

## Gourmet 881

### Chapter 881

Minhyuk, who started the Second Gate, stood amidst the celestial dwellers. He ran with them through the canyons and watched in awe as War God Veyron and the celestial dwellers stopped the Titans' advance by destroying the canyon. As for the main reason why Minhyuk was quite impressed...

[Titan. Level 681.]

It was because the level of the Titans produced by the black dwarves was ridiculously high. Of course, the celestial dwellers that Veyron nurtured and helped develop also had high levels, high enough to reach Level 500 and above. However, the almost 200-level difference was quite a vast chasm. The fact that Veyron and the celestial dwellers could overcome that huge chasm and stop the Titans was worthy of admiration and respect.

Minhyuk watched the flow of the battle among the celestial dwellers. How did these war heroes end up dying in the line of duty? Finally, he found the answer.

*'It malfunctioned?'*

The God's Cannon Veyron had prepared as their last resort malfunctioned and stopped working.

"Go and fix it! Hurry!"

"Quick!"

The celestial dwellers with high DEX quickly moved to the God's Cannons and tried to repair them. However, none of their attempts worked. Perhaps it was only natural. After all, these were divine weapons created by the God of Blacksmiths; they were something that mere celestial dwellers could not touch or repair.

The Titans took advantage of the gap in their defenses brought about by the malfunctioning cannons and began to capture the fortress. Seeing this, Minhyuk quickly made a move.

*'As expected, the Second Gate is also very difficult.'*

Two conditions needed to be met to clear the Second Gate. The first condition was having strength and power. One had to be strong enough to take down a titan by themselves. The second condition was having the ability to repair the God's Cannons. However, the problem was that neither a player nor an ordinary god had outstanding skills in both. But Minhyuk was a different case altogether.

*'I played this game so I can eat.'*

Because he played this game to eat, he had been working relentlessly to increase his DEX every step of the way. In fact, his DEX reached the point where it was higher than the God of Farming. It was even higher than Hyemin'sDaddy, the God of Blacksmiths' Descendant.

Why was it so hard to raise the DEX stat? The rate at which one acquired the DEX stat did not change that much depending on one's *class*; instead, it was entirely dependent on the amount of repetitive labor and work related to *DEX* that one did.

Of course, the DEX of someone like Minhyuk, who often made hundreds of dishes a day and often dug continuously in the fields, would inevitably reach an extremely high level. On top of that, he also had the 4x increase in DEX Acquisition Rate attached to Ellie's Kitchen Knife.

Not long after, Minhyuk saw Veyron and the celestial dwellers gather together in one place.

*'Shit...!'*

Minhyuk quickly understood what they wanted to do. Veyron and the celestial dwellers intended to break the dam and flood the area with the river as a last-ditch effort to ward off the enemies. He understood why they were hailed as heroes. They were true heroes who only considered protecting the Land of the Gods and the people within it, even at the cost of their own lives.

The running Minhyuk screeched to a halt before one of the God's Cannons. His breathing was ragged as he triggered the special privilege of someone who owned an extraordinarily high DEX.

At that moment, countless tiny red spots appeared all over the cannon's surface. Then, words started to appear and float above the red dots.

[Needs screw replacement.]

[Needs hammering.]

[Needs rust removal.]

[Needs parts replacement.]

The first thing that Minhyuk did was to grab his screwdriver and replace the screws that were almost broken apart by the rust that ate through the metal.

[You have ideally replaced the screws.]

[No matter how much time passes by, rust will no longer appear in the screws.]

[You have repaired 12% of the God's Cannon.]

[The God's Cannon is still not functional and cannot be operated yet!]

Minhyuk glanced at Veyron and the celestial dwellers, who were holding the switches in their palms after he replaced the screws. His hands moved swiftly as he removed the rust that started to eat away at the God's Cannon.

*[You have perfectly removed the rust from the God's Cannon.]*

[Rust will no longer be able to stick to the God's Cannon.]

[You have repaired 28% of the God's Cannon.]

[The God's Cannon is still not functional and cannot be operated yet!]

However, it was still not enough.

Baaaaang—! Bang, bang, bang, bang!

The Titans swung their greatswords and cut down the celestial dwellers that blocked their paths. Veyron, who seemed no longer able to bear to watch such a devastating scene, slowly closed his eyes while his palm started to close and pushed on the switch's button in his hand.

However, Minhyuk moved a step faster than him, his hammer slamming strongly on the metal of the God's Cannon.

Claaaaaaaang—!

The impact of the hammer was so strong that sparks splashed all over the place; that was how powerful and heavy Minhyuk's hammer was. Veyron and the rest of the celestial dwellers all turned to look at him when they heard the sound of his hammer. Minhyuk's heart almost leaped from his chest with the urgency of the current situation.

A war hero would always be born in every country, nation, kingdom, or empire; an example would be just like Yi Sun-Shin. At this moment, Minhyuk felt like he was fighting alongside Yi Sun-Shin.

"That's enough. You can stop now," Veyron said. His voice sounded gentle as if he wanted to console Minhyuk, who was struggling until the end, so that they could live and survive. "You already did your best."

No. That was not the truth. Minhyuk had not yet shown his best.

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

Minhyuk's grip on the hammer tightened as he continued to strike the God's Cannon. He was hitting the metal so hard that his hands felt numb. Then, one of the gigantic titans charged at him at that moment. However, despite the looming threat, Minhyuk did not even stop. He ignored the titan that raised its greatsword to cut him and the cannon in half.

Claaaaaaaang—!

[You have perfectly hammered the God's Cannon.]

[The God's Cannon durability has reached an excellent level!]

[You have repaired 38% of the God's Cannon!]

[The God's Cannon is now functional. You can now operate the cannon!]

"Activate."

Vwoong, vwoong, vwoong, vwoong—

A powerful force gathered at the mouth of the cannon and shot toward the charging titan.

Baaaaaaaang—

Everyone standing atop the walls was rendered speechless from shock when they saw that the Titan was sent flying back. They could not believe their eyes.

'H- how...?'

'The God's Cannon...'

They had no choice but to wonder if the God of Blacksmiths had descended upon them. After all, no one else could repair the God's Cannon except for him.

"Phew. It's so hot." Minhyuk removed the helmet, ultimately revealing his face after he had repaired one of the God's Cannon with all his might.

The man had deep and dark eyes, a pair they saw peeking through the strands of his sweaty hair, a straight nose, and a sharp jawline. His exceptional appearance made him stand out even more after his shocking performance.

“Who’s that?”

“Who is he?”

“Do we have someone like that among us?”

Of course, they could not know who he was. However, they did not have the time or leisure to further question his identity. This was because the Titans, noticing that something strange was happening with Minhyuk, began to charge at him all at once.

Veyron hurriedly ordered, “Dedicate your lives to protect him!!!”

“Mages! Concentrate your attacks on the Titans!”

“Do not let a single one of them reach that man!!!”

The celestial dwellers began to throw themselves at the Titans.

Slaaaaaash—!

“Keuaaaack!”

“Aaaaaaack!”

Even though their limbs were being cut off and torn away from their bodies, there was a relaxed and easy smile on their faces. The only thought flashing in their heads was that they could protect the Land of the Gods and allow many more of their brethren to live in exchange for their lives.

“...”

Minhyuk was left in awe and admiration. The celestial dwellers fought until their very last breath for the sake of the Land of the Gods. What else could he do for them? Of course, there was only one thing right now.

Claaang—! Claaaaaang—!

Claaaaaaaang—!

Minhyuk moved rapidly, swiftly and quickly, as he repaired the God’s Cannons one after the other. His average repair time for each cannon was around three minutes.

Claaaaaang—!

Vwoooooooooong—!

“Thank—”

Slaaaaaash—!

The divine subject that guarded Minhyuk, cut down by the titan, smiled brightly as he watched another God’s Cannon get repaired. As if to avenge his death, the God’s Cannon fired a powerful shot that sent the titan flying back.

Baaaaaaaang—!

How many times had he repeated this process? Minhyuk no longer knew. His entire body was shaking and trembling from the impact that constantly traveled through his arms with every strike of his hammer as he repaired each God's Cannon.

*'It's because I have over-exerted the muscles that I don't normally use.'*

The degree to which Athenae reflected reality was surprisingly high. In reality, the muscles used to swing a sword and strike a hammer were completely different. Hence, his body was trembling like that. However, even if his muscles had started to ache and spasm, Minhyuk still clenched his teeth and soldiered on.

[The Skill: Divine Will has been triggered!]

[All of your skills and abilities related to DEX will temporarily increase by 30%.]

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

[Your attack power and defensive power will increase by 6%.]

Minhyuk's repair speed suddenly increased. At the same time, his body's shaking temporarily subsided, and his fatigue disappeared. He quickly resumed repairing the God's Cannons. However, he reached his limits just as quickly.

“...”

Veyron was very grateful when he saw how hard the man was working. Although he did not know who the man was, he could tell that he was forcing his body to move beyond its limits just by looking at his spasming muscles and trembling body.

“Aaaaaaaaargh!!!” Minhyuk shouted, his teeth clenching as he continued to work.

Thanks to his hard work and effort, all of God's Cannons were repaired and could be operated.

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

The celestial dwellers unleashed the power of the cannons on the Titans, one after another. The repaired cannons could be fired within ten seconds of activation. However, they would take a minute to reload before they could be fired again.

Although the Titans received the brunt of the cannons' attacks, they were not destroyed. With every shot of the cannon, their durability dropped by around 20%. Of course, the black dwarves immediately swarmed to the Titans to repair the damage.

However, Veyron would not stand still and let them be. He appropriately used the mages' magic bombs and the archers' arrows. Their relentless and heavy attacks stopped the black dwarves from repairing the Titans, and as a result, the Titans began to crumble one after another.

With the situation gradually stabilizing, Veyron approached Minhyuk. “Who are you?”

Minhyuk had already expected him to ask this question. So, he answered that question with the answer that he had already prepared in advance, “I am...”

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God of Dungeons Bentley grabbed his head tightly. “What the hell? How in the world was he able to do that?!”

Bentley just could not make it make sense. Yes, he acknowledged that Minhyuk was strong enough to clear the First Gate- there was no denying it. However, what shocked him was that the man was also quite skilled at the job of a *production class*.

The Food God was not even remotely close to being a blacksmith-related class. However, the fact that he was able to repair the God’s Cannons was proof that he possessed an unusually high DEX.

If the First Gate was a test of strength and power, then the Second Gate was a test related to production classes. It was mainly because of these two that no god had ever cleared the dungeon. However, the man who challenged the dungeons completely broke the reckless confidence in this idea.

“I- I can’t allow him to do this.”

If things continued at this rate, Minhyuk could pass through the Second Gate easily. The worst part? There was a hidden system in the Second Gate.

*‘God Evas respected Veyron more than anybody else.’*

Veyron was a hero who protected the Land of the Gods. As a last-ditch effort, he broke the dam and sacrificed himself to buy time for the other gods. His respect for the man made him create the Second Gate like this.

The truth was the Second Gate was a significant gate for the gods. This gate was made with noble and great intentions to honor the hero that Evas admired and respected the most and made the Land of the Gods what it is now.

If the Second Gate were truly cleared, Veyron’s achievements and videos left behind by Evas would be passed on to the other gods. However, the problem was that the key person who would allow them to view this video was none other than the *Food God*.

Once that happened, Bentley, who insulted, mocked, and jeered both the Food God and the Battle God, would most definitely be demoted. So, he could not allow it.

“I won’t allow you!!!”

Ultimately, the only string holding Bentley’s reason snapped as a sense of urgency overwhelmed him.

*‘Anyways, no one would know what is happening inside the dungeon right now.’*

No one, including the other gods, knew what was happening inside the Argalis Dungeon. Because of this safety net, Bentley readily broke the rules.

Bentley had always been interested in the Titans created in Evas’ Second Gate. As the Dungeon Maker and a production-class god, he had been working for hundreds of years to reproduce another titan, and he had successfully made one.

The titan that he had produced was massive. Its height reached thirteen meters and was powerful enough to deal with thirty ordinary titans. Its skin was also hard because he made it using the parasitic *dragon’s* things living in the Land of the Gods.

Bentley also created this spear-wielding massive titan, his masterpiece, in case he was left in a situation where he had to fight against the Battle God.

Just as he was about to enter the cockpit of the *Titan of Destruction*, the soul of Evas, the creator of Argalis Dungeon, sent him a warning.

[Once you enter the Second Gate with the Titan of Destruction and get killed by the Dungeon Challenger, you will be stripped of your position as the God of Dungeons.]

[You are committing a serious felony by tarnishing the noble and great hero's battlefield!]

“...”

Bentley also held great respect and admiration for War God Veyron. After all, the War God was a god that received the care of all the gods. However, his greed had already taken over his body and squeezed that respect out of his consciousness. His only thought was to enter the Titan of Destruction's cockpit. At the same time...

[If you break into the dungeon, the Dungeon Challenger will receive extra privileges!]

However, Bentley ignored the warnings and maneuvered the Titan of Destruction.

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“Who are you?” was the first question War God Veyron asked the mysterious man who appeared in their moment of crisis.

Who was he? Was he a god sent by the Battle God to help them? Or was he an unknown, hidden god who came here to save them?

Minhyuk had prepared an answer to such a question. This man in front of him deserved all the respect in the world. Even though he had already died an actual death, he was still standing in front of Minhyuk.

“I am...” Minhyuk, who could not help the tears that dripped down his cheeks, said, “I am someone sent by the War God.”

“...?” Veyron looked at him in confusion. *He* was the War God. What was this man saying?

“I came from the future.”

Minhyuk weaved a story, his words containing both truths and lies. He had a reason for this.

So, he began to tell his tale. He told Veyron about how he was already dead, about how the Battle God felt heartache for him and helped him fulfill his wishes by sending him to earth. He told him his name...

“Amacar. He's the one that sent me.”

“...What kind of person is he?”

Minhyuk answered Veyron's question slowly and carefully.

“He's strong, just like you.”

“He’s great, just like you.”

“He cares for everyone, just like you.”

“He’s a man that will become a hero, just like you.”

To be fair, Minhyuk thought Veyron would sport a complicated expression once he heard these words. However, there was no denying the truth that he *was dead*. But contrary to his thoughts, Veyron chuckled slightly.

“That’s a relief. I’m quite happy that the other me can fulfill my wishes and is receiving the love of everyone around him.”

Veyron looked up at the sky. He had calmly accepted the fact that he had died. Then, he turned to Minhyuk and asked a very heart-wrenching question, “Did my death...”

“...”

“...did my death allow many people the chance to smile once again?”

Minhyuk felt his heartache at that question. However, he flashed a bright and wide smile at the great and noble hero and said, “Yes. You have given many, *many* people the chance to smile again.”

Chapter 882

Minhyuk felt an intense heartache. Veyron might have died underneath the rushing torrent of water with his eyes wide open, but because of his sacrifice, many were given the chance to smile once again. The gods that struggled to protect the Land of the Gods and the surviving celestial dwellers could all live and laugh again.

*‘A true hero.’*

Minhyuk wondered if he could smile while asking questions like that if he were the one in Veyron’s shoes. No matter how prepared one was for their death, they would still feel shock and fear once they heard that they had died. Perhaps it would even solidify their determination just to run away and live. However, Veyron was different. He was showing a heartfelt smile on his face.

*‘I see, one can still be happy even if they chose to sacrifice themselves.’* Just when the thought flashed in his head...

This was the first time Minhyuk had heard about an Easter egg like this, so the notification was a surprise. After all, there was no case where one obtained an Easter egg just because they learned something from another.

*‘Veyron is a hero in the Land of the Gods.’*

That may be why so many shocking things were happening around Veyron. Then, a soft, gentle, and warm voice that sounded like a mother’s whisper rang in Minhyuk’s ears.

[Being happy despite choosing to sacrifice oneself... it’s a situation that has always been within reach.]



[Your beautiful and gentle mother carried you for ten months. Her flesh growing and stretching, leaving behind hideous marks on her otherwise fair and beautiful body, is a kind of pain and sacrifice.]

[When your mother finally gave birth to you after ten months, she never harbored any resentment or hate towards you.]

[She had a faint smile as she looked upon you.]

[She had made a sacrifice, but she was happy.]

