

Gourmet 761

Chapter 761: The War of Destruction

ATV Broadcasting Station's viewership rating was rising exponentially.

"PD Kim! Our viewership rating has exceeded 30%!"

"We've gone over 32%!"

"We're already over 35%!"

"Even more viewers are tuning in to our broadcast!"

"PD Kim?"

Despite the loud shouts of the clamoring employees, PD Kim Daeguk remained motionless, his gaze blank as he continued to stare at the screen. He was also mesmerized by the scene presented in front of him.

Thwaaaaaaaaack—

Along with that loud sound, the face of Athenae's absolute existence was forced to turn to one side. There might be more complex reasoning for the drastic increase in their viewership ratings.

However, one thing was for sure. Most of the players that had given up on playing and abandoned Athenae after suffering from the Great Luvien Empire were now tuning in to the broadcast after hearing the news.

The Luvien Empire, an empire that had appeared and opened the second era of Athenae, had imposed huge taxes on several hunting grounds, hidden dungeons, and even players. Of course, those taxes would be nothing as long as they became a citizen of the Luvien Empire. However, some of the players still felt like the empire had violated their freedom. For these people, seeing Nerva being slapped on the cheek like that was a very refreshing sight.

"Our viewership rating has exceeded 40%...!"

The viewership rating that Minhyuk and Kang Taehoon had discussed over their negotiations had been met.

Brod, who was once one of the two suns, had also led a knight order that was strong enough to fight against the Swords of the Gods. Back then, Brod was competing fairly with Nerva for the position of the Battle God's Sword. However, the only one that was playing fair was Brod.

].

Nerva had poisoned the food of the Red Sword Knights, an act that resulted in the death of many. As for those that survived, they were forced to hide in the shadows.

Although he was not aware of it, Brod's anger toward Nerva had reached great heights when the latter forced his dearly beloved Red Sword Knights to their death. After all, the person that he once believed to be his friend took away the lives of the people that were precious to him, all because of his greed and self-interest.

Then, that very same friend, Nerva Sephiroth, suddenly appeared in front of his eyes.

In the form of the Destruction General, Brod slapped Nerva across the face, forcing Nerva's face to the side, rendering shocked and unable to come back to his senses.

Even the commentators could hardly believe their eyes.

[A surprising thing had just happened right in front of our very eyes.]

[The being called the Destruction General just slapped Nerva's face.]

[I believe we're seeing something that I personally never thought possible during my broadcasting career here in Athenae.]

Nevertheless, everyone thought that it was just that. They all thought that the Destruction General was lucky enough to slap Nerva. The NPCs and rankers on the scene grew tense. They were all worried that Nerva's wrath would also have an impact on them.

Just like they expected, Nerva was feeling boundless anger from what just happened to him.

"Bastaaaaaaaaaard!!!" Nerva shouted, his eyes growing wide while the veins on his neck popped out and his face turned red from fury. He quickly planned on making this bastard feel the worst pain imaginable in this world. "Bastard, how dare you..."

Thwaaaack—

However, the Destruction General just slapped him once again. The slap was so strong that Nerva staggered backward. He tried to get back to his senses as quickly as possible but it was to no avail. It was obviously just a slap in the face. However, Nerva felt as if someone had hit him in the face with a crowbar.

Baaaaaaaaaang—

The divinity that exploded from his body made the ground around him rise to great heights and turn into a wave.

[Nerva's Wrath.]

[Athenae's absolute existence, Nerva, is furious.]

[Your HP is dropping continuously!]

[You will be helpless in front of this strong force!]

Thwaaaack—

The Destruction General slapped Nerva once again. Nerva was shocked and terrified of the force that was used to slap him. He could not even react at all. The Destruction General just stood close to Nerva and slapped him several times.

Thwaaaack—!

Thwaaaaaaaaaack—!

Thwaaaack—!

Nerva's lips burst and blood began to drip down his chin.

"Your Majesty...!"

"Your Majesty Nervaaaaaaaa!!!"

"Your Majestyyyyyy!!!"

Nerva's faithful and loyal subjects tried to run to where he was.

They were actually in a situation where Nerva had already summoned all of the Battle God's Warriors, and it made Minhyuk also summon all of his Knights of Destruction.

Flaaaaash—

Flaaaaaaash—

Flaaaaaaash—

Along with a swirl of black streams of energy, someone that looked like the Spear God, the Evil God and the God of Snakes appeared. Not only that, someone like Brod and someone like the Sword of the God Luo, who carry a deep anger and resentment toward Nerva, also appeared. Luo, the person that carried the power of the God of Assassins, was once Nerva's subordinate. There was only one reason why Luo was angry at Nerva. However, just when Luo was about to dash forward and join Brod, Destruction Monarch Minhyuk raised his arm and stopped him.

"Let him be. He's the only one that's more furious at Nerva than you."

"..."

For a moment, Luo felt like he could see Brod's expression through his mask. There was both fury and sorrow flashing on his face. At that moment, Luo knew what he should do instead.

Stab— Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

Luo also received the correction effect and buff effect of the Destruction Monarch. He moved swiftly and swept away those that tried to approach the Destruction General. This was the best he could do for Brod, the one that was most furious with Nerva.

Of course, Minhyuk thought the same. However, there was just one thing that he was worried about.

‘What if Brod gets too angry and reveals his identity...?’

The Land of Destruction was an event and death was not true death. Even though it was necessary to do this, Nerva Sephiroth, who suffered from great disgrace and shame, would definitely rally his entire force and move to destroy the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom if he knew the truth.

Thankfully, Brod was not a fool blinded by his anger.

Thwaaaaaaaack—

“This is for the ones that died an unjust death because of you.”

Thwaaaaaaaack—

“This is for the ones that had been deprived of a lot of things because of you.”

Thwaaaaaaaack—

“This is for the ones that are suffering as they lived their daily lives because of you.”

Every word that Brod said was for him and the Red Sword Knights. Eventually, Nerva’s body lost strength. This was the greatest humiliation that he has ever felt as the greatest emperor in existence. Nerva Sephiroth knew that he could no longer allow this man to cause him any more disgrace. So, he used all of the divinity in his body and ignited a fire that engulfed his body.

Cracklee—

The burning Nerva Sephiroth glared sharply at the Destruction General. In his final moment, he realized who was standing in front of him.

“...”

Nerva was once Brod’s closest friend. However, Nerva had always been jealous and envious of the man.

‘I wasn’t the sun that shone brightly by his side.’

Compared to Brod, Nerva was nothing but a shabby and dim existence. His greed made him furious.

“Brother.”

“...Do not call me brother with that filthy mouth of yours.”

The Destruction General’s rage boiled over.

Before he disappeared from the blazing flames of his divinity, Nerva said, “Try to bring down my empire with that king that you believe in.”

“I will bring it down even if you don’t say anything.”

“I’ll be waiting for you.”

Brod and Minhyuk both understood the meaning of Nerva’s words. Nerva would not do anything about what happened here. The greatest and absolute existence in Athenae had been slapped in front of everyone. But he actually promised he would not do anything about it.

On the other hand, Nerva knew that in the long time that passed ever since that day, Brod had been suffering. He had to be living with a broken heart, his rage and resentment eating up his very existence every single day. Nerva fully understood that. So, as the sinner that brought that pain to Brod, he promised not to do anything about this transgression.

Swoooooooooosh—

[The Battle God’s Warriors’ Commander has died!]

[Warning!]

[Warning!]

[Please eliminate the Destruction Monarch and the Destruction Army!]

Both the players and NPCs started to realize that this situation was turning into something that was far beyond an event.

At that moment, Minhyuk heard Mandala say, “Your Majesty, it’s completed.”

Minhyuk hurriedly pulled back as he looked at the parchment that Mandala made.

(Parchment that Drives Away Evil)

Grade: *Legendary*

Special Effects:

?It can awaken those that have been brainwashed by black magic, curses and all other evil powers and return themselves to their original self.

?It will take more than ten minutes for the purification to finish. The parchment user cannot move during that time period.

After confirming the details, Minhyuk immediately ordered, “Everyone, protect me.”

Riiiiip—

A bright light enveloped the body of the Destruction Monarch the moment Minhyuk tore the parchment apart. At the same time, the Destruction Monarch’s Army and the Knights of Destruction surrounded Minhyuk and began to protect him.

After losing their commander, the Battle God’s Warriors realized that this was their only opportunity. So, they unleashed a fierce barrage of their attacks.

Then, at that moment, a very frustrating notification rang in Minhyuk’s ears.

[The Destruction Monarch only has twelve hours left to live.]

“...”

Minhyuk already knew that the Land of Destruction could not be maintained for a long time. And the same was true for the body of the Destruction Monarch Farrow. Although Farrow would not be killed by the others, he still would not be able to escape his inevitable death.

‘I have obviously been far too reckless.’

Minhyuk admitted this fact. He willingly twisted the framework of the event after thinking through the perspective of the Battle God. However, he also knew that it was the NPCs that gave the rewards in Athenae. So, he was convinced that he would be able to win over the Battle God.

However, something far more unexpected and extraordinary happened.

[The Evil Incarnate is furious!]

[The Evil Incarnate is enraged!]

[Evil Incarnate.]

[He is a being that exists everywhere and nowhere.]

[He is furious at the being that went against his will.]

[The Land of Destruction is actually the Land of the Evil Incarnate!]

Immediately after, a bleak and gloomy voice rang all over the place. It sounded like it was Satan's voice inside a girl’s body.

[I am the one that is the most hideous.]

[The one that reeks the most.]

[The most terrifying.]

[The greatest.]

[The one that dared to go against my will.]

[Ke... kekekekekekeke... kihihihihihihih... Kihehehehehehehehehe!]

A strange and gruesome laughter rang loudly and engulfed the entire Land of Destruction.

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President Kang Taehoon's jaw dropped at the sudden turn of events. "Did the Evil Incarnate react to Player Minhyuk's erratic and out-of-the-box behavior?"

That was right. In the original story, the Battle God's Army would eventually kill the Destruction Monarch. This was the story that the Evil Incarnate wanted to see. If that happened, then the Evil Incarnate would be the one laughing at everyone. However, things were not going as planned right now.

[The Evil Incarnate has started his descent!]

The one that existed everywhere and nowhere shot into the body of the Destruction General.

Crack, crack, crack— Swoosh— Fwiiiish—

Of course, Brod's body would be the biggest and greatest prey that the Evil Incarnate could have in this situation. Thankfully, even if Brod died here, he would not really die a real death.

[The Destruction General is resisting the Evil Incarnate!]

[The Destruction General is trying to drive away the Evil Incarnate!]

"Keuaaaaaaaaaack!" Brod's eyes made contact with Minhyuk as he screamed. Brod seemed to be trying his best to not lose his consciousness for Minhyuk's sake. But the Evil Incarnate was far too strong. He was able to dominate Brod's body in the end.

Minhyuk's face turned ugly. Perhaps the power of the Evil Incarnate was to take over and use the body of another. However, there were not many clues to confirm this matter. All Minhyuk could do was stare and gulp dryly.

The Evil Incarnate took over the body of the Destruction General and laughed maniacally.

[Kahahahahaha!]

[He's going to die.]

[Your older brother Farrow will die in a sea of despair.]

[Everyone here will die.]

The Evil Incarnate was originally one of the Absolute Gods. However, he had been exiled by the other Absolute Gods and concealed from others. He had long been hiding in the darkness, and bringing evil and despair to many.

Brod's body, which had been taken over by the Evil Incarnate, changed shape. What appeared next was an extremely dark-skinned man with a face that had no other shape or feature except a wide mouth filled with sharp piranha-like teeth and a very long tongue.

The Evil Incarnate licked his face with his long tongue.

[Evil Incarnate. Level 921.]

There was probably only one reason why the Evil Incarnate still lived in this world. Perhaps it was because he could live and appear anywhere and everywhere.

The Evil Incarnate whispered with his Satanic and girl-like voice...

[Die, Farrow.]

Then, the same terrifying voice rang in the ears of everyone present.

[The Evil Incarnate's Whisper.]

[Your HP has started to drop at a rapid pace after hearing the whispers of the Evil Incarnate.]

"Aaaaaaaaaack!"

"Keuaaaaaaaaaack!"

"Keheooooook!"

"Urrrrrrk...!"

The people, regardless if they were enemies or allies, started to fall one after another. It was nothing but a mere whisper. However, the scene in front of Minhyuk clearly showed how terrifying the opponent was.

‘Almost 30% of all the people present have died.’

At that moment, Minhyuk realized that perhaps Destruction Monarch Farrow would die soon.

At the same time.

The man, who turned a blind eye to his older brother Farrow’s plight in the heavy suffocating weight of the name ‘Battle God’, grabbed his sword and put on his cape.

He stared at the white armor hanging on his wall. This was the armor that could only be worn by those recognized by the Battle God and had the power to temporarily allow one to become a ‘God’s Knight’ once worn. He also packed the white armor.

Then, the Greatest God spoke.

[Child. You should not go there.]

The god of the strongest and most powerful army, the Battle God, had temporarily lost some of his power in an attempt to restrict Farrow. Because of that, he did not have the power to lead his entire army as of the moment.

Even so, the Battle God still wore his golden helmet and said, “I have to go, Mother.”

[...]

“That child has made me realize what I needed to do now.”

Athenae knew that the child that Belson was referring to was none other than the Lowest God Minhyuk. Who were the gods? The greatest? Did being the greatest mean that they should not have any emotion? No. Athenae was fully aware how much the Battle God loved and missed his older brother Farrow.

At this moment, the greatest Absolute God began to move.

Athenae’s voice resonated from behind the disappearing Battle God.

[The one that made him move.]

[...was the Lowest God.]

Chapter 762: The War of Destruction

After looking at the Fallen and Wretched Emperor Brod, Minhyuk could not help but feel curious. He wondered who would win if the brightest sun, Brod, and the entire force of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom fought.

It was a thought that he had entertained as a joke before. However, he knew that it would not be an easy fight if that truly happened. They might have plenty of prominent and powerful people on their side, like Spear God Ben, God of Snakes Elizabeth, Sword Saint Conir, Great Pirate Gorfido, Sword of the Gods Luo, and many more, but Brod was just too strong for them.

