

Overgeared 981

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“What about five each?”

“Three each.”

“Then four each?”

“Three each.”

“Three is too few.”

“Three each!”

“...I'll think about it. Come back tomorrow.”

“Three each!”

“I told you to come back tomorrow!”

“Yes...”

Surprisingly, Nefelina was very careful. During the negotiations, Nefelina didn't use the power of a transcendent species nor did she threaten him by referring to it. Instead, she tried to find a line that would satisfy both parties involved.

“I heard that dragons consider all things in this world as insignificant. They are supposed to be cruel, selfish, and capricious from a human's viewpoint, yet she is different from the story. Is she perhaps in a disadvantageous position? That she can't grow without being beholden to us...?” This was Lael's guess.

However, Sticks stubbornly shook his head. “A dragon awakens most of their magic at the moment of birth. In fact, the space reconstruction magic that Nefelina maintains is something that ordinary human magicians can't imitate. Additionally, to use it alone with polymorph... She is an existence that can live well enough without human help. 100 cows and pigs? She can slaughter them in a matter of minutes if she wanted. She can also kill all the humans protecting the livestock.”

“Then why is Nefelina trying to negotiate?”

“She is crazy.”

“...?”

“She is out of her mind. That hatchling is crazy.”

Dragons weren't social animals. They were arrogant and selfish because they were the most outstanding race in the world. Just as humans didn't care about knocking down an ant nest when building a house, the dragon didn't care about other people. They acted as they wanted and made their own way. From the viewpoint of a human, Nefelina was completely different from ordinary dragons.

“No, how is this crazy...? Isn't it common sense?”

"It is crazy when considering a dragon's common sense. Originally, dragons can't be evaluated with our common sense. From our point of view, they are always selfish and and erratic."

"Is it because she is still a hatchling?"

"It is meaningless to argue about age because the dragon's thoughts are formed the moment they are born."

"Hrmm... Then what should I do?"

"What should you do? A crazy dragon isn't easily seen, so we should study it."

The feelings of resentment and fear that Sticks had against the dragon species were tremendous. The curse had merely been a moment of fun for the gourmet dragon. Yet this curse caused Sticks to be afraid of dragons as he fought death for the rest of his life. Now, his curiosity toward Nefelina made him shake off his fear.

"Umm... Still, it isn't easy to dedicate three pigs and cows every day."

According to Grid, the current price of one pig was two gold and the price of one cow was four gold. This meant that 18 gold were consumed every day. It would be 180 gold for 10 days and 1,800 gold for 100 days. What was 1,800 gold worth? It was worth a huge amount of 2.6 million won.

Lauel glanced at the hesitating Grid with dull eyes. "I think it is cheap to buy the favor of a hatchling. To put it plainly, how much money can you earn from making an item? Why are you dwelling on 18 gold a day?"

"If you think about the value of a hatchling, it is nothing to lose 700,000 won a month."

"That's right. It is a lot less money than the minimum wage. You aren't being a pushover. Isn't she even giving you a blessing? It isn't a business where you will lose money. However, if you want to save money, then why don't you use the kingdom's money?"

"The kingdom's money?"

"Yes. Settle the price of the hatchling's food with the nation's finances."

"How can I use the kingdom's finances for a personal quest?"

"What about it? You are the ruler of this kingdom. Haven't you forgotten whose money was used to form this kingdom? Why is the king still acting poor? You forgot that you spent your money making the kingdom. You even made up for the loss every time a national business lost money."

"...Umm."

Of course, it was a tremendous leap to call Grid poor. It was because Grid had assets worth hundreds of billions of won. Despite this, he was still far from being a chaebol. If Grid were really rich, he would've bought a private jet without worrying.

"Okay. Let's do it."

As Sticks had said, Nefelina was already a ridiculously powerful entity. It was hard to get rid of her, so he had to negotiate. If he was going to negotiate as the king, then it was better to do it at the kingdom's expense.

'Let's use the nation's finances!' Feeling determined, Grid rose from his spot. 'I wonder what blessing I will receive.'

He was very excited. Grid looked for Irene and Lord while quickly hoping for tomorrow to come. Then he was caught by Lauel who pulled out a different topic. "Your Majesty, it is about the chef you brought from the East Continent. The Poison Master."

"Idan?"

"Yes. His cooking skill has been stagnant for more than a year."

"Why?"

"No one will eat even if he cooks dishes. The skill level is increasing, but there seems to be a limit to the experience rise if no one eats it."

"Why isn't anyone eating?"

"So far, the Overgeared members have eaten Idan's dishes while preparing to die for the poison resistance..."

"Now their poison resistance is so high they don't need to eat?"

"Yes. However, there is a limit to the level of poison resistance that can be increased by Idan's cooking."

"What if we feed the dishes to the soldiers?"

"They will die."

"...He still can't make normal dishes?"

"The higher his cooking skill level, the better. However, there is still a long way to go. So I'm saying..." Lauel explained how he planned to use Idan.

Then Grid nodded with delight. "Lauel is truly a genius."

"Hut... I am lonely but I enjoy this solitude."

"Uh, yes. Enjoy your loneliness. I'm going."

"W-What is that?"

"Cool..."

Today, at an intermediate hunting ground near Reinhardt, the players who were hunting hard and collecting items stopped their actions and watched one spot. There were 500 soldiers. They were armed with the mass-produced set and were evidently elite soldiers of Overgeared. Mercedes, the beautiful woman with her name in gold, was at the forefront.

“Where’s the war?”

Why were such elite forces visiting an intermediate hunting ground? The players were bewildered.

“This should be good.”

The procession of soldiers stopped, and a couple and a little boy appeared. It was Overgeared King Grid, Overgeared Queen Irene, and Prince Lord. The legendary knight Mercedes spread out a mat in the middle of the hunting ground.

“Now Irene, let’s sit.”

“Yes.”

Grid and Irene sat on the mat and pulled out tea and sweets. On the other hand, Lord held the sword and started to hunt monsters with Overgeared Skeletons One and Two.

“Hiyah!”

“Kiek!”

“Hahaha! Our son’s swordsmanship is excellent.”

“He is similar to Your Majesty.”

“...”

No, it was a noisy picnic... The Grid couple gazed lovingly at Lord who was fighting.

The players watched the unreal scene unfolding in the middle of the hunting grounds and suddenly realized that their surroundings had become very quiet. There were no monsters when they looked around. It was because the Overgeared soldiers threw stones at any monsters that were visible and lured them toward Lord. The 500 elite soldiers were acting as a mob mall for a single prince!

“That is the diamond spoon I’ve heard about.”

“I-I’m envious...”

They wanted to be Grid’s son! The players could only watch from the side, but they didn’t resent Grid. No, they felt grateful to him. It was because Grid showed them full consideration.

“Follow me.” There was a beautiful woman with a golden name. Nobody knew it, but a legendary knight gave these players a bus ride. She went to every place where a boss monster appeared and attacked it before letting the players finish the boss off. Of course, the items were also transferred. The players experienced an unexpected windfall thanks to the Grid family picnic.

“Hooray for the Overgeared Kingdom!”

“Long live the Overgeared King!”

The excited cries of the players echoed through the hunting ground. The more favorable they were toward Grid, the stronger the kingdom would become.

‘Using the family gatherings like this...’

Grid made Irene happy while raising Lord and the Overgeared Skeletons, as well as gaining the favor of the people. This was a plan that had come from Lauel's mind.

"Your Majesty, I've cleared all the boss monsters around here."

"Um, yes." Grid received the report from Mercedes and rose from his seat. "Irene. The next hunting ground... No, let's go to the next picnic spot."

The next day, Grid went to find Nefelina with the evil eyes king. Nefelina was in the form of a small dragon. Her body was around two feet long, and her scales were blue. She had a wriggling tail and large, round eyes that were adorable.

"I will accept four each."

"Three... Um," Grid was about to shout 'three' when he shut up and asked, "Is that the best concession you can make?"

"That's right. I must eat four each if I don't want a sound to come from my stomach."

"Okay." He felt that he couldn't be more stubborn. It was a type of intuition. The experience that Grid had stacked up over the last few years told him that acting more greedy here could ruin their future days. As such, Grid complied with Nefelina's request. It would be better to show a good image if he was going to establish a deal anyway.

"Since the great destroyer of the future is caring for me, I am willing to accept it. I will give you four cows and four pigs every day."

"I'm glad you understand. I would've gotten upset if you kept arguing."

"T-That's right..."

What would happen if a hatchling became angry? Grid thought he did well of letting go of his greed and clapped. Then the door opened, and a person with a pale face entered. Nefelina cocked her round head. "Who is this human?"

"Your exclusive chef."

"Exclusive chef? Is it a human who will only make my food?"

"Yes, that's right. It is the minimum of sincerity I should show to a great hatchling."

"Hum hum. I like it." Nefelina's tail moved side to side and hit the floor. She seemed quite pleased. However, this act seemed like a death notice to Chef Idan. "D-Dragon..."

Was it easy to make food for a dragon? Was there a crazy case like this? Grid whispered to Idan who had lost his soul, "I don't know what the dragons on the East Continent are like, but the dragons on the West Continent are a very evil existence. You should try to make delicious dishes so you don't get eaten."

"Hiik..."

A hatchling was fully resistant to poison. She wouldn't be poisoned no matter how many of Idan's dishes she ate. The evil eyes were also a group whose cooking culture hadn't developed. The hatchling who lived in the evil eyes village wouldn't have tasted proper cooking and wouldn't feel that Idan's dishes were tasteless.

This was Lauel's plan. He had made a plan to buy Nefelina's favor while increasing Idan's cooking skill. In fact, this method was very effective.

"Grid, your attitude is outstanding. I'll give you an excellent blessing."

[The quest 'Hatchling's Request' will proceed.]

[You need to give Nefelina four cows and four pigs every day.]

[You have received the dragon's blessing for accepting the quest!]

A golden magic power appeared around Grid's body. It was the first time for a player. No, maybe Grid was the first human to receive the blessing of a dragon. His heart thumped at the thought.

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[Nefelina is checking your condition.]

[Nefelina believes that your stats are insufficient.]

'Heok. Don't tell me?'

What was the dragon's blessing? Grid's expectations swelled even more. The dragon was observing him seriously, and Grid thought she would make up for what he was lacking.

'Will she increase my agility or intelligence?'

In fact, it was wrong to say that Grid was lacking power, especially among players of the same class. No, Grid's average stats were so high that there was almost no one among the two billion players who had higher stats than him. Nevertheless, humans were animals who didn't know how to be satisfied. Grid coveted more for his relatively scarce stats and hoped Nefelina would know his earnest heart. He had faith it would be possible with a great dragon.

However, the result was different from what he expected. Nefelina didn't raise Grid's stats.

[Nefelina has given you a blessing so you can overcome your deficiencies!]

[10% more experience will be gained when hunting monsters in the future!]

[20% more experience will be gained when hunting boss monsters in the future!]

"..."

That's right. The blessing that Nefelina gave didn't mean immediate results, but it was a driving force to achieve better results. Grid's excitement was popped like a balloon.

"This is the blessing...?"

He wanted to deny it but it was true. The effect of the dragon's blessing was already shown in Grid's status window, and it could be described as an experience buff. Nefelina looked at him with a grumpy expression. "Is it a curse?"

"No..."

Maybe it was because his expectations were too high. Grid had wanted a dramatic effect like the goddess' blessing that strengthened a skill. Thus, he felt greatly disappointed at the unexpected experience buff effect.

'Ha, I can't believe that a dragon's blessing only gave me an experience buff. Once the buff duration ends... Eh?'

Grid once again confirmed the effect of the blessing and looked like he had been hit in the back of the head with a hammer. He was really shocked.

[Dragon's Blessing]

[★ Growth Blessing ★]

Additional 10% experience gain when hunting monsters.

Additional 20% experience gain when hunting boss monsters.]

"...?"

No. There was no 'duration period' mentioned anywhere. Perhaps?

'Is it a buff that lasts indefinitely?'

Experience buffs were very rare and efficient. The general public had few chances to receive an experience buff apart from the reward of the National Competition. However, Grid had a huge amount of reputation points. He could obtain experience buff potions by using the drawing machine of the Reputation Store. This experience buff potion gave an extra 20% experience.

Therefore, he saw the dragon's blessing and thought it was worthless. Now he realized it was different. The experience buff potion had a duration of three days while the dragon's blessing was a permanent buff. It meant Grid would always get more experience than others.

'It is even 20% against boss monsters!'

What if he hunted after taking experience buff potions in this state? He would be able to enjoy a buff effect similar to the first place buff of the National Competition.

"...Gulp!" Grid gulped excitedly after realizing the value of the blessing. Nefelina's tail moved as she said, "You finally realized that I have given you a great blessing."

He had to admit it. Grid was reminded of the structure of named NPCs. It was practically impossible for a player to catch up with them since there was the player's average level correction effect, as well as their steady increase in level over time. At this moment, a possibility opened up before Grid. It was the possibility of catching up with the leveling speed of named NPCs.

“Thank you!”

The dukes of the empire, the Five Pillars, the grandmaster... And finally, the yangban Garam...

Their backs, which seemed like they would always be ahead of him, were now right in front of his eyes. Grid was filled with joy and embraced Nefelina. Nefelina was currently in the form of a cute little dragon, so there was no reluctance for him to express his affection.

“Hiccup...!” Nefelina’s wings soared up as she was suddenly hugged by the man. “Y-You. This majestic body...! What are you doing?”

“Ah, s-sorry. You are so cute that I made a mistake...”

“C-Cute? I-I am an existence you will always look up to!”

Nefelina flapped her wings, and her body eventually rose into the air. The space reconstruction magic couldn’t cope with the currents of magic power and became unstable. The surrounding landscape was distorting.

“Hiiik!” The chef Idan was terrified and fainted.

The evil eyes king instantly knelt down and shouted, “Destroyer of the future! Please fix it using any means!”

However, Nefelina couldn’t hear the voice of the evil eyes king. She just growled as she glared at Grid, “You were only able to touch me in the past because I was in the egg! However, it is different now! You can’t do it anymore! I’m no longer a baby, so be careful in the future!”

“Yes, yes...”

Did she have memories of when she was in the egg? Now he knew why Nefelina was so good to him. Grid learned a new fact and vowed not to touch her again in the future.

