, pointing to a distant place.

Minhyuk bowed politely and headed there himself. That was when he saw a wide field that looked to be around three hectares or more.

‘...?’

Anyone could tell that this field was huge. Then, another notification rang in his ears.

[You have one week to achieve a 100% crop harvest yield!]

The field was far too big for Minhyuk to accomplish something like that by himself. On top of that, he would even be subjected to the Evil God’s Curse.

Meanwhile, the popes and paladins began to crowd around Pope Echeron. He was a symbolic figure to these people. To put it simply, he was like the head of the village or an elder that led them.

“Pope Echeron! Why did you tell that man about that impossible ordeal!”

All of them looked at the pope in doubt. Break the Evil God’s Cursed Stone? So far, none of them had been able to complete a 100% collection rate. That was the case even if everyone stuck together and helped each other out. The worst part was that their collection rate would return to 0% if they failed to complete the task within a week.

At their words, Echeron said, “That man must not have an audience with Pope Kronad.”

“Ah...”

Indeed. The man was the friend of Evil God Obren. They were all aware of how heartbroken Kronad would be if the man appeared in front of him. That was why Echeron said that.

Echeron turned to look at the direction where the man went, a bitter look on his face as he thought, ‘...*Forgive me.*’

After dealing with that, Echeron made his way to the prayer room to pray. Who was he praying to? It was none other than ‘Evil God Obren’. Those that did not know him would even think that he was a follower and believer of the Evil God. However, he was doing this because he wanted to apologize for the mistakes that he had made a long time ago.

Echeron stayed in the prayer room connected to his house for three entire days.

“Aaaaaah...”

Ping—

Even in the midst of his prayers, someone would faint and collapse on the ground. They were so hungry to the point that their body could no longer hold on.

Shiver, shiver, shiver—

When they went to sleep at night, all they could do was curl in on themselves as their body shivered in the cold. All of the houses in this land would reach a temperature below zero once night fell. They could not even burn firewood to combat the cold. No, to be exact, they did not have any firewood to burn. This was all because of the Evil God’s Curse.

As they let out a shaky breath that had turned white from the cold and wrapped a blanket tightly around their shaking bodies. They mumbled, ‘*I’m sorry, Obren.*’

But even after hundreds, no, thousands of years, none of them blamed Obren. They only blamed themselves.

As for Echeron? He finally finished his three-day prayer and went out to the field.

“Did he give up and leave?”

It was already late, the sun was already setting beautifully on the horizon. Echeron believed that there was no man that was capable of toiling on the field or splitting firewood under the Evil God’s Curse.

However, he still recalled the man’s words, ‘*I am Obren’s friend.*’

Friend. It was a very nice word. However, Echeron knew that he, together with Pope Kronad and the rest of the people here, had betrayed the beautiful meaning of that word. What did the word ‘friend’ entail? Perhaps it was doing anything and everything for the other? Or perhaps that was also a lie.

As he continued to walk forward, he saw hundreds of popes, paladins and saints huddled together.

“...?”

Echeron quickly approached them. There, he saw the man shining brightly under the beautiful light of the setting sun. The man was swinging his pickaxe as hard as he could despite his exhaustion and pale complexion.

Then, someone suddenly said, “He’s been at it for days. He did not even sleep.”

“Why is he doing that?”

At that moment, Bellman Religion’s Pope Airen said, “I asked him before why he was doing this, even though it was so hard.”

Everyone, including Echeron, turned to look at her. Airen looked at the man working hard on the field and continued, “However, he just answered me with, *I’m Obren’s...*”

Echeron focused on Airen’s words as she said, “...*friend*.”

“...!”

At this moment, the word ‘friend’ was engraved once again in Echeron’s heart.

## Chapter 676: Papal Wall

When Minhyuk first met Obren, he was known as a ‘Grumpy Gochujang that Does What it Pleases’. He spoke as if he did not care about anything and was in defiance of the world. After that, the gochujang turned into a Puzzling Seasoning Jar. In that form, Obren talked a lot. His words were always teasing and edgy.

[The Evil God’s Curse has fallen upon you!]

[The Evil God’s Curse is accelerating the speed upon which you will feel exhaustion!]

[Your stamina will run out quickly!]

[The Evil God’s Curse has bestowed upon you the Curse of the Seasons!]

[Whenever you harvest crops, you might feel as if it is as hot as 40 degrees or as cold as -10 degrees!]

[The fatigue and exhaustion from harvesting crops and the aches and pains from your repeated labor will get worse as time goes by!]

[Your harvesting yield will decrease by as much as 50% of your ordinary harvesting yield!]

These were the notifications that rang in Minhyuk’s ears the moment he started to harvest the ingredients on the field.

Fwoosh—

Immediately after that, a burning heat wrapped around and devoured Minhyuk. Even during the summer, the temperature rarely reached 40 degrees. However, the Evil God’s Curse was making Minhyuk feel feverish with a temperature of 40 degrees.

*‘This is really awful.’*

Minhyuk started to feel thirsty as the sweat began to drip down his entire body. That was not all.

*‘I can feel the strength leaving my body rapidly.’*

With his stamina depleting several times faster than usual, Minhyuk felt that it was more exhausting.

*‘You’re telling me to harvest all of the crops in this field...?’*

The thought that the task was nigh impossible flashed in Minhyuk’s head. There was no helping it. Even disregarding the fact that his stamina would be depleted quickly, it was almost impossible to work alone in this huge field and finish the task in such a short amount of time. However, Minhyuk still held the pickaxe in his arms tightly.

Graaaab—

Thud— thud—

He began to dig the field as hard as he could. The feverish temperature that engulfed his entire body caused him to perspire profusely. It was very hard for him especially since he could feel his strength draining from his body with every swing of his pickaxe.

*‘...It hurts.’*

Using a pickaxe repeatedly meant that one’s palm would be affected. Compared to before, Minhyuk’s hands started to form blisters. However, he just gritted his teeth and continued, despite his trembling and painful hands.

*‘Obren.’*

Minhyuk realized the fact that he had never done much for the man. After all, Obren was someone that would often give Minhyuk advice or share his knowledge with him whenever he was able to. There were even times when the god comforted him.

If Obren was here now, he was sure that the god would tell him, *‘Moron. What do you mean you’re working hard because we’re friends? However, this is making me feel quite pleased.’* Minhyuk was sure that Obren would praise him and comfort him in that way.

*‘That Obren is the Evil God?’*

From what Minhyuk had heard, hundreds of millions of humans had died at the hands of the Evil God. It was even said that he was someone that had cut off the gods’ heads and made them roll on the ground. Was the Obren that Minhyuk knew truly an Evil God like that?

*‘Then, if he’s truly an Evil God, would he really give up his chance to awaken to the world once again, just for me?’*

The answer to that was definitely a no. This just meant that Obren was completely different from the stories about him.

*‘There’s obviously something deeper.’*

Swoosh—

Minhyuk continued to swing his pickaxe. Just like that, one hour, then two, then three hours, and pretty soon, five hours passed by.

[You have triggered the skill: Will.]



[All of your skills and abilities related to DEX will temporarily increase by 24%.]

[You have gained 1 DEX.]

[You have gained 1 DEX.]

He felt a burst of strength in his body. However, it disappeared as quickly as it appeared. This time, his body was engulfed in extreme cold.

Shiver, shiver—

Minhyuk's body shook like a leaf, frost appearing all over his body. His lips started to turn blue as the blisters on his hand became frozen, making it more painful.

