

Gourmet 981

Chapter 982

The heroes of Utopia were the chosen ones.

If one were a half-god, half-transcendental, they would already be considered to have fulfilled the most basic requirement to be a chosen one. However, not all of the half-god, half-transcendental beings were outstanding individuals. That was why there was also a second condition that they had to fulfill. And that was to pass the trials of the Tower of Heroes.

In Utopia's thousands of years of history, only around a hundred individuals were able to pass the trials of the Tower of Heroes. Those who passed the trials of the Tower of Heroes in the current era became the heroes who ruled Utopia.

Around 300 years ago, a mighty hero appeared in the world. This man broke the record and became the fastest individual to clear the trials of the Tower of Heroes. He even killed a Tower Commander, a being that only descended every thousand years inside the tower.

The entire Utopia was left in shock. The Tower Commander was a symbol of Utopia's strength. Because of that, the other heroes began to follow this man, who defeated this symbol of power and strength. This man became the de facto ruler of Utopia and God's puppet. The people called him the Hero King.

And Hero King Rakk heard stories about another world.

'The humans and elves in the world outside are infinitely weaker than the people of Utopia.'

'They kicked out the hybrids from their world because of their inferiority complex.'

It was a world where those weaker than the Utopia residents lived. When Rakk learned of that fact, he thought he could become god not only in this world but also in the entire universe.

But now, Utopia's strongest, the man who could easily crush and kill thousands of Utopians with a single word, felt fear for the first time in his life.

'W- what...'

The most shocking part was the fact that the subject of that fear was the Food God.

Rakk's memories of that time were still very clear. He could clearly remember the descent of a true and complete god. Many people had high expectations for the descent of a true god. However, the god that appeared in front of them was not strong. He just liked to eat.

Rakk laughed at him back then. *'A f*cking idiotic god.'*

Then, Rakk spread the word throughout the world. He declared that the Food God was weak and trivial. He said he was the most useless god in the world, where strength is power.

But when he caught sight of the gaze of the current era's Food God, Rakk was left terrified and overwhelmed. The reason why Minhyuk could overwhelm Rakk with just his momentum alone lay in his CHA. His CHA easily went beyond the CHA of other gods.

The panicked Rakk quickly calmed down. *'No. This bastard will not be able to kill me.'*

The Food God was alone. He, on the other hand, had the other heroes with him. Not only that, the Heroes' Army would also arrive soon.

'This bastard had only killed the divine dragon. Compared to me...!' This thought flashed in Rakk's head.

But then, a sword appeared in Minhyuk's other hand with a wave. This sword was none other than the Sword of Aeon. Minhyuk usually used the Continent Destroyer Sword as his primary weapon and would just swap it with the Sword of Aeon if the situation called for it. And the moment this sword made its appearance.

[The Hero King's Sword is resonating!]

[The Hero King's Armor is resonating!]

The sharpness and function of the sword and armor Rakk and the heroes had equipped were temporarily rendered useless.

Rakk's eyes grew wide. *'My sword and armor are shaking in fear?'*

It was utterly ridiculous. He had never heard of a sword and an armor trembling in fear. Even so, he still was not worried.

'Even if this bastard attacks me, he will not be able to inflict a huge damage...'

He could barely even finish the thought.

"Sword of Carnage."

With the effects of Dual Swordsmanship in effect, more than sixty attacks landed on Rakk's body. And this was when his defensive armor's defensive power was dragged back to one.

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

"Keuaaaaaaaaaack!" Rakk screamed from the pain.

The other heroes looked at Rakk in shock. In their eyes, Rakk was not only a pillar of spiritual support but also the highest and strongest man in the world. Seeing Rakk screaming in pain jolted them awake.

"Bastard!"

"How dare you! Sir Rakk!"

The shocked heroes charged at Minhyuk. However, their attacks were useless. After all, their swords only had one attack power right now. Also, Minhyuk, the one whom they were attacking, had the Transcendental's Armor equipped. It was an armor with a highly overpowered defensive power that most attacks could not easily damage.

Minhyuk quickly ignored the damage that they had inflicted upon him. Either way, it would be alright. Even if he received damage, he could trigger Slaughterer's Absorption by attacking Rakk and recover from his wounds.

Of course, Minhyuk knew. *'I can never win against Rakk.'*

Rakk was a high-level NPC with a level that exceeded Level 800. And Minhyuk's superiority only lay in his outstanding artifacts and skills. Once the Sword of Aeon's power that neutralized his opponents' weapons and defensive armor disappeared, Minhyuk would be in danger.

At the very least, Minhyuk was confident that the people of the Beyond the Heavens Empire would arrive soon. It did not matter to him how many people came. If Brod, Spear God Ben, and Luo came, Minhyuk would be at an advantage and be able to take control of this battle.

So, he needed to find a way to hold out until the people of Beyond the Heavens Empire arrived. Minhyuk ran several simulations in his head until he finally chose one method. At the same time, the word "Destruction" appeared on the blade of his sword.

'I'll just go and bash one bastard.'

Minhyuk approached Rakk, staggering after being hit by the Sword of Carnage.

'Why- Why...?!'

Rakk couldn't understand, even after seeing the other heroes attack Minhyuk non-stop. Even though the damage he received did not seem too big, why was he ignoring them and coming toward him?!

Rakk immediately raised his sword to defend against Minhyuk's attack. But Minhyuk was a step faster than him.

Bang, bang, bang, bang—!

Lightning fell and struck Rakk. Rakk was left dazed from the excruciating pain that he had never experienced in his life before.

"Sir Rakk!"

"Hero King!"

The heroes hurriedly tried to protect Rakk, but it did not work. Minhyuk was like a wild and unbridled colt. But at that moment, the power that restricted Rakk and the other heroes slowly disappeared.

Slaaaaaash—!

Finally, one of the heroes' attacks inflicted massive damage upon Minhyuk. Despite the blood in his mouth, Rakk cackled. "Now, you bastard...!"

"Shut up."

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—!

But Minhyuk continued to ignore the attacks sent by the other heroes to attack Rakk alone. At that moment, Minhyuk said, "Viel's Puppet Doll. Ego Chain Sickle."

Envoy Viel could deal the highest and most significant damage. As for the Ego Chain Sickle, it was an item that could not be broken easily, even after many attacks. Even though the other heroes did not cause much damage, the fact that the two were able to restrict them from approaching Minhyuk.

While the two kept the others busy, Minhyuk kept on attacking Rakk. And Rakk, who was constantly being hit and beaten, felt an unbearable humiliation wash over him.

“How dare you! Do you not know who I am...?!”

Then, something shocking happened. Two streams of light rose from Rakk’s body. One was a white light, and the other was a black light that represented a transcendental. Rakk was a half-god, half-transcendental. However, one special attribute helped him become the Hero King.

[The Hero King’s Special Attribute has been triggered.]

[Once the Hero King’s Special Attribute has been triggered, any attack landing on Rakk that did not come from a god will decrease by 70%. His attacks will also become 50% stronger.]

[Once the Hero King’s Special Attribute has been triggered, any attack landing on Rakk that did not come from a transcendental will decrease by 70%. His attacks will also become 50% stronger.]

In fact, the words *half-god*, *half-transcendental* could not appropriately describe Rakk. Although the blood of both beings ran through his veins, it was more apt to say that he was both a god and a transcendental.

And because of this particular attribute, no one could deal with Rakk. Even if a god came, since they did not have the power of an intangible, their attacks would still be 70% less powerful, while Rakk’s own would become 50% stronger. Of course, the same was true for a transcendental.

“I am the superior race.”

He was a true god and a true transcendental. And Rakk expected that the man in front of him, the Food God, did not have the blood of a transcendental flowing in him. Rakk slashed Minhyuk with all his might. But...

[The Hero King’s Battle Intent is responding to a transcendental! You cannot inflict 50% more damage!]

“...?!”

Rakk was left frozen for a moment. Were his ears playing with him? According to the notifications that he heard, Minhyuk was a transcendental being. That was impossible. He was nothing but a mere Food God. And he was not even one of the hybrids. So, how come he was considered a transcendental being? And Rakk was able to find the answers to his question not long after.

“N- No way...?”

“Intangible Sword.”

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

Hundreds of invisible swords slashed at Rakk. At this moment, Rakk, who was being beaten one-sidedly, finally caught sight of Minhyuk’s armor. The armor carried the power of a transcendental being.

At that moment, the white light strengthened and tried to reduce the damage brought about by Minhyuk’s attack.

[The Hero King’s Battle Intent is responding to a god! You cannot inflict 50% more damage!]

Minhyuk was a true god, so there was no way that his attacks would be reduced or Rakk’s damage would increase. At this moment, Rakk felt he had met an opponent he should not have met.

Minhyuk found himself in a very unexpected situation. *‘It seems like the Hero King’s Special Attribute is the power that supported Rakk.’*

Gods and transcendentals were existences that had never gotten along since time immemorial. Simply put, there should never have been a god like Minhyuk, who would wear armor made by a transcendental.

‘That power has collapsed.’

The main reason why Minhyuk always held back on using his skills when fighting against Named Monsters or high-leveled NPC was because he wanted to use them at the right time. After all, using one’s skill indiscriminately was a shortcut to one’s defeat.

However, Minhyuk has a lot of outstanding skills that could easily surpass and overwhelm NPCs at Level 800 or higher. But this was only possible if he was allowed to use his skills as he pleased.

Knowing that his strong allies would come soon, Minhyuk decided to go all out. He bombarded Rakk with all of the skills that he had on hand.

“Supreme Overlord’s Technique.”

Crackle—!

Never-ending attacks landed on Rakk and put pressure on him.

“You bastard!”

“How dare you do that to Sir Rakk!”

Slaaaash—!

Bang, bang, bang, bang—!

The other heroes continued to attack Minhyuk like crazy.

[Your HP has dropped below 50%.]

[Your HP has dropped below 45%.]

But Minhyuk did not stop attacking Rakk.

“Sword of Frenzy.”

Stab—!

Rakk, who could not help but receive the attacks, triggered another power in his body.

[The Hero King’s Pride has been triggered.]

[The Hero King’s Pride increases your stats by 2% per second.]

[Rakk’s stats have increased by 2%.]

[Rakk’s stats have increased by 2%.]

[Rakk’s stats...]

[Rakk’s stats...]

Rakk's anger had already reached its peak. This bastard in front of him was nothing but a mere bug. The only reason he was being rendered helpless was that he was not given any time to respond to the onslaught of skills coming his way. As soon as this bastard's skills were used up, he could easily crush him.

Rakk, with the power of the buff boosting him, was confident that he could crush this man all at once.

[Battle God's Order.]

[You can cancel all the buffs or abnormal status applied to your opponent.]

"...?"

Minhyuk opened his mouth, and the power surging within Rakk's body instantly disappeared. Of course, he did not stop there. Minhyuk triggered another skill.

"Sword of Absolute Death."

Lightning bolts fell from the sky and instantly put Rakk in misery. Ultimately, Rakk could only think, '*Why- Why me alone...?*'

Minhyuk knew how to instill fear in people like Rakk and the heroes. He knew how to drag these people, who have never known fear, down. He was well-versed in maintaining the upper hand even if he was alone.

Slash, slash, slash, slash—!

Minhyuk hacked and slashed at Rakk's body non-stop. Despite having a high regenerative ability, Rakk's blood continued to spurt out of his body. In the end, he was left crawling on the ground from the onslaught of the attacks. But the attacks did not stop even after Rakk was stabbed in the back.

"S- Stop. Please stop...!" Rakk began to beg.

This was the first time someone like Rakk, who had never felt fear before, had been unable to control his emotions.

'If his head is calm and rational, he will understand that I will lose once I have exhausted my skills.'

However, fear has consumed Rakk. And this fear had completely taken over his rationality. Minhyuk did not stop even after hearing Rakk's pleas. At this point, Rakk's entire body was covered with stabs. He looked like he was about to die. The other heroes were all left terrified when they saw Rakk's state.

"P- Please. Please stop..."

"Please let Sir Rakk go."

"Please stop."

The heroes all fell on their knees. As mentioned before, Rakk was the heroes' pillar of spiritual support. The thought of him dying in front of them made them all kneel to plead.

But Minhyuk continued to attack Rakk. When the heroes tried to attack him again, he instantly snarled.

“Lay a hand on me, and I will kill this bastard right away.”

“...”

“...”

The heroes had no choice but to stop and continue to sit on the sidelines. The truth was, Minhyuk had already used up almost 90% of his skills in just five minutes. Once Rakk was made aware of this, Minhyuk was 100% sure he would be forced to log out.

“P- Please, I beg you! STOP!”

But Rakk’s fear had a firm grip on him to the point that he could not see the truth. In his eyes, Minhyuk was like a demon. He was a powerful demon standing above him.

At that moment, Rakk’s HP started to recover rapidly. Minhyuk was still constantly attacking him with Destruction. However, with Rakk’s nerves repaired, his motor skills and instincts helped him avoid the attacks. Because of that, many of the attacks started to miss. The worst part? Minhyuk’s damage could not keep up with the speed of his recovery.

Because of that, the pain that he was suffering from gradually began to subside. With the pain subsiding, Rakk’s consciousness and spirit also started to return. The fear that had gripped him slowly receded, and he finally understood the situation before him.

‘Was he aiming for this...?’

Rakk understood that the man in front of him had deliberately used all of his strength briefly to put intense pressure on him and instill fear in him. After this, this man would have no other special skills. Rakk’s face grew ugly the moment he realized this fact.

Then, the sound of footsteps rushing inside the dungeon rang. The Heroes’ Army had finally arrived with troops at around Level 700. A vicious and grotesque smile graced Rakk’s face. He knew that the tides of this battle had finally turned.

This useless god had tricked him in front of him and even forced him to beg for his life. But now, it was time for payback. With a vicious smile on his face, Rakk grabbed his sword. He would kill this man. As if following him, the heroes and the Heroes’ Army all held their swords and aimed at Minhyuk.

Radon, leading the Heroes’ Army, was also one of Utopia’s heroes. He and the Level, 700 troops of the Heroes’ Army, were all powerful individuals and had defied the leader, Hero King Rakk, who led this army and the rest of the heroes.

He and the Heroes’ Army were slaughtering the village, which went against the heroes' orders, and dared to eat cooked potatoes when Radon received a summoning order from Rakk. They immediately rushed out the moment they received the order, an act that showed how much they revered and worshiped Rakk.