“Thus, I plan to focus on hunting for the time being.”

This was after he gained the dragon’s blessing. Grid visited Panmir, not Lauel. There was something he wanted to ask Panmir.

“What is the safest area in the volcanic zone near Talima?”

Talima, the dwarf city—it was surrounded by a volcanic area that contained the nest of a dragon Trauka and was a place where players and the empire couldn’t access. Panmir’s expression hardened. “Are you going to hunt there?”

“Yes.”

Once again, there was the nest of the dragon Trauka in the volcanic zone of Talima. One of the legends of the Legendary Great Magician Braham was that he ‘survived the dragon Trauka’, so it wasn’t necessary to explain how strong and ferocious Trauka was.

“If you happen to meet Trauka...”

"I will die. That's why I'm asking you for the safest area."

The 1st ranked blacksmith, Panmir—he was superior to Grid in some ways. It was because he learned the dwarves' techniques. Grid knew that Panmir had visited Talima. He thought that Panmir would know a safe place in the volcanic area. However, the response was terrible.

"Um..." Panmir's brow furrowed as he thought about it for a long time.

Grid noticed his mistake. "Oh, excuse me. I'm sorry."

In Satisfy, the value of information was higher than 1,000 gold. They might be colleagues but few people were willing to freely hand over the information they worked hard to collect. In that sense, it was great that Kraugel had provided information about the Behen Archipelago and the Ether Diamond despite not being part of the same guild. Panmir waved his hand. "No, it isn't that. The reason I thought for a while isn't that I am uncomfortable but because I truly don't know."

"You don't know?"

"Yes. I was able to visit the dwarves and Talima thanks to the help of another force."

"Another force...?"

"Rothschild."

"Is that a guild name?"

"It is the name of a guild and a real family name."

"Rothschild is that Rothschild?"

"Right. Just as in reality, they have accumulated wealth and influence in Satisfy. They probably realized the value of Satisfy from the moment it launched and made a big investment. In any case, only the Rothschild Guild knows about the current Talima. I don't know which part of the volcanic zone is relatively safe."

Grid's interest wasn't just the volcanic zone.

"They have great influence...? But I've never heard their name in all these years."

"Rather than move directly, they act in a way that creates lower forces or supports other forces. It was an agent who first made contact with me."

"Why do they bother moving in secret?"

"That family is originally like that. Well, I guess it is bothersome to deal with everyone."

"Did they introduce you to the dwarves?"

"Right. At that time, the Rothschild family directly raised their power by dealing with the dwarves, and there were occasional disagreements during the process. They figured it would be better for an easy-to-handle player to obtain the dwarves' techniques."

"What was the result?"

“As you can see, I was a free agent and moved to the Overgeared Kingdom. I didn’t meet Rothschild’s expectations.”

“Are you saying a blacksmith like you were abandoned?”

“Haha...” Panmir scratched his head and laughed bitterly. He was ranked first on the blacksmith rankings. Unless there was someone great among the unofficial rankers... After Grid, he was the next best player among the existing blacksmith players. The reason why the Rothschild family could easily discard him meant that the skills of the dwarf craftsmen were beyond imagination.

“Hrmm... Are they a threat to us?” Grid asked after a moment of thought.

Panmir shook his head. “No, that won’t happen. They are aiming to quietly build up wealth. There is no reason for them to be hostile, and they might even be dreaming of a symbiotic relationship with the Overgeared Kingdom.”

“Indeed... If they were dangerous, Lael would’ve already warned me about them.”

Feeling convinced, Grid nodded and opened the Reputation Store. He used the drawing machine and secured a total of five experience potions. Grid was planning to hunt for at least one month.

‘Let’s go to the Galgunos Temple.’

The volcanic zone was the most ideal hunting ground, but he would die if he didn’t reduce his chances of meeting Trauka. He could afford to die one or twice due to the experience buff, but more than three times would be too much. In the worst case, he could drop an item.

[(Breaking News) Grid’s level-climbing speed.]

20 days had passed since Grid left for the hunting grounds. The royal palace was quiet because most of the Overgeared members were at the hunting grounds. Still, it was hard to say that it was peaceful. There were three months remaining in the truce agreement with the empire.

The movements of the Overgeared Kingdom that wanted harmony with the different species was at odds with the empire’s ideology. This was the calm before the storm, and it was an uncomfortable calm.

“What?”

The cries of the soldiers rang out around the clock. Lael was trying to find peace of mind watching Piaro, Mercedes, and Singuled train the soldiers only to become astonished. It was due to Faker’s report.

“Agnus visited this place?”

“Yes. It seems he came to meet Elizabeth.”

Agnus was the most wanted man in seven kingdoms. It was alleged that he had murdered several accessory makers. However, Lael knew it was a lie.

“He is a dangerous guy. Shall I kick him out?”

“Umm... No. Let’s just watch a bit.”

At one time, Agnus was known as a madman and a purely evil person. Now, it was hard to see him as unconditionally evil after calmly analyzing his movements. He had actually protected Irene and Lord.

'He is more powerful than Grid in a massive war. It would be good to build up a connection with him.'

Lauel touched his chin and ran to the location of Prince Lord. Lord was in the middle of learning from Sticks.

"Lauel, what are you doing here?" Coke ran over and asked after discovering Lauel.

Lauel chuckled. "I want to take a walk with the prince."

"...? I understand."

It wasn't going to be an ordinary walk. Coke felt very tense when he saw Lauel and Faker standing side by side.

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'Crazy!' This expression was one of the ultimate exclamations commonly used by modern Koreans. Grid had recently refrained from using it. It was a rather low-grade exclamation for a king to use. Grid wasn't Huroi... So, he needed basic image management. He had no time to care about that right now though.

"Wow, this is really super amazing. My experience is rising at a crazy speed. Isn't this completely crazy?? Eh? Right, Noe?"

"I don't know what you're saying, nyong..."

[You have defeated a Galgunos Skeleton Soldier.]

[You have defeated a Galgunos Skeleton...]

[You have defeated a Galgunos...]

[15,905,099 experience will be divided.]

[15,905,099 experience will be...]

[15...]

[+4 Lightning Sword Born from Enlightenment and Strong Desires]

The reason why the word 'Enlightenment' was attached to the sword was simple. It was due to the presence of the Enlightenment skill.

[Enlightenment Lv. 3]

[-A persistent passive.

-Increases character experience and skill experience acquisition by 10.9% and accuracy and evasion by 20.3%.

* Skills attached to myth rated items can be upgraded.]

It increased the experience gained. That's right. The effect of Enlightenment was like the dragon's blessing. No, it was better than the dragon's blessing because the level could be increased. Grid had been using the Enlightenment Sword like it was his own body, but he had overlooked this effect so far. However, the effect of the dragon's blessing overlapping with Enlightenment was unmatched. The 20.9% increase in experience was applied at all times. This was 0.9% points higher than the experience buff potion which could only be drawn by Grid consuming a large amount of reputation points.

On the first underground floor of the Galgunos Temple, the skeletons were dying, and Grid's experience gauge was filling up. In front, Grid was very disappointed when he first came down here. He had expected stronger monsters that gave more experience to appear, but the monsters here were weaker than the war god follower who had emerged from the grave and the experience given was also lesser.

However, this disappointment was only temporary. Grid's disappointment soon changed to bliss. Unlike the war god followers, Galgunos' skeleton soldiers could be killed quickly. There were five times more of them than the war god followers, and their speed of respawn was ridiculously fast.

Of course, this wasn't a good thing from a general standpoint. The durability of the skeleton-based undead might be weak, but Galgunos' skeleton soldiers were extremely dangerous because they were advanced monsters over level 350. In particular, they had high attack power in exchange for low health. Their attacks were fast, simple, and accurate. The skeleton soldiers used long spears as their weapon and had a high accuracy and damage. They were threatening to the high rankers who probably had an average defense of 4,000 points.

Unfortunately for them, Grid's defense power exceeded the average. His stamina stat had only reached 2,400 points, but the +3 Valhalla of Infinite Affection raised his defense by 1,600 points. Grid's total defense was close to 6,000. No matter how much the Galgunos' skeleton soldiers tried, they were like eggs smashing against a rock. Moreover, it was a poisonous rock.

[You have suffered 3,900 damage!]

[The +3 Valhalla of Infinite Affection has emitted poison!]

The skeleton soldiers surrounding Grid were affected by the monstrous poison that spread. Their bones turned green, and they lost their health.

[The option effect 'Black Flames' has exploded from the +4 Lightning Sword Born from Enlightenment and Strong Desires!]

Grid quickly struck with maximum speed, and the black flames exploded continuously. "Link!"

"Kyak kyak!Kyakyakyak!"

"..."

The skeleton soldiers were helpless as the Blade Aiming at the Gods, Randy, the Overgeared Skeletons, and Tiramet helped Grid. They were poisoned, burned by flames, slashed by swords, beaten by fists, had their bones crushed, and were tied up by the silver thread. Dozens of skeleton soldiers were incapacitated at once. The large number of monsters that would be disastrous for an ordinary person was a blessing to Grid.

“It is rude to be in front of the best demonic beast of hell!” The few surviving skeletons were killed by Noe, and the finish was perfect.

“I’ll take a break for a moment.” Grid even had some room to relax.

The Unicorn’s Blessing increased the recovery rate of all resources by 20%. Grid rode Overgeared Corn in the middle of the battle to restore his stamina.

[Status: Annoyed.

Depressed.]

(I want a female rider, not male.)

...The Overgeared Corn seemed to be suffering, but Grid didn’t care. It was better to summon Overgeared Corn as much as possible to raise the level of favorability. Summoning Overgeared Corn during a hunt meant he would receive some experience and his level would rise.

‘Every time his level rises, he likes bringing up his favorite subject. By the way, what are they doing?’

Grid cocked his head from where he was sitting on Overgeared Corn. The Overgeared Skeletons were repeatedly picking up the bone fragments scattered throughout the battlefield. He felt uneasy because they resembled Yerim (Sexy Schoolgirl) whenever she showed up at a department store.

‘Don’t tell me that they want to have those?’

No. Which player in the world would share their miscellaneous items with their pets? The pet system didn’t require it, and he wasn’t Nyangmong. Grid wasn’t such a pushover. Grid hurriedly got off Overgeared Corn, swept up the skeleton soldiers running from one corner with Transcended Link, and then started to pick up all the miscellaneous items. Of course, it included the bone fragments of the Galgunos’ skeleton soldiers that the Overgeared Skeletons had been carefully looking at.

‘They are from high-level undead, so they will sell pretty well.’

They were thick and ugly pieces of bone. They were so hard that they could be used as material to make defense items. Of course, items made of bone had low durability and were difficult to repair, so Grid didn’t mean to make them.

Clack!Clack clack clack!

The Overgeared Skeletons stared at Grid. These normally insidious guys raised their $\triangle \triangle$ shaped eyes and waved their fingers around. One of Overgeared Skeleton Two’s fingers broke off when it hit their jaw, but it picked the finger up and stuck it back on. It healed immediately.

“You... Do you really want this?”

Clack!Clack clack!

The Overgeared Skeletons nodded as if they had been waiting for Grid to ask that. Their excitement showed in the speed at which their jaws moved.

“Are you interested in the skeleton bones? Why didn’t you want it before?”

The probability of the Galgunos' skeleton soldiers dropping bone fragments was around 3%. It was a very low probability for a miscellaneous item, which meant the value of the bone fragments might be more than expected. Grid wasn't willing to give them the fragments. The Overgeared Skeletons were pets that didn't have a separate affinity bar, and it wasn't necessary to give them precious gifts. However...

'Uhh.'

The Overgeared Skeletons couldn't speak, but they were high-grade summons that expressed clear emotions. They were pretty cute and listened well, which meant Grid was fond of them. He had great expectations for them in the future. Evolving skeletons... They had used the death knight and lich skins during the demon king's subjugation. Maybe that could actually become that...

"Okay." Grid was troubled for a long time before pulling something out with trembling hands. They were two bone pieces.

"Take them. They're gifts."

Clack!Clack clack clack!

How happy were they? The Overgeared Skeletons received the bones from Grid and hugged each other before starting to dance. Of course, Grid quickly stopped them. He was worried they would add a 'dancer' to their second list of classes. They couldn't dance, so the Overgeared Skeletons' shoulders drooped. Then after a while, they checked the bone fragments in their hands and started to place them in the rib cage.

"...Eh?" Grid's eyes widened at the unexpected behavior. The Overgeared Skeletons were laughing happily after adding one rib bone. The skeletons had become a bit bigger. He wasn't mistaken. It was a small but tangible change.

At Elizabeth's workshop...

"He didn't come."

Before Elizabeth joined the Overgeared Guild, Agnus had invaded her workshop. It was speculated that the purpose of his visit to Reinhardt had been Elizabeth. Now, he was nowhere to be found.

"..."

Lauel carried Lord while Coke escorted them. The two men were quiet for a while.

"We missed him." Faker appeared out of the shadows and reported, "Agnus disappeared after being pursued by the Overgeared Shadows."

Simultaneously, at a small inn in the market...

“You came,” Euphemina said to the bloody man who entered the room. His robe fell as he sat down, revealing his green hair. It was Agnus, a person who had caused many problems. He was a murderer currently accused of killing many accessory makers. However—

“You have many injuries.”

Euphemina wasn't wary of him. She had found out from their previous meeting that he was different from what the world knew.

‘How many curses did he receive?’

Euphemina's expression was bad as she examined Agnus' condition. Agnus was being subjected to all types of curses, such as weakness, poison, and the inability to recover. Yes, curses. Curses involving the 'story' or 'system' were different from those that naturally recovered over time.

‘The only way to resolve the curse is to kill the cursed target or solve the related story.’

It was useless to give him potions. Euphemina pulled out a handkerchief and wiped the blood stains off Agnus' pale face. “You are wanted in seven kingdoms. Do you think it is unfair?”

Agnus nervously brushed off Euphemina's hand and laughed, “Kuku, who am I to feel it is unfair?”

“You didn't kill those people.”

“...” Agnus' shoulders trembled. Then he quickly regained his smile. “You don't have to speak so much. You only came for one purpose.”

