

Gourmet 791

Chapter 791

Swoosh—

Minhyuk was forced into an unconscious state, his body collapsing toward the ground. Aegaeon immediately used his power and sent him flying back.

Baaaaaaang—

Aegaeon watched the unconscious Minhyuk roll helplessly on the ground. Cold sweat dripped down his back followed by a spine-numbing chill. Aegaeon never imagined that the man would try to kill Aegaeon, let alone make him kneel in front of him. However, it was all the more reason why Aegaeon wanted the man more.

Looks delicious. Aegaeon's Gluttony whispered in his ears.

Meanwhile, Obren, who was inside the Puzzling Seasoning Jar, realized that Minhyuk was facing the worst possible scenario. He had realized when they entered that this land was owned by Aegaeon. He assumed that someone had temporarily awakened Aegaeon in this place. When Minhyuk was dragged to the place where Aegaeon was, Obren was dismayed.

—What I'm worried about has now become a reality.

Almost all of the Eight Pillars were looking for Minhyuk. They wanted to nip him in the bud. Minhyuk was able to avoid the pursuit of the Eight Pillars thanks to Obren's powers. However, Minhyuk still ended up facing one of them.

Obren, who knew that Aegaeon would devour the boy right away, had given Minhyuk a small piece of advice.

'Either run away or kill him. Do one of the two somehow. The bastard is currently in a weakened state. Perhaps you might be able to kill him.'

However, Obren had been mistaken. Even though Aegaeon was in a weakened state, he was still a being that Minhyuk could not even dream of facing. Of course, that was not Obren's fault. He had given Minhyuk the choice, and it was Minhyuk who chose to try to kill Aegaeon.

"Interesting." Aegaeon grinned as he looked at the handsome man who was sprawled and unconscious on the ground with an expression filled with interest. Then, not long after, he began to laugh in a crazy manner.

"Fufufufufufu. Hihihihihihhi. Ahahahahahahaha! Interesting!"

Just like a devil, he whispered, "I have to eat him, right?"

Aegaeon licked his lips as he took a step toward Minhyuk. His Gluttony could take away and devour all of his opponent's power. Aegaeon was sure that he would somehow be able to regain some of his lost power as long as he preyed on this man.

Of course, Minhyuk was completely unconscious at this moment. Obren's voice sounded completely muffled, as if it was covered with a thick haze, to him.

‘Damn it, Minhyuk. Minhyuk!!! F*ck!!!’

Slowly, his voice began to break through his consciousness.

‘Ah... yes... quickly...the path... open...!’

However, Minhyuk’s consciousness was still completely in the dark.

Joy Co. Ltd.

Beeeeeeep—

Beeeeeeep—

Beeeeeeep—

[Warning.]

[Warning.]

[Warning.]

The busy employees of Joy Co. Ltd. all froze in their tracks when they saw the warning messages sent by Supercomputer Athenae flash on the screens of their computers. This was the first time that Athenae had directly announced a crisis in the form of a ‘warning.’

“Team, Team Leader!!!”

“Team Leader!!!”

“Can you check what’s going on?!”

The members of various teams hurriedly called out to their team leaders. Unfortunately, they also did not know the current situation. So, the various team leaders all jumped up from their seats and ran toward the conference room.

Everyone gasped for breath the moment they arrived in the conference room. The same was true for Kang Taehoon. Among the team leaders was Team Leader Park Minggyu, who had already been briefed by Lee Minhhwa. Team Leader Park quickly explained the ins and outs of the situation to President Kang Taehoon.

“Did you just say Aegaeon?”

“Yes. That’s right.”

“How did it come to this...?”

“It’s quite complex, and there are a variety of reasons. One, there were a few dungeon explorers that discovered the ‘Tomb of the Kings,’ a place that they should not have been able to find right now.”

Indeed. The players of Athenae had always exceeded the expectations of the developers.

“Second. Someone temporarily awakened Aegaeon’s power.”

A groan escaped President Kang Taehoon's mouth.

"Third. Food God Minhyuk has sparked Aegaeon's greed."

"..."

"..."

Everyone was left speechless. They did not expect that Aegaeon, one of the Eight Pillars, to grow greedy for Minhyuk. However, these various reasons combined into a complex problem that would now create an 'error' that should not have existed in the first place.

"What would happen if Aegaeon devours Minhyuk?" Someone asked.

Team Leader Park Minggyu answered, "Aegaeon's power is literally what it says, gluttony. The power to devour everything and take away the power and abilities of his opponent. Once that happens, Minhyuk will lose his class, and he will revert back to Level 1."

"..."

"..."

Silence engulfed the conference room for a moment. The world's best ranker returning back to Level 1? This would completely subvert what President Kang Taehoon had always advocated and preached about Athenae, that it was a world that also flowed the same way as that in reality.

Who would even want to play the game once they were forced back to Level 1? What if the player who had the admiration of the people and could bring hope to other players was the one who experienced that?

Even if he truly got devoured then, they had to help him recover somehow.

"Speak. Suggest other methods."

"First, we can forcefully delete Eight Pillars Aegaeon. If Aegaeon absorbed the Food God's power, he would have the power of both the Food God and the Battle God's Descendant."

"Then, we will restore it through Food God Minhyuk's saved data."

"Also, I believe that we have to give Food God Minhyuk some kind of compensation."

"But if we do it like this, we will face quite a lot of problems. The previous Eight Pillars would suddenly become the Seven Pillars. On top of that, can we guarantee that we will be able to fully recover Food God Minhyuk's data? Also, what kind of compensation should we give to Player Minhyuk?"

President Kang Taehoon's heart felt heavy. In fact, he knew it all too well.

"It's impossible to fix."

A sigh escaped from his lips as silence enveloped the entire conference room. Since Athenae had been made to be as realistic as possible, things that exceeded their expectations would often happen. This time was no different, but the consequences were dire.

All they could do was drown in the despair brought forth by the depressing silence as they watched Aegaeon, who was about to devour Minhyuk, walk toward the man on the TV screen.

The scene in front of everyone turned white. At the same time, Team Leader Park received a text message from Lee Minhwa. He could not help but read the content of the message out loud, "Athenae has opened a path...?"

Aegaeon's eyes almost turned green from greed as he walked one step at a time and approached the unconscious Minhyuk.

'Looks delicious,' Aegaeon licked his greedy lips and whispered to himself. Then, he stopped in front of Minhyuk. However, just when he was about to reach for the man's head, a cold voice rang from the side.

"Hey."

The voice belonged to a handsome dark-haired man. This man was none other than the Evil God, or so the people called him. Another one of the Eight Pillars, Obren, looked at Aegaeon and spoke coldly, "If you touch this child, I will make sure to find all of your fragments scattered all over the world and tear them to pieces."

Aegaeon felt strange. He did not expect that the Evil God, one of the Eight Pillars, was protecting a human king. However, even if that was the case, with how Evil God Obren was currently, there was no way that he could stop Aegaeon.

"What can you even do when you're that weak?"

However, Obren just chuckled coldly, "I never said that this child is alone."

"...?"

Aegaeon looked at Obren in confusion.

[The Greatest God, Athenae, has opened up a path that connects the entire world.]

[Goddess Athenae is summoning those who know Minhyuk from every corner of the world!]

Aegaeon frowned, wondering what Athenae was thinking. It was absolutely ridiculous. Why would she open up a path just for a mere human king? Besides, who would even come here to go against one of the Eight Pillars?

A path made of light spread out and extended from the sky.

"Then, shall I tear up all of your fragments hidden in the east?"

A man wearing silver armor and a very somber expression on his face appeared and stood in front of the unconscious Minhyuk, blocking Aegaeon's path. This man was the 'God that Rules and Commands the Greatest Army'.

"Then, let me tear everything in the west."

Immediately after that, a beautiful woman appeared, staring fixedly at Aegaeon with a cold and sharp glare. This woman was none other than the 'God that Loves Cooking'.

“The North.”

She was immediately followed by a man with a gloomy and dreary expression. He spoke briefly and bluntly, as if to prove his taciturn personality. This was the God ‘that Never Backs Down’.

“Gods, will you leave the south to this humble human? I will make sure to tear all of the fragments until they can no longer be recognized.”

This time, a woman wearing a red full-plated armor that carried the mark of the phoenix, the symbol of the Eivelis Empire, and a sword on her shoulder appeared. This was none other than Sword Emperor Ellie.

“Hoho. For someone that dared to harm His Majesty, I do not plan on stopping after I tear his fragments to pieces.”

Then, an old man with a very cold expression appeared. This old man currently held and wielded the greatest spear in existence.

“Did you just try to touch His Majesty’s body?”

The Fallen and Wretched Emperor, who almost ruled the greatest empire, appeared.

“You must want to die.”

Dark demonic energy spread out from the body of the newly born Great Demon, also known as the Shield of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. The demonic energy turned into a shield that protected Minhyuk.

“Graaaaaaaaaa!”

“Grrrrrrrrrrrrr!”

“Roooooooooaaaaaar!”

Although they looked quite insignificant and trivial compared to the others that had appeared here, Love, Hope and Happiness still ran forward fiercely and roared loudly to protect their master.

There were also players that responded to Athenae’s summon and appeared in this place.

“F*ck! Who dares to touch my boyfriend!!!” Genie shouted as she slammed her whip on the ground.

“I’ll make sure to break an arm,” Right beside her, Khan declared as he put on his gloves and looked beside him.

“Then, I’ll go for the legs. I’ll make sure to cut them to pieces.” Asura Ascar held her bloody-red sword tightly.

“Is that even necessary? It’s not a bad idea to throw him and make him the food for my undead, right?” The King of the Dead, Death, looked at Aegaeon arrogantly.

“Let’s blow him up until there’s nothing left of him.” Golden Mage Ali smiled.

Then, another player said, "I'll turn him into an eunuch."

"...?"

"...?"

"...?"

For a moment, everyone turned to look at Locke, who was the source of the statement. Of course, they immediately turned back to look at Aegaeon again. However, Locke grabbed his axe tightly, as if he was very serious about what he said.

The truth was, everyone that appeared here was very nervous. None of them could estimate the power of one of the Eight Pillars.

Aegaeon unknowingly took a step back. The legends of this era gathered together just for the sake of a mere human king? It was truly beyond his understanding.

In a blink, a crowd of powerful people gathered and surrounded Minhyuk in a protective circle. Then, at that moment, a middle-aged man's voice rang loudly from beside Minhyuk, who had been hidden by the crowd.

"You are mistaken."

The crowd parted and opened up a path for Aegaeon to see who was talking. At the end of the path was a middle-aged man. He gently placed Minhyuk's head on his lap and swept his hair away.

This man had responded to Athenae's summons, even from hell. His name? Sword God Valen.

Valen looked at Minhyuk, who slept like a baby, with a soft smile on his face and said, "This child's greatest strength does not lie with the powerful sword that he wields. Nor does it lie with the excellent dishes that he produces, or the amazing abilities and outstanding artifacts in his possession."

Valen looked up at Aegaeon and continued with a cold voice, "To be loved by all." Valen held his sword tightly after making sure that the boy's head was gently placed on his lap and spoke with great emphasis, "This is this child's greatest strength."

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What was Minhyuk's biggest strength? It was none other than his power to attract people.

Minhyuk was kind and polite to the point that people often forget the fact that he was the successor to a large company. He had always stood against the strong and never ignored the weak. On top of that, there was often a pure, innocent and child-like smile whenever he was eating his food, which fascinated a lot of people. Many people benefited greatly from Minhyuk's buffed dishes as well.

Just like that, people started to gather around him as he continued on his journey in Athenae. Before Aegaeon knew it, Minhyuk was already surrounded by countless people.

'To be loved by all.'

Aegaeon looked at Valen, who had already stood up, with his sword aimed at him. Then, he looked around him. If he did his best, he was sure that he could devour Minhyuk right here and now.

However, the problem came after that. If he devoured Minhyuk, the people who appeared here would make sure to hunt and destroy his fragments to the point that no trace would be left behind.

‘I can’t have that.’

If Aegaeon was honest, just the fact that Minhyuk was loved by all and had such power was enough for him to covet the child more. However, he knew that this was not the time yet.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

“I’ll stand down for now.”

All of the people present were glaring coldly at Aegaeon as he disappeared from their sight.

“Fwaaaaa...”

The moment he disappeared, Sword Emperor Ellie released a shaky breath. Many others also breathed a sigh of relief. They would be lying if they said that they did not feel fear at the thought of fighting a battle where their odds were completely unknown. Thankfully, it did not get to that point.

Then, Sword God Valen lowered himself once again and swept Minhyuk’s hair away. “You’re truly amazing, Minhyuk.”

Valen looked at the people around him. He did not expect Minhyuk to be loved by the Absolute Gods.

“Hmmm... want to eat... samgyeopsal... jokbal...”

Valen stared at the sleeping Minhyuk for a very long time.

Joy Co. Ltd. conference room.

Everyone felt very relieved. The ones that had been summoned and gathered in the Tomb of the Kings were now returning one after another through the paths opened by Athenae.

Kang Taehoon, who had recently connected Supercomputer Athenae to the conference room, called out, “Athenae.”

The screen in front of them immediately turned black.

[Speak.]

“Did you judge that this disaster could be prevented by opening that path?”

Everyone held their breath. Supercomputer Athenae was the one that managed and maintained the balance of everything inside the game Athenae. The choice that had been made earlier might have been done through Obren’s request, but this might have also been a decision made by Athenae herself to prevent the dire consequences.

[I cannot confirm nor deny anything.]

“...”

[I have opened the path because it is the ‘only method’ available.]

Athenae continued to speak, not stopping to hear whatever was in everyone’s mind.

[I did not predict anything like this.]

Even Supercomputer Athenae did not predict that this would happen. All she did was do her best to try and correct the error that suddenly appeared. The officials and operators of Joy Co. Ltd. remained silent. They felt extremely insignificant at this moment.

President Kang Taehoon smiled bitterly and said, “So, it’s not us, not you, but Minhyuk, who prevented this disaster?”

Silence enveloped the room for a few seconds. Then, Athenae said...

[That’s right.]

“Hahahahaha!” Kang Taehoon laughed loudly.

It was not the operators of Joy Co. Ltd. nor Athenae who did this. Perhaps even the supercomputer Athenae was hoping that there would be many people who would respond to her call when she opened the path earlier.

Then, Team Leader Park Minggyu, who vowed to further improve after reflecting and blaming himself for being incompetent and helpless in such a situation, said loudly, “Player Minhyuk... has truly become the heart of Athenae.”

[You have achieved amazing feats while clearing all of the trials of the Tomb of the Kings!]

This was the notification that rang in the ears of all of those present in the Tomb of the Kings. Calauhel and the Rothschild Kingdom army felt that this was a very novel feeling.

‘We have been on the back foot since the very beginning.’

‘Thanks to Minhyuk, we were able to overcome these trials and even got amazing achievements.’

Minhyuk, who finally returned from the space that he was dragged into, was truly worthy of their admiration.

However, none of them was aware of what Minhyuk had gone through in that place. As for Minhyuk, he could check the situation through his guild chatting window.

[Vice Guild Master Genie: Minhyuk, are you alright?]

[Locke: Hoo... When I said that I will make him into an eunuch... everyone turned around. That f*cker...]

[Khan: You should get some rest when you get back. You must be very tired.]

[Ascar: We’re in trouble. Grandpa Ben, Brod and Elpis are making a fuss. They said they wanted to find Aegaeon’s fragments.]

[Ace: Looking for a girlfriend in Athenae. I’m Firefist Ace of Jungsan Middle School! My type are girls that are like Robin.]

[Crow: Hey, hey. How can you put a macro[1] here?]

[Ace: Aaack! Sry, sry. Minhyuk hyung, are you okay?]

