

Gourmet 861

Chapter 861

King Bao could not believe what was in front of his eyes.

Keller, the Dragon Spearman who dreamt of succeeding Spear God Ben, was a legend who had become a hero in their kingdom. And from what King Bao remembered, Keller would only be able to deal with one dark elf assassin. However, the two dark elf assassins that charged at them were now spurting blood from their throats while dozens of dark werewolves fell after getting their necks pierced.

‘Di-did he become stronger?!’

All of the kings and emperors had been worried before, that the talents that used to be by their side would grow weaker after coming under the command of the Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor. However, the level of Keller’s growth was unimaginably high.

Not only did Keller’s level increase significantly, but he also unlocked a new pinnacle skill when he left to train under Amacar. More importantly, he also received various buff effects, including Obren’s Duplicate Blessings and the buff effects of the dish that Minhyuk made for them using the *Create a Recipe* skill.

[You ate a dish from a recipe specially made for you.]

[You won’t be able to eat another dish from a recipe specially made for you for a month.]

[You have eaten a Fried Rice Burger.]

[Epic Grade.]

[All of your stats have increased by 9%.]

[All of your spearmanship skills have increased by +1.]

[Your attack speed has increased by 18%.]

[Your defense has increased by 25%.]

With Obren’s Duplicate Blessings, Minhyuk’s legendary grade buff effect, and his growth with Amacar, Keller could confidently say he was no weaker than any of the lower-ranked Sword of the Gods.

“Your Majesty! I have received His Majesty Minhyuk’s orders and will use my life to protect you!”

Keller once insulted Minhyuk. He almost got executed for insulting the emperor. However, with Minhyuk’s mercy and his Emperor’s Comfort skills, he developed a sense of loyalty and respect toward the new emperor he was serving.

And Keller knew they needed to turn the hostile kings and emperors into friends. These talents were the key to Beyond the Heavens Empire's ability to forge a friendly relationship with these kingdoms and empires.

During this reunion between the king and his subordinate, who had not seen each other for quite some time, the subordinate told his king, "Please do not forget that I was only able to come here because His Majesty, the Beyond the Heavens' Emperor, had sent me here and ordered me..."

Bao focused on the words of his former subordinate.

"Protect you even at the cost of my life!"

"...!"

Bao was deeply moved when he heard his former subordinate, who appeared in front of him stronger than before, say those words. Was the Beyond the Heavens' Emperor truly the shameless and impudent person that he thought him to be? Bao looked at Keller's back. Keller triggered the new power that he was able to awaken thanks to Amacar's help.

"Dragon Spear!"

Beeeeeeeeeeeeeeep—

Bright light gathered at the tip of Keller's spear. This bright light carried a powerful force that grew until it was as long as a spear before shooting forward and covering an entire area with a two kilometer radius.

The dark elves hurriedly borrowed the power of the spirits of darkness and cast a dark barrier. However, the dark barriers were as flimsy as paper, providing no protection to them against the spear of light. In the end, their bodies got pierced through by the powerful force.

At the same time, King Bao was rescued and sent back to safety.

"M-my god..."

"Tha-that's Keller, right?"

"King Bao, were you hiding Keller's power before?"

The kings and emperors still could not believe it even though they had seen everything happen with their very own eyes. They felt like they saw the might and momentum of a Sword of the Gods.

However, King Bao just shook his head. Then, he turned to Emperor Elise and said, "Keller's power is far behind that of Sir Arcalso, or at least, it used to be."

"..."

Emperor Elise was in shock. The power that Keller displayed was far superior to that of Arcalso.

However, even though Keller appeared and immediately charged toward the enemies, his appearance could not significantly change the battlefield's flow. The assassins looked up at the walls and waited for the opportunity to make a move. Then, hundreds of assassins jumped out as a black hole suddenly appeared on the ground. However, it did not end there.

"Roaaaaaaaaaar!"

"Graaaaaaaaaa!"

"Grrrrrrrrrrrrr!"

“Groaaaaaaaaaar!”

Around twenty gigantic dark werewolves fell from the sky. They were almost thirty-five meters in height, which was already half the height of the walls that protected the Aplath Empire. On top of that, there was something unusual about their fur which was glinting brightly under the light.

[Giant Dark Werewolf. Level 639.]

At that moment, Dark Elf Jack raised his hand, then swung it down.

“N- no way...”

“Grrrrrrrrrrrrr!”

“Roaaaaaaaaaaaaar!”

“Graaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

The twenty giant dark werewolves immediately charged toward the walls. The dark werewolves did not care about who was in their path. Whether it was friend or foe, they just trampled on them and continued to charge forward.

At this moment, the kings and emperors all shared one hunch.

“Th- those guys are going to tear the walls down.”

“They’re acting like mammoths!”

“Ah- Aaaaaaaaaah– Ah...!”

The kings and emperors knew this would be their grave if the walls collapsed. There were even assassins waiting for the opportunity to reap their lives.

Thud, thud, thud, thud–!

The kings and emperors shrieked when they saw the dozens of giant dark werewolves get closer and closer.

“U- uwaaaaaaaah!”

“Aaaaaaaaaack!”

“Damn it!”

“We should have run away as quickly as possible...!”

Emperor Elise watched them shriek and scream. He was calmer and more composed than the others. Then, he murmured, “Beyond the Heavens’ Guardian God.”

[Guardian God Obren is responding!]

“Tell the Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor.”

[Guardian God Obren lends you his ear!]

“That I am begging him to save my empire.”

[Aplath Empire's Emperor Elise is requesting help from Beyond the Heavens Empire!]

[Beyond the Heavens Empire's Guardian God Obren warps the people of the Beyond the Heavens Empire!]

By that time, several dark elf assassins were already in the vicinity of Emperor Elise. The giant dark werewolves were also growing nearer and nearer to the walls.

Emperor Elise had also lost a lot of talents to the Beyond the Heavens Empire. When he thought about it, he realized there was also a time when he fought on the battlefield with his talented warriors. A time when he laughed with them as they cut down their enemies together. However, these people were no longer by his side. At that moment, he recalled the promises that they had made.

–I'll become more powerful to protect you, Your Majesty.

–Your Majesty, I will become stronger!

Perhaps they went to the Beyond the Heavens Empire because they wanted to achieve something.

Emperor Elise asked himself, *'Everyone, were you able to achieve what you wanted to achieve?'*

Was the Beyond the Heavens' Emperor able to give them the things they wanted to get so much? Was he able to do what Elise could not do for them? At that moment, when the assassin shot forward with the dagger pointing at his neck, the greedy emperor sincerely spoke, "I hope you guys were able to achieve what you wanted to achieve."

In that brief moment, Elise sincerely hoped that the Beyond the Heavens' Emperor was able to do what he could not do for them. But before the dagger could even touch Elise's neck, a bright light flashed, and a man appeared. The man grabbed the assassin's wrist.

Swoosh–

"Your Majesty."

Three men simultaneously appeared in that flash of light. They were the talents that promised to become stronger for him in the past. They left him because of his changes, his negligence, and his crooked policies. They left because they grew tired of his growing faults and wanted to find a greener pasture and improve even further.

The man who grabbed the dark elf assassin's wrist was Knight Edom. He was one of the knights who fought alongside Elise in the past. Elise looked at Edom and asked him silently, *'Were you able to get what you wanted to get after leaving me?'*

Edom responded with his actions. He swiftly used his other hand to grab the dark elf assassin's collar and slam him down on the ground.

Boooooooooom–

The ground cracked as the dark elf assassin spat a mouthful of blood.

Shiiiiing–

Edom and the two other knights that appeared with him drew their swords and cut down the charging assassins in one swift move.

Ting– Ting, ting, ting, ting, ting– Ting–!

A smile unknowingly appeared on Elise's face as he watched the man draw blood from the enemies.

“Did the Beyond the Heavens' Emperor cry as he gave you his orders?”

The three turned to look at Elise when they heard his question. He was half-right. Their new emperor did not cry, but it was certain that he had asked them to win the hearts of everyone here. However, his words implied that he truly wanted them to protect their former masters.

“Have you come this far?”

“...”

“...”

The three silently stared at Elise. Then, Edom said, “We also wished to protect you, Your Majesty.”

“...”

Elise looked at them and realized that the Beyond the Heavens' Emperor had allowed them to grow stronger, even more than he did. At this point, Elise had to admit that his people made the right choice in immigrating to the Beyond the Heavens Empire. He could no longer deny nor curse and criticize the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

“Will you follow my final order?”

“Please give us your orders!”

Elise stared coldly ahead of him, knowing that they had become stronger.

“Protect the people.”

Edom and the other talents acknowledged Elise's command.

“We will obey your orders!”

“We will obey your orders!”

Dash–

Dash–

Dash–

The three immediately flew off of the wall. Each of them went on to fight against one giant dark werewolf. These giant dark werewolves were very hard to deal with. No scratch would appear on their skin despite thousands of arrows shooting toward them. They did not even blink when thousands of spears stabbed at their bodies.

Thuuuuuuuuud–

But the moment Edom swung his sword, the head of the giant dark werewolf that he was facing fell down and rolled on the ground.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang–!

When another knight shot out countless magic bombs, the body of the giant dark werewolf in front of him exploded and turned into pieces. Even the remaining knight, who used a dagger to stab the neck of the giant dark werewolf that he was dealing with, was able to knock the gigantic being down.

“...”

Elise watched them while thinking, *‘He has truly done what I couldn’t do.’*

Would the relationship between an emperor and his subordinate end with accepting and acknowledging each other?

Although the three talents had left Elise’s side, he could clearly see in their eyes that they came here on the orders of the Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor, but also truly to protect him.

“Thank you.”

The Beyond the Heavens Empire not only embraced his former subordinates, but he also realized their importance and their true worth.

At the same time, Minhyuk heard these notifications.

[Emperor Elise’s favor has increased.]

[Emperor Elise’s favor has increased.]

After seeing his former talents cut down the giant dark werewolves, Emperor Elise cried loudly, “Beyond the Heavens Empire, please help us!!!”

This was the first shot, the signal. The kings and emperors, who had also witnessed the performance of Emperor Elise’s former talents, shouted together.

“Beyond the Heavens Empire, please save us.”

“I beg you. Please save us!”

At that moment, more than a hundred thousand lights flashed in the sky. At the same time, the talents that each kingdom and empire had once cherished and loved appeared in front of them.

“Sir Amolde...!”

“Marquis Vioness!”

“Count Latio!”

The kings and emperors were very happy to be reunited with their former talents. However, they were also fully aware of the extent of their power. They all knew that their power was not enough to deal with a giant dark werewolf. However, the talents, who appeared on the walls, just flew up regardless of their worries and knocked down the giant dark werewolves.

Thud– Thud, thud– Thuuuuuuud– Thuuuuuuuud–!

The kings and emperors could only stare in awe as the dark werewolves collapsed with a loud thud on the ground. The Beyond the Heavens Empire did what they could not do.

As for the Beyond the Heavens' knights and soldiers that appeared on the walls, everyone knew they were stronger than their own empires and kingdoms' knights and soldiers. However, what they could not figure out was their numbers. What could a mere 100,000 people be able to do against such enemies? The dark elves' speed at which they wielded their sword was so fast that they could even cut down arrows. It was also tough to even leave a scratch on their skins.

However, Amacar was standing before these soldiers and knights. When Amacar raised his hand, the 100,000 knights and soldiers immediately pulled the strings of their bows. Like the talents, these knights and soldiers had also received the effects of buff dishes and had grown under Amacar's training.

[You have received the Guardian God's Power of Bullseye's Arrow!]

[After receiving the buff, the first and second arrows you shoot will have an additional 1,000% attack. The arrows' hit rate and penetration rate will also double!]

White light gathered at the tip of the soldiers' and knights' arrows, and they released their hold on the strings.

Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, stab—

Their arrows instantly pierced through the hearts of the dark elves that were running fiercely and the necks of the dark werewolves that were charging crazily.

Thud— Thud— Thud— Thud—

The jaws of the kings and emperors that watched this scene almost dropped to the ground.

“Ar-are you telling me that those are ordinary soldiers?!”

“Th-this...!”

The Beyond the Heavens Empire's ordinary soldiers looked like knights who could deal with ten soldiers alone. No, perhaps they were far more than that.

[Pride's King's favor has increased.]

[Affro's King's favor has increased.]

[Heinek's Emperor's favor has increased.]

[Condni's Emperor's favor has increased...]

Notifications rang constantly in Minhyuk's ears.

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The knights and soldiers of the Beyond the Heavens Empire standing on the Aplath Empire's walls were the empire's elites. However, even if that was the case, most had already started to face the limits of their growth. But thanks to the combination of Minhyuk's buffed dish and Amacar's growth buff effect, they were able to exceed their limits and grow even further. They also grew even more powerful thanks to the effects of the trailer's large-scale dishes.

The kings and emperors also thought of Minhyuk's buffed dishes. According to the rumors they had heard, Minhyuk's buffed dishes had ridiculous and unbelievable effects. Because the stories were

too absurd, it did not even cross their minds that the power the knights and soldiers displayed was also thanks to Minhyuk's *buffed dishes*.

The elites of the Beyond the Heavens Empire pulled the strings of their bow immediately after they killed more than 70,000 of the enemy troops. They then shot their arrows once again at the dark elves that were cutting through the gaps of the coalition forces and the dark werewolves that were charging toward the walls.

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

The kings and emperors thought their arrows became unusually more potent because of the Guardian God, Obren. Well, it was only half right.

As more dark elves collapsed, the Beyond the Heavens Empire's elites quickly slung their bows on their backs and hung ropes on the pillars of the walls. Using these ropes, they swiftly descended. The knights and soldiers swiftly drove away the dark elves that crowded the vicinity of the walls of the Aplath Empire the moment their feet landed on the ground.

“Keuaaaaaaaaack!”

The fearsome and mighty dark elves were being cut down quickly by the blades of the knights and soldiers. Perhaps it was only natural. After all, the ones that taught them swordsmanship and spearmanship were Brod and Spear God Ben.

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

The knights and soldiers quickly dealt with the dark elves near the walls. As for the dark elves that mounted the dark werewolves? The talented recruits of the Beyond the Heavens Empire were the ones who flew up and dealt with them.

Slaaaaaaaaash—

Keller cut down a dark werewolf with one swing of his spear. So far, he had three teachers. They were Spear God Ben, Amacar, and Attention Seeker Emperor Ellie.

“As long as there's a single dragon's breath in my spear, none of you can reach this gate!”

Keller had learned how to gain the most attention from her. And the effects were truly outstanding. The kings and emperors immediately turned to look at him when they heard his cries. And what did they see? They saw Keller moving swiftly to kill everyone who tried to get near the walls.

“Th- that's crazy...!”

“Tell me! How can he wield such power?!”

The kings and emperors murmured in awe.

Meanwhile, Keller laughed to himself. *‘It's as you say, Attention Seeker Emperor. Everyone is amazed.’*

If Keller was only dealing with one enemy and he said those words, then everyone would snicker at him and call him *nuts*. However, his lines were a perfect fit for the situation, so it made him shine even more.

Everyone who received training from Attention Seeker Emperor Ellie began to speak one after another as if on cue.

Edom gathered the man in his body and said, "A bloody wind will blow."

The mana roared as it rose from the blade of his sword. Edom's secret skill, Pollard Swordsmanship's Final Chapter, the Beast's Charge, was a skill that could engulf an entire forty-meter radius and rip apart everyone and everything within the area.

[Guardian God Obren has activated the Skill Reinforcement Buff.]

[Upon receiving the buff, the first skill you will use will have a 30% increase in attack.]

