

Magic System in a Parallel World

Chapter 91: Preparing for the Wilderness Training Course

After arriving at Stellar Terminal, Camille led Leo around to purchase everything he needed for the training course.

"First and foremost, you'll need a camping tent, unless you intend on sleeping outside where monsters roam."

Leo raised his eyebrows and said, "I mean... Since there are monsters, what good will tents do? They'll just destroy them with ease. Not to mention tents will block your vision."

"Easy to break? Don't compare our tents with your tents. The ones made here are enhanced with magic. Monsters won't be able to destroy them with ease." Camille said to him.

"Enhanced with magic...? That sounds very expensive." Leo swallowed nervously.

His phone had cost him half a million dollars. He cannot imagine how much a tent infused with magic could cost.

After arriving at the 32nd floor, Camille gave him some recommendations for the tents.

"Most of these tents have been enhanced with concealment magic, so monsters won't be able to notice your tent unless they're right in front of it. They're also durable enough to stop all monsters below C-Rank from destroying it. I recommend any of these."

Leo didn't say anything and immediately went to look at the price tag.

"T-Ten million dollars?! I don't have this much money!" He exclaimed after seeing the price of these tents, and this was the cheapest one. The more expensive ones were between 25 to 50 million dollars.

"As an apology for getting you mixed in with my trouble, I'll buy the tent for you." Camille suddenly said to him.

"Really? Thank you, Miss Camille!" Leo stared at her with awe.

Sometime later, Camille beckoned for a worker there to make the purchase.

"I'd like this Model CX-06." Camille pointed at the black cabin tent that had a price tag of 50 million dollars.

Leo's eyes widened when she picked out the most expensive tent on the floor.

"Are you sure? I don't mind getting the cheapest one." Leo said to her.

"It's fine," she calmly said.

"Thank you very much for your purchase!" The workers there thanked her.

"Here's your tent. Whenever you want to use it, just remove the lock and press the button. All of its functions are inside the manual. Give it a look when you have the time. These tents have a lot more functions than you think." Camille handed him a metal box that was the size of his fist.

"Wow, this is pretty neat. Thanks again for the tent, Miss Camille." Leo said as he tossed the tent into his Spatial Ring.

"Now that you have a place to sleep in, you need a sleeping bag, some essentials for camping, and food. Oh, right, you don't have a phone, do you?"

"I have a phone. I purchased one recently." Leo showed his phone to her.

"Give it to me for a second." Camille said.

After taking his phone, Camille input her phone number into it before handing it back, "Call me if you need anything."

"Okay." He nodded.

They proceeded to go to another floor to purchase camping essentials and a sleeping bag. After that, they went to buy some food.

"Ugh... I'll have to eat MREs for an entire month?" Leo's body shivered after recalling his experience with them.

"The ones you ate were most likely low-quality MREs. The high-quality ones are actually better than what you can eat in most restaurants." Camille said.

Upon reaching the 39th floor where they sold MREs, Camille brought him to the high-quality MRE section.

"These are MREs?" Leo was taken aback by what he was seeing.

Unlike the MREs that were sealed inside a plastic bag and were mostly dehydrated food, these high-quality 'MREs' were no different than an actual meal from a restaurant.

"High-quality MREs are freshly made food that won't spoil or lose quality for 3 months due to the magic protecting them. Low-quality MREs will cost you about 50 dollars each, but high-quality MREs will cost around 5,000 each."

"Five thousand for a single meal..." Leo swallowed nervously.

However, he didn't want to eat the low-quality MREs, especially after what they'd done to his stomach afterward.

In the end, Leo purchased a month worth of high-quality MREs for 250,000 dollars. As much as he hates wasting money, he couldn't stand the idea of eating low-quality MREs for an entire month.

Sometime later, once Leo was fully prepared for the training course, Camille asked him, "Do you want to look at the artifacts too? You'll need a—"

"No, I don't need them, and they're too expensive." He shook his head.

"...Alright then."

They returned to the academy immediately afterward.

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"Good luck on the training course. I will be out there as well, but I won't always be around to watch over you." Camille said to him.

"Don't worry, I will be careful out there. Also, I won't be alone. Nina will be with me."

"Nina? As in Nina Wraith?" Camille looked at him with wide eyes.

"Yes, she approached me after the gathering, saying how she wanted to help me before she leaves the academy."

"And you trust her?"

"Well, out of the other students in the academy, I trust her the most, especially after what we did."

"I see... Even if she seems trustworthy, don't forget—"

"I remember. You don't need to remind me." Leo said with a smile.

After returning to the academy, Leo went back to the dorm to rest for the remainder of the day.

"Are you nervous about the training course?" Lilith asked him as he laid on the bed.

"Of course. This is my first time camping out in the Wilderness, and I have to stay out there for a whole month." He sighed.

"I wouldn't worry if I were you. You're more than strong enough to survive out in the Wilderness, unless you plan on fighting B-Rank monsters."

"Why would I want to fight B-Rank monsters?"

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"You'll have to if you want to place first in this training course. There are plenty of students who are B-Rank Adventurers after all, not to mention the Elite Class." Lilith shrugged.

Chapter 92: Beginning of the Wilderness Training Course

"B-Rank monsters, huh? I wouldn't be worried if I could use magic, but since I can only fight with a sword, I'm not as confident." Leo sighed.

"Have some confidence in yourself. Also, you won't be going alone. Nina Wraith... She's also a student of an Elite Class. If you work together, I'm sure you'll do fine." Lilith said.

Leo nodded and fell asleep shortly after.

The following morning, after eating breakfast at the cafeteria, Leo left the academy and called for a taxi.

Since the Wilderness Training Course happens every year and is a well-known event in the city, there were hundreds of taxis already waiting outside the academy for easy access for the students.

After Leo got into a taxi, the driver drove straight to the East Gate without needing Leo to say a word.

Half an hour later, they arrived at the East Gate, which was not as crowded as Leo had anticipated, mostly because the students had already left the city to gather outside.

After paying the taxi, Leo made his way towards the gates. As he got closer, he noticed a small figure standing beside the path to the Wilderness.

When he saw her cute face, Leo immediately approached her.

"Sorry, did you wait long?" He said to Nina, who had arrived before him.

"No," she calmly shook her head.

"Let's go, shall we?"

The two of them approached the entrance to the Wilderness without being stopped by the guards.

After exiting the tunnel, Leo and Nina noticed a group of fellow students gathered near a table not far away from the entrance.

"That must be where we get our watch and recorder." Leo said as he pointed.

Sure enough, there was a teacher at the table handing out watches and recorders to the students of their academy.

The watch looked like an ordinary watch, but it didn't show the time like ordinary watches. Instead, there was the number '0' in it.

As for the recorder, it was just a small camera lens that can be clipped onto any part of their clothes, almost like a spy tool. Most students decided to clip the recorder on their tie.

"The watch will automatically count how many monsters you killed in the vicinity and convert them into points. The stronger the monster, the more points you will receive. However, keep in mind that it will only count kills up to 100 meters away, and only monsters that you killed will be counted. Don't even try to tamper with the watch because it's an automatic disqualification from the exam."

"As for the recorder, say 'Start Record' if you want to record something. If you want to end the recording, just say 'End Record'. That's all. If you already have a watch and a recorder, go over there with the rest of the students."

Leo and Nina gathered with the other students at the border of the green zone.

Sometime later, Headmistress Eve showed up and said to them, "The Wilderness Training Course will officially begin now! Good luck, and stay safe!"

"Ooooh!"

"Let's go!"

The students there cheered loudly before scattering towards the Wilderness in groups. Some of the students there had prepared vehicles beforehand, so they were able to travel much quicker. As for the other students, they all took out what appeared to be a skateboard without wheels and jumped onto them.

These skateboards then hovered a few inches off the ground before they began moving forward. Although they were not as fast as actual vehicles, they were still traveling at around 20 to 30 miles per hour.

"What are those?" Leo pointed at the skateboards, as this was his first time seeing them.

"You mean the hoverboards? They're artifacts with wind magic. They're mostly used for traveling in the Wilderness. You don't have one?" Nina explained to him.

"No..." He shook his head.

Lilith suddenly started laughing in a mocking manner, "Miss Camille probably wanted to get you one yesterday at the Stellar Terminal, but you refused. Looks like you'll have to walk on your feet while everyone else cruises around the Wilderness!"

'Shit...' Leo swallowed nervously after hearing her words.

"I have a spare one if you want to use it." Nina said.

"Really?! Thank you!" Leo immediately smiled upon hearing her words.

Nina retrieved two black hoverboards and handed one to him.

"How do I use this?" He asked once it was in his hands.

"You put it on the floor, step on it, and activate it with your mana. It will automatically start hovering in the air. If you want to move forward, tilt your body forward or press the top of the hoverboard with your feet. If you want to stop or slow down, do the opposite by leaning back or stepping the back of the hoverboard. If you want to hover in place, balance yourself. If you want to turn, lean towards that direction. Like this."

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Nina jumped on the hoverboard and demonstrated the movements to him.

"I see..."

Leo stood on the hoverboard and practiced for a few minutes until he got the hang of it.

"This is freaking cool!" Leo exclaimed as he circled around Nina.

The teachers there watched them with raised eyebrows, wondering why they were still at the starting point and messing around with hoverboards when the rest of the students were long gone.

"Where are we going to go?" Nina asked him some time later.

"I'm not sure. Where can we go for the most points?"

"That would be the Labyrinth, but they're random, so we cannot rely on them for points. Other than that, we can find some monster nests. They have the most monsters there, but it's also more dangerous. Most people won't risk it because you can easily be overwhelmed. However, since I am here, it won't be as dangerous."

"Why is that?" Leo asked.

Nina patted her chest with a confident smile on her face, "Although we're only two people, our actual numbers are much higher. As a necromancer, I can summon servants to fight for us, and at my current level, I can summon 100 skeleton warriors or 10 skeleton mages."

