

Gourmet 751

Chapter 751: The Life Elixir

The global official number one ranker, Fabian, was visiting South Korea and attracted countless reporters, who had flocked to Incheon International Airport for a scoop.

Click, click, click, click, click, click—

Fabian was someone that did not have much influence in Athenae. He was just famous for being a player with the highest level. The only reason why he was able to attract this much attention was because he reached Level 599 just a few days ago after following the methods that the God of Growth and Development had told him. His goal of Level 600 was just right around the corner, it was just one more level.

Actually, Fabian visited this country on purpose. It was because he wanted to keep Food God Minhyuk in check.

‘Hmph! That Food God is very daring.’ Fabian waved his hands toward the reporters while clicking his tongue and thinking about how stupid and pitiful the Food God would be.

The reason why everyone was so interested in Level 600 was because anyone that reached that point would be able to gain new power. In particular, the first to reach Level 600 would be able to get a special and amazing title!

Everyone was curious, and the reporters were no different. All of them kept on asking questions.

“Why did you come to visit South Korea?”

“For the longest time, I have been very fond of South Korea. So, I plan to stay at a hotel here and try to achieve Level 600.”

Fabian knew that the reporters would be able to sniff and flock to that hotel the moment he reached Level 600.

Then, one of the reporters said, “Word on the grapevine is that you came to our country to keep the Food God in check, is that true?”

“The Food God?” Fabian acted innocently as if it was the first that he heard such a thing. “No, not at all.”

In fact, Fabian was known for his inferiority complex. After all, even though his level was the highest, no one in the world recognized him. However, this time, there was the opportunity to trample and mock the current world’s best, the Food God.

“However, from what I know, the Food God’s level is at Level 597. It will be very difficult to increase by three levels in such a short amount of time. I was only able to raise my level this much because I got lucky.”

This was Fabian’s way of provoking Minhyuk. He was telling them that he was, in the end, still the one in the lead.

"I'm very pleased to have arrived in Korea today. I can spare an hour for questions," Fabian said generously.

At that moment, one of the reporters' phone rang.

Ring, ring, ring, ring, ring—!

Ring, ring, ring, ring, ring, ring—!

"Ah, put it on vibrate mode."

The phone, which had been set on vibrate mode, began to ring once again. It made the reporter frown. Not long after, the reporters had no choice but to take out their phones from their pockets because it did not stop ringing.

"Hello? I'm covering Fabian right now... What?! The first person to achieve Level 600 in the world has appeared?!"

"Is that true?!"

"Who is it?!"

"Heooooook?!"

The reporters were all in shock, their eyes growing bigger the moment they heard the name.

"The, the Food God?!"

"Food God Minhyuk?!"

"Did, did you say that it's Minhyuk?!"

Everyone turned silent after answering the phone, just like they promised earlier. Their eyes turned to look at Fabian.

Clack—

In the next instant, one of the reporters picked up their camera and began to run. Immediately after, the rest of the reporters picked up their cameras and ran out of the airport.

"We need to go in front of the Food God's house, quick!"

"Senior, what about Fabian?!"

"What about Fabian?! The Food God has achieved Level 600, that's no small matter! If we don't cover it then the repercussions will be huge!!!"

"N, no. I will give you three hours of an interview!!!"

In no time at all, there was no reporter standing in front of Fabian.

Fabian's manager approached him. "Excuse me, Sir Fabian."

"..."

"If we continue to stay here in Korea right now, then I think we will be laughed at."

“...”

“Should I book a flight back home?”

“...”

Fabian returned to his home country barely thirty minutes after entering Korea.

Back in America, Fabian received the mockery of the people from all over the world.

[No, Fabian, where's the V? Hahahahahaha. You always bragged about how you would be the one to get to Level 600 first?]

[It's because Fabian is the successor of the 'God of Growth and Development'. In other words, the EXP that he can acquire is three times that of the EXP that the Food God can acquire.]

[Wow. After seeing this, don't you think that the Food God is really amazing? How did he level up so quickly?]

[I agree that he is really Our Lord, the Food God. But Fabian? I think he's just a f*cking God, or something, right?]

[Pfft... I think it's better to call him a moron, no?]

[He has always been very sarcastic during interviews with regards to the Food God.]

[‘I’m going to be the first to reach Level 600! No one else will be able to move faster than me and achieve Level 600.’ That’s what he said. Wasn’t that just aimed at the Food God?]

[Yeah, yeah. He’s just a f*cking god.]

Thanks to all of the interviews that Fabian had made all over the world, Minhyuk’s achievement as the first to reach Level 600 had even more impact and influence.

“Sir Fabian, the people from all over the world are asking you to keep your promise.”

“...”

That was right. Fabian had vowed in one of his interviews that if Minhyuk was the one that achieved Level 600 faster than him, then he would go to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, bow in front of him and ask him to accept him.

Fabian knew. *‘I have to handle things well at times like this.’*

That was how Fabian was. He was someone that knew how to play tricks. It just so happened that he did not belong to any guild. So, Fabian planned to go to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom to fulfill his promise and tell this to Minhyuk, “I swear my eternal loyalty and allegiance to you and promise to overcome hardships and adversities with you. I respect you.”

It would definitely make him into a cool ranker that could accept the results of his defeat! He would even promise to help the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and further advance the kingdom! Only then would the criticisms from the world die down.

“Everyone, please head to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. From today onward, I will be a part of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.”

Various BJs and reporters from all over the world had gathered in front of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Fabian had contacted the BJs and asked them for a favor.

—Please make it so that I will have the image of someone that graciously accepts the results.

Indeed, the public's opinion was often led around by the words of someone else. Besides, what was the BJs' specialty? It was talking, right? There were also numerous broadcasting cameras that were preparing to film Fabian, who had been pushed out of his number one position and settled in the number two position. They were excited to see him enter and serve the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Fabian was riding a black horse and was heading toward Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Just as they had promised, the BJs and broadcasting companies began filming.

"Fabian has arrived."

"Fabian, who was ranked number one in the world up until recently, made a vow not too long ago. He has come to keep it."

"Fabian, who accepted the results graciously and moved straight to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, is worthy of applause."

As he rode on the black horse, Fabian thought, *'It must be directed in a way that I look cool.'*

This board was something that he set up himself. So, they had to do it in a way that they could create a movie-like effect. He continued to ride his black horse and went around the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, while showing a bittersweet smile on his face.

"So, this is the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom..."

The guards on the wall immediately asked him, "Who goes there?!"

"Speak, who are you?!"

Fabian, with a gracious smile on his face, said, "I am Fabian. Please tell His Majesty Minhyuk that I, Fabian, have come to pledge my allegiance to him."

"...?"

The guards looked at him in doubt. Nevertheless, they still hurried to make a report.

Meanwhile, Fabian got off his horse and looked back at the walls. Then, he began to talk like one of those knights in a medieval movie. "This is the kingdom that I must now serve and protect. The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom..."

He was looking at the walls while talking like that, as though he was in some medieval play.

"His Majesty Minhyuk has arrived!!!"

Hearing that loud cry, Fabian walked over from the walls and went to a place where Minhyuk could see him well.

Minhyuk appeared on the walls. His body was covered in dirt and he looked very tired. It seemed that he had just returned from somewhere not too long ago.

Fabian hurriedly knelt on one knee, a reverent and courteous look on his face. "I am Fabian. I came running here for you, Your Majesty Minhyuk."

"..."

He banged his hand on his chest and continued, "I want to live for you and your kingdom."

Fabian's expression was determined and showed his will.

"Look at Fabian's eyes. Although he had been pushed down by Minhyuk from his number one ranking, it seems like he has no regrets because it was all fair play."

Fabian, who continued to thump his chest, said as he brought down his other knee, "I will stand by your side and promise to protect you forever!"

The people from all over the world discussed the matter enthusiastically.

[He's trying to keep his promise. Like a true man.]

[This was the man that ranked first in the world before. Even though there's nothing special about him, he's still a ranker that could bolster Beyond the Heavens' forces.]

[Kghhk. With this, Beyond the Heavens Kingdom will become tougher, no?]

[Yes, once Beyond the Heavens Kingdom absorbs Fabian.]

"Fabian."

"Yes, please speak."

"Who are you?"

"...?"

"???"

[???

???

At that moment, question marks appeared in the heads of the people from all over the world.

"Th, that... I'm Fabian. I don't know how else I should put it?"

"No, I mean... am I supposed to know who you are?"

Then, at that moment.

[Hahahahahahahahahahahahaha.]

[Hahahahahahahahahahahahahahahahahahaha.]

[Ah, crazy. Hahahahahahahahaha. Shit, I drooled. Hahahahahahaha.]

[Hehehehehehehehehehehehehe.]

[Ah. Hahaha. Fabian looks constipated. Minhyuk doesn't know who he is.]

[But that's possible, right? Him not knowing the fact that Fabian is the one that's ranked first in the official rankings. Haha.]

At that moment, one of the broadcasting stations' officials raised his voice and explained to Minhyuk who Fabian was.

'Hoo. Right, you may not know me but I'm Level 599. I'm the guy that's closest to you in level. Do you understand now? Do you know how big an increase in power the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would gain if I joined you?'

'Now, open your arms wide and accept me!'

"I pledge to serve you. I promise that this is not a false allegiance! I promise with all my heart that I will serve and protect you and the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!!!"
Fabian declared, his head bowed down. Since he declared this much, it was a given that Minhyuk would accept him with open arms.

"No, who's going to take you in? Why are you creating a scene all by yourself when I didn't even say anything about accepting you?"

"..."

Indeed, Minhyuk had never mentioned anything about accepting him. In all honesty, Minhyuk knew about Fabian. He was the number one ranker in the world and he was chasing Minhyuk's current level. Of course, he was also aware of Fabian's past arrogant and impudent words.

Minhyuk was someone that would not accept Fabian just because he could increase the Beyond the Heaven's Kingdom's power. Besides, he was someone that had insulted Minhyuk and spoke sarcastically about him.

'You reap what you sow.'

Everyone that watched the scene were confused.

[Doesn't the Food God look colder than normal?]

.

[That's right. He's usually friendly and polite.]

[Guys, think about it. An unknown player suddenly appears in front of you and declares, 'Accept me in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!'. Do you think a busy person like Minhyuk would feel good about it? And haven't you heard it before? Fabian had been talking shit about Minhyuk through his interviews.]

[I see, so that's the case.]

Fabian looked baffled. Was there someone like him that would not like the ranked number one in the world?! However, Fabian could not back down either.

“This Fabian might not be good enough but I promise to lay my life down for the sake of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom...”

“Let’s get things straight here.” Then, Minhyuk said firmly. “I don’t know you. But it seems like you have been doing a lot of interviews and speaking ill of me, no?”

“...”

“I’ve seen quite a lot of your interviews and you have always spoken sarcastically about me and insulted me. To be honest, I feel bad to hear someone I don’t know speak nonsense like that about me.”

“...”

“But now, I have achieved Level 600 faster than you. Because of that, the people are mocking and cursing you. So, to change the public’s unfavorable view of you, you moved here to stay true to your promise. Isn’t it like that?”

“...”

“Aren’t you a f*cking bastard then?” Minhyuk’s expression turned cold.

His charisma and majesty as the King of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom completely overwhelmed Fabian. Amidst the live broadcast of the BJs and broadcasting stations from all over the world that had zoomed in on Minhyuk and Fabian, he spoke coldly, “Get lost, you f*cking bastard.”

Chapter 752: The Life Elixir

Minhyuk had immediately returned to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom after finishing what he needed to do in Mandala’s Prison. After returning, he immediately logged out. However, because he logged out immediately after coming back to the kingdom, he still looked dirty and haggard even though he was able to fully rest in reality.

He entered his office and checked the set of notifications that rang in his ears when he achieved Level 600, since he could not check earlier.

[Your achievement will be spread all over the world.]

[You will receive a reward for reaching Level 600!]

[All five of your basic stats will increase by 8%.]

[Your resistance to abnormal status will increase by 10%.]

[Your basic physical and magical attack will increase by 5%.]

[Your basic physical and magical defense will increase by 5%.]

[You have reached Level 600. You can now acquire a new class! You can also acquire a God class!]

“...?!”

Minhyuk was very surprised when he saw that he could transfer to a new class. However, what was surprising here was the fact that a player could have two God classes! Of course, a God class was very hard to come by. In fact, there were only a select few players that could change to a God class. However, what was certain was that Minhyuk would definitely become stronger than he was right now if he could get another God class.

But then, the notifications continued.

[You possess the classes: Food God and Eccentric Gourmand.]

[You will only be able to acquire a new class if you give up one class.]

[You are the first player to achieve Level 600.]

[You will receive a special privilege. You will receive guidance to a legendary and God class.]

It seemed that he had received a special privilege that would guide him to where a God class was.

In fact, Minhyuk had realized that the Eccentric Gourmand class was not as useful to him as he initially thought. Eccentric Gourmand was a class that would give him special privileges whenever he cooked and ate dishes using eccentric ingredients. But after having it for some time, he realized that these privileges overlapped with his Food God class. That was why he judged that he did not need it.

“I choose to give up the Eccentric Gourmand.”

[You have given up on the Eccentric Gourmand!]

[You can now acquire a new class.]

[You have one year to choose a new class!]

[Please look at the guide for your new class!]

[Legendary One-Shot Kill Ruvoir’s Descendant.]

[God of Tomb Raiders Favron’s Descendant.]

[Legendary Swift-footed Asphen’s Descendant.]

[God of Escape Karnbel’s Descendant.]

[God of Knowledge Apollo’s...]

“...”

Minhyuk rubbed his chin in thought.

Surprisingly, he could also check the detailed information of the classes that were presented to him just like this:

[The God of Tomb Raiders is a class that specializes in digging through various tombs and dungeons and obtaining relics and antiques! It is a very useful class if you are hoping to build more wealth, with the God of Tomb Raiders guiding you once every month to new graves or dungeons!]

Minhyuk, who clicked on the classes one after another could not help but frown. *‘All of them are no good.’*

The Legendary One-Shot Kill class allowed the user to one-shot kill their opponents. As for the God of Knowledge, it was a class that could increase one’s INT and WIS, through more knowledge and information they gathered from Athenae. This was a class that was useful for mages, but not for Minhyuk.

Gods and legends were also divided into ranks and everything that was presented to him were low-ranking classes.

Ring!

[Something surprising has happened!]

[Many of the gods that are interested in you are willing to guide you into their successor’s paths!]

.

“...?”

Minhyuk was quite shocked. He had some ties with the gods, but he also clashed with quite a few of them. To think that there were a few that were willing to give him a chance to become their descendant.

[God of Cooking’s Descendant.]

Arlene, the God of Cooking, could make better dishes than Minhyuk with considerably higher buff effects. In fact, the greatest Food God, Ravier, was both the Food God and the God of Cooking. However, Minhyuk thought differently. This was an opportunity to receive a new class. Should he waste it in a class that overlapped with his original class?

‘Grandma, I’m sorry but I’m not attracted to the God of Cooking class.’