[For AOE Skills, their range will increase by an additional 40%.]

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

Once the pride of the Aplath Empire, Edom released a sword attack that engulfed hundreds of dark elves all at once. Emperor Elise also knew about Edom's secret skill. However, he was shocked and impressed by the power it displayed right now. It was many times stronger than before.

All of the Beyond the Heavens Empire's knights, soldiers, and talents were protected by Guardian God Obren, who, when coupled with various factors, had gathered together and created a shocking synergistic effect.

However, Guardian God Obren could not protect and support the Beyond the Heavens Empire for as long as he wanted. Since Athenae was a game that promoted balance, Guardian God Obren's ability to provide help and protection to the Beyond the Heavens Empire had received several restrictions and had a limit per day.

The Beyond the Heavens Empire's knights, soldiers, and talents had already killed more than 500,000 dark elves. Everyone performed splendidly. And this was more so the case for the talents. They had displayed an outstanding performance that would not lose to the Luvien Empire's lower-ranked Swords of the Gods. And because they performed outstandingly, even the knights and soldiers could shine even more.

However, at that moment, the eyes of Dark Elf Jack, who was watching everything from a distance, turned black. At the same time, Jack's voice rang in the heads of the dark elves, whose eyes had also turned black.

—Eliminate the strong ones first.

The moment Dark Elf Jack issued the order, all of the dark elves dealing with the coalition army and the Beyond the Heavens' troops immediately turned their heads towards the Beyond the Heavens' talents. Even the dark werewolves were doing the same thing. Then, they began to charge at them as if they had gone crazy.

"This..." Keller was left flustered.

The enemies completely ignored the attacks sent by the coalition army and the Beyond the Heavens' troops. They continued to charge at the newly recruited and cultivated talents of the Beyond the Heavens Empire. Everyone was left with a sense of urgency when they suddenly saw the enemies charge at them. But that was not all. The dark elves also used the spirits of darkness to cast various spirit magic upon them.

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

Dozens of explosions bombed the talents.

However, the bigger problem was Jack. A considerable spark appeared on the tip of the longsword that Jack raised high up in the sky. The spark soared even higher in the sky before splitting dozens of times. Then, the enormous sparks filled with tremendous power fell towards the talented people.

[Guardian God's Protection.]

[Guardian God Obren's Barrier has been activated!]

In this heart-stopping crisis where all the talents almost risked being wiped out, Obren cast a blue barrier that surrounded all of them.

Crackle, crackle, crackle, crackle—!

A thick layer of dust bloomed as the powerful force slammed into Obren's barrier. Injuries littered the bodies of the talents while they huddled inside the barrier. No matter how strong they were, it would still be tough for them to endure such an intense and overwhelming attack and leave unscathed.

[Beyond the Heavens Empire's Guardian Deity Obren strongly recommends a retreat!]

[Guardian God Obren says that he might be unable to protect you anymore after this!]

The barrier that Guardian God Obren cast this time had exhausted many of the buffs he could use to protect and help the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

The talents all felt that it was a pity.

'I should have fought a bit more actively.'

'I wanted to show the person I served before that I am doing well now.'

However, they all knew their lives were the most important thing here. Then, Beyond the Heavens' Guardian God, Obren spoke to them.

[Guardian God Obren tells you that what you did is more than enough.]

They turned to look at the kings and emperors from within the barrier. It looked like they were looking at them in awe and admiration. They also seemed like they looked apprehensive about them.

"Come back quickly!"

"Hurry!"

"The situation has turned for the worst! Retreat first! The coalition army will stop them!"

Even the 100,000-strong Beyond the Heavens Empire troops had already done more than enough. They had shown the kings and emperors they could do what they could not do before.

Just like that, the Beyond the Heavens' talents and troops began to retreat. However, the dark elves and the dark werewolves did not make it easy for them. Dark Elf Jack also did not have any

intention of letting them retreat. After all, he knew that they would pose another threat to them once these people recovered.

"Fweeeeeeeeeet-!" Jack whistled loudly. His whistle, which sounded strangely similar, yet also different, from the whistle he used when he summoned the dark werewolves, echoed loudly on the battlefield.

"Fweeeeeeeeeet-!"

Unlike the brief whistle from before, this whistle resonated longer.

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

Almost a thousand giant dark werewolves fell down from the sky.

"..."

"..."

"..."

The kings and emperors were all stunned silly by their appearance. The talents had hunted around twenty giant dark werewolves just a few moments prior but now almost a thousand appeared before them. However, it did not end there.

"Screeeeeeeeeeech—"

A gathering of 500 black eagles the size of an elephant carrying dark elves flew out of the crack that appeared in the sky above them. Their levels were almost at the same level as the giant dark werewolves.

"Th-those are the Black Eagles from the legends, right?"

According to the legends, these eagles could rip apart a human body with their beaks alone and even cut up anything in their path with their wings. The worst part was they were flight-type monsters.

When they appeared, those black eagles immediately swooped down and divided the coalition army into two.

"Quick! Run! Retreat!" Amacar shouted hurriedly.

He knew that he was on the verge of losing all of the talents and troops of the Beyond the Heavens Empire. However, the dark elves and the dark werewolves were persistent. They continued to block the path of the retreating forces.

In just an instant, the battlefield grew chaotic. The charging giant dark werewolves looked like a herd of elephants running towards a clan of hyenas. Meanwhile, the black eagles had taken over the skies. They would swoop in from time to time and try to bite off the heads of the kings and emperors on the walls.

"I am very grateful for the help given to us by the Beyond the Heavens Empire..."

However, the help that they had given was not enough to help them truly overcome the situation.

Dark Elf Jack had declared the destruction of all kingdoms and empires. Perhaps the kings and emperors already knew that they were hiding their numbers when they heard the declaration of war.

The flock of black eagles had already turned the sky into a sea of black, while the thousand giant dark werewolves on the ground had forced the land to tremble and shake.

“It’s over...” Someone murmured in despair.

Perhaps this was the end for the kings and emperors present here, the sound and healthy people of the kingdoms and empires, and the talents and troops that the Beyond the Heavens Empire sent to help them.

But then, at that moment, a loud cry resounded from the sky above them. The kings, emperors, the troops of the coalition army, and the talents, knights, and soldiers of the Beyond the Heavens Empire quickly turned their heads to look in the direction where the cry came from.

[Guardian God Obren has triggered the Freedom’s Blessings!]

[You can now use any skill you want, regardless of their cooldown restriction or requirements!]

[Guardian God Obren has used 97% of his authority to help the Beyond the Heavens Empire for this day!]

There, they saw a man falling rapidly from the sky above. All around the man, ten thousand swords made of light twinkled into existence.

[Ten Thousand Swords.]

[Ten Thousand Swords is a skill that can demonstrate great power in large-scale battles!]

[Ten Thousand Swords will chase after the stronger enemies and pierce through the hearts of ‘Ten Thousand’ enemies!]

[Each sword of the Ten Thousand Swords has a 6,000% additional attack!]

[Those grazed or cut by the Ten Thousand Swords in passing will receive an additional 3,000% damage!]

Then, the ten thousand swords made of light immediately rained down upon their enemies.

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

The gathering of black eagles fell from the skies while the hearts of the giant dark werewolves running on the ground were torn apart.

[The Highest God has appeared!]

The man who appeared with that loud cry was none other than Minhyuk.

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The kings and emperors had been in a panic. However, all stood still when they saw the ten thousand swords made of light rain down from the sky above them, forcing the ferocious convocation of black eagles to fall from the sky, and the pack of giant dark werewolves collapsed on the ground. Then, a notification rang in everyone’s ears.

[The Highest God has appeared!]

The kings and emperors watched as Minhyuk slowly fell from the sky.

‘It seems like the wild rumors that we heard were true.’

‘Everything was true.’

‘Perhaps our inferiority complex has made us deny and ignore him.’

The Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor has proven his abilities to them through the growth of his army and his newly recruited talents to his power. Everyone’s mouth turned shut when they saw the devastation left behind on the battlefield.

Vwoooooooooong—

Vwoooooooooooooooooong—

Vwoooooooooong—

[Bacalod’s Sword is resonating!]

[Bacalod’s Sword loses its power before the Greatest Sword!]

[The Fastest Emperor’s Sword loses its power in front of the Greatest Sword...!]

The coalition army and the dark elves’ weapons and armor lost their sharpness and power.

[The Dark Elven Army’s morale has decreased significantly!]

The Dark Elven Army fell into chaos.

The black eagles and the giant dark werewolves were battle weapons they had nurtured and developed with all their hearts and souls. But those fierce and mighty battle weapons were easily killed by a skill triggered by one man and one man alone. There was also the voice that announced the appearance of the Highest God that rang in their ears the moment the man appeared. But that was not all. The power of the armor and weapons they had equipped had lost their sharpness and strength. All of that put together would bring anyone’s morale down.

Tap—

Minhyuk landed lightly on the walls. His white cape carrying the Beyond the Heavens Empire’s symbol fluttered behind him as he glared coldly at the enemy troops. Then, he turned his head and asked, “Are you alright?”

“Y- Yeah...”

“Y- Yes.”

The kings and emperors unknowingly felt dejected.

The Beyond the Heavens Empire was only a newly established empire. However, just one look at the current situation showed that Beyond the Heavens’ growth would skyrocket. They also did not know that Emperor Minhyuk was that strong.

‘Is he as strong as Nerva?’ One of the emperors entertained such thoughts. However, he quickly shook his head. They heard that Emperor Nerva had lost an eye to

Minhyuk recently. Even so, Nerva was a powerful person. He was strong enough that he could transcend even the gods. The current Minhyuk could not win against him.

“I will do my best to help you.”

The kings and emperors nodded at Minhyuk.

“If things work out well in the end, then we’re also willing to view the Beyond the Heavens Empire in a new light and rethink the relationship between our nations.”

“The same goes for my kingdom.”

“I will make sure to repay you for your help.”

What else would they need to do to repair their relationship when the Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor personally jumped onto the battlefield for them?

At that moment, the most influential emperor, Emperor Elise, stepped forward and said, “Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor.”

Minhyuk looked back at him with his sharp eyes.

“Please kill them all. I will make sure to repay you for that!”

[Aplath Empire’s Emperor Elise has promised the Beyond the Heavens Empire a handsome and definite reward!]

[The rewards would depend on your performance and the performance of the Beyond the Heavens Empire!]

Minhyuk nodded.

All of the kings and emperors hoped that the dark elves, the race that threatened their lives, would fall apart and disappear. And right now when all of their weapons and armor had lost its power was the perfect chance for that.

Everyone focused their attention on Minhyuk as he jumped off the walls. Because of his appearance, all of the Beyond the Heavens’ talents and troops that were led by Amacar had retreated safely and had entered the gates of the Aplath Empire.

The kings and emperors hurriedly gathered around Amacar, who climbed atop the walls again for a short break, and asked anxiously.

“Will the Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor go alone?”

“Are you just sending Emperor Minhyuk out there by himself?”

They all thought that the troops led by Amacar would go out on the battlefield once again. However, Amacar just sat down and tried to catch his breath.

“Yes.”

“No. Wh- what...”

“You should get Brod and Spear God Ben...”

But Amacar just shook his head. "It's fine."

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

Just when Amacar's words ended, a loud explosion erupted from the battlefield. They were greeted by a bolt of bloody red lightning falling from the sky when they turned to look at the battlefield once again. Just one bloody red lightning bolt instantly decimated dozens of dark elves. The most shocking part? The bloody red lightning fell so frequently that one had to wonder if it was truly a passive skill.

"Keheooooook. He- he just swung his sword once...!"

It was just like one of the kings said. Minhyuk almost killed one of the dark elves with just one simple swing of his sword and no passive skill triggered. This was possible thanks to the power of the Sword of Aeon and because their armor's defense had dropped to zero.

Then, the dark elves' eyes turned black once again, a voice ringing in their heads telling them to kill the man named *Minhyuk*. The dark elves and the dark werewolves ignored the coalition army to charge at Minhyuk. But that was not all. The spirits of darkness also created hundreds of black spheres and sent them to Minhyuk, engulfing him in a series of explosions.

Bang, bang, bang, bang—!

The series of attacks decreased Minhyuk's HP.

"Th- this..."

The kings and emperors could only shout in worry as they watched the thick cloud of dust rise in the air. However, when the thick cloud of dust settled down and revealed Minhyuk's figure, they saw hundreds of bloody red beads floating around him. The injuries littering Minhyuk's body recovered at a speed visible to the naked eye as the bloody red beads seeped into his body.

"...!"

"...!"

The kings and emperors, who watched dozens of dark elves fall with every swing of Minhyuk's sword, could only sigh in disbelief.

'Even our ten million strong troops could not show such majesty and might...'

'How can he overwhelm an entire army by himself?'

Even though there were 3.5 million dark elves surrounding him, they felt like Minhyuk was not falling behind at all.

'Come out.'

Minhyuk was waiting. Dark Elf Jack was one of the Six Monster Gods and he was currently still hiding. Minhyuk was fully aware that he was prepared for this war. After all, he had nurtured and fostered millions of dark elves and raised a convocation of black eagles and a pack of giant dark werewolves. From what he could see, he still had quite a lot hidden up his sleeve. And that was what Minhyuk was waiting for.

Of course, he would not just sit still and wait. He wanted to defeat at least 400,000 dark elves during the process of waiting.

Creak, creak— Creak—

At that moment, something appeared in front of Minhyuk, who was fully surrounded by the dark elves. It was none other than a puppet. The puppet's joints slowly twisted into place as its head and limbs were held up and controlled by a transparent and thin thread. This puppet was Envoy Viel.

Puppet Viel could only be summoned for ten minutes. However, one should not forget how much damage Puppet Viel could deal, both his attack and defense could rival that of Brod's own. The best part was Minhyuk could get 100% of the gold and artifact drops and 50% EXP from the ones Viel hunted.

'Since there are millions of ants, let's take out the elephant Viel to trample on them, no?'

Minhyuk would sit back and devour their EXP and artifacts.

'Macro hunting is the best!'

Finally, all of Viel's joints had twisted into place. With his sword in hand, Viel immediately jumped into the middle of the sea of dark elves.

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

Viel moved like a ghost, his sword sweeping away all the dark elves blocking his path.

"...!" Jack's eyes grew wide from shock as he watched this unfold from a distance. And the same was true for the kings and emperors.

Minhyuk could kill Viel because he was strong; this was an undeniable fact. However, his luck also played a massive role in that fight. There was also Guardian God Obren. His power also contributed significantly to the defeat of Envoy Viel.

Creak, creak, creak—

Viel tilted his head slowly to look at the dozens of elves that charged at him all at once. He looked at them as if he found them laughable. Then, he swung his sword.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

A sword light shot out from Viel's sword and blasted the dark elves, their bodies ripping apart from the force of the blow.

[You have acquired 100% gold and artifact drops and 50% EXP from the ones your Puppet has hunted!]

[You have gained 1,300,010 EXP.]

[You have gained 1,505,130 EXP.]

[...EXP.]

[...EXP.]

[You have obtained 7,513,013 gold.]

[You have obtained 9,413,100 gold.]

[You have obtained 13,00,203 gold.]

[....gold.]

[...gold.]

Of course, Minhyuk did not stay idle. He slowly cast the Overlord's Technique while he listened to the notifications that rang in his ears.

'I have to kill as many enemies as possible.'

Only by doing so would the man behind this army feel the danger and pull out the cards he had hidden in his sleeves.

Boooooooooooooooooom—!

The flames of the Overlord's Technique erupted and devoured tens of thousands of the dark elves. The dark elves' flesh burned, leaving only their bones behind. However, it did not take long for it to turn into ashes that disappeared into the wind. But Minhyuk did not stop there.