Right now, Brod had turned into the Evil Incarnate. It was definitely a challenge for them to deal with, but it did not mean that there was no hope at all.

[The Evil Incarnate has taken over the body of the Destruction General! The Destruction Monarch’s Touch’s buff has been terminated!]

[The Destruction Monarch’s correction effect on the Destruction General has been terminated!]

Even so, the level of the Evil Incarnate was still at Level 921. Perhaps it was because of the countless powers that the Evil Incarnate possessed, combined with Brod’s own power, hence it resulted in that. In fact, a simple whisper from the Evil Incarnate and more than 30% of the troops present had died.

Minhyuk's face turned ugly. Unfortunately, the appalling notifications did not end there.

[The Mercenary's Pinnacle Skill's Final Chapter has been fused with the effects of the Evil Incarnate's 'Gruesome Dreams'!]

[The Gruesome Dreams' effect will only be applied to NPCs. It will be triggered even after they have died in the Land of Destruction and get revived outside.]

[The Gruesome Dreams' effects would force one to dream about the moment that they feared the most over and over again.]

[The Gruesome Dreams' effects would last for an entire month!]

[The only way to remove the effects of the Gruesome Dreams is to drive away the Evil Incarnate that has encroached upon and taken over the body of the Destruction General.]

“...”

Minhyuk's face grew uglier by the second.

Each and every single person had a painful memory that they could never voice out, hidden in the depths of their hearts. For Spear God Ben, it was the day that he lost his child. For Great Pirate Gorfido, it was the day that he found out that he was the one that killed the girl, who he treated as if she was his real daughter, with his own hands.

Through 'Gruesome Dreams', they would continue to suffer that moment over and over again. Something like that would definitely bring them down to their knees and force them into a mental breakdown.

Minhyuk could only stand there in frustration, lamenting the fact that he could not move, as he watched his men helplessly.

As for the Battle God's Warriors, they just stood by and watched the situation. After all, they had deemed the Destruction Monarch as their enemy. It would not make sense for them to jump in the middle when the Evil Incarnate was going to kill their enemies.

However, the Evil Incarnate did not distinguish between ally or foe.

[The Evil Incarnate's Jar of Desire has appeared!]

A huge black jar popped out in front of the Evil Incarnate. And when he opened the lid, a loud and terrifying scream rang loudly.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack!”

[The ones that hear the screams of the Jar of Desire will lose something that they treasure and cherish the most once they are forced to log out!]

Alexander, who was also watching the situation, frowned deeply at the notification.

[The Evil Incarnate will reduce your level by -10 if you are forced to log out of the Land of Destruction.]

[However, if the Evil Incarnate dies within two days, the penalty will be waived.]

It was an insane penalty. Alexander could not help but groan. As one of the global top rankers, Alexander only needed ten more levels to reach Level 600. He had been thinking that perhaps he would be able to close the gap between him and Minhyuk once he reached Level 600. However, he could only grab the hilt of his sword tightly after hearing the worst notification that he could receive at the moment.

Meanwhile, at God of Archery Miao's side.

[The Evil Incarnate will remove your skill: Destruction Shot if you are forced to log out of the Land of Destruction.]

“...God damn it. You just can't get a break around here.”

Destruction Shot was God of Archery Miao's one-shot kill skill. For a top high ranker like her, losing her own lethal skill would be the worst outcome.

Such notifications rang in the ears of all of the rankers present when the Evil Incarnate appeared:

[The Evil Incarnate has descended!]

[Five of the people that contribute greatly to the hunt of the Evil Incarnate will acquire the thing that they want the most.]

[Those that contribute to the hunt of the Evil Incarnate will receive 50 platinum.]

Even if they were not able to reach the top five in terms of contributions, 50 platinum was still a very sweet deal.

The gazes of the top high rankers and the Destruction Monarch met. However, none of the high rankers even thought about cooperating with the Destruction Monarch. They did not know who he was. The only thought that coursed through their heads was that they had to kill the Evil Incarnate right here and now.

Baaaaaaaaang!

Alexander, God of Archery Miao, and the global top rankers began to move, while some of the world-renowned NPCs followed behind them. Among the NPCs that moved were the Mercenary King Venteio, Saintess Loyna, the Dragon King, Elven King Argon and many more. With these NPCs standing behind them, the players felt like they had nothing to fear.

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

“Destruction Shot!”

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaa—

“Mercenary’s Pinnacle Swordsmanship.”

The strongest NPCs and the most powerful players released their lethal skills toward the Evil Incarnate.

“Graaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!” A strange cry came out of the mouth of the Evil Incarnate. It sounded like the attacks were effective against him.

Of course, the Knights of Destruction did not miss this opportunity. They moved and joined the fray, causing continuous damage to the Evil Incarnate. However, the problem was that the Knights of Destruction and the Battle God’s Warriors were also constantly fighting against each other.

[They’re not united at all.]

[They both have the same goal. However, since they are enemies, each side feels like they are interfering with each other in terms of putting pressure on the Evil Incarnate.]

However, thanks to them, Minhyuk was able to buy some time. Now, there were only three minutes before the penalty of the Parchment that Drives Away Evil was over.

The current level of the Destruction Monarch was around Level 900. It was more than enough to confront the Evil Incarnate. Just then, something unexpected happened.

[Farrow, who had fallen into a deep slumber inside the Destruction Monarch’s body, has started to awaken!]

[The skill: ??? is being released!]

[You can now check the skill: ???.]

Minhyuk’s eyes grew wide when he checked the skill hidden in the Destruction Monarch, or Farrow, to be exact.

‘You’ve prepared something like this?’ However, Minhyuk still shook his head. ‘I need him for this skill to be triggered and activated.’

At that moment, those that were attacking felt like they were finally seeing a ray of hope after seeing the Evil Incarnate unable to defend itself and getting constantly pushed back like that.

[The Ugliest and Filthiest God, the Evil Incarnate, loved ‘fear and despair’.]

[The Evil Incarnate loves to trample on budding hopes and dreams.]

[He smirks and laughs.]

Smirk—

The corners of the lips of the Evil Incarnate were curled up despite the attacks that landed constantly on his body.

Crack—

Crack—

Crack—

Crack—

Crack—

Crack—

In the blink of an eye, the situation was flipped around, as two black hands sprung up behind the heads of tens of thousands of players and NPCs. Then, these hands moved and snapped the necks of these people all at once. Those that leapt to the sky to attack the Evil Incarnate, all dropped one after another.

Thud—

Thud—

Thud—

Tens of thousands of people died, just like that. The Evil Incarnate immediately landed on the ground and took advantage of Brod's huge physique to slaughter the people around him.

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash!

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

Cruuuuuuunch—

Wherever he passed by, people would fall down and die. Both the Destruction Monarch's Army and the Battle God's Warriors fell down, their corpses intertwined on the battlefield.

"Step back!!!"

"Ugh, aaaaaaack!"

"Run away!!! Step back!!!"

"Keheooooook!"

"F*ck this sh*t!"

They all tried to run away, blaming and even raising their weapons against each other. In just thirty seconds, almost another 4,000 people died. The overwhelming power of the Evil Incarnate made everyone feel helpless and discouraged.

Then, the Evil Incarnate stabbed his sword into the ground.

Baaaaaaang—

An explosion of what seemed to be lava rose on the ground and devoured tens of thousands of people once again.

"..."

"..."

Everyone was left standing in a daze at the crazy display of power.

"What the hell... Who in the world is the Destruction General?"

"How can he be so strong..."

"Or is he strong because he is now the Evil Incarnate?"

Amidst their despair, Minhyuk finally felt the penalty slowly come to an end.

'I think it's worth giving it a try once I can move.'

A small hope started to sprout within Minhyuk. However, just like mentioned before, the Evil Incarnate loved to trample on budding hopes and dreams.

“Kihihihihihihihihihhi. I already knew.” The Evil Incarnate laughed grotesquely.

“Kihihihihihihihihihhi!!!”

His gruesome laughter rang loudly across the battlefield. At the same time, the horned helmet that covered Minhyuk’s face began to disperse.

[The Evil Incarnate has taken away the power that he has bestowed upon the Destruction Monarch!]

[The Destruction Monarch’s power is disappearing!]

Swoosh— and everything disappeared. The Level 900 power of the Destruction Monarch was stripped away from Minhyuk and disappeared into nothingness.

Slowly, his original appearance began to be revealed. His height of two meters was reduced and returned to his original 185 centimeter height. Shortly after, his white and fair skin, his straight nose and his soft and gentle eyes made their appearance. Then, his black cloak changed color and returned back to its original white color.

[With the power of the Destruction Monarch disappearing, the original appearance of the Battle God’s Envoy has started to unfold!]

At that moment, Minhyuk realized what the Evil Incarnate wanted to do. He must have thought that Minhyuk desired that Level 900 power and wanted to squash Minhyuk’s hope of killing him.

Finally, his face was revealed to the world.

“Minhyuk...?”

“Minhyuk’s the Destruction Monarch?”

“Isn’t that crazy...?!”

However, it was not despair that bloomed in the faces of the people that saw Minhyuk’s face, but hope.

“Kihihihihihihhi...?” The Evil Incarnate’s laughter slowly died down.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk decided to do the only thing that he could do now. His God’s Voice reverberated in the entire field.

[Gather up.]

His imposing and charismatic voice rang and all at once, the Destruction Monarch’s Army and the Battle God’s Warriors, who had been busy fighting against each other, began to gather behind him. The commentators broke out into a commotion.

[Well, the Evil Incarnate must not have known, right?]

[Indeed. Player Minhyuk is the only player in Athenae that can unite these people.]

Then, he triggered his God’s Voice once again.

[This evil being must be...]

Minhyuk was only at Level 600, leagues away from the Level 900 power that the Evil Incarnate had stripped away from him. However, he had something that could break through that level gap. He had the power to unite many.

[...Destroyed.]

Chapter 763: The War of Destruction

There had been a never-ending release of breaking news all over the world.

[Breaking News. The Destruction Monarch and the Envoy Chosen by the Battle God himself is none other than Food God Minhyuk.]

[Breaking News. The appearance of the Evil Incarnate has ruined the ‘War of Destruction’ event.]

[With the appearance of the Evil Incarnate, the ATV Broadcasting Station has broken through 50% in viewership ratings.]

[People from all over the world have tuned in wondering if they can hunt down the Evil Incarnate and if the War of Destruction Event will end safely.]

[Breaking News. The Destruction Monarch, global rankers, and NPCs have joined forces.]

[A miracle, a hope, has started to sprout in everyone's hearts.]

Meanwhile, the ugliest and filthiest god, the Evil Incarnate, hoped that Destruction Monarch Farrow and Battle God Belson would be devoured by their despair. He also hoped that everyone here, including the man named Food God that tried to interfere with his plans, would suffer tremendously.

Because of that, the Evil Incarnate took away the power that he gave to the Destruction Monarch. After all, only when they lost everything that they had, would helplessness and despair settle in their bones and make them shrink in fear.

However, the Evil Incarnate did not see any despair or suffering flash in the eyes of everyone present.

[The Evil Incarnate has made a huge mistake here.]

[True, he revealed the identity of the Destruction Monarch. However, that player is the best and the strongest ranker in Athenae.]

[The most important point here is the fact that Player Minhyuk has killed and hunted plenty of enemies that we believed to have been impossible to hunt.]

[Player Minhyuk is like a ray of light for everyone. He has always made the impossible possible.]

[And he's also the king of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

[The players, along with his own guild members, and the NPCs that were once his enemies, are now gathering by his side.]

[Since Player Minhyuk was the Destruction Monarch, we will now be able to see who the Knights of Destruction are.]

[The Knights of Destruction are probably NPCs from the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom like Spear God Ben, Brod, God of Snakes Elizabeth, and many more.]

[As we speak, the NPCs of Beyond the Heavens are starting to scatter into nothingness. Perhaps it's because the Evil Incarnate stripped Player Minhyuk of the power of the Destruction Monarch.]

[It seems like the Spear God Ben, Brod, Food God Minhyuk and the rest that we saw earlier were made and controlled by AI.]

[However, we should not forget the most important fact.]

The players from all over the globe clenched their fists tightly. Among those that gathered around Minhyuk were Overlord Raldo and Mercenary King Venteio.

[Venteio is the successor of the God of Mercenaries. He's like the father to all of the mercenaries.]

[Overlord Raldo might just be a king of a small nation. However, that nation is one that a few empires dare not do anything to. He has strength comparable to a kingdom itself.]

[Elven King Argon and the Dragon King are also here.]

[With the advent of the War of Destruction, plenty of NPCs that wanted to test the limits of their strength and their capabilities have all participated.]

[Even Absolute Monarch Richard and his Masserati Kingdom's guild members are also among the people that have gathered.]

[It seems like even Monarch Richard thought that their only way out of this perilous situation is to side with Minhyuk.]

[This will be the moment where they flip the heavens and the earths.]

At that moment, a stream of golden energy fluttered into existence on Golden Mage Ali's palms. Then, he pushed his palm forward and gathered the people scattered all over the place and brought them together.

"Do you think you, humans, will be able to do anything just because you're united?!"

The Evil Incarnate was once again left furious when things did not go his way. Furious at the hope that flashed in their faces, instead of the despair that he was anticipating, the Evil Incarnate shot hundreds of sword lights toward them, which filled the sky.

Before, they were all busy keeping each other in check. That was not the case anymore. Knights of Destruction Spear God Ben swung his spear and destroyed the sword lights that started to fall from the sky.

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom—

Immediately after that, Overlord Raldo used his 'Overlord's Technique' and further weakened the sword lights that got past Spear God Ben's attacks. Of course, the thousands of rankers would not let themselves be left behind. They all sent powerful attacks toward the oncoming barrage.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaam—

However, even though the rankers sent their powerful attacks, the sword lights did not disappear entirely and just continued on their merry way. Thankfully, with enough layered attacks, they eventually scattered into nothingness.

"Keueeeeeeeck! Keueeeeeeeck! Despair! Despair! I told you to fall into the depths of despair!"

The Evil Incarnate grew even more furious when things continued to stray from the path that he wanted.

Then, with Minhyuk charging at the vanguard, the close-combat high rankers began to run. At the same time, golden swords floated above before gently landing on the heads of the charging rankers and slowly seeping into their bodies.