There was a person Agnus loved—the only person in the world who loved him. He wanted to revive her, the woman who had gone through terrible things because of him and ultimately left this world. If only to save her...

“I will free Mumud.”

The strength he had built up by not being a helpless victim... All the power had accumulated over the last few years. Agnus was ready to give up everything.

“Instead, be sure to keep your promise.” The smile disappeared from Agnus' face. The madness was gone, and his golden eyes stared straight at Euphemina.

Euphemina didn't avoid his gaze. “On my honor, I will keep my promise.”

She was well aware of why the man in front of her had made this choice, and she didn't plan to betray this man who had suffered all his life. After completing the Mumud Liberation quest, she would be sure to keep the promise.

...Even if the outcome of the promise made him more unhappy.

Then the visit was interrupted by the hunters who pursued Agnus from other countries. They had monstrous abilities that wrecked Agnus' body and soul as they kept chasing him.

“...Kikik, we meet again.” Agnus stood up and pushed Euphemina out the window. It was his fight. He didn't want the kid to be pulled into a fight that was impossible to win.

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lost a accessory maker craftsman to the mad killer. Since a production class craftsman was very precious, the loss to the seven kingdoms was very large.

The seven kingdoms had to punish the killer, and the people hoped for it too. Respected craftsmen had been killed. If the royal family didn't take responsibility for it, the trust of the people would be lost and prestige would fall.

"I finally caught you. Dirty and disgusting bastard."

The hunters from the seven kingdoms flocked into the room. Some were members of the royal knights, some were reputable mercenaries, and some were unknown names. The 15 positions and personalities were all different, but they had one thing in common. They all had outstanding talents. In particular, the skills of the mercenaries Phildea and Johneman were amazing. They were named NPCs whose names shone brilliantly. It was difficult for Agnus to deal with both of them at the same time under normal circumstances, much less now that he was cursed and weakened.

"Look, Agnus. Stop the unnecessary resistance and come with me."

Naturally, there were players among the hunters. One of them was Bubab. The role of the initiator was optimized, and he had given great pressure to Agnus during the chase throughout the past few months. If he hadn't left for a while due to the National Competition, Agnus would've already been caught and taken to the guillotine.

"There is a net of thousands of people around the inn. Even if you escape this place by luck, you will be caught soon. Don't make a fuss and go easily."

The hunters received great support from the seven kingdoms. There were hundreds of troops operating secretly, and it wasn't a bluff to say there were 1,000 people around the inn. However, Agnus wasn't the least bit frightened. "Why do you talk nonsense every day?"

An awful madness seeped into him. Agnus looked at the enemies surrounding him and recalled his helpless past. It was a time when he had suffered one-sidedly and experienced all types of pain just because he had no power... At the time, he had succumbed to violence but not now. No matter how many times he was frustrated or how much he lost, he couldn't give in. He would rather fall behind. This was Agnus' conviction.

"Wait." Bubab hurried to Agnus who was pulling out his sword without hesitation. "How many times have you been through this already? If you die here after fighting, you won't get your name off the wanted list. We will continue to track you until we place you in the guillotine. You will die every time and suffer damages."

Agnus had to be punished by law in order to escape being a criminal. Before he was sentenced to death by the guillotine, the curses on him wouldn't be resolved no matter how many times he died. It was better to go to the guillotine than to live as a wanted criminal until he was forced to quit the game. Of course, the penalty for being killed by the guillotine was greater than that of a normal death... It was neater to be punished by law rather than to be constantly chased and killed.

“This is the heart of the Overgeared Kingdom. We will be caught by Grid if we make a fuss here. Won’t you be tired as well?”

“I don’t really care. Kikik, do you think I’m afraid of Grid?”

“...”

Bubat didn’t answer. Agnus stopped for a moment. Grid—a person who had a similar past to Agnus—was a pushover who fought for others despite suffering in a world filled with only perpetrators and bystanders. Had he forgotten his misfortunes and suffering?

Agnus hated Grid. He felt disgusted with Grid’s actions and thoughts. Thus, he naturally hated those who mentioned his name. It was enough to kill this person!

“Dyulebul!”

The demon popped out at Agnus’ insane cry. It was a demon with a lizard head on a human body. The demon’s grotesque appearance stimulated primordial terror. Bubat was well aware of how powerful this ray of light was and cursed, “Dammit!”

A ray of light that dealt 20,000 fixed damage was fired from Dyulebul’s mouth. The problem was that an additional 8,000 explosive damage occurred at the point where the rays hit. The small building couldn’t handle the explosion. The wall of the inn was blown away from the explosion. The roof was torn down, and the sky was revealed. There were screams from people who were shocked by the sudden commotion.

“...Using any means!” Bubat gritted his teeth. The Overgeared soldiers would soon come to inquire about what happened, then Grid would find out. Bubat was terribly afraid of him. What happened to the Immortal group that caused a turmoil by invading the smithies of the Overgeared Kingdom? They were ruined. The Immortal group had once been considered as one of the strongest guilds, only to be shattered and scattered like ashes.

‘My personal quest can’t damage the Yak Guild!’ Bubat’s judgment was quick. He took advantage of the turmoil and withdrew. It was the same for the other hunters who were players. For them, Grid was a target to be challenged, not an opponent to be hostile to.

On the other hand, the NPC hunters were different. They were fully aware of Grid’s power but didn’t fear or admire him. It was natural. They were NPCs, not players. Thus, they couldn’t feel Grid’s great existence. The current position of the Overgeared Kingdom was also risky.

“Haap!”

Dyulebul attacked in five second intervals. The fire of his spinning tail was maintained at all times, but the damage was so small that it didn’t threaten the hunters. The hunters pulled out their weapons in unison and rushed at Agnus while ignoring Dyulebul. Agnus responded by summoning his death knights and liches.

The hunters’ pincer attacks subdued the death knight. Meanwhile, Lich Mumud failed to shoot his powerful spells. It was due to the location. This inn was in the middle of the marketplace. He hesitated because the civilians could be swept away by the spells. This was obviously an act of rebellion against

Agnus' orders. Still, it couldn't be helped. Agnus was weakened from all types of curses and couldn't exercise perfect control over Mumud. It was impossible for him to control the strong will of Mumud, a super named existence who he had only obtained because he was Baal's Contractor.

After a few strikes, Agnus was driven to be on the defensive and quickly suppressed. The hunters restrained their limbs and pointed their swords against his neck while clicking their tongues. "The filthy murderer is going to suffer."

After a few months, the chase was finally over. The hunters stared at Agnus with hate-filled eyes and tied him up with rope.

"What's the fuss about in our kingdom?" A blonde girl asked as she burst into the scene. She saw the hunters' bewildered expressions and introduced herself, "I am Earl Euphemina of the Overgeared Kingdom. I have to ask you to take responsibility for using force freely in a kingdom that's not your own, placing the people at risk."

The hunters immediately introduced themselves and bowed. Then they explained, "This is a heinous criminal who escaped after murdering people in our seven kingdoms. The situation was urgent because we were trying not to avoid missing him, so we weren't able to obtain your consent in advance. We sincerely apologize and will repay any damage your land has suffered today."

A heinous criminal who committed murder in seven kingdoms...

Usually, the disturbance that occurred in the process of arresting him should be taken into account by the kingdom. However, Euphemina didn't want to do this.

"Are you certain he is the murderer?"

"That's right."

"What is the evidence?"

"He was seen at every murder scene."

"Is that sufficient? What if he was framed?"

"...Are you trying to defend this guy? I doubt the intentions of the Overgeared Kingdom. It has been rumored recently that the Overgeared Kingdom has accepted another species and the empire's anger is great. Do you intend to become hostile to our seven kingdoms as well because of a murderer?"

"That is a big leap. I just want to confirm the reason why you caused a commotion in the middle of the Overgeared Kingdom. I am just asking a few questions in the process. It is suspicious that you are reacting so sensitively."

"No, why are you being so strict about catching a criminal? Is there something between the two of you?"

Only Johneman crossed his arms silently. He was a mercenary who didn't belong to a particular country and didn't care about international affairs. Then it happened when the atmosphere was becoming bloody.

“Don’t speak nonsense,” the captured Agnus scoffed. He treated Euphemina like she was a stranger. “Is that kid so great? Just take me away. How long do you think I’ll be tied up? Eh? You stupid assholes, kukuk!”

“Shut up!”

“If you want me to shut up, gag me and drag me away. Don’t waste my time unnecessarily.”

Agnus was refusing Euphemina’s help. He expressed it so clearly that Euphemina couldn’t go further. As he was dragged away like a dog, Agnus sent a whisper to her, -Don’t come out in the future.It’s annoying.

-But you...

-Shut up.This is none of your business.Don’t worry, I’ll keep my promise.

Agnus was unfamiliar with goodwill. So, he felt uncomfortable and displeased because it was unfamiliar. Euphemina caught the loneliness in Agnus’ eyes and scolded the hunters who dragged him away, “...The Overgeared Kingdom must be thoroughly compensated for the act of daring to use force here.”

That was all she could do.

[Your level has risen.]

He gained five levels. Grid had achieved this feat in just one month. The achievement was made possible due to the National Competition’s reward buff. However, it was still an unusually fast leveling speed considering the 1st ranked Chris took more than three months to gain one level.

The outside world was heating up due to Grid’s level-up speed. Players from all over the world paid attention as Grid caused an upheaval in the rankings. There was a lot of speculation that it was the effect of the Different Species’ King which Grid had newly acquired.

Even so, the interest of the person involved was focused on something aside from his level. It was on the Overgeared Skeletons.

“It isn’t right?”

Clack!Clack clack!

The bone fragments had been dropped by Galgunos’ skeleton soldiers after they died. The name of the item was ‘Bone Fragment of a Skeleton Soldier’, but unfortunately, every piece was different. Some were rib bones, some were clavicle pieces, and some were the left arm bones. Of course, the bone fragments looked the same to Grid, but it was a problem because the bone fragments were different from each other.

The issue was that the Overgeared Skeletons needed bone fragments from the ‘same area’ to attach to their body. For example, if they wanted to strengthen their right arm, they needed a right arm bone fragment.

‘This damn thing... The drop rate for it is too low.’

Why did it need to be the same area? He wondered how many skeleton soldiers he would have to kill in the future to strengthen all the bones of the Overgeared Skeletons. Since there was a chance that the same parts could drop, he might not be able to get all bone fragment parts after killing tens of thousands of them.

'The number of times that each area can be strengthened is only once. Thus, a duplicate bone is useless... Huh?'

Grid quickly realized that his worries were useless.

[The Skeleton Soldier's Bone Fragment has been acquired.]

Clack!Clack clack!

Most of the bone fragments that Galgunos' skeleton soldiers dropped were needed immediately. That's right. Unlike his worries, duplicate areas rarely appeared.

'It is crazy...'

Grid glanced at the Overgeared Skeletons rejoicing at receiving a new bone fragment and once again realized how fraudulent the good luck stat was. His unlucky life from before he came across Satisfy had been unfair and meaningless. The Overgeared Skeletons were changing.

[The Overgeared Skeletons One and Two have succeeded in strengthening their bones in all areas!]

[The primary awakening has been completed.]

[The stats of the Overgeared Skeletons One and Two have increased significantly!]

The Overgeared Skeletons were now 1.2 times taller than before. With the exception of their skull, all their dried up bones had become fatter. Their physiques were much larger than before.

...Their skulls also grew, but the growth was smaller in proportion to the rest of their bones.

'I have a good feeling!'

Grid stepped up the hunting. The Overgeared Skeletons were level 198, and he planned to raise them to level 200 to get the second advancement class. Of course, it wasn't easy. The Overgeared Skeletons were too weak in comparison to Galgunos' skeleton soldiers. Tiramet was summoned, but he only lasted a short time before dying. In the end, Grid hunted the enemies while protecting the Overgeared Skeletons.

Then a few days passed.

[Overgeared Skeleton One and Overgeared Skeleton Two's levels have increased.]

[Overgeared Skeleton One and Overgeared Skeleton Two can change to their second advancement class.]

Grid achieved his goal, and the Overgeared Skeletons danced with joy. With his eyes fixed to one spot, Grid stood still unsteadily. He gulped and was filled with anticipation as he pulled up the list of potential classes for the Overgeared Skeletons.

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[Possible Class List for Overgeared Skeleton One]

[1. Destroyer Skeleton Miner.

Details: (Good at mining)

2. Destroyer Skeleton Clown.

Details: (Can laugh well)

3. Destroyer Skeleton Dancer.

Details: (Can dance well)

4. Destroyer Skeleton Swordsman.

Details: (Increased proficiency in swordsmanship)

5. Destroyer Skeleton Dancing Smith.

Further information: (Good at dancing and blacksmithing)]

[Possible Class List for Overgeared Skeleton Two]

[1. Restorer Skeleton Miner.

2. Restorer Skeleton Clown.

3. Restorer Skeleton Dancer.

4. Restorer Skeleton Mage.

Details: (Increased proficiency in magic)

5. Restorer Skeleton Dancing Smith.]

Were the details right?

“...” Grid’s silence lasted a long while. He couldn’t accept the second class list of the Overgeared Skeletons in front of him. Was this a dream or reality? The boundaries were ambiguous and difficult to distinguish. Grid was blank like he had a lock on his mind, only to belatedly regain his spirit. He tried to analyze the cause of this absurdity.

‘I made the Overgeared Skeletons mine several times.’

In Grid’s memories, he had only occasionally used the Overgeared Skeletons for mining when he was lacking labor. The number of times was small enough to be counted on one hand. Following the first advancement class list, he couldn’t believe there was a miner option in the second advancement class list.

...This was naturally Grid’s subjective memory. At one time, the Overgeared Skeletons were forced to go mining when they were summoned. In particular, it had happened when their levels were low and they were too weak to be useful for hunting.

'Cough... Yes. Let's say they acquired the mining skill because I made them mine 100 times. And the clown and dancer options are due to their basic habits of laughing and dancing.'

Yes, the causes of these three classes were understandable. It was encouraging that the classes of swordsman and mage had also opened. Overgeared Skeleton One watched Grid's swordsmanship and Overgeared Skeleton Two watched Grid's magic, leaving room for increased strength.

"It's fine. It's fine..."

...By the way, what was a dancing blacksmith? He couldn't comprehend this even if he conceded 100 times. It was purely absurd.