Rakk had told them he would become the Battle God and make the world kneel beneath his feet. But when Radon and the army entered the Dungeon of Oppression, they were greeted with a completely unbelievable scene.

A terrified Rakk was slumped on the ground and pleading for mercy. There were even the other heroes kneeling, helpless and unable to do anything, begging with both of their hands for the man to stop attacking Rakk.

At that moment, Radon felt awe for the man who had single-handedly brought the Hero King and the other heroes to this state. He admired the man even though he was their enemy.

And after hearing Rakk's words, Radon immediately understood the situation.

“Bastard! I know that you no longer have any power left to use! Get ready; I will tear you apart for mocking me! Since you can no longer use your skills, I will easily rip you apart.”

Radon was a very realistic and rational man. He did not know how this situation came to be, but he understood that the heroes had lost the war even if they had won this battle. He could see the mocking smile gracing the lips of the man wearing the cape with a fork and knife crossed together.

“Everyone, kill him!”

“As you command!” Radon shouted and charged forward with the 4,000-strong troops of the Heroes' Army behind him.

But the man smiled at Rakk and said, “There's still one left.”

The man raised his sword, pointed it at the charging Heroes' Army behind Rakk, and said, “Calamity.”

Chapter 983

The Eight Pillars supported and stood at the center of the world. Each and every one of them was an outstanding individual. Their greatest representative would be Athenae.

According to the records, each of the Eight Pillars had at least one power that represented themselves. This power was known to carry a force far beyond the power of an Absolute God's Secret. The power representing the Eight Pillars was called “Disaster.”

And Minhyuk? Minhyuk was the owner of the Ninth Disaster, Calamity.

[Calamity.]

[All of your stats have decreased by 15.]

[Your level will go down by one.]

[Your total HP and MP volume will decrease by 1% permanently.]

Even though Calamity was a potent force, Minhyuk was reluctant to use it. Why? Because he had to shoulder a considerable penalty whenever he used it. Minhyuk would often weigh all of the benefits and losses he would gain from using this skill.

‘I already obtained the Oppression's Beef Grilling Set.’

With the Oppression's Beef Grilling Set in hand, Minhyuk would be able to increase his level by five and increase his total HP and MP by a significant amount. And thanks to the Heart of Oppression's praise, the beef set's effects had grown infinitely better than before.

The penalty he would receive would be considered light compared to the benefits he had already received. Besides, the Heroes' Army had troops at Level 700 and above. They were a strong army. But this was a dungeon, and Calamity was an AOE attack skill. This was the best place to use it to bomb the enemies.

Minhyuk thought, *'It will be difficult for me to meet this many strong people in the future.'*

Slash—!

Crackle—!

A sword engulfed in blazing flames fell from the sky and struck Rakk. The moment the sword made contact, the blazing flames shot out and devoured an entire five-meter radius area. But that was not the end. A thousand swords engulfed in blazing flames fell. Around 30% of the blazing swords exploded into flames and devoured the enemy with an additional 1,000% attack power four times in a row.

Crackle—!

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

Rumble—!

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack!”

“A- Aaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Kghhhk!”

Screams were ripped apart from the mouths of the troops of the Heroes' Army, who were just showing off their majesty. Rakk and the heroes looked at Minhyuk in terror when they saw the flames devour the Heroes' Army.

'Im- impossible...'

It was a terrible power. The Heroes' Army crumbled just like that. It was as if powerful waves were sweeping them away.

Minhyuk's gaze remained calm and indifferent as he looked at them. Of course, Puppet Viel and the Ego Chain Sickle were not to be outdone. They continued to attack the Heroes' Army amidst the explosions.

Since they had reached Level 700, there was no way that Calamity could kill them all at once. But it could be considered a done deal with Puppet Viel and the Ego Chain Sickle, two beings that could deal a high amount of damage in one go, attacking them.

[You have killed Rhama.]

[You have gained 1,013,000,000 EXP.]

[You have gained 1,300 platinum.]

[You have killed Abheq.]

[You have gained 1,501,000,031 EXP.]

[You have killed Cramian.]

[You have gained 1,203,000,133 EXP.]

Minhyuk also jumped into the flames and joined the hunt. With the word “Explosion” carved on the blade of his sword, he went wild like a rampaging beast. He only fell back after the power of Calamity slowly subsided.

Minhyuk frowned. *‘I think I’m in trouble.’*

He had killed around seven hundred troops from the Heroes’ Army with the help of Calamity. However, he could see how they were recovering rapidly the moment the aftermath of the Calamity disappeared. Of course, the same was true for Rakk.

‘I think it’s amazing that I can hold on for this long, no?’

Minhyuk used up all his skills in less than ten minutes. Now, he had no skills left at his disposal.

Meanwhile, Rakk, gripped with fear, thought, *‘We have to kill him no matter what.’*

Rakk realized that he would die if he did not kill the man in front of him.

‘Now, he has nothing left.’

He could tell that Minhyuk no longer had any skills left after using his skills in a frenzy earlier. If he still had some left, he would have already used it right after the aftermath of Calamity ended. Only then would he be able to kill a lot more people. And unlike Minhyuk, Rakk still had plenty of skills available to him.

Minhyuk felt cold sweat drip down his back the moment he saw them recover rapidly from their injuries.

“BASTARD!!!” Rakk shouted in fury as he stood up and tried to run toward Minhyuk. However, an unknown and powerful force appeared and pressed down on him. Rakk, who was left confused and feeling strange, looked to his side.

Rakk’s eyes widened when he saw a huge man, around 15 centimeters taller than him, standing beside him. The man only placed one hand on his shoulder but was already immobile.

The gigantic man pressed down on him further. And with a cold and sharp glare, he said, “To dare shout in front of His Majesty’s presence, what an impertinent fool.”

“...?”

Rakk was confused. The words “His Majesty” obviously referred to an emperor. There was no concept of an emperor in Utopia. However, Rakk was aware that one existed in the other world. The emperor was the father of an empire. He was the sovereign who led and ruled more than ten million people.

But who was the emperor? Rakk, with an expression of disbelief, made eye contact with Minhyuk. However, even if this man was an emperor, he believed the situation would not change. This was

because he wanted to become the Battle God. And the Battle God was a being that stood above the masses, a position that even an emperor could not dare to look up to.

Rakk tried to shake off the hand on his shoulder and get up, but he was attacked.

Stab—!

“Hoho. You controlled and banned the food in this world to become the Battle God? Hey, punk. Don’t you know that the person standing before you is the Battle God?”

“...?”

Rakk heard something completely unbelievable. Who was the Battle God? He could understand who they were referring to when they said “His Majesty.” But who was it that they were saying was the Battle God?

Rakk turned stiff the moment he turned his head and saw several people appear around him. Some of these people were comparable, if not stronger than the heroes. There were even some who seemed like they would not fall behind when fighting against the Heroes’ Army.

At this moment, Rakk realized it would be hard for them to gain victory. It would be tough for him to fight against the first man who appeared and put pressure on his shoulder. And it was made even harder with the appearance of the old man standing beside the gigantic man.

‘What the hell? What bullshit are they saying? I don’t understand what they mean by mentioning the Battle God...’

Rakk knew that he had to hurry. He did not even spare any thoughts about the other heroes; he was just busy trying to find ways for himself to live. After all, he was self-centered and greedy.

He tried to pull out and tear the “Path to the Sky,” a parchment that could take him out of this place.

[Battle God’s Steps.]

[Everyone will kneel in front of the Battle God!]

[The power in his voice has the power to encompass everything.]

Thuuuuuuud—!

Rakk was forced to kneel before Minhyuk, who activated the Battle God’s power. Not only him, but the other heroes and the troops of the Heroes’ Army were rendered helpless and unable to move. They could only kneel from the overwhelming momentum that suddenly appeared and weighed down on them.

The Battle God, whom Rakk aimed to become, was a great sovereign with thousands of gods under his command. He knew full well how great and unique the existence of the Battle God was. However, he confidently declared that the Battle God was an incompetent and useless fool.

Rakk, who ambitiously declared that he would become the Battle God, did not want to believe the reality of the matter in front of him. Because of that, he was left confused and in a daze. He even vehemently denied the truth even after he had experienced the power of the Battle God.

“What you’re thinking is correct. I am the Battle God.”

“...!” Rakk looked at Minhyuk in disbelief.

Minhyuk looked at him with arrogance and nobility and ordered coldly, “Destroy them.”

And those who were waiting for Minhyuk to give his orders began to move. The people of the Beyond the Heavens Empire did not kill Rakk. They drove past him and quickly began to wipe out the Heroes’ Army standing behind him. Meanwhile, the “heroes” of Utopia fell helplessly under the hands of the gigantic man and the old man. It looked like children fighting against experienced adults.

At this moment, Rakk realized that he was witnessing the true power of the Battle God. Rakk and the heroes might have the advantage in numbers, but Minhyuk had a lot of people with powers comparable to his own.

Sword of the Gods Luo used his tremendous speed to kill his enemies, while Elizabeth controlled the system to prevent them from using their skills. Ali also came along. He bombarded the Heroes’ Army with magical attacks and put pressure on them. Death, who also came along, summoned his white Death Knights, who used their powerful swordsmanship to deal with the enemies.

“Keuaaaaaaaaaack!”

“Uwaaaaaaaaack!”

Rakk’s face grew ugly as the screams of his army rang loudly in the dungeon. He has lived for hundreds of years and had never even entertained the thought of dying. So, seeing the people around him die one after another was bringing him deeper and greater fear. Rakk hurriedly tried to think of a way to escape this situation.

“Everything... we’re wrong about everything.” Rakk honestly admitted it.

He was the one who could not do anything about the man who was both the Food God and the Battle God. In a way, one could consider him highly sly and underhanded. Even though his men were dying, he was here praying and begging for his survival.

Minhyuk raised one hand, signaling his men to stop for now.

“Please. Please spare me just this once. If you let me live, I will stay by your side forever. I will even sign a contract of obedience with you if you so wish.”

The Hero King, who could rival the Sky of Utopia, was now crying and begging Minhyuk to spare him. And he was earnest about it.

“You will need our help to correct and bring Utopia back on the right path.”

This was the truth. It was evident that the existence of the heroes had kept the balance in Utopia.

“I will help you to become the Battle God.”

Based on Rakk’s observation, the man in front of him might be the Battle God, but he did not have his full power. If he were the true and complete Battle God, then wouldn’t he have thousands of gods under his command?

Because of that, Rakk was confident that this man in front of him would need his and the other heroes' help. Why? Because Rakk knew that no one could replace his existence in this world.

Brod, Ben, and the others from the Beyond the Heavens Empire stood quietly. They watched from the sidelines, leaving everything up to Minhyuk to decide.

Just like that, Rakk saw his potential survival. He quickly kowtowed and said, "I will obediently follow your orders for the rest of my life. So, please show mercy!"

At the same time, the other heroes and the Heroes' Army, who were bleeding all over, kowtowed.

'If I don't die and spend the rest of my life by the side of the Battle God, then it wouldn't be so bad either.'

Anyway, the Heart of Oppression had already been destroyed. Perhaps he could live a better life by solidifying his position beside the Battle God right here and now. Maybe he would also be allowed to crush many people like before.

Rakk looked forward to Minhyuk's answer. He was confident that no one would refuse a talent like him. Besides, Minhyuk would be able to kill him any time he wanted if he signed a contract of obedience with him. If he was loyal to this man and he took his fancy, then perhaps he would be able to enjoy a rich and lavish life, too.

"Rakk."

Then, a soft and gentle voice that could be said to be comparable to a mother's gentle words rang. Hearing the gentleness in the man's voice, Rakk was convinced that his predictions were not wrong.

He saw that Brod, Ben, and the rest of the people of the Beyond the Heavens Empire did not show any signs of trying to stop Minhyuk. There was not even a shred of surprise on their faces. At this moment, Rakk realized that the man's orders in front of him were absolute.

Unbeknownst to him, none of the people from Beyond the Heavens Empire showed surprise for an entirely different reason.

"*Sob, sob, sob*– Yes, Battle God!" Rakk cried. Relief enveloped his body and washed away his fear after realizing he could continue living.

Then, he heard Minhyuk's soft voice say, "Raise your head."

Rakk, enamored by the kind and gentle voice, slowly raised his head. It was just as he expected. There was no way he could resist getting a talent like him on his side.

"Yes, Battle God. From this point forward, I..." Rakk trailed off when he saw the cold expression on Minhyuk's face once his head was raised fully.

"Yes, just like that. It would make it easier for me to kill you."

The people of Beyond the Heavens Empire knew that Minhyuk would make this choice. That was why none of them showed any surprise on their faces.

And Rakk? His expression twisted and turned extremely ugly.

The Beyond the Heavens Empire certainly needed more talent. If they took Hero King Rakk, the heroes, and the Heroes' Army in, they could create an order comparable to the Sword of the Gods. But when it came to people, Minhyuk clearly distinguished who to bring in as allies.

Of course, there were several cases where Minhyuk turned an enemy into an ally through *God and Knight*. But there was a difference in their "nature." Those he chose to take in through God and Knight were those with a good heart.

Obren was once hailed as an evil spirit incarnate and a demon for killing millions of people in the past. Elizabeth was also in a similar situation. However, Minhyuk found out that they never wanted that to happen. Compared to them, Rakk's nature was complete and utter trash.

'That's right. He will become my dog if he signs a contract of obedience with me. He might even play a huge role when fighting on the battlefield.'

But Rakk treated the hybrids like they were nothing but mere bugs. He even controlled their food for hundreds of years to satisfy his greed. Would he regret his actions and live a better life? That was impossible. A person's innate nature was hard to change.

If Minhyuk chose to welcome Rakk, he would have to bear that burden. But he did not want to. Besides, he was the type of person who would never take back something that he had already promised to do. And Minhyuk had told them, *'I will kill you with my own hands.'*

Goosebumps rose all over Rakk's body when he saw the cold and vicious look on Minhyuk's face. He hurriedly opened his mouth, "N- No..."

But Minhyuk did not hesitate. No matter how strong an NPC was, they would die if their heads got cut off. The only exception to this were boss monsters.

Slash—!

Minhyuk quickly cut off Rakk's head. After all, he had raised it and made it easy for him.

"Sir- Sir Rakk!"

"Hero King!"