This lesson touched Minhyuk's heart deeply. That was right. It was just like the notifications said. It was something that was not that far from him. Being happy despite sacrificing oneself has always been within his reach. This became a life lesson that moved the heart of Minhyuk, who was only twenty-one years old.

*'I will also strive to become a person that can smile and be happy even if I choose to sacrifice something.'*

He aimed to be a person just like that, just like a mother who smiled brightly at her child despite the pain and suffering brought about by childbirth.

Another series of notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears at that moment.

[All of your stats have increased by +1.]

[You have gained 200 REP.]

[You have gained 1,000 CHA.]

Minhyuk did not have the time nor the leisure to check the title. Even the emotional Veyron, looking up at the sky, also returned to his senses. They had to stop the Titans right here and now. Although Veyron had learned about their future and their fate, he intended to avoid sitting and watching by the sidelines. The future was the future, and the present was the present. For the present Veyron, he had to prevent the Titans from advancing further and minimize the damage to the celestial dwellers as much as possible.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—

The celestial dweller mages interrupted the black dwarves from repairing the titans by sending magic attacks non-stop.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—!

God's Cannons were also continuously gathering divine power and bombarding them, preventing the Titans from advancing. The occasional ones who could run despite receiving the brunt of the God's Cannon's attacks were blocked by magic and the crowd of celestial dweller soldiers as much as possible.

War God Veyron also joined in the fray, jumping out and shooting a spear towards the transparent glass covering the titan's cockpit to kill the black dwarves driving them. One of the titan's weaknesses was that the enemies could kill the *pilot*. Of course, the other dwarves could take the

opportunity to jump into the cockpit and operate it, but no one was foolish enough to allow a gap that would let them do so.

With the appropriate tactics and strategies, Veyron and the celestial dwellers could push back the Titans.

Baaaaaaaang—!

In the end, some of the Titans exploded, damaging the other Titans in their vicinity and forcing them to explode. Why did a chain of explosions erupt? Titans were weapons that needed fuel before being operated.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—!

Veyron's fists clenched as he watched the Titans explode one after the other.

*'We can win.'*

His heart sprouted with hope that they could win while preventing any more damage to his and the celestial dwellers' bodies.

Thud— Thud, thud, thud, thud—

Just then, an unknown sound reverberated on the entire battlefield. Veyron's eyes immediately flew to where the strange and unusual sound was coming from. He caught sight of a towering titan that suddenly appeared above a small cliff quite a distance away from them.

“...!”

The towering Titan, twice as large as the ordinary titans, jumped down and trampled on the fallen titans, forcing sparks to erupt from their already damaged bodies.

Crackle, crackle, crackle—!

The trampled Titans did not take too long to explode from the strain and pressure above them.

Baaaaaaaang—!

The gigantic titan quickly swept away the explosion and stomped on the flames that erupted beneath its feet before stepping forward.

Minhyuk, who was watching the situation on the battlefield with the rest of the army, also looked at the titan that stepped out of the blazing flames.

[Titan of Destruction. Level 813.]

[God of Dungeons Bentley. Level 771.]

Minhyuk's face grew ugly. *'There was no mention of Bentley in the description at all.'*

In other words, God of Dungeons Bentley had ignored the rules of the existing Argalis Dungeon and broke in by himself. Then, a notification rang in his ears that proved this assumption.

[The God of Dungeons had broken inside the Argalis Dungeon by himself!]

One look and Minhyuk could tell that the god was both a moron and a small-minded individual.

*‘He willingly broke the rules in fear that I might be able to break and clear the Argalis Dungeon.’*

What a ridiculous god, no? The God of Dungeons jeered and mocked him so much, but when cornered, he immediately resorted to petty tricks and foul play. Then, at that moment...

All the quests that were mostly available to players had choices. The same was true for this quest. The fact that one could skip the remaining gates was quite a tempting and sweet reward.

*‘Anyway, once I’m forced to log out here, no one would believe whatever I say later.’*

Whether he accepted the quest or not, the penalty would remain at Bentley’s discretion. If that was the case, accepting it was far better. However, even after accepting the quest, Minhyuk still felt nervous.

*‘That guy is over Level 800.’*

The worst part? God of Dungeons Bentley was the one manning the cockpit of that Titan. The risks, dangers, and anomalies the two would bring to this field remained unknown.

Veyron, who was standing by the side, took off his helmet and revealed the face of a handsome middle-aged man. He turned to Minhyuk and asked, “Do you have a way to get out of this place?”

“Yes?”

“If you can run, then run away. We can handle the rest,” Veyron said, his eyes turning to look at the dam again.

*‘Of course, that can certainly work.’*

No matter how strong the titan was or how excellent Bentley was as its pilot, they would still be unable to handle the raging waves of the river once the dam was broken. Of course, that would only be their last resort.

“This is not something that a production class god can handle.”

“...”

Just hearing those words, Minhyuk could tell that Veyron was not even bothered about his title. The only thing he believed from his words was most likely the part when he said to Veyron that he came from the future.

“There’s no way that the War God or any other combat class god would be good at hammering like that.”

This was a bit of a lapse in Minhyuk’s judgment. The fact that he talked about the *War God’s Descendant* in front of the War God himself completely removed the possibility that the hero would think he was a combat-class god.

“What kind of god are you?”

“I am the Food God.”

Veyron smiled lightly. He could tell that the young man in front of him was different from the other stupid gods. However, gods were beings who excelled in their respective fields. In other words, he believed that the Food God would also have a place where his power could shine.

“You can shine brighter in another place, not in a place like this.” This was Veyron’s honest opinion. Based on what he had seen so far, he had judged that Minhyuk was most likely weaker than other ordinary gods. He wanted to tell Minhyuk, *‘You can be more helpful there.’* but he was not allowed to do so.

The Titan of Destruction moved a step faster than him.

Creaaaaaaak—!

Clank, clank, clank—

The Titan of Destruction’s body creaked, opening throughout to reveal dozens of miniature cannons. The cannons fired dozens of missiles that landed all over the fortress’ walls.

Baaaaaaaang—!

One missile alone could bring an entire area with a fifty-meter radius into ruins, let alone dozens. The sudden bombing killed a significant number of celestial dwellers and forced a portion of the fortress walls to collapse. It also brought two God’s Cannons that were sitting perfectly in the gaps of the now collapsed fortress’ walls to be destroyed.

Minhyuk, who could only regain his balance after a short while, looked back only to see that Veyron was already flying forward. At the same time, a notification rang in Minhyuk’s ears.

[God of Dungeons Bentley has broken the rules of the dungeons. You will be given a special privilege!]

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With a bow slung on his back, a spear in his left hand, and a sword in his right hand, Veyron shot forward while thinking, *‘I hope that you can run, God who Loves to Eat.’*

He was very grateful that Minhyuk repaired the God’s Cannons for them. However, now that an unexpected variable has appeared, he believed he no longer needed to stay with them. They had to endure this themselves.

If they could not stop the Titan of Destruction, they would have no choice but to return to square one. They just needed to break the dam.

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

“Woaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

Sensing that the final battle was about to take place, the celestial dwellers immediately jumped out of the gaps of the crumbling fortress’ walls. They ran to protect Veyron, ensuring he was not interrupted or held back by the ordinary Titans.

Veyron was the *War God*; he could exert the most potent power whenever he was on the battlefield.

“Comrades’ Roar.”

Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah—!

A roar resounded and shook the world. This roar gave courage and strength to the charging celestial dwellers, their determination to never back down rising to an all-time high.

“War God.”

An overwhelming amount of divine power surged out, the divine power staining all of his weapons with a brilliant and blinding light.

Creaaaaaaaaaaaaak—!

The Titan of Destruction raised its hands, holding the spear, and threw it with all its might.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaang—!

The gigantic spear, accompanied by a booming sound, shot toward War God Veyron. Veyron also threw his spear to counter the attack. The giant spear and the tiny spear met and created a huge wave.

Booooooooooom—!

However, the difference in power was too big. Veyron, who was slowly being pushed back, twisted his body and moved to escape the trajectory of the gigantic spear. Then, he jumped on the chains that connected the spear while swinging his sword.

“Enemy Slaughter.”

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

Hundreds of sword lights shot out from Veyron’s sword, wreaking havoc all over the Titan of Destruction’s body.

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

Slashes appeared all over the body of the Titan of Destruction, which was made from the parasitic dragons living in the Land of the Gods.

“...”

God of Dungeons Bentley was shocked. ‘*Even the other gods would find it hard to damage this titan.*’ As expected of the hero of the Land of the Gods, no? However, now that Veyron had approached him, he had already won.

Crackleeeee—!

Veyron quickly sheathed his sword and held the spear with both hands. At the same time, the tip of his spear started to rotate wildly.

“Splitting the Battlefield.”

Splitting the Battlefield was Veyron’s secret skill. It was also the most potent skill in his arsenal and could deal with an attack with 30,000% additional damage the moment his spear pierced through their bodies.

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—!

Veyron stabbed his rotating spear up. He intended to penetrate the Titan of Destruction from the bottom. However, the Titan of Destruction moved a step faster than him.

Baaaaaaaaaaaaaang—!

A punch landed straight on Veyron's head. Veyron did not even have time to scream. His head instantly curled in on his body, and his vision blurred from the intense pain of the attack. At the same time, the power that was brewing in his spear disappeared.

“...”

The Titan of Destruction grabbed Veyron by the head.

*‘I will become the Battle God.’* Bentley gritted his teeth.

He also had immense respect for Veyron, more so than the previous generation of God of Dungeons. However, his greed and selfishness forced him to abandon this respect.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—!

Bentley operated the Titan of Destruction to slap and punch Veyron's face crazily. The force of the attacks made Veyron stumble and stagger, fluttering around like a paper doll. The celestial dwellers tried their best to run through the gaps of the ordinary titans to save Veyron.

Everyone knew that Veyron's fight against the Titan of Destruction was reckless. Veyron had been fighting for days on end. He was exhausted. If he had been in peak condition, he might have been able to destroy the Titan of Destruction. However, just like an exhausted and injured apex predator could become prey to a herd of hyenas, Veyron could also prey on those weaker than him.

“Haa... Haa...”

Blood dripped down Veyron's head. There was so much blood that it had already clouded his vision. At that moment, Veyron pulled the switch out of his pocket with trembling hands.

Tremble, tremble—

Then, he turned to look at the celestial dwellers that were fighting behind him.

“Lord Veyron!”

“Lord Veyroooooooooon!!!”

They all cried, running towards Veyron while pulling the same switch out of their pockets.

The man's previous appearance gave Veyron hope that many more celestial dwellers could live and survive this ordeal. However, that hope was quickly dashed. Nevertheless, a smile still lingered on Veyron's face. The crying celestial dwellers running towards Veyron also understood the meaning of Veyron's smile.

*‘No matter what happens here, I know what will happen.’*

At this moment, Veyron could confidently say that he was pleased. Because of their death, they could protect the Land of the Gods and allow many more celestial dwellers to laugh and live. For the sake of that future, Veyron would willingly push the button of this switch.

Click, click, click, click, click—

However, when the Titan of Destruction waved his hand, all of their switches stopped working.

Clack—!

No matter how hard they pushed the switch's button, it would not work. Veyron and the celestial dwellers' expressions grew ugly.

The greedy Bentley did not want to see his Titan of Destruction flooded and destroyed. He manipulated the other rough and sturdy hand of the Titan of Destruction towards Veyron's neck. Bentley intended to twist Veyron's head while comforting himself by thinking that this was a way for him to offer a final courtesy to the hero.

“Lord Veyron!”

“No!!!”

Veyron's vision turned dark. He had fought until the very end. Thankfully, the future that he was made aware of would not change. However, even if he thought like that, he still could not shake off this unknown sense of helplessness gnawing at his soul.

Veyron felt the cold touch of the Titan of Destruction's hands on his neck. As he thought the gradually tightening force on his neck, he finally understood that he was going to die right here and now.

Clank, clank, clank, clank, clank—!

At that moment, an unknown sickle flew in. The sickle, connected to a chain, grabbed the Titan of Destruction by the neck and pulled it away from Veyron.

Creaaaaaaaaak— Thuuuuuud—!

The Titan of Destruction was forced to let go of Veyron to regain its balance. At that moment, Veyron opened his eyes and saw a man standing before him, blocking him from the Titan of Destruction.

“I'm not yet done talking. How can you just go and leave me like that?”

He was a god called the *Food God*, a *production class* god.

“I am the Food God. And...” Minhyuk, with his tall body and strong and wide back protecting Veyron from the threat before them, looked back at Veyron and said, “...I am the Battle God.”

## Chapter 883

Who was the most respected and revered god in the Land of the Gods? Was it Athenae? No. For the longest time, the god that received the most tremendous respect and admiration from all the other gods in the Land of the Gods was the Battle God.

Why was this the case? This was because Athenae did not intervene in the affairs of the Land of the Gods. On the other hand, the Battle God was the only god that could lead all of the gods if and when something happened in their realm. He was a god that could rule all of the gods.

“The- the Battle... God?” Veyron could not bring himself to believe it even after hearing it. The man had identified himself as the *Food God*. He was the one who said it. So, how could he suddenly become the Battle God?

*‘Are you telling me that the Battle God has given his position to this man called the Food God?’*

Even Veyron could not believe the thoughts that flashed in his head. The Battle God was a name carried by someone noble, majestic, and grand. But that name was given to a god called the Food God?

At that moment, the Titan of Destruction grabbed the chains that tied its neck with both hands.

[The Ego Chain Sickle’s usage duration is one minute!]

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa—

The Titan of Destruction grabbed the chains and began to control it by force. At the same time, its chest opened, and a giant cannon appeared.

“It’s all because of you! Bastard!!!” Bentley was a petty and small-minded individual down to his very core. Even though his plans had gone wrong, he blamed the Food God.

“Dodge!!!” Veyron hurriedly shouted.

However, Minhyuk moved faster than Bentley. With the Sword of Aeon in his hands, he immediately narrowed the distance between him and the Titan of Destruction.

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

The moment Minhyuk’s first strike landed, the lightning bolt brought forth by *Destruction* fell upon the Titan of Destruction, forcing it to a standstill. With every swing of Minhyuk’s sword, a lightning bolt would swiftly fall upon the towering titan.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—!

Bzz, bzz—! Crackle, crackle, crackle—!

Sparks fell and covered the entire body of the Titan of Destruction, the attacks forcing it to lose its balance and fall on one knee. However, Minhyuk did not stop there. He quickly cast his strongest skill.

Crackle—!

“...!” Veyron groaned when he felt the tremendous power overflow from the sword covered in flames in Minhyuk’s hand.

*‘A decisive strike.’*

With this, the battle would end quickly.

“Supreme Overlord’s Technique.”



The Supreme Overlord's Technique wreaked havoc upon the Titan of Destruction. However, something shocking happened.

Clack—

A void circle appeared above the hand that the Titan of Destruction had opened. The void devoured and sucked the raging flames of the Supreme Overlord's Technique. Minhyuk was very flustered when he saw this happen.

*'Is he just going to suck up the Supreme Overlord's Technique completely?'*

But the Titan of Destruction did not stop there. The Titan of Destruction's hand, struggling earlier to help keep its balance, suddenly stretched towards Minhyuk.

"No way..."

Minhyuk's ominous prediction suddenly became a reality. The blazing flames roared from within the circle. Not long after, the power of the Supreme Overlord's Technique that was sucked in and condensed by the titan was shot toward Minhyuk.

[Your HP has dropped below 80%!]

[Your HP has dropped below 70%!]

[Your HP has dropped below 50%!]

[Your HP...]

The flames of the Supreme Overlord's Technique were intense. It only took an instant for it to burn Minhyuk's entire body and force his HP to drop below 10%. After sending the flames of the Supreme Overlord's Technique back, the Titan of Destruction also continued to assault Minhyuk. And the force of the attacks? It was almost equivalent to the power of the remaining flames devouring his HP.

*'The radius might have become smaller, but the power of the attack has grown stronger.'*

The amount of power packed in that attack was shocking beyond belief. Minhyuk tried his hardest to restore as much HP as possible by eating the ingredients he acquired from the dungeon, but he could not keep up with the speed at which his HP had dropped.

[Your HP has dropped below 10%!]

[God that Never Backs Down.]

[You are the candidate for being the God above all of the Gods. You will have all of the gods lying prostrate under your feet!]

[Your HP and MP have recovered by 50%. Your stats will increase by +4% while your skill cooldown and MP consumption will decrease by 10%.]