Minhyuk smiled faintly. He was very grateful to all of them. Just when he was about to give his thanks, a constant stream of notification windows popped up in front of him. Well, Minhyuk thought that it would be better to just go back and personally give his thanks, so he looked at the notifications first.

[You have achieved amazing feats while clearing all of the trials of the Tomb of the Kings!]

[You have gained 933,311,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have acquired 53,317 platinum.]

[Something amazing will happen in the kingdom of the one that has achieved amazing feats while clearing the Tomb of the Kings.]

[The soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's Royal Army that are below Level 500 will grow 10% stronger.]

[The EXP Acquisition Rate of the soldiers of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's Royal Army that are below Level 500 will double for two weeks.]

[The EXP Acquisition Rate of the players of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom will double for two weeks.]

[You have acquired 300 Nurturing Parchments of the Ruaca's Knights that Grew Powerful from the Strength of the Tyrant.]

[When applied, the Knights' level will increase by 10%.]

[You have acquired 300 Nurturing Parchments of the Baramma Kingdom's Archers that Received the Blessings of the God of Archery...]

[You have acquired 100,000 Immortal Guardian's Swords and 100,000 Immortal Guardian's Armor from the Blacksmiths Kingdom, Aggadon Kingdom.]

[You have acquired the legendary ingredients from the Banquet Enjoyed by the Kings.]

[You can acquire 130g~250g from every part of the Soft, Tender and Melt-in-the-Mouth Cow.]

[You have met the conditions to acquire the King Above Kings Class.]

[You have given up on the King Above Kings Class.]

[Easter Egg: The One that Went Beyond the King Above Kings.]

[As your reward for achieving the Easter Egg, you can get one of the rewards of the King Above Kings Class.]

This was the moment that he had been waiting for. This was the main reason why Minhyuk gave up on the King Above Kings Class. Of course, the other rewards were excellent, especially those that would help his forces become stronger. However, the reward that Minhyuk wanted the most was the ingredients for the Banquet Enjoyed by the Kings. Of course, he would choose the one that tasted the best.

[The Legendary Ingredients from the Banquet Enjoyed by the Kings have evolved into God-grade ingredients.]

[You have acquired 200g of Chuck Flap Tail.]

[You have acquired 200g of Rib Eye Steak.]

[You have acquired 150g of Skirt Steak...]

[You have acquired 200g of Flat Iron Steak...]

Minhyuk already felt like he was recovering well the more he listened to these notifications.

‘I’ve gained a lot.’

First, the EXP Acquisition Rate of all of the players in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had doubled for two weeks. In other words, Beyond the Heavens would be able to rise in terms of power. Since tens of thousands of players benefitted from the achievements made by their king, many people would come to visit the kingdom to see for their own eyes.

[The Seventh Absolute Demigod Class has been born to the world!]

[The Seventh Absolute Demigod Class is the ‘King Above Kings’!]

[There are a total of twenty Absolute Demigod Classes that exist in the world!]

The world message rang out. Minhyuk turned to look at Calauhel, who was trembling from excitement.

[The other king has cleared the Tomb of the Kings with greater achievements than you.]

[The other king has given up on the ‘King Above Kings’ class.]

[Your class will be upgraded to the Absolute Demigod Class!]

[Your HP and MP has recovered to 100%.]

[Only those that do not have the ‘God Class’ will be able to obtain the Absolute Demigod Class.]

[All of your stats and skills will change after you have acquired the Absolute Demigod Class!]

[Your level will go down by -200 within twenty-four hours after you have acquired the Absolute Demigod Class!]

[The Absolute Demigod King Above Kings is the one that brought all of the kings to their knees with just his sword.]

[The Absolute Demigod King Above Kings is a powerful man who can even fight against an emperor with his sword alone!]

Calauhel’s previous class was the Maestro of Destruction. That meant that all of his skills and stats had changed with the acquisition of this new class. When he looked at the new list of his skills, a shiver ran down his body. All he could do was look at it in awe.

“Your Majesty, congratulations on becoming the Seventh Absolute Demigod Class!!!”

The Rothschild Kingdom’s army all knelt down and showed courtesy in front of Calauhel.

Was the Absolute Demigod Class more shabby when compared to an Absolute God Class? Not at all. According to the information that had been published before, Absolute God Classes could have an enormous influence in the world of Athenae. While the Absolute Demigod Classes could not

exert as much influence, they were mostly 'combat classes' and had power that could potentially go beyond that of the Absolute God Classes. The prime example of this was 'Asura Ascar.'

The trembling Calauhel said, "Minhyuk, I will give you all of the rewards that we have acquired today."

"Your, Your Majesty...!"

According to their deal, the Rothschilde Kingdom should receive at least 10% of the rewards. This was supposed to be the reward for the victims and those who suffered from this trial.

"I'll take care of the compensations for those that participated and died in this conquest."

Calauhel did not think that it was a waste to do so. In fact, he had already firmly decided on one thing.

"From this day on, our Rothschilde Kingdom will be Beyond the Heaven's Kingdom's..."

But before he could finish his words, a notification rang out.

[Another person has entered the Tomb of the Kings!]

The global top Dungeon Explorer Ian had become a dog of the Great Luvien Empire. He deliberately leaked the information about the Tomb of the Kings to the Rothschilde Kingdom, knowing that these people would not be able to clear the dungeon. It was because he intended to get all of their drops once they had been wiped out.

'Those two bastards must have already been forced to log out.'

When Aegaeon was temporarily awakened, the two mercenaries that he hired to stir up trouble had been forced to log out.

Ian felt his heart thump wildly.

'It's not only Calauhel, but even Food God Minhyuk that has died in this place.'

The challengers of the Tomb of the Kings would lose their skills, artifacts, and a variety of things in their possession upon failing in their trial. The most interesting fact here was the fact that the skill that they lost would not be deleted but dropped, just like when killing a monster.

'They will not be able to survive against Aegaeon.'

Each of the top three dungeon explorers held special skills and abilities that allowed them to stand on top of other dungeon explorers. In the case of Bran, the 2nd in the rankings, he had the skill 'Ancient Relics Tracker'. As for Ian, he had the 'Dungeon Explorer's Eye.'

If the Ancient Relics Tracker could track relics once every five months, the Dungeon Explorer's Eye could be triggered once every month. It was much better than the Ancient Relics Tracker since it could help Ian read, analyze, and grasp the system of the dungeons, even in this Tomb of the Kings that he was currently tracking.

‘In the end, they had to awaken Aegaeon. Even if they defeated the kings and obtained amazing achievements, it would be impossible for them to defeat Aegaeon.’

Ian grinned widely. In the unlikely scenario they had killed Aegaeon, he would have gotten the notification. However, there was no such thing.

However, there was one thing that Ian had overlooked. Each skill had its own advantages. For example, Bran knew through his ‘Ancient Relics Tracker’ that one would be able to obtain the class King Above Kings inside the Tomb of the Kings. That was something that Ian did not know.

‘Who’s the one that got the King Above Kings?’

However, Ian quickly threw that question to the back of his mind. With his eyes stained by greed, he quickly entered the Tomb of the Kings.

“You’re still resorting to dirty tricks to gain benefits for yourself?”

“...!”

Ian was shocked when a voice suddenly rang in his ears. A figure emerged from the darkness, and it was none other than Bran. Ian had always ignored Bran. In fact, he believed that Bran would not be able to catch up to him. However, this was only because Bran did not resort to immoral and dirty methods.

“H, how...?” Ian stuttered, disbelief clear on his face.

“You must be the one that leaked that information to me.”

Another figure emerged from the darkness. This man was none other than Calauhel. Ian’s pupils dilated when he saw that the man was still alive. He took a step back.

“W, wait...”

Ian was a dungeon explorer. His power could only rival that of a high-level player, and he was absolutely no match against Calauhel.

Thump—

Unfortunately, when he took a step back, he was blocked by a tall man.

“When one enters the Tomb of the Kings, they will be subjected to greater penalties upon being forced to log out.”

The person blocking his path scoffed. This man was none other than the Luvien Empire’s greatest nemesis, the Beyond the Heavens’ King, the Food God.

“This... shit...!”

It was only then that he realized that these people had cleared the Tomb of the Kings.

‘Im, impossible...!’

Minhyuk, who was standing behind the shocked Ian, whispered, “Did you know? I obtained a lot of interesting things when I hunted the Evil Incarnate.”

Minhyuk took out an artifact from his inventory. This artifact was a one-time use artifact called the ‘Dagger of Despair.’

Staaaaaab—

The moment the dagger stabbed Ian’s back, he received chilling notifications.

[Your penalty for being forced to log out will be doubled!]

[You will drop 30%~80% of your platinum once you are forced to log out.]

“W, wait. Let’s make a deal...”

However, Minhyuk’s sword had already pierced through his heart even before he could finish his words.

Staaaaaaaaab—!

[You have been forced to log out!]

[You have received the Tomb of the Kings’ Penalty!]

[The Dagger of Despair has doubled your penalty for forced log out.]

[You will drop 71% of your platinum.]

[You have dropped 44,313 platinum.]

[You have dropped the Veteran Dungeon Explorer’s Armor.]

[You have dropped Farimi’s Nimble Boots.]

[You have dropped your skill: Breaking Through Dungeons.]

His thoughts turned blank. The notifications that continued to ring in his ears made him fall into the depths of despair.

[You have dropped your skill: Dungeon Explorer’s Eyes.]

The nail in the coffin was when the best skill that had kept him at the top also dropped.

‘N, nooooooooooooo!!!’

Ian screamed. Then he saw Minhyuk grinning, “Hey, thanks a lot.”

Finally, Ian’s vision turned dark.

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Everything was finally sorted out. Ian, the mastermind behind the fiasco, was most likely going to be pushed out of the top of the Dungeon Explorer’s Rankings after he received the forced logout penalty, dropping the Dungeon Explorer’s Eyes that he was very proud of in the process.

Meanwhile, Calauhel had something that he really wanted to tell Minhyuk. “Minhyuk. Our Rothschild Kingdom will...”

However, he was interrupted before he could finish his words once again.

“Bye everyone! Bye! I’m going to go and eat beef!!!”

Minhyuk fidgeted like he was a puppy that was about to poop and waved his hands at them while smiling brightly like a child. Then, he turned into a bright light and disappeared.

“That, that impertinent fool! His Majesty is still speaking!”

“Is he saying that beef is more important than His Majesty’s words?”

But Calauhel shook his head when he heard the words of the soldiers of the Rothschilde Kingdom.

“It’s better to eat beef, no? Our dear Minhyuk is suffering from a rare disease, there’s nothing we can’t do,” Calauhel said as he stared at the spot where Minhyuk had disappeared from, with clear affection.

‘Our... our dear Minhyuk? What?’

‘Since when did he call Minhyuk ‘our dear Minhyuk’?’

Calauhel continued to stare at the place where his friend, Minhyuk, disappeared and thought, ‘I also want to see my dear Minhyuk in real life.’

Calauhel had always been a loner. He had never made a proper friend or even got close to someone. That was why he was very excited to have Minhyuk in his life.

‘I really want to see Minhyuk.’

There was a saying that went, ‘Strike while the iron is hot.’. So, Calauhel, or Rausch, the head of the Rothschilde Family, immediately logged out and got on a plane.

“Let’s go to Incheon Airport.”

Minhyuk chuckled the moment he entered his office back in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. There were a variety of beef parts spread out in front of him, while the baby piggy Beanie with his plump belly sat opposite him.

“Oink. Oink, oink. Oiiiiiiink! (I want to eat them already! Oink!)”

Beanie also worked together with Minhyuk in the Tomb of the Kings. Of course, Beanie was not going to eat the God-grade Soft, Tender and Melt-in-the-Mouth Beef. What Beanie was going to eat was the 1++ grade beef that Minhyuk had purchased for him.

“Beans, when it comes to beef, you have to cook it quickly on a piping hot grill.”

White smoke slowly rose from the heated grill. Only after seeing the smoke did Minhyuk use his tongs to grab a rib eye steak, which had a fantastic marbling, and place it on the grill.

Sizzleeeeeeeee—

Sizzleeeeeeeee—

Beanie immediately followed Minhyuk’s instructions and grabbed a piece of rib eye steak on his own.

“Oiiiiiiiiink...!”

Beanie was deeply moved.

Then, Minhyuk turned the rib eye steak at the perfect moment. Beef needed to be turned once over on high heat. Doing it in such a way would trap the juices of the beef and maintain its soft and tender texture.

Minhyuk cut the rib eye steak into bite-sized pieces. Then, he clamped a thick and juicy piece and dipped it in salt.

Chomp—

When he bit into the meat, the juice immediately spread out in his mouth along with the tender, soft and slightly undercooked meat.

“O, oink...”

Beanie also looked ecstatic with just one bite of the soft and tender beef.

Minhyuk smiled happily. This time, he placed some chopped scallions on top of the rib eye steak before putting everything in his mouth.

Munch, munch—

“Kghhk... This is a small slice of heaven...”

Beef eaten after doing hard work was truly bliss.

Pop—

Minhyuk laughed as he opened a very, very cold bottle of beer and poured it into a glass.

“The first one should be a bottoms up.”

The first sip of beer was the most delicious. Something so refreshing and cool should be drunk in one go.

Gulp, gulp, gulp—

Minhyuk gulped the contents of his glass and drank everything until the very last drop.

“Gulp, gulp, gulp, kghhk!”

On the other hand, baby piggy Beanie slammed the can of cola down after inhaling its contents.

Since they had finished all of the rib eye steak, they turned their attention to the chuck flap tail this time. Each cow would usually only have around 4~5kg of chuck flap tail, and was considered to be the most delicious and precious part when grilled.

They both placed a piece of chuck flap tail on the well-heated grill.

Sizzleeee—

When smoke finally rose, it signaled that the side was already cooked well. That meant that it was time to get flipped. After cooking, Minhyuk dipped the bite-sized chuck flap tail in the salt and placed it in his mouth. Just like before, the soft and tender texture of the meat spread in Minhyuk’s mouth.

‘It practically melts in the mouth.’

This was the perfect expression to describe the taste of both the rib eye steak and the chuck flap tail. It was so good, that Minhyuk’s body shivered with each bite.

Sizzleeeeeeee—

Minhyuk grilled two more pieces of chuck flap tail. Then, he placed the well-cooked chuck flap tail on the lettuce leaf that he spread on his palm, added some scallions, and garlic dipped in ssamjang. He wrapped everything up and placed it in his mouth.

“Hmm. This is the best.”

“Oiiiiiiiink...!”

Beanie, who was sitting right in front of Minhyuk, also made his own bulging lettuce wrap. One might wonder how could such a huge lettuce wrap fit in his mouth. As it turned out, Beanie was able to cram the huge lettuce wrap in his mouth. His cheeks might be bulging to its limits but there was a very happy smile on his face.

“Ooooooooooink.”

In just a blink, the beef brisket doenjang jjigae that they cooked while they were eating the grilled meat was done. The slight greasiness from the grilled beef immediately disappeared the moment the spicy doenjang jjigae entered their mouths.

Minhyuk hurriedly scooped a spoonful of the jjigae, complete with zucchini, tofu and cheongyang pepper, and placed it on the rice. Then, he scooped some of the soup on the rice and mixed everything together. He could not help but exclaim happily the moment he ate a spoonful.

“This is delicious! Yummy!”

After eating doenjang jjigae, Minhyuk turned his attention to the cold noodles that they prepared in advance.

“Oiiiiink. (As expected, meat tastes best with spicy cold noodles. Oink.)”

However, unlike Minhyuk, Beanie was eating some glossy-red spicy cold noodles. Minhyuk actually preferred the cold noodles that were cold and slightly sweet to the taste. He loved slurping the noodles and the pears and drinking the cold soup.

“Kghhhk!”

‘This is the best!’