"Summon Beanie."

"Oiiiiiiiiiiiink!"

The baby piggy Beanie stood out, his thick and plump belly bulging as he pointed his Food God's Kitchen Knife forward.

"Overlord's Technique."

"Oiiiiiiiiiiiink (*Overlord's Technique. Oink!*)!"

Minhyuk and Beanie both cast the Overlord's Technique.

Minhyuk used the skill he saved using the *Save* skill, while Beanie used the skill through his Predator's Authority. A loud sound wave erupted as two Overlord's Technique overlapped. The skill devoured over 100,000 dark elves, turning them into ashes that disappeared into the wind.

There was also Envoy Viel, who was standing next to Minhyuk. He also cast several AOE attack skills and slaughtered thousands of dark elves.

"Uhh...!"

"Keheok!"

"This...!"

The kings and emperors could only gape at the Beyond the Heavens' Emperor. The momentum and power he displayed in front of them was something they had not seen, even in their talents.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk continued to advance.

"Intangible Sword."

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

Hundreds of invisible swords swept away the dark elves, whose attack and defense had already returned. *Thousand Soldiers and Ten Thousand War Horses*, even that was not enough against Minhyuk. But then, at that moment...

[The Great Spirit of Darkness Pero has gone berserk!]

“Graaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

The Great Spirit of Darkness Pero slowly grew bigger and bigger, like a giant created by lumps of soil gathering together.

[The Great Spirit of Darkness Pero has revealed his true and complete appearance!]

[The Great Spirit of Darkness Pero has forcefully used the power of the Four Spirit Kings!]

“Roaaaaaaaaaaaaaar!”

The loud and piercing scream made the entire battlefield, including Minhyuk, stop in their tracks.

Dark Elf Jack was impressed by the human running rampant on the battlefield.

‘He is a powerhouse, the likes of which did not exist even in the past era.’

Not all of the gods were strong. Quite a few humans had also transcended their limits and became gods. And it was evident to Jack that the man on the battlefield was the greatest Supreme of this era.

Jack was confident that he would win this war. However, he knew that clashing against this man would damage him significantly. So, rather than using his power, he borrowed the power of the Great Spirit of Darkness Pero.

Among the Five Great Spirits, the Great Spirit of Darkness Pero was the most stubborn and challenging. He was also very vicious and ferocious. He could borrow the power of the other Great Spirits and use them as his own.

“Groaaaaaaaaaar!”

[Great Spirit of Darkness Pero. Level 813.]

Great Spirit of Darkness Pero’s level increased sharply.

Even his height grew higher and higher until he reached thirty meters in height. After his transformation, his eyes immediately turned to look at one man and one man alone. This man was none other than Minhyuk.

‘Is this a human that has transcended and become a god, or a god from the start? I can’t figure out what he is exactly.’

In Pero’s eyes, the man looked like a god and an ordinary human being. Pero gathered his power and pieced an attack that he would send to the human emperors.

[Spear of Exploding Flames.]

A spear made out of blazing flames appeared in Pero's hands. This power initially belonged to the Spirit King of Fire Ifrit. Pero, aiming for the walls before, suddenly twisted his arm and threw the spear in the opposite direction

—Baaaaaaaaaaaaang

A powerful spear of flames shot toward the lone man on the battlefield. The spear of flames created an explosion akin to that of a nuclear bomb and devoured an area with a radius of 250 meters.

“Kghhk...”

The human named Minhyuk looked like he suffered a huge amount of damage when the aftermath of the explosion disappeared and revealed his appearance. His entire body was scorched and it seemed like his life force had dropped by a significant amount.

‘Even if you are the Supreme of this era, Pero will still be stronger than you.’

However, Jack found that something was not right. Why did the man change directions? At this point, he realized that not much damage had been done to the walls. But there was still something off.

Crunch—

It was because he saw the man chew something. Then, he saw the glint in the eyes of the disheveled man.

“Summon Brod.”

Then, he ate another almond.

Crunch—

“Summon Ben.”

And another.

“Summon Elizabeth.”

“Summon Luo.”

“Summon Elpis.”

And...

[Beyond the Heavens' Empire's Guardian God Obren warps the people of the Beyond the Heavens Empire!]

[Guardian God Obren has used 100% of his authority to help the Beyond the Heavens Empire for this day!]

Dark Elf Jack could see dozens of people surrounding Pero with gazes that looked at him arrogantly. One of those people was Spear God Ben, another was the Fallen Wretched Emperor Brod, and another was Great Demon Elpis. There were also Six Monster Gods' Elizabeth, Sword of the Gods Luo, Golden Mage Ali, Beyond the Heavens' Marquis Genie, Khan, Locke, Ares, and

Calauhel. They all pointed their weapons at Pero, their pinnacle skills ready to be released. Jack could tell that they were all powerhouses.

‘The supremes of the current era are gathered together in one place...?’

Dark Elf Jack had an exceptional sense of hearing. He could hear someone even when they were at the distant walls. He heard someone from over there murmur, “The vassals of the Beyond the Heavens Empire have all gathered in one place.”

“...!”

He learned that all of these people served the man named *Minhyuk*.

Chapter 864

The number of strong men and powerhouses who dominated an entire era was limited. There were eras with exceptionally high numbers of strong men, but their numbers remained limited.

And Dark Elf Jack? He was once one of the leading powerhouses of his era. Back then, he fought against many people. There was a human that had become transcendental after transcending the limits of his human body. He became a god that possessed the strongest power among the gods, with a legendary class that had already gone beyond the realms of god. A king of an entire race. Men who threatened humanity as a whole. He had fought against so many and found out something common about these strong men.

‘They were people that would not bow down to anyone.’

Why did those people, who were hailed as the supremes, fight against each other? Even though Dark Elf Jack was considered one of those strong men, he still loved peace back then. Nevertheless, he understood their reasoning. They fought against each other because of their desire to *possess* and *dominate*. The supremes would never work with each other. They were like oil and water.

They were the type of people who had high pride and ego. They might kneel to others but never allow themselves to bow down to anyone. But what Dark Elf Jack was witnessing was something that went against that.

The current era’s supremes had surrounded Pero, who was floating in the sky and glaring fiercely at him. Then, Jack heard these vassals shout, “Your Majesty, please give us your orders!!!”

Those that would not mix like oil and water were all working together. And they all served a single man.

Sizzle—

Minhyuk, whose HP had dropped below 10% in one go, immediately ate some choco bars and used his Absorption Conversion skill. When his HP had recovered by more than 20%, he looked up and glared at Pero before giving his order, “Destroy him.”

‘That’s not it. It’s probably because it’s been long since I appeared in this world, right?’

Jack quickly denied his conjectures. Yes, they might be powerhouses, but they were most likely not the ones who stood at the peak of this current era. The true supreme was only the man named *Minhyuk*. However, that was only his wishful thinking.

Then, a man with a massive build, Brod, made a move. “Mercenary’s Pinnacle Swordsmanship. Final Chapter.”

Brod looked infinitely smaller than the thirty-meter-tall Pero. However, when Brod swung his sword, hundreds of red sword lights tore through Pero’s body.

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

“Ah! Hurts...! It hurts- hurts! It hurts!!! It huuuuurts!”

Pero was the Great Spirit of Darkness, so no one should have been able to inflict damage on his body. However, the red sword lights that Brod released forced a scream out of Pero’s mouth.

Jack shook his head. ‘*Right, let’s deny the reality in front of us.*’

At that moment, an old man with long black hair stepped forward. Even if he was once a legend or even if he became a god, an old man would forever be considered a weak and frail existence; it was only natural. As people grew older, they also grew more vulnerable. However, this old man was different.

“Spear God’s Bull.”

The elderly man named Ben might look weak and frail, but he had the God-rank artifact *God Piercing Spear* in his hands. When he raised this spear, the soft and feeble old man would instantly become one of the greatest gods, Spear God Ben.

The moment he activated the Spear God’s Bull, a spearlight shot from the tip of his spear and turned into a recklessly charging bull.

[Spear God’s Bull.]

[The Spear God’s Bull will charge at anything and everything within a hundred-meter radius and inflict 6,800% additional damage.]

[Those that the Spear God’s Bull had grazed would receive a variety of abnormal status debuffs!]

[You have equipped the God Piercing Spear!]

[The one that equipped the God Piercing Spear would receive a 1.4x increase in all their skills’ damage!]

[The Spear God’s Bull will have 9,520% additional damage.]

The Spear God’s Bull triggered right above Pero’s head, receiving a 1.4x increase in damage after Ben equipped the God Piercing Spear. The Spear God’s Bull pierced through Pero before charging straight toward the dark elves below them and tearing them apart.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack! Aaaaaaaaaack! S- stop! It hurts. It hurts. It hurts!!!”

Jack grew restless when he heard Pero scream once again. Pero’s recovery rate was beyond anyone’s imagination. He could see that the injuries on Pero’s body were slowly recovering.

[Recovery Regulation.]

[The system has taken control over Pero’s recovery rate. He would not be able to recover from his injuries!]

“...”

Jack turned his focus on one of the women. And he could not believe his eyes. The cold look on the girl's face could not hide how pretty she was. Her clear skin and slightly raised eyes were a thing of beauty. However, those eyes were very familiar to Jack.

‘Elizabeth?’

Of course, Jack knew who Elizabeth was. She was the god in charge of the system and a very pitiful woman who was driven away from the Land of the Gods by the Absolute Gods and trapped and sealed on earth.

‘How come you're here?’

Jack could not understand a lot of what he witnessed today. While he was still confused, the enemies continuously attacked Pero, whose ability to recover had been restricted.

“Giant's Fist.”

Boooooooooooooom—!

King of Fist Khan's punch landed on Pero's waist and almost dislocated his pelvis. But that was not the end; Ares quickly landed a kick on the back of Pero's head.

Kiiiiick—!

“Keuoooooooook! Aaaaaaaack!”

The kings and emperors were speechless as they constantly heard the screams from Pero's mouth.

Minhyuk's Shadow, Sword of the Gods Luo, moved swiftly and skillfully. Using his daggers, he stabbed all over Pero's body a hundred times per second. Then, Great Demon Elpis used the *Berserk* skill attached to the *Devil Judge's Sword*.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaa—

Of course, Elpis did not stop there. He also triggered the Splitting the Great Demon skill, releasing a ten-meter-long sword covered with roaring black demonic energy that cut through Pero's body.

[The Great Spirit of Darkness Pero is in danger!]

[The Great Spirit of Darkness Pero has triggered the Great Spirits' Pinnacle Power!]

The Great Spirit's Pinnacle Power appeared as a pentagon and carried the symbols representing the Great Spirits.

Darkness was represented by a black hole.

Fire was represented by a blazing flame.

Water was characterized by droplets of rain.

Earth was represented by a boulder.

Lightning was represented by a bolt of lightning.

Seeing this, Jack was utterly flustered. Jack was a being who loved peace. He only changed because of the greedy and vicious human beings. Even earlier, the only reason Pero borrowed the power of

the Great Spirit of Fire Ifrit was Pero's decision and not Jack's. It was also the case now. However, the Great Spirit's Pinnacle Power would attack anyone, regardless if they were an ally or a foe.

"Pero! Stop!"

Jack shouted hurriedly.

However, it was too late.

The five different symbols were already starting to cast their pinnacle powers.

[Terrifying darkness fell upon the world.]

The Darkness' Pinnacle Power became a black fog that devoured the battlefield. How did the Darkness' Pinnacle Power work? It would inflict a variety of abnormal statuses on everyone until they succumb to their deaths.

[Fierce and strong winds blew away all of the enemies.]

A sharp wind blew and covered an area of a hundred meters. This wind would tear apart anything and everything in its path.

[Blazing flames burned everything to ashes.]

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

A gigantic lump of flame that looked similar to a meteor fell from the sky to devour the enemies that surrounded Pero. The flame burned everything and had the power of a nuclear bomb.

[Powerful bolts of lightning devoured everything in the area.]

Crackle, crackle, crackle, crackle—

Thousands of lightning bolts threatened to fall from the sky and annihilate everything regardless of whether they were friend or foe.

[The earth's power moved to destroy everything.]

Thousands of gigantic boulders appeared in the sky, shooting down as if they would crash and topple everything beneath them.

Jack's expression grew ugly. Pero was a violent and ferocious Great Spirit. However, he was a friend who had stayed by his side for a very long time. And this very same Pero, who wanted to escape the terrible pain that he was being subjected to, made a choice that he should not have made.

"Ah..."

Many of the dark elves who vowed to help Jack regain the land taken away from them would die from this. They might have become a race that only knew how to wield their weapons and fight, but it was only because they wanted to regain what had been taken away from them.

However, it was not just them that would die. Pero was determined when he cast that power, he would take down those supremes. If that happened, then the situation would still fall in their favor despite the pain of losing countless of their allies.

"Compress."

At that moment, a man with golden hair fluttering behind him made his presence known. This man had achieved what even the NPCs chosen by the God of Magic had failed to achieve. With a wave of this man's hand, all of the strong men of the Beyond the Heavens Empire were gathered together in one place.

"Barrier."

Then, he immediately wrapped them all within a barrier, allowing them to escape the danger.

"..."

Jack was impressed by the man's fantastic control. That was when he saw a man escape the barrier the mage had created.

'Emperor Minhyuk?'

Of course, he knew the emperor was doing this to protect his people. The coalition army's troops were also interspersed with the dark elves. However, shockingly enough, the man recklessly jumped into the Great Spirits' Pinnacle Power, which was slowly creating countless large-scale attacks. Then, he took something from his inventory.

'A mixer? And a bowl?'

Yes, that was right. Minhyuk took out a mixer and a bowl.

"...?"

Jack looked at the man in confusion. This man was the man who slaughtered hundreds of thousands of elves by himself. So, why did he suddenly take out a mixer and a bowl? But the moment he started to whisk the mixer in the bowl, all the attacks in the area disappeared into nothingness.

Shwaaaaaaa—!

"Keok?!" Jack spat out in shock.

However, Minhyuk did not stop there. He quickly used the Absolute Defense skill and became invincible for seven seconds before casting another skill just below Pero.

"Sword of Absolute Death."

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

Hundreds of lightning bolts fell upon the Great Spirits' Pinnacle Power and began crushing it. After the Sword of Absolute Death tore apart most attacks above them, Minhyuk quickly reached for the Legendary Frying Pan in his inventory.

"Gigantification."

A tremendous amount of mana slowly entered the frying pan and made it grow bigger and bigger. Then, Minhyuk wielded the pan and swung it toward the remaining hundreds of lightning bolts, boulders, and blazing balls of flames slowly falling upon them.

Swoooooooooosh—

A vast number of the attacks were blocked by the gigantified frying pan. This was only possible because Minhyuk's magical defense would reach a level beyond anyone's imagination, especially with the frying pan in his hands. But that was not all; he could also reflect more than half of the magical attacks sent his way.

However, even if he did so, more than half were already falling toward the surviving dark elves and coalition army troops.

Fwoooooooooosh—

But then, a mighty wind blew. The fierce wind's power was similar to that of the Great Spirit of Wind's Pinnacle Power that Pero had summoned earlier. The wind instantly tore apart the boulders, blazing balls of flames, and lightning bolts falling from the sky, making them disappear into nothingness.

Everyone, including Minhyuk, was surprised. When Minhyuk turned to look around him, he saw Elven King Argon with around ten million elves aiming their arrows at Jack and the dark elves behind him. And right beside Elven King Argon was the Wind Spirit King in the form of a woman. Argon looked like he was very exhausted and breathless after summoning a Spirit King. It seemed like he could not call her for too long since the figure of the Wind Spirit King immediately dispersed and disappeared.