However, the flames of the Supreme Overlord's Technique continued to devour and gnaw at Minhyuk's HP.

[Your HP has dropped below 13%!]

[Your entire body has been burned! A strange and uncomfortable feeling wraps around your whole being!]

Although Minhyuk could not exactly feel the burning pain, there was this strange and unpleasant feeling that wrapped around his entire body.

“Ugh...” Minhyuk groaned as his entire body grew scorched and burned.

However, the biggest problem was not that. It was the fact that the Titans were not *living beings*.

*‘It’s tough for me to recover from my injuries.’*

Minhyuk was hailed as an inexhaustible damage-dealing bomber because of the Slaughterer’s Armor’s Slaughterer Absorption skill. This skill allowed him to absorb his enemies’ blood after he attacked them to restore his HP. However, that was impossible now. In other words, Minhyuk had lost much of his recovery ability.

Thud—

To make matters worse, the Ego Chain Sickle’s usage duration had already ended. The chain sickle slowly fell to the ground and disappeared back into his inventory.

Bentley sneered as he looked at Minhyuk’s scorched body. “This guy is made from the skin and bones of the dragons living in the Land of the Gods. Nothing can cut through it.”

That was true. The Titan of Destruction had not suffered much damage even after being bathed by the rain of bloody lightning strikes.

“And its destructive power is enough to punch quite a few gods to their deaths.”

Minhyuk’s mind immediately whirled, his thoughts running to find a solution as he listened to Bentley bragging around. *‘I received a special privilege. I know I should take advantage of this special privilege and use it. But will it work?’*

Then, another thought flashed in his head: *‘Just like Bentley said, the Titan of Destruction is really tough. Its durability has only fallen by 3% despite my attacks. It might just be too hard to destroy.’*

And that was with Destruction equipped too. If it was normal, the combination of the Sword of Absolute Death and Minhyuk’s various skills should have already reduced its durability as much as possible. The only disadvantage of the Titan of Destruction, which was currently on par with Minhyuk’s strength, was that it *could not be repaired*.

At that moment, Minhyuk felt Veyron struggle to raise his body despite his bones and flesh being crushed and beaten by the fists of the titan earlier. Minhyuk shook his head lightly. It was a signal asking Veyron not to enter the battlefield.

Veyron’s mouth twitched. He looked like he wanted to say something. However, he closed his mouth in the end. *‘With how I am right now... I will only become a drag.’*

Indeed, Veyron could not be much help with his current state. All he could do was talk. So, he said, “In the future, I will become a hero.”

Veyron was a hero who had sacrificed himself for the good of many. However, he was far too weak now.

“If I became a hero with the state I am in right now, then wouldn’t that mean you can also be a hero?”

“...” Minhyuk turned to look at the hero, his heart thumping wildly in his chest. However, it was not only those words that made his heart pound. The notifications also contributed a lot to this feeling.

[The most significant and mightiest hero is looking at another hero.]

[Perhaps, today, your name will be marked in history as the greatest hero.]

Athenae had a set system. However, it was a free game in which new scenarios could pop up based on the actions of the NPCs inside it. This was what made Athenae fun and exciting to play.

*‘Then, let’s try it. Shall we?’* Minhyuk quickly organized his plan of action.

“The Food God can never be a hero.” Bentley gritted his teeth. “He is nothing but a bug! He is the weakest and most trivial god in existence!”

God of Dungeons Evas even said he was nothing but a god that only liked eating. And, of course, that was what Bentley believed in. As someone who believed in those words, hearing that a god like that would be named a hero was utterly preposterous.

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

Small cannons appeared all over the Titan of Destruction's body and fired several dozens of missiles at Minhyuk.

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom—!

Minhyuk quickly activated *Absolute Defense* and sent the missiles flying back. At the same time, he looked at the enemy with eyes glinting sharply like a beast as he triggered the Sword of Frenzy and shot it toward its towering body. And the place that he was aiming at? It was none other than the knee joint connecting its legs from the rest of its body.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—

A loud explosion bloomed as the Sword of Frenzy landed straight on the titan’s knee joint. At the same time, the titan’s gigantic greatsword swung down on Minhyuk’s head.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—!

However, the effects of the Absolute Defense protected Minhyuk from this devastating blow.

“Sword of Absolute Death.”

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

The first lightning bolt fell from the sky and hit the Titan of Destruction.

Bzzt! Crackle—!

“...!” Bentley’s eyes grew wide from shock. The lightning strike devoured 5% of the Titan of Destruction’s HP. This meant the titan received a shockingly vast amount of damage just by that one strike alone.

Then, hundreds of lightning bolts rained down upon the Titan of Destruction.

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

However, the titan remained persistent. It used its wicked and vicious hands to grab Minhyuk by the collar and prevent him from running away.

“Intangible Sword.”

Shwaaaaaaaaaaa—!

Minhyuk continued to trigger his skills despite being latched onto by the towering titan. Like that, a powerful force that ignored the enemy’s defenses wreaked havoc upon the Titan of Destruction.

[The Titan’s Durability has dropped below 85%!]

[The Titan’s Durability has dropped below 84%!]

[The Titan’s Durability has dropped below 83%!]

Even if the Titan of Destruction’s defenses were ignored by Minhyuk’s skill, its durability, which rivaled several gods combined, was still extremely high.

“What a joke! This titan would never break!”

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

Bentley, who was completely overcome by anger, punched Minhyuk in the head several times. He had completely forgotten that Minhyuk was being protected by his Absolute Defense skill and would not be harmed at all. Only after venting a few times did Bentley regain his senses.

“...”

Anyway, he had already won this battle. He no longer needed to stand at the forefront. However, even if he could not do any damage, Bentley could still grab on to Minhyuk’s collars and do this. So, what did he do? Of course, he threw Minhyuk away.

“The Food God can never be a hero. A trashy, weak, and stupid god cannot be a hero. Only you can become a hero,” Bentley said, his gaze turning to Veyron. Bentley no longer wanted to look bad in front of the hero he admired and respected the most, so he said those words.

After throwing Minhyuk away, Bentley saw that he had run somewhere hurriedly. However, he did not mind it. This battle has already ended. He pulled out a switch and pressed the red button on it.

Clack—!

At the same time, the Titans scattered all over the place immediately jumped up and ran to where Veyron was. The approaching Titans soon caused a massive explosion.

Baaaaaaaaaang—!

The explosion was as powerful as the explosion caused by a nuclear bomb and engulfed hundreds of meters, killing many celestial dwellers in the process. Then, not long after, several explosions erupted one after another.

Bang—! Bang—! Bang—! Bang—!

Veyron, who saw the explosions erupt all over the battlefield, turned to look at Bentley. Even though he knew that he was hailed as a *hero*, it was something that he could not accept so easily. He felt humiliated, knowing he was still lacking, yet was given such a great and noble title. However, even though he was ashamed, there was one thing that he was sure of. He could tell this god in front of him about the hero he had always envisioned.

“Foolish god.”

“...”

“Do heroes necessarily have to be strong?”

“...”

Bentley was rendered mute by the question. A hero was not hailed a hero just because they were great, mighty, or strong. Amidst the explosions, Bentley felt regret for suddenly intruding in the dungeon for a brief moment.

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Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—!

The Titans exploded one after another, sweeping everything and anything in their path. Veyron looked up at the sky as the flames raged and rose all over the battlefield.

*‘I’m sorry.’*

He and the celestial dwellers who fought with him were said to have been recorded as heroes. However, now they were forced to die without achieving any result.

*‘I will forever remember your names.’*

Relson, Floe, Carro, Edben, Heidio. They were nothing but mere celestial dwellers. But if they said they were true heroes, they were heroes.

And amidst the towering explosions, another hero had not yet given up and continued running to save them. Even after a blast swept him away, he would jump back on his feet and continue running.

Where was he going? The place that he was fighting so hard to reach was extraordinary. It was where one of the divine weapons, a weapon resembling a titan, was located. This divine weapon was the most potent weapon created by countless production-class gods.

The Gods of Farming, Blacksmiths, Sculptures, Cooking, Sewing, Paintings, Bards, and many other weaker gods were criticized and ignored by the other gods for not being able to protect the Land of the Gods, gathered together to create this divine weapon called *Bless*.

The condition to operate Bless was simple: having an extremely high DEX. DEX represented the production class individuals. However, the gods had made sure to set the DEX requirement very high.

This was so no other god could operate Bless without their explicit consent. Bless could only be operated when three or more production class gods gathered together. For that reason, Bless had remained stagnant and slumbering for thousands of years.

Veyron, who watched Minhyuk place his hands on Bless, shook his head. *‘It’s impossible. One production class god is not enough to operate Bless.’*

Baaaaaaaang—!

Then, at that moment, a titan exploded beside Veyron, sweeping and sending him flying away. He was unable to see what happened next to Minhyuk. After all, he no longer had the time or leisure to look after; he was sent flying towards the walls of the cliffs.

He was about to get slammed into the walls of the cliffs, but the thought running through Veyron’s head was, ‘Well, didn’t he say that I was also able to make the impossible possible?’

According to what the Food God said, he, together with the 350,000 celestial dwellers, was able to tie down the hundreds of titans in this place for four days and become heroes of the Land of the Gods.

“...”

As he looked at the walls of the cliffs that he was gradually approaching, he could not help but wonder if it was foolish of him to think that it was completely impossible.

Woosh—

But at that moment, something cold and huge snatched Veyron out of the air.

Crack, crack, crack, crack—

Then, with one hand hanging on the cliff, the huge being slowly climbed down.

Boooooooooom—

Once they completely landed on the ground, whatever caught Veyron slowly placed him down. At that same time, a series of notifications rang in the man's ears as he was manipulating this towering weapon.

[You have exceeded 60% of the Food God’s Achievement Rate!]

[You have successfully operated Divine Weapon Bless.]

[Divine Weapon Bless has been left unattended for an extended period. You can only operate Bless for one minute!]

[Once the duration is over, Bless will be destroyed!]

[You are the greatest hero chosen by another great hero, Veyron!]

[By achieving more than 60% of the Food God’s Achievement Rate, your achievements will be broadcasted to all of the gods residing in the Land of the Gods.]

[The God that Loves to Eat.]

[The God that many of the Gods laughed, jeered, and mocked.]

[This God has become the master of Divine Weapon Bless.]

## Chapter 884

Despite forcing Minhyuk to challenge the Argalis Dungeon, the gods continued to doubt Minhyuk. Some even began to say, *'I'd rather you give Bentley the Battle God's position.'* While looking at these gods, the Battle God summoned one god. Which god did he summon? It was none other than the God of Bards.

The God of Bards stood before them and said, "The first time I met the god called Food God was at the Banquet of the Gods."

Gods often allowed others to inherit their positions. There were many reasons for a god to let their position go and let someone else inherit it. The main reason was that a successor superior to them had appeared. In such cases, they would often be forced to pass the position.

However, one of these gods had never left his position. And that was the God of Bards. He was the god who had sat in his position for the longest time and had received the respect of many of the gods.

"When I first met him, the first thing I saw was his excited smile.

"That excited and happy smile made my face grow ugly. I also felt a sense of mischievousness grow in me. It made me feel so upset that a man who was nothing more than a trivial and weak Continental God would come to the Banquet of the Gods with such a smile.

"I also have a more arrogant and twisted personality than others. The gods pointed their fingers at him. And me? I stood there with a happy smile on my face as they forced him to lay flat on the ground with some of the gods pouring wine over his head.

"We kicked him out, leaving him alone in his despair and agony. And all I did was cross my arms and laugh at him."

However, the God of Bards had lived for a long time. As he continued to sing his songs and poems, he would occasionally suddenly remember him.

"But I did not have the right to do that." Only after living for a long time did he realize that what they did back then was wrong. "And the other gods did not have the right to do that either."

They had made a colossal mistake and wronged a god because of their *arrogance*.

The God of Bards' words and song had the power to persuade people. As the gods listened to a story that had happened after a very long time, they unknowingly sympathized with it.

"That's too much."

"The gods of the past really did something that they shouldn't have done."

"Is that how one should treat another god?"

Of course, that still did not mean that they recognized the Food God as the Battle God.

"I searched for him for a very long time. Finally, I found him at his old and worn temple. There, I saw him preparing something for the gods, something that he had been preparing for a very long time."

"...Is it for revenge?"

"If it were me, I would have prepared something to take revenge."

"He's the God who loves to Eat. From what I heard, he's also a god who can make special dishes. Maybe he made a dish that would make others lose their divine power when they ate it."

"Maybe a dish that would kill someone when they eat it?"

"Or maybe it was a dish that could instantly cause an epidemic? He could have distributed it to all tribes and races to kill them, then tell us, *'It's all because of you.'*"

The gods voiced out countless assumptions and speculations. However, the God of Bards only smiled faintly when he heard their words, his hands plucking the strings of his harp.

Diriririring—

The beautiful melody that rang from the harp grabbed the gods' attention and made them feel happy.

"I asked him, *'What are you making?'*"

The gods immediately perked their ears up. Which of them guessed correctly? Did he make a dish that could take away one's divine power, a dish that could cause an epidemic, or a dish that could kill anyone once they ate it?

"At that moment, the Food God looked back at me with a smile. His smile overlapped with his excited smile during the Banquet of the Gods. And with that big smile on his face, he said..." The God of Bards looked around. "...-dish."

The eyes of all the gods present grew wide when they heard the God of Bards' words, a complicated expression flashing on their faces. However, some of the gods wondered about the connection between this and the matter regarding the Battle God's successor. Was the God of Bards saying this because they should feel sad and have respect for that man because he was that kind of god?

Some of the gods even thought like this:

*'However, that does not mean he can be a candidate to become the Battle God.'*

*'The Battle God is a god that must receive the recognition of all.'*

*'The Battle God is the god that will lead us all in danger.'*

The God of Bards knew that the other gods were thinking that way. After all, the one that needed their recognition was not the Food God of the past but the current Food God. However, the God of Bards wanted them not to repeat what happened in the past. While they have not confirmed whether



the Food God had successfully attacked the Argalis Dungeon or not, he hoped that they would stop criticizing and cursing him as the most pathetic and weakest god.

[The God that has made an achievement that can surprise even the gods has appeared!]

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

All of the gods present were left shocked. A few days ago, after Food God Minhyuk had entered the Argalis Dungeon, a notification similar to this rang in their ears. The notifications rang about the clearance of the dungeon’s first gate. He was the only god to have ever cleared the Argalis Dungeon’s first gate after thousands of years.

Many of the gods were shocked. They were hemming and hawing, trying to deny the reality of the matter. However, what they had feared had already become a reality.

[The God is the successor of the God Who Loves to Eat, the same god that has been criticized and humiliated by the other gods in the past!]

The gods’ shock grew even more. When someone made an outstanding achievement, a notification would ring to everyone, including gods and humans. Many gods had made their names known to the world with their achievements. However, very few gods could make two achievements in a row.

[The God is the God that had made an amazing achievement by clearing Argalis Dungeon’s First Gate for the first time.]

Murmur, murmur—

The buzz grew among the gods. They already knew about the Food God’s first achievement. Not long after, the notification about the Food God’s second achievement rang in their ears.

[The God has made an amazing achievement by successfully operating Bless, a divine weapon that has remained inoperable for thousands of years!]

“...!”

“...!”

Among those present, the one who was shocked the most was the God of Bards. Why? because the God of Bards was at the scene when Bless was being produced. That was also why he wanted to deny the reality in front of him: “That’s impossible.”

Several production class gods had to gather before they could operate Bless. And not only that, Bless was completely destroyed on the day War Hero Veyron died after it was completely submerged in water. So, how could he operate Bless?

“...I don’t know what exactly is inside Argalis Dungeon’s Second Gate. However, God Evas had mentioned that one could meet War Hero Veyron at that gate. Perhaps he had recreated the battlefield back then?”

“...”

This was the most realistic and logical assumption. However, it still begged the question: Could he operate Bless?

At that moment, one of the gods asked, “God of Bards, what are the conditions and requirements to operate Bless?”

Still sporting an expression of disbelief, the God of Bards answered, “You need 30,000 DEX.”

“...”

“...”

The gods all turned mute.

DEX was classified as a special stat and was different from ordinary stats. It was a skill that required huge amounts of *effort*. Basically, one had to do something repeatedly for them to obtain one point of DEX. Even production-class gods only had around 10,000 DEX.