[Absolute Monarch's Radiant Sword.]

[All of your attacks have increased by 20%. Your skills' attack has increased by 15%!]

These notifications rang in the ears of the high rankers, thanks to Absolute Monarch Richard's buff.

[Ruler of the Battlefield.]

[The blessings of the noble god that rules over all battlefields has wrapped around you!]

That was not the end. Mei Wei, once the global number one ranker who was now famous for becoming Minhyuk's bread shuttle, gave her blessings. At the same time, wings rose on the shoulder blades of all of the charging rankers.

[Your movement and attack speed have increased by 25%!]

[Your evasion rate has increased by 40%!]

[You can fly at the speed of light once!]

Hundreds of rankers flew up with white wings on their backs, and Minhyuk at the lead.

Then, a small and illusory figure started to form on Minhyuk's back. The illusory figure of a hero was wearing a golden armor and a golden horned helmet on his head. Belson might be chosen by the Battle God, but this person was someone that had transcended and gone beyond many gods through his own hardwork and effort.

Belson was clearly the God that 'Rules and Commands all Armies.' He had the ability to read through his enemies and the charisma to lead tens of millions of troops under his banner. Although his older brother Farrow was not chosen by the Battle God, there was one thing that one had to know about him. If they were talking about a show of force and power, Belson had never beaten Farrow. That was how strong and powerful Farrow was.

[The effects of the Parchment that Drives Away Evil has been activated!]

[Farrow has completely regained his consciousness!]

[Farrow.]

[He was a candidate for the God of Generals.]

[The Greatest God has chosen Belson to become the Battle God and Farrow as the God of Generals that protected him.]

[God of Generals Farrow was as strong and as powerful as the Sword God, the Spear God, the God of Archery and many more.]

The upright and noble Farrow, the man that sacrificed his life for the sake of his younger brother Belson, appeared on Minhyuk's back as an illusory figure and asked him, 'Were you the one that awakened me?'

"..."

Minhyuk was speechless. The man's voice was so soft, magnetic and charismatic. It was a voice that showed the majesty and dignity of a true god. Then, the voice took on a gentler tone.

'I saw everything.'

Farrow remembered everything when he was still the Destruction Monarch. He knew that the envoy chosen by the Battle God to enter the Destruction Monarch had defied the god's will. Of course, he also knew the reason why.

'I know that you did this so you can win the heart of the Battle God.'

That was right. Minhyuk was aware that the greatest reward that he could obtain here was the Battle God himself. That was the reason why he chose this path.

'However, there's also something small beneath that wish.' God of Generals Farrow smiled lightly.

'Deep inside, I know you also wished for me and Belson to meet again.'

That was also true. Farrow could see through this because he was the general that commanded the entire Land of the Gods.

[God of Generals Farrow was a myth in the Land of the Gods.]

This was a hidden story. As his untold story got told through the notifications ringing in the people's ears, a scene began to appear in the sky above them.

[The Evil Incarnate had constantly sent attacks to the Land of the Gods.]

[Using the wicked ones, he led millions of troops and advanced to the Land of the Gods.]

[However...]

Illusory figures and sceneries were drawn on the sky. It showed a god standing by his lonesome self and cutting down the millions of troops that the Evil Incarnate sent to the Land of the Gods. The man wore a golden armor and a golden horned helmet on his head. After breathing lightly, the man turned around.

[God of Generals Farrow.]

[He cut down millions of enemy troops by himself.]

[That's why the Evil Incarnate put a curse upon his younger brother Belson.]

[Why? Because the Evil Incarnate was afraid of Farrow.]

[Farrow might not be the Battle God, but he has strength and power comparable to the army that the Battle God commanded.]

Then, Farrow said, his soft and gentle voice seemed to wrap around and embrace Minhyuk, 'The Lowest God.'

'Do me one last favor. We...' Minhyuk heard the voice of the Battle God.

Minhyuk, who flew at the speed of light, appeared in front of the Evil Incarnate. Then, he slashed the god in front of him and used 'Sword of Carnage.'

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

[The Evil Incarnate's Authority will release the 'Evil Spirit's Army' for thirty minutes!]

[The Evil Spirit's Army will remain indefinitely unless the Evil Incarnate dies or his Evil Incarnate's Authority ends.]

Millions of black evil spirits of all bizarre shapes and sizes charged in front of their very eyes. They all had bones twisting strangely all over their bodies and their level was high, some even reached Level 646. Watching them turn the Land of Destruction into a sea of black made everyone tremble even further from fear.

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Everyone inside the conference room held their breath as they watched the Evil Incarnate's Authority unfold and bring about the players and NPCs' greatest fears. At the same time, millions of evil spirits marched and dyed the entire Land of Destruction a sea of black.

The flustered voices of the commentators also continued to ring inside the conference room.

[Our screens are once again filled with a sea of darkness.]

[We cannot confirm whatever is happening in the Land of Destruction.]

[Creak, creak, creak— Crack, crack, crack—]

[Uwaaaaaaack!]

[Keuaaaaaaack!]

[U, uwaaaaaaa! S, save meeeee!!!]

They could only hear the screams echo in the darkness. Even the operators and executives of Joy Co. Ltd. were left speechless when they heard those desperate screams.

[A total of 24,313 players and NPCs have either died or have been forced to log out inside the Land of Destruction.]

[A total of 42,514 players and NPCs have either died or have been forced to log out inside the Land of Destruction.]

[A total of 23,614 players and NPCs have either died or have been forced to log out inside the Land of Destruction...]

Everyone felt their mouths turn dry at the notifications that constantly rang in their ears. Just like that, deaths and forced logouts devoured their surroundings.

[P, pleaaaaaaaase!!!]

Someone's head dropped and rolled as one of the players shrieked helplessly.

[Crackleeee—!]

[Crackleeeeeeeee—!]

[Cracklesssss—!]

Then, blazing flames suddenly broke out all over the place and illuminated the Land of Destruction.

At the same time, the bodies of the Evil Spirits' Army that were devouring and tearing apart the players and NPCs caught fire and slowly faded into white before disappearing with the wind.

[Crackleeee—!]

[Crackleeeeeeeee—!]

Everyone turned to look at the light that was like a lamp in this never ending sea of darkness. There, they saw a man walking amidst the millions of troops of the Evil Spirit's Army.

The man's face looked very familiar. In fact, anyone that saw the promotional video of the War of Destruction would know who he was. His face was now covered with wrinkles, but it was still obviously 'him'.

He wore a set of white armor with a white sword hanging on his waist, while his silver hair fluttered behind him. With every step that he took, the entities of the Evil Spirit's Army were extinguished,

disappearing into nothingness. The Evil Spirit's Army had a limitless number of soldiers, but none of them reached him.

Everyone was in awe as they watched 'him' walk slowly forward. Then, he pulled his sword and swung it once.

Crackleeeeeeeee—

At the same time, half a million of the Evil Spirit's Army disappeared starting from the front to the rear of the army, after being engulfed with a bright white light.

This was the greatest being.

[One of the Absolute Gods.]

[The Greatest and Strongest God that Ruled Over All of the Armies.]

[The Battle God has descended!]

[The Battle God. He is the greatest god among the absolute gods!]

Chapter 764: The War of Destruction

The great myth among the Absolute Gods, which had been hidden under a thin veil, was being steadily revealed.

There were only a few selected players that were able to successfully change into an 'Absolute God Class.' Among these Absolute God classes, there was one class that had 56.1% votes for the 'Absolute God that I Want to Become the Most.' It was none other than the 'Battle God.'

Roldran, someone with the special class 'God Researcher' in Athenae, had the ability to dig up information about the gods. He was someone that knew more about the Battle God than anybody else and had revealed all of his knowledge about him.

—The Battle God is a god above other gods. The Spear God, the Sword God, the God of Magic and many other gods would have to kneel in his presence.

—Unlike the other gods, the Battle God can keep his position for a very long time.

—According to myths and legends, the very first Battle God also had special powers.

—It's the power to call upon and gather the gods at his command.

The people were shocked after hearing that the Battle God had such a power.

Then, someone asked Roldran.

—Then, does that mean that the Battle God is invincible?

—No. This is only true for the first Battle God. According to stories, the Battle God of this era has an older brother. When the two of them were born, this power was given to the older brother.

However, now that older brother is dead.

—Does that mean that the power has been gone forever?

—That's right. To be honest, there's no way that they will let such a power remain intact in Athenae, where balance is valued more than anything else. There is a high chance that even if he has that power, he will not be able to use it.

—Why is that so?

—Because he would need the approval of the Battle God. He cannot just call upon the gods whenever he wanted.

As such, the power was completely sealed. However, just by listening to the myths and legends about the Battle God made all of the viewers admire the said god. After all, he was someone that had saved the Land of the Gods several times, and was deserving of the admiration of many.

Crackleeeee—

One swing of his sword and more than half a million of the Evil Spirits' Army were engulfed by white flames, disappearing into nothingness.

As the people watched him, with strands of his silver hair fluttering from underneath his horned helmet, they could not help but wonder what would happen next.

When the Destruction Monarch appeared, who was also the Battle God's older brother Farrow, the Battle God had spent quite a lot of energy to control and suppress him. As a result, he temporarily lost the power to lead all of his troops. In other words, the Battle God was nothing but a strong god right now. However, he still took the risk and made a move.

As the Battle God turned his back on the white flames that devoured the enemy troops, his gaze was focused elsewhere. There, he saw his older brother Farrow clinging on Minhyuk's back in the form of a soul.

Farrow did not say anything. This man in front of them was his younger brother, the younger brother that was chosen as the Battle God. However, he had been a coward throughout their youth. Then, the voice of the Battle God rang all over the world. It was a slightly different, yet unmistakably unique voice.

[He was a coward.]

In the sky, the figure of a boy squatting on the ground while sobbing as little gods surrounded him appeared. Then, another boy appeared. The boy swung his wooden sword and chased the other gods away.

[However, he had an older brother.]

Then, the scene in the sky changed. This time, it showed the reliable older brother patting the crying boy's back.

[The older brother led and guided the younger brother.]

The reliable older boy taught the younger boy how to hold his sword, the two of them smiling brightly as they looked at each other and swung their wooden swords.

Hundreds of scenes appeared in the sky at the same time. There was a scene where the older brother appeared like a miracle when the younger brother was surrounded by a huge number of monsters.

The scene where the older brother cooked for his younger brother. The scene where the older brother taught his younger brother how to stand and carry himself in front of others. Hundreds of such scenes appeared and scattered in the sky. Finally, the scene of the Battle God standing in front of millions of Divine Army troops appeared.

[And because of him...]

The Battle God looked at his older brother Farrow. Farrow had been smiling lightly at him, but when he heard the Battle God's voice, his smile turned brighter. Right now, Farrow could say that he was the happiest in the world. He might not have become the Battle God, but his brother Belson, did. He became the greatest god in the world.

On the other hand, the Battle God was sporting a bitter smile on his face. Because of his foolish self, his older brother died all by himself. He could not even bring himself to go to his older brother Farrow.

At that moment, Minhyuk felt Farrow squeeze into his body. However, it was not coercive nor forceful. Just like he promised, Minhyuk surrendered his body to Farrow.

Minhyuk's soul left the body and immediately, there were changes to the physique. In the first place, this body was that of Farrow, the Destruction Monarch. So, when Farrow's soul went inside, the figure of the Destruction Monarch morphed into that of Farrow.

Unlike his younger brother Belson, Farrow had short silver hair and a gigantic body that towered over two meters. The moment he recovered his body, Farrow began to walk one step at a time until he stood in front of the Battle God.

The Battle God was the greatest and strongest god. However, he could not hide his emotions in front of his older brother, as a single drop of tear started to drip down his cheek.

“Congratulations on becoming the Battle God, Belson.”

The Battle God smiled at Farrow’s words. The fact that Farrow reached his hand out to him first was showing him that his older brother did not regret the choice that he made back then. The Battle God clasped his brother’s hand tightly. Only after he grabbed his older brother’s big and warm hands, hands that he had not been able to hold for a very long time, did a bright smile bloom on the Battle God’s face.

[This is a very heartwarming scene.]

[Farrow, who died for his younger brother, and Belson, the strongest Absolute God that dearly missed his older brother.]

[This was originally a story where Destruction Monarch Farrow was supposed to die.]

Then, the Evil Incarnate’s piercing shrieks rang in the ears of the two, “Farroooooooooooooow!!! Belsooooooooooooooon!!!”

The Evil Incarnate’s Authority would last for thirty minutes. Basically, he had an infinite number of troops for as long as the authority was activated. Just like that, enormous cracks in space opened as millions of hideous and gruesome troops of the Evil Spirit’s Army continuously poured out. All of them charged toward Farrow and the Battle God.

Then, Farrow said, “Belson, did your skill in the sword improve?”

“I’m probably better than you now, brother.”

Older Brother Farrow carried a sword that was as big as his body, while the Battle God had his sword hanging at his waist.

Meanwhile, the viewers that watched the scene were all holding their breaths. The Battle God was the strongest and greatest Absolute God. However, he could only exert the true extent of his power when he was leading his army. Perhaps Farrow was even stronger than the Battle God right now.

“Let’s go.” Farrow walked toward the millions of charging Evil Spirit’s Army with the Battle God walking beside him.

[Amazing.]

[It looks like that sea of black is coming to devour the two of them.]

[You can sense no fear from the steps of the two gods.]

[Perhaps the greatest scene in the history of Athenae will be created today.]

[Dear viewers, we suggest that you don’t take your eyes off of your screens.]

[The steps that they are taking now will become the stuff of legends.]

The Battle God pulled his sword and swung it swiftly.

Crackle—

In just an instant, more than 300,000 of the Evil Spirits’ Army had been swept away by blazing white flames.

This time, it was Farrow that swung his greatsword in the air. He just swung it at the empty air in front of him. However, something amazing happened right after. More than 500,000 of the Evil Spirits’ Army were ripped apart before disappearing into nothing.

Belson and Farrow exchanged glances, before the two began to run toward the enemy troops as they spoke to each other with voices that only they could hear.

“That child, who is he?” Farrow was very curious about Minhyuk.

