

## Gourmet 71

Chapter 71: Cha Chapagetti~

Minhyuk was smiling brightly as he ate candy. Sweet candy! These kinds of candies were usually placed in wooden baskets in department stores or mobile phone dealerships as a sort of free service for customers. Right now, Minhyuk was eating them without an ounce of guilt after Harmel, the woman at the counter, told him that they would not say anything even if he ate a pillar out of the candy factory.

“I did not eat as much as I thought I would,” Minhyuk said as he looked at the thousands of candy wrappers the size of a thumb scattered around him. The door slowly opened, then...

Bang!

...it immediately closed with a bang. Not long after, Harmel and another man entered the room. The man looked like he had been hit on the head cleanly. He said, “I’m Gordon, the Chef Tower’s deputy tower master.”

“Oh, your name sounds good.”

“Yes?”

The man had the same name as that world-class chef! Minhyuk did not know for sure but he thought that the man would definitely cook something delicious with his name like that, right? Minhyuk licked his lips as he thought of that.

Pause!

‘What? I...is he gay?’ Gordon thought, looking at Minhyuk cautiously.

“Oh, it’s another bag of candy!”

“C...can you stop eating it now?” Harmel asked. In response, Minhyuk played the player’s ‘recording’ button that he had prepared for this occasion.

[Even if you eat enough to pull out a pillar out of the candy factory, the Chef Tower will not say anything~]

“This candy-crazy bas...”

“Yes?”

“No, nothing,” Gordon said, shaking his head.

Meanwhile, Harmel was shocked. She thought, ‘Me...meticulous. How can a person be this meticulous and shameless?!’ In the end, all she could do was get more candy.

Then, Gordon brought out a hologram interface and said, “You can exchange your 15,200 points for equipment, gears, and even skill books.”

Minhyuk peeled another candy and placed it in his mouth as he listened to Gordon.

“I personally recommend that you get the Spirit King’s Chef’s Uniform,” Gordon said.

Gordon was by no means a pushover, after all, he was the Chef Tower’s deputy tower master! Tower masters in places like the Warrior Tower, Mage Tower and Archer Tower actually had the same influence as an emperor. Of course, even if Gordon was a non-combatant, and was only a deputy tower master of the Chef Tower, he still held a lot of power! However, there was a reason why Gordon was acting friendly with Minhyuk.

‘Collecting this many points means that he is a special chef,’ Gordon thought. He knew that Minhyuk was definitely a person that should be treated with courtesy.

“The reason why I recommend the Spirit King’s Chef’s Uniform is because it increases the buff by 30% when it is equipped. Furthermore, it has a +50 STR and +50 AGI that can help a chef hunt monsters much more efficiently. It also has an effect that increases your affinity with spirits. You won’t be able to buy it anywhere else. It’s actually a unique item, but it’s as strong as an epic artifact.”

“Is there an effect that increases the taste?”

“None. But I assure you that this is the best artifact in the entire Chef Tower..”

“That’s not good.”

“It’s not a good artifact? Eh?” Gordon asked, feeling strange.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk thought, ‘No, what do you mean there’s no increase in taste?! Does that even make any sense?!’

The most important thing for him was missing, so how could it be considered the best. Right? Gordon tried to deny his claims as he said, “Increasing the buffs means that it will be easier to hunt with a party, and there’s also the increase in STR and AGI! Perhaps you’re mistaken.”

“Nope. It’s a bad artifact. I’m sure of it.”

“N...no? Why in the world is it not good?” Gordon asked in shock.

Then, Minhyuk explained, “Isn’t a chef someone who makes delicious food?”

“Ye...yes?” Gordon said, nodding his head. That was something that he could not refute because it was true.

“It’s better to have an increase in taste, especially if you want to feed yourself and other people, right?”

Nod—

“But since you mentioned that buffs are important, does that mean that a chef does not feed others food, but buffs?”

Nod—

“Don’t you think that this product is no good precisely because of that?”

Nod.

“When you think of it like that, then it’s really no good... Ah! N...no. That’s not it! Aren’t you going to level up? You have to hunt in parties too!”

“A chef prefers buffs instead of the deliciousness of food? I’m so disappointed!”

“...”

Gordon sighed. He asked, “Is there a reason why you’re insisting on this thing? 15,000 points is really a huge amount.”

“Is it a problem to find delicious ingredients?”

Gordon felt like he had been hit with a hammer on his head. He was deeply moved as he thought, ‘M...my goodness...!’

This was a true chef! Instead of using his 15,000 points to find skill books and artifacts, he was looking for delicious ingredients.

‘He’s even willing to spend a huge amount of money in his quest to find delicious food and share it with others!’

This was a chef!

[You have gained Gordon’s favor.]

[You have gained Gordon’s favor.]

Minhyuk was shocked and confused. He had clearly expressed his disappointment in Gordon, but his favor still increased. Then, Minhyuk quickly moved past the ingredients and went directly to the dishes.

‘Blissful mushroom soup. A +50 increase in all 5 basic stats and +50 increase in magical defense. But, it does not say ‘more delicious’ so this is no good.’

Minhyuk skimmed through the dishes one after the other to find something delicious, until his fingers stopped at one item.

“Gasp...!” Minhyuk gasped loudly in shock. He had found a great dish! He said, “I can’t believe there’s such a precious and valuable dish listed in here!”

Gordon did not know what Minhyuk was talking about, so he looked at what he was looking at. Then, he thought, ‘This is a precious thing...?’

Minhyuk was looking at a dish called Gray Chapagetti. He immediately checked the information of the dish.

(Gray Chapagetti)

Ingredient Grade: C

Special Abilities:

?+3 in all five basic stats

?A chapagetti glowing in a gray light with a deeper and much tastier flavor.

Description: A gray chapagetti that can be purchased ?with 15,000 points in the Chef Tower. It tastes good but is not recommended for purchase.

Harmel came inside carrying two boxes of candies. Minhyuk stood up and took the boxes from her, before saying, “Do you know the song about this dish?”

“...?”

Gordon and Harmel looked at him strangely as he straightened his body up. Then Minhyuk started humming a song, “Cha~ Cha~ Chapagetti! Nongsin Chapagetti.”

“..”

“I’ll take this one! Chapagetti!”

[Would you like to choose the Gray Chapagetti?]

[You will consume 15,000 points.]

“Yes, yes, yes!” Minhyuk exclaimed brightly.

[You have purchased Gray Chapagetti.]

[You have consumed 15,000 points.]

“Gasp...”

“My goodness...”

The two people in the room watched in shock as Minhyuk purchased the item. Minhyuk was the first player with the highest points to ever exchange inside the Chef Tower, and all he exchanged for was Chapagetti! However, Minhyuk looked extremely satisfied.

“Can I cook here?” Minhyuk asked excitedly, holding up his 15,000 point chapagetti.

“Ah, yes...”

“Yes...”

The two nodded in a daze. They watched as Minhyuk held the bag of chapagetti in his hands and stood up to solemnly declare, “Today, I am a Chapagetti Chef!”. Then, he prepared his cooking materials as he started to cook chapagetti.

Shwaaaaa—

Minhyuk poured water in a pot for boiling and added oil in a frying pan. Once the frying pan was hot enough, he added two eggs in it.

Sizzle—

In no time at all, the two eggs were fried really well. The reason why Minhyuk fried eggs was because he needed to put it on the chapagetti! Then, he turned over the egg to cook the yolk. He made sure that the yolks were only half-cooked before placing the chapagetti noodles and vegetable flakes in the boiling water. Minhyuk lifted the noodles from time to time out of the boiling water so

that the noodles remained chewy and curly. After he deemed that the noodles were cooked well, he threw away the water. When he looked at the back of the chapagetti packaging, he saw the instructions?‘Leave only 8 spoons’?written on it. However, Minhyuk left 10 spoons of water instead. Then, without removing it from the pot, he added the black soup powder and the olive oil inside the pot and stir fried it just like that.

Shwaaaaa—

As soon as the black soup powder met with water, it became a black liquid that slowly covered the noodles in the pot. After stir-frying it for quite some time, the noodles were covered with a thick black sauce. Then, Minhyuk turned off the heat and added the two eggs that he had fried earlier in the pan. He poked the half-cooked yolk and watched as it slowly poured down on the noodles before mixing it well.

“Hohohoho...!” Minhyuk laughed happily as he took out some ripe kimchi and pickled radish out of his inventory. Gordon and Harmel, who were wondering why he chose chapagetti out of all items in the exchange window, watched Minhyuk closely, as he picked up some black noodles and...

“Sluuuuuuuuuuuurp!”

Minhyuk tasted the sweet and thick flavor of the chapagetti. Since this was a Gray Chapagetti, the flavor was much deeper and richer than regular chapagettis! Minhyuk said, “Wow, I understand why it costs 15,000 points. This flavor really deserves that 15,000 points!”

“....”

“....”

Gordon and Harmel looked at Minhyuk blankly while he continued eating. Minhyuk ate half an egg in one bite. The light and rich flavor of the egg added to the wonderful taste of the chapagetti. In his next bite of the noodles, Minhyuk ate the noodles together with the ripe kimchi.

“Crunch, crunch.”

The spicy and sour taste of the kimchi washed away the greasy flavor of the chapagetti and made his mouth feel a bit refreshed. Next, he ate it together with the sweet and sour pickled radish.

Crunch, crunch, crunch.?Chew, chew.

Minhyuk nodded in satisfaction, exclaiming, “Delicious!”

Harmel and Gordon’s mouths opened unconsciously.

‘Y...yeah. Place some in my mouth too.’

‘Please give me a bite too? Is that what you want to say, huh?!’

Minhyuk was eating his chapagetti with relish, when he had no choice but to stop as he saw the two pairs of hungry, glinting eyes in front of him. They looked like they were hungry hyenas watching their prey.

“Why do you look so hungry??Sigh.?Alright, I will be generous with you.”

“Oh! Thanks! Really, thank you so much!” Gordon exclaimed. He was so thrilled. He even thanked him like he was someone who saved the whole world.

“Please, have some of this,” Minhyuk said, handing him a candy. A cinnamon candy.

“...”

“...”

Harmel and Gordon looked dejectedly at the candy in their hands. However, Minhyuk truly believed that he was generous with what he did. Not long after, Minhyuk finally finished his meal, making sure to lick all of the black sauce and noodles out of the pot. Then, a series of notifications rang in his head.

[You have achieved the Hidden Piece: You have the Proper Appetite.]

[You have acquired +3 in all five of your basic stats.]

[You have gained +300 DEX.]

[You have accumulated a total of 600 DEX. All skills and abilities related to DEX will improve by 10%.]

[You have accumulated a total of 700 DEX. All skills and abilities related to DEX will improve by 10%.]

[You have accumulated a total of 800 DEX. All skills and abilities related to DEX will improve by 10%.]

‘Hidden Piece...?’ Minhyuk thought in amazement. After all, those notifications were such a pleasant sound for him who just chose to eat something delicious. Even his DEX had risen by 300 points in one go! It was a much higher increase compared to when he ate the Empire’s Elixir.

Then, Minhyuk heard Gordon mumbling about something. Gordon said, “He’s like the Food God that appeared in the legends.”

“...?”

Minhyuk reacted when he heard his words because he was that ‘Food God’ right now. In addition, his words were clear evidence that the Food God existed in the past.

“Food God?”

“Ah, yes.”

“Can you tell me anything about that?” Minhyuk asked while Gordon nodded gladly. It seemed like he was happy that someone was interested in the legends of the Food God.

Chapter 72: The Start of a Hybrid Character

'The legend of the Food God is something that almost all of the chefs in the Chef Tower know about,' Gordon thought, nodding as he started to explain.

However, he still erred on the side of caution and explained some things to him before starting his story. He said, "There are plenty of unrealistic stories that you can hear out there, so you can just think about them as legends."

"Yes."

"I heard the stories related to the Food God from the tower master of the Chef Tower, Boroto."

Minhyuk nodded to show Gordon that he was listening. Gordon continued to say, "From what I heard, there was once a man strong enough to split the sky and make the earth shake. He also said that the man loves to eat and his cooking skills were so superb that no other chef could catch up to him. Everyone that tasted his dishes all fell in love with him and the taste of his food."

"I see."

"There were also a lot of people who followed him. However, this legend is just so outrageously absurd."

"Outrageously absurd?"

"Yeah," Gordon said, lips curling into a smile at the ridiculous story. He continued to say, "The Food God had the chance to sit on the emperor's throne. But you know what he did? The Food God said 'Ah I'm hungry, being an emperor is such a nuisance! Hey, Kerron. You are the emperor, I'm going to eat.'"

Gordon shook his head as he went on, "And that Emperor Kerron? He was the emperor of the Bocelli Empire, also known to be the greatest emperor in the history of the continent. And that's not all."

Gordon started to get excited. His hands slammed on the table as his saliva spluttered everywhere, "He met with the most atrocious and brutal character in history, Black Dragon Lord Khan. Did you know what he said to him when the Food God met him?"

"What did he say?"

"'I'm going to eat barbeque today, so use Breath to roast these. If you burn my food, I will rip your scales, understand?' You see, does this legend make any sense at all?"

"Using Breath to roast meat sounds delicious."

"Yeah. It sounds delicious... No! That's not the point. The story just doesn't make sense, that's the point."

Minhyuk looked at Gordon in doubt. He asked, "Why doesn't it make sense? How come?"

"No, of course it doesn't. It doesn't make sense to ask a dragon, the greatest creature to ever exist on earth, to use Breath to grill barbeque!"

“But, what if he had really wanted to eat barbeque so much?”

“Huh...?” Gordon asked dumbly, tilting his head to stare blankly at him. His expression looked like he was wondering what was on Minhyuk’s mind. He continued to say, “It doesn’t make any sense. He even went to the King of the Dwarves, Golden Hammer Lant, and told him?‘Make me a tool that can help me grill vegetable pancakes well!’?and he even brought God’s mineral amantadium! My god! I can’t believe that he asked the Dwarf King to make him a pancake making tool using amantadium.?It’s the mineral that was dubbed as God’s mineral!”

“Wow, how nice would it be to have a tool like that? I’m so jealous.”

“...”

By now, Gordon was looking at Minhyuk, wondering if there was something wrong with him, when he saw a flash of regret in Minyuk’s expression.

“That’s not the end of it. The Mother Tree, the guardian deity of the fairies and pixies, grows a flower called Lefenderser. And that Lefenderser produces sacred honey, but this crazy Food God stole the Lefenderser and squeezed its honey just so he could dip his grilled rice cakes in it. I can’t believe that he used that valuable and expensive Lefenderser’s Honey just to eat grilled rice cakes!”

“He really knows how to eat it!”

“Yeah. I know that dipping grilled rice cakes in honey is really delicious!” Gordon said, gulping. However, he quickly realized what he said so he stopped in his tracks. He coughed loudly to clear his embarrassment. He asked, “Are you the descendant of the Food God? How can you even understand those situations well?”

“That’s right, I’m the Food God.”

“Eh?”

“I’m the Food God. I don’t know about the descendant thing, but my class is Food God,” Minhyuk said. He felt that he did not need to hide it. Besides, if they knew that he was the Food God, then he would be able to find more about the Food God. Of course, his intentions were definitely different. Minhyuk thought,?‘I’m not too sure, but it’s possible that the Food God has hidden something delicious!’

Gordon pondered something for a moment. He thought,?‘Boroto said that the Food God would one day appear at the Chef Tower. He also said that I should tell him where the Food God was if he ever appeared. Back then, I thought that he was crazy.’

So, Gordon spoke carefully, “If you’re really the Food God, why don’t you go and meet with the Chef Tower’s tower master, Boroto?”

Then, Minhyuk heard a notification in his head.



[This quest overlaps with the Food God's Legacy quest.]

'Ah...!'

Minhyuk remembered that he received the 'Food God's Legacy' quest when he changed into his second class, Eccentric Food God. However, because of level requirements, the information about the quest was still not available.

'Perhaps I'm supposed to meet with the chef named Boroto?' Minhyuk thought, already half-certain of his conjectures. He said, "I understand."

Just then, Gordon thought of something else, but before he could even say it to Minhyuk...

[The God of Athenae is imposing sanctions on you.]

[Please don't disclose any more information.]

That was the moment that Gordon realized that what Minhyuk said was the truth. He thought, 'H, he's really the Food God!'