However, a few moments later, a series of notifications rang, causing all of the gods to grow even more shocked.

[...successfully...!]

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[God of Dungeons Bentley has broken the rules of the dungeons. You will be given a special privilege!]

[You can choose one among the special privileges!]

[Please choose from: Double Chosen Stat, Increase Attack Power by 1.5x, Increase Total HP and MP by 1.6x, or Double Skill Damage.]

These were the notifications that Minhyuk heard when Bentley broke into the dungeon and was also what Minhyuk had been agonizing over when Veyron suddenly flew out of the walls of the fortress and engaged Bentley in battle.

At that moment, a colossal war weapon resembling a titan caught his eye. He saw the celestial dwellers pressing their bodies on the divine weapon to prevent it from getting damaged by the attacks that made the fortress shake and tremble. And since Minhyuk was near, he stretched his hand towards the towering war weapon and checked its operating conditions.

[To operate Bless, you need 30,000 DEX stat points!]

[Breath is a divine weapon that has remained inoperational for a long time!]

[If you can get Bless running and operate it, it will be destroyed immediately!]

Achieving the requirement of 30,000 DEX was relatively easy for Minhyuk. In addition to having a DEX that exceeded 10,000 points, he also had a variety of artifacts and titles that could increase his DEX by a certain percentage. He could also have one of his chosen stats doubled as a special privilege because Bentley broke into the dungeon.

“...Bless is a divine weapon created by the production class gods. From what I heard, it can cut through the sky, topple mountains, and turn the land if it can be operated,”

one of the celestial dwellers pressing down on Bless explained when he saw Minhyuk show interest in the weapon.

Minhyuk was now left conflicted. What should he choose as a special privilege?

*‘Before everything else, I must first determine how much damage the Titan of Destruction could deal and how high its defenses are.’*

Minhyuk jumped down and immediately fought against the said titan. Then, he concluded. *‘It’s not something I can deal with even if my attack power or skill damage gets doubled.’*

He ran across the battlefield, maneuvering around the exploding titans to get through Bless.

“I choose to double my DEX stat as a special privilege!”

[Your DEX has temporarily doubled!]

Then, Minhyuk stretched his hand out and reached for Bless.

[You have met the conditions and requirements for operating Bless!]

[Bless has been activated!]

[You can use your skills and display them through Bless!]

[Your weapon can be applied and used with Bless!]

[Your basic attack is 54,313!]

[Bless’ basic attack is 233,313!]

[Your basic defense is 64,365!]

[Bless’ basic defense is 303,100!]

“...?”

Minhyuk was shocked and appalled when he heard the notifications that graciously and kindly compared him to the Divine Weapon Bless.

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Minhyuk saved Veyron, who was about to crash on the walls of the cliff after being sent flying by the exploding titans, and gently put him down and let him lean and rest at the foot of the cliff.

“Dual Sword Technique,” Minhyuk said as two swords appeared in Bless’ hands.

At that moment, the Titan of Destruction chased after Veyron’s flying figure and appeared right before Minhyuk. Bentley had also heard the notifications about Minhyuk.

*‘H- How...?!’* Bentley could not believe it. After hearing Evas’ stories, he was made to believe that the Food God was the weakest and shabbiest god.

That was why he completely denied the notifications about the Food God’s achievements and accomplishments that rang in his ears. *‘That’s impossible!’*

However, at one point, he was slapped by the reality in front of him.

*‘Perhaps it was me and you all along acting foolishly?’*

Yes, Bentley realized that he and God Evas had been stupid. It was them that was foolish enough to do something as denying and ignoring the existence of the same god that stood on the same level as them. At the same time, Bentley realized that Minhyuk would be accepted as the Battle God if he lost in this battle, and Bentley himself would also receive punishment. However, for some reason, he felt relieved.

Bentley, who operated the Titan of Destruction to clutch the sword in its hands tightly, opened his mouth and said, “...I’m sorry. I am sincerely apologizing for the atrocities and despicable acts that I have done. I am also apologizing on behalf of God Evas.”

It was not a wish to survive this battle and live. It was a thank you to Minhyuk for allowing him to realize the truth even though it was already far too late. Even if it was only for the last minute, Bentley wanted to be at least honorable as a god.

Bentley held the sword tightly and charged at Bless.

Baaaaaaaang—!

Through the Titan of Destruction, he could feel that Bless, who had easily blocked his sword, had some sort of heaviness and weight that the titan he was operating would not be able to overcome.

Then, Bless swung its sword fiercely and clashed against the Titan of Destruction. However, the Titan of Destruction was no match against Bless.

Slaaaaaash—!

When Bless’ sword swung down, the Titan of Destruction’s arm was quickly cut off. It only left behind sparks that danced along joints where the arm was cut off.

Bzz, bzz, bzz, bzz—

Several cannons appeared all over the Titan of Destruction’s body and fired missiles at Bless.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—

However, only a small dent was left on Bless’ body.

Staaaaaab—!

One of the swords in Bless’ hands stabbed through the Titan of Destruction’s abdomen. Even so, Bentley did not feel any regret. For some reason, all he wanted to do was to atone for his mistakes.

[God of Dungeons Bentley, who broke the rules of Argalis Dungeon and broke in just to deal with you, is rewarding you!]

[The God of Dungeons has bestowed his blessings upon you!]

[All of your stats have increased by 1%. Your total HP and MP volume have increased by 3%!]

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

As Bless pulled out the sword in the Titan of Destruction’s abdomen, Bentley immediately triggered the titan’s hidden skill, *Consecutive Explosions*. With a swing of the Titan of Destruction’s sword, dozens of explosions struck Bless’ colossal body.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—!

The attack obviously caused Bless a lot of damage. However, Bless ignored the damage and continued to slash the Titan of Destruction's body with the sword in its hands.

[Warning! Danger!]

[Warning! Danger!]

[The Titan of Destruction will explode at any given moment!]

However, Bentley did not escape.

[God of Dungeons Bentley is rewarding you!]

[You have been given 357,413 platinum!]

[God of Dungeons Bentley is rewarding you!]

[You have been given 5 kg of the bones of the dragons that live in the Land of the Gods!]

Bentley gave Minhyuk quite a lot of the things that were in his possession. However, Minhyuk did not let up with his attacks. He just glared at Bentley as he swung the two swords in Bless's hands.

“Come at me!!!” Bentley roared.

“Sword of Carnage!”

Bless swung the two swords in its hands and swiftly passed by the Titan of Destruction.

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

The Titan of Destruction received huge damage from the slashes that continued to wreak havoc on its body. However, Bentley did not do anything. He just looked back at Minhyuk, who had passed by him.

There was a bitter smile on Bentley's face. He could only resent himself for realizing it all too late.

“I acknowledge you.”

The Titan of Destruction would explode any time now.

“You are the Battle God.”

Baaaaaaaang—!

Chapter 885

Bentley apologized because, even at the last minute, he no longer wanted to remain a vulgar and lowly god. Besides, the Food God that he had encountered was quite amazing and completely unlike the figure that he had envisioned, ridiculed, and jeered at.

“You are the Battle God.”

Light started to spill from the cracks that appeared all over the surface of the Titan of Destruction.

[The Titan of Destruction is going to explode!]

Despite the frightening sound that rang in his ears, Bentley remained calm, his eyes closing in relief and resignation. But at that moment, a rough and callous hand slammed on the transparent glass and broke it apart. The hand immediately grabbed Bentley by the collar and dragged him out.

Shwaaaaaaa—

Bentley opened his eyes and stared at Minhyuk, who was operating Bless. He watched as the man manipulated Bless to hug his body tightly and protect him.

Baaaaaaaaaaaang—!

At that moment, an earth-shattering explosion erupted and swept the entire area. With Bless' protection, Bentley was able to avoid the explosion. As he watched the explosion, he could not help but wonder, 'Why?' Why did this man save him? He just could not understand.

As for Minhyuk's thoughts, it went like this, *'I can't let you die here just like that.'*

Was it because Bentley's apology deeply moved him? However, Minhyuk was not a fool who would think, *'It's a pity to let him die like that after he had realized his wrongs.'* after hearing his enemy apologize to him. Bentley had admitted that he was qualified to be the Battle God.

*'Besides, the God of Dungeons is a god that has a huge influence in the Land of the Gods.'*

That was right. The God of Dungeons' faction was quite large. So, if God of Dungeons Bentley went out of the dungeon and explained to the other gods, their trust and faith in him would be more substantial.

*'Anyway, this guy is done for.'*

Minhyuk knew that the punishments the Argalis Dungeon would bestow upon him would be severe. He glanced lightly at Bentley, who was being protected in Bless's hands.

*'Why is he looking at me like that?'*

Bentley was looking at him with sparkling eyes. Minhyuk slowly put him down and said briefly, "You cannot die yet."

"...!"

Then, Minhyuk turned around after leaving those words. And Bentley? He felt very moved when he saw him like that.

*'He has a heart as big and wide as the ocean. Is there a god like that?' Bentley's thoughts ran wild, completely unaware of Minhyuk's. 'Did he forgive me because I realized my wrongdoings?!'*

Bentley took the lead in slandering the Food God. However, he did not end it there. When the Food God was just about to pass through the Second Gate more easily than he expected, Bentley broke in by himself and even threatened him.

"..."

Bentley looked at Bless's back, carrying Minhyuk. Unknowingly, he had already started respecting Minhyuk. He watched Minhyuk walk silently for a bit before climbing out of Bless. Then, Bless collapsed the moment Minhyuk got out of the cockpit.

The colossal divine weapon collapsed, and standing right next to it was a tall man with a wide and sturdy back! For some reason, Bentley felt his heart pounding when he saw this scene.

Then, Minhyuk immediately squatted down to pick up Bless' parts. The charismatic figure earlier was nowhere to be seen as he scrambled for the pieces of the divine weapon!

\*\*\*

[Bentley's favor toward you has increased!]

[Bentley's favor toward you has increased!]

[Bentley's favor...!]

"...?" A flash of doubt appeared on Minhyuk's face as he squatted down and picked up the fragments of the broken Bless. All he did was spare him and look at him with a hateful(?) gaze, so... how come his favor toward him was rising? Either way, it did not matter to Minhyuk.

*'Bentley will go out of this dungeon and say words that would praise me.'*

Of course, Minhyuk's hands did not stop moving and continued to pick up Bless' fragments.

[You have acquired God's Tough Screw.]

[You have acquired 534 kg of Bless' Tough Armor.]

[You have acquired Bless' Heart.]

[...Bless'...]

[...Bless'...]

Although Bless was destroyed, the accessories and fragments it left behind remained priceless.

*'If I can also use these materials to make a titan of my own, then...'*

It would significantly boost the Beyond the Heavens Empire's military might.

Minhyuk, quickly picking up Bless' fragments, looked up only to see that the exploding titans had stopped. Although there were still a considerable number of surviving celestial dwellers, that also meant that quite a huge number of black dwarves and titans were still on the battlefield.

*'How can I stop them?'* Minhyuk heaved a sigh.

Vwoooooooooooooong—

Vwoooooong—

Vwoooooooooooooong—

All of the operational titans stopped all at once.

[God of Dungeons Bentley has stopped the Titans!]

“Run!!!”

“Kyaaaaaaaaack!!!”

When the titans stopped working, the black dwarves immediately began to flee, and the surviving celestial dwellers were all shedding tears. At this moment, Minhyuk realized that the Second Gate had ended.

“...”

Minhyuk looked at them with a bitter smile. They had already died and had become heroes that the living had embraced in their ordinary lives.

*‘Because of them, I am who I am now.’*

Of course, this was just a virtual reality game. However, their existence made Minhyuk think about the heroes in reality once again.

At that moment, Veyron, who was leaning against the cliff’s walls, stood up and approached him.

“We are the gods’ heroes.”

Veyron felt very happy that their sacrifice had reached those they wanted to save.

“But for us, you are our hero.”

The celestial dwellers cheered loudly as they looked at Minhyuk. Perhaps it was truly as Veyron said. He might truly be their hero, just like everyone has one small and ordinary hero in their lives.

*‘It might not be as difficult to become a hero as one would think.’*

Then, the notifications immediately rang in his ears.

[You have cleared the Second Gate!]

[God of Dungeons Bentley has broken the rules of the dungeon and broken into the Second Gate.]

[Even so, you have cleared the gate with excellent results!]

[...rewards...]

[...cleared the Third Gate!]

[...cleared the Fourth Gate!]

Minhyuk had already confirmed through the Sudden Quest that he could skip all the remaining gates if he could stop Bentley here and clear the Second Gate safely. So, this was something that he had already expected. That was why his attention was drawn entirely by another set of notifications that had rung while the gate-skipping notifications were still ringing.

[You have reached a 67% Achievement Rate!]



[You have reached a 71% Achievement Rate!]

[You have reached a 73% Achievement Rate!]

[...Achievement Rate!]

[The final Achievement Rate that you have reached is 93%!]

Minhyuk did not even hesitate and said, “Complete the quest.”

He was very curious about the rewards of this quest, but at the same time, he was also terrified. Before he proceeded with the Food God’s Achievement Quest, he had seen the video of Food God Ravier cooking silently in his temple while planning his revenge against the gods that trampled on him. Minhyuk also knew that the gods that mocked and jeered at the Food God would receive the price for their crimes once the Food God’s Achievement Quest was completed.

When Minhyuk was about to succumb to nervousness, *his* voice resonated in the entire Land of the Gods.

[They pointed their fingers at me and criticized me during the Banquet of the Gods, saying, ‘You know nothing but eating.’]

[They pushed my face on the marble floor and told me, ‘You are nothing but a trivial and useless god.’]

Minhyuk silently listened to the same voice he had heard when he first received this quest.

\*\*\*

The gods were shocked to hear the notification about the Food God’s achievement in successfully operating Divine Weapon Bless. However, the notifications that followed not long after alarmed them.

[The God that has made an achievement that can surprise even the gods has appeared!]

The Food God has made another remarkable and shocking achievement.

[The God has broken through Argalis Dungeon’s Second Gate and made an outstanding achievement while fighting against Bentley, who broke the dungeon’s rules!]

They could not believe what they were hearing. God of Dungeons Bentley broke the rules of Argalis Dungeon and stormed in himself. “But he still cleared the gate?”

“How in the world...”

“Is he telling us that he’s not a god we can dare to judge?”

The gods had no other choice but to recognize him. If the God of Dungeons Bentley had stormed inside the Argalis Dungeon, then it was practically the same as the Food God dealing with an additional god inside the gates of the dungeon. However, that was not the end.

[The God that has made an achievement that can surprise even the gods has appeared!]

“...?”

“...?”

Everyone was rendered speechless. They were still doubting the authenticity of the notification, but another notification had already rang in their ears again.

[The God has made a phenomenal achievement by clearing the gates of Argalis Dungeon, a dungeon that has never been broken in the Land of the Gods for thousands of years!]

Now, no god was foolish enough to deny the qualifications of the Food God. However, their shock was not yet over. A voice suddenly resonated all over the Land of the Gods.

[They pointed their fingers at me and criticized me during the Banquet of the Gods saying, ‘You know nothing but eating.’]

[They pushed my face on the marble floor and told me, ‘You are nothing but a trivial and useless god.’]

“Ravier..”

It was none other than the God of Bards who knew the owner of the voice the best. He was the only god that came to see the final moments of the Food God. Ravier’s voice continued to ring all over the Land of the Gods, speaking about how hard he suffered back then and how long and much effort he had put in.

And the gods? They all listened intently to his story. It was the previous generation's gods that had wronged him. However, they all thought that they were no different from their predecessors. After all, they also mocked, jeered, and criticized the Food God, saying that he was not qualified to become the Battle God.

Back then, the God of Bards had asked the Food God Ravier in his temple, ‘*What are you making?*’ And it was this voice that answered his question instead.

[Finally, I was able to make it.]

The dish that Ravier made was not a dish that could poison others; it was also not a dish that could cause an epidemic or a dish that could take away one’s divine power.

[A dish that everyone can eat and bring happiness to all.]

“...”

“...”

These gods had already heard about the answer from the God of Bards. However, they once again heard it through Ravier’s voice.

[A dish that can show you that eating is an act that is not light and can be ignored.]

[A dish that can let you know that eating is an act that can make you very happy.]

