

## Gourmet 971

### Chapter 971

Continental Master Aesden was not only a guide who could guide people to wherever they wanted to go but could also see through the other person through the crystal ball.

Although he could see through the other person, certain restrictions were placed upon Aesden. For one, he could not breathe a word of whatever he saw through the crystal ball to another person. This restriction was placed upon him by someone who probably had the same or perhaps greater power than his own.

When the man placed his hand on the crystal ball, Aesden closed his eyes and tried to look through him. However, it was not too long before Aesden was left in shock.

*'What- What in the world...?'*

Aesden could not see anything. He was only presented with pitch-black darkness. Was it because the man's future in front of him was dark? No, that was not the case at all. It would be more apt to say that Aesden could not see through the man.

Aesden closed his eyes tightly and tried to concentrate even more. He moved around and chased after the sole light in the darkness. This light, floating in the distance and only as big as a dot, seemed to have the answer to his question.

He stretched his hand out and ran to reach the light. And finally, Aesden reached the light.

Crack, crack, crack, crack, crack—!

The cracks on the crystal ball grew more prominent. At the same time, goosebumps rose on Aesden's back when he finally saw what he wanted to see.

Thud—!

*'Ah!'*

Shocked, Aesden fell off his chair. Then, sweat began to pour down from his forehead.

*'Just now, what did I just see...'*

Then, Aesden heard the concerned voice of the man above him. "Are you alright?"

Aesden's disciples hurriedly approached him.

"Tower Master?"

"I'm- I'm fine. It seems like I'm not in good condition today." Aesden patted his clothes as he stood up and looked at the man again.

There was still a long line behind him to the point that it snaked through the wide-open street. The nobles waiting in line looked at Aesden in expectation.

"Since he asked for a hundred million platinum first, wouldn't he ask for a billion this time?"

“Who knows? If that guy is still wet behind the ears, he might just ask for ten billion!”

“Hahahaha!”

The nobles were laughing and making fun of the man. After all, they wanted to blow a blow to this man who was still wet behind the ears and did not know much about the world.

But then, Aesden looked at the man and said, “I wou– I won’t accept any fee for the information you require.”

Aesden, who unknowingly spoke courteously, hurriedly corrected himself. However, even then, the nobles standing on the line were shocked when their expectations were proven wrong.

“If the one asking for information is fit and qualified, he would not charge any money.”

“So, the rumors were true.”

There were rumors that every few years, people would appear who did not need to pay for Aesden’s services. These were people who were fit and qualified to find the information that they wanted. Although the others did not know, the truth was...

*‘They are people who I dare not ask for money.’*

Aesden would never ask for payment for such people, only these people alone.

The man standing in front of Aesden looked at him in surprise. “Are you sure you don’t want any money?”

“Yes, I don’t need you to pay.”

But the man rummaged through his inventory and pushed something into Aesden’s arms.

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Minhyuk was left in doubt when he heard that Aesden would not ask him for money. He thought that perhaps it was not because of him but because the crystal ball cracked when he touched it.

*‘But the most important part here is that I was allowed to go to a new world free of charge. This is truly a tremendous opportunity.’*

Minhyuk believed it was worth a million platinum and perhaps even more than a hundred million platinum. But he was not without conscience. When he heard that Aesden would not take any payment from him, he quickly took something out and shoved it to the old man.

What did he give the old man? It was ABD chocolate. Minhyuk had around 30,000 emergency chocolates in his inventory just in case he suffered from low blood sugar.

“...”

Aesden, greeted by a fistful of chocolates, looked at the man in doubt.

But Minhyuk hurriedly grabbed his hand and transferred the chocolate to him. He said, “I’m not the type of person who would give food to anyone. So, consider this as an extraordinary gift, Aesden.”

For a moment, Aesden thought that the man in front of him was playing a joke on him. However, he could tell from his eyes and voice that the man was completely sincere.

This was the truth. Minhyuk was indeed not the type of person who would give food to anyone. And now he was giving a fistful of chocolate to someone?

*‘Good job, Minhyuk! You have improved by a lot!’*

Minhyuk felt proud of himself.

And Aesden? He just nodded with a small smile while saying, “Thanks. Follow me. This way.”

Aesden led Minhyuk until they reached a room. There, Minhyuk was greeted by a huge magic circle drawn on the floor.

Aesden looked at the man favorably. Perhaps it was because of the chocolate he shoved in his hand, or maybe it was because of what he saw through the crystal ball. Aesden, as the Continental Master, knew more information than someone hailed as a sage.

“Here, let me give you some help,” Aesden said as he waved his hands around Minhyuk. Then, Minhyuk’s ears stretched and became sharp as light stretched from Aesden’s hands.

[Your appearance has changed into that of a half-human, half-elf!]

[You can release your transformation as a half-human, half-elf anytime!]

“In the World of Hybrids, only half-human, half-god or half-human, half-transcendental have a form similar to a human. The ordinary people there, equivalent to ordinary humans in our world, are half-human, half-elves.”

“Thank you.”

“Now, please stand in the center of the magic circle.”

Minhyuk obediently followed Aesden’s words and stood in the center of the magic circle. Then, a bright light appeared and enveloped his entire being.

[You are being warped into the World of Hybrids.]

Minhyuk bowed politely as he slowly disappeared. After disappearing, Aesden looked down at the chocolates and smiled slightly. He gently opened one and put it in his mouth.

As the sweetness covered his mouth, Aesden recalled what he had seen when he finally reached the dot-like light in that darkness. What did he see back then? It was none other than a beach.

“He is sometimes the land, sometimes the sky, and sometimes the sea,” Aesden murmured, pondering over those mysterious words as he stared at the place where the man disappeared from for a very long time.

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Minhyuk, who was warped inside a forest, immediately heard a series of notifications in his ears.

[You are the first player to have stepped on the World of Hybrids: Utopia!]

[You have acquired the

[Your EXP Acquisition and Artifact Drop rates would double for a week.]

Minhyuk first checked the title The One who Arrived First.

Unique Title

*•Whether you're hunting monsters or doing quests in Utopia, your EXP Acquisition Rate will increase by 25%.*

*•Whether you're hunting monsters or doing quests in Utopia, your Artifact Drop Rate and Reward Yield will increase by 10%.*

*•All of your stats will increase by 2% if you are in Utopia.*

The title was excellent within the scope of Utopia. Then, additional notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears.

"...Oh!" Minhyuk exclaimed.

The words "Food God's Progeny" meant that this person carried the bloodline of the Food God.

*'Gods could also have children. In some rare cases, children would be born between a human and a god.'*

However, in the world where Minhyuk was residing, the gods did not necessarily let their children inherit their thrones. They would only offer the position or give trials to allow them to inherit it to qualified people.

There was a reason why the gods in Minhyuk's world did not necessarily give their positions to their children.

*'Because their children did not inherit the full power of a god at birth. Only then would the players have the chance to inherit their positions.'*

*'But this world might be different.'*

That was right. The rules of this world might just be different. Perhaps the Food God's progeny would have inherited entirely the power of the Food God here. But there was something else more interesting to take note of.

*'The Food God. Maybe they're talking about Ravier, or maybe it's Allen.'*

Or maybe it was another Food God. But one thing was for sure: whoever they were, the Food God once came to the World of Hybrids. After all, that would be the only reason he has a progeny left behind in the form of Rhoando.

And there was also something that Minhyuk was looking forward to. *'Since he's the Food God's progeny, he can make delicious food, right?'*

Of course, this story would only be discussed once Minhyuk completed all the quests.

Minhyuk started to walk. First, he had to get out of this forest and find the nearest village or kingdom. Only then would he be able to find the location of the Barov Kingdom.

*'It would be enjoyable to pick all the mushrooms and fruits from the World of Hybrids I will encounter on the way!'*

Minhyuk did not know if a rough road was awaiting him. But even if he knew, his happiness would not be dampened. As long as he could eat or harvest a lot of delicious food while working, he would be happy.

But before leaving the forest, Minhyuk did not forget to try to summon Beanie.

"Oiiiiiiink!"

Fortunately, he was able to summon Beanie. Beanie, who appeared inside the forest, scratched his hips and looked around thoughtfully.

"Beans, this is a new world called Utopia. And it is said that the Food God's progeny lives here. Maybe this world is filled with dishes developed by the Food God's descendants! Ah, maybe there are special fruits here!"

Beanie scratched his butt and laughed when he heard Minhyuk's words.

"Oink. Oink, oink. Oiiiiiiink! *(Let's go quickly, master! Oink!)*"

The small Beanie immediately led Minhyuk after he had scratched his butt to his heart's content. The two pigs were brimming with excitement as they moved forward. But strangely enough, they could not find anything. Even when one hour or two hours had passed.

"Why?"

And the same was still true after reaching the third hour of their journey.

"What in the world is happening?!"

"Oiiiiink!"

Nothing changed even after the fifth hour.

"Why is there nothing?!!!"

"Oiiiiiiiiink!"

The two pigs finally realized that something was wrong. No fruit hung on the trees' branches, and mushrooms did not grow near the roots.

The two found it completely strange. For some reason, they felt like they were walking in a peculiar land devoid of food ingredients.

Desperate cries rang loudly and resonated all over the forest.

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Special Players Management Team.

Lee Minhwa and Team Leader Park watched Minhyuk and Beanie scream through the monitor.

“The Food God’s final quest has begun.”

“Indeed.”

The Food God’s final quest. Minhyuk had finally reached this point.

Finally, the two had reached their destination. And just like what Minhyuk and Beanie had seen, there were no fruits, mushrooms, or any other food ingredients that could be found in Utopia.

[Beans, there must be a lot in the village or a kingdom, right?]

[Oiiiiink!]

The two rushed, their eyes filled with hope. But Lee Minhwa shook her head. “There are no ingredients in Utopia. They would not be able to find one.”

Team Leader Park nodded with a bitter smile on his face. “It’s not that there aren’t any ingredients. It’s more accurate to say that they have lost it, no?”

“That’s true.”

It was just as the two said. Food had been removed from the World of Hybrids, Utopia.

If one thought deeply about it, the World of Hybrids should be very chaotic and confusing. Despite knowing this fact, why did the hybrids create Utopia? This was because they could not get along with ordinary humans or elves.

Since they could not get along well with humans and elves, would the half-gods and the half-transcendentals get along well even if they went to a new world? This should prove to be a very daunting task.

But what if a very strong power appeared and controlled them? Then the story would be different. Strangely enough, a system had been set, and they were clearly divided into classes.

“It’s because of Hybrid God Arce.”

Yes, of course. There was a god in the World of Hybrids.

“He’s half-god,” Team Leader Park murmured.

Lee Minhwa immediately followed up. “And half-transcendental.”

The two, who had a very tacit understanding, looked at each other.

Then, Team Leader Park said, “And Arce...”

“Received the power of the Food God,” Lee Minhwa finished.

That was right. Arce was half-transcendental and half-god. His father was the Food God.

Team Leader Park smiled. “This time, Player Minhyuk would have a hard time. Perhaps he would even fail.”

Since this was the final quest, its difficulty level would also be at the highest.

“You look like you’re enjoying this?”

Team Leader Park cheered on and supported Minhyuk. However, he believed that it was still better for him to experience these hardships and trials occasionally. After all, it was hard to see Minhyuk on a roll every single time.

“Well, I find it nice that Player Minhyuk will have a hard time with a story created by Joy Co. Ltd., you know?”

Park Minggyu wanted to shout to the world this time, ‘*Joy Co. Ltd. finally won!*’ Yes, Joy Co. Ltd. won against Minhyuk for the very first time. But then, he remembered something.

He turned to Lee Minhwa and asked, “By the way, do you know what skill Player Minhyuk intends to create once he completes the quest?”

The Special Players Management Team members could easily listen to the players’ conversations through their monitors. Because of that, they could easily infer or assume what the player wanted to do.

“Yes,” Lee Minhwa replied.

“What is it?”

Lee Minhwa gave the answer that she had inferred. “He wants to create a field of God-grade ingredients.”

This was something that any chef player had dreamt of. But everyone knew that it was impossible, no?

“From what I have seen, he wants to extract a portion of the ingredients that he will acquire, plant them in the field, and cultivate them until they grow again.”

“...” Team Leader Park’s face turned stiff when he heard that. ‘*I thought that we won this round...*’

Could this be considered a tie? That was just how amazing the skill that Player Minhyuk had come up with.

‘*If he can successfully create that skill, then...*’

If that truly happened, Joy Co. Ltd.’s various teams would once again scream for help.

“Haa...”

“Haa...”

And, of course, the same was true for the Special Players Management Team.

Chapter 972

World of Hybrids, Utopia.

Minhyuk had been running around all day, trying to find the Food God’s progeny, Rhoando, and the Barov Kingdom.

*‘Ridiculous! How can a place like this exist?!’*

Despite being on their feet all day, they could not find a single food ingredient in Utopia. Thankfully, they were able to find a vast kingdom.

“Beans, let’s go!”

“Oiiiiink!”

Minhyuk and Beanie charged toward the kingdom. *The new world’s unique dishes!* The two ran while thinking that they had to eat that. The guards blocked their path when they arrived at the kingdom’s entrance.

“Half-human, half-pig?”

“Ho? That’s a bit unusual.”

“...”

Beanie was rendered speechless. He looked at them sarcastically, his face screaming, “*What do you mean by half-human, half-pig? I’m clearly a pig.*”

Fortunately, Minhyuk, whom Aesden helped transform into the figure of a half-human, half-elf, safely passed through security. It was made more accessible since the guards were also half-human, half-elf. It was evident with their sharp and pointy ears.

The moment he entered the kingdom, Minhyuk quickly moved to try and find the specialties of the World of Hybrids. But there was no single place that sold food anywhere in the kingdom. There weren’t even restaurants, which should have been commonplace.

In frustration, Minhyuk stopped a middle-aged woman and asked, “Hi?”

“Yes, hello,” the woman greeted him warmly. It seemed like she had a favorable impression of him.

“By any chance, where can I find a restaurant here?”

“R- Restaurant?” The woman stuttered. She looked flustered when she heard the word come from Minhyuk’s mouth. Her expression even changed. Now, she looked like she had heard something she shouldn’t have heard. “How dare you say the word ‘restaurant’ with your mouth?!”

[Your favor with Berin has decreased.]



The woman looked at Minhyuk from head to toe before quickly disappearing from his sight. She acted like she did not hear anything from him at all. Minhyuk was left flustered after seeing her react like that. Puzzled, Minhyuk turned to others to ask the same thing.

“Are you nuts?! How dare you say such a filthy word...?!”

“Ha... This is completely ridiculous!”

[Your favor with Brachan has decreased.]

[Your favor with Bendwin has decreased.]

Minhyuk was left in doubt and confusion when he saw their reaction after he said the word “restaurant.” What was a restaurant? For people today, it was a place where they could rest after a difficult day.

In the end, Minhyuk gave up on asking the people. *‘I’ll probably know once I meet the Food God’s progeny, Rhoando.’*

He must have a massive appetite since he was born with the Food God’s blood. And he would most likely be related to cooking. Instead of asking about restaurants, Minhyuk began to ask around about Rhoando. Surprisingly enough, he found out about Rhoando’s location in a much more straightforward way than he had expected.

Minhyuk imagined Rhoando to be a chef who could make excellent dishes. After all, he was the food enthusiast, the Food God from another world.

*‘But why is he with the mercenaries?’* Minhyuk was quite puzzled about this fact.

However, he soon shook his head. Even Len, once an imperial chef, became the subjugation forces’ cooking team leader. Maybe Rhoando was in charge of making the mercenaries’ meals, no?

It did not take too long for Minhyuk to reach the place where more than 1,500 mercenaries had gathered. And just like he expected, most of them were sporting the same sharp and pointy ears that he currently had.

“Excuse me, do you know where Rhoando is?”

“Rhoando? Rhoando’s over there.”

Minhyuk followed the guidance of one of the mercenaries and soon came face to face with a man with a gigantic build. For a moment, Minhyuk felt like he saw Venteio before him. Rhoando looked like an ordinary mercenary. He had an overgrown beard, a muscular body, and a bald head.