The cold and refreshing cold noodles, together with the sweet pear, created a fantastic harmony of flavors in his mouth. Then, Beanie gave him some of his spicy cold noodles, which he promptly ate with his chuck flap tail. The combination of the sweet, spicy cold noodles and the soft, tender chuck flap tail was truly perfect. After that, Minhyuk returned to his cold noodles. He quickly sipped the cool and refreshing broth of the noodles.

“Kyaa!”

“Oiiiiiiiink! (I’m stuffed, oink!)”

Beanie's tummy was bulging.

'The way Beanie's leaning on the wall looks exactly like my grandpa.'

Beanie looked cute as he stroked his bulging belly while leaning against the wall. Then, the notifications rang.

[You have eaten the Soft, Tender and Melt-in-the-Mouth Beef.]

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

[Your skill attack has increased by 8%.]

[Your skill cooldown has decreased by 10%.]

[Your total HP and MP volume have increased by 15%.]

The Soft, Tender and Melt-in-the-Mouth Beef had evolved from legendary grade to god-grade. However, the permanent increase was quite low when compared to ordinary god-grade ingredients. In other words, even though it evolved, it was considered lower-ranked among the god-grade ingredients. However, the taste was superb, so it was acceptable to Minhyuk.

'Now that I have eaten, I think it's time to take a nap.'

Just when he was about to log out, he received a whisper.

[Calauhel: Are you asleep...?]

"???"

Minhyuk tilted his head in confusion.

'What the hell? Why does this whisper sound like something a girl would receive from her ex-boyfriend?'

At first glance, it was clear that Calauhel was very bad at socializing.

[Minhyuk: Not yet sleeping.]

[Calauhel: Minhyukie, I wanted to see you so I'm thinking of going to Incheon Airport. Will it be fine...?]

"..."

It really did sound like messages sent by an ex-boyfriend who was going to his ex-girlfriend's house.

[Minhyuk: It's fine but I'm a bit sleepy now.]

[Calauhel: Is that so? Well, I'm still on my way now. So, just come to Incheon Airport when it's convenient for you. ^^;;]

[Minhyuk:...OK.]

For some reason, Minhyuk felt really uncomfortable.

"Why do I feel so uncomfortable?"

Incheon Airport.

It had been a while since Rausch's private plane landed at Incheon Airport. However, Rausch had told Minhyuk to come at his own pace since he was the one who went to visit on a whim.

[What should we do today?]

[I want to do something fun and interesting with you.]

[Shall we go and eat something yummy?]

[Is there something you want to try?]

Rausch repeatedly deleted and typed on his phone, thinking about the text he wanted to send to Minhyuk. He had never really played with friends, if his business relationships could even be considered 'friends'. Since he never had true and genuine friends, Rausch was very much socially awkward.

He leaned on his chair and waited for Minhyuk for a very long time. However, even after ten hours of waiting, Minhyuk did not come.

"Isn't he too late? The young master even personally came here."

"No." Rausch shook his head. "I made a very unexpected visit and did not even contact him before. Besides, I'm going to meet a friend. Is waiting ten hours really a waste?"

"..."

The butler was very surprised to see the small and faint smile on Rausch's face. Rausch was obviously a very important figure all over the world. In fact, the president of America had to go and personally receive him when he went to America for a sudden visit.

Minhyuk, who made Rausch wait for ten hours, was nothing short of amazing. And Rausch, in his adoration of Minhyuk, could be considered a saint with the patience he had. In fact, Rausch was willing to do anything and everything for Minhyuk.

'The young master's first friend.'

Helivert, the butler who had served Rausch since he was born, smiled happily when he saw the genuine excitement that flashed on his master's face.

After 15 hours of waiting, Minhyuk finally arrived at the airport.

"Hello. How have you been?"

"..."

Calauhel's style still sounded like an ex-boyfriend's greeting. Although Minhyuk felt very uncomfortable, he did not intend to slight Rausch, who came here from far away.

“It hasn’t been long since we parted ways. More than that, what did you ride to come here?”

“A private jet.” Rausch winked as he pointed at the magnificent plane that could be seen through the transparent wall of glass.

The size of Rausch’s private jet was several times larger than a regular private jet.

“You have a private jet? How much does one cost?”

“I think around 150 billion won?”

“...”

Minhyuk’s eyes grew wide. Even for someone like him, the son of the chairman of a large corporation, that amount was still very surprising.

“Wow, so jealous.”

Rausch turned to look at Minhyuk when he heard those words. Just like mentioned before, he truly wanted to do something, anything, for Minhyuk.

Rausch said, “Shall I buy you one?”

“...”

Minhyuk was taken aback when he heard Rausch’s offer. However, as someone who was inherently polite, Minhyuk did not like to hear such words, whether it was a joke or not.

“What are you talking about?”

Rausch realized that he had made a mistake when he saw Minhyuk’s face turn ugly.

‘Indeed. Did it truly make sense for someone to only buy their friend a private jet?’

“I made a mistake. Sorry.”

“That’s right. It does not matter how much. What do you mean by saying something like that about a private jet...”

“It would be more convenient for you if I bought you an airport.”

“...Huh?”

‘It should be an airport instead of just a private jet, right?’

“Helivert. Please check how much it would cost to build an airport. Also, check the price of about three helicopters and five private jets to keep inside the airport.”

“Yes, young master.”

“Do you like it, friend?”

Minhyuk was not someone who would get something like that from others. As a result, he did not know how to respond as well.

“Huh? Huh. Yeah...”

This was Minhyuk, who had a rich friend that could easily buy him an airport.

Chapter 794

A quadrillion is equivalent to a thousand trillion. A hundred million might be shabby when compared to such an amount, but it was already enough for someone to buy a house in the countryside.

If one had a billion, then they would be able to buy a decent apartment in Seoul. If they had ten billion, then they would be able to build a building in a good spot in Gangnam.

If someone had a trillion, then they could already be considered to be super rich. They could even own several supercars and buildings and live a life of luxury and leisure. A trillion was already enough to consider one wealthy; now imagine one having a thousand times of that. That was how much a quadrillion was worth.

When referring to public data, the Rothschild Family was known to possess assets and properties worth five quadrillions. According to the rough estimate of some experts, the Rothschild Family probably had assets above seven quadrillions in total.

Hence, when Rausch declared that he would build an airport, he truly meant it.

“What should we name the airport? What do you think about MinRa Airport?”

“What does MinRa mean in MinRa Airport?”

“I just combined the first few letters of Minhyuk and Rausch.”

“...” Minhyuk shook his head when he saw Rausch speak about building an airport as if it was a very trivial matter. “That’s enough. What good will it bring for me to have an airport?”

Although Minhyuk was infected by Rausch’s enthusiasm and felt excited about the prospect of having an airport, he knew that it was not a matter to be taken lightly.

‘What airport? It’s already funny to think that I was going to receive a private jet earlier.’

If an airport was truly built for Minhyuk, the impact would definitely be unusual.

“More than that, is there something that you want to do?”

“I want to go to a place that will help me see and experience Korea’s unique culture. I also want to try unique food and also do something fun with you.”

Now that Rausch had a friend, things like that suddenly felt fun and interesting for him.

Thankfully, he came at the perfect time. Today was the once-a-month outing day where Minhyuk was allowed to play and eat delicious food. Minhyuk thought for a moment. Then, excitement started to fill his eyes as he said, “I know of a good place.”

Rausch followed right after Minhyuk. As they continued to walk, the surroundings turned dark and a mysterious smell wafted at the tip of his nose.

‘Is this... a gambling den? I heard that Korea has Hwatu[1] and they’re very good at it... but does Minhyuk gamble?’ Rausch thought, his expression filled with confusion.

Clang~

When Minhyuk opened the door and entered the shop, the dazzling and colorful lights from hundreds of computers illuminated the darkness and greeted them.

“...”

“This is Korea’s PC Room.”

“PC Room? I know that. There are quite a lot of PC Rooms all over the world.”

Rausch could not hide his disappointment. Why did they come to this place called PC Room where plenty of low-class people mingled? Even though he was disappointed, he still sat in one of the booths. However, there was this unknown smell lingering on the tip of his nose.

‘What’s this? What’s this strong yet appetizing smell?’

When he turned his head to his side, he saw a young student with a headset on his ears eating ramyeon while playing a shooting game with his friends.

‘Ramyeon?’

Rausch had been running on an empty stomach for quite some time now. He could not help the rumbling from his stomach at the smell. On top of that, Korea was known as one of the ramyeon powerhouses in the world.

When Rausch clicked the mouse to browse the internet on the computer in front of him, he practically jumped up from his seat in shock.

“Heok...!”

“What’s the matter?”

“The, the internet...”

“???”

“How can it load in less than 0.3 seconds?!”

When it came to IT, South Korea was known as the top global powerhouse. Even if Rausch’s family was rich, there was no way that he could increase the speed of the internet in their house if their country’s own speed was only at that level.

“Fufufufu. What do you think? How’s Korea’s unique culture?”

“...”

Rausch slumped back in his seat in shock. That was when he saw Minhyuk click away busily on something on his screen.

‘What’s sotteok-sotteok? Cow[2] and rice cake? What in the world is it? Hmm? Chicken mayo? What’s this? Ho, samgyeopsal rice wrap? I think samgyeopsal is a very famous dish in Korea, right?’

He watched as Minhyuk kept on clicking on food on his computer.

“Our PC Rooms also serve dishes. The quality is as good as that of restaurants. Also, if you click on a few buttons, they will deliver it to your seat.”

“They will deliver the food to me? You only have to click a few buttons?”

“That’s right. How to say this, it’s similar to room service or something like that.”

“...!” Rausch was very surprised. ‘This is a state-of-the-art system...’

In order for someone to order room service in a hotel, they had to dial the phone and recite the menu that they wanted to order themselves. But in Korea, they would deliver the food directly to their seat after clicking on a few pictures and buttons on the screen?

While Rausch was busy appreciating Korea’s cutting-edge system, Minhyuk continued to click away. In fact, Minhyuk just wanted to eat the food in the PC Room.

‘Fufufufu. Eating delicious food while playing games in a PC Room is the best!’

“Here’s your order.”

Then, plenty of dishes were served one after another in front of the two of them.

“We will bring the food to you after they have been cooked. The total amount for your order is 187,000 won.”

Rausch was shocked once again. ‘From what I remember 187,000 won is roughly around 150 dollars, right? That’s quite cheap for this amount, and it’s even room service!’

Of course, whether it was 150 dollars or 1,500 dollars, it was nothing in Rausch’s eyes. When his eyes strayed to the table of dishes served in front of him, Rausch could not help but be in awe.

“Is this the samgyeopsal rice wrap?”

“That’s right.”

The staff was kind enough to put the rice, meat, garlic, and ssamjang into a wrap to make it easier for the people to eat while playing games. All they had to do was eat the dish as it was.

But that was not the only thing on Rausch’s table. There was also a bowl of ramyeon, sotteok-sotteok seasoned with spicy chicken sauce, and a chicken mayo rice bowl. Of course, the dishes on Minhyuk’s table were far more than those on Rausch’s table.

“Eat as much as you want, Rausch. This is a banquet prepared for you who came all the way here to Korea.”

“...”

Rausch was deeply moved. Minhyuk did not ask or talk to him about business. He was completely different from the other business acquaintances and friends that he met before. He was as normal as it could get.

‘A friend that I met to do fun and enjoyable things with.’

Minhyuk was the first friend that Rausch had ever made. He found their current situation to be very exciting and enjoyable.

Then, Minhyuk said, “To be honest...” He rubbed his hands in excitement. “After I got diagnosed with eating addiction, it has always been one of my small dreams to go to a PC Room and eat their dishes.”

Rausch listened silently to his friend.

“It might be something that was normal and ordinary for others but...”

If one looked around them, there were young friends, couples, middle-aged people around them. Regardless of their age or their gender, they were sitting here and clicking away on the computers in front of them.

“For someone like me, coming here often to play games and eat delicious food was something that had been beyond my reach. But now, I’m getting closer and closer to achieving it.”

Rausch looked at Minhyuk, his eyes filled with an endearing look, and said, “Everything will turn out well. I’m cheering for you.”

“Y, yeah... Th, thank you.”

Minhyuk immediately turned to his food to avoid Rausch’s burdensome gaze. In front of him was a table of delicious dishes.

“Eat the ramyeon first. Otherwise, it will get soggy,” Minhyuk said as he clamped a huge mouthful of the steaming ramyeon. He personally preferred to eat ramyeon in huge bites.

Sluuuuuuuuuuuurp!

The chewy noodles were enough to make anyone feel happy the moment they took a bite of their own ramyeon.

Sluuuuuuuuuuuurp!

After eating the noodles in big bites like that, Minhyuk grabbed the disposable bowl and drank the ramyeon soup inside.

“Kghhk...”

A small burst of admiration escaped from his mouth, before he dove into the stir-fried kimchi that he ordered along with the ramyeon.

Crunch, crunch—

A shiver ran down Minhyuk's spine when he took a bite of the delicious and well-made stir-fried kimchi. Then, he grabbed the straw inserted in his cold glass of coke that was filled with ice and took a sip.

Gulp, gulp, gulp—

After that, he pulled the chicken mayo rice bowl that was complete with a huge helping of chicken and topped with plenty of seaweed powder. He grabbed his spoon and carefully mixed the chicken mayo rice bowl.

Once everything had been mixed evenly, Minhyuk immediately scooped a huge mouthful of the chicken mayo in his mouth. The sweet and savory flavors of the chicken mayo rice bowl danced around in his mouth.

Crunch—

The chicken that was covered with its crispy-fried skin was all lean meat and juices inside. In just four bites, Minhyuk finished the entire bowl of chicken mayo rice bowl. When he felt like his throat was a bit dry, he grabbed the bowl of ramyeon and drank the remaining soup inside.

“Hiyaaa...” Minhyuk sighed in admiration and turned to look at another bowl of noodles in front of him.

The bowl of noodles was none other than chapagetti. The smell of chapagetti wafted all over the PC Room, which made the other customers press on the ‘order’ button.

“This PC Room's staff is very good.”

There was a perfectly fried egg placed on top of the chapagetti. When Minhyuk poked the egg with his chopsticks, the yolk immediately flowed down and covered the noodles beneath it. Then, he mixed everything together before taking a huge bite.

“Sluuuuuuuuuuuurp!”

The sound of someone slurping their noodles rang loudly amidst the clicking of the mouse and the clacking of mechanical keyboards inside the PC Room. The chapagetti was sweet and the seasonings had been mixed very well.

Sluuuuuuuuuuuurp!

Minhyuk then grabbed the two pieces of pickled radishes served with the dish and placed it in his mouth.

Crunch, crunch—

After eating like that, he turned to look to his side. There, he saw Rausch eating the dishes in front of him with awe and admiration flashing on his face.

“My god. I can't believe they wrapped it like this already for us to eat it easily.”

Then, Rausch placed the samgyeopsal rice wrap in his mouth. The garlic tasted a bit spicy in his mouth, but its flavor complemented the other flavors and made the dish even more delectable. After that, he turned his attention to the dish named sotteok-sotteok.

“What a unique name.”

Rausch remarked after smelling the dish a bit. As he took a bite, Minhyuk said, “When it comes to sotteok-sotteok, you have to eat the ham together with the rice cake.”

“Ah, is that so?”

Following what Minhyuk said, Rausch took a huge bite of the ham and the rice cake that was covered with the spicy chicken sauce.

“...!”

Rausch’s eyes grew wide in surprise. ‘My, my god...’

The rice cake, the ham, and the slightly sweet spicy chicken sauce met together and created a perfect harmony of flavors in his mouth. When he chewed, the ham complemented the rice cake that had been fried to a golden brown yet was still juicy and chewy on the inside.

“...”