[And after years and years of hard work, I finally succeeded in making this dish.]

[To those gods, I just hope...]

All of the gods sincerely admired Ravier. Someone even lamented losing a god whose generosity knew no bounds. Ravier was a noble and pure god that gods like them, with a twisted and ugly heart, dared not reach. For some reason, they felt what happened to Ravier was their fault.

[...that you can eat this and admit those facts.]

At that moment, a series of notifications rang for all the gods.

[A new Absolute God's Secret has been born to the world!]

[The Absolute God's Secret: Dish of Satisfaction has been triggered!]

[Please think of a dish you want to eat the most!]

[This dish will appear in front of you!]

“...!”

“...!”

“...!”

The fact that he could turn someone's imagination into reality was a very shocking power. Why? Because there was no ability in the world that was as difficult.

The gods thought about the dishes they wanted to eat the most.

“I want to eat a sandwich. It's a very meaningful dish that the human woman I have loved had made for me.”

“I want to eat steak. I still can't forget the steak that the God of Cooking used to make for us.”

“I want to eat the first dish I ate when I became a god...”

Everyone began to think of the dishes they wanted to eat or the ones they could not forget from their memories. And whatever dish they chose appeared in front of them.

The God of Bards chose carbonara. He rolled the pasta with his fork and ate a mouthful. The moment he put it in his mouth, a rich and deep flavor immediately spread out.

“...Delicious.”

This was the most delicious carbonara the God of Bards had ever tasted. Surprisingly, the dishes Ravier had left behind for them had wholly won over their taste buds.

“It's truly a dish that can bring you satisfaction and delight.”

“Come to think of it, the only thing that I look forward to every day is eating.”

[I don't want much.]

Ravier's gentle voice enveloped them.

[I just... want you all to know and learn about the joy of eating.]

That was the greatest wish of the heavily mocked Food God.

All of the gods' faces displayed happy and satisfied smiles. In that delighted smile, one could see both respect and pity for the Food God Ravier.

At the same time, a series of notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears after he found out that the dish that Food God Ravier prepared would allow the gods to realize the importance of food and eating.

[You have completed the quest with a surprisingly high Achievement Rate!]

[The first Food God, Ravier, is bestowing upon you his rewards!]

Chapter 886

Minhyuk was deeply impressed by the first Food God, Ravier.

*'Even though he was humiliated like that...'*

Minhyuk's thoughts were similar to those of the other gods. He also thought that the Food God Ravier would make a dish to avenge himself and get back at the gods that mocked and humiliated him.

*'However, my thoughts and predictions were completely wrong.'*

Ravier chose a path other than revenge. A way that would allow those gods to see and recognize that *eating* could bring happiness and satisfaction to all.

Meanwhile, God of Dungeons Bentley also saw the dish he desired the most, appear in front of him, thanks to the *power of the Dish of Satisfaction*.

"..." Bentley was rendered speechless. At this moment, he felt infinitely ashamed of the behavior and the nefarious acts that he and the first God of Dungeons, Evas, had done toward this god.

The current Food God had cleared Argalis Dungeon, a dungeon that no god could break for thousands of years, while the first Food God did not even think of getting revenge on them. All the god did was prepare a dish that he hoped everyone would *recognize and accept* for the longest time. It was proof that the god was not a small-minded and petty person.

"Ha- Haha..."

Perhaps the most cowardly god and the god who deserved those mocking jeers was the God of Dungeons, Evas, and himself. With thoughts like that running through his head, Bentley began to eat.

Minhyuk, who saw Bentley eat, recalled the notifications he had heard earlier.

[You have cleared the Second Gate!]

[God of Dungeons Bentley has broken the rules of the dungeon and broken into the Second Gate.]

[Even so, you have cleared the gate with excellent results!]

[The rewards for clearing the Second Gate will be replaced with the rewards you will receive in the Final Gate!]

[You have cleared the Third Gate with excellent results!]

[The rewards for clearing the Third Gate...]

[You have cleared the Fourth Gate with excellent results!]

[The rewards for clearing the Fourth Gate...]

[You have cleared the Fifth Gate with excellent results!]

*[You have cleared the final gate of the Argalis Dungeon!]*

[Argalis Dungeon is a dungeon that can make your dreams come true!]

[Most of your dreams are related to ‘eating’!]

[You have acquired the ticket to the Field of the Gods! You can access the Field of the Gods for three minutes!]

[In the Field of the Gods, you can harvest as many ingredients as you can for three minutes!]

[The rewards for clearing the Third and Fourth Gates have made the Final Gate rewards improve!]

[You can now access the Field of the Gods for six minutes!]

[The effects and abilities of all the ingredients that you harvest in the Field of the Gods will improve greatly!]

: God Above Gods in your possession is now completed!]

[You have broken through all of the gates of the Argalis Dungeon. The dungeon will collapse in five minutes!]

[Evas’ soul, the soul of the creator of the Argalis Dungeon, admits the mistakes and wrongdoings that he has done. He also recognizes the identity of the Food God!]

[Argalis Dungeon’s creator, Evas, gives you the authority to run a God-rank Dungeon once!]

Minhyuk had obtained many rewards. However, he could not hide his disappointment.

*‘The rewards that will grant our dreams...’*

He was very pleased when he chose the Manhwa Cafe as a reward for clearing the First Gate. He even enjoyed the meal he had during that time very well. However, he skipped this reward from the Second to the Fourth Gates.

*‘Hnggh...’*

Fortunately, there was still hope. According to the rewards notifications, he could enter the *Field of the Gods* and harvest the ingredients grown there. Should he make a delicious meal with the superb ingredients that he would harvest from that place?

*‘Field of the Gods, huh?’*

Based on its name alone, Minhyuk could already tell that it was a place that was filled with countless special and delicious ingredients. He thought that maybe it would be enough to soothe and relieve him of his disappointment.

After that, he immediately checked the complete version of the *God Above Gods*.

Absolute Title

- Can combine two God-rank skills.*
- Can combine three God-rank skills.*
- There is a 10% chance of a 20% increase in performance and abilities when using a God-rank skill.*
- Passive Skill: God that Never Backs Down.*
- All stats +7%*
- All skills’ cooldown time and MP consumption will be reduced by 20%*

The title had truly become much better and more shocking than before. The increase in his stats from 4% to 7% was enough to make it more shocking.

But that was not all. There was also the passive skill: *God that Never Backs Down*. It was originally a skill that would reduce all skill cooldowns by 50% and recover 50% of the skill user's HP and MP once their HP fell below 10%. Although the skill cooldown reduction remained at 50%, the amount of HP and MP that it could recover had increased to 70%. It also increased his stats by 9% and reduced his MP consumption by 20%.

*‘It’s an amazing title.’*

Titles in Athenae were obtained when someone accomplished a particular action or did something that others had not yet done. These titles were given as a form of celebration for their achievements. Simply having a title was of great significance, so most of the special abilities attached to the title were not as good as expected.

However, this title was different. Minhyuk was confident that this title was the best in existence because he could simply obtain effects at this level by acquiring it.

Rumble—

The Argalis Dungeon began to crumble just as Minhyuk was about to finish checking most of the rewards he had received.

\*\*\*

God of Dungeons Bentley was left in tears after eating the dish left behind by the Food God and God of Cooking Ravier. Why was he crying? The dish that Ravier left behind was extremely delicious, and he was able to learn about the pleasure of eating.

*‘You can get the greatest happiness from the smallest of things.’*

It was something that one could not buy with money or treasures.

Rumble—

Bentley’s heart started to pound wildly when he saw the Argalis Dungeon begin to crumble. As he cried on the ground, someone reached out a hand to him. When he looked up, he saw War God Veyron standing before him.

The War God did not look at him in pity. Instead, he looked at Bentley solemnly, saying, “Do you think you can erase your mistakes with your tears?”

Veyron was the hero Bentley respected and looked up to the most. He could easily understand what the man meant with just his question. Bentley grabbed his outstretched hand and stood up. Veyron, who was about to disappear with the collapse of the Argalis Dungeon, still took his time to teach him until the very end.

*‘That’s right. My mistakes cannot be erased by my tears.’*

\*\*\*

The collapse of the Argalis Dungeon, a dungeon that had remained standing for thousands of years, was enough to garner the attention of everyone in the Land of the Gods. Countless gods stood in front of the collapsing dungeon and waited there. At that moment, they saw a man walk out of the dungeon. This man was none other than God of Dungeons Bentley.

Bentley’s faction was quite large. Many gods relied on him and pushed him to become the Battle God candidate. These gods turned to look at him, wondering if he had another trick up his sleeve even though the Argalis Dungeon had been cleared and was collapsing.

“Lord Bentley.”

“What dirty tricks and unscrupulous methods did the Food God use to clear the Argalis Dungeon?!”

“Lord Bentley, please tell us the truth.”

Bentley stood in front of the collapsing Argalis Dungeon and looked at the countless gods that had gathered here. He could see many gods, including the Battle God, the God of Cooking, the God of Will, the God of Bravery, and many more. And in front of these gods, Bentley...

[In the holy and divine name of Athenae, God of Dungeons Bentley, who broke the rules of Argalis Dungeon, will be deprived of his qualifications as a god!]

...heard a notification that plunged him into the depths of despair. However, Bentley said, “The Food God did not use dirty tricks or unscrupulous methods to clear the Argalis Dungeon.”

[Bentley, deprived of his qualifications as a god, will be exiled to the human world and left to live the life of a human!]

A blinding light fell upon Bentley and drew out the divine power in his body. The light's appearance marked the end of the once noble and great God of Dungeons.

Bentley squeezed the last divine power in his body and used one final power as a god.

[God of Dungeons Bentley uses his body's last traces of divine power to trigger God's Voice!]

When Bentley opened his mouth, his God's Voice rang in everyone's ears.

[He is the strongest god that I have seen in my life.]

[Despite the harsh criticism, sneers, hardships, and adversities, he never gave up.]

[Today, I will be deprived of my qualifications as the God of Dungeons to pay the price for my sins. But before I leave, let me say this...]

God's Voice was a special ability that only the gods could wield. Bentley could no longer use his God's Voice with the last of his divine power taken away. Nevertheless, he continued to make eye contact with the gods.

"He is the true Battle God. He will be the one who can lead us all. He is the one that can lead all of the gods and fight to save the Land of the Gods once it falls into crisis."

Bentley no longer said anything after leaving those words. Many of the gods were rendered mute after hearing those words. Why? because Bentley was the one who said it- the same Bentley who took the lead in criticizing the Food God and his qualifications. Then, at that moment...

[The power of the reward that Evas had left behind in the Argalis Dungeon's Second Gate is making its presence known!]

Bentley's words still left many gods in a daze, wondering how he could suddenly raise the Food God to such a high pedestal.

[With only a few hundreds of thousands of Divine Troops, the hero created an astonishing achievement by stopping the Black Dwarves' invasion in the Land of the Gods.]

[For the sake of the Land of the Gods, the hero fought until his body was devoured and submerged in water.]

All of the gods present focused on the voice. Why? because they all knew who the voice was talking about. Even the newborn children in the Land of the Gods knew the hero's name. He was the greatest hero who sacrificed his life to protect this land.

The Battle God took the lead, kneeling on one knee and showing courtesy upon hearing the voice. He was immediately followed by the Absolute Gods, which included the God of Cooking and the God of Will. Following their example, the thousands of gods gathered in this place began to kneel and show courtesy.

Veyron.

It was a name that could make any of them feel great respect and be deeply moved just by hearing it.



[Today, I leave this voice to honor the great and noble hero.]

Did the greatest God of Dungeons, Evas, know? Did he have an inkling that the Food God, the god that he had ignored and trampled on, would be the one that would meet the requirements that would trigger this voice?

Immediately after that, a video appeared in front of the gods. The video showed the scene inside the crumbling Argalis Dungeon. Everyone felt a deep throbbing in their hearts when they saw the figure of War God Veyron standing atop the walls of the fortress.

Then, their attention turned toward the man standing beside Veyron and wearing a white cape that carried the symbol of the fork and knife crossed together. And when his face fully appeared on the video, they saw the face of none other than Food God Minhyuk.

“...!”

“...!”

The Food God was standing side by side with the great hero. Many of the gods felt like warmth suddenly bloomed in their chests, choking them and even threatening to come out of their mouths.

Meanwhile, Food God Minhyuk, being shown in the video, was now being controlled by AI. He turned toward the hero and asked.

[Do you regret sacrificing yourself to protect this land?]

Veyron, standing atop the fortress walls and watching the cheering and crying celestial dwellers, turned to look back at Minhyuk. His answer seemed to be spoken for the gods watching.

[If you're talking about regrets, I have them. I regret being unable to protect the Land of the Gods longer.]

[I regret not being able to see the children of the celestial dwellers laughing and running around.]

[I regret not being able to serve the god, who is more charismatic than anyone else but would cry in sadness at losing his subordinates once he turned around, any longer.]

When the gods saw Veyron's eyes turn red, they focused on him. But then Veyron chuckled lightly.

[Even so, I'm still the happiest man right now.]

[Knowing that the children of the celestial dwellers can smile and run around like that because of me is enough for me.]

[Knowing that I was able to protect the Land of the Gods that many of the gods love and cherish is enough for me.]

[Knowing that the Battle God, who would cry sadly at the loss of his subordinates, was not seriously hurt because of my sacrifice is enough for me.]

Veyron looked up at the sky.

[I still have lingering regrets.]

Then, a broad and bright smile appeared on his face.

[But I also do not regret it.]

Many of the gods were deeply moved by his words. Then, at that moment, the video showed a bright light shot down near Veyron. And Food God Minhyuk stood there and saw him off, watching his back as he walked toward the light. Then, Veyron suddenly turned back and said...

[Now, you...]

Veyron's smile grew even brighter.

[Are you willing to become a hero?]

Minhyuk, who watched as the light engulfed Veyron, answered, "Of course."

And with that answer, a notification rang in his ears.

Minhyuk walked in the opposite direction after watching Veyron disappear completely into the light.

## Chapter 887

Just like usual, discussions about the special players and the future direction of Athenae's story took place inside Joy Co. Ltd.'s conference room.

"Then, let's do it this way for that part." Kang Taehoon gave his approval after silently listening to the discussions and suggestions of each team leader and director. However, as he sat calmly in his chair, he recalled one of the players.

So, he asked, "Player Minhyuk... he has received the recognition of quite a few gods, no?"

Kang Taehoon's eyes turned to Team Leader Park Minggyu. He was confident that Team Leader Park had already checked and confirmed the situation from the beginning until the end.

"That's right. Minhyuk has received the recognition of the gods that did not believe and trust in him after he successfully attacked Argalis Dungeon, a dungeon that not even the gods could clear in the Land of the Gods."

"That's amazing." President Kang Taehoon was impressed.

What kind of beings were the gods? They were the most arrogant and prideful beings in Athenae. Ordinary players would probably never meet a *God* for the rest of their lives. But these very same gods had recognized the Food God as the rightful descendant of the Battle God.

Then, Minggyu suddenly said, "President, I have some additional things to report to you."

President Kang Taehoon looked at him in doubt. Based on Team Leader Park Minggyu's personality and nature, if he had something to report, he would have already said it right after the meeting commenced. But he only opened his mouth right when the meeting was about to end.

"I was hesitating if I should report this or not."

"Huh? What is it?"

"We have confirmed that Player Minhyuk has obtained the *authority to run a God-rank dungeon once*."

“The authority to run a God-rank dungeon...”

Some people, including President Kang Taehoon, were startled when they heard those words. However, even though they were pretty shocked, it was still debatable whether this topic was important enough to be discussed in the *conference room*.

The level of Athenae players had soared tremendously. God-rank artifacts? God-grade skills? Over a hundred players in the game had obtained those that carried the name of *God* now. That was even more so the case for cooking ingredients. Since this type of item was a consumable, more than 300 of them had been released in the game.

“It’s possible to obtain the authority to run a God-rank dungeon somewhere other than Argalis Dungeon, no?”

No authority to run a God-rank dungeon was listed among the rewards for Argalis Dungeon. This reward allowed those pursuing quests related to God of Dungeons Evas to proceed further, and it was not that uncommon.

Team Leader Park explained the exact details of the story to the rest of the people in the conference room.

“So, you’re saying that Evas’ soul gave the authority to run a God-rank dungeon once to the Food God as an apology?”

“That’s right.”