“Hello,” Minhyuk greeted politely.

Rhoando, wiping his gigantic axe, looked at him in confusion. “Who are you?”

Although the man’s appearance was far from what Minhyuk imagined him to look like, there was no doubt that he was Rhoando. After all, the quest was pointing at him.

That was why, without any hesitation, Minhyuk said, “I’m the Food God.”

“...!” Rhoando’s face was colored with surprise when he heard the words “Food God.” However, his expression immediately returned to its initial nonchalance. Then, he placed his hand over Minhyuk’s shoulder and laughed. “Hey guys! Look over here; this guy says he’s the Food God!”

“Wahahahahahaha! Food God?! Are you saying he’s a Food God when there’s no food here?”

“You’ve inherited a useless bloodline!”

Minhyuk frowned when he heard the mercenaries’ ridicule. At the same time, he thought, ‘*A world without no food?*’

The words were like a bolt out of the blue for Minhyuk. Could a world truly exist without any food?

Rhoando looked at Minhyuk for a moment. He could see that Minhyuk was genuinely ignorant of the ways of this world. He was like a clean slate regarding matters of this world.

“You probably inherited the blood of the Food God and an elf, huh?”

Rhoando’s thinking was only natural, especially with Minhyuk’s ears being that sharp and pointy. At this moment, Minhyuk realized he did not need to reveal to anyone here that he was a *pure* Food God.

*‘Rhoando, the person who inherited the blood of the Food God, laughs when he hears the word ‘Food God.’ And a world without food.’*

For now, Minhyuk deemed it necessary to learn more about this world and his situation.

Then, Rhoando said, “You probably have just been sent to this world, huh?” He rested his arm on Minhyuk’s shoulders and continued, “Since you have inherited the blood of an elf and the Food God, you’d probably live to around 500 years old.”

Minhyuk listened and pieced together the puzzle pieces as he listened to Rhoando’s unexpectedly friendly and kind(?) explanation. From what he had gathered, the average life expectancy in Utopia was around 300 years old.

Of course, this was only the average life expectancy for half-human, half-elves. Those who had the blood of a god coursing through their veins could live up to a thousand years. This was only natural. After all, a god would not die unless they wanted to die on their own.

However, the most crucial information he had gleaned from Rhoando’s words was that there was no food in this world.

“I’m telling you this, so don’t forget about it. Those words are forbidden. Never mention words related to the ‘Food God’ or ‘cooking’ in this world.”

“Why?” Minhyuk really could not understand.

Rhoando pointed toward the sky with great fanfare and exaggeration, saying, “Because the great god had forbidden it. An ordinary person needs to eat at least three meals a day. It would take around two to three hours from meal preparation to eating. God had said that wasting time on

something this useless was not necessary. So, he forbade it. And it has been like this for hundreds of years.”

Minhyuk’s face grew ugly when he heard Rhoando’s explanation. “This is more like hell.”

“...”

Rhoando’s eyes were filled with an unknown glint as he looked at Minhyuk. However, the twinkle in his eyes disappeared just as quickly as it appeared. Then, he cackled. “This is the reason why you, who inherited the blood of a useless god like the Food God, will be completely useless in this world. If you just inherited the blood of a regular god, then you would probably be able to gain a strong and powerful body. But the Food God? It’s a god who only knows how to eat, right?!”

Rhoando scoffed. Funnily enough, according to the quest that Minhyuk received, Rhoando also had inherited the blood of the Food God. But there was no way that Rhoando could know that Minhyuk knew that fact.

“It’s better for you to try and find a way to survive in this land. Let go of that useless power and just become a strong mercenary. Like us! Ah, I also do not have any strong power or something like that. After all, I also inherited the blood of the Food God!”

“Keuhahahahahaha!”

“Hahahahahahaha. You’re the one who said that!”

The mercenaries around them guffawed.

Minhyuk, who listened to all of them, grew angry. “Is it funny to laugh at someone just because they like eating?!”

“Hahaha...”

The laughter slowly subsided.

“You have to eat three times a day. And it takes you to cook and eat for two to three hours every single time.”

“...”

“But if you remove the excitement one would feel before eating food in one’s life, then what should we soothe ourselves with? How should we relax after a long day of work?”

One of man’s greatest pleasures was food. Perhaps it could also be considered as man’s greatest comfort.

But then, Rhoando drilled Minhyuk’s head with his finger and said, “We don’t need such a thing. Just let it go.”

If this were in Minhyuk’s turf, he might have already thrown hands with how they acted. However, he was in a completely different world. Since this world lacked anything that could be eaten, he had to adapt and understand their thinking.

When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

Even if he could not talk with his fist, there were many ways to crush them and bring down those heads that had been staying high up in the clouds because of their arrogance.

Minhyuk tried to gently and surely induce them to say the words that he wanted to hear. “The Food God is not such a useless and trivial god as you think. He is a greater and more noble god than any other god.”

Everyone present knew that Minhyuk was a half-elf, half-Food God. There was a chance that they were also aware of the fact that he possessed the ability to raise his stats just by eating. However, those not in the know might just view the Food God as a god that was not good at anything except eating. Of course, this would usually be the case.

“That’s ridiculous—” Rhoando looked at Minhyuk in disbelief. “—The Food God is nothing but a trivial and useless god. Can he even do blacksmith work like a blacksmith can? Of course not.”

Minhyuk was pretty good at blacksmithing.

“Does he even have good DEX, allowing him to make everything well? Not at all.”

Minhyuk’s DEX was higher than any other gods’ DEX.

“Can you even say that he is strong? Can he strike a falcon in the sky with his arrows? Can he cut steel with his sword? Can he do those things that those born from other gods can do?”

Minhyuk was Athenae’s Supreme.

“See? There’s nothing else that he can do. Hmm? Ahahahahahaha!”

“Keuhahahahahahaha!”

“In- In the end, the Food God is useless!”

Minhyuk’s acting had already matured. He could gently nudge them in the direction he wanted, even though they were laughing and mocking him.

Then, at that moment, one of the mercenaries said, “Wahahahahaha! If you can kill one armored ogre, I will remove my underwear and dance in front of everyone!”

“Eyy! Are you saying that a Food God can kill a Steel-Armored Ogre? He should just go out and kill a rabbit!”

Rhoando, who heard those words, no longer felt like talking to Minhyuk. So, he said, “Alright. If you can hunt fifty Steel-Armored Ogres and collect a hundred kilograms of the steel armor that they have on their bodies within two days, then I will treat you as my *hyung-nim* for the rest of my life!” Rhoando laughed mischievously.

Even the other mercenaries were laughing out loud, too.

“You’re asking the guy who inherited the blood of the Food God to hunt a Steel-Armored Ogre?! Rhoando, you’re quite the mischievous one!”

“Hahahaha! Won’t he die as soon as he meets one?”

“Won’t he even be able to try?”

The Steel-Armored Ogre was a high-level monster with levels over Level 580. Even the mercenaries of this world would struggle to fight against one. The worst part was that Rhoando even asked Minhyuk to harvest the steel armor on their bodies personally. They were sturdy materials that were good for making swords.

“Is that all that I have to do?” Minhyuk continued to prod Rhoando, who had already taken his bait.

“And I’ll make sure to listen to two things that you want.”

Then, a quest window immediately appeared in front of Minhyuk.

Just when he finished checking the quest, he received additional notifications.

Ring!

[If you can complete and achieve any of the quests given by those who inherited the blood of the Food God in Utopia, then you will be able to level up one of the Food God’s skills!]

[The Food God’s progenies possessed one or two more of the skills that you also possess. They have the power to increase the level of your skills!]

“...!”

Minhyuk was left in shock.

*‘All of the progenies of the Food god have the skills that I have?’*

Completing one of the quests they gave him would allow him to increase his skill level by +1. For example, if Rhoando had the skill Let's Have a Meal, then if Minhyuk completed this quest, that skill would increase.

*'If there's another Food God's progeny here, then I will also have the opportunity to increase my Food God's skills by one level.'*

Minhyuk was very delighted when he heard the unexpectedly good news.

"Hey, don't blank out," Rhoando said when he saw him like that. "Did you suddenly become like that after hearing that you must hunt Steel-Armored Ogres? Didn't I tell you? If you can hunt them, then I'll make you my *hyung-nim*. Ah! I forgot to tell you my condition. If you fail to do this, don't wander in front of me again."

Rhoando even growled to emphasize his point. Minhyuk immediately turned and ran. After he disappeared, the mercenaries' laughter died down.

"I don't know. Don't you think that it was a bit too much?"

A bitter expression flashed on Rhoando's face when he heard the question of the mercenary group's vice-captain. "We're going to do something huge. If that guy gets involved with us and things go wrong, he will be in trouble."

The truth was, no one from the mercenary group thought that way about the Food God.

*'You're right. Without the joy and pleasure of eating, our lives would be boring and lifeless.'*

That was why Rhoando was determined to do something to bring that back.

Then, at that moment, the mercenary group's deputy commander approached Rhoando and said, "Then, what would you do if he could hunt them?"

"That's impossible. Even our members would have difficulty hunting five of the Steel-Armored Ogre daily. But he has to hunt fifty of them by tomorrow. But his biggest obstacle was getting the steel armor from the Steel-Armored Ogre's body. Even the most respected blacksmiths would have a hard time during the process of obtaining that material." Rhoando smiled and shook his head. He firmly believed that it was an impossible feat.

However, unbeknownst to Rhoando, he would gain a *hyung* 675 years his junior.

Chapter 973

Minhyuk went to the Big Tree Forest to hunt for the Steel-Armored Ogres.

It has only been a few days since he arrived in the World of Hybrids, Utopia. However, he had already learned something in just those few days.

*'The basic level of the monsters here is much higher than in our world.'*

What was the reason for this? It was probably because more than 90% of the population of this world were half-human, half-elves.

Humans were nimble and good with the sword, while elves were slender from birth and superior to humans when handling bows. With the combination of all of the advantages of both races present in them, it was only natural that their average level was high. And in turn, the average level of monsters would also be high.

*‘The look in Rhoando’s eyes looked strange.’*

Although Rhoando was mocking him, Minhyuk did not miss the look in his eyes.

*‘What’s the reason?’*

However, he pushed the doubt to the back of his head. He knew that he would be able to find out about it as long as he finished hunting the Steel-Armored Ogres.

Not long after, Minhyuk arrived in the Big Tree Forest. As soon as he stepped inside the forest, he found a tree and swiftly climbed up.

*“Roaaaaaaar!”*

The loud roar of the ogre reverberated in the forest. When Minhyuk turned toward the sound, he saw a gigantic Steel-Armored Ogre protected by steel armor. Its size was far larger than the ordinary ogre that Minhyuk knew of.

[Steel-Armored Ogre. Level 601.]

*‘What the hell? What ogre goes above Level 600?’*

The average level of ogres in Minhyuk’s world was around Level 450. Of course, there were a few higher-leveled ogres among them. However, their highest level would only be at around Level 500 or so.

*‘Rhoando and the mercenaries spoke as if they could hunt these Steel-Armored Ogres.’*

Perhaps Rhoando and his band of mercenaries were considered some of the strongest guys in this world.

Minhyuk looked at the charging Steel-Armored Ogre with a relaxed expression.

Slash—!

The ogre swiftly raised its axe and swung it down Minhyuk. However, Minhyuk easily evaded the attack. He even had the leisure to swing his sword, which carried the word *Destruction* on its blade.

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

When Minhyuk, who could swing his sword more than four times per second, slashed at the ogre, around sixteen lightning bolts fell from the sky and devoured the ogre.

*“Keuhaaack?”*

The rugged and sturdy Steel-Armored Ogre fell in just two seconds.

Minhyuk had already reached Level 650. For him, it would only take a single swing of his sword to deal with a Steel-Armored Ogre, even if it had an unexpectedly stronger power than usual.

Then, the notifications rang in his ears.

[You have hunted a Steel-Armored Ogre.]

[You gained 31,300,000 EXP.]

[You gained one platinum.]

[You have acquired the Steel-Armored Ogre's Blood.]

[You have acquired Utopia's Superior Potato.]

"...Oh?" Minhyuk looked at the notifications in surprise.

According to Rhoando and the mercenaries, there was nothing that they could eat in this world. But a potato dropped when he hunted the Steel-Armored Ogre. The fact that a potato would drop from an ogre was quite an unfamiliar sight.

Minhyuk immediately checked out the potato's information.

- *It will taste incomparably better than ordinary potatoes.*
- *If you eat one, you will not go hungry for three days.*
- *Once consumed, your vitality will increase by 2%, and your STR and STM will increase by 3% for three days.*
- *Eating just one potato contains all the nutrients your body needs for three days.*

Minhyuk was very excited to see the delicious-looking potato in his hands.

*'This potato is the only food permitted in Utopia.'*

Minhyuk felt thrilled that he was the only one allowed to enter this place. He immediately started steaming the potato that he had obtained. While steaming the potato, he planned to deal with the Steel-Armored Ogre and remove its steel armor.

The Steel-Armored Ogre's skin was literally like steel armor. Minhyuk might not know it, but even the skilled blacksmiths of Utopia could only get a kilogram of steel armor from the Steel-Armored Ogre. And it would take them at least seven hours to completely extract and acquire the steel armor. That just went to show how hard the task was.

But Minhyuk? He just stretched his hand out and tugged on the steel armor, which easily fell off and landed in his palms.

"That's easy?"

[You have done a perfect job in extracting the steel armor.]



[There is little to no damage to the steel armor you extracted. You can use the material to make swords or armor right away.]

[No matter how long the time has passed, the steel armor will not rust so easily.]

Minhyuk's DEX was higher than the DEX of the God of Blacksmiths. This task was just like a piece of cake for him. Of course, he did not forget to check the detailed information of the material in his hands.

*•If you use the Ogre's Steel Armor to create a sword, your sword will have 13% higher attack power than ordinary swords.*

*•If you use the Ogre's Steel Armor to create a sword, your sword will have a 20% increase in cutting power.*

“Oh...”

Minhyuk was quite impressed. The material itself was far superior to ordinary iron or steel. The best part? If used by a skilled knight, the 20% increase in cutting power would tremendously boost their powers.

*‘Isn't this amazing?’*

Of course, there was plenty of iron and steel in the world from where Minhyuk came. However, it was still quite hard to obtain iron and steel of outstanding quality.

Minhyuk first acquired all of the steel armor he could obtain from the Steel-Armored Ogre.

[You have obtained 11 kg of Ogre's Steel Armor.]

The steel armor that he obtained from one ogre was no less than eleven kilograms.

*‘Is it this easy to acquire?’*

However, Minhyuk concluded that this was not the case at all. The explanation clearly told him that even the most skilled blacksmiths could only extract a kilogram at most.

At this moment, he realized again, *‘They tried to make me do something that they thought I wouldn't be able to do in the first place.’*

He did not know their true intentions, but one thing was for sure: It was absolutely impossible for an ordinary person to complete this quest. Thankfully, it was a piece of cake for Minhyuk, who had repeatedly worked hard just so he could taste delicious dishes.

*‘If I can use this steel armor to make weapons and armor for the knights and soldiers of the Beyond the Heavens Empire, then they would be reborn anew. Perhaps they would even become 10% stronger than normal.’*

Minhyuk decided to take as much steel armor as possible from the Steel-Armored Ogres while proceeding with his quest. But before that, he turned to look at the potato that he had steamed.

Steam rose from the pot when he gently lifted the lid. He removed the potato and let it cool for a while. Once it had cooled down, he carefully peeled the potato.

“Tss. Hot, hot! It’s still hot, huh?” Minhyuk gently rolled the potato around in his hand before peeling it again.

After peeling the skin off, he took a huge bite of the steaming potato.

“Ho—”

The potato's heat immediately spread in his mouth. Minhyuk rolled the piece with his tongue to cool it down before chewing and gulping it. The potato was steamed perfectly. It was so soft that it glided smoothly down his throat.