The heroes were left in despair. The Beyond the Heavens Empire quickly moved and began eliminating these despairing heroes.

Meanwhile, notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears as he continued to look down coldly at Rakk's body.

[You have killed Hero King Rakk.]

[Rakk has reigned, persecuted, and trampled over many Utopians.]

[You have gained 41, 713, 223, 413 EXP.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have gained 1.03 million platinum.]

[You have obtained the Hero King's Elixir.]

Minhyuk looked confused. Rakk was a one-of-a-kind high-level NPC in this land. That was why he was given a massive amount of EXP and even platinum when he killed him. But usually, a high-leveled monster would drop God-rank artifacts or God-grade ingredients whenever it was dead. But Hero King Rakk did not drop anything like that. His drops were shabby, with only some EXP, platinum, and a single elixir.

‘Is this what you call a beggar mob...?’

Of course, he was not a monster. However, he was a beggar NPC. After thinking he hunted nothing but a beggar, Minhyuk turned his attention to the Hero King’s Elixir.

Minhyuk’s eyes grew wide upon checking the information. The Hero King’s Elixir was superior to God-rank artifacts and God-grade ingredients.

‘Upon consumption, all of your stats will increase by 0.3% once per month. And it will last for two years?’

In other words, anyone who consumed this elixir would receive a steady 0.3% increase in all stats, even if they stood still. In two years, they could increase their stats by no less than 8%. But of course, there were also disadvantages.

‘After taking the Hero King’s Elixir, you can’t increase your stats with the help of dishes or buffs.’

In other words, if one took the Hero King’s Elixir, they could not stack their stats with buffed dishes for two years.

Others found increasing one’s stats by eating or consuming ingredients impossible, but that was not the case for Minhyuk. Minhyuk had a crazy obsession with food, and because of this obsession, he could increase his stats by a lot.

‘This is unnecessary for me.’

Through various methods during those two years, Minhyuk would have obtained more than an 8% increase in all of his stats. But what would happen if he gave it to someone else?

‘It will have a tremendous effect.’

Several people who could take the elixir popped into Minhyuk’s head. There was Brod, Spear God Ben, Sword of the Gods Luo, Elpis and many more. What if their stats increased by 8%, even if they stayed put for two years? Perhaps only the word “Crazy.” would best fit the results.

In addition, the Beyond the Heavens Empire, which moved only after witnessing Rak’s death, obtained two Heroes’ Elixir after killing the heroes. Although the effects were only half of the Hero King’s Elixir, the duration was still the same.

“Your Majesty, forgive us for being late.”

Brod and the rest of his vassals knelt before Minhyuk and showed courtesy. Minhyuk looked back at the many players, including Genie, Locke, Khan, Ascar, and Ali, who came to his aid. Seeing that almost all of them were here, he immediately understood that Haze, who usually would not agree to send troops this large, had agreed.

'She knew that we could gain so much in this place.'

Then, Genie asked, "Minhyuk, what will you do now?"

Minhyuk smiled when he heard the question. "Do you remember what the Battle God told me?"

"Are you talking about the words, 'We're old.' that he said before?"

Minhyuk nodded. The Battle God had said, *'You will not be able to lead the gods under my command.'*

This was the truth. Even if he were the Battle God, he would never know when a rebellion would start if he took the lead of the gods under the current Battle God's command. Although it was sad, it was the reality of the matter. But the Battle God also told him that he should make his Land of the Gods and lead his army of gods. And Minhyuk knew that today was the day that he would take his first step to achieve that.

Minhyuk took out the box containing everything oppressed and subdued in this dungeon. Then, he said, "I think it's time for me to get the first god who will fight under the Battle God's name, under my name."

Everyone present looked at him with excitement.

"He is the one who would become the new god of Utopia."

After Rhoando went separate ways with Minhyuk in the Dungeon of Oppression, he immediately led the rebels to the kingdom. Armed with the power of god, Rhoando could cut down the royal troops with the rebels and enter the royal palace where the royal family resided.

When he opened the door to the king's room, he was met with the heroes Rakk had sent over. A fierce battle immediately ensued. Rhoando and the rebels all fought desperately against the heroes. However, Rhoando could not deal with five heroes by himself. In the end, they all lost. He and the rebels were tied up and hung on the walls of the kingdom.

The hybrids gathered to watch Rhoando and the rebels hanging on the kingdom's walls.

"King, we must thoroughly trample on Rhoando and his band of rebels and make an example out of them. We have to show them what would happen to those who go against the heroes and the will of the god and threaten your life," Baron said.

Baron was hailed as the Second Hero and had come here under the orders of Hero King Rakk. Although his influence was small and weak compared to Rakk, he was a powerful being. It was to the point that he would be considered the strongest in Utopia if Rakk was taken out of the equation.

The cowardly king looked at Rhoando and the rebels. The heroes were threatening him with his life. However, he never thought of going against them. He did not even understand any of their intentions. The only thing going on in his head was satisfying these great and noble heroes.

"The Sky has deemed it unnecessary to eat and prepare food. Because he controlled food, we ended up living a more satisfying life. These rebels are just making up

excuses to take this king's place. Beat them until they die. After they die, continue to hang them on the walls and let them become food for the crows."

Seeing them beg for their lives while being beaten to their deaths might satisfy the heroes if they saw it. The royal army stood behind each of the rebels with clubs in hand. Then, they began to beat them.

Thud! Thud, thud– Thud, thud, thud!

The people grimaced when they saw the scene. But what shocked them was that none of the rebels screamed. Even if their consciousness were a blur, they still kept their pride.

As the clubs continued to hit his body, Rhoando looked at the people.

[The God who wants to become the new Sky looks at you.]

The people all turned to Rhoando in shock when they heard God's Voice ring.

[The God who wants to become the new Sky has no regrets or fear.]

[There's just one thing that he hopes for.]

"A world where everyone can live and eat food as they pleased."

[The loud and boisterous laughter on the table...]

"A world where people could feel delight and happiness as they eat something delicious."

[...as you sit down after work and live your life.]

"The smell of cooking that welcomes you back home."

[The dish that someone cooked for you. The dish that remains in your memory forever.]

"I wanted to bring it back."

[Do you remember? The taste that tickled the tips of your tongues, they took that away from us.]

"That's the reason why we're fighting."

[Even if we die, another 'us' will take over.]

"Don't back down."

[Many would speak out and fight for you even if their voices would never reach you.]

Rhoando looked around and said, "Until my stomach bursts."

[To the point where I will even have difficulty breathing.]

"I will continue eating delicious food."

[I will pat my stomach.]

"For the day where we can smile freely. For the day where we can cook for someone again."

[So that we can see farmers tend to our lands once again. So that we can walk down the streets and openly eat fruits from the trees around us.]

“Let’s continue moving forward.”

[The God who wants to become the new Sky looks at you.]

The people were left in turmoil when they heard his words.

Just like Rhoando said, someone who had lived in Utopia for a very long time remembered the flavor that tickled his tongue. Every once in a while, these people would have a hard time sleeping as they thought of that taste. And just like Rhoando said, even though they could not see it, there might be someone fighting for them or someone who wanted to become like him in the future. Their chests started to heat up.

Why did they have to control our food?

Why should we go hungry?

Why are we doing nothing right now?

Why are the king and the heroes beating up Rhoando and his men like it was something that should be done?

“Let Rhoando go!”

A small cry echoed amidst the millions of crowd gathered together. This cry slowly, ever so slowly, grew in volume. Like a crack, it spread from one mouth to another until a loud cry resounded.

“Let Rhoando go!”

“We have to fight! We have to take back what they have taken away from us!”

“Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaah!!!”

Millions of people began to push the soldiers stationed on the walls.

Seeing this, a small yet bitter smile flashed on Rhoando’s face.

‘Hyung-nim, many people will fight for our cause even if I die here.’ Rhoando hoped. *‘Please. Please give them food.’*

Rhoando could never forget Minhyuk’s back as he stood before them.

Please. Please let him give these people a new world.

Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaah—!

A roar resonated all over the world. The gates opened as a million troops charged and pointed their swords at the people. But the people were not scared.

“This is why trashy bugs like you have to learn a lesson.” Hero Baron clicked his tongue in irritation. “Attack.”

“Wh- what? B- But...” The king hesitated. No matter how one looked at it, they were nothing but mere civilians, no?

“Do you want me to take your head?”

But the heroes' words were absolute.

“Attack.”

Tens of thousands of arrows were unleashed as the soldiers stabbed them with their long spears. But Baron was still not satisfied. He stood on the walls and swung his sword with the other heroes.

Slash, slash, slash, slash, slash—!

Following the direction where he swung his sword, thousands of people disappeared without a trace. It was as if the space had been cut. As the charging civilians retreated, Baron said, “Let's kill half of them.”

“Yes, sir!”

“Yes, sir!”

Rhoando's eyes grew wide at the ridiculous order. Killing half of the civilians present? That was not a move to overwhelm them with fear. That was pure and mindless slaughter.

Baron grabbed Rhoando's face and said, “You should look at it clearly. This is what happens when you go against us.”

The soldiers pushed the fleeing civilians and gathered them at the center. With hundreds of thousands of people gathered, the soldiers immediately drew their bows while the mages raised their staves.

“The dreams that you have? They are all useless.” Baron clicked his tongue as he mocked Rhoando. “Do you think you could deal with us after killing the king and the Sky?”

The actual gods here were not the Sky but the heroes. It was just as Baron said. Even if he succeeded in this rebellion and became the Sky, nothing much would change.

Rhoando was left in despair. He could see a father standing in front of his wife, who was holding their child in fear. The young men tried their hardest to overcome their fears and stood as their lovers wept and cried. They were clearly divided in half. Yet the screams of those who would survive this catastrophe continued to resonate to the skies.

“PLEASE!!!”

“Please, no!”

“We were wrong! We were wrong!”

Some of them even went so far as to put their head on the ground and beg for their lives.

‘Is there really no hope for us?’

Was it the case? Would nothing really change, even if he became this world's king and god? Ultimately, did they have no choice but to endure and face this wretched fate?

Rhoando felt his despair and frustration soar when he saw the soldiers nock their arrows and the mages start to cast their magic.

Flash—

The moment Baron swung his hand down, thousands of arrows and magic flew toward the people gathered at the center of the area in front of the walls. Coincidentally, the fastest arrow was flying toward a newborn baby nestled in the arms of a woman. The woman could not even react. All she knew was that the chilling sound of the wind brought about by the arrow would bring her child to its death.

Rhoando did not close his eyes. He opened them wide to watch the atrocities the heroes committed in broad daylight.

But then, something shocking happened. The arrow flying toward the newborn child stopped just a few millimeters before the child's head.

“Huh...?” The woman looked around in confusion when she realized the situation before her.

But it was not just that single arrow. The tens of thousands of arrows and magic flying toward the people's hearts all stopped mid-air. It was a very spectacular sight, a sight that Rhoando had never seen in his entire life.

Tap— Tap, tap—

Then, at that moment, Rhoando felt something fall on his head.

‘What? What was that?’

Rhoando looked up to see what was falling on him.

‘Rice?’

They were none other than grains of paddy rice. Just like that, unprocessed rice and wheat grains began to pour from the sky.

Not long after, a notification rang in everyone's ears.

[Battle God's Voice.]

Rhoando had heard about the Battle God. He was the god who led the world's gods and was hailed as the most incredible Absolute God. He was like the god above gods. His image as he led thousands of gods to battle was the image of the god that all humans dreamt of. There was one thing that Rhoando was sure about the Battle God. He was the most excellent and most noble god.

Immediately after that, the arrows and magic that stopped in mid-air turned around and shot back to those who had sent it.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang—!

Fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh, fwoosh—!

Everyone was shocked stiff by the sudden turn of events.

[The Battle God, the Great Sovereign who leads the gods, looks at you with a small smile.]

Rhoando's wide eyes grew impossibly wider. Then, the voice of the Battle God rang.

[Thanks, my dear younger brother.]

'Younger brother?'

Confusion was plastered on Rhoando's face when he heard the Battle God's incomprehensible words.

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After seeing the magic and arrows turn around and fly back to the ones who sent them, the people finally could not resist their curiosity. They all turned to look at the sky to find out what was pattering on their heads.

The people were met with a downpour of rice and wheat. When they turned to look at the side, they saw fresh and gorgeously red apples growing rapidly from the apple trees that they thought could no longer bear fruits. Various crops sprouted from the ground of the land that they had neglected for a very long time.

"Moo!"

"Cluck, cluck!"

"Meeeh!"

"Hwiiiiik!"

The livestock taken away from them also appeared all over the kingdom.

Despite the rice and wheat falling on their faces, they all turned to look at the sky, where a picture was rapidly drawn. The picture showed the figure of the god. Which god? It was Utopia's God. The God of Utopia painted in the sky opened its mouth and spoke.

[I will get rid of everything related to food in this world.]

As a result, all the food in the world disappeared. Among the people, someone had lived quite a long life, and this person clearly remembered that day.

The picture in the sky scattered, only to be replaced by a market image. The shop selling vegetables, fruits, and other produce disappeared, while the Black Beer House, where everyone gathered to chat and drink after a hard day's work, also disappeared. Even the restaurants that filled the streets disappeared. Bitter expressions flashed on the faces of countless people as they watched them disappear from the streets. Among them, a child spoke up.

[I'm hungry.]

The child was not saying it because he was hungry. He said it because he missed his favorite food and knew he could no longer have it. At that time, the people wondered.

[Why? Why in the world did you do this?]

They told the public that the reason they made the food disappear was that the god, who they called the Sky, had the blood of the Food God running through his veins. But that was not the true reason.

The picture changed. It showed dozens of people who looked like the heroes of Utopia walking inside an unknown dungeon. One of those heroes was someone everyone was familiar with. Some admired him, while some, who knew of his true nature, despised him.

Hero King Rakk grinned as he created a small heart.

[Once we oppress and subdue all of the food in this place for hundreds of years, this heart will be able to give me tremendous powers.]

“...!”

“...!”

The people’s eyes grew wide. This was especially the case for those who only knew that food had disappeared from this world because the Sky inherited the blood of the Food God. They felt their anger soar to new heights. The true reason food disappeared in this world for a very long time was because of one person's greed.

Even Rhoando was only made aware of this fact today. However, there was still one thing that he could not understand. The gentle and warm voice of the Battle God had spoken to him.

[Thanks, my dear younger brother.]