“Hoooo...”

Thud—

Thud—

However, Minhyuk did not stop moving his pickaxe. As he dug the ground, he would also often bend down to harvest the crops. The image of Minhyuk harvesting crops with trembling hands looked very pitiful, extremely unbecoming for someone hailed as the king of a nation.

“Hooo...”

Minhyuk gathered his hands together and blew on them to keep them warm. Then, he stood up again to dig with his pickaxe.

[You have run out of stamina!]

[It is highly recommended that you take a break!]

[You have triggered the skill: Will.]

[All of your skills and abilities related to DEX will temporarily increase by 24%.]

[You have gained 1 DEX.]

[You have run out of stamina!]

[...take a break!]

[...skill: Will.]

Minhyuk was trying to endure it and hold out with his skill: Will. However, his body could no longer take it. It had started to stop listening to him.

[Your vision has grown blurry! You are experiencing dizziness!]

He had focused on harvesting for an entire day already. However, even if that was the case, the quest completion was dismal.

*‘Just 7%...?’*

If things remained as they were, there was no way that Minhyuk would be able to get a 100% harvest by the end of the week. Even so, he still continued to dig the ground with his pickaxe.

Thud—

Thud—

Then, at that moment, blood started to drip down his palms. It seemed like the blisters in his hand had burst. At the same time, a set of notifications that would bring anyone to despair rang in his ears.

[You have run out of stamina! There's a high chance that you will faint soon!]

[You have resisted the abnormal status: fainting with your strong mental power.]

[However, if you continue like this, you might die from overworking!]

Minhyuk's body shook greatly. He was about to collapse and faint. However, at that moment, he heard a prayer.

"...Please grant your strength to the poor and pitiful," the voice of the woman rang in the area. This voice belonged to none other than Pope Airen.

With her words, a warm light covered Minhyuk's body.

[Pope's Prayer.]

[Pope Airen's prayer for you has alleviated some of your physical exhaustion and fatigue.]

[You have recovered some vitality.]

Minhyuk's body, which felt as if it was being dragged down by a very heavy weight, suddenly became lighter. Even his consciousness that was teetering over the edge of collapse, cleared up for a bit.

Airen also knew that Minhyuk should not meet with Pope Kronad. However, little did she know, her heart was won over a little.

*'Looking at him makes me look forward to what else he can do...'*

Who could work in the field like that all day? Airen was sure that there was no one that would choose to do so. Especially with the awfully terrible Evil God's Curse. But for some reason, Airen wanted to bet on Minhyuk.

Minhyuk, who made eye contact with her, nodded before focusing on harvesting the crops on the field once again. Of course, the notifications kept on ringing in his ears too.

[...run out of stamina!]

[...take a break!]

[...skill: Will.]

[You have gained 1 DEX.]

[You have gained 1 Will.]

Just like that, three days passed by.

Old Man Echeron shook his head and said, "You cannot give him your blessings anymore."

"..."

“...”

The popes would sometimes give Minhyuk their blessings. However, Echeron had deemed this act as not right. Perhaps the others were also aware of this fact.

“You’re just giving him false hope. Even if you give him your blessings, the results of this ordeal will not change.”

That was true. Minhyuk’s crop yield was only at 30%, even after toiling hard without much rest or sleep for three days straight. The yield was far too low. The problem was that the increase in the yield would grow slower and slower as the end of the week approached. Perhaps he would only be able to reach 50% by the end of this.

Of course, Echeron’s heart ached at the sight too. He thought, *‘Thank you for making me realize the true meaning of the word ‘friend’.’*

However, all of them were destined to stay here for all eternity and suffer. As for Minhyuk? He could only leave this place.

With Echeron’s words, the blessings and prayers ended. However, Minhyuk did not stop moving his pickaxe and harvesting the crops.

Thud—!

\*\*\*

Plenty of the related team members gathered in the Special Players Management Team, all of them saying the same thing as they entered.

“He’s still on it?”

“Yes.”

Yes. All of them were asking if Minhyuk was still at it. Was Minhyuk someone that did not give up? They did not know. However, everyone here knew that he was someone that often defied the odds to turn the situation around.

How many people in the world could do something like this? Yet Minhyuk was doing it and was even giving it his all. However, they felt pity for him.

“Amazing...”

They could not help but burst in admiration. This was the reason why Minhyuk stood above the other players.

However, Lee Minhwa just sighed, *‘He won’t be able to do it, let alone obtain Evangel Temple.’*

Minhyuk would not be able to make it within a week. The data that they had was proof of it. But then, she saw Team Leader Park Minggyu’s eyes start to shake after he checked something. So, she asked, “Team Leader, what’s the matter?”

“...Right now, there are many gods that are watching Player Minhyuk, right?”

Lee Minhwa nodded. Of course there would be plenty of them watching him. After all, Minhyuk was someone that had caught the attention and interest of those gods. Those gods always watched with anticipation whenever the man did something reckless and impossible.

“It’s because Player Minhyuk is someone eye-catching. He’s someone that anyone would want to watch,” Lee Minhwa said, wondering why her team leader was so surprised by that fact.

Then, Minggyu asked, “How high is Player Minhyuk’s Will stat now?”

“...?!”

Lee Minhwa was surprised by the sudden question. She immediately went to her computer and checked Minhyuk’s Will stat. She said, “It’s at 4,861...”

“Right.”

At this moment, Lee Minhwa understood why Park Minggyu was so surprised earlier.

“His Will stat is going to reach 5,000 soon.”

“That’s right. And also, right now...” Team Leader Park looked at the monitor displaying Minhyuk’s Will stat. The 5,000 mark of the Will stat was a very special milestone. Then, he continued, “One of the Absolute Gods, the God of Will, is watching him.”

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Minhyuk no longer received any Pope’s Prayer or Blessings. All of them were just standing there and watching him work. By the end of the fourth day, Minhyuk’s harvest yield only reached 37%. However, he never stopped.

*‘You have forsaken your only chance at awakening and even took on the risk of falling into a deep and long sleep, just for me.’*

What Minhyuk was doing now could never compare to what Obren had chosen to give up for his sake. Minhyuk could not just give up and run away, just because he thought that it was impossible. He had to persevere.

Thud—

Sweat continued to pour down his body, even as it started to feel heavy and painful again. However, his mind never gave in. Thankfully, his Will kept on increasing which allowed him to persevere and hold on.

[You have gained 1 Will.]

[You have gained 1 DEX.]

Over the course of his stay here, Minhyuk’s Will stat had continuously increased. It was a windfall. After all, the higher the Will, the better. The Will stat was like a support for him. It complemented his mental fortitude and strength, allowing him to continue standing upright and not collapse and faint.

That was when he suddenly thought of something, ‘5,000.’

Perhaps it was a milestone with a special meaning, perhaps it did not have anything to it. Minhyuk did not know. After all, there was no player that had ever reached 5,000 in their Will stat. Minhyuk shelved the thought for now, opting to focus on what he was doing at the moment.

Thud— thud—

Not long after, Minhyuk’s vision began to spin.

Thump—

Minhyuk gasped as he fell down on the ground, his sweat pooling beneath him. His palms were covered in blood and shaking fiercely. By now, it took all he had to even catch his breath.

*‘...I want to sleep.’*

Thuuuud—

However, the thought of Obren’s voice spurred him on. He grabbed his hoe with his trembling hands and continued to harvest the crops hiding underneath the ground.