A shudder ran down Rausch’s back. Minhyuk brought him here with no specific reason in mind. They came here purely to have fun.

‘A top-class hotel room-like service, super yummy Korean authentic dishes, and fast internet speed. This is really fun!’

Rausch wanted to repay Minhyuk for bringing him here. So, he approached the counter and said, “How much is this PC Room?”

“You have to pay 1,000 won per hour.”

“No, I mean the purchase price of the entire PC Room.”

“Around 400 million...?”

“I’ll buy it for four billion.”

“...?”

Rausch wanted to do anything, something, for Minhyuk. It was to the point that he was willing to buy the PC Room that he liked.

“Ah! You’re doing it again.”

However, that was not what Minhyuk wanted. To him, doing something like this was burdensome.

“Rausch. I did not meet you because I wanted something from you. Ah, it seems like you still don’t know much about the meaning of the word ‘friend’, huh?”

That was right. Rausch truly did not know much about it. He thought that it would be fine and they would like it if he bought his friends expensive things. After all, Rausch had been surrounded by greedy people from a very young age.

“Friends are people that will stay by your side, encourage you, give you strength and have fun with you. Understand? All you have to do is stay by my side, like that. But what are you trying to do? Do you not want to come and see me anymore?”

“...”

Rausch realized something after hearing those words. “Is it enough if I just stay by your side?”

“That’s right.”

“I don’t have to buy you cars or expensive luxury items?”

Minhyuk nodded. Rausch finally realized the true meaning of the word friend. Just like that, Rausch played and had fun with Minhyuk in the PC Room. And on his way back, Minhyuk went to see him in the airport.

“Come visit me again next time, Rausch.”

Minhyuk did not hate Rausch either, especially since he had treated him kindly and with grace. Rausch had a small smile on his face as he entered his private jet.

“It looks like you had fun.”

“Yes. I’ve also made a firm decision.”

Then, Rausch’s plane took off.

Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s conference room.

All of the executives of the kingdom, with the exception of Minhyuk, had gathered inside the conference room. It was not because they did not want Minhyuk to be here, it was because he had logged out to get some rest. Also, there was something that Haze wanted to discuss with them without Minhyuk.

“So, you’re saying that our situation is much worse than we expected?”

“That’s right. After the recent fiasco with the kings and our choice to abandon them, several kingdoms had and cut off their deals and businesses with us. Of course, the kingdoms that wanted to join us have been supporting us but there are obvious limitations to this. The areas where we can grow financially are facing restrictions and limitations.”

“Is the money that we raised together with Minhyuk not enough?”

“The more migrants we have, the more funds we need to settle them down. Of course, this fund will come back to us in the form of tax. However, if things continue at this rate, we can expect our treasury to be tight in just two years.”

They certainly did not have anything to say about Minhyuk abandoning and cutting off those kings. They did not need to nor plan to drag those kings that did not want to be with the Beyond the Heavens anyway. Besides, the kingdoms that truly wanted to be with them had already subordinated themselves to Minhyuk and had pledged their allegiance to his throne.

However, the problem was that if things went on at this rate, then the Beyond the Heavens would be faced with great financial troubles.

“What’s the quickest solution to this problem?”

“War. We have to wage war and absorb other kingdoms.”

Everyone turned silent. War was not an easy topic to discuss. If the opponent was the one that attacked first, then it would be alright. But if they waged war to loot other kingdoms, then their image would become unfavorable.

“We don’t have any other options to solve this problem. How about asking His Majesty to prepare for war right away?”

War might not be good, but Haze knew that there was no other way. The executives could only groan. Just then, something unexpected happened.

“Huh?” Genie looked confused. She received a whisper from a completely unexpected person.

“Wait.”

Just when Genie said those words, someone from the outside urgently shouted, “Rothschilde Kingdom’s King Calauhel has arrived!”

Haze, together with all of the executives, hurried outside. Haze was aware that Minhyuk had been with Calauhel in the Tomb of the Kings.

‘Don’t tell me... are they going to wage war?’

Well, that would be good for them. After all, the Rothschilde Kingdom was known for their financial power that could rival that of an empire. However, that was only the case because Calauhel had a lot of money.

When they finally climbed the walls, Haze saw Calauhel leading his elite troops. There was a strange tension and anxiety in the air. Even the Beyond the Heavens’ soldiers were nervous.

“Can you please convey this to your king?”

Calauhel looked around with a small smile on his face. He had already finished the conversation with the executives of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

“From this day forward, the Rothschilde Kingdom wishes to be under the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom’s rule.”

“...!”

“...!”

Everyone was surprised.

‘Just like you said, friends only needed to stay by each other’s sides to enjoy and have fun together. It’s already good like that.’

That was what Calauhel wanted to fulfill.

“Please receive this as a small gesture of my sincerity.”

[The Rothschild Kingdom is giving 2,000,000 platinum as a gift to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!]

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

Two million platinum was enough money to buy a small kingdom on the spot. It was a huge amount of money that could only be earned if one killed at least a monster at the level of the Six Monster Gods.

Haze and the executives stepped forward, and with her most solemn expression, Haze said, “Welcome.”

Chapter 795

Someone was looking at another with his chin on his hand, and a very serious expression on his face. His expression was so solemn that no one else was willing to break his trance. This distressed character was none other than the baby piggy, Beanie.

“Oiiiiink. Oink, oink. Oiiiiink!” What’s going on? Oink!

Beanie could not understand. The reason why this baby piggy the size of a fist was in distress, was due to the other party in front of him.

“Kihyeeee?”

Luna’s eyes were big and round enough to cover almost half of her face. She, who was even larger than Beanie, looked at the baby piggy with her eyes wide open and filled with confusion.

“Kihyeeee?”

Luna presses her paw on Beanie’s bulging belly, the smooth and tender belly going down along with her movements.

“Oiiiiink. Oink, oink!” That’s quite rude, oink!

“Kihyeeee! Kihyeeee!”

Beanie watched as Luna flew around happily. The thing that Beanie was concerned about was ‘Luna’s Growth’. It had been years since Luna came to the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. However, Luna’s physical growth had reached a standstill. In fact, she still looked like a hatchling.

‘She also doesn’t seem to have become smarter. Oink!’

Beanie hummed as he looked at Luna with worry in his eyes.

‘This child is going to become the Dragon Lord, right?’

“Kihyeee...”

Then, Luna, who was flying happily around, suddenly fell down on the bed. It was as if she had lost the strength in her body.

“Oink. Oiiink. Oink, oink.”

Beanie immediately began to massage Luna’s body. She had told him before that her body had been feeling stiff recently. Suddenly, the door opened, and a man entered the room.

“Fufu. Is she suffering from growing pains? It seems like she’s taking on the pain of becoming a king, no?” The guy, Black Dragon, said as he gently rubbed Luna’s head.

“Oiiiiink?” What do you mean? Oink?

Beanie had been searching for the reason behind Luna’s stagnant growth. The one that helped him was none other than Black Dragon.

“From what I read, there were a few Dragon Lord Candidates who suffered from growing pains while they were still baby dragons. And according to the text, only an adult dragon could relieve the growing pains of the baby dragon.”

“Oiiiiiiiink. Oink, oink.”

Beanie needed more information.

“However, if this growing pain does not stop then...”

Beanie immediately blocked Luna’s ears so she could not hear what Black Dragon was about to say.

“Kihyeeeeeeee?”

“She wouldn’t die. She just would stop growing.”

“Oiiiiiiiink...”

Beanie sighed with relief.

“However, from what I gathered, the growth of her Mana Heart will be affected if we don’t alleviate her growing pains as soon as possible. So, I think it’s better that we find a solution as fast as we can.”

A way for Luna to meet other dragons might not be as difficult as they thought. After all, Dragon Elder Belluc had a favorable impression of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. In addition, he had told Beanie, who was caring for Luna, to come and visit them at least once.

Beanie immediately rushed out to find someone to accompany them. However, the entire Beyond the Heavens Kingdom was very busy with the Rothschilde Kingdom, who appeared in their territory.

Haze and the executives were all in the middle of a meeting too. Brod led the knights on a three-day training camp, while Spear God Ben was busy training the soldiers that remained in the kingdom. Elpis was also busy trying to recruit players who would transition and change their race to the demon race.

“Oiiiiiiiink...!”

Beanie grumbled. If Beanie were to be honest, he had been quite upset with Minhyuk and the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom lately.

‘Bastard Master does not even call for me, oink!’

Of course, Minhyuk always called for him whenever he was going to eat something. However, when it came to fighting or some other things, Minhyuk did not call for him. He just let him live however he wanted in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

After all, Beanie was the one who confidently declared that he would take care of Luna. However, he still could not stop the feeling of disappointment that welled up in him. In fact, Beanie could faintly sense that he was now infinitely weaker compared to the other people who surrounded Minhyuk. Perhaps that was the reason for his unsettled heart.

‘If I can deal with Luna’s growing pains, then perhaps they would see me as someone great and imposing. Oink!’

Beanie thought that it was a good idea. So, he prepared to leave. The man who watched everything happen decided to go together with him.

“Fufufufu! I can’t believe that I will participate as a knight who will help the growth of the future king. The dragons in my right arm are already going berserk!”

“Oiiiiiiiink! Oink, oink! Oiiiiiiiink. (Do you think there’s someone who can stop this Supreme Divine Beast? Don’t worry. Luna. I will definitely let you grow and become a great king. Oiiiiiiiink!)”

Luna could only sigh when she saw Black Dragon and Beanie smile viciously like that.

“Kihyeeeeee...”

Luna vowed that she would take good care of her uncles.

[The Rothsilde Kingdom requested to be under the rule of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom!]

The executives of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were in awe. They did not know how Minhyuk was able to win Calauhel’s heart. However, there was one thing that they were certain of. By absorbing the Rothsilde Kingdom, the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had grown one step closer to becoming an empire.

Then, suddenly, someone said, “Is Minhyuk stronger than Sword Emperor Ellie now?”

Sword Emperor Ellie was a special existence among the emperors. In her case, she abandoned the position of the Sword God’s Descendant to become an emperor. However, just because she did not become a Sword God did not mean that she was not strong. After all, not many people were strong enough to stand at the position of the Sword God.

No one could judge which was which. Some thought that Sword Emperor Ellie would be stronger, while others thought that Minhyuk would be stronger.

“Then, what about Nerva?”

According to Brod, Nerva had strength that was on par with, or perhaps even greater than, the power that he could wield. These words raised the question of whether they could compete and fight against the Luvien Empire once they became the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

That was when they suddenly realized something.

“I don’t know, though?”

“Who knows...”

“Then, are you saying that he’s going to lose against Nerva?”

Minhyuk carried plenty of variables that Nerva did not have in his arsenal. Also, Beyond the Heavens Kingdom becoming the Beyond the Heavens Empire was still a matter that would take years before it could come to fruition. If they looked at the rate at which they grew right now, it was quite hard to predict what would happen in the future.

Hence, the question remained.

“Then, is Minhyuk strong enough to overwhelm all of us?”

“...”

“...”

“...”

No one could easily answer the question. Everyone here were executives and powerhouses of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Among them was an Absolute Demigod class, a descendant of the God of Magic, and the master of the kingdom of death. They also had Bread Shuttle Mei Wei, who once was the global number one ranker. Basically, each and every single one of them was strong enough to stand in the global top 100 players.

“Who knows? How about asking for a spar?” Emperor of the Swords Carr asked. His will burned bright.

Any player would wish to compete with the one standing at the top. That was especially the case for high rankers. Also, those in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were all talents in their own fields and had come here through various methods and proposals. Basically, each and every single one of them came here because they liked Minhyuk and the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. Their belief and faith in him and his kingdom were admirable. Of course, it was also very important for them to know how strong Minhyuk was.

Besides, the executives were also growing stronger by the day. So, they wanted to test their powers. Each and every single one of the people, except for the NPCs, harbored the same idea. They wanted to compete with Minhyuk with their own power.

[Guild Master Minhyuk has logged in.]

Haze could only support her forehead when she saw the executives look at each other after hearing the notifications.

‘I already knew that this would happen someday but...’

The Beyond the Heavens Kingdom had become a gathering place for the world’s strongest. It was only natural that they were itching to fight against each other. Of course, they did not harbor any ill will. They just purely wanted to test the limits of their power.

“Hi, guys. Did I hear that correctly? Rothschild Kingdom has come under our command?”

Minhyuk, who entered the conference room where the executives gathered immediately after he logged in, paused when he felt the strange atmosphere in the room.

“...What’s wrong with you?”

Minhyuk saw everyone’s eyes turn to look at him. Then, Carr stood up and stepped forward. He said, “Minhyuk, I have been curious since a long time ago. What would be the result if we fought?”

Ali also took a step forward. “Aren’t you curious too, Minhyuk? About how strong you have become?”

Even his girlfriend, who was also one of his rivals inside the game, Genie, smiled and said, “Darling~ We can definitely satisfy your curiosity.”

“N, no. I’m not really that curious...”

Minhyuk was a bit flustered. He also knew that this day would come. It was not necessarily considered bad behavior. In fact, various kingdoms would often hold competition among their guild members on a regular basis.

‘However, that’s a 1:1 fight. Why is it 1:10 when my turn comes...?’

Of course, they did not have any guarantee that they could win against Minhyuk in a 1:1 fight. However, Minhyuk did not agree so easily. He thought about a lot of things.

‘Will the desire to grow more after they fight me?’

Or...

‘...Will they suffer setbacks because they will feel frustrated?’

If he won, which side would they tip over? Also...

‘Can I really win against all of them?’

So far, all of the victories that Minhyuk had obtained had some sort of anomaly. There were times when he had eaten God-grade dishes and had received the help of NPCs. Of course, there were also times when he received the help of his powerful guild members. He could not guarantee that he would win against them without any doubt.

“We are very curious.” Asura Ascar stepped forward too.

Actually, everyone here thought that they could beat Minhyuk if they gave it their all. It was a possible scenario. After all, Minhyuk was not a Named Boss Monster. He was a player, and he had a limited amount of HP. Even his recovery rate was definitely not that great.

The players obviously had limits. They might be able to deal a huge amount of damage, but their recovery rate and defensive power were limited.

[Player Carr has applied for an official PVP.]

[You will not receive any penalty if you are forced to log out during an official PVP.]

[Player Ascar...official PVP.]

[Player Ali...official PVP.]

[Player Death...]

[Player Genie...]

The notifications for PVP applications rang constantly in Minhyuk's ears.

"Minhyuk." Carr pulled out his sword. "I know why you're trying to avoid this, trying to avoid us. But do you think that you're really doing it for us?"

"..."

Minhyuk turned silent. What if they were helpless and they lost to him? Would they be sad? Would they feel fear? Would they feel helpless? Would they run? However, he also found it to be quite funny.

[One of the Absolute Gods that has never been seen before, the God of Comrades, has appeared for the first time!]

[The God of Comrades has been watching you, the Beyond the Heavens King, and your comrades that trust and follow you.]

[The camaraderie and friendship between you and your friends and comrades are very special. Because of that, the God of Comrades thinks of the bond between you and your comrades as something more special.]

[The God of Comrades is giving you a piece of advice. It might be better for you to confront them than to avoid them.]

[The God of Comrades suggests a bet. Win the battle against your comrades.]

[God's Bet: Win in a Battle Against Your Comrades.]

[If you accept, the God of Comrades will use his power to create a barrier that will completely prevent any aftermath brought about by your battle from affecting the outside.]

Minhyuk was actually still unsure. However, Carr's words and the advice of the God of Comrades, who had been watching him for a long time, were quite similar. In the end, avoiding this PVP was not the answer.

"Agree to everything."

[The PVP with Player Carr has started!]

[The PVP with Player Genie...]

[The PVP with Player Death...]

At the same time, a huge transparent barrier covered and cordoned the entire area where they were. As for the people and players not involved with the PVP, they were all pushed out of the barrier.