This. This was what Rhoando was very confused about.

Meanwhile, Baron and the other heroes hurriedly moved to find the source of the arrows and magic returning to them as they listened to the soldiers' screams.

“Attack them again. Kill everyone. Do not hold back!”

“B- But...”

The soldiers hesitated. Even the commander leading the royal army hesitated, unable to command them to attack the kingdom's people easily. At that moment, Baron raised his sword and slashed the neck of the knight nearest to him.

Spurt—!

“If you’re not going to kill them, then I will kill you.”

In the eyes of the soldiers, Baron looked like the devil. In the end, the terrified soldiers had no other choice but to fire their magic and arrows at the people again. The number of attacks this time was far more than the attacks earlier.

However, the result was similar to the previous one. All of their attacks came to a halt. But instead of turning back, the arrows lost momentum and fell helplessly on the ground while the magic disappeared into nothingness.

Baron’s eyes darted around. He searched for the source of power and caught sight of a robed being. And when they pulled the hood of their robe? He was met with the sight of a charming silver-haired girl. However, the girl’s eyes were so cold and creepy that it reminded Baron of snakes.

‘That woman is taking control of the system.’

Baron grabbed a spear and hurled it toward the girl. But the spear, which was aiming for the girl's heart, was easily blocked by a man's hand.

Rhoando and the rest of the rebels saw the scene and could not take their eyes off the man holding the spear. Then, the man threw the robe off of his body.

Flutter—

Everyone could now see the man's figure, who was glaring coldly at Baron through the strands of his jet-black hair. He was 185 centimeters tall and had fair and unblemished skin.

The expressions on the faces of Rhoando and the rebels all turned bright when they saw the face of the man.

“Hyung-nim!!!”

“Hyuuuuuuung-nim!!!”

All of them had seen food and everything else related to food appear around them once again.

‘Our hyung-nim did it.’

‘He has awakened those oppressed and subdued in the Dungeon of Oppression.’

But their thoughts ended there. None of them here knew who or what Minhyuk truly was.

“Please run away!”

“We're fine!”

“Hyung-nim, it seems like the Battle God is here and will help us.”

“You must know what kind of god the Battle God is, right? So, please don't worry about us, hyung-nim. Just go!”

Even though they were already in such a situation, they were still apprehensive about Minhyuk. Minhyuk was strong; there was no doubt about it. After all, he was even able to hunt the divine dragon alone. But Minhyuk was alone. They thought he would not be able to handle the heroes and the troops of the royal army by himself.

The heroes' swords and spears were already flying toward Minhyuk the moment he grabbed Baron's spear. But Minhyuk did not move. He looked at the attacks with a cold and sharp glare.

Then, something surprising happened. A gigantic man appeared in the blink of an eye and grabbed the neck of one of the heroes who was trying to stab Minhyuk's heart with his spear. An old man also appeared and took the head of the hero, who wanted to stab Minhyuk's abdomen with a dagger.

Slash—!

Blood rained down as a man, who only had a single arm, slaughtered those who aimed at Minhyuk's back.

The hero casting magic to attack Minhyuk looked at the scene in confusion. Why? Because a spear made of light had already pierced his heart before he could even finish casting.

Strong people began to appear one by one. But what was shocking was how the gigantic man and the old man treated the powerful heroes. They treated them as if they were nothing but mere children.

‘Are they the gods under the command of the Battle God? The same gods that I have only heard of...?’

‘Amazing.’

‘The heroes are no match against them.’

Rhoando and the rebels looked at the scene in relief. With this, they confirmed that the Battle God was around here. And fortunately enough, the Battle God protected their hyung-nim. Perhaps he protected and cared about their hyung-nim because he freed all the food oppressed in the dungeon.

None of them entertained the thought that Minhyuk was the Battle God. But then, at that moment, all the people who appeared and restrained the heroes immediately flocked to Minhyuk’s side.

There were around fifty people. Of course, it was obvious that many did not have as much power as an actual god. However, one would feel like they were gazing upon a god with one look at them.

This group of people looked at Minhyuk and shouted.

“Your Majesty, please give us your orders.”

“Your Majesty, please give us your orders.”

“...!”

“...!”

At this moment, a shudder ran down Rhoando’s body. He finally understood that the man who laughed and smiled brightly while eating marble potatoes and the man who greeted him politely when they first met was not only the Food God but also an emperor and the Battle God.

Minhyuk, with a sword in hand, looked at the retreating heroes with a cold and sharp glare as he approached them step by step.

“I am the Battle God.”

When they heard those words, the heroes took another step back while Minhyuk continued to take another step forward.

Thud–

“I am the great sovereign who leads the gods and a god who keeps the balance of the world.”

Thud–

“But before that, I am an emperor with millions of soldiers and millions of people under my command. And I have never seen people like you in my life.”

Thud–

“People who feel superior and trample and take away things from the masses just because they are hailed as heroes.”

Thud–

“People who would kill those poor and pitiful civilians just because they raised their voices.”

Thud–

Minhyuk raised his sword and pointed it at Baron’s neck. “Immediate judgment.”

When Minhyuk’s words fell, Brod swiftly cut Baron’s head off. At the same time, the old man’s spear pierced through the hearts of several heroes.

The people of Utopia were all left shocked. The people who treated themselves as ants and trampled on them like they were nothing were all helpless, falling under the blades of these people who had appeared.

Whenever someone blocked Minhyuk’s path, his vassals would appear and cut them down to open the way.

“Drop your weapons and surrender.”

The soldiers dropped their weapons one after another.

Minhyuk would make the soldiers pay for their crimes. However, the punishment would be lighter than the punishments given to the heroes. After all, the heroes and the kings had also threatened these people.

Just like the miracle created by Moses, the path in front of Minhyuk opened up.

Thud, thud, thud–

Minhyuk kept walking until he arrived in front of the walls. He jumped until he was face to face with Rhoando and the rebels. He smiled softly before releasing the ropes that bound them. Once released, Rhoando immediately grabbed one of the swords that fell on the ground.

Rhoando knew that the sins that the soldiers and knights had committed were not that great. However, the sin the king committed by just sitting on the sidelines was far greater than anybody else’s. Not only that, the king had also sucked the blood of the people dry just because he had the backing of the heroes. To put it simply, the king had to die.

Minhyuk silently watched Rhoando’s back as he charged forward and cut through the vassals and subordinates who guarded the king. The rest should be left to him.

After cutting down the vassals and subordinates, Rhoando finally reached the king and was able to use his sword to stab straight through his heart.

“Kghhk!”

Cheers erupted from the rebels the moment they saw the king groan as he fell with his hands clutching his chest. The deafening cheers of the people followed. They cheered loudly after seeing the king and the heroes, the people who had oppressed and controlled them, fall.

The soldiers, who had no choice but to ride the king's boat and become his dog, knew they had to pay the price of their sins. However, knowing that the kingdom would change, they vowed to live their life as best as they could for the sake of this land.

Rhoando pulled his sword out and raised it toward the sky. Seeing this, the rebels moved quickly, bringing in an old and worn-out chair on top of the walls.

Minhyuk looked at Rhoando as he walked toward the chair. Then, he thought, '*The biggest problem he has to face is becoming a god.*'

Rhoando not only needed to obtain a stronger power, but he also had to obtain a stronger name to become the central force in Utopia. However, the problem was that the current Sky was Rhoando's older brother. But Rhoando would only become the true god who would rule this world if he killed god.

But that was only Minhyuk's concern.

[Arce, the God of Hybrids, steps down from his throne and gives up the title of Sky.]

[God of Hybrids Arce appoints Rhoando as his descendant.]

A bright pillar of light fell and engulfed Rhoando, sitting in his old, worn-out chair.

Flash—!

After receiving the power of god, "The One who Tries to Become the Sky" Rhoando finally became a true and complete god.

'It seems like Half-god Arce is just a puppet?' At this moment, Minhyuk realized that everything that happened to Utopia was because of Hero King Rakk.

[Utopia's new Sky has been born to the world!]

[Utopia's new Sky is none other than Rhoando!]

Minhyuk and Rhoando looked at each other. One could see the trust, faith, and loyalty in their eyes.

Then, the notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears.

[You have acquired the Passive Skill: Call.]

[The Passive Skill: Call is a power given to the Battle God, who has not received the recognition of the other gods.]

[The Passive Skill: Call is the power that would allow the Battle God to call the ones connected to him to help when the Land of the Gods is threatened.]

If the Land of the Gods were under threat, Minhyuk would be left helpless. After all, he could not lead the gods. After all, they did not trust or have faith in him. If he ordered them around, they would not be loyal to him. But this skill, named "Call," was like a string connecting him to a god loyal to him.

Immediately after that, another notification rang.

[The Passive Skill: Call asks the Sky of Utopia if he will answer your calls.]

Surprise flashed on Rhoando's face when he saw that he was given the choice.

The Land of the Gods was separate from the world that Rhoando lived in. Now that he had to rule Utopia, Rhoando would become busy. There was no way that he would be able to come and go as he pleased easily. However, Rhoando looked at Minhyuk and, without any hesitation, gave a slight nod in agreement.

[Rhoando agrees to answer your calls.]

[You have obtained the first god in your own 'God's Army'!]

[His name? Utopia's Sky, Rhoando.]

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A shudder ran through Minhyuk's body. *'Utopia's God is the first knight of the army that I will lead.'*

He could already imagine Rhoando fighting at the vanguard with Minhyuk as they fought against the threat to their lands.

'Rhoando is my very reliable younger brother.'

One would not accept the request of the passive skill "Call" just because they were close to Minhyuk. After all, it wouldn't matter what was happening in Utopia; they had to run whenever they heard Minhyuk's call because the Land of the Gods was in danger.

So, Rhoando's immediate agreement was a testament to his relationship and favorability toward Minhyuk being much greater than anyone would have thought.

'On top of that, Rhoando is the king and the god of the World of Hybrids, a place that houses beings far superior to ordinary humans.'

In a way, the death of most of the heroes who acted as the pillars of Utopia for the longest time might cause a great deal of confusion in this land.

'Half-god, half-transcendental beings would continue to appear.'

This meant that their existence could threaten Rhoando's position at any moment. However, there was a way to help Rhoando prepare for that.

Rhoando smiled brightly when he saw Minhyuk take a step forward. He greeted him and said, "Hyung-nim, please accept my gratitude. I will never forget the grace you have given us in my lifetime."

The most crucial takeaway here was that Rhoando called Minhyuk "hyung-nim." This alone had a significant impact on everyone present. The soldiers' eyes grew wide while those who doubted Rhoando's qualifications as a king and a god looked at him in a different light.

There might be people who knew of the Battle God and people who did not know of him. But if one takes the general consensus, most of the people present here were still aware of who and what kind of god the Battle God was. He was the greatest god. And this very same Battle God had a brotherly relationship with Rhoando?

"Are you saying that our new king and god, Sir Rhoando, treats the Battle God as his hyung-nim?"

“From what I heard, Sir Rhoando is over 600 years old this year. Maybe the Battle God is over a thousand years old?”

“...”

“...”

Rhoando bit his lips. He would never reveal Minhyuk’s age to his people in his entire lifetime. However, what was more critical was Minhyuk’s response.

“My dear younger brother, I look forward to the world you will create.” Minhyuk raised his hand for a handshake and continued, “If you need my help, I will always come running to your side.”

“...!”

“...!”

The Battle God’s vow to come running whenever they needed help, that one single promise was more than enough. It was like saying to anyone that whoever dared to take Rhoando’s place as the king and the god would also have to deal with the Battle God. Minhyuk removed any dangers and threats that would come after Rhoando with just a few simple words.

Then, Rhoando said, “Me too, hyung-nim. I will also help you whenever you need me.”

Minhyuk nodded lightly, a faint smile on his face. There was something else that he needed to do. He did not only want to show them through his words; he wanted to prove that the Battle God was paying attention to this place by placing a “subordinate” here.

“I know a person who would love to stay in the World of Hybrids. He is a human, but he is with dragons.”

“Is he a half-human, half-dragon?”

“No. He just has dragons sealed in his left and right arms.”

Of course, the one that Minhyuk was talking about was his father. His father had told him about a dream.

–Fufu. Son.

–Yes, Dad.

–This father of yours has come up with a new goal.

–???

Minhyuk was quite surprised. His father was the chairman of Ilhwa Group and had everything in the world. He even succeeded in obtaining several dragons in Athenae. What were his father’s new goals and dreams?

–I’m going to become a real black dragon.

Minhyuk knew what his father truly meant. It was not just having dragons by his side but becoming an actual dragon. Because of that, Minhyuk had asked Informant Abel to find a way to let his father achieve his dreams in Athenae.

Unfortunately, they couldn't find a way in the world where Minhyuk was in.

'This place is where a half-god, half-elf Rhoando became a true and complete god.'

He thought perhaps his father could obtain his long-cherished dream in this place. The only problem was whether the people here could handle his father's chuuni-tendencies.

"Goodness. Does he have dragons sealed in both of his arms? That's so cool."

"Huh...? Ah. That- that's right. It's cool."

But it seemed like there was no need for such concerns. There was a bright shine in the eyes of Rhoando and the rest of the people when they heard that someone had dragons sealed in their arms.

Since they had given something, they should also receive something, right?

"Since I will leave my subordinate here with you, can I ask you for a favor? Rhoando?"

"Yes, hyung-nim. Please go on."

"I want you to give me your finest cooking ingredients and your most fertile land."

Now, everything related to food has been returned to this world. Restaurants and black beer houses would be built once again. This meant that the amazing specialties unique to Utopia, which had disappeared before, would make a comeback once again.

'And I will make my own Divine Field here.'

It would be no good if the public knew that Minhyuk had a particular field. So, it would be good to set it up in this world. Besides, since they were about to start farming again, Minhyuk could just take this opportunity to find the best site among the available ones.

"I understand, hyung-nim."

Minhyuk smiled happily. *'Fufu... It seems like I will be able to get many delicious things soon.'*

What an enjoyable thing to look forward to, no?

Then, at that moment, a bright light flashed in the sky. A man appeared in front of them just as the light faded away.

[Retired Sky Arce. Level 784.]

The man was none other than Rhoando's older brother, the man who stepped down from his position as god himself. He was also the same man who almost destroyed all of the food in this world. Although it turned out that Hero King Rakk had been manipulating him from behind the scenes, did that mean he could easily be forgiven for his sins?

