

## Gourmet 771

### Chapter 771: Happy Island

Omegi-tteok is a rice cake made with chajo[1] powder. It is filled with red bean paste inside and covered with red beans on the outside. In recent years, there has been a variety of omegi-tteok developed. The fillings are the same red bean paste but the coating outside has changed. There are some that use ‘injeolmi powder’, ‘black sesame seeds’, and even ‘cereals.’

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The moment Minhyuk chomped on the red bean covered omegi-tteok, the not-so-sweet flavor of the red bean that covered the rice cake greeted his taste buds. Then, it was immediately followed by the chewy texture of the rice cake, and then a burst of sweetness from the red bean paste inside. Savoring those flavors could make one dance happily.

Of course, the next omegi-tteok that Minhyuk tried was the one covered with injeolmi.

“Chomp.”

Minhyuk consumed the entire rice cake in one bite. The sweetness of the injeolmi powder immediately greeted him with that one huge bite. However, the more he chewed the omegi-tteok, the more he realized that the flavor was quite different from injeolmi. It felt more chewy and softer than injeolmi. Even the red bean paste inside was much sweeter.

Just like that, Minhyuk continued to eat the omegi-tteok, including those covered with black sesame seeds and cereals, while admiring the flavors and textures.

‘Happy Island is a very beautiful island...’

Based on Minhyuk’s standards, Happy Island was the best island in existence. After all, it was an island with very delicious rice cakes. He even had tears dripping down the corners of his eyes as he ate them.

[You have eaten Happy Island’s Specialty, Omegi-tteok, for the first time.]

[You have gained +1 STM as a special reward.]

It was truly astonishing. For the first time since he started this game, his STM stat increased permanently just because he ate an omegi-tteok, a specialty of the island.

‘What kind of place is Happy Island?’

It was a special island that only Gorac knew of, an island that produced delicious food that could also raise one’s stats?

After finishing everything, a stream of tears flowed down Minhyuk’s cheeks.

Drip, drip, drip, drip—

At that moment, the door in front of him burst open and he met the gaze of a woman. The woman looked like she was Minhyuk’s age and was a beauty comparable to Genie and Ascar.

‘Since the omegi-tteok is this good, then the gogi-guksu must also taste good.’

Gorac's power had guided Minhyuk to this place. Of course, Minhyuk did not stay idle during that time. From what he heard from the merchants and sellers in the area, Evelyn was the best when it came to making gogi-guksu.

"Please give me fifty bowls of gogi-guksu."

"..."

Evelyn looked at the man in front of her in shock.

'He's ordering fifty bowls of gogi-guksu for himself?'

She did not think that Minhyuk was just making things up. After all, the man in front of her had eaten '827' omegi-tteok by himself. However, there was a problem.

"I'm sorry, but I don't have any ingredients."

"...!" The words were a bolt out of the blue. He hurriedly asked, "What do you mean by that? Why don't you have any ingredients?"

"I don't have any more pork."

It was a shocking statement, even more so than getting only fried rice after ordering bokjjamyeon[2]. Who had heard of a restaurant selling gogi-guksu that did not have any pork?

"Then, can't you just buy it?"

"It seems like this is your first time in Happy Island, huh?" Evelyn knew at once that this was Minhyuk's first time here. After all, he still did not understand how terrifying the black pigs on the island were.

Minhyuk nodded in answer. Seeing that, Evelyn explained the distribution contract for black pork.

"...I think I won't be able to keep the store running anymore." Evelyn looked bitter. However, she quickly erased the expression on her face and showed Minhyuk a small smile.

The sight of someone crying, then smiling broadly at the same time as he ate 827 pieces of omegi-tteok might look strange. However, Evelyn could tell that the man in front of her loved food dearly.

"Just one bowl. I only have enough ingredients left to make one bowl of gogi-guksu."

Just one bowl. After that, there were no more ingredients left. Evelyn would no longer be able to make gogi-guksu in this restaurant.

Minhyuk was thrilled when he heard that Evelyn could still make one bowl of gogi-guksu for him. At the same time, he thought, 'Should I bring her a bunch of black pork?'

Perhaps Evelyn's final bowl of gogi-guksu was truly special. After all, there were plenty of chefs that ended up forsaking the long, arduous path of cooking.

Some gave up because they received poor welfare despite the intense and harrowing work. Most chefs had to work ten hours a day in front of the fire, with some working more hours than that.

There were even some that could not make enough money with their craft. All in all, there were many reasons as to why people stopped cooking.

Evelyn was in a similar situation. She even told him that she would give him the last bowl that she could make. It might be a single bowl of gogi-guksu, but it would be the bowl that was made with utmost sincerity.

Then, Evelyn began to cook. She used a variety of ingredients, including the meat of the head of the black pig, to boil the milky-white soup. The waiting time was quite a pleasant experience in itself.

Tak, tak, tak, tak—

The loud and rhythmic sound of the knife as it made contact with the chopping board rang in Minhyuk's ears, and made his anticipation grow even further.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Even the rising steam that escaped from the pot as Evelyn raised the lid also increased his expectations for the dish. When Minhyuk saw Evelyn take out the noodles and shake them off, he realized that the time to eat gogi-guksu was finally approaching.

Soon, Evelyn served the steaming gogi-guksu with some dumplings on top. Then, she said, "You're my final customer. So, I won't take your money."

Minhyuk looked at the gogi-guksu in front of him. The milky-white soup contained Evelyn's fresh and hand-made noodles, topped with seven pieces of boiled pork and egg garnish.

As he looked at the dish in front of him, Minhyuk vowed that he would repay this grace. However, he knew that action would always speak louder than words. But first, he had to appease his hunger.

The first thing that Minhyuk did was to lift the bowl. Then, he gently blew on it and sipped the milky-white soup. The light and refreshing flavor of the broth of the gogi-guksu instantly spread in Minhyuk's mouth.

'There's no gamey smell at all.'

One of the main reasons why black pork was used instead of white pork for Happy Island's gogi-guksu was because it was less gamey and fishy. After savoring the soup, Minhyuk clamped a mouthful of the noodles and slurped them up in one breath.

Sluuuuuuuuuuuuuurp—

Minhyuk's lips curled up as the chewy noodles danced around in his mouth. Next, he grabbed some boiled pork and ate it together with some noodles. One look and he could see that the pork had the perfect ratio of lean meat and fat. When he put everything in his mouth, the flavor that spread brought out a burst of admiration from him.

"Wow..."

The taste of Evelyn's gogi-guksu was so divine, that Minhyuk almost wondered if the 'First Food God' had come back alive. Once again, he drank the soup directly from the bowl. Then, he clamped some well-ripened kimchi along with some noodles.

'The charm of noodle soup is amplified with kimchi.'

Indeed. The crispy, well-ripened kimchi went well with the light, bland flavor of the noodle soup.

“Sluuuuuuuuuurp.”

Crunch, crunch, crunch—

The pleasant sound of crispy kimchi being munched on rang. Then, Minhyuk turned his chopsticks toward the dumplings. The moment he put one in his mouth, the hot juices trapped inside the thin skin burst out and spread in his mouth.

While Minhyuk was having a delightful meal, the door to Evelyn’s restaurant slammed open.

Bang—!

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People began to pour in the moment the doors of Evelyn’s restaurant slammed open. There was deep anger marring Evelyn’s beautiful face as she glared at the man that suddenly stood in front of her.

Pluine Merchant Group practically dominated the entire Happy Island. Their merchant group was so large that even the Happy Island’s royal family could not do anything to them at all.

The men that appeared in front of Evelyn were knights sent by the Pluine Merchant Group. Among them was Loic, an outstanding knight. He was hired by Pluine Merchant Group to do vicious tasks on their behalf.

In fact, the Pluine Merchant Group was actually an evil and malicious merchant order. They were considered as the group with the absolute power in the island

Five other knights entered the restaurant with Loic. A total of six warriors that came to a single woman’s restaurant? It was unlikely due to Evelyn’s outstanding looks.

“Get lost, Loic,” Evelyn roared at Loic.

“We can’t just go away for no reason, no?”

Loic, who sported a huge build, shrugged his shoulders.

“I already told you to stop doing business. But what’s this? You have a customer? Hey, you! Stop pigging out and get lost,” Loic growled as he glared at the man sitting by the side. Then, he continued, “We have pushed back on collecting your rent time and again. Today’s your final due date, Evelyn. You will have to work for the Pluine Merchant Group from this point on.”

“What nonsense...!” Evelyn’s face turned red.

She was truly behind on her restaurant’s rent. In fact, it was not just that. Her late father had also left her with debt. Loic had been using this method to try and bring her to Pluine Merchant Group’s side, because they coveted Evelyn’s special power.

“Well, if you don’t want that. Then, just come to my side, no?” Loic said, looking at Evelyn with a disgusting gaze.

Evelyn almost blew the top of her head from anger when she saw the grimy look. “You are all disgusting.”

She bit her lips tightly. In fact, she had already guessed the things that they did.

“You are the ones that did my father in.”

Yes, Evelyn’s father died during a hunt. She had already suspected that it was related to the Pluine Merchant Group.

“There’s so many people that came to take a single woman, huh?”

Evelyn’s lips were already bleeding from how hard she was biting them. Furious, she regretted the fact that she could not fight back when her father died back then. But now, she would say what she wanted to say.

She knew that she no longer had any way to run this restaurant anymore. She was also aware that her life would be turned upside down from this point on. However, even after knowing this outcome, Evelyn would not back down. She was not the type to surrender so easily.

“Just looking at all of your faces makes me feel sick. It makes me feel like I want to vomit. Especially when looking at you, Loic. Is the reason why you were called Orc Loic because you resemble an orc? Shameless bastard. You’re going around doing every evil and malicious thing in the book just so you can get a woman.”

“W, what...” Loic’s face turned red.

Loic was a hot-tempered individual. Especially when what Evelyn said was the truth. Loic might be strong but he was not blessed with good looks. He was so ugly to the point that every single time he approached a woman, they would all reject him.

However, now that he had gained some sort of position in the Pluine Merchant Group, he wanted to use this opportunity to take Evelyn by force.

Loic grabbed Evelyn’s wrist and dragged her toward himself. Evelyn, weak as she was, could only be dragged helplessly.

“Aaaack...!”

“If you come with me, then everything will turn for the better for you. Yeah? Fufu. I’ll even give you a lot of money.”

Thwack—

In response to the creepy and disgusting smile on Loic’s face, Evelyn slapped him hard, blood dripping down his cheeks as her fingernails scratched his skin. Furious, Loic raised his hands toward her. However, he was in the presence of the other knights. So, he just whispered to Evelyn’s ears, “Who do you think killed your father? Huh?”

Evelyn understood the meaning of his words. Loic was the one that killed her father. Her blood started to boil from anger. However, she was helpless. She could only get dragged by the hand. She could tell that Loic was also at the limit of his temper. So, as if she was grasping the final straw, she hurriedly spoke while being dragged away, “W, wait. Let me serve my last customer properly.”

This last customer was a very precious existence to Evelyn.

Loic turned to look at the man that was eating gogi-guksu by the side. He had obviously told this man to get lost earlier. But the man did not listen. Loic slammed his fist on the table.

Crack—

The table broke into pieces and the bowl of gogi-guksu that the man was eating fell on the ground, its bowl breaking into pieces. At the same time, the last piece of boiled pork left in the bowl also fell on the ground.

Clatter—

“...”

“Oh my, I missed the mark. Next time, I'll make sure to take your head. Get. F\*cking. Lost.”

Evelyn could no longer hold back her anger. Despite her wrist still being held tightly by Loic, she started to rain blows on the man, scratching him with her nails.

“How dare you! How dare you do that to my customer...!”

Loic, who was being slapped non-stop, could no longer hold back. He moved to grab her by the hair.

But then, the customer, who was still sitting on his seat, murmured, “Have you ever tried eating gogi-guksu?”

“...?”

Loic tilted his head in confusion.

‘What bullshit is this guy spouting?’

“The soup tastes light and refreshing, the noodles are chewy, and the boiled meat on top tastes fantastic with its perfect fat to lean meat ratio.”

“???”

“The gogi-guksu's boiled meat was very delicious. That's why I left behind one piece to eat at the end of my meal. A cherry on top, so to speak.”

The man stood up from his seat and grabbed Loic's wrist that was holding on to Evelyn. Then, he exerted some force.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

At that moment, Loic felt the bones of his wrist break and crack. Then, with bloodshot eyes, the man said to him, “You m\*th\*r\*f\*ck\*r. You will pay for what you did to my boiled meat.”

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“K, keuaaaaaaack! Aaaaaaaaack! P, please stop. Let go of my hand.”

Loic, whose wrist was being crushed, felt the unbearable pain. However, the worst was the sound that rang in his ears.

Crack, craaaaaaack—

Craaaaaaack—

It did not take too long for the bones to shatter completely. In a matter of seconds, Loic's hand was hanging loosely, and the sight brought great fear and terror to everyone who witnessed it.

The man who grabbed and broke Loic's wrist said, "You m\*th\*r\*f\*ck\*r. You will pay for what you did to my boiled meat."

His eyes were bloodshot. Loic and the knights looked at the man in doubt.

'Is that truly his reason for doing this?!

Perhaps, there was another reason. After all, why would someone be so vicious just because a piece of boiled pork fell on the ground?

"It was my boiled pork, the piece of boiled pork that I was saving for last."

The man's voice was devoid of warmth, yet his words were quite nonsensical. However, the vitriol that leaked through his voice was enough to tell everyone present that he meant business.

'He broke Commander Loic's wrist just because of a single piece of boiled pork...'

However, the surprise from that realization was only brief. The knights of the Pluine Merchant Order immediately pulled their swords out. However, Minhyuk did not let go of Loic's wrist. In fact, he continued to look at the man with a scathing, terrifying gaze.

Loic screamed, "Damn you! How dare you do this to me for a mere piece of boiled pork...!"

The moment those words left Loic's mouth, Evelyn realized something. Loic had said something that he should not have. Those words caused Minhyuk's anger to soar.

Of course, the reason why he was furious was mainly attributed to that final piece of boiled pork that fell on the ground. However, although Minhyuk looked like he had been focused on his meal, he had actually been paying attention to what was happening beside him.

As it turned out, Loic had killed Evelyn's father, because he coveted Evelyn's body. The Pluine Merchant Group, Loic's employer, was helping him from behind the scenes.

Who was Evelyn? She had served Minhyuk, who really wanted to partake in her craft, a bowl of gogi-guksu using the last of her ingredients. The value of an item varied greatly depending on the person receiving it. For Minhyuk, the bowl of gogi-guksu that Evelyn served him was a very precious and special gift.

Minhyuk let go of Loic's wrist, who felt relieved. It seemed like the man in front of him had already wrapped his head around the situation.

"How dare you go against the Pluine Merchant Order..."

Baaaaaaaang—

Loic's front teeth flew as Minhyuk's fist made contact with his face. Then, Minhyuk stepped on Loic's foot and restricted his movements, effectively preventing him from running away as he landed punch after punch on the man's body.

Bam, bam, bam, bam, bam!

Thud—

Crack, crack, crack—

The sound of Loic's cracking bones rang inside the restaurant as his body was completely pummeled while he fainted on the spot.

'H, how...'

The one who was most surprised by the sudden turn of events was Evelyn. In her eyes, he was a pure and innocent young man who loved to eat. But now, he was shrouded by an overbearing aura while terrifying killing intent leaked from his eyes. His momentum was so overwhelming that none of the people in the room could compare.

Even so, the knights of the Pluine Merchant Group still jumped at Minhyuk.

Baaaaaaaang—

Booooooooooom—

Crack, crack, crack—

However, the knights of the Pluine Merchant Group were also helpless in front of him. All they could do was unilaterally receive his beatings. Minhyuk easily overpowered these knights.

"W, wait. You can't kill them!"

Evelyn knew that Minhyuk would be in a bad position if he killed them because of her. At her words, Minhyuk stopped raining blows on the men inside the restaurant.