"Did you dance while I was doing blacksmithing? Eh? How can I believe this?"

It was natural for the Overgeared Skeletons to open the blacksmithing path. Their master was a blacksmith and they had observed him working many times. However, it wasn't just a blacksmith. It was a blacksmith with the word 'dancing' attached...?

'I wouldn't worry if it was dancing swordsman or dancing mage.'

That's right. The modifier being attached wasn't the problem. Rather, it was good. The problem was that the attached position was wrong.

'I want the proper combat power for the second class but...'

Grid originally wanted to pick the swordsman and mage for the Overgeared Skeletons. Unfortunately, Grid was well aware of the power of a modifier. The more modifiers an item had, the more powerful and useful it was. A dancing smith was likely to be a class with high potential. Of course, the combat power was low.

'Giving up the class with a modifier for the ordinary swordsman and magician might give me a feeling of loss...'

Grid was struggling with this and asked Braham, "Braham, what do you think?"

He didn't expect to get an answer though. Braham's soul was in a very weak state, so he was sleeping almost all the time. Grid thought he would be asleep once again, but Braham woke up at the right time.

-It is better to make them a dancing smith.

Braham's reasoning made sense.

-The first classes of destroyer and restorer are applied as modifiers to the second advancement. It will be the same with the third advancement. As you know, the concept of modifiers is absolute. The more modifiers there are, the higher the 'status' will be. The merits of the class called dancing smith might be small right now, but if you think about the future, it is wiser to choose a class with many modifiers.

Was it because they were the heritage of Shizo Beriache...? Braham showed great interest in the Overgeared Skeletons. He actively advised Grid and was a big help to him.

"Okay... I will do so."

This was an investment for the future. It was in order to make the Overgeared Skeletons have the modifiers of 'destroyer', 'restorer', 'dancing', and 'blacksmith' attached to the third advancement classes. Grid nodded and made a decision. "It might feel like a loss right now, but it can't be helped. You will both become dancing smiths."

Kyaak!Kya kya kyak!

The Overgeared Skeletons were pleased with Grid's choice.They laughed and started to dance lightly.

[You have selected the 'dancing smith' class for Overgeared Skeleton One. Is this correct?]

"Co...rrect."

[You have selected the 'dancing smith' class for Overgeared Skeleton Two. Is this correct?]

"That's right..."

Flash!

Grid didn't change his decision, and a golden glow appeared around the bodies of the Overgeared Skeletons who were absorbed in their dancing. Meanwhile, Grid felt a bit regretful.He was gloomy because they were now two dancing smiths who would be of no use in combat.

'Sigh. I need to raise them to level 300 as soon as possible.'

The reason for the slow leveling of the Overgeared Skeletons was because the level difference with Grid was too large. The penalty meant that the Overgeared Skeletons received lesser experience points. However, as the level gap gradually narrowed, the level-up speed of the Overgeared Skeletons would accelerate.

[The second class advancements of Overgeared Skeleton One and Overgeared Skeleton Two have been completed!]

[The class compensation effect has increased Overgeared Skeleton One's strength and stamina by 50. There is an additional 20,000 increase in health.]

[The class compensation effect has increased Overgeared Skeleton Two's intelligence and stamina by 50. There is an additional 15,000 increase in health and 5,000 increase in mana.]

[The appearances of Overgeared Skeletons One and Two have changed!]

[The information on Overgeared Skeletons One and Two will be updated!]

"Ohhh!"

Once the class advancement was completed, the golden glow was absorbed by the Overgeared Skeletons. The Overgeared Skeletons now turned into shiny golden chibi skeletons instead of just chibi skeletons. If the previous Overgeared Skeletons were like chewed bones left behind by a dog, the current Overgeared Skeletons were fine skeletons made of gold.

However, their eyes were still the same. The ◡ ◡ shaped eyes were still naughty.

'...I can't see it.'

It was subtle.

'Well... it's fine since they're cute.'

Grid opened the Overgeared Skeletons' information.

[Name: Overgeared Skeleton One

Class: Destructive Skeleton Dancing Smith.

Level: 200

Health: 25,824 Mana: 160

Strength: 1,015 Stamina: 450

Agility: 420 Intelligence: 80]

-Class Specific Skills-

[Bone Cracking Lv. 4.]

[There is a low probability of destroying materials made of bone (undead, items, structures, etc.).

Resources Consumed: None.

Skill Cooldown Time: 20 seconds]

[Destroyer Dancer's Blacksmithing Skill Lv. 1]

[-Learn how to make a weapon that is made of 100% bone material.

While making weapons, the skills 'Dancing' and Skeleton's Patience will always be activated. If a destroyer's skill is used with this weapon, the probability of Bone Cracking will increase by three times. The time it will take to make an item is 20 minutes.

Skill Resource Consumption: Materials needed to make the item.

Skill Cooldown Time: 30 minutes.

★ Due to the nature of the destroyer, there is a possibility that the item being produced will be destroyed. If the item being produced is destroyed, a wide-area explosion that deals 6 times the item damage specified in the production method will occur.

If the damage range is within 10 meters of Overgeared Skeleton One, Overgeared Skeleton One will also suffer damage.]

[Dancing Lv. 1]

[-Dance to provoke any enemy within 30 meters.

There is a 70% chance of the taunt being successful.

Resources Consumed: None.

Skill Cooldown Time: None.

The time required to activate the skill (time required to get into the rhythm): 5 seconds.]

-Skills Learned-

[Skeleton's Patience]

[-A conditionally triggered passive.

LA skill learned from the Legendary Blacksmith's Patience.

Once activated, defense, strength, and health are doubled.

Resources Consumed: None.

Skill Cooldown Time: None.]

[Intermediate Sword Mastery Lv. 7]

[Passive skill.

A skill learned from a master's swordsmanship.]

[Silver Thread...]

[....

...

Omitted.]

[Name: Overgeared Skeleton Two

Class: Restorer Skeleton Dancing Smith.

Level: 200

Health: 19,000 Mana: 5,000

Strength: 50 Stamina: 650

Agility: 220 Intelligence: 1,045]

-Class Specific Skills-

[Bone Sticking Lv. 4]

[-Restores 20% of a skeleton-based undead's health. The damaged part of the target will be restored.

Resources Consumed: 1,00 mana.

Skill Cooldown Time: 26 seconds]

[Restorer Dancer's Blacksmithing Skill Lv. 1]

[-Learn how to make a helmet that is made of 100% bone material.

While making the helmet, the skills 'Dancing' and Skeleton's Patience will always be activated.

The helmet will gain the feature of 'restoration', and Overgeared Skeleton Two will show a high survival power if armed with this helmet.

The time it will take to make an item is 20 minutes.

Skill Resource Consumption: Materials needed to make the item.

Skill Cooldown Time: 30 minutes.

★ Due to the nature of the restorer, it may be difficult to make items. It is because the bones used as the material will be intentionally restored and manufacturing processes such as smelting and forging will be reset.

At this point, Overgeared Skeleton Two will have to start producing the item again from the beginning.]

[Dancing Lv. 1]

[Skeleton's Patience]

[Intermediate Magic Mastery Lv. 7]

[Omitted.]

The Overgeared Skeletons gained six stat points every time they leveled up. Given that level 1 had a basic 10 points for each stat and players gained a 20 point bonus for their first level, the total value of the level 200 Overgeared Skeletons' stats should be 1,224. However, the Overgeared Skeletons had a stats increase due to the second class advancement bonus, the bone strengthening effect, and the various 'usable items' made by Grid.

The total number of stat points was nearly 2,000, which was comparable to that of ordinary level 200 players. It was almost miraculous considering the Overgeared Skeletons were less powerful than players. They literally resembled their master by possessing fraudulent stats. Still, that wasn't the important issue right now.

"This..."

In fact, Grid had great expectations for the potential of the Overgeared Skeletons until their first class advancement. He had imagined that Overgeared Skeleton One would cause massive explosions to crush the bones of opponents while Overgeared Skeleton Two would use wide-area heals. The result was disappointing because they were terrible, unlike his imagination. The reality was that Overgeared Skeleton One could blow up the item while Overgeared Skeleton Two could reset the process...

'Something garbage like this...'

Grid was forced to bind all his hopes onto the third advancement. The Overgeared Skeletons would have the modifiers of 'destroyer (restorer) dancing blacksmith' skeleton. He could still hope for a combat class for the third advancement. Then Braham's voice entered the ears of the frustrated Grid, -Maybe it is because you are an idiot, but your imagination is poor. Sharing your thoughts are a pain. If this continues, my soul is likely to burst to death before it can recover.

“...?”

How could he be blamed when Braham was going to die anyway? Grid frowned while Braham scoffed.

-Stupid guy. You should be focusing on the provocation skill, not the blacksmithing. One has a wide-range provocation and damage ability while the other can launch an infinite provocation ability. What the hell are you regretting?

“...Ah!”

The Dancing skill didn't specify the 'category' of the enemy. It was even a wide-area skill.

On the other hand, the Bloody Smell option of Malacus' Cloak didn't apply to creatures whose sense of smell had deteriorated like the undead. Additionally, Malacus' Cloak was very dangerous because Grid himself attracted the aggro. However, the Overgeared Skeletons were summons who didn't receive a penalty from dying.

'This isn't trash.'

Possibilities started to unfold in front of Grid. He anticipated that the Overgeared Skeletons' third and fourth advancements would come faster than he had thought.

“...”

The defense of the evil eyes village had ended.

A month had passed, but Peak Sword's condition was still the worst. He felt uncomfortable and unmotivated. It was hard for him to concentrate on hunting, so even Vantner was worried about him.

“Are you still thinking about that knight?”

The knight whom Vantner mentioned was the leader of the Blue Flames Knights of the Gauss Kingdom. He was a young knight named Apollo. Peak Sword was traumatised from killing him. It was because Peak Sword saw himself in Apollo's image of fighting for his kingdom. A lonely struggle was the fate of a weak nation.

To be honest, Peak Sword hadn't wanted to kill him. However, he had to fight for the sake of the evil eyes. It was a fair fight, and he had to knock down the enemy. The only thing he regretted now was deceiving the other party who had fought to the end for his kingdom.

Yes, Peak Sword knew all of this. Yet he still felt regretful when the face of the young knight came up.

“...He had only one life.”

Satisfy was only a game to players, but it was reality for NPCs. They couldn't revive.

“Of course, I will kill him if the same thing happens again. I just regret that I didn't say a word to him before he died. He was too strong.”

“Then from now on, say goodbye before killing them.”

“...Eh?”

“Say goodbye and kill. Isn’t that enough?”

“...”

“We’re going to be fighting NPCs. It was a planned future from the moment Grid set up his kingdom. Some of the enemies you will encounter will certainly be good people, and you’ll have to kill them. What if you have a mental breakdown every time? Your mind will soon become exhausted. Will you quit the game?”

“Kuk... Yes, my resolve was lacking. I was too short-sighted. I’ll have to greet the enemy in advance before fighting.”

“Good. That’s the right thing to do. Greet and kill them.”

“Hut... Yes.”

“...”

The two men clasped hands. Their conversation content was obviously missing the main point. The listening Overgeared members thought it was so absurd that they clicked their tongues. It was at this moment.

&Zednos: An explosion has occurred in the southern market.

The guild members who were in Reinhardt were talking to each other in the guild chat.

&Ibellin: What happened?

&Zednos: Agnus is visiting. Maybe he is making a commotion.

&Toon: Agnus is here? Why? Isn’t this crazy?

&Jishuka: Yes! He’s a crazy guy~

&Ibellin: (/ -_-) I’m nearby, so I’ll be right there.

‘Agnus?’

In the Galgunos Temple, Bullet’s face hardened as he placed pressure on the war god followers with his undead and jiangshi. Agnus was obviously crazy, but he wasn’t a loose cannon. If a crisis that couldn’t be overcome arrived, he would enjoy the situation but always try to avoid the worst situation. Yet he was visiting the capital of the Overgeared Kingdom where they were obviously enemies...? Agnus wouldn’t have intended to cause a disturbance.

‘He seems to be having a hard time these days... Maybe he came here because he wanted to rely on me?’

‘Damn.’ Bullet couldn’t even send Agnus a whisper because Agnus was removed from his friends list. He couldn’t concentrate on the battle. Bullet worried about it before recalling the undead and jiangshi to his side.

“Eh? What happened?” The Overgeared members, who were hunting with him, asked.

Bullet scratched his head. “I’m sorry but I want to take a break. I’ve been hunting for too long.”

“Are you sleeping at that level?”

“...You have dropped from second in the necromancer rankings.”

It took a surprisingly long amount of time to produce the jiangshi, causing him to drop to fourth place. Nevertheless, Bullet was still a high ranker who was far above the average level of the Overgeared members. This was because the necromancer class was optimized for hunting.

“That was the past. You have to restore your ranking.”

“Today isn’t the only day. I’ll work hard next time. Then I’m going.” Bullet didn’t say anything else and used a return scroll.

He left to help his old idol, feeling grateful and sorry toward the Overgeared members who hadn’t done anything but treat him as an old friend. Still, once he gave his heart, he would never betray or easily abandon the person. This was the man called Bullet.

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By the time Bullet arrived at the scene, many people were already present. The Overgeared Shadows and Sticks analyzed the traces of the battle while dozens of soldiers controlled the onlookers. Lael covered half his face and was in deep thought. ‘This...’

Bullet was able to enter the scene without the soldiers stopping him. His complexion darkened as he looked around the collapsed inn. It was because he saw the traces of Dyulebul’s light ray. Unlike his desperate wish, Agnus was apparently involved in the battle here.

‘However, Agnus didn’t fight because he wanted it,’ Bullet believed this.

Thus, he approached Lael and insisted, “It is clear that someone attacked Agnus first. He wouldn’t intentionally make a disturbance in the Overgeared Kingdom.”

Bullet hoped that Lael would release Agnus from jail. Lael made an interested expression. “What is the basis of your claim? Agnus is an unpredictable madman. Furthermore, as the head of the former Immortal Guild, he must be holding a grudge against the Overgeared Kingdom. It wouldn’t be unusual for him to intentionally cause damage to the Overgeared Kingdom.”