Jack, who saw the elves appear on the scene, could not hide his surprise. Then, he heard Argon ask, "Father of the Elves, how were you able to come to this world?"

"..." Jack's mouth turned shut.

Minhyuk was relieved to see that the elves were showing hostility toward the dark elves. However, he also found something a bit too strange: *'This episode is a bit weird.'*

Generally, *signs and omens* would appear before an episode broke out. There would usually be something happening in the game to signal the start of an episode or Athenae would release a trailer or an announcement in advance to tell the players about a large-scale episode. Why? Because this was also a way for Athenae to entertain players and attract new subscribers.

However, not even a bit of foreshadowing happened before this episode started. Jack, the king of the dark elves and the father of all elves, just suddenly awakened and began the invasion of the dark elves.

'No way, right...?' Minhyuk's brows furrowed.

Jack was one of the Six Monster Gods. However, the Six Monster Gods no longer held such a massive influence in Athenae. Why? If all of the high-rankers had joined this war, they would have been able to overpower Jack and the dark elves without Minhyuk's appearance. After all, they were all *talented and strong individuals* who could return to life even if they died in battle. Simply put, episodes related to the Six Monster Gods no longer held any appeal to the masses. Because of that, Minhyuk and the Beyond the Heavens Empire came out to hunt them down.

'There's no way that Jack is just a smokescreen for this episode, right...?'

Just when the thought crossed Minhyuk's head, Jack said, "The one that allowed us to descend upon this world is..."

Everyone, including the kings and emperors, Minhyuk, and Elven King Argon, listened carefully to Jack's words.

"Immortal Sorceress Helenia."

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

"...!"

Everyone's eyes grew wide from shock. At the same time, a shocking world message resonated worldwide.

Minhyuk's prediction suddenly became a reality. The episode regarding the Six Monster Gods was indeed just a smokescreen. The true episode? It was the first ever Eight Pillars Episode.

Sword God Valen had recently found a new Sword God's Descendant.

'Minhyuk.'

Like Obren, Sword God Valen knew the Eight Pillars would considerably threaten Minhyuk. It was one of the reasons why he still did not cross the River of Reincarnation. He had hoped that Ellie would become his successor and help the boy. However, she chose not to inherit his position to protect her empire.

This time, Valen had turned his attention to a different successor he had been eyeing for a long time. A small and faint smile was on his face as he watched his chosen one.

'This boy will be the sword that will protect you.'

Valen, who was in his translucent soul form, continued to watch his chosen descendant, the faint smile on his face growing by the second. And the one that he was looking at?

"I am Conir! Everyone, eat ramyeon before going!"

The story of the new Sword God was about to begin.

Chapter 865

When everyone was shocked by the Six Monster Gods' Dark Elf Jack's connection to the first Eight Pillars Episode, another set of notifications rang in their ears.

[You can now watch the video for the new episode 'Immortal Sorceress Helenia.']

[Would you like to watch the video?]

"Yes," Minhyuk affirmed. At the same time, the scene in front of him changed.

In front of him appeared a land covered with deep and never-ending darkness. In this land where no sunlight could enter and no grass or grain could grow, those who had been shunned and deprived of their rich and beautiful lands lived. That was right; the Dark Elf Kingdom of Velroy existed in this darkness.

Dark Elf Kingdom of Velroy's King Jack looked at the passageway in the distance with a bitter look. "Is there no other way to open that passageway?"

The dark elves came here to hide at first because the Spring of Life was flowing in this land. The elven race was a race that boasted a longer lifespan than that of humans. However, that long lifespan was still not enough. Dark Elf Jack needed more time. And it was because of that reason that he chose this place.

For thousands of years, Jack had fostered and nurtured those dark elves. He could not remember when, but one day, an unknown force suddenly cut them off from the rest of the world. Jack thought that it was probably the elves' doing.

Gorn, the Elven King who had ruled over the elves for quite a long time, had visited him in this place before. Gorn had told him, "Father, please stop the war against mankind."

Jack grew furious. He looked at Gorn as if he was stupid. How dare he forget the land that those bastards had taken away from them? The countless elves that they had killed?

However, Gorn continued to persuade Jack. "Father, it will be nothing but a meaningless war. Quite a long time has passed since then. The humans and the elves of today could not even remember past grievances. Do you think everything will return to how it was in the past if you take back the home we lost? Besides, they aren't the humans back then; they are their descendants."

"Even if they are their descendants, they still have their filthy blood flowing down their veins."

"They don't even know and remember. Father, in their eyes, you and your army are no different from the humans that took away our land back then."

"Bastard! Get out of this place!" Jack sent Gorn away in a fury.

Not long after that incident, the passageway became sealed. And over time, Jack's *rage* slowly faded away. He looked at his army and thought, '*They... They were born for the sole purpose of killing.*'

Jack felt his heart break a bit. Why? Because he was the one who made them that way. He wanted to teach them, at least once, what living in harmony with the spirits was like instead of using them to kill. He wanted to teach them what happiness was like.

So, Jack ordered, "Do not let any of the dark elves drink the Spring of Life anymore."

"By that, you mean..."

"Yes, we will no longer go to war."

At that moment, a strange and mysterious black stream of energy squeezed through the tightly closed passageway and seeped through the Dark Elf Kingdom. The appearance of the black stream of energy opened the passageway.

After hundreds of years, warm sunlight again shone upon the Dark Elf Kingdom of Velroy. Along with that, a woman walked in. The red clothes adorning the woman's body highlighted her beautiful, white, and fair skin. She looked like a human, but she looked much more beautiful, ethereal, and noble than a human. The woman looked just like *his mother*, Athenae.

Most of the Six Monster Gods and the Absolute Gods were born from Athenae. There were some exceptional cases where humans transcended their limits and rose to the position of Absolute Gods. However, most of them carried the pure blood of Athenae in their veins. Athenae was also the most excellent and noble God of all gods.

As for this woman who closely resembled her, her soft voice seemed to embrace Jack.

"Child."

"..."

"Go out there and do what you were meant to do."

Jack felt her soft and warm voice could embrace and accept everything. He, who hid in the darkness and dreamt of gaining revenge for thousands of years, felt comforted by her words. However, Jack had already decided to take care of the dark elves here instead of focusing on killing and taking them away from others.

The unexpected situation brought out all of the dark elves. They all looked at her. But then Jack said, "We now wish to live in peace."

Looking at the woman's gracious smile, Jack felt it was rather good. Now, they would be able to go out into the world and create a kingdom of their own, and the dark elves would be able to live happily out there.

The woman, smiling benevolently and speaking gently at him earlier, suddenly changed face. Her expression grew twisted as she said, "Tch. Who cares about what you want?"

"...?"

Jack felt heavy pressure bearing down upon him. The woman had obviously looked at him gently and warmly, like Athenae. But now, she was looking at him with a vicious and fierce smile- it looked just like Satan's smile.

Then, at that moment, she raised her finger and pointed it at the dark elves. "Fire."

One would learn fire magic when changing their class to a mage. The magic Fire could only summon a small ball of fire. However, the fire that the woman summoned looked just like hellfire, rising to a height of fifty meters and devouring thousands of dark elves in one go. Wherever her fingers pointed, a colossal pillar of flames would appear and devour the dark elves.

"Keuaaaaaaaaaack!"

"A- Aaaaaaaaaack!"

"Uwaaaaaaaaack!"

"Stop!" Jack shouted hurriedly.

But then, a crack suddenly appeared in the sky, revealing dozens of gigantic meteors ready to fall at any moment. Meteor was considered the highest level of magic, a skill that only a select few mages could cast. Jack had once seen what a Meteor looked like. However, the Meteor that he had seen and the Meteor that the woman in front of him cast were in entirely different leagues. Its size was about three times larger, while its number was around five times more than the ordinary.

At that point, Jack recalled something that he had heard in the past.

–In the beginning, there were two gods. Athenae is the god who controls and rules over all worlds, and Helenia is the god who brings forth disaster and destruction upon all of the worlds.

The two gods, Athenae and Helenia, were sisters.

“Then, everyone here should die, hmm? Heehee– heehee– heehee!”

Jack was left stunned by her childlike and innocent smile despite the attack that was about to fall upon them. He was fully aware that they would all die once Meteor fell upon them.

Jack hurriedly cried out, “S– stop!”

Snap–

With just a snap of her fingers, the gigantic meteors falling from the sky came to a standstill.

“What do you want?” Jack was very curious. What did she want that she was willing to eradicate them all?

“Simple. Destruction.”

“...”

“Death.”

“...”

“And to reclaim my rightful throne.”

‘Rightful throne? Is she talking about God Athenae’s throne?’

Unlike Athenae, Helenia was a god that *brought destruction and disasters*. She did not need any reason to kill; she would just kill. At this point, Jack realized that he could not resist her. However, even if that was the case, he could still see that some kind of force was restricting her. In other words, she was not yet fully awakened. After all, if she were truly awakened, she would have already destroyed everything with her own hands.

“However, we cannot win yet if we go out into the world right now.”

“That’s fine. I will increase your beloved Great Spirit of Darkness Pero’s summoning time to near eternity.”

Even someone like Jack could only summon the Great Spirit of Darkness Pero for less than twenty minutes. However, Helenia was willing to extend that time to near eternity.

Helenia's eyes turned black. Then, with a whisper that sounded like the sweet whispers of the devil, she said, "Now, you can conquer and make the entire continent yours."

The anger and greed he had slowly forgotten once again boiled deep inside Jack.

"Kill them all. Take everything away from them and make them yours."

Not long after, Jack and the dark elves began their journey.

One of the Eight Pillars, Immortal Sorceress Helenia, did everything. Minhyuk knew this after he finished watching the video, which made his expression grow ugly. From what it looked like, Argon, who succeeded Gorn and became the new Elven King, had also learned of the entire story.

Meanwhile, Jack knew that the Great Spirit of Darkness Pero was not fit for battle anymore. With the ten million elves here, they no longer had a chance of winning this war. He looked around sadly and said, "It's over."

Jack had been hiding in the darkness for thousands of years to raise and nurture soldiers and war weapons. Seeing those who died today stirred within him a sense of loss and guilt. Those dark elves died without even seeing and feeling the sun properly.

Then, Argon said, "Emperor Minhyuk."

Minhyuk had a close relationship with Argon. Argon was willing to run and help Minhyuk whenever he asked for help. As the Elven King, Argon did not wish to see the death of the dark elves.

"I want to apologize to you as the Elven King. I will control the dark elves and their king, Jack."

However, it was different from Minhyuk's point of view. "The dark elves invaded our lands and killed more than ten million humans. Although we knew later on that this was all because of the intervention of one of the Eight Pillars, that sin will never disappear. Please look at the furious kings and emperors over there."

Both Elven King Argon and Minhyuk could not back down on this. In this situation, the two had to set aside their friendly relationship.

"And even if you say you will control them, do you think you can control them?"

"We will not spare anything. We will give you enough compensation and help you recover as much as possible from the damages brought forth by war. As for the Dark Elves, we will fit them with *Mother's Shackles* and take away their spirit magic and power."

Hearing this, Minhyuk concluded. "Then, let's settle with this. However, you have to give us his head."

To Minhyuk, what he had seen earlier was all bullshit. Jack initially did not want to start a war. Everything that had happened because of Helenia's instigations. It was all an excuse in Minhyuk's

ears. If they could take away the head of their leader, Jack, the anger of the kings, emperors, and Minhyuk would be appeased.

It seemed like Jack also accepted this: “Let’s fight. If you win, then I will give you my head.”

“Alright.” Minhyuk welcomed Jack’s suggestion. If he killed Jack, then he would be able to obtain a lot of loot. After all, Jack was an enemy to him.

However, they all overlooked one thing: Helenia's existence.

Helenia thought she could use the dark elves to wipe out at least a third of humankind. However, her plans were thwarted just like that, which made her furious. She made sure to show her wrath upon her descent.

“Shall I just kill all the dark elves and elves right here and now?”

Everyone turned to look at the sky when her eerie voice rang in their ears. She was floating in the sky using Fly magic just like in the video.

[One of the Eight Pillars, Helenia, has appeared!]

[Warning. Danger!]

[Warning. Danger!]

[Warning. Danger!]

[Helenia has not regained her full power. She can only appear for four minutes!]

[The Immortal Sorceress’ Breath has been triggered!]

[Your resistance to abnormal statuses has fallen by 60%!]

[Your defense has decreased by 40%!]

[Your attack has decreased by 40%!]

[Your total HP and MP have decreased by 20%!]

[Abnormal Status: Stiffness, Fear, and Terror have been triggered!]

Humanity had encountered countless enemies so far. They had fought against the Great Demon, the Six Monster Gods, and even the Gods. However, the humans of the present had never truly experienced or witnessed the true power of the Eight Pillars. Evil God Obren, one of the Eight Pillars, once killed hundreds of millions of humans in the past. And Helenia? She was Athenae’s sister, meaning she was a level above Obren.

[Immortal Sorceress Helenia. Level 1,013.]

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

The players present were all shocked when they saw Helenia's level. But that was not all. All of them were frozen stiff, unable to move a single finger. She was the first NPC above Level 1,000 that they had encountered. Everyone looked at her with fear and terror in their eyes.

Helenia looked at the dark elves gathered around Jack and told them, "I allowed you to go out. You should have fought until the very end."

"..."

"..."

"..."

A cold smile lingered on her face as she whispered, "Bang."

Baaaaaaaang—!

Explosion was a magic that mages could only learn once they reached Level 250. It was an explosion magic that could create an explosion that would engulf an area with a radius of 200 meters. But the power that appeared before them was akin to a Hellfire. The explosion devoured everything around them. In just an instant, hundreds of dark elves had died.

"Bang. Bang, bang, bang, bang. Bang, bang, bang. Bang, bang."

But she did not stop there. Countless dark elves died as explosions bloomed wherever her delicate, slender fingers pointed. Then, her attention turned toward the humans and the elves.

It had been a long time since she last descended upon the earth. She had lost most of her power to Athenae. For the longest time, she had hidden herself in the shadows and accumulated her power, much like Jack had done with the dark elves. And what she intended to do? She planned to drive Athenae out of her throne and become the *God of Origin and Destruction*.

Helenia wanted to start her plans splendidly using the dark elves. But those despicable humans and elves dared to stop her.

"Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang." With every word she said, countless dark elves would die. And finally, her fingers turned toward the elves.

A thick cloud of dust and suffocating black smoke from the Explosions covered the entire battlefield. And with her slender finger pointed at the elves, Helenia said, "Bang."

Baaaaaaaang—!

"...!"

Hundreds of elves died. However, the explosions continued to erupt and kill the elves.

Helenia thought, '*Today, in this place...*'

During the four minutes that she was allowed to descend on earth, she would kill half of these insignificant beings. Thus began the first shot of the one believed to be the strongest among the Eight Pillars, the advent of the new God of Origin, and the world would soon see her dignity and majesty.

'I am the greatest god. Just you wait, Athenae. I will kill you and take over your position as the greatest god.'

But then, at that moment, someone appeared right next to her and said, "Hey."

"...?"

Helenia was shocked. The various abnormal statuses that her descent had triggered were absolute. And with the power of the *Eight Pillars* imbued upon them, there was no way that these beings could resist it. But a man was able to withstand all of those abnormal statuses. He was even able to appear right next to her.

"Can't you see that I have not finished talking?"

'You were angry because I stepped in while you were talking?'

When Helenia turned to look at the man, she saw him holding two swords.

"F*cker."