The truth was, Minhyuk was not actually thinking of killing them either. At that moment, the hidden symbol engraved on Minhyuk's chest shone brightly. It was the 'Evil Incarnate's Hunter' symbol.

Minhyuk had been the one who killed the Evil Incarnate not too long ago. He had received a lot of rewards for that. Among them was the symbol of the 'Evil Incarnate's Hunter.'

This symbol had the power to allow Minhyuk to either brainwash or put a curse on his opponent. The name of this power was the 'Cursed Whispers' and he could choose from a diverse selection of curses to use on his opponent. When it came to brainwashing, he could use it to inflict extreme fear upon his opponents and turn them crazy until they fell dead.

'It's a useful but terrifying skill.'

As expected of a skill left behind by the Evil Incarnate. Of course, the skill could only be triggered if the opponent was at least a hundred levels below Minhyuk's level. Even after this condition was met, the skill could only be triggered by luck. The only way to increase the probability of the skill being triggered was reducing the opponent's HP as much as possible.

Evelyn did not notice, but Minhyuk was staring coldly at the people who had curled their bodies from the pain and had collapsed on the ground. Then, his eyes turned black as he began to whisper to them.

[Cursed Whispers]

[Your chosen curse has been applied to your enemies.]

“Obey me.”

The faint whisper sounded as if it came from the devil himself. Minhyuk brainwashed the knights, except for Loic. The knights’ eyes turned black for a very brief moment before returning to their original color.

Then, Minhyuk spoke as if nothing had happened, “Get lost.”

The knights hurriedly stood up and dragged Loic away with them.

Meanwhile, Evelyn looked at Minhyuk in gratitude. She didn't even know how to thank the man. At the same time, she was also very worried, not for herself, but for Minhyuk. After all, the Pluine Merchant Order’s influence and power was comparable to the royal family on Happy Island. It was actually more accurate to say that the king had no other choice but to concede in front of the Pluine Merchant Order.

“How could I even thank you...”

Minhyuk said, “That one bowl of gogi-guksu was more than enough.”

He meant it. The dish was more than enough for Minhyuk. After all, it was the most delicious gogi-guksu that he had ever tasted in his life.

‘Are all of the dishes on this island at this level?’

The dish born from Evelyn’s hands was so good that it caused Minhyuk to burst out in exclamation. Perhaps she was born to become a chef?

However, there was something that Minhyuk was very curious about. “But why do those guys want you so much?”

Minhyuk was very quick-witted. He guessed that it was not just for her delicious dishes.

“My dishes can give one special powers.”

“...”

Happy Island was quite different from the Asgan Continent. Evelyn’s dishes might be the Asgan Continent’s buffed dishes. It was unlikely that Evelyn was the only one capable of making buffed dishes on this island. If such dishes were scarce, then it made sense for them to covet Evelyn. Still, Minhyuk thought that things should not have devolved to this level.

“Those that eat my dishes will be able to grow stronger at a faster pace. Furthermore, this effect is permanent.”

“...!”

Minhyuk's eyes grew wide.

'The effects are permanent? Wait. Does that mean that the EXP acquired will increase permanently?'

This was an insane discovery. There were some among the high rankers that bought the 'Blessed One's Ring', an equipment that could permanently increase one's EXP gain by a mere 3%. However, the ring was transacted for tens of thousands of platinum. That was how much the players wanted the permanent increase in EXP acquisition. In Evelyn's case, the effect would manifest by eating her dishes and not by wearing an artifact.

Minhyuk pondered deeply over this matter. There was a chance that the operators had set Evelyn as Happy Island's special NPC. Those who were able to eat her dishes would be able to get a permanent increase in their EXP acquisition. This meant that Evelyn's worth was beyond imagination. What would happen if Minhyuk was able to bring Evelyn to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?

'Plenty of NPCs and players would rush to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and knock on our doors.'

Minhyuk was certain of this. The permanent increase in EXP acquisition would easily outweigh the benefits that the Luvien Empire could bring forward.

'I want her.'

However, just because he wanted to bring her to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom did not mean that he could ask her to go there right away.

"Please be careful," Minhyuk said.

Evelyn understood the meaning of his words better than anybody else.

"Yes. That's why I'm going to go somewhere safe."

"Where?"

"The king's castle. My late father was quite close with His Majesty Effer."

Minhyuk nodded. Perhaps this was much better than her being forced to go to the Pluine Merchant Group. There was a high chance that her choice was the best path for herself.

"I see."

First of all, she was in a situation where it was impossible for her to continue running her restaurant. For her, the best course of action was to evade the eyes of the Pluine Merchant Group.

It was a pity, but Minhyuk knew that he had to let it be. After leaving Evelyn behind, he quickly checked a portion of the memories of the knights that he used the Cursed Whisper on.

'This is really very convenient and useful.'

With the help of the Cursed Whisper, Minhyuk was able to monitor and check the situation of the Pluine Merchant Group through the minds of the knights that he had brainwashed.

Then, his eyes grew wide. ‘Huh? Setoka and Kanpei[1]?’

These were Jeju Island’s specialties, different varieties of tangerine that were large and sweet.

‘Oho? The Pluine Merchant Group has some Setoka and Kanpei stored in their warehouse?’ Minhyuk thought, his throat bobbing as he gulped his saliva.

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Loic, whose bones were crushed, immediately called for high-ranking priests to heal his body the moment he went back to the Pluine Merchant Group. Thanks to the priests, his bones were mended to some extent, and he was finally able to walk on his own.

As soon as he could stand up, he growled, “Gather the knights and the soldiers. I’m going to tear that damn bastard to shreds!! I’ll kill him and Evelyn!”

Loic was furious. But before he could enact his plans, one of the knights that came with him said, “Sir Loic, before you go, why don’t you check the Setoka and Kanpei that we will offer to the God of Happiness?”

“Ahem. Yes, you’re right. Let’s do that first.”

The golden Setoka and Kanpei held special powers and were considered to be valuable and precious items in Happy Island. They were also very rare commodities. In fact, the island could only harvest five of each of the golden Setoka and Kanpei per year. The strength and power of those who consumed these fruits would permanently increase. In other words, the fruits could increase one’s stats.

The golden Setoka and Kanpei that they harvested were offered to the God of Happiness during their yearly prayers. As it stood, the day where they would offer these fruits to the God of Happiness was drawing near. That was why Loic had to check on the warehouse containing those ten fruits before killing that bastard.

“I wonder what the golden Setoka and Kanpei taste like?”

Of course, they have all tried the ordinary Setoka and Kanpei. However, they were still vastly different from the golden Setoka and Kanpei.

According to the merchant group’s master, who had tasted it once, they were unparalleled in terms of taste. They were sour, yet also had a lingering sweetness. Just thinking about it was enough to make them drool. The problem was that the golden Setoka and Kanpei were precious and priceless items. That was why they could not get their hands on it.

“Do we have enough horned black pig’s meat to offer to the God of Happiness?”

“Yes. We have slaughtered and processed two hundred horned black pigs for the offering.”

The horned black pigs were around ten times more expensive than ordinary black pigs. However, the taste of their meat was superb. From what they had heard, the banquet prepared for the God of Happiness was incredibly special. However, for some strange reason, they were unaware of the exact details of the event.

Loic immediately grabbed the handles of the doors of the food storage warehouse upon their arrival. He said, "Let's quickly check the condition of the items, after that, we'll go gather a hundred knights to rip that bastard to shreds."

The moment he opened the door, Loic tilted his head in confusion

"...?"

He was greeted with the sight of a man sitting leisurely inside the warehouse with the skin of the golden Setoka and Kanpei scattered behind him. In fact, the man was even pushing the last piece of Kanpei in his mouth.

"You, you...!"

The individual had eaten all of the golden Setoka and Kanpei. On top of that, the two hundred horned black pig meat and the rest of the ingredients inside the food storage warehouse were all gone.

However, the most important thing was that Loic was very familiar with the man that devoured all of the golden Setoka and Kanpei. It was none other than the bastard that he had encountered in the restaurant earlier.

The man grinned at Loic. Then, he opened his mouth and a loud sound, akin to a dragon's roar, echoed inside the food storage warehouse.

"Buuuuuuuuuuuurp—!"

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It was not really that difficult for Minhyuk to sneak in and hide inside the Pluine Merchant Group's food storage warehouse. All he needed to do was instruct the knights that he brainwashed earlier to open the doors and allow him entry to the food storage warehouse. The moment Minhyuk entered the warehouse, he helped himself to every single piece of rare and precious dishes and ingredients stored inside.

The golden Setoka and Kanpei were truly delicious. He had whisked his knife out and sliced them into pieces perfect for eating. The refreshing flavor of the tangerine burst out in his mouth the moment he consumed it.

A burst of sourness met his taste buds at the first bite of the Setoka, a larger variety of tangerine, which was immediately followed by a refreshing sweetness. Furthermore, there was something far more surprising than its flavor.

[You have eaten a Golden Setoka.]

[You have gained +1 in all of your five basic stats.]

[You have eaten a Golden Setoka.]

[You...gained +1...five basic stats.]

[You have eaten a Golden Kanpei.]

[Your total HP and MP volume have increased by 200.]

[...eaten a Golden Kanpei.]

[...HP and MP volume...200]

As mentioned before, the food storage warehouse housed a variety of rare and delicious ingredients and dishes, including the horned black pork.

[You have acquired 231 Surly Octopi.]

[You have acquired 313 Fatty Amberjacks.]

[You have acquired 21 kg of Sea Urchin Roe.]

[You have acquired 531 kg of Happy Tangerine...]

Minhyuk laughed in delight as he listened to the notifications that constantly rang in his ears, “Wahahahahahahahahahaha!”

It was truly a wonderful warehouse, filled with many rare and precious delicious ingredients! However, even if he looted this warehouse, Minhyuk did not feel any guilt, especially after he had dug through the memories of the knights that he brainwashed. The truth was, the Pluine Merchant Group was truly evil. All of the things that they had gathered here were either stolen, looted or monopolized.

Just when Minhyuk was about to pop the final piece of the Kanpei into his mouth, the doors of the warehouse suddenly opened.

“Let’s quickly check the condition of the items, after that, we’ll go gather a hundred knights to rip that bastard to shreds.”

The familiar voice of Loic rang out while he standing beyond the doors, and as he appeared, his expression was filled with shock after seeing the scene in front of him.

“You, you...!”

“Buuuuuuuuuuuurp—!” Minhyuk, who could not hold back his body’s natural reaction, released a loud sound that was akin to a dragon’s roar.

All of the ingredients and dishes stored in the food storage warehouse were items that the Pluine Merchant Group had to offer to the Happy Island’s God in a few days’ time. They had no choice. After all, the Happy Island’s God would always lose his temper and grow angry whenever he was hungry.

“We will receive far more special support with the offering that we will present this time.”

The top brass of the merchant group had mentioned it before, and Loic had also heard that it was likely the owner of Happy Island would change. But now, the man in front of him had eaten all of the offerings that they were supposed to send.

At the same time, Loic thought that this was an opportunity. They might have lost all of the dishes and ingredients set aside as offerings, but he was given the chance to rip apart and kill the damn bastard in front of him. To top it all off, they were inside the Pluine Merchant Group. That meant that hundreds of knights would come running to his aid the moment he opened his mouth.

Grab—

Grab—

However, the knights that stood beside Loic grabbed him by the arms and stopped him from moving. Loic looked at the knights beside him in confusion. “Wh, what? Let go of me?”

Shiiiiiiiiing—

Minhyuk looked coldly at Loic as he pulled his sword out and approached the confused man.

Loic was quite a strong man. He was able to shake off the knights that were holding him down in one go. But by then, Minhyuk was already in front of him, his sword slitting Loic’s throat as he passed by him.

Fwiiiiiiiiish—

Loic could only watch the blood spurting from his neck in horror and collapsed to the ground.

Minhyuk looked down at him with a frigid expression on his face and said, “I don’t have the habit of leaving loose ends.”

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It was said that the meat of the Horned Black Pig, a pig that only appeared in Happy Island, tasted better than ordinary black pigs. Upon hearing this, Minhyuk immediately thought of black pig ogyeopsal[1]. However, he tried his hardest to endure.

‘No. There must be an even more special entity than the horned black pig.’

Minhyuk did not have any doubt about it. The detailed explanation of the horned black pig only said that the meat tasted better than ordinary black pigs and did not even have any special abilities that increased the stats or skills of the consumer.

Minhyuk had been playing Athenae for years now. As a long-time player, he knew that places like Happy Island would have ingredients that were definitely out of the norm. That was why there would definitely be an ingredient of mindblowing standards on this island.

There was always a rainbow after the rain. April showers would always bring May flowers. Hard work would always be rewarded. So, Minhyuk endured and stopped himself from eating the horned black pork. This was because he wanted to eat what was probably the most delicious black pork on the island.

‘I’m definitely improving.’

Minhyuk felt like his eating addiction was improving. If it was the him of the past, then he would definitely not hold back and endure. The 200 horned black pork would be devoured in one seating.

After looting the food storage warehouse, Minhyuk continued to follow Gorac’s guidance.

‘If I go and find the man named Heaven, I will be able to eat hanchippang[2].’

Hanchippang was a local specialty bread and could only be bought in Happy Island. It was bread in the shape of a squid, or hanchi, and usually filled with various things inside like cheese and red bean paste.

Minhyuk, who was walking under the guidance of Gorac, heard a series of notifications in his ear.

[Ingredient Search has been successful!]

[You will be guided to where the Legendary Three Meter Great King Largehead Hairtail.]

“...!”

Minhyuk’s eyes grew wide.

In the short time he spent here, he already discovered that Happy Island was famous for its seafood, black pork, and various other specialties. Since the inspiration for this island was Jeju Island, the Ingredient Search was able to find a ‘largehead hairtail’, an ingredient that was as famous as black pork.

Before it became Ingredient Search, the skill was called Ingredient Tracking, which would track the ingredient that the skill user had specified. But now, the Ingredient Search skill had become completely different. It would not only search for the ingredient that the user wanted, but also guide them to where it was, as long as they were within a one-kilometer radius of the ingredient.

Minhyuk quickened his steps.

‘A Legendary Three Meter Great King Largehead Hairtail? Amazing! There was a hairtail that had grown to three meters in length?’

It had to be known that the hairtails in Jeju Island were already famous for reaching a meter in length. These one-meter-long hairtails would often be spread out like a fan. When the meat of the hairtail was scooped out and placed on top of piping hot rice, it was as if one had the entire world in their hands. Right now, the notifications were telling Minhyuk that there was a Legendary Three Meter Great King Largehead Hairtail.

Minhyuk moved as though he was possessed, until he arrived in front of Happy Island’s Castle. His brows furrowed. This had to be the castle where the king, whom Evelyn went to meet, lived.

‘Does the king have the legendary ingredient in his hands?’

Now, this was a problem. Minhyuk was a king, but this land was an unknown one, where his influence did not reach at all. The king would not come out even if he shouted for him. Basically, he could not meet him just because he wanted to do so.

Minhyuk only had one way to solve this problem. He had to make it so that the king would come and find him himself. He had to get the king’s interest and attention.

‘I have to make myself the talk of the town.’

Since Minhyuk was not from this island, he could use this to his advantage and spread nice rumors about him to the residents living in Happy Island. These rumors had to be a head-turner. It also had to spread far and wide to the point that it would reach the king’s ears.

‘Let’s follow the guide for now.’

Minhyuk continued to follow the guide and met the man named Heaven, who sold hanchippang. Heaven was an old man, who had a very simple problem.

“I’m in trouble. Because my hand has been seriously injured, I can’t make any hanchippang and cannot run my business properly.”

Gorac's power would only guide and help Minhyuk find food in his vicinity. As for the rest, it would be up to Minhyuk and the NPCs that he would encounter.

[The Quest: Sell Hanchippang has been created.]