However, it seemed like the man in front of Gordon had yet to fulfill the conditions to become the full-fledged Food God. In the end, Gordon had no choice but to stay quiet. He said, "That's all that I can say."

"I see. Thank you for the stories. Phew..." Minhyuk said, looking depressed.

"What's wrong?"

"I think I was a bit too complacent. I should have eaten much more diligently. Just like him..."

"N...no. You're already eating well enough."

"Nope. It's not enough. I should go and set a goal too."

"...?"

"I'll definitely go and grill some barbecue using Breath, and I'll also dip grilled rice cakes in Lefenderser's honey," Minhyuk vowed, his eyes glimmering brightly as he clenched his fists. His actions showed his dedication and seriousness towards this goal that he had just set.

"..."

"Then, I will get going."

Gordon stared blankly at the spot where Minhyuk disappeared from. He said, "This person is not in his right mind either."

Harmel looked at him and asked, "Why didn't you say anything back then?"

There was still a very important part in the legends that Gordon did not say. Thankfully, Harmel, the junior employee, did not say anything when she saw Gordon stop talking about it.

“It seemed like the God of Athenae wanted him to find them on his own. The Dragon Lord Khan, the Golden Hammer Dwarf Lant, the Mother Tree, and plenty others.”

Gordon continued to stare at the spot where Minhyuk was at earlier, as he continued to say, “They loved food and the Food God more than anybody else, and some of their powers are hidden within the relics that the Food God had left behind.”

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Blacksmith Ron heaved a huge sigh. He thought, ‘This is a problem, it’s a big problem.’

Ron had just been informed that no one would make any more deals with him. He was quite famous in the Kingdom of Barras for his extremely bad personality. The guards, the townspeople, and even the foreigners did not like his attitude. The only reason why he was able to do business and trade was because he was a skilled blacksmith.

However, a mishap occurred and he was not able to deliver the goods on time, to the owner of the basic first aid drug store, McCann, as well as Farmer Brett and the others! All of them had notified him that they would not continue to trade and deal with him since he delivered the goods late! In fact, the root of all this was a young foreigner, a little girl.

‘But what can I do? I feel sad when the little one is left all alone.’

Ron had lost his wife and child so he felt sorry for the little foreigner girl whenever she was left alone, that was why he had allowed her to stay in the smithy. In fact, there were a lot of dangerous things in the smithy, but the girl’s foreigner father had asked him for this favor since he was not always able to accompany his daughter, due to the nature of his work. Even though Ron was known for his bad temper and attitude, he still decided to help out the father and daughter to honor the memory of his lost child.

‘It’s quite a big deal for someone to not be able to eat, due to the side effects of the treatment that they underwent.’

From what Ron had heard, the child could not stomach any food. He was told that the little girl successfully won the battle against the disease called leukemia in the foreigner’s world. Although the little girl had been cured, she was still suffering from trauma after vomiting food that she ate during the course of her treatment. His father said that he brought her here in hopes that she could overcome her fears. He had sighed bitterly and lamented the fact that she was not getting any better. Ron gave a similar sigh too, despite his cold-heartedness and bad temper.

‘What a pitiful child!’ That was what Ron thought as he went back to the smithy.

“Kyahahahaha!”

He could hear peals of laughter coming out from the door of the smithy. The sound of laughter was something that he was extremely familiar with. It came from the young foreigner, Hyeminnie! Ron’s expression turned puzzled as he hastened his steps only to be met with an oddly heartwarming sight. An unknown foreigner was running around the smithy with Hyeminnie sitting on his shoulders as she laughed loudly. And Hyeminnie...

“Go! Piggy!”

“Oink, oink! Oink!”

...was sitting comfortably on the shoulders of the young man, while he squealed like a pig. That was when the young man made eye contact with Ron. The man became petrified like ice, slowly letting Hyeminnie slide down from his back. The man coughed loudly to hide his embarrassment and said, “That... I’m... I must apologize for something!”

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One hour ago.

Minhyuk entered Blacksmith Ron’s smithy but he could not find anyone in there. He carefully called out, “Excuse me? Is anybody there?”

He was quite puzzled as to why no one was inside the smithy, so he decided to look around until he found a furnace! He exclaimed “Oh.... This looks like the furnace I saw on TV. The furnace for grilled pork belly!”

Minhyuk often saw the shovel-grilled pork belly on TV! They would wrap the grilled pork belly well in foil and use a shovel to place it in the furnace. It would then cook well in just five seconds. However, Minhyuk thought that he could not do that without the smithy’s owner!

So, he waited and waited, and waited. He tried to wait for the owner to come back, but in the end, Minhyuk failed to overcome his temptation. He hurriedly covered some of the grilled pork belly that he had prepared in advance in foil and placed it on the shovel. Then, he carefully opened the lid of the furnace before shoving the shovel inside. After a few seconds, he pulled the foiled grilled pork belly and opened it.

Sizzle, sizzle, sizzle—

The grilled pork belly was sizzling in its own oil! Minhyuk admired his masterpiece before directly sitting down and starting to eat his grilled pork belly. He even dipped it in salt and wrapped it in lettuce.

“Kgghk! This is really the shovel grilled pork belly! Hahaha!”

Minhyuk thought that he should hurry up and eat it quickly, but once he finished the first one, he could not help himself and grilled for a second time. It happened again a third time, and before realizing it, he had already eaten grilled pork belly ten times in a row.

Creaaaaaak—

Bang!

Minhyuk suddenly heard a loud sound. He quickly turned to look at the direction where the sound came from. It sounded like a stray cat. However, he was met with the eyes of a little child hiding in a corner and peeking at him.

“Huh?” Minhyuk said, looking at the head of the little girl sticking out from a corner.

The little girl asked, “Was it really delicious?”

“Of course! Delicious food is the best!”

“Hyeminnie gets sick when she eats...”

“That’s impossible! I don’t believe that anyone will get sick if they eat something delicious! It’s zero calories if it’s delicious!”

“Hero calories?”

“No, it’s zero calories.”

The child, Hyeminnie, shook her head showing Minhyuk that she could not understand what he meant. Then she pulled something out of her pockets and said, “Then you eat this.”

“...!”

Minhyuk’s eyes widened when he saw what Hyeminnie handed to him. It was none other than? ABD?chocolate! For Minhyuk, chocolate was something that was in his reach but could never touch. For someone suffering?from eating?addiction, chocolate was like poison. He even used to cry a lot because he wanted to eat them so much. This might not mean much to others, but for Minhyuk, chocolate was a very special ‘food’. So, it was only natural that his eyes were trained on the chocolate that the little girl had on her hands. He asked, “Where did you get this precious thing?”

“My dad gave it to me to eat, but I hate eating! I get sick when I eat this!”

“No, you wouldn’t get sick if you eat something delicious though?”

“Nope. Hyeminnie gets sick,” the little girl said, rubbing her stomach pitifully. Then, she approached Minhyuk with the sweet, sweet chocolate.

“That’s why you should eat it,” Hyeminnie said, personally peeling the chocolate and handing it over to Minhyuk. then...

“Aaaaaaah!” Minhyuk opened his mouth and almost bit Hyeminnie’s little fist!

Seeing that, Hyeminnie immediately hit Minhyuk's head with her tiny fist and roared out, “This butthole! You can’t eat my hands!”

“Ah, sorry. Ahmm, delicious!” Minhyuk said, smiling at the sweet taste of chocolate in his mouth. He carefully savored the chocolate, chewing one half and melting the other half in his mouth. The sweetness spread more deeply inside his mouth.

Then, Hyeminnie gave him a whole bag of chocolate. She said, “Here, have some more.”

“Thanks! You’re such a good kid!” Minhyuk said as he started to eat the chocolates like there was no tomorrow. And without realizing it, he was already eating the last piece of chocolate.

Chew, chew?

Minhyuk felt sad knowing that there was nothing left in the bag anymore. However, when he looked up, he saw Hyeminnie's face. She was looking at the empty bag of chocolate with sadness in her eyes. She said, "My chocolate..."

Gasp! "Sorry!" Minhyuk said. He felt a bit sorry when he realized that he could not control his appetite and ended up eating all of it.

Hyeminnie might not be able to eat chocolate, but children would still feel a great sense of loss when someone took something that they owned! Hyeminnie's expression looked like she had lost everything in this world. She said, "You're a piggy. You ate them all..."

Prick!

Minhyuk felt a prick in his conscience as he stood still in shock.

Chapter 73: The Start of a Hybrid Character

"You're Poopy Piggy!"

"My name is not Poopy Piggy, it's Minhyuk. Minhyuk Oppa."

"Poopy!"

"N...no. It's Minhyuk, you know? Follow me. Min. Hyuk."

"Mi..."

Minhyuk immediately fixed his gaze on Hyeminnie's mouth. For some reason, this little girl was making him feel nervous. His mouth started to dry up in anxiety as he watched Hyeminnie's mouth move. Then...

"Poopy!"

"Gasp?!" Minhyuk gasped, shaking his head in defeat. However, despite winning their small argument, Hyeminnie's face scrunched up again! She looked like she was about to cry. Seeing this, Minhyuk hurriedly lifted her and gave her a ride on his shoulders.

"Kyahahahaha. Poopy Piggy!"

"Oink, oink, oink? Oink!" Minhyuk squealed. He did not feel bad since he liked kids. He could also tell that Hyeminnie, this child, was a player. He thought, "But, where did her parents go? Did they just leave this young girl here?"

Even though Athena was still a game, there were not that many parents that would willingly leave their child alone to play. So, he asked, "Where are your parents?"

"My poopy daddy is always busy everyday, he also cries whenever he sees me. My poopy daddy is really pitiful. And my poopy mommy went to heaven!"

"Ah..." Minhyuk said, shaking his head. It seemed like they had circumstances on their own. However, there was one thing that he could do right now, and that was to make Hyeminnie feel happy and excited!

“Oink, oink, oink! Kuwiiiiik!”

“Kyahahaha. You really sound like a piggy!”

They continued to play around until a dashing, handsome man came rushing inside the smithy. The man was well over 180 centimeters in height, and had a cool hairstyle. Minhyuk could tell that this was Blacksmith Ron. Minhyuk slowly let Hyeminnie down and prepared to make an apology. After all, he should at least apologize for using the man’s furnace without asking permission. He said, “That... I’m... I must apologize for something.”

Just as he was about to bring up the cause for his apology...

[You have gained Ron’s favor.]

[You have gained Ron’s favor.]

[You have gained Ron’s favor.]

...notifications unexpectedly rang!

‘Huh?’

Minhyuk was confused. He thought, ‘I...is this a bug?’

The only thing that Minhyuk did was to console Hyeminnie and play with her after he accidentally ate all of her chocolate. So, what did the notification mean? But then, he had no time to think in his momentary stupor, as he heard Ron say, “You’re sorry? Actually, who are you?”

Before Minhyuk came here, he had asked others what Ron was like and there was only one answer. His skills were the best! However, he was also well-known for his very bad temper. But that bad-tempered man was smiling softly at him. Minhyuk thought that it might be because his favor increased due to the bug.

“I really wanted to eat grilled pork belly, so I used your shovel and made grilled pork belly with your furnace! I’m sorry!” Minhyuk exclaimed loudly as he bowed his head in apology.

Ron laughed and thought, ‘He’s different...’

People would normally pretend that nothing happened. Yet, this man in front of him came clean and apologized. Ron was initially a little skeptical since the shy Hyeminnie had willingly approached this man, and even laughed and smiled comfortably with him. However, he realized why that was the case when he saw the young man.

‘They’re the same, he’s also like a little kid,’ Ron thought with a grin.

“It’s fine. You can use it.”

“Are you sure?”

“Yeah, it’s just a furnace. Besides, using it doesn’t mean that it will disappear.”

After clearing things up, Minhyuk explained the reason and story behind his visit, including the things that the coachman Baran had told him.

“Oho. I see. That Coachman Baran sent you here. That friend of mine is also strict and bad-tempered.”

“Eh? But he was very kind to me though?” Minhyuk asked, tilting his head in confusion. Baran had always looked at him with a fatherly smile so he could not understand what Ron meant.

“Let’s head inside and talk,” Ron said, leading him inside with Hyeminnie tagging along. Hyeminnie even acted cute and asked to sit on Minhyuk’s lap! Minhyuk had no choice but to place her on his lap. Hyeminnie hugged him tightly and fell asleep not long after.

Ron smiled as he looked at the two of them. He said, “Right. That special ingredient. I have it.”

“Oh. So that’s really the case. Can I know what kind of ingredient it is?”

Ron said, “However, cooking ingredients are materials that will disappear once you eat them so don’t be too expectant. The ingredients that I have is the ‘Pancake Dish Set’.”

“P...pancake dish set...?” Minhyuk asked, body starting to tremble. There were only two national holidays every year. However, his household never served any holiday dishes during these days. It was because his father and the medical personnel did not think of cooking anything due to Minhyuk’s condition. They also did not want to trigger his appetite from the savory smell of the food.

So, what kind of existence was this pancake? Pancake was a dish that everyone ate during the holidays. It was a magical dish that could instantly let one gain three kilograms once they tasted everything! However, all of the dishes in the Pancake Dish Set were extremely delicious! Furthermore, Minhyuk had not tried any pancake dishes for a very long time. That was why the words ‘Pancake Dish Set’ had a huge impact on him.

“Grilled beef skewer, fried tofu patty, meat pancake, sesame leaf pancake and potato pancake. You mean the ingredients for all of this?!”

“Yeah, they’re regular and lousy ingredients, right...?”

“No!” Minhyuk interjected firmly. He shook his head hard as he continued to say, “How can you say that it's regular and lousy? You have such great ingredients on your hands! Those are really delicious ingredients!”

Minhyuk could barely hide his excitement. He wanted to eat those pancake dishes! He imagined himself tearing some kimchi pancake and placing it in his mouth. The taste of the chewy pancake made with wheat flour and spicy and sour kimchi would definitely spread in his mouth!

Then, what about the meat pancake? He was sure that its savory flavor, when dipped in soy sauce, would be able to bring a smile to his face. The best thing about these pancakes was that they would remain delicious even if they turned cold. It was a type of delicacy that one could eat while walking around once they cooled down! To think that Ron had the ingredients for the Pancake Dish Set!

“I think Ron is an amazing person. I can’t believe that you have such a thing!”

“I...is that so? Is it really such a great thing?”

“Yes!”

Ron chuckled. He was sure that this young man truly loved eating. However, there was no such thing as a free lunch in this world. So, Ron said, “Then, if you do me a favor, I would give you the Pancake Dish Set as a reward!”

“What favor?”

“I’ve been having some troubles with the places that I previously signed deals with. I need you to talk to them and try to help me get those contracts and deals back. Then, I will give you the ingredients for the Pancake Dish Set, I will even teach you blacksmithing if you want!”

[You have completed the?Linked Quest: Meet Blacksmith Ron.]

[You have acquired 5,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[The Linked Quest has been changed to a Hidden Quest.]

[Hidden Quest: Solve Blacksmith Ron’s Worries]

Rank: A

Requirements: Ron's Favor

Rewards: Pancake Dish Set, Novice Blacksmithing Skill, EXP

Penalty for Failure: Sharp decline in Ron’s favor

Description: This quest can only be obtained when Ron holds high favor towards you. ‘Fame’ will be created for you. Your fame will increase when you help renew contracts or recruit new contractors for Ron. The rewards will also change depending on how high your fame is.

[Fame has been created.]

[Your rewards will vary depending on your fame.]

It became a hidden quest! Minhyuk did not know it, but it was extremely hard to get this quest. After all, one had to gain Coachman Baran's favor first. However, there were not many players that would go find Blacksmith Ron just because he told them?‘You will get something to eat when you go and meet him!’.?No one would go if there were no good items to get.

“I understand. I will help you renew your contracts.”

“Then, here’s the list,” Ron said, handing over the list of people that had broken their contracts and intended to stop dealing with him again. It was the same as what the quest described.

“If you bring me additional contractors, then I will give you even better ingredients!”



“Yes, I understand!” Minhyuk said as he quickly stood up to leave. Just then, he paused as he remembered about Hyeminnie, and asked, “Ah, wait. What is Hyeminnie’s father like?”