Chapter 866

Helenia had never been ignored or subjected to bad treatment in her life. Why? Because those who opposed her all died before they could do that to her. Cursing and swearing were very unfamiliar concepts to her. Helenia looked at the man holding two swords in his hands. She could see soft and gentle eyes peeking through the gaps of the man's dark hair. And unlike her, he had a straight nose and a sharp jawline.

Meanwhile, countless broadcasting stations filmed the war between the dark elves and humans and Helenia's descent.

[The Supreme, Player Minhyuk, is flying toward Helenia, the greatest disaster in human history.]

[If Player Minhyuk cannot stop Helenia right here and now, then all elves and dark elves will die.]

[Player Minhyuk is holding two swords in his hands right now. You might already know this, but Player Minhyuk's Dual Sword Technique is the ultimate technique that allowed him to cut down the envoy, 'Viel,' before.]

The Sword of Aeon was on his left, while the Continent Destroyer Sword was on his right. The two God-ranked swords' blades glinted sharply in the sunlight.

[Dual Sword Technique.]

[Your attack speed has increased by 70%!]

[You can now use two swords. The swords' attack power will not be affected or decreased!]

[Your skills' power has increased by 1.4x!]

[The Dual Sword Technique's effects will be triggered upon casting a successive attack skill, and the skill's damage will double.]

Many hoped and prayed that Minhyuk's ultimate skill would be able to pierce through humankind's worst enemy and force her down to the ground. Everyone on the battlefield, including the commentators, kings, and emperors, focused on Minhyuk. Even Elven King Argon, who had just finished putting out the flames of the explosions, looked up at Minhyuk with a desperate look.

Then, the skill was triggered.

[Sword of Carnage.]

[The Dual Sword Technique is in effect!]

[With the Dual Sword Technique, your sword's consecutive attacks will double!]

[You can attack your enemy 76 times per second!]

And immediately after that...

[Double Skill]

[Double Skill has a 1.2% chance of being triggered. Once triggered, it doubles the effects of the skill used.]

[The system cannot measure the skill's power!]

[The system cannot measure the skill's power!]

With this, he could cut Helenia down more than a hundred times per second. With this power, he felt he could also inflict grave injuries even upon the Fallen Wretched Emperor Brod and cut down one of the Eight Pillars.

Minhyuk was thrilled. With two swords in his hands, he swiftly passed by Helenia.

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

However, quite an unexpected set of notifications rang in his ears.

[Your attack has failed.]

[Your attack has failed.]

[Your attack has failed.]

[Your attack has failed.]

[Your attack has failed.]

[Your attack has failed.]

[Your attack...]

[Your attack...]

[Your attack...]

[Your attack...]

[Your attack...]

The more than a hundred attacks that he unleashed? All of them were a *miss*. Minhyuk fell into a panic.

‘What the hell is this...’

However, he quickly made an excuse for himself: *‘It’s probably because I did not have the effects of my buff dish. If I had used the skill right away with Overlapping Delight, then I would have been able to deal a huge amount of damage.’*

Minhyuk was Athenae’s Supreme. No, that was what he wanted to believe. He loved and cherished food more than anybody else, but now, he had a responsibility to uphold. He had to be the *Supreme* because he had many people by his side. However, the attacks he believed had reached the pinnacle of power could not even damage his opponent.

‘Overlapping Delight? Bullshit. I am insignificant when compared to her.’

At this point, Minhyuk had already reached the stage of self-awareness. From the beginning, he knew there was a more than 300-level difference between them. Minhyuk might possess outstanding artifacts and vital skills, but that was also the case for Helenia.

A subtle blue light glowed around Helenia’s body. Perhaps that blue light was the shield that protected her and was probably the biggest reason why all of Minhyuk’s attacks had failed.

Disappointment and helplessness began to surge within everyone. At this moment, everyone realized the difference between the Eight Pillars and the players.

Ping–

However, one attack was able to cut Helenia’s cheek. Helenia raised her palm and touched the blood that was dripping down the cut on her cheek. She smiled. “You’re afraid.”

“...”

“You must feel suffocated and pressured. After all, this is the first time you have met a being you cannot reach no matter how many times you reach out.”

There was no point denying those words. No matter how hard Minhyuk struggled, he could not win against Helenia.

Helenia stared at the blood, the blood from the wound inflicted by Minhyuk’s attacks, on her palm. “However, I’ll acknowledge you for doing one thing. You were able to put a scratch on my body.”

Helenia stretched her hand out.

[The One That Could Not Resist has been triggered!]

[You will not be able to resist even if you have an invincible body that can ignore and resist all kinds of abnormal states.]

Her cold hand touched Minhyuk’s cheek. “An insignificant human being, a small and pitiful god and a child that leads mankind.”

“...”

Even if Minhyuk wanted to move, the activation of *The One That Could Not Resist* made him unable to do so. All he could do was shake and tremble.

Helenia wanted Minhyuk. She needed many things to awaken the power that was sealed within her, and one of them was taking away and absorbing someone else's power.

'He is a child that has received the protection of the Evil God, the Guardian God.'

This child would grow even further. Now was not yet the time. This child needed a driving force to grow even stronger. Many driving forces could help humans grow further. It could be a goal that they wanted to achieve, the will to live a better life, or perhaps anger and hatred toward something or someone. Of these, the one that could stimulate growth the most was anger and hatred. And Helenia intended to create this driving force for him.

"Watch. Watch and hate me."

Helenia, who originally wanted to kill only the elves and dark elves, changed her mind. She was now thinking of killing most of the people here. She slowly waved her hand down toward the ground. Then, gravity suddenly increased by ten, twenty, a hundred, a thousand times. When her hands pointed toward the dark elves, all of them were forced to get stuck on the ground.

"Kghhhhhk...!"

"Ughhhh...!"

"Aaaaaaaaah!"

They felt like earthworms stuck writhing on the ground as the powerful force appeared and pressed them down on the ground. But Helenia was not yet satisfied, so she pressed her palm further.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

Like that, hundreds of thousands of dark elves died, turning into paste from the pressure she exerted.

"Stop. Stooooooooop! Enough! Please, stop!" Jack cried out in rage and frustration.

This time, her hands pointed toward the elves.

"..." Argon gulped dryly.

Not long after, her hand waved, and the gravity around them increased, putting tremendous pressure upon the elves. This time, the area of effect was much more extensive than before.

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—

Argon felt extremely frustrated and helpless when he saw the elves die one after another. Not long after, it was his turn to get crushed by the overwhelming gravity and pressure.

Crack, crack—

Argon's bones cracking and breaking from the pressure rang in his ears. But it did not end there. The overwhelming force soon spread toward the humans.

"Keooooook!"

"A, aaaaaaack!"

Blood dripped down their mouths as their bones slowly got crushed. Some of them even had their entire body plastered on the ground.

Helenia's hands moved gracefully, like a conductor guiding an orchestra. Just like the flamboyant movements of a conductor, she raised her hands to the sky. At that moment, Minhyuk knew that millions would die once those hands fell.

[One of the Absolute Gods, the God that Rules Over All of the Armies, is glaring at you!]

[One of the Absolute Gods, the God that Loves to Cook, is glaring at you!]

[One of the Absolute Gods, the God who Does Not Know How to Back Down, is glaring at you!]

[One of the Absolute Gods, the God who lives for Someone, Leads Someone on the Right Path, and Protects Someone, is glaring at you!]

Several gazes focused and glared at Helenia and placed silent pressure upon her. However, Helenia was a being that far surpassed the Absolute Gods. She did not feel anything from their threatening gazes at all.

“You should all get lost.”

A black stream of energy shot out and engulfed the sky above her.

[The Absolute Gods' vision has been blocked!]

The gods and the Absolute Gods could not intervene with the matters on earth without an *opportunity* or a *justification*. The only one that could interfere would probably be the greatest god, Athenae. However, even Athenae would not be able to use force directly. She could only lend her power or help in other ways.

Perhaps they indeed had no other way to overcome this crisis. The low-leveled humans, elves, and dark elves began to get crushed. At that moment, Minhyuk's eyes swept over Argon, whose bones were being crushed as his body got stuck on the ground.

‘Argon...’

Argon was a precious friend that had been with him for a long time. When Minhyuk looked back, he saw Brod, Spear God Ben, and the countless precious talents of the Beyond the Heavens Empire stuck on the ground and unable to resist the powerful force pressing down on them. The only way for them to stop Helenia's magic was to land attacks on her successfully.

‘Me?’ Minhyuk thought. However, he soon shook his head. ‘*I can't do it.*’

Then, something surprising happened.

[The God of Origin Athenae looks at the only knight she has acknowledged and recognized.]

[God of Origin Athenae says...]

[Child.]

Minhyuk's gaze fluttered to the sky above him as the gentle voice rang in his ears. The sky was clear and covered with darkness. However, a small gap in that darkness allowed a small light to shine on Minhyuk.

[Are you yielding?]

[Are you going to give up?]

[You're not going to do anything?]

Those last words touched Minyuk. Was he going to do nothing? Would he just let everyone here die and wait for himself to get logged out?

[If you don't do anything, then nothing will change.]

Those words struck Minhyuk's heart deeply. His first few years of having an eating addiction were hell. He had put everything down and just waited for the day that he would die. But one day, he realized if he lived waiting for death like this, then he would die. Ever since then, he had done anything and everything that he could do. Even when everyone said it was impossible, he did everything he could. And finally, his eating addiction started to improve.

Impossible. It was a word one could only say if they had tried everything they could.

"You're right." Minhyuk looked at the sky wryly.

That was right. He had to do everything. Even if he could not resist and was left helpless in front of Helenia, he still had to find a way to break through the situation.

Then, at that moment, Minhyuk caught sight of Argon once again. Argon's body was crumbling apart, and his breath was slowly becoming weak. However, Argon's eyes turned toward Jack before turning back to Minhyuk. Then, Minhyuk saw his mouth quiver as if he was trying to say something.

'The elves, please...'

Minhyuk knew that this was a sign of sacrifice. But Dark Elf Jack was one step faster than Argon. Jack thought that he should be the one who should die, not Argon.

[Sacrifice's Incantation.]

[Only an Elven King or an elf with equivalent power can trigger the Sacrifice's Incantation!]

[The elf will sacrifice himself to bring the Four Great Spirits down to earth!]

[Summoning the Great Spirits in places not rich in spirit mana will make it hard for them to exert their full power!]

[The Great Spirits are trying to borrow someone's body.]

[They want a body that can withstand and endure their power!]

[They hope to reside in a body housing a pure soul or a body without greed!]

Four attributes appeared above them—a blazing flame, a steady land, a crackling lightning bolt, and a fierce blowing wind. Then, two of these attributes got sucked inside Minhyuk's body.

[The Great Spirit of Wind is attempting to assimilate with you!]

[The Great Spirit of Fire is attempting to assimilate with you!]

[You are the only human that has received the recognition of the elves!]

[You have successfully assimilated with the Great Spirit of Wind!]

[You have successfully assimilated with the Great Spirit of Fire!]

[All of your stats...]

[All of your attack power...]

[Your resistance to abnormal statuses...]

[All of your skills...]

While the notifications constantly rang in his ears, Minhyuk felt a cool and refreshing wind blowing past him and making his hair flutter. Then, the wind swirled around Minhyuk and turned into a tempest.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaa—

Minhyuk's hair and cape fluttered wildly. Then, his left eye slowly turned red while his right eye turned blue. Even while all of this was happening to him, he was still thinking about another body with which the Great Spirits could assimilate. Finally, he made his choice.

“Please lend me your strength,” Minhyuk said as he looked at the sky.

He was the first knight chosen and recognized by Athenae. She might have called Minhyuk to lend him *a portion* of her power. Athenae responded to his call.

[God of Origin Athenae bestows upon you ‘The One that Resists.’]

[You can resist and counter any abnormal statuses for two minutes!]

Of course, Athenae also knew who Minhyuk chose to assimilate with the Great Spirits. He was as strong as Brod, as fast as Spear God Ben, and as skilled as Great Demon Elpis.

[God of Origin Athenae has removed Viel's Puppet Doll's cooldown!]

“Summon Viel.”

[The Great Spirit of Lightning is attempting to assimilate with you!]

[The Great Spirit of Land is attempting to assimilate with you!]

[Viel's Puppet Doll does not have any greed.]

[You have successfully assimilated with the Great Spirit of Lightning!]

[You have successfully assimilated with the Great Spirit of Land!]

Viel's joints twisted into place with a click. Then, his eyes opened.

Blink—

The strongest and the most terrifying weapon had made his appearance.

Chapter 867

Dark Elf Jack was left dying after using the *Sacrifice's Incantation* and handing over the authority to command the Great Spirits to Minhyuk, who did not know about them all too well. Why did he

do that? Because he thought that the only person who could stop Helenia at this very moment was Minhyuk.

“Urk...!”

Jack stared at Minhyuk, who vomited a mouthful of blood but was still able to accept the Great Spirits.

‘Even if they have successfully assimilated with the Great Spirits, humans cannot borrow much of their power.’

Great Spirits did not like people who harbored greed and envy. Only the *elves* could call for the spirits out of all the races. The reason? Because they were noble and straightforward. Jack expected Minhyuk to be able to accept only around 25% of their power.

Not long after, the Great Spirits of Wind and Fire had assimilated entirely into Minhyuk’s body. Then, a set of notifications rang in Jack’s ears.

[Minhyuk can use 70% of the power of the Great Spirit of Fire!]

[Minhyuk can use 70% of the power of the Great Spirit of Wind!]

Jack’s eyes grew wide from shock. Could someone truly use the power of the Great Spirits to that extent, with the body of a human being and not an elf? Still, he could not deny that the Great Spirits had recognized him as the owner of a pure soul. A faint smile appeared on Jack’s face.

A long time ago, the humans drove away the elves from this land. However, just like Gorn said, the humans of the current era differed from those of the past. But Jack had fallen for Helenia’s temptation. He went on to invade the humans’ land and even killed plenty of them.

‘Someone will resent me, just like how I resented those humans in the past.’

Perhaps, everyone here would die. However, Minhyuk could give them a small hope.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Helenia felt that something unusual was happening after seeing the fierce winds blowing around the man named Minhyuk. Because of that, she lost concentration, and the overwhelming pressure and gravity that weighed down on everyone disappeared.

Elven King Argon, whose bones were almost crushed into powder, recovered from some of his injuries using *Mother’s Blessings*. Then, he quickly approached the dying Jack and held the dark elf in his arms. “Father.”

“...”

Argon looked down at the father of the elves bitterly. Jack knew that he was a sinner. However, that did not mean the elves deserved to be pointed at by others because of him; they deserved to live and be protected. That was why Jack summoned the Great Spirits, even at the expense of his own life.

“Please rest in peace.”

Even when Dark Elf Jack’s breathing started to become ragged, he could not help but look back at Minhyuk. He was concerned about the elves.

“He is the purest and most noble being I have met.”

“...”

“He is someone you wouldn’t believe to be a human. He would sometimes show uncharacteristic strength and would sometimes show great weakness. The only greed in his body is *eating*. However, even that greed is brought about by a *curse*. So, only one thing can be considered as greed in him.”

Hearing his words alone, one could tell that Argon had a close relationship with Minhyuk. Jack could not understand this. It should have been impossible for the Elven King to forge a close relationship with a human being. Especially Argon, he knew the humans had driven the elves out of their land.

“Trying to protect the ones around him. Yes, that would be his only *greed*. To be exact, it is his *sacrifice*.”

Jack felt relieved when he heard Argon’s words.

“Argon.”

“Yes, Father.”