The rewards of the quest were simple. He would receive 100,000 gold for 100 pieces of hanchippang. It was obviously a quest for beginner chefs. However, Minhyuk still readily agreed to take the quest.

[You have learned the Hanchippang Recipe.]

After learning Heaven's hanchippang recipe, Minhyuk began to work. After all, he was not only the Food God, but also someone with a DEX stat that was out of this world.

Minhyuk poured the dough made from Jeju's buckwheat into the hanchippang machine. Then, he added a dollop of cream cheese, some hanchi powder, and some mozzarella cheese.

Once the hanchippang was done, he took it out of the machine and immediately took a bite. The hanchippang was crispy on the outside while the mozzarella cheese stretched out, connecting his mouth to the portion. He munched on the part of the hanchippang where the mozzarella cheese bit by bit, until he reached and tasted the sweetness of the cream cheese.

'Wow. This is really delicious!'

This could also be attributed to Minhyuk's high DEX stat, as well as his ability to create buffed dishes, which no longer had a limit per day.

[You have made a Hanchippang.]

[The fatigue of those that will eat the Hanchippang will disappear while their energy will increase.]

Then, Minhyuk added a drop of something to the hanchippang dough. This was none other than the 'Sea Honey', an item that he had not used for a very long time.

'Fufu.'

All of the preparations for his business were finished.

Meanwhile, Heaven looked at his masterpiece in shock. "Wow, look at this. This is golden brown. How can you bake them so well?"

This was mainly because Minhyuk's cooking skills were far better than Heaven's own. However, even if he was able to make it well, the problem still stood.

'Will he be able to do business?'

Hanchippang was a specialty of Happy Island. The problem did not lie in its taste. It was because the residents of Happy Island were used to its taste, and they did not find anything special with it. After all, they were the only ones that were able to eat this kind of dish.

But the quest would only be completed if Minhyuk was able to reach a certain amount of sales. For him to complete this, his practiced skill in speech would have to play a huge part.

"Sister, please come and try some of this hanchippang. I guarantee that it's very delicious."

The woman that Minhyuk called out to looked like a haenyeo[3], who was over fifty.

“Hoho. Did you just call me sister? I’ll be fifty-nine next year.”

“Goodness. This... I made a mistake. It’s because you look so young.”

“Hoho. You have a good eye, young man. Give me five hanchippangs!”

“Yes, ma’am!”

Lauren, the old lady that Minhyuk called over, had been very exhausted from picking various clams and shellfish earlier. She slowly ate the hanchippang, savouring the sweetness that followed the crispiness of the bread. Somehow, the taste was slightly different from the hanchippang that she was very used to.

‘This, this taste is addictive,’ Lauren thought as she gobbled everything up in one go.

[Your fatigue has disappeared.]

[Your energy has increased.]

To her surprise, the fatigue and exhaustion that accumulated in her body after working hard today had disappeared, as if they had been washed away by the waves. Even her knees, which ached from time to time, seemed to have loosened up and allowed her to move freely.

Of course, Minhyuk did not stop his lip service and continued to drag in new customers.

“Oh my, brother! Are you tired? Come, come. Have some hanchippang that will definitely give you energy. Since you’re very handsome, I will give you a discount. Three hanchippangs cost 10,000 gold. But for you, I’ll give it for 9,900 gold!”

“Hahaha. Is that so? Then, give me three!”

Sometimes, there were customers with dark and gloomy expressions on their faces that would pass by.

“Dear customer, what’s the matter?”

“My fiance broke our engagement because I’m bald.”

“Eeeeeeeeh?! How can that be?”

Minhyuk looked like he was genuinely sorry for the man. He secretly slipped something onto his fingers. It was none other than the ‘Growth Ring’, an artifact produced by the Talmor Religion’s pope that had great effects when it came to growing hair.

“This hanchippang right here has a hair-growing effect. Brother, trust me this once!”

“Haha. You sound like you’re joking. But what’s the harm in trying, no?”

Minhyuk immediately rubbed the ring on his fingers the moment the man took a bite of the hanchippang. At the same time, the man felt a heat bloom on top of the empty fields on his head.

“U, uwoooooooooh! It’s, it’s really growiiiiiiiiing!!!”

“It’s really true. Hahahaha!!!”

This was not the only type of customer that passed by Minhyuk’s stall.

“It has been very boring lately. Is there something interesting out there?”

“Is that so? Then, how about giving this a read?”

“Why Did the Prince Go Out Tonight? What’s this?”

“It’s a very, very interesting novel. Brother, I’m only giving this to you, okay?”

The next day, the bald man and the bored man both came back to visit Minhyuk. There was actually some hair growing on the bald man’s head now.

“Thanks. I don’t know how I can repay the grace that you have given me.”

“It’s fine, brother. I’m already happy to see you happy, brother.”

As for the guy who said that he was bored, “This is the first time in a long time that I enjoyed reading a book. What happens next?”

Everyone grew to like and treat Minhyuk preciously.

“Kghhk! I heard that he’s a guest from another continent? You’re even a noble! You’re a noble that came to visit our dear Happy Island!”

“That’s right! He’s a noble!”

“Thanks to that child, my back is no longer hurting like before!”

[Carmel’s favor has reached the MAX level.]

[Evon’s favor...]

[Rokai’s favor...]

[Krucao’s favor...]

On top of all that, Minhyuk’s sales had increased at an exponential rate. It was around a hundred times more than the store’s usual sales. There was even a long line in front of the hanchippang store. After all, the taste of the hanchippang was very divine for these people. And Minhyuk, he was akin to a god, to all of these people who had grown addicted to Sea Honey.

[Many people have started to sing you praises.]

[As the master and leader of Minhyuk Religion, your divinity has grown quite a bit.]

The story of Minhyuk, who they referred to as the ‘noble’, was constantly being mentioned and discussed by the people, and his favor with the people was constantly increasing until they reached MAX level.

Quite a lot of people even began to sing of Minhyuk’s stories.

“Aaaaaaaaah, Noble~ Eat one hanchippang from his shop and your pain will fly away~”

“Someone grew hair!”

“Aaaaaaaah! He is loved by all!”

Minhyuk did not stop there. He continued to follow Gorac’s guidance and talked to all of the people who offered special dishes. There were obviously some customers who owned or cooked special dishes among those who bought hanchippang. He would then tell them something along the lines of, “I’ll give you five more hanchippangs, will you trade some mackerel with me?”

“Good!”

“I heard that you grow Great King Apples, the apples that are native to Happy Island. How about trading them for eight hanchippangs?”

“Call!”

Those who had tasted the hanchippang were soon addicted to its taste and effects. Everyone was willing to accept the trade, which allowed Minhyuk to pile up a huge amount of ingredients in his inventory.

Then...

[You have built a rapport and have received a lot of favor from many residents of Happy Island.]

[You have achieved the Easter Egg: ‘Happy Island’s Noble’]

[You have gained +10 in all of your stats.]

[Everything that you buy from the residents of Happy Island will be 30% cheaper.]

[Even though you’re a foreigner, the residents of Happy Island will not be wary of you and will even be friendly with you.]

[The Story of the Noble is being spread far and wide.]

This was the effect that Minhyuk wanted. Just like that, the Story of the Noble shook the entire Happy Island.

“A noble from another continent?”

Happy Island’s King Effer viewed him favorably after hearing that he was loved by the millions of people on the island.

“Bring him to me.”

Chapter 774: Benevolent Ruler

Happy Island’s King Effer was loved and cherished by the people of the island. It had to be known that Happy Island was superior to Asgan Continent in all aspects. The level of their soldiers, knights, and even their monsters were higher than those in Asgan Continent. As a person who could subjugate such high-leveled monsters, King Effer could be said to be an outstanding individual.

‘What else can I do? I am nothing more than a puppet.’

Effer smiled bitterly. He might be the king of Happy Island, but his position had been shaken, and he was effectively controlled by the Pluine Merchant Group. They had the ‘God of Happiness’

backing them up. That was not all, the ‘God of Happiness’ Envoys’ that the God of Happiness had sent also had outstanding skills and abilities. Therefore, the God of Happiness’ Envoys were a part of the top brass of the Pluine Merchant Group.

‘God of Happiness, why have you abandoned us?’

Originally, the God of Happiness did not intervene with what was happening on the island. But one day, the God of Happiness suddenly started protecting the Pluine Merchant Group. Effer surmised that this must have started when the Pluine Merchant Group started making offerings and sacrifices to the god. The God of Happiness also bestowed upon them plenty of things.

The Pluine Merchant Group then took away the fertile lands, which originally belonged to the farmers, saying that it was under the command of the God of Happiness. Even the vast seas, which originally belonged to the fishermen, were taken away because of the God of Happiness’s revelation. As they laid claim to things one after the other, King Effer failed to stop them.

The God of Happiness was an insurmountable existence to the people of the island. The god was just far too strong. Unlike the other Continental Gods, the God of Happiness could descend directly upon their lands. In front of such a god, King Effer was nothing but weak.

“Urk...!”

Effer hurriedly covered his mouth with a handkerchief when he felt the cough bubble up in his throat. When he took it away, there was already blood smearing the cloth. This was Effer’s biggest worry. He knew that his days were already numbered. All he could do was smile bitterly as he tried to calm his trembling body.

“Hoo...” Effer sighed, his body calming down to some extent after quite some time.

“Your Majesty, the Noble has arrived.”

Effer was very curious about the man that his people hailed as the Noble. Even Evelyn had something to say about him. Evelyn’s father was both a knight and a chef who served the royal family in the past. Effer would always feel better whenever he ate the ‘gogi-guksu’ that her father had made. From what Evelyn had told him, the Noble was a very good person.

‘He punched several knights of the Pluine Merchant Group.’

However, Effer believed that even though they were just a few knights of the merchant group, that was still something that he should not have done. They were probably just the tip of the iceberg of the Pluine Merchant Group.

Not long after, the door opened wide, and the Noble entered the halls with a bright and pure smile on his face.

“Your Majesty. This servant of yours, Minhyuk, greets you.”

Minhyuk was also a king. However, he was displaying such courtesy and being polite because he was a king of the Asgan Continent, and did not have any influence on Happy Island. Even if he shouted, ‘I’m also a king!’ No one would believe him. If he used ‘God’s Voice’ for no reason at all, then he would only draw the ire of the people and would definitely strip him of whatever benefits he had accumulated.

"I can hear the laughter and joy of my people from all the way here. Because the Noble has visited us, I can hear my people enjoy themselves and let go of their worries. For that, I am very grateful."

Minhyuk was quite surprised by these words. 'Didn't he call for me here because he was curious?'

Of course, the king was curious about Minhyuk. However, the main reason why King Effer asked to meet Minhyuk was because he brought smiles to the faces of his people.

The weight of a king's gratitude was heavy. Even so, it was still said with great sincerity, and it was evident in the smile of King Effer.

"Thank you for your praise."

"I heard that you came from another continent?"

"That's right."

"It seems like you're a pretty good chef in that continent."

That was true. Minhyuk was a pretty good chef.

"I have a favor to ask of you," Effer said, smiling bitterly. "I heard that you have made a small connection with Evelyn."

"Yes, that's right."

"When you go back to your continent, please take Evelyn with you."

"...Eh?"

Minhyuk looked at Effer in doubt. Evelyn was someone who could create dishes that could permanently increase one's EXP acquisition rate. If Minhyuk could take her back with him, then he would be able to attract even the outstanding rankers to his kingdom. In other words, she would become Minhyuk's shortcut to building an empire.

'However, why would the king ask me for a favor like this?'

"You must have heard about it, right? That child will no longer be able to live in this land peacefully. There are just far too many people that want her and her ability."

Minhyuk knew about this fact. However, there was still a point of doubt. 'But she's now staying by the king's side? So, why?'

Evelyn was under the protection of the king. Why would he send her away?

Minhyuk did not have a complete grasp on the situation in Happy Island yet. In fact, he was only able to get a glimpse of the flow when he was running the hanchippang business. From what he understood, the benevolent ruler, King Effer, was being used as a puppet by the Pluine Merchant Group, who was being backed by the God of Happiness.

However, even if the Pluine Merchant Group was treating him like a puppet, why would he decide to send Evelyn with Minhyuk?

‘There’s a chance that they’re much more dirty and vulgar than I thought of.’

Anyway, there was no need for Minhyuk to reject such an offer. In fact, he would be an idiot if he refused this.

“I understand.”

“Keep that child safe and let her live happily for a very long time. Ah. If you don’t mind, then please take those that want to visit another continent with you, too.”

The bitter smile on King Effer’s face had morphed into that of relief. However, the sadness was still evident on his face. He looked like he was going somewhere far away.

“Ah. I heard that you can give others strength through your cooking in your continent?”

“Are you talking about buffed dishes, Your Majesty?”

“That’s right.”

Based on what Minhyuk has observed, there was no concept of buffed dishes in Happy Island.

“Can I try and have a taste of your buffed dish? I need to gain stronger power for a short period of time, you see.”

Why did King Effer need to gain strength? Even if he was curious, Minhyuk still held his tongue and did not ask. He just said, “Of course, you can. However, Your Majesty... I will need excellent ingredients to make an excellent buffed dish.”

The main reason why Minhyuk came here was so he could eat the Legendary Three Meter Great King Largehead Hairtail. It would be nice if he could get a special ability, but even without it, he would still be happy to taste such a delicacy.

“I’ll give you whatever ingredients you need. Just tell me.”

“The ingredients that only Your Majesty has, the very, very large Legendary Great King Largehead Hairtail, the Jeweled Sea Urchin Roe that can only be harvested once every two years, Silk Seaweed, Rocky Stone Radish...”

Minhyuk had already investigated the special ingredients that were in the hands of King Effer. To his shock, even though the ingredients were far more valuable than he initially thought, King Effer still readily agreed and gave him the ingredients.

‘I have to grow a bit stronger even if it’s only for a brief moment.’

Then, Minhyuk began to cook for King Effer. He began to grill the three-meter-long Legendary Great King Largehead Hairtail, until it was golden brown in color while he left the sea urchin and seaweed soup boiling by the side. Of course, he also did not forget to make some braised hairtail using the ordinary hairtail and radish.

“Hehe, looks delicious.”

Effer could not help but smile when he saw the pure, bright expression that adorned the face of the chef from another continent.

When he finished cooking all of the dishes, Minhyuk asked, “Your Majesty, would it be alright to share this meal with you?”

“Well, there’s quite a lot of dishes here. It would be nice if I had someone to dine with.”

“No. I have my own food,” Minhyuk said as he used the Joy of Eating Together and made the same set of dishes appear in front of him.

‘What a mysterious ability,’ Effer mumbled to himself as he looked at the table that was laid with plenty of dishes.

Minhyuk’s shoulders danced in happiness as he looked at the same set of dishes that appeared in front of him. Before he started eating, Minhyuk did what he had to do. He skillfully removed the bones of the three-meter-long Great King Largehead Hairtail with his chopsticks.

“Oh! What an amazing ability,” Effer said in admiration.

After removing all of the bones, all that was left was the plump and juicy meat of the largehead hairtail. Minhyuk stared at the hairtail, the sea urchin, and the seaweed soup right next to it.

Of course, he had also served plenty of side dishes like kimchi and fresh vegetables. Minhyuk gulped as he scooped a huge spoonful of rice. Then, he placed a huge piece of the largehead hairtail on top before placing everything in his mouth.

“Kghhkhk...”

A burst of the salty and savory flavor of the hairtail that was sprinkled amply with salt spread in his mouth, perfectly complementing the sweetness of the rice.

After admiring the wonders of the grilled hairtail, Minhyuk turned his attention to the braised hairtail and deboned the hairtail in one swift move. Then, he grabbed his spoon scooped a spoonful of the braised dish and poured it on top of his bowl of rice before taking a big bite. The combination of the sweetness and spiciness of the braised hairtail made Minhyuk’s mouth tingle with delight. The charm of the hairtail laid with its seasoning.