Evas would not consider it a waste to give this reward to Minhyuk. After all, Minhyuk was the one who cleared the extremely difficult Argalis Dungeon.

“If it’s a problem, then it would become a problem. But if it is not, then it wouldn’t matter at all.”

Hence, Team Leader Park Minggyu was conflicted and wondered if he should report the matter.

“Evas’ authority to rule a God-rank dungeon is better than ordinary authority to rule God-rank dungeons.”

Team Leader Park nodded.

“Even if an ordinary player obtained the authority to rule a God-rank dungeon, they would not be able to use it properly.”

Hearing what Kang Taehoon said, Park Minggyu added, “Ordinary players could use the mobs that are given in God-rank dungeons. However, for named monsters or Named NPCs that would become quasi-boss and boss-level beings, they had to be those tamed by the player themselves or those working under them.”

A collective groan rang out when they heard the word *vassal*.

“*Hnggh...* What would happen if Spear God Ben becomes the boss mob?” asked one of the team leaders, who belatedly realized the seriousness of the matter.

Minggyu's face flashed with a bitter expression. "If that's the only problem, then we should all be relieved. However, there is a high chance that the Spear God, the Fallen Wretched Emperor, the Great Demon, and many more will only become a quasi-boss mob."

"..."

"..."

"Well... the boss mob will most likely be Player Minhyuk."

"..."

"..."

Everyone in the conference room looked like they had been hit on the head.

President Kang Taehoon sighed lightly. "All we can hope for is Player Minyuk to run the dungeon *normally*."

Everyone agreed with the president's words. However, Team Leader Park, whose face had grown even more bitter, said, "President, I still have one more problem."

"Another problem?"

"Yes."

"Everyone here knows Player Minhyuk has obtained a ticket to allow him entry to the Field of the Gods, right?"

This was still within Kang Taehoon's expectations. The Argalis Dungeon was a place that could make one's dreams come true.

*'And Player Minhyuk's dream is, without a doubt, related to eating.'*

Because of that, he already expected the man to be able to reach the Field of the Gods. However, even if that were the case, the duration at which he could stay inside the Field of the Gods would be very short. Furthermore...

"Aren't the crops growing in the Field of the Gods much harder to harvest than ordinary crops?"

That was right. In addition, the much harder-to-harvest part here did not mean that it was because the crops had a higher grade than normal. Assuming that the same God-grade ingredient was planted in the Field of the Gods and an ordinary field, the crops that grew in the Field of the Gods would be 1.5x harder to harvest.

"Well, considering Player Minhyuk's high level of DEX, he would definitely be able to harvest quite a lot."

"However, God of Dungeons Bentley broke the rules and stormed inside the dungeon. Because of that, the *all-quest skip* condition was added to the clearing

conditions of the dungeon. For that same reason, the duration of his stay in the Field of the Gods has increased significantly.”

A solemn expression appeared on President Kang Taehoon’s face.

Just as its name suggested, the Field of the Gods was a land filled with *God-grade* ingredients. Of course, not all of them were categorized as God-grade ingredients, but there were quite a few low-quality ingredients that could only exert powers and abilities on par with legendary-grade ones in the field.

With cold sweat dripping down his back, Park Minggyu said, “What if... What if Player Minhyuk does something big by combining the ingredients that he will acquire from the Field of the Gods and the authority to rule a God-rank dungeon?” he gulped dryly and continued, “If that happened, then our overtime is as good as sealed.”

A dark and solemn expression flashed in the faces of everyone present. Some of the team leaders even started to shed tears at the thought.

\*\*\*

Unique Title

- Additional 2% for all stats.*

- Additional 5% on CHA.*

- The Hero’s Story.*

The One Carrying the Hero’s Pride was the title that Minhyuk had received when the AI was controlling him to see off War God Veyron. If one looked at its description, one would say that *The One Carrying the Hero’s Pride* was not such a great title. However, there was something noteworthy in this title. And that was none other than *The Hero’s Story*.

[Whenever the system recognizes a hero, the Hero’s Story will be triggered. Once the Hero’s Story has been triggered, the title's effects will improve based on the recognized hero’s achievements.]

To put it simply, it was a growth-type title. At present, this title might seem insignificant compared to the God Above Gods title.

*‘However, The One Carrying the Hero’s Pride has a much greater potential.’*

To be exact, The One Carrying the Hero’s Pride was a title with infinite potential.

Rumble—

When the sky of Argalis Dungeon started to crumble, a bright light engulfed Minhyuk and warped him away from the place.

[You will now be sent out of Argalis Dungeon.]

Minhyuk opened his eyes and breathed a huge sigh of relief. *‘Thank goodness I did not show up there.’*

Based on what Minhyuk had personally gathered, he assumed that many gods would gather in front of Argalis Dungeon. If he warped in that place, he would have to deal with them, which would be exhausting. Thankfully, that was not the case.

After sending the thought to the back of his head, excitement suddenly washed over him.

*‘Kghhk! The Field of the Gods!’*

The thought of the place, which must be filled with countless mouthwatering ingredients, alone was enough to delight him. However, before entering, he checked the ticket that would allow him entry to the *Field of the Gods*.

- The duration of your stay inside the Field of the Gods is six minutes.*
- You can take away the ingredients if you can successfully harvest them.*
- You can use all of the skills that you own inside.*
- Even if the crops are of the same grade as those from the outside, harvesting the crops from the Field of the Gods is 1.5x more difficult than usual.*

As he looked at the ticket’s description, Minhyuk thought, *‘Is there a way for me to take as many delicious ingredients as I want?’*

If he could harvest for six minutes, he would take all the God-grade ingredients. However, he wanted more. At that moment, Minhyuk’s concentration reached a terrifying level. This was how tenacious he was when it came to food and eating. As he pondered deeply, Minhyuk recalled a method that would probably allow him to do what he wanted there.

*“Ah...!”*

This was none other than the *skill combination*. When his God Above Gods title was completed, Minhyuk acquired the chance to combine two skills and another chance to combine three skills. He quickly clicked on the detailed description of the skill combination.

[You have to choose the skills that you want to combine.]

[You have to explain in detail how the skills will be combined and how they will be used.]

[The system will determine if the skills are suitable and if they can be combined.]

[If it is determined to be suitable, the success of the combination of the skills would depend on their suitability.]

[The Two Skill Combination can only try to combine the two selected skills twenty times.]

[If the skill combination fails, you can no longer try any combination of the skill 1 + skill 2 varieties you have attempted.]

Just because Minhyuk combined two skills did not necessarily mean the combination would work. He had to determine if the skills would fit together. Also, based on what he could see with the combination success rate, a considerable portion depended on luck.

*‘Of course, combining two or three attack skills will greatly help me.’*

However, what would happen after that? Was everything about increasing his attack power? At this moment, Minhyuk thought he should at least use one chance to help him eat something delicious.

*‘What combination will allow me to increase my harvest yield significantly?’* Minhyuk pondered.

In his head, Minhyuk began to combine various God-rank skills, the minimum requirement for the rank of the skills he could combine with his God Above Gods title.

*‘It should be a skill that will help me harvest more crops from here on out.’*

Various skill combinations popped up in Minhyuk’s head. However, the most crucial thing that popped up was...

“Can I combine artifact skills with the skills in my possession?”

He hoped to combine Divine Will with the Dual Swordsmanship Technique. Minhyuk already imagined himself holding two pickaxes as he worked through the field!

*‘I will be able to harvest more quickly.’*

However, Minhyuk’s fantasy was instantly shattered.

[Artifact skills cannot be combined.]

Minhyuk sighed ruefully. He had been very excited when he imagined himself holding two pickaxes, but the dream was instantly shattered, and he was left sad and depressed.

*‘Then, how should I combine my skills?’* Minhyuk thought, his eyes closing as he pondered about this matter deeply.

Suddenly, his eyes blinked open. “This is it! Two Skill Combination.”

At that moment, a hologram screen appeared right in front of Minhyuk.

[Please select the skills you want to combine.]

Minhyuk quickly clicked the two skills that he wanted to combine.

[Passive Skill Lightning: Destruction.]

[Passive Skill: Divine Will.]

[You have selected two skills.]

There was something significant to take note of about these two skills.

*‘Both of these skills are Absolute God’s Secrets.’*

If this combination succeeded, Minhyuk was confident he would have a jaw dropping harvesting skill.

[Please explain in detail how the combined skill will be cast and what it is used for.]

The hologram screen quickly filled with letters as he typed. How would the skill be used? Well, he intended to use it to harvest crops. How would it be cast or used once triggered?

*‘The Destruction skill sends sixteen lightning strikes and inflicts additional damage once triggered.’*

What if Minhyuk applied that to harvesting crops?

*‘One harvest attempt would turn into sixteen harvest attempts. Then, the buff effects of Divine Will would be added.’*

Minhyuk suddenly stopped typing.

*‘Isn’t this going to be very crazy?’*

If this skill could be combined, then it would definitely produce a very ridiculous and crazy skill. Finally, Minhyuk clicked the *complete* button.

[The suitability of the skill combination is being determined.]

[Determining... 6%... 15%... 25%... 38%...]

[The skills can be combined!]

[The combination success rate will now be determined!]

[The combination success rate is at 3%!]

[You have twenty attempts to combine the skills!]

[If the skill combination fails, you can no longer try any combination of the skill 1 + skill 2 varieties you have attempted.]

Minhyuk took a deep breath. It has been a while since he found something that he truly wanted to obtain. He stared at the hologram screen momentarily before clicking the *attempt combination* button.

[Attempting combination.]

Light engulfed the two skills flashing on the hologram screen. However, a red light suddenly covered the entire screen.

[Combination failed!]

However, it did not stop there.

[Attempting combination.]

[Combination failed...]

[Attempting combination.]

[Combination failed...]

[Attempting combination.]

[Combination failed...]



[Attempting combination.]

[Combination failed...]

“Keuaaaaaaack!”

Ten failed attempts in a row. Perhaps this was only the natural outcome. After all, the combination success rate was only 3%. Even so, the loss that wrapped around Minhyuk’s entire being was too great.

*‘This skill will help me eat more delicious food!’*

Minhyuk steeled his heart as he tried to calm himself. Then, he tried to combine the skills once again.

[Attempting combination.]

[Combination failed...]

[Attempting combination.]

[Combination failed...]

[Attempting combination.]

[Combination failed...]

[Attempting combination.]

[Combination failed...]

Minhyuk’s expression grew ugly as continuous failure rang in his ears.

At the same time, most people sitting inside the Joy Co. Ltd.’s conference room were tightly clasping their sweaty hands.

*‘If Player Minhyuk can successfully combine those skills, he will be able to harvest more ingredients in the Field of the Gods.’*

*‘If that happens, our fate of doing overtime will be sealed.’*

They never know what Minhyuk, who always did something new and unprecedented, would do if he obtained such a skill! That was why everyone was praying for the failure of the skill combination.

However, Minhyuk was roaring for the success of his skill combination. “Combiuuuuuuuuine!!!”

[Combination failed...]

“Combiuuuuuuuuine!!!”

[Combination failed...]

“Combiuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuine!!!”

[Combination failed...]

[Combination failed...]

Minhyuk's face flashed with disappointment when his 19th attempt at combining the skills failed. On the other hand, the faces of all the team leaders present inside Joy Co. Ltd.'s conference room were smiling.

Team Leader Park said, "It seems like we'll prevail this time."

Hope bloomed in their hearts. It seemed like they would not work overtime for this.

Minhyuk sighed, his face dejected. 'It would be more strange if everything went *well for me.*'

With a click of his tongue, Minhyuk pressed the *attempt combination* button one final time. He was thinking, '*Let's do this so I won't have any regrets.*' but his eyes were closed tightly, his heart thumping wildly and even his breathing had turned almost non-existent. And finally, a very happy tune rang in his ears.

Ring!

[Combination successful!]

[The Passive Skill: Striking Will has been created!]

"Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!!!" Minhyuk cheered loudly.

"..."

"..."

"..."

The Joy Co. Ltd.'s conference room was plunged into deep silence.

Chapter 888

[Combination successful!]

[The Passive Skill: Striking Will has been created!]

Passive Skill

- There is a 12% chance of triggering Striking Will. Upon triggering, the action you are taking will be replicated fourteen times when you do work related to DEX.*

- Upon triggering Striking Will, DEX increases by 20%, and all stats increase by 6%. The buff lasts seven seconds.*

- There is a 2% chance of triggering 'Divine Striking Will.' Upon triggering Divine Striking Will, DEX will increase by 40%, and all stats will increase by 10%. The duration of the buff is twelve seconds.*

Minhyuk was deeply moved when he read the skill's description.

The ‘demon-like’ operators of Athenae made it very hard to harvest ingredients. Because of that, even Minhyuk, who had an overwhelmingly high DEX, had a hard time on the field. But with this cheat-like Striking Will, everything would be fine.

*‘One strike would multiply into fourteen strikes.’*

But the most important thing to note here was that the skill, aside from being unable to be applied to *attack skills*, had no other limitations. If Minhyuk did blacksmithing work, one hammer strike would turn into fourteen strikes. And if he went out on the field to harvest crops, one strike of his pickaxe would turn into fourteen strikes. Because Minhyuk’s striking speed was already breakneck, this skill would significantly boost him.

After confirming the skill, Minhyuk took out the ticket to the *Field of the Gods* immediately.

[You have entered the Field of the Gods.]

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“Hiyaaaaa...” Heartfelt admiration escaped Minhyuk’s mouth.

When he entered the Field of the Gods, he was greeted by a vast field with all the crops buried deep underground. But since the names of the crops were marked right above them, Minhyuk thought it would not be that difficult to harvest what he wanted.

[God’s Juicy Samgyeopsal.]

[God’s Amazing Ribs.]

[God’s Fist-sized Sweet Potato.]

[God’s Fresh Bean Sprouts.]

[God’s Waxy Potato.]

A thrill ran down Minhyuk’s spine. All of the ingredients here were equivalent to God-grade ingredients. He was sure that the taste would be highly flavorful and fantastic. The first ingredient that Minhyuk approached was the God’s Juicy Samgyeopsal.

[5 minutes 48 seconds.]

[5 minutes 47 seconds.]

[5 minutes 46 seconds.]

Even at this very moment, the time he could stay inside the Field of the Gods was passing by swiftly. Seeing this, Minhyuk hurriedly grabbed his pickaxe and struck the ground as hard as possible.

Thud—!

[Your harvest yield has increased by 2%!]

Thud—!

Since Minhyuk could swing his pickaxe around three to four times per second, he could increase his harvest yield by around 8% every second.

*‘Harvesting just one ingredient would take two to three minutes. Can ordinary players even harvest these?’*

Minhyuk might not know this, but the operators of Joy Co. Ltd. created this opportunity to allow players to harvest the crops in the Field of the Gods freely. However, although they could gather whatever ingredients they wanted, it would still have to depend on their skills and abilities. Even though the players could enter the Field of the Gods, ordinary players with average DEX would probably only be able to harvest around one or two God-grade ingredients here.

Thuuuud—!

Thuuuuuud—!

Minhyuk increased the speed of swinging his pickaxe.

[Striking Will.]

[One strike becomes fourteen!]

[Your DEX will increase by 20%. All of your stats will increase by 6%!]

[The effect will last for seven seconds.]

At that moment, a bright golden stream of energy appeared and covered the blade of Minhyuk’s pickaxe.

Minhyuk looked very dashing. His white cape carried the symbol of the fork and knife crossed together, and his handsome face and pickaxe were covered with a golden energy.

Thud—!

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

[...harvest yield... 14%.]

[...harvest yield... 16%.]

[...harvest yield... 18%.]

[...harvest yield... 20%.]

The crop’s harvest yield increased tremendously in such a short period of time, reaching 30% in one go. But it did not end there; the Striking Will was continuously triggered.

[...harvest yield... 42%.]

[...harvest yield... 44%.]

[...harvest yield... 46%.]

The passive skill Striking Will had a 12% chance of getting triggered. Although the probability was small, there was still a high chance of getting triggered by how fast Minhyuk moved. It has been mentioned that Minhyuk could swing his pickaxe around four times per second. This meant that Striking Will was being triggered every 2.5 seconds. Which, of course, brought about shocking results and overpowered effects.

A 20% increase in DEX also occurred, lasting seven seconds. This effect greatly increased the harvest yield with every swing of Minhyuk's pickaxe. With the help of this skill alone, Minhyuk's harvest yield more than doubled.