The Battle God grinned at his older brother’s question. “He’s the child that I want to become my successor.”

“...”

[You have worn the God's Knight's Armor!]

[Only those that have received the recognition of the Battle God can wear the God's Knight's Armor!]

[You have temporarily become a God's Knight.]

[All of your stats have increased by 33%.]

[All of your skills' level has increased by +2.]

[God's Knight can wield the power of the Battle God and the God of Generals.]

As the white armor settled over Minhyuk's body, his black hair slowly turned silver. At the same time, the sound of something cracking rang loudly behind them.

Genie turned around, only to be greeted with the destruction of the barrier that protected the Battle God and the God of Generals. Thankfully, the two had almost finished the preparation for their lethal move.

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

Farrow stabbed his sword in the ground, and instantly, a huge explosion that covered a 50 kilometer radius bloomed and devoured the Evil Spirits' Army. When everything settled down, there was no trace of the army being in the area left behind.

At the same time, tens of thousands of white flames rained down from the sky and extinguished the existence of the Evil Spirits' Army beneath them the moment the Battle God raised his sword to the sky.

The army that had been blocking the path to the Evil Incarnate disappeared because of the overwhelming strength that the two gods displayed. However, the Battle God and the God of Generals were now both exhausted. They were breathing roughly after consuming a huge chunk of their power to release those moves.

Neigggggghhhh—

Minhyuk, who had now become a God's Knight, climbed atop a white warhorse.

‘Minhyuk?’

That was when Genie noticed that the Battle God and the God of Generals had only made their move to attract the attention of the Evil Incarnate. The one that would truly cut down the Evil Incarnate was not them, but Minhyuk.

Meanwhile, a set of notifications rang in the ears of Minhyuk, who was charging through the disappearing Evil Spirits' Army on his white warhorse.

[You have become the God's Knight! You can now use the power of the Battle God or the power of the God of Generals!]

[You have used the skill: ‘Assembling the Gods’!]

[The Battle God has approved your use of the skill: ‘Assembling the Gods’!]

The ‘???’ skill that God of Generals Farrow possessed was none other than this.

Then, the voice of the Battle God resounded.

[The One who gathered all of the gods...]

[...is the Lowest God.]

Chapter 765: The War of Destruction

What kind of existence were the gods in the minds of the Athenae players? They were the absolute existence in their fields, with Greatest God Athenae as the sole exception. There were many legends that used the spear and the sword, to the point that it was impossible to count them with their hands. However, gods were different. For each field in the world, there was only one god.

That was why everyone knew that these gods were great, but arrogant beings. Was there anything that they could say against these arrogant beings? No, because they were the progenitor and the

creator of that field. Besides, it was likely anyone would act the same way if they were in the same position.

Minhyuk, who rode on the white warhorse while wearing full plate armor, used the God of Generals' skill: 'Assembling the Gods'. Underneath the white horned helmet, Minhyuk opened his mouth and said, "Assemble."

Along with his words, a powerful and majestic world message resounded.

[The One that Received the Recognition of the God of Generals.]

[The One that Became the 'God's Knight' for the Battle God.]

[He has used the Assembling the Gods!]

[The Gods that have assembled will only be able to use one attack and one skill!]

[He is the Lowest God!]

[The Lowest God's order to assemble the gods is not an absolute order!]

[...has not responded!]

[...has not responded!]

Plenty of people grew helpless and despondent when they heard that some gods were unresponsive despite the call for the Assembling of the Gods. It would have been a spectacular sight to see, one not witnessed anywhere else in the world, if a player rallied those noble and arrogant gods.

However, the players knew the reality.

[... A foreigner god? There's no way that they'll respond to the calls of Player Minhyuk, a mere Continental God.]

[It's a bit unfortunate but at least we have the Battle God and the God of Generals on our side. There's still hope.]

[In fact, I believe they have a good chance. After all, Player Minhyuk can use the power of the 'Food God' and the power of the 'God's Knight' right now.]

The commentators spoke as if they were consoling each other, but the viewers remained bitter.

[There's no way that those arrogant gods will answer the calls of a foreigner god and the lowest god Minhyuk.]

[It doesn't matter if Player Minhyuk is the best and strongest ranker in the world. In the first place, it does not make sense for him to gather those gods.]

[However, what do you think would happen if the Battle God is the one that used the Assembling the Gods?]

[If the Battle God is the one that used the Assembling the Gods, then don't you think that those gods will all prostrate and kneel in front of him?]

[This is obviously the limit of a player.]

[It would be ridiculous if Absolute Gods appeared, right?]

[Guys, wake up. The ordinary gods are not coming, so why would Absolute Gods appear? On top of that, the Absolute Gods are in the same class as the Battle God.]

Just like what one viewer said, the Absolute Gods were in the same class as the Battle God.

[Will they even assemble even if it was the power of the Battle God? They have their own pride, you know?]

[Eh... But it's not the Battle God that asked them to gather. It's Minhyuk.]

[No, how can the Food God gather them if even the Battle God cannot?]

[Now that you say that... it sounds reasonable.]

Everyone felt that it was a pity after thinking like that.

However, the Battle God was sporting a relaxed expression on his face as he murmured to himself, "There are so many Absolute Gods that love and adore that child."

“ ”
...

Farrow turned to look at Minhyuk in surprise after hearing those words.

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Lee Minhwa, a member of the Special Players Management Team, watched as the Land of the Gods was turned upside down.

Some of the gods were talking with each other.

“What? A mere Continental God dares to order us gods to assemble?”

“What’s his name?”

“The Food God? That cheeky and impudent bastard?!!!”

“Why would I even respond to the calls of that cheeky bastard?!”

“I have my pride as a god too!”

All of the gods in the Land of the Gods cursed and denied the summon. Seeing this, Lee Minhwa immediately tapped on her keyboard. However, what she saw in another place made her dumbfounded.

“This is Player Minhyuk’s personal connections... no, I mean, godly connections...”

‘Is it even appropriate to call it personal connections at this juncture?’

Just as she was pondering over the matter, the doors slammed open and Team Leader Park Minggyu entered.

Team Leader Park had come from the conference room to check on the situation after seeing that none of the gods had responded. “Why are the gods not responding? No matter how prideful they were, the Assembling of the Gods has been approved by the Battle God himself.”

Lee Minhwa shook her head at his question. “Team Leader, it’s not that the gods are not responding.”

“What?”

Team Leader Park looked at her in doubt. What in the world did she mean? So, Park Minggyu immediately turned to look at the monitor. There, he saw several Absolute Gods preparing to go to battle.

“They’re just waiting for the perfect moment. After all, those mere gods could never stand in front of the Absolute Gods.”

“...!”

The Evil Incarnate had no other choice but to feel that this situation was absurd. The blood running through the veins of that child was only that of a Continental God's blood. However, he was also considered as the Lowest God.

The Evil Incarnate felt the power of many gods thrumming in his body, however his strength was still far too weak. Even so, the Battle God and the God of the Generals still willingly handed the authority to use the ‘Assembling the Gods’ to this child.

If it was the God of the Generals that used the ‘Assembling the Gods’, then the other gods might have rushed over. But what would be the result right now? Regardless, it brought delight to the Evil Incarnate.

“Kikikikikikikikikikiki! Kihihihihihihihihihihihhi!”

To him, the situation looked like they dug the pits of despair on their own. They were filled with hope as they called for the other gods, but were promptly ignored.

'I cannot kill Belson or Farrow right now.'

The Evil Incarnate was a very shrewd being and he knew them better than anybody else. Since he knew them well, the Evil Incarnate thought of only killing Minhyuk, who had become the God's Knight and was charging straight toward him on his white warhorse. But that was not the end.

"You bastard, I will find you every day and kill you."

The Evil Incarnate planned to chase Minhyuk, the culprit that ruined his plans, to the ends of the earth and kill him day after day. He was everywhere and nowhere. This was a feat that he was very capable of.

Not long after, hundreds of black swords and spears appeared around him.

[The Evil Incarnate's Thunder Spear.]

[Three hundred spears with additional 2,400% attack shoot at your enemy at a high speed.]

The Evil Incarnate was basically at the level of an Absolute God. So, just three of the spears that he sent with additional 2,400% attack were enough to kill a few high rankers. Not to mention, the Thunder Spears were as fast as lightning and thunder.

Rumbleee!

Along with the rumbling in the sky, the spear that was floating beside the Evil Incarnate had traveled swiftly. In the blink of an eye, it was already stabbing through Minhyuk's flank.

"Kghk!"

[Your HP has dropped below 90%!]

Minhyuk was shocked to see that a chunk of his HP had been lost in just one attack. He fell into contemplation as he continued to ride the white warhorse. 'If I don't kill that bastard here then...'

Just like what the Evil Incarnate declared, Minhyuk would be forced to log out every single day.

That would spell doom for the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. It also meant that Minhyuk's eating addiction's improvement would come to a halt.

However, the Thunder Spears did not stop. They continued to silently move and stab into Minhyuk's body.

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

Rumbleeeeeeeee—

With every rumble of thunder, flashes of light would appear and stab all over Minhyuk's body.

[Your HP has dropped below 50%!]

[Your head suddenly began spinning!]

Minhyuk's body, which was still riding on the white warhorse, wobbled. He was suddenly in danger of falling. In fact, his hold on the reins suddenly loosened and his body had started to slip away from the horse.

But the attack was not yet over. Hundreds of spears flew one after another and shot toward Minhyuk's falling body. At that moment, the notifications came.

[The first God has responded!]

[The first God has been watching over him for a long time.]

[This God has always been watching him, seeing that he does not know how to back down despite all of the trials and hardships presented to him.]

[The first God is one of the 'Absolute Gods', the God of Will.]

[...!]

[...!]

[...!]

[...!]

"...!"

"...!"

“...!”

Everyone was shocked to see the message that rang.

The God of Will was one of the Absolute Gods and he was the one that did not know how to back down. If the Battle God was the one that everyone admired the most, the God of Will was the god that everyone believed to be capable of giving the best passive skills. That was not all, the God of Will had only appeared in front of a select few players, those that had successfully completed extremely hard and repetitive labor.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

A man appeared and supported Minhyuk's body that was falling off of the warhorse. The man's face was covered with a black mask so none of them could see his exact appearance. However, the soft smile and the warm gaze that he used to look at Minhyuk was gentler and warmer than anybody else.

When the hundreds of spears that were targeting Minhyuk appeared in front of them, another bunch of notifications rang out.

[The Will of the One that Charges Forward.]

[The Will of the One that Charges Forward has been triggered!]

[With your unwavering will, you will not fear anything that comes your way. No attack will reach you!]

[Your HP and MP has been restored to 100%!]

[You have the courage to stand tall and never fear anything.]

[All of your attack power has increased by 30%!]

Swoooooooooosh—

The hundreds of spears disappeared into nothing the moment Minhyuk raised his head and looked at them. The God of Will was left in a translucent state. He flew behind Minhyuk and joined him in his charge.

The commentators were stunned by the scene.

[This is unbelievable! One of the Absolute Gods, the God of Will, has responded to Player Minhyuk's call...]

But the shock that they would receive was not yet over.

[The second God has responded!]

[The second God loved and treasured him, who loved and placed food above everybody else and who wanted no one to be hungry, more than anybody else!]

[The second God is one of the 'Absolute Gods', the God of Cooking!]

At the same time, the God of Cooking, who was wearing a white armor and a white mask on her face, appeared right next to Minhyuk and smiled softly at him.

[The God of Cooking's Smile.]

[You have seen the smile of the fussiest and most stubborn God of Cooking.]

[Even if you haven't eaten anything, you will still feel full!]

[All of your stats have increased by 23%. All of your skills' level has increased by +1!]

The God of Cooking Arlene was the god that had been watching Minhyuk for the longest time.

The entire world was left reeling in shock.

[The third God has responded!]

[The fourth God has responded...]

[The fifth God...]

[The fiftieth God...]

[The ninety-ninth God...]

[You are in an oversaturated situation!]

[Saturated Situation!]

[Status can no longer be measured!]

[Cannot be measured!]

[Cannot be measured...]

[The Gates of Heaven have been momentarily blocked because of the overflowing number of gods that have responded to your call!]

It was completely ridiculous. So many gods have responded to the point that they were clamoring over the gates and could not pass through.

Minhyuk had already become stronger with the help of the God of Will and the God of Cooking. Because of that, Minhyuk's speed as he rode his white warhorse had also increased tremendously. It did not take too long for Minhyuk to reach the vicinity of the Evil Incarnate.

The Evil Incarnate knew that he could escape as long as he wanted to.

'I never expected that there would be this many gods that would respond to his call.'

The Evil Incarnate was very sure that he would die if all of the gods came here. However, just when he was about to turn into a stream of black air and disappear, another god responded.

[The 307th God has responded!]

[At first, this God envied him. Why? Because he was the one that caught his heart. He was also the one that made God feel insignificant.]

Many people groaned and hummed at the notifications. Which god was it that envied Minhyuk and even made him feel insignificant?

[But now, this God believes in him more than anybody else.]

[This God watches you, the Lowest God, earnestly.]

[I hope that you will inherit my legacy and follow in my footsteps.]

[The 307th God is one of the 'Absolute Gods', the Battle God!]

[The Battle God has gathered all of the gods that answered Player Minhyuk's call!]

Flash, flash, flash, flash, flash, flash, flash, flash, flash—

Huge pillars of light poured down from the sky and surrounded the Evil Incarnate. Once the light cleared away, what greeted the Evil Incarnate was more than 2,000 gods, with all of their weapons and power aiming at him.

[The assembled Gods are awaiting the orders of the Lowest God!]

This was the scene that all of the players dreamt of, but had deemed to be impossible. A scene where they could borrow the power of the gods and use it to fight the enemies.

Minhyuk, who stood in the middle of it all, raised his sword atop his warhorse and commanded, "Destroy him!"

Chapter 766

Joy Co. Ltd.'s conference room.

Everyone in the room felt sweat in the palm of their hands, while their lips opened and closed in excitement as goosebumps rose in their bodies.

The same was true for President Kang Taehoon. who had jumped from his seat, his eyes staring intently at the monitor while his hands clenched into fists. This was the 'Assembling of the Gods' that was carried out by a mere player.