“He’s a blacksmith like me. I heard that he’s part of a guild... what was it... hmm...” Ron said, trying hard to remember, but it looked like he would not be able to remember it in a short amount of time.

“Well, I’ll see you soon.”

“I’m sure we will. Have a safe trip.”

Minhyuk quickly moved to fulfill the quest. However, Ron remained sitting there with a frown on his face as he tried hard to remember. Then, he said, “Ah, that’s right. It was Legend Guild.”

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TTBC reporter Go Eun-Ah sighed wistfully. She said, “He’s a pro mukbang BJ, but he is extremely mysterious. We couldn’t even find anything about him. Don’t tell me that this guy really does not care about being popular?”

Even though it was a tournament with players at around only Level 80, Player Minhyuk, the person that swept the competition, had become the talk of the town. Everyone was curious about who he was. However, if he really wanted to be popular, then he would definitely be the one to reach out and contact the reporters, or the broadcasting stations first.

However, that did not happen at all. Others might have been swept away by the mood and believed that Minhyuk was an ‘NPC’, but that was something impossible. Go Eun-Ah believed that she would definitely score a big scoop if she could just get some news about him out there.

Unfortunately, his whereabouts remained unknown. Then, she accidentally saw the list of People of Interest. She hummed as she tapped her finger on one of the tables listed there. There was no hint of pro mukbang BJ on the list, but there was someone else.

‘God Class. Hepas’ Descendant.’

God Class. The number of people in the country with such a class could be counted on one hand. From what Go Eun-Ah heard, there were only fewer than 100 people who seemed related to this, and even then, they were only listed under ‘Maybe, Maybe Not’. She was only able to get some information about this God Class after much difficulty.

“He’s in the Barras Kingdom right now. And he’s also a member of the Legend Guild.”

Legend Guild was a guild that was shrouded in mystery. Almost all of their members were hidden rankers. However, Go Eun-Ah was sure of one thing; the power that this guild wielded was enormous. The man who was Hepas’ Descendant was nicknamed Hyemin'sDaddy.

‘Hepas’ Descendant created the most powerful artifact ever made by a production class, the Dragon Sword,’ Go Eun-Ah thought. So far, no one had been able to produce a more outstanding artifact than the one that Hyemin'sDaddy made.

Recently, Kald, the second in the Blacksmith Rankings, has produced an epic artifact and gained plenty of attention. However, compared to Hyemin'sDaddy, he was just a rookie. The item that Hyemin'sDaddy made, the Dragon Sword, made history on the trading site. It was the only artifact to have been sold at the highest auction price. It was sold at an astounding price of '1.3 billion'. Hyemin'sDaddy wielded a very strong power. However, he hid everything about himself when he posted his item up for auction. Even his nickname had been hidden. Yet, Go Eun-Ah found out that he was Hyemin'sDaddy!

'Why the hell is he in the Barras Kingdom?'

The Barras Kingdom was teeming with places where people could learn according to their production classes, and it was definitely not a place for someone like Hyemin'sDaddy.

'I should first go to the Barras Kingdom.' Go Eun-Ah thought. Perhaps she could get a scoop there.

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Team Leader Park and Lee Minhwa were having a conversation.

"I think that it's really because of his daughter?"

"I feel the same way."

Hepas' Descendant, Hyemin'sDaddy, was a person of interest among the operators. The operators were aware that he was the one who made the best artifact in the game, so they all wondered what his second artifact would be. However, he suddenly disappeared from the game, his whereabouts unknown for the last three months. When he came back, he appeared with his daughter in tow. As they monitored him, the operators were able to listen to the story that he had told Blacksmith Ron and why he appeared with his daughter.

"I believe the three months that he was gone was during the surgery and therapeutic treatment. Hyemin's still at the children's hospital too."

"...Sigh. That's just too sad."

"Yeah. She can't even eat because of the aftereffects of the leukemia treatment. They're both having a hard time. Still, I'm glad that the child was completely cured."

"That's why he was grateful to Player Minhyuk, right?" Lee Minhwa said as Team Leader Park nodded.

This was not because he was an operator, but because he was a person, an adult with responsibilities. For the first time, they have realized why Ron's favor towards Minhyuk increased. It was because Minhyuk played with the gloomy, depressed child and had made her laugh. The two of them smiled at the screen.

"Aside from that, you know about the material that Hyemin'sDaddy got, right?"

"Ah. You mean the Gryphon's Spirit?"

The Gryphon's Spirit was one of the important materials that blacksmiths used to make weapons and armor. It was an ancient material that was so valuable, it could not even be compared with the current price of goods in the market right now. At the moment, it was in the hands of Hyemin'sDaddy.

"With that material, I'm sure that Hyemin'sDaddy will be able to make an artifact that is way better than the Dragon Sword. I'm curious about what he will do next. Of course it will not happen any time soon, but I'm still curious."

It did not seem like it would happen for the time being because Hyemin'sDaddy was quite busy. It seemed like he was meeting with various doctors in real life to find a cure for Hyemin's mental trauma. Whenever he logged in the game, he was always busy taking care of Hyemin.

"Sigh. Let's leave this talk aside. Right now, Player Minhyuk has received that quest. How much fame do you think he will get?"

"I think he'll be able to fill up 50%?"

"That's what we can predict right now, but...argh, this player has been so unpredictable..." Team Leader Park blurted it unconsciously, although Lee Minhwa agreed with him.

In fact, Ron's contract renewal quest was something that was supposed to happen sometime soon. However, this was not the original intended scenario. The original situation was supposed to be when the traders had turned their backs on him. It was also a difficult task to increase his favor with others and renew their contracts with Ron. He would be going all over the place for the smithy. However, to complete the quest, it was necessary for him to renew at least one contract with someone who had lost their faith and trust in the smithy once.

"If he gets 80%, then he will be able to receive the Special Pancake Dish Set..."

The Special Pancake Dish Set! As a matter of fact, even if Minhyuk was only able to fill 30% of the fame, he would still receive a pancake dish set. However, the Special Pancake Dish Set was filled with special ingredients and was much more delicious compared to the normal one.

"What about when he gets 100%...?"

"...He'll be able to get an even bigger, and much better reward."

#### Chapter 74: The Start of a Hybrid Character

The Basic First Aid and Drug Store owner, McCann, was sitting in her store, deep in thought, 'Which blacksmith should I sign a new contract with? Ron is extremely skilled but...'

McCann had decided to cancel their contract because of the delay in delivery, and mostly because of Ron's bad temper. As she thought about what to do next, she saw a young man peeking through the door. She asked, "How may I help you?"

McCann was one of the guardians that players could learn 'Novice Bandage' from, so it was common for players to peek and snoop around in her place. However, most of them would turn their

backs on her the moment they found out the measly amount of recovery that they would get from learning the skill. It was truly abysmal. Besides, even if they used the skill, it would still take a long time for them to recover. So, most of them would not give her time out of their lives.

The young man standing in front of her store was munching on some food. Looking closely, McCann realized that it was a hotteok from the nearby store. The man was holding a sweet pancake wrapped in a paper wrapper with his one hand, while the other was holding an extremely large, black plastic bag. He said, "Hello! I came here on Ron's request."

"Did you say Ron?" McCann asked again, expression sinking. She continued to say, "You're not asking me to renew the contract, right?"

"Hehe, Ron wanted me to tell you that he was extremely sorry about what happened before."

"Hmph! Don't bother. I won't renew it. There are a lot of blacksmiths that are better than him."

"Phew... Is that so?" The man asked, still munching on his hotteok. Then, the man continued to say, "I don't believe that the gentle and beautiful McCann would be someone so cold-hearted."

"Hoho, that kind of flattery won't work on me."

"..."

The man paused and looked at her curiously, then his expression suddenly turned extremely worried. However, he did not stop eating his sweet pancake. McCann was sure that the sweetness of the honey in the hotteok was definitely spreading in his mouth whenever he bit on it. Just the thought alone made McCann imagine herself biting on that sweet pancake and tasting that sweetness in her mouth.

'If you bite on a freshly made hotteok, you can easily lick the hot, sweet sugar that's inside. The sugar may be a bit hot, but the chewy, soft hotteok is truly delicious...'

Gulp—

McCann unknowingly gulped down her saliva. She thought, 'Huh, what's wrong with me? Why am I salivating over a hotteok that can be bought everywhere?'

McCann had money. She could definitely buy and eat it herself. So, why was she reacting like this?

Chew, chew. "Hmm, is there really no other way? I'm begging you," the man said, still eating his hotteok. After he finished a piece, he would just reach inside his plastic bag and start on another one.

McCann was very shocked to see that. She thought, 'Are you telling me that his plastic bag that can carry 20 kilograms of rice is filled with hotteoks?!'

McCann was left speechless as she watched the man continue to eat hotteoks in front of her. He did not leave! On the other hand, she was still on a diet! In the end, she could not resist the temptation.

She ran out and went directly to the stall that was selling hotteoks. She said, "Haden, please give me three hotteoks!"

"I'm sorry, Miss McCann. A foreigner bought all of my hotteoks today."

"B...but I want to eat some right now...!" McCann said in disbelief. Then she thought, "D...don't tell me... Yeah, it seems like he's the one who bought them all. He probably has a skill to make others extremely hungry. Knowing that, he must have bought all of the hotteoks so he could make me hungry and encourage me to make peace with Ron!"

'My goodness! How can a foreigner have such an ability? He's such a shameless man!'

When McCann returned to her store, she heard the man grumble, "Phew. There are only five hotteoks left. Chomp!"

Then, the man continued to eat the hotteoks, not knowing that his words had struck a nerve with McCann. Then, he ate a second piece.

'N...no! Don't eat all of the hotteoks!' McCann thought, glaring at him. She wanted the man to at least have a bitter expression, since she did not want to renew the contract!

Then, the man took out another hotteok and quipped, "Chomp, well, it can't be helped. I'll go on ahead."

When he was turning around to leave, McCann could see him reaching out for the second-last piece of hotteok in the bag! She hurriedly shouted, "E...excuse me!"

"Yes?"

"Can you sell me just one piece of hotteok?"

"...?"

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Minhyuk looked at her strangely. Sell her a hotteok? What did she suddenly mean?

"I lost. Your power is really amazing. You're basically like the male version of a siren. Look at how much you made me drool over that!"

"???"

Minhyuk looked at her blankly. It seemed like she wanted to eat hotteoks that badly? Minhyuk quickly analyzed the situation. He was just eating a delicious hotteok in his own paper wrapper, but this woman was suddenly coming straight for his hotteok!

"No way! This is the last hotteok!"

"Just sell me this one, why are you even saying no to me after you left me salivating over it!"

“I never made you drool over it!”

“You did! You even showed your shamelessness by buying all of the hotteoks from the stall!”

“When did I ever do that?!” Minhyuk retorted. He was already very upset after eating all of the hotteoks in one go. It was just too delicious. Yet now, there was someone that was pestering him to sell his last piece of hotteok. Then, he suddenly thought of something.

“By any chance, are you hungry?”

“Yes. I was originally on a diet, but now I’m in big trouble because of you!”

“I’ll make a hotteok for you. But, if you enjoy the hotteok that I make, then please renew the contract with Ron.”

“Ahem. I’ll think about it.”

“Then, please wait a moment,” Minhyuk said, basically flying out of the store to buy some hotteok mix. He thought, “That’s right, why did I not think of this way to get close with others?”

Minhyuk could use his buffing ability. Besides, he was much better than others when it came to cooking! McCann meekly allowed Minhyuk to freely enter the store. This was only because she really wanted to eat those hotteoks. After buying what he needed, Minhyuk came back and prepared what he needed to do. Preparations were easily done since what Minhyuk bought was easy-to-make hotteok mix. So, the only thing that he needed to do was pour the mix into a bowl and add 180 milliliters of lukewarm water. Then, he put on his gloves and kneaded the dough. After kneading the dough, Minhyuk let it rest. He needed to set it aside for an hour.

During the time where he left the mixture aside, Minhyuk decided to do something. He said, “Can I learn the Novice Bandage while we wait for the hotteok?”

“The non-combat skills that a foreigner can learn are limited. You better think about it carefully.”

Players could only learn one non-combat skill before they reached Level 200, and an additional two before they reached Level 400. However, Minhyuk insisted on it since he had no restrictions and he did not care about it at all. He said, “I definitely want to learn it!”

McCann shook her head at him. She said, “Then, please give me 100,000 gold.”

Novice Bandage might have been shunned by most players, but there were still some people who have managed to master the skill. The effects of the skill might be abysmal but increasing the recovery rate was always a good thing. Besides, learning the Novice Bandage was an easy task.

[Please fill the Bandaging Progress Bar to 100%.]

Then, McCann approached a mannequin. She said, “This is a magic mannequin. If you cut it with a knife like this...”

She cut the mannequin with her knife, and just like the flesh of a real person, a wound opened up at the spot where she cut.

“Then, you can wrap the bandage around the wound like this. If you keep on repeating this, you will be able to master the skill! Well then, try it once.”

“Yes!” Minhyuk said, nodding in understanding, before cutting the mannequin with a knife. A wound opened up without any gushing blood, just like before. Then, he proceeded to wrap the bandage around the open wound. However, Minhyuk saw it! He clearly saw the places where he needed to wind and wrap the bandage more tightly!

Minhyuk looked at the mannequin and the bandage in his hands curiously. He asked, “Is this how one masters the bandaging skill? I can see the areas where I need to wrap the wound?”

“Huh? What are you saying?”

“N...nothing,” Minhyuk quickly replied. He realized that what he was seeing was not normal. Then, he wrapped the bandage around the wound. The movement of his hands looked similar to that of a trained paramedic that had faced hundreds of emergency situations!

‘Why, why can I do this so well?’ Minhyuk wondered. He had never done this before, but he was progressing really well. He skillfully wrapped the bandage over the open wound. However, the recovery would depend on how skilled the player was in binding and tightening the bandage. In that regard, Minhyuk was exceptionally adept at it. That was when Minhyuk realized.

‘Ah...! That’s right, isn’t my DEX around 900?’

A few days after eating the elixir, Minhyuk was able to increase his DEX rapidly. It had increased by 180 when he ate the Army Stew in the Imperial Palace, and another 300 in the Chef Tower, right? That was definitely the reason why he was doing well right now! After all, DEX did not only affect the taste of the dishes that he had made, it also affected a variety of things. And Minhyuk's DEX was enough to cover almost everything.

[The bandage has been wrapped well.]

[You have gained an additional +1% injury recovery.]

[Your recovery time has become slightly faster.]

His skilled movements were enough to gain additional effects. Simply put, this was similar to ‘critical hits’ in attacks, which were usually triggered by a whole variety of factors, including luck. When a critical hit was achieved, the damage dealt to the enemies was usually higher. Just like that, the better the bandaging job, the better the recovery of the injury. For Minhyuk, this was something that was bound to happen frequently in the future. After all, having a high DEX meant that he would be able to produce better results.

‘Whew, DEX is much more useful than what I thought! But why does everyone neglect this good thing?’ Minhyuk thought, nodding as he checked the training progress.

“It increased by 20%? Wow, so it’s that easy to learn the Novice Bandage?”

“What?” McCann asked, looking at him in disbelief. No matter how easy it was to learn how to wrap a bandage, their proficiency and training progress would only increase by 2% each time they successfully wrapped a bandage. The players would need to perform the action at least 50 times to master and acquire the Novice Bandage skill. That was how the foreigners usually learned! But did this man just say that he got 20% at one go?

“Is that true?”

“Yes.”

“Ah... Perhaps you got it as a special reward for wrapping the bandage really well on your first try. Although... I have never seen anyone get a 20% increase in just one try.”

It was only natural for the skill proficiency to increase when one did well! Minhyuk once again wrapped bandages on the mannequin. The skill proficiency rose by 10%, 12%, 14%. His Novice Bandage skill proficiency increased tremendously as he kept on repeating his actions. Every single bandage that he wrapped could surprise anyone, with how well he wrapped them.

[The bandage has been wrapped perfectly.]

[You have received an additional 2% injury recovery.]

[Your recovery time has become faster.]

[You have gained 1 DEX.]

At the same time, he achieved a 30% increase in his skill proficiency. Then, at that moment...

[You’ve mastered Novice Bandage.]

[You have gained 15 DEX.]

[You have accumulated a total of 900 DEX. All skills and abilities related to DEX will improve by 10%.]