Jack blinked slowly, his voice cracking from the strain as he said, “Make him the greatest emperor.”

Argon nodded as he watched Jack slowly fall into his eternal rest. But before Jack died, he heard these final words.

[Viel’s Puppet Doll can use 90% of the power of the Great Spirit of Lightning!]

[Viel’s Puppet Doll can use 90% of the power of the Great Spirit of Earth!]

This quest appeared when Dark Elf King Jack summoned the Four Great Spirits. Then, another notification rang in Minhyuk’s ears.

[The Father of the Elves and the leader of the dark elves, Jack, has died.]

Why did Jack hand over the authority to command the Great Spirits to Minhyuk? Perhaps it was because Jack also felt the same way as him. They both wanted to stop Helenia's attacks.

Click, click, click—

Minhyuk turned to look at Viel. He could see that Viel's eyes had opened a few moments prior and had changed colors. The left side had turned brown, representing the earth, while the right had turned yellow, representing lightning.

Rumbleeeeeee—

The notifications constantly rang in Minhyuk's ears as he assimilated and accepted the powers of the Great Spirits of Wind and Fire.

[All of your stats have increased by 54%!]

[Your attack has increased by 41%!]

[All of your skills have become 30% stronger!]

[Your resistance to abnormal statuses has increased by 60%!]

[All of your skills have been imbued with the power of the Great Spirits of Wind and Fire.]

[You can use 70% of the power of the Great Spirits of Wind and Fire.]

As for Viel? He could use more of the power of the Great Spirits than Minhyuk.

Crackle, crackle, crackle, crackle—

Rumbleeeeeeeee—

Lightning crackled in the gaps of the dark clouds that suddenly appeared in the sky above them as sparks danced all over Viel's body.

'I think it's correct to say that Viel is the strongest weapon.'

What Minhyuk and Viel needed to do was not kill Helenia but defend against her attacks. However, Helenia just looked at them as if she found them fascinating.

'Life came back to his eyes once again.'

And there was something that Helenia never expected.

'The knight chosen by Athenae.'

Athenae was the greatest god and the God of Origin. The fact that she chose a foreigner to be her knight was surprising in and of itself. And he was also the same guy that landed one successful attack on her after sending more than a hundred attacks.

'Interesting.'

Helenia found it quite fun. She did not expect that there would be someone who could entertain her after not showing up in the world for a very long time.

“Then, should you try and block it at least once?” Helenia grinned. “If you can block it, I will give you a present. But if you can’t, then...” Helenia’s expression turned cold as she continued, “Everyone here will die.”

Then, Helenia, who had not yet used even a tenth of her strength before, began to show the full extent of her powers. Helenia was the Immortal Great Sorceress. She was also one of the Eight Pillars and the sister of God of Origin Athenae.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—!

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaaa—!

Shwaaaaaaaaaa—!

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—!

A notification rang in Minhyuk’s ears as dozens of Meteors appeared in the sky above them.

[If you can stop Helenia from killing everyone present, you can obtain a reward from her.]

The Meteors that had started to fall upon them were extremely huge. Their sizes, many times bigger than the Meteors cast by Black Dragon Vormon and God of Magic’s Descendant Golden Mage Ali, were unlike anything anyone had ever seen.

Minhyuk glared fiercely at the Meteors as he flew up to the sky.

Lee Tae-Sung, the new Special Players Management Team employee, was selected among several thousands of candidates to be a part of the team because he had a strong mentality.

He exited the bathroom and started to wash his hands while thinking, ‘*Why do they view the Food God so highly like that?*’

Lee Tae-Sung had been monitoring the situation with the Food God and Helenia a few moments prior. When the episode started, Team Leader Park rushed to the conference room, leaving him alone with Lee Minhwa. However, he saw Minhyuk immediately lose his will to fight when he encountered a strong opponent like Helenia.

When Lee Tae-Sung saw that, he immediately turned to Lee Minhwa.

–I can’t understand why people are so crazy about the Food God. It might be true that the Food God is Athenae’s Supreme, but he is just the Supreme among the players. If you think about it more deeply, Athenae is a game. So, it makes more sense that there are far stronger NPCs than players.

Players could not surpass the levels of NPCs.

–But look at him. He immediately lost his will to fight when he encountered a strong opponent.

This was Lee Tae-Sung’s blunt and honest opinion and assessment of Minhyuk. Yes, he only viewed Minhyuk as someone who would lose his will to fight when he met someone stronger than himself.

However, Lee Minhwa opened her mouth.

–I have been watching the Food God for a very long time. I have watched him since he started playing Athenae.

Lee Tae-Sung had heard about it. Perhaps Lee Minhwa held a deep affection for the Food God because she had watched over him from the beginning.

–There are times when he's as fragile as glass and times when he's stronger than steel. I know why people are going crazy about the Food God. He's the strongest player that I know.

When Lee Tae-Sung heard that, he just clicked his tongue and excused himself to the bathroom. He was greatly disappointed in Lee Minhwa, who continued to praise the Food God despite the current situation. Rather than praising and talking about him, he thought that they should try to find a way to overcome the crisis.

As he washed his hands, he thought, ‘*Perhaps they are all dead by now?*’

Helenia was a catastrophe. Her level was something that the current players would not be able to overcome and defeat. And when Lee Tae-Sung thought about how Food God Minhyuk shook and trembled in front of her, he felt that perhaps that was the only outcome.

Lee Tae-Sung caught sight of the man's face, and what he saw made his eyes grow wide. Minhyuk's face was no longer shrouded in helplessness and despair. It showed firm determination and the belief that he could do it.

[Craaaaaaaaaaack!–]

A pillar of blazing flames shot out from Minhyuk's body. The flames spread until they covered the entire sky.

“Wh- what is that?” Lee Tae-Sung did not know the power that shot out of Minhyuk's body because he momentarily stepped out of the department.

However, the pillar of flame that served as a backdrop for Minhyuk, who showed a firm and determined expression on his face while his hair fluttered with the wind, made Tae-Sung's eyes grow round from awe. He could not help but be impressed by how incredible the scene was. At that moment, he recalled the words that Lee Minhwa told him.

–There are times when he's as fragile as glass and times when he's stronger than steel. I know why people are going crazy about the Food God. He's the strongest player that I know.

Lee Tae-Sung did not want to hear the end of her words earlier, so he quickly excused himself and told her that he was going to the bathroom. But now? The end of the words that Lee Minhwa told him before unknowingly flowed out of his mouth.

“He’s the only true *Supreme* that I have acknowledged.”

The Meteors falling from the sky were four to five times larger than the size of the Meteor that an ordinary mage could cast. However, all eyes—including the viewers watching from their screens, the people of the Beyond the Heavens Empire, the coalition army, the dark elves, and even the elves on the ground—were on Minhyuk as he flew alone toward these blazing and fearsome Meteors.

Crackleeeeeeee—!

Blazing flames shot out from Minhyuk’s body. The flames, which were emitting extreme and intense heat, covered the entire sky.

[The Great Spirit of Fire’s Blessings of Fire has been triggered!]

[The power of the Great Spirit of Fire is imbued in the skill that you are using!]

[If the skill you are using is a fire-attributed skill, it will have much stronger power than usual!]

Rumbleeeeeeeee—!

Scorching flames roared from the blade of the Sword of Aeon that was in Minhyuk’s hand. The flames that licked the blade of his sword were several times bigger than usual. The flames danced and burned so fiercely that one had to wonder if a weak human could handle them.

The king of all Fire Spirits, the Great Spirit of Fire, asked Minhyuk, ‘*Do you think you can block everything?*’

Even the Great Spirit of Fire had never seen or heard about a Meteor as powerful as the Meteors that appeared above them.

However, Minhyuk replied, “I have to do it.”

‘...’

The Great Spirit of Fire lent this human that carried a will that burned brightly like fire with a stronger power.

[You can use 80% of the power of the Great Spirit of Fire!]

Crackleeeeeeee—!

As the flames grew even hotter and raged wildly, the Great Spirit of Fire triggered God’s Voice for the small human being trying to go against all odds.

[The weak flame.]

Meanwhile, Minhyuk’s ears continued to get bombarded by notifications.

[Helenia’s Meteor is a force that no human can handle!]

[Warning!]

[Danger!]

[Warning!]

[Danger!]

[Warning!]

At this moment, Minhyuk transcended the limits of both humans and gods.

[Overlord's Technique.]

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

[With your assimilation with the Great Spirits of Wind and Fire, the effects of your skill have become 30% stronger!]

[The Great Spirit of Fire's Blessings of Fire has been bestowed upon the skill!]

[The skill has been recognized as an excellent fire-attributed skill!]

[The Great Spirit of Fire's Blessings of Fire has allowed the skill to display a more powerful force!]

Crackleeeeeeee—!

The notifications rang non-stop for Minhyuk, holding the Sword of Aeon with both hands amidst the burning flames.

[The Overlord's Technique has transcended the realm of human beings!]

[The Overlord's Technique has transcended the realm of human beings!]

[The Overlord's Technique...]

[The Overlord's Technique...]

[The Overlord's Technique has gone beyond its limits. It has evolved into a stronger and better skill!]

[You have acquired the Supreme Overlord's Technique!]

[The Supreme Overlord's Technique is a God-grade skill!]

[With the evolution of the new skill, you can use the MAX-leveled Supreme Overlord's Technique once!]

Craaaaaackleeeeeeee—!

The flames that covered the entire sky, and the evolved Overlord's Technique, combined in Minhyuk's hands.

“Supreme Overlord's Technique.”

Crackleeeeeeee—

The blazing flames surged and devoured the falling Meteors. At the same time, the Great Spirit of Fire's voice ended.

[The weak flame...]

[...set the world on fire.]

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- The Overlord's Fire, with an additional 10,000~14,000% attack, will strike everyone within a 240~260 meter radius.*
- The Overlord's Fire is a fire that cannot be easily extinguished. Once it attaches to a body, it will deal continuous damage.*
- You are an Overlord's Technique user with another King Authority. You can just choose one of the two types of mana and set it to build up the mana required for the authority.*
- The speed at which the Overlord Mana will accumulate has doubled.*

Overlord's Technique, a *King's Authority* and the ultimate skill of Overlord Raldo, had evolved into a God-rank skill. It had now grown to a level that far surpassed the *Overlord's Technique* that Raldo possessed. Although the additional attack and damage did not change much, its radius had more than doubled compared to the previous one.

“Supreme Overlord's Technique.”

And with the Great Spirit of Fire's Blessings of Fire, the Supreme Overlord's Technique's damage and radius increased several times.

Rumbleeeeeeee—

The Overlord's Fire spread out and covered the sky and engulfed the gigantic Meteors.

“...!” The look in Helenia's eyes changed.

The black flames, which moved like lava that could devour and melt the ground, consumed the Meteors she sent.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—!

Helenia's mouth dropped, a small sigh of admiration escaping her lips as she watched her Meteors begin to crack.

Someone's figure overlapped with Minhyuk in Helenia's eyes.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

Everyone looked at the scene in front of them anxiously.

“He made a mistake! We should quickly avoid it!”

“Emperor Elise, we have to evacuate right away!”

“Even if you evacuate right now, we will not survive if no one moves to stop that.”

“...”

“...”

“...”

The kings and emperors who were hurriedly trying to move away were rendered speechless by Elise’s words. After all, he was only telling the truth. The Meteors falling from the sky were so large that the area they could cover and devour would be significant if they fell.

Crack, crack, crack—! Crack, crack, crack—!

Web-like cracks appeared and spread all over the surface of the Meteors as the flames that covered the sky burned hotter and brighter as if they wanted to turn them into ashes.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—!

Crack, crack— Crack!

‘*A bit more. Just a bit more...*’ Minhyuk stared intently at the black flames of the Supreme Overlord’s Technique, hoping it would devour the Meteors falling from the sky. However, things did not work out as he wished.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaa—

In the end, the Supreme Overlord’s Technique failed. It could not destroy a single one of the Meteors. However, if the attack had been more potent, all of them would have been destroyed. Helenia had determined this after seeing the cracks that covered the surface of the Meteors after the flames had devoured them.

‘*That’s amazing. However, if it’s only that much, then it won’t be able to stop my magic.*’ Helenia sneered.

He might be the foreigner’s Supreme, the ruler of an empire, and the one who inherited the power of an Absolute God. However, that was all.

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Ruuuuuun!”

“Where will you run?! Once those Meteors fall, everyone here will die!”

“I- I don’t want to die! Please!!!”

Everyone fell into despair, their screams ringing loudly, as they watched the Meteors fall even further. However, it seemed like it was still too early for them to feel frustrated.

[He appeared in a flash of light.]

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—

He appeared in a flash as lightning crackled in the gaps between the dozens of falling Meteors. He was the one that Minhyuk was only barely able to defeat despite having the Sword of Aeon in his hands. He was someone that everyone feared if he was their enemy, yet he was the most reliable if he was their ally. He was none other than Puppet Viel.

Click, click, click, click—

Intense and powerful sparks surged and fluttered all over Viel's body as he held the sword. Viel's Puppet Doll carried a small fragment of his ego, which was only left there so that he could listen to and execute Minhyuk's orders.

Crackle, crackle, crackle—

The sparks dancing all over Viel's body grew more prominent as he raised the sword.

Among all of the attributes of the Great Spirits, the Great Spirit of Lightning was the one that boasted the highest damage.

[With one swing of his sword, hundreds of lightning bolts fell from the sky.]

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—!

A blinding and powerful lightning bolt crackled into life and hit one of the Meteors when Viel swung his sword down.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—!

The lightning bolt was dozens of times larger than the bloody red one released by Minhyuk's passive skill, *Lightning*.

Crackle—!

Then, another lightning bolt fell and hit the Meteor once again.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—!

At that moment, the Meteor, already littered with cracks, broke apart and scattered into thin air. At the same time, hundreds of lightning bolts fell from the sky and struck the Meteors.

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

The Meteors that threatened the lives of everyone on the ground began to shatter and disappear into nothingness in the sky above them. As for the people below? They all looked at Viel with admiration in their eyes. Then, their cheers resounded on the battlefield.

“Uwaaaaaaaaah!”

“Aaaaaaaaaah!”

Helenia's expression grew ugly as their cheers and shouts of admiration rang in her ears. She felt extremely disgusted with their behavior. They cheered and acted as if they had overcome everything despite only being able to block one of her spells.

“I feel like throwing up.”

Helenia had little time left. She had to go back soon. Helenia stretched her slender and fair fingers. At the same time, thousands of boulders appeared where she pointed. With one wave of her palm, parts of the boulders, the size of a carriage, were shaved off until they turned into sharp awls.

Baaaaaaaang—!

The thousands of sharp and gigantic stone awls flew all at once. One stone awl killed hundreds of the coalition army the moment they stabbed the ground.

As if to respond to the attack, Viel fell from the sky and immediately slammed his sword on the ground.

[Lion's Roar.]

[The deafening Lion's Roar raises the ground, turning the earth into swords!]

[You have received the blessings of the Great Spirit of Earth.]

[The Great Spirit of Earth's 'Pillar of Growth' has been triggered!]

[The Lion's Roar and the Pillar of Growth have fused!]

Rumbleeeeeeeee—!

Gigantic pillars sprung up from the ground in an instant. The ends of these pillars were all as sharp and pointed as the tip of the blade of a sword.

Crack—!

As the pillars rose and destroyed the falling stone awls, a man could be seen running somewhere. And with the whisper of '*Like the Wind*'...

[You have received the blessings of the Great Spirit of Wind!]

[The Great Spirit of Wind's 'Running One' and 'Like the Wind' have fused!]