But that was not the end yet.

[God of Will’s Descendant.]

“...!”

Minhyuk had heard several notifications from the God of Will when he was doing repetitive labor before. It was obvious that the god was greatly interested in him. Of course, Minhyuk also coveted the endless skills that the god possessed. However, just like the name ‘God of Will’ suggested, he would only be able to exert strength if there was an effort. Still, it was very tempting. In the end, Minhyuk still shook his head.

[Sword God’s Descendant.]

The notification was quite moving. After all, he would be able to take over his beloved teacher. However, Minhyuk’s sword attack power and skills could be considered to be top notch already.

Then, a startling notification rang.

[God of Origin’s Descendant.]

Athenae was the mother of all of the gods and the Absolute God that ruled all over Athenae. The fact that he could become her successor was enough to make him shudder. The only problem was that it was impossible to confirm the benefits of the class even if he clicked on the detailed information. Minhyuk was the first knight recognized by Athenae.

As of now, he was most attracted to the God of Origin's Descendant.

However, something even more shocking rang in his ears.

[Battle God's Descendant.]

"...!"

Minhyuk was taken aback.

The Battle God had recently made a bet with Minhyuk. After losing the bet, the Battle God had admitted the things that he did wrong and even rewarded Minhyuk. He even personally gave advice to Minhyuk during Gaerna's hunt. With the appearance of this notification, Minhyuk grew attracted to the 'Battle God's Descendant' class.

But then, the notifications rang again.

Ring!

[The gods who are looking at you are arguing and trading harsh words with each other.]

"...?"

Any other Athenae player would be surprised to see such a notification. Most of the gods that had wanted to guide him on the path of being their successors were outstanding and incredible gods.

[The God of Origin spoke sternly with a firm expression on her face.]

[Children.]

[The Gods hurriedly closed their mouths.]

[The God of Cooking's eyes looked as if she was asking 'M, Mom?']

[The God of Will blurts out, 'M, Mother. Th, that...']

[The Battle God remained silent.]

"...?"

As expected of Athenae, those majestic and dignified gods immediately shut their mouths with just a single word from her.

[The God of Origin tells you to exercise caution when choosing.]

That was right. Minyuk also did not have to choose right away.

'But if I have to choose right away, then...'

Minhyuk had already seen all of the information except for the God of Origin's Descendant. In short, the class that he was most interested in was none other than...

'Battle God.'

Minhyuk was most interested in this class.

Then, at that moment...

“Your Majesty, someone named Fabian has come to find you.”

The sly Fabian, who had spoken sarcastically about Minhyuk, tried to make up for the words that he carelessly spilled by pretending that he was someone that could graciously accept the results.

However, Minhyuk had treated him coldly, even going so far as to growl at him, “Get lost, you f*cking bastard.”

In terms of level, Fabian was the world’s number one. That was until a few days ago.

Countless broadcasting stations and BJs from all over the world were currently broadcasting the scene in front of them. Fabian had turned into a complete laughing stock. Minhyuk had deliberately pointed out everything from beginning to end so that all of the viewers could understand. At one point in time, the opinions of the viewers that said that Fabian was ‘a real man among men’ and that he was ‘someone that knows how to keep his promises’ had made a complete turn.

[Now that I hear that, isn’t that just right?]

[Wow. Isn’t he a f*cking trash, then?]

[When did he badmouth Minhyuk? That’s ridiculous.]

The BJs and reporters immediately sent whispers to Fabian. They were telling him that the viewers’ opinion and reaction had made a drastic turn.

—I will make sure to pay you back ten times what you did to me.

Minhyuk was just that kind of person. He would make sure to pay Fabian, who dared to provoke him recklessly like that, tenfold of what he did to him.

As mentioned before, Fabian had a huge inferiority complex. He was completely arrogant because his level was high. However, his ego and self-esteem was at rock bottom. Because he did not garner any attention at all. In that situation, when he suddenly heard Minhyuk’s words, there was only one reaction.

“You m*therf*cker!!!”

Fabian completely cast aside all pretense, just like what Minhyuk wanted. Of course, he would not be able to swallow that anger down. The BJs and the reporters hurriedly sent whispers to try and calm him down but he ignored them.

“I will obviously give a huge boost to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom if I join you! But what?! Huh?! You’re telling me to get lost?!”

He was right. There would obviously be a boost in their military strength and power. Although Fabian did not receive much attention, he was still someone that reached Level 599. Simply put, he had a higher amount of stats and skills compared to others. On top of that, once rumors about Fabian joining the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had spread, many people would be interested in the kingdom once again.

A good idea flashed in Minhyuk's head. "Are you that strong?"

Minhyuk tilted his head while sporting an expression that screamed, '*I never heard of you before.*' Anyway, if this plan was executed well, then the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would usher in a huge issue and gain more attention. Of course, it would also allow him to pay back ten times more of what he did to him while also increasing his reputation.

Fabian's lips twisted into a smile. "I'm the renowned number one in the global level rankings... No, I'm number two now."

"Hmm." Minhyuk looked at Fabian from head to toe before grinning widely. "Right. But I don't even know who you are?"

"This #\$%#@#@\$@." Fabian's spat out curses, drawing the ire and criticism of the viewers. Then, in a fit of rage, Fabian declared, "Then, you should see it for yourself!!!"

He took the bait. Even though Fabian was the one that said those words, he also found it impossible. He knew that Minhyuk was a player that could easily trample on him.

"But looking at your expression, it seems like you don't want to compete, no?"

"W, what...!" Fabian's face turned red after hearing Minhyuk's provocation. It put a crack on his pride and ego.

"Shall we do this then?" Minhyuk crossed his arms as he looked down arrogantly at him. "If you can successfully land three attacks on me within a minute, then I will bow down and apologize to you. Ah, I'll also give you a legendary grade dish that I have made. Let's also add 30,000 platinum to the mix."

"..."

Fabian's thoughts whirled fast. Thirty thousand platinum was a huge amount. All he needed to do was to attack thrice in a minute? That was something that he definitely could do.

It had to be known that Fabian was a Knight Class, which was further divided into different categories—those that specialized in STR, those that specialized in AGI, and those that specialized in skills. Fabian was a knight that specialized in AGI. He could quickly cut down his enemies with his sword.

Well, it did not matter what happened anymore. After all, Fabian's image had already been completely tarnished. He would just take this opportunity to show the world how he would trample on the Food God.

"Come down, you damn bastard!!!" Fabian shouted enthusiastically.

Meanwhile, the BJs and the people all over the world were discussing the sudden turn of events.

[Even if Minhyuk has overtaken Fabian in the global rankings, it would be impossible to stop Fabian from landing an attack thrice in a minute.]

[That's right. He has countless skills. I believe he would be able to attack thrice.]

Indeed. Players had skills. And high-leveled players like them would often have AOE skills. If Fabian attacked with an AOE skill, it was likely that he would win this bet instantly.

Minhyuk jumped down from the walls, his feet gently landing on the ground. At the same time, power swelled in Fabian's body.

[Master of Speed.]

[Movement and Attack Speed has doubled.]

[Skill activation time has been reduced by 50%.]

'He shouldn't have made this bet.'

That was what Fabian believed as he ran in front of the cameras and the BJs.

'This damn bastard!!!'

Fabian raised his sword and aimed for Minhyuk. But then, black energy suddenly appeared and swirled around Minhyuk's body.

[Food God's Swordsmanship.]

[Your attack speed and movement speed have increased by 40%. Your physical and magical defense have increased by 30%.]

[Your cutting power has increased by 60%, sword attack by 30%, and all sword-related skills' damage by 20%.]

[Your critical hit rate has increased by 50%.]

[The skill duration is eight minutes.]

This was none other than the Food God's Swordsmanship's buff effect.

Fabian was quite shocked to see the cold look in Minhyuk's eyes while black energy swirled around his body. However, that did not reduce the confidence that he had in himself.

Then, Minhyuk said, "Food God's Swordsmanship."

This was the first time that Fabian had heard about the 'Food God's Swordsmanship.'

Clack—

While Fabian was left in doubt, Minhyuk pulled his sword out of its sheath as he passed by Fabian.

"...Sword of Carnage."

Active Skill

Effects:

?The opponent cut down by your sword will suffer from thirty eight sword attacks in one second.

?One of the sword attacks will have 2,000% additional damage.

?There's a 100% chance of ignoring all defenses.

Slaaaaaaaash—

Minhyuk cut down Fabian with his sword. Then, he sheathed his sword, turned around and went back to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's gates.

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh—!

“Keuuuuuack! Urrrrk! Aaaaack!” Fabian shrieked and screamed as his HP dropped at a ridiculous rate. Once the thirty eight attacks ended, Fabian turned to ashes and disappeared into the wind.

[...!]

[...!]

[...!]

The entire world was left in shock. One of the viewers that watched the scene could not help but mutter:

[One shot, one kill...?]

Chapter 753: The Life Elixir

The first, second, and third most-searched terms on all of the portal sites in the world were related to the Food God. He had basically dominated all internet traffic.

‘One shot, one kill’ meant that one had killed their enemy in one attack, a feat that was only possible if there was a huge difference in levels.

[Fabian is at Level 599. His total HP, an accumulation of the HP he received during level ups and the increase with his countless titles, must be incredibly high. But...]

[I know, right. But with just one shot...?]

[Wow. This is crazy.]

[What the hell is Food God's Swordsmanship? Isn't Minhyuk using Ellie's Swordsmanship?]

That was right. Minhyuk, during his early days in Athenae, had always used the swordsmanship that he learned from Ellie.

[I haven't seen him use Ellie's Swordsmanship recently.]

[That's right. As his level increased, the frequency at which he used Ellie's Swordsmanship decreased.]

All of the players knew that it was inevitable. It was a cause of concern for the public. After all, the Food God was a non-combat class. Combat classes could acquire additional alternative skills

whenever they leveled up. Conversely, Minhyuk would not be able to acquire those combat skills, and instead only gain skills related to cooking. In other words, he would end up lagging behind his peers.

However, Minhyuk's Food God's Swordsmanship's 'Sword of Carnage' was able to force Fabian to log out. Because of that, the people could not help but to pay huge attention to the Food God's Swordsmanship.

[Aren't swordsmanship divided into several chapters?]

Swordsmanship, unlike other skills, was usually divided into several chapters. Hence, one could display and use several skills within a swordsmanship skill.

[Wow. But to tell you the truth, I never expected that he would be able to one shot, one kill Fabian...]

[Is this even realistically possible...? No matter how strong the skill is, Fabian is still second in the rankings.]

Just like what the other players were saying, it should be impossible for most high level players to one shot their opponents who were on a similar level. However, the Sword of Carnage sent 38 sword attacks with 2,000% additional damage toward the enemy. There was also the part where it could ignore defense.

[Fabian, although he was ranked first in the global rankings before, is known for being a beggar.]

Fabian was known for not having any 'God-rank' artifacts among all of his equipment. People estimated that the man had at most three legendary rank artifacts. This just meant that Fabian's gamer luck was extremely bad.

There was also Minhyuk's title, 'Pioneer', which had great effects.

Unique Title

?A 20% increase in your equipped weapon's basic attack and skill attack.

?A +1 in skill levels of all skills in your possession.

?Whenever a surprising achievement is gained, special rewards and world messages can be obtained.

Because of the Pioneer's +1 in skill level and +20% in equipped weapon's basic attack, the Sword of Carnage could exert even more power.

Minhyuk slowly walked back to the place where Fabian had died. It seemed like he had left behind a ring and some gold.

[You have acquired 121 platinum.]

[You have acquired the Ring of Growth.]

Upon checking the item, Minhyuk found out that it was an item that could permanently increase one's EXP acquisition rate by 10%. It was an item that was very useful to him. But then, at that moment, something very unexpected happened.

The entire world turned red as strong waves appeared in the sea and lightning fell down on the ground.

Vwoooooooooooooooooong—

A strong and powerful storm engulfed all of Athenae.

[The Greatest God is furious at what the ugliest gods had done. Strong waves rose from the sea and lightning bolts fell down from the sky with her wrath.]

“...?!”

“What, what's happening?!”

The players, shocked by the sudden turn of events, could only wonder about what was happening.

[The Greatest God purges the gods, who had taken away a man's freedom by trapping and inflicting eternal pain on him because they were jealous of his talents.]

Crackle, crackle, crackle, crackle—

Everyone in Athenae, including both players and NPCs, turned to look at the howling skies.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack!”

“A, aaaaaaaaaack!”

“Motheeeeeeeer!”

“F, forgive... aaaaaack!”

Screams and shrieks rang loudly in the skies above them.

Craaaaaaack—

Craaack—

Crack—

[The ones that followed the Greatest God took their swords and attacked those gods, stabbing them in the neck and filling the Land of the Gods with their screams.]

“...”

“...”

Many held their breaths as the wrath of the Greatest God Athenae unfolded, along with the purge of the gods.

Of course, what followed next was the question, *‘Who was the person that incurred the jealousy of the gods and was trapped by them?’*

[The Greatest God looks sadly at the man as he walks silently on his own path.]

[The Greatest God returns the memories and the history of the man, stolen and sealed by the gods.]

At the same time, the name of the man appeared in the minds of the people from all over the world. Most of the people that knew of the man were either almost a hundred years old or over a hundred years old.

Athenae had hundreds of millions of people all over the world. There would certainly be a lot of people that were over a hundred years in age. Some of them had lived longer because they were strong and powerful legends, while some lived longer than the others because they had long lifespans.

An old woman, who was sitting on her rocking chair, looked at her young granddaughter and began to tell a tale, speaking as if she was reading from a fairy tale book. "A long, long time ago, there was a man that was so talented in alchemy that the gods grew jealous of him. The man had a beautiful wife that was pregnant with their child. For the sake of his wife, who was weak in nature, the man climbed mountains and crossed seas just so he could make a potion that could cure and revive even those that died."

Many people from all over the world began to remember the man.

In a bar.

A hundred-year-old man that had lost all of his teeth drank some black lager and told the story of the man, as if he was speaking about a hero's story in the past.

"He finally completed it! The best potion in existence, a potion that can revive even the dead! But what did he get in return for this feat?! The gods grew jealous of him! They threw him in a prison and gave him eternal life, so that he would not die and suffer for all eternity. He has been living in pain and suffering!!!"

In a small village somewhere.

"Around a hundred years ago, a huge epidemic broke out in our village. More than 2,000 people suffered and died. However, a man, who said that he was trying to make a potion for his wife, appeared and made a medicine that cured the epidemic for us."

The legend in a small village that had disappeared before, finally resurfaced. The statue of the man once toppled over by the gods was rebuilt.

The young girl, who was listening to her grandmother tell a fairy tale-like story, asked, "What's the name of the man?"

The people listening to the story inside the Black Lager Pub gathered around and asked, "Old man, what's the man's name?!"

And the villagers, who escaped the epidemic, moved to confirm the name written beneath the statue.

"Mandala. His name is Mandala." The old lady smiled at her granddaughter.

The old man drinking black lager slammed his mug down on the table. “The Legendary Alchemist, Mandala.”