“I’m sorry, Minhyuk. But I have also grown tremendously.” Carr smirked.

God classes would always be able to gain a stronger power every time they increased their levels even for a bit. Carr was a genius, on top of being a high ranker, which allowed him to grow more every time he leveled up. His specialty was ‘Quick Draw’, which had grown a few steps further than before.

“God Slashing Quick Draw.”

The moment he triggered his skill, it devoured a 50-meter radius area. This skill was Carr’s one-shot-kill skill, a skill that could ignore 80% of his opponent’s defenses and deal 40% additional damage.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

The half moon created from his quick draw shot out and devoured the surrounding area. At that moment, everyone knew that they had to give it their all.

“Keuhehehehehehehehehehehe!”

“Kihehehehehehehehehehehe!”

“Kihihihihihihihik!”

With a wave of the staff in his hands, hundreds of undead fell down from the sky and followed Death’s command. A thick cloud of dust bloomed as the undead landed.

“Corpse Explosion.”

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—!

“Don’t go too far ahead. Get your blessings from me first.” Mei Wei said as she stretched her hand out to the sky as several swords appeared from the sky and stopped above the heads of all of the guild members inside the barrier.

[Valkyrie’s Sword]

[All of your attack power has increased by 20%.]

[Your skill cooldown time has dropped by 25%.]

[Your critical hit rate has increased by 40%.]

They moved immediately after that.

Golden Mage Ali had also grown. He had now grown closer to becoming the God of Magic. The same was true for his special skill, Diss, originally a skill that could only be summoned one after another. However, he recently learned a new magic. That magic was none other than ‘Replicate’.

Replicate was a magic that could replicate another skill a dozen or more times in exchange for consuming double the amount of mana for every casting.

“Diss.”

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

Golden spears that had been replicated several times shot toward Minhyuk through the thick cloud of dust.

“Blood Explosion.”

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

Non-stop explosions eventually reached their enemy. Blood Explosion was a brutal skill with 6,400% additional damage and could easily kill the opponent.

Everyone held their breath. Then, Golden Mage Ali used ‘Wind’ to clear the thick cloud of dust that surrounded them.

Minhyuk’s figure appeared in front of them. There was a faint silver barrier shining over his body. This was the seven-second barrier that could make him absolutely invisible against all attacks created by one of his skills, Absolute Defense.

“Is it already over?”

At the same time, the power of the ‘Sword of Absolute Death’ burst out of Minhyuk’s sword.

Chapter 796

Munch, munch—

When watching an exciting movie, something fun, or just a good show, there was a snack that everyone loved to munch on. It was none other than popcorn, which was usually sold in movie theaters.

Employee Lee Minhwa had run to the ‘Mega Box’ movie theater during lunch time to buy some, after feeling an intense craving for it. She bought a large bucket of the half-and-half combi popcorn, with her favorite onion and caramel flavors.

On her screen, the Beyond the Heavens King Food God was fighting an intense and fiery battle against the executives of the kingdom.

Crunch—

The moment Lee Minhwa pushed the caramel popcorn into her mouth, she felt the texture, which was crunchier than regular popcorn, bloom. Lee Minhwa personally believed that it was tastier if one ate the popcorn by the handfuls. and not one by one.

She crammed a handful of popcorn in her mouth before sipping the coke that she bought along with her bucket. The carbonate in the drink made her throat tingle.

This time, Lee Minhwa tried the onion flavor. Just like before, she ate it by the handful. Unlike the crunchier caramel popcorn, the onion popcorn had a more mellow crunch. For her, this was the perfect combination of ‘sweet and salty’.

“...”

Munch, munch—

Team Leader Park Minggyu shook his head when he saw Lee Minhwa eat her popcorn like that.

“By the way, Team Leader. Don’t you think that it’s a bit unexpected?”

“What is?”

“I’m talking about the appearance of the God of Comrades.”

In fact, Team Leader Park was surprised by the sudden and very unexpected appearance of the God of Comrades. Although the God of Comrades was one of the Absolute Gods, he was among the cautious ones that up until now, had not made an appearance.

“The God of Comrades has been watching Minhyuk and the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.”

To be exact, he was watching Minhyuk. After all, Minhyuk had the power to attract people and a heart that cared for and cherished his comrades.

“From what has been revealed so far, does that mean that the God of Comrades has judged that this process is necessary for the growth among these comrades?”

“Perhaps that’s true. Even if they’re comrades and friends, determining who’s stronger is still necessary. How they would change after going through this situation is what’s important.”

People were seldom broad-minded and open in their way of thinking. In fact, it did not matter how close people were, once they lost, they would feel frustration. As for those that were more narrow-minded, it would probably even result in ‘hate’, ‘envy’ and ‘jealousy’ toward Minhyuk.

It seemed like the God of Comrades was very curious about what would happen to the people of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom after this.

“If they satisfy the God of Comrades, then they would be able to receive huge rewards, right?”

“That’s right.” Team Leader Park nodded.

The rewards that the God of Comrades gave out tend to increase when he was satisfied.

“They might also receive a reward that would allow all of them to grow even further.”

Lee Minhwa was lost in thought after hearing those words.

‘Let’s wipe the onion powder off of my mouth first before thinking...’

Then, she asked, “By the way, who do you think will win? Will it be the Food God or the Beyond the Heavens’ executives?”

Park Minggyu just shrugged his shoulders. “Who knows? I don’t know either.”

Everyone groaned slightly when they saw the silver barrier that shone brightly and covered Minhyuk’s entire body.

‘He has a skill like that...?’

‘What skill is that?’

Minhyuk did not tell anyone about the barrier skill, ‘Absolute Defense’, attached to the Forgotten Monarch’s Crown. It was natural, after all, it did not matter if they were his closest friends or not, he never felt the need to brag about the new artifacts and abilities that he had obtained.

However, the thing that surprised the executives the most was the fact that the barrier was not the typical dome-like barrier. It clung to Minhyuk’s skin as if it was wrapped around him.

All of the people here were high rankers, and were very quick-witted.

‘No way...!’

‘Are you telling me that he can attack even though he has a barrier on him?!’

The thing that they hoped to be untrue had now turned into reality. Minhyuk mumbled under his breath.

‘Like the Wind.’

Then, as he moved to cover several meters swiftly, he swung his sword and released the power of the ‘Sword of Absolute Death.’

[Sword of Absolute Death]

[Hundreds of lightning swords with additional 7,000% attack will fall down from the sky and strike 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.]

Lightning swords with 7,000% additional attack fell and hit all of Minhyuk’s opponents within a twenty meter radius accurately. Everyone turned nervous. How much damage would they receive from Minhyuk's AOE skills? Would it eat around 15~25% of their HP?

Baaaaaaaang—

[Your HP has dropped below 65%!]

“Keheoook?!” Carr choked in surprise. The damage that they received was completely ridiculous. It was supposed to be an AOE skill, but the damage was comparable to that of a high ranker’s lethal skill. The other executives were also left in a dazed and confused state. That was especially the case for Ali and Death. They were the ones that had been hit hardest by the attack earlier.

[Your HP has dropped below 25%!]

Mages and necromancers generally had lower HP compared to others. Fortunately, it was offset by the fact that they had higher magical defenses compared to other close combat classes. At that moment, they came to a realization.

‘What will happen if we get struck by Lightning after getting hit by the Sword of Absolute Death?’

‘What the hell? Are we going to get wiped out?’

There was a chance that they could get wiped out like that. Of course, some of them would probably be able to survive if they activated their special skills. However, they still thought that Minhyuk had already gone too far ahead of them. Right in front of their eyes, the lightning swords were about to run rampant and cut them down indiscriminately.

Clench—

“Compress.”

All of the executives were pulled to where Ali was as he cast a huge golden barrier around them. Taking this opportunity, Mei Wei, who could act as both a buff specialist and a dealer, cast her healing and recovery skills over the group.

[Valkyrie’s Wings.]

[The wings made of light will heal and recover your wound by 35~65%.]

Flaaaaaash—

The wings of light fell down from the sky and were absorbed in their bodies. They might not be able to launch any attacks while they were inside the barrier, but they could still do other things inside, just like how Minhyuk would hide inside his barrier to cook.

A strange tension lingered in the air as all of the lightning swords disappeared.

‘Defeating this many people with varying powers and strength is definitely not an easy task,’ Minhyuk thought. After all, they were all top rankers in their own respective fields. Also, unlike him, the executives would often go out together and hunt. Their teamwork was fantastic.

‘I shouldn’t be bothered too much about this.’

On the other hand, Minhyuk could not go with them as he had far too many things on his plate. At this juncture, Minhyuk might be nervous, but the same was true for all of the executives.

‘What kind of AOE is that? It can deal as much damage as a Named Boss Monster’s AOE.’

‘If we get too careless and get hit by that, we’ll probably immediately die if we get hit by a basic attack right after. Right?’

Still, they felt like they were the ones at an advantage at this moment. Minhyuk’s skills obviously had limits and restrictions, while their group had more than ten people. Then, the barrier melted away. Both sides were exchanging nervous looks.

“Kingdom of Death. Summon Baroque. Summon Andrana. Summon Broicht.
Summon Paruino. Summon Kruna. Summon. Summon. Summon.”

Crack, crack, crack—!

Dozens of blue death knights appeared as a huge kingdom rose from the ground and engulfed the area where the barrier was before, creating another barrier of sorts. Blue death knights were existences that were on the same level as legends for necromancers.

“Please give your orders!”

The levels of each and every single one of the blue death knights easily exceeded Level 500. However, that was not the end. Thousands of undead also appeared and surrounded the death knights as they charged forward.

Death sat on top of a bone dragon and charged forward with his army. Golden Mage Ali, who was sitting on his divine beast Predatory Snake, also charged forward with him.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—!

Hundreds of 1st~2nd class magic appeared around Ali and shot toward Minhyuk. However, just because they were 1st~2nd class magic did not mean that they could be ignored. Ali stood at the pinnacle of the mage players. Even some Level 500 monsters would perish under the onslaught of his 1st~2nd class magic bombings.

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—!

Minhyuk grabbed his sword tightly as he looked at the rain of magic attacks and the undead protecting the executives behind them. Then, he leapt to the sky. At the same time, the magic attacks slammed into his body.

[Steel Skin.]

[Physical and magical defenses have tripled.]

[Your HP has fallen below 90%.]

[Your HP has fallen below 89%.]

‘As expected, they are dealing a lot of damage.’

That was true. For a top ranker like Minhyuk, who had Steel Skin activated, the fact that 1st~2nd class magic could shave off 1~2% of his HP meant that the total damage dealt was still substantial. Then, he pointed his sword below, slamming it into the undead below him.

[Continent Destroyer]

[The moment the sword gets stabbed into the ground, everyone within a 35 meter radius will incur an additional 500% damage from powerful shockwaves.]

[Lava will rise five meters from the ground and cause an additional 1,600% damage to anyone that it touches and will continuously incur additional 100% damage.]

Crackleeeee—!

The ground twisted and turned, devouring and melting the undead as lava shot up from the ground and reached a height of five meters. With the additional 1,600% attack, the undead turned into black ashes.

[Food God's Swordsmanship.]

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

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

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

[The skill duration is eight minutes.]

Minhyuk did not stop there. He quickly triggered his buff skill.

“Stormy.”

Bzzt, bzzt—

A single sword with an ego created hundreds of sword blades that swept and cut down the undead. Death's expression turned ugly when he saw his undead get easily swept away.

Then, at that moment, two rankers who had hidden among the undead crept toward Minhyuk. They were none other than Carr and Khan. Both men were hailed as the dealers of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

“Emperor's Stab.”

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

A gigantic wave erupted from Carr's sword as he stabbed toward Minhyuk's vital point. Originally, such an attack would be blocked by the armor on Minhyuk's body. However, the attack went through thanks to the influence of the 'ignore all defenses' attached to the skill.

Staaaaaaaaab—!

[Your vital point has been stabbed!]

[Your HP has dropped below 56%!]

Even Minhyuk was shocked at the huge amount of damage that he received. Just when he was about to launch a counter, Khan appeared right below his vision.

“Giant King's Uppercut.”

Baaaaaaaaaang—

‘Giant King's Uppercut’ had changed after Khan reached Level 550.

“Kghhk!”

Minhyuk was sent flying upward by the punch. At the same time, he saw his HP fall below 40%.

‘Everyone has truly grown tremendously.’

He was quite happy to know that he was not the only one that grew. The fact that his comrades had grown stronger was a cause for celebration. Seeing him fly upward, Carr immediately leapt to the sky and followed right behind him.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Carr's shining sword immediately went back to its sheath.

"Quick Draw."

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—!

Seven consecutive crescent sword lights flew and slashed Minhyuk. At the same time, the image of Khan's arm appeared beneath him and connected.

"Giant King's Consecutive Attacks."

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

The fists, which could swing six times every second, swung at Minhyuk for three straight seconds at a fierce speed.

[Your HP has dropped below 30%.]

[Your HP has dropped below 28%.]

[Your HP...below 26%.]

However, the attacks were not over yet. Death's staff suddenly transformed and turned into a scythe.

"Death Scythe," Death murmured as several blue death knights got sucked into the blade of the scythe.

This was Death's close combat skill, and it could only be swung once. However, it could deal an attack with an additional 23,000% attack.

Unfortunately, due to Death not being a close combat player, his normal damage was too low. Even so, a 23,000% additional attack was more than enough to compensate for that.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

The Death Scythe sliced Minhyuk's body.

[Your HP has dropped below 11%!]

[Danger!]

They could do it. They could knock down the existence standing at the top. Carr, Khan and Death shuddered at the thought. They wanted to reach such heights too. They wanted to compete with him and win at least once.

Minhyuk had become their driving force, their motivation. His existence allowed them to grow even further. They might be able to win, even if they fought him as a group, it would be a win nonetheless. Their victory was almost at hand. Carr just needed to trigger his skill and strike him with this.

Bzzt, bzzt, bzzt—

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

The three froze in place when they saw the spark dancing around Minhyuk’s blade. They knew what that was. It was the power of the ‘Sword of Absolute Death.’

“He has Save!!!”

Indeed. Minhyuk had the skill ‘Save’ in his arsenal. In the case of the skill ‘Save’, the user could save their skill and use it once without caring about its cooldown.

“Sword of Absolute Death.”

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

Lightning swords fell down from the sky and rained on the heads of the three people in front of Minhyuk.

All of the executives stood frozen as they watched the downpour of lightning swords fall down from the sky.

Slash—

Minhyuk cut them down one after another after they had fallen into a stunned state.

[PVP Party Member Carr has been forced to log out.]

[PVP Party Member Death has been forced to log out.]

[PVP Party Member Khan has been forced to log out.]

“...”

“...”

“...”

Silence enveloped the entire area.

Chapter 797

Carr, Khan and Death were figures that the entire world recognized as top-level high rankers.

Death, in particular, was evaluated as someone that could go toe-to-toe with Minhyuk. He could summon hundreds of thousands of his undead corps. He also had the power to call and command blue death knights and powerful liches. When it came to group matches, Death completely triumphed over Minhyuk. However, this was not a group match, but a PVP. Necromancers were the most vulnerable class when it came to PVP matches.

Silence engulfed the entire area after the three were forced to log out.

‘That was dangerous.’

Minhyuk's arm trembled lightly. If the 'Sword of Absolute Death' was triggered just 0.7 seconds later, then it would not be them that was forced to log out, but him.

Blood beads rose from the bodies of Carr, Khan and Death. The amount of HP that Minhyuk was able to recover was dependent on the amount of damage that had been dealt. After that, Minhyuk took out some choco pie from his inventory and used 'Absorption Conversion' to restore huge amounts of his HP.

"Only through this would things be set straight. Especially when it comes to the king that leads us." The one that spoke was none other than Golden Mage Ali.