At that moment, a notification rang in his ears.

[You have harvested God's Juicy Samgyeopsal.]

*'Shall we try checking God's Juicy Samgyeopsal?'*

When Minhyuk checked the information of the samgyeopsal, he saw that it could be considered to be the highest grade if it was legendary. But for God-grade, it could only be considered the lowest grade.

But once he had chosen the amount of buff needed and consumed the ingredient, his attack power and physical STR would greatly increase. If Minhyuk combined this with his Food God's Cooking skill, he could probably increase his attack power and STR by more than 30%.

The fact that the word '*God-grade*' was attached to it meant that it would be very delicious, which made Minhyuk very happy.

Of course, Minhyuk's hands had never stopped moving. He continued to harvest the crops around him, his speed increasing tremendously.

Thud!

Thud!

Thud!

[You have triggered Striking Will!]

Thud!

Thud!

[You have triggered Striking Will!]

[You have harvested God's Amazing Ribs!]

[You have gathered God's Fist-sized Sweet Potato!]

[You have harvested God's Waxy Potato!]

As mentioned, the Field of the Gods was filled with countless God-rank ingredients. One glance revealed that more than 400 ingredients were planted all over the fields. In other words, if Minhyuk could move faster, he would be able to bring back as many as possible.

[...God's...]

[...God's...]

[...God's...]

Thud!

Thud!

Thud!

“Keuhahahahahaha!”

The bright and wide smile on Minhyuk’s face grew deeper and broader.

[The duration of your stay in the Field of the Gods has ended!]

[You harvested more than ten crops during your six-minute stay in the Field of the Gods!]

[The duration of your stay in the Field of the Gods has been extended by four minutes!]

“Lucky!!!”

The operators of Joy Co. Ltd. had expected that more than 80% of the players that would be able to enter the Field of the Gods would be chefs or other production-class players. They had estimated that these players could only harvest around two crops at most and that it would only be possible to harvest up to ten in such a short amount of time. That was why they confidently placed an easter egg inside. However, that easter egg had now given Minhyuk wings.

Thuuuuuuud—!

Even during the four-minute extension, Minhyuk’s pickaxe still had a golden energy swirling around it. And when his stay had finally and truly ended...

[The duration of your stay in the Field of the Gods has ended!]

[The total duration of your stay is ten minutes. In that time, you have been able to harvest 17 God’s crops!]

One reason God’s crops were considered among the best was that each crop had different outstanding effects. Some of the effects of these God’s crops included a 4x increase in EXP Acquisition Rate, a significant boost in attack power, an increase in potential, or even improvement in all of the skills in one’s possession.

“Keuhahahahahaha!”

Minhyuk’s laughter pierced through the ears of everyone in Joy Co. Ltd.’s conference room.

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Haze was just listening to a very terrible report.

“Around 10,000 of the support troops, including Duke Locke, that went out to battle were killed.”

“...And the Luvaldi Kingdom?”

According to the reports, they were eventually captured by the Luvien Empire’s Duke Ruffiso and the army he led.

“...” Haze was left speechless.

The Luvaldi Kingdom had recently forged a great relationship with the Beyond the Heavens Empire after the incident with the human resource negotiations and the war with the Dark Elves. It was a

tiny kingdom and needed someone's backing. And the support that they chose was none other than the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

Of course, knowing this, the Luvien Empire immediately launched an offensive against them. The empires and kingdoms that were against the Luvien Empire directly sent reinforcements. However, all of them died.

Duke Ruffiso, one of the Stars of the Luvien Empire, contributed significantly to this. The empire's dukes were powerful. Their power easily surpassed the power that the Swords of the Gods could wield. They were monsters whose level might shortly exceed Level 800.

"That's not all. According to the reports, many of the foreigners are killing the foreigners that belonged to the Beyond the Heavens Empire and foreigners that belonged to the empires and kingdoms that had friendly relationships with our empire. And just yesterday, Brachan's Dungeon, the dungeon that our Beyond the Heavens' held the monopoly over, had been taken away. They had removed our authority to operate the dungeon."

Several foreigners were leaving the Beyond the Heavens Empire because of the pressure brought about by the Luvien Empire's tyranny. The worst part? A significant number of the prominent figures among the foreigners had become the dogs of the Luvien Empire.

*'Your Majesty, I am missing you right now.'*

Haze and the other executives had told Minhyuk to go and get a good rest. They encouraged him not to lose the main reason he played this game, which was to eat. Of course, Haze's thoughts on this matter had not changed. She did not want her emperor to forget the joy of eating.

However, there was an *implicit promise* that came along with this. In the end, he was the emperor. If something happened outside of the Beyond the Heavens Empire, he still had to take the lead and command them.

*'We have to let the Luvien Empire and those foreigners who turned their backs on us take a huge shot.'*

Otherwise, they would have no other way to stop the others from leaving. At that moment...

"Haze! How have you been?" Minhyuk returned after harvesting all the crops he could gather from the Field of the Gods and flashed a small smile toward Haze.

"Your- Your Majesty!" Haze's eyes turned misty. She was really, *really* happy to see him right now. "I have something to report--"

"I have already confirmed the situation."

Although Minhyuk had left to eat and be happy and merry, that did not mean he was out of the loop. He would always talk with his friends on the phone and listen to their stories.

"I have committed a crime worthy of death, Your Majesty!"

Today, Duke Locke had been forced to log out. But that was not all. They had also lost 10,000 of their soldiers. However, Minhyuk shook his head when he heard Haze pleading guilty for this mistake.

“I know that you and my friends have done everything to the best of your abilities.”

Minhyuk knew that the damage had only come to this point because Haze and his friends were doing their best. However, if they remained on the sidelines, the damage would increase. The Luvien Empire would continue to take over the Beyond the Heavens’ authority over their dungeons, strike at the empires and kingdoms that would forge friendly relationships with them, and use the players to take advantage of their gaps. And one day, they would invade the Beyond the Heavens Empire’s lands.

“Well, it’s time for us to retaliate.”

Haze nodded in agreement to Minhyuk. However, her expression remained dark and solemn. She had no idea how they were going to retaliate.

Then Minhyuk said, “You see, I have something very interesting and fun here. It’s called Authority to Run God-rank Dungeon. Let me share it with you.”

Haze, whose interest was piqued, looked at it and saw that it was an authority to run a dungeon. This was something that many of the foreigners and NPCs also had. However, the only thing that made it special was that it was an *authority to run God-rank Dungeon*.

Haze’s eyes grew wide in shock. “...Ah!”

She could tell that no other authority to run a dungeon could light a candle to this.

“Even though this is an authority to run a God-rank Dungeon, is this really even possible?”

“The person that gave me this authority to run a God-rank Dungeon is God of Dungeons Evas, the greatest God of Dungeons in history.”

When it came to authorities running God-rank dungeons, the most critical aspect was the kind of god that bestowed it. The one who gave this authority to Minhyuk was God of Dungeons Evas, the most outstanding God of Dungeons in history. Of course, the authority to run a dungeon he bestowed would have great power, right?

“Your Majesty, by any chance, can I glimpse what’s going on in your mind?”

Minhyuk, who was pondering over their situation, chuckled. “I plan to trigger an *episode* related to this dungeon and use it against the Luvien Empire.”

“...!”

“I also plan on becoming the ‘boss monster’ in this dungeon.”

A thrill ran down Haze’s spine. She could already imagine when the imperial army and the foreigners led by the Luvien Empire ventured inside the dungeon to clear it, only to be met with Boss Monster Minhyuk and his vassals.



“However, this would be difficult with our current power alone.”

That was certainly the case. No matter how strong they were, the Beyond the Heavens Empire would not be able to deal with all of them inside the dungeon. To be honest, Haze believed it would be even quite difficult for them to stop the powerful troops and forces of the Luvien Empire completely.

That was when Minhyuk suddenly started to take out unknown and mysterious items from his inventory.

Thud—

Thud—

Thud—

Among the items were things like steel bars and even something that looked like dragon bones. There were even some screws, iron plates, and a whole lot of items.

“What would happen if we recreate Divine Weapon Bless and use it to stop our enemies?”

However, the big picture that Minhyuk was painting was not yet over. He was still not done taking out items from his inventory. This time, he took out the ingredients he had acquired from the Field of the Gods.

“What would happen if I feed my vassals with dishes made from God-grade ingredients and allow them to grow stronger?”

Haze was completely at a loss. She just did not know what to say. However, rather than banking on their ability to do these things, she wanted to see if they could unconditionally do it.

“Your Majesty, I know that this authority to run a God-rank dungeon is amazing. However, not just anyone can utilize this properly. From what I can see, only the God of Dungeons will be able to utilize it properly and manage it easily.”

That was right. Minhyuk had only talked about how he would strengthen his vassals by feeding them dishes made from God-grade ingredients and recreating Divine Weapon Bless. He never mentioned anything about the one who would operate the dungeon. After all, no one other than the God of Dungeons would probably be able to freely and properly utilize the authority to run a God-rank dungeon at this caliber.

However, there was a very faint smile that appeared on Minhyuk’s face.

“What if the God of Dungeons became a human?”

Chapter 889

Bentley, deprived of his divine power and exiled from the Land of the Gods, was stripped of his title as the God of Dungeons and left wandering.

However, even if his qualifications as a god had been taken away from him, the fact that he was once the God of Dungeons remained. Even as a human, he was still as powerful as ever. Also, the

dungeon production methods and everything related to dungeons that had been ingrained in his head would never be imitated and copied by anyone currently. But he was left with nowhere to go in the land of the humans and could only keep walking.

*‘Do I have to make a dungeon and live in it?’*

He could probably build a cabin and live like any other human being. However, even though Bentley admitted and recognized the mistakes and wrongdoings that he committed, he still did not want to stoop so low.

“...Damn it.”

In the first place, Bentley was not one of the Continental Gods. He was born a pure-blooded god. He could not fit in the land of humans or hide in the dungeons.

If he had to be honest, former God of Dungeons Bentley had already given up on living. That was why he deliberately did not drink a sip of water even though he was walking in a desert under the sun's glaring light.

*‘I truly became a human, huh?’*

Bentley's head felt dizzy, and his body was covered with sweat. His throat was so dry that he felt like they were burnt; he could not even spit saliva from his mouth.

Thud—

Bentley, who had no will to live from the beginning, allowed himself to lie on the hot desert ground and looked up at the bright and scorching sky above him. What a tragic ending, no? He felt like it was better to die than to live like this.

But then, at that moment, a small shadow covered his body. When Bentley turned his eyes, he was greeted by a familiar face. With a straight nose, sharp jawline, and bright eyes, this familiar face stretched his hand toward him.

Bentley, who was thinking about how freaking handsome this man was, suddenly wondered why the Food God came to see him.

“Bentley. I need your help.”

“...?”

Did he need his help? Bentley could not help but look at the Food God in confusion. Why would he need the help of someone like him, who had been deprived of his divine power and stripped of his position as a god?

“Why would a great man like you need my help? That's nonsense. Can't you just let me go and die in peace?” Bentley ignored Minhyuk and proceeded to close his eyes.

But then, at that moment, Minhyuk pushed something into his mouth.

*“Mmmph! Hmmmph! What in the world...?!”*

Gulp, gulp—

Bentley, forced to gulp whatever was in his mouth, looked at Minhyuk with wide-open eyes. Whatever he swallowed tasted sweet and refreshing and smoothly went down his throat.

Although he had adamantly refused Minhyuk earlier, Bentley grabbed the plastic bottle and gulped its contents. He felt delighted as if he had found the oasis inside this hot and dry desert. After drinking the bottle's contents, Bentley's hazy and blurred consciousness finally returned to clarity.

"H- how can it be like this? Can water taste this sweet...?" When Bentley looked at the bottle, he saw the word *pocarist* written on it.

Bentley, whose senses were finally back, stood up. He had already lost his motivation to live. There was nothing left for him to do here.

"It seems like I have to die somewhere else."

But just when he was about to turn around and live, Minhyuk said, "There is a dungeon that only you can run."

"..."

A dungeon that only he could run? Bentley turned to look at Minhyuk.

"God of Dungeons Evas had given me the authority to run a God-rank dungeon once."

"...!" Bentley was quite shocked to learn that God Evas had given Minhyuk the authority to run a dungeon.

This authority was much more significant than what Minhyuk or Haze believed it to be. Compared to other ordinary authority to run dungeons, the one that Evas bestowed had limitless potential. However, it would be difficult for ordinary people to utilize even a tenth of the dungeon's true power.

Bentley's heart thumped wildly.

*'Something that belonged to God Evas...'*

The truth was, Bentley thought it would be better for him to run a dungeon of his own, even though his talent in dungeon production lagged behind that of Evas'. If it was the dungeon that Evas had left behind, then an outstanding and shocking dungeon might have been born if he had added his skills and talents in operating and managing dungeons.

Haa... haa...

Bentley's breathing turned ragged. "What do you intend to do with that dungeon?"

Minhyuk explained the step-by-step process of his planned use of the dungeon to Bentley.

*'Sounds fun.'*

This was the first thing that Bentley thought of when he heard Minhyuk's explanation. Although he was no longer a god, he felt he could make an achievement far better than what a god could make.

Then, Minhyuk asked him again, “Bentley, will you run and manage dungeons for the Beyond the Heavens Empire?”

This time, Bentley did not hesitate. He now had a new goal in his life.

*‘I will make a dungeon that no other god has ever made.’*

Bentley grabbed Minhyuk’s outstretched hand.

At this moment, two big shots, who could not mix like oil and water, cooperated.

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Hyemin’sDaddy, the God of Blacksmiths Hepas’ Descendant, and Dwarf Olger, the Golden Hammer’s descendant, were considered the best blacksmiths. They were beings that all the other empires and kingdoms coveted but dared not make a move on.

But right now, Hyemin’sDaddy was facing a considerable challenge. *‘The level of the materials is far too high. I have no idea how I can make them into that.’*

Although excellent tools for war, armored weapons rarely appeared in Athenae. One reason was that operating just one armored weapon would cost a lot of money. Another reason was that the world’s craftsmen had yet to create a proper and working armored weapon. So, most of the armored weapons that were being used were those that had been made in the past.

This was why Hyemin’sDaddy and Olger, who were trying to recreate Bless with the blueprint they were given, were facing difficulties.

“How on earth did they make this?”

“This is very difficult. On top of that, this is the masterpiece created by the production class gods in the past.”

Of course, what they were trying to make here differed from Bless. It was nothing but a lower-quality version of Bless. However, even the level of something like that was still far too high for them to make from scratch. They tried to manufacture and produce it, but they failed repeatedly because of the extremely high level of the materials and the problem with the blueprint.

Then, at that moment...

“Let me see that.” An unknown yet relatively handsome man, who appeared with Minhyuk, took the blueprint that they were making and looked at it sharply.

Hyemin’sDaddy and Olger had been basing the blueprint they had been drawing on the materials they had been given. However, for them to be able to produce a complete product, they had to finish and complete the design first. However, Bless was a divine weapon; its composition could not be completed even if they referenced it from the other armored weapons. Hyemin’sDaddy and Olger’s design only accounted for 12% of the complete structure.

The man, Bentley, grabbed the pen and began to draw on the blueprint that they had drawn.

[Bless’ design is 15% completed!]

[Bless’ design is 18% completed!]

[Bless' design is 21% completed...!]

“...!”

“...!”

Hyemin'sDaddy and Olger were both very shocked. They put their heads together and worked without rest but could only complete 12% of the blueprint.

[Bless' design is 42% completed!]

[Bless' design is 52% completed...!]

However, that was where it ended. It looked just like Bless. As for the mechanisms inside, it was something that even Bentley dared not touch.

Bentley was the God of Dungeons. However, he was very fond of creating something and nurtured his DEX, which allowed him to make a monstrous weapon like the Titan of Destruction. However, he could not even dare to touch Bless.

Even so, what he had achieved right now was something that even Hyemin'sDaddy and Olger could not achieve. That was why the two of them were very shocked.

“Is- is this what Bless looks like?”

“Amazing.”

While the two were busy admiring how Bless looked, Minhyuk asked, “Is it impossible to complete the blueprint?”

“It can be completed. However, even if we can reach 100% of the blueprint and make it, we can only produce a titan with only half of Bless's original power.”