As for the villagers, this was the name that greeted them: ‘*Our Hero, Mandala.*’

All of the villagers bowed their heads and expressed their gratitude.

Meanwhile, in places all over the world, praises of Mandala began to ring out.

“Mandala. His talent in alchemy is second to none in this world,” someone said.

“Aaaaaah~ Mandala~ The man that incurred the envy of the gods~”

That was not all, the name of this legend was also engraved in the hearts of all those that studied and practiced alchemy.

[The Greatest God watched the man as he walked away after gaining his freedom.]

[After being imprisoned for the longest time, Mandala finally became free.]

[The Greatest God looked at his lonely figure and spoke to him...]

[Child.]

Everyone held their breaths as Athenae’s ethereal voice rang in their ears.

[Do you resent them?]

“...”

“...”

Everyone was rendered speechless as the world message, which had been ringing non-stop in their ears, explained Mandala’s situation.

Although he successfully created the elixir, Mandala still failed to hand it over to his wife. He had been dragged away and imprisoned by the gods, suffering for a long time. When he finally broke free, what greeted him was his wife’s cold grave.

Clench—

“These bastards!!!”

“How could they do that?!!!”

“Mandala, it’s fine to be mad! You deserve to be angry!!!”

“Gods!!! How can you treat us humans like bugs!!!”

Many fully understood Mandala and his feelings. Then, Mandala’s voice rang in their ears.

[I resent them.]

Not long after, Athenae’s voice rang once again.

[There are some that I haven’t purged yet. I will give you the power to do as you please with them, kill them if you may.]

Vwoooooooooooooooooong—!

The wind blew even harder, sweeping across the entire world of Athenae. Then, a startling notification rang in everyone's ears.

[Mandala is turning into the Evil Incarnate.]

[There is a high chance that Mandala, who will turn into the Evil Incarnate, will go berserk.]

Both players and NPCs alike felt fear. They knew that Mandala was very pitiful. However, they did not know what would happen if Mandala went berserk.

One after another, the people caught sight of Mandala walking silently by himself as a black pillar of light fell down from the sky and engulfed his entire figure.

Black wings like that of the demons sprouted from behind Mandala's back. Through it all, Mandala kept on walking, as if he already had a destination in mind. The trees started to wither and dry as life was sucked out of the places that Mandala passed by. Even the verdant grass turned gray and crumbled into pieces. Mandala, the man that had traversed the world for the sake of his wife, was slowly transforming into the Evil Incarnate.

Someone, who was watching him walk like that, murmured, "If he continues on that path, then...?"

"Isn't that the path toward the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?"

The power that God Athenae had given Mandala was surging in his veins. The black pillar that fell down from the sky struck his body and tried to transform him and make him into the Evil Incarnate. Even so, Mandala just continued to walk silently.

Did he resent them? Yes, of course. After all, they deprived him of witnessing even the end of his wife's life. Did he want to take revenge on them? That was right. Mandala wanted to wring the necks of the gods that forced him in this situation.

As he continued to walk, a huge wall appeared in his sight. Mandala looked up at the sky bitterly and said, "But you know..." a teary smile flashed on his face. "My wife is a good person."

[...]

"My daughter, Leny, had grown up so beautifully and brilliantly, living her own version of a happily ever after."

].

[...]

"They wouldn't want me to become like this."

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

The black demon-like wings that sprouted on Mandala's back slowly disappeared as the black pillars of light that fell from the sky scattered into nothingness.

Thud, thud, thud, thud—

As he continued on his path, Mandala's eyes caught sight of someone. There were countless BJs and broadcasting stations officials around this individual, who smiled quietly as he watched Mandala approach him.

Seeing that smile, the Greatest God felt an indescribable emotion well up in her chest.

[Athenae delivers the voice of Mandala, who has given up on becoming the Evil Incarnate!]

[I have nowhere to go now.]

The faint smile on the man's face remained as Mandala continued to approach him.

[Whenever I think about where I should go, you are the only thing that comes to mind. Now, I'm...]

[I just want to laugh, cry and grow old.]

Mandala arrived in front of the man. This time, a pillar of white light fell down on his body from the sky above.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaa—

When the pillar of light disappeared, Mandala's appearance had already changed. His ragged clothes had turned into a beautiful white robe, and even his hair had been brushed up while his scruffy face had been tidied up. Then, the symbol of a 'fork and knife' crossed together appeared on the back of his robe.

[I want to stay here by your side.]

The man stepped closer to Mandala after hearing those words. Immediately after that, a new world message rang in the world.

[Mandala, who was turning into the Evil Incarnate, refused to become the Incarnate with his own power.]

[The Greatest God has bestowed the position of 'God of Alchemy' to the qualified one!]

[Mandala has become the God of Alchemy!]

The man standing in front of the new God of Alchemy was none other than Minhyuk. With a warm and gentle gaze, Minhyuk smiled brightly and said, "Welcome, Mandala."

Chapter 754: The Life Elixir

Joy Co. Ltd. was immediately put on alert when Mandala started to turn into the Evil Incarnate.

"Did you say that Mandala is turning into the Evil Incarnate?! What in the world is going on?!!"

"Athenae is granting him the position of the 'Evil Incarnate'!!!"

The Story Team's leader was very shocked to hear that. Athenae could give the position of the 'Evil Incarnate' to those that harbored great resentment and anger toward the gods.

From what the Story Team's leader knew, Mandala was supposed to die while trying to escape the prison. However, he came back to life thanks to Gaerna's Life Elixir.

“This is a disaster...” The Story Team’s leader mumbled as he rushed to the conference room.

There were plenty of people already seated inside after grasping the severity of the situation.

One of the board members said, “Isn’t the Evil Incarnate one of the hidden Absolute Gods?”

That was right. The Evil Incarnate was the hidden and final Absolute God. The Evil Incarnate was incredibly and terrifyingly strong. In fact, it was still questionable whether he could be killed if all of the Absolute Gods, including the Battle God, joined forces.

One of the Six Monster Gods, Gaerna, could actually be easily subdued as long as the Luvien Empire had stepped forward. But in the case of the Evil Incarnate? There was no way to control and subdue him.

Just when despair had started to stain the faces of everyone present, a shocking notification popped up on the monitor in front of them.

[Mandala has personally given up the position of the Evil Incarnate.]

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

It was so surprising that even President Kang Taehoon did not even think that this was possible. After all, only those that had great resentment and anger toward the gods were qualified to become the Evil Incarnate.

‘Is Mandala not angry with the gods?’

No, that was not the case at all. If that was truly the case, then the power of the Evil Incarnate would not have sprouted in him when Athenae bestowed it upon him. He was obviously furious. However, he still chose to give up on becoming the Evil Incarnate.

[The Greatest God has bestowed the position of ‘God of Alchemy’ to the qualified one!]

[Mandala has become the God of Alchemy!]

“...”

This was also a very shocking and unexpected notification. However, it was much better than Mandala becoming the Evil Incarnate. It was truly a roller coaster of emotions for the employees of Joy Co. Ltd.

[God of Alchemy Mandala pledges his eternal loyalty and allegiance to Minhyuk!]

The surprise did not end there. Mandala, who was walking toward Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, found Minhyuk and approached him. Minhyuk smiled graciously at Mandala, who was looking at him with sad, bitter eyes.

[Welcome, Mandala.]

President Kang Taehoon stood up from his seat after watching the scene. “Everyone, let’s go. It seems like things have already calmed down to some extent.”

Of course, it was not something that they should just let be. After all, Food God Minhyuk had taken in another god as his vassal. However, even if they gathered now and brainstormed about what they should do, they could tell that nothing would change.

After leaving the conference room, President Kang Taehoon went straight to where Supercomputer Athenae was. There was something that he was very curious about.

“Why didn’t Mandala become the Evil Incarnate?”

That was the question that he had no answer to.

‘Why did Mandala go to Minhyuk’s side? Why did he refuse to become the Evil Incarnate?’

President Kang Taehoon was a very busy person. In fact, he sometimes felt like 24 hours was not enough time in a day. He had lamented as such because he could not strictly monitor Minhyuk’s activities.

[Minhyuk could have taken Mandala to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom by force. However, he did not do so and chose to give him his freedom.]

“...!”

Athenae recounted the story to President Kang Taehoon. She told him how Minhyuk gave up on Mandala and his talents, and opted to give him his freedom.

[And Mandala met his daughter Leny in front of his wife’s grave. After that, he went straight to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

Kang Taehoon remained silent as he listened to Athenae’s voice.

[Mandala went there because he believed that he would be the happiest there.]

“I see. A player actually caught the heart of someone that could become the Evil Incarnate. Hahahahahaha!”

Kang Taehoon’s cheerful laughter echoed in the room.

[Mandala swears his eternal allegiance to you!]

This was the notification that rang in Minhyuk’s ears as he flashed a warm and gracious smile toward Mandala.

[Mandala is the God of Alchemy!]

[Although Mandala is recognized by Athenae to be the God of Alchemy, he still has not fully met the requirements to be fully qualified as one.]

[Once he meets the qualifications, he will be able to gain a new power!]

Mandala, someone that had a talent that even the gods coveted, had become a god. However, it seemed like he was not given the full extent of his powers yet.

‘No, maybe it’s not that he can’t use the entirety of his powers after becoming a god but it’s just that he can’t use his new powers?’

Perhaps it would be better to think that way. Minhyuk hurriedly checked Mandala’s information.

Defense

: 106

?Passive Skill: Talent in Alchemy that Surpasses the Gods

?Guidance of a Teacher

?Potion and Parchment Reproduction

?God’s Potion Creation Arts(Sealed)

?God’s Destruction Creation Arts (Sealed)

?Unconditional production of God-grade potions (Sealed)

“...”

Minhyuk was awestruck. Just like what the notification had said, the power that Mandala had gained after becoming a god had been sealed.

However, the passive skill ‘Talent in Alchemy that Surpasses the Gods’ had an effect that could make any potion that Mandala created 80% better than ordinary potions produced and manufactured by others.

In other words, if an ordinary alchemist player created a potion that could increase one’s HP by 100, Mandala’s potion would be at least 1.5x better. They would also be in the same grade!

Alchemists had a limited amount of potions that they could produce in a day. This limitation was so they could prevent players from making and selling potions in Athenae. Of course, it was not really a huge restriction. High ranking alchemists could produce at least 300 bottles of potions in a day.

Then, what about Mandala?

‘He can produce ten thousand?’

A person that could create ten thousand bottles of potion in a day was insane to think about. Then, there was the Guidance of a Teacher.

‘The rate at which the students that will learn alchemy under him will grow 50% faster than normal...’

Of course, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom already had plenty of alchemists under their command. Alchemy was a very important field in a nation and that was especially the case for soldiers. After all, the soldiers’ death rate would be drastically reduced while their hunting efficiency would increase if they received an effective potion.

Then, there was the Potion and Parchment Reproduction. It was a skill that could allow Mandala to replicate a potion or a parchment for a set number, depending on their grade. Mandala could

replicate normal potions 100 times, magic potions 50 times, rare potions 30 times, epic potions ten times, legendary potions two times, and god potions one time. The skill could only be used once every six months. Even though the cooldown was long, it was still an overpowered skill.

The pure white robe that adorned Mandala's body, a gift from Athenae, carried the symbol of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. After being tidied up, Mandala, with his hair gently falling down his shoulders, looked handsome compared to his earlier scruffy appearance. This was the new God of Alchemy.

Minhyuk looked around and saw how everyone witnessed the birth of the God of Alchemy.

[The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is one step closer to establishing an empire.]

[I can only say that I'm speechless. Speechless after witnessing the crazy steps that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had taken forward right now.]

[We can expect a huge influx of alchemists, both players and NPCs, in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. They're probably hoping that they will be able to learn some special alchemy skills from the God of Alchemy.]

That was right. With the God of Alchemy in their ranks, there would be plenty of players and NPC alchemists that would flock to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Amidst everyone's stare, Mandala and Minhyuk walked inside the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Minhyuk told Mandala to go and rest. However, Mandala said, "I have rested for far too long inside the prison. Your Majesty, please allow me to meet with your alchemists instead."

Mandala had died and was subsequently resurrected and freed by Minhyuk. Somewhere along the way, he became the God of Alchemy. He wanted to do something.

Minhyuk nodded along and led him toward the kingdom's alchemy facility. When they entered, they were greeted by the busy scene of alchemists producing and manufacturing potions.

There were around three hundred alchemists under the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's banner. Most of them had been hired and were paid to create potions between normal grade and magic grade. Only by doing so would they be able to distribute them to the soldiers.

Minhyuk picked up one of the potion bottles and inspected it.

?HP and MP will recover by 25%.

?Vitality will increase by 20%.

With a potion like this, they would be able to receive a platinum from the high-leveled players. After all, most potions that granted recovery in percentages would often have enormous value. However, even though they were in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, they could only produce around thirty of this type of potion every day.

Mandala also checked the details of the potion. Then, he dabbed a finger and tasted the potion, and the look of having tasted something awful flashed on his face.

“As expected.”

“What’s the matter, Mandala? Is there something wrong?”

“Can I tweak this potion?”

Minhyuk nodded readily. After gaining his approval, Mandala moved to the place where advanced potions were being made.

Crackle—

Mandala lit the flames and said, “From what I can tell, this potion seems to be made using some Phoenix Claws, Undine’s Tears and Arrancar’s Tail as ingredients. Am I correct?”

The alchemist stationed on the table looked at Mandala with wide eyes as he answered, “Y, yes. That’s, that’s correct.”

“These ingredients definitely have good effects. However, Arrancar’s Tail and Undine’s Tears would often reduce the potion’s special effects to create a synergistic effect. If you drop a mandragora leaf here, then...”

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaa—

The moment the small leaf entered the potion battle...

[The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s Advanced Potion has been changed!]

Minhyuk hurriedly approached them to check the details of the potion.

?HP and MP will recover by 34%.

?Vitality will increase by 29%.

“...!”

“...Heooooook!”

“Keheooooook!”

“Im, Impossible...!”

Mandala just did a little tweaking, but the HP and MP recovery had increased by 9%. Even the vitality increase was boosted sharply. However, the most important takeaway here was the fact that none of the rare grade potions could be considered as outstanding as the potion that Mandala had tweaked. Both Minhyuk and the alchemists were very shocked with this.

‘I really obtained a great talent!’

Mandala simply dropped a leaf but the effects of the potion changed drastically. What more would happen if Mandala led and taught the alchemists of the kingdom?

[Alchemists from the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom dream of having Mandala as their teacher.]

[If Mandala becomes their teacher the Guidance of a Teacher will allow them to grow at an explosive rate.]

Then, Mandala asked, “Your Majesty, can I stay here and help them?”

Minhyuk, of course, nodded willingly. Then, he started smacking his lips as he recalled something.

The truth was, Minhyuk had a dream. He had asked the alchemists to create many things so far. But each and every one of his requests had failed. It was very hard to keep the effects of the potions while making them the way that he wanted.

“Since we’re at it, can you make a potion like this?!”