Did a king need to be strong? Well, that was not necessary. However, for the players, their king must be strong. This was so the other players could not ignore them. It was also to ensure that the NPCs would not discriminate against them.

There was both a strange sense of satisfaction and bitterness that welled up in all of the executives' hearts. However, they did not have the luxury to think about it. They knew that they could not afford to give Minhyuk a break.

[God of Magic's Descendant.]

[Your magic casting time has been reduced by 50%.]

[Your magic damage has increased by 40%.]

[The radius of effect of various attack magics has increased by 15%.]

[Your magic attack speed has increased by 20%.]

[The amount of mana consumed with every casting has been doubled.]

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—

Golden Mage Ali's eyes slowly started to turn gold as a huge wave of magic spread from his body. At the same time, cracks appeared on the ground beneath him. Everyone realized that they had to squeeze out everything they had and pour all into this fight.

"Firestorm! Fire Wall!"

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaa—

Crackleeee—

A raging storm of fire and a gigantic wall of fire appeared and blocked Minhyuk's view.

"Ugh..." Minhyuk groaned lightly.

The damage that Ali's magic could inflict was at a level where other mages could only dream to have.

That was when Minhyuk realized something, 'These punks are still...'

They were still not at Level 600.

'What will happen if they reach Level 600?'

Among them, Minhyuk was the only one that had gone beyond Level 600 and had received various privileges. From what he had gathered, there were some classes that would receive far more special rewards once they reached Level 600.

In Minhyuk's case, he was able to receive the title 'First One to Achieve Level 600' as a benefit for his God class subclass. On the other hand, what if one of his classes got strengthened?

'Aside from now, there's no other time where I can win against them.'

Minhyuk made a firm decision.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—

Ali's magic attacks rained down and created a sea of flames.

[Asura's Realm has unfolded.]

[All of your stats will be reduced by 20%. Your movements will be restricted.]

[Asura's overwhelming power is restricting you.]

[Your attack success rate, physical and magical defense have decreased by 30%.]

The bloody red greatsword that was wrapped with buddhist beads was stabbed straight into the ground. At the same time, bloody red energy began to spread out.

[You have an invincible body that can ignore and resist all kinds of abnormal states.]

With Minhyuk's Invincible Body, he could easily resist these debuffs. However, Asura's Realm was a skill that could debuff the opponent while buffing the skill user at the same time. To be honest, the person that Minhyuk was most wary of was Asura. Ascar ran through the flames and swung her greatsword at Minhyuk.

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

[Your HP has dropped below 63%.]

[Your HP has dropped below 62%...]

[Your HP has dropped below 61%...]

Minhyuk's total HP had been cut down by 0.5% with every basic attack from Asura Ascar. That was not all, Ascar also had a passive skill called 'Six Blows'. This skill came to be because the original Asura was a being with six arms. In other words, Asura Ascar's one hit would turn into six hits that could easily cut off 3% of Minhyuk's HP. This was only the basic attack.

'Crazy...'

On top of all that was going on, Ascar's speed had also increased tremendously.

"Blood Explosion's Greatsword."

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaang—!

Ascar triggered the Blood Explosion's Greatsword, an attack skill that could trigger explosions for two straight minutes and devour an entire three meter radius area, dealing additional 600% attack damage.

Baaaaaaang—

Even if Minhyuk blocked the attack with his sword, the explosions were still triggered.

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

Minhyuk was forced to take a few steps back from the series of explosions. Seeing this, Ascar could only smile bitterly.

‘I gained this power to protect you from danger.’

This was Ascar’s reason for gaining power and strength. She wanted to show off the power that she had gained, to the person that she wanted to protect. Then, Ascar tried to trigger the ‘Blood Explosion’s Great Bombardment’, an overpowered skill that could deal 8,000% additional damage to a single target upon triggering.

“It’s ov...”

However, before she could finish casting her skill, Minhyuk had already cut down Ascar and went past her.

[Sword of Carnage]

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

[The opponent cut down 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, stab—!

Blood spurted out all over Ascar’s body. A single attack was enough to decrease her HP at a rapid rate until it became zero. In the end, she could only end her words with great difficulty, her body falling in a heap.

“...er?”

Thud—

[PVP Party Member Ascar has been forced to log out.]

Minhyuk had been deliberately holding off on using the Sword of Carnage. This was a plan purely made to deal with Asura Ascar.

Each and every single class had their own advantages and disadvantages. Asura might be considered to be a class with the highest damage dealt, but it also had a lower HP and defense compared to other close combat classes.

Swoosh—

Locke threw his huge axe toward Minhyuk as he looked at the disappearing Ascar with a bitter smile. Genie did not let the opportunity go to waste, swinging her flaming whip and creating dozens of afterimages as she tried to pierce through Minhyuk’s defenses.

Ali joined in the fray, using Blink magic efficiently and appearing through the blazing flames and casting dozens, if not more, of AOE magic attacks to try and bombard Minhyuk. There was also

Valkyrie Mei Wei. Dozens of swords made of light appeared around her and shot straight toward him.

Minhyuk had only been careless enough to reveal a gap for a split second. However, befitting of their title as one of the high rankers, they took advantage of that slight gap.

When the attacks that were directed at Minhyuk were almost at his nose, He tried to cast the barrier of his skill 'Let's Have a Meal.' However, Mei Wei, who had been preparing to cast a debuff before she even attacked, sent the debuff toward Minhyuk.

[The Restricted One's Steps.]

[Active Defensive Skills will be unable for two minutes.]

[A Valkyrie's Steps are special!]

[It can neutralize and ignore skills that can resist abnormal status!]

Only a select few high rankers had the power to neutralize those that could ignore abnormal statuses, and one of them was the best buff specialist and outstanding dealer, Bread Shuttle Mei Wei.

Their attacks devoured Minhyuk's body completely.

[Steel Skin.]

[Physical and magical defenses have tripled.]

Fortunately, Steel Skin was triggered and the damage that he received was decreased by quite a lot.

'If the skill wasn't triggered then I would have died... No, it looks like I will still die...'

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—!

The attacks caused tremendous damage, decreasing Minhyuk's HP at a rapid pace. However, Minhyuk just allowed the attacks to land on his body, opting to use this moment to trigger his own attack skills.

"Intangible Sword."

Ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping, ping—

Hundreds of invisible sword blades pierced through the bodies of the executives that were still attacking Minhyuk.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

The attacks also triggered Minhyuk's Slaughterer's Absorption which restored some of his HP. Unfortunately, the rate at which his HP decreased still far exceeded the rate at which he recovered.

The executives, who knew Minhyuk well, did not let up with the attacks even when their bodies were getting pierced through by the invisible and intangible swords.

'I want to win.'

'I want to win against the person standing at the top of Athenae.'

'It will feel good even if we struggled and fought hard.'

They all hoped and prayed for their victory. The same went for Minhyuk.

‘I want to keep being the best.’

He was unsure of the future. He did not know what would happen once these people reached Level 600. Perhaps one of his guild members might even become stronger than him.

‘I want to keep standing at the top.’

Crackleeee—

Flames burst out of Minhyuk’s sword. At the same time, the executives also prepared their final attacks.

“Priest’s Fury.” Locke slammed his axe on the ground. The ground cracked as a powerful force rushed toward Minhyuk.

“Dancing Sword of Light.” Dozens of swords of light appeared around Mei Wei before shooting straight for Minhyuk.

“Burn.” Genie’s whip engulfed in flames cracked and devoured an entire area of twenty meter radius.

“Meteor. Accelerate.” To top it all off, a meteor fell at the speed of light, its target was none other than Minhyuk.

Several lethal and one-shot kill skills flew toward Minhyuk. He had stopped thinking about not wanting to fight because he felt a bit sorry for them. Instead, he was filled with thoughts of wanting to keep his position at the top. He wanted to remain the strongest.

Filled with determination to become an emperor in Athenae, Minhyuk cast his Overlord’s Technique.

[Double Skill]

[You have a 1.2% chance of triggering Double Skill. Upon triggering, skill’s effects will be doubled.]

[Overlord’s Technique]

[The Overlord’s Fire, with an additional 10,000%~16,000% attack power, will attack everyone within a 120~160 meter radius.]

A blazing flame burst out. Double Skill was a skill attached to the title: Eight Pillar’s Candidate. It would double the power of the skill upon being triggered.

Minhyuk looked at the incoming lethal and one-shot kill skills after he triggered the Overlord’s Technique.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaang—

The fire, which was enough to fill the entire transparent barrier that cordoned off the area where they were fighting, engulfed everyone.

Boooooooooooooom—

The power of the Overlord's Technique was so strong that it shook the entire capital of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

At the same time, a series of notifications rang in their ears.

[Party Member Ali has been forced to log out.]

[Party Member Genie has been forced to log out...]

[Party Member Locke has been forced to log out...]

[Party Member Mei Wei has been forced to log out...]

[Party Member Crow has been forced to log out...]

Minhyuk listened to the constant notifications that rang in his ears. However, he was only given a small reprieve to rejoice and bask in his delight.

[You have been forced to log out during a PVP match.]

[Because it was during a PVP match, you will not receive any penalty for being forced to log out.]

[You have been defeated by all of your enemies in the official PVP!]

These notifications rang at the same time. Minhyuk slowly fell down almost at the same time as the Beyond the Heavens' executives disappeared from the flames of the Overlord's Technique.

"...Crazy."

Haze was left speechless. She could still see the shockwaves raging from within the transparent barrier.

Meanwhile, the players, who were still on the fence about migrating to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, looked at the barrier silently. They too, were at a loss for words.

Gulp—

The sound of someone gulping dryly rang in the otherwise silent area. Then, someone said, "I... I'm a part of this kind of kingdom? This is the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom?"

The man that murmured was none other than Bran, the second in the Dungeon Explorer's global rankings. He was the one that moved to Beyond the Heavens Kingdom after making a small deal with Minhyuk.

A few days ago, Minhyuk had called for Bran.

—This is the Dungeon Explorer's Eyes. I think this fits you perfectly.

Bran had been quite surprised when he heard that. The Dungeon Explorer's Eyes was a God-rank skill book. He was shocked that Minhyuk had readily given him something so valuable.

—Now, you won't be the second but the first.

Bran had been thrilled when he heard those words, until Minhyuk continued speaking.

—Ah! I'll also give you your position. From now on, your job is Ingredient Explorer. What do you think?! You like it, right?! Keuhahahahahaha!

Minhyuk had laughed as he asked Bran for the delicious ingredients hidden all over Athenae. Nonetheless, Bran had felt very happy that he was a part of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, even though his job, Ingredient Explorer, was really suspicious. But now, his thoughts were different.

The way the Beyond the Heavens' executives fought, something that he had just witnessed, was truly spectacular and awe-inspiring. It was something that Bran had never seen before. Of course, he also had nothing to say about how Minhyuk fought. He was now thankful that he chose to join Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Bran, the second in the Dungeon Explorer Rankings... no, he was going to become the first with the Dungeon Explorer's Eyes. At this juncture, he was wondering if it was truly alright for him to claim that he was a part of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

Chapter 798

Anyone that was forced to log out during an official PVP match would be allowed to reconnect to the game after thirty minutes. However, fearing that this system was going to be abused, the operators set it so there could only be one request for an official PVP match per day.

After reconnecting, Minhyuk and the executives once again gathered in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom's conference room. Silence enveloped them for a moment. Even Minhyuk, who was lost in his thoughts, was silent.

‘Why aren't there any notifications from the God of Comrades?’

While he was pondering about that, the thought, ‘What should I say to them?’ also crossed his mind. In fact, they were only forced to log out slightly later than Minhyuk. It could be said to be just a hair's breadth of difference. However, it did not really matter whether they had been logged out first or Minhyuk was logged out first. In the end, Minhyuk fought them alone and was still not pushed back by all of the executives of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.

‘They must feel frustrated.’

He was fully aware of how much effort they had put in toward themselves and the kingdom. Each and every single day, they devoted most of their time in the game to hunt and develop the kingdom. In terms of their gaming sense, each and every single one of them could be considered as geniuses. However, they still failed to defeat one player.

The sense of frustration and the fact that they could not win against him might have hit them hard in the face. There was a chance that they might opt to not access the game for a few days too.

“You're definitely strong.” The one that broke the silence was Carr.

He was an Olympic gold medalist in kendo. As someone in that position, he had more pride and arrogance than any other normal ranker. However, even though his expression was ugly, it was only for a brief moment. A grin flashed on his face as he continued, “But I don't think you're impossible to reach.”

“Huh?”

“I think my strength will be more than enough to give it another try once I reach Level 600.”

The Emperor of the Swords Carr’s class was under the ‘Swordsman’ class. From the information they had gathered, Normal or Legendary classes would receive huge benefits once they reached Level 600 or higher. This was a reward for those that worked hard, aside from those that had the God Class, for reaching Level 600.

“I now have another reason to speed up my leveling.” Carr smirked.

“That’s what I think too.” Ascar grinned.

One after the other, the executives began to pipe up in agreement.

“That’s right. If I work harder for a bit, then I’ll probably be stronger than you?”

“Minhyuk, once I reach Level 600, you’re over.”

“I have to work harder to level up. Who wants to go and hunt with me? Let’s go for three straight days.”

That was right. The executives of Beyond the Heavens Kingdom were not discouraged nor frustrated about such things. Rather than being frustrated, they took this as an opportunity to vow to become stronger as soon as possible. Of course, there was some exaggeration in the words that they said.

In fact, all of them were aware that Minhyuk did not eat any buffed dishes, one of his biggest advantages and his special skill. If Minhyuk ate his buffed dishes, then their chances of winning against him were very slim. That was considering even after they reached Level 600.

However, they said those words to ignite their will and determination to become even stronger. Of course, it was also in consideration of Minhyuk, who had been worrying about them all throughout the process.

In a way, this outcome could be considered to be very surprising. After all, no matter how close friends were, in such situations, jealousy might brew and there might be ugly feelings toward each other.

‘Thank you. You’re all amazing.’

Minhyuk had to wonder if he could have done something like this too if he was the one in their position.

[You have failed the God’s Bet: Win in a Battle Against Your Comrades.]

[You have lost the battle against your comrades.]

The content of the God’s Bet with the God of Comrades was to win in a battle against his comrades. Even though there was only a 0.1 second difference in their logout times, the system considered it as a loss for Minhyuk. However, when Minhyuk checked the contents of the bet earlier he found out that it strangely did not have any penalties. Then, suddenly, the situation changed.

[One of the Absolute Gods, the God of Comrades, smiles faintly as he watches you and your comrades who did not harbor any blame, envy or jealousy with each other and instead, are showing love and affection.]

[The God of Comrades has bestowed upon you a slightly special reward.]

[All of the ones that participated in the PVP match will receive an increase in their EXP Acquisition Rate. Your EXP Acquisition Rate will triple for two weeks.]

[The increase EXP Acquisition Rate that you have acquired before will be disregarded and deleted.]

[You have acquired the Title: Comrade.]

“...!”

“...!”

This set of notifications rang in the ears of all of the people present inside the conference room. Minhyuk had been the only one to hear the voice of the God of Comrades before, that was why he was the only one that knew of the bet and was the only one that received the quest.

However, based on these notifications, Minhyuk could tell that the God of Comrades had sensed something more special with him and his executives.

[The God of Comrades is looking at you with a delighted smile on his face.]

Grin—

Minhyuk might not be able to see the god but he had a feeling that the god was looking at them with a fatherly smile on his face.

Everyone hurriedly checked the title that they had suddenly obtained.