"100 skeleton warriors? That's very impressive. I'm glad I have you as a teammate." Leo said with a smile.

"Let's just go deeper into the Wilderness for now." He then said.

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"Okay." Nina nodded, and they began moving towards the Wilderness on their hoverboards.

Chapter 93: Wilderness Training Course

"By the way, are you an Adventurer, Nina? If you are, what is your rank?" Leo asked her as they traveled through the desolate Wilderness.

She nodded, "Yes, I am an Adventurer, but I just registered very recently, so I am still F-Rank."

"You know that you can take the promotion examination all the way up to D-Rank without any restrictions, right? I think you're strong enough to pass the promotions even if you just became an Adventurer."

"I know, but I want to take it slow for now. Once I leave the academy, I will focus on my new life as an Adventurer and strive to become an S-Rank Adventurer." Nina said.

"I see... Well, good luck."

"What about you? I heard that you're a B-Rank Adventurer."

"About that... I don't remember since I have amnesia, and I haven't entered the Wilderness since I returned to the academy..." Leo said with a stiff smile on his face.

Sometime later, they encountered an F-Rank monster.

"Wait. I want to test out this watch." Leo said to Nina as he slowed down his hoverboard.

Leo jumped off his hoverboard and retrieved his sword before rushing at the monster.

"Start Record." He suddenly muttered.

Once he arrived in front of the monster, Leo swung his sword multiple times in a rapid succession, killing the monsters with ease.

"End Record." He said afterward.

He then looked at his watch, and sure enough, his points that were at zero increased by 1 point.

"An F-Rank monster is worth a single point, huh? How does this thing even work?"

"Magic." Nina calmly said.

"Sounds about right..."

Sometime later, Leo stopped moving to fight an E-Rank monster to see how many points he would get from it.

"Wow, 5 points? That's akin to 5 F-Rank monster kills."

"D-Rank monsters will give you 20 points, and C-Rank monsters will give you 100 points. As for B-Rank monsters... If you can defeat them, they're 1,000 points each."

"A thousand points..." Leo swallowed nervously.

"If you want to place first in the training course, we should focus on C-Rank and B-Rank monsters." Nina said.

"Let's do just that then. If it's too risky, we'll just farm D-Rank monsters." Leo nodded.

Over the next several hours, Leo and Nina would travel deeper into the Wilderness without stopping.

When Leo's stomach started rumbling, he stopped and asked Nina, "I'm a little hungry. Let's take a small break."

"Okay. Do you have a tent? I have one if you don't."

"I have a tent." Leo immediately said.

'I have been waiting for this moment ever since Miss Camille bought it for me!'

He retrieved the metal box from his Spatial Ring, placed it on the ground, and pressed the only button on the box.

The metal box opened up a few seconds later, and a fully-prepped tent would sprout from within.

Leo stared at the large cabin-like tent before him with a dazed face. The tent was much larger than he'd anticipated, not to mention how it required no effort to set up.

"The Model CX-06? That's quite expensive." Nina said.

"It was a gift, so I didn't have to pay," he said with a smile.

After setting up the tent, they entered it.

The interior of the tent was quite large, about the size of a large living room, and there was even a bathroom with a working shower and toilet.

'No wonder this thing cost 50 million. Let's hope the concealment magic really works on this thing...'

After sealing the door, Leo opened up the manual and began reading through it.

'Miss Camille was right. There are so many functions to this tent. Magic sure is convenient.'

Once he figured out how to activate the concealment magic, Leo immediately activated it.

"Alright, the concealment magic is activated, so we should be safe from monsters. Let's eat." Leo said to Nina, and they proceeded to take out their lunch.

However, Leo raised his eyebrows after seeing the food that Nina had taken out.

"Low-quality MRE? Don't tell me that's all you got."

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Nina looked at him and nodded, "Yes, is there something wrong?"

"Those are bad for your stomach... Here, have some of my high-quality MRE."

"Are you sure? I am fine with this." Nina was hesitant, as she didn't want to feel like a burden to him.

"You lent me your hoverboard, it's only fair that I share some of my food with you. I'll also feel bad about eating high-quality food when you're eating trash like that."

"Trash..." Nina looked at her low-quality MRE with a pondering face. She wasn't a picky eater, nor does she hate low-quality MRE as much as Leo, but if she could eat something better, she wouldn't refuse either.

"Then I will take up on your offer."

Leo handed her a high-quality MRE and the two of them began eating shortly after.

After eating, they rested for about fifteen more minutes before they returned to their hoverboard.

As for the tent, just like how he'd prepared it, all Leo needed to do was press a single button and the entire tent would return into a box on its own.

Leo and Nina would continue to travel deeper into the Wilderness, reaching an area where it was mostly D-Rank monsters.

And since they would kill any monster they encounter, the both of them racked up 500 points combined.

"The hunting ground for C-Rank monsters is only 50 miles away. We can get there in two hours, but it's a little risky to travel during the night." Nina said to him.

"There's no need to rush. We have a whole month out here. I'll set up the camp." Leo said.

"Okay."

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After setting up the camp, Leo activated the concealment magic as well as the viewing function for the tent, which makes the walls inside the tent transparent, allowing Leo and Nina to see the situation outside their camp without needing to go outside. However, if one were to look at them from the outside, they wouldn't be able to see the interior.

Chapter 94: Wilderness Training Course(2)

"Let's eat, shall we?" Leo said to Nina, who nodded her head.

Once again, Leo decided to share his high-quality food with her.

'I have purchased enough food to last for a whole month, but I didn't plan on feeding two people. If I want the food to last, I'll have to skip some meals.' Leo thought to himself.

Fortunately, he was someone who was used to skipping meals, especially breakfast.

After eating dinner, Leo went to take a quick shower before preparing his sleeping bag.

As he laid on the floor inside his sleeping bag, Leo stared at the starry night that was flickering with countless stars.

"What a beautiful sight." Leo mumbled in a dazed voice as his gaze was fixated at the sky. This was his first time seeing so many stars at once.

Sometime later, he sat up and looked at Nina, who was sitting in the corner, silently staring at him.

"Why are you staring at me? Aren't you going to sleep too?" he asked her.

"Someone has to keep watch just in case we're attacked," she said.

"It'll be fine. This tent is very durable, and it's concealed with magic."

"Better safe than sorry, and I usually sleep late, so this is nothing new." Nina said.

"Alright. Then wake me up when you want to sleep. I will take over." Leo went to sleep shortly after with Nina watching over him.

Over the next several hours, Nina would see many monsters in the distance, most of them traveling in packs.

Whenever monsters got too close to their tent, Nina would summon a few skeleton warriors to deal with the monsters without needing to leave the tent.

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In the end, Nina remained awake throughout the whole night while Leo slept like a baby.

As for Lilith, she watched over Nina just in case something happened to her or if she did anything suspicious.

Leo woke up at sunrise.

"Huh? You didn't sleep?" Leo looked at her with a puzzled face.

"I took short naps throughout the night," she said.

"That's not good. You need proper sleep since it is dangerous to fight monsters while being deprived of sleep."

"I can just drink an energy potion when that happens. You don't need to worry about me, Leo. I know what I am doing. Your considerations are appreciated though."

"If you say so..."

After his morning routine, Leo said to Nina, "You can eat breakfast without me. I don't usually eat breakfast."

"..."

Nina looked at him with a pondering face.

"You don't have enough food to feed the both of us, huh?"

'This girl is sharper than she looks...' Leo thought to himself.

"You're right, but it's also true that I don't like eating breakfast." He then said.

"I will eat my own food for breakfast and lunch. As for dinner, I will eat your food if you give me." Nina suddenly said.

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"Let's do that."

Sometime later, they cleaned up the tent and continued their journey in the Wilderness on their hoverboard.

"You're a weird one, Leo." Nina suddenly said to him.

"Most people wouldn't share their own food with others in the Wilderness since it's every man for themselves out here, yet you're willing to miss some meals for me even though I already have my own food."

"So it's weird to be nice?" Leo said with a bittersweet smile on his face.

"Of course, since most people only act nice when they want something in return. Do you want something from me?" Nina asked.

"Not everyone in this world is like that, you know. And I have my own reasons for being nice to you."

"What is that reason?" Nina stared at him with a curious look on her face.

"It's a secret."

"Is that so..." Nina didn't pressure him so she stopped talking afterwards.

Sometime later, they stopped moving and stored away their hoverboards.

"We're here. The only monsters that roam this area are C-Rank monsters such as the Torment Vipers and Skinless Mongrels." Nina said to him.

"What kind of monsters are Torment Vipers and Skinless Mongrels?" Leo asked.

"Torment Vipers are snake-like monsters that can spit out deadly poison attacks. If their poison touches your skin even slightly, your entire body will be tormented with intense pain. However, they're not as dangerous if you attack them from a distance since their poison attacks only go as far as 10 meters."

"As for Skinless Mongrels, they're a dog-like creature with incredible agility and speed. They're magic users' worst nightmare."

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"You're very knowledgeable despite being an F-Rank Adventurer." Leo said.

"Well, this isn't my first time here, and I have fought these monsters before."

"Huh? I thought you can't leave the city without being an Adventurer." Leo raised an eyebrow.

"What are you talking about? Did you already forget that the Wilderness Training Course happens every year? This is already my third year doing this."

"Ah, you're right. I forgot." Leo showed a somewhat embarrassed smile.

"Anyways, I will deal with the Torment Vipers with my magic since you mostly fight with a sword." Nina said.

"Alright. Then I will deal with the Skinless Mongrels." Leo nodded.

After wandering for a few minutes, they encountered their first C-Rank monster.

It was a Torment Viper. It had black scales with a shade of green near its tail, a pair of emerald eyes, and it was at least 20 meters in length with the thickness of two adult human bodies.

"I will handle this." Nina said as she raised her hand.