Someone asked, "Why did the gods that did not respond to Minhyuk earlier turn up in the end?"

"The gods are also quick-witted beings." The Story Team's leader looked bitter as he continued,

"The Absolute Gods have gathered, how would they, the ordinary gods, not join them? The excuse

that Minhyuk is a mere Continental God has disappeared the moment the Absolute Gods made their appearance.”

That was the truth. To put it into perspective, it was like inside a human kingdom in Athenae, if the king appeared and answered the call, yet his subordinates and servants snorted and ignored it? Would that be even possible?

President Kang Taehoon continued to stare at the monitor. He watched as more than 2,000 gods gathered around the Evil Incarnate and waited for Minhyuk’s orders.

“A player...” Kang Taehoon licked his dry lips. “...has become a key character in Athenae.”

At the same time, Minhyuk’s voice rang from the monitor.

[Destroy him.]

The Evil Incarnate glared at silver-haired Minhyuk that stood in front of him. This person was a mere human being, the Lowest God. Yet, the gods answered this child’s call.

At the same time, bright white light bloomed as the gods fulfilled Minhyuk’s order.

“God’s Bullseye.”

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

The God of Archery’s arrow with 12,000% additional attack pierced through the neck of the Evil Incarnate.

“Roaring Whip.”

Craaaaaaack—

A ferocious whip stretched forward and struck the Evil Incarnate’s body with seventy attacks per second, tearing apart his skin and flesh.

“Kehehehehehehehehehe! Enouuuuuugh, stooooooooooooop!” The Evil Incarnate shrieked as the hundreds of Disses in the form of spears made of light sent by the God of Magic stabbed into his body all at once.

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

“P, pleaaaaaaaaaaaaase!”

The Absolute God that existed everywhere and nowhere, the being that existed where greed, despair and frustration ran rampant, was now shrieking desperately from pain.

The body of the Evil Incarnate, which was already turning into a stream of black air and getting ready to disappear, materialized once again. What awaited his body was an onslaught of attacks. That was not all. There were plenty of gods that had gathered, gods like the God of Parchment, the God of Alchemy and the God of Buffs. These gods poured out their buffs on Minhyuk, who had summoned them.

[God of Buffs’ Blessings.]

[All of your stats have increased by 13%!]

[Your sword’s attack has increased by 10%.]

[Your physical and magical defenses have increased by 20%.]

[This is a buff that can overlap with other buffs.]

[Parchment of Benevolence.]

[All of your stats...16%.]

[Your skills’ attack power...32%.]

To allow Minhyuk to receive several buffs, the gods chose to add the overlapping buff effect on top of the buffs that they sent to Minhyuk. However, in return, the effects of the buff that they cast was much weaker than their original buffs. Still, it was enough. Minhyuk, who was constantly being covered with light, was growing stronger by the second.

At that moment, the shrieking Evil Incarnate suddenly utilized one of his life-saving cards.

[Connecting Pain.]

[The Evil Incarnate has linked himself with another, causing the target to feel and suffer from the same damages and pain that he is receiving.]

“...!”

“...!”

It was a terrifying and gruesome skill, one that appalled both gods and viewers alike. More importantly, It mattered who the Evil Incarnate used the skill on. All of them turned tense as they held their breath. Amidst the nerve-wracking silence, someone released a shallow groan.

“Kghhk...!”

“...”

“...”

“...”

Everyone turned to look at the direction where the familiar voice came from. There, they saw a man gasping as cold sweat dripped down his face. The man was none other than the ‘Battle God’.

“S, stop attacking...!” One of the gods hurriedly shouted.

However, the skills that had already been released could no longer be taken back. They continued to attack the Evil Incarnate and whenever these attacks landed on him, the Battle God would suffer a pain that seemed to tear apart his entire being. Damage and pain were constantly intertwined. So, as the pain continued to bloom in the Evil Incarnate’s body, the Battle God also continued to suffer damages.

“Keuaaaaaaaack! Stoooooooooooooooooop! Please, please, please...!”

Unlike the Evil Incarnate that continued to scream and shriek, the Battle God just gritted his teeth and endured the pain. This was the endurance of a god and the dignity of an absolute being.

However, none of them was aware that the Battle God’s HP was also rapidly falling.

The Battle God was the ‘God of Armies’. However, now that he had temporarily lost his power to lead his army, he was nothing but a god with strength and power. Soon, he stumbled on his feet.

Belson’s older brother, Farrow, looked at him in worry.

“Ki, kikikikikikikiki! Kihehehehehehe... If I die, then the Battle God will die too.”

The gods stopped attacking the dirty and shameless Evil Incarnate. The skills that they had triggered previously had come to a stop.

At the same time, Minhyuk had been listening to the sounds that the Battle God had made.

“...What?” Minhyuk looked at the Battle God in surprise. However, the Battle God just smiled bitterly and nodded at him.

Immediately after that, the Battle God opened his mouth and said, “Attack the Evil Incarnate. This is a command.”

“...”

“...”

“...”

The gods were left speechless. When the Evil Incarnate dies, so then would the Battle God.

Unfortunately, the Battle God was the pillar of the Land of the Gods. Not long after, the Battle God used his Divine Order.

“Attack him!!!”

[The Battle God has given a Divine Order!]

[The gods will not be able to resist the Battle God’s Divine Order!]

Following his orders, the gods began to attack the Evil Incarnate once again.

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

“Grrrrrrrrrr! Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!” Screams and shrieks continuously rang out from the mouth of the Evil Incarnate.

Each time an attack landed, the Battle God would feel pain as if his bones were being wringed out and his entire body was being torn apart and burned.

“Belson...”

“Brother.”

Farrow looked at his brother sadly. This was the choice that he made.

“I am the Battle God.”

Indeed, he was the Battle God. He ruled over all of the gods and he had a mission; to protect both humans and gods alike.

“Thanks to you, brother, I was able to become the god that stood at the highest point.”

“...”

Both viewers and commentators that watched the scene were in awe and admiration. The gods always showed majesty and arrogance. However, there had always been a sincerity deep within them and the Battle God was showing it right now to protect the humans and the Land of the Gods. The gods were great, but they were also arrogant. This was the story of the man that walked silently amidst criticisms and the story of someone that chose to leave for everyone’s sake.

Meanwhile, the Evil Incarnate chose this moment to rush inside the body of the Battle God.

[The Evil Incarnate has taken over the body of the Battle God while he is in a weakened state!]

The Evil Incarnate thought that if he became the Battle God, then the gods would not be able to attack him. However, even if he took over the body of the Battle God, control did not come so easily. The Battle God’s vision was turning dark, but he endured with his strong spirit and resilience.

“Quickly... stop!”

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash, slash!

Blood spurted out as the body of the greatest god got torn apart, the blood flowing all over the place. However, the Battle God did not shake an inch. He just stood there with a bitter smile on his face.

Then, an unknown voice rang all throughout the world. The voice belonged to Belian, the nanny of the gods that was shown during the ‘War of Destruction’’s advertisement. It was immediately followed by the voices of the young gods, who asked questions one after another.

[But whenever I see Mister Belson, who became the Battle God, he looks so scary.]

[That’s right. The Battle God always has this serious expression on his face every day.]

[I heard that the Battle God purged a lot of the other gods.]

Nanny Belian told them in a calm voice.

[The Battle God is a ruler with a heart that is warmer than anybody else’s.]

The Battle God looked around the players and NPCs that had not died yet and burned the image into his mind. He looked up at the beautiful sky and thought of how these people that survived would go home with laughter in their faces.

[He’s someone that has to be colder than anybody else to maintain order. However, he is also a man who cares deeply about the gods and humans, more than anybody else.]

[The choices that he made has always been for the good of the gods and the humans.]

[In the process, he had no choice but to purge the ones that he cherished and loved. Every time the Battle God would have a hard time making that final choice.]

[However, deep inside he knew...]

[He knew that he had to make the choice for the good of everyone.]

[He is the god that carried that much pain on his shoulders.]

[However, as the greatest god, he could not show that he was dealing with such pain.]

[He has the humblest, yet the greatest name.]

Then, all of the gods' skills stopped. They could only use one of their skills or their powers through the effect of the Assembling the Gods. At this point, the Battle God was already reduced to a point where he was breathing roughly.

Everyone looked at the Battle God. All of the gods knew that the Battle God lived only for their sakes. He had always made the choice that was right for them and because he was there, the Land of the Gods had remained peaceful. However, unlike them, who enjoyed the peace that he brought them, the Battle God had always been suffering from the pain of his choices and the sadness that came along with it.

A single attack. Just one more attack and that would kill the Battle God.

"Battle Goooooooood!!!"

"Gooooooooood!!!"

"No!!!"

"You can't die!!!"

"Battle Gooooooooood!!!"

[And he is someone that is loved and admired by many gods.]

The Battle God looked at the other gods. Even the other Absolute Gods knew that he was the one that had been sacrificing. Unlike them, who lived arrogantly and acted lazily with their title as the Absolute God, the Battle God had been busy handling and governing the Land of the Gods. Yet, he looked at all of them with a small smile on his face.

At that moment, a man with silver hair fluttering behind him walked up to the Battle God. The man aimed his sword at the Battle God's heart. This man was Minhyuk.

The Battle God had told Minhyuk earlier that he should kill him. It would, in turn, kill the Evil Incarnate. This was the only way for everyone to live peacefully. The Battle God did not have any regrets. He had become a great ruler, and he was even able to meet his older brother Farrow.

[And he is the god that will give his all for the sake of everyone until his very last moments.]

[And that is...]

Spuuuuuurt—

[The Battle God.]

The God that had lived for everyone's sake gently patted Minhyuk's cheeks, while on his last breath, thinking that this god who ended his life might blame himself despite the expression on his face not betraying his feelings.

"Child." He smiled lightly. "Thank you."

With that, the Battle God's body slowly collapsed.

[The Greatest God has died.]

In the case where an Absolute God died, the game would be temporarily suspended and all of the players could watch the god's death. Of course, it was their choice to watch it. Players could choose to keep playing as they were, or watch the process of the god's death. As of this moment, most of the players chose to watch the death of the Battle God.

They watched on their screens as a man clad in white walked toward the light. He looked like he just got out of the shower, with not a single scratch or dirt on his body, as he walked toward the 'Gates of Death'. There was a small smile on his face as he continued to walk toward the light.

"I had a pleasant time." He looked at the gates that were within his reach and said, "I smile whenever I see the young gods running peacefully and happily because of the choices that I have made."

The Battle God abandoned his majesty and charisma as he slowly approached his death. He said, "I would often get angry with Nanny Belian whenever I saw her make mistakes. However, she is also very dear and precious to me."

He grinned widely. "Because there are people that believed in me and worshiped me, I, as the Battle God, was happier than anybody else."

That was right. Even though everybody said that he had been suffering through pain, the Battle God felt like he had been blessed.

Step, step—

The Battle God continued to walk. As he reached the end of the road, he stopped and turned to look at the rest of the world. Then, he said, "I do not regret my choices."

With the bright light shining behind him, the Battle God grinned widely.

[Battle God.]

[He is the greatest god.]

[He is the god that is loved by many.]

The Battle God slowly grabbed the handle of the Gates of Death.

"There are still so many people that need you though," Minhyuk said, a bright smile on his face as he grabbed the Battle God's wrist.

Chapter 767

As they watched the clear figure of the Battle God walking to his death in the video, both players and NPCs alike could not help but close their eyes. There were even some that became emotional and shed tears at the scene.

He was the greatest, but perhaps, he was also the most pitiable Absolute God. Even in the face of death, the Battle God was still smiling broadly. Everyone could not help but watch him in awe and admiration. To the players, the Battle God might just be an artificial intelligence but at this moment, they all felt like he was a father that had sacrificed himself for them.

However, a young man appeared in the scene just when the Battle God grabbed the handles of the Gates of Death. This man was Food God Minhyuk, a person that everyone in the world knew of. The scene changed the moment Minhyuk grabbed the Battle God's wrist. A bright light illuminated the entire Land of Destruction as the original figure of the Battle God, with his body covered in blood, bruises and cuts, appeared in the eyes of all of the players, while Minhyuk poured down some kind of potion in his mouth.

It was quite a strange sight. Just a few seconds ago, Food God Minhyuk had cut down the Battle God in order to deal with the Evil Incarnate. But now, he was feeding some unknown potion to the Battle God.

[I'm very curious about what kind of potion that is.]

[Maybe Player Minhyuk is grabbing at straws as he lets this potion flow into the mouth of the Battle God?]

[The Battle God's body is in a state where recovery is no longer an option. No, in fact, the Battle God's breath has already been cut off.]

[The video that we saw earlier ended at that. In the end, did the Battle God cross through the Gates of Death?]

[...We aren't sure of that yet. It's a bit complicated.]

The last scene that they saw in the video was Minhyuk speaking those words.

—There are still so many people that need you.

After that, the video was cut off. However, in the eyes of all of the viewers and commentators, the Battle God had already died. Besides, no ordinary potion could restore the body of a god, even more so if he was the Battle God. It did not matter how amazing the potion was, everyone was convinced that there was no potion in existence that could save him.

Of course, both the commentators and the viewers all felt that it was truly a pity. Especially since a great god had to sacrifice his own life for the sake of the other gods and the humans. Unfortunately, no one could go against the hands of fate.

“Urk...!”

Something shocking happened. The Battle God began to cough. It was a miraculous situation that the gods present found hard to believe. All of them looked at the Battle God that had collapsed on the ground just seconds earlier.

“Ugh.”

When they saw the Battle God slowly stand up, their expressions turned into one of incredulity. The potion that Minhyuk fed the Battle God earlier was none other than Gaerna’s Life Elixir. He only had one bottle left. However, Minhyuk knew that even though he had sacrificed greatly this time, he might be able to receive something valuable, perhaps something with a greater value than anything before.

Even the Battle God himself, whose eyes opened once again, was shocked.

‘Is there a potion that can revive a god that has already died?’

Minhyuk smiled lightly and said, “I told you, there are still so many people that need you.”

The Battle God looked around, his gaze focusing on the blue sky that he thought he would never see again. Then, he turned to look at the gods that were watching him nervously.

One by one, the gods started to lower themselves to the ground and kneel on one knee to show courtesy to the Battle God. The scene of more than 2,000 gods kneeling and showing courtesy was nothing short of spectacular.