“Yummy...” Minhyuk was in awe.

This time, he dipped the potato in salt. A burst of *umami* spread in Minhyuk’s mouth as the salt met with the slightly dry and bland potato.

Minhyuk, who finished the potato in an instant, topped his meal off with the cold and sour *dongchimi*.

“Kihyaa!” Minhyuk shouted in awe.

*‘I have never tasted a potato more delicious than this!’*

The potato, the only food allowed in Utopia, was surprisingly delicious. Perhaps that was only the case because he ate a Superior Potato.

*‘What if there’s a higher-grade potato out there? Would it taste more delicious?’*

Minhyuk assumed that he could get more potatoes by hunting the monsters. And from what he had guessed, the grade of the potato he would obtain would depend on the level of the monster that he had hunted.

*‘If I can hunt a stronger monster, then does that mean that I will be able to get more delicious potatoes?’*

Minhyuk felt highly excited. Why? Because the potato he had just eaten was tastier than any other potato he had tasted in his life. The thought of making buttered potato, French fries, potato *jeon*, and many other potato-based dishes with such a delicious potato was indeed enough to excite him.

“Fufu. It would be good if I could equip the knights and soldiers of my Beyond the Heavens Empire with better swords and armor. So, I have to hunt more of this bastard, no?”

It was evident that Minhyuk’s motivation for hunting the monsters in Utopia was to get more potatoes. However, he quickly made an excuse by saying that he wanted to give new weapons and armor to the knights and soldiers of the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

Just like that, Minhyuk began to hunt the Steel-Armored Ogres in the Big Tree Forest at a rapid pace. In just one hour, he was able to chase 200 ogres. He was also able to obtain more than two tons of steel armor and more than 300 potatoes.

Even so, Minhyuk was still disappointed.

*'More- More, more...!'*

He needed more potatoes. Of course, he also needed more steel armor for his knights and soldiers. But the problem was he could no longer find any Steel-Armored Ogres in the Big Tree Forest.

Minhyuk quickly climbed up a cliff, trying to find more Steel-Armored Ogres.

"P- Potato..."

That was when he saw a vast ogre settlement beneath the cliff. Minhyuk thought tens of thousands of Steel-Armored Ogres would be in that place.

Minhyuk was extremely thrilled. Why? Because he felt like he would be able to obtain 50,000 potatoes today. But then, Minhyuk saw around twenty people, who looked like royal knights, being dragged in by some of the Steel-Armored Ogres.

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Rowling, one of the knights of the Barov Kingdom, was sporting a helpless and desperate look.

*'Not only did we fail the subjugation, we were also easily caught as prey...'*

Steel-Armored Ogres were known for living together in packs and creating huge settlements. This meant that their intelligence could rival that of an orc's intelligence.

The Steel-Armored Ogres had been showing up in the Big Tree Forest and various other forests in the past few years. And, of course, they would leave tremendous casualties in their wake. Because of that, the great king personally gave them an order.

*-Subjugate and eliminate the Steel-Armored Ogres.*

The knights of Barov Kingdom formed several teams to subjugate the ogres. Their initial plan was to slowly hunt the Steel-Armored Ogres from the various forests, including the Big Tree Forest, where they had appeared. Then, once they had prepared themselves to some extent, they would push them back and, by extension, force their settlement away.

However, because of the wrong judgment made by the commander of the Third Knight Order, Rowling and the rest of the knights with him were forced to enter deeper into the forest than they had planned before. Because of that, they suffered severe damage in their ranks. The worst part? The twenty people, who barely survived, were tied up and dragged into the ogres' settlement like this.

Everything that happened made Rowling feel scared. *'From what I heard, these bastards eat humans alive.'*

The mere thought made Rowling flinch and cower. Perhaps the ogres were bringing him and the rest of the twenty survivors here so they could eat them.

Then, in just an instant, they were surrounded by tens of thousands of drooling Steel-Armored Ogres.

“Graaaaaaaaaa!”

“Groooooaaaar!”

“Roaaaaaaar!”

Rowling’s legs began to shake and tremble at the joy and delight evident in their roars. In the end, Rowling collapsed on the ground when he saw one of the Steel-Armored Ogres look at him.

The ogre grabbed him by the ankle with its huge hand and pulled him up.

“Uwaaaaaaaaaah!” Rowling shrieked. Paralyzed by the fear of having his bones broken while being chewed whole by that gruesome and hideous mouth, all he could do was scream.

Swoosh–!

The ogre opened its huge mouth and slowly brought the arm holding Rowling toward its mouth.

Spurt–!

But then, something surprising happened. The Steel-Armored Ogre’s sturdy and tough skin, which they needed to slash repeatedly with their swords just to inflict the most minor damage, was cut down all at once. To be exact, the ogre trying to eat Rowling was sliced in half.

Immediately after that, a man holding a frying pan in one hand appeared. The man put his hand in his mouth and whistled.

Fweeeeeeeet–!

At that moment, some of the ogres’ eyes turned toward the man.

“Graaaaaaaaaa!”

“Roaaaaaaar!”

“Groaaaaaaar!”

Tens of thousands of Steel-Armored Ogre turned toward the man and began to charge at him like crazy. They looked like they had completely lost their minds. But then, something shocking happened.

Splurt–!

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

The ogres could not even reach the man with their fingertips as blood started to spurt out of their bodies. Several lightning bolts fell from the sky and devoured them. Now, all of the ogres’ attention was on the man alone.

At that moment, Rowling realized something. “*Heok...* No- No way!”

Rowling's eyes widened when he saw the ogres approaching the mysterious man. Amidst the commotion, no ogres paid attention to him and the remaining surviving knights.

That was right. The man was trying to stop all of the ogres on his own and buying enough time for them to run away.

"Rowling, quick!"

"We have to get out of here as quickly as possible!"

"We have to turn back and run!"

Rowling's colleagues urged him to stand. The other knights continued to push and lead him away. However, he kept looking back at the man, and the worry was evident. But he soon discovered that he did not need to worry.

*'Ah- Aaaaaah...!'*

Knight Rowling was the type of person who would idolize heroes and strong people. And the man, surrounded by tens of thousands of ogres, was strong and a hero.

Rowling felt incredibly grateful to the man. Before running away, he shouted, "Th- Thank you! May- May I please have your name?! What's your name?!"

But the ogres' roars drowned out his and the man's voices.

"Graaaaaaaa!"

"Roaaaaaaaar!"

"Groaaaaaaaar!"

"Fu... delicious..."

Rowling saw the man muttering something, but he could not hear it at all. Rowling tried to perk his ears up and concentrate so that he could hear better.

"Potato!"

"...!"

Was the man's name Potato? That was quite an unusual name, no? Even though it was unusual, Rowling kept the name deep in his heart.

*'My hero, Potato. I will never forget you, Lord Potato!'*

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Rhoando looked in the direction in which the man, who identified himself as the Food God, ran off.

"What's the matter? Are you waiting for him?" The deputy commander asked.

However, Rhoando shook his head. "I'm just a bit worried. What if he went to challenge the Steel-Armored Ogres and died?"

"That's impossible. He has run away."

“That’s probably the case, right?”

In the first place, Rhoando had given the man an impossible task because he did not want him to get involved with them. He even mocked him by saying, ‘*If you can do this, then I will call you hyung-nim from now on.*’ It was a testament to the fact that the task was impossible, and there was no way the man would complete it.

‘*Since he hasn’t returned yet, he should have run away, right?*’ Rhoando thought as he moved to finish their preparations for battle.

“...Huh?” One of the mercenaries suddenly shouted in doubt.

Rhoando, who had heard the voice, followed the direction where the mercenary was looking. That was when he saw the man walking toward them.

The man walked among the mercenaries and dropped the steel armor he had obtained on the ground before Rhoando. It was the 100 kilograms of steel armor that they had agreed upon.

Thud—!

“...!” Rhoando looked at the man in surprise.

Then, the man said, “You did not forget your promise, did you?”

“...”

“...”

“...”

It was not only Rhoando; many other mercenaries made the same promise.

Rhoando stuttered, “Of— Of course. Hyung-nim.”

“That’s right. Ah, I have obtained a very reliable younger brother, huh? Hey, younger brother, how old are you this year?”

“I’m 675 years old this year,” Rhoando answered as he tried his hardest to keep calm.

God’s blood flowed in this man’s veins. This was the only comforting fact for Rhoando. There was a chance that they only have around a hundred-year difference in age, right?

But then, the man chuckled. “I’m 21 years old this year.”

“...”

“...”

“...”

Heavy silence pressed down on everyone present.

Chapter 974

There was a saying in Utopia that was quite similar to the words that adults would usually say to their young friends in reality. It went almost the same as the saying, *'You're still wet behind the ears.'*

*'You're 21 years old? Hey, you haven't even grown any stubble yet!'*

*'Our age gap is around twenty-fivefold.'*

*'My god.'*

These were the thoughts that flashed in the heads of all of the mercenaries, including Rhoando, present. This was especially the case for Rhoando. After all, he was the oldest out of all the mercenaries. His age? It was thirty times that of Minhyuk's age.

But Minhyuk patted Rhoando on the shoulders and said, "I'll be in your care from here on out, younger brother."

"Yes, h- hyung-nim..."

Even so, Rhoando and his band of mercenaries were not one to break their promises. They would uphold their end of the deal.

However, Rhoando could not help but feel bitter. *'Maybe this is just my retribution?'*

Whatever it was, they were the ones who first mocked him to his face. As for Minhyuk? There was something that he wanted to check.

"Heave-ho!" Minhyuk sat himself down. "I'm hungry, so I'll have to go and eat. Ah, don't worry about me. You should go and do the things that you have to do."

Minhyuk acquired a total of 60,000 potatoes after he successfully attacked the ogre settlement. He saw the knights, whom the ogres had captured, say something to him back then. But he did not hear it since his mind was clouded by his cravings for potatoes.

*'Well, whatever. It's fine; at least they're safe.'* Minhyuk nodded as he took some small marble potatoes from his inventory.

The Steel-Armored Ogres not only dropped regular and ordinary potatoes but also dropped several small marble potatoes. It is said that one has to eat at least four marble potatoes to achieve a similar effect when eating one regular potato.

"..."

A flash of disappointment appeared in the excited eyes of the mercenaries when they saw Minhyuk take the marble potatoes out of his inventory. As for what Minhyuk wanted to confirm? He wanted to see their reactions to what he was about to do.

The mercenaries, who wanted to stop paying attention to him and focus on their work first, suddenly smelled a savory scent wafting their way.

Swoosh—!

Swoosh—!

Swoosh—!

Like hundreds of meerkats, their heads simultaneously turned in the same direction.

Minhyuk knew what smell could drive people crazy. It was the smell of meat from a restaurant that one had passed by while walking, the smell of chicken or pizza inside an elevator.

*'The smell of butter being melted in a frying pan.'*

A sweet yet savory smell would waft out of the pan when a dollop of butter was put in it. This smell was unique to butter and could easily stimulate one's appetite. And this was the smell that was wafting around the forest.

Minhyuk quickly dropped the marble potatoes into the frying pan coated with butter. The already steamed potatoes were slowly being cooked until they turned golden brown.

*'The outside looks slightly burnt, but the inside is perfectly cooked. This is the key to cooking marble potatoes.'*

The mercenaries' eyes were all trained on the delicious-looking cooked marble potatoes.

"H- Hyung-nim... Cooking is taboo in Utopia..."

"But since it's you, hyung-nim, we will not tell a single soul."

"R- right. That's right. It will taste better if you cook it until golden brown outside. Just like that."

The mercenaries' words completely differed from their actions. Although they opposed Minhyuk's cooking, they could not take their eyes off the marble potatoes.

Even Rhoando was acting the same way. His eyes were wide open, and one had to wonder if they were going to pop out as he looked at the marble potatoes, which were gradually taking on a golden hue.

At this point, Minhyuk guessed that cooking had not been taboo in this world from the very beginning. He estimated that food and anything related to it had been made taboo around a hundred years ago. Why? Well, the average life expectancy of the people living in this world was 300 years old, and it seemed like they still knew the taste of food.

*'It's even more painful for them because they already knew the taste.'*

Minhyuk knew this pain better than anybody else.

When Minhyuk saw the unknown look in Rhoando's eyes, the Food God's progeny, when he mocked him, he suspected them. He thought, *'Would they be able to simply stop eating the drug called 'food'?''*

Minhyuk gently sprinkled some sugar on the convenience store's buttered potatoes, which he had finished making. At this moment, Rhoando and all of the mercenaries had already gathered around him with their mouths opening unknowingly as Minhyuk took a piece of marble sweet potato in his mouth.

*'Since the marble potato has been grilled in butter, the unique savory flavor of butter will immediately fill your mouth the moment you take a bite.'*



Munch, munch–

Rhoando finally realized that he was also unknowingly chewing along with Minhyuk.

*‘The soft texture of potato will carry the sweetness of the sugar and create a fantastic harmony of flavors in your mouth. Then, how would the golden brown portion be? How would it taste if you eat it all at once?’*

Then, they watched as Minhyuk opened a can of cool and refreshing cider.

Fwish–!

With the fizzle of the can, Minhyuk chugged the refreshing cider to sweep away the dryness he had started feeling in his mouth.

*‘That cool and refreshing feeling that will spread once it reaches your mouth and the bubbling feeling that will go down your throat once you drink cider... it will make you shout without realizing it.’*

“Keuhaa!”

“Keuhaa!” Rhoando unknowingly shouted along with Minhyuk.

At that moment, their eyes suddenly met.

“What’s the matter, guys? *Munch, munch–*”

“N- No. It’s nothing.”

“The food I made is only enough for one. Everyone, go! *Shoo~ Shoo~*”

Minhyuk waved them away, but the mercenaries’ eyes were still trained on his mouth. Every time he ate a marbled potato, the mercenaries would laugh or gulp dryly. This was enough to prove Minhyuk’s suspicions.

*‘Obviously, these guys do not see eating and food as trivial. It’s completely unlike the words they used to mock me before.’*

But before thinking about it deeply, Minhyuk thought that since things had already reached this point, he should just bring them entirely to his side. He quickly took out plenty of marble potatoes and steamed them. Then, after steaming them, he also grilled them in butter. And instead of using sugar, Minhyuk drizzled the buttered potatoes with very sweet and delicious *sea honey*.

The scent of butter grew even stronger and drove the mercenaries even crazier. When Minhyuk finished cooking, he saw all the mercenaries looking at him.

“What?”

“It– It’s nothing.”

They were all bluffing. It was apparent how their eyes were trained entirely on the marble potatoes.

Then, Minhyuk asked, “Do you guys want to eat marble potatoes?”

Everyone nodded strongly. However, their words were completely different from their actions.

“Making food is completely forbidden in Utopia.”

“How can you eat cooked potatoes?!”

At that moment, Rhoando glared at them.

“You bastards!!!” Rhoando’s colossal figure turned to the mercenaries as he shouted and threatened them. “How dare you refuse hyung-nim(?)’s offer?! Mercenaries must keep the promises that they have made! If we live, then we will live together. If we die, then we will all die together!”

Rhoando was saying that he wanted to eat the potatoes.

Then, Rhoando turned to Minhyuk and said, “Hyung-nim! You have offered the marble potatoes to us! How dare we refuse it? We will die with you if you die!”

Minhyuk looked at Rhoando, who was shouting and showing his temper, incredulously as he replied, “Is that so? Then, go ahead and eat it.”

When his words ended, the mercenaries rushed like a pack of wild dogs that had been starved for hundreds of days.

“*Chomp, chomp, chomp-!*”

“*Munch, munch, munch-!*”

The mercenaries ate like crazy.

“Uwoooooo...”

“Delicious! This is too delicious!”

“This is my first time eating such delicious potatoes!”

Some of them shouted in admiration, while some of them shed tears. But every single one of them felt their heartache.