'His younger brother, Rhoando, fought bravely even though he knew that he would face death.'

Wouldn't things be different if his older brother, Arce, had done the same?

At the same time, Minhyuk realized, *'The Food God's final quest. It seems like the end of this quest is coming, huh?'*

Minhyuk was asked to help Rhoando hunt the half-god, half-dragon and was then asked to destroy the Heart of Oppression. After completing both quests, he received another linked quest called "For the New God."

In this quest, the final reward was the most important part to note. Once written as "???", the reward was now fully revealed. And this was none other than "For Everyone's Joy." However, there was no way for Minhyuk to learn what the skill could do until he acquired it.

Arce, who appeared in front of the glaring eyes of the masses, knelt before Minhyuk. There was noticeable relief on his face as he said, "Never once had I been happy since becoming a god."

And the words that flowed out of his mouth next were also the words that Rhoando had told Minhyuk before.

"I have always resented the fact that I have inherited the blood of the Food God."

However, Arce was aware that, at this point, he would not be free of his sins no matter what he said.

"Thank you, Food God... and Battle God."

"...!"

"...!"

Another wave of shock spread among the soldiers and the people. The people only knew Minhyuk as the Battle God. But now that they knew he was the Food God of the current era, their preconceived notions about the Food God that the heroes had instilled in them were slowly disappearing.

Minhyuk did not say anything. He did not need to step forward and deal with it. The rest had to be left to Rhoando. And, of course, Rhoando also knew this. He said, "Arce will be bound with the Great Mountain Shackles for 300 years."

The Great Mountain Shackles were shackles that weighed around 300 kilograms. Even a god could not easily remove them once they were bound with them. A long time ago, the Great Mountain Shackles were used to tie up and imprison the gods who caused friction and chaos when they came to Utopia.

“He will also be tasked to do anything and everything to reestablish everything related to food, which had disappeared from Utopia in that 300 years. Whether it’s fieldwork or construction of restaurants, he will have to do it.”

For a god, doing something so trivial was like being sentenced to death. However, Arce still looked completely relieved as the soldiers put the thick, heavy shackles on his feet. Now, he could no longer escape. Perhaps he would be stoned by the people as he walked down his path. But there was still a smile on his face.

Rhoando’s eyes grew wide when he saw Arce take something out. At this moment, Minhyuk understood what it symbolized.

‘This will signal the end of the quest.’

When Arce handed the item to Minhyuk, Rhoando said, “This is the ‘Food God’s Greatest Power’ and is the last thing that my father has left in this world.”

Minhyuk’s heart started to thump wildly. Just hearing the words “Food God’s greatest power” made his chest feel like it was about to burst.

“Regardless of one’s identity.” Arce smiled faintly. “Regardless of one’s gender and one’s age. I heard it’s a power that will allow everyone to eat and be happy.”

Minhyuk slowly received the item.

[You have acquired the Food God’s Final Secret: For Everyone’s Joy.]

Minhyuk, with this overwhelming feeling in his chest, thought, *‘What is the greatest power that the Food God left behind?’*

As the question flashed, Arce said, “Now, this is to show my gratitude to you.”

The Food God’s final quest had a total of two rewards. One was marked as “???” and the other was the right to create a skill related to the Food God, or in other words, a skill related to eating.

[Arce, once the Sky of Utopia, activates his authority.]

[With Arce’s authority, you are now given the right to create one skill related to the Food God.]

[However, if you try to create an extremely unreasonable skill, the rights to create one skill would disappear.]

[You have ten chances to create this skill.]

Not long after, Arce was taken away by the soldiers. Minhyuk watched his back as they escorted him out before checking out the new power that he received.

Food God's Secret

- *You can make tens of thousands, tens of millions, or hundreds of millions of dishes from a single dish.*
- *However, regardless of what ingredients are used, the dishes will have no special abilities. The taste will remain the same for every dish.*
- *Can be applied to villages, territories, kingdoms, and empires.*

“...?!”

Minhyuk immediately understood what kind of skill For Everyone's Joy was.

‘Perhaps this is the greatest cooking skill among all the Food God skills I possess.’

It was a skill that allowed everyone to enjoy food regardless of their status, age, gender, race, and everything else. It was a way to cook and feed the hungry and everyone.

‘Perhaps this is the Food God's greatest dish they had spoken of before?’

Minhyuk smiled faintly. Through this skill, he had felt the will and determination of the Food God. Not only that, even if the “power” and the “benefits” of the skill had to be taken into consideration, this skill would still have tremendous power. Why?

‘Let's take our country for example. Our population is around 60 million. If a single dish is worth 10,000 won and every single member of the population was fed that same dish, then we would need around 600 billion won.’

The price of a single dish might be worth 600 billion won. That was crazy.

Of course, Minhyuk already had a plan in mind the moment he saw the details of the skill. He intended to use For Everyone's Joy for the people of Utopia.

Minhyuk looked at Rhoando and said, “Rhoando, I'm going to give your people a delicious meal. It would take an hour. Wait for me.”

Rhoando had caught a glimpse of the power of the ability before. That was why he was highly grateful to Minhyuk, who chose to readily use this excellent ability for the sake of the people of Utopia. He could see in Minhyuk's expression that he was very excited to see the joy and happiness that would flash in the faces of the people who had not seen food for hundreds of years.

Just like that, Minhyuk started cooking.

[For Everyone's Joy.]

Minhyuk made pumpkin porridge for the people of Utopia.

The pumpkin porridge, which was light, warm, and slightly sweet, appeared in front of everyone. Everyone who tasted the warm pumpkin porridge could not help but shed tears.

Minhyuk, who had sat on the kingdom's walls, also admired the pumpkin porridge he had made. "Wahahahaha! It's just a tad bit sweet. So good!"

Rhoando looked at Minhyuk in gratitude, watching the man eat happily. He felt warmth enveloping his heart when he saw the people crying while eating the pumpkin porridge in front of them.

'We have only received help from him.'

Although Rhoando agreed to give Minhyuk their best ingredients and the most fertile land in Utopia, he still felt they needed to give back more to the man who helped them the most. He was sure that this thought had also flashed through the heads of everyone present.

After eating the pumpkin porridge, Minhyuk approached Rhoando and said, "Younger brother, I'm going to get some rest first."

Then, Minhyuk promptly disappeared. After seeing him disappear, Rhoando stood before his people and said, "From this day forth, I am your king. And as you all know, I have received a lot of help from him just to become the king. I trust that you all feel the same way as me."

After tasting the pumpkin porridge, the people finally realized the pain they had been suffering. That is why they were all very grateful to Minhyuk.

"So, even though it might sound rude. I ask you. Even one gold is fine. Let us all show our gratitude and thank him for the dish he fed us. Any amount is fine, even if you only put in one gold. Just give as much as you want to give."

Rhoando did not want his people to feel burdened, so he did not set an amount. The people of the kingdom, with pleasant smiles, started to pay for the pumpkin porridge they had eaten.

Minhyuk, who returned after getting some rest, was plagued with worries. *'The greatest talents of the Beyond the Heavens Empire had come here. We must have suffered quite a huge loss.'*

The ones who came to Utopia were responsible for generating around 40% of the income and profits of the Beyond the Heavens Empire. That was just how important and valuable they were to the empire. The problem was that the profits they would gain from Utopia would not be readily available. It would even take them quite a while before they gain any income from this place.

'But after three months, we can obtain an astronomical amount from here.'

Maintaining relationships and interacting with a new world was a precious opportunity. Minhyuk intended to take advantage of this, and this was part of his plan.

As he logged back inside the game, Minhyuk ran into Rhoando.

"Hyung-nim, you're back?"

"That's right. Ah, younger brother. I'm actually about to return."

Minhyuk could not wait to go back and eat the Oppression's Beef Grill Set. He had to eat it alone to relax and not worry about someone taking it away.

Rhoando looked a bit sullen when he heard those words. "I see. I hope that you will visit us more often. Ah. Here. The people and I have gathered a small sum to thank you."

"Ehey! You didn't have to do that~ It's fine, it's fine. You can use it, younger brother."

Minhyuk felt like his younger brother was trying to pay for his taxi fare.

"Hyung-nim, please accept it. I collected money to 'pay for the meal' that hyung-nim made for us. Please don't feel pressured and just accept it."

"Hoho. Payment for the meal, huh? You should know that the dishes that I made are quite expensive, younger brother."

Then, the notification rang in Minhyuk's ears.

[You have received 939,100 platinum.]

"...?"

The price of the meal was quite excellent, wasn't it? Minhyuk could not help but be in awe.

'It seems you know well how much a dish I made costs!'

Chapter 987

Haze, who was busy writing and updating the ledgers, sighed lightly. *'It's just one or two days, but the losses are far too great.'*

Each executive had a set schedule every day. Since they were the greatest talents of the Beyond the Heavens Empire, the mere fact that they ignored this set schedule to go to Utopia disrupted several contracts. The losses that they had received were quite bigger than Haze had expected.

'We need more funds to get ahead of Luvien.'

The Beyond the Heavens Empire was not in a stable position. It had to secure more funds than ever and quickly expand and develop its territories. But in the past few days, Haze could clearly feel the limits of its financial capacities.

'According to His Majesty, we will only start gaining benefits from Utopia three months from now.'

The exchange between the master of the new world, Utopia, and the Beyond the Heavens Empire would undoubtedly bring them astronomical profits. However, Utopia had changed regime. Because of that, they needed time to regain their stability. And just as what was mentioned before, it would take three months before they could reap the benefits.

They might have money soon, but if it was not in their hands, they could not speed up their expansion and development. What was important was to get cash right away.

At that moment, a commotion appeared outside. The Beyond the Heavens Empire's talents had already returned. Haze's expression immediately grew bright.

'Your Majesty!'

Haze, who hadn't seen Minhyuk for quite a long time, rushed out, hoping to see the man faster. But Minhyuk was a step faster than her; he had already knocked on her door before she could even get out.

"Haze, have you been well?"

Haze's fatigue seemed to have melted when she saw the refreshing smile on Minhyuk's face.

"Of course, Your Majesty."

"Thank you for readily approving my request."

Minhyuk was the emperor of this empire, but when it came to making important decisions, he would also listen to and consider the opinions of his subjects. This was especially the case for Haze. There were times when Haze would correct Minhyuk and guide him on the right path whenever his thoughts strayed.

"Creating a connection and having exchanges with Utopia would greatly help us in the future," Haze said. However, her expression had already grown a bit dark.

Minhyuk knew the girl better than anybody else. He said, "The people of Utopia had given me money. They said that it's payment for their meal."

"Payment for their meal? If we're talking about payment for the meal made by Your Majesty, they would need to pay quite a lot, right? Hoho." Haze smiled as she joked around.

Thud—

Minhyuk slammed the massive bag of money in front of her and said, "It's a million platinum."

Haze's eyes grew wide. '*N- No... Didn't he say that it's just payment for a meal?*'

What kind of meal cost a million platinum? A million platinum was a considerable sum of money. Even the Beyond the Heavens Empire would have difficulty gathering a million platinum in sales even after working hard for three months.

Minhyuk smiled faintly and retold the story about how he fed the citizens of Utopia with pumpkin porridge and how Rhoando gave a proposal to the people.

Haze immediately understood. "That single meal must have been extremely priceless in their eyes."

That should have been the case. The amount of money they paid for the meal Minhyuk made for them must have had a variety of meanings. It must have conveyed their gratitude, respect, trust, and faith in him.

And considering that Minhyuk's cooking was the best in Athenae, they must have been delighted to taste the dish, right? Nobles also existed in that place. Collecting a million platinum to pay for a meal was not impossible. After all, these nobles could pay a lot of money, right?

"But." Haze chuckled, her eyes squinting. "It would be better to get payment for meat next time, no?"

"Right? Just as I expected."

“For the meat that Your Majesty will provide, I think around ten million platinum would suffice. Hoho.”

“What are you saying, Haze?” A grave expression appeared on Minhyuk’s face. “It should be around twenty million platinum.”

Of course, the two of them were just joking around. In the first place, they did not expect to get any payment for what they had done. Now, there was only one thing left.

“Ah, wait. Can you look at this steel?”

It was none other than the Ogre’s Steel Armor. Haze nodded after checking the information.

‘A weapon produced from this steel will have 13% higher attack power. If one can use aura, their cutting power will increase by 20%. This is an excellent steel.’

However, it would be hard to say that it was outstanding or incredible.

“We have agreed that they will provide us 1,000 tons of this steel every month.”

Haze’s head turned blank when she heard Minhyuk’s words. *‘That means getting this steel is not hard, right?’*

Haze thought that the fantastic steel that Minhyuk obtained from those who knew where was quite rare. But now, he said they would be provided a thousand tons every month. There was nowhere in Athenae to obtain such a vast amount of excellent steel.

‘Since we can obtain a thousand tons of this steel per month, then that means that we can supply our troops with great equipment. The knights would come first. Then, we will distribute the weapons and armor to our soldiers. Once that happens, our troops will be 10% stronger than our current power.’

Haze was in awe.

Not long after, she saw Minhyuk fidgeting. He looked like a restless puppy that was about to go potty. Haze had been working with Minhyuk for a very long time now. After being by his side for so long, she could already tell what his actions meant.

‘That action means “I’m happy to see you, but I’m famished right now.”, right?’

Haze chuckled. “Your Majesty, just come back here after having your meal.”

When Haze’s words ended, Minhyuk used Like the Wind and disappeared from her view.

In Minhyuk’s eyes, Utopia was nothing short of hell. Why wouldn’t it be? He came to play this game because he wanted to eat. He was bound to have a hard time in a world without food ingredients.

And even after he obtained some excellent ingredients, there were just a lot of things he needed to do in Utopia. In the end, he still could not eat. The superb ingredient was none other than the Oppressions’ Beef Grilling Set.

The set, which consisted of thick cuts of tenderloin, sirloin, beef rib steak, and chuck flap tail, was truly out of this world.

‘The thicker the meat, the more juices you would get when chewing!’

Minhyuk, who was just about to grill the meat, suddenly stopped. His instincts were screaming at him to stop.

This very same instinct had prevented him, who was moving swiftly in front of this food, from moving any further. It was not just his instinct; even the expectation that he could eat more of this kind of delicious and precious food in the future had stopped him from moving any further.