[Due to the influence of the DEX, your Novice Bandage will improve by 60%.]

[You will be able to receive a Special DEX Privilege once you have accumulated a total of 1000 DEX.]

‘Huh? A Special DEX Privilege?’

For every 100-point increase in his DEX, DEX Privilege gave Minhyuk a 10% increase in all skills and abilities related to DEX. So, what did the notification mean when it said Special DEX Privilege? Nevertheless, Minhyuk had high expectations for it. After listening to all of the notifications, he checked the contents of the Novice Bandage skill.



(Novice Bandage)

Passive Skill

Level: 1

Effects:

?Wound and injury recovery +1% +0.6%

?+0.6 times acceleration on the very slow recovery pace.

‘It’s true that the Level 1 Novice Bandage has insignificant effects, but my Level 1 is already 1.6 times more powerful than others at the same level.’

The increase in recovery was a very powerful addition to his arsenal of skills. From what he heard, when the Novice Bandage skill increased in level and evolved to intermediate, then advanced, the recovery would increase up to 10%. Once that happened, the advantage would be even more apparent! His recovery effect would definitely be at 16% by that time.

“I’ve learned it.”

“T...that’s fast. I can’t believe this...” McCann gasped in disbelief. It had not even been an hour yet! In fact, other foreigners would need at least half a day to a whole day, in order to master the bandaging skill. There had been others who were in a hurry, or had quick tempers, they would say?‘Ah, let’s not do it anymore! Let’s just get some potions.’?before leaving. This just showed how neglected Novice Bandage was. It was useful, but it also felt like it was not that useful at all! Looking at her expression, Minhyuk decided to show off his newly acquired skill by cutting the mannequin again with a knife.

“Novice Bandage!”

Swish, fwoosh, rustle!

Minhyuk’s hands moved neatly following the proper order of bandaging. Since he had mastered the skill, it was only natural that his movements would become faster. As soon as he finished wrapping the bandage, a series of notifications rang one by one.

[The bandage has been wrapped perfectly.]

[You have received an additional 2% injury recovery.]

[The recovery time has become faster.]

After hearing the notifications, Minhyuk stepped back to acquire his work. McCann was impressed with how fast and neat his actions were. Then, Minhyuk said, “I want to buy five mannequins!”

Minhyuk knew that his cooking would taste better as long as he increased his DEX. He thought of increasing his DEX by learning many labor-intensive DEX related skills. Even wrapping a bandage would play a role in enhancing the flavor and taste of his cooking!

Once the one hour was up, Minhyuk could see that the hotteok dough rose well. Then, he took a sizable amount of dough, flattened it, and placed the jam mix in it. The jam mix was a mixture of cinnamon powder and sugar. He closed the hotteok and turned it into a sphere before dropping it on the well-oiled frying pan. He then pressed on the hotteok with a spatula to flatten it. The sizzling sound that rang out as the hotteok and oil met signaled that it was being cooked well.

Sizzle!

Chapter 75: The Start of a Hybrid Character

“Heh...” McCann muttered as she watched the hotteok frying in the pan. It was just like a hotteok cart that one might stumble upon by accident and luck on a cold winter day!

‘How much for three hotteoks?’

‘12,000 won.’

‘Eh? Hotteoks have become extremely expensive now. Everything is rising, except for my salary. Please give me three hotteoks.’

Then, the auntie owner would start to fry hotteoks and show off her skills. People would just stare at her in a daze as they waited for their hotteoks. McCann was feeling the same sense of anticipation these people did.

[This is the perfect time to flip them.]

Minhyuk listened to the Food God’s Cooking Acquisition skill as he flipped the hotteoks.

“Wow! Look at that perfectly golden hotteok! You can really fry well.”

“Hohohoho!” Minhyuk laughed proudly, setting the buff ability to the highest. He was doing this because it would be worth it! Then, Minhyuk placed one well-grilled hotteok in a paper cup and handed it over to McCann.

Gulp—

McCann gulped before slowly opening her mouth to take a big bite of the hotteok. Just then, Minhyuk suddenly said, “It’s hot so please be careful!”

“Ah, yes,” McCann answered, carefully biting on her hotteok with her teeth instead of putting it in her mouth right away. Hot sugar immediately rushed out of the hotteok the moment she bit into it.

“Hot! Hooo!”

McCann quickly rolled the bite of hotteok and the hot sugar in her mouth to lessen the heat. She could taste the chewiness of the dough, the sweetness of the sugar and the hint of cinnamon as she rolled the piece in her mouth. The harmonious flavor enhanced the taste of the hotteok. She closed her eyes and savored it, thinking, ‘It, it’s really delicious...! How can this hotteok be this delicious?!’

Of course it would be delicious. Minhyuk's Food God's Cooking Acquisition skills always helped him in making the best and most delicious dishes. On top of that, his high DEX increased the taste of his dishes. McCann looked like she was about to burst in tears with how delicious the hotteok was.

'For a moment, I thought I was Cooking Master Bay...?' Minhyuk thought when he saw how deeply moved McCann was. She looked like a golden dragon would burst out behind her and ascend to the heavens as she burst out in tears, saying, 'No. This, this taste!'

After she finished eating the hotteok...

[You have eaten a hotteok.]

[Your attack power and defensive power will increase by 5% while your energy will increase by 3% for 8 hours.]

"...!"

McCann looked at the hotteok, then at Minhyuk, as she felt a power surge through her body and melting away her fatigue. When she tried to reach for another hotteok...

"Are you going to renew the contract?" Minhyuk asked solemnly.

Ron's face floated in McCann's head. It was that cranky and bad-tempered blacksmith again! However, she wanted to continue eating hotteoks right now which put her in a dilemma. After pondering for a long time, she finally spoke in defeat, "I'll renew the contract."

"Well then, please have another one!"

It seemed like hotteoks have the power to renew contracts! After renewing a contract, Minhyuk immediately went outside. His next destination? The farmer's house. When he arrived at the farmer's house, he could see the farmer's fatigue from over a mile away. The farmer said, "Damn, I'm so damn tired. When will I ever finish all of these things?"

Then, Minhyuk interjected and said, "I'll help you get all of these corn!"

"Boy. Farming isn't as easy here as it is in your world."

"It's fine. But if I harvest all of it, will you renew your contract?"

"Hmph! I don't think you can do it anyway? Well, I'll wager with you!" The farmer scoffed as Minhyuk began his corn harvesting spree.

[You have harvested corn.]

[You have harvested corn.]

[You have gained 1 DEX.]

[You have triggered the skill, Will.]

[All of your skills related to dexterity will increase by 24%.]

The skill, Will, would only be triggered when he was extremely focused or dedicated to something! Minhyuk was able to concentrate well since he was harvesting corn. Besides, according to Farmer Brett's promise, Minhyuk would be able to get twenty ears of corn once he finished harvesting! Of course, he would not forget to harvest one and steam them from time to time!

After two hours, Brett came back, only to see that most of the corn had already been harvested. He stammered, "N...no. How can this be? Don't tell me you've mastered the Intermediate Farming skill? No, it's not just that. I think you're even faster than that?!"

Minhyuk's Intermediate Farming skill had improved by 1.6 times! That was why his intermediate farming skill was much more powerful than normal. In response, he asked, "The contract?"

"Hmm, hmm. I'll do it," Brett said.

.

That was not the end. Minhyuk wanted to have five more ears of corn. Brett wanted to refuse him at first, but when he received one of the grilled buttered corn that Minhyuk made...

"I thought that I would die out of exhaustion earlier, but now my body is filled with strength! No, how can corn be this delicious?!"

...he renewed his contract while he was overcome with emotions. The corn was truly just that delicious. He even went ahead and added ten more ears of corn to what he gave to Minhyuk. Minhyuk smiled happily.

'DEX is really useful!'

To be honest, Minhyuk's DEX was completely unbelievable right now. His DEX Acquisition Rate was four times higher compared to others. He even gained 500 points after eating, so he was looking at almost 1,000 DEX right now!

"Ouch!" A child cried out as he fell down while passing by.

"Are you okay? Let this Hyung treat your wounds. Bandage!"

Rustle!

[The bandage has been wrapped well.]

[You have gained an additional +1% injury recovery.]

[The recovery time has become slightly faster.]

"Wow, Thanks! Hyung! All the other foreigners are unkind and bad, but Hyung is different!"

"You don't have to thank me. Hyung is staying over at Ron's smithy over there. Just go there and come play with us if you're bored!"

"Yes!"

Of course, what Minhyuk really meant was,?'Bring your parents and sign a contract!'.?Just like that, Minhyuk began to sweep through Barras Kingdom's streets to sign new contracts.

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Three days later.

Hyeminnie did not come for three days, so Blacksmith Ron took the opportunity to go to the market and buy ingredients. He was busy working in the smithy to create a new weapon so he also took this time to take a breath of fresh air. He thought, 'I wonder if that boy is increasing his fame well? What if he was kicked out without even signing a new contract, right...'

Ron might have requested this of him but in his heart, he knew that signing or renewing a contract was not an easy task, especially after losing the customers' trust once! Just when he was walking and thinking...

"Huh? Uncle Ron, hello."

"Hmm?"

He was the cranky and bad-tempered Ron! Ron wondered why this boy would greet him enthusiastically? When he looked up at the person standing next to the boy, he saw Nell, the innkeeper. She said, "Ron, hello! I just heard from my son that your young friend treated my son's wound earlier. Hoho!"

"My friend?" Ron asked, thinking deeply for a moment. Then, he realized that they might be talking about Minhyuk! He continued to say, "I see."

"Yes, I am very thankful for that. This might be a bit of a small request, but my chairs and tables are getting a bit too old and worn out, so I was thinking of asking you to make some for me."

"Is that so? Then, please come this way," Ron said as he led Nell to the smithy to draw up a contract. That was twenty chairs! Oh, and five tables too!

'Ho. He's doing better than what I thought?'"Ron thought, walking back towards the market again. Then, a woman suddenly called out to him.

"Ron, hello. We were supposed to break the contract a while ago, but I thought about it again and I realized that I went too far. Let me make it up to you! I want to pay for the goods from before," The woman, McCann, said. The strict auntie, McCann!

Ron nodded blankly when he heard her talk and smiled widely at him. He said, "Ah, yes. Yes... I'm very sorry. I was the one who did not fulfill the delivery time."

"Ah, wait. Can you also tell Minhyuk to come over some time to cook something delicious for me?"

"Yes? Something delicious?"

"Yes. I still can't forget the taste of hotteok that he made for me, you know~"

"I understand," Ron said. But before he could even walk further...

“Oy, Ron! We’re out of pickaxes and hoes, I’ll leave it to your smithy!”

“Ah, Brett.”

“Wait, you have that friend named Minhyuk, right? The grilled buttered corn that he made was very delicious and he’s also very hardworking and kind. Tell that friend of yours to come over and visit me sometime!”

“Ah, yes,” Ron said.

People kept on greeting him and making small talk with him as he walked down the street. He felt that the whole marketplace had become Minhyuk’s den overnight. Along with it, contract renewals, as well as new contracts, kept on pouring in.

“How on earth did he do it? He’s closer and more friendly to my neighbors compared to me. I have lived here for five years!” Ron said, both in awe of Minhyuk’s abilities and pity for himself.

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Minhyuk smiled in satisfaction as he looked at the proficiency of his skills. He did farming, bandaging, and cooking to win the people’s favor, which allowed him to eat more delicious food in the future! He could also feel that his skill level has increased as well so he went ahead and checked his skill window.

(Intermediate Farming)

Passive Skill

Level: 3

Effects:

?You will be 66(+39)% faster whenever you gather and dig for materials and ingredients.

?You have a 36(+21)% chance of obtaining better materials and ingredients.

?You have a 3(+1.8)% chance of obtaining special materials.

?You can grow a variety of things just by planting seeds.

Even his Novice Bandage has increased to Level 4. This was because Minhyuk always trained his bandage wrapping skill with his mannequin whenever he had the time. Due to that, his skill when treating injured people had also increased and became faster, so his skill proficiency and level had improved a lot.

(Novice Bandage)

Passive Skill

Level: 4

Effects:

?Wound and injury recovery +1.8% +1%

?+0.6 times acceleration on the slow recovery pace.

The ‘very’ from the ‘very slow recovery pace’ had already disappeared. In other words, it means that it has become a bit faster. Minhyuk also planned to learn blacksmithing skills since Ron said that he would also teach him once he completed his hidden quest. When he entered the smithy, he looked around and saw that Ron was missing again.

“Where did he go?” Minhyuk wondered aloud, before deciding to sit down and start cooking on his own.

‘Hehe, Nell gave me some well-ripened kimchi!’

Nell was the owner of the inn. She was the mother of the child that Minhyuk had treated not too long ago. She gave Minhyuk some well-ripened kimchi as thanks. Whenever Minhyuk placed kimchi in his mouth, he would continue to say ‘Sour!’ but he still kept on munching on it. This time, Minhyuk was going to cook some kimchi fried rice. Kimchi fried rice was a dish that was simple, easy to cook, and was well-loved by people of all ages. One only needed to stir-fry some kimchi, rice and sesame oil, and it would already be delicious!

Minhyuk first cut the kimchi into smaller pieces, then prepared the rice. Once he had prepared everything, he drizzled some oil on the frying pan and let it heat up before cracking some eggs and frying them.

Sizzle!

Fried eggs were best when placed on top of kimchi fried rice! It was like the finishing touch of the masterpiece called kimchi fried rice as it softens out and mellows out the spiciness of the dish. After frying at least fifteen eggs, Minhyuk began to stir fry the kimchi in the frying pan. The smell of stir-fried kimchi wafted all over the room.

Shwaaaaaa!

Then he crushed the rice and added it to the stir-fried kimchi. Minhyuk mixed them well before adding a spoonful of red chili paste and a sprinkle of sesame oil. This would give the kimchi fried rice a deeper flavor and a wonderful taste and smell.

Shwaaaaaa!

Minhyuk kept on mixing the fried rice until it became a vibrant, delicious-looking red. Then, he quickly placed some on a plate before adding a fried egg on top of it. Finally, it was complete!

“Thank you for the meal!” Minhyuk said, quickly tearing the egg in half and mixing it with his kimchi fried rice. Then, he ate a spoonful.

“Chew!”

The fragrant and savory scent of the sesame oil and the well-fried kimchi wafted to his nose as the spicy, sour and savory undertones of the crunchy kimchi spread in his mouth. It was immediately followed by the light and sweet flavor of the rice and the egg. Minhyuk once again realized that kimchi fried rice was something indispensable for Koreans.

“Kyahahahaha! It’s really delicious!” Minhyuk shouted as he ate his kimchi fried rice in earnest. ?Chew, chew!?After eating for quite some time, he could already see the bottom of the pan. But then...

“This pooppy!” A familiar voice rang loudly in the room. Minhyuk turned around only to see Hyeminnie standing by the door, gulping and wiping her drool from her mouth, as she stared at the kimchi fried rice.

#### Chapter 76: The Start of a Hybrid Character

Hyeminnie was lying in a bed inside Asan Hospital’s inpatient ward. She could hear heavy sighs from the gaps in the slightly closed door.

“Sigh... Do you mean that we have no choice but to wait until my child does not feel repulsed by the thought of food?”

“That’s right. Right now, Miss Hyemin is still young so she thinks eating is ‘scary’ after what has happened to her. I think she will gradually be able to accept food as time goes by.”

“When exactly is this ‘gradually’ going to happen? My little girl is now so skinny... Haa, sorry. I’m just extremely frustrated.”

“I understand.”

“It’s hard for my pooppy dad too...” Hyemin heaved a small sigh as she looked at her bony arms after hearing her father’s words. She won the battle against leukemia, but a new problem had arisen; Hyemin had been afraid of food after that.

The door opened and her father, Lee Taemin, came inside. He said, “I’m sorry, Hyemin-ah. Daddy has been too busy to spend time with you.”

“It’s okay. Another pooppy gave me a ride on his shoulders and played with me.”

“Another pooppy?”

“Yep, the pooppy is also a strange piggy! He ate dozens of servings of grilled pork belly in the blink of an eye!”

“Ho. So you made a piggy friend, Hyemin-ah?” Lee Taemin asked, believing for a moment that Hyemin really made friends with a real ‘pig’ since what she said was completely impossible if that friend was not a pig.