“Agnus isn’t a fool. In addition, he doesn’t feel any regrets about Immortal. In the first place, the one who set up Immortal and chased Agnus was Veradin. Agnus himself doesn’t have much interest in Immortal.”

“You should know the truth first before defending him.”

“...!”

“Aren’t you a member of Overgeared? Why are you acting as Agnus’ advocate?”

“I-I’m sorry!” Bullet realized his mistake and hurriedly bowed his head.

'I should've figured out the truth first.'

It was simple. All he had to do was ask Lael a single question, but he was worried about Agnus and skipped the most basic procedure. He was just distracted by Agnus' safety.

'I'm disappointed.'

Bullet was in a greatly favored position due to Grid. Despite being from Immortal, he had received forgiveness and obtained the Jiangshi Production method. How reprehensible would his behavior be from the standpoint of Grid and his colleagues, who considered Agnus their enemy? Bullet couldn't lift his head.

Then Lael's hard voice was heard, "Please be careful next time."

"Yes. I will be careful."

In fact, Lael wasn't disappointed or angry with Bullet. He knew from the beginning that Bullet was soft-hearted. Grid liked this tendency of Bullet's and accepted him as a colleague. It was hard for Bullet to turn away from his old colleagues. Nevertheless, Grid didn't say this to Bullet because he wanted Bullet to know how to keep a level head.

Lael spoke to Bullet who was still looking at the ground, "First of all, we have failed to secure Agnus."

"He got away?"

It couldn't be. This was the heart of the Overgeared Kingdom. The place was completely guarded, and there were monsters lurking everywhere. It was impossible for Grid to escape with force, let alone Agnus. Lael shook his head at the incredulous Bullet. "He didn't run away. He was dragged away."

"Dragged? No way!" Bullet was reminded that Agnus was wanted by seven kingdoms. "T-This can't be..."

Bullet was able to grasp the truth of the situation. Agnus had lost a place to go and hid himself in the Overgeared Kingdom, an enemy kingdom. Then the pursuers of the seven kingdoms followed him and attacked him.

"A-Agnus..."

Bullet shouldn't act like this in front of the Overgeared members, but he was worried about his old idol. When he realized his mistake, he hurriedly shut his mouth. Lael saw this and smiled bitterly. 'Agnus has his own charm.'

Looking at the early days of the Overgeared Kingdom, Grid had been publicly known as trash. At the time, Grid was filled with poison and was fierce toward many people. Nevertheless, he received deep trust and affection from his colleagues. Agnus could have a similar aspect. He was a person who couldn't be understood without actually experiencing it.

"Lael... Do you know where Agnus was taken?"

"Why?"

"Eh? J-Just..."

“You should give up if you plan to rescue him. He will be guarded by the armies of the seven kingdoms, including some of the best talents.”

As a necromancer and jiangshi maker, Bullet could exert great power in large-scale combat. However, the opponent was the seven kingdoms. It was no different from an ant facing an elephant. Bullet also knew this fact. He never dreamed that he could rescue Agnus. However—

“...I want to help Agnus.”

Bullet wanted to show Agnus that there were people fighting for him. He might've suffered and been betrayed in the past, but it would be different in the future.

“To him... I want to let him know that he isn't alone.”

Agnus' lonely appearance caused great pain to others who were just watching him. Bullet couldn't imagine how much pain Agnus must be suffering. Bullet wanted to heal Agnus, even if it meant sacrificing himself. However, Lauel's reaction was cold. “It isn't possible. Did you forget that you belong to the Overgeared Kingdom? If you step forward, the relationship between the seven kingdoms and the Overgeared Kingdom will become irreparable.”

“I'll leave the guild for a while. I won't use the jiangshi. I will never expose a connection between myself and the Overgeared Kingdom, and I won't harm Grid.”

Bullet liked both the Overgeared Guild and Agnus. He was sincerely grateful toward those who were willing to be his colleagues and friends. It meant there were no pretenses in his words. Bullet really intended to fight alone and risk everything by himself. Even so, Lauel's reaction was cold to the end. “Do you think of the Overgeared Guild as a joke? Do you think you can leave and rejoin as you like?”

“...”

Lauel persuaded Bullet, “I fully understand your feelings. Nevertheless, you have to realize that you are now a member of Overgeared. Do you know why Grid gave you the strong Jiangshi Production recipe? He wants you to grow quickly and become a boon to the Overgeared Guild. Yet you are going to die on your own now? Isn't that ignoring Grid's favor?”

“...”

“From the moment you joined the Overgeared Guild and received the Jiangshi Production recipe, you gained the responsibility of being an Overgeared member. Don't neglect your responsibilities for your personal feelings.”

Lauel also felt regretful. He pitied Agnus and thought it was a waste of Agnus' power. This didn't mean he was in a position to go forth for Agnus' sake. It was impossible, so it was better to throw away these lingering feelings.

Bullet lamented, “It could be resolved if we can clear up Agnus' false accusations...”

“Are you sure he is being framed? How can you be sure Agnus didn't kill those people?”

“I’m certain. Agnus might kill strong people, but I’ve never seen abuse the weak. Look back at the incident with Elizabeth. Agnus needs an accessory maker. Would he make himself the public enemy of accessory makers by killing them?”

Lael had also thought about this part, but he was missing something important. “Do you know who the real culprit is? At the very least, there should be a suspect you can point at.”

“Maybe it is the Yatan Church.”

“The Yatan Church?” Something flashed in Lael’s head. It was because he saw a new possibility.

“Didn’t he help Queen Irene and Prince Lord in attacking the Vatican? Agnus had a symbiotic relationship with the Yatan Church yet he helped these two people. It is no different from an act of betrayal.”

“...”

“I don’t know if you have any idea about this, but the Yatan Church has been struggling for the past 10 years because of a certain enigmatic figure and they are sensitive due to Yura’s betrayal from a few years ago. I think they made a plan to punish the new traitor, Agnus, and set an example.”

“Hrmm...” A hopeful scheme came to Lael’s mind.

It would make Agnus indebted to them while getting rid of a problem he had been concerned about. Lael asked Faker, “Do you know the whereabouts of Rose?”

“We are gradually approaching her. We’ve found a few traces and will be able to locate her soon.”

Rose was the number one black magician after Yura, and she had become one of Yatan’s Servants. She was one of the villains who summoned the 32nd Great Demon Belial. Additionally, she was one of the leaders of the raid on the Vatican last year. From the position of the Overgeared Kingdom, Rose was someone who had to be punished. Grid and the Overgeared Kingdom had no intention of forgiving her for trying to harm Irene and Lord. They pursued her steadily.

“Wait a moment...”

“...?”

Lael had Bullet and Faker wait beside him while he focused on whispering to someone. How much time passed by...?

Lael swept back his silver hair and laughed. “Bullet, I’ll give you a smarter way.”

“What is it?” Bullet had been waiting for a while. He couldn’t help feeling nervous when Lael didn’t answer him. Finally, a guild message popped up.

[The guild master ‘Grid’ has attached a kill order on the player ‘Rose.’]

“Eh...?”

What was this all of a sudden? Lael finally explained to the embarrassed Bullet, “Threaten to trample on her.”

What would happen if one of Yatan's Servants revealed that the true culprit was the Yatan Church? Agnus would be able to get rid of his false accusations.

'I have to pay him back for helping Lord and Irene.'

On the first underground floor of the Galgunos Temple, Grid set the kill order on Rose and felt a blockage in his body become unblocked. He had felt disgusted at owing the bastard Agnus. Now he felt good at the chance of paying off his debt. It was a good situation because he wanted to punish Rose anyway.

'By the way, this isn't an easy decision.'

It was obvious, but in the future, the Overgeared Skeletons One and Two would use their own weapons and helmet. This would optimize their attributes and allow them to demonstrate their stats more efficiently.

'They naturally need the best production methods...'

There was one big problem. The Overgeared Skeletons could only learn one production method. Teaching the Overgeared Skeletons the best production method was difficult due to all the materials necessary for the item production.

'This means the Overgeared Skeletons won't be able to use blacksmithing that often, and they can't fully utilize their skills.'

However, if he taught them a production method with materials that could be obtained easily, the performance of the weapon and helmet would be insignificant.

'I have to coordinate it well.'

He needed a production method with materials that were relatively easy to obtain, but the performance of the items produced also needed to be excellent.

"...Hmm?" Grid stared at the hard bones of the Overgeared Skeletons. His gaze was so strange that the dancing Overgeared Skeletons were startled.

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'It would be good to make items with their bones.'

Grid tapped the Overgeared Skeletons' golden bones. They were dense and hard enough to make no sound.

'Bones are crafting materials that can pursue extreme sharpness, but they are weak in durability. However, the bones of the Overgeared Skeletons aren't weak at all. It is fine to classify them as a blue orichalcum class material.'

The Overgeared Skeletons themselves were a special existence, and they were strengthened by absorbing the bones of skeletons that were over level 350. Moreover, there was room for further

strengthening in the future. There were the bones of undead stronger than Galgunos' skeleton soldiers. This was under the premise that Grid should save the bones of humanoid undead.

'It is a problem that time will solve.'

In the end, the bones of the Overgeared Skeletons were a crafting material that would rise in grade over time and the supplies were easily obtainable. The Overgeared Skeletons could pull out their own bones whenever they made an item. The reason for this improbable idea was Overgeared Skeleton Two's restoration ability.

That's right. Grid was dreaming of infinite power with advanced items. Theoretically, it was a perfect idea. There was one fatal problem though.

'I have to consume one of the Legendary Blacksmith's Creation slots.'

The premise of this item used the bones of the Overgeared Skeletons as a material. Such an item didn't exist, so Grid had to create it himself. Moreover, the use of the Legendary Blacksmith's Creation skill was limited, so he had to be careful.

'This is a good investment if I consider that the bones of the Overgeared Skeletons can be strengthened...'

It was important to think carefully. He rubbed the round skulls of the Overgeared Skeletons, who were making uneasy expressions. Then a notification window popped up in Grid's field of view.

[There are five minutes left in your daily access time.]

Over the past month, Grid had been raising his level at a speed different from others. It was possible because Grid's ability to hunt was exceptional, but it was also because of his efforts. Grid focused on hunting 16 hours a day. He reduced his sleeping time to focus on the game and thoroughly managed his eating and exercise schedule. Well, it wasn't just something he was doing now. He had been maintaining this schedule for the last few years.

"Umm..."

Grid logged out and returned to Shin Youngwoo. His expression was exhausted as he got out of the capsule. He lay in bed and wanted to sleep until tomorrow morning. His mind was tired enough to rest for a day. The psychological factor had a huge impact on him.

After the big event that was the demon king subjugation, a strange sense of inertia dominated him. Grid tried not to show it to others, but his mind and body were exhausted. He wanted to have a good rest as psychological compensation for the big event. Then he was reminded of his past and corrected his heart.

'I can't go back to the old days...'

He couldn't be careless. The other competitors were trying as hard as he was. He might be ahead right now, but there was a chance for them to catch up and for him to fall into hell.

'Wake up.'

Youngwoo slapped his cheeks, washed his face with cold water, and did simple exercises. Then he took a shower and put on a coat. Today was the 1st anniversary of Khan's death. It was already the third cycle in Satisfy, and he had always visited Khan's grave to maintain it. However, there was only one way to commemorate it in reality. It might be a way to appease Youngwoo's heart.

Ding dong~!

He got into the elevator and pressed the button for the ground floor, but it stopped downstairs. Having received the signal that Youngwoo had activated the elevator, Toon immediately reacted to it. "Are you going somewhere?"

"I'm going to have a drink."

"Yes, let's go."

Youngwoo waved his hand at Toon who was grabbing a coat. "I'll go alone."

"No." Toon was determined. Youngwoo might've accumulated many relationships in Satisfy, but he was still a lonely person.

"If you want to drink alone, I'll sit at another table and wait." Toon had become quite skillful in Korean.

Youngwoo smiled bitterly. "Thank you, but today, I want to feel alone. Don't worry. Don't you know? I am very popular these days."

At the very least, he was safe in South Korea. To the people of South Korea, Youngwoo was a hero.

'Today is Khan's first death anniversary, and he's determined...'

It was as expected. Toon looked at the stubborn Youngwoo and nodded. "Then let's ride separate cars. I will stay at a distance so you can feel alone."

"..."

"This is the maximum I can concede."

"...Yes, I understand."

Youngwoo went down to the underground parking lot with Toon. Then Youngwoo got in the car he had been driving for five years while Toon climbed into a separate one.

Two rare and high-value vehicles appeared on the road, catching the eyes of the people.

Rose's response was quick. She was the 1st ranked black magician and an official of the Yatan Church. Moreover, she had a pretty good visual. Her ability, presence, and beauty meant she was quite popular among the rankers. Rose knew how to take advantage of this popularity. She made headlines when she appeared on a popular TV program and revealed that the Overgeared Guild had set a kill order on her.

"A group is suppressing an individual. One of the best guilds in the world, which should be an example for all, is driving one person to the brink. What should I do? Do I have to abandon my efforts over the past few years and quit Satisfy? Won't this indiscriminate violence of the Overgeared Guild continue in

the future? People who are powerless individuals like me—won't you also become a victim in the future?"

The world was overturned. Countless people blamed Grid and the Overgeared Guild. This was different from what had happened with Immortal. The effect was greater because Rose emphasized the 'group' going against the 'individual.'

In any case, the act of a group suppressing one person was bound to be seen as cruel and cowardly. The masses, who were mostly powerless individuals, didn't condone the actions of the Overgeared Guild. In the words of Rose, it made them feel like they could be victims as well. As such, they felt the need to hold the reins so the Overgeared Guild couldn't run wild.

The Overgeared Guild responded immediately.

The mouth of the Overgeared Guild—no, the spokesman Huroi made an official statement, "As one of Yatan's Servants, Rose has slaughtered numerous players and NPCs. Of course, it is her role in the game and her right to do so. Thus, I wouldn't usually blame her for her actions. But the story is different when the Overgeared members and the Overgeared people are directly affected. Just as she has the right to act, we have the right as well. It is natural to assume responsibility if she has done something wrong. This isn't indiscriminate violence but revenge. The Overgeared Guild will get revenge on Rose. She will be held accountable for the sins she has committed against us."