"Raise, my servants," she mumbled in a low voice.

The following moment, twenty skeleton warriors wielding swords materialized around the Torment Viper, surrounding it.

However, Nina wasn't done, as she summoned three more skeletons, but instead of swords, these skeletons were wielding a wooden staff.

While the skeleton warriors distracted the Torment Viper, the skeleton mages bombarded it with dark magic, killing it within seconds.

"Amazing..." Leo muttered in a dazed voice after witnessing Nina's prowess.

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'So this is how necromancers fight... I kind of want to try it...' He thought to himself.

Chapter 95: Wilderness Training Course(3)

After killing the Torment Viper with her skeleton servants, she had one of the skeleton warriors harvest the Mana Core for her.

"Hm?" Leo immediately began pondering after seeing her actions.

'Her summoned skeletons should be dark magic, which means I can also learn it...'

He looked at Lilith and asked her, "Hey, do you know the magic spell she's using to summon skeletons? I want to learn it as well."

"You want to be a necromancer as well?" She raised an eyebrow.

"That's not it. I told you how I am getting tired of harvesting mana cores from monsters, right? Since I don't want to hire people to do that work for me, I can simply make my summoned skeletons do the work! It's a genius idea if you ask me!" He explained his reason for wanting to learn necromancy.

"Learning necromancy just so you can have an easier time harvesting mana cores... I don't even know what to say..." Lilith stared at him with a dumbfounded look on her face.

"So? Do you know the magic spell?" Leo asked her again, his eyes filled with expectation.

"I do. Are you sure you want to learn it?" Lilith nodded.

"Yes, I—" Leo suddenly stopped, and a pondering look appeared on his face.

"What's wrong?" She asked him.

"Hey, I just realized something... Is there a limit to how many magic spells a person can learn?" Leo asked.

"Of course. It's common sense in this world." Lilith nodded.

"In case you forgot, allow me to remind you that I am not from this world! How many spells can a single person learn on average?"

Lilith pondered for a moment before speaking, "Well, it really depends on your talent, but most ordinary magic users can learn around 10 spells. Talented people can learn around 15 to 30 magic spells. This is because memorizing magic spells actually take a huge toll on your mind and body— you just don't feel it."

"I wouldn't be too worried if I were you. Your magic talent is immense and incomparable in this world's standard. You can probably learn over 50 different magic spells with ease, not to mention the Magic System. I wouldn't be surprised if you can learn unlimited magic spells."

"I see... Alright, I will learn the skeleton magic." Leo nodded.

"You want to do it now?" Lilith asked him.

"No, we'll do it later."

Sometime later, Leo and Nina continued to look for more monsters to hunt.

The second C-Rank monster they encountered was the Skinless Mongrel. It had the appearance of a large dog, but it lacked any fur on its body, and its skin tone looked like rotten meat.

"I got this one." Leo said to Nina before approaching the Skinless Mongrel that was the size of an extra large dog.

"Start record."

When it noticed Leo's presence, the Skinless Mongrel began rushing at him. Despite its large size, the Skinless Mongrel was very agile and quick on its feet, zigzagging as it ran.

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However, Leo could see all of its movements clearly, and once it was close enough, he swung his sword, severing its front legs.

Once the Skinless Mongrel fell on the ground, Leo stabbed his sword directly into its head, killing it instantly.

"Stop record."

After killing the monster, Leo turned to look at Nina and asked, "Can I trouble you to harvest the mana core with your skeleton? I don't want to get my hands dirty."

"Sure." Nina nodded.

She summoned a single skeleton warrior before commanding it to harvest the mana core.

Afterward, they continued to hunt for monsters.

Several hours later, they set up the tent to have lunch.

"How many points do you have now? I have 1,610 points."

"2,300 points."

"What? How do you have more points than me when I killed more monsters than you?" Leo asked with a raised eyebrow.

"I fought some monsters last night while you slept. Don't worry, I had my servants do the job while I watched from inside the tent," she said.

"...Being a necromancer seems like an easy job. After all, you just summon things and sit back while your summons do all the work."

"Yes, but at the cost of requiring much more mana than your average magic user to be useful. Not only do I have to use mana to summon the skeletons, they will continuously drain my mana until I remove them. If I summon 100 skeleton mages at once, I would only be able to last about a minute before I run out of mana. The magic spells themselves are also very expensive. If the academy hadn't given me the summon skeleton spells as a gift, I wouldn't be a necromancer."

"The academy gave you the spells? Did they say anything when you told them that you plan on leaving the academy?" Leo suddenly asked.

"I haven't told them yet," she shook her head.

"Eh? Why not?"

"Because they will try to convince me to stay."

"So what are you going to do? Just leave the academy without saying a word?"

"Exactly." She nodded.

"Unbelievable..." Yuan sighed.

After lunch, the two of them returned to hunting monsters, quickly raising their points.

Once it was getting dark outside, they set up their camp and retired for the night.

"We have over 7,000 points as a team now. Do you think we're at the top of the ranking right now?" Leo asked out loud as he stared at his watch.

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"You can see our ranking. Just tap the screen on the watch." Nina said.

"Oh? I didn't know it had such a function."

Leo tapped on the watch the following moment.

[Rank: 334]

"Rank 334?! So there are 333 teams ahead of us?! How is that even possible? We went straight to C-Rank monsters, and we fought pretty much all day!" Leo was in disbelief.

Unless these teams were hunting B-Rank monsters, how can there be so many people ahead of them? But even that wouldn't make sense since most students aren't strong enough to fight B-Rank monsters.

"Seems about right." Nina said.

Leo looked at her with raised eyebrows.

"Most of them probably have a full team of 6 people, so they can split into 2 or even 3 smaller teams and fight more monsters that way. Furthermore, I am willing to bet that most of them are hunting at night when there are more monsters roaming the Wilderness. If you want to rank first in this training course, we'll need to fight B-Rank monsters at night and forget about sleeping." Nina explained.

"I have underestimated this training course and the students. This is a fierce competition..." Leo swallowed nervously.

"I'm not surprised. Those who rank top will receive artifacts and other stuff, after all."

"I see... I don't care about getting first place in this training course, so we can just relax and—"

Before Leo could even finish his sentence, a notification appeared before him.

<You have received a Special Quest>

[Quest: Wilderness Training Course]

[Description: Rank Top 3 in the Wilderness Training Course]

[Reward: (Rank 3: 100,000 Magic Experience, 500 Magic Points), (Rank 2: 200,000 Magic Experience, 1,000 Magic Points), (Rank 1: 500,000 Magic Experience, 2,500 Magic Points)]

[Warning: Ranking below Top 3 will result in a penalty.]

Leo's eyes widened with shock when he saw the details of the Special Quest.

'2,500 Magic Points! I need to come in Rank 1!' He cried inwardly.

Due to a lack of ordinary quests, he was having difficulties acquiring more Magic Points, and he's running low on Magic Points as well, so this Special Quest was a blessing disguised as misfortune for him— at least that's what he believed.

"Nina! We're going to aim for rank 1!" Leo suddenly declared to her, who was staring at him with a dazed face.

"Rank 1...? That's impossible. We don't have the manpower nor the strength to achieve such a goal. The best we'll do is probably top 50. And why the sudden change of heart? You said that you didn't care about getting first place just moments ago..." She looked at him with a suspicious gaze.

"I have my reasons... Anyways, I am going to fight for rank 1. Of course, I won't force you. If you want to take it slow, you can do so, but I will be going all out!"

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Nina shook her head and said, "I never said that I wanted to take it slow. If you want to aim for rank 1, I will help you to the best of my ability."

"Alright, then it's decided. After dinner, we will look for B-Rank monsters since they give way more points." Leo said.

"Okay." Nina nodded.

After eating dinner, Lilith showed Leo the spell he wanted to learn earlier.

<You have learned the Magic Spell: Summon Skeleton Warrior>

[Summon Skeleton Warrior]

[Affinity: Dark]

[Tier: 3]

[Mana: 100]

[Mastery Rank: F]

[Summon Limit: 50]

"It's a Tier 3 magic spell, huh?"

"Do you want to learn the other one as well? Summon Skeleton Mage is a different spell, and it's a Tier 4 magic spell." Lilith suddenly asked him afterward.

"It might come in handy so I will learn it as well." Leo nodded.

"Alright."

<You have learned the Magic Spell: Summon Skeleton Mage>

[Summon Skeleton Mage]

[Affinity: Dark]

[Tier: 4]

[Mana: 500]

[Mastery Rank: F]

[Summon Limit: 5]

"Thank you, Lilith."

"No problem." She gave him a thumbs up.

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Once they were ready, they cleaned up the tent and started making their way deeper into the Wilderness, towards the area where B-Rank monsters roamed.

Chapter 96: Blood-Eyed Howlers

It took almost three hours of traveling without any breaks, but Leo and Nina eventually arrived at their destination.

"There are three kinds of monsters in this area, and they're all B-Rank monsters. Berserker Boars, Desert Stalkers, and Blood-Eyed Howlers." Nina said.

"Berserker Boars are monsters with great strength and are incredibly resilient, almost like cockroaches. They're quite simple to deal with because of their straightforward attacks, but they are also quite annoying because they get stronger as they receive more damage, so you want to finish them off as soon as possible."

"Blood-Eyed Howlers can use earth magic, and they usually like to throw large boulders at you from a distance. They also usually travel in groups of three or four."

"Desert Stalkers are vexing monsters that like to sneak up on you. They can use camouflage magic that makes them blend in with the environment, which makes them incredibly dangerous, especially when you're distracted or not paying attention. However, they're not much of a threat if you're paying attention because while they can camouflage themselves, they cannot hide their obvious glowing purple eyes, so keep your eyes out for them."

Leo listened to Nina lecture him about the monsters in the area as they slowly wandered the area on their hoverboards.

A few minutes later, they stopped when they noticed three medium-sized figures in the distance.