“But, that pooppy piggy, is he really a person though?”



“Huh?” Taemin said dumbly, tilting his head in confusion. ‘So, there’s really someone who can eat as much as what Hyemin said?!’ He was definitely both surprised and in disbelief.

But then, Hyemin said, “But, the poopy piggy is nice!”

“So you really made a friend, that’s good to hear,” Taemin said with a smile. He knew that his daughter was timid. Her lively personality had changed drastically, after struggling against her disease. He was happy to hear that his child had made a friend.

“That’s why I want to go meet with the poopy pig right now!”

“Right now? No way.”

“Hiiiiing, but I want to play?with poopy?pig!”

Taemin thought about it. In the end, he shook his head in defeat. He was extremely grateful to Blacksmith Ron for looking after Hyemin inside the game. He was also very thankful that Hyemin never left the area whenever he left to do his job. So in the end, all he could say was, “Then, you should always be careful when you play.”

“Yep!” Hyemin said as she entered the capsule that was placed in her ward.

Lee Taemin’s nickname in the game was Hyemin’sDaddy. He had received the class ‘Hepas’ Descendant’, and was able to become rich by making and auctioning his artifacts, including the Dragon Sword. This was also the reason why they were able to get a special inpatient ward in the hospital.

“I’m going to have to give them something in return for this,” Taemin said, deeply regretting leaving his child alone in the game. He felt like a bad father. It did not mean that Taemin wanted to leave her alone. He had always tried to have someone beside her to take care of her, whenever he went around to find something that could help cure her illness. However, Hyeminnie had said every time that she hated them and refused to let them stay beside her. Strangely enough, she liked staying with Blacksmith Ron. Thankfully, Ron also liked her so Taemin felt more at ease leaving her in that village. And now, there was this new ‘poopy pig’ friend that his daughter made. Taemin felt grateful towards them so he wanted to do something for them in return.

‘What can I do for them?’

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Hyeminnie logged back in the game only to see Minhyuk finish cooking. She hid at one corner, watching him eat his kimchi fried rice. She thought, ‘I’m sure... Poopy pig is a pig that’s pretending to be a person!’

Hyeminnie was hiding to see if Minhyuk was really a pig! She thought that Minhyuk would suddenly turn into a pig and scream ‘Oink, oink, oink!’ like all the other pigs. However, the more Hyeminnie watched Minhyuk eat, the more she got mesmerized by the food. She looked at him in a daze as she thought, ‘Me too... I also like... Kimchi fried rice.....’

She loved the kimchi fried rice that her dad used to make, despite his sloppy skills! However, she still hesitated. She thought, ‘No way! Hyeminnie will get sick if she eats!’ Despite thinking that way, Hyeminnie still continued to watch blankly as the pooppy piggy ate his kimchi fried rice. He was chewing as if it was the most delicious thing in the world. He had a wide smile and a happy expression on his face.

‘It’s really, really delicious~’ Minhyuk sang to himself. Hyeminnie gulped when she heard him. Strangely enough, Hyeminnie did not feel sick even though she was watching him eat.

‘Hyeminnie is...?is feeling?strange...?I, I?feel comfy!’

She never felt this way before. Although, the more she watched Minhyuk eat, the more nervous she became. She thought, ‘No! Stop eating! This piggy!’

Hyeminnie kept on gulping and wiping her saliva as she watched Minhyuk eat. In the end, she could not resist temptation and ran out upon seeing that there were only a few spoonfuls left. She exclaimed, ‘This pooppy!’

‘Huh?’ The pooppy piggy asked dumbly as he looked at Hyeminnie’s outstretched hand blankly.

Hyeminnie said, ‘Give me a bite too!’

‘N...no way!’

‘You ate all of my chocolate before!’

‘...That’s true. Well. It can’t be helped then,’ The pooppy piggy lamented as he handed her a spoon with great hesitation. Then, Hyeminnie scooped half a spoonful of kimchi fried rice while Minhyuk placed a piece of the fried egg on top of it.

Minhyuk said, ‘This is how you should eat it.’

‘Heh...’ Hyeminnie chuckled as she carefully brought the spoon in her mouth.

Hyeminnie always felt sick whenever she tried to eat. She found it painful even, and would always get sick whenever she tried to do so. During the treatment, her hair fell out, her body became weak, and she was riddled with pain. That was why she never ate. However, when Hyeminnie saw the pooppy piggy eat, she started to wonder if eating could make her happy. She found it strange. So, Hyeminnie decided to muster her courage for the last time as she chomped on a spoonful of kimchi fried rice. The flavor of the kimchi fried rice spread in her tiny mouth. It tasted good, a bit sweet, a bit spicy, but it was so good.

‘Huh? This is strange...’

“What’s strange?”

“I always get sick after eating, but right now, I’m feeling fine... I even vomited and lost my hair before, but now I feel good!”

“Of course! Delicious food is the best. Now, repeat after me! Delicious food is the best!”

“Delicious food is the best!” Hyemin said, eating another spoonful of kimchi fried rice. Then, a second, and a third. Hyeminnie continued to eat.

Then, someone suddenly gasped, causing Minhyuk to turn around to look at who it was. It was a middle-aged man wearing what seemed to be a novice’s shabby attire. The man walked inside the smithy before bursting out in tears. He fell down in front of Hyeminnie as if he had lost all strength in his legs before hugging her tightly. He said, “You’re finally eating... You finally ate! Hyemin, you finally ate something! Sob, sob!”

The man continued to weep for a while more, before turning to look towards the pooppy piggy, ah no, he meant Minhyuk. Then, he bowed his head and exclaimed, “Thank you! Thank you! Truly, thank you! Sob!”

“...?”

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“...?”

Minhyuk looked at the man in bewilderment. Ron had told him before that Hyeminnie did not want to eat anything. However, the girl had approached him to eat his kimchi fried rice. Then, a sloppily-dressed, novice-like user suddenly appeared and bowed towards him? He could not make heads or tails of the situation that he was in.

‘I was just enjoying my delicious kimchi fried rice, though?’

“This, this is enough!” The man said. Hyeminnie’s body had continued to weaken even after her treatment. Of course, it was because one needed to eat well and regain their energy and vitality. However, Hyeminnie never regained her strength since she would not eat. Now, the man could be at ease. Although she only ate her first spoonfuls, the man was confident that she would start to eat again and she would get better!

“Ah, I’ve been rude,” Hyemin’sDaddy said. He was so happy that he forgot that he was showing something unsightly towards a complete stranger. Then, he continued to say, “I heard that my daughter was playing with a pig, ah, no, someone. That’s you, right?”

“Ah, yes. I played with her and let her ride on my shoulders last time.”

“I’m Hyemin’sDaddy.”

“That’s what it looks like to me too.”

“No, that’s my nickname.”

“I see.”

“I want to repay you for your kindness.”

“I didn’t do anything...” Minhyuk said, looking confused. What did he do for the man to repay him? He only ate his food deliciously! His expression gradually relaxed after hearing Hyeminnie’s dad explain their situation. He told her about her leukemia, how she got treated, and even what happened after that. Minhyuk listened to everything and could not help but empathize with the child.

‘She couldn’t eat any food due to the after effects of her treatment...’

Minhyuk could not eat any real food in reality because of his eating addiction, so he could somehow relate to Hyeminnie when he heard that she would not eat because she was scared of getting sick again. It also made him sad. He thought, ‘I just ate well... I can’t believe that it turned in a good direction. That’s a relief.’

Hyemin’sDaddy smiled at Minhyuk. He thought, ‘I’d like to tell him who I am.’

There was one rule for all of the members of the Legend Guild. ‘Don’t ever reveal who you are.’. However, Hyemin’sDaddy felt like he could trust this man, Minhyuk, in front of him. Also, it was only natural for him to introduce himself properly since he wanted to repay Minhyuk for his kindness. So, he said, “I’m a blacksmith. I’m pretty famous too. Have you heard of the Dragon Sword?”

“Ah, I’ve heard of that!” Minhyuk said, nodding his head enthusiastically.

Hyemin’sDaddy thought that he would be much more surprised when he heard that he was the one who made that artifact. After all, the Dragon Sword was the greatest artifact that had ever been auctioned! It also had the most powerful attack power and options that had not been seen before.

Just then, Minhyuk quipped, “I think that the Dragon Sword should be a good artifact to use to cut a cow’s bones, since other knives can’t cut them well!”

“...Eh?” Hyemin’sDaddy asked dumbly in confusion. The Dragon Sword, just like its name, was made with the intention to kill a dragon since dragon scales had the ability to repel attacks. But... What did he just hear?

“C, cut a cow’s bones...?”

“Yes. My attack power is not enough to cut through a cow’s bones without any help from a machine. If you cut a cow’s bone and cook it, I think it will be fun to eat. When I heard about the Dragon Sword, I thought that it’s the best thing that I can use to cut the cow’s bones.”

“Ah, yes... Is...is that so?”

‘My goodness! There’s someone who actually wants to use the Dragon Sword to cut through a cow’s bone!’

Hyemin’sDaddy thought that it was something incomprehensible. He then tried to calm himself down before saying, “I’m the one who made the Dragon Sword. I have the god class, Hepas’ Descendant.”

“I see.”

“...You look calmer than expected.”

“That’s not it, I’m reaaaaaaally surprised!” Minhyuk said. He was really interested since this was the first time that he had met a player with a god class, like himself.

Hyemin’sDaddy said, “I want to make an artifact for you. You can just say anything that you want.”

Hyemin’sDaddy smiled softly at him. Right now, he had the Gryphon’s Spirit in his hands. This was a priceless material for artifact making. Using a variety of other things together with his superb skill, he would definitely make a special artifact just for him. Hyemin’sDaddy thought, ‘Will he ask for a sword? Or maybe armor?’

Every player was the same. They really liked swords with high attack power and good abilities. The same goes for armor or any other weapons or protective artifacts. It went without saying that the artifacts that he, Hepas’ Descendant, made, were even more highly sought after. All of his artifacts had the name ‘Hepas’ attached in front of it. That alone proved his tremendous brand value. Even their lives would not be enough to pay for any of the artifacts that he could produce. So, Hyemin’sDaddy wondered what Minhyuk would ask him to make.

“C...can I really ask you to make me anything I want?” Minhyuk asked. He looked extremely excited.

Hyemin’sDaddy nodded in agreement. He would definitely give his all to produce whatever artifact this young man wanted. After all, he was their benefactor. Hyemin’sDaddy was a simple man, without greed for anything else. He only wanted his daughter to grow up healthy, strong and energetic. That was why he was extremely thankful for what Minhyuk had done for them. He would definitely do what he asked for. He said, “Yes. I’ll do anything for you.”

“I...is that so?! Even if it’s something that’s extremely amazing and hard to make?”

“It’s fine. Please, feel free to tell me what you like,” Hyemin’sDaddy said, focusing his attention on Minhyuk’s open mouth.

Minhyuk looked like he was asking, ‘Can I really ask you to make something like this?’ as he opened his mouth to say, “Please make me... a pan.”

“...Eh?” Hyemin’sDaddy asked. For a moment, he doubted his ears. No, he wanted to deny what he had heard.

“Please make me a frying pan that can help me make well-seasoned stir fried pork! Ah, is it too difficult...? I mean, it’s something really amazing after all!”

“...”

Hyemin'sDaddy was left speechless for a moment. However, Minhyuk thought that he was lost for words because the thing that he asked of him was something really amazing, and difficult to produce.

‘Well, it’s a frying pan that can help me cook stir fried pork, or ribs well whenever I cook! I think it’s not easy to make something like that since it’s something extraordinary! Maybe it’s a really difficult request?’

Then, Hyemin’s father suddenly said, “You don’t even want something like... no, no. Not even a sword, or armor, or a staff??Phew. You really just want a frying pan?”

“Yeeees!”

“Are you sure?”

Nod, nod—

“Really?”

Nod, nod—

“You don’t want something that can increase your attack or magic power, not even something that can increase your recovery. Just something that can help you make more delicious stir fried pork?”

Nod, nod—

Then Minhyuk added, “Ah, if possible, can you make it so that whenever I make vegetable pancakes, there’s a function where the ends will turn brownish and crispy, when I fry or grill them? That would be great!”

Hyemin'sDaddy looked at him blankly as he muttered to himself, “Should I slap him with a frying pan...?”

“Sorry, did you say something?”

“No, nothing.?Phew... I understand. A frying pan... that could help you cook better... stir fried pork... and... make the ends of the vegetable pancakes crispy and golden brown...” Hyemin'sDaddy spoke mechanically as if he was forced to read a Korean language book in class.

“Wow. Something this amazing is really possible? Can you really make something this amazing?”

“Yes, yes.”

“Will you really give something like this to me?”

“Yes, I don’t like the idea of making something so weird, but I’ll do it for you,” Hyemin'sDaddy said as he scratched his cheek in embarrassment.

“Thank you. Really, thank you so much!” Minhyuk said, jumping in joy as if Hyemin’sDaddy had saved the whole world.

However, Hyemin’sDaddy was staring blankly into space, thinking,?‘I’m... going to make a frying pan... my pride.... as Hepas’ Descendant.....’.?Then, he stood up weakly to start making this frying pan.

#### Chapter 77: Chocolate Mine

Shortly after Hyemin’sDaddy disappeared, Blacksmith Ron barged inside the smithy with awe and surprise on his face, as he looked at Minhyuk and asked, “Boy... What in the world did you do?!”

In fact, Ron’s expression right now was closer to shock than awe. There was no other reason except that he had lived in this place for five years already, but his neighbors were closer to Minhyuk than him! In such a short time! That was not all, Minhyuk was even able to bring in new contracts, and they were of significant amounts too!

“I just ate delicious food, walked around, helped others with their work, and even cooked for them.”

“...R...really?” Ron asked, speechless at what he heard.

Hearing Ron’s reminder, Minhyuk went ahead and checked his Fame Progress Bar. The Fame had already reached 100%, so he was now filled with expectations.

“You’ve worked hard,” Ron said. A week had not even passed, but Ron believed that Minhyuk did enough. The moment Ron finished speaking, the notifications came in.

[You have completed the Hidden Quest: Solve Blacksmith Ron’s Worries.]

[You have acquired 300,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[...leveled up.]

Minhyuk heard eight consecutive leveling up notifications. However, the notifications did not end there.

[You have achieved 100% Fame.]

[If you wish to learn blacksmithing from Blacksmith Ron, you can immediately learn the skill.]

[You can get the Fantastic Special Pancake Dish Set.]

After the notifications rang, Ron handed a luxurious box to Minhyuk. Minhyuk opened the box and saw all of the ingredients for a pancake dish set! The first set of ingredients he saw was the ingredients for ‘skewered meat pancake’.

Skewered meat pancake was made by putting meat, ham, crabstick, pickled radish, leeks, and mushroom in a skewer, before coating it with flour and egg and frying it in sizzling oil. This was how a tasty skewered meat pancake was made! Skewered meat pancakes' names differed from region to region too!

Then, there were the ingredients for fried tofu patty, pumpkin pancake and pollock pancake! Every single pancake that could be made with these ingredients was definitely going to be delicious! These pancakes would definitely taste best if he snooped around next to his mom making these delicious pancakes and sneaked some of the finished ones away!

As he looked through the box, he could see plenty of ingredients for pancakes. However, it did not end there. Ron kept on piling up similar boxes in front of Minhyuk and the contents inside were all the same. It was quite a fair amount of boxes. Minhyuk smiled slightly as he looked at all the pancake ingredients placed in front of him.

In fact, Minhyuk had not experienced or celebrated any national holiday for a long time. He never had the chance to experience a proper holiday ever since he suffered from eating addiction. All of the people around him knew what would happen to Minhyuk if he ever smelled the scent of the savory oil when someone was cooking.

It was a long time ago since he experienced someone nagging at him during the holidays. It also seemed like a lifetime ago since he last ate holiday food that anyone could eat easily. Because of that, Minhyuk felt that these ingredients for pancakes were a bit more special and dear to him.

"Let me check the ingredients," Minhyuk said, picking up a perilla leaf among the set of ingredients.

(Fantastic Perilla Leaf)

Material Grade: B

Special Abilities:

?WIS +10

?Magical Defense +30

Description: If you think that this is a regular perilla leaf, then you're mistaken. This is a fantastic perilla leaf that is one in ten thousand. It has a deeper fragrance and flavor compared to others.