*‘Eating cooked and seasoned potatoes completely differs from eating steamed potatoes.’*

The taste of the marble potatoes the mercenaries were eating was terrific. After all, not only was it cooked by Minhyuk, but a massive heaping of sea honey was drizzled on it.

Immediately after that, a series of notifications rang in Minhyuk’s ears.

[You have received Rhoando’s favor.]

[You have received Barradin’s favor.]

[You have received Cogner’s favor.]

Minhyuk grinned as he listened to the constant stream of notifications.

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Rhoando and the rest of the mercenaries felt a deep longing in their hearts. It was the longing to eat and taste the buttered marble potatoes again.

*'The buttered marble potatoes tasted so good because he inherited the blood of the Food God.'*

Because of that, they wanted to get their hands on the potatoes that Minhyuk distributed(?) again. It was to the point that they had started to sweat.

Minhyuk, who had seen that his plan had succeeded, finally got to the point. "My dear younger brothers, if you like to eat this much, why did you say that to me a few days ago?"

Rhoando looked embarrassed when he heard Minhyuk's question. But just like he said, mercenaries would always keep their promises. Now, Minhyuk was their hyung-nim.

"Because we're going to do something big soon."

"Something big?"

"Yes. We will take down the king."

"...!"

Minhyuk was quite shocked when he heard their plans. Weren't they nothing but simple mercenaries?

*'No. From what they look like, they're no ordinary mercenaries.'*

The Steel-Armored Ogres were monsters beyond Level 600. But they babbled about hunting and killing these Steel-Armored Ogres. To put it simply, all of the mercenaries here were at least above Level 590. Although the average level of the people in this world was relatively higher than the level in Minhyuk's world, he assumed that their estimated level was only at the level of an imperial knight.

"Taking down the king? What's your reason?"

Their plan sounded interesting, so Minhyuk probed and listened to their reasons.

"To bring back 'cooking.' The cooking that they had erased from the world of Utopia."

"...!"

Minhyuk's heart thumped. Minhyuk immediately understood what the quest, where he would receive the Food God's final power, wanted him to do without cooking and food.

*'The quest wants me to bring back cooking to this world with them.'*

Then, Rhoando said, "That's why we couldn't welcome you, hyung-nim, even though you have the blood of the Food God in you. You will be implicated if things go wrong with our plans."

"..."

At this moment, Minhyuk saw how friendly and kind Rhoando was.

Rhoando chuckled. "Hyung-nim, you were right. Eating food might be small and trivial, but it can bring us joy. We cannot live in a world where our happiness has been controlled and taken away forever."

When Minhyuk first met Rhoando, he felt he was completely different from his expectations. But he now realized that Rhoando has the blood of a true Food God. He was just like him.

Although their venture would be dangerous, Rhoando still wanted to do something, even if he had to sacrifice himself to change this world that controlled and prohibited food. The same was true for everyone present.

“That’s why, hyung-nim... we want you to return now.”

Rhoando did not want Minhyuk to get implicated.

“You’re powerful enough to have killed and hunted several Steel-Armored Ogres and acquired their steel armors. However, your strength is still lacking. It would be dangerous for you.”

Rhoando was very surprised when Minhyuk returned and brought the steel armor he requested. But that was it.

*‘He must have killed the Steel-Armored Ogres by increasing his strength through eating.’*

In Rhoando’s eyes, Minhyuk was an elf carrying half the power of a god. He might not know how Minhyuk obtained the steel armor, but it was unimportant.

Of course, Minhyuk also noticed Rhoando’s concern. *‘He doesn’t know that I’m the Battle God, the complete and true Food God, and the emperor of an empire.’*

However, that did not mean that Minhyuk needed to reveal who he was. He judged that there was no need for that at the moment.

“Are you going now? If you all go, then they will notice. After all, your numbers are far too large.”

Rhoando shook his head. “We’re going to the Dungeon of Oppression.”

“Dungeon of Oppression?”

“Yes. According to the information we have gathered, you can become a real god if you kill the half-god, half-dragon inside that dungeon. Even if we take down the king, if we can’t kill *him*, the Sky who controls the food in this land, then everything will be done for nothing.”

Minhyuk realized that Rhoando would become the new god in this land where food had been banned and controlled. If Utopia changed like that, it would be overflowing with food again. If that happened, then there would be plenty of delicious dishes to be found.

“By any chance, would the half-god, half-dragon also drop potatoes if they get killed?”

Rhoando looked at Minhyuk in confusion. But he still nodded in answer. “Of course. Most of the monsters in this land would drop potatoes once you kill them. According to the legends, the half-god, half-dragon would drop an unusual Divine Potato that would appear repeatedly no matter how often you eat it.”

Minhyuk’s eyes sparkled.

Rhoando smiled bitterly and stretched his hand toward Minhyuk. “You should understand it now, right? It would be dangerous for you to stay with us. This should be it for us, hyung-nim.”

They were not just trying to commit treason. They were going to kill god. They did not want to involve Minhyuk in this dangerous job.

But then, Minhyuk said, “I’ll go with you.”

“H- Hyung-nim!”

“No, you can’t!”

“What do you...!”

Rhoando and all of the mercenaries present looked at Minhyuk in shock. He heard all that they had said, right? What did he mean by saying he was coming with them? Rhoando and the mercenaries’ reactions seemed like they had never even considered taking Minhyuk with them.

But Minhyuk was persistent. He said, “You said that if I can hunt the Steel-Armored Ogre, you will grant me two things. Right? Then, I’ll use one of them now. I’ll go with you.”

“...!”

“...!”

At this moment, Rhoando realized that they could not leave the man in front of them behind.

Of course, Minhyuk did not forget to ask one of the important questions he had come for. He turned to Rhoando and asked, “Rhoando, what power of the Food God do you possess?”

Minhyuk did not know if Rhoando would lead to the end of his quest here in Utopia. However, he knew that if he finished helping Rhoando, he could level up one more of his skills.

Then, Rhoando said, “It’s Overlapping Delight.”

“...!”

Minhyuk was left in shock.

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CC’s Thoughts

Why did it have to appear at this time again???

Chapter 975

New world, Utopia.

In this world, what was waiting for Minhyuk at the finish line was the opportunity to create the skill that would allow him to plant and nurture God-grade ingredients.

During the process, Minhyuk could also level up his Food God skills. How? Minhyuk had learned that those who had inherited the blood of the Food God and possessed some of his powers were living somewhere in Utopia. If he could complete the quests given by the Food God’s progenies, he could increase his skill level to correspond to their talent.

Because of that, he had been curious about what skill Rhoando possessed. And when Rhoando said, *'Overlapping Delight,'* Minhyuk could not help but be shocked.

*'Did he say Overlapping Delight?'*

There was a reason for his shock.

Absolute God's Secret

Level: None

Mana Required: 10,000

Cooldown: 24 hours

Effects:

- *You can overlap the buff effects of two different dishes.*
- *Once the buff effects of two different dishes overlap, you can see the impact of the overlapping dishes even if you consumed one food and thought of 'consuming' another.*
- *A 'cooking dice' will be thrown when the two dishes' buff effects overlap. The number that will be displayed on the dice will determine the duration of the buff.*
- *The lower the number, the shorter the duration of the buff effect. The duration per number rolled is as follows: thirty seconds for number 1, one minute for number 2, two minutes for number 3, three minutes for number 4, four minutes for number 5, and seven minutes for number 6.*
- *The EXP you can obtain will double for as long as the unique effect of the Overlapping Delight is in effect.*

Overlapping Delight was one of the few Absolute God's Secrets worldwide.

*'And this Overlapping Delight also belongs to the God of Cooking.'*

But if one considered it closely, one would realize that the God of Cooking and the Food God had always maintained a fairly close relationship. This was mainly because most of the Food God's skills came from the God of Cooking.

And there was also another reason why Minhyuk was surprised.

*'Overlapping Delight' falls into the skills category that cannot be leveled up. After all, it is already a skill that could allow someone to obtain the buff effects of two dishes simultaneously.*

Of course, the duration of the buff effect of the Overlapping Delight was shorter than the duration of ordinary buffed dishes. It was even set randomly. At most, one could have the buff effects for seven minutes.

But what would happen if Minhyuk's Overlapping Delight leveled up?

*'Maybe I will be able to overlap three dishes?'* The thought made Minhyuk's heart thump.

His Overlapping Delight could already increase the power of his skills by 1.5 times right now. But what if he could eat three dishes and overlap three buff effects?

*'Maybe I will be able to double the power of my skills. No, maybe more than that?'*

Then, at that moment, a notification rang.

Ring!

Minhyuk, who checked everything, saw that the end of the quest related to Rhoando was to make him into a god.

Rhoando, with a worried expression, said, "There's nothing we can do."

In the end, Rhoando could only give in to Minhyuk.

"But if things get dangerous, you must run away. Here, take this." Rhoando handed over a small bead to Minhyuk.

[You have acquired a Return Stone.]

One look and Minhyuk could tell that this Return Stone had a spell that would allow him to return to Utopia.

"I'm pretty strong. I'm going to be of great help." Minhyuk looked at Rhoando and the mercenaries, who were looking at him with worry and concern. "Just like you, Rhoando, I have also inherited the blood of the Food God. Even though I have only been in this land briefly, I want to help you protect what's precious to you."

Minhyuk was sincere with his words. He had lived a terrible life where he could not eat whatever he wanted to eat because of an *illness*. But these people were not like him. Others were just controlling them.

*'Perhaps they are in a more terrible situation than me.'*

The mercenaries', or to be precise, the rebels', eyes had changed as they looked at Minhyuk.

*'We are living in this land; that's why we want to protect it with our lives.'*

*'But that's not the case for hyung-nim. He has only been here briefly, yet he wants to fight with us just because he learned that food and cooking have been banned and controlled here.'*

*'Even if hyung-nim is strong, it will still be tough for all of us to deal with the half-god, half-dragon being in that dungeon.'*

The rebels were all fully aware that their power might not even reach the king if something went wrong. There was even a chance that they would be wiped out inside the Dungeon of Oppression. After all, it was not that easy to get the opportunity to become a god.

But even after Minhyuk learned about it, he still chose to fight with them.

[You have received Rhoando's favor.]

[You have received Edron's favor.]

[You have received Espio's favor.]

Their favorability toward Minhyuk increased a bit more.

Rhoando looked at Minhyuk softly and gently and said, "Thank you, hyung-nim."

Minhyuk smiled softly in return. Then, he said, "Ah, I will cook and serve you with a very delicious dish when we're in front of the dungeon."

Minhyuk intended to make bulk dishes using his cooking trailer in front of the dungeon and feed them to give them buffs.

After finishing all the preparations, Rhoando said, "Everyone, let's go! To battle!"

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Once they reached the vicinity of the Dungeon of Oppression, Minhyuk immediately took out his cooking trailer and cooked bulk dishes for Rhoando and his band of rebels. The dish that he chose to cook for them was chicken porridge.

*'These people have only eaten potatoes for a very long time. Their stomach might have problems if I suddenly feed them something greasy.'*

Minhyuk watched them gobble the chicken porridge. A faint yet happy smile was on his face when he saw them happily devouring the dish he had made.

*'Goodness. Their god has restricted and banned them from eating dishes like this for hundreds of years. I wonder how delicious is that chicken porridge they are eating right now?'*

Minhyuk completely understood what the rebels were feeling right now.

After eating the food, everyone heard the same notifications ring in their ears.

[You have eaten Chicken Porridge.]

[The dish is legendary.]



[The effects of the Bizarre Cauldron have taken effect. All buffs will be 15% better.]

[All of your stats have increased by 16%.]

[Your total HP and MP volume have increased by 1.2x.]

[All of your attack power has increased by 6%.]

[All of your defensive power has increased by 8%.]

[The buff will last for four days.]

The rebels were left stunned after they finished eating.

*‘This- this is ridiculous...!’*

Even Rhoando had the same reaction.

“This dish has great power. Hyung-nim, it seems like you have inherited the blood of the Food God and more of the Food God’s power.”

Rhoando did not know any details or information about the world outside of Utopia. But, based on what he had seen, he assumed that Minhyuk was a unique being who had inherited more of the blood of the Food God. Of course, he still did not doubt Minhyuk if he was half-god or half-elf. And all of these led to one answer.

“I can see why you have hunted so many Steel-Armored Ogres.”

Rhoando thought that since Minhyuk could give them such fantastic buffs, then Minhyuk would also be able to give himself better buffs.

Then, Rhoando bowed toward Minhyuk. “Hyung-nim, thank you. Thanks to you, our chances have increased.”

The thought that he would die inside the Dungeon of Oppression had crossed Rhoando’s head countless times. This was because he was not confident in killing the half-god, half-dragon inside the dungeon.

Even though he was not confident, that did not mean he couldn’t do anything. And now, thanks to Minhyuk’s dish, their chances of winning have increased significantly.

After finishing their meal, everyone began to move and enter the Dungeon of Oppression.

[You have entered the Dungeon of Oppression.]

[The unknown existence being oppressed and subdued at the end of the Dungeon of Oppression has started showing signs of movement.]

*‘The unknown existence that is being oppressed and subdued.’*

Rhoando also explained to Minhyuk. “According to the legends, the half-god, half-dragon protects the unknown existence being oppressed and subdued in this dungeon.”

“What is that unknown existence?”

Rhoando, with his face filled with anticipation, said, “I don’t know. But maybe it’s ‘food’.”

“Food?”

“Yes. There’s a chance that the food that god has taken away from this world is being oppressed and subdued in there and is now showing its presence.”

Minhyuk and the rebels continued to venture deeper into the dungeon. After a while, Rhoando stopped and said, “They’re coming. Get ready to fight. Hyung-nim, you might be in danger, so please stay behind.”

Even though the rebels that had gathered here were strong, they would still be nervous. After all, they were inside the Dungeon of Oppression, which only existed in the legends shared and written in Utopia. Listening to the sounds, one could tell there were many incoming enemies.

*‘Since it’s a dungeon that can accommodate this many people, then there’s bound to be a lot of monsters to deal with.’* Minhyuk watched silently.

A huge clutch of mantises appeared in front of the group of rebels.

[Giant Mantis. Level 622.]

“...?”

Minhyuk was left in shock. A giant mantis could reach Level 622? What kind of mantis was that? The worst part? The clutch of giant mantis had around 200 mantises charging at a speed that could rival that of a rhinoceros.

The rebels immediately shot their arrows at the monsters.

Ting, ting, ting, ting—!

But most of their arrows failed to pierce through the thick skin of the mantises.

*‘They have outstanding accuracy.’*

They were obviously on a different level since they were half-human, half-elves. Soon after, one of the giant mantises finally collided with the rebels.

Slash, slash, slash, slash—!

The mantises’ forelegs were as sharp as a blade, allowing them to cut one of the rebels in half easily.

“Don’t fall back and collapse!”

Minhyuk watched the battle and analyzed the situation. *‘They’re outstanding.’*

After observing them, Minhyuk believed their average level should be around Level 610. And even though a massive clutch of giant mantises was attacking them, they were not being pushed back. Based on their tacit understanding, they seemed to have worked together for a long time.

But what was more impressive was Rhoando. Minhyuk could tell that Rhoando was a high-level NPC around Level 700 or beyond. He had been standing at the vanguard and slaughtering the giant mantises with his axe.

And since everyone had received Minhyuk’s cooking buff, they fought without fear. In just an instant, they had wiped away the more than two hundred giant mantises. Their casualties? Fifty

people died, while nine received severe injuries. That was a small amount of damage, especially since they killed more than two hundred giant mantises.

*‘And this is because they did not know how to deal with them since it was their first time challenging this dungeon. As time passes and they get accustomed to the dungeon, the damage they will receive will decrease.’*

Minhyuk was fully convinced that this band of rebels was just as brilliant and outstanding as the knights of the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

“How is it?”

“It’s amazing.”

“Just like you have seen, we are strong. So, trust us, hyung-nim. We will not let harm go your way.”

Once a brother, always a brother. This was the type of person Rhoando was.