Minhyuk’s arms trembled and shook, as he was able to harvest another crop. At that moment, something happened.

[You have gained 1 Will.]

[Congratulations! Your Will stat has reached 5,000!]

[One of the Absolute Gods, the God that has a Will to Never Give Up, is looking at you.]

[One of the Absolute Gods, the God that has a Will to Never Give Up, has bestowed power upon you!]

[The fatigue and exhaustion that has been weighing down on your body and mind has disappeared and cleared up!]

[Something special will happen whenever you trigger the Passive Skill: ‘Will’.]

[The power of the Absolute God has helped you escape the clutches of the Evil God’s Curse!]

[The power of the Absolute God has doubled all of your abilities related to DEX.]

[You will develop exhaustion and fatigue slower than usual. All of your skills and abilities related to DEX will increase by 75%.]

[The God that Never Gives Up has offered you a bet!]

[The God of Will has proposed a bet regarding harvesting crops and chopping firewood.]

“...!”

Chapter 677: Divine Will

Minhyuk had made a bet with a god once in the past. Back then, he accepted the bet with the God of Cooking and had to make ten legendary dishes in a row. After completing that, he was able to acquire one of the ten Absolute God's Secrets in the world, the Overlapping Delight.

First, Minhyuk checked the rewards that he received.

Unique Title

?Passive Skill: The One that Never Gives Up

?Passive Skill: The One with the Strong Will

?All of your stats will increase by 1%.

?Your DEX will increase by 5%.

The passive skill: 'The One that Never Gives Up' has a 15% chance of being triggered whenever one does a task with firm will and tenacity. Once activated, it would increase one's defense by 50% and attack by 40%, for a minute and a half. It also had a buff effect that increased one's HP volume by 30%.

The other passive skill: 'The One with the Strong Will' was also special. It was related to the skill 'Will'. Once the skill: Will was triggered, it would increase one's DEX and fatigue recovery.

*'It's a good title.'*

Then, he checked the bet.

*'The penalty is...'*

To be honest, it was a bit too much.

After Minhyuk achieved 5,000 in his Will stat, he received a special privilege from the God of Will, which allowed him to escape the clutches of the Evil God's Curse. He even had a 60% increase in his DEX. Because of that, he did not have to accept the bet with the god.

*'Losing the skill: Will forever is definitely a huge penalty for me.'*

It was the truth, especially for Minhyuk, who had relied on the support of the skill plenty of times.

*'I was able to obtain an Absolute God's Secret with the bet with the God of Cooking.'*

However, the temptation of the reward caused him to waver.

"I accept the bet."

Minhyuk accepted the bet and immediately continued to harvest the crops in front of him. This was so he could be sure that the Evil God's Curse had already disappeared from his body. Just as he hoped, he did not feel any pain nor did he feel hot or cold. However, the crops were still difficult to harvest in and of themselves.

*'Even if the Evil God's Curse has disappeared...'*

It was still a very difficult job to do. Minhyuk looked around the field and murmured to himself, *‘Since the Evil God’s Curse has been lifted then...’*

Minhyuk had consumed an easy-to-eat buffed dish to boost his DEX when he received the Evil God’s Curse. However, he heard a notification back then.

[You have received the Evil God’s Curse.]

[You can only receive buff effects from a blessing or a prayer from someone that has strong holy power.]

In other words, all of the buff effects would not be available to him. However, that was not the case anymore.

*‘With the way I am now, then...’*

Minhyuk had not been able to have a proper meal for a few days now. So, he took out one of the ingredients that he had acquired in the past and had been saving for quite a long time now.

?STR +7, STM +15

?This is a hundred-year-old ginseng that can boost one’s strength and help one regain their stamina and energy. There is a chance of getting a higher boost in your power depending on the way you cook the ingredient.

Minhyuk took out a cauldron. There was this dish that he had been craving for. It was a dish that anyone would look forward to, even if the temperature was hot or cold. That dish was none other than samgyetang.

Samgyetang was the perfect dish during the cold, when one was desperately hoping for a warm soup amidst the freezing wind. It was also a dish that could make one sweat and was perfect to ‘combat heat with heat’.

Minhyuk started to cook, putting all of the ingredients, including the hundred-year-old ginseng, the jujube, an entire clove of garlic, some green onion and many more, inside his cauldron. Of course, he did not forget to add the chicken in his samgyetang before covering the cauldron with its lid.

Crackle— crackle—

The crackling of the firewood inside the fireplace provided warmth and made Minhyuk feel comfortable.

Chiiiiik—

The white steam that escaped from the gaps of the lid of the cauldron made Minhyuk feel excited. After the dish had been boiled and cooked to some extent, he removed the lid and began to season the dish. Then, he boiled it again. The longer the samgyetang boiled, the more tender the meat and the easier it would separate from the bone.

After waiting for quite a while, Minhyuk moved the samgyetang into a large earthenware pot. Then, he set the table and placed several side dishes next to the pot. There was nothing special about the

samgyetang's side dishes. They were just ssamjang, cucumber, green pepper, well-ripened kimchi, some pepper and some salt.

Minhyuk gently pulled the leg off of the chicken with his chopsticks from the still boiling soup of the samgyetang.

“Kghhhhk...”

The juicy and still piping hot chicken meat looked very tender and soft. Once he placed it in his mouth, he gently chewed the tender and well-boiled chicken leg. When he pulled it out of his mouth, only the bones were left.

Swoosh—

“Kyaaa!” Minhyuk exclaimed lightly as he grabbed the remaining piece of chicken leg. This time, he dipped it in salt before putting it in his mouth.

The saltiness of the dip and the slight sweetness of the samgyetang created a harmony inside his mouth. Then, Minhyuk grabbed a piece of green pepper and dipped it in ssamjang.

*‘Green peppers aren’t spicy. They taste best if you dip them in ssamjang.’*

Crunch, crunch—

*‘This sound... this sound is music.’*

The sound that accompanied the green pepper dipped in ssamjang was so appetizing that Minhyuk could not help but eat ravenously. Next, Minhyuk ate the chicken with some well-ripened kimchi. The color of the side dish looked so scrumptious.

Crunch, crunch, crunch—

The greasy taste that lingered in Minhyuk’s mouth disappeared the moment he placed the kimchi in his mouth. The delicious combination painted a smile of joy on Minhyuk’s face. Sometimes, Minhyuk would grab some cucumbers, dip them in ssamjang and put them in his mouth.

“Magnificent! This is truly magnificent!” Minhyuk shouted happily.

This time, Minhyuk added the glutinous rice that he had soaked in advance into the still-warm samgyetang soup together with some minced onions, carrots, and green onions, before boiling everything once again. He would stir it once in a while to prevent the rice from sticking on the bottom of the pot. Just like that, Minhyuk had finished making a chicken porridge in his earthenware pot.

Minhyuk quickly grabbed his spoon and scooped a spoonful of the piping hot chicken porridge.

“Fwoo! Fwoo!” Minhyuk blew on his spoon. After all, he knew that he would burn his mouth if he put the spoonful of freshly cooked chicken porridge in his mouth.

After he decided that he blew enough, he placed it in his mouth. The chicken porridge tasted light with a hint of saltiness in it. The charm of the chicken porridge was that it did not need much chewing and was easy on one’s stomach.



After that, Minhyuk added some well-ripened kimchi on top of another spoonful and placed it immediately in his mouth. The refreshing kimchi perfectly complemented the slightly greasy flavor of the chicken porridge.