“Is there no other way?”

Having only half of Bless' power was not enough.

*‘If we can only produce that, then many of the Beyond the Heavens' troops would be sacrificed under the onslaught of attacks from countless enemy troops. We must kill as many enemies as possible with as little damage as possible.’*

Bentley, who had been pondering for a long while, opened his mouth and said, “The Black Hammer Dwarves.”

“...!”

The one that responded to Bentley's words was Golden Hammer Dwarf Lant's disciple, Olger. “Do you know where they are?”

Bentley nodded.

“Who are the Black Hammer Dwarves?”

“They are dwarves born from the union of ordinary dwarves and black dwarves. The black dwarves are already extinct, but I have heard that the Black Hammer Dwarves have been living in seclusion.”

“They were the ones that helped me in producing my Titan of Destruction. And from what I heard, they were extremely outstanding talents that have helped produce Bless in the past.”

In other words, they were part of the group that had produced Bless.

“If they are here, can you produce a complete Bless?”

“Even if we can’t reproduce Bless, we might be able to produce an outstanding weapon that can rival Bless in power. Perhaps we can also make a few more armored weapons, too.”

Hearing that, Minhyuk knew that there was no longer any need to hesitate. After he heard of the location from Bentley, he immediately sent one of his vassals to discuss it with them.

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The one that was dispatched to meet and persuade the Black Hammer Dwarves, the only beings that could optimize an armored weapon to exert more power, was none other than Locke.

As for Minhyuk, he had somewhere to go, so he posted about this on the guild chat room. When Locke saw the message, he volunteered himself.

Locke still could not forget how the Luvien Empire’s Duke Ruffiso had wiped out 10,000 of the Beyond the Heavens Empire’s troops and stabbed a sword in his heart. That was why he volunteered himself. And, of course, he vowed to do his best in this operation.

But Locke, who had done his best and given his all, was tied up and dragged by the Black Hammer Dwarves.

“...”

Locke deliberately left the troops behind and only went there by himself. He thought the Black Hammer Dwarves might feel threatened by their presence and would probably think they would attack them, ending in a war. Besides, he came here to make a deal, not to fight.

Minhyuk had told Locke to tell the Black Hammer Dwarves that *they would listen to whatever they wanted*. This was because the Beyond the Heavens Empire's life and death depended on this.

The Black Hammer Dwarves, with their rugged and rough appearance, looked like ordinary dwarves on the outside. The only difference was that they were all wearing black armor and a cape carrying the symbol of a black hammer on their backs.

Fwoooosh—

Fwoooooooooooooosh—

The rush of heat from the bellows that the dwarves were manning covered the entire area and made it seem like they were being enveloped by lava. If Locke were to be honest, he was terrified of the Black Hammer Dwarves.

*‘Look at their tough and ugly looks! And what kind of arm is that?!’*

Their arms were as big as *Ma Dong-Seok’s* and looked like they could easily twist Locke’s neck in a heartbeat.

After being dragged for quite some time, Locke was forced to face the dwarf standing atop the long and high staircase. Wearing silver armor, he looked cool. However, the fact that he was 140 cm tall took away his majesty.

[Black Hammer Dwarven King Vernon has appeared!]

[The Black Hammer Dwarf’s Overwhelming Momentum has been triggered!]

[The Overwhelming Momentum has restricted your breathing!]

[Your resistance against abnormal status has decreased by 40%!]

“Keheok!”

The overwhelming momentum emanating from the small stature of the Dwarven King was far stronger than expected and had weighed down upon Locke. If someone weaker than Locke, like the soldiers, came here, they would have already fainted.

Black Hammer Dwarven King Vernon turned to look at him and said, “The Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor sent you?”

“That- that’s right. His Majesty is requesting your help. We hope the Black Hammer Dwarves can help us recreate *Bless*.”

“Bless?!”

“Did he just say, Bless?!”

“That divine weapon?!”

Even Vernon was quite surprised when he heard what Locke said. Bless was an armored weapon that was born thousands of years ago from the hands of their great ancestors. And they wanted to recreate it with their help? However, they knew it would still be complicated even if they were skilled.

Then, Locke said, “His Majesty told me that he is willing to grant whatever the Black Hammer Dwarves want.”

“...Whatever we want? Kikiki– Kikikikikiki– Kikikiki–!” Vernon covered his face, an evil and wild laughter escaping his lips.

*‘He’s this type of character? No way. Is he going to ask us to help them conquer the lands?’* Locke grew increasingly nervous.

He could tell that what they would ask of them would not be small. After all, they were asking the Black Hammer Dwarves to help them recreate Bless.

Then, Vernon said, "The Black Hammer Dwarves have lived in the shadows for a long time. These hands that had produced countless armored weapons could easily drown the world in blood. However, we did not do so. Because we needed something, something that's far greater than that."

"..."

Gulp—

Locke gulped dryly, a groan escaping his lips when Vernon's sharp eyes turned to look at him.

"I will tell you what I, no, what we need. Perk your ears up and listen closely."

Locke immediately focused all of his attention on Vernon's charismatic face. *'What in the world do you want?!!!'*

Vernon's eyes almost turned green with *greed* as he looked at Locke. Then, he took a deep breath and said, "We want to grow taller."

"...?"

"Just three centimeters taller..."

"...?"

Locke was utterly taken aback. Looking around, he heard the other Black Hammer Dwarves talking among themselves.

"If we're three centimeters taller, then we can wear other clothes and look a bit more different..."

"Wow. If Lord Vernon grew three centimeters taller, wouldn't he be 140 centimeters tall?"

"Kghhk~ If we're 140 centimeters tall, wouldn't we fit perfectly into whatever clothes or armor we want?"

"My god... 140 centimeters~!!!"

"If we're 140 centimeters tall, we will look great in anything."

"A hundred and forty... Woaaaaaaah..."

"..."

At this point, Locke realized that he was facing the most significant challenge in the world.

Chapter 890

At least once in their lives, ordinary men who were not on the taller side would dream and think, *'I'm 177 centimeters tall. If I can only grow three centimeters more...'* or *'I'm only 170 centimeters tall. I wish I could grow three centimeters taller!'*



Like these ordinary men, the Black Hammer Dwarves also had the same dream. Black Hammer Dwarves were the offspring born from the union of an ordinary dwarf and a Black Dwarf. They were skilled blacksmiths who were powerful and talented enough to create armored weapons easily. And Vernon, the one leading them, had this grand dream.

*‘I’m 137 centimeters tall. If I grow three centimeters taller, I will become 140 centimeters tall.’*

If that happened, he would be the tallest among all the Black Hammer Dwarves. More importantly, if he became 140 centimeters tall, he could breathe new life into whatever clothes he wanted to wear, just like how those humans looked good while wearing the coats they liked or the armor they would wear to go to the battlefield. In the first place, dwarves were short beings. So, it was only natural that they would harbor an inferiority complex and be insecure about their heights.

However, the most crucial takeaway here was that Vernon was a master craftsman who had talent that did not lag behind the Black Hammer Dwarves who helped build Bless back in the day. He also had some of Bless's blueprints in his hands, although a bit damaged.

“I don’t want much. I just want to grow three centimeters taller!!!”

*‘N- No... You’re saying you don’t want much when asking for the impossible?!’* Locke felt like he was going to be crazy.

When he looked around him, he saw the shining eyes of all of the dwarves present. All he could do was gulp dryly and bite the bullet.

“...I- I will try my best.”

Locke hurriedly sent a whisper to Minhyuk.

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After finishing what he had to deal with, Minhyuk hurriedly checked what Locke had sent him via whisper.

*‘They want to grow taller...’*

Minhyuk did not mock or laugh at their wishes. No matter what race they belonged to, everyone had a complex that they were very insecure about. And apparently, dwarves had a severe inferiority complex about their heights.

Thankfully, their dreams were not necessarily impossible for Minhyuk.

- This is a God’s Ingredient that will help you grow whatever you want.*

- It has the power to allow hair to grow to someone who does not have hair or to allow someone who wants to grow tall to grow taller.*

- Unlike ordinary beef shanks, this can be boiled and made into a soup dozens of times.*

- Many would be able to receive the effects by sharing the well-boiled and flavorful beef shank soup.*

Minhyuk harvested this ingredient from the Field of the Gods. When he first got his hands on it, he wondered if he would ever have the chance to use it. However, now that it was in his hands, he unexpectedly met a situation where its worth would shine the brightest.

But then, Minhyuk thought, *‘Black Hammer Dwarven King Vernon... was what he wanted just that? Growing taller?’*

Minhyuk could not help but doubt. Of course, it was completely understandable that the dwarf wanted to overcome his inferiority complex. However, he could not help but think there was something else besides getting taller.

*‘We will forge a deal with Black Hammer Dwarven King Vernon. However, I want to turn this relationship into a deeper and more solid one,’* Minhyuk thought as he finally made a move.

\*\*\*

Black Hammer Dwarven King Vernon was, in all honesty, an arrogant and prideful man. Of course, he had the qualifications to be one. After all, he was a master craftsman who could produce the world’s most potent armored weapons and create the greatest siege weapons. The gods even visited him several times because of that.

So, when Vernon looked at Minhyuk, standing politely before him, he thought, *‘Anyway, we just have a strictly business relationship.’*

They only had to get what they wanted to get from each other.

“Is it possible?” King Vernon asked. Hearing this question, the other dwarves turned to look at the Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor Minhyuk, eyes shining with desperation.

The dwarves’ inferiority complex concerning their heights had existed for as long as they could remember. However, no one had been able to help them solve this problem.

“I will do my best.”

And Minhyuk did his best. He stood in front of the cauldron of the tricky Beef Shank of Growth, an ingredient that needed to be boiled for several days in a row and did not leave it at all even though he was sweating buckets.

“Kihyaa! Pocarist is yummy!”

He would smile like an innocent boy while gulping down some unknown drink.

[Your favor with Rubanan has increased.]

[Your favor with Cord has increased.]

[Your favor with Aegedo has increased.]

They could see that Minhyuk was doing his best. So, the dwarves, moved deeply by his dedication and determination, grabbed a ladder and climbed up to wipe the sweat off his head.

“Thank you,” Minhyuk responded with a small smile.

The dwarves, who were ignored by the other races because of their square faces and bulky and rugged bodies, realized after watching Minhyuk for a few days that what he was doing was not just a pretense. As a race that had only known blacksmithing, they had always been under threat because of their *abilities*. That was why they could tell that Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor Minhyuk respected them and was doing their best for them.

*‘He’s an excellent emperor.’*

Just when the dwarves thought like that, they saw Minhyuk sigh of relief. It seemed like the few days of hard work in boiling the beef shank had finally ended.

“It’s only at legendary grade, but I believe this should be more than enough,” Minhyuk said, looking at the dwarves with his entire body drenched in sweat.

“What’s this noodle?”

“Beef noodle soup. Noodles taste delicious, but even more so when eaten with beef shank soup. Wouldn’t it taste more delicious if you mix two delicious things?”

“Oooh! That’s great. It’s better to eat something more delicious!” Black Hammer Dwarven King Vernon smiled without realizing it as he looked at Minhyuk. However, Vernon’s face turned stiff again after catching Minhyuk’s eye.

“Please give it to me! Hurry!”

Vernon was in a hurry. He wanted to eat the dish right away and grow taller. However, Minhyuk shook his head and said, “No. Shall we talk?”

Vernon looked at Minhyuk in confusion. What in the world did they have to talk about? Couldn’t this emperor see that he was in a hurry and wanted to down that beef noodle soup right away?! However, Vernon had no other choice but to keep it all in. He still had to be polite in front of others.

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Vernon, who sent everyone out, listened to the commotion outside. And Minhyuk? He was looking at the dwarven king while standing a few meters away.

“You will grow taller slowly. It needs a step-by-step process and would take two weeks.”

“It would be good if what you said is true,” Vernon said. At the same time, he wondered why the man wanted to talk with him even though he had already finished what he had to do.

However, the Beyond the Heavens’ Emperor stared at Vernon for a while. Only after a few minutes had passed did he open his mouth. “Black Hammer Dwarven King.”

“???” Vernon looked at the man in confusion.

“Did you ask for this just because you wanted to grow taller?”

Vernon felt it to be quite strange. The man’s gentle voice and faint smile seemed to melt Vernon’s tough and cold heart.

“Us dwarves are born short. Because of that...” Vernon started. However, he soon sighed. He felt like telling this story was not really that necessary. “There’s someone that I love.”

It was just like what Minhyuk expected. It was not about just wanting to grow taller. There was something that Vernon believed he would only be able to do if he grew taller.

“She’s a very beautiful High Elf.”

Minhyuk had seen who Vernon talked about a few times while making the beef shank noodle soup. Even so, the story of a high elf and a dwarf falling in love still sounded surreal, just like a fairy tale. However, fate was just like that. No one could know when their future and destinies would start to intertwine.

“Unlike me, she’s tall and beautiful.”

That should certainly be the case. After all, high elves were born slim, tall, and very beautiful.

“I want to propose to her. But look at me. I’m twenty centimeters shorter than her.” Vernon resented his short stature.

Suppose he could just be a bit taller, just a tad bit taller. This was how people with complexes were. They would care and think more about things that others might not care about.

“I also know that I can’t grow anymore. However, if I can just grow three centimeters taller, then I’m sure that she will be able to accept my proposal!”

The worst part? Their complex would constantly gnaw and tear away at their self-esteem. More often than not, it would also force them to run away.

Minhyuk, who stood there facing Vernon, smiled faintly. “Your Majesty, please eat this beef shank noodle soup a bit later.”

“...Wh- what?!” Vernon’s expression grew ugly, his face growing redder by the second.

Was Minhyuk playing with him?! Did he not hear what he just said?! He said she would accept his proposal if he grew three centimeters taller! But here Minhyuk was, telling Vernon to eat this dish that would allow him to grow taller a bit later?!

Minhyuk said, “Your Majesty, why do you love that high elf? Is it because she’s beautiful?”

“...” After a few moments of reflection, Vernon said, “At first, it was because she was beautiful. But as we grew closer and spent more time together, I fell in love with her beautiful and kind heart. She is someone that loves me and cares for me deeply. It wouldn’t matter how she looks; I will still love her even if she’s no longer beautiful.”

“Then, let me ask you a different question. Why do you think she loves you, Your Majesty?”

“...!”

Unlike her, Vernon did not look handsome or tall. He was stubby, bulky, rugged, and ugly. However, she still loved him with all her heart. His inferiority complex prevented him from seeing why she loved him. Perhaps his complex about his short height had made him into a coward.

The Black Hammer Dwarven King, who ruled over all of the Black Hammer Dwarves and the master craftsman who could make the best-armored weapon in the world, began to cry.

“Your Majesty, she had also fallen in love with you, not your short stature, bulky body, or rugged face. Like how you have fallen in love with her beautiful heart, she must have also definitely fallen in love with your unchanging and unyielding heart. It wouldn’t matter what you looked like. From what I saw these past few days, she is also madly and deeply in love with you.”

“You’re right... You are absolutely right... Everything you said is right...” Vernon, with tears dripping down his face, finally realized the truth. He laughed and cried after learning he had run away because of his complex. And finally, Vernon gathered his courage and took a step forward.

“I’ll be waiting for you here.”

However, Vernon no longer heard Minhyuk’s words. Vernon ran out with the bouquet and the ring he had prepared for his proposal once he grew three centimeters taller. He ran with his short and stubby legs and dashed across the place filled with hot steam until he found her figure.

“Allel!” Vernon shouted at the top of his lungs as he knelt before her.

However, he suddenly felt afraid. He felt like running away again even though he had already knelt before her. It seemed like his complex was about to rear its head again and force the turtle back into its shell again.

But Vernon persevered. He gathered all the courage he could muster and said, “Will you allow me to stay by your side for all eternity?!”

The scene where a stubby, bulky, and rugged dwarf kneeling and proposing in front of a beautiful, slim, and tall high elf might look like a joke to some. Vernon also knew that it was a laughable scene. That was why he also felt a bit scared.

However, there was no need for him to fear. The high elf Allel smiled brightly as she bent down and hugged Vernon tightly. “I have been waiting. I have always... always been waiting for you to say those words.”

“I love you. I am madly and deeply in love with you. You are the only one that owns my heart,” Vernon said, smiling brightly. He was the happiest man in the world as long as he was in the arms of his beloved Allel.