"Wow! Wow! Wow!" Minhyuk burst out in exclamation. He was happy not because of the increase in WIS or magical defense, but because he could eat a perilla leaf that had a deeper fragrance and flavor. Minhyuk liked dishes with perilla leaves. However, the taste would differ significantly depending on what dish it was used for. It had a certain taste when used in a stew, and another when used in a seaweed roll.

The same was true for any other ingredients. When he clicked on the ham, he saw the description as? 'A ham made with great care by a master craftsman, it is so delicious that no regular ham could ever compare.' The ingredients in the Fantastic Special Pancake Dish Set had a lot of special abilities, but one thing was for certain; they were all? more delicious? than normal ingredients.



In addition, there were also ingredients that boasted?‘Greatly increases the skill proficiency of blacksmithing.’.?This only meant one thing... if he had blacksmithing skills, then he would be able to easily level up because of this ingredient’s special ability.

From the notifications before, he could learn the blacksmithing skills from Ron right away. Originally, players were supposed to be taught, like the Novice Bandage skill with McCann, but it seemed that he got preferential treatment since he had filled the fame progress bar to 100%. Furthermore, it seemed like he would be able to increase his proficiency the moment he ate these ingredients which would definitely increase his Blacksmithing skill!

“I’d like to learn blacksmithing skills from Ron!”

“I understand.”

[You have mastered the skill, Novice Blacksmithing.]

[You have gained 20 DEX.]

Without wasting any time, Minhyuk quickly checked on the details of his newly acquired skill.

(Novice Blacksmithing)

Passive Skill

Level: 1

Effects:

?Additional +5%+3% on repairs.

?There is a possibility of an additional +4%+2.4% during smelting.

Repair meant that it restored or increased the durability of any artifact that had low durability. Smelting referred to the process of removing impurities of the ore and getting a purer form of the? ore.?Minhyuk had heard before that these two effects were the basic foundation of Novice Blacksmithing. He also heard that only after the Novice Blacksmithing evolved into Intermediate Blacksmithing that he could start producing artifacts. After checking everything, Minhyuk smiled widely as he rubbed his hands together. He said, “Shall we start?”

He looked completely serious and somber before asking, “Can I cook here?”

“Sure,” Ron agreed.

When Ron came in earlier, Minhyuk had heard a lot of notifications about Ron's favor towards him increasing. That was also the reason why Ron happily agreed. Minhyuk started setting everything up.

He poured flour on a flat surface, then prepared some egg wash that he would use to coat the pancakes before frying. For the skewered meat pancake, he skewered the meat and vegetables on a skewer. For the perilla leaf pancake, he ground some of the ingredients of the fried tofu patty and wrapped them in perilla leaf to fry. This was the better option for this dish.

After he finished setting up the ingredients, he greased the frying pan with oil and let it heat up. When he judged that the pan was hot enough, he picked a skewer and coated it with flour and egg wash, before placing it quickly on the frying pan.

Sizzleeee!

The skewered meat pancake was slowly being fried and cooked deliciously in the savory oil. Once one side was golden brown, he flipped it over to cook the other side. Just like that, the pancakes were cooked until they were golden brown.

“It smells delicious,” Ron said, nose twitching at the smell of the oil and the freshly cooked pancakes wafting in the air. This was practically torture to someone who was just watching by the sidelines. Ron wanted to eat something right away.

Minhyuk finished cooking grilled beef skewers, perilla leaf pancake, pollock pancake, zucchini pancake, leek pancake, tofu pancake, and skewered meat pancake. The plate was overflowing with pancakes. Just then, a single hand slowly reached out to take a piece of pancake...

Thwack!

“No!” Minhyuk chided seriously. Ron had no choice but to suck on his fingers that had been slapped by a spoon. Then, Minhyuk finally prepared the soy sauce-based dip as he started to prepare to eat.

Finally, the highlight. The one thing that should never be left out during holidays... The continuous nagging of the adults around you.

“Can you please nag at me?”

“Huh? What in the world are you saying?”

“It’s because I really wanted to eat pancakes while feeling the spirit of the holidays!”

“...Boy. Aren’t you really someone strange?”

However, Minhyuk just shrugged. It was as if he was telling him that he would not give Ron any pancakes if he did not do it. So, Ron started to nag at Minhyuk, like what his mother did to him in the past.

“I heard that the next door’s Lumie is now working at a good smithy. Minhyuk-ah, shouldn’t you go out and get a job quickly?”

“Good, good. This really feels like a holiday!”

Hyeminnie sat beside Minhyuk and muttered to herself, “Poopy piggy is really strange...”

Ron continued on nagging, so much so that he even started to get excited. He said, “Huh?! You should start being independent and get a job! Stop eating off of your parents’ backs! Yeah? When are you getting married?! Do you even have a girlfriend? Are you going to keep on playing everyday? How will you get a good job if that’s what you do all day?!”

“...”

“And Minhyuk,-ah you... how will you even get married if you eat so much? When will you even get married? How will you be able to live in this tough world if you’re like this? When I was younger,?chatter, chatter, chatter...”

The dreaded, famous line.?'When I was younger.'?However, Minhyuk mumbled unknowingly as Ron continued to nag, "I know that I was the one who asked this of him, but now I just want to flip over a table or something..."

"What? What did you just say to your mom?!" Ron shouted. Caught up in the excitement of roleplaying, it seemed that he could not even distinguish whether he was Blacksmith Ron or Minhyuk's mother.

"Then, shall we eat?"

Chatter, chatter, chatter.

Ignoring the chattering and nagging Ron behind him, Minhyuk picked up a skewered meat pancake. Then, he bit on one side of the skewered meat pancake. This was the best way to eat skewered meat pancakes, since one could taste all of the flavor of all of the ingredients in the skewer. As soon as he bit down on the skewered meat pancake, he could taste the savory flavor of the oil spreading in his mouth. On top of that, the deep flavors of chives, ham, meat, pickled radish, crabstick, mushrooms and eggs blended well in his mouth.

"Wow.... It's really delicious," Minhyuk said. He had not eaten any pancakes in years.

'If one hasn't eaten it at all, then one wouldn't know the pain of knowing the taste. But, not being able to eat the food in front of you, when you knew the taste, was plain torture!'

Minhyuk had always wanted to eat skewered meat pancakes! He was smiling brightly as he savored the taste of the pancakes. Then, he picked up the pollock pancake next. He dipped it in soy sauce before taking a big bite out of it. His lips naturally curled into a smile as he tasted the salty, meaty flavor of the pancake.

Then, it was the perilla leaf pancake. The remaining flavor of the previous pancake, along with the ingredients from the fried tofu patty that he placed inside the perilla leaf pancake, improved the flavor of the bland perilla leaf and made it more delicious.

Then came the tofu pancake. Tofu was a very unique existence. The tofu that was made from soybeans could work well with any kind of recipe. It was delicious no matter how one ate it. Whether it was boiled, grilled, fried, or even by itself, it would still be delicious. It was even more delicious when it was salted and fried with egg.

"Hahaha," Minhyuk laughed loudly as he continued to taste more delicious pancakes.

Next was the fried tofu patty. It was a delicious pancake whether dipped in soy sauce or not. Once he placed it in his mouth, he could taste the rich meaty flavor of the meat and vegetables. The more he chewed, the richer the flavor that spread in his mouth became.

"...Boy, are you crying right now?"

"It's because it's really,?really?delicious."

Ron suddenly stopped nagging. He watched Minhyuk cry while eating the pancakes. He was crying, but his face was painted with a bright and happy smile. Ron laughed out loud when he saw him like

that. It seemed like the Fantastic Special Pancake Set was really delicious to make him laugh and cry like that! With a happy smile like that, Minhyuk finished all of the dishes in front of him. He said, "Delicious food is the best!"

"Delicious food really is the best!" Hyeminnie repeated with gusto, holding a skewered meat pancake that she clamored for earlier. It seemed like she truly agreed with Minhyuk.

"...I want to say that too," Ron said, looking at them sadly. It was because he was not able to eat a single thing!

Earlier, as Minhyuk was eating, he continuously heard notifications ringing in his head. So he decided to check his notifications window to check what he got.

[You have eaten the Fantastic Special Pancake Dish's Skewered Meat Pancake.]

[You have gained 7,000 blacksmithing skill proficiency.]

[Your Novice Blacksmithing skill has leveled up.]

[Your Novice Blacksmithing skill has leveled up.]

[Your Novice Blacksmithing skill.....]

[You have eaten the Fantastic Special Pancake Dish's Fried Tofu Patty.]

[You have gained 10,000 blacksmithing skill proficiency.]

[Your Novice Blacksmithing skill has leveled up.]

[Your Novice Blacksmithing skill.....]

Minhyuk's blacksmithing skill had leveled up nine times consecutively. In other words, his Novice Blacksmithing skill had reached Level 10 in one go.

[You have eaten the Fantastic Special Pancake Dish's Perilla Leaf Pancake.]

[You have gained 10 WIS.]

[You have gained 30 Magical Defense.]

[You have eaten the Fantastic Special Pancake Dish's Pollock Pancake.]

[You have gained 30 DEX.]

[You have accumulated a total of 1,000 DEX.]

[Your privilege for achieving 1,000 DEX has been released.]

Minhyuk continued to check his notifications with great anticipation.

Chapter 78: Chocolate Mine

[All skills and abilities related to DEX will improve by 40%.]

It was literally a sharp increase in his stats. Originally, there was only a 10% improvement for every 100-point increase in DEX. However, it suddenly increased to 40% once he reached the 1000-point

mark. In other words, if the power of Minhyuk's skills and abilities related to DEX were originally at 10, then they would have the power of 20. That was not the end of the notifications.

[A special privilege will be generated for a random skill picked out from your skills and abilities related to DEX. Skills and abilities related to your Food God class will be excluded from the random picking.]

[The Novice Bandage has been randomly selected.]

[You can now view the Sealed Privilege.]

Minhyuk quickly opened the Novice Bandage Skill.

(Novice Bandage)

Passive Skill

Level: 4

Effects:

?Wound and injury recovery +1.8% +1%

?+0.6 times acceleration on the slow recovery pace.

Sealed Privilege: Material Restoration

'Huh? Material restoration?'

Minhyuk looked at it with a strange look, before clicking on it. Fortunately, it opened without a hitch despite its description saying that it was sealed.

(Material Restoration)

Special Privilege

Effects: It can restore all materials and ingredients that have been spoiled, inedible or damaged such as bruised fruit, meat that was left out at room temperature, or even spoiled milk.

Minhyuk's hands trembled when he read the effects. He thought,?'Wow...! This is really good!'

The special privilege that he got for the Novice Bandage skill was truly awesome. Every day, people would buy fresh fruits, milk, and meat. However, over time and with improper storage, these fresh items would eventually have bruises, go bad, or eventually rot.

However, the special privilege that he received could allow him to return these ingredients to their peak state. In order for him to do so, he would need to be at the intermediate level in his bandaging skill.

The special privilege had been randomly generated for one of the skills among his entire repertoire of skills and abilities that were related to DEX, with the exclusion of his Food God related skills. However, Minhyuk did not know if it would happen again in the future. After he finished checking everything, Minhyuk was left deep in thought.

'I can't believe that he cried while he was eating...!?'Ron thought. He had never seen anyone quite like him in all of the years that he'd been alive. He said, "Boy, you must really like food."

“Hehe, that’s right!” Minhyuk answered. He nodded vigorously, as though answering in agreement was not enough to show his love for food.

“Actually, there’s this legend that has been going around since long ago.”

“A legend?” Minhyuk asked, nose twitching at the smell of another quest.

Ron shook his head at him and chuckled gently. He said, “There’s a mine, Bretley Mines, near the vicinity of the Barras Kingdom, and it’s said that inside the mines, there grows a chocolate tree that will never wither.”

“...Cho...chocolate tree? Did you say chocolate tree?!”

“Chocolate?!”

Both Minhyuk and Hyeminnie reacted at the same time to the word?chocolate. Ron shook his head helplessly as he explained it to them seriously. He said, “Yeah. They said that no matter how much chocolate you eat from the tree, there will always be chocolate the next day. I don’t know if this counts as proof, but if you go and mine in the Bretley Mines, you can dig up iron ores and sometimes, you will be able to dig up chocolate ores along with the iron ores.”

“Wow!”

“Wooooow!”

Minhyuk and Hyeminnie both let out gasps of admiration. Minhyuk’s mind started to wander. He thought,?‘If I eat a lot today, chocolate will still grow the next day...!’

Today, he could eat the chocolate alone. Tomorrow, he could melt the chocolate and eat it like the devil’s jam, Nutella! He could also make choco pie with the chocolate and eat it deliciously!

“Chocolate... If you freeze it... then, it would be the best.”

Minhyuk and Hyeminnie both licked their lips and gulped down their saliva, lost in their chocolate fantasies. Hyeminnie suddenly said, “No! Chocolate tastes better if it’s melted. It’s more delicious if you suck the chocolate on each finger after every bite!”

“That’s good too!”

“Hehe!”

Ron interjected in their conversation. He said, “The most important thing is that the chocolate tree still has many abilities that are way beyond what anyone can imagine. I think one of the skills was ‘Cure Someone at The Brink of Death.’ or so I’ve heard?”

“Ooooooh.”

“There’s a miner named Leton. Boy, why don’t you go and meet with him?”

Ring!

[Quest: Confirm the details of the Legend of the Chocolate Tree with the Miner Leton.]

Rank: ????

Requirements: Favor with Ron.

Rewards: 6,000 Blacksmithing Proficiency Points

Penalty for Failure: Will not be able to determine the existence of the Chocolate Tree.

Description: There's a legend about the Chocolate Tree handed down from the Bretley Mines. This is the chance to find things out about it. Meet with the Miner Leton!

"Poopy piggy, since you ate all of my chocolate, you should also let Hyeminnie taste the Chocolate Tree, okay?!"

Minhyuk hesitated for a brief moment, but he smiled and nodded at Hyeminnie. He said, "Sure!"

"Hehe!"

Hyeminnie recently gave Minhyuk some ABD chocolates. Those chocolates were the first chocolates he had ever eaten after so many years. It was something that he could not eat no matter how much money or things he had in real life. Hyemin's Daddy called Minhyuk their benefactor but for Minhyuk, perhaps, Hyeminnie was his benefactor.

'Chocolate tree... Let's get it!?' Minhyuk thought, but he needed to log-out soon. It was time for his exercise.

\*\*\*

Minhyuk followed Changwook to the swimming pool as soon as he got out of the capsule to exercise. As soon as he finished exercising, he sat down on a chair and rested for a while. He then started to browse through Athenae's official website as he munched on his cherry tomatoes, searching for Bretley Mines.

[Is it true that chocolate ore comes out together with the iron ore in Bretley Mines?

gadad624: Yes, it's true. Something like that has been found in the Barras Kingdom.

AMasterLaborer: It's because the Barras Kingdom is a treasure trove and a place for production classes. The chocolate ores are used by chefs in a recipe, most of them were sold by blacksmith class players, who dig up iron ores, to chefs and chocolatiers.

Lucie'sHeart: There are a lot of those kinds of things in the Barras Kingdom. You can even learn bandage wrapping from a mob in there, and whenever you treat a monster with it, you will even get iron ore as a drop. Then you can sell the iron ore to a blacksmith. There are a lot of quests like this in that place.]

Minhyuk finally confirmed that chocolate did come from the mines. There would be someone who even asked 'Is this thing special?'' at least once. The Barras Kingdom, where Minhyuk is currently located, was like the home for all of the production classes. If fishermen could even receive bandages just by fishing, then blacksmiths could also receive chocolate while mining for iron, an ingredient used for cooking. A painter could also sell sculpting materials that he received from completing a painting to a sculptor from the next town.

In other words, the system allowed the players to learn about trading and transactions. However, just by looking at it, he could tell that chocolate was something that they most likely neglected from the drops or loot they got through hard labor.

[Frankly speaking, I think the worst thing that can come out of the Bretley Mines is the chocolate...

Miner'sSpittingSaliva: Same. In all honesty, I think the miners are the ones who have the hardest time getting materials... It's really hard to break those rocks so this uncle is telling you to stop choosing this work ???? I beg you, we're already short on materials... And there's also a penalty once you choose the?miner?class, so I hope that you don't...

gkad5126: Being a miner is really too hard for any person... thumbs down. I don't think there's someone crazy enough to choose the miner's class just so they could eat chocolate.]