Then, Minhyuk took out another side dish from his inventory. It was none other than the cool and refreshing dongchimi, with a thin layer of ice on top of it.

*‘Dongchimi goes well with chicken porridge too.’*

Eating dongchimi with hot chicken porridge would wash away the greasiness and the heat of the dish, leaving behind a refreshing flavor in one’s mouth.

Scratch, scratch—

In a blink, Minhyuk was already scratching the bottom of the pot while chewing the last piece of hundred-year-old ginseng in his mouth.

*‘Hmm. It tastes healthy.’*

Indeed. The bitterness and lack of flavor of the ginseng could only be described as healthy.

[You have eaten Samgyetang.]

[All of your stats will increase by 16%.]

[Your lost vitality and energy has been restored. You have gained strong stamina. For the time being, you will not get tired.]

[Your STM has increased by 1.3x.]

[The buff effect will last for an entire week.]

Minhyuk, who looked around after eating his meal, was shocked with what he saw. This was because he was greeted by the sight of countless popes, saints, and paladins gathered around him.

“...How was the taste?”

“There’s not even a drop left...?”

“...”

Perhaps this was only a natural reaction for these people, who have felt that hunger and the cold were now a natural part of their lives.

“I’ll work on the fields so it won’t happen to you anymore,” Minhyuk declared.

However, the truth was none of the popes, saints and paladins believed that he would be able to do it.

After all, no matter how hard Minhyuk tried before, he was only able to achieve a 37% harvest yield in four days. However, what they did not know was that Minhyuk had just been blessed by the God of Will and was no longer shackled by the Evil God’s Curse.

“If that’s really the case then we wouldn’t wish for anything more.”

“That’s just a dream.”

“If you do that, then there’s nothing that we can’t do for you. However...”

Their faces turned darker as they spoke. They had watched Minhyuk vomit blood and curl in pain for several days as he toiled on the field and was only able to accomplish so little. The popes, saints and paladins had given hope up. But Minhyuk was not the same.

“You can go back now,” Minhyuk said, sending these people back. He did not have any time to chat with them. He could not be delayed any longer.

Although he had escaped the shackles of the Evil God’s Curse, there were still a lot of crops that needed harvesting.

They all turned back, distancing themselves from Minhyuk, and watched him from afar.

Thuuuud—

Minhyuk once again began to slam his hoe down and started his harvest spree. That was when the popes, saints and paladins realized something.

*‘What?’*

*‘He’s gotten a lot faster.’*

*‘Doesn’t it look like there’s a spring in his step as he digs with his hoe?’*

That was right. This was because Minhyuk’s speed was almost 1.5x faster than before. Although it was partly because of the meal that he ate, Minhyuk could not deny that everything was thanks to the God of Will. However, there was just one thing.

*‘I feel like dying.’*

The problem was his mental strength. Mental strength and endurance was not something that anyone could just replenish. No matter how clear his head was, there was no way that he would feel refreshed doing such repetitive tasks without sleeping.

*‘Obren...!’*

However, Minhyuk gritted his teeth and persevered for his friend. Then, a set of notifications rang in his ears.

[You have triggered the skill: Will.]

[All of your skills and abilities related to DEX will temporarily increase by 24%.]

[A special privilege has been activated thanks to the power of the God of Will.]

[All of your skills and abilities related to DEX will temporarily increase by 3%!]

[The effects have overlapped.]

[You have gained 1 DEX.]

“...!”

Minhyuk felt power coursing through his veins. Even as time went by and his mental strength reached its limits, he never gave up and continued to try again and again.

\*\*\*

The God of Will was a very influential being among the Absolute Gods. In fact, even the God of Death did not dare to recklessly go against him. The power that the God of Will possessed did not have any restrictions. It was limitless. Since he was the God of Will, as long as he tried to do it, he could be like the God of Death, or anyone he wanted to be.

“...”

And that very same God of Will was now standing there with a gaping mouth. At first, he just wanted to help a bit and watch that god challenge something that he knew was something that was already impossible to achieve. Thanks to his help, the god fought against the limits of his mental strength and persevered.

No one had ever entered the eyes of the God of Will.

However, the man that he was watching soon harvested all of the crops on the field and broke the Evil God's Cursed Stone that appeared in front of him. Then, he immediately went on to chop firewood. The man continued to chop firewood for not one or two, but four straight days.

Every time the man fell down, he would stand up once again and repeat what he was doing. As the God of Will watched the man, he acknowledged the fact that even he could not achieve something like that.

Finally, the man chopped his last piece of firewood.

Thuuunk—

The remaining Evil God's Cursed Stone appeared right in front of the man.

The God of Will smiled softly and said, “You are worthy to have this.”

The God of Will had lost the bet, but the smile on his face was wider and brighter than any smile of his from before.

At the same time.

[You have broken the Evil God's Cursed Stone!]

[...]

[...]

[...]

Notifications rang constantly in Minhyuk's ears. However, among these countless notifications, there was just one set that stopped Minhyuk in his tracks.

[The Skill: Will has evolved!]

[One of the ten Absolute God Secrets has awakened in the world!]

[You have acquired the Passive Skill: Divine Will.]

Chapter 678: Divine Will

There were originally only ten Absolute God's Secrets in existence. However, Minhyuk was able to create another 'Absolute God's Secret', the passive skill: 'Lightning'. Because of that, there were now eleven Absolute God's Secrets.

Since then, there were two other notifications that rang regarding the acquisition of the Absolute God's Secrets. However, it was not Minhyuk that had obtained these secrets, but other people.

The Absolute God's Secrets in Minhyuk's possession was Lightning and Overlapping Delight. And just now, he was able to acquire the 'Divine Will'.

*'I can feel my heart thumping...'*

For the first time in a long while, Minhyuk felt heartbeat quicken. None of the Absolute God's Secrets that he obtained had disappointed him. He immediately checked the details of the skill.

#### Absolute God's Secret

?You can trigger the skill just by exerting a fourth of effort and passion needed originally in the skill: 'Will'.

?Upon the Divine Will's activation, all stats will increase by 8%. If the skill is triggered consecutively within 30 minutes, all of the stats will increase by an additional 4%. The effect can be stacked thrice.

?Upon the Divine Will's activation, all attack and defense will increase by 6%. If the skill is triggered consecutively within 30 minutes, all attack and defense will increase by an additional 3%. The effect can be stacked thrice.

?Upon the Divine Will's activation, all skills and abilities related to DEX will increase by 30%. If the skill is triggered consecutively within 30 minutes, all skills and abilities related to DEX will increase by an additional 15%. The effect can be stacked thrice.

?Upon the Divine Will's activation, the player's mind will clear and any fatigue and exhaustion will completely disappear.?

?Upon the divine Will's activation, you will have a 4% chance of triggering a 50% increase in HP and MP, as well as complete reset of the skill's cooldown time.

"...!"

Minhyuk was left entirely speechless. The skill was too overpowered.

*‘All of the stats will increase? There’s also an increase in all attack and defense?’*

That was right. Compared to the previous skill: Will, Divine Will was a skill that granted even greater power.

*‘Effort, passion, and the will to do something.’*

This meant that these things would trigger the skill and could now be used in battle. On top of that, the effects could be stacked three times. In other words, if the Divine Will was triggered four times in a row, Minhyuk would be able to receive a 16% increase in all of his stats and a 12% increase in all of his attack and defense. That was not all. There was also a 60% increase in all skills and abilities related to DEX.