Then, Minhyuk cut off a piece of the radish that was completely red, added it to his rice and placed everything in his mouth. The radish that had been coated perfectly with the sauce was very rich in flavor.

Next, Minhyuk added some rice to his sea urchin and seaweed soup. One spoonful and he could taste the savory seaweed and the deep flavor of the sea urchin in the soup.

“I was the one that asked you to cook for me, but you seem to be eating better than me, huh? Hahahaha!” Effer burst into laughter.

Actually, it was not just Minhyuk who was acting like that, even Effer could not stop his spoon from moving. That was just how delicious the meal in front of him was.

Then, a series of notifications rang in Effer’s ears after he finished eating his meal.

[You have eaten Grilled Hairtail and Seaweed Soup.]

[All of your stats have increased by 22%.]

[Beoned's Swordsmanship's level has increased by +2.]

Effer was very shocked to feel a surge of power run through his veins after finishing his meal.

‘Unbelievable! Is this power that came from a dish?’

It was at this moment that Effer realized that the chef in front of him was a far greater man than he initially thought he was. He was satisfied enough with the results that he bestowed the best blessings that he could.

[Effer's Blessings.]

[All of your stats have increased by +11.]

[All of your skills' skill proficiency has increased.]

[You have acquired Effer's Treasure Box.]

[You have acquired a Return Spell Scroll filled with Effer's Power.]

[The Return Spell Scroll will allow you to return to Asgan Continent at any given time and take with you those that wish to join you.]

Then, Effer told Minhyuk with a small smile on his face, “You can go now. Don't forget the promise that you made with me.”

“I understand, Your Majesty,” Minhyuk answered. He could tell that Effer's favor toward him was higher than what he expected. He could also tell that he was a king who truly loved his people. As he looked at Effer, he realized that he had quite a lot to learn from him.

Since he had achieved what he wanted, Minhyuk immediately logged out. After confirming that the man had disappeared, Effer allowed the sadness to come back to his face.

“Go, go and leave this place.”

He wanted Minhyuk to leave Happy Island as soon as possible.

“Get rid of the king!!!”

“Take down the incompetent tyrant, King Effer!!!”

Not long after Minhyuk left, a loud voice rang loudly throughout Happy Island. This was the coup d'état that the Pluine Merchant Group had organized. As the puppet king of Happy Island, Effer had already guessed that this would happen. With a bitter smile on his face, he held his sword tightly and stood up from his throne.

“The Noble and chef from another continent.” He erased the bitter smile on his face as he glared sharply at the doors. “Take as many people as you can and get out of Happy Island.”

Clack—

The doors opened, and the God of Happiness's envoys came barging inside with their swords pointing at Effer.

"Listen, Happy Island's King!!!"

"Pay the price for your crimes. You have killed hundreds of innocent lives in Happy Island!"

"Happy Island is no longer yours, Effer!"

What a joke. It was just yesterday that they found more than a hundred people dead. It was obvious that these people were killed by the Pluine Merchant Group. And they most likely did it to put the blame on Effer.

However, this was the king's final flight. Effer leaped to the skies and flew like a butterfly with the sword in his hands.

Chapter 775: Benevolent Ruler

"The king caused the death of his poor and innocent people."

"More than a hundred people died and shed tears of blood."

"Listen, King Effer. You are no longer qualified to sit on that throne."

"Pluine Merchant Group's Master, Lord Avendor, will be the new owner of Happy Island."

The people of Happy Island heard the voice of the Pluine Merchant Group's people. Happy Island was a small but peaceful island. Although the Pluine Merchant Group had taken away much from them, they were still able to maintain their own peace.

"Your Majesty Effer..."

All of them could see that this was the final push from Pluine.

In the past, King Effer would usually go around the market during the day and greet the merchants. He would even pat the heads of the running children and ask them while smiling, 'Are you doing well? Hoho.'

"Your Majesty, no..."

Everyone knew that King Effer would never do such a thing.

An old man cried out, "Enough with your lies!!! God of Happiness is just making things up to choose a new king!!!"

"That's right!!!"

"Don't think that we don't know that you're all a part of Pluine Merchant Group!!!"

The people shouted, trying to defend King Effer. However, the only response that they got was a cold blade to their throats.

Stab—

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

The people who cried out in indignation were cut down by the knights of the Pluine Merchant Group. The one that stood at the forefront of it all was called Avendor. He was the owner of the Pluine Merchant Group, and also the Second Prince that had been expelled from the royal family. Filled with indignant fury after being kicked out, he created the Pluine Merchant Group and had been plotting for this day.

“Kill all those that go against us.”

“Are, are you saying that we should kill the ordinary citizens?”

“Kill them!!!”

“Yes, sir!!!”

Avendor’s voice did not have a shred of mercy. Besides, he had nothing to fear. After all, the God of Happiness was on his side, and Avendor was certain the god would absolutely descend and come to his aid at any given moment. Today would be the day that Effer would be stripped of his King’s Authority.

Staaaaaaab—

Avendor, who was sure of the results, stabbed the heart of a young man who was crying for his king, Effer. He shot the dying man a glance as though he was a bug before moving toward the castle.

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Effer was fully aware that the Pluine Merchant Group would try to take his throne. However, if Avendor became king, Effer was sure that he would persecute the residents of Happy Island. However, there was nothing that he could do. Things had not seemed to turn out well for him, and his days were numbered.

That was why Effer could only give his soldiers this order.

—Whatever happens, do not resist. I should only be the one to die.

This was the choice that Effer made. He chose to fight to the death and stepped out to meet the incoming forces.

The God of Happiness’s Envoys were all high-leveled NPCs with levels that reached 600. They were people who only took orders from the God of Happiness and would do their best to fulfill them.

Roine, one of the God of Happiness’s envoys, thought, ‘We can completely subdue King Effer in under ten minutes.’

This was based on what they had gathered about Effer’s strength. Effer flew through the air beautifully like a butterfly, and it was like he was the setting sun.

Slaaaaaaaaaash—

One of the envoys stumbled back when their sword made contact with King Effer's sword. Effer did not miss the opportunity and continued to cut and slash the body of the stumbling envoy.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

The envoys watched the sudden turn of events with wide eyes.

‘What the hell?’

‘H, how...’

‘King Effer has become stronger?’

It was impossible. Avendor and the envoys were fully aware of the condition of King Effer's body. Even if they did not stage a coup, King Effer would still die. All of them shook their heads. They believed that it was nothing but a mere coincidence. While they were trying to convince themselves, Effer quickly strode forward and cut down another envoy.

Spuuuurt—

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack!”

The scream that rang in their ears confirmed their doubts.

‘How did he become stronger?’

‘No. Even if he became stronger, does it even make sense for him to grow by this much?’

They were completely unaware of the meal that Effer and Minhyuk ate. In fact, Effer himself was surprised by the surge in strength.

‘He was a chef that smiled brightly and purely.’

Effer smiled faintly. Although he had only met the man for the first time today, the delicious meal that he cooked and the bright expressions that he showed brought a smile to Effer, albeit a faint one. It was not only that, the buffs from his dishes also allowed him to fight to his heart's content.

‘I'm grateful.’

Grin—

Effer smiled as he pushed back the God of Happiness's Envoys with his sword. While Effer was king, he was also the one with the greatest skill in swordsmanship in the history of Happy Island.

The enemies believed that five envoys were enough to subdue him. Unfortunately, the situation was proving to be hard for them. They were finding him to be more than they could handle.

“Take down Effer!!!”

“Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaah!!!”

The cries of the rebels rang loudly as the gates of the castles were forced open.

“Those who surrender will not be killed!”

“Drop your weapons!”

Effer turned toward the direction of the voice. The God of Happiness’s envoys did not miss this opportunity and immediately pressed forward to attack Effer.

Piiiiiiiing—

Spuuuurt—

Spuuuuuuuuurt—

Blood spurted out and flowed down Effer’s armor as their swords cut his flesh. At this moment, Effer realized that his end was near. The rebels would soon flood the castles. At the very least, he had already given his orders.

—Do not resist.

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud—

The sound of footsteps drew closer and closer to Effer’s ears. But he continued to do his best to protect the place that he lived in until the very end.

Stab—

Effer groaned lightly as a sword pierced through his shoulders, “Kghhkh.”

It was very difficult for a mere human to fight and win against an envoy chosen by god. Even though Effer was the greatest king of Happy Island, he was still unable to stand against the gods that stood above him.

Seeing Effer stumbling like that while his hand gripped his gaping shoulder, the envoy named Roine raised his sword and aimed for his neck.

“...”

Effer looked at the blade of the sword helplessly. Just then, the doors to the castle opened, and a sword flew in, forcing Roine to twist his body and get away from Effer.

“Your Majesty...”

“Your Majesty Effer...”

“Are you alright?” Korro, the knight commander of the royal family, held a sword that was dyed red with blood while giving Effer a solemn, bitter look.

“...I clearly ordered you to not resist.”

“Forgive this servant of yours, I will disobey Your Majesty’s orders for today.” Korro smiled sadly. He clearly remembered how his king was kinder and warmer than anybody else.

Thirty percent of the royal knights had already been handed over to the Pluine Merchant Group. As for the remaining 70%, they all gathered together and formed one force in order to fight until the bitter end and prevent the Pluine Merchant Group from doing what they wanted to do. Unfortunately, it was going to be difficult, impossible even.

“I wanted all of you to survive and live.”

“We want to fight alongside you until the very end, Your Majesty.

“...This is ridiculous.”

However, the smile on Effer’s face had garbled his words and turned it into an incomprehensible murmur. In fact, the envoys also thought the same. Even though they were envoys, they could not understand why the God of Happiness wanted to do something like this.

‘God, how can you abandon and betray the faith of the righteous king and knights?’

Everything started when Avendor began to offer food to the God of Happiness, who was always hungry. They would always bring food to sate the never-ending hunger of the god, and eventually, he got tamed by Avendor. He was nothing but a mere human, but he had somehow managed to tame a god. What else could the envoys do? They served the god after all.

On the other hand, they found these people who dared to stand against them to be foolish. Knowing the difference in strength and status, these knights still launched an attack on the God of Happiness’s Envoys.

Meanwhile, Korro, who was supporting Effer, began to run. Roine looked back at them and said, “Go after them.”

[The God of Happiness’s Envoys have descended!]

[The God of Happiness’s Envoys are people that have been chosen by the God of Happiness!]

Along with those words, around ten God’s Envoy appeared in a flash of light and chased after Korro, Effer, and the other fleeing knights. In the end, they were blocked by the walls. There was nowhere to run. On top of that, Effer no longer moved his feet.

“Long live His Majesty Effffffeerer!”

“We will always believe in you, Your Majesty Effer.”

“Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Keuaaaaaaaaack!”

He could hear the screams and shouts of his people. They shouted his name as they died one after another. Effer stood still, tears flowing down his cheeks. “Stop, everyone stop...”

‘Stop shouting my name, then you will be able to survive and live. I have already prepared everything for you, you can leave this place alive!’

Effer had a conversation with Evelyn before everything happened.

—I’ve already asked the chef from another continent for a favor. I want him to take all of the people that want to leave Happy Island.

—Wh, what do you mean by that, Your Majesty?

—Happy Island is already ruined. Everyone who wants to leave is free to follow that chef. Evelyn, tell the people who want to leave this place. Tell them that I had ordered the chef to lead you to a new land.

Effer had created a path for them, one that would allow them to survive. Hence, he did not understand why they would do something so stupid. They only needed to endure a bit more, and they would be able to get to another continent safely. It was just for a few more days.

“If all of you had only held out for a few more days after my death, then...”

“It’s because we don’t want to watch Your Majesty die like that.” Korro smiled bitterly.

“Ha... Hahaha... Hahahahaha...”

Effer felt satisfied. He was sure that there was no one that would feel as grateful as he was right now. After all, his people did not fear death and would even die for him.

[One of the Absolute Gods, the God that Rules All Armies, is watching you.]

Then, an unknown voice rang in their ears. Effer did not know what an Absolute God was.

‘Based on the stories of old, is it a class of God above the God of Happiness? Is that the case?’

Effer could not be certain. The god was watching him, but he did not know why. Perhaps the god was laughing at how this weak king was struggling, or maybe he was cheering him on.

Effer’s gaze then turned toward the top of the walls. There, he saw his people blocking and trying to stop the members of the Pluine Merchant Group from entering. There were around 60,000 residents there. It was slightly effective, as the Pluine Merchant Group could not advance, perhaps because they also could not bring themselves to kill ordinary people.

“Those that defy the revelations of the God of Happiness...”

At that moment, Avendor appeared and clicked his tongue at the residents who were blocking their path.

“...Will face God's wrath.”

[The God of Happiness that controls the entire Happy Island has descended!]

The gigantic God of Happiness, who was in the form of a mountain boar, appeared right in front of Avendor. It was thirty meters in height and looked like a gigantic mountain.

“Hwiiiiiiiiiiiiik!”

Everyone who heard the loud shriek of the God of Happiness had blood dripping down their ears.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Keuaaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Kghhkh! Even if God said so himself, we still will not let you go!”

“His Majesty Effer is not guilty!”

“God, I can not understand your revelation!”

However, even when God appeared, the people did not get away from the walls. At that moment, Avendor grinned.

“N, no...”

Effer knew that the gigantic God of Happiness would charge at them.

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud—

Black light spread out from the body of the charging God of Happiness. Then, his speed grew three times faster in an instant, his body trampling on the thousands of people that blocked the path to the castle grounds until he smashed into the walls and forced a portion to collapse.

Baaaaaaaang—

With a portion of the wall collapsing so easily like that, Effer was able to see the bodies of the people, the soldiers and the knights of the royal family that had been trampled on. Six thousand people died from that one charge.

“Aaaah... aaaaaaaah... aaaaaaaah...”

Effer fell into despair.

“Urk!” He coughed blood as he cried out. His death was just right around the corner.

Avendor, who watched Effer vomit a mouthful of blood, said, “King Effer, prostrate yourself and apologize to the God of Happiness.”

What Avendor truly meant was that Effer should bow down in front of him, kneel down and die at his hands. Effer, who was still vomiting blood, stumbled to his feet. He knew that the God of Happiness would continue to trample on his people and soldiers if he did not go there.

Flash—

Effer used the last of his strength to jump down from the walls and walk slowly. As he walked forward, there was sorrow on his face as he looked at the corpses covered by the rubble of the collapsed portion of the wall. For the sake of his people, Effer let his sword down. For the sake of his people, he walked forward.

Avendor laughed, “Ha... Hahahaha! Hahahahaha! Come! Apologize to god!!!”

Despite the vicious and maniacal laughter that mocked him, Effer continued to walk and shed tears for his people.

[One of the Absolute Gods, the God that Rules All Armies, looks at the kind king that loves and cherishes his people.]

[He’s watching the final moments of the king, whose life is coming to an end.]

Now, Effer knew that this god was watching him not because he was mocking him. It was because he saw how Effer cared for his people until the very end and felt sorry that he was about to die.

‘Then, please give me strength.’

However, God did not give him any strength. Perhaps this God who rules all armies, could not exert any pressure or influence Happy Island?

Effer continued to walk while saying, "This is my last order as your king. All of the people and soldiers, heed my words. Go! Leave this place!!! Anyone that will defy my order will have to pay!!! Go, now!!!"

The king released his final orders with tears in his eyes. The people and the soldiers howled and cried as they immediately retreated at his orders.

"Your Majesty!!!"

"Your Majesty Effer!!!"

"We're sorry, forgive us, Your Majesty!!!"

They apologized to their king for failing to protect him until the very end.

"Avendor, promise this."

"What is it?"

"Do not touch my people and soldiers who have surrendered!!!"

Avendor smirked. Effer would soon kneel down and die by his hands. Then, he did not need to kill anyone anymore.

"I swear."

That oath was more than enough.

Step, step, step—

Effer held his sword tightly.

[One of the Absolute Gods, the God that Rules All Armies, has seen the choice that you have made.]

[God has bestowed upon you a present for your final moment.]