“...?” Mandala looked puzzled when he was met with Minhyuk’s eyes that were filled with great anticipation.

‘What in the world...?’

When he heard Minhyuk’s request, he could barely believe his ears. However, he could see the deep longing in Minhyuk’s eyes. So, Mandala sighed to himself and resigned himself to the task with a brief nod.

“I’ll try to make one.”

Mandala started to manufacture a potion right in front of Minhyuk. In less than an hour, he was able to create a top-grade potion.

?HP and MP will recover by 54%.

?Vitality will increase by 37%.

.

?Tastes like Pocari Sweet.

“...”

Minhyuk was thrilled! His body started to tremble as his breathing turned ragged. Slowly, ever so slowly, he took a sip of the potion that Mandala had made. The moment the potion entered his mouth, a sweet and refreshing flavor spread in his mouth. It was the flavor of the masterpiece of sports and ion drinks, Pocari Sweet!

“Sob. Finally...”

Minhyuk had hoped and longed for a delicious potion that he could drink easily! Generally, potions tasted bitter, with some tasting like a bad mixture of several drinks. It was as if all healthy things

had to taste bitter. This had been Minhyuk's greatest woe, a problem that no other alchemist had ever managed to solve, which was the creation of a delicious potion!

"Then, does this mean that I can drink Powerdade-flavored potion, Coca-cora-flavored potion, Hanta-flavored potions now?" Minhyuk wondered aloud, his body trembling in excitement as he clasped Mandala's hands.

"..."

Cold sweat started to drip down Mandala's back.

'What's wrong with this king? I haven't seen anyone act like this before? Have I made the wrong choice?'

Minhyuk, overcome with emotion, said with a tear dripping down his cheek, "Mandala! I have chosen your position!"

"..."

A slight expectation bloomed in Mandala's chest. He was a legendary alchemist. Someone with a talent in alchemy that even the gods were jealous of. He even became the God of Alchemy. What would his position be?

"Beverage Manufacturing Plant Director!"

"???"

"Mandala! You will be the Beverage Manufacturing Plant Director!!!"

Mandala, a talented individual that the gods coveted, had become the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's Beverage Manufacturing Plant Director.

Chapter 755: The War of Destruction

Joy Co. Ltd.

President Kang Taehoon and the other board members were currently holding a meeting. The main content of their meeting was the 'War of Destruction' event.

Team Leader Park Minggyu said, "The reason why we're holding the War of Destruction is to show the world that the master of Athenae is not the Luvien Empire. I believe it's alright to put restrictions on the three dukes. After all, their power is not something that the current players can fight against. It'd be even better if we can prevent them from participating in this event."

"I don't think so." The Story Team's Leader raised his voice. "Just like what Team Leader Park had said, the War of Destruction is an event that will show whether our players can fight against the Luvien Empire or not. If we prevent the three dukes from fighting, then it won't be the actual power of the Luvien Empire, no?"

It was only natural to share their opinions and coordinate with each other during meetings. But this time, it was more special. The War of Destruction would definitely be the most exciting event since the start of Athenae's Second Era.

The Luvien Empire was slowly and steadily conquering the entire continent. In fact, nearly a third of Athenae's territory already belonged to the Luvien Empire.

Many players had their thoughts and discussions about the state of matters.

—I don't know if what we're playing is Athenae or the Luvien Empire.

Because of that, plenty of the players had given up fighting against the Luvien Empire. But could the players truly compete and fight against the Luvien Empire?

“The main purpose of the War of Destruction is to unite the players from all over the world.”

That was right. The War of Destruction aimed to unite all of the players. The players could actually stand up and fight against the Luvien Empire. Quite a few of the top high rankers were comparable to the Swords of the Gods and some of the excellent rankers had the power to push back and fight against their military forces. The only problem was that they were not united.

Even if people all over the world joined forces, it would still be insufficient. People would often reject each other. The reason might be because they were from a different race, or from a different country, or even from a different guild.

Through this War of Destruction, the players would hopefully be able to see this fact. They would be able to see how tough and strong the players could be, if they were united. That they were never second to the Luvien Empire.

“Is the design for the Land of Destruction being completed?”

The Land of Destruction was the continent where the War of Destruction would take place. It was a land that would be temporarily created for the sake of the event. Inside this land, the players would not be subjected to the penalties of a forced logout and the NPCs would not really die.

“Yes, the design for the Land of Destruction is almost finishe...”

Knock, knock—

A knock suddenly rang.

“...?” President Kang Taehoon doubted his ears for a moment. Who would even knock and interrupt them when they were in a board meeting?

“Come in.”

When the door opened, they were greeted with Lee Minhwa, who was breathing heavily. Seeing her, Park Minggyu felt an ominous feeling creep over him.

“P, President. We're in trouble.”

President Kang Taehoon could already feel the onset of a headache with how his temples started to throb.

‘What is it this time?’

The fact that Lee Minhwa ran like this meant that it was definitely a huge deal. Kang Taehoon did not even feel surprised anymore.

“The Battle God has rejected Nerva as the ‘Destruction Monarch’.”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

All of the board members were shocked. President Kang Taehoon jumped up from his seat from the shocking words.

“Connect it and put it on the monitor.”

Lee Minhwa’s computer screen was connected to the monitor in front of them. All of them could not help but groan when they saw the words on the screen.

[The Battle God has rejected Nerva as the Destruction’s Monarch!]

[The Battle God has another person perfect for the job in mind.]

“...What in the world does this mean?”

Battle God’s Sword Nerva was an absolute existence in Athenae, including the Land of the Gods. In fact, even though he was not a candidate or a successor of the Battle God, he was still the closest to the Battle God in terms of might and power. If not Nerva, then was there truly someone else that the Battle God had in mind?

“Who the hell is it?”

‘Which empire are they from? By any chance, could it...?’

“Sword Emperor Ellie?”

Continental Emperor Ellie was the woman that had given up on the position of the Sword God. She was the only one that could stand up to Nerva along with Absolute Monarch Richard, or so Kang Taehoon had evaluated. The next notice threw him off his train of thought.

[The person that the Battle God had in mind that was perfect for the job is a player.]

“...”

It was unbelievable. The great Battle God had a player in mind as the perfect for the job. However, there were far more unbelievable things.

‘The only player that the Battle God had in mind as the perfect person for the job should be the one that was walking the path of the Battle God’s Descendant. But, the Battle God’s Descendant hasn’t appeared yet! Perhaps...’

Was he saying that the player had not chosen him yet? Who in the world would not choose the greatest Absolute God, the Battle God?

“Highlight the Battle God.”

Clack, clack, clack, clack, clack, clack—

Team Leader Park Minggyu hurriedly tapped on his keyboard to show the world above the clouds. They watched as the Battle God sat crossed legged, his posture screaming arrogance as he watched someone with a small smile on his face. The individual that he was watching burst into a fit of laughter.

[Ahahahahaha! As expected, the taste of pocari sweet is the best flavor for potions! Kyaha! This is so delicious!]

[Your, Your Majesty... You have drunk 541 bottles of low-grade potions just because they are delicious!!!]

[Your Majesty, please.]

“...”

“...”

“...”

The person that was laughing loudly while drinking a beverage-flavored potion was none other than the Food God Minhyuk.

Kang Taehoon groaned. “Did the Battle God choose Player Minhyuk to become Nerva’s enemy?”

That was surprising. A foreigner that was not Absolute Monarch Richard, nor Sword Emperor Ellie, was rated higher than Nerva. Of course, Minhyuk was no match for Nerva right now. There was a 99% chance of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom collapsing within a week if they clashed openly against the Luvien Empire.

However, what the Battle God was focusing on, was not the present.

‘He must be thinking that Minhyuk will be able to surpass Nerva in the future.’

It was an interesting thought. However, what they had to do was to put up the ‘fire’ that suddenly flared up in front of them. President Kang Taehoon hurriedly went to Athenae and told the supercomputer to urge the Battle God to change his mind. However, Athenae had told him that it was futile.

[The Battle God does not recognize anyone but Food God Minhyuk as the Destruction Monarch.]

“...”

The War of Destruction was something that the Battle God hosted. It was an event where the Battle God’s chosen Destruction Monarch, the players and the continental NPCs clashed in the Land of Destruction. There was nothing they could do if the Battle God had already decided on this.

President Kang Taehoon could only return back to the conference room without getting anything from Athenae. Seeing him return with an ugly expression, a complex expression flashed on the faces of all of the board members and executives present. If Player Minhyuk became the Destruction Monarch, then they would have to revise everything. Otherwise, they would be faced with a collapse of the entire event.

Then, Team Leader Park said, “There’s that, but don’t we still have the Battle God’s Judge?”

“Ah...!”

“I see, we still have the Battle God’s Judge.”

Who was the Battle God’s Judge? He was the one that had the absolute authority to vote against the Battle God. The Battle God knew that he was not a 100% perfect, so he himself chose the Battle God’s Judge to help him make the right choices.

The Battle God’s Judge had been away from the Battle God for quite some time since he was busy chasing the whereabouts of the Six Monster Gods. But today, the Battle God’s Judge had finally returned.

“The Battle God’s Judge will go to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and see if Minhyuk truly has the qualifications to become the Destruction Monarch. If he fails to meet the expectations, then the Battle God’s Judge will oppose the choice of the Battle God.”

A little ray of hope shone on the faces of the people inside the Joy Co. Ltd.’s conference room.

At the same time.

Achan, the Battle God’s Judge, had arrived at the entrance to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. After returning from years of chasing the whereabouts of the Six Monster Gods under the order of the Battle God, he heard a very ridiculous story from the Battle God’s aide.

—*The Battle God has acknowledged someone else, not Nerva.*

—*The Battle God did what?!*

Achan was very shocked. He had also heard about the person that the Battle God had acknowledged during the process and learned that he was but a king of a small nation, and a continental god, the lowest of gods.

Perhaps something happened to the Battle God’s head? However, Achan shook his head. Even an Absolute God was not a perfect existence. That was why he was here and was acting as the Battle God’s Judge.

Achan was once the successor of the War God. However, even though he was the War God’s Descendant, he liked to follow the Battle God. Because of that, he abandoned his position to work as the Battle God’s Judge.

That was when Achan recalled something. ‘*What else was he about to say to me?*’

Achan tilted his head in thought. He was sure that the aide that told him this story was about to say something more. However, Achan had been in a hurry. After all, he had to change this wrong decision. So, he had left quickly for the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

The arrogant, powerful and tough Judge Achan stepped foot inside the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. There was this deep-seated arrogance on his face as he continued to walk through the streets of the kingdom.

Achan was the War God's Descendant. Even though he was not a complete god, his level alone almost reached Level 750.

'Battle God, you think that the king of this weak nation can stand up against Nerva?'

Achan felt like his vision was turning dark at the thought alone, a helpless sigh escaping his mouth. This seemingly peaceful kingdom was infinitely smaller than the Luvien Empire.

His eyes slowly swept the surroundings as he slowly roamed the kingdom. That was when he caught sight of an old man with a head of black hair.

"Grow, hair, grow!!!"

The old man was shouting as he knocked on his head with a comb.

"...?"

Achan, who watched the old man, saw that there were quite a lot of people that had gathered around the old man. There was a very tall man that appeared with a huge cow next to him. It seemed like the man was a livestock farmer.

.

"Our dear Moo-moo has quite an appetite these days. That's why she's eating more. Hoho."

"I am Conir!!! Conir heard there's a newcomer!!! Conir feels good!!!"

A young boy ran past Achan. From what he could see, the boy had an intellectual disability. Then, another man passed by him again. The man was carrying a net on his back, it seemed like he was a fisherman.

At the same time, a little girl appeared next to the old man. The girl, with a head of silver hair, looked so beautiful. She was also emitting a mysterious aura, like that of a snake.

'A fisherman, a deranged old man, an intellectually disabled boy, a beautiful young lady. What the hell is this?' Achan frowned.

Then, he saw a man, who lost his left arm, wearing an all-black outfit and nibbling on a fish-shaped bread. The man sighed. "Sniff... I made a huge mistake. How can this be?"

"What's the matter, Luo?"

"I should have brought 3,000 gold so I can buy *bungeoppang* on my way home today."

"Goodness, that..."

"Heok!!! Big brother Luo! You're in trouble!!!"

"Sob, sob, sob..."

"...?"

‘No, what the hell is this nation?!’

There were people that became desperate because they forgot to bring 3,000 gold to buy food?!

“I heard that a newcomer has come today.”

“That’s right.” The old man smiled graciously as he patted his hair with his comb. “The newcomer is very tall and handsome.”

“What’s the newcomer’s job?”

“Don’t be surprised. It’s very important...”

‘It’s important?’ Achan unknowingly perked his ears up.

“He’s the Beverage Manufacturing Plant’s director.”

“C, Conir!!! Conir is very jealous of the newcomer!!!”

“Hooo. He has taken on a huge task.”

“That’s a really amazing job.”

“Is it fine to give such a huge task to a newcomer...? Hmm. I’m a bit worried. Being a Beverage Manufacturing Plant’s director is no easy job.”

“...”

Achan was left speechless, another sigh escaping his lips.

“It seems like the Beyond the Heavens’ King and kingdom are really pathetic, huh?”

The moment he said those words, the people that had gathered together and were talking happily suddenly turned toward Achan.

“...?”

The Battle God’s Aide Latte looked very worried. Judge Achan had heard what happened from him earlier and immediately warped himself off.

“Achan... you should have listened until the end.”

Whether it was the past or the present, Achan’s personality had not changed. He was still as impulsive as ever. Because of that, he missed what Aide Latte was about to say.

These were the words that Aide Latte were going to tell him had he not whisk himself away so quickly.

“Achan, there are many incredible men in that territory. They have the Spear God, the Fallen Wretched Emperor, the God of Snakes, a Sword of the Gods, and many more.”

Chapter 756: The War of Destruction

Judge Achan was someone who cared for and loved the Battle God, to the point that he swore his eternal allegiance to the god. He was also among the strong figures who stood by his side. The Battle God also cared deeply for Achan. After all, there were only a few men who had such a pure and loyal heart.

The problem was that Achan had a very hot temper. An impulsive man whose body moved before his mind could think. He had encountered many small problems because of this.

The Battle God gave him the title of a judge and sent Achan far away, saying that he should go and investigate the Six Monster Gods. The Battle God would have loved to have Achan by his side. But whenever he thought about the small incidents that this man had caused him, he could not help but feel his head throb.

Thus, true to his character, Achan said, "It seems like the Beyond the Heavens' King and kingdom are really pathetic, huh?"

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

The moment Achan said those words, the people who had been laughing and talking amongst themselves suddenly turned to look at him. There was a sharp glint in the eyes of the old man with a head of black hair, who had just been knocking on his head with the comb on his hands.

The boy with an intellectual disability was huffing and puffing as he looked at Achan. Even the beautiful girl with silver hair that resembled a snake was looking at him with a pointed look.

The man, who was chewing on a stand of hay, tilted his head and looked at him as if he had heard him wrong. Even the fisherman who was carrying a net on his back placed his luggage down with a tense look on his face.