There were also the three other Absolute Gods present; the God of Cooking, the God of Will, and the Savior. These three gods bowed their heads and grinned widely to celebrate and congratulate him on his new life.

As the Battle God slowly got to his feet, he heard the warm cheers of the surviving NPCs and players.

“Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

“Long live the Battle God!!!”

“Long live Player Minhyuuuuuuk!!!”

A small smile curled at the corners of the Battle God’s lips when he heard the cheers. Then, his older brother Farrow appeared and hugged him tightly.

“Thank you, Belson. Thank you for being such a great and amazing Battle God.”

The Battle God knew that it was time for them to say goodbye. Destruction Monarch Farrow’s body slowly began to scatter with the wind, while he hugged his dearly beloved younger brother, the Battle God, tightly.

“Your older brother is here. I have always been here.”

The Battle God embraced his dying older brother Farrow tighter, his eyes wide open as if he wanted to burn the image of his brother into his mind until the man completely disappeared into the air.

Then, the notifications began to ring after Farrow disappeared.

[The War of Destruction has ended!]

[Rewards for the War of Destruction will be distributed based on your contributions!]

And of course, Minhyuk also heard the same notifications.

[You have participated in the War of Destruction as the Destruction Monarch.]

[Your rewards are being calculated.]

[Destruction Monarch Farrow has left a gift for you!]

[You have acquired the Forgotten Monarch's Crown.]

[You have gained 2,000,000,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[...leveled up.]

[You have acquired 100 Special Stat Points (STP).]

[You have achieved amazing results as the Destruction Monarch.]

[You have gained 200,000 platinum.]

[You have gained 3,500,000,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have acquired 3 God's SP.]

[You have acquired 5 God's SP bestowed by the King.]

[You have acquired the Destruction Monarch's Supreme Treasure Box!]

(Forgotten Monarch's Crown)

Rank: God

Requirements: The One that Received the Acknowledgement of God of Generals Farrow.

Durability: 50,000/50,000

Defense: 855

Special Abilities:

- All stats +12%
- Charisma x2
- Active Skill: Absolute Defense
- Active Skill: Vassal's Voice
- Can be overlapped with others.

Description: This was the helmet worn by God of Generals Farrow, who was also a candidate to become the Battle God. This helmet can only be worn by those that received the recognition of Farrow. Furthermore, since this is a transparent-type of helmet, it can be equipped and overlapped with another helmet.

‘...!’

Minhyuk was shocked. The Forgotten Monarch's Crown, a helmet type of item, could be overlapped with any other helmets. Usually, it was only accessories like rings that could be worn and overlap with others.

In fact, the Forgotten Monarch's Crown was actually far behind ordinary ‘God-rank’ helmets in terms of defense and special abilities. However, because it can overlap with another, that was enough to cover all of its shortcomings.

In the case of the active skill Absolute Defense, it could create an absolute defense barrier that would stay up for seven seconds once triggered. However, there was something more surprising.

‘I can use any attack inside the Absolute Defense and I can even move freely?’

Despite boasting impenetrable defense, barriers usually had one biggest drawback. It was that the converse was true, rendering one unable to attack others. However, the Forgotten Monarch's Crown could negate that drawback.

There was also the Vassal's Voice. It allowed the monarch to monitor the situation of three designated vassals when they were in danger, and would allow them or Minhyuk to move to where they were at any given moment.

'This is obviously a very useful helmet.'

Minhyuk also received God's SP, which he could use to level up his skills, including his God-rank skills. As for the God's SP bestowed by the King, they were a reward that could increase the SP of Minhyuk's chosen person and was limited to his vassals.

Finally, he came to the last reward.

'The Destruction Monarch's Supreme Treasure Box.'

This part had been explained by President Kang Taehoon before. According to him, the rewards that one would receive would depend on how much they had contributed during the War of Destruction. In Minhyuk's case, he had acquired the Destruction Monarch's Supreme Treasure Box, an item that President Kang Taehoon had said to have only a 1% chance of being acquired.

However, Minhyuk put aside the joy of acquiring all of these items for a while. Because there was something that was far more important than them.

The Battle God was looking at Minhyuk with a kind smile on his face. It was not only that, the eyes that the gods used to look at Minhyuk, who played a huge role in saving the Battle God, had a different gaze from before.

The Battle God had longed to see his older brother Farrow for the longest time. But when the Destruction Monarch appeared, he decided to give the orders to kill him. But Minhyuk ignored his orders and instead, helped the Battle God meet with his older brother Farrow. It was also with his help that the Battle God was revived.

Everyone here knew that Minhyuk had won the heart of the Battle God. He had achieved what no one else would have if they were in his position.

People were beings that only believed in the things that they could see in front of them. So, when the Battle God opened his mouth, all of them watched with rapt attention.

"Thanks."

[The Battle God has bestowed upon you his King's Blessings.]

[All of the abilities of your ten vassals that participated as the Knights of Destruction will increase by 10%.]

"Thank you for allowing me to meet my older brother once again, someone that even I had turned away from, in the name of the Battle God."

[The Battle God has bestowed upon you his Undying Knight.]

[The Undying Knight will automatically trigger if one of your appointed vassals' HP drops below 3%.]

[The Undying Knight can only be triggered three times!]

Today, the Battle God did not just meet his older brother Farrow. The Battle God, who had chosen to hide his feelings under the heavy weight of the name of the Battle God, realized something too as he looked at everyone present. Perhaps, this time with the new life that he obtained, he could also become a Battle God that could lean on someone, rely on them and laugh and cry with them sometimes.

"Thank you for allowing me to live a new life."

[The Battle God has bestowed upon you the Summoning of the Greatest Absolute God.]

[The Summoning of the Greatest Absolute God can summon the Battle God twice.]

Then, the Battle God said, "I have a request."

The impact of the Battle God's words was enormous. The greatest god, the Battle God, had a request for Minhyuk? Everyone was at the edges of their seats. All of their ears were perked up and pointed to where the Battle God was, afraid of missing even a single word that the god breathed.

"I hope that you can become my successor."

At that moment, the notifications rang.

[The Battle God has chosen you to become his successor.]

[The other requirements that you needed to fulfill to become the Battle God have been omitted.

Once you complete this single requirement, you will be able to change class and become the Battle God!]

The entire world was turned upside down. The greatest Absolute God was asking Minhyuk to become his successor. But what was more surprising was the response of the other Absolute Gods.

[The God of Cooking laments the fact that her chance to become a master has been taken away.]

[The God of Will watches with wide eyes and shakes his head.]

[The Savior just looks at you with a happy smile on his face.]

Based on the reaction of the two other Absolute Gods, it was obvious that they had Minhyuk in mind to become their successor too.

However, the noteworthy thing here was that Minhyuk only needed to fulfill one requirement and he would become the Battle God's Descendant. Everyone wondered what kind of requirement it was as they watched Minhyuk with rapt attention. ATV Broadcasting Station's cameras began to do a close up shot of his face.

In front of the entire world, Minhyuk answered, "I will become the Battle God."

[You have accepted the Battle God's offer!]

[Once you fulfill the final requirement, you will become the 'Battle God'!]

At the same time, ATV Broadcasting Station's viewership rating soared, reaching an all time high at 60%.

Minhyuk was not yet done. In front of all of the viewers, players and NPCs, he declared, "I will build an empire."

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

This was the final requirement to become the Battle God.

Chapter 768: I Am the Battle God

Following the meeting of the Battle God and his older brother Farrow, and his eventual death, notifications rang in the ears of all of the players in the world.

[You can now view the final moments of the Greatest God, the Battle God.]

[Would you like to watch it?]

Many players chose to watch the video and of course, they saw Minhyuk appear toward the end and held the wrist of the Battle God, who had grabbed the handle to the Gates of Death.

The video ended not long after that. Curious about the situation thereon after, they immediately logged out of the game and tuned in to the ATV channel, which was airing the 'War of Destruction.'

It did not matter how outstanding or thrilling an event was, if people were not interested in it in the first place, then they would not watch it and just focus on doing their own things. However, in this particular instance, once the video of the Battle God's final moments ended, they all ended their

access to the game. What greeted their eyes upon tuning in to ATV was the revived Battle God standing in front of Minhyuk.

Because of that, ATV Broadcasting Station had achieved a phenomenal record, breaking 60% in viewership ratings. The entire station could not help but break out in a frenzy.

“This is the highest viewership ratings since the foundation of ATV Broadcasting Station!”

“No. It’s actually safe for us to say that this is the highest viewership rating since the founding of our country. I don’t think we’ll be able to reach this high of a rating in the future.”

They might have hit 60% for a while, but their ratings were falling at a rapid rate again. Up until that moment, their viewership rating peaked at 60%.

[I will build an empire.]

“The, the ratings are going up again!”

“It went over 60%!”

“It’s over 60.5%!”

“It’s at 60.9%!”

“The viewership ratings are only increasing by a little bit, but it’s definitely going up.”

“The viewership ratings have gone over 62%.”

The viewership ratings, which was supposedly impossible to reach again, had gone over 60%. Their highest recorded ratings for this day was 63%.

“We have achieved 63% in viewership ratings.”

PD Kim Daeguk told the director, “...Shouldn’t we at least give Player Minhyuk a plaque of appreciation or something?”

“What nonsense are you spouting?!” The director’s face turned ugly at that. It was not a norm for a broadcasting station to send a plaque of appreciation to a player.

However, the director continued, “We cannot only send a plaque of appreciation! Let’s also make sure to constantly promote Beyond the Heavens Kingdom in our station. Ah, don’t forget about Ilhwa Group too.”

“...”

Ah, it seemed like the director was taking a mile after being given an inch.

What was an empire? According to the data gathered through surveys by Athenae experts, one needed to combine at least five kingdoms created by players, to establish an empire.

The first kingdom to have been created was the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, which was then followed by the Masserati Kingdom. Just recently, the Qingdao Kingdom and the Rothschild Kingdom were constructed. The appearance of the two kingdoms sparked the influx of player-made kingdoms. There were currently at least sixteen known kingdoms all over the world that were built by players.

However, the five kingdoms made by players was the minimum requirement.

What about the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom? Of course, they were outstanding. However, the people could not help but express their concern saying that it was still far too early for them to take this step.

[If the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom becomes an empire, then it will be another huge step for the players’ advancement. However, I don’t think the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is ready to become an empire yet.]

[First off, they need to fulfill the appropriate number of citizens and troops, as well as the size of the territory. Beyond the Heavens certainly have outstanding people like Spear God Ben, Brod, God of Snakes Elizabeth, Luo, God of Alchemy Mandala, and many more. However, that is just that. Just

having many outstanding people in their kingdom does not mean that they can fulfill the number of citizens required.]

[An individual's power and might is important. However, from what we know, it's equally important to reach a certain population number and a certain size of territory before they can establish an empire.]

[On the other hand, the current population and territory of Beyond the Heavens are no more than that of an ordinary kingdom.]

[Of course, considering the fact that the other kingdoms built by players are also less than average, their speed of growth is already outstanding. However, it's still impossible for them to build an empire.]

[On top of that, the finances needed to build one will likely be tremendous.]

[Unless plenty of people knock on the doors of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, and they can somehow gain more territory, then it's impossible for them to achieve right now.]

[I think it's only possible for Player Minhyuk to become the 'Battle God' in two years or so.]

Minhyuk's declaration that he would establish an empire had created a huge stir. In fact, almost all of the media in the world was talking about Minhyuk and the empire that he wanted to build.

Of course, Minhyuk knew that he could not establish an empire right there and then. He could tell from the countless notifications that popped up in front of him.

[Your final requirement to become the Battle God's Descendant is to 'Build an Empire.']

[You are currently the king of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

[To build an empire, you must secure at least thrice your current territory size, population and military forces.]

[To build an empire, you must secure at least 15 players beyond Level 580.]

[To build an empire, you must secure at least 20 NPCs beyond Level 650. Even if the NPC does not go over Level 650, as long as the system recognizes them as NPCs with special power, then they will meet the conditions.]

However, by declaring his intention to establish an empire, Minhyuk knew that many people would be interested in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Honestly, Minhyuk did not expect the conditions to build an empire to be this stringent. Especially the requirements for NPCs, he needed at least twenty people that were over Level 650.

'When I was just a novice in Athenae, I never knew that the knights of the Eivelis Empire were that strong. Well...'

President Kang Taehoon had mentioned before that just as the players grow, those that lived inside Athenae would also grow. After all, if only the players were capable of growing, then Athenae would be very boring to its players.

Also, aside from Minhyuk, there were only five other rankers that had exceeded Level 580. They were none other than Khan, Mei Wei, Carr, Ali, and Alicia. Of course, the rest would reach Level 580 sooner or later. However, it was unclear when that would happen.

"It won't be easy."

Those were the words that the Battle God left him before he transformed into a ray of light and slowly disappeared from Minhyuk's sight. Of course, those were not the only things that the Battle God left Minhyuk before he completely disappeared. He also left him a present.

[The Battle God has bestowed upon you a final present.]

[You have acquired the Candidate Box.]

[You can now view the Candidate Box.]

[You can now use the Battle God's Voice.]

[You can now use the Battle God's Steps.]

[Everything inside the Candidate Box will disappear if you fail to become the Battle God's Descendant.]

The Battle God's Voice was different from the voices of ordinary gods. It could produce images in the sky above. He then read the description for the Battle God's Steps.

'For a brief moment, my figure will change into that of the Battle God's figure and force everyone to kneel in front of me.'

Both of these skills would be very useful to him. Not long after, the other gods also completely disappeared.

[The War of Destruction is over.]

[You will be warped to the place where you first connected.]

However, Minhyuk received additional notifications.

[The Forgotten Monarch's Crown's 'Vassal's Voice' has been triggered.]

[Your vassal Elpis is in danger!]

The Forgotten Monarch's Crown had a skill called Vassal's Voice. This skill would inform Minhyuk when any of his three designated vassals were in danger. It could also explain in detail the vassal's current situation. On top of that, the monarch was connected to their vassal and would allow them to go to where their vassal was at any given moment.

'Elpis is in danger?'

Minhyuk immediately checked the detailed explanation.