It wasn't a group oppressing a powerless individual. Huroi emphasized this, and there was a sufficient effect. In particular, many people hated Rose because of all the killings she committed as one of Yatan's Servants. Groups advocating for the Overgeared Guild were formed. However, not everyone defended the Overgeared Guild.

-Dogs ⇨ ⇨ The Overgeared ones are running around as usual.

-Look at how they're controlling the vampire cities.

-XX guys. It is really disgusting that their country is earning money by monopolizing the hunting grounds.

-Even the National Competition rewards were almost all swept up by the Overgeared members. They're having a full meal.

-What bullshit are you talking about? The Overgeared Guild got the rewards in the National Competition because they're strong. The hunting grounds are also in their territory, so they can exercise their rights. The dungeon size is limited. Why would you want to share it with everyone else? Even Overgeared Guild One is in a saturated condition.

-It is funny to see the dogs insulting the Overgeared Guild. The Overgeared Guild is having a full meal? Why are you cursing at them when they're enjoying their own efforts?

-The struggles of the Overgeared Guild are things we should enjoy together. ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨

-By the way, the Overgeared Guild is too harsh. Don't you remember how Katz used to act before joining the Overgeared Guild? Let's say someone wants to get revenge on Katz now. Won't they be hit by the Overgeared Guild's kill order?

-Peak Sword overreacts every time to racial discrimination.Human garbage.

-My group asked Pon to stop teasing Vantner about being bald and was ignored...

-What group?

-The National Baldness Association.

-This...

-The Overgeared Guild can't be allowed to continue like this.One day, the Overgeared Guild might dominate everything.

Surprisingly, many people were anxious about this. It was a more primitive fear that came before envy or jealousy. It was an inevitable phenomenon, no matter how well the Overgeared Guild managed their image. However, the Overgeared Guild wasn't shaken. This was something they had experienced every time, and they were already prepared for it.

Lauel advised Huroi, "You don't have to respond to public opinion. Just strongly express our opinion to punish Rose, no matter what the public says."

Their intention was simple—place psychological pressure on Rose. Rose noticed the Overgeared Guild's hard heart and immediately tried to negotiate. She sent a friend request to Lauel in the Overgeared Guild. Then as soon as he accepted it, she sent a whisper,-Why are you doing this?Is it because of the Vatican invasion?

-Yes.Our queen and prince were in danger at the time because of you.It is something we can't let you get away with.

-...No, what is this?I never expected the prince and queen of the Overgeared Kingdom to be there!In the first place, I was just performing a quest!I didn't lead the attack on the Vatican. Why are you holding me responsible?

-You didn't know the royal family of the Overgeared Kingdom would attend the pope's reelection ceremony?Don't you know about the relationship between the pope and the Overgeared Kingdom?

Lauel interrupted Rose's excuses and gave her a choice, -Be hunted by us for the rest of your life or testify about how is Agnus being framed and neatly clear up the relationship between us.Choose one or the other.

-Agnus?Did Agnus join the Overgeared Guild?No, that is impossible.Are you paying off the debt for him helping the queen and the prince?

-You just have to give an answer.

Rose wasn't an easy opponent. She was a person who could see through even the smallest gap. Moreover, she was one of Yatan's Servants. It wouldn't be good to reveal a gap to a powerful enemy that could become 'named' if certain conditions were met. Rose refused, -I don't want to.

What would happen if she betrayed the Yatan Church? She couldn't flee to hell like Yura had done.

-You will regret it.

-Hrmm, we'll see. How will public opinion change if I post a video every time you commit violence against me? Just watch. Be ready for the Overgeared Guild to get isolated if you touch me.

It was a tough response, but Lael just laughed.

Youngwoo found a stall in a remote location. It had been a long time since he started avoiding crowded places.

"Oh, my. a famous person is here."

When Youngwoo entered the stall, the owner immediately recognized his face and started flattering him. The world's top star was in such a humble place. It was unknown if the food and drinks here would suit a special person like Youngwoo. Yet Youngwoo just sat down and smiled. "Well, five years ago I didn't even have enough money to buy ramyun. Please give me a bottle of soju and a plate of chicken feet."

"Omo, really? Ah! That's right! I heard rumors that you are a self-made man. It is amazing for your young age."

"I was lucky."

"How could it only be luck? It is your ability and talent to grab onto the luck."

Youngwoo's heart eased as the stall owner comforted him. Shortly afterward, the soju came out, and Youngwoo filled up a cup. The smell of alcohol hit his nose, and he was reminded of the first day he met Khan. The man had lost his wife and son and lived in a drunken state. The smell of alcohol had been terrible just from standing beside him.

'How much pain was he in?'

Khan had been alone in the world. The weight of the solitude and despair that he had felt couldn't even be imagined. Nevertheless, Khan had endured the solitude and despair, even making up his mind and stopping his drinking. Thinking about that time, Youngwoo found it funny.

'His hands shook from the alcohol, and he couldn't even hold a hammer.'

How absurd was his laugh when he saw that a blacksmith couldn't even hold a hammer? Then Khan stopped drinking and managed to hold a hammer. He taught many things to Youngwoo, who had been severely lacking.

'Please be happy.'

Khan had been alone the first day they met, but he wasn't alone now. He must be laughing every day after being reunited with his family in heaven. Youngwoo believed it. Every time he emptied his glass of alcohol, he prayed to God that his belief was real.

"..."

How much time passed by...? The uneaten chicken feet and udon soup became cold. The surface of the raw cucumber that had come out as a basic snack had also dried up. Only the three bottles of soju were empty.

'It is already time...'

Youngwoo wanted to recall more memories of Khan, but he couldn't afford it. He had to go back to keep his schedule for tomorrow. After checking the time, the sad Youngwoo raised his last cup of alcohol to the sky.

'I'll have another drink next year.'

Did humans have souls? There was no definite answer. Even so, people reminisced and mourned the dead again and again. Youngwoo did the same thing for Kham. The last cup was emptied, and Youngwoo got up from his seat.

"Scumbag," a voice suddenly entered his ears. He turned and saw four men in their mid-20s watching him with drunk expressions.

"Setting a kill order on people and giving them a hard time... You just want to wield your strength because you have it, right? Scumbag, a real scumbag."

Youngwoo ignored them. He took out cash and politely handed it to the stall auntie. "I'm sorry, please pack up the leftovers."

"Omo, of course. I'll pack them quickly." Wanting to avoid a fight, the anxious auntie started to place the remaining chicken feet into a takeaway container.

New guests entered. Simultaneously, the four men got up and surrounded Youngwoo. "This is a real tough guy. You are packing up leftovers when you make so much money? If it were me, I would give it to a passing dog as a gift. However, you're pretending to be such a great guy."

"What's going on over there?"

"Ah! It's Grid!"

The new guests glanced over and were surprised to recognize Grid. Then they pulled out their phones without anyone saying anything. They pretended to be taking photos, but they were actually shooting a video. Satisfy's supreme person was arguing at a street stall! This was naturally a big issue.

"Hey. Are you ignoring me? If a person speaks, you ought to say something. Just once."

"This jerk must be scared. If this were in the game, you would set a kill order on me, right? Huh?"

"Let's try it once. Pagma's Swordsmanship! Yap! Yap! Like this!"

"Puhahaha! Crazy! How funny!"

Youngwoo would be seen as a coward if he stayed still. The quarrel got more intense. The four men surrounding Youngwoo imitated Pagma's Swordsmanship, mocking and threatening him. Then one person was swept up by the atmosphere and crossed the line. He pretended to hit Youngwoo with a bottle of alcohol.

“Oh, my. Young man!” The stall owner, who was trying to stop the four men, was stunned. Meanwhile, the guests who were filming screamed.

“...Eh?”

Youngwoo grabbed the bottle of alcohol that was threatening him and quietly placed it on the table. Then he raised his hand toward the men surrounding him. His actions were natural and lightning fast, shocking the men. Yet Youngwoo didn't hit them. His raised hand slowly lowered and tapped their cheeks once. The result was amazing.

“Huung...” The sturdy bodies of the men flopped down.

“Eh?” The people filming and the owner trying to stop them had wide eyes, and they looked like they had seen a ghost. It wasn't a slap. That was just a hand on their cheek yet their legs lost strength. This was something that people couldn't understand.

“Thank you. Be prosperous.”

In the silence, Youngwoo picked up the packed chicken feet and left the place after saying goodbye to the auntie. He turned his gaze toward Toon who was waiting in front of the stall.

“Is this Lauel's doing?”

“...”

It was easy to guess. The men who had been waiting in the background until Youngwoo finished and the onlookers who had appeared suddenly and started filming... In the first place, those who started the argument emphasized the Rose incident. They also mocked his correct action of packing up the leftovers.

“It is an image-making plan.”

Three hours later, the video titled ‘Grid Makes 4 Men Give Up in Reality’ was ranked number one around the world. People praised Grid's character after suffering a one-sided insult. They questioned what Rose must've done to make Grid set a kill order on her.

-In the first place, the Immortal Guild received the kill order because they killed the Overgeared blacksmiths. Has there been another case where the Overgeared Guild issued a kill order? No. Rose is the first since then.

-In the end, it means Rose made a terrible mistake.

-Right. She must've done something very dirty.

-Look at Grid bowing 90 degrees to the stall aunty.

-God Grid packed up the chicken feet...

The staff of the Patriotic Society—the elite members who had mastered four basic languages—used the keyboard to manipulate public opinion on the Internet around the world. Public opinion started to shift one-sidedly. Now there were few people defending Rose. Rose had good judgment skills and soon raised a white flag.

-...I'll try to clear Agnus' name. However, it must be done secretly so the Yatan Church doesn't know I have betrayed them. I believe that you will give me some reprieve.

-Three days. No more than that.

-That is too short...

-Don't speak long words.

-...Yes. I'll do my best. So please get rid of the kill order on me.

It was true that there was nothing more foolish than being hostile to the Overgeared Guild right now. She was keenly aware of this, but after a long period as a high ranker, her pride had risen sharply. Inwardly, Rose sharpened her knife. Sooner or later, she would summon a new great demon with Prince Benoit and would get revenge on the Overgeared Kingdom.

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Youngwoo drank a lot the previous day, but the burden on his body was small. It was because he drank very slowly. This was the advantage of controlling his pace.

"This is a hangover soup that Mother cooked." Jishuka came and handed Youngwoo a bottle of water as he woke up. She was dressed comfortably, but it was a bit too comfortable. Her alluring collarbone and omitted were more alluring under her loose top.

"T-Thanks."

It was a happy thing to face the sexy features of one of the world's best beauties in the morning, but it was also a challenge. Jishuka watched as Youngwoo drank the bottle of water. "Aren't we like newlyweds eating together in the morning?"

"Pfft!" Youngwoo spat out the water and turned his gaze toward the window. It was toward Jishuka's building that was completed a few days ago. "When are you moving in?"

"Once the interior is completed. The smell of plaster isn't gone yet, and the furniture I ordered from Italy will come in 10 days. Are you unhappy because our time living together will soon be over? Shall I not go?"

"No?"

'Please go quickly.'

Jishuka's aggressive behavior of clinging to him every time she spoke was both enjoyable and burdensome. He knew that South American beauties were supposed to be enthusiastic, but it was a difficult stimulus every morning.

"Your body is getting better every year. Grid, you are really steady."

Youngwoo reflexively covered his body with the blanket. Jishuka smiled brightly at his unexpectedly chaste behavior. Her long fingers poked Youngwoo's hard biceps and chest.

“...” Youngwoo couldn’t stop Jishuka. He enjoyed the pleasant sensation while admiring her tan skin glistening under the sunlight coming through the window.

“What are you doing in the morning?” Sehee suddenly appeared in an apron and glared at Jishuka and Youngwoo. She showed a heartfelt disgust toward her brother. “Yura unni is pitiful. Shouldn’t you give a clear answer to Yura unni before playing around?”

“No, you are misunderstanding...”

“Quickly get dressed and eat, playboy.”

The door banged shut.

...He was a playboy who hadn’t even kissed anyone yet.

Youngwoo quietly rose from his bed while Jishuka was humming happily.

“I am honestly nervous.”

‘Let’s no longer cling to first in the overall rankings. Don’t be obsessed with it.’

Chris became determined after seeing Grid’s level-up speed and was happy for a while. He felt liberated from the pressure to maintain his first-place ranking. It made hunting, which had seemed like labor, feel fun again. Now, a new worry made him uneasy. The problem was Rose, one of Yatan’s Servants.

“Rose isn’t an easy opponent. I think it’s better not to provoke her more than necessary.”

He wasn’t talking about her individual power. No matter how strong Rose was, she couldn’t overpower the top rankers of the Overgeared members. Of course, it would be a problem if she aimed for the non-combatants of the Overgeared Guild, but they would be thoroughly prepared for that.

Then what about the Yatan Church behind her? There was no need to worry too much about the Yatan Church either. Since the Yatan invasion, the Rebecca Church had been stepping up efforts to punish the Yatan Church. Currently, the Yatan Church didn’t have the capacity to deal with a country.

Lael had negotiated with Rose because she knew this fact and couldn’t ask for cooperation with the Yatan Church in this incident. That’s right, but there was a separate problem. It was the summoning of a great demon.

“Rose already has a history of summoning a great demon. It wouldn’t be strange for her to summon a great demon again. She has a grudge against us, and the damage will be disastrous if she summons a great demon in the Overgeared Kingdom.”

The main project of the Yatan Church was summoning the great demons. The emergence of a new great demon was a scheduled thing.

The listening Lael shook his head. “It is impossible to summon a great demon in the Overgeared Kingdom. One of the conditions needed to summon a great demon is a large number of human lives, and it is practically impossible to pay with such a large number of human sacrifices in our kingdom. Our security isn’t lacking in comparison to that of the empire.”

After the founding of the Overgeared Kingdom, the guild had been more concerned about security than anything else. The Overgeared members took turns patrolling the territories of the kingdom because they were overly concerned about security. This was the result of Grid's strong tendencies to take care of the NPCs. This didn't give any room for summoning the great demon.

"The emergence of a new great demon is likely to be in the kingdom with the lowest security. Additionally, a great demon at the level of Belial can't be controlled by Yatan's Servants. Rose can't deliberately send the summoned great demon to invade the Overgeared Kingdom."

Yes, the possibility of direct damage from a great demon was very low at this point. Lauel reached out to Rose because he had detected this.