Rhoando dared say he would protect Minhyuk because he did not know who Minhyuk was. Minhyuk should have probably felt bad that he was being underestimated, but that was not the case at all. He was grateful that these people were willing to protect him even though they barely knew each other.

“My dear younger brother.”

“Yes, hyung-nim.”

“All potatoes that will drop here will be our payment for the chicken porridge.”

“...”

Minhyuk would always make calculations thoroughly.

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Rhoando quickly led the rebels deeper into the dungeon. Suddenly, a clutch of more than 3,000 mantises appeared before them. But since they had already figured out how to deal with them, these mantises failed to stop them.

*‘This is all thanks to hyung-nim.’*

That was right. This was all thanks to Minhyuk’s cooking buff. If Minhyuk had not fed them that dish, there was a chance that more than half of their numbers would have died from the 3,000-strong clutch of mantises. Rhoando had only viewed Minhyuk as a *hyung-nim* in name at first. But as time passed, he started treating him as his real *hyung-nim*.

The battle with the mantises continued. But as they ventured deeper and deeper into the dungeon, Rhoando started to feel overwhelmed. It was not because of the heavy expectation of becoming a god but because of the hope of getting back the food that God had taken from them and deprived them of.

*‘It is just as Minhyuk hyung-nim had said.’*

Food might be the most trivial thing, but it sometimes feels like the most significant thing in our lives.

*‘The taste of the soup you eat hurriedly when you’re hungry.’*

Even if it were only a cheap soup, one would still feel happy and satisfied after finishing the bowl. And just one more time, Rhoando hoped.

*‘If food comes back to us, I will go to an expensive restaurant and order food there. Just once. Just once in my life.’*

Maybe he would do it on a pleasant day. Or maybe when there was something special. He would make sure to go to the restaurant, which had long disappeared from Utopia, and order expensive food.

There may come a day when they feel the excitement of eating expensive food at a high-class restaurant. And the joy they feel once they take a bite of that dish? It would be immense.

Rhoando vowed to get the food back and let others feel that joy. This was the lifelong mission of the half-Food God Rhoando.

“Let’s go!!!”

“Uwooooooooooh!!!”

After dealing with another clutch of mantises, Rhoando finally saw the end of the road. The half-god, half-dragon was waiting for them over there. If he could kill it, he would become a god and be able to kill even gods. Simply put, it was the beginning of this world’s reform.

Rhoando tightened his hold on his axe as he dashed forward.

*‘Overlapping Delight.’*

Once he triggered this power, he could fight against the strong half-god, half-dragon.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!”

Rhoando, who had already reached their final destination, saw the gigantic half-god, half-dragon with wings akin to mantises on its back.

[The First Half-god, Half-dragon, has made its appearance!]

[Warning! Danger!]

[Warning! Danger!]

[First Half-god, Half-dragon. Level 747.]

Rhoando was brave. He ran with courage to bring food back and bring joy and satisfaction to all the people in the world.

“Uwooooooooooh!!!”

But then, the side walls of the area where the half-god, half-dragon was suddenly collapsed.

Rumbleeee—!

“Kihyaaaaaaack!!!”

Then, another dragon appeared, this time with a bee's wings.

[The Second Half-god, Half-dragon, has made its appearance!]

[Warning! Danger!]

[Warning! Danger!]

[Second Half-god, Half-dragon. Level 786.]

Legend has it that the half-god, half-dragon possessed a cintamani stone that could give someone with half the blood of a god to become a true god. Another legend said that the half-god, half-dragon protected whatever was being oppressed and subdued in the dungeon.

However, all of the legends were wrong.

*‘One dragon protects the cintamani stone.’*

*‘The other dragon protects the thing being oppressed and subdued in the dungeon.’*

That was right. The half-god half-dragon in the legends were twins.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!”

“Kihyaaaaaaaaaaaaack!”

Rhoando, charging valiantly, looked back after seeing the roaring half-god, half-dragons. And the place that he was looking at? It was where Minhyuk was standing.

Chapter 976

Rhoando believed that he could do it. He hoped he could return the food taken away from everyone. He had judged that he could take down the Level 750 half-god, half-dragon as long as he fought alongside the rebels. However, that was nothing but mere arrogance.

The moment Rhoando realized that the half-god, half-dragons were twins, he instantly understood that they could not and would not be able to win. Looking back, he saw Minhyuk and the rebels, who wanted to create a new world with him.

“Everyone, run!!!”

Rhoando’s instincts were shouting at him, *‘If you want to live, then run away.’*

The rebels also understood the current situation that they were in. But just when they were about to run back to where they came from, the half-god, half-dragon with the wings of a mantis appeared and blocked their path. The worst part? More than 700 gigantic wasps flew out from the wall that the half-god, half-dragon with the wings of a bee destroyed.

[Giant Wasps. Level 608.]

They were suddenly thrust into a challenging situation. But that was not the end. A powerful force suddenly started to gather in the mouth of the first dragon with the wings of a mantis.

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—!

Blood spurted out of the bodies of the rebels as hundreds of blades shot out and cut them down.

“Keuaaaaaaaaack!!!”

“Uwaaaaaaaaaack!”

Many of the rebels screamed as they received severe injuries from the attack. Even the more than 700 giant wasps fired countless venomous needles from the tips of their tails.

[You got hit by a Wasp Stinger.]

[You will fall into a two-second stunned state.]

[Your HP will continuously fall for two hours. Your body will suffer from a boiling heat, and you will experience severe dizziness.]

The rebels' bodies turned stiff. Even though he saw his comrades unable to move, Rhoando's head was uncharacteristically cool and composed. Even his pounding heart slowly turned calm. At this moment, Rhoando was more sober and calm than anybody else, and he grasped the situation firmly.

Then, Rhoando turned to Minhyuk and said, “Hyung-nim, can you please let the world know?”

Minhyuk looked at Rhoando in confusion. He was caught off-guard by the attack of the first dragon. Minhyuk was much stronger than what Rhoando and the rebels thought of. If he could react and respond appropriately to the attack, he would have been able to help them.

However, Rhoando did not know this fact and said, “Please let the world know that there were people who fought so that everyone could eat once again.”

“...”

“We don't want anything grand. We just wanted to see everyone return home after going about their daily lives and eat with their families happily.”

“...”

“Please, please let the world know.”

A shudder ran down Minhyuk's spine. They did not want anything grand. They just wanted everyone in the world to be able to eat delicious food. This was Rhoando's wish.

At that moment, a notification rang in Minhyuk's ears.

[Rhoando is the progeny who inherited the blood of the Food God.]

[You are this era's Food God.]

[Right now, you are witnessing the pride of the Food God's progeny.]

[Even if he risks dying, he would still take a step toward his enemies.]

“Hyung-nim, you should go now!!!”

[He is the successor and the progeny of the Food God, a god who loves to eat. Yet he has lived and is still living in a world where food, cooking, and eating are controlled.]

Determined to remain standing by Rhoando's side even at their last moments, the rebels grabbed their weapons and stood up again.

[You, the Food God, are watching these people make a stand despite their fear to protect and allow the people of this world to eat to their heart's content.]

"Please go quickly, hyung-nim!"

"Go and use the return stone!"

"Please- Please don't forget about us!"

"Hyung-nim! Thank you for the delicious chicken porridge!"

[They are taking a huge step toward something trivial yet bigger than anything else.]

Shwaaaaaaaaaaaaa-!

At that moment, a powerful force rose from Rhoando's body. This was none other than the power of the Overlapping Delight.

Because food was controlled in this world, his Overlapping Delight transformed and manifested differently. In his version, he could still get a strong buff despite not eating any food.

However, in exchange, he would only be able to receive the effects of the skills for an entire minute. But in that one minute, Rhoando probably had the power to transcend even god.

Then, another series of notifications rang.

[You will now hear why food has disappeared from Utopia.]

[Food God Allen received a warm welcome from everyone when he arrived in Utopia.]

[Everyone was excited at the descent of a true and complete god, not someone with only half the blood of a god.]

[However, the Food God was nothing but a god who loved to eat.]

[Many of those who carried the power of half-gods and the half-transcendentals laughed at the Food God.]

[He was neither strong nor was he superior to others.]

[However, some people recognized Allen's true worth.]

[Aleia, someone who carried the power of a half-transcendental, had fallen in love and spent a long time with him.]

[Two children were born from the love between the two. Their first child, a child who was half-god, half-transcendental, became the Sky of Utopia.]

[Their second child inherited only the power of a half-god and led a normal life.]

[Their first child was ashamed at the fact that he had inherited the blood of the Food God, a god who had received the criticism and ridicule of everyone in Utopia.]

[Because of that, he erased everything related to the Food God, including his name and even the food in the world.]

Minhyuk finally knew the reason why god had taken food away from Utopia.

[But Rhoando, the half-god, half-elf who had inherited half of the Food God's blood, was of a different mind from the first child.]

[My father is great. I will prove it.]

Minhyuk looked at Rhoando's back as he used Overlapping Delight to slaughter the giant wasps coming his way.

[He was born with the blood of someone constantly mocked and ridiculed.]

[However, he was proud of it and had always worked hard to prove to them how great his father was.]

[He was teased and criticized for inheriting the blood of the Food God.]

[But now, in this journey to find and bring back food, he showed courage and bravery that far surpassed anybody else.]

Vwoooooooooong—!

Rhoando leaped to the sky after sweeping away hundreds of giant wasps.

He wanted to let everyone know that the Food God was not a god who deserved to be mocked, ridiculed, and made fun of. He wanted to prove to the world what kind of god the Food God was. He also wanted to show the world how delightful it was to eat food again.

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—!

Rhoando's giant axe slammed straight into the head of the first dragon.

Thud—!

He grabbed the snout of the reeling dragon and hit it like crazy. He beat the dragon until its tough skin broke apart, and he hit flesh.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!”

When the dragon crashed down on the ground after struggling fiercely against the onslaught of Rhoando's attacks, he quickly landed and struck its head again.

Thud—! Thud, thud—! Thud—!

Blood spurted from the dragon's body with every hit Rhoando landed on him. But at the same time, the power that the dragon carried also wreaked havoc and tore apart Rhoando's flesh.

[He is the child of a man mocked and ridiculed.]

The notification again rang for the people trying to bring food back to the world.

[He was the child of the man who had been ignored.]

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—!

[And they...]

The rebels fought more fiercely. They wanted everyone to know that they fought to get food back on their tables until their last breath.



Even if we die, people will still fight for our cause. They will always, always exist.

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

“Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

They let go of their fears and charged toward the second dragon.

[...they were the ones who did their best until their very last moments.]

At that moment, Rhoando finally brought the first divine dragon to the brink of death.

Slaaaaaash—!

Rhoando believed he only needed to hack the dragon a few more times with his axe, and he could kill him. But then, the second divine dragon, the one with the wings of a bee, roared.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!!!”

Then, thousands of poisonous needles shot out of its body and pierced through Rhoando and the rebels’ bodies.

[You have been hit by the Divine Dragon’s Poisonous Stinger.]

[Your body will be left in a paralyzed state for three minutes.]

[Your HP will continuously fall for five minutes, eventually bringing you to your death.]

Rhoando’s body turned stiff.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!”

The first divine dragon slapped him away, crushing a few of his bones as his body slammed into the ground.

Helpless, Rhoando could only look at the rebels sadly. He could see their faces turning blue as they stood there, paralyzed. There were even many of them vomiting blood all over the place.

[They did not regret anything.]

Everyone present was relieved. As Rhoando looked at the rebels, he tried to give them a slight nod. They were all afraid. However, they fought back their tears and held their heads up high.

[They were glad they could fight until their last breath to bring the food back to this world.]

Then, another series of notifications rang in Minhyuk’s ears.

[You have witnessed the people who would fight until the very last moment to bring food back to this world!]

[All of your stats have increased by 1%!]

[You have gained 1 Food God SP.]

All of this happened in just one minute.

Meanwhile, Rhoando, who believed that he was going to die soon, thought, ‘*It’s just... there’s just one thing that I want...*’

I wanted to prove it.

He wanted to prove that the Food God was not weak and trivial. He was not a god who deserved to be mocked, criticized, ridiculed, and pointed fingers at.

As Rhoando thought of his earnest wish, a notification rang.

[You, the progeny of the Food God, are praying to the Food God!]

[You hope you will one day prove to the world that the Food God is not a weak and trivial god!]

[Your prayers have reached god!]

All beings would tend to pray to god in their moments of despair. And Rhoando, who watched the furious first divine dragon roar and move to tear him apart, silently prayed to god.

“Kihyeeeeeeck!”

Rhoando watched bitterly as the first divine dragon flew toward him at a breakneck speed.

[The Food God of the current era answers your prayers!]

[The Food God of the current era answers your prayers!]

There was someone else, someone who was not paralyzed by the poison sent by the divine dragon. And this someone moved to stand in front of Rhoando.

[The Food God of the current era is with you!]

Rhoando could not understand. No one had descended or appeared before them, yet the notification told him that the Food God of the current era was with them.

At that moment, Rhoando saw someone standing in front of him.

[The Food God of the current era looks at you!]

“...?!”

Rhoando made eye contact with the man standing in front of him. He saw a slight smile on the man’s face.

[The Food God of the current era tells you!]

“Thank you.”

[The Food God of the current era praises you and your comrades for fighting until the very last minute and for never losing the pride of the Food God as you try to bring the food back to this world.]

“I will show it to you.”

[The Food God of the current era wants to show you that the Food God is not a weak, pitiful, and trivial god.]

“I will show you what kind of god the Food God is.”

The gigantic divine dragon had already appeared right in front of Minhyuk. However, he easily and swiftly pulled his sword out and slashed the first divine dragon.

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

At that moment, the divine dragon's body was slashed and torn apart until blood spurted out all over its body. The second divine dragon seemed to have sensed that the first divine dragon was in danger. It roared loudly and quickly ran toward its brethren.

Meanwhile, Minhyuk swapped his shabby outfit for his artifacts. He donned his silver armor, gaiters, and cape, which carried the symbol of a fork and knife crossed together.

Rhoando's jaw dropped open. Even the other rebels could not take their eyes off Minhyuk.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!!!”

Minhyuk swung his sword again at the charging dragon, whose mouth was wide open.

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—!

And just like before, blood spurted out all over its gigantic body.

Chapter 977

During childhood, Rhoando was often teased and mocked by others just because his father was the Food God.

*—Your father only knows how to eat!*

*—Your dad is a god, but is he strong?*

*—Eh?! What god?! He's just a half-human, half-elf!*

When Rhoando was mocked by his friends, he ran back home and cried in his mother's arms.

*—Mother, is my father a weak god? Does he know nothing but to eat?*

Rhoando never forgot the words that his mother told him back then. Because of those words, Rhoando had become a great adult and come this far today.

Amidst Rhoando's wails, his mother smiled graciously and patted him gently. His mother looked at the tears dripping down his face and said these words about the Food God, who everyone deemed to be a useless god.

*—He is not weak.*

Minhyuk, using the Sword of Carnage, once again swung his sword. But this time, it was toward the second divine dragon that was charging at him.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!!!”

Rhoando laughed and cried at the same time when he saw the second divine dragon wail loudly.

*—Your father is not the type of person who would fight recklessly. Of course, there are exceptions.*

Minhyuk walked toward the shrieking and wailing second divine dragon. Despite the constant shrieks and the blood spurting all over its body, the second divine dragon still launched an attack. It spewed out hundreds of poisonous needles toward Minhyuk.

*–He would always fight for the hungry.*

Minhyuk's sword moved swiftly, its blade casting a dazzling display of light as it cut down the poisonous needles coming his way. Then, he arrived in front of the divine dragon.

*–Wherever there are hungry people, you will definitely see your father there. He would be cooking for them.*

*–Being strong does not necessarily mean that you have to have a strong power.*

*–Your father's cooking has protected many.*

*–Your father's hard work and efforts have brought happiness to many.*

Minhyuk triggered the Intangible Sword. At the same time, hundreds of invisible and intangible blades shot out and pierced through the body of the second divine dragon.