*‘Although only by a bit, DEX could also be considered to be related to all stats.’*

Indeed. The DEX stat truly had the effect of slightly increasing one’s attack power. However, there was one more surprising fact about the skill.

*‘There is a probability of restoring HP and MP and even reset the skill cooldown time if the skill: Divine Will is activated...’*

It was extremely cheat-like, and it could be a huge help to Minhyuk in so many ways. After checking the unexpected harvest, Minhyuk turned his attention towards the notifications about the quest completion.

[You can now have an audience with Pope Kronad!]

[The popes, saints and paladins have bestowed upon you their great blessings!]

[All of your stats have increased by 2%!]

[You have gained 1,200 Holy Power!]

[Your sword will now carry the Paladins’ Special Power!]

[Your attack and defense will increase by 10% whenever you’re facing evil!]

[You have taken a step towards Temple Evangel.]

[You might have the chance to awaken whatever is slumbering inside Evangel.]

The rewards, a 2% increase in all stats and 1,200 holy power, were not that bad. Minhyuk had the ‘Pandora’s Helmet’, an item that could double his holy power. With his high holy power, his effectiveness against the undead and the demonic beasts would be enhanced even more.

Minhyuk was most curious about ‘Evangel’.

*‘What is Temple Evangel?’*

He had been studying the countless worlds in Athenae. It was necessary for him as a king of a nation. To be honest, he was also doing it because he wanted to eat all of the delicious food and ingredients that he could get his hands on. However, even for someone like Minhyuk, who had studied quite a lot about Athenae, the words ‘Temple Evangel’ were still unfamiliar.

Not long after, Old Man Echeron approached Minhyuk.

Echeron could not believe the reality that was presented in front of him. All he could do was look up to the sky and think, *'Is this truly the will of the heavens?'*

Echeron fully believed that Kronad and Obren's reunion would lead to a disaster. But if this was fate, then there was nothing that they could do.

"Please follow me," Echeron said, as he led Minhyuk somewhere.

\*\*\*

There were only two people known to the world to have the Absolute God Class. Richard, the guild master and king of Maserrati Guild, now the Maserrati Kingdom; and Lu Bai, the one with the Savior class. The influence of these two people in Athenae reached far and wide.

Savior Lu Bai has been gathering plenty of people from all over the continent that possessed similar beliefs and dispositions to him. The force that they possessed was said to have gone beyond the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, rivaling even that of a considerably large empire. Lu Bai was also said to have the power to attract NPCs, which meant that his power was now beyond anyone's imagination.

As for Richard? He was the king of Maserrati Kingdom. Although his kingdom currently had lesser potential than the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, some speculated that the Maserrati Kingdom would soon surpass the said kingdom, thanks to the power of Absolute Monarch Richard.

These were prime examples of how the players that had climbed to the ranks of the 'Absolute God' class could shake the world.

Unbeknownst to all, there was another Absolute God class player that appeared shortly after Lu Bai, the first Absolute God class player. That was none other than the 'God of Stories'.

The God of Stories had the power to receive guidance about a story, albeit only a very small part of it, once every three months. The story could be anything, from one that could happen in a few months' time, to a story that could happen in a few years' time. This power could both be advantageous and disadvantageous at the same time. After all, even if he knew a piece of the story, if he could not get the outline, then he would face a total disaster.

However, the Athenae officials had mentioned that among the players, Rex, the 'God of Stories', was the one that had chosen the most appropriate class for himself.

Rex was one of the God's Children, who had recently gained an audience with the Luvien Empire's Emperor Nerva Sephiroth. He had received a hint of the story regarding the 'God of Death' a few months ago and had since been working on it slowly.

What was the benefit about getting a piece of the story? It was that one could monopolize the corresponding 'quests' and 'rewards' in that story. There was also the fact that he could find out about the unique quests and information that was only available to the class related to the story, even though he did not have that class.

When Rex found out about the story that was related to the God of Death, he immediately tried to solve the puzzle.

*'The God of Death is the being that rules Hell.'*

It was none other than the ‘God of Death and the Hell Corps’ Invasion’. This was an episode that was not expected to start until next year in Athenae. Perhaps this episode was also supposed to be spearheaded by Death, the owner and master of the Kingdom of Death.

However, Rex was now walking down the passage connected to Hell. He was also currently accompanied by the Luvien Empire’s Sixteenth and Seventeenth Sword of the Gods!

*‘The power that the Sword of the Gods possessed is truly admirable.’*

He had already tried to break through this place with several high rankers. However, they were all wiped out without even reaching the entrance to hell.

This was the reason why Rex requested an audience with Nerva Sephiroth. He wanted to receive the support of the Sword of the Gods for this.

*‘Some of the Sword of the Gods and the Luvien Imperial Army will join me to take down the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.’*

They would make it seem like the Luvien Empire was not going to attack the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. After all, there was a perfect way to disguise Nerva Sephiroth’s army.

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—

A Level 642 Death Knight that protected the Hell’s Gate collapsed in a heap without being able to do anything, in front of the Sword of the Gods.

Step, step—

Finally, Rex took a step forward to the land beyond these gates. There, he saw a huge statue of the God of Death standing tall and mighty. There was a high chance that even Death, the God of Death’s own successor, had not even met with this being yet.

Rex pricked the tip of his finger with his dagger and let his blood drip on the ground.

Shwaaaaaaa—

A gigantic snake appeared around the dark and dreary statue of the God of Death and slithered around Rex.

[The God of Death is staring at you.]

[The God of Death is slowly encroaching upon your body.]

Slowly, ever so slowly, the snake entered Rex’s mouth. Everything happened just like how Rex pieced the fragments of the story together. Then, a shocking set of notifications rang in his ears.

[One of the Absolute Gods, the God of Death, has resided in your body!]

[You will now become the God of Death and will have the authority to open Hell's Gate!]

[You can only become the God of Death for a short period of time!]

[You will have the power to ‘demonize’ or ‘reanimate’ your followers and subordinates.]

[You now have the authority to lead the Hell Corps!]

[You...!]

[You...!]

Notifications rang non-stop in Rex's ears. With this, he would launch an attack on the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. The reason for doing so was actually very simple. It was mainly because of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's wealth, and at the same time, to showcase the power of the God's Children.

The current Rex looked like the complete God of Death, with a black robe and a bloody-red staff in his hands. With one swing of his staff, the Sword of the Gods instantly turned into the undead.

Shwaaaaaaa—

Then, another notification rang in his ears.

[A word of advice. You and your army are vulnerable against holy power!]

However, Rex did not pay it much heed. After all, was there anyone with a high enough holy power to fight against them? Unfortunately for him, he should have paid closer attention to this word of advice.

\*\*\*

Minhyuk checked his holy power stat.

*'It's already at 6,046, huh...?'*

What would happen if the Pandora's Helmet's effect were to be applied to this? Minhyuk's holy power stat would reach 12,000. That level of holy power was extremely high. In fact, there was even a high chance that even Saintess Loyna did not have that high of a holy power.

Minhyuk, who had finished confirming his holy power, finally arrived in front of a gigantic yet shabby and crumbling temple.

"You're the only one that can get inside."

"...Yes," Minhyuk answered, doubt flashing on his face. However, he still nodded in agreement and climbed the stairs.