Minhyuk was confused. So, he turned to Changwook and asked, "Hyung."

"Huh?"

"There's a weird guy here. Why are they saying that it's crazy to become a miner just because they want to eat chocolate? Isn't this person strange?" Minhyuk said as he twirled his hand beside his head, it seemed like he really thought that the person was weird.

"Y...yeah. That person is weird. Ha, hahaha!"

"Why are you laughing like that?"

"No, nothing... Are you going to work as a miner so you can eat chocolate?"

"Yes."

"..."

Changwook scratched his cheek. In fact, mining was a really tough class. No other class could even compare. Because of that, the mine itself was neglected and dismissed by many players. Even though it seemed that some blacksmiths would go and mine in there, they would also dismiss the idea soon after, walking away. There were plenty of other mines outside Barras Kingdom, with better minerals and much better treatment for miners, compared to the Bretley Mines.

"You're really going to mine just because you want to eat chocolate?"

"Yes!"

"Not for the?minerals and ores?"

"Of course. What's the use of minerals when I can't even eat them?"

"Goo...good luck..." Changwook said. He shook his head in defeat.

Minhyuk turned to look at him and asked, "Ah, that's right. Hyung. Do you know Hyemin'sDaddy?"

"Isn't that somebody's father?"

"No, it's a nickname."

"I don't know?"



“Then, do you know about the Dragon Sword?”

“Hey, of course I know! Does it even make sense for someone who plays Athena to not know about the Dragon Sword?!” Changwook exclaimed, his expression screaming as if it was the natural course of things.

Dragon Sword was the artifact that was sold with the highest auction price ever! There were even rumors that the man who made the artifact was hailed as the number one in the unofficial Blacksmith Rankings. In fact, even players of Athena from overseas were interested in the Dragon Sword.

“The guy who made that said that he would make an artifact for me.”

“R...really? Is that the Hyemin’s Daddy person you were talking about earlier?”

“Yes.”

“...What did you ask him to make you? Huh? A sword would be great. A sword with a dragon motif! Waaah, it’s so cool even just imagining it. Wow! Or is it a shield? Invincible shield! Can defend against anything! Kyaa, I’m really jealous...”

“But, I asked him to make me a frying pan though?”

“That’s right. A frying pan is really cool...” Changwook stopped. He rubbed his ears hard. For a moment, Changwook thought that he might have misheard Minhyuk.

“W...what...?”

“I asked him to make me a frying pan. Hehe. He even readily accepted my difficult request.”

“B...by any chance... Did he look like he wanted to beat you with a frying pan?”

“Actually, come to think of it, he had tears in his eyes.”

Changwook suddenly felt a sense of camaraderie with Hyemin’s Daddy. He thought, ‘You were dumbfounded, right...? Every. Single. Day. I feel this sense of loss and dumbfoundedness too.’

Without knowing what was going through his mind and heart, Minhyuk just continued to talk, “Frying pan. I can’t wait for it!”

\*\*\*

Horde Guild’s Brony was known as Lee Sangmin in real life. Before he accessed the game, he thought, ‘I think I have 30 minutes until the appointment?’

It was the appointment with Kald, who contacted him not too long ago! He asked them to meet at the Barras Kingdom. Their meeting place was a shabby inn located in the kingdom. Since he still had the time, he went and approached his father who was reading the newspaper. He was reminded of Kang Minhyuk when he PK-ed and robbed a player that looked like him.

“Dad.”

“What’s wrong, did you have another fight?!” His father asked, scolding him from the get-go! This just showed how much fighting accidents and trouble Lee Sangmin had gotten into despite his age.

“N...no. It’s not that. I was just curious about something.”

“You’re curious? I can’t believe that there’s something that you’re curious about in your life. This lowly one is very thrilled.”

“...”

“Why?”

“...No, nothing,” Lee Sangmin said. He suddenly realized what sorrow truly was. Then he carefully asked his father, “Do you remember Kang Minhyuk? The guy who took my money.”

“Of course I remember. Didn’t he rip you off of your money together with your friends? Weren’t there at least twenty people begging for forgiveness from him after he hit you? I, your dad, even wanted to remove you from the family register at that time, but I endured it out of pity.”

Lee Sangmin was completely dumbfounded. For a moment, Lee Sangmin even wondered if he was just a child picked up from the streets by his stinking father. Why was he hitting him with all these facts like that?

“But Dad, you told me back then...?Don’t ever touch him again if you don’t want our house to fall down in ruins. How would he do that? No, I mean... Just what did his dad do that could even make you so scared?”

His father placed his newspaper down as he heaved a huge sigh. He said, “True, it has been a long time. Anyway, you’re old enough to not talk around so foolishly. Right?”

“Ah, yes. Well, I have grown up.”

“I’d like to believe so. Even the next door neighbor’s stinking dog has grown up... Anyway.”

Lee Sangmin’s dad looked around for a moment and asked, “What brand of mobile phone are you using?”

“It’s from Ilhwa Group.”

“Your laptop?”

“Ilhwa Group.”

“The TV in front of us right now?”

“The TV is from Ilhwa, right?”

Ilhwa Group! There was no household that this group did not reach. Even the groceries are from Ilhwa! Household appliances? Ilhwa! There was even a saying, 'Everything is from Ilhwa Group'. However, why was his father asking him about these things?

Lee Sangmin was already getting frustrated, and urged, "Argh. Why do you keep on asking me about this nonsense?"

"It's not nonsense. Even this lowly one still can't believe it, to this day."

"Huh? What are you saying?"

At his question, his father grinned at him mockingly and said, "That child's father is Kang Minhoo, the President of Ilhwa Group."

"..."

Chapter 79: Chocolate Mine

Brony's heart was still thumping wildly even after he logged back inside?Athenae. He thought,?'Hyaa... I didn't even know. My god. Kang Minhyuk. That damn bastard's father is Chairman Kang Minhoo.'

Then, another thought flashed in his mind,?'Did I just provoke his child?'

His father also made sure to add this as a reminder for him. He said,?'You both are alumni of the same school so there might be a chance that you'll meet again. But if that happens, try to avoid creating friction. Although, everyone knows that Ilhwa Group is a company that does not use their prestige and power to step down on others. At least, try to avoid any sort of trouble, just to be safe.'

Just like what Brony's father had said, Ilhwa Group had never been surrounded by bad rumors and gossip. This was one of the reasons why the masses trusted them. Then, Brony thought,?'When me and my friends had a conflict with Minhyuk, he also solved the problem on his own and did not flaunt the power of their company. I have to keep this in mind. I'm a tiger cub that has grown enough to be considered a tiger too.'

Brony nodded as he walked towards the inn where they agreed to meet with Kald. He did not bring along any of his guild members to this meeting. Then, he opened the door to Room 201, the room that he and Kald had agreed to meet at earlier. There, right inside the room was Kald, a person that he had only seen on TV. Brony said, "Hello. I'm Horden Guild's Brony."

"I'm Kald," He said coolly. This was the second in the Blacksmith Rankings! The person who had created an epic artifact! ?From what Brony had heard, the epic artifact had sold for 400 million won on the auction site. Kald was also one of the executives of Ares Guild.

"Can I hear about your request right now?"

"Yes," Kald agreed as he started to explain his request. He continued to say, "Just like you have guessed, this request needs utmost secrecy and full cooperation from you and your guild members. In fact, I think it's better that they act without knowing who their client is."

“Ah, yes,” Brony said. He had already told Elaine to keep mum about this.

“You need to move quietly. All you have to do is take over a mine called Bretley.”

“You mean, the whole mine?”

“Yes. You know about the Bretley Mines, right?”

“Yes, it was also known as the chocolate mine.”

Kald nodded as he said, “Just three days. You have to take over the Bretley Mines in three days.”

“So, we only need to take over..”

Kald nodded. The mines had miners, but there were also troops and administrators sent from the kingdom that managed these miners. Fortunately, Bretley Mines was a mine for novice miners and blacksmiths, so the troops and players there were only low-leveled. Basically, taking over a field, a dungeon or an area worked like so...

“You want me to kill off all of the soldiers of the kingdom’s troops and monopolize the place. At that time, you will be going into the mine to find the item that you need?”

“That’s right.”

“May I ask what you’re looking for?”

“No.”

“...”

Kald did not hesitate to cut him off. Then, he said, “Your Horden guild need only do two things: first, take over the mines, cut off all the connections or communications with the kingdom. Second, get rid of the sudden influx of stronger monsters that will come out from inside the Bretley Mines.”

“Stronger monsters?”

Monsters usually appeared inside Bretley Mines. However, they were only at around Level 70 to Level 100. Usually, the troops sent by the kingdom would take care of the monsters in advance before the miners could go inside and mine for ores and minerals.

“Yes. That’s when everything will start. I will hide my presence as much as possible and go inside while your Horden Guild takes care of the monsters that will come out.”

“And in the process...” Brony said. He already could tell what was going to happen.

“All the miners inside will die.”

\*\*\*

Brony left the inn once their conversation was over. Kald was left alone inside the room. He carefully took out a black key from his pocket. This key was something that he received unexpectedly. He thought, ‘The chocolate mines. A rare artifact material exists inside those mines.’

The key was a key that would open a secret place inside the chocolate mines! The material hidden in that secret place was a level higher than the material used for making the Dragon Sword. However, Kald decided to use the hands of the Horden Guild for a reason. He thought, 'If that damn bastard hiding in Barras Kingdom knew, I would definitely not be able to get my hands on it!'

According to Kald's understanding of that person, the bastard would stand guard and control the mine if he knew of the existence of the material. If the mines were controlled, there would be no room for Kald to go inside. The plan that he had in mind was too reckless. Initially, Kald wanted to kill off Barras Kingdom's troops and take over the mines for himself. However, if he did that, then Barras Kingdom would come after him.

If that was the case, it was better for the Horden Guild to do it so they would be the ones chased by the kingdom. After all, that was what their guild was best at. They did the dirty work for others and got chased for it!

'There are only three people, including me, who can make an artifact out of the material inside that mine,' Kald thought as he recalled these people. The first one was Casias. Casias was the number one in the Blacksmith Rankings, the person that ranked higher than himself. And the second one was the mysterious creator of the Dragon Sword. The number one blacksmith Casias was currently in Dwarven Territory, while the mysterious Dragon Sword creator had been missing for months. That was why Kald believed that this was the perfect time for him to act.

'There's no time better than now! With that material alone, I can make an artifact that can go beyond the Dragon Sword and help me increase my reputation and fame! Keuhahahahaha!'

As long as he created an artifact that surpassed the Dragon Sword, he would be able to climb to the top of the Blacksmith Rankings! Kald smiled coldly at the thought.

\*\*\*

Blacksmith Ruwan was a member of the Fifth Mining Team. He was currently looking down as he stood in front of the Fifth Mining Team's Captain Leton. Leton sighed and said, "Sigh. The blacksmith that came yesterday is not coming again today."

"He must have ran away."

"Most likely. Every day, the foreigners continue to run away as soon as they come here."

When he heard his words, Ruwan thought to himself, 'If I hadn't received my hidden class job change quest, I would have run away too...'

Compared to manual labor in reality, working at the mines here was much more intense and labor-intensive. The worst part was that the inside of the mines was boiling hot and dust kept on flying around. The dust was so acrid that it was too painful to breathe or see. Even if someone told them that they would be able to quickly increase their Blacksmithing Proficiency by working in the

mines, none of them would stay. They would definitely run away! However, Ruwan had been trying to hold out for a week because of his quest.

“What will those lazy bastards do in the future?!” Ruwan said, trying to increase his favor with Leton in hopes of getting better rewards. However, that thought was fading away by the day. He thought, “I can’t believe that this whole mining team is on the brink of disbanding... Sigh, how did I even think of coming here, I’m so unlucky!”

The Fifth Mining Team headed by Leton had the lowest yield of minerals and ores. Also, Leton had a conflict with the troops from Barras Kingdom, which caused the soldiers to pretend not to notice even though their mining team was receiving less support compared to others. One such example of their negligence was their tools. Their pickaxes were all rusty. Even their personnel were injured. However, despite the injuries, they still continued to work due to the shortage of manpower. As a result, the materials that they dug out were poor in quality.

However, even if that was the case, Ruwan still had to endure and hold out! This was his only chance to change his class from warrior to the hidden class ‘Steel Blacksmith’! Although Ruwan did not have any blacksmithing skills since he had not finished changing his class yet, he was still well-loved by the miners in this place due to his high endurance, stamina and power. The only thing that Ruwan needed to do was to dig out a special ore called mithril to complete his ‘Hidden Quest: Steel Blacksmith’. Then, he could kiss this damned place goodbye!

“Yooo, Leton. I heard that the personnel officer will be assigning a foreigner to your Fifth Mining Team!”

“Oh, is that true?” Leton asked, face brightening. Anyone was welcomed since their Fifth Mining Team was lacking hands! However, he still wondered what was going on since the officers did not give them new recruits lately.

However, Ruwan still said, “I’ll go and get him!”

“Oh, is that so? It’s good that you’re friendly, boy!”

“It’s nothing,” Ruwan said, quickly rushing over to fetch the new recruit. He might look friendly right now but he would high tail it if he did not get anything from Leton the moment he received his hidden class! However, he needed to find a replacement, otherwise Leton would fry him. Then, Ruwan finally arrived in front of the personnel officer. He saw a player eating what seemed to be chocolate.

“This mine’s chocolate is really, really delicious... Wow. I’m so jealous of the miners. They could eat this everyday...!”

“...”

Ruwan clicked his tongue and thought, “That chocolate will be your wage!”

Other quests would give gold as reward, but quests in this mine would only give chocolates as their wage. It was up to the player whether they would sell it or eat it. But then, Ruwan suddenly stopped in his tracks, he asked, “...Are, are you actually crying?”

“It’s because it’s really, really delicious,” the man said, his face filled with tears.

“What the hell, is this person for real?” Ruwan thought. However Ruwan still led him to the Fifth Mining Team while trying to probe him for more details. He asked, “What’s your level and your job class?”

“I’m at Level 90, and my main class is a chef. Ah. I can do bandaging, farming and even use swords. Oh, I can do that too!”

“What?” Ruwan asked cautiously after seeing the confident look on the man’s face.

“Eating 100 boxes of choco pie in one sitting!”

Grin.

Ruwan chuckled at his antics. It seemed like the man was truly a moron. But then, he thought, “Who does this f\*cker think he is trying to kid? How can a player learn bandaging, farming, blacksmithing and even cooking?”

What the man said was completely beyond common sense. After all, there was a limit on learning production skills. Besides, his level was only at Level 90. Ruwan thought that this player was just bluffing. Even eating 100 boxes of chocopie in one sitting was also nonsense.

“So when did you learn your blacksmithing skills?” Ruwan asked. This was the most important question. He asked this to determine his talent and capabilities.

“Yesterday!”

“I’m just glad that his spirit is blazing, I finally found my replacement,” Ruwan thought, smiling bitterly. Then, he led him to where the miners were.

Once they arrived in front of the miners, the player named Minhyuk suddenly bowed towards the miners. He said, “Hello. I’m Minhyuk. Please take care of me!”

“Oho. Such a nice boy. I see,” Leton said with a smile

Meanwhile, Ruwan tilted his head in confusion. He asked, “Huh? Leton. Your knee...”

Leton’s knees were bleeding through his torn cover-alls. Leton said, “Ah, this? I just fell down when I was dragging the cart over.”

“No, you’re the leader so why are you pulling the cart? I feel bad for you!” Ruwan said. Of course, it was just a pretentious remark on his part.

Just then, the player named Minhyuk stepped forward and said, “Will you let me see the wound?”

“Huh?”

“Huh?”

Leton and Ruwan looked at him with confusion plastered on their faces.

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When Minhyuk heard the name 'Leton', he could intuitively tell that this was the person related to the 'Chocolate Tree' so he stepped forward only to see blood flowing down his knees! Minhyuk believed that this was the perfect chance for him to increase his bandaging skill and treat people's injuries!

Leton looked at him in doubt as he asked, "B...boy. Are you a healer? No. Why would a healer come here?"

"Ah. I learned the bandaging skill."