*–That's the kind of god the Food God is.*

"Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!" The divine dragon roared. With its body covered in blood, it opened its mouth and released thousands of tiny bees.

"Uwooooooooooooooh!" With a loud shout, Minhyuk ran toward the swarm of bees coming his way. Then, he raised his sword and released a pillar of blazing black flames.

*–He could make the hungry cry.*

Crackle–!

Blazing flames appeared, burned the thousands of bees and giant wasps that appeared all at once, and turned them into ashes. As for the shrieking divine dragon behind them...

*–He could make the hungry laugh.*

Like the Wind.

Minhyuk moved swiftly, his fist slamming into the divine dragon and sending it flying into the walls of the dungeon. Then, he triggered the Dual Swordsmanship Technique. The moment he held the two swords, the word *Destruction* appeared on their blades.

*–He lived for their sake and their sake alone.*

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

Lightning fell and devoured the second divine dragon with every swing of Minhyuk's sword. The onslaught of the attacks almost turned the divine dragon into a tattered rag.

Rhoando, who watched the scene, felt his heart flutter wildly. According to his mother's words, his father used his cooking and dexterous hands to make people happy and full. The Food God of the current era was of the same mind as his father. He had told him that he wanted to help bring back food to this world, too.

He wasn't any different from what Rhoando's mother told him about. He fought for the hungry. Like his father, the Food God of the current era was a god who did not carelessly use his power to press others down.

Swoosh–

The second divine dragon slid down from the walls, its body drooping as if already dead.

As Rhoando watched the man in front of him, he grew convinced that he had walked the right path.

*–That's why you have to live for the hungry, Rhoando.*

*–Live a happy life while eating delicious food.*

Rhoando clenched his fists. *I am the son of the Food God.* He once again recalled these words.

Then, at that moment, the first divine dragon shrieked in horror at the death of its twin.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!!!” It roared and flew toward its dead twin. Then, it opened its mouth and bit the head of the dead second divine dragon.

Crunch–!

Then, the first divine dragon began to chew. Everything happened in a split second. It was so fast that Minhyuk did not even have the time to react and stop the first dragon.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!”

Just when Minhyuk was about to move to stop it, the first dragon released a roar that shook the world.

[You cannot resist and fight back even with an invincible body that can resist thousands of poisons.]

[You have fallen into a one-minute stunned state.]

Minhyuk was flustered. His invincible body was the reason he could move despite the poisonous needles and stingers that came his way.

Crunch, crunch– crunch, crunch– crunch, crunch–!

The first dragon began to devour the flesh and bones of the dead second dragon. At the same time, the injuries that Rhoando and Minhyuk inflicted on its body began to recover at a fast pace.

Fwiiiiiiish–!

An ominous feeling washed over Minhyuk as he watched the divine dragon, which had grown much bigger than before, roar loudly.

“Kihyeeeeeeeeeeck!”

[The Divine Dragon has recovered its full power!]

[The Divine Dragon is guarding the unknown existence, being oppressed and subdued.]

[The Divine Dragon will punish anyone who fights against it.]

[If you cannot stop the Divine Dragon, the berserk Divine Dragon will attack Utopia.]

[Divine Dragon. Level 798.]

Goosebumps rose all over Minhyuk's body. At this moment, he understood that this was no longer an easy fight.

Then, Rhoando shouted at the top of his lungs, "Hyung-nim!!!" he looked determined as the veins popped up on his neck. "I am also the Food God!"

Minhyuk was fully aware of that fact. Perhaps, in the future, the Food God of the current era will not be him but Rhoando.

[The God Who Loves to Eat looks at you and chuckles.]

"I will also fight with you through cooking!"

Rhoando knew he would just hinder Minhyuk if he joined the fray and attacked the divine dragon.

"Mayonnaise, eggs, soft bread, vegetables, and sugar, do you have all of them?!"

Minhyuk looked at Rhoando in surprise. He was currently unable to cook. If he used Let's Have a Meal here, many people would die under the hands of the divine dragon. However, the situation would have been much better if Rhoando had cooked and Minhyuk had continued to pay attention to the divine dragon.

*'I don't know a thing about Rhoando's cooking.'*

Yes, Rhoando was the descendant of the Food God. However, Minhyuk could not predict the buff that Rhoando's cooking could give.

*'Even if his cooking buff is lower than mine, the situation would be different if he could make a God-grade dish.'*

There were various variables and anomalies when it came to buffed dishes.

Twitch– Twitch–

The roars made Minhyuk twitch. A sense of urgency enveloped him as he hurriedly wrapped the ingredients Rhoando needed in a cloth and threw it to the man.

Rhoando quickly unfolded the cloth and took the ingredients when he received it.

"We don't have much time. Thirty minutes should be long enough for you. I just don't know if I can endure that long."

Of course, Minhyuk might be able to kill the divine dragon by himself. But if Rhoando could help him with buffs, their chances would increase, and the process would be easier.

At that moment, Rhoando smiled faintly and said, "Hyung-nim. Food and cooking have disappeared from this world for hundreds of years."

"..."

"It would be an honor to serve this dish to you, hyung-nim."

Minhyuk felt his heart thump when he heard those words.

Then, Rhoando said, “Three minutes. I would only need three minutes.”

“What...!”

It was impossible to cook a dish in just three minutes. Of course, the ingredients that Rhoando asked from Minhyuk were easy to cook.

*‘Even so, it’s still impossible.’*

However, Minhyuk thought it would be better to believe in Rhoando and focus on fighting for now. But then, Rhoando did something surprising.

[The Food God’s descendant, Rhoando, has triggered one of the Food God’s skills you currently do not possess.]

[The active skill: The Famished One's Cooking has been triggered.]

“...?!” Minhyuk turned to look at Rhoando in shock. That was when he saw it. Rhoando was cooking at a very fast pace. It was to the point that he could only see his afterimage.

*‘He looks like his fast-forward button has been pushed...?’*

In a way, that was correct. The space around Rhoando was warped. In this space, time was moving at ten times the normal speed.

Rhoando’s afterimages could be seen boiling and peeling the eggs in a split second.

*‘This is crazy!’*

It was an amazing ability. Did it have the concept of shortening the cooking time? No, that should not be the case. The time that has passed outside of the warped space where Rhoando was cooking would only be a tenth of the time that he needed to cook. As for the time that Rhoando needed to cook, it should not have changed.

If he needed a buff during battle, he would only need five minutes to make any dish he wanted.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—!

“Hyung-nim!”

The divine dragon, who had recovered its full strength, slammed Minhyuk with its gigantic body. As Minhyuk’s body flew away from the impact, slashes appeared all over him. It was as if a mantis’ foreleg blade had cut and torn him apart. But that was not the end; hundreds of tiny wasps and bees flew out of the divine dragon’s mouth and shot poisonous needles at him.

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh—!

“Kghhk!”

[Your HP has dropped below 75%!]

[Your HP has dropped below 74%!]

[Your HP has dropped below 73%!]

[Your HP has dropped below 72%!]

The stingers that the wasps and the bees shot toward Minhyuk were causing more damage than he expected. Seeing his HP drop rapidly, Minhyuk quickly triggered his Black Dragon Armor.

Swoosh—!

As the Black Dragon Armor covered his body, the skill of The Unapproachable One was immediately triggered.

[The Unapproachable One.]

[Your Evasion Rate will increase by 5x for three seconds.]

[This cannot be triggered again for one minute.]

Fortunately, the passive skill, The Unapproachable One, was triggered and allowed Minhyuk to avoid and deflect most of the wasps' and bees' attacks for three seconds.

Once again, the divine dragon flew to the sky and shot toward Minhyuk. At the same time, a ridiculous notification rang in Minhyuk's ears.

[Divine Dragon's Wrath.]

[All of the Divine Dragon's power has increased by 2%]

[All of the Divine Dragon's power has increased by 2%]

[All of the Divine Dragon's power has increased by 2%]

The notifications about the flying dragon in the sky constantly rang in Minhyuk's ears. It had to be known that the level of the divine dragon was no less than Level 789. But now, the dragon had strengthened itself with buffs.

“...!”

Minhyuk's face grew ugly. He tried to activate the Supreme Overlord's Technique and shoot down the dragon. However, he stopped in his tracks. He realized that the aftermath of the Supreme Overlord's Technique would affect the rebels in this narrow dungeon.

Minhyuk hurriedly tried to summon Viel's Puppet Doll and the Ego Chain Sickle.

[The Divine Dragon restricts any summoning abilities.]

[You have failed to summon Viel's Puppet Doll.]

[You have failed to summon the Ego Chain Sickle.]

Minhyuk's face grew darker. The worst part? The notifications were still going on.

[All of the Divine Dragon's power has increased by 2%]

[All of the Divine Dragon's power has increased by 2%]

[All of the Divine Dragon's power has increased...]

At this moment, Minhyuk could tell he would be forced to log out once the divine dragon slammed into him. He hurriedly tried to use *Transcendence*. But before he could do so, a loud voice called out to him.



“Hyung-nim!!!”

Ring!

[Rhoando increases the skill level of your skill: Overlapping Delight by +1!]

[You have acquired the active skill: The Famished One's Cooking.]

Minhyuk's eyes grew wide.

[The Overlapping Delight is evolving!]

The evolved Overlapping Delight's information flashed in front of Minhyuk. He could not help but shiver when he read the notifications related to the skill.

The dish that Rhoando made appeared in Minhyuk's hands right away. However, the divine dragon laughed at Minhyuk. Why? Because it knew that the act of eating would take time. But something very unexpected happened.

“Overlapping Delight.”

Was it the same as before? No. Not at all. It has become an entirely different skill now. The moment Minhyuk opened his mouth, the dish that Rhoando had made for him entered his mouth, passed through his throat, and entered his stomach.

Gulp—

Minhyuk only took 0.3 seconds to finish the dish.

The divine dragon realized at this moment that the man in front of him did not need to eat anything by himself the moment he triggered that skill.

Then, a different effect appeared around Minhyuk. Now, two dice were rolling above Minhyuk, one golden and one black.

Roll, roll—

The rolling dice immediately came to a stop. The golden dice showed a three, while the black dice showed a five. Then, Minhyuk looked at the divine dragon rushing toward him and said, “I choose Destruction.”

Flash—!

With those words, the black dice released a bright light that fell upon Minhyuk's body. The word “Destruction” engraved on the blade of Minhyuk's sword shone a dangerous black light.

And the moment Minhyuk swung his sword at the flying dragon, the effect of Destruction infused with the power of the new and evolved Overlapping Delight unfolded in front of everyone!

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

Around sixty lightning bolts fell from the sky and devoured the divine dragon.

Chapter 978

Minhyuk received the following notifications after he received the newly evolved Overlapping Delights:

[The new Overlapping Delight allows you to eat your food simultaneously.]

[Just like before, the number that will roll from the golden dice will determine the duration of the buff.]

[A new dice has been added. You now have an additional black dice.]

[The additional black dice will allow you to choose a single target attack-type skill. The number that will roll from the new dice will determine the additional power the skill will receive.]

Absolute God's Secret

- *You can overlap the buff effects of two different dishes.*
- *Once the buff effects of two different dishes overlap, you can still see the impact of the overlapping dishes even if you did not consume the food.*
- *Once the buff effects of the two dishes overlap, a "golden dice" will be thrown. The number that will be displayed on the dice will determine the duration of the buff.*
- *The lower the number, the shorter the duration of the buff effect. The duration per number rolled is as follows: one minute for number 1, two minutes for number 2, three minutes for number 3, four minutes for number 4, five minutes for number 5, and ten minutes for number 6.*
- *The EXP you can obtain will double for as long as the unique effect of the Overlapping Delight is in effect.*
- *Once the buff effects of the two dishes overlap, a "black dice" will be thrown. The number displayed on the dice will determine the power added to your chosen single-target attack-type passive or active skill.*
- *The black dice's reinforcement will only take effect for one attack.*
- *If the skill that received strengthening and reinforcement from the black dice is passive, the probability of the skill being triggered will automatically be at 100%.*
- *The lower the number, the lower the increase in the skill's power. The increase in power per number rolled is as follows: a 1.3x increase for number 1, a 1.5x increase for number 2, a 2x increase for number 3, a 3x increase for number 4, a 3.5x increase for number 5, and a 4x increase for number 6.*

The new and evolved Overlapping Delight was utterly overpowered.

*'Although it's not like what I had imagined and does not overlap the effects of three dishes, the effects of the evolved Overlapping Delight could exert just as much power.'*

First, the duration of the buff, which was determined by the number that would roll from the golden dice, had significantly increased. Previously, the buff duration would only last thirty seconds if he rolled a 1. But now? His buff's duration could last an entire minute when rolling a 1. When he rolled the highest number, 6, the previous seven-minute buff duration had already changed to 10 minutes.

There was also the addition of a black dice. The black dice would allow his skill to display a more substantial power. There might even be a chance that those skills might go beyond the control of his lethal skills, albeit only temporarily.

The black dice finally stopped rolling.

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

[The effects of your chosen skill will increase by 4x.]

[Please choose a skill.]

Could the effect of a single skill be increased by four? Then, whatever the skill was, it would be overpowered at that very moment.

“Destruction,” Minhyuk said. The moment his words ended, another set of notifications rang.

[You have chosen Destruction.]

[The effects of Destruction will increase by four times.]

The current Destruction has a 35% chance of triggering sixteen lightning strikes with additional 1,600% damage. What would happen if these effects were quadrupled? There would be over sixty lightning bolts with 6,000% additional damage that would fall upon his enemies.

But it was probably more appropriate to say that the damage that Destruction would be able to inflict upon Minhyuk's enemy was around 10,000%. Why? Because it would also receive the overlapping buff effects of the golden dice.

This damage would have been enough to melt Great Demon Verus to the ground if he had come.

Crackle, crackle, crackle, crackle, crackle, crackle—!

More than sixty lightning bolts fell down upon the divine dragon the moment Minhyuk swung his sword, engraved with the word “Destruction.”

“Kihyeeeeeeck! Kihyeeeeeeeeck!” the divine dragon roared.

Evidently, the dragon was suffering from pain from how its roars sounded. However, it could no longer fight back or even move. This was because Minhyuk's Destruction could also leave his enemy stunned.

Meanwhile, Rhoando and the rebels watched the lightning bolts flash and fell constantly upon the dragon in awe.

Although the divine dragon was a being with shocking regenerative abilities, it seemed like it could not keep up with the damage caused by the effects of Destruction. In the end, it fell helplessly on the ground.

Boom—!

[You have hunted the Divine Dragon.]

[The effects of Overlapping Delight are still in effect. The EXP that you will acquire will double.]

[You have acquired 42,513 platinum.]

[You have gained 21,313,111,000 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have acquired the Cintamani Stone Filled With Divine Power.]

[You have acquired the Proliferating Potato.]

[You have acquired the Divine Dragon's Adapting Armor.]

[You have gained 300 stat points.]

[...Divine Dragon's Reinforcement Spell.]

[...acquired the Divine Dragon's Mantis' Wings.]

[...acquired Divine Dragon's Bee's Wings.]

[...Divine Dragon...]

Notifications constantly rang in Minhyuk's ears.

Swoosh—

“Hyung-nim!”

“Hyuuuuuuuuung-nim!”

“Hyuuuuuuuuung-nim!”

The rebels cheered. The fact that their hyung-nim was the real “Food God” and that he killed the divine dragon, almost reaching Level 800, surprised them. But they would have been wiped out here if it wasn't for him.

“Hyung-nim...!”

But Rhoando was most pleased. He even gained more respect for Minhyuk. Through Minhyuk, Rhoando realized what kind of god the Food God was. He had learned that the Food God was not weak and trivial. Of course, Minhyuk took a very special path in his Food God journey. But he could still be an excellent example of how the Food God could be substantial.

Then, Minhyuk silently gave the *Cintamani Stone Filled with Divine Power*, that was shining brightly.

“Ah...!” Rhoando cried as he held the cintamani stone. He was overwhelmed with excitement.