[You, who are about to die, start to feel your blood boil and rise.]

[The sun that once burned the brightest has now turned into a sunset.]

[The sky will always be brighter before the sun sets.]

[You have transcended the limits of a human being.]

[You will be recorded in history as the King of the people, for the people and by the people.]

[A new legend, the Benevolent Ruler, has been born!]

The new legend, Effer, ran.

Meanwhile, Avendor, the Pluine Merchant Group, the citizens of Happy Island and the soldiers of Effer looked at him in shock as he jumped to the sky. Avendor had promised that he would not touch his people and his soldiers. Hence, Effer did not care about him anymore. Instead, his sword was now aimed at the God of Happiness.

This was none other than the ‘Illuminating Halo’[1]. Whenever the sun sets, it would release a bright flash of light that would illuminate the skies. And just like that phenomenon, Effer swiftly slashed his sword with all his strength, aiming for the throat of the mountain-like God of Happiness.

Spuuuuuuuuuurt—

“Kwiiiiiiiiiiiiik!!!”

[Another legend has been recorded in history as the Benevolent Ruler cuts down a god.]

\*\*\*

At the same time, Minhyuk had just finished his exercise and went straight to the showers, while thinking, ‘I’ll log in right away after taking a shower.’

#### Chapter 776: Benevolent Ruler

The God of Happiness might be in the form of a black pig, but he was still a god that had been worshiped by the residents of Happy Island for a very long time. Everyone attributed their abundant harvest of crops, endless amounts of black pork for consumption, and a peaceful land to the God of Happiness.

For the longest time, the God of Happiness was a being that none of the residents of the island could defy. But right now, the very same god was struck and injured by the new legend ‘Benevolent Ruler’ Effer.

Spuuuuuuuuuurt—

“Hwiiiiiiiiiiiiik!!!”

Bright red blood spurted from the deep gash on the neck of the God of Happiness. The residents, the soldiers, and even the troops of Pluine Merchant Group and Avendor, who never expected such a thing to happen, were all taken aback.

The God of Happiness was a god, but to Effer, he had become someone who took his people away from him. And everyone knew that Effer only wielded his sword for the sake of his people.

Effer leaped to the sky again and slashed the body of the God of Happiness with his sword.

Spuuuuuuuurt—

Just like before, blood spurted out from the new wounds.

“The God of Happiness is bleeding...?”

“He looks like he’s in pain.”

“Will he end up dying too?”

Their belief that the God of Happiness lived for all eternity was slowly breaking down. In the meantime, Effer continued to slash and cut the body of the God of Happiness.

The dazed and bewildered Avendor finally came back to his senses. “How, how dare you! What are you doing to god?! Go, kill Effer!!!”

“Yes, sir!”

The Pluine Merchant Group's knights tried to move and stop Effer from continuously attacking the God of Happiness, but the royal knights stood in front of them and blocked their path.

"Don't let them take a single step toward His Majesty!"

"Yes, sir!"

They wanted to at least protect Effer's final moments.

"Urk!"

Red blood continued to drip down Effer's chin as he cut down the God of Happiness. His life was about to end. However, Effer was able to display a prowess far greater than normal. After all, his final light was now shining brightly. He even entertained the thought that maybe he could just cut down the God of Happiness by himself.

However, the God of Happiness's black eyes snapped open.

"Hwiiiiiiiiiiiiik!" The god roared, his mouth wide open as he charged at Effer.

Effer tried his hardest to block the charging black pig with his sword, but it was useless, as he was pushed thirty meters back. He hurriedly twisted his body away in order to veer from the path of the God of Happiness's charge; alas, the god had already sent an attack toward him.

Slaaaaaash—

Effer was sent flying, pain blooming all over his body as his bones shattered.

"Kghhhk," Effer groaned as he quickly stood up. However, the God of Happiness was already encroaching upon him with his huge mouth.

Choooooooooomp—

The God of Happiness snapped down on Effer until his bones broke apart.

"Keuaaaaaaaack!"

The bite easily crumpled the armor that covered Effer's body as if it were a flimsy sheet of paper. Effer hurriedly raised his sword and pushed it into the mouth of the god.

"Hwiiiiiiiiiiiiik!"

Effer was finally able to escape as the mighty god loosened his hold on Effer, releasing a loud shriek in pain and fury. Meanwhile, his entire body was covered in blood, and even his vision had turned blurry.

"Hwiiiiiiiiiiiiik, hwiiiiiiiiiiiiik!"

The sword that he had stuck in the mouth of the God of Happiness remained inside, forcing shrieks and screams out of the god as he struggled to get it off.

"..."

Effer felt that he was already nearing his end. He looked up at the sky as his body continued to spurt out blood.

“...God.” He called out to not the God of Happiness but another god with a sad look on his face.

His people and soldiers were crying when they saw him stand there waiting for his end in front of the God of Happiness.

“Please take care of them?” He pleaded to the God that Ruled All Armies. Effer did not know what kind of god he was, all he could do was stare at the sky and plead.

“Kuwwiiiiiiiiiiiiik!”

The shrieks of the God of Happiness grew more violent in nature. Effer’s people gave it their all, throwing everything they could get their hands on in order to restrain the god, but it was to no avail.

Then, Avendor tried to control the God of Happiness. “Please calm down!”

Avendor had been winning the God of Happiness over through a constant supply of offerings and sacrifices. After all, even though he was a god, he still could not let go of his characteristics as a pig. That was why Avendor was able to control him with rare and delicious dishes and ingredients.

However, prior to this, the 200 horned black pigs, as well as the Setokas and Kanpeis that they had prepared to offer to the god, had all disappeared. This meant that the God of Happiness was hungrier than usual.

“G, God...?” Avendor called out to him.

At that moment, the God of Happiness turned his head to look at him and screamed loud enough to make the entire island shake, “Kwiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiik!”

[God of Happiness’s Frenzy.]

[All of the God of Happiness’ stats have increased by 44%.]

[All of the God of Happiness’ skills’ levels have increased by +2.]

[The God of Happiness has lost all sense of reason and will break anything and everything in its path.]

“God...!” Avendor shouted in doubt. He never predicted that something like this would happen.

The God of Happiness grew larger and larger until he reached almost sixty meters in height, his gigantic shadow enveloping Avendor. Then, the God of Happiness snorted.

[The God of Happiness’ Gallop.]

[His gallop is so dangerous that it can even trample on and flatten an entire mountain.]

The direction of his charge was where the Pluine Merchant Group’s troops were.

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

The God of Happiness easily trampled on the Pluine Merchant Group’s troops and even took down several buildings in the process.

“Keheooooook!”

“Uwaaaaaaaaack!”

“Keok!”

The Pluine Merchant Group’s troops died without even being able to scream. To the horror of those who survived, the God of Happiness began to devour the troops in his hunger, since he had eaten far less offerings than normal.

Crunch, crunch—

The scene looked quite grotesque as he chewed through the armor of the troops before gulping everything down.

[The God of Happiness’ Gluttony.]

[The God of Happiness’ body will grow bigger and bigger the more he preyed on his enemies.]

Just like that, the God of Happiness grew bigger and bigger.

“Aaaaah... ahhh... aaaaah...”

Only after seeing more than 4,000 of the Pluine Merchant Group’s troops die did Avendor realize how reckless he was for thinking he could control a god. When he looked around, he saw the countless buildings that had once stood tall, turned into rubble.

“Quick, evacuate the people into the castle.”

This was the last command that Effer could give. Effer’s troops quickly opened the castle gates and allowed entry for the hundreds of thousands of people outside.

Meanwhile, Knight Commander Korro helped Effer up. As they entered the castle, Effer looked back. He could see a huge portion of Happy Island being destroyed underneath the feet of the God of Happiness.

Effer slowly climbed atop the walls and clearly saw how the God of Happiness slowly destroyed Happy Island, trampling on the fruits of all of their labor. Dozens of houses collapsed with just one stomp of the god. Although it was not grand, these places held memories that were dear to them. But now, everything had fallen apart.

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaah...”

“Sob, soooooob.”

“Huhuhuhuhu.”

The cries of his people, who had lost their place, rang in Effer’s ears.

‘Where is he?’

Effer turned his head to look for the man who might have the answer to these poor people who had lost their homes. However, that man was nowhere to be seen.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

At that moment, the berserk God of Happiness, who had lost control of his reason and power, slammed into Maruc's Mountain. The mountain walls of Maruc's Mountain crumbled and turned into dust. But the God of Happiness just roared, his body completely devoid of a scratch.

"Hwiiiiiiiiik! Hwiiiiiiiiik!"

The roars of the God of Happiness, which was already 80 meters tall, brought fear to everyone. That was when they saw the God of Happiness snort and turn to look at the walls.

"Damn it," Knight Commander Korro mumbled under his breath.

Everyone held their breath. The God of Happiness might be in a berserk state but he would not likely forget the king that cut his body and the people that threw stones at him.

Thuuuuuuuuuud—

One gigantic step and the ground beneath the god's feet sunk in deep.

Thuuuuuuuuuuuud—

Another step and the surrounding buildings cracked and crumbled.

"..."

Crash, crash, crash—

Effer's body slowly collapsed, knowing that his death was coming closer and closer. In the end, the entire Happy Island was going to be destroyed with him. The legend that he created would not be recorded in any history. Today, the entire Happy Island would disappear.

Thud—

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom—

The 80-meter-tall God of Happiness in the form of a wild mountain boar looked at them with his black eyes that had slowly turned red.

[God's Charge.]

[God's Charge would deal an additional 4,000% attack and damage. His speed will also double.]

"Kwiiiiiiiiik!"

The charging God of Happiness grew faster and faster, the speed at which he ran unbelievably fast, and all Effer could do was close his eyes. The god passed through the entire Happy Island in a flash of light.

A watery smile curled at the corners of Effer's lips. In the end, he could not protect his kingdom and his island.

"Uwaaaa, uwaaaah, uwaaaah!" A child cried somewhere.

"Kyaaaaaaaack!" Someone hugged another tightly.

"Hailey, let's meet in the sky."

“Ah. Aaaaaaaah. Aaaaaaaaah...!” Someone screamed in fear as death loomed over them.

Gulp—

Right then, the sound of someone gulping rang in their ears. It was a sound that was completely different from the cries of fear reverberating in the area.

“It’s been a long time since I last saw a guy covered in black light.”

“...”

Effer slowly opened his eyes. That was when he saw the man standing in front of him and looking at the God of Happiness. The man turned to look at Effer. It was the chef from another continent. This man was nothing but a chef. Effer squeezed the last of his strength and said, “Chef from another continent, take my people and get out of this place. Quick! Use the spell that I gave you!”

He firmly believed that they would be able to save the lives of many if Minhyuk would just tear that spell parchment. But that was where Effer was wrong. The God of Happiness would arrive long before the spell could be activated, without a doubt.

“Hiyaaaah. If you grill some black pork ogyeopsal and dip it in some salted anchovies then... Kghhk~!”

‘What nonsense is he talking about? Does he think that he can joke around at a time like this?’

Effer could not understand the man in front of him. That was when he saw the expression on the face of the chef from another continent turn serious.

“Let me show you the worth of what you paid for.”

Minhyuk had cooked and ate the Legendary Three Meter Great King Largehead Hairtail. Of course, he was only able to taste it because he cooked for the king. However, for Minhyuk, Effer giving him those valuable and priceless ingredients to cook was a favor in itself.

As the God of Happiness approached closer and closer, images appeared in the sky above them. The image showed a man standing atop the walls with hundreds of thousands of people looking up at him. Then, an old man holding a spear, a man with a gigantic build, a baby piggy, and many more appeared by his side. They were people that they did not know of. But based on the unusual image that appeared in the sky, they could see that all of them were showing courtesy to the man standing atop the walls.

[Uwaaaaaaaaaah!]

[Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!]

Then, the hundreds of thousands of troops cheered for the man standing on the wall as the new form of God’s Voice, something that the Battle God had gifted Minhyuk, rang.

[You have triggered the Food God’s Voice!]

Not long after, the face of the man standing on top of the walls grew clear in the sky. The man was wearing red armor and a white cape that carried the symbol of a fork and a knife crossed together.

The charisma and majesty of a king exuded by the man was natural, as he looked at his vassals and subordinates through the gaps of his black hair.

“Aaaaah...!!!”

“Aaaaaah! It’s the Noble! The Noble!!!”

“Minhyuk!”

The people knew the name of the man that was being projected in the sky. This was the young man who sold them hanchippang with a bright smile on his face. This very same young man was standing in front of them right now.

“...”

Effer clenched his fists, which were covered with cold sweat, tightly. Minhyuk, who met the eyes of Effer, turned to look at the people who were calling him ‘Noble.’ He smiled silently before turning to look at the approaching God of Happiness.

Then, Minhyuk murmured, “Summon Hanwoo.”

“Mooooooooooooooooo!”

A cow appeared in front of them with a flash of light. Then, the cow began to grow in size from twenty to forty to fifty meters. The gigantic cow might still be a bit smaller than the God of Happiness, but Hanwoo still charged fiercely at the god.

“Mooooooooooooooooo!”

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

Then, both beings collided.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

Everyone thought that the huge cow would be sent flying away. However, that was not the case at all. In fact, the huge cow was even pushing and fighting against the God of Happiness.

In the end, the cow started to get pushed back. However, one man had already leaped to the sky and pulled out his sword to stab the back of the God of Happiness. All of their gazes were focused on the man.

At the same time, words shone and appeared in the sky above them. These were the words that everyone read:

[He is the King of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

Chapter 777

Minhyuk was met with the despairing faces of the residents of Happy Island the moment he logged back inside the game. He realized that they were awaiting their deaths from within the walls of the castle.

‘Did they expect this to happen?’

It was highly likely that Effer did not expect their situation to become this desperate. Many people must have wanted to leave Happy Island, a plan that did not come to fruition due to their emotions and feelings for Effer.

The quick-witted Minhyuk instantly understood the situation and quickly triggered his Food God's Voice.

'I'm not sure, but there's a chance that they will become my people too.'

It was a sad and pitiful story. Unfortunately, Effer was already at death's door. That was his fate. There was nothing that Minhyuk could do about it. After all, it was an incurable and irreversible disease. As for the people that Effer was leaving behind, they would need a new ruler. It could not be just any ruler. After everything that they had been through, they would definitely want a powerful ruler.

Minhyuk felt the need to show and tell these people about the kind of existence he was, as well as the kind of place the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was.

Impressive, majestic and great.

He wanted to show these people the embodiment of those words. That was why he wanted to stop the God of Happiness.

In the end, the gigantic cow, Hanwoo, was gradually being pushed back in the struggle of power between him and the God of Happiness. Seeing this, Minhyuk immediately soared through the skies and held his sword with both of his hands.

The loud and majestic Food God's Voice rang loudly as Minhyuk aimed his sword at the back of the God of Happiness.

[He is the King of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

"Sword of Frenzy."

Minhyuk, with the help of the Swords of the Gods, had created the 'Food God's Swordsmanship' using Ellie's Swordsmanship as the base. As a result, it was much stronger than before.

When he triggered Sword of Frenzy, the vital points of the God of Happiness appeared in his eyes. However, just because they were all vital points did not mean that they were the same. The attack would have different impacts depending on where the vital point was. The one that Minhyuk chose to attack was none other than the back of the neck.

Staaaaaaaaaaaaab—

[Sword of Frenzy.]

[You can hit the enemy's vital points just by stabbing within a five meter radius.]

[Twelve consecutive attacks with 500% additional damage will be triggered upon successful attack on a vital point.]

[You have an 80% chance of ignoring all of your enemy's defenses.]

[You have successfully ignored all of your enemy's defenses.]

"Kuweeeeeeeeeeeeeeeck!"

The God of Happiness jumped around and struggled like crazy the moment Minhyuk stabbed right into the back of his neck while he was busy pushing Hanwoo back.