"We have to wait for the great demon to be summoned. No matter where it is summoned on the continent, we will be the first to challenge and gain the rewards from the raid."

"I see..." Chris' expression brightened. His anxiety turned into anticipation, and he put on a subtle smile.

Then Lauel asked something he had been wondering about, "Did you see Grid's video?"

"The video shot in the tent stall? Of course, I saw it."

"Chris, what do you think? Grid's ability has evolved noticeably since the Battlefield."

"You saw it properly. It seems the demon king subjugation was a catalyst for growth."

The video had become a hot topic over the course of a day. Chris was very impressed when he saw Grid overpower four men easily. Grid had scanned the shoulders and feet of the four people while talking to the stall owner. He had predicted their movements through careful observations and looked for gaps in their breathing as they spoke. Thus, he managed to overpower four of them in an instant.

"The experience of fighting alone against a number of rankers has strengthened his combat ability."

Chris and the other high rankers already knew from experience that accumulated combat experience in Satisfy also affected reality. Now Grid was becoming a master in reality. He had been polishing his techniques for more than 10 years, and the concept grew in reality.

"This is good news." Lauel grew more relaxed upon hearing Chris' reply.

It was an optimistic thing that Grid had the power to defend himself.

[Your execution day has been decided.]

[Four days from now, you will be executed in the capital city of the Glaucian Kingdom.]

[Your sins are the murders of seven craftsmen. After the execution, your level will be reduced by four and your highest level skill will be reduced by one level.]

[After being executed, you will be freed from the identity of the sinner and liberated from all types of constraints. However, your affinity won't be restored with the seven kingdoms that are hostile to you.]

[You must remain logged in for at least four hours a day while in jail. If this condition isn't met, the punishment will increase.]

Agnus had already been trapped in the damp dungeon for three days. However, he had to stay here for four more days. Isolation for one week—this alone was fatal damage to a ranker. Agnus would suffer a very great loss from the execution. It would be wasting a few months worth of effort.

Nevertheless, Agnus didn't blame anyone. This was nothing compared to the nightmarish life he had suffered. False accusations? No. This was a deserved punishment. He was being punished for harming many people in the hopes of never being weak again. If he refused this, he was afraid that even his old lover would come to hate him.

That's right. Agnus conscience was based on his love for his old lover, Luina Caroline. For him, Luna was everything.

[Someone has requested a visit, but the Glaucian Kingdom has rejected it.]

Jail was a space where all communications, including whispers and exchanges like mail, were blocked. There was no way to know who requested to visit him. Even so, Agnus was reminded of a girl. It was Euphemina. She was a funny little girl who had been meddling in his business since the Murray Kingdom. Euphemina was the only one who would ask to visit him...

"...No, it can't be. Kukukuk."

It was probably one of the high rankers who had been one of his victims. They came to laugh at his miserable self and would feel relieved when they saw him being punished.

"..."

Agnus had no allies. It had been like this from the beginning. The time when Luna stood beside him had been short but very special. Yes, he was alone. It was nothing new.

[There are three days left until your execution.]

One day passed.

[There are two days left until your execution.]

A few days later...

[There is one day left until your execution.]

The last day passed.

[The morning of your execution has dawned.]

Finally, the day arrived. Agnus completed the daily access time restrictions, locking himself in the dark and cold jail. The pain was a gratifying means of forgetting his longing for his old lover.

"Come out." The jailers dragged Agnus' skinny body roughly. Agnus' body was in chains and handcuffs, and he was unable to move properly. He was pushed by the guards' wicked hands, and his face was stuck in the dirt. The guards started laughing.

“Kikik.” Agnus laughed along with them. It was funny because the things he experienced after becoming a criminal were no different from his weak past. Weakness was sin. It was the greatest sin in the world.

“Agnus is being escorted!!”

Agnus was trapped in a carriage with metal bars. He was pulled to the square and could see that many people were gathered—the best and the worst ranked players. It would be strange if the execution of Agnus, one of the world’s most famous rankers, wasn’t a hot topic. Countless people visited the Glaucian Kingdom, including a large number of media reporters and private broadcasters. Through the thick iron bars, Agnus saw the laughing faces of the people.

Agnus, who had been maintaining his madness under the guise of composure, started to tremble. The eyes of tens of thousands of people stimulated the trauma in his deepest mind. At this moment, Agnus became weak. He stood alone among those who laughed and trampled on him.

“Oof...!” Feeling panicky, Agnus started retching. He wanted to escape from here. However, he couldn’t escape. The handcuffs and chains holding him were taking away all his strength and courage.

‘Agnus, remember. You aren’t alone. I’m there for you. Have courage,’ he thought about Luna’s words.

In the midst of the panic, he tried to feel Luna’s presence. His trembling gaze was looking for Luna. However, as always, he didn’t find her.

‘I’m sorry. I can’t forgive myself for getting dirtied in front of you. I’m sorry. I’m really sorry,’ the last words she told him entered his mind.

It was a testament he couldn’t forget, no matter how much he wanted to. Agnus was soon placed on the guillotine. He was forced to kneel. His trembling gaze was filled with tangled green hair.

‘I like your hair. It is a pretty green like the forest. Agnus, do you know? To these children, you are a forest. If it hadn’t been for you, these children would’ve died lonely by now. I like your kindness. Without the forest, neither humanity nor the world can exist, just as I can’t exist without you.’

One morning that was no different from usual, Luna had come to his side and told him these words when he was feeding the abandoned dogs. Why did he remember that day? Agnus’ eyes became red and his veins bulged.

“I...!” Agnus shouted. He barely managed to speak the truth that no one would believe. “I didn’t kill them...!”

It was a cry for Luna. He prayed that she wouldn’t be disappointed in him. In the end, his cry reached the demon, not Luna who wasn’t present in this world.

[The 1st Great Demon Baal is speaking with a smile.]

-Get rid of your resentment.

[Baal wants to give you a chance. The quest you rejected will be regenerated.]

[Massacre (1)]

[Difficulty: Class quest.]

1st Great Demon Baal wants human souls. Slaughter humans and give their souls to Baal.

★ Quest Acceptance Reward: Freedom from all the curses you are currently under.

Quest Clear Conditions: Kill 1,000 players (0/1000)

Quest Clear Reward: 200,000 demonic power. Quest linked to Massacre (2).]

[Would you like to accept the quest?]

“...”

Before answering, Agnus once again looked at the people. They were still laughing. Some people enjoyed Agnus' misfortune while others ridiculed his words. Among them were those who hadn't been harmed by Agnus. They were the so-called underdogs. Agnus felt something breaking in his head. Uncontrollable rage soared, and his sense of reason fell into a deep swamp. It was at this moment that...

“That's right! He didn't kill anyone!” A blonde girl shouted as she came forward. “The Yatan Church framed him. I have a witness. The seven kingdoms should listen to the arguments first and make a fair judgment about his execution.”

A young girl presented a Yatan Church member as a witness. She was Euphemina. Agnus' expression, which had been distorted like a demon's, instantly blanked.

[Chapter 989](#)

“Euphemina!”

“Why is Euphemina defending Agnus?”

“Agnus was framed? Really?”

The tens of thousands of people gathered in the square, who were enjoying Agnus' appearance, turned their attention to Euphemina. Meanwhile, the observers of the seven kingdoms cocked their heads.

“The Yatan Church is the real culprit?”

“What is this girl's identity?”

The hunter who met Euphemina the other day explained to the observers, “She is Earl Euphemina of the Overgeared Kingdom.”

“The Overgeared Kingdom...?”

“Hrmm...”

The observers, who were sitting in a relaxed manner on the podium behind the guillotine, showed a lukewarm response. Most of them were antagonistic to the Overgeared Kingdom. First of all, they found the birth of the Overgeared Kingdom unacceptable. The Overgeared Kingdom had overthrown the existing royal family. They were a symbol of rebellion that had broken down the power system which all the nobles on the continent were desperately defending. Just like the royal family, the nobles had a sense of rejection directed toward the Overgeared Kingdom.

Moreover, at the founding ceremony of the Overgeared Kingdom, most of the kingdoms had been defeated. In particular, a baron of the Violet Kingdom had been killed by a soldier of the Overgeared Kingdom, so Violet Kingdom was hostile to the Overgeared Kingdom. Moreover, it had been a long time since the Gauss Kingdom and Overgeared Kingdom had become enemies. As expected, there was a strong response.

"It is rude to disturb an execution held by other nations! A kingdom of uncivilized birth that doesn't even know the basic laws...!"

"Look at her standing up for a killer. I'm getting goosebumps. The Overgeared Kingdom was built by a rebellion, so they are generous enough to forgive murder?"

Earl Chuck and Earl Dolce had visited the Glaucian Kingdom as observers of the execution. They represented the Gauss and Violet Kingdoms and condemned the Overgeared Kingdom. They didn't care about the truth that Euphemina offered. The observers of the other kingdoms didn't speak up, but their reactions were similar. They didn't pay attention to the Yatan follower in Euphemina's hands and clicked their tongues.

The important thing for them was to comfort the anxiety and anger of the people, not reveal the truth. The criminal had to be punished. It was impossible to get rid of the people's anger and anxiety if the Yatan Church was the culprit. In other words, they didn't want to admit that Euphemina's claim about the Yatan Church was the truth. It was annoying. They didn't feel the need to drag out the problem when it could be simply solved with the execution of Agnus who was already caught.

"I will say it once again," Euphemina spoke up and received everyone's attention. She didn't show any agitation toward the accusations and ridicule of the two earls. The conditional strongest... Her will was solid now that had she inherited Mumud's magic.

"Agnus is a wrongfully framed person. The real culprit who harmed the craftsmen of the seven kingdoms is the Yatan Church," Euphemina asserted. Then she ordered the Yatan follower standing by her side, "Reveal the truth."

"I understand," the Yatan member complied passively. Euphemina didn't know it, but the blank-looking Yatan follower was obedient because he was possessed by Rose. "Her words are right. We murdered the seven craftsmen and blamed it on Agnus."

"Why?"

"Agnus betrayed the Yatan Church. We no longer tolerate traitors," the unimpressed Rose borrowed the body of the Yatan follower and spoke the truth.

She wanted to finish this job as soon as possible. Rose was anxious because her body was left in sleep mode after using the Possession skill. She might've hidden it in a safe place, but she didn't want to leave her body for long.

"How can I believe that?" Beoris, the most prominent figure among the observers of the seven kingdoms and the earl of the Glaucian Kingdom, asked.

'Tsk, they're too picky.' Euphemina clicked her tongue and presented the evidence. The evidence was the Yatan follower himself. Euphemina took off the follower's robe and clearly revealed the red

horseshoe-shaped tattoo on the follower's forehead. This was a tattoo symbolizing a priest who served in the most notorious Yatan Church. It was impossible to reproduce falsely because it was engraved with the magic power of the priest.

"This...!" Earl Beoris and the observer of the Ark Kingdom covered their faces. They felt that things had become complicated at the presence of an undeniable witness. On the other hand, the remaining five observers covered the sky with their hands, not their faces.

"There isn't enough evidence. The Yatan Church can't be determined as the true criminal just because of one testimony. Thus, we will continue with this criminal's execution."

"...?"

It was an absurd verdict. The people gathered in the square were shocked. The funny thing was that most of them were delighted. They were obviously hoping for Agnus' execution. Were they people who suffered direct or indirect damage because of Agnus? No. Agnus was just one person. It didn't make sense for him to create tens of thousands of victims alone.

The public just hoped for someone else's frustration. The breaking of someone better than themselves was a benefit to potential competitors, and even those who weren't competitors enjoyed the sight. It might be different if Agnus was a good person, but they couldn't be bothered by the misfortunes of the wicked.

"Quickly cut off his head!"

"Agnus deserves to die!"

Someone's shout became the spark. Many people started to cry out for Agnus' execution.

"Kill Agnus!"

"Kill Agnus!"

"Kill Agnus!"

"Kukuk."

As expected, humans never changed. The innate nature of humans was 'evil.' It was a terrible nature that couldn't be suppressed by learning.

'That's why I—' Agnus stared at the quest window still floating before him. 'I will become a greater evil.'

It was the only way to live in this crazy world. He had to be crazier than others.

[The quest has been accepted.]

[All restrictions have been lifted with the power of Great Demon Baal.]

[Your stats have been restored to the normal value.]

[All skills are now available.]

"Kukuk...! Kuhaha...hat?"

The weight of the handcuffs and chains restraining his hands and feet felt light and weak. It was a level where he could break free right now. However, Agnus remained still. A man was reflected in his golden eyes—Bullet. The poor scapegoat who had been tricked by Veradin into joining Immortal and used for years—the idiot jumped out and stood beside Euphemina.

He shouted toward the mad public, “Do you have ears? Agnus isn’t the killer!! You said it yourself earlier!”

Bullet didn’t mention the witness that Euphemina brought. Why did he need to mention it? Agnus himself said he wasn’t the killer.

‘A stupid fool to the end.’ Agnus read Bullet’s trust and bit his lips. ‘Why trust me?! don’t understand. I am a wicked being. I’m not entitled to receive anyone’s trust. I am alone. I have to be alone. So why are they...’

Something rose in the depths of Agnus’ heart. It was a certain emotion, and it was hard to explain. The feeling was so unfamiliar that he didn’t even remember it anymore.

“You dumb bastard! Who are you?”

“I am a necromancer of the Overgeared Kingdom!”

“Overgeared Kingdom...! The Overgeared Kingdom must be determined to be hostile to our seven kingdoms! We won’t overlook it anymore!”

The observers could no longer suppress their anger. Killing intent filled their eyes as they ordered the hunters, “They are the ones interfering with the execution! Capture them right now!”

The hunters didn’t delay it any longer. They jumped off the podium and ran toward Euphemina and Bullet. It was at this moment that...

“Kuuack! Kuaaaaah!”

“...?”

It was a chaotic scene. The hundreds of thousands of players recording the scene instantly turned their attention to Agnus. He was screaming despite still being restrained at the guillotine. His bloodshot eyes appeared on the monitors for the global viewers watching the situation.

“...!”

Simultaneously, the audience got goosebumps. It was because they saw the madness in Agnus’ eyes.