These figures resembled monkeys, had black fur, a robust physique, and distinctive crimson eyes.

"Are those Blood-Eyed Howlers?" Leo asked for confirmation.

"Yes."

"How should we deal with them?"

"They will start throwing rocks at us the moment they see us. I will distract them with my servants while you attack them from a blind spot."

"Alright." Leo nodded.

He left Nina's side the next moment and sneaked around the Blood-Eyed Howlers.

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Once Leo was prepared, Nina summoned 10 skeleton mages and had them barrage the Blood-Eyed Howlers with magic, injuring them, but it wasn't enough to kill them.

When the Blood-Eyed Howlers realized that they were under attack, they immediately started casting earth magic, creating large boulders with their mana before chucking them at Nina's direction.

"Destroy them!" Nina commanded the skeleton mages to target the boulders in the air, destroying them before they could reach her.

Meanwhile, Leo activated Feather Step and rushed at the Blood-Eyed Howlers from their blind spot.

Since Feather Step directly affects his body and is undetectable with one's bare eyes, Leo decided to use it to increase his speed.

Once he was in range to attack, Leo quickly swung his sword at one of the Blood-Eyed Howlers, instantly decapitating it.

By the time the other two realized what had just happened to their companion, Leo was already in motion for a second attack.

Whoosh!

Another Blood-Eyed Howler was decapitated.

The remaining Blood-Eyed Howler released a deafening roar after seeing its companions being killed.

The roar was enhanced with mana, which took Leo by surprise, causing his body to freeze for a second.

The Blood-Eyed Howler wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to attack Leo, but it was bombarded with magic spells by Nina's skeleton mages.

Once Leo could move his body a second later, he immediately swung his sword for a third time, killing the final Blood-eyed Howler.

Nina ran to Leo afterward.

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"Are you okay?" she asked.

"Yes... I don't know what happened, but that roar just now made my body freeze for a second."

"You got stunned by the roar that had been infused with mana. If you want to prevent something like that from happening again, make sure to protect yourself with mana." Lilith said to him.

Nina also said something similar to him a moment later.

"Anyways, good job, Nina. We got 3,000 points just like that. If we continue fighting like this, we'll definitely achieve rank 1!"

"I still don't think this will be enough. We will need to split up, which will be more efficient."

"Split up? I don't know... That's a little risky." He said.

"Of course it is. However, the others are also risking their lives. We won't defeat the others at this rate."

Leo pondered for a moment before speaking, "Let's continue fighting together for a little longer. I am still not familiar with the monsters here. Once I am used to fighting these monsters, we can split up."

"Okay." Nina nodded.

The two of them continued to look for monsters shortly after.

Their next three encounters were all Blood-Eyed Howlers.

"So that's a Berserker Boar..." Leo muttered when he saw its appearance for the first time.

The Berserker Boar was about the size of a minivan with short brown fur and several red stripes on its body. In its mouth were two long, sharp tusks that pointed directly in front of its face.

"My skeleton mages aren't strong enough to kill it quickly. If you want to kill it quickly, aim for its forehead." Nina said.

"Alright." Leo nodded.

After preparing himself, he approached the Berserker Boar.

When the Berserker Boar noticed him, it immediately started running at him.

However, Leo didn't even try to dodge it. Instead, he aimed the tip of his sword at the boar's forehead and waited until it ran into the sword by itself.

"W-What are you doing?! Hurry up and dodge!" Nina was shocked when she saw that he wasn't moving.

A moment later, almost as though it was blind, the Berserker Boar ran directly into his sword.

The sword penetrated into its head with ease, instantly killing it.

Leo was surprised by the results. He didn't think the Berserker Boar would really run directly into his weapon. But he was not as surprised as Nina, who didn't even think he would be able to penetrate the Berserker Boar's defense so easily with his sword that wasn't even an artifact.

The Berserker Boar probably thought the same, hence why it dared to ignore his sword and ran head-first into it, completely unaware of Leo's invisible artifact.

"Are you okay...?" Nina asked him a moment later.

"Yes. Are all Berserker Boars this dumb?" he then asked.

"I don't know what happened just now, but it probably won't happen again," she said.

However, she would soon find out how wrong her statement was when Berserker Boars continued to run into his sword due to arrogance.

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Chapter 97: Desert Stalker

"What in the world is going on? This is the 8th Berserker Boar in a row that ran into your sword..." Nina mumbled in a dazed voice as she stared at the monster corpse in front of Leo, who killed it without moving a single step.

"Who knows, but I'm not going to complain." Leo shrugged.

"Is your sword actually an artifact?" She asked, her gaze fixated on his sword with a curious look on her face.

"No, this is just an ordinary steel sword." Leo showed his sword to her.

Nina caressed the cold blade with her fingers and mumbled afterward, "You're right... There's no mana in this sword. It's really an ordinary sword. But how come it can penetrate the Berserker Boar's tough skin with such ease? That doesn't make any sense, even if you imbued it with your mana."

"There's no need to overthink it." Leo said with a stiff smile on his face. "Anyways, let's take a look at our rank. We've gained around 20,000 points in just three hours. That should put us at least top 100, right?"

Leo looked at his watch.

[Rank: 219]

"Not even top 200? Just how hardcore are the students in our academy?" He was disappointed by the results.

"Actually, our progress is really good. We'd managed to increase our rank by 100 in just three short hours. If we continue at this pace, we should reach the top 100 within a few days." Nina said.

"Alright, then let's continue our hunt!"

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The two of them continued to wander the Wilderness, and over the next several hours, they would hunt over a hundred monsters, most of them being Blood-Eyed Howlers and Berserker Boars.

Once it was sunrise, they decided to take a short break to clean their bodies and eat breakfast.

"Are Desert Stalkers rare in this area? We haven't encountered a single one even after many hours." Leo asked her as they ate.

"They're not as common as the other two, but they're not rare either. The thing with Desert Stalkers is, unlike most monsters, they are more active and aggressive when the sun is out because their glowing purple eyes are less obvious during the day than the night, not to mention their camouflage magic is also much stronger during the day."

"I see... So we'll be seeing them more often now that it's morning..."

"Do they have any special attacks that I should be worried about?" he then asked.

"You only need to watch out for their sneak attacks. Desert Stalkers cannot camouflage themselves and attack at the same time, so they can only do one or the other. The moment they attack you, they will reveal themselves. As for their strength... They are neither strong nor weak."

"I understand."

After breakfast, they relaxed for another ten minutes before they went back out to hunt again.

An hour later, right as he was going to attack some Blood-Eyed Howlers while Nina distracted them, Leo noticed a tiny purple dot hovering in the distance near the corner of his eyes.

However, he was already committed to attacking the monsters before him, so he didn't have the time to look elsewhere.

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After killing the Blood-Eyed Howlers, Leo immediately turned to look in the direction where he saw the purple dot, but he could no longer see anything there.

"Was I just seeing things? No... I am sure I saw two purple dots floating in the air." Leo continued to stare in that direction with narrowed eyes until the skeleton warrior finished harvesting the mana core.

"What's wrong?" Nina suddenly asked him.

"I'm pretty sure I saw two purple dots before killing the Blood-Eyed Howlers. It could be a Desert Stalker, but I don't see anything right now." He said.

Nina turned to look in the same direction with a pondering face. "It's most likely a Desert Stalker. They like to stalk their prey for a while before they attack, and they only spring into action when they're confident that their attack will connect. That's why they're so annoying. They're basically cowards."

"Is that so..."

They continued to hunt monsters shortly after, being much more alert now that the possibility of a Desert Stalker watching them was quite high.

"Lilith, let me know if you see the Desert Stalker." Leo said to her.

"That's only natural," she nodded.

About half an hour later, Leo and Nina encountered another group of Blood-Eyed Howlers, but as they prepared to attack them, Lilith suddenly said, "Leo! There's a Desert Stalker about 50 meters behind you!"

However, Leo didn't immediately turn around. Instead, he remained still and said to Nina in a low voice, "Don't look back, but there's a Desert Stalker 50 meters behind us."

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Nina's eyes widened after hearing his words.

'How did he notice the Desert Stalker that's coming from behind us without looking back?' she asked herself, as she was certain that Leo had been focused on the Blood-Eyed Howlers in front of them this entire time.

"Lilith, let me know once it's right behind me." Leo said to her.

"I got it. The Desert Stalker is slowly approaching you right now. 40 meters... 30 meters... 20 meters... 10 meters— now, Leo!" Lilith said in a loud voice.

Leo immediately turned around while swinging his sword, catching the Desert Stalker off guard.

Whoosh!

The steel sword penetrated the Desert Stalker's defenses with ease, slicing through its body like a knife cutting tofu. The Desert Stalker released a ghastly scream right before it died, alerting the Blood-Eyed Howlers in the distance, and they quickly started throwing boulders made with magic at Leo and Nina.

However, Nina hadn't summoned her skeleton mages yet, so she couldn't block the attack.

"Watch out!" Leo instinctively wrapped his arm around Nina's slim waist and picked her up before dodging the boulders with her.

"Skeleton mages!" Nina summoned her servants the next moment and had them bombard the Blood-Eyed Howlers.

"Thank you. You can put me down now." She said a few seconds later.

After putting Nina back down on the ground, Leo immediately began running towards the Blood-Eyed Howlers with his sword ready to strike.

Chapter 98: Berserker Boar

"Phew. It's definitely much harder to kill these Blood-Eyed Howlers when they're not distracted." Leo sighed out loud after killing the monsters.

"Are you okay?" Nina asked him a moment later.

"Yes, I am fine. Anyways, let me see the Desert Stalker. I'm intrigued by its appearance when it's not in a camouflage." Leo said as he approached the Desert Stalker's corpse in the distance.

"Wow, this thing is freaking ugly! It's like an alien!" Leo was startled when he saw the Desert Stalker's appearance.