This Oppression’s Beef Grilling Set was an utterly unfamiliar ingredient. Its rank was even written as “God and Transcendental.” Of course, much has changed from the ingredients after the fiasco before.

- Your level will increase by 4.*
- All of your stats will increase by 4.5%.*
- All of your skills’ proficiency levels will increase by 50%.*
- Your HP and MP will increase by 8%.*
- A chosen skill’s proficiency level will increase by 30%.*
- Your divine power will increase by 5%.*
- 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.*

Even after looking at it again, the only word that Minhyuk could use to describe it was “crazy.” Even though only 10% of its special abilities had been left, it could still be considered an outstanding ingredient.

‘I won’t be able to get an ingredient like this in the future.’

Minhyuk was almost sure of this. Of course, he could obtain ingredients with the same effects as this, with only 10% of its special abilities left. But the chances of finding that were rare and hard to come by.

‘Even if I can obtain one, I think it would only be possible around three or so years from now?’

As time went by, more and more artifacts and ingredients became available to them. So, it did not mean that his chances were zero. However, there was one thing that he knew.

‘A seed can produce an ingredient I can harvest in just a year.’

In other words, Minhyuk could possibly obtain a cooking ingredient of this caliber in just a year, but only if he could create the skill that he had envisioned.

'It wouldn't be too late for me to eat after creating the skill.' Minhyuk smacked his lips. *'If it succeeds, then I will be able to obtain the skill that I wanted. It would be like a dream come true for me.'*

He had always felt that it was a pity he could no longer eat the delicious ingredients he had eaten before. So, the thought that he could obtain it again made him ecstatic. Besides, he might also be able to obtain the same effects from this ingredient once again.

If he succeeded, then the world would be born with the best and most outstanding skill, which was basically derived from the essence of the Food God.

Minhyuk slowly recited, "Food God Skill Creation."

[You can now create a skill related to the Food God. Only a skill closely related to the Food God can be made.]

[You have ten total attempts at creating the skill. If you fail to create a skill within these ten attempts, your chance at creating a skill will disappear.]

At that moment, a hologram appeared in front of Minhyuk. Following Minhyuk's thoughts, a picture started appearing on the hologram's screen.

Excellent ingredients appeared on the hologram screen that Minhyuk was looking at. Then, a small portion of the ingredient was shaved off. This shaved-off portion was used as a seed and planted on the ground.

Following that, the scene on the screen showed the seasons changing rapidly: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. These seasons passed by until spring arrived once again. Then, the ingredients that had been planted slowly squeezed through the ground and started to bloom.

Immediately after that, a notification rang.

[The skill cannot be created.]

"..."

It was as he expected. After all, the skill was just too outstanding to be allowed to be born so easily.

'When creating skills, even the ones with the most trivial abilities could also fail.'

What seemed to be the reason for this? In the end, skill creation was largely dependent on one's luck. In a way, it could be similar to how artifacts were reinforced.

'The more the system recognizes the skill as better or more outstanding, the lower the possibility of it being created.'

Of course, the Food God's Skill Creation was something that Minhyuk obtained from the Food God's final quest, so it would most definitely allow him some leeway when creating his skill.

The problem was that the skill that Minhyuk thought of was too groundbreaking. This skill directly broke Athenae's "cannot obtain excellent artifact materials and cooking ingredients a second time" rule.

Minhyuk quickly tapped on the hologram in front of him.

‘Let’s retain the part where I will collect a portion of the ingredient for planting. Once planted, it can only be harvested after a year and a half.’

He extended the harvesting period a bit and lowered the effects of the regrown ingredients from 100% to 90%. Then, he pressed the *create* button.

[The skill cannot be created.]

Minhyuk’s expression twisted. *‘Alright. Let’s lower our standards a bit. My main purpose is to be able to eat those delicious ingredients again and again.’*

He reduced the effects of the regrown ingredients to 60% while retaining the flavor of the original ingredient.

[The skill cannot be created.]

Minhyuk grew impatient.

‘Is the scope of the skill unacceptable?’

If that was not the case, then it was probably a failure caused by low probability. Minhyuk tried again.

[The skill cannot be created.]

And again.

[The skill cannot be created.]

Minhyuk’s face turned ugly once again. And the more he could not find why the creation was a failure, the more he grew impatient and flustered.

He knew it would already be a waste to lower the effects further, but he decided to lower them again. This time, he lowered the effects to 50% while extending the growth period to two years. This was already much lower than what he had expected.

[The skill cannot be created.]

Then, he tried again to find out if it was just a matter of probability.

[The skill cannot be created.]

Minhyuk’s face grew dark. “What the hell is the problem here?”

Joy Co. Ltd.’s conference room.

A few important executives with the authority to monitor players were sitting inside the conference room watching Minhyuk.

Seven times. Minhyuk had failed seven times to create his skill.

Department Head Kim Daeil finally let out a sigh of relief. “As expected. The system will not allow him to create a skill like that.”

Everyone present seemed to agree with his words. Of course, it was still within Minhyuk’s expectations.

“Since he acquired the rights to create a skill from the Food God’s final quest, he is allowed to create a skill that could reach the level of a God-rank skill. The problem here is that the skill that Player Minhyuk has thought of is just too good.”

After all, it was a power that would allow him to obtain a power that he should not have been able to obtain again many times over. The value of that was too high.

In a year, he would be able to harvest the ingredient. Then, he would collect a portion of the ingredient and use it to plant once again. Then, he would harvest again after a year. This process would repeat over and over again. Once ten years had passed? Then, his field would be filled with a bountiful harvest.

So? The system would say no.

“His chances would increase since he had reduced the effects to 50%. But... it will still not work,” Team Leader Park Minggyu said.

If the effects had been reduced to 50%, it would have entered the realm where the skill creation system could allow it to be created. That was literally what it meant.

“Today, Player Minhyuk’s luck is down the drain.”

Minhyuk had a high level of DEX, which greatly influenced and increased his chances of creating something. But it seemed like today was not just his day.

Finally, Minhyuk lowered the effects to 40% and set the growth period to two years.

[Player Minhyuk has failed to create the skill.]

Even this failed. Now, he only had two chances left.

“It seems like he’s just truly unlucky today, huh?” President Kang Taehoon said.

Of course, Kang Taehoon did not necessarily favor Minhyuk. The only reason he and the major company executives were monitoring him today was that the skill he wanted to create was just too outstanding. If he could create this skill and achieve the desired effects, they had to prepare for the future.

“He’s out of luck. Do you think he can still break through this situation?”

“Who knows? Luck is not something that we, humans, can fathom,” President Kang Taehoon said.

Of course, there was still a chance that he would break through and succeed. However, considering that he had lowered his abilities to that extent and even extended the growth period to two years, he should have already succeeded based on the probability.

And just like Kang Taehoon said, luck was something humans could not control and fathom.

[I’m going nuts.]

The executives all looked relieved when they saw how flustered Player Minhyuk was. Then, they saw Minhyuk take a deep breath.

'The reason Player Minhyuk can stand in his position now is because he can respond calmly to situations where most people will already be agitated. Not only that, he is also someone who can think out of the box and provide solutions to his problems.'

Could a variable appear at this point? Kang Taehoon had already confirmed that it would be difficult for Minhyuk to achieve anything today if Lady Luck was not on his side.

But then, Minhyuk, who had closed his eyes, started to murmur to himself.

[If today is an unlucky day, let's change it to a lucky day.]

"...?"

"...?"

Confusion was plastered on the faces of the executives when they heard Minhyuk's words. Then, they saw Minhyuk smile as if he remembered something.

[Let's use our farming methods to help gain a good harvest. If I do this, I will increase my chances of creating this skill.]

"...!"

President Kang's grew wide.

Using external factors and not relying solely on the skill's power, Minhyuk's method would definitely increase his chances of creating the skill by a huge margin.

Gulp-

President Kang Taehoon gulped dryly as he looked at Minhyuk through the monitor.

Chapter 988

Minhyuk pondered deeply about it.

He had already extended the seed's planting and harvest period by two years. He even tried to reduce the effects to 40% before creating the skill. But it still failed.

'It seems like I'm just really unlucky today.'

He could tell that everything was already within the range where the system could accept the skill's creation. But because he had grown highly impatient, he looked over a lot of things.

'If the effects had lowered to 40% and it would take two years for me to harvest the ingredients, then there's no advantage to getting this skill.'

Perhaps it would only have one merit. That was because he could taste the ingredients he could never forget in two years. But the opportunity to create a Food God's skill was very precious. Instead of lowering the effects and wasting this opportunity, he concluded he should think of another way.

"If today is unlucky, let's change it so it's lucky."

If the effect were more than 80%, then the system would refuse the creation of the skill no matter how lucky Minhyuk was. This was because the effects were far too outstanding for just “one skill” to have. However, after thinking about it, he realized that many external factors affected farming.

If the rainy season lasted for quite a long time during that year, the crops they would harvest would be of poorer quality and a little less delicious than usual. On the other hand, the crops would not be able to grow if the sun's heat was too intense and there was no rain.

‘In other words, I would not need to rely on the skill for everything and get some help from external factors too.’

A sparkle appeared in Minhyuk’s eyes as he began to tap away and add new things to the hologram screen.

“Tears of the Sun. This is one of the treasures of the Ashga Royal Family. From what I heard, it can provide the optimal heat to grow crops within an area within a one-kilometer radius.”

The Ashga Royal Family was one of the few seeking to maintain a friendly relationship with the Beyond the Heavens Empire. They would be willing to give this treasure.

After all, the Tears of the Sun could only cover an area within a one-kilometer radius. It was determined that this treasure had no significant effect besides making the crops grow more delicious. It was not a very important treasure. However, things would be different if Minhyuk applied it here.

Minhyuk drew the Tears of the Sun in the hologram. The red jewel, the Tears of the Sun, was the perfect item to provide sunlight for the crops. It floated in the sky and helped the crops grow better.

Then, the second one.

“Hyemin’sDaddy and Roadol. There’s nothing that the two cannot make if they are together.”

Hyemin’sDaddy was the best blacksmith, and Roadol was an outstanding building contractor. Working together, they could create a greenhouse that would remain sturdy and safe even if a typhoon came.

“Then, we will install sprinklers inside the greenhouse. These sprinklers will spray water at set intervals and ensure the crops can grow excellently.”

But that was not all.

“If I use the water from the Aenes River, then the effects will be doubled.”

The Aenes River was a tourist attraction in every kingdom. Everyone knew using its waters when farming could boost crop growth and quality.

Minhyuk drew the sprinklers, applied the waters of the Aenes River to the hologram, and then added another one.

‘A fertile land.’

It did not matter what seeds were planted or how hard one farmed; if seeds were planted on barren land, they would not be able to harvest good crops. On the other hand, seeds planted on fertile land could yield good ingredients.

Minhyuk had already requested Rhoando to give him the most fertile land in Utopia. But Minhyuk did not stop there. He knew of a way to make this fertile land even better.

“The Great Spirit of the Earth, Rend.”

The Great Spirit of the Earth Rend could make any land fertile. If the effects of the Pickaxe that Can Make Any Land Fertile were also applied, the land would become the world's richest and most fertile.

Then came the final step.

“Once the conditions are met, we can ask the greatest farmer to help us.”

Two farmers appeared on the screen of the hologram. They were none other than Rumble, who was in the form of the baby wolf, and Rend, the Great Spirit of the Earth, standing together with a pickaxe in hand.

The two's harmony and chemistry could be considered highly fantastic. One understood the land best, while the other knew best how to take care of life.

Minhyuk looked at the hologram that he finally completed.

The Tears of the Sun floated above the steel-like greenhouse and bathed everything beneath it with the sun's warmth. Inside the greenhouse, two excellent farmers stood on the fertile land with countless sprinklers.

‘Let's see. Now...’

Minhyuk tapped on the hologram. He adjusted the effects of the crops he would harvest from 40% to 100%. Considering Rend and Rumble's working together and the rich and fertile land, he adjusted the growth period from two years to only ten months.

“Now, my unlucky day has turned into a lucky day.”

If people saw him, they would probably say that he was too daring to even try and control *luck*, something a human could not fathom. Of course, Minhyuk could only try to do so because he had the capabilities and met all the conditions.

Minhyuk gulped dryly. *‘Perhaps I will be able to get the skill that I wanted.’*

He pressed the *create* button in the skill creation window with a trembling hand.

[The skill cannot be created.]

Minhyuk felt his heart drop when he heard the notification. However, he quickly calmed down, took a deep breath, and stabilized himself again. Now, he only had one chance left.

However, even if he had only one chance left, Minhyuk did nothing to reduce the growth period or the effects. Why? Because he was confident.

“I have set the best conditions possible.”

He had already created the best conditions for the best skill, so he clicked the *create* button for the final time.

At the same time.

The Joy Co. Ltd. executives monitoring Minhyuk almost stuck their heads to the monitor as they watched the scene with dry lips. Not long after, letters started to appear on the hologram.

[You have successfully created the skill.]

[The system has started to adjust and tune up the skill that you have created.]

Some of the Joy Co. Ltd. executives wrapped their heads in despair while President Kang Taehoon sighed. And Team Leader Park Minggyu? He looked at the screen in awe.

As for the protagonist of this scene? There was a delighted smile plastered on Minhyuk's face.

[Please choose a name for the skill.]

Minhyuk pondered the matter deeply. He believed that the people who would obtain a skill similar to this now or in the future would be few and far between.

'I have opened up a possibility for them.'

There was a chance that even Joy Co. Ltd. did not expect such a skill to emerge. So, Minhyuk made his choice.

“Seeds of Revolution.”

Minhyuk thought that since he could acquire a skill like this today, he could acquire a similar skill someday.

[You have acquired the Active Skill: Seeds of Revolution.]

Minhyuk did not hesitate and immediately checked the details of the skill.

Active Skill

- You can choose any cooking ingredient and turn them into seeds.*
- The chosen cooking ingredient can be turned into seeds and would not reduce effects or volume produced upon harvest.*
- Once the seed has been planted, you can harvest it after ten months.*
- The quality of the crop you will produce will depend on how well you can grow your seed. Luck will also play a massive role in this.*
- The effects of crops that grow from the seed would have around 60%~100% power compared to the original. This will be dependent on a variety of factors and conditions.*
- You can produce three seeds from one ingredient.*

•*If your planted seed produces a crop with more than 90% of the original's effect, the number of seeds you can produce from the ingredient will increase by two.*

Minhyuk was in awe. *'This is the skill that I wanted.'*

Of course, the system had adjusted and tweaked some parts of the skill that Minhyuk had created. Because of that, the power of the crops produced from the seeds would now swing between 60% and 100%. It would no longer produce a crop with 100% of the effects of the original with absolute certainty. Just like it said in the description, the crop's quality would depend on how well they could grow the seed.