Immediately after that, the twelve consecutive hits were triggered.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

The God of Happiness' struggle intensified from the consecutive strikes of 500% additional damage. In the end, Minhyuk could no longer hold on because of the fierce struggle and fell to the ground.

“Noble!”

“Are you alright?!”

The residents of Happy Island leaned over the railings of the walls and looked at Minhyuk. Even the dying Effer was leaning over to watch the situation. Effer had originally thought that the man was a mere chef. However, it seemed like he was a great king from another continent.

None of the people here wanted him to die in this place. Everyone had judged that the God of Happiness had simply allowed Minhyuk to land an attack on him. There was no way that a mere human king would be able to overcome and kill a god.

Thuuuuuuud—

Minhyuk immediately used Like the Wind to avoid the God of Happiness' stomping feet.

[Sword of Tempest.]

[Hundreds of blades will appear and dance around the typhoon-like sword that has an ego of its own. The skill user's basic speed will be increased by 150% and applied to the blades that will cut down the enemies.]

[Movement speed will also increase by 300% during the skill duration.]

[The skill duration is three minutes.]

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—

Hundreds of swords whipped up a storm in front of Minhyuk and moved swiftly, leaving only afterimages of their blades. At the center of it was the ego.

“Stormy.”

As if responding to Minhyuk's words, the storm of swords danced and flew faster toward the God of Happiness.

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—

Hundreds of scratches appeared on the body of the God of Happiness the moment the storm of swords made contact with his body.

‘How high is his defense? What about his HP? Can I even kill him alone?’

There were a lot of things that Minhyuk had noticed earlier when he stabbed the God of Happiness. First off, the god's defense was high, higher than any of the opponents that he had faced before. It

was proven with the attack just now. Even though his Sword of Tempest had caused injuries on the god, they were nothing but superficial wounds and did not really do much damage.

Crunch—

“Summon Spear God Ben.”

[You cannot summon your vassals in Happy Island!]

Minhyuk’s face twisted from the unexpected difficulty in front of him. He had already expected this much, but when it was presented to him, he still could not help but break out in cold sweat. He had judged that the God of Happiness to be viewed differently from the gods that lived in the Land of the Gods. The God of Happiness was a god that did not interact nor live with other gods and existed solely on Happy Island. He also had a ridiculously high HP and MP.

“Hwiiiiiiiiik! Kwiiiiiiiiik!”

The God of Happiness stomped his feet on the ground as if he was preparing to crush Minhyuk.

Thuuuuuuud, thuuuuuuuuud, thuuuuuuuuud—

The entire Happy Island shook and trembled because of the God of Happiness’ actions. As the tension rose to its peak, the character on Minhyuk’s sword changed to ‘Destruction’.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—

With every swing of Minhyuk’s sword, a red bolt of lightning would fall from the sky and hit the God of Happiness. However, Minhyuk was still being pressured as well. He had to try and avoid the charging black pig.

While avoiding the attack, Minhyuk tried to awaken Obren, who was sleeping inside the Puzzling Seasoning Jar.

[Obren cannot be awakened.]

Unfortunately, Obren was not someone that Minhyuk could call out at any given moment. If Obren was sleeping, then he could not summon him. Minhyuk’s expression was distorted.

‘Then, what should I do?’

[The God of Happiness’ Tranquil Cry.]

“Grrrrrrr....”

At that moment, the eyes of the God of Happiness turned white. When they made contact with Minhyuk’s eyes, a strange sound resonated inside Minhyuk’s head.

[You have fallen into a two second stunned state.]

[You cannot resist with your Invincible Body.]

“Kwiiiiiiiiik!”

“Hwiiiiiiiiik!”

“Kuweeeeeeeeeeeck!”

It sounded like thousands of pigs crying loudly in his head. At the same time, he temporarily lost control of his body. Then, the God of Happiness charged at Minhyuk, who had stopped in place.

Hanwoo hurriedly tried to stop the God of Happiness. However, there was nothing he could do with his 'Charge' skill on cooldown. In fact, he was even thrown away by the charging God of Happiness.

Not long after, the God of Happiness collided with Minhyuk.

Baaaaaaaang—!

[Your HP has dropped below 80%!]

[Your bones all over your body have been broken, you cannot control your body.]

[The movements of your left arm are now limited!]

“Keheooook!”

Minhyuk, who was flying backward, clearly felt the impact. It was just one single collision, but it had shaved off 20% of his HP. The God of Happiness chased after Minhyuk and stomped on him with his front legs.

Baaaaaaaang—

Every stomp caused a crater in the ground and created a thick cloud of dust. Of course, Minhyuk also received damage.

[Your HP has dropped below 50%!]

Baaaaaaaang—!

“Kwiiiiiiik, hwiiiiiiik, kwiiiiiiik!”

The God of Happiness, who was in the form of a black pig, smirked as he trampled on the man in front of him. A sense of urgency welled up deep within Minhyuk when he saw how 15~20% of his HP was shaved with every stomp of the god's foot.

[Evil God Obren has awakened!]

A glow appeared on Minhyuk's face. He could now summon Obren! As long as he summoned Obren, then he would be able to kill the God of Happiness.

[Obren is not responding to your summons!]

“...What?”

However, Obren did not respond to his summons. Actually, Obren was not sleeping earlier. He just deliberately ignored and refused the summons.

‘Pathetic bastard.’ Obren spoke to Minhyuk. ‘Instead of thinking about how to win on your own, you want to get other people's help?’

Minhyuk frowned when he heard Obren's scathing remarks. “What do you mean...”

‘You can't do anything without the others by your side, huh? Punk?’

“...”

Minhyuk, while being punished on the ground, was left speechless.

As if to give him a hint, Obren continued, ‘You can win even without me, the Spear God or Brod.’

At that moment, the God of Happiness’ front foot stomped on Minhyuk once again.

Thuuuuuuuuuuud—!

\*\*\*

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud, thud—!

A thick cloud of dust would rise whenever the God of Happiness’ front foot came down on Minhyuk’s body.

“Minhyuk...” Evelyn murmured, tears constantly dripping down her cheeks.

Minhyuk was a chef from another continent. A simple and pure young man who loved to eat. Somehow over time, he became the Happy Island’s Noble.

Evelyn looked around her. She saw that they were all very sad to see Minhyuk’s plight. After all, in their memories, Minhyuk was a young man with a very bright and cheerful smile on his face. His smile was so bright that they could not help but chuckle and smile along with him.

Despair stained their faces. They all knew that no one would be able to survive the God of Happiness’ kicks and stomps. Even Avendor, the culprit that created this mess, knew this much. Somehow, Avendor had miraculously survived the God of Happiness’ rampage. He clicked his tongue.

‘Preposterous. A mere human king dares to fight against God?’

In Avendor’s eyes, the man was nothing but a fool. He thought that it was best that he get out of this place and find a way out of the island.

Staaaaaaaaaab—

Just then, a spine-chilling sound rang in everyone’s ears. That was when they saw a sword stuck in the eye of the God of Happiness, who was happily stomping on the ground earlier.

“Kwiiiiiiiiik!” The God of Happiness shrieked from the pain.

At the same time, Minhyuk jumped up from the ground and appeared in front of the God of Happiness in a flash. A barrier glowing in a gentle silver light wrapped around his body. It was the effect ‘Absolute Defense’ from the Forgotten Monarch’s Crown, the helmet worn by Destruction Monarch Farrow that was stackable with another equipment. The skill had a seven-second duration. However, the most surprising fact about this effect was that the user could attack their opponent even while the barrier was up.

“Kwiiiiiiiiik!!!”

The bleeding Minhyuk looked at the shrieking God of Happiness and spat coldly, “Hey, shut up. It’s irritating.”

For a moment, Minhyuk had felt afraid when he realized that he could not summon Spear God Ben or Brod. In fact, he thought that his opponent was overwhelmingly strong when he was forced to the ground and received the god's stomps.

However, Obren's words made him realize something.

'I have always received help whenever I'm in a tight spot.'

Because Spear God Ben, Brod or somebody else would always come to his aid and get him out of the dangerous situation that he was left in, he had become too dependent on them.

He—the ruler of a kingdom, perhaps an empire in the future, and would become the next Battle God—had started to bow down and step away in front of powerful enemies just because he believed that his vassals would come and save him.

However, Obren's words had made him realize that he was not the God of Vassals. He was the Food God, and also the Battle God's Descendant. At that moment, his thoughts were manifested by the Food God's Voice and turned into letters that branded the sky above them.

[He has received the recognition of the Sword God.]

That was right, Minhyuk had received Valen's recognition.

[He has received the recognition of the Spear God.]

Indeed.

'Even though I'm a human, I have also received the recognition of Spear God Ben.'

[He has received the recognition of the Absolute God's Sword.]

He had also received Brod's recognition. He even declared to the world that he would build an empire and become an emperor.

[He...]

[He...]

[He...]

[He...]

[He...]

Words continued to etch themselves in the sky above them.

He had received the recognition of all these great entities. Perhaps he was the only candidate to become an emperor that could become Nerva's greatest enemy. Yet, he had felt frustrated just because he could not call his vassals to fight the God of Happiness?

When he was pummeled earlier, the thought that flashed in his head first was, 'What should I do? I cannot summon my vassals?' Minhyuk had to throw away those laid-back thoughts. Then, the beginning of the voice changed.

[I...]

"Food God's Swordsmanship."

Red aura burst out and covered Minhyuk's entire body as his attack and movement speed increased by 40%, while his physical and magical defense increased by 30%. It did not end there. His cutting power and sword attack power also increased by 30%, along with a 20% increase in skill damage. Even his critical hit rate had increased by 50%.

Minhyuk, who had been hoping for others to appear and come to his aid earlier, leaped toward the God of Happiness, his black hair fluttering behind him.

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

He began to slash and cut the God of Happiness' body quickly and swiftly. With the increase in his cutting power, Minhyuk was able to cut deep enough that blood started spurting all over the god's body.

“Kwiiiiiiiiik!!!”

Even if the being in front of him had a higher HP and defense than any other opponent that he had faced, or if one attack from this opponent could easily shave off 20% of his HP, why had he thought that it was a big deal? He had received the recognition of many.

‘He's the god standing at the lowest place...’

‘The lowest god...’

‘A trivial and insignificant god...’

Bullshit.

Regardless of the many negative comments, he had always come out on top.

“Food God's Swordsmanship. Final Chapter.”

“Kwiiiiiiiiik, kwiiiiiiiiik, kwiiiiiiiiik!”

Minhyuk glared coldly at the charging God of Happiness as he slashed his sword down at the speed of light.

“Sword of Carnage.”

[Sword of Carnage.]

[Movement speed increases by ten times and cuts down your enemy in an instant.]

[The opponent cut by your sword will suffer from thirty-eight sword attacks in one second. Each of the sword attacks will have 2,000% additional damage.]

[You have ignored all of your enemy's defenses.]

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—!

Blood spurted out of the eighty-meter-tall body of the God of Happiness as it was torn apart by thirty-eight sword attacks in one second.

“Kwiiiiik, kwiiiiik, kwiiiiik!”

The body of the God of Happiness, who struggled fiercely against the attack, slowly curled up and tilted to the side.

Thuuuuuuuuuud—

The Food God's Voice, which had been triggered earlier, finally came to an end.

[I...]

[...am the God that stands at the highest place.]

## Chapter 778

Gods could basically trigger 'God's Voice', which generally narrated the achievements of that god, or would announce the kind of god he was, or even the legends and myths that surrounded such a god.

To put it simply, God's Voice was a tool for gods to introduce themselves. There were some cases where the god would use their own voice to introduce themselves to humans, legends, or even transcendentals.

Minhyuk had always been introduced like that. It had started with the Greatest God, Athenae. She would often say, 'The Lowest God...' Even the Absolute Gods would also say, 'He is the God at the Lowest Place...'

As such, anyone who heard it would think, 'The Lowest God?'

This was actually a way to increase the tension. None of the gods had used such remarks to mock him. So far, Minhyuk had accepted it with ease.

'I am obviously the god standing at the lowest place.'

He was a pitiful god who could barely even build an empire of his own, despite his credibility and background. Perhaps more so than being a god, it was more suitable to call him a Human King.

However, he was throwing away that title at the moment.

[I am the God that stands at the highest place.]

A deep and majestic voice resounded in the area, the tone and meaning of the words heavy. At the same time, Obren's voice rang from within the Puzzling Seasoning Jar, 'That's right. You will become the God that will stand at the highest place.'

Then, Minhyuk's 'Sword of Carnage' fell upon the 80-meter-tall God of Happiness.

"Kwiiiiiiiik, kwiiiiiiiik, kwiiiiiiiik!" The God of Happiness shrieked and screamed as blood spurted out of his body, and his body tilted to one side and fell down loudly. Hundreds of buildings were swept away, and a thick cloud of dust rose due to the impact.

"..."

"..."

Everyone was silent.

“Kwiiiiiiiik! Kwiiiiiiiik!”

The God of Happiness was shrieking from the pain, but it felt like everything was silent. Everyone was speechless as they watched Minhyuk emerge from the cloud of dust and walk away from the God of Happiness.

‘The highest... god...?’

‘A mere human?’

‘Our dear Noble?’

Were those empty words? They clearly heard him say it with his own mouth. But after seeing him knock down the God of Happiness, the people of Happy Island truly felt like he was a god that stood at the highest place. Rather than a god that they could not see or reach, the Noble in front of them seemed more real.

“Goooooooood!!!” Effer, who vomited another mouthful of blood, shouted, “I beg of you, please take care of my people!!!”

Effer squeezed the last of his strength and shouted, despite the blood that gurgled out of his mouth. Minhyuk could tell why he did that.

[The residents of Happy Island believe in you.]

[The residents of Happy Island’s faith in you is soaring.]

[The residents of Happy Island do not have any doubt in you.]

[You are the Happy Island’s ‘Noble’!]

At this moment, even if someone appeared to denounce him, for the residents of Happy Island, Minhyuk was the god that stood at the highest place.

“Kuweeeeeeeeeeeck!” The God of Happiness released a loud roar as he hurriedly lifted his body up. “Kwiiiiiiiik! Kwiiiiiiiik! Kwiiiiiiiik!”

The God of Happiness’ large body slowly deflated and shrank until it was only forty meters in height. However, Minhyuk’s eyes remained cold, arrogant and majestic. Seeing those eyes, the God of Happiness could not help but take a step back.

[Obscure Snacks.]

[A snack will be created in five minutes.]

[The snack’s buff effect will be randomly selected!]

Minhyuk continued to look mockingly at the retreating God of Happiness as a huge cauldron appeared behind him.

Then, steam escaped from the lid of the cauldron. An easy-to-eat snack, which contained the buff effect that the item user needed the most, was being cooked inside. The only downside was that the buff effect was entirely up to luck. If their luck was bad, they might even get a dish that was counterproductive.

Minhyuk glanced above the head of the God of Happiness.

[God of Happiness. Level 787.]

The god had a really high level. He also had extremely high HP and defense. His attack and damage upon impact were probably higher than the other gods' attack power and damage.

The God of Happiness, who was stepping further away from Minhyuk, might be in the form of a black pig, but it did not mean that he was a fool. Even though the man in front of him had declared that he was the God standing at the highest place, he was still a mere human being.

The slightly smaller God of Happiness snorted. "Kwiiiiiiiiiiik!" Then, he charged fiercely toward Minhyuk.

[God's Lightning Speed.]

[The God of Happiness' speed has tripled.]

The God of Happiness might have a huge body, but he was charging at the speed of light, breaking the ground beneath him as he went. However, Minhyuk did not evade or shy away from his attack. All he did was say, "Heaven Tearing Sword."

[A five-meter-long sword light is moving toward the enemy.]

[There is a 70% chance of enemies falling into a two-second stunned state after getting directly hit by the five-meter-long sword light.]

[If the sword light directly hits the target, an additional 3,500% damage will be inflicted.]

[There is a 7% chance of the enemy falling into a six-second stunned state after getting directly hit by the sword light.]