It had a human-like figure and a shockingly skinny body, almost as if it was a skeleton trying to pretend to be human. Furthermore, it had a pitch-black skin tone, looking like someone's dinner that had been left inside the oven for too long. The Desert Stalker also had long arms and sharp nails that could work as claws. All in all, the Desert Stalker is now the ugliest-looking monster Leo had the displeasure to encounter with the Skinless Mongrel being second.

Once they collected the mana cores, they continued to wander the Wilderness, hunting every monster in sight until they were getting tired. When that happened, they consumed an energy potion, instantly rejuvenating their energy and making them feel as though they'd just woken up from a good nap.

They would continue this routine for the next three days, amassing over 500,000 points.

<You have completed a Quest>

[+1,000 Magic Points]

The moment he finished the quest that required him to kill 500 monsters, Leo purchased another one for 75 Magic Points.

[Magic Points: 999]

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After hunting monsters nonstop for two consecutive days, Leo and Nina decided to take a break and actually get some real rest, and not wanting to slow down too much, they decided to take their break in the morning of the third day since the monsters were less active at that time.

"We have over half a million points now. What do you think our current rank is? Let's take a guess and see who is closer." Leo said to Nina as they ate breakfast.

"521,00 points, huh? We should be around rank 100."

"Then I'll guess rank 70."

Leo looked at his watch the next moment.

[Rank: 108]

"Ugh... You win. We're ranked 108, not even top 100 yet."

"There's no need to be impatient. We still have plenty of time to catch up."

"I guess so."

After eating breakfast and taking a quick shower, Leo activated a new function for the tent that basically made it seem as though they were living inside a glass tent made of tinted glass, blocking most of the sunlight so that they could sleep peacefully.

Of course, he could've turned off the transparent wall function to completely block the sunlight, but he still wanted to be able to see the situation outside just in case there were Desert Stalkers or other monsters creeping outside their tent.

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"There's no need to keep watch, Nina. Get some rest. We'll be fine. If any monster attacks our tent while we sleep, there will be alarms to wake us up." Leo said to her, as he was worried that she might not sleep to watch over him like the last time.

"I know." She nodded.

"If there's an emergency, wake me up." Leo said to Lilith as he tucked himself comfortably into his sleeping bag.

"Of course."

Leo quickly fell asleep after closing his eyes. The same went for Nina. Even though they've been replenishing their energy with potions, that was only a temporary solution. Furthermore, the more they use energy potions to get rid of their fatigue the less effective the potions will become until they get some real rest.

The two of them would sleep for the entire morning and most of the afternoon. By the time they woke up, it was already 5 PM.

"Morning." Nina, who woke up an hour earlier, said to Leo when he woke up.

He looked at her with a dazed face, "What time is it?"

"Five in the afternoon," she calmly said.

"10 hours, huh. That's not bad considering that we've hunted monsters for two days straight."

"My god, our rank had dropped by 70 ranks in just 10 hours! Are these guys not sleeping at all or something?!" Leo was shocked when he saw that their rank had tanked to rank 171.

"It will only be this fierce for the first week of the training course. After that, everyone will slow down from fatigue and injuries. It's always been like this. Remember, this isn't a sprint. It's a marathon." Nina said.

"You're right. I will stop looking at our rank for the rest of the week." Leo nodded.

After washing his face, Leo and Nina ate some food before cleaning up the place and returning outside to continue their hunt.

After hunting for a few hours, Leo and Nina came to a sudden halt when they noticed several human figures in the distance, and they appeared to be fighting a Berserker Boar.

"Those people... They're wearing our school uniform." Leo mumbled as he watched them with interest.

There were six of them in a group, but despite their number, they seemed to be having trouble with the Berserker Boar that was like an unstoppable force as it ignored the magic spells the students were throwing at it.

All six students were magic users, and they were trying their best to cast spells while dodging the Berserker Boar's charge attacks. Most of their magic spells were between Tier 2 and Tier 3 spells, but even that was not enough to completely stop the Berserker Boar.

Eventually, over 30 magic spells later, the Berserker Boar finally collapsed on the ground and stopped moving.

"You see, this is what fighting a Berserker Boar should look like. Most students don't have the capability to kill a Berserker Boar with one hit." Nina suddenly said to him.

"But considering your reputation as the Sword Emperor, I guess it isn't that weird that you're able to kill them with such ease."

Shortly after the fight ended, Leo and Nina stopped watching these students and continued their grind.

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Chapter 99: Moving to a New Location

"Hey! Look over there at those two! Isn't that Sword Emperor Leo and the Witch of Necromancy? Why are they fighting those Blood-Eyed Howlers together? Don't tell me that they'd teamed up for the training course!"

A group of students happened to come across Leo and Nina fighting a group of Blood-Eyed Howlers, so they stopped to watch.

"Leo and Nina Wraith, huh? I heard the rumors the day before the training course started, but I didn't believe it."

"What an odd pair. Nina went solo for the last two years, right? What made her change her mind this year? And why have Leo as her partner?"

"Only they know. Unless you want to ask them."

"Nah, I'll pass."

"Whoa! Did you guys see that?! Leo decapitated that Blood-Eyed Howler with a single swing of his sword! I thought he was injured?!" The students were surprised to see his prowess that was the opposite of the rumors.

"How long has it been since he returned to the academy? About two months? That's more than enough time for someone to recover their injuries."

"It really depends on the type of injury he'd received in the first place."

The fight didn't last long, and once Leo killed the last Blood-Eyed Howler, the students watching them walked away.

"They're gone." Lilith said to Leo after seeing the students leave.

"I'm not really worried about them, but you can never be too careful." He nodded.

Over the next two days, Leo would encounter more and more students in their area, which made hunting monsters less efficient because there was more competition.

"Nina, we should look for a new spot. This place is crowded with students now. Compared to two days ago, our progression has slowed by nearly 50 percent!"

"I'm not surprised. This place is a hotspot because it's the closest to our city, and the monsters here are relatively weak compared to the other B-Rank monsters. We can move locations, but the next location that I know of is about 3 days away."

"That's fine. Let's go there and hope for the best— that it isn't going to be crowded. If we stay here, our progress will only continue to slow down." Leo said.

"I don't think many students know of that location since I stumbled upon it by accident last year. The monsters there are also quite troublesome— enough to deter most people from going there."

"Hey, hey... It sounds like a very dangerous place... Are you sure this place is worth it?"

She nodded, "The place is crawling with monsters because not many people go there, so we'll be able to farm a bunch of points. The monsters there are quite powerful, but we should be able to handle them without any problems, especially considering that you can kill monsters like the Berserker Boar in a single hit."

"Alright, let's go to this place then." Leo agreed.

After taking out their hoverboards, Leo followed Nina to a new location to farm monsters.

However, Nina suddenly stopped moving after traveling for two hours.

"What's wrong?" Leo asked her.

"There's a monster nest nearby," she said.

"How can you tell? I don't see anything."

"There's a massive mana disturbance in that direction. That only happens when there is a monster nearby." Nina pointed west.

Leo raised his eyebrows when he couldn't see anything, "I don't see any mana disturbance, though?"

"That's normal. The mana disturbance is so powerful that only people with Spiritual Eyes like me can see it," she said.

"I see... Do you want to go take a look? We'll get a lot of points there, right?"

She nodded and said, "Yes, monster nests are always swarming with a large quantity of monsters, so we'll be able to acquire a lot of points if we go there. However, it's a little dangerous, considering that it's just the two of us."

"Don't you have your summons?" Leo then asked.

"Even if I use all of my summons, it's going to be tough. Depending on the size of its nest, there can be thousands of monsters there."

"Thousands..." Leo swallowed nervously.

"But it wouldn't hurt if we take a look at the place first. We can decide whether we want to invade it after we scout the place."

"That's a good idea." Leo nodded.

They changed directions and approached the mana disturbance.

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After traveling for about fifteen minutes, Leo could suddenly see a small mountain appear in the distance.

'Is that the monster nest?' he wondered.

"Let's walk from here so that we don't alert the monsters." Nina said to him as they got closer.

"Alright."

After putting away their hoverboards, they approached the mountains with quiet and gentle steps.

"I'm going to scout ahead for you." Lilith said before flying ahead.

As they got closer to the mountain, they could see several human-like figures pacing around the mountain.

Nina's eyes widened after seeing the monsters' appearance.

"Those are goblins! This monster nest is probably home to a goblin army! But what are goblins doing here? They're usually in another location..." Nina muttered after seeing these green-skinned monsters.

"Goblins? I fought them before. Aren't they only D-Rank monsters?" Leo asked.

"You're probably thinking about Forest Goblins. These are not Forest Goblins. Look at their height and bulky physique. They're Goblin Warriors, fierce B-Rank monsters that usually travel in large groups, and I think I see a Goblin Caster amongst that group. They are even more annoying than the Goblin Warriors because they usually spam magic spells from the backlines while the warriors protect them."

"Just like how we fought the Blood-Eyed Howlers, huh? This is indeed going to be annoying." Leo mumbled.

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"What do you want to do, Leo? Do you want to attack them, or should we just ignore them? I will agree with you no matter your decision." Nina turned to look at him with a solemn expression on her face.

Leo didn't immediately respond. He pondered— waited to see if the Magic System would give him a Special Quest.

Chapter 100: Summon Skeleton Warriors

Leo waited for the Magic System to see if it would give him a special mission to clear the monster's nest, but nothing appeared even a minute later.

'So I get to decide whether I want to do this or not, huh?'

Lilith returned shortly after and said, "I just checked. Although I couldn't see the whole place, I have a good estimate on the amount of monsters inside the monster's nest. There are mostly globins inside the monster's nest, but there are a few Berserker Boars as well. As for the estimate... There should be around 1,000 monsters in total."

"A thousand monsters!" Instead of feeling fearful, Leo's eyes flickered with excitement after hearing this number, almost as if he'd hit a jackpot.