'In the first place, I never expected that I would be able to plant a hundred seeds all at once. That would be pure greed.'

That would be impossible even if Athenae made the skill and planted it herself. If that was allowed, the balance would be completely broken, and the game would collapse. But if he could harvest a crop with an effect that was 95% or higher, then the number of seeds he could make would increase by two.

From the beginning, Minhyuk knew it would take a long time before his vast and rich field became a reality. But he continued to take one step after another, and his dream of having a *field of god-grade ingredients* had already started to come true.

Minhyuk immediately used the skill.

[You have chosen the Oppression's Beef Grilling Set. The Oppression's Beef Grilling Set will now become a seed.]

[The Oppression's Beef Grilling Set might have several different parts, but it can produce and create a single seed.]

[Once the harvest period has arrived, you can harvest several parts from the crop growing from this single seed.]

"Kghhk~"

The effects would only be compressed into one, but it was still possible to harvest several parts of a single ingredient in one seed. Immediately after that, a tiny seed appeared on Minhyuk's palm.

[Oppression's Beef Grilling Set Seed.]

When Minhyuk clicked on the seed's information, he found out that the growth period of the seed was only six months. Minhyuk hurriedly put the seed in his inventory. Then, he rubbed his hands together.

'Now that the seed has been created...'

It was finally time for him to eat. Minhyuk hurriedly prepared to eat beef.

"Oink!"

Beanie was also with him today, and a similar set of ingredients appeared right before Beanie.

Various side dishes appeared as Minhyuk finished all of his preparations. There were several dips, including salt, wasabi, and *ssamjang*.

Finally, he sat down and began his meal by turning on the heat and allowing the grilling pan to heat up.

“Kgghhk~ Yes, when it comes to beef, it’s best if it’s thick.” Minhyuk sighed in admiration as he placed a huge sirloin on the now-heated grilling pan.

Sizzle–

The cheerful sizzle of the meat danced in Minhyuk’s ears. After a few moments, he flipped the meat on the pan.

Sizzle–

Once the beef had turned golden brown, Minhyuk whipped out the scissors and cut it into cubes. With every cut, juices spilled from the sides of the meat, enough to make his mouth water.

Minhyuk ensured the beef was evenly cooked, leaving it on the grilling pan for a bit more until all the blood had disappeared. Then, he grabbed his chopsticks and picked up a piece.

He gently blew on the still-sizzling oil that covered the meat. Without dipping it in anything, Minhyuk placed the entire piece of sirloin in his mouth. Minhyuk felt the soft texture of the beef the moment he put it in his mouth. The best part? The savory juices of the meat would explode with every bite he made.

“Kghhk...”

“Oiiiiink...”

Beanie was so thrilled. He was even shedding tears as he ate the beef. Of course, the same was true for Minhyuk.

Following Minhyuk, Beanie picked up another piece of beef. But this time, instead of not dipping it in anything, he followed along and dipped the thick piece of sirloin in the wasabi.

Munch, munch–

The rich and flavorful juice of the meat coated his mouth, while the spicy and savory wasabi balanced the flavor. The harmony of flavors made Beanie feel highly delighted.

“Oiiiiink...!”

In an instant, the two pigs(?) demolished the sirloin and the other parts of the set. Finally, they were down to the last part of the set. The last part was none other than the chuck flap tail. Of course, the chuck flap tail was just as thick as the previous parts.

Minhyuk looked at Beanie solemnly. Beanie knew that look in Minhyuk’s eyes. That was right; Beanie knew what he wanted to ask, even if he had not opened his mouth.

“Oiiiiink (*I’m going for mul naengmyeon*).”

Minhyuk nodded in understanding. “A wonderful choice.”

Since Beanie chose the *mul naengmyeon*, Minhyuk went for *the bi bim naengmyeon*. He removed both dishes from his inventory.

Beanie immediately grabbed the bowl of *mul naengmyeon* covered in thin ice and drank the cool and refreshing broth.

“Oiiiiink.”

Beanie’s eyes grew wide at the cold and delicious flavor of the broth. On the other hand, Minhyuk poured a bit of the icy cold broth into his *bibim naengmyeon*. Then, he quickly mixed the yolk of the egg with the rest of the sauce.

Swoosh, swoosh–

Once he was done mixing, the softest and most delicious part of beef, the chuck flap tail, was also done cooking. Of course, Minhyuk had to try it as it was first.

“Kihyaaa!”

“Oiiiiink!”

Then, Minhyuk grabbed a thick piece of chuck flap tail and dropped it on his *bibim naengmyeon*. He used the meat as a wrap and wrapped the noodles together before putting everything in his mouth.

“Sluuuuuuuurp!”

The spicy and sweet *bibim naengmyeon* and the thick and soft chuck flap tail met in his mouth and created a fantastic harmony of flavors.

This time, Minhyuk put a piece of the chuck flap tail in his mouth before taking a huge sip of the broth of the *bibim naengmyeon*. The spiciness of the *bibim naengmyeon* perfectly captured and balanced the greasiness of the beef.

“Fuwaaaa...!”

“Oiiiiink...”

I’m finally alive! Even if the two did not say anything, it was obvious that those were the words that they were thinking just by looking at their expressions alone.

After he finished his meal, a series of notifications rang in Minhyuk’s ears.

[You have eaten the Oppression’s Beef Grilling Set.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have leveled up.]

[All of your stats have increased by 4.5%.]

[All of your skills’ proficiency levels have increased by 50%.]

[Your chosen skill's proficiency level has increased by 30%.]

[Your divine power has increased by 5%.]

The effects were very satisfying.

Minhyuk looked at the Oppression's Beef Grilling Set Seed, sitting silently inside his inventory.

'What ingredients should I plant next time?'

Of course, there was a high chance that the ingredients that he would obtain later would be much worse than those in Oppression's Beef Grilling Set. But that did not matter. At the very least, he would be able to plant ingredients that would be far superior to ordinary God-grade ingredients.

While Minhyuk was thinking about what ingredients he should obtain, a whisper from Godly Editor Carron arrived.

Chapter 989

After receiving the whisper from Carron, Minhyuk immediately headed back to his office. When he entered, he saw Haze and the editor sitting and waiting for him.

'The Battle God's advertisement video.'

The thought alone was enough to send his heart into overdrive. An advertisement video focusing on the greatest god, the Battle God, would attract many viewers. And that was not all.

"This is an opportunity for us to recruit troops for the Heavenly Army under the Battle God's command."

Many from the Beyond the Heaven's Empire had witnessed the moment when Minhyuk succeeded the throne firsthand and were fully aware of the meaning of the words that the Battle God had said back then.

Make your Land of the Gods. Gather the Gods who will stay by your side on your own.

In other words, it would be more appropriate for them to view the gods serving the current Battle God separately from Minhyuk.

'In the first place, Joy Co. Ltd. will never give a single player the authority to lead all the gods.'

That was only natural. If a single player gained the authority to rule over all of the gods, then the balance would be completely and utterly broken.

'Instead, they're allowing me to make my Land of the Gods, gather my gods, and create my own Heavenly Army under the name of the Battle God.'

The skills that Minhyuk obtained when he became the Battle God were a testament to that fact.

"That's right. Suppose we release the Battle God's advertisement video; not only will we gather many of my supporters. In that case, we will also be able to gather many people in the Beyond the Heavens Empire."

It was also a way for the Beyond the Heavens Empire to grow rapidly and pull ahead of the Luvien Empire before it could gain stability.

Carron said, “This is the best time to release the video. Since plenty of players are looking forward to what the Battle God has in store for the future, we can achieve quite a good effect if we do it now.”

Minhyuk looked at Carron in confusion. Carron's mention of the word “quite” meant they could not achieve maximum efficiency.

“Is there something else that we need?”

Haze and Carron both shook their heads at Minhyuk’s question. Then, Carron said, “Yes, there are quite a lot of things that we need. The most important thing is to bring many people from the Luvien Empire to our Beyond the Heavens Empire. However, we have no reason to entice them to move to the Beyond the Heavens Empire except for their expectations for Your Majesty as the ‘Battle God’.”

Minhyuk understood what Carron was saying. Even if the player was only a novice, they had every right to choose what nation they would belong to, whether it was the Luvien Empire, the Beyond the Heavens Empire, or any other empire or kingdom.

No nation would deny them entry, except chaotic players, even if they were only novices. After all, once these players belonged to their nation, they could collect taxes from them.

Because of that, all players tended to choose a nation that would bring them more benefits and profits.

“There’s also the fact that those belonging to the Luvien Empire will face various penalties if they choose to leave and move to another nation. These penalties include being unable to go back and join the Luvien Empire again, a decrease in their EXP, and a drop in favorability with all of the citizens of the Luvien Empire,” Haze added.

“We need tangible benefits. Something more than mere ‘expectations for what the Battle God has in store for the future.’ If we can bring that to the table, then the Beyond the Heavens Empire will be able to usher in an unprecedented number of migrants.”

Perhaps they could even usher in more than a million people.

“Aside from the advertisement video, what else can entice the novice players to feel that it would be more beneficial for them to stay in the Beyond the Heavens Empire than the Luvien Empire.”

Minhyuk’s dishes? Or maybe Guardian God Obren? But all of these were temporary. Many people needed to see something more permanent that would benefit them long if they chose to stay in the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

[You’re non-stop chattering is annoying. You don’t even have any awareness. You already have the answer to your problem.]

Then, at that moment, Obren's voice rang.

A flash of confusion appeared on Minhyuk's face. The number of migrants that they wanted to entice to move to the Beyond the Heavens Empire was not in the thousands, so they needed something more concrete. But Obren was saying that Minhyuk already had something that would make them feel that it was more beneficial to stay and live in the Beyond the Heavens Empire.

[Temple Evangel.]

"...!"

Among the tens of thousands of temples built worldwide, there was one temple and one alone that was considered mythical. This was the temple created by Kronad, Obren's friend and enemy. Evangel had the power to bestow buffs. It also can allow its master to choose ten Evangel Knights and give them buffs.

However, although Minhyuk had Evangel in his possession, it was nothing more than an incomplete temple. It could still bestow buffs, but its effect would remain only ten minutes. It could also only allow him to choose ten knights.

These were the buff effects that Genie had received during that time:

[All of your skills and stats will change!]

[Your HP and MP have increased by 50%!]

[All of your stats have increased by 39%!]

[Your whip's striking power has increased by 60%!]

[Your whip's skill damage has increased by 50%!]

[You have received Evangel's Blessings. Attack and defense will increase by 40% when facing evil beings.]

[The buff will last for one whole day.]

Even if Minhyuk looked back at it again, only one word could help him describe it. *Overpowered*. However, Evangel was incomplete. And this power could only be given to ten people at most.

"Obren. Evangel can only give buffs to ten people at the most."

Its effects did not fit the purpose of what they were discussing right now. After all, they needed everyone migrating to their empire to see an impact. But then, Obren continued.

[Are you an idiot?]

[The Evangel in your possession is the incomplete Evangel.]

It was as Obren said. Minhyuk needed to reach Temple Level 7 for Evangel to be completed. In other words, Minhyuk had to increase Evangel's level to seven.

[The power that you used and applied to the ten knights before is nothing but an incomplete power. If you go beyond a certain level, there is a high chance that Evangel will become a completely different temple.]

“...!”

[Kronad did anything and everything to complete Evangel. Did you think he would not spare those efforts just to create an Evangel that would give power to only ten people?]

Obren has the highest credibility among them. However, even his words were just mere speculations.

‘What if Evangel can bestow strength upon all who visited the temple...?’

The chances of that were high.

Haze, who was also listening to Obren, jumped to her feet. “Your Majesty...! I’ve devised a method to help us gain a huge sum of money!”

Minhyuk immediately understood where Haze’s thoughts were going. “If everyone who visits the temple can receive a buff, then we can charge them with a certain amount of gold, no?”

He completely agreed with her thoughts. The value of a temple, which could give buff as it was without the need to consume any materials or ingredients, was undoubtedly astronomical. And it was not that they could not convert that value to money. After all, they could just charge a certain amount of gold for all visitors since they could receive buffs, right?

‘Many people will migrate to the Beyond the Heavens Empire to visit my temple.’

However, there was one crucial factor.

“But Obren... Evangel is still at Level 1.”

“...”

Both Haze and Minhyuk turned sullen at that.

The complete Evangel would not be available to them until it reached Temple Level 7. Since it was a mythical temple, it was only natural that its requirements would be difficult to achieve before it could be used. On top of that, there was no way for Minhyuk to increase Evangel’s level. No, to be exact, that was just what Minhyuk was thinking.

[There’s a high chance that you have already met Evangel’s requirements.]

“Huh?” Minhyuk hummed in confusion.

Evangel’s level was still currently at Level 1. That was what Minhyuk saw. But Obren was saying that he had met the requirements already.

[Come on, think for a minute. You haven’t applied Evangel to any temple yet. Evangel does not have requirements to level up by itself. Why? Because you have to apply it to a temple under your name.]

Only at this moment did Minhyuk know how to increase Evangel’s level. Evangel was not a stand-alone temple. It had to be applied to an existing temple. Only after applying Evangel to a temple would he be able to increase its level.

It wasn’t as if Minhyuk had never thought about this at all.

‘Applying it to the Food God’s temple would be a waste.’

Of course, Minhyuk loved and cared deeply for the Food God’s temple, or, in other words, Minhyuk’s Religion. However, he was fully aware that the impact between the Battle God’s Temple and the Food God’s Temple was on completely different levels. That was also the reason why he immediately ordered the construction of the Battle God’s Temple right after he inherited the position.

And from what Minhyuk had heard, the temple's exterior was nearing completion. So, after hearing Obren’s words, Minhyuk immediately headed towards the place where the Battle God’s Temple was being built.

Various noises clashed in the Battle God’s Temple while dust flew around as plenty of construction workers worked under Roadol's leadership.

Among these construction workers was Alvier, a builder who specialized in building temples. Alvier had built countless temples in this era. Rumor has it that numerous gods lined up so that he could build them a new temple. That was how big of a bigshot Alvier was in building temples.