There was also the man named Luo, who had forgotten to bring 3,000 gold to buy some *bungeoppang*. He pulled up the mask that was resting on his chin until it covered everything below his eyes.

"...?"

Achan finally realized that he had a slip of the tongue in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's territory.

'What the hell is wrong with these pathetic people?!'

Initially, he had thought they were nothing but ordinary people who worked as fishermen, livestock farmers, potion manufacturers and the like. They were unlikely to be important enough to meet their king.

"Ah. I was careless with my words." Achan raised his hand, an embarrassed look flashing on his face.

Then, at that moment, another person appeared.

“Love, Hope, Happiness! Come, fetch!”

Someone threw a ball for the dog, which flew past Achan.

Vwoooooooooong—

However, Achan found it strange. The size of the ball was very unusual.

‘Why is the ball as big as a watermelon?’

By the time the thought flashed in his head, the ground was already trembling.

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud, thud, thud—

“Grrrrrrrrr!”

“Graaaaaaaa!”

“Roaaaaaar!”

Something moved frantically, flying past Achan and biting on the ball that was thrown a bit earlier.

Fwiiiiiiish—

The ball immediately deflated and shrunk as the animal bit it and ran back to where it came from.

“Goodness, our dear Love, Hope and Happiness. Come on, give it to daddy...

Keooooook!”

The man, who came running after the creature for a hug, was sent flying back after getting hit by the charging dog.

‘Which part of that looks like Love, Happiness and Hope?!!!’

Achan looked horrified. However, that was not yet the end.

Clang—

A dark-skinned boy came out while taking off the rubber gloves on his hands. “Phew. I finally finished the three tons of dirty dishes that we had today.”

‘...Three tons?!’

Achan could not help but be shocked.

‘They ordered that little boy to wash three tons of dirty dishes?!’

He felt anger surge within him.

“The Beyond the Heavens’ King is truly pathetic.”

Achan’s idea of a good ruler was someone who thought of the masses. That little boy doing three tons of dishes in a single day must mean that the king did not place any emphasis on welfare! There was even a man who believed that a three-headed creature was a pet dog.

Everyone’s eyes turned to Achan once again the moment those words escaped his lips. Up until then, the entire plaza was boisterous and noisy. However, the moment he said those words, silence engulfed them as all of the people who were walking on the street stopped and stared at him.

Then, the old man with a head of black hair said, “Hey, look here, how dare you belittle His Majesty like that, huh?”

The man, who seemed to be a fisherman, looked at him fiercely. “Who are you? How dare you talk shit about His Majesty?”

Achan’s face turned ugly. “I should go and meet with the Beyond the Heavens King to berate him myself. How dare he force a little boy to do three tons of dishes in a day?!”

The furious Achan huffed as he began to move. “And you?! You are all staying still after seeing this?! After seeing a little boy get exploited and forced to do labor?! I will personally meet with that king...”

But before Achan could even finish his words, the old man had already appeared in front of him and grabbed him by the wrist. “I can’t let you see His Majesty.”

Achan’s face grew even uglier. Even if he was unaware of the inner workings of this kingdom, all he wanted was to try and do something for the poor and pathetic people. He was the only one thinking about their welfare!

‘How dare this old man grab me by the wrist?’

Achan immediately pulled his sword out.

‘...I can’t move?’

To his dismay, Achan realized that he could not move the arm that was being held by the old man. Was it because the old man was using force on him? That was not the case at all.

“You look like a traveler. I say, you should stop kicking up a fuss. His Majesty’s kingdom is very beautiful...”

Before the old man could finish his words, Achan put some strength in his wrists and pulled away from the old man. Achan was the Battle God’s Judge. As the Battle God’s Judge, his power was of a much higher level than that of ordinary gods.

Also, Achan was an arrogant man. He could do what he wanted to do. So, he stretched his hand out and tried to grab the old man’s neck. However, the old man moved faster than him.

Boom—

The old man’s fist slammed straight into the pit of his stomach, forcing Achan to take a few steps back.

“...?!”

Achan, the successor of the War God, was shocked by the power of this black-haired old man.

‘What the hell is up with this old man?’

Shiiiiing—

Achan grabbed the hilt of his sword and pulled it out. Then, he swung it like crazy toward the old man. However, the old man was able to easily evade all of the attacks that Achan had released.

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

At that moment, chains suddenly appeared and wrapped around Achan's ankles, stopping him from moving.

"Move one more step, and you'll lose your feet," the Great Pirate Gorfido, someone who painted the seas red and brought horror to everyone, spoke coldly.

'The fisherman...?'

Achan looked at the man in doubt as he swung his sword and tried to break the chains.

Clank!

The chain could not withstand the force of his attack and broke loose. Achan immediately leaped to the skies. However, the dark-skinned boy was already up there. He was riding a white wolf and moving toward Achan.

"Roaaaaaaaaar!"

"..."

The 'pitiful' boy, who washed three tons of dishes, rode on his white wolf and slammed into Achan. Forced to land on the ground once again, Achan could not help but look at the sky in disbelief.

"What the hell is this kingdom..."

An old man, who looked like he was too weak to hold his own chopsticks, punched him in the gut. He even allowed a mere fisherman to attack him. And there was also that dishwashing boy, who turned out to be the owner of a divine beast.

However, none of that mattered. Achan was the War God's Descendant.

[The War God's Battle Energy is rising!!!]

Vwoooooooooooooong—

The killing intent that slowly spread out from his body began to envelop those that were around him. Achan's ego had been hurt. He was kept in check by a mere fisherman, an old grandpa, and a little boy.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

Achan shot forward toward the old man, his speed not visible to the naked eye.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Then, at that moment, a spear made of light appeared in front of the old man. The old man promptly grabbed the spear and stabbed toward the charging Achan's body, launching multiple thrusts. This time, Achan was fully prepared. He was able to fully defend himself against those attacks.

[The One that Restrains.]

Suddenly, light stretched out from the tip of the beautiful snake-like girl's finger and wrapped around Achan's body.

[You have fallen into a one-second stunned state.]

"...!"

Achan was once again in shock. He was among those with the highest resistance against abnormal status among the gods. Because of that, there were only a select few abnormal conditions that worked on his body. However, he had somehow fallen into a one-second stunned state.

‘Who the hell is that girl...’

Then, the old man’s spear stabbed all over Achan’s body once again.

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

“Keuhaaaaaack!” A shriek escaped Achan’s mouth, who was in disbelief, as he got trampled on the ground.

‘How can this be? He’s nothing but an old man...’

On the other hand, Achan could not help but slowly acknowledge the existence of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

‘A mere old man is very powerful in this nation? And it’s not just him, there’s also that fisherman, that little girl and that young boy that washes the dishes!’

[You, the Battle God’s Judge, is currently judging and evaluating the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

[You are slowly recognizing the existence of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

Indeed, much to his chagrin, Achan could not help but acknowledge and admit the existence of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. However, he still had to maintain the pride of the Battle God’s Judge. He could not allow himself to be easily beaten by these people.

[War God’s Authority.]

Achan called upon the power that he once used when he was still the War God’s Descendant, increasing his own power by 1.5x and transferring the power to his sword, allowing him to cut down anything.

Flaaaaaash—

Achan, who had been lying on the ground, jumped up and shot toward the old man.

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

Finally, Achan forced the old man to go on the defensive.

“Hoho. What an amazing friend.”

Flaaaaaash—

Achan looked at the old man in wonder. Why was he still moving leisurely despite being forced on the defensive? Achan raised his sword and aimed for the old man’s neck.

“I can’t allow this to go on any further.”

Baaaaaaang—

Achan's body fell forward as an indescribable pain gnawed at his entire body, down to his very bones.

The gigantic and muscular livestock farmer had smacked Achan on the back of his head. Even though the man had just smacked him on the head, Achan could not get his senses together. He scurried to stand up from the ground. Before he could even do so, the livestock farmer had already moved at lightning speed. And with his bare fist, he began to punch the proud and arrogant Achan.

Punch— punch, punch, punch, punch— Boom— Boom, boom, boom, boom—

“Keuaaaaaaaack!” Achan screamed. The man's fists moved so fast that he could not even see them with his naked eye. But that was not all; the force behind those punches was so strong that all he could do was scream loudly.

[You are surprised beyond belief. You can only acknowledge the existence of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!]

Even though his body was screaming from the pain, as the judge, he could not help but acknowledge the kingdom in front of him. Even this kingdom's livestock farmers were this strong?!

‘It, it seems like they are a lot better than the Luvien Empire...’

Of course, this conclusion was only made since Achan had only seen one side of them. Then, at that moment, Achan saw a man running toward them. Achan realized that he was the Beyond the Heavens' King.

The Beyond the Heavens King would have surely heard a notification the moment Achan entered the territory, like this, *‘The Battle God's Judge will begin the examination.’*

The Battle God was great and mighty. His name carried a lot of weight. The king of a nation would definitely come running and stop his people from beating Achan up and probably even help him stand up and shake the dirt off of his body. Achan was even sure that he would condemn these ordinary folk who made him suffer like this.

Minhyuk, who came running at record speed, asked, “Grandpa, what's the matter?”

Then, Ben explained what happened one after another. Of course, Achan knew that he had been a little arrogant when he first came in here. However, once they knew who he was, they would definitely understand why he acted that way.

“What? He cursed me, spoke ill of me out of the blue, and even attacked Grandpa Ben when you tried to stop him?!”

“Hoho. That's about right, Your Majesty.”

“No, then isn't he a bad guy?!”

“???”

Achan could not understand. He was sure that the man in front of him already knew that he was the Battle God's Judge.

“So what if you’re the Battle God’s Judge? What the hell? You came to someone else’s kingdom and laid your hands on my people?!”

“???”

That was right. The man obviously knew who he was.

“Your Majesty, what should we do?”

“Teach him a lesson. Just make sure not to kill him and then send him back.”

“...?”

Immediately after that, all of the people present began to beat Achan up.

Punch, punch. Stomp, stomp! Bang, bang, bang!

“Heuk! Ack! Urk! Hiiik! Keooooook!”

The board members and executives of Joy Co. Ltd. flocked to the conference room once again despite their busy schedules. Since they were the pillars of the company, they just could not sit idly by and watch the monitor all day. That was why they had to get back to work and could only rush back whenever there was something important happening.

Following President Kang Taehoon’s orders, they set up and turned on the monitor.

They watched as the ex-War God’s descendant, Battle God’s Judge Achan knelt before the Battle God.

Meanwhile, the board members and executives could not help but wonder as they looked at Achan through the screen.

“What’s the matter with Achan’s face?”

“It looks like someone beat him up?”

Indeed, Achan’s face was all puffed up. It was obvious that he had been pummeled.

Not long after, the contents of the report that Achan had made for the evaluation appeared on the screen in front of them.

[Battle God’s Judge Achan has evaluated that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is far superior to the Luvien Empire.]

“...?”

“???”

“???”

Then, Achan bowed deeper and prostrated himself on the ground as he spoke.

[Battle God, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's old man is as strong as a god. Their fisherman has transcended the limits of a human being. Even their young boys and girls are extraordinary. And there's also that livestock farmer...]

Everyone in the conference room finally understood what happened after listening to Achan whine and grumble, his voice stained with tears.

'No. Why did you...'

'He went there just in time when they had gathered together...'

'Haa...'

Then, a notification appeared on the monitor.

[The Battle God's Judge fully supports the Battle God's decision!]

The board members and executives finally accepted the fact that they were all going to work overtime from this point on.

At that moment, the silent Battle God, the greatest Absolute God, opened his mouth. Everyone in the room focused on his words.

[Did it hurt?]

[...Yes.]

The board members and executives of Joy Co. Ltd. felt that Achan was very pitiful.

Chapter 757: The War of Destruction

The entire world cheered loudly after watching the video that Joy Co. Ltd. released. It was around thirty minutes long, which was pretty lengthy. Many people had clicked on this video when it was released, and Minhyuk was no different. However, he received a call from President Kang Taehoon the moment he clicked on the video.

Click—

The scene on the computer screen changed as the story began.

The Land of the Gods, the world beyond the clouds.

[The gods' nanny, Bellian.]

A kind and beautiful woman looked at the young gods that sat and huddled around her.

"Bellian! Hurry! Tell us that story again!"

"You still want to hear that story?"

"Yeah, yeah! That story grows more interesting the more we hear it!!!"

"The story of the Battle God and the Destruction Monarch!!!"

"Hoho. Alright, alright." Nanny Bellian gently brushed away the hair of the little god that was buried in her embrace. Then, as she looked at the other young gods, she began her story. "A long, long time ago..."

[There were two brothers that got along well.]

“Brother Farrow, let’s go togetheeeeeer.”

“Belson, if you don’t come out, then I’ll be going ahead.”

[The brothers were similar, yet also different. The older brother, Farrow, was adventurous and courageous. He also had an outstanding charisma and an amazing ability to lead. Because of that, many people flocked around him.]

[The younger brother, Belson, was very timid. He was afraid of venturing out and going on adventures and did not have many friends because he was very picky about the people around him. In fact, his only friend was his older brother, Farrow.]

“Brother, I’m really tired,” Belson, who was breathing roughly, spoke.

Farrow, who was climbing on a cliff with him, looked back. “So? Can you become the great ruler of the Land of the Gods like that? The soldiers will definitely laugh at you.”

“Hiiik...! I can do it too!”

The younger brother, Belson, immediately followed after Farrow and climbed up on the cliff.

[Even though the younger brother Belson was timid, he was surprisingly chosen by the Battle God.]

The adventurous and courageous Farrow climbed the cliff quickly! However, even though he had a head start, Belson was able to climb faster than him.

“...”

[The biggest thing that the two had in common was the fact that they would become great and excellent rulers once they grew up.]

[The elder brother Farrow envied his younger brother Belson. Despite being timid, he was good at everything because he was the child chosen by the Battle God.]

Farrow looked up at his brother Belson, who had already gone far ahead of him despite starting very late, with a bitter look on his face.

“Huh?”

But then, Belson suddenly tripped and crashed back on the ground.

“Aaaaaaaack!”

Thuuuuuud—

Shocked by the sudden turn of events, Farrow hurriedly climbed back down and checked Belson’s leg.

“It, it huuurts...”

“It’s broken.”

“...I wanted to climb too.” Belson looked up at the cliff sadly.

Farrow knew how much his brother wanted to climb this cliff. He looked at his sad brother and said, "Come on, get on my back. Belson."

"Huh? What are you saying? You want to carry me and climb such a dangerous cliff?"

"Come on, a man should not be afraid of challenges."

Farrow began to climb the cliff again while carrying Belson on his back. His breathing turned ragged as he struggled to climb with Belson on his back. Nevertheless, he was still able to climb the cliff just as his brother wished.

"Haa... Haaa..." Farrow panted loudly as his entire body collapsed on the ground.

[Farrow might be jealous of his brother Belson, but he also cherished and loved him more than anybody else.]

"Thank you, brother."

[Belson also loved his older brother more than anybody else.]