"We're going to clear this place, Nina!" Leo said to her a moment later.

"Alright. Give me a moment to prepare." She nodded.

She then retrieved a weird-looking necklace and wore it around her neck before preparing several mana potions in advance.

"Is that an artifact?" Leo asked her.

"Indeed. It is the B-Grade artifact Necklace of the Dead. It will not only reduce the mana required to summon my servants, it will also increase the limit of my summons. As long as I have this, I will be able to summon 200 skeleton warriors and 20 skeleton mages at once."

"That many?!" Leo was shocked. The B-Grade artifact had basically doubled her prowess.

Sometime later, Leo asked, "Do you have a plan?"

"No, not really. I was thinking that we should just attack them head on. However, we should focus on the Goblin Casters first. I will use my skeleton warriors to distract the Goblin Warriors and create a path to the Goblin Casters for you."

Leo nodded, "I understand. But before we start recording, I want to try something."

"What?" Nina tilted her head.

Leo looked around to make sure there was nobody watching them before silently casting his skeleton warriors.

The next moment, 50 skeleton warriors appeared before them, shocking Nina.

"W-What is going on?! I didn't summon these skeleton warriors!" Nina exclaimed, even preparing to attack them.

"Calm down, these are mine," Leo quickly stopped her.

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"What...? You summoned these skeleton warriors? When did you learn this spell?"

"I kind of memorized it after seeing you use it so many times..." Leo said with a stiff smile on his face.

"You memorized my magic circle...?" Nina stared at him with her eyes as wide as saucers, her mouth wide open.

Although it is technically possible for one to learn another's magic spell by looking at their magic circle, it isn't very practical. In fact, it was impossible. After all, when one casts a magic spell, their magic circle would only show up for a brief moment. If it was possible to learn other peoples' magic spells just by looking at their magic circle, everyone would be too afraid to use their magic spells in public.

"Are you angry that I learned your magic without asking for your permission? I'll apologize if that's the case." Leo asked her after a moment of awkward silence.

Nina shook her head in a dazed manner, and she spoke in a low voice, "No... I'm not angry. I'm just astonished that you'd managed to achieve such a feat that most people deem to be impossible."

"Summon Skeleton Warrior is a Tier 3 magic spell, yet you learned it in a few days after watching my magic circle. Words cannot express how impressive such a feat is..."

"I'm relieved to hear that, and since we're at this point, I might as well tell you that I can also use Summon Skeleton Mages, but I can only summon five of them."

"You can use Summon Skeleton Mages as well?!" Nina fell backwards after hearing his words, and she stared at Leo as though he was a monster.

"Anyways... Even though these are my summons, we'll pretend that they're yours. After all, it's a secret that I can use magic, and you're the only student in the academy that is aware of this secret."

Nina nodded with a dazed look on her face.

Leo looked at his mana. He had a total of 17,000 mana at the moment, which was 6,000 more than a few weeks ago when he last purchased the Increase Mana Capacity from the Magic Shop. Of course, this was also the result of his training when he increased the multiple magic spells to Mastery Rank A.

[Mana: 12,025/17,180]

After summoning 50 skeleton warriors, his mana had decreased by 5,000 since each skeleton warrior required 100 mana to summon. Furthermore, he had to continuously

feed these skeleton warriors his mana in order to keep them summoned, losing 20 mana every 10 seconds for each summoned skeleton.

In other words, he would lose 1,000 mana every 10 seconds to keep all 50 skeleton warriors summoned, but considering that he recovers 250 mana every 10 seconds, that would bring down his cost to 750 mana every 10 seconds, so he would only be able to keep his summons active for a little under three minutes, considering that he doesn't use any mana potions and all of his skeleton warriors remain alive for the whole duration.

Nina turned to look at Leo's summoned skeletons and swallowed nervously.

'He'd just learned the magic spell, yet he can summon 50 of them at once, and they already seem stronger than my own skeleton warriors!' Nina sighed inwardly.

She knew that he was a genius with dark magic and that he was far more talented than her since the beginning, but the disparity wasn't clear until this moment.

"Are you ready?" Leo asked her a moment later.

"Yes, I am ready." Nina nodded with a resolute expression on her face.

After Nina calmed down from her shock, she summoned 200 skeleton warriors, and along with Leo's 50 skeleton warriors, they charged towards the monster's nest, their movements causing the ground to tremble, quickly alerting the goblins there.

Chapter 101: Army of Goblins

When the goblins first noticed the army of skeletons rushing towards their nest, they were filled with confusion. Once they realized that they were under attack, they were overwhelmed with fear, as they have never fought with skeletons before.

One of the goblins retrieved a large blowing horn and hastily blew into it with all of its might.

The noise coming from the horn caused the air to tremble, instantly alerting all of the goblins in their nest.

Moments later, the skeleton army and the goblins clashed, where 250 skeleton warriors confronted over 1,000 goblin warriors and goblin casters.

While the skeleton warriors fought with the goblin warriors, the goblin casters would cast spells from the rear, bombarding the skeleton warriors.

However, Nina also had her own backliners, and 20 skeleton mages bombarded the goblins back.

Overall, Nina's skeleton warriors were slightly weaker than the goblin warriors, but her skeleton mages vastly surpassed the goblin casters in power.

As for Leo's skeleton warriors, despite being Mastery Rank F, they were a lot stronger than the goblin warriors, and they cleaved a path towards the goblin casters in the back.

In the midst of the chaos, Leo tried his best to find a path towards the goblin casters, but it was much harder than he'd anticipated, as they were all the way behind the frontline that was filled with goblin warriors. He wanted to summon his skeleton casters as well, but he simply did not have the mana to do so.

Therefore, he decided to just kill his way towards the goblin casters. However, even with his passive skills, it wasn't an easy task fighting the goblin warriors.

About two minutes later, right as he was about to run out of mana, Leo decided to use Mana Drain on the goblin warriors instead of drinking a mana potion since nobody would notice it and he could save some resources that way. Of course, he made sure to keep the camera away from the act so that he doesn't record himself using Mana Drain.

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"Raaagh!" The goblin warrior that Leo had decided to Mana Drain suddenly released a painful cry before falling to the ground with its body shriveled like a dried corpse that had died years ago, almost as though it had all of its blood drained from its body.

The surrounding goblins were startled when they saw this, and they all stopped fighting to stare at their companion's dried up corpse with wide eyes.

"What happened to the monster?! Why is it like that?! This didn't happen when I used Mana Drain on Lia!" Leo asked Lilith. This was his first time using Mana Drain on a monster, so the results shocked him greatly.

"Monsters are mostly made of mana, so it's only natural that they would shrivel up like this when you absorb their mana. To monsters, their mana is their blood. If you absorb all of a human's blood, how do you think their bodies will end up?" Lilith said to him.

"Luckily, I decided to do this in the middle of a battlefield with nobody watching, or it would've definitely raised some eyebrows." Leo sighed, and he made a note to himself to never use Mana Drain on monsters if there were any other people nearby.

He looked at his mana a moment later to see that he'd recovered all of his mana.

'Even though it's forbidden magic, it's super useful!'

Leo decided to summon his skeleton mages now that he had plenty of mana to spare.

Each skeleton mage required 500 mana to summon, and he could only summon 5 at most, so he used 2,500 mana to summon them. However, skeleton mages required twice as much mana than skeleton warriors to maintain, draining 50 mana every 10 seconds.

Now with 50 skeleton warriors and 5 skeleton mages in the field, Leo was losing 1,000 mana every 10 seconds, but he wasn't as worried since he had Mana Drain.

As long as there were still monsters nearby, he would be able to replenish all of his mana with a single Mana Drain.

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Eventually, with the help of his skeleton summons, Leo was finally able to break through the golden warriors and reach the goblin casters.

The goblin casters began panicking when they saw Leo, but before they could cast their spells, Leo killed them with his sword.

Once all of the goblin casters were killed, Leo and Nina focused on the remaining goblin warriors.

<You have completed a Quest>

[+1,000 Magic Points]

After killing 500 monsters and finishing his quest, Leo quickly purchased another one from the store for 75 Magic Points before he continued slaying more monsters.

Many minutes later, Leo rushed at the last goblin warrior standing and decapitating it with a swift strike across its thick neck.

"Stop record."

Leo met up with Nina afterward.

"Are you okay?"

"Yes, I am fine. What about you?" Nina nodded before staring at his appearance, as his body was covered in goblin blood.

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"I'm also fine." He said.

Although he'd been hit a couple times, his invisible artifacts had minimized the damages and kept his injuries to a minimum.

"Let's harvest their mana cores before someone else comes and tries to steal our profit." Leo said as he commanded his skeleton warriors to harvest the mana cores.

Nina did the same, and within minutes, over 1,000 B-Rank mana cores were stacked into a small mountain before them.

"Let's split the mana cores 50/50." Leo said to her afterward.

"Are you sure? I'm pretty sure you'd killed way more monsters than me." Nina said to him.

"It doesn't change the fact that this was still a combined effort."

While Leo and Nina split their harvest, a notification appeared before Leo.

<You have been awarded 50,000 Magic Experience and 3,500 Magic Points for clearing 'Goblin's Hideout'>

<You have been awarded 600 Magic Points for your killing spree of 682 monster kills>

Leo was pleasantly surprised to see this new function for the first time.

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'Two rewards... One for clearing the monster's nest and the other for killing many monsters in a short time? This is great! Now I have more opportunities to acquire Magic Points!' He laughed inwardly.

Chapter 102: Practically Suicide

[Magic Points: 6,024 MP]

Leo was taken aback by the sudden increase of Magic Points.

'6,000 Magic Points! I can buy pretty much anything I want now from the Magic Shop except for Increase Mana Regeneration that costs 7,000 Magic Points.' Leo was filled with excitement and couldn't wait to start shopping once again.

However, he wasn't in the situation to do so at the moment.