"Bandaging skill?"

"Yes," Minhyuk said as he wiped Leton's bleeding knees with some tissue, before taking out some bandages.

Ruwan, on the other hand, watched him work as he thought, 'How much recovery would a Level 90 player with a bandaging skill even have? Tsk!'. Ruwan knew well how much recovery the bandaging skill had. It was just like bandaging in real life!

Then, Minhyuk cast the bandaging skill on the wound by saying, "Bandage!"

His hands moved gently and smoothly. He looked like he was someone who had wrapped hundreds and thousands of bandages. Ruwan's eyes widened in disbelief when he saw him working on Leton's wound. He thought, 'Gasp? How can he wrap it so well?'

[The bandage has been wrapped perfectly.]

[The bleeding has been stopped.]

[You have received an additional 2% injury recovery.]

[The recovery time has become faster.]

"The... the bleeding... stopped right away...!"

Compared to the mannequin that did not bleed when he practiced his bandaging skill, an injured person would bleed. That was why Minhyuk was aware that it was essential to stop the bleeding first. If he achieved a perfect bandage, the bleeding would most likely stop. And if the bleeding stopped, then the injured would feel a lot better. Besides, thanks to the additional effect on his Novice Bandage skill, the injured would receive additional wound recovery rate, decreasing the recovery time. The bandaging skill did not have immediate effects after all. It was a skill that would help the injured gradually recover.

At the moment, Leton could feel that the numbing pain on his knees had disappeared together with the bleeding. He could even move his knees better after it got bandaged. He slowly moved his knees to check and said, "Oh! Thank you! I was worried that it would be a hassle for my work today."

[You have received Leton's favor.]

"Hehe. It was nothing much," Minhyuk said. However, that was not the end.

Minhyuk's eyes turned sharp as he looked around and saw the state of Leton's mining equipment. He exclaimed, "No! Why are you mining with something like this? It looks like it's about to break!"



“Sigh... What can I do if those damn bastards from the Barras Kingdom don't send us any support?”

Tools were very important. However, they were mining with pickaxes like that? It would already be a relief if the tools did not break while they were working. So, Minhyuk said, “Please give it to me. I'll fix it for you.”

“Oho, is that so? When did you learn the art of blacksmithing, boy?”

“Yesterday!”

“...”

Leton's expression was quite similar to Ruwan's expression earlier when he heard Minhyuk's words.

## Chapter 80: Chocolate Mine

The reason why they were dumbfounded was because blacksmithing had a higher risk of failure compared to farming and bandaging. Although Minhyuk did not explicitly say it, saying that he had learned the blacksmithing skill just a day prior was equivalent to saying that he was a novice in the field. Like a person that had never cooked before, if they were to try making rice without following the recipe, they would not be able to cook rice properly. A novice blacksmith would also fail like that. So, what would happen in the event that Minhyuk failed? The durability would drop significantly. Once the durability dropped past a certain level, the tool would even break.

“Ah...h...huh? Ah! No, it...it's alright!”

“It's not alright at all. How can you even dig for minerals with pickaxes like that?!”

“...”

Leton suddenly hesitated after seeing the shine in Minhyuk's eyes. He could even tell that Minhyuk's eyes were screaming something along the lines of? ‘I want to help you, please let me help you!’. That was when Leton realized,? ‘Ah, wait. The durability of this tool is already running out, it's almost at the brink of breaking.’

So, Leton handed the pickaxe over to Minhyuk and said, “Please fix this for me!”

“I understand.”

Ruwan clicked his tongue when he saw the scene. He thought,? ‘It's definitely going to break.’

Ruwan was quite confident that the iron of the pickaxe would break. Leton giving his tool to this novice blacksmith was like giving a fish to a cat! Ruwan knew this well because he had a lot of blacksmith friends.

Then, Minhyuk transformed Ellie's Kitchen Knife into a blacksmith's hammer, before placing the pickaxe on top of an anvil that looked like it was used by novices. He said, “Repair!”

The places that he needed to hammer on started to glow. This was the magnificence of DEX! It did not end there. There was another change that Minhyuk noticed after his DEX reached 1,000, that was not mentioned by the notifications. Before he reached 1,000, he would only see a white mark

on the part where he needed to work on, just like in his bandaging skill before. However, right now, Minhyuk could see red spots inside those white spots. In other words, the red spots were the places where he needed to work carefully whether it was in bandaging or blacksmithing.

Clang!

Clang!

Clang!

Minhyuk worked hard to pound those spots with his hammer. He carefully adjusted his strength depending on the color of light that he saw. The way he moved looked similar to a skillful blacksmith that had been working for years.

‘H...he said that he learned yesterday. Right.....?!’ Ruwan thought. He had tried to beat some metal on this anvil before because he believed that foundation and basic skills were extremely important for blacksmiths! But no matter how hard he tried, he could not achieve the amount of skill Minhyuk was displaying!

After Minhyuk worked on the almost-broken pickaxe, the finished product was now gleaming brightly.

[You have perfectly repaired the pickaxe.]

[The artifact’s durability has greatly increased.]

[The artifact won’t rust easily.]

[The repair’s effect will increase mining efficiency.]

“...?!”

Minhyuk looked at the pickaxe in surprise. Ruwan was also shocked. He mumbled, “D...don’t tell me that it triggered the ‘perfect’ thing?”

“Yes!”

“...My goodness. I can’t believe that a novice blacksmith will be able to trigger a one-in-a-thousand effect so easily.”

“Eh?”

Minhyuk looked at him in confusion. Ruwan then proceeded to explain, “The higher the skills of the blacksmith, the higher the probability of the blacksmith triggering the ‘perfect’ effect. However, it isn’t an easy task. Did you feel something different when you triggered the perfect effect? Triggering the perfect effect will give out special privileges.”

“Ah.”

Special privilege. Just like the bandaging skill’s special privilege, the blacksmithing skill also had a special privilege! However, it was good that the effect of the blacksmithing skill’s special privilege was permanent. Meanwhile, Leton was busy admiring his gleaming pickaxe that was once almost broken.

“If you like, I can repair your pickaxes for you.”

“Oh. Would you really do that?”

“Yes!” Minhyuk answered. In no time at all, Minhyuk’s Novice Blacksmithing skill’s special abilities had increased by five. He could now sharpen blades and polish armors! Minhyuk quickly tried the sharpening ability.

[You have perfectly sharpened the pickaxe’s blade.]

[The artifact’s durability has greatly increased.]

[The repair’s effect will increase mining efficiency.]

Another perfect! Minhyuk chuckled happily as he thought, ‘If I ask about the chocolate tree right now, maybe Leton will tell me a lot!’

Leton picked the pickaxe and checked its information.

(Well-Sharpened Pickaxe)

Class: Normal

Requirements: None

Durability: 368 / 800

Attack Power: 76

Mining Power: 152 + 42

“Oh...!”

Leton’s pickaxe’s durability was originally at 6/800. Now, it had been raised to 368. Even the mining power had an additional +42. In other words, it was an effect that Minhyuk had added on to the pickaxe. Leton continued to admire the pickaxe as he thought, ‘I can’t believe such a talented person came into our mining team!’

Ruwan watched from the sidelines and noticed it too. He thought, ‘How can he achieve ‘perfect’ twice in a row...?’

It was completely absurd! Some of the blacksmiths that Ruwan knew were among the top ten in the country, but he knew that they could only achieve ‘perfect’ if they were extremely lucky that day. What did this mean?

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Team Leader Park murmured, “It’s because Player Minhyuk’s level is low while his DEX is extremely high...”

Lee Minhwa nodded in agreement.

“You know about it too, right?” Team Leader Park asked.

“Of course,” Lee Minhwa said. She nodded and turned to look at the monitor to explain, “DEX is a very difficult stat to raise. It’s because there’s a limit to raising it with

manual labor. Also, the higher the level of the player, the lower the DEX Acquisition Rate.”

“That’s correct,” Team Leader Park said, nodding as he continued to listen to Lee Minhwa’s explanation.

“Generally, Level 100 non-combat players only have around 200 DEX. If, by any chance, the player is a bit special and has reached a DEX higher than 200 at Level 100, they would be given privileges continuously. As for Player Minhyuk, he has accumulated 1000 DEX before he even reached Level 100. This is not just a simple increase in DEX. This is more than double the average. This means that he will always get the most powerful, even perfect effect every time he uses skills related to DEX.”

“And for someone like Player Minhyuk, his DEX will most probably only continue to increase from here on out.”

“...Yes.”

If things continued to proceed in this manner? Player Minhyuk’s DEX-related skills would continue to grow in an unpredictable path, and might even reveal an unimaginable power.

“We don’t have any choice but to wait for his level to increase so that his acquisition rate will go down, right?”

“Yeah,” Team Leader Park nodded. Then, he looked at another monitor showing the situation of the other god class, Hepas’ Descendant. It was none other than Hyemin’sDaddy.

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Hyemin’sDaddy wiped the sweat off of his forehead with the towel hanging off of his neck. He thought, ‘I can’t believe that Hyemin’s eating so well in the hospital now...’

He could not help but grin. Hyemin ate the meals prepared by the hospital the moment she logged out of the game. It seemed like her appetite shot up like crazy when her resistance to food disappeared. He had laughed helplessly at how much she was eating.

Then, as he was finishing the commissioned ‘frying pan’, he muttered to himself, “But...why did it have to be a frying pan?! Why?!”

Hyemin’sDaddy continued to mutter as he stared blankly in space. “Ting... tingtingting. Taeng... taengtaengtaeng. Tingting taengtaeng fry pan game. Taemin, two. Taemin, Taemin.”

Hyemin’sDaddy’s face remained blank. The frying pan in his hands contained the Gryphon’s Spirit. It was a frying pan that could rival the Dragon Sword in terms of power and abilities! But that was not enough. Hyemin’sDaddy was a perfectionist by nature. Even his class, Hepas’ Descendant, required him to become a perfectionist in his artifacts and skills. In fact, people would definitely be astonished if they heard that this frying pan was still considered to be an incomplete and unfinished product.

Gryphon's Spirit was already an excellent artifact material. Furthermore, the one to handle such a material was none other than him, Hepas' Descendant. Strangely enough, the frying pan was already well made. However, to Hyemin'sDaddy, it was still a few percent short from 100%! If he released this artifact right now, he was sure that it would garner considerable fame and influence. However, he felt that there was something missing.

After pondering for quite some time, he finally realized what it was. He thought, 'The frying pan will be used by that guy to cook.'

Minhyuk wanted a frying pan that could help him cook and make stir fried pork well. With that thought in mind, Hyemin'sDaddy thought that it would be good if he could add an ore with fire attribute to the pan. He said, "It shouldn't be just fire, the ore should have a variety of properties... I wish there's a material like that."

That was when he recalled something that he heard a long time ago, regarding an excellent artifact material with all attributes.

"It would be nice if I could get my hands on a material like that..." He murmured softly, speaking his thoughts to no one in particular..

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"Oh! Boy, this is really great! Please fix my pickaxe too!"

"Include my worn-out work boots too!"

"Please fix my safety helmet too!"

"Repair!"

"Repair!"

"Repair!"

Minhyuk repaired all of the tools and equipment of the miners in the Fifth Mining Team. At the same time...

[You have received Yaru's favor.]

[You have received Bren's favor.]

[You have received Rasno's favor.]

In just a blink of an eye, he became friends with the miners. That was not all.

"I hurt my hand while I was sharpening my pickaxe a few days ago."

"This...! I'll treat you. Bandage!"

This was Minhyuk's chance to master his skills! Besides, his DEX would definitely increase if he repeatedly used his DEX related skills! Minhyuk continued to do this for that privilege. Besides, he was not doing it for free.

"From now on, if you give me the chocolate that comes out together with the iron ore, I will help you with your tools and injuries! I also need to earn some profit!"

“Ah, is that all? Haha. Is that your repair fee?”

“Well, here’s some chocolate!”

“Ah. Me too. Here you go, I have four chocolates with me!”

“I have ten! Can you also fix my face so that I will look good?”

“Y...you have to be born again...”

“Huh?”

Cold sweat dripped down Minhyuk’s back when he heard the miner’s excessive request! He thought, ‘Oh my god, how do I fix an ugly face! It’s not possible with my bandaging skill, maybe it’s still not possible with plastic surgery or even internal medicine!’

However, the effects of his bandaging skill were much more effective than what he initially thought! In any case, Minhyuk used his glib tongue and showed off his experience with flattery.

“Your fist-sized nose! It represents the true virtues of a man! Your slitted eyes resemble that of a hawk! And your big, boulder-like face! It makes you look like a character from Maple Story! Isn’t it already great as it is? You’re already a handsome man!”

“Keuhahahaha! Thanks! But, what is? Maple Story?”

“I know about it. It’s a game about fallen leaves.”

“I see. Keuhahahaha. Hey, look. This boy here says that I’m handsome!”

.

Then, another man whispered in Minhyuk's ears. He said, “Boy. Did you just sell your conscience and dignity for? chocolate?”

Minhyuk was caught off-guard that he snorted and choked on his saliva. Anyway, he was able to raise his skill proficiency and eat chocolates at the same time, so he was killing two birds with one stone.

In the spare time that he got, he asked Leton about the Chocolate Tree. Leton said, “Chocolate tree?”

However, Leton thought, ‘The Chocolate Tree... It definitely exists. But, I can’t just let anyone know.’

Minhyuk was the first person to have ever reached Leton’s standards. He also thought that he was extremely kind and amiable. However, for that same reason, he also needed to know Minhyuk better, before saying anything to him. So, he said, “Isn’t it just a legend that has been passed through ages? I don’t know much about it either. Haha.”

“Ah... Is that so?” Minhyuk replied sadly. Perhaps, the clue to the legend ended here. Was it really just a legend? No, that was definitely not the case.

‘Wait! Don’t I have that skill? Ingredient Tracking?’

Since the effect of the tree was to ‘Cure Someone at The Brink of Death’, he used that as the basis to track the ingredient.

‘Use the ingredient tracking skill once,’ Minhyuk thought as the choices for Korean Cuisine, Chinese Cuisine, Western Cuisine, etc. popped in his head. Of course, dessert was also included in the choices. Chocolate naturally fell under the dessert category.

[You have selected?Dessert.]

[What is your desired buff effect?]

‘Save the dead.’

[Searching for the ingredients in a 1-km radius.]

[Successfully searched for the ingredients.]

[The Chocolate Tree can save the dead, but it is also a legendary material that has various properties.]

[Can be cooked with Food God's Cooking Skill Level 1.]

[Suggested Menu: Brownies.]

“...!”

Minhyuk had realized the Ingredient Tracking Skill’s additional effect. The last time he used it to find the Orc Chieftain’s Essence, the ingredient’s location did not appear since he was more than a kilometer away. However, the location was marked in a map the moment he stepped within a 600-meter radius from the ingredient. Minhyuk’s eyes darted around as he looked at his surroundings. He was also able to see the troops of the kingdom coming out of the mines.

“We have taken care of all the monsters inside. All of the miners can now enter.”

“Then, let’s go! Let’s go and test out these newly repaired full-set equipment!”

Minhyuk turned to look at the other mining caves. However, the red mark was not pointing to those places, only in the cave that he and Leton were entering. Minhyuk could clearly see the red mark pointing at the cave. It was where the Fifth mining Team was headed to. This was proof that the mine was the entry to where the Chocolate Tree was located. Minhyuk pumped his fists and muttered subconsciously, “Brownie...”

“Eh? What did you say?” Ruwan asked. However, his words did not register in Minhyuk’s ears.

Even though Minhyuk could be considered a man amongst men, whenever he went to a cafe to study with his friends, he would still ask them ‘Hey, should we order a brownie?’ everytime. He liked to eat it. The soft, moist, and sweet brownie that always melted in his mouth. It was the perfect fit for the bitter Americano.

“It’s really delicious!”

“Gasp?!”

“Gasp?!”

All of the miners walking with Minhyuk turned around in shock when they suddenly heard him shout. Minhyuk hurriedly apologized, “Ah. I’m sorry.”

“...That surprised me.”

“My heart almost dropped.”

A miner approached Leton and remarked, “Our new recruit is kind, bubbly and very good at repairing our tools. He also treated our injuries, and is good looking! But, he’s just a tad strange, huh?”

“...I know.”