Like the Wind, which usually allowed Minhyuk to travel a distance of three meters in one go, allowed him to travel a thirty-meter distance at this very moment.

Slaaaaaash—

Minhyuk quickly raised his sword and destroyed the stone awl that flew toward him.

“...Interesting.” Helenia gnawed on her lips.

At first, she thought he was nothing but a greenhorn. But then, she learned that he was the only knight recognized by Athenae. Knowing that, she felt both interested and delighted. However, things had grown different. The man was destroying her magic in front of all the elves and humans on this battlefield. Now, her pride was being tarnished. The delight had now turned into anger.

“Every one of you will die here.” Helenia declared. She was no longer in the mood to play pranks on them.

[Master of Mana has been triggered!]

[The number of magic that you can cast has quadrupled!]

[A tremendous amount of mana swirls around the 'Master of Mana.']

Rumbleeeeeeee—

The mana swirling around Helenia's body slowly condensed at the tip of her fingers as she created and cast her magic. And the spell that she was casting? *Diss*, the magic that made Golden Mage Ali famous among the players.

Diss, a skill that could summon spears of light that would pierce through the enemies, had the most potent damage, mainly when it only targeted a single person. The Diss that Golden Mage Ali could cast was considered a cheat-like skill with its additional 20,000% attack. One could expect Helenia's Diss to have at least 50,000% extra attack.

Just like that, more than seventy Diss appeared around Helenia. The Diss that Helenia cast created black spears instead of the usual golden ones, which was enough to place a greater sense of despair and pressure on everyone who saw her attack.

However, Helenia was not yet done. She was already wholly overcome with her rage.

[Raging Mana.]

[You have increased your mana volume by transcending your limits!]

[You have not yet recovered and restored your body and power! A significantly huge amount of damage is to be expected!]

With Raging Mana triggered, the more than seventy black spears floated around Helenia increased. Now, there were more than a hundred black spears floating around her. Everyone witnessing this sight thought they would never be able to see such a scene in their life again.

Then, these more than a hundred black spears turned and flew toward Minhyuk. Five were enough to pierce through Minhyuk's body and kill him. As for the rest? They would continue to shoot forward until they had annihilated the kings, emperors, and vassals of the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

However, there was one thing that Helenia had overlooked. It was the fact that *The One that Cannot Resist* was not a debuff that could be infinitely cast on one person. The One That Cannot Resist was a horrendous and terrifying abnormal status that would instantly affect those who had seen her once she made her appearance. However, the duration of this debuff was not infinite; after all, no one would want to play or live in Athenae anymore if that was the case. At most, it could only last for a few short minutes. Now, the people that she had ignored and forgotten began to move.

Athenae players suddenly felt threatened. A being that they could not even dare to fight against had appeared. And since a being that they could not reach no matter how hard they struggled seemed, they had to make them see that it was not the case. And this was something that only the most potent NPCs and players of the Beyond the Heavens Empire could do. They had to show them that they could fight back against *Helenia*.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—!

Spear God Ben fell swiftly from the sky above while he used his ultimate power.

“Absolute Pinnacle Spear.”

Vwoooooooooooooong—!

A powerful force shot out from the tip of Ben's God Piercing Spear and collided with one of the Disses flying toward Minhyuk. When Minhyuk turned his head, he saw Spear God Ben smiling faintly. Minhyuk again used Like the Wind and swiftly passed by the old veteran.

And in the sky above them, two men with gigantic builds appeared with their swords in hand.

"Mercenary's Pinnacle Swordsmanship."

"Great Demon's Sword of Slaughter."

Their attack skills instantly destroyed one Diss each. Just like that, they moved to block the Disses one after another. Behind them, a man with golden hair fluttering conjured dozens of Disses to stop the black spears created by the enemy's Diss.

"Frieeeeeeeeeeend!"

Then, dozens of spears made of golden light collided with the black spears.

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

Some of the black spears pierced through the man's body. However, the man did not forget to raise his left arm and show off the token of their friendship.

Like the Wind.

Minhyuk, who passed by Ali, almost got stabbed by one of the black spears.

Flash—

However, someone appeared above him and pulled him up to the sky.

"Please go on."

The one who pulled Minhyuk up was his Shadow, Sword of the Gods Luo. Luo held Minhyuk's arm before spinning around and sending him flying toward Helenia.

Swooooooosh—

Many Disses were flying toward Minhyuk, who was shooting straight for Helenia.

"Minhyuk."

"Minhyuk."

Khan, Locke, Genie, Ares, Abel, and the others threw themselves before him and stopped the Disses with their bodies.

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

However, the Disses that passed through their bodies continued to shoot forward and reach Minhyuk.

[Vice Guild Master Genie has been forced to log out!]

[Guild Member Khan has been forced to log out!]

[Guild Member Ares has been forced to log out!]

[Your HP has dropped below 70%!]

[Your HP has dropped below 60%!]

Even though the black spear only grazed his body, it still shaved off a huge chunk of his HP. Once again, Minhyuk used Like the Wind. Then, after Minhyuk traveled several dozen meters with the power of the Great Spirit of Wind, a man appeared before him.

“...Go.”

The man was Calauhel. Calauhel once viewed Minhyuk as his bitter rival. However, now, he trusted and cared for Minhyuk more than anybody else. And at this very moment, Calauhel knew what the Beyond the Heavens Empire and Minhyuk needed to do.

Baaaaaaaang—

Calauhel pulled out the God-rank shield that he purchased with a vast amount of money and used it to block the Disses coming their way.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—!

Even a God-rank shield could not endure the power of the attack. It slowly began to crack and break apart. The Disses pierced through Calauhel's body. However, his eyes never left Minhyuk's figure.

Flash—

Minhyuk, who used the *Great Spirit of Wind's Sky Leap* to step into the sky and avoid the disses, turned to look at Calauhel. He caught sight of the man's slight smile.

[Guild Member Calauhel has been forced to log out!]

Helenia looked at Minhyuk. Many people sacrificed themselves to prevent the Disses she sent and allow this man to advance and approach her. Each time, someone would appear to help him out and prevent the Diss from piercing his body.

Minhyuk quickly fused the Great Spirit of Wind's power with his own.

“Food God's Swordsmanship.”

It was a much weaker and even more trivial skill than the Sword of Carnage. However, it had received the power and blessings of the Great Spirit of Wind.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

As a storm gathered at the tip of Minhyuk's sword, the Great Spirit of Wind helped him again and allowed him to travel thirty meters in one go.

“Sword of Frenzy.”

Staaaaaaaaab—!

Helenia only blinked once, but Minhyuk was already in front of her when she opened her eyes. Minhyuk immediately grabbed her by the collar with one hand and stabbed her heart with a sword using the other.

[Your HP has dropped below 96%!]

Even though Minhyuk had stabbed her vital point using a God-grade swordsmanship *Sword of Frenzy* that was fused with the power of the Great Spirit of Wind, he could only shave 4% off of her HP.

Regardless, Minhyuk looked up and made eye contact with Helenia. Then, he looked at her arrogantly and said, "Get lost."

Fwoosh—

At that moment, Helenia shuddered, goosebumps rising all over her body. For the first time, she felt fear and terror.

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"Get lost."

Helenia shuddered as terror washed over her body for a brief moment. She realized that Minhyuk's growth would be much greater than expected.

'Perhaps he will be able to surpass him truly.'

Yes, Helenia thought there was a chance that the man in front of her could surpass the one that had sealed her. The situation should have made her even more angry. However, there was no anger on her face. There was even a tiny smile tugging at her lips. Either way, there was no point in her getting angry anymore. After all, she could no longer use force.

[Helenia's descension is over!]

Swoosh—

As she slowly started disappearing, Helenia said, "You actually did it. Very well, I shall keep my word."

Helenia had promised Minhyuk that she would reward him if he could stop her attacks. The man before her showed he had a powerhouse's bravery and talent.

"But you know..." Helenia's expression turned cold as she leaned closer to Minhyuk and whispered, "The next time we meet, I will kill you."

Fwoosh—

Finally, Helenia's body turned into light and disappeared entirely from everyone's sight. Minhyuk felt complicated as he watched her disappear. There was no sense of victory nor frustration of losing. All that remained was the helplessness and sadness.

Minhyuk, who slowly landed on the ground, looked around and realized he was not the only one feeling the same. Both humans and elves were panicking after witnessing the overwhelming power of Helenia. The worst part? They all knew that Helenia would descend sooner or later. As if to announce that fact, the notifications rang in their ears.

[Various tombs of Immortal Sorceress Helenia will appear worldwide one month later.]

[The fragments hidden inside Helenia's Tombs can release Helenia's sealed powers.]

[Please prevent Helenia's Seal from being released with Helenia's Fragments.]

[Helenia will completely awaken a year from now!]

A year in Athenae was equivalent to four months in reality. On that day, they would have to face Helenia once again. Knowing this, the people's teeth clattered from fear. The elves and humans were all overcome with helplessness and fear.

It was true that Minhyuk had blocked Helenia's attack. However, it was just that. *Blocking*. Nothing more, nothing less. There was a high chance that half of the continents in Athenae would be devastated once Helenia had descended with her entire power. Perhaps even the Luvien Empire would have difficulty stopping her by then.

Just when Minhyuk looked bitter and was about to look around, the two Great Spirits that had assimilated with him left his body. And the same was true for Viel. The symbols representing the Four Great Spirits appeared before him: the blazing flames, blowing winds, crackling lightning, and tough, sturdy boulders.

[The Four Great Spirits have acknowledged and recognized you!]

The Four Great Spirits appeared and stood before Minhyuk, their eyes staring intently at him. The elves, particularly Elven King Argon, admired the scene.

'Are you telling me that the Great Spirits have shown interest in a single human being?'

The Great Spirits were the gods that ruled over the Land of Spirits. They were absolute beings that lent their power to all of the elves. Then, they spoke.

[The Four Great Spirits say it was their honor to fight with you!]

[The Great Spirit of Fire praises you for having a will that burns like blazing flames!]

[Your Fire Attribute Resistance has increased by 20%, and all your stats have increased by 0.4%!]

[The Great Spirit of Wind praises you for your sharp and cutting drive.]

[Your Wind Attribute Resistance has increased by 20%, and all your stats have increased by 0.4%!]

[The Great Spirit of Lightning praises you for your tenacity.]

[Your Lightning Attribute Resistance has increased by 20%, and all your stats have increased by 0.4%!]

[The Great Spirit of Earth praises you for remaining steadfast and sturdy as a rock.]

[Your Earth Attribute Resistance has increased by 20%, and all your stats have increased by 0.4%!]

[You have significantly contributed to saving the elves and the humans!]

[The Great Spirits are discussing your rewards!]

[The Great Spirit of Fire suggests giving you the Fire Judge's Armor!]

[The reward does not fit. You need to offer a higher reward!]

[The Great Spirit of Wind suggests giving you the Great Spirit of Wind's Boots!]

[The reward does not fit. You need to offer a higher reward!]

[The Great Spirit of Lightning suggests giving you the Ring that Strikes Lightning!]

[The reward does not fit. You need to offer...]

[The Great Spirit of Earth suggests giving you the Pickaxe that Can Make Any Land Fertile!]

[The reward does not fit. You need to offer...]

Elven King Argon could not hide the surprise in his face. The elves were also in a buzz.

The items that the Great Spirits had presented to Minhyuk were all items that could only be seen in myths in the Land of the Elves. However, even though they suggested handing over such things, it was still considered an insufficient reward for Minhyuk.

'He saved us.'

Argon had only thought of stopping the overwhelmingly strong dark elves and had never expected Helenia to descend on this battlefield. That was why he had summoned all the elves, reaching almost ten million in numbers, and came here. If all of these elves, whose reproductive abilities lagged far behind the human race, died, then it could only mean one thing for their race: extinction.

It had to be known that the elves and the spirits were in a relationship with mutual gains. The Spirit World could only be maintained with nature's mana that the elves had gathered from Earth. To put it simply, Minhyuk saved the elves, the humans, and the spirits. He was a hero.

'Perhaps those mythical items truly aren't enough.'

Argon finally realized why. Of course, the same was true for the elves. Because of that, their gaze on Minhyuk, their hero, also changed.

Blazing flames shot up from the Great Spirit of Fire at that moment.

Crackleeee—

[The Great Spirit of Fire Ifrit says he can protect you for one year!]

[Great Spirit of Fire Ifrit. Level 799.]

The flames that burned and covered the entire body of the Great Spirit of Fire Ifrit were so intense that anyone who saw it would know it could burn anything and everything in its path.

Perhaps it was because all of the tension in his body had escaped that Minhyuk whispered some unimaginable words to himself: "If I put samgyeopsal on his back, then it will probably get cooked in five seconds, no?"

If one put samgyeopsal on a shovel and put it inside a furnace, it would be cooked in five seconds. For some reason, Minhyuk thought it would be the same if he placed it on Ifrit's back. Minhyuk, who thought about that, felt it would be *amazing*.

[The Great Spirit of Fire Ifrit looks at you in confusion.]

[The Great Spirit of Fire Ifrit thinks he has misheard it.]

Then, the Great Spirit of Wind stepped forward.

[The Great Spirit of Wind Elysia says she can protect you for one year!]

[Great Spirit of Wind Elysia. Level 776.]

“The Great Spirit of Wind... You’ll be instrumental when lighting up a furnace.”

The more Minhyuk thought about food, the more his helplessness and despair disappeared from his mind. As for the elves and humans around him, they were all blinking at him in confusion.

[The Great Spirit of Wind Elysia is taken aback.]

At that moment, another Great Spirit stepped forward.

[The Great Spirit of Lightning Lec says he can protect you for one year!]

[Great Spirit of Lightning Lec. Level 801.]

The human kings, emperors, coalition army, elves, and surviving dark elves looked at the Great Spirit of Lightning and wondered what Minhyuk would say next. It should be impossible to associate lightning with food. However, Minhyuk was in a class of his own.

“There’s a saying about beans being cooked with lightning. I think you can be used for making popcorn.”

[The Great Spirit of Lightning’s eyes popped out of its socket.]

The symbol of the Great Spirit of Lightning shook and trembled violently. Finally, the last Great Spirit appeared.

[The Great Spirit of Earth Rend says he can protect you for one year!]

[Great Spirit of Earth Rend. Level 797.]

The Great Spirit of Earth waited in anticipation. Could this human associate him with food?

Minhyuk rubbed his chin in thought. “If you’re the Great Spirit of Earth, then you can probably make vegetables, watermelons, and other fruits grow right away, right? Oh. If that’s the case, I can make bibimbap with the crops you have grown, no?”

[The Great Spirit of Earth stumbles back!]

Minhyuk's words and how he related them all to food and eating were said half genuinely and half in jest.

Of course, the Great Spirits were fully aware of this, too.

“Ha- Hahahahahaha!”

“The Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor truly relates everything to food!”

“Wow. How can he come up with ideas like that?”

“My god. For some reason, I want to grill some samgyeopsal on the Great Spirit of Fire Ifrit’s back. It will probably be very delicious.”

“And there’s also the Great Spirit of Wind; she must greatly help light up a furnace.”

Argon also laughed with them. The Great Spirits did not grow angry at Minhyuk’s words because he allowed these people, who had fallen into *despair*, *helplessness*, and *terror*, to laugh again.

[Great Spirit of Fire Ifrit’s favor has increased.]

[Great Spirit of Wind Elysia’s favor has increased.]

[Great Spirit of Lightning Lec’s favor has increased.]

[Great Spirit of Earth Rend’s favor has increased.]