[The two laid down on the ground at the top of the highest cliff and looked up at the sky above them.]

"Belson."

"Yes, brother."

"It doesn't matter who becomes the Battle God between us, we have to congratulate the other with all our heart, okay?"

"Of course!"

[The older brother, Farrow, already knew.]

[Even though he tried harder and worked harder than anybody else, in the end, the one that would be chosen as the Battle God was his younger brother, Belson.]

[His words were a reminder to himself. A reminder that he would congratulate his younger brother wholeheartedly once he became the Battle God.]

[But one day, a disaster befell the younger brother Belson.]

[The Evil Incarnate, who hid deep within the Land of the Gods after the battle with the previous Battle God, placed a curse on the twenty-year-old Belson.]

[The Evil Incarnate declared that Belson would die at the age of 21.]

[Farrow's men raised their voices at this.]

"God Farrow! This is a sign from heaven. It's your chance to shine and rise to the position of the Battle God!"

"It won't be long before God Belson falls into eternal rest!"

"You can now become the Battle God, the position that you longed for so much!!!"

Farrow, who grew up kindly and nicely, heard the words of his men and felt his head throb. They kept on saying that he would finally become the Battle God since his brother Belson was dying.

Farrow walked toward his younger brother, Belson. Belson had grown ill and started to grow weaker by the day. The younger man had grown pale as he coughed loudly. Farrow gently patted his brother's head.

Then, Belson, with his dry and chapped lips, said, "Brother, you did not forget the promise we made, didn't you?"

"..."

"We promised that we will congratulate whoever becomes the Battle God with sincerity, no? Brother, I can now congratulate you wholeheartedly once you become the Battle God."

"..."

"Brother, make sure to become the greatest Battle God in the history of the gods, okay?"

"Yeah..." Farrow nodded.

The moment he went outside, he immediately ordered his men to bring his horse to him.

"Where will you be going?"

"I will go and meet the Evil Incarnate."

"Wh, what..."

"I will save Belson."

"Gooooood!"

"Noooooo!"

"You must not go there!!!"

"You can now become the Battle God!!!"

Farrow smiled bitterly at the cries of his men. "The Battle God position... I won't take it even if you force me."

[Farrow rode his horse and ran as hard as he could. He went to where the Evil Incarnate was, in the depths of the darkness that encroached upon the Land of the Gods.]

[The Evil Incarnate was one of the unknown Absolute Gods. He had been exiled by God Athenae because of his ferocious and cruel personality.]

[On top of that, the Evil Incarnate was very strong, to the point that even if the gods joined forces, they would not be able to deal with him.]

[Farrow continued to run through the Land of the Gods to go where Evil Incarnate was.]

[Finally, he stood face to face with the Evil Incarnate.]

Black streams of energy appeared and created a figure in front of Farrow. The figure looked similar to a demon.

“The one that was left behind, the unchosen one.”

“Evil Incarnate, release the curse that you have placed upon my younger brother Belson.”

“Kihihihihihihihihihihhi! Kihihihihihihhi! Kahahahahaahahhaaha!”

[The Evil Incarnate could not understand it. He was curious why Farrow came here. Why did he come here when he could become the Battle God once his younger brother died?]

“If your younger brother lives, then you will not become the Battle God.”

“I don’t need such an opportunity! Hurry up and lift the curse from my brother!!!”

[The Evil Incarnate grew furious after seeing the deep bond that the two brothers shared.]

[That was why he made a proposal, one that he was sure Farrow would never accept.]

“Then, how about this? How about you become the one to carry the curse in Belson’s stead? Ki, ki, kihihihihihihihihihhi!!! Hihihihihihihihhi!!!” The Evil Incarnate laughed like crazy and left Farrow speechless for quite a long time.

Then, the video changed.

This time, it showed Belson, who was fast asleep. Farrow, engulfed in a bright light, appeared right next to him and bent down to kiss his forehead.

“Belson, I’m sure you will become a great Battle God. Congratulations, my dear younger brother.”

“Brother?”

[However, when Belson opened his eyes, Farrow was nowhere to be seen.]

[Belson’s body felt light and energetic. On the other hand, Farrow disappeared, never to come back even after seven years had passed.]

[And...]

“Wooooooooow!!!!”

“Battle Gooooooooood!!!!”

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaah!!!!”

The gods cheered as tens of millions of soldiers from the Divine Army knelt down before one man. He wore a crown made of light.

[Battle God Belson.]

It was a story about the past of the current Battle God, Belson. That was right, Belson became the Battle God all because of Farrow. However, even though he became the Battle God, Belson did not look happy.

The view changed once again to show the nanny from earlier. The young gods began to bombard her with questions.

“So, what happened to Farrow?”

“Unfortunately, the older brother Farrow...” The nanny smiled bitterly as the scene changed once again.

[He was dying deep inside the forest where the Evil Incarnate lived.]

Although Farrow was not chosen by the Battle God like his younger brother Belson, he was someone who worked hard and had a talent that far surpassed many other gods in the realm. It was said that there were not that many gods that could beat Farrow in a fight.

However, that very same Farrow was dying alone inside the deep, dark forest. His face looked pale as he gasped for air while lying on the ground. Nevertheless, there was a faint smile on his face as he looked up at the black sky above him.

“Belson, congratulations on becoming the Battle God.”

Finally, Farrow died.

[However, Farrow’s death was not the end. Furious, the Evil Incarnate placed a curse on him and brought him back to life.]

Crack, crack, crack, crack— Slash, slash! Swish, swish—!

The forest started to change. The roots of the trees swayed and moved, wrapping around Farrow’s dead body and creating an armor around him. Iron rose from the ground to create a sword for him as millions of troops awakened around Farrow’s body.

“The One that failed to become the Battle God. All of this was planned by your younger brother Belson. Belson had come to me and asked me to put a curse on himself so that you, his older brother, would give up your own life.”

[The Evil Incarnate whispered in Farrow’s ears.]

[Farrow, caught in the vicious lie, began to hate Belson.]

“Belson, I will kill you and become the Battle God.”

[After that, Farrow disappeared with the army around him.]

The scene changed again.

The young gods were crying as they surrounded the nanny.

“The Evil Incarnate is really bad.”

“Then, does that mean that the older brother, Farrow, came back and attacked the Battle God?”

The nanny shook her head at the young god’s question. “Who knows? I also do not know...”

Rumbleeeeeeeee—

But then, the ground began to shake and tremble. Nanny Bellian hurriedly moved to hug the young gods.

“Wh, what’s happening!?”

Nanny Bellian, with the young gods in her arms, looked out of the window. That was when she saw a forest surrounded with black energy slowly descending upon the Land of the Gods from the sky above.

[Destruction Monarch Farrow has awakened in the world!]

[Destruction Monarch Farrow has returned with the Land of Destruction!]

[Destruction Monarch Farrow points his sword at the Land of the Gods!]

Vwoooooooooooooooooong—

The Land of the Gods rumbled and shook. Nanny Bellian hugged the crying young gods tightly. Then, she saw millions of fierce and vicious troops on the Land of Destruction that was slowly descending upon them from the sky. This was Farrow’s army, one that she had only heard from the stories.

“What, what do we do...”

Bellian knew. She knew that those vicious men would definitely defile the Land of the Gods and kill many. She was helpless. Her body trembled and shook as she hugged the young gods tighter.

Then, the strongest and greatest Absolute God, Battle God Belson, appeared. Engulfed with a golden aura, the Battle God raised his hand toward the descending land.

[The Battle God has sent the Land of Destruction down to Earth!]

[The Battle God tries to unravel the curse that plagues the Destruction Monarch Farrow!]

[Farrow’s curse cannot be lifted!]

[Farrow’s curse cannot be lifted!]

[The Battle God suffers an attack from Farrow and has lost a portion of his power!]

[The Battle God tries to unravel the curse plaguing Farrow using a different method!]

[Farrow temporarily loses his rationality!]

[The Battle God sends an envoy inside the body of the irrational Farrow to control him!]

[The envoy that the Battle God has sent failed to control Farrow!]

Flash—!

At that moment, the Land of Destruction that was slowly falling on the Land of Gods passed by and landed on the earth.

[The envoy that the Battle God has recognized has failed to control the Destruction Monarch Farrow!]

[However, they were able to successfully seal some of the power of the Destruction Monarch!]

[The envoy that the Battle God has recognized can now use the power of the Destruction Monarch!]

[The envoy that the Battle God has recognized becomes the Destruction Monarch. They can now use a portion of Farrow's power and become much stronger!]

[The Battle God attacked Farrow and was able to temporarily control a portion of his powers!]

Then, the Land of Destruction finally settled down on earth. Farrow, who had lost his rationality, opened his eyes and looked over the land. Then, he opened his mouth and said, "Kill everyone."

At that moment, the voice of the Battle God rang all over the world.

[Brave Descendants.]

[Kill the Destruction Monarch on my behalf and drive away the Land of Destruction.]

Finally, the video ended.

At the same time, a notification rang for Minhyuk, who was about to log into Athenae.

[The Battle God has appointed you as the Chosen Envoy!]

[Following the arrangements discussed with Joy Co. Ltd., you will awaken inside the body of the Destruction Monarch!]

Chapter 758: The War of Destruction

President Kang Taehoon sat silently in a car headed back to Joy Co. Ltd.'s head office.

'As expected of Minhyuk. He's the true and legitimate successor of Ilhwa Group, no?'

He was on his way back after negotiating with Minhyuk.

Who was President Kang Taehoon? He was the person that had created Athenae, widely recognized as the 'second world'. There were even rumors about him becoming the 'World's Richest Man that Surpassed *Bill Gates* at the Fastest Speed.' However, that was not a rumor; it was the truth.

He was a businessman. That was why Kang Taehoon had to make sure that he would not lose out as much as possible when negotiating with the other party. However, President Kang Taehoon was completely outmaneuvered by Minhyuk.

Kang Taehoon pressed the answer button on his vibrating phone.

—President, the Food God has been approved as the Destruction Monarch.

"I understand."

The contract had been completed. Kang Taehoon recalled the conversation that he had with Minhyuk back at the mansion earlier.

Minhyuk's household became hectic from President Kang Taehoon's sudden visit. After being led to the guest room, President Kang Taehoon was able to meet with Minhyuk, whose hair was still wet as if he had just finished working out.

"It seems like something has happened, huh?"

As expected of Minhyuk, he was quick-witted. President Kang Taehoon immediately began to talk about the 'War of Destruction.'

"Originally, the Battle God's chosen envoy for the War of Destruction should be Nerva. However, the Battle God... *mumble, mumble...*"

Minhyuk looked quite surprised as he listened to the story. '*The Battle God chose me and not Nerva?*'

It was quite a shocking story, unbelievable even. Minhyuk's relationship with the Battle God stemmed from Brod. Not too long ago, when Minhyuk reached Level 600 and had received a chance to get a new class, the Battle God had even offered the Battle God's Descendant class to him.

'Is his favor toward me higher than what I think?'

If that was not the case, there was another possibility.

'He does not have complete trust in Nerva?'

At that moment, President Kang Taehoon said, "Since this has already happened, we hope that you will accept and become the War of Destruction's Destruction Monarch. Of course, our Joy Co. Ltd. will make sure to compensate you as well."

President Kang Taehoon handed him the contract that listed the contents of the event and the rewards that he would receive. There was a two billion won deposit listed on the contract. There was also a 300,000 platinum payment in Athenae, along with the crown of the Destruction Monarch. The Destruction Monarch's Crown was an item that was no less than a god-rank artifact. They were very generous rewards for playing the key role in an event just once.

"How will this work?"

"Originally, the Battle God would push Nerva into Farrow's body to control the Destruction Monarch. Then, Nerva would become the Destruction Monarch and the Luvien Imperial Army would temporarily fight against the rankers in the Land of Destruction. However, it has become the opposite. You will become the Destruction Monarch and stop both the rankers and the NPCs of the world."

Minhyuk rubbed his chin. The Land of Destruction was a place where an event would be held.

“In the first place, your story will eventually flow in a way where the Destruction Monarch will be defeated. The story will go like that. Once you become the Destruction Monarch, your power will gradually weaken with the help of the power of the Battle God. And once the Destruction Monarch dies, Farrow, whose soul is also inside, will also take an eternal rest.”

If the Destruction Monarch won against all of the players and NPCs in that place, then the Land of Destruction would remain and be preserved. If that happened, then it would no longer be an event.

Minhyuk got lost in his thoughts. *‘Did the Battle God choose me because he’s interested in me?’*

He decided to look at it from the Battle God’s point of view. President Kang Taehoon had told Minhyuk about the timid Battle God Belson, his adventurous and courageous older brother Farrow, as well as the Evil Incarnate. Farrow had died in the place of his younger brother and because of that, Belson was able to take the position and become the Battle God.

‘The Battle God is the greatest and strongest god. Because of that, he has this responsibility and sense of duty where he has to prevent the Destruction Monarch from wreaking havoc in the Land of the Gods. After all, everything started because of him.’

However, what if he was thinking not as the Battle God, but as the younger brother, Belson?

‘If it was Nerva, then he would have accepted and followed the orders of the Battle God without any doubts. In the end, he would lead the Destruction Monarch to his inevitable death. But what does the Belson truly feel?’

That was right. What did the Battle God truly feel? The older brother Farrow sacrificed himself for his younger brother Belson. But the Battle God Belson had to kill him just like that?

Minhyuk, who had closed his eyes to think, slowly opened them.

‘Perhaps that’s the reason why he chose me?’

After he finished organizing his thoughts, he rested his head in his palms for a moment, before he picked up the contract and handed it back to President Kang Taehoon.

“It looks like we need to revise the contract.”

President Kang Taehoon had expected this. He knew that Player Minhyuk would not be satisfied with just this much.

“For the first revision, please make it so Joy Co. Ltd. will not interfere with me, ‘Kang Minhyuk’, after I become the Destruction Monarch.”

“...!”

President Kang Taehoon’s eyes grew wide at that. “What do you mean by that?”

“Just like what I said. What I want is for you to not impose any systematic restrictions on me inside the Land of Destruction. Literally. Do not interfere with anything.”

To put it simply, Minhyuk was not going to do what they say and do whatever they wanted. However, it was an impossible condition. They could not have that. The problem, however, was that Joy Co. Ltd. could not find a substitute. There was no one other than Minhyuk.

“The second one. Promote our Ilhwa Group in various advertisements and programs under Joy Co. Ltd.”

“...”

President Kang Taehoon was at a loss for words. Joy Co. Ltd. was famous for not promoting any company in any of their programs and advertisements.

“Third. Don’t interfere with the rewards that I will get from when I was the Destruction Monarch.”

Kang Taehoon nodded. The third revision was appropriate. However, the problem was the first and second revisions. Seeing that Minhyuk did not put forward any more conditions after stating these three meant that he was not willing to receive what Joy Co. Ltd. had previously offered in the contract.

“I can’t easily accept the second revision in the contract. This time, with the War of Destruction, our company has signed a cooperation with ATV Broadcasting Station. Only after ATV Broadcasting Station reaches 40% in viewership ratings would we allow the second revision to take into effect.”