“What?!” The observers were astonished as the handcuffs and chains holding Agnus snapped. The excited masses shrank back. The executioner’s head exploded. As soon as he fell down, he became a skeleton soldier and rose again.

“H-Hik...!” People trembled in fear as they felt the power of the world’s strongest necromancer. On the other hand, the hunters didn’t shake. They would deal with Agnus after first overpowering Euphemina and Bullet. They considered Agnus a prey that was easy to deal with. A laugh rang out behind them as they rushed toward Euphemina and Bullet.

“Kahahahat! Get lost!” The death knight and Agnus stuck together and swung their swords. The confused hunters spread out, but Lich Mumud’s magic hit them like their actions had been expected. They all felt at the same time.

“Keok...! Cough cough!”

“Was he this strong?”

The number of hunters dispatched by the seven kingdoms to hunt Agnus had been immeasurable. The hunters currently present were those who captured Agnus in the Overgeared Kingdom, and they had dealt with Agnus who had weakened after killing numerous hunters. As such, they were unfamiliar with the Agnus who had fully regained his strength.

“Dammit!” The hunters collapsed from the unexpected surprise and then rose immediately. They set their top priority as Agnus and stopped moving against Bullet and Euphemina. Agnus ignored the hunters and started attacking Euphemina and Bullet. “You guys, I’ll kill you.”

“A-Agnus?”

“Dieeee!”

“...!?”

Euphemina and Bullet hadn’t expected to be attacked by Agnus and were hit. Their stomachs were stabbed and they staggered back. Bullet shouted, “We’re here to help you!”

“Shut up! Shut uppp! Kihat! Kuahahahat!”

“...!”

Conversation didn’t work. Agnus, his death knight, and lich were completely dominated by insanity, and they persistently went after Euphemina and Agnus. The sharp swordsmanship spread out like a spider web while destructive magic rained down. Dozens of players in the vicinity of Euphemina and Bullet couldn’t cope with the fierce bombardment and died. The only clue to clear Agnus’ name fell down and was resurrected as a skeleton soldier.

Agnus was relentless. He ignored the surroundings and sincerely tried to harm Euphemina and Bullet. Was Agnus really a madman?

“You...” The confused Euphemina defended against Agnus’ offensive, only to stiffen like a stone statue. It was due to Agnus’ expression that was distorted by pain. He made an expression like his heart was being torn apart every time he damaged Bullet and Euphemina.

‘...He is a terrible actor.’ Euphemina noticed Agnus’ intentions. Agnus was attempting to cut the connection between himself and the Overgeared Kingdom, to avoid them becoming hostile to the seven kingdoms. That’s right. This guy was trying to be alone again.

Euphemina shouted to Bullet, “Let’s leave.”

“Huh? What about Agnus?”

Lael was mindful of the possibility that the seven kingdoms would ignore the testimony of the Yatan follower. So, he asked Pope Damian to cooperate as a means of changing the flow of judgment. In a moment, Damian would arrive here and clear Agnus of the charges.

Then what on earth was this? Things had completely gone wrong. Agnus had descended from the guillotine himself and made his position more disadvantageous. Rather than helping himself, Agnus only made the situation worse. As Agnus' sword struck Bullet's chest, the death knight that Bullet automatically summoned protected him. Agnus' death knight blew away Bullet's death knight. Then Agnus' sword aimed at Bullet's neck.

"Agnus..."

"Die. Kukuk."

Agnus opened his mouth to say something when his sword stabbed Bullet. Of course, Agnus couldn't kill Bullet because his strength stat was relatively low. However, Bullet collapsed in place like a broken doll. It was from mental trauma, not physical pain. Like Immortal's downfall, he was once again ignored by Agnus, and his heart felt like it was being torn apart.

"..."

Agnus looked away from Bullet. He laughed as he confronted the hunters and hundreds of soldiers alone. "All of you... You have one life? Kik, kikik!"

"...!"

The hunters, the soldiers and even the observers on the platform shuddered. They felt the ridiculous intuition that they would surely be killed by Agnus one day. The square became a battleground. The insane killer and the skeleton army he led randomly slaughtered people without caring if they were NPCs or players. Now he had undeniably become a true murderer.

-We have shown our favor to Agnus and have sufficiently achieved our purpose. Don't get involved anymore and return to the Overgeared Kingdom, Lael's voice entered the ears of Euphemina and Bullet. Lael was very pleased with this situation.

[Chapter 990](#)

'Poor little lamb (Agnus).'

From a mansion near the square, Lael took advantage of the chaos and quickly sneaked into the square to watch. Lael was happy and pleased because Agnus had shown the ideal response. He lost control over his reason and entrusted himself to madness, cutting off his connection with the Overgeared Kingdom by attacking Euphemina and Bullet. Agnus also declared that he would be hostile to the people (players) in the square and the seven kingdoms. He would slaughter all of them, even if he died a hundred times in the process. Refusing the hand of salvation held out by the Overgeared Kingdom, he was reborn as the strongest disaster to the potential enemies of the Overgeared Kingdom.

'His level of quality is next to Grid and Faker.'

Lael smiled and sent a whisper of retreat to Euphemina and Bullet. Bullet wanted to convince Agnus a bit more, but Lael pretended not to know. Everything he did was for the Overgeared Kingdom, and

Lauel was willing to trample on the thoughts of others. To others, Lauel might be a villain. The concept of conscience was extravagant for him, who carried tens of millions of lives on his back.

“...It’s a hard life,” Lauel said quietly as he became full of emotion. He mourned for the crushed Agnus and recalled the first time he met Grid.

‘Leave everything to me. You just have to do what you want.’

Lauel didn’t forget that Grid had reached this point because of Lauel’s oath at the time. Even if someone pointed a finger at him... Even if someone shed tears of blood because of him...

‘I’m just doing my best for Grid and the Overgeared Kingdom.’

『 Agnus’ evil deed of indiscriminately slaughtering players is starting to emerge. Agnus will be more isolated in the wake of yesterday’s incident... 』 This was playing on the TV.

[(Column) The one-sided courtship of the Overgeared Guild.]

[Were they nervous that the truce with the empire is coming to an end?

The Overgeared Guild tried to get Agnus to join them. The method they chose was the predictable and common cliché of salvation. Just before Agnus was executed by the guillotine, Euphemina emerged like a hero and claimed that Agnus was falsely accused.

It was a terrible failure. The observers ignored the witness testimony Euphemina presented. Then Agnus broke free of his shackles and attacked Euphemina. Like a toothless lion who is starving to death yet doesn’t want to drink another animal’s milk, Agnus poured out magic toward the Overgeared Guild’s useless salvation. The raging beast ran wild for over an hour...]

Stories about Agnus were everywhere in the newspaper.

“Crazy bastard!”

It was early in the morning. Youngwoo returned from his jog and crumpled up the newspaper after reading it. He wasn’t angry that the Overgeared Guild was embarrassed. Rather, he was furious that his colleagues’ kindness and thoughts had been trampled on.

“That son of a bitch dares to attack Euphemina...! Bullet!”

Euphemina had wandered all over the continent in order to copy skills. She was forced to waste time because of her class characteristics. Still, Youngwoo had been considerate toward her and had not taken away her time even though she was one of the strongest powers of the guild. This precious power had gone to the distant Glaucian Kingdom to help Agnus. Yet Agnus refused her help and even attacked her. He even trampled on Bullet, his former colleague. Agnus’ attacks and the baffled expressions on Euphemina’s and Bullet’s faces couldn’t be erased from Youngwoo’s mind. Youngwoo couldn’t forgive Agnus for ignoring their favor.

“Why is he really living like that?”

Youngwoo had hated Agnus since the first moment they met. Every time he heard and saw Agnus' speech and behavior which were distorted by a lack of self-esteem, Youngwoo felt frustrated and angry.

'He is worse than the old me!'

It was a baseless confidence! Youngwoo showered in cold water to calm his mind and then immediately logged into Satisfy. He had a mountain of work to do today.

The crazy combat power of a madman...

The video of Agnus fighting alone in the midst of enemy territory became a hot topic. First, the scene was impressive. Agnus blew away the executioner with magic and turned him into a skeleton soldier. Then he flew forward while blocking dozens of arrows with the skeleton soldiers. Everything was perfect, from the speed at which he summoned the undead to his insight and ability to control the undead.

During the one hour battle, Agnus killed his enemies, made them into shields, and swung them as weapons, leading to his advantage. It was the ultimate area that necromancers pursued. Agnus had already reached it.

"Controlling dozens of undead like that. I wonder if it is possible for a human. Even Kraugel had a hard time controlling a few swords..."

"I agree. I couldn't believe it when I saw it. His concentration must be enormous since he maintained the best judgment throughout the battle."

"Isn't it like the Savant Syndrome? You know, a genius who is born with impaired brain function."

"Oh? That sounds quite plausible?"

"By the way, isn't it known that the higher the dominance stat, the more undead that can be controlled? Then will Agnus become much stronger in the future?"

"Maybe he can grow on par with Grid..."

The members of the Overgeared Guild were gathered and talking about Agnus in a common room on the first floor of the palace. They admired Agnus' skill that was different from ordinary people. Grid was very unhappy when he walked through the corridor and overheard their conversation.

'What's so great about him?'

Then Toban's voice rang out, "No matter how great Agnus is, he can't compare to Grid. Grid can kill his enemies in one blow. It is frustrating to see Agnus fighting while summoning skeletons."

"To tell the truth... Grid will sweep them up in one blow, no matter how many undead Agnus has."

"Huhuhut."

That's it. Grid was much better than Agnus.

...No matter what kingdom, it would be impossible to wipe out Agnus' undead army in one blow.

'Well, whatever.' Grid was in a good mood after hearing his colleagues' conversation. He hummed as he moved toward the smithy.

Ttang!Ttang!Ttang!

Grid hunted while occasionally returning to Reinhardt. Normally, there was no need to explain why he returned from the hunt. Whenever he hunted, items such as potions would reduce in number or the durability of his items would fall. Thus, it was necessary to return to a village.

This time though, Grid returned for a special reason. Thanks to his blood-sucking ability and his pets, he could hunt without potions. He could also repair his items himself, meaning he had returned for another reason. It was to repair someone else's item. That item was naturally...the helmet with ether. It was the 'eye' of the evil eyes' king.

Ttang!Ttang!Ttang!

Grid hammered with all his heart while a little boy crouched beside him. The cute little boy spoke with closed eyes, "My only king, who has captivated my heart with the generosity of the universe... I can't raise my head every time I trouble you." Very few people could stay beside the Overgeared King while he was absorbed in his work. Grid wasn't aware of it himself, but even the Overgeared members didn't come near him when he was concentrating.

In other words, the little boy sitting next to Grid was either a very special person or an idiot who didn't notice such things. This time, it was the former.

"You don't need to be burdened. I'm sorry that I'm not a greater help to you."

The identity of the child was the evil eyes' king. He was the owner of the evil eyes who only at least a legend can afford. No one could deal with the evil eyes' king easily, just like they couldn't deal with Grid easily. Ordinary people couldn't imagine that the world-class talents would be sitting next to each other in a smithy.

"My king, do you remember?" The cute evil eyes' king tried to speak solemnly. When he heard the voice of the evil eyes' king which was more serious than usual, Grid raised his head. "What?"

"I have the ability to plant an evil eye in others."

"...!"

It finally came! Grid thought of the first day he met the evil eyes' king. The king said he had the ability to implant an evil eye in others. These words had aroused Grid's blind goodwill.

That's right. It was why Grid did his best for the evil eyes' king. Grid sought the power of the evil eye, so he tried to attain maximum affinity with the evil eyes' king. Finally, the time had come.

"I-I remember. Why? Do you want to implant an evil eye in me?"

"I have been thinking about it since the day I pledged to serve you. However, you know that the evil eye is also a curse."

“...”

It was why Grid didn't cling to the evil eye heavily. A curse...

Yes, the evil eye's power to exercise its ability by simply looking at the target could be dangerous.

“The faces of your loved ones can't be seen with both eyes. You might unintentionally harm your colleagues. One eye must always be sealed. I can't bear to plant an evil eye when it will give you loneliness and discomfort.”

The king had been suffering his whole life because of his evil eyes. He didn't want to burden Grid with an evil eye. Even so, he brought up the story of the evil eyes because it was the only thing he could do for Grid. It was true that the evil eye was powerful even if it was a curse.

“Um...” Grid thought carefully. He didn't make a hasty decision, just like when he agonized over whether it was right to consume two slots of the creation skill for the Overgeared Skeletons. After a long time, Grid handed the repaired ether helmet to the evil eyes' king and asked, “How many types of evil eyes are there? Can I choose the evil eye I want?”

There were evil eyes that froze the target they looked at and those that didn't deal physical damage and caused obedience. If Grid could choose an evil eye, the risk of the transplant would be greatly reduced. The evil eyes' king replied, “I don't even know how many types of evil eyes there are. Additionally, the evil eye is a force closely related to the nature of the person it is implanted in. Thus, it is pointless to instill a certain evil eye in you. You will be reborn with a power suitable for you once the evil eye is assimilated with you.”

In other words—

‘It's random?’

Grid's headache became more painful. He thought it would be dangerous to have an evil eye when there wasn't any ether to be used.

“If I'm unlucky, I might have to wear an eyepatch all the time...”

Grid had long favored the Slaughterer's Eye Patch. He was aware of the inconvenience of having one side of his vision covered...

‘...Wait, there's none?’

[Slaughterer's Eye Patch]

[Rating: Unique]

Durability: 7/7

* The skill ‘Vital Spot Detection’ will be generated.

The Slaughterer was tortured for a long time. He was also forced to watch the torture of countless people.

As a result, he has a high grasp of the vital spots.

This eyepatch has been used by the Slaughterer for a long time and gained this ability.

Conditions of Use: None.

Weight: 0.1]

The Slaughterer's Eye Patch was a special artifact. There was nothing about 'interfering with vision' in the description and only had the hint of 'seeing the vital spots.' The Slaughterer's Eye Patch didn't interfere with his vision. This meant there was no discomfort wearing it. There was no reason to hesitate to transplant the evil eye.

Grabbing the evil eyes' king, Grid shouted, "Give me the evil eye!"

He believed in his good luck stat. Grid expected that he could get an evil eye without significant risk and the performance would be excellent.