Once they finished splitting the mana cores, Leo stored them into his Spatial Ring, counting 510 B-Rank mana cores as he did so.

After that, Leo retrieved the tent so that they could clean themselves and get some rest.

Leo went into the shower first because he was covered in goblin blood, which stank like crazy as it dried up.

"I know I said that I wouldn't look at our rank until next week, but I can't resist my curiosity. I really want to see our rank after killing 1,020 B-Rank monsters in just two hours, which is over one million points. I will be shocked if we're not in the top 10 at the very least."

[Rank: 34]

"..."

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Leo became speechless after seeing their new rank. Although their rank had increased by 200 in just two hours, it was still ridiculous that there were over 30 teams ahead of them.

Nina looked at her watch and said, "Don't be discouraged. I doubt the disparity between us is that large. Of course, there is a chance that these teams have encountered and cleared a monster nest as well."

"Regardless, I still can't get over the fact that we'd managed to clear a B-Rank monster nest by ourselves and in such a short time. It's really shocking."

Leo looked at her and spoke, "Is it really that shocking? It was really chaotic, but it wasn't that difficult."

"Of course it's shocking! Do you have any idea how many Adventurers it would take to clear a monster nest of that size? At least 500 B-Rank Adventurers with some A-Rank! Meanwhile, we're just two students that's still in school. What we did was practically suicide."

Leo's eyes widened after hearing her words.

"What!? If it was that dangerous, why did you agree to it? You also seemed pretty calm throughout the whole thing!"

"When I'm nervous, my face freezes, hence why I looked so calm throughout the whole thing. In reality, I was actually really nervous on the inside. With that being said, I got a little less nervous after seeing your skeleton warriors. Your Summon Skeleton Warrior is only Mastery Rank F, right?"

"That's right." He nodded.

"My skeleton warriors are Rank B, yet they aren't as strong as your Rank F skeleton warriors. I'm ashamed to even be called a necromancer in front of you..." she sighed.

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"But you can summon much more skeletons than me..."

"That's only because of my Mastery Rank and the artifact. When the magic spell was still Mastery Rank F, I could only summon up to 5 skeleton warriors at once. As for skeleton mages, I was limited to 1 of them! Meanwhile, you can summon 50 skeleton warriors and 5 skeleton mages. The disparity between A-Rank and S-Rank magic affinity is truly like heaven and earth. I'm envious of you, Leo." Nina stared at him with a bittersweet smile on her face.

When he heard Nina talk about the disparity between their skeleton warriors, Leo pondered for a moment before asking, "Does magic power affect our skeleton warriors' strength?"

"Of course. Summons become more powerful and durable with more magic power." She nodded.

'I see... So that's why my skeleton warriors are stronger despite being a lower Mastery Rank. I have increased magic power because of the Magic System.' Leo thought to himself.

"Anyways, let me know if I decide to do something reckless next time. We were lucky this time and managed to clear the monster nest without any problems, but we might end up dead the next time. And don't just blindly follow me. I'm not as experienced as you. If I make a stupid decision, correct me." Leo said to Nina afterward.

"I understand," she nodded.

"You too, Lilith. Why didn't you say anything when I decided to confront the monster nest?" He suddenly glanced at her.

Lilith raised an eyebrow and said, "Because I was confident that you would be able to clear it without any problems. Nina may not know what you're truly capable of, but I do."

"Is that so... Thanks..." Leo couldn't blame her after hearing such words.

Sometime later, Leo and Nina left the tent and continued their journey to the next hunting location.

A few hours after they left, some students arrived at the monster nest by chance, and they were shocked by what they witnessed.

"Holy shit! Look at all these corpses! This is a monster nest!"

"It 'was' a monster nest. Who is responsible for this? Judging by the corpses and blood, they were killed only a few hours ago..."

"Damn it, if only we'd arrived earlier! These are goblin warriors, right? With the amount of corpses here, we could've definitely reached the top 50!"

"Something doesn't look right here. A monster nest of this size would require hundreds of Adventurers to work together to clear, yet I don't see any camps or Adventurers nearby. It's only been a few hours since this place was cleared, right?"

"Now that you mention it... It's too quiet here."

These students decided to take a closer look at the scene.

"Their mana cores have been harvested."

"Look at their wounds. A lot of these corpses only have a single injury, meaning that most of them had been killed in a single strike."

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"Perhaps this was done by an S-Rank Adventurer?"

"It would make sense why there's nobody around if this was done by an S-Rank Adventurer."

After looking around for a little longer and not finding anything, these students decided to leave the place and returned to farming points.

Chapter 103: Arriving at the New Hunting Ground

'Hmmm... What should I buy with my 6,000 Magic Points...' Leo pondered to himself as he followed Nina from behind on a hoverboard.

Awaken Random Magic Affinity would cost him 6,000 Magic Points, but it wouldn't increase his prowess, and he really didn't need a new affinity right now, so he ignored it.

He could increase his mana capacity or his magic power, but he didn't feel the need to increase either since he had enough mana and magic power for now. Even though

having more mana or magic power will definitely benefit him, he didn't think it was worth it this moment. Furthermore, having increased mana regeneration would benefit him more since it will help him spam magic spells more often.

'I really want to increase my mana regeneration, but I am a thousand short. Should I just wait until I kill another 500 monsters before purchasing it? But spending all of my points for a single purchase...' Despite his desire to buy Increase Mana Regeneration, he was feeling a little hesitant.

In the end, he decided to wait on the purchase and look at other options.

Up next was the passive skills.

'The F-Rank passive skills are quite cheap, and the last one really benefited me. Maybe I should buy several of them and hope for the best. Even if the passive skills turn out to be useless, I won't lose out on too much.'

Thus, Leo decided to purchase a few F-Rank passive skills, but he didn't do so immediately and waited until he looked at the other options.

Other than passive skills, the only thing left for him to spend his Magic Points on were artifacts.

'The E-Grade artifacts cost between 300 to 600 Magic Points, but what should I purchase? Another weapon? Improved armor?' Leo pondered and pondered.

Over the next several hours, Leo wondered about his choices and what would benefit him the most. Now that he cannot acquire Magic Points as easily, he needed to use them sparingly and wisely.

In the end, Leo decided to purchase another E-Grade weapon artifact and 5 F-Rank passive skills.

[Bamboo Sword: Increases the power of your swords by 75%]

<You have acquired the Passive Skill: Novice Cook Expertise>

[Description: Increases your cooking experience]

<You have acquired the Passive Skill: Novice Movement Expertise>

[Description: Increases your movement skills]

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<You have acquired the Passive Skill: Novice Bow Expertise>

[Description: Increases your bow experience]

<You have acquired the Passive Skill: Weak Poison Resistance>

[Description: Increases your resistance to poison]

<You have acquired the Passive Skill: Weak Enhanced Senses>

[Description: Slightly enhances all of your senses]

The sword had cost him 350 Magic Points while the passive skills were 500 Magic Points.

'Cook expertise? Why would I need such experience?' Leo raised an eyebrow when he saw his new passive skills.

After pondering for a little longer, Leo decided to purchase 2 more F-Rank passive skills.

<You have acquired the Passive Skill: Minor Strength Boost>

[Description: Increases your strength]

<You have acquired the Passive Skill: Weak Fire Resistance>

[Description: Increases your resistance against fire damage]

"..."

A moment later—

<Confirm purchase 'Acquire Random D-Rank Passive Skill for 1,000 Magic Points>

Leo gritted his teeth and confirmed.

<You have acquired the Passive Skill: Double Cast>

<Description: 5% chance to cast magic spells a second time>

Leo was pleasantly surprised by this new passive skill.

'Does this mean every spell that I cast will have a 5 percent chance of being cast again? This is pretty overpowered!'

Even though the chances are quite low, it was still a chance. However, he still needed to do some experiments. For example, would the second cast require mana? If so, it could potentially be fatal if he uses a magic spell that consumes more than half of his mana, as it would instantly put him into the state of mana fatigue.

'Let's do another— No... I should stop before I waste all of my Magic Points...'

He quickly realized how addicting it was to gamble his Magic Points away.

'This is how people become gambling addicts. I need to stop myself before I can't control it.'

[Magic Points: 3,974]

After three days of nonstop traveling, Leo and Nina finally arrived at their new hunting ground.

"This is... a cave?" Leo raised his eyebrows when Nina stopped moving in front of a large cave that was located at the bottom of a large rocky mountain, and it was hidden behind large rocks and dead trees.

"What kind of monsters are inside?"

"The monsters will grow stronger as we travel deeper. The last time I delved deep enough to find B-Rank monsters, there were Stone Lizards, Vampire Bats, and Crystal Golems. Most of them are monsters with high physical defenses, so it might be a bit difficult for you, who mainly use the sword."

"I think I will be fine," he smiled.

"Let's get some sleep before we enter this place." Leo suggested.

"Sure."

After setting their tent nearby, Leo and Nina went inside to eat before going to sleep.

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They woke up twelve hours later and took a shower before eating another meal.

[Rank: 89]

Their rank had dropped by 50 when Leo looked at his watch after cleaning up the tent.

"Looks like we're still in the top 100."

Sometime later, they approached the ominous cave.

They stopped at the entrance for a moment to prepare themselves.

"Are you ready?" Leo asked Nina.

"Yes." She nodded with a calm expression.

"Then let's go." Leo took the first step forward, entering the cave.

The following moment—

<You have received a Special Quest>

[Quest: Reaching the core]

[Description: Reach the deepest part of the cave and kill the monster there]

[Time Limit: 10 days]

[Progress: 0/1]

[Reward: 300,000 Magic Experience, 1,500 Magic Points]

'What the hell? What is the Magic System up to this time?' Leo frowned when he saw the Special Quest.

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'These special quests are always so specific. Is this the Magic System's way of communicating with me? For what purpose?' He wondered inwardly as he traversed deeper inside this mysterious cave with Nina by his side.