Step, step, step, step—

As he reached the end of the stairs, Minhyuk found someone sitting on a chair.

"...!"

Minhyuk could not help but groan.

*'That person is Pope Kronad, right? He's the pope? He has to be the pope, right?'*

However, the man did not look like a pope at all. He had a gaunt and emaciated face, long and loose white hair, as well as a very sharp and bright glare. He was wearing a pristine white priestly robe while holding a sword that was shining brightly.

The moment Minhyuk took another step forward, he received a set of notifications.

[You are the only being that has laid eyes on Pope Kronad!]

[Pope Kronad. Level 913.]



[His battle energy is trying to bring you down!]

[His battle energy has reduced all of your stats by 45%!]

[You cannot resist this power with your Invincible Body!]

[His battle energy has reduced your attack power by 45%!]

[His battle energy...your...]

[His battle energy...your...]

“...?”

Minhyuk felt that this was completely unbelievable. Among all of the NPCs that he had encountered, this one had the highest level. In fact, just one gaze and he could feel his legs shake from the pressure that the man was emitting. Then, at the same time...

“...!”

At that moment...

Crackle, crackle, crackle—

“...”

The speechless Minhyuk could only look around. His eyes strayed towards the top of the stairs where Kronad was sitting on his chair and the huge temple behind him. Surrounding them were around 10,000 gigantic ‘Evil God’s Books’.

[Evil God Obren has awakened from his slumbering state in your arms to attack Pope Kronad, the object of his hatred!]

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

Along with that, lightning bolts, flames and the like began to pour out from the ten million books in the sky. All of these attacks aimed solely at Kronad.

“...”

At this moment, Minhyuk realized that something had gone terribly wrong.

## Chapter 679: Divine Will

Minhyuk had planned to meet with Pope Kronad and build enough favor with him so that he could ask the man to awaken Obren, who had fallen into a long and deep sleep.

To his dismay, Obren had exerted control over Minhyuk's body. Minhyuk's hair grew longer until it reached his waist. His eyes went entirely black, and the whites of his eyes could not be seen. He then released his wrath and summoned around ten million Evil God's Books and started to bombard Kronad with attacks.

Rumbleeee—

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

Just like the missiles being fired by drones, the lightning bolts and blazing flames shot fiercely from the ten million books! However, Kronad just stared at the bombardment with a blank and empty gaze. Then, he grabbed the brilliant and dazzling sword in his hands and swung it.

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom!

At that moment, millions of sword lights shot up to the sky and scattered the attacks from the Evil God's Books. Then, a huge golden mirror appeared in front of Kronad.

[Kronad's Mirror]

[Kronad's Mirror has sealed the Evil God!]

[Evil God Obren, who had used your body to show his wrath, falls back into a deep slumber once again!]

Rumbleeee—

At the same time, Minhyuk's appearance, his waist-length hair and jet-black eyes, returned back to before as he regained his control once again.

"Haaa... haa..." Minhyuk gasped, as he collapsed on the ground.

Even Pope Kronad looked like he was exhausted, as he turned to Minhyuk and asked, "You're Kronad's friend?"

"That's right."

Kronad nodded slowly at Minhyuk's answer. He thought, *'So, he made a friend again...'*

Kronad was quite surprised. He thought that Obren would never trust anyone again. In fact, Kronad would feel that way if he were in Obren's shoes.

*'Does this mean that you have given this man your trust and faith?'*

Kronad slowly opened his mouth.

"Me too..." He said with his dry and coarse mouth, "I was once Obren's friend."

"..."

At that moment, Minhyuk recalled something. When he first met Obren, the god told him that someone had used him before abandoning him and sealing him in the Puzzling Seasoning Jar.

Then, Kronad continued, “I was also the one that killed Obren.”

“...!”

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Kronad and Obren had been friends. Yet, Kronad was also the one that killed Obren. Those words were obviously very, *very* shocking.

Then, Kronad, with a bitter smile on his face, asked, “Will you listen to our story?”

[Obren is slumbering inside the Puzzling Seasoning Jar that you possess.]

[You can watch the Evil God’s story through a video.]

[If you do not wish to view the story, please say ‘I reject’.]

“I accept.”

Minhyuk wanted to know more about Obren. That was why he readily accepted it.

[You have chosen to accept. You can now watch the video.]

[Your character will be in an ‘invincible’ state during the duration of the video.]

Minhyuk slowly closed his eyes as a bright light appeared and wrapped around his body. Then, the story started.

[A long, long time ago, Athenae gave birth to Obren, one of the Six Monster Gods.]

The figure of Athenae giving birth to Obren appeared in front of Minhyuk. There was disbelief in Athenae’s face after she saw Obren.

“This child is the one that has the most power among the Six Monster Gods...?”

Athenae knew plenty of things. She was aware that the Six Monster Gods and the Absolute Gods would be the key figures of this world. The Six Monster Gods would be considered the ‘evil’ ones while the Absolute Gods would be considered as the ‘good’ ones.

However, Athenae had different thoughts as to who was ‘good’ and who was ‘evil’. After all, those things were something that one could not judge by themselves. It was just that these gods were born with evil powers.

That was how Obren was born into this world. He was such a pure, innocent, and naive boy, that no one would believe that he was one of the Six Monster Gods. Athenae continued to give birth to the rest of the Six Monster Gods, while Obren grew older and turned into a young boy.

One of the Six Monster Gods killed one of the gods just a few days after they were born, while another descended to the world of humans and only came back after slaughtering an entire kingdom. As for Obren, he just stayed there and read a book.

[Obren was too soft-hearted. He did not know how to kill. He was just a boy that wanted to descend to the world of humans to feel the sun, see the sky, and sail the seas. Just like that, thousands of years passed by.]

Thousands of years was an extremely long time. During that time, Obren had always remained alone. The rest of the Six Monster Gods had kept their distance away from him after knowing that

he had different ideals from them. As for the Absolute Gods and the other gods? They also shunned him and kept away from him, just because he held the title of 'Six Monster Gods'.

[He had always been alone.]

Always. Obren always kept to himself. Even during the banquets where all of the gods gathered, Obren would just sit in the corner and quietly read his books.

[He laughed alone.]

Obren would often giggle by himself as he read his book.

[He always cried by himself.]

Sometimes, he would cry by himself. During those times, he would blame himself while wondering why the other Six Monster Gods pointed and cursed at him.

One day, Obren decided that he wanted to go down to the world where the humans lived. He wanted to float in the sea, look at the sky, and run on the ground.

Obren, with his fine and dashing looks, descended to the human world. However, during the process, he had lost his favorite book. This book was called 'The History of the Continent', a book that detailed the happenings in the long history of the human world.

As he scoured the earth to find his book, a man approached him and said, "It seems like you dropped this."

For the first time, Obren held a conversation with a human. Despite his young age, the young man that approached Obren had a head of white hair. He was garbed in a pristine white priestly robe and displayed a bright smile as he looked at Obren.

The two continued their conversation, as the man introduced himself, "My name is Kronad."

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Kronad had been chosen at a young age by God Athenae. Blessed with tremendous holy power, he was someone that could hear the voice of God Athenae. Because of that, he was named as the first pope of the Athenae Religion, despite his young age.

He was very, very strong, and he used that power to gather plenty of priests and believers to serve and worship Athenae. Through his efforts, the Athenae Religion was able to establish itself all throughout the continent, growing quickly in size. It was because of Kronad that the Athenae Religion became the greatest religion.