A sword light shot out from Minhyuk's sword and flew straight toward the God of Happiness' face. The God of Happiness could not evade. After all, he was charging at the speed of light and did not have the leeway to stop in his tracks or change directions.

Boooooooooooooom—

The Heaven Tearing Sword pierced through the head of the God of Happiness and continued on its way, destroying several more buildings behind the god.

"Kuwwiiiiiiiiiiiiik!"

Blood spurted out from the hole created by the sword light. Minhyuk smiled faintly at the sight.

[The 7% chance of the enemy falling into a six-second stunned state has been triggered!]

The body of the God of Happiness turned stiff like a stone. Then, the arrogant human took a step toward him.

"Kwiiiiiiiiiiik!" The God of Happiness squealed and tried to get away, but it was to no avail.

Minhyuk raised his sword, which was carrying the character 'Destruction' on its blade.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—!

Sixteen bolts of red lightning fell upon the body of the God of Happiness the moment Minhyuk swung his sword down.

“Kwiiiiiiiiik!” The pig squealed loudly in the area.

[Destruction.]

[Bloody lightning bolts with an additional 1,600% damage have been triggered!]

[Destruction.]

[Bloody lightning bolts with an additional 1,600% damage...]

[Destruction.]

[Bloody lightning bolts with an additional 1,600%...]

The notifications rang constantly as bloody lightning bolts fell down from the sky one after another. The worst part was that Destruction also had a stun effect.

[The 40% chance of your enemy falling into a three-second stunned state has been triggered.]

“Kwiiiiiiiiik...!”

The face of the God of Happiness, who believed that he would now be able to escape this torture, turned ugly.

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

Whenever he thought that he would be able to escape, another notification would ring in his ears.

[The 40% chance...falling into a three second...]

[The 40% chance...falling into a three second...]

[The 40% chance...]

Everyone was left in shock. For the residents of Happy Island, the God of Happiness was someone that they had always been worshiping. They believed that it was because of him that Happy Island's peace was maintained, that he was the reason why Happy Island existed.

However, the human king, no, the God standing at the highest place, was beating the God of Happiness like a dog and even left him in an infinite stunned state.

“He, he really is the God standing at the highest place...”

“There's no other words to explain it other than that, no?”

[The residents of Happy Island have started to deify you.]

[As the God of Minhyuk Religion, your divine power will slightly increase.]

Meanwhile, Minhyuk's cauldron finally finished making the snack.

[A snack has been created!]

Swoosh—

The lid of the cauldron slid open.

Minhyuk had already healed most of the injuries that he sustained earlier through the use of 'Slaughterer's Absorption.' Even his left arm, which had been broken, was already healed and was able to move once again.

He reached his left hand out and grabbed the snack deep inside the cauldron. The snack was none other than a piping hot hoppang. Minhyuk immediately checked the hoppang's buff effect after hitting the God of Happiness once again.

'This is amazing.'

Of course, he did not stop there. He also triggered Double Food and duplicated the hoppang in his hands. Then, he also triggered the 'Overlapping Delight' skill.

[Overlapping Delight.]

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

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

Minhyuk immediately took a bite of the hoppang in his hands. The greatest advantage of the Obscure Snack was that he could get a buff effect even if he did not cook.

After tearing through the hot bread, Minhyuk finally reached the sweet and still steaming red bean paste inside.

'Ho~'

He quickly blew on the red bean paste and chomped on the snack. As someone who could eat one hoppang in two bites, Minhyuk finished both the hoppangs in a flash.

Clack, clack, clack—

Then, a golden dice appeared behind him and rolled in place. However, before the number in the dice appeared, there was a change in the situation with the God of Happiness.

"Kuweeeeeeeeeeeck!"

After being hit repeatedly by the lightning bolts, the eyes of the God of Happiness turned red.

[The God of Happiness' Roar.]

[The God of Happiness can now resist abnormal statuses.]

[Happiness' Black Pig Army has appeared in answer to the God of Happiness' Roar.]

[The Happiness' Black Pig Army will crush everything around them for three minutes!]

Minhyuk felt that something unusual had happened when he felt the vibrations in the ground. That was when he saw more than 5,000 black pigs running toward them from a distance.

[Happiness' Black Pig. Level 632.]

The Black Pig Army with an unusually high level came barging in and charged through buildings.

Baaaaaaaang—

At that moment, the God of Happiness, who finally got free from the abnormal status that tied him down, slammed into Minhyuk.

“Ugh!”

Effer, who watched Minhyuk fly back, saw flames engulf the thousands of pigs. These pigs left behind soaring flames wherever they went.

‘The Happy Island that I have treasured and cherished is doomed.’

Effer’s consciousness was fading in and out now that he was about to die. When he came back to his senses again, he could see that the thousands of black pigs were already approaching the walls.

‘Is he really the god that stands at the highest place?’

Meanwhile, the God of Happiness commanded his Happiness’ Black Pig Army to devour and destroy everything around them. After causing enough destruction, they finally turned toward the walls.

That was when a brilliant and blinding golden light shone brightly above them. The light came from none other than the golden dice, which was displaying the number six.

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

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

[You have rolled a 6, your EXP Acquisition Rate will double for seven minutes!]

[You have received the effects of the Epic Grade Hoppang and the Epic Grade Hoppang.]

[Your sword’s cutting power has increased by 150%.]

[Your sword’s basic attack has increased by 270%.]

[Your skill Sword of Absolute Death’s level has increased by +4.]

Minhyuk, who stood next to Effer, mumbled, “Use God’s SP.”

The dying Effer looked up at Minhyuk. Minhyuk smiled softly at him before saying, “Use everything on the Sword of Absolute Death.”

Immediately after that, Minhyuk swung his sword toward the charging God of Happiness and the Happiness’ Black Pig Army.

[The Absolute Gods are watching the Highest God!]

[The Greatest God is watching you!]

‘Is that so? Is he really the god that stands at the highest place?’ Effer thought as he continued to watch Minhyuk.

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

Sword lights shot out from Minhyuk’s sword the moment he swung it down. Then, tens of thousands of swords bloomed from these lights, which devoured the Happiness’ Black Pig Army until they were nothing but dust floating in the sky.

Among these thousands of swords, there were nine sword lights that shone brighter than the rest. These sword lights flew swiftly and cut down the God of Happiness.

Crackleeeee—

“Kwiiiiiiiiiiiiik...!”

[You have killed the God of Happiness!]

The huge body of the God of Happiness slowly fell down. At the same time, the bodies of the charging Happiness’ Black Pig Army turned to ash that disappeared with the wind.

Effer smiled faintly.

‘What a relief. My people will stay with the god standing at the highest place.’

Minhyuk sat down and looked at Effer, who had a faint smile on his face as he finally succumbed to eternal rest.

Minhyuk used his voice, the Food God’s Voice, for Effer, declaring loudly.

[The King loved and cherished his people dearly.]

Chapter 779

“Use everything on the Sword of Absolute Death.”

Minhyuk was in possession of five God’s SP, three of which he had received due to his stellar performance as the Destruction Monarch during the recent War of Destruction. As for the remaining two, he acquired them after killing the Evil Incarnate.

One of the reasons for not utilizing them earlier was because he wanted to hide his power. The other reason was he wanted to save it and use it on the right skill in case of an emergency. On top of that, Athenae would always update its server once a week on Wednesdays from 8:00 in the morning to 12:00 noon. These were the items listed in the updates about a month ago:

[God’s SP Patch Guide: A partial patch has been made to amend the part where God’s SP can level up a skill beyond the MAX Level 9.]

[The contents of the patch are as follows:]

[If you use God’s SP to level up a MAX level skill, you will only be able to use the power of that skill at that level once.]

[If you use God’s SP to level up a MAX level skill, the system will measure the skill and evolve it.]

Minhyuk had been collecting his God’s SPs, using them to escape several crises so far. Because of that, Joy Co. Ltd. was left with no other choice but to limit the use of God’s SP. Many players were aware that this was a useless patch that was meant to nerf Minhyuk. In fact, there were not many cases where skills had been raised to the MAX level. Technically, people who could earn God’s SP were few and far in between.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk, who went all-in with his God’s SP on the Sword of Absolute Death, heard the following notifications.

[Sword of Absolute Death’s level has increased by +5!]

[You can only use the power of the Sword of Absolute Death+5 once!]

[God’s SP has increased the Sword of Absolute Death’s level by +5. The skill will now undergo evolution.]

[Sword of Absolute Death+5 will produce nine sword lights with 35,000% additional attack for every two seconds. The attacks will automatically target the strongest enemy.]

[The nine sword lights will inflict nine different abnormal statuses on the target.]

[Around 20,000 ordinary sword lights with an additional 1,000% attack power will cut down your enemies.]

The result of the combination of the buffed dish's +4 skill level increase and the God's SP's +5 skill level increase was a stupendous increase in the basic effects and level of the skill.

None of the high rankers possessed a lethal skill with an additional 35,000% attack; that was how powerful the skill had become. It was not just that. The nine sword lights with additional power that would appear and target the strongest enemy was literally a overpowered skill. Thankfully, it could only be used once.

There was actually a reason why Minhyuk still chose to use his God's SP despite knowing that its use would be restricted.

‘It will probably take days with the power of my attacks alone to deal with the God of Happiness.’

Minhyuk had realized this after the God of Happiness was left in an infinite cycle of stunned states from Destruction. There were as much as sixteen lightning strikes that fell upon the god with every swing of Minhyuk's sword, but it did not deal much damage. Perhaps it was because the opponent had a godly special characteristic related to recovery that was comparable to the damage dealt by Destruction.

Besides, he thought that this was a very reasonable choice, especially since the thousands of troops of the Happiness' Black Pig's Army had already made an appearance by that time.

Minhyuk stretched his palms toward the now-dead God of Happiness. He had seen earlier that the God of Happiness was a monster that was shrouded in black light.

[You have acquired the God of Happiness' Ogyeopsal.]

[You have acquired the God of Happiness' Samgyeopsal.]

[You have acquired the God of Happiness' Sirloin.]

[You have acquired the God of Happiness' Blade Shoulder Meat...]

However, even when the notifications constantly rang in his ears, Minhyuk never took his eyes off of Effer. Effer had fallen into his eternal rest where he laid, a small smile forever immortalized in his face.

[The King loved and cherished his people dearly.]

This was the final gift that Minhyuk could give to Effer, having learnt a lot from watching him. Effer was a king that loved his people until his very last breath and only after he saw the God of Happiness and the Happiness' Black Pig's Army die, did he pass away in relief.

‘The residents of Happy Island must have been happy that he's their king too.’

The residents of Happy Island that Minhyuk saw were not wealthy. However, he was sure that with Effer as their king, they would have been very happy.

Then, a notification rang in his ears.

[Easter Egg. The One that Gained New Enlightenment as a King.]

[The enlightenment that you gained is very beneficial for you as a king.]

[You have gained 500 CHA.]

[You have gained 500 REP.]

[Your love and affection for your people has grown deeper.]

[The love and trust of the people that follow a king like you will increase even more.]

[You have acquired the Map of the Dead King's Tomb.]

This enlightenment made Minhyuk grow a step further.

Meanwhile, the people, who heard the Food God's Voice, stirred from the relief that they felt after surviving, and saw their king that had fallen into eternal rest.

"Urk... Heuk... Sniff..."

Knight Commander Korro was a cold and frigid guy, to the point that he was called Cold-blooded Korro. However, that very stoic man trembled fiercely as he sobbed and knelt in front of Effer.

"Your Majesty... Your Majeeeeeesty... Your Majeeeeeesty!"

With Korro's loud sobs as the trigger while he hugged Effer's body, the cries of the people rang all over Happy Island.

"Your Majesty Efeeeeeeeeer!"

"Heuk, heuk, heuk... Your Majeeeeeeesty!"

Some sobbed as they grabbed their injured chest tightly, while others bowed and knelt on the ground. Hearing such cries, Minhyuk knew what he had to do. He walked toward Avendor, the culprit that had caused all of this. Avendor had tried to run away but failed to do so.

Having witnessed Minhyuk's prowess personally, on top of losing most of his troops to the God of Happiness, Avendor immediately knelt down and cried out, "S, Spare me. Please spare me. I will serve you for the rest of my life."

Avendor was a businessman. After all, that was how he had the royal family play into the palm of his hands with the Pluine Merchant Group that he just recently established. For a person like that, what he feared the most was death.

"I will give you everything I have. So, please spare me!"

[Avendor has sworn that he will hand over Pluine Merchant Group and everything that he owned to you.]

[Pluine Merchant Group's Treasure Trove is hidden in the basement of Pluine Merchant Group's headquarters.]

[You will be able to gain 56,413 platinum from Pluine Merchant Group's headquarters.]

[You will be able to obtain two legendary artifacts.]

[You will be able to obtain a variety of ingredients from Happy Island.]

[You will be able to obtain 30 tons of various minerals and ores that can be smelted to make weapons and defensive equipment.]

[You will be able to obtain special spell incantations that you can only get in Happy Island.]

Minhyuk nodded as he listened to the notifications that rang constantly in his ears.

"Are, are you going to spare me?"

Avendor, who was crawling forward to cling on Minhyuk's legs, felt relief. He was promising plenty of valuable things. He believed that Minhyuk must have found himself to be useful.

Staaaab—

Unfortunately for him, Minhyuk's sword pierced through Avendor's chest.

Shwaaaaaaa—

Then, he pulled out his sword without any hesitation and turned around. Minhyuk knew that only through Avendor's death would these people have the driving force and motivation to get through their grief. And he will be at the center of it all.

"Today, I, the King of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, will listen and heed King Effer's will!"

Effer had already told Evelyn before that the chef from another continent would lead everyone that wanted to leave the island. Now, everyone knew that no one would be able to live on Happy Island anymore. Even if they stayed here and tried to rebuild this place, it would take them decades to restore everything. These people needed a new leader.

"King Effer wished for his people to live happily in peace. It was his utmost priority even until the moment of his death. I also wish to protect and carry out his will."

The crying residents of Happy Island turned to look at Minhyuk. They had known him first as the Noble, before he revealed himself to be a god.

"My kingdom, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, might be lacking but I hope to create a bigger and stronger Beyond the Heavens with you. Will you come with me?!!!"

Minhyuk was from the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

"We will be by your side!!!"

"Are you really willing to accept all of us, who have nowhere else to go?"

"Really?!"

Based on Minhyuk's experience, there was something special about the residents of Happy Island. They all had outstanding dexterity. Their DEX was far superior to anyone living on the ordinary continents. They had the ability to make swords, armor and even clothes. They produced food, as well as paintings and sculptures. Minhyuk was sure that those abilities would be able to liven up and increase the value of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

"We will welcome you with wide open arms."

"We will go to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!"

"We will serve you!"

"You are our king now!"

[The 153,456 residents of Happy Island will move to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

[The 32,315 troops of Happy Island will move to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

[The residents of Happy Island have exceptional ability when it comes to making things.]

[Beyond the Heaven's Kingdom's production capacity has increased by 10%.]

"We will hold King Effer's funeral before we leave."

Minhyuk demonstrated his capacity and virtue as a king. The people, who had now become the residents of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, were very moved. After all, Minhyuk did not forget to pay courtesy to King Effer until the very end.

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After the funeral and before they left Happy Island.

This was Minhyuk's long awaited moment. The God of Happiness was considered a Named Monster. Of course, his rank was 'God' and not only that, he was also glowing in black light. This would be Minhyuk's first time eating a black light God-rank monster.

"And it's even a black pig..."

Minhyuk was very thrilled. Right now, there was a steaming grilling plate and some salted anchovies placed right beside, ready for him to dip his black pork ogyeopsal in. On a table laid open beside him, there was a spread of lettuce leaves, perilla leaves, kimchi, ssamjang, chopped garlic, spicy doenjang jjigae, and a bowl of rice.

When the grilling plate in front of him had heated up to some extent, Minhyuk placed down a thick slice of ogyeopsal.

Sizzleeee—!