In fact, achieving a 40% viewership rating was almost impossible. Of course, Minhyuk had set new records in terms of viewership ratings quite a few times by himself. However, it was very difficult to find such a record in broadcasting history.

“The third condition... Well, it’s the reward that you have earned so there’s nothing we could do about that. That’s not something that we can interfere with. However...”
President Kang Taehoon looked confused. “What are you thinking?”

“President Kang Taehoon, weren’t you the one that said that Athenae is a world where NPCs and players work together?”

Athenae was not a world where only NPCs live. It was a world where players lived together with them.

“I just don’t want Joy Co. Ltd. to interfere with me in such a world.”

President Kang Taehoon understood what he meant. Joy Co. Ltd. had declared that it was a world where players and NPCs lived together, yet they had often interfered with the game. That logic completely caught Kang Taehoon off guard.

On top of that, they also discussed many more things.

“According to the president, the Destruction Monarch can use his vassals. If that is the case, then does that mean that I can also allow my vassals to move inside the Land of Destruction?”

“Yes, that’s right. Once you become the Destruction Monarch, your NPCs will be controlled by AI and act as usual. But in fact, the vassals that you will summon and call for are your real vassals. Since you will be under the influence of the power of the Destruction Monarch, their powers will be expressed in different ways and forms.”

“Then, inside the Land of Destructions, will my vassals controlled by AI suffer from mental damage if they die?”

“That won’t happen. It’s true that the ones controlled by AIs will have no thought of their own and would only move like robots. Well, it will be more convenient to think of them as robots in that sense. The same goes for you too, you will also have an AI there. We will analyze everything about you, including your behavior patterns so that it will act 99.9% consistent with your behavior.”

From what Kang Taehoon had said, it seemed like they did not have any intentions of revealing who the Destruction Monarch would be. Of course, Minhyuk was onboard with this plan.

President Kang Taehoon had planned for Minhyuk, not ‘Nerva’, to become the Destruction Monarch. Doing it this way would definitely increase the people’s interest and create a buzz, which would in turn increase the viewership ratings. Of course, it would also make Minhyuk’s side be seen in a better light.

President Kang Taehoon finally stood up after they finished their discussions. Before he could step out of the door, he heard Minhyuk say, “Please take care of the clean up.”

“...”

For some reason, there was this unknown sense of discomfort that welled up in President Kang Taehoon.

The Land of Destruction had finally made its appearance in the world. Along with that, the voice of the Battle God rang in the ears of all of the beings and NPCs in all of Athenae.

[Bring judgment and punish Destruction Monarch Farrow. Destroy the Land of Destruction.]

NPCs from all over the world began to march toward the Land of Destruction.

[As you can see, we currently have Overlord Raldo, Sword Emperor Ellie, Mercenary King, War God King Fren, Monarch of Magic Vlad. They are all here. The world’s greatest NPCs are gathering at the Land of Destruction under the orders of the Battle God.]

[We can also see the flag of the Great Luvien Empire.]

[Nerva has appeared along with the one chosen by the Battle God. It’s clear that the one that has become the current Destruction Monarch is not Nerva.]

[It’s not only the NPCs, even the rankers from all over the world are flocking in this place.]

[The Land of Destruction is a place where plenty of players and NPCs can fight and contribute. Obviously, the more they kill, the higher the contributions that they would accumulate.]

[That is not all. With the ‘God’s Comfort and Ease’ that the Battle God has bestowed upon the Land of Destruction, the players that are forced to log out will not suffer from penalties. Even the NPCs will just revive in the territory that they live in when they die in this place. Not only that, the Battle God’s Comfort and Ease will also decrease the pain that the players and the NPCs will feel if they were attacked.]

[The rankers and NPCs that are aware of this fact do not need to feel nervous at all.]

[Perhaps the rankers and the NPCs can even test their limits in this place.]

[There has been a lot of discussion and speculation as to who the Destruction Monarch is. After all, they have not revealed the person’s identity. It’s not Nerva, but someone that the Battle God trusts. Who could it be? We can only assume that they must be someone among the NPCs, however there’s not even a single clue about their identity.]

[There are some people that guessed that it’s Food God Minhyuk. However, from what we can see, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is also arriving at the scene.]

[Spear God Ben, Beyond the Heavens’ Sword Brod, God of Snakes Elizabeth, Food God Minhyuk and the other members of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom are all present.]

[It’s not Food God Minhyuk either.]

[The total number of people that can enter the Land of Destruction is 1.5 million. There should be around 500,000 players and around a million NPCs.]

[Even though there’s a limit in the numbers, they are all strong men.]

[As we can all see, all of the troops are now being warped to the Land of Destruction under Nerva’s control.]

Flash—!

A light flashed in front of them. When Nerva and the other Athenae high rankers had opened their eyes, they were already in the Land of Destruction.

[You have entered the Land of Destruction!]

[There will be no penalties for forced logout inside the Land of Destruction!]

[Kill the Destruction Monarch and give the soul of Farrow eternal rest!]

[The Destruction Monarch’s level will now be revealed!]

Everyone held their breaths as they walked out. The moment they walked out, they caught sight of the Destruction Monarch that was looking at them from a distant castle.

The Destruction Monarch was wearing a black cape and a black horned helmet on his head, his eyes glinting sharply from underneath the shadows of the helmet. Immediately after that, the level of the Destruction Monarch floated above his head.

“...?!!”

Alexander, who was at the vanguard, was appalled.

“Isn’t his level far too high?”

Immediately as the thought flashed in his head, notifications rang out.

[The Battle God bestowed a Potion of Restriction to his envoy trapped by the power of Destruction Monarch Farrow!]

[The consciousness of the envoy trapped inside Farrow’s body has momentarily returned to him as he received the potion bestowed upon him!]

[Once the Destruction Monarch takes the potion, his level will decrease by -100.]

Everyone, including the rankers and Nerva, were very relieved to see this set of notifications. No matter how strong they were, fighting against someone at Level 904 seemed impossible.

The Destruction Monarch, in a way, it could be considered the envoy called by the Battle God that was trapped in his body, grabbed the bottle of potion.

Clang—

However, something unexpected happened. The envoy threw the bottle of potion back. It broke into pieces, leaving behind a puddle of potion on the ground.

Fwiiiiiiiish—

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

[The Destruction Monarch has refused to take the Potion of Restriction!]

[Warning!]

[Warning!]

[A transcendental being has engulfed you with his killing intent!]

Cold sweat dripped down all of the rankers’ backs. The same was true for the operators and executives of Joy Co. Ltd.

Joy Co. Ltd.’s conference room.

President Kang Taehoon jumped to his feet. *‘Minhyuk, was this the reason you told us not to interfere?’*

Indeed. Minhyuk was going to ignore the scenario that they had set up where the Destruction Monarch was going to get defeated.

Chapter 759: The War of Destruction

[You have been appointed as the Battle God’s Chosen Envoy!]

[Following the discussion with Joy Co. Ltd., you will awaken inside Farrow’s body!]

These were the notifications that Minhyuk received the moment he logged inside the game. Immediately after that, another set of notifications rang in his ears.

[Destruction Monarch Farrow is currently encroaching upon your consciousness!]

[You can check the Destruction Monarch's status window as if it is your own status window!]

?Passive Skill: Monarch's Charisma

?Active Skill: Roar of Despair

?Active Skill: Monarch's Touch

?Active Skill: Tyrant's Swordsmanship

?Active Skill: ???

Your vassals will also become stronger than usual with the Destruction Monarch's correction effect.

'Isn't the passive skill "Monarch's Charisma" amazing?'

Farrow was also one of the candidates to become the Battle God. Perhaps it was because of that, his Monarch's Charisma could increase all of the stats of his subordinates by 12%.

Minhyuk nodded to himself after checking the other active skills. These were definitely the skills of a candidate for the Battle God. However, he could not help but wonder about the '???' listed in one of the active skills.

Additional notifications continued to ring in Minhyuk's ears.

[The army summoned by the Battle God will soon reach the Land of Destruction.]

[If you're a player, please follow Joy Co. Ltd.'s guidance.]

Minhyuk nodded after seeing the quest. Perhaps, if Minhyuk completed this quest's final scenario, then the rewards that he would receive would be very generous. However, these messages were there only for formality's sake. Minhyuk could safely ignore it because he had already finished the negotiations with President Kang Taehoon.

At that moment, an unknown voice drifted in Minhyuk's ears.

'What... a... relief... My... younger... brother... became... the... Battle... God...'

Minhyuk rubbed his chin in thought.

Farrow was the older brother that sacrificed himself for his younger brother and was also the candidate for the Destruction Monarch. His consciousness, which had remained weak, was speaking and reaching out to Minhyuk.

'I just... want... to... see... you... one... last... time...'

In the end, Farrow's voice disappeared into nothingness.

'Anyway, the Land of Destruction is a land for an event anyway,' Minhyuk pondered. *'Even if we attack the NPCs, they will only feel a small amount of pain, just like the pain that players suffer.'*

Minhyuk was the Destruction Monarch at the moment.

'I can do what I want.'

The greatest Absolute God and the only candidate to succeed God Athenae was none other than Battle God Belson. He had remained in this seat for thousands of years. After such a long time, tears started to drip down from his eyes.

“...”

The Battle God had to protect the Land of the Gods and be a role model for all. That was why he had to kill his older brother, the Destruction Monarch Farrow. He had to protect the earth and the Land of the Gods from the being that threatened its safety. Such was fate. So, Belson gave his orders to all beings on earth.

-Kill Farrow and destroy the Land of Destruction.

However, that was not what he truly wanted. Belson wanted to see his older brother Farrow once again. Alas, he was the Battle God. He could not afford to be swayed by his personal feelings. Because of that, he bestowed a Potion of Restriction to Minhyuk, the envoy that he chose.

Belson turned around after watching the potion slowly descend and reach his envoy's hands. Once that potion was drunk, the Destruction Monarch would lose some of his power. Not only that, he would also continue to weaken every hour. In other words, it was a potion that would eventually kill the Destruction Monarch.

'Why did I choose you?'

On the other hand, the Battle God questioned his choices as he turned his back away from the scene. Why did he choose Minhyuk? Was it because Brod loved him so much? Or was it because he was the Lowest God that would probably stand at a high position in the future?

Clang—

Fwiiiiiiiish—

The Battle God turned to look back at the crystal ball after hearing the sound of something breaking. He caught sight of Minhyuk, who had thrown away the Potion of Restriction.

Only then did he realize why he chose this man. If he had chosen Nerva, he would have obeyed his orders without any hesitation. However, this man was beyond Belson's control. Perhaps that was the true reason.

The Battle God felt his heart thump wildly.

"Child." The Battle God continued to watch the scene. "Help me meet my older brother once again."

Minhyuk's lips twisted into a smirk when he turned his back after breaking the Potion of Restriction. This was his choice. The Destruction Monarch would not die.

As one of the top rankers in Athenae, his senses as a gamer were top notch. He could feel that the rewards could be changed at any given time, depending on the will of the NPCs.

'Perhaps I will be able to get something much bigger than this?'

What could it be? Perhaps, it was none other than the greatest Absolute God, the Battle God.

Ring!

Destruction Monarch Minhyuk looked at the rankers, as well as the Luvien Imperial Army that were standing at a distance. Not long after, a man was summoned by Minhyuk's side.

[Your vassal Mandala has been summoned!]

[Because of the correction effect of the Destruction Monarch, Mandala will have 40% more power than usual!]

[Instead of the usual potions, Mandala will be able to make parchments.]

Mandala, who was wearing a black robe and a skull mask on his face, stood beside Minhyuk as he received his monarch's orders.

"Make me a parchment that will allow me to maintain my consciousness and rationality under any curse."

The entire world was at the edge of their seats. The Destruction Monarch's level was at Level 904. If he drank the Potion of Restriction, then his level would go down by a hundred. However, he had destroyed the Potion of Restriction.

The tension caused people all over the world to start throwing out guesses.

[Perhaps this is the kind of event that Joy Co. Ltd. has prepared?]

[What? To increase the tension in the players?]

[That's probably right. The Land of Destruction is a land solely made for this event. Because of that, the NPCs will not suffer and the players will not receive the penalties for being forced to logout.]

[That must be it.]

[It'll probably come back to normal in no time at all.]

The guesses were quite convincing. There was no way that it could be something else. None of them even entertained the fact that the Destruction Monarch could think outside the box.

Then, the notifications for the 'Battle God's Warriors', the people who entered this place under the orders of the Battle God, began to ring in their ears.

[Please enter Area 51, Area 50, Area 48, and Area 40 respectively.]

[There are 80,000 Destruction Soldiers stationed in Areas 51, 50 and 48 and a total of 200,000 troops stationed in Area 40 that are building a defense line!]

[Get past their defense line and charge toward the Destruction Castle.]

The line of command was taken over by Luvien Empire's Nerva Sephiroth.

"Sword Emperor Ellie goes to Area 51. Spear God Ben in Area 50. Knight Commander Don and the Swords of the Gods in Area 48. Brod and I will personally break through Area 40."

Inwardly, Nerva was actually very furious.

'The Battle God chose someone else?! He did not choose me?!'

This was a huge stain on his record, a disgrace! That was why Nerva intended to charge ahead of the Battle God's Warriors and kill the Destruction Monarch by himself.

After properly dividing the army, they all entered their respective areas. Then, a hologram appeared in front of Nerva as he began to observe everything.

At the same time, hundreds of drones from ATV Broadcasting Station, the station that signed an exclusive contract with Joy Co. Ltd., began to fly to the skies and started filming.

ATV station's camera focused on Ellie as she headed toward Area 51 with 80,000 troops marching behind her.

Sword Emperor Ellie's presence alone was enough to shine a light on everything that the camera captured. Everyone was well aware that she had declined the position of the 'Sword God' and had chosen to remain as the emperor. They also knew that there were not any Absolute Supreme NPC that could stand up against her.

Then, suddenly, a man stood in front of the tense and careful Ellie. There were strands of long white hair that escaped through the gaps of the black horned helmet that the man was wearing on his head as he held a sword in his hands.

ATV's PD Kim Daeguk looked at the scene in confusion. "What, what the hell?!!! Why are there more than 80,000 troops deployed in Area 51?!"

That was right. There were actually a lot more troops stationed in Area 51 than the 80,000 troops reported in the notifications.

The man with long white hair and wearing a black horned helmet had the name 'Ten Knights of Destruction' written over his head. The man's original name? Spear God Ben.

Of course, the fierce battle immediately began as the Knight of Destruction raised his sword high up in the sky.

"Sword King's Roar."

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

Then, hundreds of swords fell down from the sky and created a huge explosion that devoured and swept away the Battle God's Warriors. At the same time, the almost 150,000 troops waiting on the sidelines made their move and quickly slaughtered the surviving Battle God's Warriors. In the end, the Knight of Destruction's experienced and sharp blade pierced through Ellie's chest.

"Kghhk!"