Then, one day, as he prayed to Athenae, Kronad began to wonder if these lands truly belonged to the gods? In the end, he wanted to understand why he worked so hard, if everything would eventually belong to Athenae. After all, these were the priests and believers that Kronad had carefully gathered and nurtured, not Athenae.

*'Why is it like this? What did God do for me?'*

Kronad began to doubt his faith and everything that he was doing from that moment. Eventually, he started to fall into the abyss of darkness. He was a pope with the power to cut down even the gods, which bred ideas and thoughts that he initially should not have.

He thought, *'We are the masters and owners of these lands.'*

These lands belonged to the humans. Soon his thoughts turned awry.

*'We must drive out the gods.'*

To do that, they needed a key figure to help them drive out the gods. Kronad decided that it should be none other than himself. Thus began his mission to meet and persuade the other religions' popes and strongest paladins to drive out Athenae and the other gods.

Due to the humans' natural characteristics, all of them believed in the tremendous power that 'Pope Kronad' wielded.

*'Perhaps we can become the gods of these lands?'*

*'It will be us and not them that will be the gods...?'*

As a result, these thoughts plagued their minds. It was because of those thoughts that Kronad began to win the support of many of the popes, saints, and paladins. They began to create 'Evangel', the temple that would go against the gods.

[Evangel. It is the most powerful and greatest temple in existence. A temple that existed in the legends that was said to have the power that could rival several gods and popes together. Surprisingly enough, Pope Kronad was able to recreate the Evangel and make it appear in reality. He almost finished the temple. However, he faced a road block during its creation. To complete Evangel, he needed the divine power of an 'Absolute God' level being.]

So, Kronad began his investigation regarding the world of the gods. That was when he found out about the being that would most likely become the Evil God, 'Obren'.

"It seems like you dropped this."

Kronad sneered in his mind, when he encountered Obren in their land. However, he showed a bright smile to Obren and said, "My name is Kronad."

Their meeting had been part of Kronad's plan from the very beginning.

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[Obren was genuinely happy to have met a friend in Kronad.]

Kronad took Obren to the sea, who delighted as he enjoyed the cool breeze that blew from the sea. Sometimes, Obren would go to human festivals with Kronad to drink, dance and play. Obren was lonely no more.

[He was no longer alone.]

[He no longer laughed alone.]

[He no longer shed tears alone.]

The Obren that always laughed and smiled by himself, the Obren that cried by himself, Obren could now laugh and smile with his friend Kronad, as well as the popes, saints and paladins that the man introduced to him. Obren treated them as his friends, family, and most precious people.

One day, Kronad took Obren to a place where they could gaze at the stars. The two of them lay down on the ground and watched the stars. As he looked up to the skies, Obren said, "I'm happy. I'm very happy, Kronad."

"I'm also happy when I'm with you."

"Kronad."

"Huh?"

"Thank you."

"..."

Kronad remained silent at those words. Then, he looked at Obren, who asked him, "No matter what happens, I won't leave your side. How about you? Is it the same for you?"

Kronad only answered the question after a while, "...Of course."

The two continued to watch the starry sky like that.

Minhyuk continued to watch the video in front of him. There were times when Minhyuk would cry, and times when he would burst out in anger. Minhyuk's eyes had grown bloodshot as he neared the end of the video.

Step, step, step, step—

Once the video ended, Minhyuk began to approach Kronad. Kronad watched as Minhyuk approached him and grabbed him by the collar.

Tighten—

The words that he saw in the video made a huge impact on him, as they appeared in his mind once again.

[That day was the eve of the war between the gods and the humans.]

*[That day, Obren killed the gods and slaughtered hundreds of millions of human beings and truly became the 'Evil God'.]*

[That day, the one that stood at the center of the storm was none other than 'Kronad'.]

Who was evil and who was good? Who were they to judge that?

Pope Kronad, who's level was beyond Level 900, was the strongest NPC that Minhyuk had ever encountered.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

However, Minhyuk slapped the man in the face as hard as he could as he roared, "Mot\*\*rf\*cker! Is this the friendship that you were talking about?!"

Chapter 680: Divine Will

[To finish the creation of Temple Evangel, one has to have the power of the Six Monster Gods or the Absolute Gods. Obren, the one that would most likely become the 'Evil God' and the god with

the purest power, needed to kill tens of millions of humans and inject the power that he would obtain after that process into Evangel.]

Kronad was left deep in his thoughts as he recalled the conversation that he had with Obren just yesterday.

*‘No matter what happens, I won’t leave your side. How about you? Is it the same for you?’*

[Kronad’s hearts and thoughts were shaken by Obren’s pureness and naivety. However...]

“Tomorrow is ‘the day’.”

“The dish that we will feed Obren has been completed. Half a day later after Obren eats this dish, he would start to go berserk. This will be the ring that will contain the power that he would obtain by killing those people. This will complete Evangel.”

“...”

[Kronad had already crossed the line that should never have been crossed. Thousands of popes and strongest paladins and millions of priests, paladins and believers followed and believed in him. All of them comforted themselves that this was a small sacrifice for the greater good.]

The next day, Kronad looked at the dish that they had prepared. This was the dish that had the power to make the Evil God go berserk. Once Obren consumed this dish, he would lose his consciousness and kill millions of humans, perhaps even more.

“Kronad made this for me? Wow! I’m really grateful! I’ll make sure to savor it well!”

[Kronad did not even have the courage to give the dish to Obren himself. He asked another pope to deliver it to Obren.]

Kronad stared out of the window. When he turned around, he recalled the bright and pure smile on Obren’s face. Suddenly wavering, he left everything behind and ran to where Obren was as fast as he could.

“Thank you very much, Kronad. The dish was very delicious.”

“...”

However, it was too late. Obren had already finished eating the dish.

Obren looked at Kronad, his eyes conveying how sincere and grateful he was to the pope. That was when Kronad realized that the things that he did could no longer be undone.

On that day, the war between the gods and the humans began.

\*\*\*

[Athenae was fully aware of Kronad’s plans. She knew that Pope Kronad was rallying the other popes to drive out the gods from their world in order to become the ‘gods’ of their own world. In the end, Athenae was left with no other choice but to gather the gods and her army.]

[Athenae was a very clever being. She had planned to eradicate the humans and retrieve Evangel just before they completed the temple.]

[With Athenae at the center, millions of divine troops and hundreds of gods advanced towards the border of the worlds. All of them were ready to cross to the world inhabited by humans.]

*[However, a young man found out about their plans and set out to stop them.]*

[This man was none other than Obren, the one that would become the Evil God and one of the Six Monster Gods.]

“Mother! Kronad is not that kind of person! He told me that the reason why he created Evangel is so he could strengthen and protect the Athenae Religion!”

“Stay out of the way, Obren. The humans had already fallen into corruption. They need to undergo reformation.”

“Mother!!!”

Of course, Athenae turned a deaf ear to Obren’s earnest and desperate cries. After all, Athenae was aware that Obren had been hoodwinked by Kronad and his men from the start.

The Absolute Gods, the Six Monster Gods, and the other gods tried to advance despite seeing Obren standing in front of them. But then...

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

All of them watched in shock when they saw more than ten million books floating in the sky above Obren, who was preparing to attack them.

*‘The one who was destined to become the Evil God... A being that no other Absolute God or Six Monster God could ever compete against.’*

Athenae could only groan. She never expected that Obren could already use the Evil God’s Books to that extent.