A loud and cheerful sound rang in Minhyuk's ears. It sounded like the black pork was singing a beautiful serenade and calling out to him. Steam rose to the air as another thick slice of ogyeopsal was placed on the grill. Then, Minhyuk placed some well-ripened kimchi on top of the grill to cook it together with the ogyeopsal.

Sizzleeeeeeeee—

When the top of the ogyeopsal turned golden brown, he flipped it over once.

Sizzleeeeeeeee—

Oil bubbled and sizzled on the surface of the ogyeopsal that was being cooked well. Then, Minhyuk grabbed a pair of scissors and cut them up into pieces, letting them cook perfectly.

Once the meat was cooked, Minhyuk clamped a piece and placed it in his mouth. The juices of the meat of the black pork, along with its savory flavor, slowly spread in his mouth with every bite.

“Kghhk. This is amazing!”

This time, Minhyuk clamped a piece of the ogyeopsal and dipped it in salt before placing it in his mouth.

“Wow...”

The flavor was worthy of admiration. Minhyuk’s chopsticks moved swiftly, spreading some pickled wild garlic on his plate and placing two pieces of the thick black pork ogyeopsal on top of it. Then, he added a small amount of wasabi before rolling the pickled wild garlic and placed it in his mouth. The sweet and refreshing flavor of the pickled wild garlic and the strong flavor of the wasabi that could tickle one’s nose met with the oily and savory flavor of the ogyeopsal, creating a fantastic harmony of flavor.

Snip—

Snnnnniiip—

This time, Minhyuk cut the well-ripened kimchi that he cooked on the grill. Then, he placed two pieces of ogyeopsal on top of a lettuce leaf while adding some chopped garlic, a heaping of ssamjang, some well-cooked kimchi, and some pickled green onion. After that, he placed the huge wrap in his mouth.

“Wow...”

It was a combination that would automatically make one explode in admiration. After that, he grabbed some black pork ogyeopsal and simply dipped it in the salted anchovies.

“As expected, Jeju’s black pork tastes the best.” Minhyuk smiled happily as he grabbed the big bowl of rice and scooped some into his mouth. Then, Minhyuk ladled some of the spicy doenjang jjigae in another bowl. Of course, he did not forget to use his chopsticks to pick out enough tofu, beef brisket, and zucchini in the bowl.

Minhyuk did not dilly-dally. This was the icing on top of his cake. He scooped a spoonful of the spicy doenjang jjigae that was filled with various ingredients and placed it in his mouth. He then ladled more of the spicy doenjang jjigae and poured it over his rice. Then, he crushed the tofu and zucchini and mixed it with the rice that had been soaked well with the soup, before scooping a mouthful and placing it in his mouth.

“Woah...”

‘The king’s meal’s poison tester? Go away! Everything is for me!’

Minhyuk, who made sure to leave some black pork ogyeopsal, quickly prepared some cold noodles and began wolfing them down.

Sluuuuuuuuuurp—

The cold, sweet and sour broth that he inhaled from the bowl seemed to easily wash away the greasiness of the pork. Then, he placed a piece of the black pork ogyeopsal on top of the noodles.

“Sluuuuuuuuuurp.”

A bright smile was displayed on Minhyuk’s face as he continued to eat huge mouthfuls of noodles one after another.

Before he knew it, he had already finished all of the food on the table. Then, the notifications rang in his ears.

[Food God’s True Worth.]

[You can acquire the God of Happiness’ Passive Skill ‘Steel Skin’.]

[Would you like to acquire it?]

The Food God’s True Worth was a skill that could allow him to acquire some of the skills of the Named Monster that he had eaten. However, even if he chose to, there was still a chance that the skill acquisition would fail.

Minhyuk looked at the notifications window nervously. Then, not long after, an additional notification window popped out in front of him.

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[Acquisition rate 4%... 8%... 18%... 41%... 58%... 75%... 88%... 94%... 100%]

[You have successfully acquired Steel Skin.]

[You currently possess three skills acquired through Food God’s True Worth.]

[You can only have three skills acquired through Food God’s True Worth.]

[Please delete one skill.]

Minhyuk looked through the three skills that he obtained from Food God’s True Worth and promptly chose one. It was Dark Fire Storm, a skill that Minhyuk obtained after he hunted a Minotaurus in the past. However, after Minhyuk reached his current level, the highest in the game, the skill had become useless to him.

After deleting Dark Fire Storm, he was able to obtain the Steel Skin.

(Steel Skin)

Passive Skill

Level: None

Mana Required: None

Cooldown: None

Effects: There is a 20% chance of triggering Steel Skin. Once triggered, it will triple the skill user’s physical and magical defenses in an instant.

“Oh.”

Minhyuk was quite impressed with the skill. It was probably the reason why Minhyuk's attacks did not work well on the God of Happiness. It was a very useful passive skill for him.

At this point, Minhyuk recalled his evolved Sword of Absolute Death, which he had not yet checked. The Sword of Absolute Death was a one-shot kill skill that had always been a huge help to Minhyuk. Moreover, it was just at the half Pinnacle-level when he acquired it.

‘From the very beginning, this skill has always been outstanding.’

However, he was using the Sword of Absolute Death less and less these days. The higher one's level became, the more skills with greater power they would acquire. Unfortunately, the Sword of Absolute Death had always remained stagnant.

Minhyuk quickly opened the information window of the newly evolved Sword of Absolute Death.

(Sword of Absolute Death)

Active Skill

Rank: God

Level: 1

Mana Required: 10,000

Cooldown: 1 hour

Effects:

- Hundreds of lightning swords with additional 7,000% attack power will fall down from the sky and hit all of the enemies within a 20 meter radius with a 100% success rate.
- Immediately after the first attack, the hundreds of lightning swords with 2,000% additional attack will strike down all of the enemies within a 30 meter radius.
- Anyone that will receive a direct attack from the lightning sword will fall into a four second stunned state.

It was definitely much better than it was before, especially with its additional attack and damage. They were at least a dozen times higher.

After looking at the evolved skill, Minhyuk thought that the most useful was the first effect. After all, the first effect would drop hundreds of lightning swords with an additional 7,000% attack power within a 20 meter radius with 100% accuracy. Basically, it meant that the lightning swords would be able to recognize the enemies and attack them in turn.

Allies and enemies were usually tangled together and unidentifiable in the battlefield. To top it off, Minhyuk was the commanding officer so there were many cases where he would be subject to the intensive and continued onslaught of his enemies' attacks.

If he were to use this evolved ‘Sword of Absolute Death’, none of his enemies within a twenty meter radius would be able to live and get back to their senses from the sudden downpour of lightning sword lights.

‘This is a Level 1 God rank skill?’

For a Level 1 skill, its effects were incredible. Unlike the Overlord’s Technique, a skill wherein Minhyuk needed to fill up enough Overlord’s Mana before he could use it, the new Sword of Absolute Death did not need to fill any special mana meter. Simply put, the effects of the evolved skill were an unexpected, but amazing, result.

After he finished checking everything, Minhyuk heard Knight Commander Korro’s voice outside saying, “Your Majesty, all of the people have finished the preparations needed to migrate.”

It was time for him to go back.

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In front of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s ramparts.

The kings of the five other kingdoms that existed in the Asgan Continent stood outside of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom and shouted loudly.

“Take back your declaration, King of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!”

“Many people are being harmed because of your careless and arrogant remarks!”

“Send your vassals to the Luvien Empire now and make peace with them!”

The kings from all over the continent, who brought along around 50,000~100,000 troops with them, shouted loudly and appealed to Minhyuk. The scene was being broadcasted all over the world.

[The kings of Asgan Continent are currently raising their voices in front of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

[This was caused by the declaration that Beyond the Heavens’ King Minhyuk has made recently.]

[‘I’ll build an empire.’ This declaration had a huge impact.]

[The reason why these kings are appealing to Minhyuk is because they are afraid that the Luvien Empire will pressure them.]

[Of course, there’s no way that the Luvien Empire will be pleased that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is trying to establish an empire. The kings that are currently standing in front of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom are the ones that have been observing the tight situation between the Luvien Empire and the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

[However, Minhyuk’s declaration has changed the situation. They all expect the Luvien Empire to keep the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom fully in check.]

[And there’s a high chance that the other kingdoms from Asgan Continent will suffer greatly during that process.]

[The main reason why they are raising their voices like this is because of that possibility. After all, there is still no guarantee that the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom will be able to build an empire.]

[All of the people trying to migrate to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom have gone silent.]

[What’s the reason?]

[It's all because of Player Minhyuk's declaration. The players are now reluctant to migrate to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom after learning that they will be kept in check by the Luvien Empire.]

[That's not all. It would be good for a kingdom to have plenty of players. But more than that, what they need are the 'residents' that lived in that place. The number of NPCs living in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom is far from the number needed to build an empire.]

[If the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom fails to secure enough NPC migrants, then they will fall under the coalition of the Asgan Continent's kingdoms.]

It was just as the commentators said. The kings had personally gathered here to make an appeal because they all feared that Minhyuk's declaration would bring them harm.

"Are we supposed to be collateral damage just because of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's arrogant declaration?!"

The one that instigated all of these kings to gather in front of Beyond the Heavens was King Roath of the kingdom named Vladi, the largest kingdom on the Asgan Continent.

"The number of people migrating to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom has sharply decreased. However, on the other hand, the number of people going to the Luvien Empire has been increasing by the day. We have to stand firm and correct the manners and etiquette of the Beyond the Heavens' King."

King Roath admitted that the king of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had outstanding achievements every time he made a move. However, he was but a king of one small nation.

"In fact, the Beyond the Heavens' King does not have my recognition. Building an empire? Bullshit. I will bring the Beyond the Heavens' King to his knees today and send him to the Luvien Empire."

This was a statement made to curry favor with the Luvien Empire. However, the other kings present also agreed to such a statement. After all, their positions were precarious if the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom failed to establish an empire just because of one king's arrogant declaration. Of course, they all believed that it would be a good thing if the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom could truly open up the possibility of becoming an empire. However, they could not even see a possibility of that happening anytime soon.

"We have to make sure that the Beyond the Heavens' King will apologize for making such a bold and arrogant declaration!!!" King Roath roared, the veins on his neck popping out with how loud he was. The troops behind him immediately shouted after hearing his words, "Apologize!!!"

The viewers had their concerns as well.

[If Minhyuk fails to show that he and his kingdom has the possibility of building an empire then what will happen to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?]

[They will probably cease to exist. All of the kingdoms that appeared here will run to the Luvien Empire. Their numbers might not be enough to build an empire, but if they get absorbed by the

Luvien Empire then the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom would be left to ruin. How can they even think about building an empire by then?]

That was right. One had to absorb other kingdoms for them to build an empire. However, the problem was these kingdoms looked quite hostile to them. From the looks of it, it was impossible for an alliance to be formed.

“Beyond the Heavens’ King! Please apologize!!!”

The hundreds of thousands of troops lined up in front of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom shouted, their voices ringing loudly and shaking the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

But then, something unexpected happened.

Rumbleeeeeeeee—!

The skies suddenly darkened, black lightning bolts dancing in the clouds and striking the ground beneath them. Not long after that, a shocking notification rang for the whole world to hear.

[A new Great Demon has awakened.]

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Everyone was left breathless from shock.

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A new Great Demon had awakened. The impact of these words were huge. Who was the new Great Demon? And was this Great Demon as strong as Verus? Would they now be called the Four Great Demons?

However, the shock was not yet over. In fact, the notifications that rang in the ears of the players were far more surprising.

[The awakened Great Demon has inherited everything from ‘Gorac.’]

[The new Great Demon has now become the new master of Demon Gorac’s Demon World’s Army.]

[With the birth of a new Great Demon, you will now be able to receive a new race, the ‘Demon Race!']

[You will only be able to receive the new race ‘Demon’ from the Great Demon.]

[The new race, Demon, can only be obtained by players above Level 500.]

Meanwhile, the troops that had gathered in front of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were left in doubt and confusion. This was because the black thunderbolts and air current were swirling and gathering in front of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Rumbleeeeeeeee—

The Beyond the Heavens’ King had sealed Great Demon Verus in the past.

[No way, are you telling me that the Great Demon that inherited everything from Gorac will destroy the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom instead of Verus?]

It was a very likely story. At the same time, another round of commotion had begun.

[We still do not know what kind of being the new Great Demon is. However, there's one thing that we are sure of.]

[A new 'race' has been created for the first time in Athenae.]

[Players will now be able to switch their class to Demon. And since this race can only be obtained through the Great Demon, the players will definitely go and find the newly awakened Great Demon.]

The birth of a new Great Demon brought fear and anticipation to everyone from all over the world. But right now, the ones that were shaking in fear were the kings that had gathered in front of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

“Hi, hiiiiiiik...!”

“How come the new Great Demon is appearing here...”

[The Great Demon has descended!]

[The newly awakened Great Demon is leading the Demon World's Army and descending on earth!]

[Warning!]

[Danger!]

[Warning!]

[Danger!]

[Warning!]

[Danger...!]

[A great being that encompasses the world has descended.]

The space behind the tens of thousands of troops gathered in front of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom cracked open, as hell horses dragging a gigantic burning carriage appeared from within and galloped forward.

Crackle!

“Hihihihihing!”

The new Great Demon, wearing a helmet adorned with two large horns on his head, sat in the carriage with his arms crossed.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!”

[The legendary demonic beast Akkeveno has appeared!]

[The legendary demonic beast Akkeveno has appeared!]

In the sky, thousands of demonic beasts that resembled wyverns appeared, considered legendary even in the Demon World. Right below them was the new Demon World's Army, marching with terrifying and overwhelming momentum.

Boooooooooom—!

Boooooooooooooom—!

Boooooooooom—!

The loud beats of the drums signaled the arrival of the new Great Demon.

“U, uwaaaaaaaaaaaaah...!”

“Uwooooooooooooooh...!”

[The Great Demon's Authority has been triggered!]

[Killing Intent's Authority.]

[Everyone that stands in front of the Great Demon will lose their will to fight.]

[All of the skills and abilities of those that face the Great Demon will fall by 15%. Everyone will fall into a state of 'Extreme Fear.']

“U, uwaaaaaah!”

“It's, it's the devil!!!”

“The Great Demon has appeared!!!”

“Your, Your Majesty! Please give us your orders!!!”

The troops that were gathered in front of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's walls screamed in fear. Even their kings could not resist the Great Demon's power. All of the kings here knew that there was only one straw that they could grasp in this situation. That was the king of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. After all, Minhyuk had sealed the Great Demon Verus in the past.

“B, Beyond the Heavens' King, open your gates!”

“Open your gates quickly!”

“Come out and seal the Great Demon with us!!!”

The kings hurriedly shouted for help when they saw Minhyuk appear above the walls. However, Minhyuk remained silent, and the gates did not open.

At that moment, the Great Demon slowly walked out of the carriage. With every step that he took, tremendous killing intent spread out of his body. The soldiers that caught sight of his figure fainted with their mouths foaming. The kings, who saw their soldiers falling without even being able to fight back, trembled in fear. Then, the Great Demon's gaze fell upon them.

“Ah, aaaah...”

Thud—

Thud—

They unknowingly fell on their knees as the Great Demon passed by, his gaze domineering and filled with arrogance. Then, the Great Demon stopped and stood still before looking up at Minhyuk, who was standing on the ramparts.

‘Is he really aiming for the Beyond the Heavens’ King?!’

‘Is, is this our chance?!’

The kings thought that this was their chance to escape. The Great Demon slowly took off his horned helmet. Then, something very surprising happened. The Great Demon, who was looking up at Minhyuk, slowly knelt down.

“Your Majesty.”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

The kings were once again left in shock. The kneeling Great Demon was crying as he looked up at Minhyuk.

“This Elpis... This Elpis believes that he can now protect you, Your Majesty.”

The name that left the Great Demon’s lips shocked everyone once again.

[The name of the newly awakened Great Demon is...]

[...none other than ‘Elpis.’]