Chapter 104: Unknown Cave

"This cave is quite narrow." Leo said shortly after they entered the cave.

"It will get wider as we travel deeper." Nina said.

"I hope so. It's going to be difficult fighting in such a tight space, after all."

"Leo, I'm going to scout ahead." Lilith suddenly said to him.

"Alright." He nodded slightly.

The moment Lilith left his side and disappeared into the darkness ahead, Leo immediately felt a little less safe for some reason.

A few minutes later, they encountered their first monster, and it was a rat the size of an adult hippopotamus.

"That's a Cave Rat, an E-Rank monster." Nina said to him.

"I will handle these small—"

"I got it." Leo suddenly dashed forward before swinging his sword at the giant rat, slicing it in half.

"You can leave the small fries to me and save yourself some energy and effort for the harder monsters later." Nina said to him afterward.

"Actually, can you let me kill all of the monsters we encounter? I have a reason for killing them." Leo said with a stiff smile.

After all, he needed the kills to complete his quest. If Nina killed the monsters, it wouldn't count towards the progression.

"If that's what you want..." Nina nodded with a weird look on her face, as she couldn't fathom why he was so eager to kill these weak monsters.

A minute later, a dozen Cave Rats could be seen running towards their direction, clogging up the entire path.

Leo's eyes flickered with excitement as he waited for them to get closer.

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Once they were close enough, Leo swung his sword at them, killing one rat with each swing, finishing off the last one in less than a minute.

He looked at his progress afterward.

[Progress: 312/500]

'I'm so glad that even low-ranking monsters count towards the progression.' He sighed inwardly.

Over the next 30 minutes, Leo would continue killing Cave Rats as they delved deeper into the cave without stopping.

However, they were eventually forced to stop when they encountered a small problem.

"The path is split into two... Which path should we take?" Leo asked Nina, who had been here before.

"I took the right path the last time I was here," she said.

"Then let's take the left path this time and see if there's any difference. If it's a dead end, we can just walk back." He suggested.

"Okay." Nina had no complaints.

Thus, they started walking the left path.

The path continued to be narrow for a few more minutes, then it suddenly expanded by several meters, and resting at the end of the path was a skeleton wielding a rusty sword.

"A dead end with a skeleton, huh?" Leo mumbled when he couldn't see any path past the skeleton.

"Shall we turn back now?" Nina asked him.

"Let me kill that skeleton real quick." He said before rushing at the skeleton, killing it with ease.

After killing the skeleton and harvesting its mana core from its skull, Leo made sure there weren't any hidden paths at the dead end before returning to Nina and going back the way they just came from.

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Once they arrived back at the split, they took the right path this time and continued moving deeper into the cave.

After walking for a few minutes, the narrow cave expanded again, but there wasn't a dead end this time.

A few more minutes later, they encountered a bunch of skeletons with shields and swords.

"D-Rank Skeletons Soldiers." Nina said.

Leo wasted no time killing these skeletons.

After killing the skeletons, he would stomp their skull to reveal its mana core.

Over the next several hours, they would continue walking the path, encountering mostly D-Rank monsters.

The next time they came to a full stop was when they arrived at another split. This time, there were three paths to choose from.

"The middle path." Nina said.

"Alright, let's go." Leo didn't even bother to check the other two and went straight for the middle path.

Shortly after they began walking the middle path, Lilith came back.

"Where have you been this whole time? I thought something had happened to you." Leo said to her.

"I had no reason to come back, so I decided to stay a few steps ahead of you to make sure there were no traps." She said.

"Since you've come back... Is there a trap ahead?" He then asked.

"No, I just felt like returning because I was bored of being alone. I doubt there are any traps in here, and the monsters are quite ordinary as well." She shrugged.

"I see... Thanks for your effort, anyway."

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"Anything for my best friend!" She gave him a thumbs up.

Sometime later, they encountered a new kind of monster.

"C-Rank monster, Cave Trolls. They're just like goblins but with a bigger size and more strength." Nina said.

When the Cave Trolls noticed Leo and Nina's presence, they immediately tightened their grip on their weapons that were pickaxes and charged forward.

Naturally, they didn't stand a chance before Leo and were quickly killed.

Ding!

<You have completed a Quest>

[+1,000 Magic Points]

'Finally! Now that I have completed this quest three times, it should upgrade to the next tier.'

Leo opened up the Quest Shop as he walked.

[Kill 5,000 Monsters: 500MP]

[Reward: 15,000 Magic Points]

'15,000 Magic Points!' Leo was ecstatic when he saw the upgrades. However, he had to kill 5,000 monsters, which was 10 times as much as the previous quest.

Of course, that didn't deter him away from purchasing the quest instantly.

'5,000 monsters... The training course will probably end before this quest is finished, unless we find a few more monster nests, hopefully...'

Several more hours later.

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"Wow..." Leo muttered in a voice full of awe when they arrived at the end of the path that led to a massive underground cavern.

"This is where the B-Rank monsters are." Nina said to him.

"I wouldn't be surprised if this place turned out to be a Labyrinth," he said with a smile on his face.

Chapter 105: Vampire Bats

After taking a minute to enjoy the beautiful scenery, Leo said, "Alright, let's finally start hunting some monsters for real. We cannot allow our rank to drop any lower."

"Before we go, let me give you a brief explanation about the monsters dwelling in this place." Nina suddenly said.

"First is the Stone Lizard. They're giant lizards that can use earth magic. When they see an enemy, they will cover their body using earth magic, increasing their defense significantly. Then there's their rock spits. Just as its name implies, they will spit rocks at you. Don't underestimate this attack because it can easily put a hole in your body. They will lean their heads back a little before they use this attack, so make sure you keep an eye on its movements."

"Next are the Vampire Bats. They are usually found on the ceiling. When they attack, they will dive down like an eagle right before it catches its prey. However, that's not what's dangerous and annoying about them. These flying bastards will drain your mana if they damage you and it's not a small amount, so make sure you don't let them get close."

"Last but not least, Crystal Golems. Magic spells are ineffective against them because their bodies are made from Magic Absorbing Crystals. I avoided them the last time I was here so I don't know much about their attacks."

"Magic Absorbing Crystals? Is that what they use to make Magic Absorbing Dummies?" Leo asked.

"Yes, among other things."

"Then I should probably gather some of their material." Leo mumbled to himself.

Sometime later, they entered the cavern and began looking around for monsters. Even though the cavern was underground with no source of sunlight, it was not completely dark in there for some reason.

It didn't take long before they encountered their first B-Rank monster in this cave, and it was a group of Vampire Bats.

There were three of them in total, each the size of an adult bald eagle, their height around 30 inches with a wingspan of around 7 feet. Their wings also looked quite sharp, especially the edges.

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Nina quickly summoned her skeleton mages to try and shoot them down because they were flying in the air at a height that Leo couldn't reach with his sword.

However, the Vampire Bats were very agile with quick reaction times, allowing them to react and dodge the projectiles.

"Wait, Nina. Stand next to me and let them come down." Leo said to her a few moments later.

"Alright..." Nina didn't question his decision and immediately unsummoned the skeleton mages before hiding behind Leo.

Shortly after the skeleton mages were gone, the Vampire Bats flew into action and plunged at Leo and Nina with the tip of its wings pointing in their direction.

Leo waited until the Vampire Bats were close enough before he suddenly moved.

He swung his sword at the Vampire Bat in the front, slicing right through its wings that were as strong as steel, almost as though it was nothing more than a piece of paper.

The other two Vampire Bats were shocked when they saw how effortlessly Leo seemed when he killed their companion, but they were already in a diving motion and almost in front of Leo because they all moved at the same time.

After killing the first Vampire Bat, Leo immediately maneuvered his sword for the second strike, then the third, and in the blink of an eye, Leo had cut down all three Vampire Bats.

Due to his passive skill 'Weak Enhanced Senses', he was able to see the Vampire Bats movements very clearly and even time his attacks with their movements perfectly.

"Wow, their wings are as sharp as a sword..." Leo inspected their corpses after killing them.

And he continued, "I'm actually kind of curious... Will their mana draining effect work even if they're dead? If so, how much mana will it drain?"

"The draining effect works even if they're dead." Nina said.

"As for how much it will drain... Why don't you try it for yourself?"

"Is it safe?"

"As long as you have enough mana." She nodded.

"Alright, I'm going to try it." Leo couldn't resist his curiosity and deliberately made a small cut on his finger with the Vampire Bat's wing.

He then watched as his mana decreased from 17,000 to 7,000 in the blink of an eye.

"Holy shit! That drained half of my mana!" Leo immediately stepped away from the Vampire Bats with a shocked look on his face.

"Now you know firsthand why they're so dangerous."

"..."

Leo stared at the Vampire Bat's wings with a pondering face.

"Hey, do you think it's possible to make a weapon using their wings?" He suddenly asked.

"Huh?" Nina looked at him with a raised eyebrow.

"If I can turn their wings into a weapon, I'd have a mana draining weapon!"

Nina pondered to herself for a moment before speaking, "I think it's possible. After all, it's common practice to use monster parts to create artifacts with certain effects and attributes. The Magic Absorbing Dummy, for example, is made mainly from Magic Absorbing Crystals, which can either be mined from caves or harvested from Crystal Golems."

"However, you'll need a lot of materials to create a weapon."

"That's great! How many do you think I will need to craft a weapon?" Leo then asked.

"A few thousand at the very least," she immediately responded.

"F-Few thousand at the very least...?" Leo was taken aback, as he was not prepared to hear such a large number.

"I was thinking a few hundred at most, but to think it's a few thousand..."

"If it's that easy to craft a weapon, there would be an abundance of them by now." Lilith chuckled.

"I guess I'll have to give up on crafting a weapon for now, but I will still collect their wings just in case I need them. I can probably turn them into throwing stars or something." Leo said as he severed the Vampire Bats' wings before tossing them into his Spatial Ring.