Great Demon Gorac's Shelter.

The mischievous and wicked Great Demon Gorac had his soul divided into several fragments, scattered all over the world. He was not only wicked, he also liked to play eccentric and bizarre pranks on others.

In fact, there were quite a lot of stories circulating all over that said that Great Demon Gorac was a far more special NPC than Great Demon Verus. Great Demon Verus was known to be strong, and he had the 72 Devils under his command. On the other hand, Great Demon Gorac was known to give out special skills and classes related to the demons and the devils.

This very same Gorac was looking at a man named Elpis, who was lying on the ground in front of him. He did not know how this man was able to find him. However, what was certain was the fact that this man had not yet met the qualifications to be here.

Hence, the question was: why was Elpis able to step foot in this place, when he had not yet met those qualifications? This was all thanks to the 'Map to Overcome One's Limitations' that Minhyuk had given to Elpis. Thus, Elpis was not yet given the test to become Great Demon Gorac's Descendant.

"With your weak power, you cannot become the Great Demon."

There was that. However, there was also another reason why he was being blocked more fiercely. Elpis had declared that he came here to become strong for the king that he served. Gorac had acknowledged that spirit.

Inside Gorac's Shelter, there were Gorac's Eight Devil Generals. These Devil Generals were comparable to Verus' devils in terms of power. As Elpis continued to fight against these devils, he continued to shout, "I want to take the test! I have to become stronger for my king. Give me a chance to take the test!"

However, Gorac did not give him that opportunity. To Gorac, this man was serving a mere king. It might have been different if the one that Elpis served was someone special. After all, Gorac fancied Elpis and wanted him to become his successor.

“I can’t grant someone like you, who serves a mere king, a chance to take the test.”

“What should I do to get that chance?”

“Throw him away.”

He was not going to kill him. Gorac hoped that Elpis would come back and find him again later, when he was more prepared.

The reason why Gorac was so hung up over the status of the man that Elpis served was because he was a sly and clever demon. He wanted his successor to surpass the other Great Demons. However, a devil had obvious limitations. The only way to go beyond those limits was for his successor to surround himself with those that could go above and beyond, excelling in whatever field they were in.

Gorac could already infer the kind of man Elpis served just by listening to the few words that Elpis mentioned.

‘A human king.’

‘He has quite a few vassals.’

‘He is also a god.’

Gorac could tell that the man must be some kind of lowly god. After all, if he was some great god then he must already have at least one empire of his own. He could not allow a Great Demon to have connections with a mere lowly god. Well, there might be a chance if the other party were an Absolute God.

The demonic beasts from the Demonic Beast Corps that surrounded him tried to move the collapsed Elpis away. However, at that moment, someone else came to visit Gorac’s Shelter.

[The Battle God’s Steps has been triggered!]

[Everyone will kneel down in front of the Battle God’s feet!]

[The power contained in your voice is all encompassing!]

Thud, thud, thud—

Demon Gorac, who stood over two meters tall with gigantic bat-like wings on his back, stood up and stared ahead. He was also aware of the Battle God’s might and dignity. It was the power that only the Battle God could exert.

Immediately after that, all of the demonic beasts in the vicinity prostrated themselves at the feet of the man that was walking toward them. His manner was majestic despite the hundreds of thousands of troops present in this place. And that was not all, he was also releasing a tremendous amount of divinity.

‘The Battle God came here? No, why? That’s probably not him, right?’ Great Demon Gorac was very confused.

Minhyuk, who was walking toward them, said, “Allow my vassal to take your test.”

He had already heard about Elpis’ current situation through the ‘Vassal’s Voice.’

Gorac gulped dryly as he watched Minhyuk approach him using the ‘Battle God’s Steps.’ Although Gorac towered over most people with his height of two meters, he still felt an overwhelming pressure from the man in front of him.

However, there was a chance that this man had only received this power through some cheat. After all, Great Demon Gorac had lived in the darkness for a very long time. He was quite ignorant of the events that happened or were happening in the world. Even so, he was still certain that this aura and energy belonged to the Battle God. So, just to be sure, he piped up.

“Who in the world are you?”

The Battle God’s aide looked at the Battle God, who was sporting an uncharacteristically soft smile on his face, and asked, “But, Battle God. Was it really necessary for you to bestow upon him your Battle God’s Voice and Battle God’s Steps?”

The Battle God’s Voice and the Battle God’s Steps were both ‘Tokens of the Battle God.’ They were powers that only the Battle God could exert.

“What if it’s used for something dangerous...”

The Battle God shook his head at that. With a confident look on his face, he answered, “No. I know that child. That child will not use that power for something useless. In fact, I believe he will try to save that power.” He continued to speak with a happy smile on his face, “I believe in that child.”

Great Demon Gorac asked, “Who in the world are you?”

Minhyuk answered, “Battle God.”

Chapter 769: I Am the Battle God

Minhyuk looked at Elpis, who collapsed on the ground.

Elpis was once a human being. However, he had been taken away to the Demon World by Great Demon Verus, and turned into a vessel for demonic energy. Despite being only human, he was hailed as the ‘Lesser Demon’ and had become an existence that made the entire Demon World tremble in fear. By chance, Elpis and Minhyuk met and stayed together.

Elpis was definitely a powerful figure. However, there were far more powerful figures in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, like Spear God Ben, Brod, God of Snakes Elizabeth, Sword of the Gods Luo, and many more. As the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom grew, the amazing characters that surrounded Minhyuk also began to increase, to the point of overflowing.

Indeed, Elpis was strong. However, as their enemies grew stronger, Minhyuk could tell that Elpis had started to feel impatient. He also wanted to become stronger in order to protect his king.

‘I never expected that the Map to Overcome One’s Limitation would lead him to Great Demon Gorac’s Shelter.’

Minhyuk also found this situation to be very unexpected. However, as it turned out, even after Elpis had reached Great Demon Gorac’s Shelter, he was still unable to take the test.

Through the Vassal’s Voice’s explanation, Minhyuk was able to clearly understand the situation.

[Gorac wants...]

[...the one that Elpis serves to be a more powerful individual. Or Elpis himself will become strong enough to meet the requirements of the test.]

Minhyuk asked the Vassal’s Voice, which provided more information than he thought, ‘Why is Gorac questioning the master that Elpis serves?’

[Gorac wants to become the greatest Great Demon in history.]

[However, he knows that a devil has clear limits.]

Minhyuk understood. What the Vassal’s Voice meant was that even demons needed some ‘connections’ to achieve that goal. Hence, Minhyuk had no choice but to borrow the name of the ‘Battle God.’

Minhyuk had a bitter look on his face as he stared at Elpis, who had fallen on the ground without even being allowed to take the test. He must have been so desperate, trying to go to Gorac over and over again and asking him to allow him to take the test. As a king, Minhyuk just wanted to clear a path for his vassal, Elpis. As expected, Gorac was fussy, difficult, and complicated.

Gorac had actually never met with the Battle God. However, as the eccentric Great Demon, he had a huge network of information at his disposal. It was because of this amazing intelligence network that Great Demon Verus could not do anything against him. Based on the information that he had gathered, the power that Minhyuk was displaying was truly the power of the Battle God. However, something still felt off.

‘He’s not strong.’

Gorac felt like he could suppress the man in front of him. According to his information, the Battle God was a very powerful individual that even Great Demon Verus could not compare to.

Hehe—

Great Demon Gorac’s eyes turned into crescents. “Well, I’m not so sure about that.”

As mentioned before, Great Demon Gorac led Eight Devil Generals. They were different from Great Demon Verus’ 72 Devils, but were as tough and as powerful as them. In fact, each and every single one of them was a powerful figure at the level of a god.

Even so, Minhyuk just stared at Gorac as he continued to show off his arrogance and majesty. As for Gorac, he wanted proof of his power.

[The Sudden Quest: Gorac’s Test has been created!]

[Sudden Quest: Gorac’s Test.]

Rank: SS

Requirements: The one facing Gorac.

Rewards: Gorac’s recognition and additional rewards.

Penalty for Failure: Will not be able to re-enter Gorac’s Shelter.

Description: Gorac is a very sly demon. Even after you introduced(?) yourself as the Battle God, he still suspects your identity. Show off your might and receive Great Demon Gorac’s recognition. If he acknowledges you, then he will admit his disrespectful behavior and will compensate fairly.

The Eight Devil Generals were all outstanding beings in each of their own fields, much like the gods and the 72 Devils were. One of them, General Burrow, had abilities related to assassination. He had the power to burst his enemy’s heart open in one move.

Gorac reckoned that even if the opponent in front of him was the Battle God, if he could not deal with the Devil General, then there was no need for him to join in the fight.

Devil General Burrow immediately reached for Minhyuk’s heart. However, Minhyuk just looked down at him arrogantly, his majestic aura still exuding from his body.

“What are you doing?”

“I will have to test you to know.” Great Demon Gorac laughed horrendously.

Just when General Burrow’s hand was about to reach for Minhyuk’s heart, a man appeared in front of him like a ghost. The man only had his right hand. However, even though he only had one hand left, he was able to easily cut off Devil General Burrow’s hand, and even stabbed the demon all over his body.

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

Black blood spurted out of General Burrow’s body. Demon Gorac was stunned to see General Burrow being blown away like that. Then, he saw the one-armed man put his dagger back into its sheath.

“I won’t allow even your fingertips to touch His Majesty’s body.”

This man was Minhyuk’s shadow, Sword of the Gods Luo.

General Burrow looked at the blood that covered his body. The damage was not substantial.

However, it was strong enough that he could not just ignore it.

“...”

Gorac frowned. He could clearly tell that the man that appeared in front of him was a god based on his temperament alone. Perhaps this was what Gorac had truly wanted to see. The Battle God was supposedly strong as an individual, but his true power lay in his army. Immediately after that, Gorac triggered his special skill.

[Demonic Eyes.]

[The Demonic Eyes are checking the opponent!]

[This man has inherited the power of the God of Assassination.]

[He is someone that has transcended the limits of a human being!]

“...”

Gorac was shocked. The man that had suddenly appeared in front of him was not a god, but someone that had transcended the limits of a human being. Curious, he turned his eyes toward Minhyuk.

[Demonic Eyes.]

[An unknown yet tremendous power has started to put pressure on the Demonic Eyes!]

Gorac could not check Minhyuk at all. He could not help but tilt his head while wondering who in the world the man in front of him was. Even so, Gorac still thought that this was probably nothing but a trick. He could not get a definite answer just with that single vassal alone.

“I want to do some more checking.”

“How come?”

“I want to make sure that you’re reliable and trustworthy.”

Gorac was a meticulous demon. He had hundreds of thousands of troops in his Demonic Beast Army and his Eight Devil Generals here with him. If Minhyuk was truly the Battle God, then he could easily bring an army that was capable of dealing with this much number.

Minhyuk’s lips twisted into a smirk the moment he saw the Eight Devil Generals make a move at the same time.

“You must be delusional.”

Thud.

Luo immediately stood by Minhyuk’s side the moment he took a step forward.

“Gorac. It’s not up to you to decide whether you will cooperate with me or not.”

“...”

“I’m the one that will decide that.”

“...!”

Gorac’s face turned ugly. The arrogance and confidence that exuded from Minhyuk almost overwhelmed him at that moment.

Crack.

Then, Minhyuk took out an Almond of Subordinates and put it in his mouth.

“Spear God Ben.”

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

[Demonic Eyes.]

[The Demonic Eyes are checking the opponent!]

[This man has received the recognition of the Spear God and has transcended the limits of a human being to become this era’s Spear God.]

[He is someone that has won against the previous generation’s Spear God!]

“...Wait.”

Gorac’s breath got caught in his throat. He had to stop the man in front of him. However, Ben’s spear had already stabbed through the bodies of the Devil Generals.

“Keuaaaaaaaack!”

Minhyuk had fought against demons several times in the past. However, it was not just players like him that could grow, NPCs would also obviously grow as well. The most important point here was that the NPCs under Minhyuk’s command had also improved, going from legends to gods. One such example was Spear God Ben.

Crack—

“God of Snakes Elizabeth.”

“N, no. Wait...”

[Demonic Eyes.]

[The Demonic Eyes are checking...]

[She is one of the Six Monster Gods, the God of Snakes Elizabeth!]

[Elizabeth’s Authority.]

[All of the beings recognized as enemies within a three kilometer radius will not be able to use all of their skills and abilities.]

Cold sweat started to drip down Gorac’s forehead.

The Six Monster Gods were beings that even the Absolute Gods feared. However, all Gorac could do was watch as light spread from the tips of the fingers of the little girl and covered the entire shelter and made everyone lose their ability to use their skills.

Gorac hurriedly tried to shout again, “Pau...”

“Awaken, Obren.”

Vwoooooooooooooong—

A handsome and dashing black-haired young man appeared from inside a small seasoning jar. Then, with an infinitely cold expression on his face, he looked at the hundreds of thousands of Demonic Beast Army troops and the Devil Generals and spat out, “Get lost.”

The Evil God’s Books appeared after being summoned and released black bolts of lightning from the sky.

[Demonic Eyes.]

[He is the one hailed as the Evil God and is one of the Eight Pillars of this world.]

“...”

Gorac was left speechless. The Evil God was the name of the most vicious and cruel god. And right now, that very entity had descended in this shelter. Not only that, he had easily and swiftly killed 80,000 of the troops of the Demonic Beast Army.

‘One of the Eight Pillars is his vassal? Unbelievable.’

Of course, Gorac was aware that Evil God Obren’s power and body was not complete and had already weakened over time. However, his mere existence could be said to be everyone’s object of fear.

[Gorac has started to acknowledge you.]

[Gorac has started to acknowledge you.]

[Gorac has acknowledged you.]

[Gorac has acknowledged you.]

At this point, Minhyuk knew that Gorac’s acknowledgement and recognition was no longer necessary. However, since the situation had already developed to this point, he decided that it would be better for him to gain the upper hand.

Swoooooooooosh—

All of the vassals that he summoned slowly started to scatter in the area. Gorac wondered if the man in front of him had finally decided to stop and talk. However, Minhyuk's strongest and most powerful vassal had not yet made an appearance. So, he summoned him.

Crack—

“Brod.”