“Our dear older brother Obren, are you thinking of forsaking us?”

“Do not be foolish, Obren.”

“None of you considered me as an older brother. However, these people have considered me as their family, their brother.”

Obren wanted to protect them, the only friends and family that he ever had.

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

When the gods tried to advance, countless powerful attacks bombarded and overwhelmed them.

[Obren’s power was truly overwhelming. Even the Absolute Gods and the Six Monster Gods could not handle it. Obren killed countless soldiers of the divine army on the spot, making the gods tremble in fear.]

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



The Spear God stabbed Obren's shoulder with a spear, while the God of Archery's arrow pierced through his thighs. The God of Magic's gigantic meteor also descended and engulfed the god. But Obren never backed down. Even though his body was torn and bloodied, Obren did not run away. He stood there and confronted the gods.

[He was the only one that could protect Kronad and his dear friends.]

[To Obren, his friends were far more valuable than his own life.]

Athenae looked at Obren as he used his power to protect those humans and endure hours of assault just to save them. In the end, she could only sigh as she enlightened Obren with the truth.

"My child. See for your own eyes how Kronad tried, and is still trying, to take advantage of you."

[At that moment, Kronad's side of the story unfolded and played in Obren's eyes.]

*'One of the Six Monster Gods, Obren... I think we can use him to complete the Temple Evangel.'*

*'How should we approach him?'*

*'I'll approach him and make it seem like our meeting is a coincidence. From what I heard, he's been alone for a very long time. We'll take advantage of that loneliness.'*

*'Obren will become the Evil God and slaughter millions of humans. Will that be alright?'*

Kronad grinned and said, *'It's but a small sacrifice for the greater good. Whether it's the humans or Obren, they're all sacrifices for our future.'*

"...!"

[Tears fell down his cheeks as Obren finally realized the truth.]

Obren lost the strength in his legs and collapsed on the ground, his body quivering while he sobbed. Then, at that moment, a mysterious voice rang in his head.

*'Kill them. The gods that mocked you and the humans that used you. Slaughter them all.'*

Boooooooooooooom—

Suddenly, a powerful force exploded from Obren's body and engulfed the entire area.

"Keuaaaaaaaaaack!" Obren roared, his overwhelming power shaking the world that the gods lived in.

*'He's been hiding his true power?'*

At that moment, Athenae realized that Obren had been holding back the entire time. Athenae was appalled by the realization, while the other gods were all trembling in terror and fear.

Obren started to lose his rationality.

Grab—

“I’m sorry, Obren.”

Someone hugged the berserk Obren tightly. When Obren turned his head to look at the man that hugged him, he saw Kronad’s face.

Kronad finally realized that everything that they did was wrong when they saw Obren protect them, to the point that he was bloody and bruised. But by that time, everything was already too late.

“Dieeeeeeeeeee!!!”

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

Hundreds of explosive attacks rained down on Kronad. Obren’s wrath was too much. Although Kronad tried to stop him, his rationality had already disappeared after going berserk.

Athenae, who watched her son turn berserk, made the most rational decision.

[Athenae knew that Kronad would collapse even if they did not make a move. So...]

“...Go, Obren.”

A bright light engulfed Obren and Kronad.

[Athenae sent them to the world where the humans lived.]

After watching them disappear, Athenae turned around and said, “Let us return. They will destroy themselves.”

A bitter and helpless expression appeared on Athenae’s face as she and her army returned.

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[Obren and Kronad had been sent to the land of the humans. However, Obren’s wrath was greater than he expected. Kronad could tell that if things continued at this rate, the entire human race would be wiped out on this day. So, he tried to stop and restrain Obren.]

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

One attack from Obren and tens of thousands of paladins disappeared without a trace. Tens of thousands of priests prayed and prayed for the ‘wicked one’ to be driven out from their lands but it was to no avail. The mindless slaughter continued for days on end.

More than a month had passed, yet the battle between the humans and the Evil God was still underway.

“I will kill all of you, treacherous and lying humans! I will kill all the gods! I will kill everyone until I’m the only one left in these lands!!!”

Thousands of humans died with every swipe of Obren’s hands. It was literally the descent of the Evil God.

At that point, Kronad, the popes and the paladins realized that they could not, and would not be able to kill Obren. All of them reached a consensus and decided to ‘seal’ him.

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

When Evil God Obren slaughtered and wiped out another human empire, and mankind was left on the edge of despair, Kronad gathered all of the popes and strongest paladins. They quickly went to find Obren.

As Obren spiraled further into his madness, his once pure and naive eyes now sought only slaughter and destruction. The moment he caught sight of Kronad, he unleashed countless powerful attacks.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

With Pope Kronad at the vanguard, the popes, paladins, priests and saints, together with the volunteers and representatives of each empire and kingdom, fought hard to stop Obren.

On this day, the largest number of people that died on the battlefield was recorded in the annals of history. The gods refused to listen to the earnest and desperate cries of the humans. They had reaped what they sown. The gods did not spare them any mercy.

Staaaaab—

Fortunately, Kronad was able to successfully stab Obren in the abdomen. Then, he grabbed whatever item he could grab first, which turned out to be a seasoning jar.

“I’m sorry, Obren.”

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Obren’s body was sucked inside the jar.

“I... loathe... you...”

With Obren’s body sealed inside the jar, Kronad, the popes, the paladins, the saints and everybody else thought that the war was finally over.

[You have received the Evil God’s Curse!]

[The paladins, saints, saintesses, priests and popes that survived this war will be cursed to live a life of immortality. You will live beside Evangel, the temple that you have been greedy for, for all eternity!]

[Obren’s curse will bring suffering to you for all eternity!]

“...”

Kronad looked at the seasoning jar helplessly.

Flaaaash—

Then, the seasoning jar disappeared in a flash, flying to someplace unknown to them.

At the same time, Kronad, the popes, the priests, the paladins and the saints all disappeared in a flash of light. The place where they were brought to? The Papal Wall.

They all paid tribute to those that died.

“We will never forget those that have died because of our sins.”

“We will always remember Obren and receive punishment for what we have done to him for all eternity.”

“We were Obren’s friends yet we turned our backs on him and betrayed him. We have to find a way to awaken him.”

[Now, thousands of years later, Kronad, the popes, the paladins and the saints finally found a way to awaken Obren.]

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Baaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

“Mot\*\*rf\*cker! Is this the friendship that you were talking about?!” Minhyuk shouted as he punched Pope Kronad in the face. However, the man’s head was just bent at an awkward angle from the blow.

Normally, those that received Minhyuk’s punch would have already been sent a few meters back. However, Pope Kronad was a very powerful being. Such a blow meant nothing to him.

Kronad looked at Minhyuk and said, “I know that we cannot turn back time and reverse what we did. That’s why we will be paying for our sins. We have found a way to awaken Obren. I hope that you will bring him comfort and console his wounded heart.”

Minhyuk, who was looking at Kronad in rage, soon calmed down.

“Please take care of him once he awakens, so that he will no longer suffer from grievances and be hurt.”

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

The awakened Obren will be furious but he will be severely weakened. However, the only way to kill Obren is to use the ‘Sacred Papal Sword’. To use the Sacred Papal Sword, the inhabitants of this land have to willingly enter ‘hell’ to pay for their sin and suffer for all eternity.?

Help grant their ‘grave punishment’ and revive ‘Obren’.

Minhyuk finally found a way to meet with ‘Obren’ once again.