Ellie's consciousness began to blur. Fortunately, she was not experiencing any pain or fear from the blow.

"Y, you... How come..."

However, she noticed the true identity of the knight before she completely disappeared.

Area 48.

Knight Commander Don could not help but shrink and cower from the unknown killing intent that engulfed his body. There was an overwhelming pressure that emanated from the man that wore a skull mask and held a black staff.

Don could tell that this was not an opponent that they could deal with. Their opponent's true name was Evil God Obren.

"Destruction's Explosion."

Knight Commander Don's eyes grew wide when he heard the man mumble under his breath. Then, hundreds of explosions that covered a thirty meter radius each bloomed all over the place.

Meanwhile, in another place.

Nerva and Brod went to Area 40 together. Nerva, the brightest sun and the Battle God's Sword, was not just an emperor. He might not be as strong as Brod was in the past, but he was still stronger than anybody else. His level easily exceeded Level 800.

Overtaken by his fury, Nerva wanted to destroy the Land of Destruction as quickly as possible. Even if he had to go to the frontlines himself. In no time at all, he was able to arrive at the place along with 250,000 rankers and NPCs.

[The Destruction Monarch has appeared!]

Vwoooooooooooooooooong—!

The earth shook while the heavens cried. The sudden turn of events forced the birds that were resting in the trees to shriek and fly away. Then, a two-meter-tall man landed on the ground.

[Tyrant's Swordsmanship. Chapter 3.]

[Tyrant's Storm.]

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

The moment he swung his sword, a heavy downpour of blade lights rained down on all of the rankers and strong troops that stood behind Nerva. But the attack did not end there. The blade lights turned into a storm that devoured them and tore them to pieces. In a single attack, he devoured 40,000 of the 250,000 strong troops all at once.

Nerva tried to prepare for an attack.

Grab—

However, he just blinked and the Destruction Monarch was already in front of him and holding him by the collar.

“Are you ready to get beaten up?”

Nerva met his enemy on a single log bridge.

Chapter 760: The War of Destruction

ATV Broadcasting Station's PD Kim Daeguk was shocked by the speed at which their viewership ratings were rising.

‘The Destruction Monarch continues to evade the system's restrictions.’

Daeguk did not know how or why. All he could do was watch everything unfold.

The first time it happened was when he threw away the Potion of Restriction. As for the second time, it was the number of troops deployed in each area. It far exceeded the number of troops reported to the players through the notifications. Then, the Ten Knights of Destruction appeared without any notice.

All of this led to only one conclusion. The Destruction Monarch was not moving under the control of the system. Somehow, this fact attracted an increasing number of players and viewers.

“PD Kim, we have reached 20% in viewership ratings!”

“It seems like the others that have heard about it are already starting to tune in.”

It was likely the truth. The Land of Destruction was an event that most people in the world were already paying attention to. However, for most, their livelihood was far more important than tuning in and watching an event. There would definitely be some that would just opt to watch everything on during the reruns.

However, now that they were in a situation where Joy Co. Ltd., the players, and the rest of the world could not predict what would happen next. Unable to resist their curiosity, many began to watch on their smartphones, their company computers, or whatever screen they could get a hold of.

PD Kim Daeguk focused on the screen in front of him, as the fierce battle between the Knight of Destruction with a black staff and Knight Commander Don broke out.

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

Evil God Obren, who was acting as a Knight of Destruction, waved his staff and released countless powerful magical attacks that engulfed and swept away Knight Commander Don, the Swords of the Gods and the rankers.

“This is crazy...” One of the rankers muttered.

All of the people present here were leading figures in the world. However, with every swing of the Knight of Destruction’s staff, they would disappear without a trace.

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

The Battle God’s Warriors tried to respond by sending arrows and magical attacks of their own. However, the shield that materialized in front of the Knight of Destruction easily defended against all of the attacks.

Then, Golden Mage Ali, who was also among the people, said, “He’s not a mage...”

“What?”

Golden Mage Ali was a world-renowned mage. From his perspective and experience, the opponent was definitely not a mage. For one, the magic that the opponent used did not even have any casting time or cooldown. There was also the fact that the forms of magic that he used were not the kind of magic that Ali knew.

Not long after, the Knight of Destruction slammed his staff on the ground.

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—

Lava began to spurt out of the cracks that suddenly appeared in the ground beneath their feet, which devoured 10,000 of the Battle God’s Warriors, just like that.

“...”

The power of the Knight of Destruction was strong enough to make anyone groan and click their tongues.

However, the contenders were rankers and world-famous NPCs. Knight Commander Don, with his keen eye, noticed that their opponent was slightly weak when it came to close combat.

Don immediately commanded the Swords of the Gods and the high rankers to narrow the distance between them and the Knight of Destruction. At the same time, he moved and constantly tried to push back the Knight of Destruction.

Slash—

Finally, Don was able to land a slash on the body of the Knight of Destruction. The Swords of the Gods immediately followed and also delivered blows to their opponent's body.

[As expected of the Great Luvien Empire's Knight Commander Don. He's able to push back the Knight of Destruction at great speed.]

[If they can push him back a bit more then, they would be able to kill the Knight of Destruction.]

At that moment, the situation worsened for them.

[Another Knight of Destruction has appeared!]

A petite Knight of Destruction riding on a gigantic toad appeared. This was the God of Snakes Elizabeth. The moment the gigantic toad opened its mouth, a black stream of energy shot out and engulfed everyone present.

[All of your stats have decreased by 21%!]

[You will not be able to use any skill or magic for three minutes!]

Don and the rankers were appalled by the huge debuff that had fallen upon them. However, that was not the end yet.

[Monarch's Touch.]

[All of the stats of the Knight of Destruction will increase by 37%!]

[The level of all of the skills of the Knight of Destruction will increase by +4!]

[The Knight of Destruction's HP and MP will recover by 100%!]

What was the 'Monarch's Touch?' It was, of course, the cooking buff that Minhyuk had. After becoming the Destruction Monarch, the skill was adjusted, allowing him to bestow outstanding buffs to his men without actually cooking.

At the same time, the Knights of Destruction, who were already 40% stronger than usual, felt a huge burst of power within their bodies. Then, thousands of thick lightning bolts fell non-stop on the ground the moment the Knight of Destruction raised his black staff to the sky.

Crackle, crackle, crackle, crackle, crackle—

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash!

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

In less than fifteen minutes, the situation had changed entirely.

[There are only 20,000 Battle God's Warriors that survived and had made a retreat.]

[Tch. I can only click my tongue at the power of the Knights of Destruction.]

[If things continue at this rate, I don't think the Battle God's Warriors will be able to complete their mission and kill the Destruction Monarch.]

Nerva was furious after realizing that he was grabbed by the collar. He was the emperor of the Great Luvien Empire and the Battle God's Sword! He was already furious that the Battle God had chosen someone else instead of him and something like this even happened.

Voices rang constantly in the ears of Battle God's Sword Nerva.

"Your Majesty! The troops led by Sir Don have been defeated! They were forced to retreat! They only have 20,000 surviving members!"

"Your Majesty! According to the reports, Sword Emperor Ellie and the troops with her have been annihilated by the Knight of Destruction!"

"Your Majesty!!!"

"Your Majestyyyyyy!!!"

'Who the hell is this bastard?! And who the hell are the Knights of Destruction?'

As Nerva watched the bastard in front of him smirk beneath his helmet, he realized, *'This bastard knows me.'*

Nerva was very sure of this fact. He also noticed that the Destruction Monarch did not have any intention of sparing him at all. From what he could see, the Destruction Monarch did not have any intention to fulfill the orders of the Battle God.

In other words, the bastard in front of Nerva planned to become a tyrant and kill everyone here. An act that was in line with the original Destruction Monarch's behavior.

Since the bastard was already right in front of him, he would not let this chance slip by. Nerva immediately used the power that the Battle God bestowed upon him.

[Nerva, the commander of the Battle God's Warriors, summoned all of the troops!]

The space behind them was torn apart. Those that survived the battle against the Knights of Destruction appeared in a scattered mess, along with the people that Nerva had not yet ordered to march out. Even the world's top rankers and the executives of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom appeared together with some of the Swords of the Gods.

"..."

Minhyuk's face turned ugly as he continued to hold Nerva by the collar. He did not know that Nerva had the power to summon an entire army.

Then, at that moment, a bright light burst out from Nerva's body.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

[An enormous amount of divinity has exploded!]

[Nerva's divinity far surpasses the divinity of ordinary gods!]

[He's one of the current era's transcendental beings!]

[He is someone that has gone beyond the limits of a human!]

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Even though Nerva did not pull his sword, Minhyuk's body received countless strikes that forced him to fly back.

“Ugh...”

As he saw his HP drop at a rapid rate, Minhyuk understood that he could never beat Nerva if he was his normal self and not the Destruction Monarch.

The people behind Nerva immediately prepared to attack Minhyuk. Among them were Spear God Ben, God of Snakes Elizabeth, Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's Vice Guild Master Genie, Locke, Khan, Alexander, Xu Jiaqi, and many others. The most threatening being among them was none other than 'Brod.'

However, they had to know that Minhyuk was not just the 'Food God' right now, but also the 'Destruction Monarch.' The two-meter-tall Destruction Monarch released an ear-deafening roar.

“Roaaaaaaaaaaaaaar—!”

The loud roar pierced through the ears of Nerva and the rest of the Battle God's Warriors.

[Roar of Despair.]

[All of your stats will decrease by 23%.]

[All of your skills' level will decrease by -2.]

[Your physical and magical defenses will decrease by 40%.]

[Your physical and magical attack will decrease by 20%.]

[Your resistance to abnormal statuses will decrease by 50%.]

Everyone present froze in their tracks. There were around 700,000 Battle God's Warriors gathered here. And all of them had fallen into a state of debuff.

Then, the two-meter tall Destruction Monarch flew to the skies and used his special skill, the 'Tyrant's Swordsmanship.' It was an excellent swordsmanship that easily surpassed the swordsmanship that Brod used, which Minhyuk believed to be the best swordsmanship out there.

“Tyrant's Swordsmanship. Final Chapter.”

The black cape hanging on the Destruction Monarch's body fluttered behind him as he looked coldly at Nerva and the rankers beneath him.

“Exploding Sword.”

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

The moment his sword hit the ground, thousands of swords rained down and exploded, slaughtering tens of thousands of the Battle God's Warriors.

Suddenly, the person that Minhyuk had classified to be the most frightening enemy, appeared in front of him just when he was about to get away from them.

“Mercenary’s Pinnacle Swordsmanship.”

“...!”

“Final chapter. Wolf’s Death.”

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

Hundreds of red sword lights shot out from Brod’s sword and pierced through Minhyuk’s body. Despite the Destruction Monarch’s monstrously high HP, Minhyuk still grew cautious, especially since his HP continuously dropped at a rapid pace.

‘This is Brod’s true power...’

Minhyuk realized what Brod was like in the eyes of the enemy. He tried to get away from Brod but the man stuck to him as if he was a ghost haunting him.

“Absolute Pinnacle Spear.”

A rain of spears fell down on Destruction Monarch Minhyuk’s body.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Screams rang out of Minhyuk’s mouth. The soldiers of the Land of Destruction tried to charge in and save him but the rankers were holding them back properly.

‘This is crazy...’

Today, Minhyuk realized how much despair and frustration Brod and Spear God Ben could bring to their enemies on the battlefield. Minhyuk knew that he would not be able to fight back against Brod and Ben’s linked attacks. After all, his skills would not be able to keep up with them.

That was why he tried to hurriedly pull away from them. However, Nerva held on tightly to him.

Baaaaaaaaaang—

Nerva aimed his sword and slashed at Minhyuk’s back.

[Your HP has dropped below 40%!]

[Your HP has dropped below 30%!]

A sense of urgency crept up in Minhyuk the more he saw his HP fall rapidly. He could not help the sense of frustration and despair that encroached upon him when facing the combined power of Spear God Ben and Brod.

Minhyuk actually knew of a way to end this situation at the fastest speed. However, Nerva was here and he knew that he would immediately know. What was the method? It all stemmed from one of the notifications that Minhyuk heard when he became the Destruction Monarch.

[The Destruction Monarch can call for the Knights of Destruction to his side at any given moment!]

“Knight of Destruction.”

[Please choose the one that you want to summon among your Knights of Destruction!]

There were a total of ten Knights of Destruction. The Destruction Monarch could only give the highest title to only one of them, and one of them alone.

“Destruction General.”

That man was none other than Brod.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

The mighty and gigantic Destruction General fell down from the sky. The moment Brod, the Destruction General, appeared, he immediately received the correction effects of the Destruction Monarch. All of his stats increased by 40% and even all of his skill levels increased by +2. And that was not all. He also received the effects of Minhyuk’s cooking buff through the Monarch’s Touch.

[All of the Destruction General’s stats have increased by 22%!]

[All of the Destruction General’s skill level has increased by +3!]

[The Destruction General’s basic attack power and skill attack power has increased by 20%!]

[...transcended the limits of a human being...]

[...transcended the limits of a human being...]

[...transcended the limits of a human being...]

Amidst the constantly ringing notifications, the Destruction General cut down Brod, who was about to cut off Minhyuk’s head.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

He also hacked Spear God Ben, who charged in with his spear, with hundreds of sword strikes in just under five seconds.

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

He might be the Destruction General now but he was still ‘Brod’ in reality. He then moved to cut down Nerva in one strike.

Spuuuuuurt—!

“Keuaaaaaaack!” Nerva grew even more furious. He screamed as he fell down, his feet immediately finding his balance as he chased after the man.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

[You have raised your divinity to the highest level.]

[All of the beings look at you in fear because of the high amount of divinity that you are emitting.]

Vwoooooooooooooong—

Nerva just raised his divinity to the maximum. However, cracks had already appeared on the ground. Even the trees and the buildings suddenly caught flames and burned down to ashes.

Nerva's gold hair fluttered behind him. He could no longer reign in his fury. He was furious at the unknown Destruction Monarch, as well as the arrogant and impudent man that dared to cut him down.

The viewers watching the scene were shocked.

[So, this is the power of Athenae's greatest NPC...?]

[Crazy.]

[Wow...]

Everyone gulped dryly.

"How dare you lay a hand on my precious body!!!" Nerva roared in fury as his body continued to release his divinity.

The others were in shock and awe of Nerva's overwhelming charisma. However, Minhyuk was different.

'Brod was originally only slightly weaker, no, maybe he's on par with Nerva. Brod, who's already in a state like that, received the correction effects of the Destruction Monarch, as well as the buff effects from Monarch's Touch.'

Minhyuk was not sure if Nerva already realized who was in front of him. However, what was obvious was the fact that he was enraged, to the point that veins had already started to pop in his neck.

Nerva continued to release his divinity as he warned them, "I will rip you to shreds and kill...!"

Thwaaaaack—

The Destruction General slapped Nerva's cheeks strongly.

"..."

Nerva's eyes grew wide when he felt his head turn to the side. In fact, even the people from all over the world that were tuned in had their eyes wide open from the shocking scene.