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

Hundreds of sword lights fell down from the sky the moment Brod landed on the ground. Just like that, a thick cloud of dust bloomed as the surviving Demonic Beast Army troops were swept away. Immediately after that, Brod rendered all of the Devil Generals helpless, unable to participate in combat.

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

The Devil Generals were unable to fight back and could only collapse on the ground from the powerful force that slammed into them.

[Demonic Eyes.]

[The Demonic Eyes are checking...]

[He is the sun acknowledged by the Battle God!]

[He is the Absolute God's Sword.]

[He...]

[He...]

[He...]

The achievements of the man that appeared rang constantly in Gorac's ears.

‘The era's strongest.’

It was almost impossible to describe what the man was. One thing was for sure, everyone would be powerless in front of this man. But not long after, Gorac saw the self-proclaimed Battle God pull out his sword.

Swoooooosh—

A brilliant and blinding light spread all over the place the moment Minhyuk pulled his sword out. After making a splendid achievement, Minhyuk had received three God's SP from the Battle God. He had also received plenty of rewards for hunting the Evil Incarnate. These were some of the rewards that he obtained.

[The Evil Incarnate's Fear Skill Parchment.]

He had received two of this parchment. The Fear Skill Parchment was an item that could make a skill grow several levels beyond its MAX level.

‘Fear.’

Indeed. It was literally fear. After all, it also had the effect of bringing the opponent's fear and terror to its limits once the skill was activated.

[You have used the Evil Incarnate's Fear Skill Parchment.]

Minhyuk knew that the Great Demon Gorac would definitely be a strong ally if he stood by their side. However, Gorac was eccentric and weird. Even if they were allies, he might still flip the boat and betray him. So, Minhyuk decided, ‘Let's bring him to his knees.’

[The effects of the Evil Incarnate's Fear Skill Parchment have been applied to the Overlord's Technique.]

[The level of the Overlord's Technique has gone beyond the MAX level.]

Minhyuk pointed the tip of his sword, which shot out black flames, toward Gorac and said, “Gorac, deciding whether to cooperate with me or not has never been up to you.”

Crackleeeeeeee—

Gorac, who saw the raging black flames, felt fear engulf his entire body.

Overlord's Technique was a skill that could originally deal around 5,000~7,000% additional damage in a 60~80 meter radius. With its current power-up, the damage was unimaginable.

[Overlord's Technique.]

[You will deal 11,000~13,000% additional damage to a 500 meter radius!]

‘...?’

Minhyuk was quite shocked. The result of the upgrade was something that he had not expected.

‘I only wanted to scare him though... but since things have already developed to this point...’

Crackleeeee—

Minhyuk, who was pointing his sword engulfed with black flames at Gorac, swung it towards the Demonic Beast Army that was stationed behind him.

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

The flames that shot out from his sword destroyed all of the Demonic Beast Army troops behind him. But that was not all. Even the shelter, which was in the form of a forest, was burned down and turned into ashes.

Crackleeeee—

Minhyuk turned his back away from the devastation created by the black flames that he sent out and said, “This matter has always been in my hands.”

[A Great Demon is terrified of you.]

[You have obtained the Title: The Only One that the Great Demon Fears.]

Chapter 770: Happy Island

Great Demon Gorac was the eccentric demon that had created the ‘Disaster Artifacts.’ Minhyuk had met the Great Demon Gorac in the past.

At that time, Gorac had been standing at a very high place that he could not reach. But now, Minhyuk, who had turned his back on the burning forest, was making Gorac tremble in fear. It was barely noticeable, but Gorac's legs were shaking.

Gorac tried to put up with it. After all, he was the Great Demon. However, he realized that the trembling in his legs would not stop no matter how much he wanted it to.

[You have completed the Sudden Quest: Gorac's Test.]

[You have made Gorac, who has acknowledged you, experience an overwhelming fear.]

[Please tell Gorac the reward that you need.]

[If the reward is found to be unreasonable, your opportunity to receive the reward will disappear.]

Flash—

Flaaaaash—

Flaaaaash—

After sending all of his vassals back, Minhyuk checked the title that he received.

(The Only One that the Great Demon Fears)

Unique Title

Title Effects:

- Any member of the demon race below Level 400 will lose the will to fight against you.
- Your physical and magical attack will increase by 15% when fighting against demons and devils.
- Your physical and magical defense will increase by 15% when fighting against demons and devils.

It was a very useful title when fighting against demons and devils.

Minhyuk stared at the speechless Great Demon in front of him, who could not help but gulp dryly, despite being one of the Three Great Demons.

‘This man commands the Spear God, the Six Monster Gods, the Evil God and even the strongest of this era as his vassals?’

However, that was not important.

‘So, he’s really the Battle God? What an amazing power.’

The power of the Overlord’s Technique that Minhyuk displayed earlier seemed to be overwhelming enough, to the point that Gorac truly thought of him as the Battle God.

Then, Minhyuk asked, “It seems like you’re still caught up in your own delusions?”

“...”

“Whether you’re the one to decide if you’ll cooperate with me or not?”

“...”

“Huh? It seems like you’re still hesitating.”

“...”

“Even though my vassal can become your successor?”

That was right. It was just like what Minhyuk said. If Elpis passed the test, then he would become the Great Demon that would inherit his position. In fact, Gorac’s soul had been broken into pieces and scattered all over the world. In this state, it was accurate to say that Gorac was already dead. So, if Elpis passed the test, he would be born as the next Great Demon. And this new Great Demon would serve a powerful king like Minhyuk, alongside powerful comrades and companions.

‘Perhaps a Great Demon with a far greater name and influence than me will be born?’

Was Elpis qualified to become a Great Demon? Well, if Gorac was honest, Elpis’s strength and qualifications were still insufficient. However, even if that was the case, Gorac still hoped that Elpis would grow strong enough to become his successor.

Then, Great Demon Gorac said, “Fine. I will cooperate with you. I will allow Elpis to take the test.”

A faint smile curled at the corners of Minhyuk’s lips when he heard that. Minhyuk had seen Elpis struggle for the chance to take that test.

“And I hope that you can forgive me for the disrespect that I have shown you. Well, I’m not asking you to forgive me so simply. I will listen to two of your wishes.”

Originally, the reward for the quest: Gorac’s Test was just one wish. Granting him two wishes showed how much Gorac sought Minhyuk’s forgiveness.

Among the Three Great Demons, Eccentric Gorac was the one with the widest network of information. Thus, these two wishes that Minhyuk could ask Gorac were very, very important.

Minhyuk’s first wish was, “I want to build an empire in the human world. I wish to know a way to build an empire as quickly as possible.”

If Minhyuk told Gorac to build him an empire, then his opportunity would definitely go to waste.

As for his second wish, it was: “I am extremely hungry. I wish to know of a place where I can find something very special and delicious to eat that only you know of.”

As expected of Minhyuk, making such a wish.

Gorac did not take too long to answer. He said, “A place where there’s something delicious to eat and can help you build an empire quickly. I know of such a place.”

Gorac rubbed his chin. He knew quite a lot about Athenae. What about Aruvel, the Demon World’s Great Sage? He was no match for Gorac. That was how extensive Gorac’s information and knowledge was. He was even privy to what the Athenae production team would open later.

However, there was something that Gorac was wondering about. “Can I ask you why you used one of the opportunities to ask me for a wish to find some food?”

The high rankers could not buy any information from Gorac with money. But the person in front of him was using such a priceless opportunity to find some food. Other people would use this opportunity to find places with God-rank weapons or skills.

‘Of course, if you go there then you will be able to find special ingredients.’

However, Gorac found it quite a bit strange.

Then, Minhyuk smiled, his charisma exuding as he said, “Is there something that’s more important than eating in the world? Both gods and humans eat to live in the end, no?”

‘What’s this? Why does this sound so convincing?’

“You might have a good weapon or a strong power, but what good would it bring you if you’re hungry and weak?”

‘Strangely enough, it really sounds convincing.’

Gorac got caught up in Minhyuk’s logic.

“Happy Island,” Gorac said bluntly. “If you go there, you will find the special ingredients that you want. You will also find a way to build an empire as fast as possible.”

Then, Gorac continued, “Of course, you would only receive all of this if you do something there.”

There was no free meal in the world. Since Gorac had guided him on the path, then Minhyuk had to work hard to get what he wanted himself.

“Happy Island is still an unknown and undiscovered island. My power, which is still lingering on the island, will guide you to some extent.”

Minhyuk could feel that Gorac was more meticulous and caring than what he thought. With this, there was nothing more that Minhyuk could do for Elpis. He had to overcome the rest himself.

“Are you going straight to Happy Island?”

Minhyuk nodded in answer to Gorac’s question.

Swoosh—

A bright light flashed, and when it faded, Minhyuk had already disappeared.

[You have entered Happy Island.]

[Only those that come from Asgan Continent can access Happy Island.]

[You are the very first player to enter Happy Island.]

[Happy Island is a special island with a population of 470,000.]

[Happy Island has a land area of 1,359.02km².]

[You have gained 300 REP.]

Minhyuk was greeted with a wide expanse of nature the moment he opened his eyes. It felt like he was standing in the middle of a very beautiful paradise. Perhaps it was because it was called Happy Island; the beautiful and glimmering sea made him feel happy and refreshed. It went without saying that such a beautiful place would make him hungry.

“There’s even a saying that goes, ‘Even the sights of Diamond Mountain must wait after a meal!’”

After all, the only thing that one would do was to take pictures and eat good food. Of course, Minhyuk was trying to find things that would help him build an empire and acquire delicious ingredients.

“But... how do I get around this place?” Minhyuk looked around in confusion.

Minhyuk had to meet with the residents of this island first. However, there was no mode of transportation available to him at all. On top of that, he also did not know the way.

But then, at that moment, notifications rang out.

[Upon your arrival in Happy Island, Gorac’s power will guide you.]

[Gorac’s power will guide you, who wants something special and delicious. You will be guided in order.]

Immediately after that, the figure of a dish appeared in front of Minhyuk. A happy smile settled on Minhyuk's lips when he saw the dish.

According to the notifications that he heard when he entered Happy Island, only those that came from Asgan Continent could enter this place. In other words, it was a special place for those that lived in the Korean server. With the beautiful sea surrounding this island and the dish that was projected in front of him earlier, Minhyuk could easily tell what the motif and the inspiration for this island was.

The special dish that Gorac will guide him to was none other than 'Gogi-guksu', which was considered a Jeju Island's local specialty. In the past, it was difficult to travel to and from Jeju Island, thus, the island developed their own dishes. Among those dishes was gogi-guksu.

It was a special dish made by boiling black pork both for the soup and the topping. Its soup was renowned to be clean and refreshing. In fact, Minhyuk still had memories of going to Jeju Island and eating gogi-guksu back when his mother was still alive.

"Gulp."

He could not forget that light, clean, and refreshing soup, as well as the taste of the soft and tender boiled pork. He was already excited just by thinking about it.

'What if I eat the noodles and drink the soup with some crispy kimchi?'

"Kghhk!"

Minhyuk could not help but squeal in anticipation as he clicked on the word 'gogi-guksu' that was glittering brightly in front of him. Then, at the same time, Gorac's power began to guide him.

[Please go and find Evelyn.]

A map unfolded in front of Minhyuk and began to show him Evelyn's location. It was located much nearer than he thought. So, he began to walk toward his destination.

Special Players Management Team.

Team Leader Park Minggyu and Lee Minhwa both groaned.

"He noticed it, right?"

"I think so too."

They knew Player Minhyuk to be a quick-witted person. And just like what he had noticed, Happy Island was indeed made using Jeju Island as the motif and inspiration. Of course, not everything was the same. However, it was true that there were a lot of references from Jeju Island. For someone like Minhyuk, who had the Food God class, he would be able to gain a lot from this place.

"This island was supposed to open and be used for an event next year."

"Will this change a lot of things?"

If there was only one player involved, the story would continue without many changes, unless that player did something special. However, Player Minhyuk was capable of exerting too much influence in the Athenae worldview.

To be specific, there was one thing that Park Minggyu and Lee Minhwa were monitoring closely. Inside Happy Island, the residents there worship a god. The god was ferocious and had always terrorized the residents of the island. However, therein laid the issue.

“Happy Island’s God is...”

“A black pig.”

The two looked at each other as they sighed despondently at the same time.

Evelyn was someone that ran a small restaurant in Happy Island. Her small restaurant was currently on the brink of falling apart. Her family had been making gogi-guksu for decades. Her father, who originally owned the place, died not too long ago. On top of that, she just could not get her hands on any black pork.

Black pigs could be hunted on Happy Island, usually done by hunters. In Evelyn’s case, it was her father, a former knight, that used to hunt the black pigs for their restaurant. When her father died, she tried to ask other hunters to hunt some black pig for her and sign a distribution contract with her. However, all of them refused.

‘Pluine Merchant Group must have already gotten their hands on those hunters.’

Evelyn’s shop might be small, but many customers visited them to the point that there was no room for others to step inside during their rush hour. Because of that, those merchants that were now in power were trying to destroy her.

One might wonder why she could not just go and hunt for the black pig herself? Unfortunately, the black pigs on this island were very strong. A single black pig could smash a big rock into pieces. That was why most of the hunters here were former knights.

‘Even so, I can’t use white pork to make gogi-guksu.’

Black pigs and white pigs were different from each other. The meat of black pigs tasted much better than the meat of ordinary pigs because their fat and meat content were much better. So, if Evelyn used white pork, the taste of her gogi-guksu would definitely change.

‘Is there really no way at all?’

Evelyn wanted to protect this restaurant that her father had left her.

Knock, knock—

Then, at that moment, someone knocked on the door of her shop. Evelyn had currently closed her shop because she could not operate without any ingredients at all. However, she still stepped out with a confused expression on her face.

There, she saw a man smiling happily while eating omegi-tteok[1], a specialty of Happy Island.

“Omegi-tteok is really delicious...!”

Evelyn stared at the man in doubt when she saw the man shed a tear while smiling brightly. She could see that the man purchased the omegi-tteok from the store right next to her restaurant.

Then, she heard Mrs. Halsen, who ran the omegi-tteok restaurant next door, said, “I can’t believe that he ate 827 omegi-tteok...”

“...”

A strange man had suddenly appeared.