‘A Battle God in name alone, huh?’

In fact, Alvier was hostile to Minhyuk because he had once built a memorial hall for Nerva.

Surprisingly enough, all of the building materials that Alvier encountered would come alive. These living and breathing materials would shake and vibrate when they met a superior master. The greater the reaction, the more influential the master.

Alvier could never forget how the materials cried when Nerva first entered the completed memorial hall. That was why Alvier only accepted Nerva as the “true Battle God.”

In the end, he shook his head. *‘I just need to get paid.’*

The construction of the temple would soon end. Minhyuk would have to complete the various items that symbolize Minhyuk, like statues and portraits, needed for the temple separately.

‘This is quite a huge temple.’

Alvier could confidently say that this was the largest, highest, and most beautiful temple he had ever built.

‘I wonder when I can do it?’

Alvier had already reached the transcendental level when it came to construction. However, there was just one wall that he could never go past to become even better. And the reason for that was simple.

‘Because I haven’t created a real and true god’s temple.’

A god who could become the master of the true temple—a true temple that could house that true god. If he could make such a temple, then his level would definitely grow higher, and he would be able to make better temples.

At that moment, the surroundings grew noisy. When Alvier turned to look at the direction from which the noise was coming, he saw Beyond the Heavens' Emperor Minhyuk walking towards them.

"Uncle, when will the construction end?" Minhyuk greeted Roadol.

"I think we will finish by tomorrow."

"Thank you for responding to my call." Minhyuk also greeted Alvier, who had just come out from the temple.

"It was nothing, Your Majesty," Alvier greeted in return. However, he was sighing to himself.

The man's fresh smile and polite way of speaking showed no sign of his dignity as an emperor. On the other hand, when Nerva first walked into the memorial hall that Alvier had built, he felt like a fierce and gigantic tiger had walked in and was left feeling numb all over.

It was only when the construction workers took a break that Minhyuk slowly walked toward the temple. The construction workers were all watching him nervously. And Alvier? He was not that interested.

'I'll have to hurry and finish this so I can go and build the temple of the God of Love.'

The thought just flashed in Alvier's head.

Rumble—

"...?"

Alvier's body turned stiff. Everything happened so suddenly. One moment, everything was quiet, and the next, the temple was crying loudly in his ears. These cries were something that Alvier could only hear.

The trees said...

[I will burrow deeper and become a more robust tree for him.]

The earth said...

[I will hold on to the bricks tightly and withstand any typhoons or calamities for him.]

The air said...

[I will breathe the cleanest and freshest air for him.]

The stones said...

[I am going to become stronger and sturdier so I can protect him.]

Rumble—

Every single material would cry out with every step that he took. They were worshiping him. All of the materials used to build this temple were worshiping Minhyuk, the temple's master and owner.

Then, something surprising happened as Minhyuk continued to walk deeper into the temple.

The trees stretched their branches and roots out and produced leaves and red roses that beautifully decorated various parts of the temple. One look at the soil revealed that it had grown highly fertile and rich. Even the stones shined and reflected light like the most precious of gems.

All of the construction workers present were left in shock. Then, one of the workers murmured, “The true god recognized by a temple...”

That was right. Some legends had been passed on to the construction workers. And according to those legends, a temple would change if it met its true master.

Of course, Alvier’s powers could also be said to have contributed to this.

‘No. This is beyond what I can do.’

Alvier’s breathing became rough because of how shocked and amazed he was. All of the materials displayed a stronger reaction than when Nerva entered that memorial hall.

However, the surprise was not yet over. The Beyond the Heavens Emperor stood inside the temple and said, “Apply Evangel to the Battle God’s Temple.”

Chapter 990

Minhyuk immediately ran to the site where they were building the Battle God’s Temple when he heard what Obren said. These were the notifications that greeted him when he approached the temple:

[All of the materials used in the temple are worshipping you.]

[The materials are genuinely happy to be able to be a part of a temple that serves your name.]

[They will evolve to another level and go beyond superior materials.]

Then, something shocking happened. The air turned fresher and made the entire temple feel more pleasant. The trees’ branches stretched on their own and covered the exterior of the temple with blooming flowers. Not only that, the stones that looked ordinary before suddenly grew shinier, sturdier, and stronger, making the Battle God’s Temple more beautiful than before.

‘Is this the Battle God’s effect?’

That was not the case at all. Minhyuk might not know, but the materials did not react like this because he was the Battle God. He had achieved tremendous growth compared to ordinary players. He was even able to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Luvien Empire’s emperor. Even if he wasn’t the Battle God, his existence was well worth worshipping these materials.

Of course, Minhyuk did not forget his original purpose once he entered the temple.

‘Temple Evangel, the temple in myths.’

He could only shudder at its enormous power despite only being in an incomplete state.

Minhyuk released a shaky breath as he attempted to apply Evangel to the Battle God’s Temple.

“Apply Evangel to the Battle God’s Temple.”

Was Obren and Minhyuk’s assumption true? He did not even need to wait for the answers; the notifications had already started to ring.

[Would you like to apply Evangel to the Battle God's Temple?]

'Obren. You're really...'

He was Minhyuk's dear and good friend.

However, there was just something that he could not understand. According to Obren, he probably had already achieved Temple Level 7 for Evangel. Was the reason why Evangel remained at Level 1 even though he had met all of the requirements because he had not applied it to a temple? That was quite weird, no?

'Well, we'll only know it if we try.'

Minhyuk agreed to apply Evangel.

[The temple from the myths responds to its master's calls.]

Immediately after that, a massive light pillar fell from the sky. Alvier and the construction workers, who were waiting outside the temple, were left stunned.

The Battle God's Temple had already become even more beautiful, but when the pillar of light fell upon it, a bigger change began to take place. Glittering diamonds appeared and decorated the walls of the temple, while golden water started to spew out of the unfinished fountain, and the trees started to turn white. Countless white flowers even appeared and covered Minhyuk's body.

Swoosh—

Minhyuk's clothes changed into a white papal robe when the white flowers slowly disappeared. At the same time, a notification rang in his ears.

[Evangel observes the master of the temple.]

Minhyuk gulped dryly. Evangel was observing him to decide if he, who dared to own its temple, had the qualifications to do so.

[Evangel admires you and the power you possess.]

[Evangel has leveled up.]

[Evangel admires you and how you became the God at the Highest Place from the God at the Lowest Place.]

[Evangel has leveled up.]

[Evangel admires you and the gods under your command.]

[Evangel has leveled up.]

[Evangel's Level has reached Level 4.]

[At Level 4, the amount of EXP that Evangel requires to level up will double.]

Minhyuk grew nervous when he heard the notifications stop for a moment. *'The amount of EXP needed will double?'*

Thankfully, the notifications began to ring once again.

[Evangel is both in shock and awe of you and your effort, passion, endurance, and patience.]

[Evangel has leveled up.]

[Evangel is both in shock and awe of you and the countless achievements that you have made.]

[Evangel has leveled up.]

[Evangel is both in shock and awe of you, the most miserable and pitiful god, who became the greatest god, the Battle God.]

[You have leveled up.]

[You have met all of Unfinished Evangel's requirements for use.]

[You can now use Evangel's power from this point on.]

Minhyuk shuddered. *'It is just as Obren said.'*

Evangel was not a temple that one could quickly raise the level of. First, Evangel's master had to have the qualifications and power to completely rule it.

And Minhyuk, who checked Evangel's information, could not help but groan. *'It's abilities did not change.'*

In the first place, the power that allowed Minhyuk to give buffs to ten knights was Level 7 Evangel's power.

'Unfinished Evangel.'

This meant that Evangel was still not able to achieve its full potential. Perhaps it was just like Obren said. There was a chance that it could give anyone who entered the temple a buff, or maybe it would also change into something they had completely failed to predict.

At that moment, another series of notifications rang in Minhyuk's ears again. It was as if it was saying that things were not yet over.

[Evangel is both in shock and in awe of you, who became the greatest god, the Battle God, despite being a mere human being.]

[Evangel is very satisfied with the master that owns its temple.]

[Evangel has leveled up.]

[Unfinished Evangel has taken a step closer to reaching completion.]

[If you complete the last step, Unfinished Evangel will truly become the true and complete temple from the myths, Evangel.]

[Unfinished Evangel's powers have started to change.]

[You can now choose a total of 20 Evangel Knights.]

[Evangel's buff abilities have decreased significantly.]

[Evangel's buff duration has increased significantly.]

[If a follower of your religion enters your temple, Evangel will grant them a 3% increase in attack and defensive power. The buff would last for an entire week.]

[If a follower of your religion enters your temple, Evangel will grant them a 3% increase in EXP Acquisition Rate. The buff would last for an entire week.]

[If a follower of your religion enters your temple, Evangel will grant them a 4% increase in abnormal status resistance. The buff would last for an entire week.]

[Those who have been bestowed with Evangel's power will only be able to receive this power again after six months.]

“...!”

Minhyuk trembled fiercely. His followers would receive a 3% increase in attack power, defensive power, and EXP Acquisition Rate and a 4% increase in abnormal status resistance.

‘This is a cheat.’

Nothing would be more cheat-like than being able to bestow buffs to an unlimited number of people. Of course, that did not mean it would now be easier for them to attract other players, especially if they could still find merits and benefits from different kingdoms and empires.

‘It's still only at Level 8.’

This point should not be overlooked. But there was one problem.

“How can I raise its level...?”

Godly Editor Carron said this was the best time for them to release the Battle God's advertisement video to achieve the best effect. Considering the amount of time needed to produce the video and various other factors, Minhyuk only had at least one month to increase Evangel's level.

However, even if he had the time, he did not have the method. Then, at that moment, someone approached Minhyuk, who was thinking about this problem. This man was Alvier, the one they hired from the outside with a huge sum of money.

“A temple that is more solid and sturdier than it is now, as well as outstanding statues and portraits of Your Majesty along with samples of all of the artifacts and items you use. These together will help you raise the temple until you reach the last level.”

“...?” Minhyuk looked at Alvier in surprise.

Since he entered the temple, Minhyuk had heard the notifications about his increase in favor with the construction workers and builders. This was more prominent in the case of Alvier.

Alvier was very thrilled. He quickly understood what this phenomenon meant. *‘This temple... this temple will be my masterpiece.’*

As someone who has been making temples for a long time, he could not help but be impressed. Of course, he had heard about Evangel, the temple in the myths.

‘I never expected that there would be a god in this day and age who would receive the recognition of Evangel.’

From what Alvier heard, Evangel would not even respond to some of the gods. At this moment, Alvier, who had always firmly believed that it should have been Nerva sitting in the throne of the Battle God, felt like this was the opportunity to change his mind and see if Minhyuk was indeed the true and genuine Battle God.

Minhyuk's interest was piqued after listening to Alvier's words. "Are you sure that I can complete Evangel with those items?"

"All items representing Your Majesty, the Battle God, will help the temple grow. However, all of these items should satisfy Evangel."

"...I see, so it's almost impossible."

Minhyuk understood that the statues, portraits, artifact samples, and better exteriors should at least be God-grade or perhaps even higher. But was that even possible?

No matter how outstanding a sculptor was, there was no way that they would be able to make a God-grade sculpture right away. It could even take them a year at the very least. And, of course, the same was true for the portraits and the artifacts.

'I'm quite good at making God-grade dishes, but I can't say for sure about the others.'

And it would even be ridiculous if he tried to do the sculpture and the portrait by himself, no?

'In the end, do I have to wait for a long time?'

It could be possible if he set the due date to at least a year from now.

'But the Luvien Empire must have already settled down by then.'

A bitter taste lingered in Minhyuk's mouth at the thought.

At that moment, Alvier said, "There is a way. There is someone in this world who can make outstanding sculptures, paint life-like portraits, and even duplicate the original artifact perfectly."

Minhyuk's ears perked up. *'Someone like that exists?'*

Then, Alvier finished his sentence. "He is one of the Eight Pillars, Jack-of-all-Trades Rocado."

"Eight Pillars?" Minhyuk was quite surprised.

Although they knew some of the Eight Pillars, most were still hidden. The ones known to the world were Athenae, Obren, Kronad, and Helenia. Minhyuk had assumed that not all of the Eight Pillars longed for power and threatened many people's lives, as in Athenae's case.

"From what I heard, he can do anything and everything related to DEX, and make it better than anybody else. That's everything that I know about him."

The Eight Pillars Jack-of-all-Trades Rocado, a person hidden behind a veil. How did Alvier know about someone like him?

'He must have exhausted great efforts just to create a better temple.'

Minhyuk guessed that Alvier was the type who would find out about everything until the very end. However, there was no need for the man to disclose information like this to him, no?

‘But why did he share this precious information with me?’

But thanks to that, Minhyuk was now aware of the person hailed as the Jack-of-all-Trades among the Eight Pillars. The difference between knowing and not knowing was like the difference between heaven and earth.

‘I have to gather information as fast as I can.’

By the end of this, he would be able to obtain a complete Evangel and millions of migrants.

Special Players Management Team.

Team Leader Park Minggyu, monitoring Minhyuk, quizzed Lee Minhwa after a very long time. “What kind of person is Jack-of-all-Trades Rocado?”

“He’s like the father of dexterity. Just like the Weapon Master, who is a master of all weapons, he is superior to any being regarding things related to DEX.”

Team Leader Park nodded. “And what can Player Minhyuk gain from Rocado?”

“Rocado is one of the Eight Pillars. Aside from being able to obtain a complete Evangel, there is a chance that he would also receive something special. Something that is yet to be revealed in the world.”

This was an important point to note. Rocado was the Father of Dexterity. What did that mean?

“He has a Pillar’s Ingredient, an item yet to be released to the world, in his hands.”

That was right. The Pillar’s Ingredient was an ingredient that had the power to go beyond a God-grade or perhaps even an Absolute God-grade ingredient.

Team Leader Park and Minhwa looked at each other. The expressions on their faces were hideous. Minggyu’s face was twisted horribly, and Minhwa looked like she was crying and laughing simultaneously.

“Hoho. Player Minhyuk will use the Seeds of Revolution on the Eight Pillars’ Ingredient.”

“Then, do you know what we will do next?”

Lee Minhwa knew precisely what they were about to do.

“We have to continue monitoring him.”

That was right. Their overtime has just been confirmed.

‘Please let me go home...’ A silent cry resounded in their heads.