He had always been a mere half-god, half-elf, but now he could ascend and become a true god. This meant he could take down the king and cut down the god of Utopia.

It was obvious that the *Cintamani Stone Filled with Divine Power*, had astronomical value. However, Minhyuk readily gave it to him, which showed how wide and broad his generosity was. He even protected the people who were precious to him and displayed a powerful military might.

Rhoando cried out, "How– How... How can you give this precious item to me so carelessly?"

But Minhyuk just smiled kindly at him.

"Hyung-nim, even if the day comes that I have cut down god, you will still forever be my hyung-nim."

This was the promise of the new and rising powerhouse that would lead Utopia in the future. Then, as if on cue, the rebels knelt before Minhyuk and silently put their heads on the ground.

"Hyung-nim, it's an honor to be your younger brother!"

"We will live for hyung-nim's sake forever!"

They were also moved when they saw Minhyuk hand over the cintamani stone to Rhoando without asking them for anything. At this moment, their favorability with Minhyuk was so high that they would jump into the fire if Minhyuk said so.

Minhyuk just smiled kindly at them. No, to be exact...

"Hehe. Potato..."

"???"

"???"

"???"

"What a good potato. Fufu... I can't believe it! You can grow hundreds of potatoes daily if you plant them on the ground."

Yes, Minhyuk was not smiling kindly and graciously at them. He was just merely smiling. For Minhyuk, the potatoes that he had received this time were much more important than any other reward that he had received this time.

- STM will increase by 7%.*

- All defensive power will increase by 10%.*

- HP and MP will increase by 4%.*

- Only those who had eaten the potatoes for the first time can obtain the special ability effects.*

- Even if you had eaten all the potatoes and only planted a tiny portion of their skin on the ground, a hundred potatoes will still grow daily.*

- This is the most outstanding potato in all of Utopia. It tastes so delicious that one could only describe this as being out of this world.*

*•The Proliferating Potato can also taste like sweet potato. This will be entirely dependent on your choice.*

“Hihi. It can even taste like sweet potato.”

Rhoando and the rebels smiled when they saw Minhyuk smiling like that.

*‘He’s truly the Food God...’*

*‘Eating and food is more important than anything else.’*

*‘The one who will protect and fight for food.’*

Minhyuk knew that the things he obtained here were much more impressive than he initially expected. The first was the Proliferating Potato, and the second was the skill he acquired through Rhoando.

*‘The new and evolved Overlapping Delight is far superior to the previous one.’*

It was already an overpowered skill before. But now, it has become an extremely cheat-like skill. But that was not all. Minhyuk had acquired a total of two skills here. The first one was the Overlapping Delight.

As for the other.

Active Skill

*•While cooking, your time and only your time will flow ten times faster.*

*•If you activate The Famished One’s Cooking and take ten minutes to cook, the actual time that would pass by would only be a minute.*

This skill was also very satisfactory. Especially because...

*‘I can use it in my daily life.’*

When Minhyuk was busy and wanted to eat a proper dish but did not have the time, this skill would definitely be of great use.

“Hyung-nim, can I become a god?”

Even Minhyuk had no idea what kind of god Rhoando would be once he became a true god. Minhyuk was already the Food God of the current era, and there was no god to whom he would inherit power.

*‘The cintamani stone can make a half-god into a new, true god.’*

Minhyuk had already checked the information about the cintamani stone before handing it to Rhoando. According to its description, the system would determine if the one who used the cintamani stone had the qualifications and would turn them into a new god. And the process would take only about ten minutes.

Rhoando held the cintamani stone that was as big as a soccer ball. Then, a bright light flashed and engulfed his entire being.

Minhyuk grinned as he watched the scene. ‘*Shall I try using The Famished One’s Cooking?*’

While waiting for Rhoando, Minhyuk intended to eat the potato in his hands. He wanted to make a *potato croquette*—the same potato croquette that was golden and crispy on the outside and filled with soft and delicious potatoes and various ingredients on the inside.

[You have activated the skill: The Famished One’s Cooking.]

Minhyuk could relate to the skill name right now. After all, he was very, very hungry.

“Ooooh...!”

The mercenaries looked at Minhyuk, who was moving swiftly as if his fast-forward button had been pressed, in admiration.

After boiling the potatoes, Minhyuk quickly mashed them. Then, he added the thinly chopped onions, carrots, mayonnaise, and sugar and mixed them all together with the potato. After mixing everything evenly, he shaped them into bite-sized pieces.

Then, he dropped them in the flour before dipping them in eggs and coating them with breadcrumbs. After doing all that, he dropped them into the heated cooking oil and began to fry them one after another.

Crackle—!

Just like that, he cooked the delicious croquettes until they were golden brown, a signal that they were well-cooked. Then, he took the croquettes out of the oil. He even made sure to shake the excess oil off before plating them.

[You have finished cooking.]

[The Famished One’s Cooking has ended.]

After he finished cooking, Minhyuk looked around. He saw that Rhoando still had the cintamani stone in his hands and was still absorbing the divine power in it.

“How much time has passed?”

“Around four minutes, give or take.”

Minhyuk cooked for around forty minutes. But in reality, only four minutes had passed.

‘*What a truly amazing ability,*’ Minhyuk thought as he looked at the well-fried croquettes.

For Minhyuk, who loved food, Utopia was brutal and harsh. After all, it was a world without his favorite! As he stood in this world, Minhyuk ate the crunchy and well-fried croquette.

Crunch—!

Since the croquette was freshly fried, it was still crispy and warm. And the moment he bit through the crunchy skin? A burst of flavor danced in his mouth as the mashed potatoes mixed with the various colorful ingredients touched his taste buds.

“Hoo...!” Minhyuk exclaimed when he took a bite of the croquette.

Every bite of the croquette and the perfectly flavored mashed potato inside made Minhyuk’s smile grow deeper and deeper. After eating the potato croquette instantly, he received another series of notifications.

[You have eaten Croquettes.]

[Your STM has increased by 7%.]

[All of your defensive power has increased by 10%.]

[Your HP and MP have increased by 4%.]

Minhyuk smiled happily.

A few moments later, warmth started to appear and wrap around Rhoando. This warm and gentle power was giving Rhoando his new powers. Immediately after that, a world message rang, probably only relayed within Utopia.

[A new candidate for Utopia’s Sky has been born.]

Soon, a notification rang in Rhoando’s ears.

[You can become Utopia’s new god by killing or inheriting the position of the Sky.]

That was right. The system had determined that Rhoando would become the new master of Utopia.

A strong force started to circulate all over Rhoando’s body. He was in a state where all his existing skills remained while his stats increased significantly. Of course, he also gained the status of god. However, Rhoando would not be able to obtain a more substantial power unless he killed “Utopia’s God” or took over his position. If he could kill god, then he would become the new master of this world.

Just by absorbing the divine power in the cintamani stone, Rhoando’s sharp and pointy ears had already shortened. It looked pretty similar to that of a human’s ear now.

*‘That’s quite reassuring.’*

Minhyuk knew that he had gained a powerful ally in his dear younger brother, who would become the new master of Utopia.

Rumble—!

At that moment, one of the walls of this place, which the divine dragon was guarding, collapsed and revealed a passage that led to a new place. One of the divine dragons protected the cintamani stone, while the other protected the oppressed and subdued thing in this place.

Minhyuk had a hunch. He thought, *‘I bet the banned ingredients will all be there.’*

Utopia has banned all of the ingredients in this world. If that were the place where they were all hidden, then there would probably be hundreds of millions of ingredients in there.

Minhyuk, Rhoando, and the rebels stepped forward and entered the passageway.

Chapter 979



In Utopia, Arce, who was hailed as the God and the Sky, was considered the person sitting in the highest position. Of course, he also had the heroes standing by his side and protecting Utopia. The heroes, just like Arce, were half-gods, half-transcendentals. To put it simply, Arce was like the king, and the heroes were like the nobles of Utopia.

Currently, Utopia's God Arce was playing *Go* with the Hero King Rakk.

Tap—

Arce placed his black stone on the *Go* board. Then, he looked up at Rakk, sitting before him, and said, "Are you going to get rid of all of the food in Utopia? In one week, all things being oppressed and subdued in the Dungeon of Oppression will disappear."

Rakk stopped rubbing the smooth white stone in his hands and looked up. "Sky."

Contrary to his words, Rakk did not treat Arce like he was the noblest Sky.

"The act of eating in and of itself is very unnecessary for the hybrids. Not only do you have to farm and cook the dishes, you even have to partake in the act of eating just to consume food."

Arce's hand holding the black stone tightened when he heard Rakk's words.

"Besides, aren't potatoes enough for those mutts?"

"..."

Arce was rendered silent.

Different from what everyone knew, Arce wanted to keep food in Utopia. It was all because of the heroes.

As mentioned before, the heroes were just like Arce. They had the power of a half-god and a half-transcendental. The problem was that the power of the god that Arce had inherited, in other words, the power of the Food God, could not exert much energy. The heroes, on the other hand, could exert a powerful force. The worst part? They were all arrogant and nasty beings.

"Besides, they were the type of people who would wage war and fight for food. Those people don't need to have food."

Arce knew that the heroes made it so that the people viewed the Food God as a weak and trivial god. They also asked why he was just a puppet god and not a real god.

*'Just because of one ingredient...'*

Arce's hand holding the *Go* stone trembled. One reason they banned food was to control the hybrids, who enjoyed eating food. But that was not all. They also had another reason for doing so.

*'When something is left oppressed and subdued inside the Dungeon of Oppression for a very long time, they can obtain something beyond anyone's imagination.'*

The heroes had left inside the Dungeon of Oppression the food ingredients they had banned. So, that *something* beyond anyone's imagination would be a cooking ingredient. The heroes banned and controlled food for hundreds of years to get that one ingredient.

In a week, everything that was being oppressed and subdued inside the Dungeon of Oppression would finally disappear. This would signal the disappearance of all the food in the land and the birth of that thing that they wanted to obtain.

Rakk rubbed the *Go* stone before placing it on the board. Then, he said, “But these days, there are bugs who dare to dream of rebelling against the Sky.”

Twitch—

Arce immediately knew who Rakk was talking about. It was none other than his younger brother, Rhoando.

Arce left his mother. Why did he leave? He was furious at his father and at the people's mocking and ridiculing of him. That was also why he wanted to become a god. And he became a god, a god for the heroes.

But as time went by, he finally realized that his father was not a weak and incompetent god, and the heroes were doing bad things all along. After a long time, he also learned that it was not him but his younger brother, Rhoando, who possessed a solid and great will.

*‘If the one who became god was you, then you might not have been swayed by them.’*

He felt extremely bitter that his brother had received the power of a half-elf, not him.

“Well, what can those bugs even do? Right?” Rakk mocked.

Then, Arce asked, “What would happen if those people were able to release the things being oppressed in the Dungeon of Oppression?”

Rakk’s fingers that were rubbing the *Go* stone stopped once again. He looked at Arce for a moment before bursting into laughter. “What a funny joke. That’s not going to happen. But if it happens, I’m also unaware of what will happen.”

Rakk was confident that it would not happen. It was challenging for the heroes to deal with the twin divine dragons once they merged, yet was Arce telling him that those bugs could kill the dragon and enter the place where that thing was being oppressed?

This should not happen. Especially since the one who would challenge the dungeon was Arce’s younger brother, the descendant of the Food God. It would be impossible for him to do so.

Rakk, as if he was attacking Arce with his words, said, “Sky, you should stop now. You have long abandoned the power inherited from the Food God. That power, which even the lowest of people could laugh at, seems unnecessary, no?”

Just like how Rhoando had inherited the Overlapping Delight skill, Arce had also inherited some of his father’s power. Of course, Arce’s power was utterly different from that of his younger brother.

Arce did not bother to answer Rakk’s words. But then, both of their eyes turned toward the same direction simultaneously.

Arce’s pupils shook as he thought, *‘R— Rhoando?’*

Half-god, half-transcendentals were the chosen ones. And from what it looked like, another chosen one had been born to the world.

Not long after, a hero rushed inside the room where they were in. He said, "Hero King. The divine dragon in the Dungeon of Oppression is presumed dead."

"...!"

Rakk jumped out of his seat. The thing that Arce just asked about had suddenly become a reality.

"Go. Go straight to the Dungeon of Oppression," Rakk ordered as he hurried out.

And Arce? He could not hide the anxious expression on his face as he looked at Rakk's departing back.

\*\*\*

In the depths of the Dungeon of Oppression.

Minhyuk, Rhoando, and the rebels continued to walk through the passageway until they saw a bright light.

'Wow...'

As their eyes got used to the brightness, all of the ingredients that should have existed in the world spread out inside the room. All the existing ingredients, regardless of their type, were in this place. There were fruits like apples and pears, meat like pork and beef, which were divided into each of their parts, and grains like wheat and rice.

*'All kinds of ingredients are here. And there aren't even any duplicates.'*

Minhyuk could easily tell there were no two ingredients of the same kind.

"Huh?"

"H- Hyung-nim...!"

At that moment, Minhyuk turned to look back at Rhoando and the rebels, who called out to him. Only then did he see that a transparent barrier blocked them, and they could not enter.

Immediately after that, a notification rang.

[Only the pure-blooded Food God and those who have contributed significantly to the hunt of the divine dragon can enter the place where the oppressed and subdued item is located.]

Minhyuk's face twisted into a frown. This place seemed impossible to enter unless someone had hunted the divine dragon or was the Food God.

[142 hours. 34 minutes. 30 seconds.]

[142 hours. 34 minutes. 29 seconds.]

[142 hours. 34 minutes. 28 seconds.]

Then, his eyes turned toward the timer floating in the air, with a huge and unknown heart beating right beneath it.

"Everyone, wait there." Minhyuk stretched his hand out as he approached the beating heart.

Ring!

Minhyuk knew full well that he had to destroy the Heart of Oppression.

*‘If I destroy the Heart of Oppression, then does that mean all of these ingredients would be released in Utopia?’*

But right now, the king and the god of Utopia still had a ban on food. Minhyuk quickly walked to Rhoando and said, “Rhoando, you have to go and quickly deal with the king.”

“Wh- What about you, hyung-nim?”

“If we fail to destroy the Heart of Oppression within a week, then even if you become king and god, all of the ingredients in this world will disappear.”

“...!”

“...!”

Rhoando and the rebels looked at Minhyuk in shock. If that happened, it would be useless even if Rhoando became king or god.

“I will deal with the Heart of Oppression by myself.”

“Can you do it?”

“I’ll do my best.” Minhyuk did not have a complete guarantee. After all, he also had no idea about the variables that would affect the Heart of Oppression.

Rhoando met Minhyuk’s gaze.

“Now is the time for us to do what we must do.”

Although Rhoando was worried about Minhyuk, he was not wholly unaware of that fact. In the end, he agreed. “I understand, hyung-nim.”

Rhoando nodded solemnly at Minhyuk. The rebels also looked at Minhyuk and gave him a brief goodbye before turning around and leaving.

*'Rhoando will be able to do well.'*

From what Minhyuk had seen, Rhoando was a strong man. He would be able to do what he intended to do.

Minhyuk turned to look at all the ingredients scattered around the Heart of Oppression he had to destroy.

Drip, drip, drip—

Drool started dripping down his chin as he looked at all the ingredients around him.

*'Shall we try eating one?'* Minhyuk thought as his hands reached for the pork belly lying silently in a basket.

[The pork belly is under oppression.]

[You must destroy the Heart of Oppression before acquiring the ingredients.]

A frown immediately marred Minhyuk's face. He was happy that he could see the ingredients that he hadn't seen for quite some time now, but his happiness was immediately dragged down to the ground after realizing that he could not eat them.

Minhyuk turned to look at the Heart of Oppression. *'There's a cooking ingredient inside the Heart of Oppression, huh?'*

And this ingredient was made by putting the other ingredients under its oppression. There was no way that someone as quick-witted as Minhyuk would not understand what this implied.