(Comrade)

Common Title

Title Effects:

- All stats will increase by 2% once three or more people with the ‘Comrade’ title are gathered together.
- All skill cooldown time will be reduced by 5% once three or more people with the ‘Comrade’ title are gathered together.
- All stats will increase by 7% and all skill cooldown time will be reduced by 10% once all of the people with the ‘Comrade’ title are gathered together.
- EXP Acquisition Rate will increase by 3% once all of the people with the ‘Comrade’ title are gathered together.

“This is good.”

“This is really great.”

The sudden reward made the atmosphere between the executives of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom turn easy-going.

“If we’re having triple the EXP Acquisition Rate for two weeks then... I think I should hurry and go out.”

“I’ll have to run and reach Level 600 in one go.”

The reward also gave them a special opportunity, having vowed to work harder and grow stronger than Minhyuk. At that moment, Minhyuk immediately stopped those that were raring to go and hunt.

“Wait, you guys.”

“Hu? Why?”

“Huh?”

Minhyuk looked at them with a small smile on his face as he said, “You should have a meal first, no?”

Minhyuk wanted to cook a delicious meal for all of the Beyond the Heavens’ executives, encouraging them to move forward with their goal of reaching Level 600. He collected all of the special ingredients that his guild members had on hand to make a dish.

As he looked through the ingredients, he decided to serve a Chinese-style cuisine.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Minhyuk stir-fried the black bean sauce in the frying pan while he boiled the hot and spicy jjamppong to the side. His hands were so fast that he looked like an experienced chef.

Clack, clack, clack—

After cooking the sauce, he mixed it with the noodles and poured the finished jjajangmyeon and jjamppong in separate bowls. Of course, he did not forget to make some tangsuyuk as well as some dumplings, which he promptly served together with the dishes from before.

“Hiyaa...”

“Look at that gloss...”

The colors of the black jjajangmyeon and the red and spicy jjamppong were both vibrant and incredible. Minhyuk turned to look at the jjajangmyeon and jjamppong that was served in front of him. Of course, he had to eat a bowl of each.

“Let’s eat.”

Everyone grabbed their own chopsticks. Minhyuk also grabbed his own, immediately putting it in the bowl of jjajangmyeon and using it to mix the noodles with the sauce completely. Then, he lifted a mouthful of the evenly-mixed jjajangmyeon from his bowl and dug in.

“Sluuuuuuuuuuuuurp!”

The moment he put the jjajangmyeon in his mouth, the sweet black bean sauce spread along with the chewy and warm noodles in his mouth. Then, he ate another mouthful.

Sluuuuuuuuuuuurp—

He also ate some sweet and sour pickled radish.

Crunch, crunch—

After that, he ate another huge mouthful of the noodles.

Sluuuuuuuuuuuurp—

This time, Minhyuk stretched his chopsticks toward the perfectly golden tangsuyuk. Tangsuyuk always tasted best when it was fresh out of the pan.

“When ordering tangsuyuk in a Chinese restaurant, you wouldn’t know if what you ordered is truly tangsuyuk or if it’s just a lump of fried skin. But Minhyuk’s tangsuyuk is the best. There’s a lot of meat and it’s fried very well.”

That was right. When it came to tangsuyuk, it was important to make sure that there was only a thin layer of batter and plenty of meat. If the batter was too thick while the meat was too thin, then the tangsuyuk would grow soggy and dry. The moment they dipped the meat in the tangsuyuk’s sweet and sour sauce and put it in their mouths, a very delightful crunch rang in their ears.

Crunch—

Their tongues were greeted with the thick and juicy meat right after they bit the crunchy and crispy skin.

“Kgghhk...” Minhyuk exclaimed softly. After tasting the jjajangmyeon and the tangsuyuk, he lifted the bowl of the jjamppong.

It was quite strange. The taste of the soup of jjamppong after eating jjajangmyeon was excellent. Minhyuk felt like the spiciness of the jjamppong soup was curbing the greasiness of the previous dishes. He immediately grabbed a mouthful of the noodles and placed it in his mouth.

Sluuuuuuuuuuuurp.

There was a sense of delight when the spiciness hit his taste buds. Of course, he would also grab some mussels and squid every once in a while as he ate the noodles.

“Sluuuuuuuuuuuuuuuurp!”

Minhyuk and his executives quickly slurped and finished their meals. On top of the delicious meal, the buff effects that they received were excellent. This was because it was made from ingredients, which they had collected, of various grades.

[You have eaten the Chinese Meal Set.]

[Epic Grade.]

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

[Your skill cooldown time has decreased by 20%.]

[Two randomly chosen skills will receive a +1 level increase.]

[Your total HP and MP have increased by 7%.]

[The buff effect will last for one week.]

“Minhyuk, we’re going hunting.”

They all moved out after finishing their meal.

“We’ll do a group hunt in the Hellfire Dungeon.”

The Hellfire Dungeon was a dungeon where one could only come out a week after entering. They could only come out earlier if they were forced to log out. It was also a place where they could not receive whispers or chats from the guild. It was a high level hunting ground with extreme difficulty.

Those that received the title of ‘Comrade’ hurriedly warped to the hunting ground. Of course, this was only done after getting explicit approval from Haze.

“I’m going to rest for a bit too...”

Just when Minhyuk, who was sitting with Haze, was about to log out, he received a startling message.

[Black Dragon: Minhyuk. Req... t... ing... for... sup... t]

“???”

Minhyuk looked at the whisper in confusion. He quickly tried to send a whisper to Black Dragon.

[Minhyuk: Father, what’s going on?]

[You cannot send any whisper or communication to Black Dragon.]

Minhyuk realized that something unusual had happened. He hurriedly stood up to try and find out about the situation. Then, things got worse.

[Your pet Beanie is in danger!]

[Warning!]

[Your pet Beanie is in danger!]

[Warning!]

“...?”

Shocked by the notifications, Minhyuk hurriedly tried to recall Beanie’s summons. Once the summon has been recalled, Beanie would be sent back to the summoning room, allowing him to escape from the imminent danger that he was facing and recuperate and recover.

[Your pet Beanie has refused the summons.]

One hour earlier.

God’s Children was a group of players that had been working secretly in Athenae. They were a group that even the top high rankers were very reluctant to clash with. After all, they were people

that stood above even the ordinary God Class players. However, two of the God's Children had been dragged down to the pit by a single man.

One was Henry, the Money God's Descendant. After clashing with Minhyuk, Henry, the owner of the Money Bag Merchant Group, was left with a huge debt to the Money God. The second one was Rex, the God of Stories. Rex tried to bring down the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom using the power of the God of Death, but he was defeated and even lost the God of Stories class.

However, just because they were dragged through the mud did not mean that they had completely disappeared from Athenae. They had been preparing for their 'revenge' and had been waiting for an opportunity for a very long time now.

The problem was that it was very difficult to find an opportunity to exact their revenge. It was impossible for them to attack the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom, what with Spear God Ben, Fallen Emperor Brod, and Great Demon Elpis, and numerous heroes defending the place. It was very difficult for them to do something about the kingdom.

However, there were people that willingly went out of the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom. These people were none other than Beanie, Luna and Black Dragon.

Rex was a cruel and vicious person.

"What do you think will the Food God feel if the most important person to him dies?"

There were people that treated NPCs as real people. For people like these, the death of NPCs was like the death of a real person, and it would be as painful as witnessing the death of their most precious person. Rex and Henry had been waiting for this moment for a very long time. The moment they found out that the three went out, they used their connections and money to buy rankers and bring in NPCs.

"Kihyeeeeeee. Kihyeeeeeee."

Black Dragon, Beanie and Luna were taking a stroll leisurely. Luna was even flapping her tiny wings right next to Beanie, while Black Dragon chuckled darkly once in awhile, behaving like a 'villain.'

'It must be a hassle trying to laugh like a villain every time.'

This had been their most awaited moment. They were sure that the three would be very shocked once they saw them suddenly appear. They might even tremble in fright.

"Do you remember us?!!!" Rex shouted as they appeared in front of the three using the great mage's Mass Teleport.

Luna, who was flapping her tiny wings, Black Dragon, who was chuckling darkly, and Beanie, who was picking his snout with his three paws, were taken aback.

"Oiiiiink...!"

Pooooooooooooot~!

"...?"

"...?"

“...?”

Shocked by the sudden appearance of a group of people in front of them, Beanie’s butt had loosened while his paws pushed up his snout and induced a nosebleed. Then, while looking at them in a daze, he released another fart.

Poooooooooooooot—

“...”

“...”

“...”

Chapter 799

Rex and Henry had been waiting for this day, where they would get their revenge on Minhyuk for dragging them through the mud. If his beloved father, Black Dragon, were forced to log out, and his precious pets, Beanie and Luna, were to die, then Minhyuk’s heart would definitely be broken.

Thinking about their beautiful revenge, Henry and Rex, together with 6,000 people, appeared in front of the three. Of the 6,000, there were some that originally followed them, while the rest were those that they employed.

Poooooooooot~

However, everyone was left speechless when they heard the loud sound that came from Beanie’s butt. It sounded as if a huge balloon that suddenly got deflated.

‘What’s with that fart? Why does it sound like that?’

‘Shouldn’t it sound like fwiiiiiiish not poooooooooot?’

‘And why is his nose bleeding like that? We haven’t even attacked them yet.’

Beanie accidentally pushed his paw straight up his nose when they suddenly appeared in front of them.

Blank—

Beanie, who had been staring blankly in front of him, shook his body not long after.

“Oiiink... (Heee....)”

Then, he showed an expression of extreme relief. Perhaps it was because his stomach was now in a very comfortable state.

“This, this pig! How dare you ignore us!”

“Oink?”

Henry and the rest of the people behind him felt like they had been completely ignored by the pig in front of them. However, if one looked at it from Beanie's point of view, the only reason why he farted was because he was surprised. As a result? Well, his bulging belly ended up feeling comfortable.

“Kill that baby piggy!!!”

“Kihyeeee, kihyeeeeee, kihyeeeeee!” The Hatchling Luna burst in tears when she felt the frightening and threatening aura around her. Beanie calmly patted Luna’s back. Meanwhile, Black Dragon had already noticed that they were in a very dangerous situation.

‘I can see a few famous rankers here and there.’

Black Dragon had changed classes to the Royal Class: Dragon Monarch. On top of that, he was the king of the dragons and could summon four legendary dragons. However, dealing with all of the people present here would be quite difficult, even for someone like him.

‘Beanie’s also here, but...’

The Supreme Divine Beast Beanie could use the ‘Predator’s Authority,’ a skill that could allow him to use the skill of another person once. It could even copy the amount of damage and attack that the skill could deal, with all the buff effects included. However, the fact that he could only use it once meant that it would still be impossible for them to get out of this situation safely. Of course, Beanie’s basic force was overwhelmingly large. But against this number, it was useless.

Black Dragon furtively moved closer to Beanie and Luna. Then, he tried to rip apart the Mass Teleport parchment that was made with Golden Mage Ali’s powers.

[Magic Shackles.]

[An unknown power restricts the use of any kind of power that uses the mage’s mana.]

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

[With the ‘Magic Shackles’ in effect, the Memorize Parchment containing Mass Teleport has failed!]

Black Dragon’s face turned ugly. He hurriedly tried to send a whisper to Minhyuk.

[Black Dragon: Minhyuk. Requesting for urgent support!]

However, the mage that used Magic Shackles was a step faster than him.

[Silence.]

[Whispers, guild chats, party chats and all types of communication have been restricted. You won’t be able to send or receive any messages.]

“Do you think we’ll let you run away like that?” Rex chuckled darkly.

Everyone present knew how this would end. However, Black Dragon had various skills, abilities, items and artifacts in his arsenal. He had a skill, ‘Crisis Hawk’, prepared in case he encountered a situation like this.

Fweeeeeeeet—

A black hawk responded to his call as a parchment appeared in front of him. Then, letters began to get branded on the parchment as Black Dragon thought of the message that he wanted to send.

[Minhyuk. Beanie, Luna and I are somewhere near Louvre Lake and we're in danger. Requesting for support.]

Then, the parchment rolled and tied itself up on the feet of the black hawk.

[The Crisis Hawk is flying toward the player 'Minhyuk.']

[Once the Crisis Hawk arrives where Player 'Minhyuk' is, you will be able to communicate with him!]

“...”

The black hawk flew swiftly away from them.

“Kihyeeeeee... kihyeeeeee!” The frightened Luna cried out, looking worriedly at Black Dragon and Beanie.

“Kill them all at once. Mages and archers, go first.”

The mages raised their staves while the archers pulled the strings of their bows at the words of Henry and Rex. Black Dragon closed his eyes for a moment while Rex, Henry and the rest of the people laughed at him.

Black Dragon had built quite a reputation in ZTube. This was because the chairman of the prestigious Ilhwa Group acted like a chuuni teenager in Athenae. He would speak cringe-worthy lines like, ‘Fufufu. Fools. Do you want to see the beings on my right arm go berserk?’ while chuckling like a villain.

They were certain that he would do the same this time. They were just waiting for him to say the line, before they would openly mock and laugh at him.

However, Black Dragon, who had his eyes closed, asked, “...Can't you just let us go?”

“...”

“...”

Everyone looked at the man in confusion. This was not like the usual Black Dragon.

“If you want to go to war, then why don't you go and officially declare one against the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom? If not, then let these children go and just come at me?”

“...”

“...”

Ilhwa Group Chairman's Kang Minhoo was one of the world's top entrepreneurs.

“Please, do not try to harm these little ones.”

Black Dragon cared deeply for Beanie and Luna. Perhaps a part of him blamed himself for being complacent and bringing them out, which led to this situation. However, he knew that if harm came their way, the one that would be the saddest was Minhyuk.

The one person that Black Dragon loved the most in the world was his son. Just thinking about how his son would grieve the loss of these precious beings was already making his heart ache.

‘I am a father before I am a chairman of a company.’

He was a father that loved his child dearly, willing to put down his pride for his son.

“Let these children go,” Black Dragon pleaded earnestly.

Some of the players cleared their throats. It seemed like they had realized how conceited and black-hearted they were at this moment.

“I’m sorry but we have also accumulated quite a lot of resentment, you know?”

However, Rex and Henry were guffawing. Black Dragon’s reaction made them certain that Minhyuk would be very sad if Beanie and Luna died. Rex raised his hand and swung it down. At the same time, hundreds of arrows and magics rained down on the three. The two laughed at the scene.

“Dear father, he must be very heartbroken, no? Hahaha!”

At that moment, Black Dragon’s gaze suddenly changed, while facing the hundreds of arrows and magic that were about to rain down on them.

“...”

His empty and blank eyes seemed to embody the void as he looked at Rex and Henry.

‘W, what the... that look...’

‘I feel like I’m being choked.’

Black Dragon had the gaze of an apex predator, one that stood at the top of the food chain. There were no ripples in his eyes, but the glint in them was sharper than anybody else’s. At this moment, the two realized that they had provoked someone that they should not have.

Crack, crack, crack—

A powerful, overwhelming force suddenly burst out of Black Dragon’s arms. Dragons were summoned, starting with the appearance of the heads, followed by their huge bodies and long tails.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!”

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!”

“Graaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

“Roaaaaaaaaar!”

Four dragons of different colors roared loudly.

[The Four Legendary Dragons are outraged!]

[The Four Legendary Dragons are being affected by their master’s raging emotions!]

The first dragon that Black Dragon had obtained among the Four Legendary Dragons was 'Britney'. Britney was furious after he read Black Dragon's thoughts, roaring as he blocked the downpour of arrows and magic with his body.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—!

Although the attacks hurt, Britney did not shriek from the pain. He showed a tough appearance toward the enemies that angered his master.

"Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!!!"

Rex and Henry were both overwhelmed by the loud roar of the gigantic dragon that appeared in front of them. Immediately after that, the other three dragons made their presence known by unleashing their Breaths.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

There were some that received the brunt of a Poison Breath.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

Some were frozen into ice cubes after being hit by a Cold Breath.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

There were also some that were subjected to a Breath that nullified and ignored everything.

"Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!"

"Graaaaaaaaaa!"

"Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!"

The enemies were all left flustered and in disarray after being subjected to different Breaths. Meanwhile, Rex and Henry could only look at Black Dragon, who stood still amidst the raging Breaths.

The man stood there with a cold and arrogant gaze. It was as if he was standing at the top and looking down on them. They might have forgotten this fact, but Black Dragon was the chairman of a company. He was someone that had been standing at the top of the food chain for a very long time now.

Rex and Henry firmly believed that it was impossible for the three of them to defeat their party. After all, their numbers far exceeded theirs. They even had ten high rankers that were on par with Black Dragon in terms of strength. Besides, what could Black Dragon do alone? Unfortunately for them, reality proved otherwise.

"Kihyeeeeeeeeeeeeck!"

Crack, crack, craaaaaaack!

"Keuaaaaaack!"

"A, aaaaaaack!"

"Keheooooook!"

The Four Legendary Dragons ran wild and killed the troops that Rex and Henry brought along. However, the most surprising part here was the fact that the Four Legendary Dragons did not retreat even though their bodies were being stabbed, torn and bombarded with swords, arrows and magic.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeeeeeck!!!”

The roars of the Four Legendary Dragons, who wanted to protect their master, shook the world. Then, Black Dragon took a step toward his enemies.

Swooooooosh—

At the same time, dragon scales appeared all over his body and formed a glittering and majestic armor. Black Dragon, who was now garbed with his black dragon armor, stretched his right hand out as a long black spear made of bones appeared.

Crack, crack, crack—

A black stream of energy appeared in the spear that was in Black Dragon’s hand. Then, the black stream shot towards the sky.

“Assemble.”

[The Dragon Race responds to the summons of the Dragon Monarch!]

The skies darkened. Not long after, ear-piercing roars rang from the gaps in the dark sky.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!”

“Kiheeeeeeeeeeeek!”

Rex and Henry turned to look at the sky, only to see hundreds of members of the dragon race descending rapidly, folding their wings as they knelt down in front of Black Dragon.

“Please...”

“...give us your orders!!!”

Black Dragon looked at the members of the dragon race in front of him with a haughty look on his face as he gave his orders, “Destroy them.”

The members of the dragon race spread their wings and flew to the sky with their long spears, throwing the enemies into chaos as they joined the fray.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

Both Rex and Henry gulped dryly when they saw the members of the dragon race sweep through their troops. However, they soon came back to their senses. In a way, Black Dragon could be said to be a summoner. A summoner’s biggest disadvantage was the fact that all of their summons would disappear once they died.

Rex and Henry looked at Black Dragon, who was charging straight toward them.

“Kill Black Dragon!!!”

“Once you kill him, the dragons and the members of the dragon race will disappear!!!”

Summoners usually relied heavily on their summons. They might have better physical specs compared to mages, but they were still infinitely weaker compared to close combat classes. Hansen, one of the rankers in the top 2,000 rankings, and two other rankers from the top 10,000 rankings charged toward Black Dragon. However, something very surprising happened.

“Dragon’s Cry.”

Piiiiiiiiing—

Black Dragon’s spear pierced through Ranker Hansen’s body, as he screamed from the pain. He was able to get back to his senses quickly and tried to exchange several blows with Black Dragon.

Slaaaaaaaaash—

“Urk...!”

The next moment, Hansen collapsed on the ground.

With a cold and freezing gaze, Black Dragon cut down all of the enemies that blocked his path with his black spear. He ignored the damage received in exchange for charging forward swiftly, and in a blink, appeared in front of Henry.

Cold sweat broke out of Henry’s forehead when he saw Black Dragon appear in front of him.

Just like Minhyuk, Black Dragon was a tall man that reached 183 cm in height. Such a man was looking down at Henry as if he was insignificant.

Black Dragon had asked them politely before to just fight against him and leave Beanie and Luna alone. However, Henry and Rex just laughed at him. So, in response, Black Dragon said coldly, “Then, I will just have to kill all of you.”

Stab—

Chapter 800

Stab—

Black Dragon’s spear pierced through Henry’s chest.

[Your HP has dropped below 40%!]

[Critical strike! You are bleeding!]

[You will be in a very dangerous situation if you don’t stop the bleeding!]

Henry was shocked that Black Dragon was able to reach him despite the thousands of soldiers and rankers that stood between them earlier.

The Black Dragon that they knew of was a chuuni through and through. Now that they had made him upset, the gaze that he used to look at them was horrifyingly cold.

Shiver—

A chill ran down Henry’s spine. Black Dragon’s gaze was too sharp and cold for a mere merchant inside a game to handle.

“This is certainly very surprising. I never expected that I would be beaten by a mere summoner like you. Even if we fought 1:1, I believe I will still lose against you.”

Hansen, who had been stabbed by Black Dragon’s spear earlier, had finally come to his senses and was coming after him. “I believe you have just used an attacking skill, no? I’m pretty sure you don’t have a lot of that in your arsenal. So, it’s safe to say that you have already given your best, right?”

That was right. Black Dragon could win against Hansen or any of the rankers at the top 1,000 rankings in a 1v1 fight. However, the problem is that Black Dragon was currently up against a huge number of enemies.

“From what I can see, you’re thinking of showing us an overwhelming force from the very beginning to force us to retreat, no?”

When Hansen’s words ended, one of the ranker-class mages cast an Explosion right beneath Black Dragon.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—!

Black Dragon was sent flying by the tremendous explosion.

“Ugh!”

Taking this opportunity, the close-combat rankers immediately dashed forward, chasing after Black Dragon and putting immense pressure on the man.

“...Phew.” Henry sighed in relief. He had been completely overwhelmed by Black Dragon’s momentum that he momentarily forgot the current situation. Black Dragon would not be able to win against them.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeck!”

“Kiiiiiiiiik!”

“Graaaaaaaaaa!”

Despite ignoring the pains to continue biting their enemies fiercely, the Four Legendary Dragons still ended up being pushed back. They were growing more and more exhausted the longer they fought. On top of that, they were struggling from the pain of the countless gashes and injuries that littered their bodies.

“Hold on! Please, hold on a bit longer!” Black Dragon begged the Four Legendary Dragons to hold on with the last vestige of their strength. He was also doing the same, giving his all to prevent the close-combat players from gaining more ground.

“So, you’re the Dragon Lord’s candidate.”

At this moment, Henry and Rex took this opportunity to approach Luna. Although Luna was someone that they had to be very wary of, she was still just a small hatchling. She had not yet reached her full growth. They believed they could still deal with her.

“Kihyeee...?”

Luna might be the Dragon Lord's candidate but she was currently a sheltered flower protected by a greenhouse. She had never truly felt what danger was and how it could threaten her life. That was why this situation caused Luna to be terrified.

"Kihyeeeeee?" Luna inched backward, flapping her tiny wings as the two people approached her.

"Luna!!!" Black Dragon shouted. However, this momentary lapse in attention allowed the rankers the opportunity to cut him down with their swords.

"Kihyeeeeee..."

Luna did not know what this feeling was. She felt fear and her heart ached terribly.

Throb—

Luna's heart thumped fiercely as an unknown and dull ache spread in her body. This was the growing pains of a legendary dragon. Luna watched as her dear uncle Black Dragon dragged his bloody and injured body just to run to where she was.

Drip, drip—

Tears slowly flowed down from Luna's big eyes.

"Kihyeeeeee..."

Luna was crying. She cried in fear as Rex, Henry and hundreds of troops approached her.

"Oiiiiiiiink!"

At that moment, a baby piggy stood in front of Luna.

This baby piggy was Luna's ever-so-playful and mischievous second teacher, who cared for and loved her with all his heart and soul. Luna had not seen much of Beanie's serious side in her young life. From birth, all she had heard her second teacher say was that he was hungry.

But at this very moment, Luna's second teacher, the baby piggy Beanie, looked back at her with a small and faint smile on his face.

"Oiiiiink. (Luna.)"

"Kihyeeeeeeeeee..."

"Oiiiiink. (Don't cry. Oink.)"

"Kihyeeeeeeeeee..."

Beanie showed a bright and wide grin to the terrified Luna. At that moment, warmth gushed inside Luna's body as she felt her heart flutter.

"Oiiiiiiiink!"

Beanie drew his Food God's Kitchen Knife.

Flaaaaash—

A golden crown and golden full-plate armor appeared and covered Beanie as he stood in front of the crying Luna. Then, he made his move. Beanie could use the power of the Predator's Authority, a skill with enough force to kill everyone in this place.

Crackleeeee—

And now, the power that he preyed on began to boil. Black flames crackled to life from the blade of Beanie's kitchen knife.

Crackleeee—

Beanie glared sharply at the enemies that approached them. He wanted to protect his dear and precious Luna.

Predator's Authority not only copied another's skill but it could also replicate its state when it was copied, including all of the buffs and enhancements during that time.

Beanie unleashed the power of Minhyuk's Overlord's Technique that had been under the effect of 'Double Skill'. In other words, the skill was twice as powerful.

[Overlord's Technique.]

[The Overlord's Fire, with an additional 10,000%~16,000% attack, will engulf everyone within a 120~160 meter radius.]

Beanie swung his kitchen knife, the overwhelming power of the Overlord's Technique bursting toward his enemies as the black flames roared to life.

Rumbleeeeeeeee—

The fire was so intense that it could melt anything and everything that it passed by, shaking the heavens and the earths.

"Oiiiiiiiiink!"

Cold sweat broke out of Rex's and Henry's foreheads as they watched the blazing flames devour the area.

'Shit...'

'He's going to be able to melt down and kill thousands of our troops if things continue at this rate.'

However, the two laughed in relief not long after. They had hidden several mages that were capable of casting high-class magic among their troops. These mages had been lying low and waiting for such a moment. They immediately cast a barrier that was absolutely invincible.

Vwoooooooooong—

A dome-like barrier spread out and prevented the fire from doing any damage to their troops.

Crackleeeee—

As for the troops that failed to hide inside the barrier, they all turned to ashes and disappeared. However, there were still well over half of the troops that survived the catastrophe.

“...Oink.”

Beanie’s face turned ugly at the unexpected outcome. Rex and Henry had been wary of Beanie’s ‘Predator’s Authority.’ Because of that, they had prepared a countermeasure in advance. The expression on Beanie’s face was grave when he turned away from Luna.

“Oiiiiiiink...!”

Beanie decided to jump right into the enemy ranks. It was the only way he could prevent them from reaching Luna.

“Oiiiiiiink.”

Swooooooosh—

Beanie wielded his kitchen knife skillfully as he flew toward the enemy. He made use of his small stature to cut down his enemies one after another and cast his artifact’s skills at the perfect moment.

[Rain of Kitchen Knives.]

[Hundreds of strong and powerful kitchen knives with an additional 200% damage will fall down from the sky and crush your enemies.]

The skill caused numerous knives to fall from the sky and stabbed through Beanie’s enemies.

“Keuaaaaaack!”

“Aaaaaaaaack!”

“Kgghhhhhhk...!”

Slaaaaaaash—

“Oiiiiiiink...!”

One of the rankers cut down Beanie, who was weaving through his enemies and the rain of black kitchen knives, sending him crashing to the ground.

Beanie might be able to deal a huge amount of damage, but his HP and defenses were very low. He staggered on his feet, struggling to stand back up and fight once more. However, a bombardment of magic fell upon him.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—!

“O, oiiiiiiink...!”

Notifications about his summoning being recalled constantly rang in Beanie’s ears as the bombardment devoured and threatened to rip apart his body. However, he ignored the notifications.

‘No one will be able to protect Luna if I disappear here. Oink.’

Black Dragon also realized that the situation was going downhill.

[‘Player’ Minhyuk has received your message through the black hawk. He is currently writing a reply.]

[You can now communicate and exchange letters with each other through the Crisis Hawk.]

Black letters began to appear one after another in front of Black Dragon.

[I'm already warping to the location that you have mentioned.]

Black Dragon struggled to read the letters that were being written in front of him as he continued to fight a fierce battle. He looked around in exhaustion.

[How long do you think it will take?]

The reply came shortly afterward.

[Around ten minutes.]

[That's far too late...]

Black Dragon's expression turned dark. The fact that Minhyuk was arriving here in ten minutes meant that he rushed here the moment he received the message. However, the problem was that they were not sure if they could even last for ten more minutes. Beanie was already struggling to stay on his feet, his body covered with injuries. Even Black Dragon was in a pinch. His HP had already dropped below 15%. There was no guarantee that they could last for that much time.

[Is there no other way?]

Black Dragon wanted to protect Beanie and Luna, one way or another. Then, Minhyuk's reply was branded in the space in front of him.

[Father, Beanie...]

Black Dragon doubted his eyes for a moment when he saw what was written in front of him. He turned to look at the groaning Beanie, who had collapsed on the ground once again. Then, he read the message once again.

[...might be the most powerful being in the Beyond the Heavens Kingdom.]

“Kihyeeeeeeee! Kihyeeeeeeee!”

The sadness that Luna felt almost overwhelmed her when she saw Beanie struggle to stand up after collapsing on the ground over and over again. He was even using his kitchen knife to support himself.

“Oiiiiink...”

Luna's heart ached terribly as she looked at him. It was a strange and unfamiliar emotion for the young dragon.

“Kihyeeeeeeee...”

Tears flowed from the hatchling Luna's big eyes. Luna wanted to tell Beannie to stop struggling and not to push himself anymore. However, she realized soon after that the reason why Beanie was not backing down was because he was protecting her. This realization made her cry even louder.

“Oiiiiink...”

However, despite the injuries and gashes that covered his body and littered his face, Beanie still looked at her with a small smile. Beanie was the Supreme Divine Beast. However, recently, he felt like he was not growing as much as he wanted.

‘I also want to be as strong as Brod, Elpis and Spear God Ben so I can protect Luna. I want to be stronger so that Minhyuk will not worry about me and he will summon me more. I want to be stronger than anybody else so I can save my master, Minhyuk, whenever he’s in danger.’

Beanie hated the fact that he was weak, despite having the title of Supreme Divine Beast. Tears streamed down his face. He wanted to protect Luna and of course, he also wanted to live and survive. He hoped to watch his beloved Luna grow from a hatchling to an adult dragon and become the king of all dragons.

Baaaaaang—

However, Beanie was helpless. One of the players kicked him and sent him flying back. Although he struggled to stand up once again, he could no longer prop himself up. Beanie tried to force his eyes to remain open somehow, but in the end they still closed. Along with that, his body started to droop.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeee!”

Luna roared, her heart-rending scream drawing the attention of everyone present.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeee!”

Beanie had always lovingly stroked her back while calling out to her with an ‘oink.’

—I’m so full, oink!

Luna recalled how Beanie smiled brightly while patting his bulging belly. She cried loudly as she desperately flew to where he was. Beanie, the one that always smiled at her, the one that always protected her, the one that loved her with all his heart.

[On that day, my second father, the baby piggy, sacrificed his life for me. I flew desperately to where his gradually cooling body was while the enemies scrambled to wield their weapons, magic and arrows to kill me. However, I saw none of them through the sadness and despair that enveloped my entire being as I desperately flew to where my father was.]

[Rumbleeeeeeeee—!]

[Crackleeeeeeeee—!]

[Shwaaaaaaaaa—!]

[Then, my father enveloped me in a warm hug.]

[With an oink, he gave me his usual smile as he shielded me from all of the attacks that came my way with his body.]

[I was young back then and all I could do was stare at my father. At that moment, I witnessed my father awaken the power that had been sleeping in his body.]

[Plenty of people in that place died with a single swing from my father's blade.]

[On that day, the figure of my father that was reflected in my eyes looked greater than anyone else in the world.]

Great Dragon Luna's Autobiography (Excerpt)