The fact that Minhyuk understood the people’s feelings and allowed them to overcome such a slump despite having a hard time *himself* made the Great Spirits view him favorably. This allowed them to see why this human named Minhyuk could have a friendly relationship with the elves. This man was as pure and clean as the elves.

The Four Great Spirits stared at Minhyuk.

[Only one of the Four Great Spirits can fulfill and sign a contract with you!]

When the things they could offer were deemed unsuitable as a reward, the Four Great Spirits immediately offered themselves up. Besides, after watching his actions, they thought staying with this man for a year would be an enjoyable experience.

However, unexpectedly, Minhyuk said, “I refuse.”

The Great Spirits’ eyes grew wide when they heard his words. The Great Spirit of Fire’s flames burned stronger, while the wind surrounding the Great Spirit of Wind turned misty as if she were shedding tears. The Great Spirit of Earth looked down at the ground with a sigh, while the Great Spirit of Lightning looked slightly angry.

There were many reasons why Minhyuk had chosen to refuse the Four Great Spirits’ offer.

‘*They are different from ordinary gods.*’

In the first place, their race was different. Also, there was a high chance that the Beyond the Heavens Empire would be mired in confusion if Minhyuk signed a contract with one of them and brought them back.

Recruiting a strong being unconditionally like this was not necessarily a good thing. Their intentions were pure, and he even welcomed them. However, if they really went through with this, then a rift might just develop between the spirits and the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

Also, would these arrogant and prideful Great Spirits really listen to Minhyuk’s *orders and commands* just because they viewed him favorably? It was very risky to have them by his side unless it was a lord-vassal relationship.

[The Great Spirits are left in chaos and confusion!]

Then, the Great Spirits began to discuss amongst themselves the rewards they would give Minhyuk. However, their discussion would continue slowly.

Then, at that moment, a series of notifications rang in Minhyuk’s ears.

[The Spirit of Life has shown an interest in you.]

[The Spirit of Life is a spirit that is as pure and innocent as a child.]

[The Spirit of Life has the power to make life sprout.]

[The Spirit of Life says he can protect you for one year!]

Minhyuk realized that he was the only one who heard the notifications after he saw that the Great Spirits were still busy discussing amongst themselves.

‘A spirit that is as pure and innocent as a child?’

If that were the case, this spirit might not be as strong, noble, and prestigious as the Four Great Spirits. From what he heard, Minhyuk could surmise that the Spirit of Life was unique among the spirits. After pondering briefly, Minhyuk made his decision.

‘Alright.’

[You have chosen your reward!]

[You have selected to spend a year together with the Spirit of Life as your reward!]

[The Spirit of Life descends upon the earth!]

A sphere of light slowly fell from the sky. When the light finally landed in Minhyuk’s hands, it gradually disappeared, revealing a yawning wolf pup.

‘Cute.’ Just when the thought crossed Minhyuk’s mind, something completely unexpected happened.

The Great Spirits’ eyes grew wide from shock when they saw the descent of the Spirit of Life. However, they all quickly regained their composure and knelt to show courtesy.

“...!”

Everyone looked at the scene in shock.

Chapter 870

The Great Spirits were both the gods and the rulers of the Spirit Realm. They had always acted haughtily and arrogantly, but they had every right to do so. However, these lofty and prestigious beings immediately knelt and showed courtesy toward the Spirit of Life, the same Spirit of Life that landed on Minhyuk’s arms and rubbed his head on his chest before yawning and sleeping peacefully.

The myth about the *Spirit of Life* rang in Minhyuk’s ears at that moment.

[If there comes a day when the Spirit Realm falls into danger, the Spirit of Life will rally the entire Spirit Realm and lead the Great Spirits to save their land and resolve the crisis.]

Minhyuk was very shocked when he heard that. He had chosen the Spirit of Life because he thought the harmless and cute Spirit of Life would not harm the Beyond the Heavens Empire. However, it seemed like he now had something that he never even imagined obtaining in his hands.

[The Great Spirit of Fire requests that you take good care of the Spirit of Life!]

[The Great Spirit of Wind declares that she would not let you go if you ever harm the Spirit of Life!]

[The Great Spirit of Earth murmurs, ‘C- Cute...’]

[The Great Spirit of Lightning stares at the Spirit of Life.]

Minhyuk looked at the guy, who yawned as he rubbed himself on his chest before going back to sleep in his arms amidst the loud commotion around him.

[The Great Spirits promise to give you one of the Spirit’s Gifts they had offered earlier!]

It was a very unexpected yet welcome harvest. The Great Spirits knew the Spirit of Life’s choice was unusual. However, since the Spirit of Life would depend on Minhyuk in the future, they all decided to maintain a smooth and friendly relationship with the man before them.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk thought hard about what gift he would choose.

The Great Spirits of Fire and Lightning thought he would choose the gifts they had proposed earlier. The Great Spirit of Fire’s Fire Judge’s Armor had a high defense against fire-attributed attacks and tremendous defense. As for the Ring that Strikes Lightning was an artifact that could trigger an AOE attack skill and summon huge and thick bolts of lightning from time to time.

However, Minhyuk’s eyes were looking at the *Pickaxe that Can Make Any Land Fertile* held by the Great Spirit of Earth. Compared to the other items offered by the Great Spirits, the Pickaxe that Can Make Any Land Fertile was considered the most ordinary, perhaps even the item with the most negligible value. Just a mere pickaxe? However, the Great Spirits respected Minhyuk’s choice. After all, it might be a simple pickaxe, but it was still a God-rank artifact.

[You have obtained the Pickaxe that Can Make Any Land Fertile.]

When the situation finally calmed down to some extent, the kings and emperors ordered the gates to open, and they immediately ran out.

The kings and emperors originally had an awkward and hostile relationship with the Beyond the Heavens Empire. However, after this war, they already knew who would be able to protect their kingdoms and empires from Helenia. Besides, they were also very indebted to Minhyuk and his empire.

Emperor Elise said, “Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor, I would like to visit your Beyond the Heavens Empire and have a cup of tea with you. Would that be alright?”

It was a question asked on behalf of all of the kings and emperors present.

Of course, Minhyuk readily answered, “Of course.”

Once everything was sorted out, Minhyuk led the people of Beyond the Heavens Empire back home to their empire.

When he returned, he thought, ‘*The Pickaxe that Can Make Any Land Fertile and the Spirit of Life is a good combination.*’

At that moment, Minhyuk believed that the strongest and greatest Spirit Farmer in history would most likely be born in his empire. If the Great Spirits had been able to take a peek into Minhyuk’s thoughts before they disappeared, their expressions would have turned dark and ugly.

With a soft smile, Sword God Valen looked at Conir, who was cooking ramyeon.

He had been observing Conir for a very long time and had known that the boy was the one that created the Faramil Swordsmanship, the swordsmanship that had been passed down in the Knights' Tower from one generation to another. Although Conir had returned to his youth and was suffering from an intellectual disability, Valen recognized and acknowledged the fact that he was an outstanding knight and warrior. Besides, Valen could see that Conir's noble heart was more than enough for him to become the Sword God. Those were the reasons why Valen chose Conir.

Valen proposed to Conir.

–Won't you follow me and leave this place for a bit?

Conir also knew about Sword God Valen. He knew he was Minhyuk's first teacher and one of his hyung's most precious and cherished people.

–I am Conir! If Conir follows you, will hyung like Conir more?

Sword God Valen did not wish to lie to this pure and innocent child.

–At first, he will probably feel panicked and flustered when you come to find him. However, if you come with me, you can protect him once you return to his side.

Conir looked at Valen with pure and innocent eyes and replied without hesitation.

–Then, Conir will follow you! But not now!

–Why?

–Conir has to cook delicious ramyeon for hyung before Conir leaves!

–I see.

This conversation between Sword God Valen and Conir happened around a month ago. For this past month, Valen silently watched Conir and waited for him so they could leave without any regrets. As he continued to watch, he could see Conir's pure and unsolicited love for Minhyuk.

‘This past month, he went to many dangerous places by himself to collect ingredients.’

And they were just ingredients for ramyeon.

“I am Conir! My hyung loves ramyeon! Conir will give hyung the most delicious ramyeon in the world!”

Sometimes, he would roll down while hiking a mountain or slip while climbing a cliff. There were also times when he struggled to fight against the high-level monsters that he had encountered. However, there were also times when he would seek those monsters out and hunt them to obtain their ingredients.

‘This child will be able to protect you from the Eight Pillars.’

Valen could not recall how often the boy had boiled and thrown away the ramyeon he was cooking. However, Conir, with his noble and pure heart, continued to work hard for Minhyuk with only the thought, *'I want it to be delicious.'* running through his head.

Valen watched Conir with a pleased smile on his face.

'Minhyuk hyung does not bring Conir to the battlefield these days! Hyung doesn't hunt monsters with Conir like he used to!'

Conir was very upset with Minhyuk. The two of them had always been together. They would often brave dangers and eat delicious dishes together afterward. Conir's nose turned sour. He knew the reason why Minhyuk did not bring him along these days.

'Conir! Conir knows... Conir knows that hyung does not bring Conir along because it's perilous!'

Conir was fully aware that the opponents that Minhyuk faced and were about to encounter were getting stronger and stronger. He might be a strong Named NPC that reached Level 600, but in the end, he was still a young boy with intellectual disability. He could not judge the situation rationally and think more deeply, unlike Spear God Ben and Brod. Because of that, Minhyuk decided that it was dangerous for Conir.

Conir wiped away the tears that flowed down his cheeks. *'That's why Conir has to become stronger!'*

Only by becoming stronger would he be able to keep himself safe. And if he could keep himself safe and away from danger, then he would be able to stay by Minhyuk's side and fight on the battlefield happily with his hyung. That was why Conir decided to leave.

But before he left, he wanted to treat Minhyuk to the most delicious bowl of ramyeon he had made. Conir no longer knew how many bowls he had cooked and thrown away since he started this endeavor.

'Conir would be happy if hyung likes this. Even if Conir can't return, Conir hopes that hyung will not forget Conir!'

This was Conir's wish. However, he still had another desire.

'Conir thinks it would be good if hyung does not give up what he likes to do just for our sake.'

What was Minhyuk like when Conir first met him? Back then, Minhyuk looked for delicious food and ingredients every single day. However, he was now very different from how he was back then. Perhaps it was because he became the Beyond the Heavens' Emperor and felt responsible for the safety and development of the empire. However, Conir hoped that Minhyuk would relinquish his worries and burden and live for his sake again. He hoped that Minhyuk would go out and find something delicious once again.

Once again, Conir gave out the bowl of ramyeon that he had just finished cooking to someone else. *'Not enough! It's not enough!'*

Conir traveled far and wide to collect various rare ingredients. With those ingredients, he created more than a hundred new varieties of ramyeon. Of course, there were plenty of delicious ramyeon among them, but they were still not up to Conir's standards.

Conir, who was deep in his thoughts, closed his eyes. '*Refreshing, spicy, and hot ramyeon.*'

That was what he wanted to cook. Conir continued to cook ramyeon for a few days, even forgoing his sleep. But when he decided the specifics of the ramyeon he tried to cook, he felt like his mind had cleared up. Although Conir did not learn the *Trance Skill* like Minhyuk, he had fallen into a trance-like state.

Conir chopped the green onions. Why add some green onions? They could add a refreshing aftertaste to the soup. After chopping the green onions thinly, he lit up the frying pan and began to stir-fry them. Then, he added some garlic and gochugaru to stir-fry the green onions. After that, he added a spoonful of doenjang and a dash of soy sauce.

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

A mouth-watering scent wafted out of the pot. After combining various ingredients, the soup base, which was very spicy at first glance, was finally completed. Once Conir added the water, it quickly became mouth-watering ramyeon soup.

Just when Conir was about to add the noodles to the soup, a sense of dizziness washed over him, and he stumbled on his feet. He had been cooking ramyeon for days without any sleep so that he could give Minhyuk the most delicious bowl of ramyeon he had ever cooked.

[One of the Absolute Gods, the God that Does Not Know How to Back Down, is cheering you on!]

[The God that Does Not Know How to Back Down is smiling faintly at you and your pure and innocent heart as you do your best for someone.]

The God of Will stared at Conir with a soft smile and cheered him on, but it was not just him.

[One of the Absolute Gods, the God that Loves to Cook, is cheering you on!]

[The God that Loves to Cook is smiling faintly at you, who is trying to create the most excellent dish through the most ordinary and simplest dish.]

His blurred vision slowly returned to its original state. Even his throbbing headache had disappeared.

'I am Conir! The boy that cooks the most ordinary ramyeon!'

Conir did not want anything else. All he wanted was for his respected and dearly beloved hyung to be able to eat the most *delicious ramyeon* in the world.

Conir quickly added the noodles and continued to let the pot boil. The hot and spicy soup boiled up, and swallowed the noodles to the bottom like lava, devouring everything that touched it. Conir grabbed his tongs and gently loosened the noodles being boiled in the spicy soup.

Like that, the sweating Conir finally completed the ramyeon and turned off the gas stove.

[You have completed Level 9. A God-grade ramyeon has been born to the world.]

[You have learned the Passive Skill: The One that Cooks with a Strong Will.]

[The Level 10 Quest: Someone Enjoying and Eating Your God-grade Ramyeon has been created.]

Conir possessed a different passive skill compared to others.

Passive Skill

- You will show tremendous concentration on one thing.*
- You will try harder than anybody else to achieve the best result.*
- To achieve the highest level of your abilities, skills and various quests will be created.*
- There is a possibility of receiving and awakening a unique ability when you reach the highest level.*

This skill would only be triggered whenever Conir was wholly dedicated to something. And, of course, the end of Tenacity was completing his Level 10 quest. Based on the explanation, Conir could obtain extraordinary power once he reached the highest level possible through this skill. In other words, Conir could get a new ability once Minhyuk ate his ramyeon happily.

However, Conir didn't care about that at all. He smiled brightly as he looked at the pillar of light that fell upon the bowl of ramyeon. Although shocking notifications kept ringing in his ears, they did not register in his head. All he was thinking about was Minhyuk and his expression as he enjoyed the food that he made.

After he completed the ramyeon, Conir left the bowl to Haze and finally went out. Valen, who watched everything, walked by his side and looked at the relaxed Conir.

However, Sword God Valen, who saw the man approaching them, felt his heart thump wildly. ‘*N, no way...*’

The man walking toward them was Minhyuk’s father, *Black Dragon*. Black Dragon quickly approached Conir and asked, “Conir, are you leaving?”

“I am Conir! Conir will leave! Conir will see you later!”

As for the reason why Valen’s heart was thumping wildly...

‘*N, no. The boy that will succeed and inherit my place as the Sword God...*’

Then, Black Dragon said, “I have a gift for you! I know that saying ‘*I am Conir!*’ is amazing and has a huge impact. But my dear Conir, you want to be cooler and have more impact, right? How about having a new slogan once you come back to us?”

“C-Conir. Conir would love to have a cooler slogan!” Conir’s eyes sparkled.

Meanwhile, Sword God Valen sported an ugly expression, his face turning pale from the sudden left hook that appeared. Conir listened intently to Black Dragon as they decided on his new and cooler slogan. Valen’s anxiety shot through the roof. Why? Because knowing Black Dragon, there was a chance he would make Conir say, ‘*The Sword God in me is going berserk!*’ or something along

those lines. The thought of Conir, who came back after a long time, appearing as the next generation Sword God while shouting, '*The Sword God in me is going berserk!*' was enough to give Sword God Valen goosebumps.

With his trembling voice, Valen asked, "W- what slogan did you decide on?"

After hearing his question, Conir stared at Valen for a long time. Then, in a very serious and majestic voice- completely different from his usual child-like voice- he said, "I am the Sword God."