*'There's a high chance that they ban food and put them here so that they could get this ingredient.'*

An ingredient made after putting all of the other food and ingredients under oppression for hundreds of years. For someone like Minhyuk, who loved to eat, he could not help but be curious about it.

Minhyuk approached the Heart of Oppression. Based on experience, this kind of thing would usually require an insane amount of hard work and labor. So, he raised his sword and swung toward the Heart of Oppression once.

[The Heart of Oppression is reacting.]

[The Heart of Oppression will be able to make the perfect ingredient in a week.]

Ring!

[The information on the Oppression's Cooking Ingredient that will be made in a week has been released.]

•*Your level will increase by 40.*

•*All of your stats will increase by 45%.*

- All of your skill levels will increase by +5.
- Your HP and MP will increase by 80%.
- A chosen skill will receive a +3 increase in level.
- Your divine power will increase by 50%.
- This ingredient is more special than any other ingredient in the world. Its taste is more delicious than ordinary ingredients. The taste would remain unchanged even if the Heart of Oppression is destroyed.

“...?!” Minhyuk trembled. *‘What?! All of the ingredients here?!’*

Minhyuk had never seen an ingredient like this in his entire life. Could an Absolute God-grade ingredient display an effect like this? The answer would probably be a resounding no.

If Minhyuk ate this ingredient, he could guarantee that he would become one of the Eight Pillars right away. No one would be able to fight against him, and he would reign supreme.

*‘Even Helenium.’*

That was how much power this ingredient possessed. Even if he ate it right away, Minhyuk would easily become a person with a power comparable to that of someone at Level 1,000.

“Don’t you want it?”

An unidentified voice rang in his ears.

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Hero King Rakk led the other heroes inside the Dungeon of Oppression.

*‘How did that trash, Rhoando, hunt the Divine Dragon?’* Rakk just could not understand. The Rhoando that they knew was someone who did not have the power to hunt the divine dragons.

As he pondered the matter, Rakk finally entered the deepest part of the dungeon. And just like he expected, someone was standing inside the place where all of the ingredients were left under oppression. From what it looked like, the man had just finished looking at the information on the Oppression’s cooking ingredient.

*‘I don’t know who this bastard is, but I have to stop him from destroying the Heart of Oppression.’* Rakk could tell from the way the man was trembling. *‘This man will not be able to destroy it.’*

He was probably expecting that he would be able to acquire the Oppression’s Cooking Ingredient in a week. And that expectation was holding him back from doing anything.

*'Of course, we will kill him on the day that the Oppression's Ingredient is born and take it away from him.'*

The transparent barrier stopped Rakk and the other heroes from entering the place where the man was. However, this transparent barrier would disappear on the day that the Oppression's Cooking Ingredient was born.

Rakk could probably tell what the trembling guy was feeling right now. He was feeling greedy.

"Don't you want it?"

The man turned to look at him.

"You will never see a second ingredient like that in the world. If you destroy the Heart of Oppression, the ingredient that would be born would not even have 10% of that power."

Rakk could see the flash of greed on the face of the unknown man as he nodded at him.

"Even if we're here, we won't be able to reach you. You're the only one who could get that ingredient."

The words that Rakk was saying were only half of the truth.

"So, it would be better for you to wait a week before taking the ingredient." Rakk smiled graciously. "What I'm saying here is you should enjoy your rewards."

The man, with a greedy look on his face, nodded. "My rewards..."

"That's right. You have killed the divine dragon to take that much."

"But who the hell are you guys?"

"We are Utopia's Heroes. And we praise you for the achievements that you have made."

The name "Hero" had a sacrificial tone, and that should be the case no matter who heard the word. Because of that, Rakk was sure that the man in front of them would not be able to guess what they were planning to do.

The man nodded. "That's right. It's my reward."

The greed on the man's face grew even deeper. Even his body started to tremble even more.

"That's right. You can become twice as strong as you are now."

Could he even handle that fact? There was a high chance that this man's mission was to return all ingredients to Utopia. However, Rakk was confident that no one could withstand the temptation of the Oppression's Ingredient.

"Fufu... That's right. I deserve to have the most delicious beef in the world!"

"...?"

“...?”

“...?”

The heroes doubted their ears for a moment. Why? Why did the man focus on the “flavor” rather than the power the ingredient could give?

“And it’s even a beef with flavor that I will never taste again! Kihyaaa!”

That was when they saw the man grip the sword tightly. Rakk and the heroes were immediately in a state of panic.

“W- wait. You won’t be able to get even 10% of the power of the Oppression’s Ingredient if you destroy the Heart of Oppression!”

“I already know that, though. Either way, it wouldn’t matter. The taste of the beef would remain the same whether it’s destroyed or not.”

“Then why was your body shaking and trembling earlier?”

“I was just too excited at the thought of eating beef. Kghhk~ It’s obvious that I wouldn’t be able to handle it if I gained that much power. Besides, eating beef would make me much happier than gaining power I can’t handle.”

“...?”

“...?”

“...?”

The faces of all of the heroes present twisted and turned ugly. The logic that the man in front of them offered was utterly ridiculous. He was happier to eat beef than to gain power that could help him take over the world? That was a lie, right?

Just as the question flashed in everyone’s head, the man proved his words by raising his sword and striking the Heart of Oppression.

Baaaaaaaang—

Chapter 980

Minhyuk struck the Heart of Oppression without any hesitation.

Baaaaaaaang—!

[The Heart of Oppression cannot easily be destroyed.]

[The Heart of Oppression will constantly interfere with you, who is set to destroy it through various methods.]

It was just as Minhyuk expected. The Heart of Oppression had put all of the ingredients under oppression and had been sucking up their powers for hundreds of years. It was only natural that it would be tough to destroy. But Minhyuk was not deterred. He continued to swing and hack at it with his sword.



Bang—!

Boom—!

Bang, bang—!

He did not waver as he swung his sword as swiftly as possible.

I'm going to eat delicious beef!

*'Of course, I'm sad too.'*

That was right. Minhyuk felt it was a pity that he wouldn't be able to get 100% of the power of the Oppression's Beef Grill Set. After all, at 100%, his level could increase by four just by eating it. His stats would also increase by 45% and his HP and MP by 80%. Even the level of his skills would increase by +5 while the chosen skill would increase by +3.

Minhyuk was sure he would leave everyone in the dust if he ate a dish from the Oppression's Ingredient.

*'Everything comes with a price. In Athenae, easily obtaining power like this would mean that you have to pay a price.'*

Take the Oppression's Beef Grill Set as an example. If Minhyuk ate this, he would grow strong. However, the Eight Pillars might target him and knock on his doors. Aside from that, there was also an unpredictable system. There was a chance that it could overwhelm and even restrict Minhyuk.

*'Instead of only one delighting in something delicious, it's better to share the delight of eating something delicious with everyone.'*

Minhyuk was convinced that Utopia, a world where food had been banned and oppressed, had some specialty. If he ate the Oppression's Beef Grill Set, not only would all of the ingredients disappear, but even that specialty would disappear.

*'I don't want to be in a situation where others would not be able to eat just because I want to become stronger.'*

This was the greatest reason for Minhyuk's choice. Minhyuk knew hunger better than anybody else. He could not allow others to live in eternal hunger just because he wanted to become stronger. And he also wanted to see it.

*'The people of Utopia laughing and eating happily.'*

Minhyuk tightened his grip on his sword, his strikes growing fiercer and fiercer by the second.

Bang—!

Bang, bang, bang—!

He would let them know the pleasure of eating!

Bang—!

The feeling of delight when one came back from work and sat around with their families to talk while having a meal and eating delicious dishes.

Boom—!

Boom, boom, boom—!

A small smile appeared on Minhyuk's face. He could feel a slight jolt from the Heart of Oppression with every hit he landed.

“I understand now.”

He heard the voice of one of the people who introduced themselves as the heroes of Utopia. Minhyuk did not trust them at all. He had been vigilant ever since they introduced themselves as “heroes.”

[Hero King Rakk. Level 808.]

First, the level of the man named Rakk, the very same man trying to talk to him, was very unusual. And it was not just him.

[Hero Ender. Level 777.]

[Hero Broden. Level 786.]

[Hero Iyasdar. Level 791.]

Even the level of the other heroes who accompanied him was not low. On top of that, this was the place “where something was being oppressed and subdued.” It was obvious that they had a purpose for coming to such a place.

“You're the Food God.”

Rakk knew that only the Food God would show such a crazy desire for food, even in the face of a strong power. At this moment, Rakk decided to put away all sense of pretense.

“Ah. I will never forget it. The god who only knows how to eat.”

He realized that the one who killed the divine dragon was the Food God.

“I don't know how you killed the divine dragon. But if you back off now, then I won't kill you.” Rakk smiled viciously. “Then, the Heart of Oppression will not be destroyed. Ah, you should know that the more you try to destroy it, the more it will tighten its hold on you and tempt you.”

“Even if you destroy the Heart of Oppression, you will still die under our hands. This transparent barrier would disappear when the Heart of Oppression is destroyed, or the ingredient is born.”

The Heart of Oppression was already 95% completed. If it were broken, they would still be able to remake it, and it would even be completed much faster.

“Was it you?” Minhyuk asked, his face twisting into an ugly expression. His sharp and vicious glare turned to look at the Hero King Rakk and the other heroes.

“...”

“...”

Minhyuk’s CHA, a stat that affected his majesty and momentum and even his battle intent, had already gone beyond anyone’s imagination. The battle intent that Minhyuk released weighed upon the heroes in the dungeon.

*‘What the hell? His gaze...’*

*‘How can a god like the Food God show this much killing intent...?’*

Minhyuk took one slow step after another until he reached the portion of the transparent barrier that blocked the heroes.

“I promise...”

“...”

“...”

“...that I will kill you all with my own hands.”

An indescribable anger bubbled deep inside Minhyuk. These people controlled everyone's food just to fulfill their selfish greed.

But then, Rakk giggled. “Pfft...!”

The killing intent that he had released just now was horrifying. But that was all. The man in front of them did not even look like he was any more substantial than Rakk.

“Just with you alone?”

He was alone, while there were four people on their side. They were also hailed as the heroes of Utopia—Utopia’s Hero was not an empty title. Yet the man, Minhyuk, just told them that he would personally kill them.

“Aaaah. Yes, that’s right. You have a way to deal with us.” Rakk flashed a dark smile at Minhyuk. “You can probably do it if you wait a week and eat the ingredient that would be born from the Heart of Oppression. Fufufufufu!”

Rakk’s mocking laughter resonated in the area.

“Of course, we would still be able to kill you by then. Huh? You should remember this well.” Rakk guffawed. “I have more than 4,000 half-gods and half-transcendentals under my command.”

Rakk was extremely confident with his influence and power.

“And I also have a huge army with more than half a million troops that would move with just a single word from me.”

Although he did not know, Minhyuk had an army of more than one million under his command.

“Want to hear something more amazing?”

Rakk, with a greedy expression, pointed at the transparent barrier and said, “After eating that ingredient, I will kill the god of this land. Not only that, I will move to your world and become the Battle God.”

“???”

Minhyuk tilted his head when he heard Rakk’s ambitious words. Battle God? What an extremely familiar god, no? At this moment, Rakk had revealed to Minhyuk a part of the reason why he created the Heart of Oppression.

“From what I heard, the Battle God is a great monarch who leads thousands of gods under his command. He’s an Absolute God who rules all the world’s armies!”

“???”

“I will be that Battle God. Once I become the Battle God, a bug like you will stand no chance!”

The other heroes were also giggling.

“A trivial and useless god like you would not even be able to make eye contact with a great god like the Battle God.”

“Sir Rakk is the man who will become the Battle God. It’s an honor for such a lowly god like you to even be able to converse with him like this.”

“Have you ever been able to talk to the Battle God before, huh? You must not have had the chance. He won’t deal with such a trivial and useless god like you! Hahaha!”

Minhyuk was feeling so freaking honored because of them that he was rendered speechless.

“I also know the Battle God.”

After all, Minhyuk was the Battle God himself. He had all the qualifications to become the great sovereign who would lead all of the gods.

Rakk grew even prouder. “Even though you’re just the Food God, the fact that you killed the divine dragon means you have a use. If you choose to become my dog and stop destroying the Heart of Oppression, I will leave a place for you once I become the Battle God.”

Minhyuk was none other than the Battle God that he was talking about. It was funny to see Rakk babbling about giving the Battle God a position under him. However, Minhyuk had judged that he would gain nothing if he revealed that he was the Battle God right here and *now*. As he listened to the heroes weave their fantasies, Minhyuk’s head began to spin and weigh the pros and cons of the situation.

*‘Would it be beneficial for us to have them come here?’*

Of course, the “them” he was talking about was the people of the Beyond the Heavens Empire. Minhyuk, who finally found the answer, nodded to himself.

Unfortunately, he couldn't give his orders to his people or the players under his command because he was in Utopia, a different world from theirs. And since he couldn't even use the skill that would allow him to summon Spear God Ben, he would not be able to use the Almond of Subordinates. However, that did not mean that there was no way at all.

Minhyuk quickly disappeared from Rakk and the other heroes' view. He logged out. And around ten minutes later, Minhyuk returned.

"He must have needed the time to think." Rakk snickered. He thought that Minhyuk would soon kneel in front of him and beg.

However, Minhyuk grinned at them and said, "I told you. I promise that I will kill you with my own hands."

After leaving those words behind, he turned around and began attacking the Heart of Oppression again. Minhyuk was the type of person who would always follow through with the words that he had said. Not only that, he was also the type of person who would finish what he had started.

Bang, bang, bang—!

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At the same time.

Genie hurriedly called for an emergency meeting after receiving a call from her dear boyfriend, Minhyuk, also known as the Battle God and the Emperor of the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

"I believe all of you understand the current situation, right?"

Of course, all the players and NPCs, including the demoted Brod, who immediately ran the moment he was notified of the meeting, were present.

Sitting among them, Haze was tapping the calculator in her head furiously.

"To deal with Hero King Rakk and the heroes, it's only natural for us to gather the team of our empire's best."

But if they went to that world filled with uncertainties, they might get hurt again. Also, the best of the best of the Beyond the Heavens Empire were those who could raise enormous funds to help the empire daily.

"His Majesty is in danger. Shouldn't we go right away?"

Some of the NPCs nodded in agreement to Brod's words. However, Haze remained calm as he pondered the matter deeply.

First, they had to determine how many people would go. Then, they had to decide who should go and who would be most efficient.

*'Right now, the Luvien Empire and the Beyond the Heavens Empire are in a truce. There's no one trying to fight a war against us.'*

Not only did she have to take into account the previously mentioned matters, but she also had to take into account Hero King Rakk, the heroes, and the countless other variables that Minhyuk was facing right now. It did not take too long for Haze to conclude.

*‘It’s okay for us to send many of the Beyond the Heavens Empire’s talents to that place.’*

Haze not only considered Minhyuk’s safety and rescue but also considered the material benefits that they would receive.

*‘His Majesty has developed a close relationship with the man who would most likely become the god of that new world. This means that His Majesty will probably have him under his command.’*

Once Minhyuk sat on the Battle God’s throne completely, there was a chance he would have the entire Utopia in his hands. If that were the case, then how much would they be able to profit from it?

*‘Perhaps we would gain over hundreds of billions of platinum?’*

If Beyond the Heavens Empire could interact and maintain a relationship with Utopia, they could gain something the Luvien Empire did not have.

The NPCs and players all turned to look at Haze with nervous expressions. Haze usually opposed sending the talents of the Beyond the Heavens Empire out. She did not want to send them carelessly anywhere, and since they were strong, she always tended to select the fewest people to deal with the matter. This was because this was the most efficient way.

But today was different.

“We will send everyone, except for the least number of talents needed to maintain the function of the empire, to Utopia.”

Haze had never sent a large number of people out since she always said that having the least number of people was the most efficient. But now, Haze gave her approval, which corresponded to Minhyuk’s approval, to send all of the Beyond the Heavens Empire’s high-rankers and NPCs.

Haze smiled silently and said, “Let’s go and suck every last bit of profit that we can get from that place.”